

# THE CONNECTICUT MARINE MODEL SOCIETY

☉ CMMS NEWSLETTER ☉ MAY, 2014

[www.ctshipmodels.org](http://www.ctshipmodels.org)

## A Message From Our Captain

I was just thinking about the reasons we build model ships. There seems to be as many reasons as those who build them, which is no surprise, so I went further. How did we get hooked on model ships? Some of our members also build autos, trains, armor, and other decorative arts including carving figures, and some are branching out by painting ships or seascapes. All of these activities are

encouraged, and by sharing our experiences, we learn from each other.

But why model ships? And how did



we get so involved with them that we devote large amounts of time re-

searching and building them? It seems to me that these objects are beautiful, elegant and have such a rich history that they evoke deep emotions.

For me, and I think for most of us model makers, the big reason is FUN; they are fun to build and fun to look at — and they have a direct connection to our strong sense of history. Yes, they are complicated, and frustratingly detailed, and one must know a lot about chemicals, media, techniques and processes to build top-notch

—continued Page 2



models, but that too is part of the fun, and the challenge.

Perhaps we “older” artists and craftsmen are anachronisms. I refuse to believe that, as I see and read about many teens and pre-teens building models, or using wonderful building toys such as Lego’s, Lincoln Logs and similar. We all started as rank beginners, not knowing a wall knot from a turks head or what a stern was.

Personally, I would like to encourage and attract more young people

( as well as more mature folks too). If they do not have time, then we can at the very least plant the idea so that when they finish school, marriage, kids and career, they might come back to building models — hopefully models of ships.

Have you encouraged someone to build a model?

*Duff*



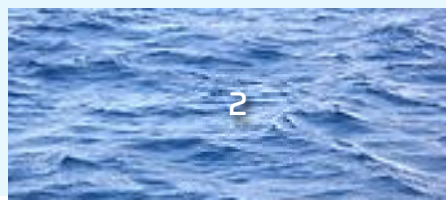
## THE SECRETARY’S REPORT, MAY 10, 2014

We welcomed a former and now returning member, **Larry Sowinski**. Larry gave us a most interesting presentation of his modeling skills and incredible 1/516 scale models and many of their components. He works only in waterline construction, has been on a 35 year hiatus, and now will be resuming his building what appears to be the entire inventory of the *US Navy* (and many other of world’s navies) since the age of sail. Incredible stuff! Welcome back, Larry! It’s hard for me to believe that *Dave Dinan* builds his models at nearly twice the size of Larry’s. Why do you feel you have to make ‘em so big, Dave? Oh, I forgot to tell you... Larry carves his models in birch, fittings and all.

There were 15 members and Larry

attending. This was the day that *The NewsletteR Corporation, Ltd* was officially sold to a small drone start-up in Stratford. Terms of the deal were not made public. Continued operation, however, was assured to our group. There are no price increases scheduled for the immediate future. And yes, the USPS won the contract for snail mail delivery — they will not be flown in on Drone Air Express (for the time being, anyway). Thanks for stepping up, Ron!

Nobody showed up to arrest our Treasurer, so we can gather that the “books were not cooked” as the recap of the Conference finances were divulged to us. Look’in pretty good there Pete!



Our President was full of kind words for our recent 6th year Anniversary Conference. However, the sigh of relief was evident to me, anyway, that he was even more elated knowing that he will never have to do that again! If that is what you want us to think, Duff, that’s OK - for now. Great Job there fearless leader!

Respectfully Submitted,



*Bill Strachan*  
CMMS Secretary





*That's a whole lotta whitt'lin Mon Amis!*

DUFF GRIFFITH brought us all up-to-speed with his commissioned scratch build of the 18th-Century French Navy 74-gun war-ship, *Le Superbe*.

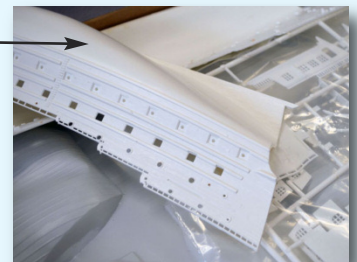
Duff's readied the bread n' butter-styled stacked basswood upper blocking for shaping the bulwarks — which is always a tricky task.

Member *Brad Davis* brought in his unbuilt Heller plastic kit model of the *Superbe* to help Richard develop the transom configuration.

Duff posed a question about how to handle the transition of the lower hull coppering to the ship's upper planking; various members offered their suggestions.

So far, we all agree: *Tres'Bon, Monsieur Griffith!*

(We expect no less).

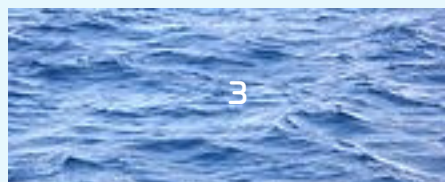


**HOT TIP OF THE MONTH**  
Look closely at the coppering job on this 1941 Pontiac!

FRED KERSON showed us that he'd completed all four of the boats destined for his next build — and he reminded everyone to think about a riddle he posed for us at an earlier Club meeting...

*(Ed. You'll need to turn the page to see the answer)*

*What's hiding under the funny pages, Fred?*





FRED solved the “riddle” for us with his dramatic unveiling of the Victory kit be purchased on eBay.

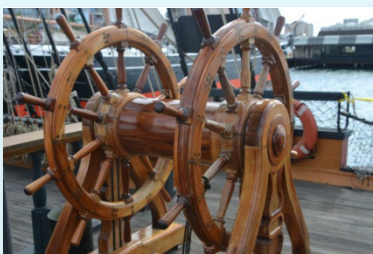
He plans to use more than 600 sticks of balsa on this Baby ( 1/8” X 1/16”) ala’ “Tincture-of-Fred” style. And, no less than 120 yards of rigging line is awaiting him in his workshop’s supply cabinet!



*Note to Fred: there are over 100 of these to build for the Victory.*

This is going to be one interesting build to watch in the coming months.

*Voila’! Comrades. A Mantua 1/76 Victory is next!*

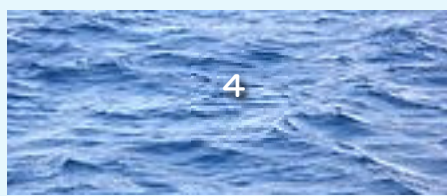


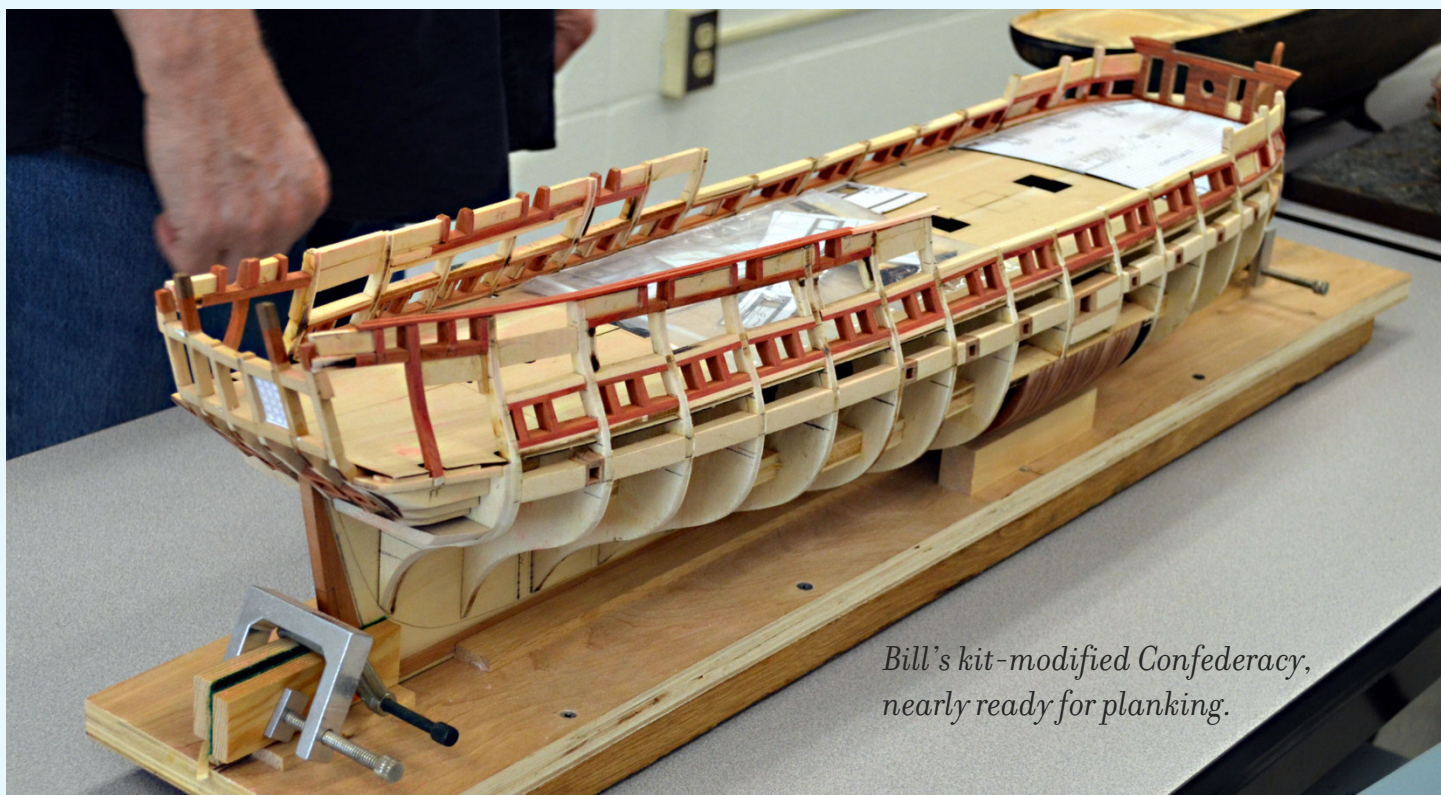
ESTEEMED FORMER NEWSLETTER HELMSMAN, BILL STRACHAN, reminded himself and the club members of the challenges of “Chapter Four” in his *Model Expo/Chuck Passaro* 1/64th scale **Confederacy** kit build instructions.

Bill is extensively modifying the kit with many additions of custom wood.



*Is this a sign that Bill is about to give up on his current build?...*





*Bill's kit-modified Confederacy, nearly ready for planking.*

*Answer: "No way (Jose')!" Mucho progress over the last couple months. Bill plans to rig her. OhMy.*

DAVE MORRIS presented his first ship build ever as he fondly reminisced about his *Billings Cutty Sark*. He started this infamous kit in 1981 and had decided to "re-build" it after visiting the actual ship in the U.K. Among the reasons to strip the model down to the deck after adding much of the deck furniture was to replace the kit's "wood" with proper "iron" (stanchions and bulwarks).

You'll need to turn the page to get a glimpse of Dave's "New Love" – or is that "Love(s)?"

*Dave reminds us that we'll never forget our "first."*





This "roughed-out" reproduction basswood carving is styled after its originator, 19th-C artist, *John Bellamy*. Dave will add dark blue stars and use wood burning tools for super-detailing. He uses soft-toned, thinned-down acrylics for the finished pieces. The "**Bellamy Eagle**" eventually became a symbol of the United States.

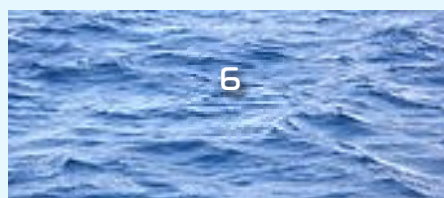
*A humble Mr. Morris may have to admit that he's become a Master(ful) Carver. One of his favorite projects is carving the ubiquitous (in New England, anyway) "Bellamy's Eagles" - a symbol of Yankee solidarity during the The Civil War. Wow. Is he Good - or What!?*

LONGTIME CMMS MEMBER, TOM KANE, explained one of his latest model restoration projects, a nineteenth century multi-masted clipper ship in rough shape!

The model will undergo an extensive cleaning. Some of his concerns are about re-creating the rigging. In the commissioned restoration work that Tom pursues, he's always hyper-aware of maintaining the fidelity of the original model — a critical factor that contributes to the model's authenticity and many cases, its valued provenance.



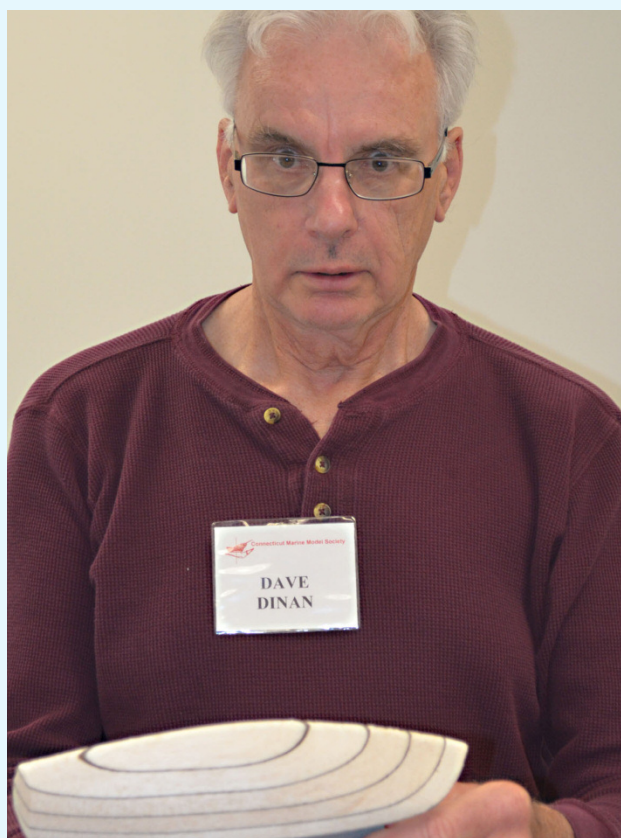
*It's figuring out how to restore the "water diorama" that may present the real challenge!*



The 32nd *Jim Roberts Award*-winning craftsman, PETE CARLIN, has managed to slide three bulkheads onto the keelformer of his **Model Shipways New Bedford Whaleboat** this past month. Our vaunted Treasurer has been very busy with the 32nd North-east Conference's (and our club's) books. He also gave us really Good News on the financial front: our club made a modest profit on the recent Show's activities from the sale of raffle tickets and a good number of "walk-ins."

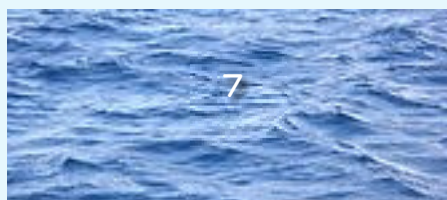
As our children might exclaim: "Whoo-Hoo!"

*On a serious note, Pete has given us a drop-dead date for the completion of his Whaleboat: April 25, 2020. He intends to make this baby the finest basswood creation known to man. There's a good reason he won the Craftsmanship (and best Sailing ship) award at this year's Show!*



DAVE DINAN has been working on a **Signet 20** half-hull model. Her hull lines are clearly discernible. He also told us that after 35 years he'll resume building the **U.S.S. Pennsylvania** in hand-carved basswood. Dave told us he is not pursuing the build any further, however. The "mold" was made with the hopes of sawing off station framing, but he came to the conclusion it is more than he wants to get into. I think we all can relate to this sentiment...

*Dave is a specialist in miniature scale warships; he builds mostly in plastic but he's also a skilled woodworker in super small scales.*





LARRY SOWINSKI has returned to the CMMS! Larry, a former member of the Club, builds almost exclusively in 1/516 scale (his own original scale). He told us about how he'd work on his models while commuting on NYC's subways! Having downsized recently to a 600 sq. ft. apartment, his skill with tiny scales will come in handy.

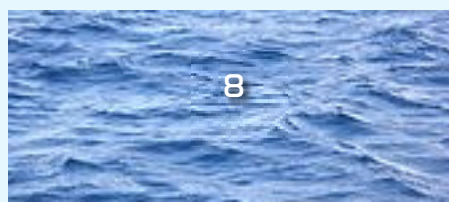
He shared with us an extensive photo album of his past work, much of which was installed at the U.S. S. Intrepid Museum in NYC. His photography of his models and dioramas was equally impressive. Our club has no shortage of talent.

*Recently retired, Larry's going to be back at it in the miniature model groove. He's been a professional builder for many years — and it shows. His WWII-era waterline models are depicted in stunning diorama settings. Welcome Home, Larry.*

TWO OF ED PETRUCCI's superbly crafted model submarines surfaced at the last meeting: the **USS Nautilus** and **Skipjack**.

Ed hand-carved both from birch. The tiny scuppers on the hull sides were incised with small chisels. The sub's screws were turned on his *Unimat* lathe and both models were painted with *Floquil* paints. The Floquil brand has been "retired" in recent years, replaced by easier to use and fast-drying, non-toxic, water-based acrylics.

*From WWII subs to elegant 17th-C Dutch Royal Sailing Yachts, there is hardly an era (or a ship!) that Ed hasn't built.*







JACK DILLON was happy to show-off his heeling sail-boat model and the impressive waterline diorama. What was also impressive however, was the fact that he he actually built and sailed the real thing in the 60s!

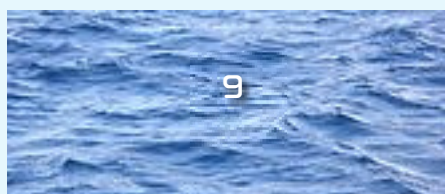
Jack has plans to upgrade his shadowbox-styled art piece with a sculpted mermaid lounging on a dangerous nearby rock — perhaps calling his name to entice him to steer closer.

During the coffee break, someone suggested that Jack should make sure to get a real-time mermaid model to sit for him during the many, many hours he'll need to accomplish this detailed work.

*If you didn't notice, you don't know Jack! Jack won Second Place for his New Bedford Whaleboat at the recent NE Show for Other Maritime Division Models. The display featured a scrimshaw'd whale's tooth as well as a ship's cat eye-balling a small rat at the far end of the boat.*



*The Club's coffee pot. In fond remembrance of our fellow modeler and a gentleman, Gary Little, who passed over the Great Sandbar this winter.*



*The Jim Roberts Award & People's Choice,  
Wind Powered Division, First Place Award — Pete Carlin*



*The People's Choice, Best Of Show Award  
Ron Neilson*



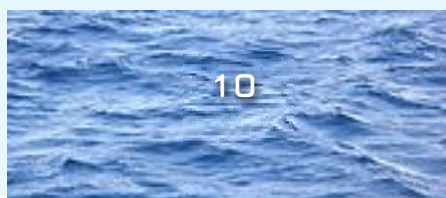
*People's Choice, Wind Powered Division,  
2nd Place Award — Duff Griffith*

*People's Choice, Other Maritime Division,  
1st Place Award — Bill Strachan*



*People's Choice, Other Maritime Division,  
2nd Place Award — Jack Dillon*

*A special Congratulations to our club's members who took six of the eight Northeast Annual Joint Clubs Ship Modeler's Show and Conference Awards. Way to Go, Guys! BTW: Bob Poulin, you got Most Photogenic.*





CMMS MEETINGS ARE THE  
SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH  
SEPTEMBER THRU JUNE † 10:00 AM TO NOON

HELD AT:

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN  
300 ORANGE AVENUE † WEST HAVEN  
CONNECTICUT 06531  
KAPLAN HALL / ROOM 207

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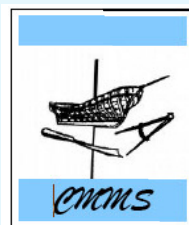
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**The Next Meeting is  
June 14, 2014**

This month's photo masthead: © "Clipper  
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Chris Blossom

The Connecticut Marine Model Society is a  
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