

The MSB Journal

An online publication for model ship building enthusiasts



August 2009

www.modelshipbuilder.com



The MSB Journal

ISSN 1913-6943

August 2009

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Published by
www.modelshipbuilder.com

On the Cover

The new Model Ship Builder Logo

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Editors Notes

Wow! That was a really quick month. Now if we could only make the winter months go by that quick. Even better, if we could make the entire winter go by that quick it would be awesome! :-)

I'll make this quick so you can get on with reading the MSB Journal.

There are a number of project updates in this issue, from past projects to upcoming new projects happening at Navy Board Models. Be sure to check them out.

I'd like to make mention of the upcoming Bluenose build because there is currently a special price available on the plans until the 15th of August. This should prove to be a great POF build of the original Bluenose.



With little communities like this scattered across the coast of Newfoundland its not hard to see why I can't wait to move home! :-)

I also have some material that I just didn't have time to enter into this issue. We just finished moving so it took up a lot of my time at the end of the month. I will try to get caught up in the next issue.

In the last page of the Journal I have started a section for modeling clubs. If you would like your club listed here please let me know. There is no charge for this and a great way to get word out about your club. I've also set up a similar thing at the Model Ship Builder website. So, any site added here or there will be added to both lists.

Okay, I think I have the basics covered.

Happy Modeling

Winston Scoville

www.modelshipbuilder.com



MSB is a Charter Member of
ShipWreck Central

From the Files of ShipWreck Central

This month we thought we'd bring you something a little different from the Files of ShipWreck Central.

In September of 1925 the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, with Admiral William A. Moffett as its chief, recommended a comprehensive program of rigid airship development. This plan called for the construction of two large rigid airships and a West Coast LTA base. The navy's General Board was less enthusiastic, however, and when the matter was referred to them they recommended only one rigid airship, and only if the funds were provided outside the navy's normal appropriations.



USS Macon

This token nod to the rigid airship was unacceptable to Admiral Moffett who in response had a House bill introduced which called for a replacement ship to be built with funds from the regular navy budget. Congressional hearings followed and resulted in the navy's Five Year Aircraft Program, which included authorization for two large rigids, becoming law on June 24th, 1926. Appropriations, however, were not made available until 1927. In that year design submissions for a large rigid airship scout were requested. The winner of the competition was Goodyear-Zeppelin's entry. They would go on to build one more airship, the USS Macon.

Last Voyage

During the early evening of February 12, 1935, while returning to Moffett Field from an operation over the ocean, USS Macon encountered a storm off Point Sur, California. A violent gust tore off her upper fin, causing damage that soon brought her down into the sea. She sank into deep Pacific water, effectively ending the Navy's controversial, and trouble-plagued, program of rigid airship operations.



The International Code of Signals

by Gene Bodnar



Did you know that there are only five colors that can be easily distinguished at sea? They are red, blue, yellow, black, and white. All other colors cannot be seen as easily at sea.

Did you also know that these colors cannot be mixed indiscriminately and still be easily distinguished at sea? For example, if you are using two colors, it is much easier, for clarity, to see red and white, yellow and blue, blue and white,

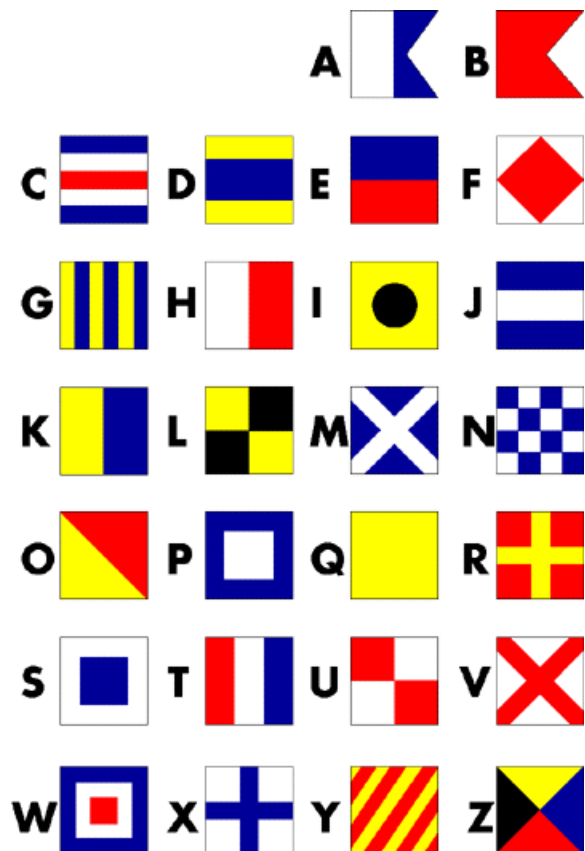
or black and white. Furthermore, if you are using only a single color, plain red, plain white, or plain blue are best.

These interesting facts are the basis for today's International Code of Signals, which has been in place since 1857 but has been revised on several occasions to include many languages, with the most recent revision adopted on January 1, 1969, which solidified the signal lexicon in its modern form.

There are 40 flags in the code that include 26 letters, 10 numbers, and 3 "repeaters," and an answering flag (to confirm that a grouping was received). The flags for the letters appear to the right:

The 26 letters each have a meaning of their own, as follows:

- Alpha – Diver down, or keep clear.
- Bravo – Dangerous cargo.
- Charlie – Yes/affirmative.
- Delta – Keep clear; I am having trouble maneuvering.
- Echo – Altering course to starboard.
- Foxtrot – Disabled.
- Golf – Need a pilot.



Hotel – Have a pilot.
India – Altering course to port.
Juliet – On fire, keep clear, or I am sending a message by semaphore.
Kilo – Desire to communicate.
Lima – Urgent, stop!
Mike – I am stopped/My engines are off, or I have a doctor on board.
November – No/Negative.
Oscar – Man overboard.
Papa – Prepare to leave, all aboard.
Quebec – Request pratique.
Romeo – You may feel your way past me (Take the lead).
Sierra – Engines going full speed astern.
Tango – Do not pass ahead of me.
Uniform – You are heading into danger.
Victor – I require assistance (not urgent).
Whiskey – I require medical assistance
X-ray – Stop your intentions and watch for my signal.
Yankee – I am dropping anchor, or I am carrying mail.
Zulu – I require a tug.

The real power of this system of flag codes is their use with multiple-flags. Two-flag groups are used for distress and maneuvering signals. Three-flag groups are points of the compass, relative bearings, standard times, verbs, punctuation, and general code and de-code signals. Four-flags are used for geographical signals, names of ships, bearings, etc. Five-flag signals are used when necessary to indicate cardinal directions in latitude and longitude signals. Seven-flags are for longitude signals containing more than one hundred degrees.

A sampling of two-flag groups appears below:

AC - I am abandoning my vessel (and taking the time to hoist flags about it?).
AN - I need a doctor.
BR - I require a helicopter.
CD - I require immediate assistance.
DV - I am drifting.
EF - SOS/MAYDAY has been canceled (I now have time to hoist flags?).
FA - Will you give me my position?
GW - Man overboard. Please take action to pick him up (Flag signalman is okay).
JL - You are running the risk of going aground.
LO - I am not in my correct position (used by a light vessel).
NC - I am in distress and require immediate assistance.
PD - Your navigation lights are not visible (But hopefully you can see my flags).
PP - Keep well clear of me
QD - I am going ahead.
QT - I am going astern.
QQ - I require health clearance.

QU - Anchoring is prohibited.

QX - I request permission to anchor.

RU - Keep clear of me; I am maneuvering with difficulty.

SO - You should stop your vessel instantly.

UM - The harbor is closed to traffic.

UP - Permission to enter harbor is urgently requested. I have an emergency.

YZ - I'm going to spell a word with my next set of flags.

ZD1 - Please report me to the Coast Guard, New York

ZD2 - Please report me to Lloyds, London.

ZL - Your signal has been received but not understood (to which a wiseass would reply, "ZL").

Of course, you may never see these flags except at fleet parades, or around naval installations, or near areas with heavy international shipping traffic, but if you ever do see them, you'll understand some of the important facts behind them.



“The Whaleboat”

Project Update

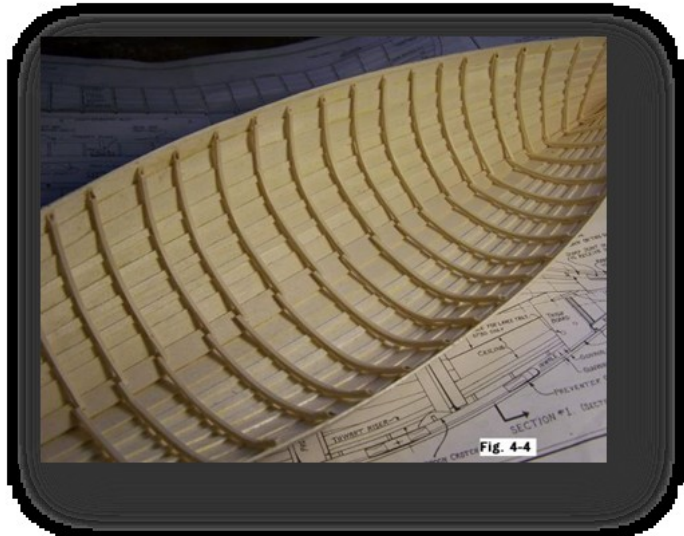
A Navy Board Models POF Project
www.navyboardmodels.com

Another project is off the ground at Navy Board Models (www.navyboardmodels.com). Headed up by Gene Bodnar the Whaleboat project got under way at the end of June.

Unfortunately (fortunate for Gene), Gene was away at the time of this writing visiting the Battle of Plattsburgh Museum in Plattsburgh, New York so I didn't get a chance to get a complete update from him.

Currently after removing the hull from the building jig the builders are in the process of framing boat.

You learn more about how to participate in this online build by going to the Navy Board Models website (www.navyboardmodels.com).





The RNLB Thomas McCunn

An Ongoing

Project by

Mike Pendlebury

I know Mike was in the process of researching this project when I contacted him this month, so I wasn't expecting to see that he had already started working on the model. Lets just say that Mikes no slacker! :-)



Here the building board has been checked for flatness, cleaned down and the centre and station lines drawn .

A full size print of the hull profile has been made and glued onto the ply which will be used for the spine of the keel.



After cutting out the keel the doublers were added to the centre section and it was then mounted in position ensuring that it was kept vertical and not allowed to twist. This will now remain in these blocks/ supports until the hull is framed and becomes a rigid structure ready for planking.



All the formers have also been cut out ready for finishing to size, aft body on the left and fore body on the right. The red line around the sections is the amount to be removed with the disc sander to allow for the double diagonal planking.

See the next issue for more updates from Mike

The Half Moon

a work in progress By Maritime Artist Rex Stewart

The Half Moon, (originally called the Halve Maen), was commissioned on March 25, 1609 for the Dutch East India Company. The company hired Hudson, an Englishman, to search for a passageway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. He thought he had found that passageway when he sailed up the river that was later named for him.

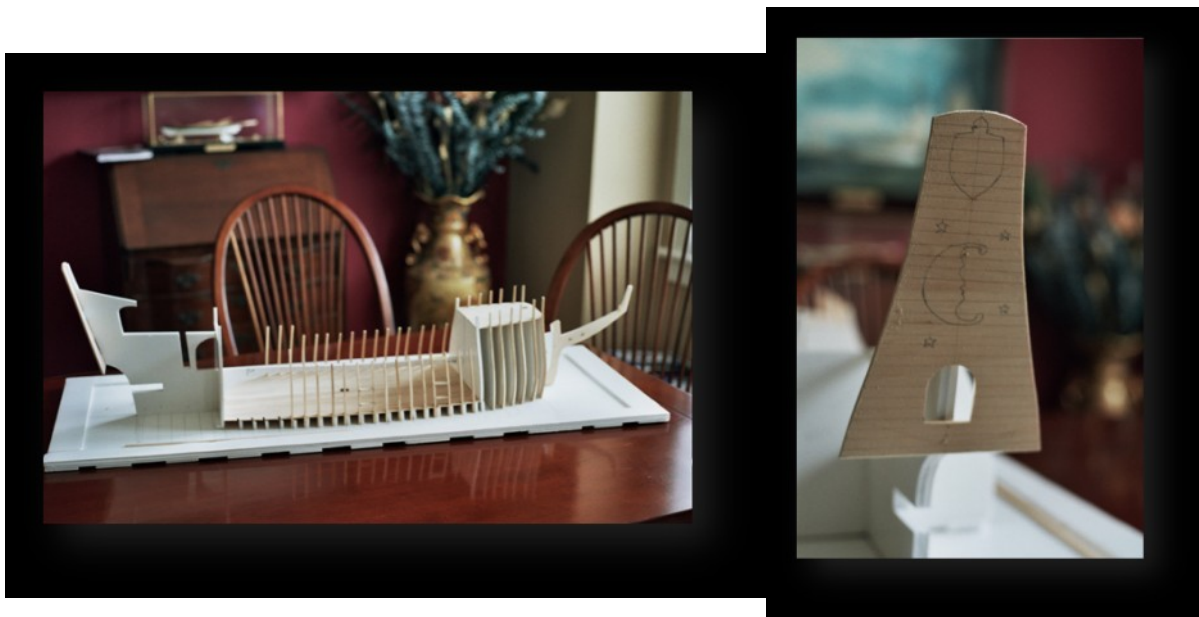
In making his trip up the river, Hudson claimed the area for the Dutch and opened the land for settlers who followed. His voyage came 10 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.

With the 400th anniversary of this trip upon us this year we are happy to bring you some pictures of a build of the Half Moon in progress by renowned maritime artist. Rex Stewart. Over the next issue or two we'll be bringing you pictures of Rex's model in progress as he is able to make pictures available to us.

The model Rex is now building is a 1/2"=1' (1:24) scale waterline model which I believe is to be used in a diorama. I will most definitely follow up with Rex and give you more information in the next issue.

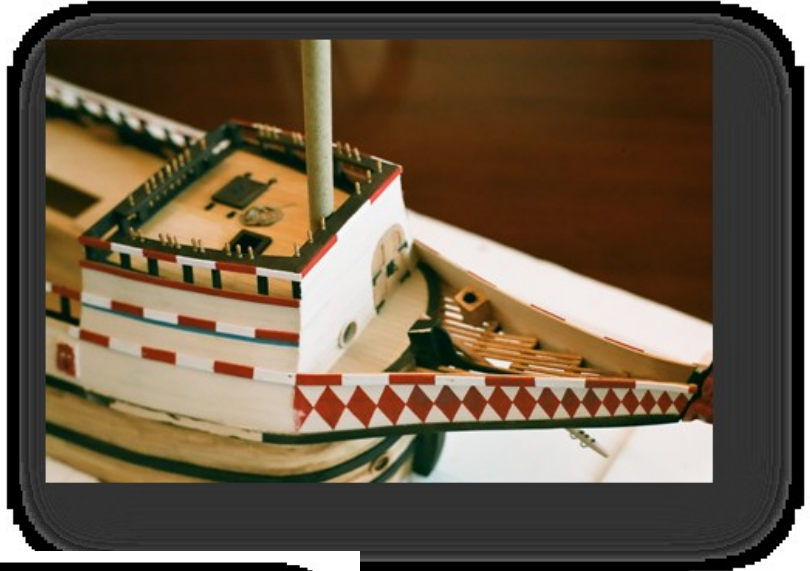
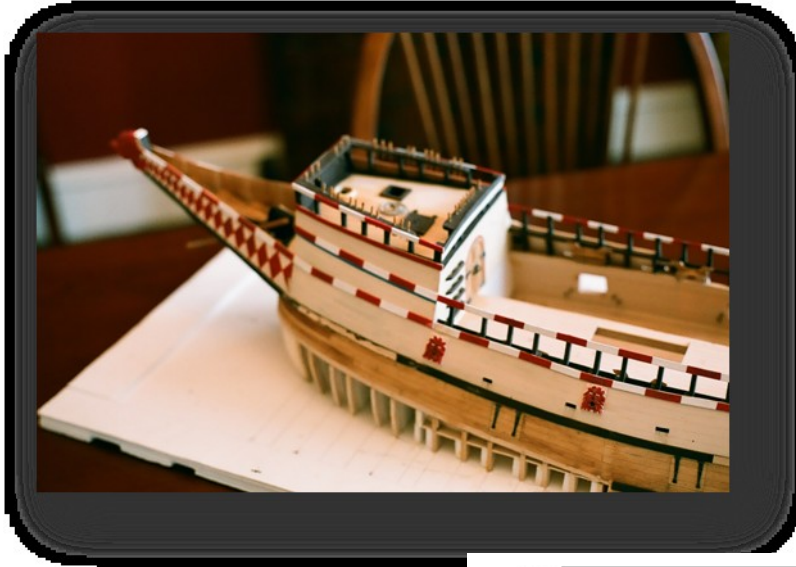
First comes some pictures early on in the build. Rex used a less conventional method for his construction on this model using foamcore for his initial framing stating that it was less time consuming and provided for better lines.





These next pictures show the model a little further on in the build. It's really taking shape







Be sure to join us in the next issue as we bring you the next update to Rex Stewarts 1:24 scale build of the Half Moon.

Also, don't forget to check out the Contributors pictures section for another build of Rex. The Batavia.

What is this? from the last issue



Only two people managed to get this one. It is the Mary Rose



“17th Century Battle Station”

Project Update

www.navyboardmodels.com

The 17th Century Battle Station Project wrapped up at the end of June. Jeff Staudt who headed up the project did an outstanding job, from the development of the plans and proto-type to running the online project.

For any who wish to build this wonderful model you can access the Plans and participate in the ongoing discussions in the Battle Station forum area at Navy Board Models (www.navyboardmodels.com).

I hope we'll be seeing some more projects on the Navy Board Models website by Jeff in the future. He did an outstanding job heading up his first online build.

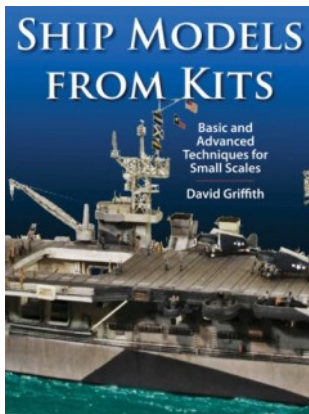
Be sure to read elsewhere in the Journal what Jeff is working on now.

Navy Board Models

A website for builders of Plank-on-Frame Models

www.navyboardmodels.com

The Book Nook



SHIP MODELS FROM KITS, Basic and Advanced Techniques for Small Scales.

by David Griffith.

Naval Institute Press, 2009.
ISBN # 978-159114-363-5
List price \$42.95

(At the time of this writing this book is available for \$28.35 from the **Model Ship Builder Amazon Bookstore** in the Book Nook Section)

When I received this book to review I had already made up my mind that this was going to be another "glue a to b" and so on. So, I was pleasantly surprised that I was completely wrong. This book is sea worthy. As a modeler in the 21st Century I know that all of us need to familiarize ourselves with new materials and methods. Even though many of us are "sticks and strings" modelers, many new materials such as resins, photo etched brass, special glues and paint formulas becoming prevalent in all forms of our hobby and it would be a plus to learn about them.

This book has something for all levels of skills and I think that everyone can learn something valuable from this work. I feel this way because:

- The author describes and rates a long list of kit and after market manufacturers. David pulls no punches and this is vital information for a modeler wanting to try something new. I think more of this form of critique is needed. It helps everyone, at all levels, find quality kits that stand a chance of being finished.
- His organization, preparation and materials section are clear and to the point.
- The use of brass etched parts is detailed and his illustrations are married to the text well.
- David's chapter on rigging materials and methods for small scales is excellent, especially for pre WW I models. His work on early cage aerials is an eye opener. Anyone working in smaller scales is going to want and try what he describes.
- The models are set in their natural element, water. To my mind Justin Camarata's book Waterline Dioramas far eclipses the techniques here(I admit to extreme prejudice here since I published Justin's book) but the author has done a fine job in presenting his work .
- For the most part the photos are clear and in focus.

The sum of all this is that this work teaches, informs and inspires and that these are the most important things a book can do. I do have some issues with the design of this book and the poor way the type sizes and fonts are used, but that happens when one publisher critiques another. It does not materially affect the use of the book.

In short, this book is worth owning.

Bob Friedman

Model Ship Builder

Website Transition Update

We're pleased to announce that the transition of the old Model Ship Builder website into the new website format is finally completed. The only thing left to do with the old website now is to take it completely offline. This is a not a major issue at present so I will do it as time permits.

New things

In the transition to the new format there are and will be some new additions to the site. We have integrated a discussion forum area into the site and it is now up and running.

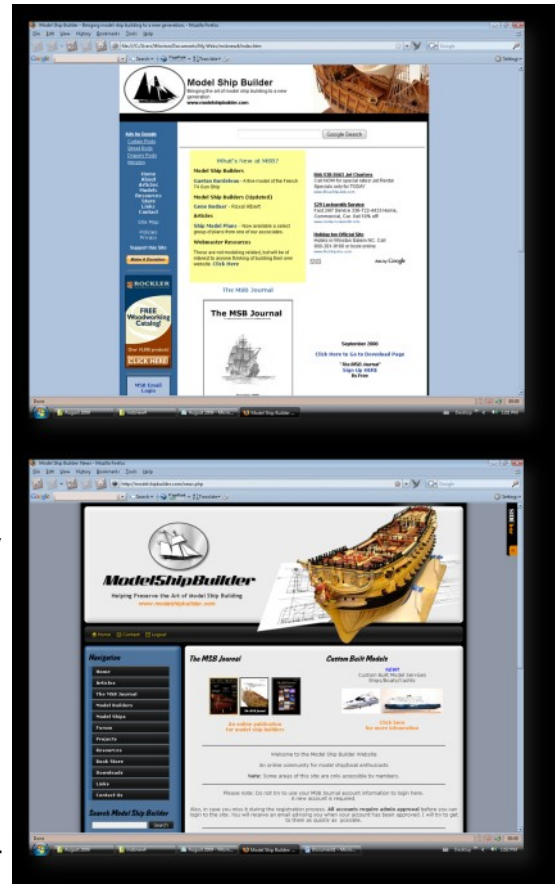
As you already know because you are reading this, The MSB Journal has been moved back onto the site. After long deliberation it has been decided that it will remain on the site permanently. I'm doing this in order to free up time from having to maintain another website. As well, this will allow me to get back to publishing the journal on a monthly basis again. What I am debating on is whether to leave the Journal as a PDF download or to publish it in a webpage format. There are various factors that affect this so I will have to think it over some more.

A New Association

I am also pleased to announce Model Ship Builder is now a Canadian Representative for Premier Ship Models of the UK. Our main relationship with Premier Ship Models will revolve around their Custom Build Modeling services for private and corporate clients.

Besides their pre-built models, Premier Ship Models also offers many different kits lines of static and R/C models. If you decide to order a model from PSM be sure to let them know we referred you. You'll get an extra discount.

Be sure to let everyone you know about the new format at the site and invite them over to join us. (www.modelshipbuilder.com)





On The Workbench



Jeweller's Pin Vise

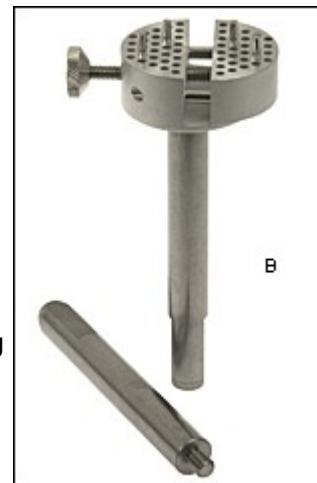
This is an excellent vise, well suited for carvers or hobbyists.

A. Remarkably well made, it is comfortable to hold and easy to use. Simply modify the pin placement to best suit the shape of your work-piece and tighten the vise. The double guide rods ensure constant pressure and prevent any jaw racking. The four-pin system allows you to clamp a tube or ring from the inside (the way jewellers often used it) or from the outside. It is equally effective with irregularly shaped pieces, as shown.



Includes four steel pins and a brass collar; the pins are tensioned inside the brass collar when not in use so that they don't go astray. Maximum 2-1/4" capacity.

B. For hands-free use, the optional steel Pin Vise Post screws into the bottom of the Jeweller's Vise, replacing its original handle. Two flats at the bottom of the post let you clamp it into any vise without marring the shaft. The post is also sized to mount directly into our Veritas® Carver's Vise, giving you a jeweller's vise with the dexterity of our Carver's Vise.



All items shown are available from:
Lee Valley Tools

www.leevalleytools.com

Back on the Drawing Board

"The Matthew"



For those of you who followed the early issues of the MSB Journal you will recall "The Matthew", the building of a proto-type model of John Cabot's famous carrack.

In the last publication containing information on the Matthew project we had finished the basic Hull model, and were getting ready to release plans of the Matthew Model. Unfortunately due to various circumstances beyond my control the project had to be put on the shelf.

We are pleased to announce that it has been taken down off the shelf and plans will soon be available at the Model Ship Builder (www.modelshipbuilder.com) website.

The final drawings are currently being worked on as I write this and should be finished up in the near future. Unfortunately there will be no kit release as previously hoped. Because of its construction a kit would have been too costly. Unlike a lot of kit manufacturers we didn't believe in cutting corners to save on cost. Therefore we will be making the plans available for POB construction. We are entertaining the thought of constructing a set of POF plans, but at this point have not made a decision.

We are seeking someone to take on running an online build project for the Matthew at the Model Ship Builder website. If this may be of interest to you please contact me so we can discuss the details: winston@modelshipbuilder.com

For future development news check the Model Ship Builder website.

www.modelshipbuilder.com



Queen of the North Atlantic
"The Schooner Bluenose"

A New Navy Board Models Online Project

www.navyboardmodels.com

Built in 1921 at the Smith & Rhuland Shipyard in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in its time, the fishing schooner Bluenose dominated the International Fishermen's Trophy Cup and retired undefeated after 18 years, the only ship ever to do so.

Philip Eisnors model of the Schooner Bluenose may be perhaps the most accurate representation of the Bluenose as she was in 1921 when she was launched. He spent many years in researching this project. Much of his time was spent in the Nova Scotia archives and talking with people in the Lunenburg area who sailed on the "Bluenose" along with some of the shipbuilders who were responsible for building her and were also involved in the building of the "Bluenose II". Because only a single tattered sheet of the original drawings were found some invaluable sources of information regarding her deck arrangement included pictures from renowned marine photographers Wallace R. MacAskill and John Knickle, whose combination of pictures left not doubt as to the arrangement of the "Bluenose's" deck furniture, equipment rigging etc.

The online build will be headed up by model builder Gene Bodnar and based on Philip Eisnors plans. Anticipated start date is the first week of September. A special limited time pricing has been arranged for the plans for this project.

For more information on this build and plan pricing visit the Navy Board Models website.

www.navyboardmodels.com

Badges:

Heraldry of Canadian Naval Ships



HMCS Malahat



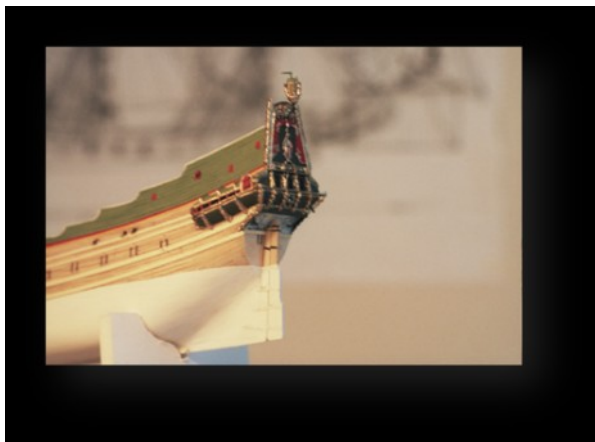
HMCS Thunder

Do you know anything about these ships? Help add to our library.

Send all info to editor@msbjournal.com

Contributors Pictures

Rex Stewart and his Model Ship Batavia



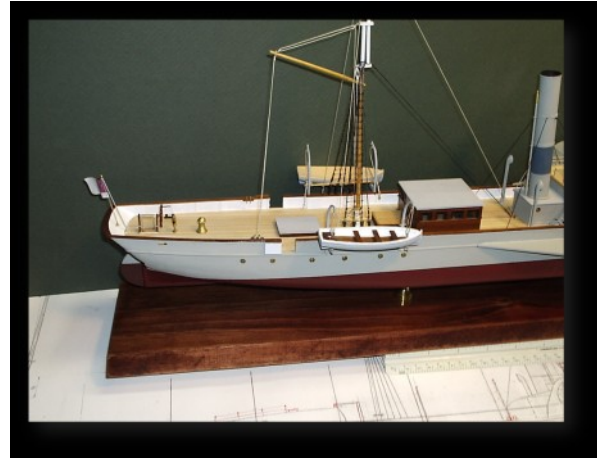
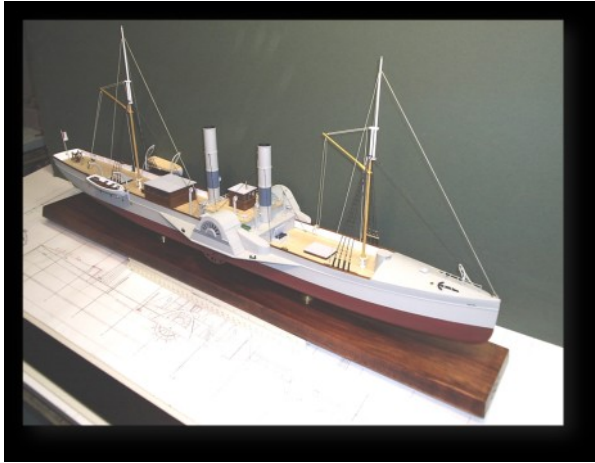


And to help put things in perspective

Next are some pictures of Jeff Staudts Battle Station.
This model is based on drawings by Jeff which are available at
the Navy Board Models website (www.navyboardmodels.com)

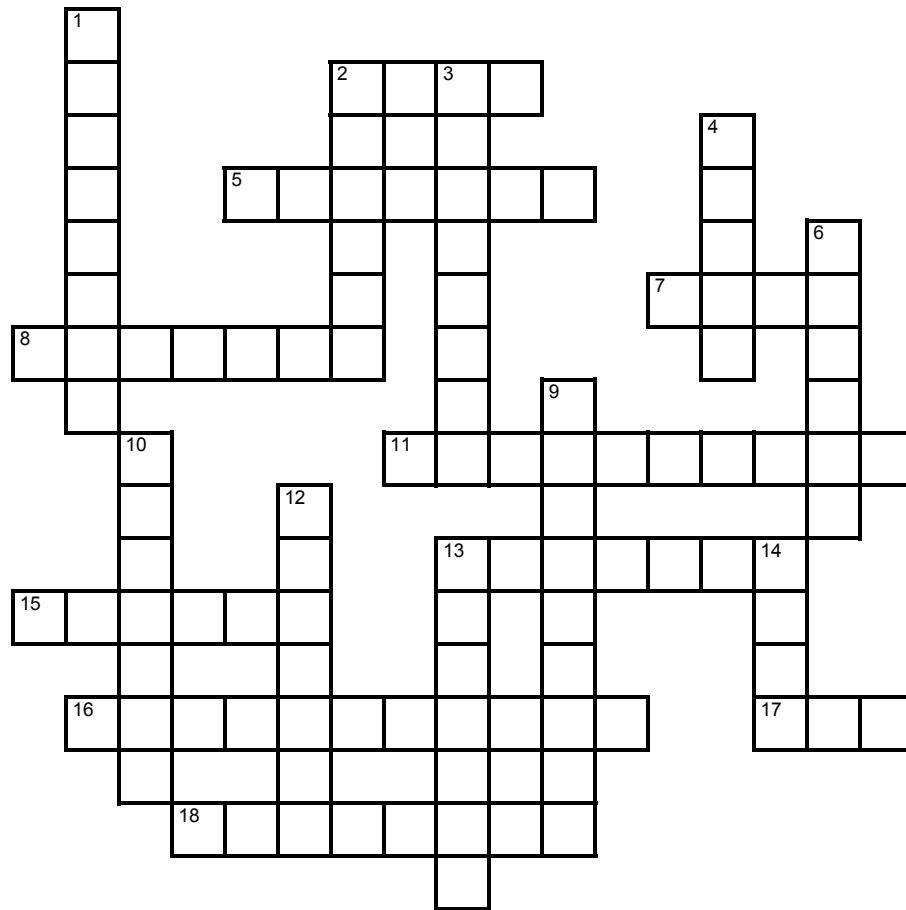


Here are some pictures of Albert Blevins 1/96 scale scratch build of the Confederate States Navy Blockade runner CSS Owl.



Bonus Crossword

by Gene Bodnar



Across

- 2. Partner
- 5. Destiny
- 7. Downhearted
- 8. Opposite
- 11. Bleakness
- 13. Compel
- 15. Dominate
- 16. Solace
- 17. Ocean
- 18. Amazement

Down

- 1. Baker's dozen
- 2. Label
- 3. Sweetheart
- 4. Earth
- 6. Chickenhearted
- 9. Commissioned naval officer
- 10. Delegacy
- 12. Haven
- 13. Skipper
- 14. 24-hour periods

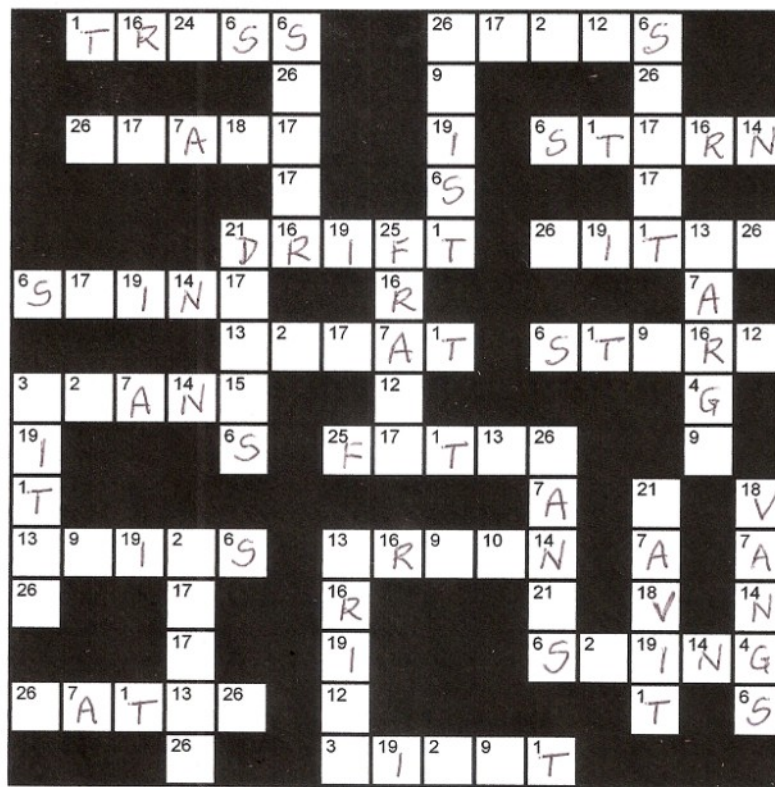
What makes this a "bonus" crossword? If you can answer the following question, you will have solved the "bonus" part of the crossword:

All of the words contained in the answer diagram of this puzzle share one thing in common. What is the one thing that all the words share in common? Think nautically!

Coded Crossword

by Gene Bodnar

Words in this crossword are represented by numbers. Each number stands for a different letter of the alphabet. Once you figure out the letter that matches a certain number, put the letter into ALL the squares containing that number. Use the charts below the crossword to keep track of the ones you've decoded. All words in the puzzle have a nautical connotation.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T			G		S	A	.					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N		R		V	I	D					F	

~~A~~ ~~B~~ ~~C~~ ~~D~~ ~~E~~ ~~F~~ ~~G~~ ~~H~~ ~~I~~ ~~J~~ ~~K~~ ~~L~~ ~~M~~ ~~N~~ ~~O~~ ~~P~~ ~~Q~~ ~~R~~ ~~S~~ ~~T~~ ~~U~~ ~~V~~
 W X Y Z

Famous Schooners Quiz

By Gene Bodnar

_____ Schooner that won the first international Fisherman's Schooner race.

_____ Small Royal Navy schooner that patrolled the American coast from 1768 to 1772, preventing smuggling and collecting duties.

_____ Schooner that made many scientific expeditions to the Arctic, sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

_____ The largest wooden schooner ever built.

_____ The only seven-masted schooner ever built.

_____ A Canadian racing and fishing schooner.

_____ Namesake of the "America's Cup."

_____ A Baltimore clipper, schooner-rigged, that sank in a white squall.

_____ Site of a famous slave revolt.

_____ The first armed American naval schooner.

Salty Sayings

by Harry Campbell

TOE THE LINE: When called to line up at attention, the ship's crew was required to form up with their toes touching a seam in the deck planking.

SLUSH FUND: Salted meat was stored aboard a ship in barrels. When a barrel was emptied, the ship's cook scraped the remaining fat from the bottom and sides of the barrel, and then boiled it down into a slushy mass. This slushy mass was then sold ashore for the benefit of the crew, and the money so derived came to be known as the slush fund.

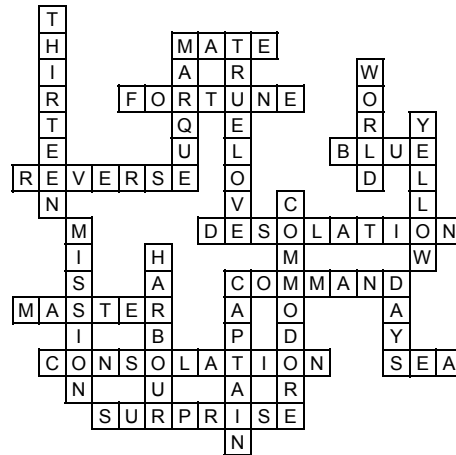
NO ROOM TO SWING A CAT: In the days when the Royal Navy flogged members of the crew for various infractions of the rules, the entire ship's company was required to witness the event at close hand. Sometimes, the crew would crowd around the bosun's mate so tightly that he would have no room to swing his cat o' nine tails.

Answers:

Name the Parts of the Head of a Ship:

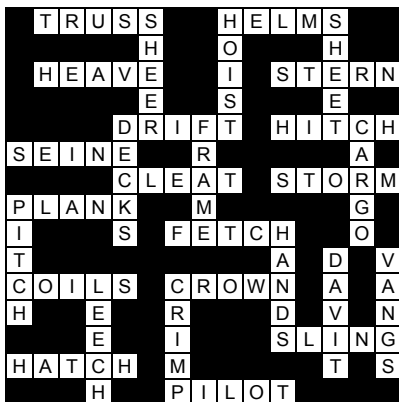
- A – Rail of the head
- B – Cathead
- C – Knighthead
- D – Figurehead
- E – Hawse holes
- F – Hawse holster
- G – Main piece
- H – Cheeks
- I – Hawse pieces
- J – Apron
- K – Cant frames
- L – Gripe
- M – Forefoot
- N – Horseshoe clamp
- O – Stemson
- P – Breast hook
- Q – Knee of the head

Bonus Crossword



Answer to Bonus question: All of the words are used in Patrick O'Brian's book titles in his Aubrey/Maturin series.

Coded Crossword



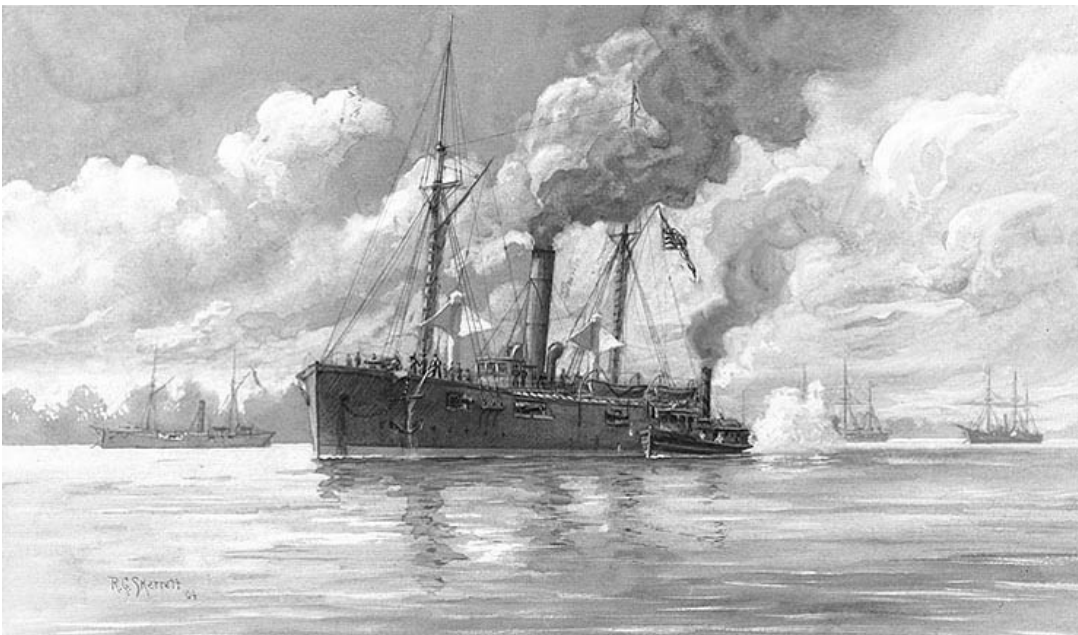
Famous Schooners Quiz:

1. Esperanto
2. HMS Sultana
3. Ernestina
4. Wyoming
5. Thomas W. Lawson
6. Bluenose
7. America
8. Pride of Baltimore
9. La Amistad
10. USS Hannah

Errors & Omissions from the Last Issue

In the "From the Files of ShipWreck Central" section of the June-July issue of the MSB Journal, a picture was posted of the USS Varuna. It was brought to my attention that the ship looked more like a ship from WWII than a Civil War Ship.

On checking I immediately saw that the picture was in error. The ship in the picture is in fact the USS Varuna but this USS Varuna was a motor torpedo boat built in 1943. Below is the picture that should have been inserted into the article.



Modeling Clubs

Tampa Bay Ship Model Society

Meet in downtown St. Petersburg, FL on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. except December.

Contact: George Shaeffer
Ph: (727) 798-0943

We'd like to build a database of modeling clubs from around the world.

If you would like to have your club listed here please send me the following details. Note if you have a website, it will be added to our links page too.

Club Name
When and where you meet
Club Website URL if you have one
Contact Person
Phone/email