



January Report



(above) *The USS North Carolina, (The Showboat) shown here in 1946.*

January 2024

Message from the President:

Greetings to all NBMMG members.

Our first meeting of the year was held with the following members present:

Jim Gower

Jim Brode

Dave Mahoney

Mark Sandvigen

Andy Fulcher

Roger Brown

Guest, Dick White

I thought it would be more than appropriate to thank all members for your support and input regarding our guild functions and carrying on the art of model ship-building. We want to thank Mo Howland of Shop Class for the use of his facility each second Saturday of the month.

2023 saw a number of significant changes and improvements as we were able to get our new website up and running thanks to Alan Welch, who also edits our newsletter and does a great job on layout and organization.

After we opened up our new website, we had 2 important hits from South Carolina and Hawaii regarding kits, tools and wood from families who had lost a loved one that was into modeling.

Mary Ames Booker, the curator of the Battleship North Carolina also has donated

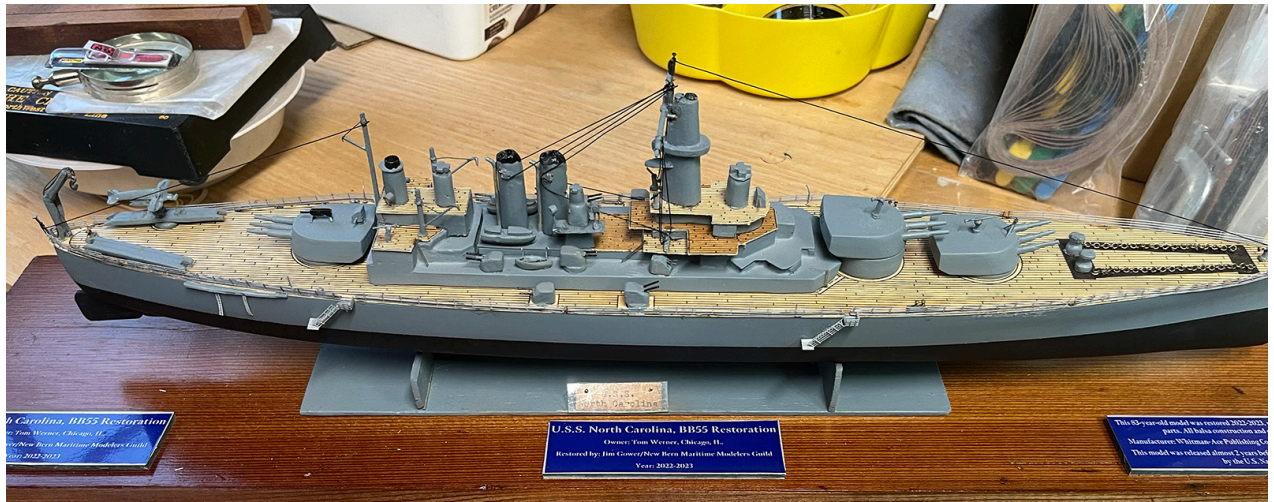
several items from her late husband's modeling shop, which I will go into these circumstances later.

Judy Swartsfager and her husband, Ames of South Carolina lived on their ketch Butter-Fly, a CT 41 for 18 years and sailed both coasts, the Caribbean and the north of South America. This talented couple wrote rollicking songs and humorous tales of a sailor's life and also written songs about modern day cruising. They did not stop there, as they have also written several books about cruising. The book, Down Island is perhaps one of the best reads as it is not a cruising guide but an adventure and humor along with their ordeals while on extended cruising jaunts. (Butterfly Creations) oh did I mention that Ames was a priest the whole time they were living on their boat. I will bring the book to the meetings and we may be able to read a paragraph or two.

Laura Rogers from Hawaii sent 2 boxes from her late husband's modeling shop which consisted of 4 models, tools, and wood. The boxes were 26 lbs. a piece so you can imagine all the goodies that were packed inside the boxes. Laura sent our Christmas presents out, and only asked for a donation for the freight. The cost of the freight for both boxes was \$ 260.00, a donation from the club of \$150.00 along with a receipt of the goods was sent to Laura.

Bob Anderson, Laura's husband was in the Navy from 1960's to 1980's and they settled in Hawaii.

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(above) An 83 year old model of the USS North Carolina is finally restored after about 18 months of effort by most members of the NBMMG.

Most of the items from Laura were donated to the Carolina Maritime Model Society in Beaufort for their annual auction, with our members having first choice of any treasure before going to Beaufort. Some of the remaining gifts are still in my possession, with a few tools being donated to the modeling room in the boat shed in Beaufort.

Now, down to business, we all remember the 83 old model of the BB55, U.S.S. North Carolina (see the Spring Report in our web site for more details regarding this project) that we agreed to restore for the owner. I want to thank, Jim Brode for the excellent restoration of the balsa hull which was coated with epoxy on the inside to stabilize the hull and new paint on the outside. Adam Campbell on the initial deck layout which was cardboard, and Dave Mahoney for mounting the decks to the hull, cleaning and painting the superstructure and mounting his part to the hull. Hank Strub, one of our out-of-town members gave us 3-D printed rails for the deck and the first level of decking, along with the boarding ladders, and miscellaneous fittings. (Remember the original model had printed paper rails).

After 1.5 years of restoration, she is now complete, mounted on her teak base along with 4 plates describing her Battle Stars, the dates of the restoration, and a tribute to the owner's father, Tom Werner; who served on the U.S.S. Pasadena, a light cruiser, and to the owner's best friend's father, Ed Wethekam, who was in the 3rd Marine Amphibious Corps.

A special thanks to Mary Ames Booker, the curator at the BB55 museum in Wilmington,

N.C. as she identified the manufacturer of the kit, and actually had a partial kit of this model. Mary graciously supplied the cardboard pieces we needed and some original balsa wood along with a full-size plan. It was truly a pleasure working with her and learning more interesting facts about our warship. I noted above when I was acknowledging our donations, that Mary lost her husband recently, who was a cabinet maker and avid model maker. Mary has donated some of Dan's tools, and wood to our guild, and more will be forthcoming in the next month or so.

Again, thank you all for your contributions to an interesting project.

While we are on the subject, NBMMG has been invited to host a 2-day event aboard the Battleship, August 10-11 in the wardroom. We are going to display wood and plastic models under the theme "Celebrate the Legacy" that refers to all ships named North Carolina from the 1800's up to the modern SSN-777 (N.C.) submarine which is still on active duty. Models can represent any of these eras and do not have to be a model of the North Carolina. We already have several models lined up, including 7 ft R/C cruiser U.S.S Rochester, possibly an aircraft carrier, liberty ship, and a destroyer all similar lengths as the Rochester These are coming from our friends, the N.C. Model Ship Builders, in the Rocky Mount area who build 1/96 scale radio controlled models.

Don't worry, the wardroom is air conditioned! More information on this show next month.

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New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

January, 2024

At the meeting, the following models were discussed and presented for show.

A Spanish Tuna Trawler that was a commission project by Jim Gower was delivered to his client in Richlands, N.C. prior to the meeting.

Dave Mahoney displayed his current ongoing project of a bashed 36ft. run-a-bout kit to a 24 ft. scale boat. Dave is using a balsa frame with mahogany overlays.

Roger Brown displayed his U.S.S. Springfield, which he served on during the start of the cold war. The kit he used was the cruiser as it was during WWII, and he is building it as one of our first overhauled guided missile cruisers.

Don't forget the annual New Bern Train Show February 24-25 at the convention center. We will have a booth to promote our guild.

And Jim wants you to remember we have two (2) online resources to help the club grow and communicate with one another. The facebook page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/nbmmgnc>

And the official club website is:

<https://www.nbmmg.net/> ■

-Jim Gower



(above) Jim Gower completed a model for a client in Richlands, N.C., the Marinia II, a Spanish Tuna Trawler measuring about 28 inches in length.



(above) Twenty four foot Run about run about by Dave Mahoney. Balsa construction on Mahoney. This is a bashed kit of a 36-footer which Dave has scaled down.



(above) Roger Brown's bashed U.S. Springfield. Roger is converting the WWII era cruiser into the first guided missile cruiser he served on, during the cold war era.



Accurate Inking

As many of you know I build the occasional ship model and, for some reason, people like the fact that I add crew members as often as I can. Although this calls for thought in the detailing it's not as difficult as one might think, even in the scale, (1:350), I work in.

The uniforms, as you may have guessed, are no problem. light blue shirts and dark blue for the jeans. (Although I tend to add a bit of white as I go along since not every gob is wearing brand new dungarees, some pants will be faded.) For officers I generally use a craft paint named "Teddy Bear Tan" both because it's a pretty close match to the Officers' khaki but I also like the name, it appeals to my sense of irony.

I'll mix most enlisted men up, some in work uniform, a few without shirts or maybe with a white tee shirt. Maybe a few in dress whites as if reporting aboard or ready for liberty. Most times these are easy to do save for belts, ties and rank.

Where it gets dicey, though, are those doggoned tattoos.

Here I have to abandon even the smallest of my brushes and go for one of my detailing secrets, a single eyelash. When I tack one of these to the end of a toothpick it gives me a small enough tool to pick out most of the details in a sailor's chest or arm decoration. I do admit I have to fudge the hula girl's grass skirt and make it a solid color instead of the individual grass fibers.

But of course, here, as everywhere, accuracy is king and I make sure to follow the rules of what

HOMEWARD BOUND

the Art of the Sailor

FULL-RIGGED SHIP
A sailor had been around Cape Horn.

SWALLOW
Tattooed for every 5,000 nautical miles they travelled.

NAUTICAL STAR
So a sailor could always find their way home.

ANCHOR
A single anchor told that a sailor had crossed the Atlantic or was a Merchant Mariner.

SHELLBACK TURTLE
Earned when initiated into King Neptune's Court after crossing the Equator.

ROPE
A knot of rope around the wrist indicated a sailor's rank as a deckhand.

CROSSED CANNONS
Signified military naval service.

HULA GIRL
U.S. sailors who had been to Hawaii.

HOLD FAST
HOLD and FAST were written across the knuckles on each of a sailor's hands in the hopes of giving a sailor a good grip in the rigging.

CROSSED ANCHORS
Placed on the webbing between the thumb and index fingers marked a bos'n or boatswain mate.

PIG AND ROOSTER
During WWII, foot tattoos of a rooster and pig were worn to prevent a sailor from drowning.
Roosters and pigs were shipped in crates that floated and therefore often ended up the only survivors of wrecks.

AHOY

OTHER TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS

COMPASS ROSE: So a sailor could always find their way home.
CROSSES: On the soles of one's feet warned off hungry sharks.
BAGGER THROUGH A ROSE: A sailor was loyal and willing to fight anything, even something as sweet as a rose.
DRAGON: A sailor had served in China.
GOLDEN DRAGON: Tattooed when a sailor had crossed the International Date Line.
HARPOON: A marker of a whaler or a member of a fishing fleet.
RING NEPTUNE: Earned when a sailor made it across the Equator.
PALM TREE: Royal Navy sailors during WWII who took part in Mediterranean cruises were tattooed with a palm tree, as were U.S. sailors who spent time in Hawaii.

16/122 *Arthur L. Bellwood* *Lucy Bellwood*

the individual tattoos actually mean. As we all know everything nautical has a meaning and a tale to tell.

So, here is my go to guide, my handy chart for what a sailor's tattoos actually indicate and I happily share with you. This way, when you paint that Master gunner's mate, you don't make his hand say he's a bos'un instead.

After all, the devil's in the details.

Happy modeling, shipmates.

- Alan Welch



New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

January, 2024

Meeting Schedule for New Bern Maritime Model Guild 2024

All meetings start at Noon, at the Shop
Class building, in New Bern.

February 10,

(Train Show booth February 24-25)

March 9th,

April 13th,

May 11th,

June 8th,

July 13th

(DownEastCon July 20)

August 10-11,

(NBMMG Exhibit BB-55)

September 14th,

October 12th,

November 9th,

December 14th,

Meeting dates for the Carolina Mari- time Model Society in Beaufort:

All meetings start at 2:10 pm, in the
Museum's Auditorium.

North Carolina Maritime Museum

315 Front Street

Beaufort, NC 28516

February 24th,

March 23rd,

April 27th

May 4th,

(Wooden Boat Show)

June 1st.

(July - August closed)

September 28th,

October 26th,

November combined with December,

December 7th,

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ECPM Proudly Presents the DownEastCon 2024 Theme:

K*O*R*E*A

THE FORGOTTEN CONFLICT

Anything used during the time
of America's participation
in the "Police Action"
June 25, 1950 - July 27, 1953



20 July, 2024

Rules and
details
on the
next pages!!