



Quarterdeck

DECEMBER

2020

OUR 89th
YEAR

THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY.

www.philadelphiaSHIPmodelsociety.com

Launched January 7, 1931

Minutes of the Meeting

The 877th meeting of the Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) (virtually) was called to order by President Fred Signor at 19:00 and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sick Call: None known

Visitors: We were happy to welcome Tom Ruggiero and Bill Brown from the Ship Model Society of New Jersey and Charles Huet from the Washington Ship Model Society.

Presentations: Tom Ruggiero from the SMSNJ offered to give a tech talk on sails - trying to schedule for January. February: Todd Wardwell is looking into a talk presenter.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Bulova - Read and accepted. As reported last month, the annual donation of \$500 was made to the Seaport Museum and earmarked for the boat shop. Voted on and accepted.

Holiday Brunch:

The Holiday Brunch has been postponed until next year. The \$200 deposit will be used to reserve Sunday, December 12, 2021.

PSMS Modelcon- TBD in August pending the environment and the Battleship NJ schedule. The NY Shipcraft Guild would like to participate.

Name Tags; Spence Delin: contact sdelin@verizon.net

NEW BUSINESS

Northeast Conference:

The USSConstitution Model Shipwright Guild, host of this years NE Conference has reached out with some viable postpone dates in an attempt to hold a meeting next year. The planned April date may be too soon given the current environment. The first available Saturday date is Oct 2, 2021. PSMS, Tom Ruggiero and Bill Brown from the Ship Model Society of New Jersey think this is the best day and will vote in that direction.

PSMS 90TH Anniversary: Ron Spicer, Mike Weaver, Joe Jordan and Joshua Fichmann are preparing a 90th Anniversary edition of the PSMS newsletter.

The Rotunda Exhibit: A letter from Abby Cember regarding the Rotunda Exhibit was shared. See page 2

Respectfully submitted,
Joshua Fichmann, Secretary

DUES: As noted in the previous issue: Because our meetings for the foreseeable future will be virtual meetings, a motion was made and passed at the November Zoom meeting, that the current dues will be extended to June, 2021.

JANUARY PSMS MEETING

The next PSMS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 7th at 7:00PM. The ZOOM application password will be sent to members.**

BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY:

Has reopened on Saturdays and Sundays with self-guided tours of turrets and the engine room until December 31st. The ship will be closed for January and February 2021.

INDEPENDENCE SEAPORT MUSEUM:

Due to New Covid-19 Guidelines announced by the City of Philadelphia, Independence Seaport Museum is closed effective immediately and until Further Notice.

THE DECEMBER ELECTION OF OFFICERS

There were no nominations from the floor.

The elected officers for the year 2021 are:

President: JIM WHEELER
Vice-President: MIKE WEAVER
Secretary: JOSHUA FICHMANN
Treasurer: STEVE BULOVA
Editor: RON SPICER

QUARTERDECK SUBMISSIONS

Take pictures with your camera or cell phone of a current or past project that you would like to show (maybe you already have). Include a description. Be sure to include the name of your (project, ship), scale, scratch or kit (manufacturer), era (year) and country and anything you would want to say about your project. Just as you would when you fill out the presentation sheet at the meeting or stand up and talk. A word about pictures. Make sure they are well lighted, (possibly take them outside) and in focus and no more than 2 or 3. Put them against plain backgrounds if possible - not on your oriental rug. **But workbench shots are welcome.** Send them to the editor:

rspicer33@aol.com

Independence Seaport Museum Rotunda Display



Hello PSMS members,

I am just writing to thank you for the beautiful display of model ships currently in the window of the Seaport Museum. Yesterday was the first (and hopefully the last) Thanksgiving day I have ever spent entirely by myself, and I was wandering around the riverfront feeling somewhat sad when I noticed that people were taking pictures of something in the museum window. I walked over to find this impressive and delightful collection of ships, and this completely turned around my mood and my day. As a fan of models of all sorts and a lover of transportation, I just wanted to express my affection for these ships and the spirit of appreciation and dedication that goes into the building of them. During this difficult time, visibility of the “good stuff” in life is incomparably precious even in small doses. I hope everyone in your community was able to enjoy a safe and happy thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Abby Cember

Abigail Cember
Phd candidate, Graduate group in Biochemistry and Biophysics
Center for Magnetic Resonance and Optical Imaging (CMROI)
Department of Radiology, University of Pennsylvania

Dear Abby,

How wonderful to hear from you! Your message has been shared with the membership and they were elated to hear of the impact the organization has made for you. All of the models you observed are personally owned and built by various members of the club and have been placed in loan to the Independence Seaport Museum. The current exhibit was slated to be a restaurant. However due to the current environment, those plans are on hold. In the meantime we wanted to make productive use of the valuable window space for the public to enjoy models that usually hide in our personal display areas. Your experience is our goal, as well as to educate and bring awareness of our existence if they have an interest to pursue this passion further. If you'd ever like to stop in to one of our now virtual meetings and say “hi”, they'er held on the first Thursday of every month at 7pm, next one being this Thursday. Below is the link. Thanks again.

Kindest Regards,
Joshua Fichmann
Secretary

THE SHIP SHACK WILL BE BACK!



The Seaport Museum has chosen PSMS to demonstrate ship modeling to the public. We are one of the few exhibits that can respond when asked a question (one other being the boat shop).

To fulfill the responsibility, we need volunteers to sit the shack on weekends.

Sadly, the Museum is closed to the public, but this will not be forever, and when things get back to normal and we can again demonstrate ship modeling to the public, we look forward to the day when we can take a model, meet the public and share our hobby.



PSMS OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Fred Signor fsignor@comcast.net
Vice-President: Jim Wheeler jrwheeler@att.net
Secretary: Joshua Fichmann fichmann@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Steve Bulova bulovastevil@msn.com
Webmaster: Joshua Fichmann fichmann@yahoo.com
Editor: Ron Spicer, rspicer33@aol.com

Joe Jordan, Representative to ISM jjvtown@aol.com

Francine Serratore, President 2019
Todd Wardwell, President 2018
Jim Wheeler, President 2017
Fred Signor, President 2016
Mike Zimmerman, President 2014
Francine Serratore, President Emeritus

SHOW & TELL

JOE JORDAN



Above :A screen capture, shows the unfinished model.

Joe added brass rails and ladder. The brass searchlight is a found object from his parts box. The life boat is made from scratch and is lap strake and the deck was replaced with single planking. Lead shot was used for ballast, covered with a thin coat of epoxy and fiberglass cloth to seal it. The motor is a 6 volt Hectoperm geared high quality precision German made motor, acquired in 1998.

“LILY PAD” snap off printed circuit LED’s run on 3 volts and “you can run 20 directly off a battery “forever”. 8 are positioned on each side in the main cabin. They throw a nice interior light. Some polishing to do and she’ll go into the water.

MIDWEST TUGBOAT *SEQUIN*

Originally built by Michael DiLemmo and was donated to the Society by his daughter after he passed away. It was never entirely completed or finished as a static model, not painted. Joe sealed the hull, added ballast, lighting and mechanics and has since made it a working model and finished the boat with painting and other detailed fittings.



Photo: Joe Jordan



Screen Capture

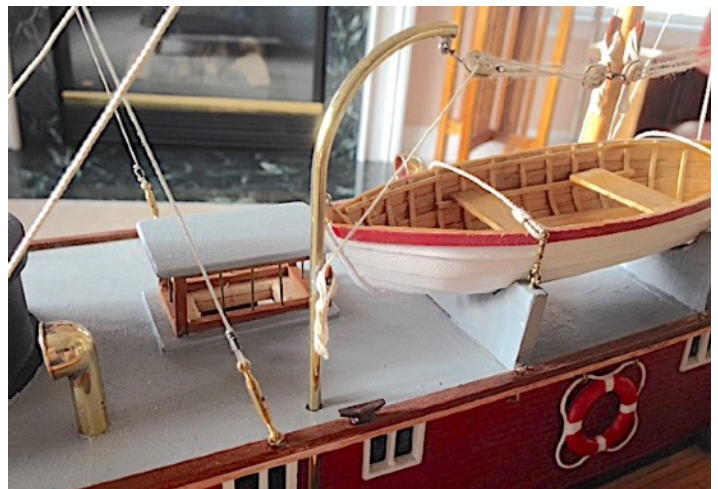
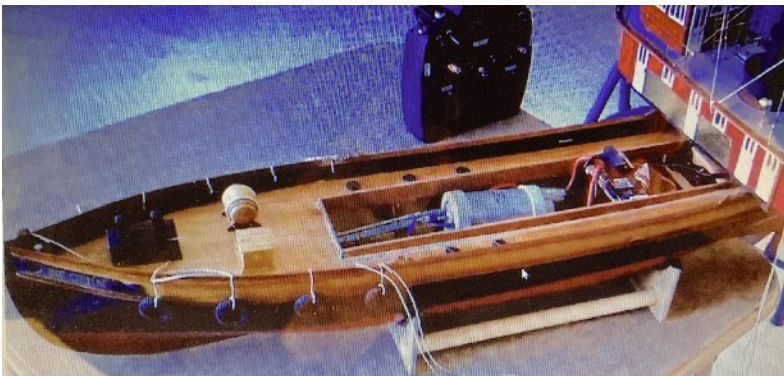


Photo: Joe Jordan



Screen Capture



CaptureScreen

SHOW & TELL

TOM RUGGIERO



HMS LIVERPOOL Built in 1757

28 gun Coventry class sixth rate frigate.

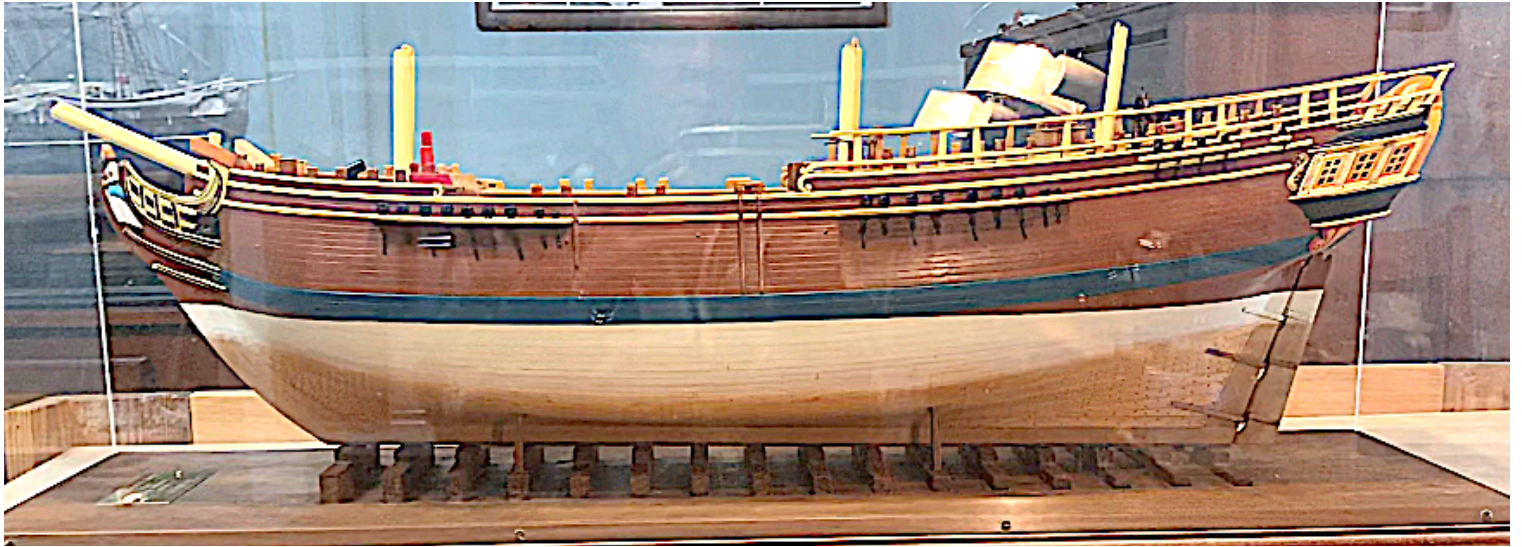
Build was started in 1992. Regarded as exemplar among small frigates for its speed and maneuverability. Fully rigged with three topsails. Painted 5 man crew, HO size.

In 1776 she patrolled the Delaware River and sortied up the Delaware River unsuccessfully.

On January 1, 1776, she participated in the bombardment of Norfolk Virginia as one of the ships in a fleet. A cannonball fired from her onboard batteries is currently still lodged in the wall of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

SHOW and TELL

SPENCE DELIN



HMS LONDON. 1770
Merchant ship/troop ship-
American built
Scratch built.
Shown at PSMS meeting and
the New London convention
many years ago. The ship
carried a deck below the main
deck because it was designed
to be a troop ship as well as a
merchant ship. Finished one
side. The opposite side is open
frame -mostly boxwood.
Masts are shown broken off
like an Admiralty model.
Some interior detail
but Spence said that he has a
tendency to build details on a
model that are eventually
planked over and never seen
again.

Photos by Spence Delin



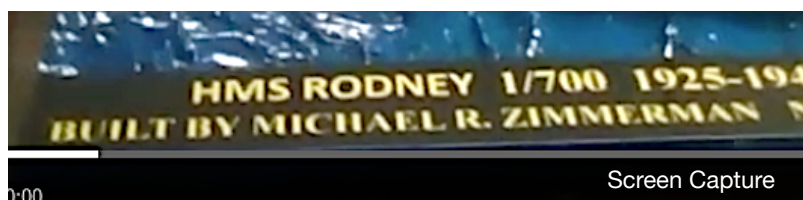
SHOW & TELL

MIKE ZIMMERMAN



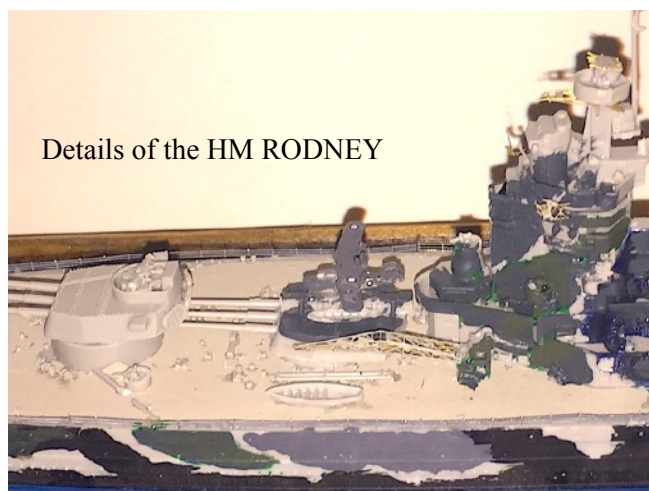
Photo by Mike Zimmerman

HMS RODNEY, above and to the right.
British. One of 2 Nelson-class battleships. Scale 1/700, 14" long.
Plastic kit. HMS Rodney bombarded the Normandy shore next the
USS Texas.



Screen Capture

Mike creates his plaques using power point. Create the gold
lettering, on a black background, print on photo paper. Glue it down
and it looks just like the plastic plates.



Details of the HM RODNEY

Photo: Mike Zimmerman

For project #2. Mike showed the the start of a paper model of
HMS Sheffield. He does not really enjoy building paper models,
but he thought he could build it in remembrance of his friend
Charles White, the gentleman who donated the many models for
PSMS to sell and who served on the Glasgow. Sheffield would be
a good stand-in.



Screen Capture

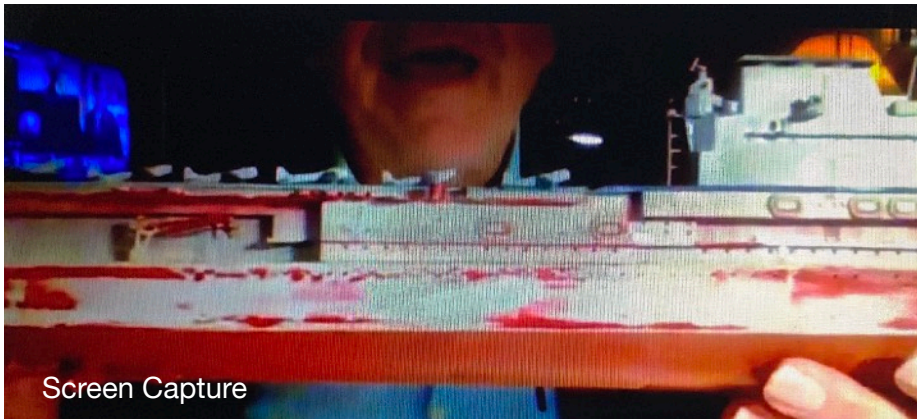
Project #3 During WWI, the British converted a Courageous Class
battlecruiser into Englands first aircraft carrier. Mike wants to do
that also, using the Trumpeter plastic kit of HMS Repulse, scale
1/350 and kit bashing it into HMS Furious-England's first aircraft
carrier.



Screen Capture

SHOW & TELL

MIKE WEAVER

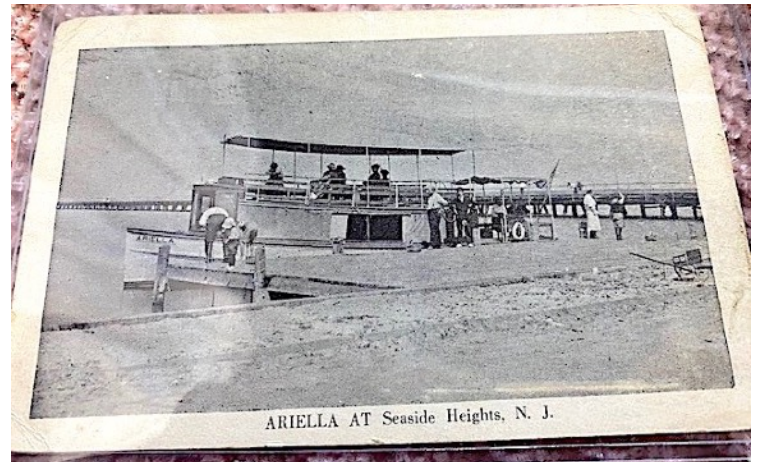


White Whale deal. USS Enterprise CV6, scale 1/350. Sister ship of the USS Hornet and the most decorated ship in WWII> Partially assembled. Whoever assembled it painted the entire hull red. Mike removed the red paint with acetone and Q-tips. It will be repainted gray. He purchased 65 scale aircraft from Trumpeter and found that some will require 8 decals. The planes are Douglas SBD Dauntless dive bombers, the Grumman F4F Wildcat and TBD Devastators of Torpedo Squadron 6.

SEASIDE HEIGHTS MUSEUM LOOKING FOR SHIP MODEL BUILDER

The Town Administrator of Seaside Heights is building a new museum to house a historic carousel and are looking to have 2 ship models built. This will be challenging. There are no plans-only pictures.

If you are interested Contact Bill Brown at:
bdbrown7610@gmail.com



PIRATES OF THE MODEL SHIP WORLD



Support legitimate kit makers.

Here is a list of companies that rip off and duplicate kits from reputable manufacturers.

JD Model
LHQB
Huasong
Shi Cheng
woodenkit (Russian Mfg)
YengFan

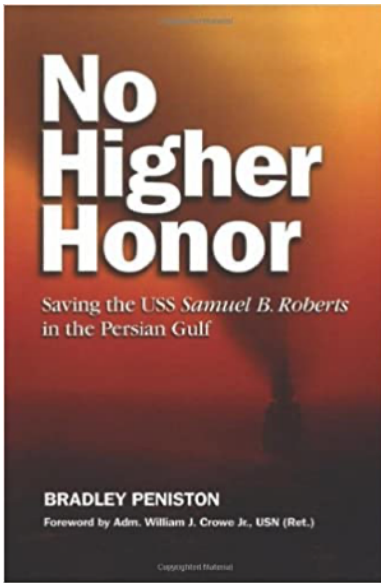
ZHL
RealTS
Snail Model
XinFeng
Crown
Unicorn Model.

YQ (YoungQihg)
Master
CN
CF
ship hai
4H Model

Moxing
Microcosm
WN
SC
DUJIAOSHOU



BOOKS



NO HIGHER HONOR: Saving the USS Samuel B Roberts in the Persian Gulf by Bradley Peniston

Like its WWII namesake of the Leyte Gulf fame, USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58) was a small combatant for escort duty. But the skipper imbued his brand new crew with a fighting spirit to match their forebears, and in 1988 when the guided missile frigate was thrust into the Persian Gulf at the height of the Iran-Iraq War, there was no better ship for the job. Forbidden to fire unless fired upon, Captain Paul Rinn and his crew sailed amid chaos in the Gulf for two months, relying on wit and nerve to face down fighter jets and war ships bent on the destruction of civilian vessels their sternest test came when an Iranian mine ripped open the ship's engine room, ignited fires on four decks and plunged the ship into darkness. The crews bravery and cool competence was credited with keeping the ship afloat, and its actions have become part of Navy lore and a staple of naval leadership courses ever since.

After years of research and interviews with crew members, Journalist Bradley Peniston chronicles the crew's heroic efforts to save the ship as they fought flames and flooding well into the night. The author also describes the frigates origins, its operational history and the crew's training but gives readers an opportunity to get to know the individuals involved the crew's training. Peniston's personal approach to the subject not only breathes life into the historical narrative, but gives readers the opportunity to get to know the individuals involved

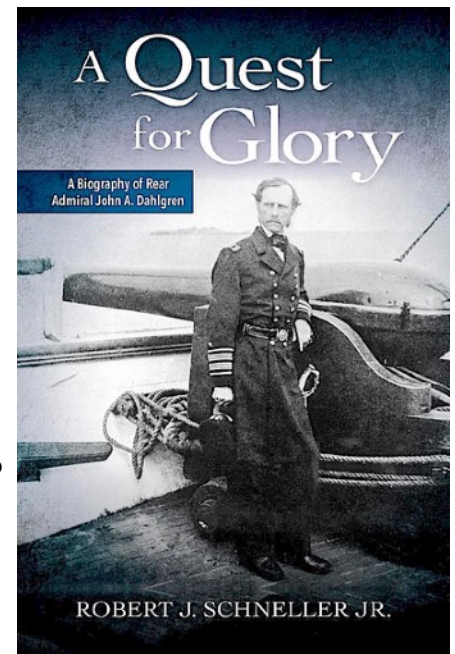
and understand the U.S. retaliation to the mining and the battle that evolved, setting the stage for conflicts to come.

A QUEST FOR GLORY

A biography of Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren
by Robert Schneller, Jr.

To win glory and power, to be renowned throughout posterity- such was the ambition that fueled John A. Dahlgren's controversial rise to eminence during the Civil War era. While he ranks with the foremost contributors to the American naval tradition and is known as the "father of American naval ordnance", personal conflicts and lack major victories at sea nearly obscure his historic legacy. Chief of the bureau of Ordnance in 1862, Dahlgren was recognized as the top ordnance expert in America and was known around the world. He achieved this reputation largely for inventing the Dahlgren gun, the most powerful and reliable naval cannon of its day and standard armament on Union warships. But because ordnance work did not yield the glory he so desperately desired, he abandoned the post of bureau chief for a fighting berth. With the help of friend Abraham Lincoln, he took command of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron- only to Preside over the Navy's greatest disappointment during the war, the failure to capture Charleston. Drawing on Dahlgren's meticulously kept diaries and records and recently uncovered family papers, author Robert Schneller describes with a biographer's sensitivity and a historian's perspective of the admiral's technical triumphs as well as the plots, duels, intrigues and betrayals that plagued Dahlgren's life.

Published in hardcover almost a quarter- century ago, this dense biography made good reading back in 1996, and it holds up well today, not only because it explores the life of a fascinating military man, but also because it tells a cautionary tale of becoming exactly the type of person we struggle against for much of our lives... Well-written and chock full of scientific tidbits and deserves the honor of being reprinted in paperback.



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, Today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

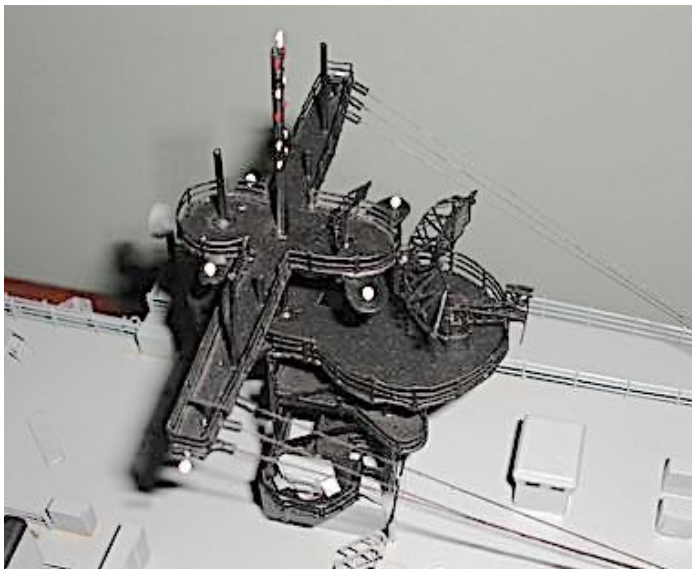
Bill Keane

THIS MODEL NEEDS A HOME

From Joe Jordan

I have a scale model of an LSD 41 *Whidbey Island* in scale 1/92. It needs a home. I will cheerfully give it to someone who served on her. It is large and heavy. Not going to ship it. It is a builders model made by master model maker Al Seebode in the 1980's. A glass case is included. This model is absolutely first class in workmanship and detail. Will call only. I'm in Lumberton, NJ.

To contact Joe call 609-518-9672 or jjvtown@aol.com



The Mystery of Coney Island's Abandoned Submarine

The Mystery of Coney Island's Abandoned Submarine by Luke Spencer (Edited)

Today's New York adventure takes place at one of its favorite and most nostalgic , vacation destinations: Coney Island. Home to one of the world's oldest ferris wheels, a hundred year old roller coaster, and the famous Nathan's deli, serving hotdogs since 1916. But a twenty minute walk behind the famous boardwalk is Coney Island Creek, a largely forgotten backwater. Until the bridges and landfill turned Coney Island into a peninsula, it was once cut off entirely from Brooklyn; back then Coney Island was truly an island. Today, however, the creek is rarely visited, home to salvage yards, auto repair shops, and a waste recycling plant. A far cry from the thrills of the nearby fun fare and beaches, it is also the home of captivating abandoned delights- a ship graveyard...

Even more thrilling, in the midst of the decaying shipwrecks, is a mysterious, forgotten submarine, that was once at the center of a doomed expedition to search for the treasure on the sunken Andrea Doria!

I went to explore little visited Coney Island Creek in the dead of winter. Like most seaside towns, Coney Island has a desolate air in the close season. The rides are shut down , the streets and boardwalk mostly deserted.

But with a record setting frost covering the north east, it meant that the little creek was frozen over. Perfect conditions to walk amongst the rotting timbers and rusting hulls of the shipwrecks left in the creek.

There are about 2 dozen shipwrecks in the creek. No one knows when they arrived or where they came from.

Walking over the ice, amongst the ruins of these old ships, there is one that stands out, mostly because it is painted yellow and looks a lot like a submarine.



For years, rumors surrounded the mysterious submarine wrecked and marooned in Coney Island Creek. Some thought it dated back to the Civil War, the era of the first submarine built by Brooklyn Navy Yards. With its futuristic looking hull, it could well have sprung from



pages of Jules Vern.

In 1956, the Italian ocean liner, the SS Andrea Doria, sunk off the coast of Massachusetts. She had collided with the Swedish MS Stockholm, carrying to the bottom of the ocean 52 souls, as well as a supposed treasure of a million dollars



Brooklyn shipyard worker Jerry Bianco planned to build. A miniature submarine from the scrap metal yards along Coney Island Creek, and dive for the wreck. The bright yellow submarine, painted not in homage to the Beatles,

Continued

but because Bianco snapped up a good deal on cheap yellow chromium paint.

Bianco christened his submarine Quester I, launched her with high hopes in 1970, with the traditional bottle of champagne. Unfortunately, the Quester immediately tilted sideways, and got stuck in the creek. According to newspaper reports, the submarine was eventually righted,

but a storm later in 1970, saw the ill-fated submarine break its moorings. The Quester once more stuck in the creek, largely in the position it holds today. Half submerged, with its conning tower and upper half of the hull visible, and listing in the water, as though preparing for one last dive into the ocean - one man's dream to search for treasure on the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

FOR SALE

USS PERRY BlueJacket Kit

The brig USS Perry was launched at Norfolk in 1843. She was active in suppressing the slave trade, and was active in both the Mexican and Civil Wars.

The kit is 1/8" = 1".

It has a pre-carved bass-wood. It has laser cut wood parts and includes styrene, brass rod and

thread. the skill level of this kit is marked as high intermediate. She was a beautiful ship. The price is negotiable.

CONTACT: Ed or Pat Leaf at pjlebl@comcast.net or 609-387-0667



THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.



For more information contact us at: www.thenrg.org or call 585 968 8111



Short Sleeved Polo

PSMS SHIRTS & CAPS WITH EMBROIDERED SOCIETY LOGO

LONG SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS NAVY BLUE

Men's sizes small thru 4 XL.

Add \$2.00 for 2XL, \$3.00 for 3XL and \$4.00 for 4 XL

\$35.00

Women's sizes thru 2X.

\$35.00

SHORT SLEEVED POLO SHIRTS, NAVY BLUE

Men's sizes small thru 6XL and tall in XL thru 3X

Women's sizes small thru 3XL

\$28.75

Hat 6 panel wave cap, navy with white trim

\$14.50

FOR ORDERS:

Contact Pat Leaf at pjlebl@comcast.net

Please be sure of your size

THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

Launched January 7, 1931

The Philadelphia Ship Model Society (PSMS) meets on the first Thursday of each month at the

Independence Seaport Museum (ISM) at 1900 hours.

ISM is located at Penns Landing,

211 South Columbus Boulevard,

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

PSMS annual dues are \$35.00 for an **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

\$40.00 for a **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**: Includes **MEMBER** as well as family with children **FREE**



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Holiday Party/ White Whale Sale
CANCELLED**



December 15th

**PSMS Holiday Brunch at the
Corinthian Yacht Club
CANCELLED**

January 7th

PSMS Zoom Meeting

February 4th

PSMS Zoom Meeting



THE SSMA JOURNAL

Become a member of
SSMA

Annual dues are \$25.00

All membership
applications and
renewals

should be sent to:

Heinz Ricken

514 Cranford Avenue



Delaware Valley Chapter meetings are held at The Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's landing on the Delaware River. Membership is \$15 for one year. Contact Steve Lovless at slldvesshsa@gmail.com or 215-495-8889 for more details or if you are interested in joining

Wishing you a very Happy and
Healthy Holiday Season

Happy New Year !

