



# March Report



**Little Stars**  
1942- March 1943  
April, August 1942  
November 1943  
January - February 1944  
June 1944  
July 1944  
April-June 1945

With gratitude to the memory of  
**Ed Werblek, PFC III Marine Amphibious Corp.**  
**LeRoy Warner, MM3rd Class, CI 61 USN U.S.S. Pinellas**  
Both of whom participated in the Battle of Okinawa, April from 1945 Task Force 51,  
with BB-55 and the US 61 U.S.S. Pinellas

**U.S.S. North Carolina, BB55 Restoration**  
A gift from Tom Werblek to Don Warner, Chicago, IL.  
Restored by Don Warner/ New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild  
Tyrone Woods, N.C.  
2022-2023

This 80 year old model was a 90 percent of the original part of hiba wood and cardboard

The March meeting was held Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> with 10 members attendance: Jim Gower, Jim Brode, Dave Mahoney, Andy Fulcher, Steve Michel, Roger Brown, Mark Sandvigen, Dan Griffin, Jude Brown, and William Prentice.

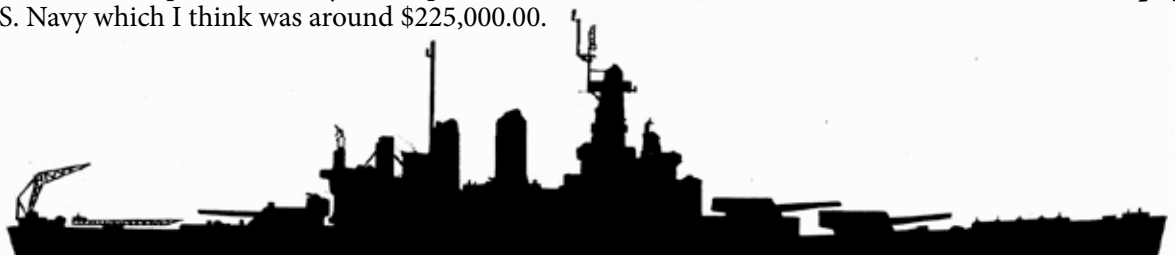
Jim Gower gave an update on the upcoming planned exhibit at the Battleship North Carolina in August. Jim visited the model group, (The Wilmington Plastic Model Group) and discussed their interest in the Exhibit in August plus getting to see what their group is all about. They have an average attendance of 20 plus members per meeting and have a wide range of model medium.

Regarding the Exhibit, the curator has had the publisher of Our State Magazine call and interview me on the modeler's perspective of modeling ships and the North Carolina with its number 32 camouflage scheme. The interview lasted about 45 minutes with topics from my first model, how many have I built over the years, any plans to build a model of the North Carolina with its existing paint scheme, and childhood memories when the N.C. came home to Wilmington. I was still in high school when we donated dimes and quarters to buy the ship from the U.S. Navy which I think was around \$225,000.00.

I remember skipping school in April of 1961 and watching her come up the Cape Fear River, with Governor Terry Sanford on the bridge, and witnessing the exciting turn into the slip with the tug's horns letting each other what each was doing to turn the 35,000-ton deadweight to its new home. There was a floating restaurant, The Ark that had been tied up at the docks for many years, and as she was being turned the stern clipped the port side of the Ark, and caused damage that disrupted the owner's business for quite a while until repairs were made. It never was in danger of sinking, but the blame game continued for a while. I don't remember the outcome, but clearly the Ark had plenty of time to move before this proud lady became the attraction, she has proven to be over the past 50 years.

I have visited the Showboat several times after the commission would open up another area on board, and it is at its best presently, thanks to the volunteers and the staff who keep her in fighting shape. (Well not really, but when you approach her from dockside, she really looks as if she is ready to go and do battle).

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# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

March, 2024



*Saturday, (or maybe Sunday), at the Greater New Bern Model Train Show. It was a fine and well attended event in which we participated and talked to many people about our club and building boat models in general.*

The annual New Bern Train Show was held this month, and NBMMG had a table along with the Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers group to promote our modeling for anyone who might become interested in pursuing a hobby where you actually build something with your 2 hands, and use your brain to complete a project. The show always draws a good crowd averaging 1500 plus each Saturday and Sunday of that weekend.

Interest was varying, with a lot of interest on what we displayed on the table. Dave Mahoney had his

36-foot scaled down to 24-foot runabout he is presently working on, Roger Brown brought his U.S.S. Springfield, one of our first guided missile cruisers after WWII, Jim Gower had his H.M.S. Hood (in progress build) along with a finished model (one of 2 built) of a double ender life boat used by the U.S. Life Saving Service before it became the U.S. Coast Guard. The other model is in the Southport Museum on display depicting an ocean rescue of a grounded ship off the outer banks.

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*(above) The builder refers to this as “Jim Gower’s HMS Hood”, but I think the Queen Mother might have had something to say about that.*







# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

March, 2024



Our show and tell was full of projects that are works in progress.

Jude Brown who has a passion for U.S. Mail Boats from the great lakes' region displayed a finish model similar to what his dad sailed in early days. The interesting thing is these boats had runners attached to the bottom of the hull so they could sail over the ice on the various rivers and lakes in order to deliver the mail. Jude stated his dad got him interested while building this type of boat. The accompanying pics show one of the completed boats. Jude made the sails and did all the sewing to make a good-looking model. Another pic will show the jig he uses to bend and shape the hull. I believe he uses the same jig his dad constructed, and restored it back to working order when he decided to take up his father's passion.

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*(above) Jude Brown's detailing is impressive.*

*(below) The building cradle in actual use. Sometime simple is better.*

*(below left) A better view of the finished product.*





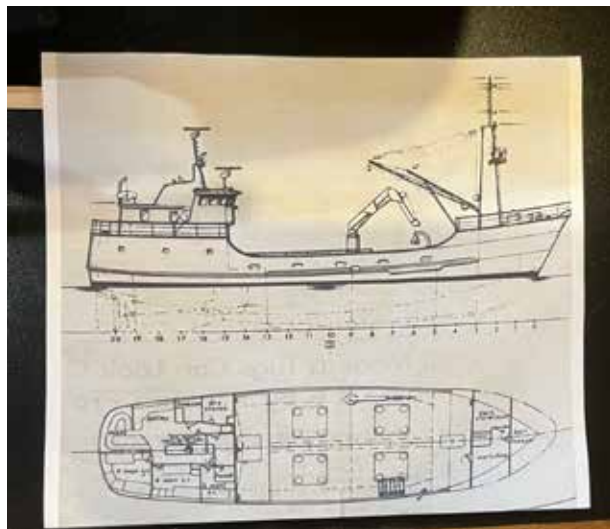


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Jim Brode displayed his progress on the Seabrooke, a fishing vessel located in Dutch Harbor Alaska, which is currently being used in the Deadest Catch Filming of crabbing and dangers associated with the crew fishing almost non stop especially during king crab season. Jim is working from one photograph, plus a small plan which he has blown up to fit the scale the owner would like to have the model built in. It is rumored that this model may be used at some point and time on the series being filmed as we speak. We will naturally send out a press release, and have a T.V. crew to record the event! (lol). The hull is shaping up nicely and the owner got the right man to build this model literally from scratch.

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*(top) A photo of the actual fishing boat as seen in the series.*

*(above) The current state of the build*

*(left) The plans Jim is working from*





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Steve Michel presented his current project of a 1918 tug, the Shelly Foss, which is a 36-inch Dumas kit that has a little dust on the box. Steve is planning on adding all the R/C electronics for full scale operation. An interesting note that Steve is sharing is that the Beaufort Model Society has a model room for modelers in the Harvey Smith Boat Shed directly across from the museum. Any member can go in and utilize tools, and work benches to build and work on their projects. So, if you don't mind a drive the room is open weekdays and I believe on Saturdays as well. Access is by key only so your model is safe if you leave it overnight.

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*(right) The building cradle in Steve uses. Simple elegance in action.*

*(below) Bottom's looking good, here.*







# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

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*(above) Dave Mahoney's 24 foot runabout. She is scaled down from a 36 inch kit.*

Dave Mahoney presented his current build, a scaled down, and bashed kit from Barracuda Models of a 36- foot runabout which will scale to a 24- foot speedboat. You will remember Daves' outstanding model of his Typhoon runabout which measures over 3 feet. Dave plans to put 2-twin Mercury outboards from the 1958 era on back. Did I mention that Dave's talent doesn't stop at building models. He builds outboard motors for clients, his personal use and collects these motors which total over 60 at the present time. This model has mahogany strips as its outer wood.

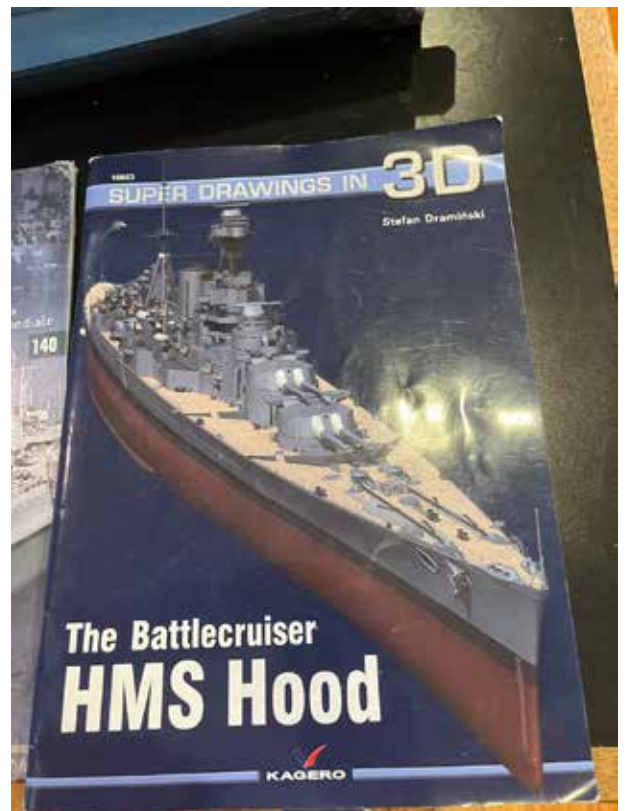
Jim Gower displayed a current build of the H.M.S. Hood in 1/200 scale (48 -inch model) which is a kit from Hachette who is located in Italy. The story has 2 parts. The first part is you can buy this kit which is wood, plastic and a ton of phot-etch outright or buy it on subscription. The kit contains over 3,300 pieces and if you don't lose your mind with the photo etch, or drink your self silly then it may possibly turn out as a fitting model and honor to all who was lost during it's meet with the Bismarck.

We all know that Hobby Shops are becoming fewer and fever here in the U.S., and so in Europe as well. You can go to your local news stand, and buy subscriptions for these types of kits. You can make arrangements to buy a subscription each week, bi weekly or what ever fits your budget to build this model. There are 529 pages of directions which equals to roughly 225 subscriptions to this kit alone. That should give you an understanding of how detailed and expensive this kit is.

Jim was able to secure this kit along with the Battleship Roma from Hachette through one of his friends in the U.K., who builds proto-type models for many of the manufactures, and critiques chang-

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*(below) As we all know craftsmanship is but one part of scale model building. Research is it's handmaiden and Jim uses many source such as Stefan Draminski's schematics.*





# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

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es they need to make in order for the production to be cost effective, and offer a detailed model.

Along with the kit, you will receive a video showing the actual construction, and history of the boat with extra books and diagrams regarding the history. The kit came in a wood crate weighing roughly 32 lbs. The expense incurred was shipping and customs which amounted to roughly \$450.00 five years ago.

The Battleship Roma was purchased 3 years later and the freight cost and customs was about\$ 600.00

Don't forget the Down East Con, Model Expo abd contest, coming in July in Havelock, N.C. hosted by the Eastern Carolina Plastics Modelers, and our host event aboard the Battleship North Carolina August 10-11.

## Meeting Schedule for New Bern Maritime Model Guild 2024 All meetings start at Noon, at the Shop Class building, in New Bern.

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:

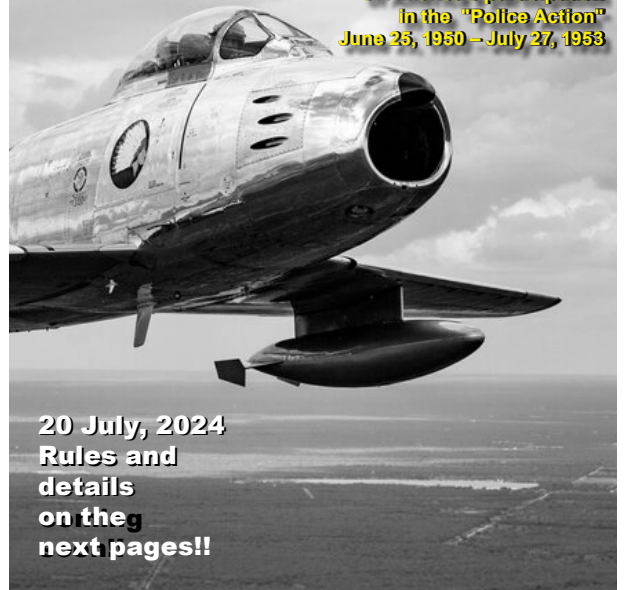
All meetings start at 2:10 pm, in the  
Museum's Auditorium.  
North Carolina Maritime Museum  
315 Front Street  
Beaufort, NC 28516  
March 23rd,  
April 27th  
May 4th,  
(Wooden Boat Show)  
June 1st.  
(July - August closed)  
September 28th,  
October 26th,  
November combined with December,  
December 7th,

EGPM Proudly Presents the DownEastCon 2024 Theme:

# K\*O\*R\*A

## THE FORGOTTEN CONFLICT

Anything used during the time  
of America's participation  
in the "Police Action"  
June 26, 1950 - July 27, 1953



20 July, 2024  
Rules and  
details  
on the  
next pages!!