



October Report

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

October, 2021



From left: William Prentice, Andy Fulcher Jim Brode, Rolf Anselm, Mark Sandvigen, Robert Browning, Dave Mahoney, Deborah Mahoney. Not pictured: Jim Gower, and Marshall Smith.

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild
October 9, 2021
12:15 PM

Attendee's: Jim Gower, President
Deborah Mahoney, Secretary
William Prentice
Rolf Anselm
Andy Fulcher
Marshall Smith
Dave Mahoney
Jim Brode
Roger Bown
Mark Sandvigen
Marshall Smith



SS America, an old school wooden kit shown underway, (the construction not via propulsion), by Jim Gower.

Meeting was called to order by Jim Gower.

Deborah Mahoney was introduced as our new secretary, and made an official member of the Guild. The club extends our best wishes to Deborah, and now Dave will have to buy her a model to begin building.



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We also thank Deborah for the delicious brownies and also to Rolf Anselm for the Raisin Cookies, not bad to have an abundant amount of snacks to stuff ourselves while enjoying comrade at our meeting.

It was great to see a very good attendance, and hopefully it will continue to grow, and our membership will increase as our friend Mr. Covid is beginning to exit out of our way of life.

Jim Gower, presented seven beautiful books, FREE for the taking to anyone in the guild. Very interesting reading and great pictures!

Jim also presented a 1957 model kit by Ideal of the S.S. America. This kit has been in the trunk of "I'll build this kit one day". It is a balsa hull with balsa cut out decks, metal castings for the funnels and lifeboats and the famous card board cut out sheets for "facing" the superstructure. As you can see, it has the shaped balsa hull that has a bit of work tapering the bow. The model measures about 26 inches long and is now in place on the building board.

What fun it was to open this kit at Christmas time, but I don't remember why I never got around to building it.

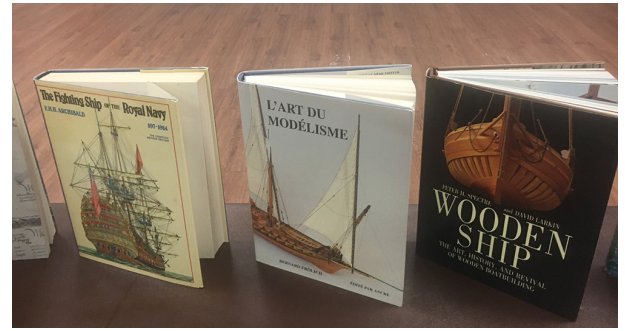
A history of the S S America can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Mark Sandvigen talked about the Veteran Art Exhibit at the Bank of the Arts in downtown New Bern, December 5th 12pm. The purpose of the exhibit is to display works of art by our veterans, and the NBMMG has been invited to set an example of boat modeling for our Veterans; and to help all of them, man or woman, to cope with mental health issues such as PTSD or even suicide. The therapeutic creativity can be shared and spared to all our Veterans.

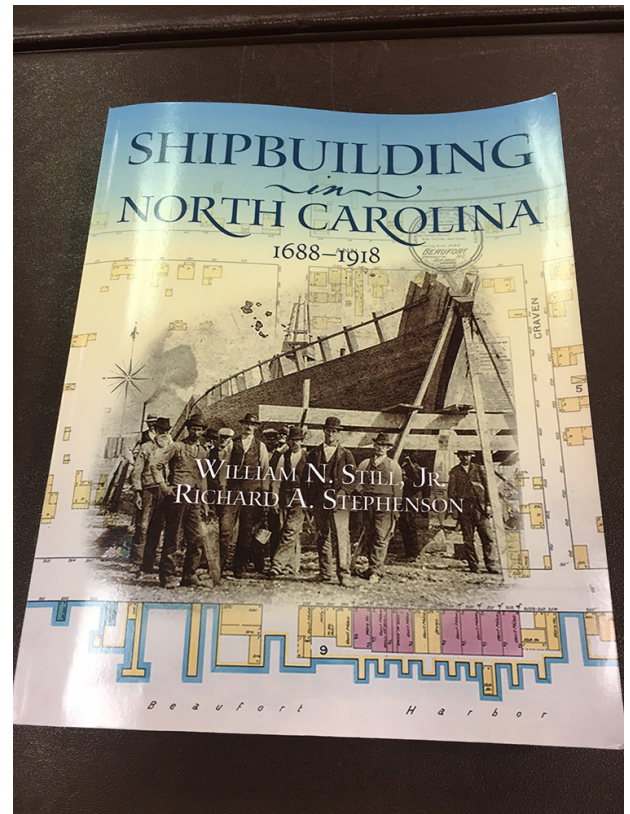
There will be three tables that the guild can display models but will not be in the judging for works of art.

John Emory (Models4Troops) from Raleigh is invited, who is presenting Kits to active duty troops and Veterans all over the country and world.

Andy Fulcher spoke about the Models4Troops on Active Duty and how important it is for



Some of the books donated by Jim Gower. The total list was: L' Art Du Modelisme by Bernard Frolich, Wooden Ship by David Larkin, Fighting Ships of the Royal navy 1897 through 1984 by E.H.H. Archebald, Sailing Ships of War by Dr. Frank Howard, Sea Warfare, by the Thomas Y. Crowell Co., Voyaging Under Sail, by Eric C. Hiscock, The Off Shore Racer, by Theodore A. Jones



The book on North Carolina shipbuilding brought by William Prentice. This volume almost should be required reading for us modelers in this state.



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therapy. John has already shipped over 6,000 lbs. of model kits, and tools to our military all over the world.

Andy also informed us that one of our members, Jay Roig who has been battling cancer for the past 6 months, passed away on October 7, 2021. He was 77 years old and will be missed by our Guild. Please remember Jay's family in our prayers.

Jim Gower gave an update about the Expo in Havelock July 9, 2022. There are 25 vendor tables and 6 are already reserved. Details for entering, (and if you want to enter a model for judging) can be found on the website for Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers here:

www.ecpmod.com

NBMMG will have tables for model displays, "Just for Show" only.

William Prentice said that the New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild recently had 98 hits of interest on the Guilds Face Book Page. It also shows there are 8 to 9 hits every day! These hits are mostly from out of State, but a great testament for our hobby and general interest in Maritime interests.

William has also recently been a guest on the local radio station to talk about the Maritime Museum and boat building shop located in Beaufort, and has given out information regarding our Guild along with the East Coast Model Boat Club in Beaufort as well.

William also presented a book on Shipbuilding in North Carolina, 1688-1918, volume one. It lists every type of boat built in N.C. during this period along with interesting photos of some of the boats.

On a personal note: As secretary, I find such marine boat modeling passion among all the members and asked them to participate in sharing their hidden desire of how they first became a Boat Modeler at our next meeting. There is a great deal of talent and knowledge to be gained by these testimonials.

Meeting Schedule for rest of year:

November: Fire Department Building in Fairfield Harbor.

December: Activity Building (just below the Fire Department Building) directions/address will be given out at our next meeting.

Remember, a modeler's best tool is a modeling club.

See you in November!

The next meeting of the Beaufort Model Club is Saturday, October 23rd at 2:10 P.M.
Lets all support this club.



☀ S. S. AMERICA ☀

The America was built in 1939 for the U S Line and designed by the noted naval architect William Francis Gibbs at a cost of 1.2 million dollars.

She served in the U.S.Navy between 1941-1946, as the USS West Point, a troop transport.

After most liners begin to fade from transporting passengers across the Atlantic, she was sold in 1964 to Chandris Group at the age of 24. She was renamed Australis and refitted extensively.

Over the course of time, she was the last liner providing regular service to Australia and New Zealand from Southampton until her final voyage in 1977.

In 1978 she was sold to the Venture Cruise Lines, and renamed America again to try and capitalize on her name, but her refit was never completed, and over the course of a few short months she was impounded for non-payment of debts.

Her second career with Chandris who bought her back lasted from 1978 to 1980. During the next course of several years she was sold again to two separate companies, but with lack of proper maintenance she

suffered a great deal of damage including grounding after a bilge pipe bust causing heavy flooding.

In 1980 she was sold for scrap, but that did not proceed as the ship proved too much for even the scrappers to continue, so she was left once again with nowhere to go or no passenger operations.

Finally in 1992 she was sold for the last time with the intention of becoming a 5 star floating hotel off Phuket in Thailand as the American Star. Leaving Greece she was being towed to Thailand. The voyage lasted until the ship encountered heavy weather, parted her tow line, and left adrift grounding on a bar at Playa de Gracey off the coast of Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands.

She broke in two just past her second funnel, and in 1996 the stern section of 379 feet slid off the bar and sank. The remaining portion of the ship remained upright until 2005 before beginning to collapse on herself, and in 2006 and 2007 most of the remains completely collapsed on her port side and sank at the bar. In 2019 divers reported that the hull and superstructure had completely disintegrated but remains of sizeable chunks of the ship remained buried in the sand.