

Photo of the 1940 model of the U.S.S. North Carolina. This 80-year-old model is being restored by members of the New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

Message from the president:

The new Spring edition of our newsletter will cover events of NBMMG, since it ceased publishing a monthly newsletter in September of 2022.

With the Covid fiasco beginning in 2020 through 2022 and now a resurgence here in early 2023, it has taken its toll on our membership participation as well with other clubs throughout the country.

Future planning is the possibility of zoom meetings for some of our members that cannot physically attend our meetings, along with establishing a new web-site which has been a goal from day one of our formation as a boat building club.

We have been fortunate to expand some areas despite our low attendance rates due to some exciting restoration projects.

As most of you know we are in the process of restoring a 80 year old model of the U.S.S. North Carolina, BB-55 with the help of the curator at the Battleship Memorial located in Wilmington, N.C. This project is detailed in a separate article that will be included in the Spring newsletter.

We have another project coming up from a client in the Jacksonville, N.C. area which is a Atlantic fishing trawler.

These two projects along with upcoming proposals consisting of a monthly/yearly dues schedule will enable us to afford a Website and set up possible zoom meetings.

The Hampton Roads Ship Model Society has included our information in their new country wide directory of model ship clubs through which our newsletter will be sent to these organizations.

Our future looks bright , and finally restoring new energy to the few that step up to the plate and promote our Guild and keep the future of modeling boating alive for the future.

Beginning in February, Jim Brode will be running the meetings, while I will be taking notes on our session and obtaining photographs of current modeling projects.

Thank you all for keeping this Guild together so we can continue to grow.

*-Jim Gower, President
New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild*



New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

Spring, 2023



This model is a Sterling Model manufactured in the 1960's. the outboard motor is manufactured by Ricco and runs off 2- C batteries.JPG

The February meeting was called to order by Jim Brode who has volunteered to oversee the meeting format along with Jim Gower.

A total of 8 members were in attendance, and the following items of business were discussed.

The discussion of yearly dues, which the cost will be voted on at our next meeting, along with a Treasurer and establishing a bank account will also be decided.

The North Carolina Battleship project will bring in a donation from the owner for the Guild and it will be necessary for the establishment of the bank account and a member to serve as treasurer.

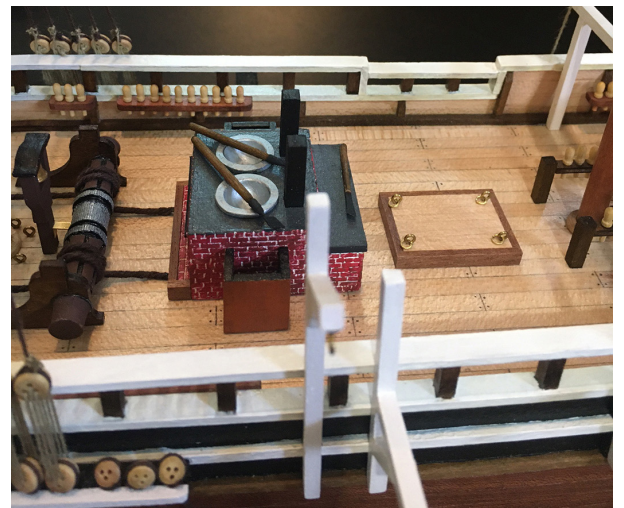
Along with the above-mentioned items we also discussed the establishment of a web site for the Guild, and proceeded to receive a proposal from Alan Welch who does our Newsletter.

We are hoping to launch this new Website in April along with the presentation of the North Carolina Battleship to its owner who in turn has plans to donate the restored model to the U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Memorial in Wilmington, N.C.



(above) Model of the whaling ship Essex by Adam Campbell.

(below) Photo of deck furniture on the Essex. Great work and detail Adam!





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A 1950 restoration of a Cabin Cruiser that Roger and his dad built back in the 1950's. Photos show interior of hull stripped out, and with the assistance from Dave Mahoney who is our miniature engine expert, both electric and gas, have the original electric motor running. Finished project with original colors from the 1950's. A cherished model Roger can be proud to display.





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An article on the North Carolina is included in this newsletter, along with a related article furnished by the Curator of the Memorial, Mary Booker.

The article regarding “portholes” appeared in the New York Times, dated April 19th, 1941, which was the launch date of the first fast battleship the U.S. Navy had built since 1923.

A table is reserved at the New Bern Train Exhibit, for March 3-5. Our aim is to present information about our Guild to anyone who is interested in model building.

A possibility of establishing a “zoom meeting” was also discussed for members who cannot physically attend our meetings. A final decision will be made in March or the April meeting.

Dave Mahoney presented a model of a PBY Flying Boat (which according to Dave qualifies as a boat and plane).

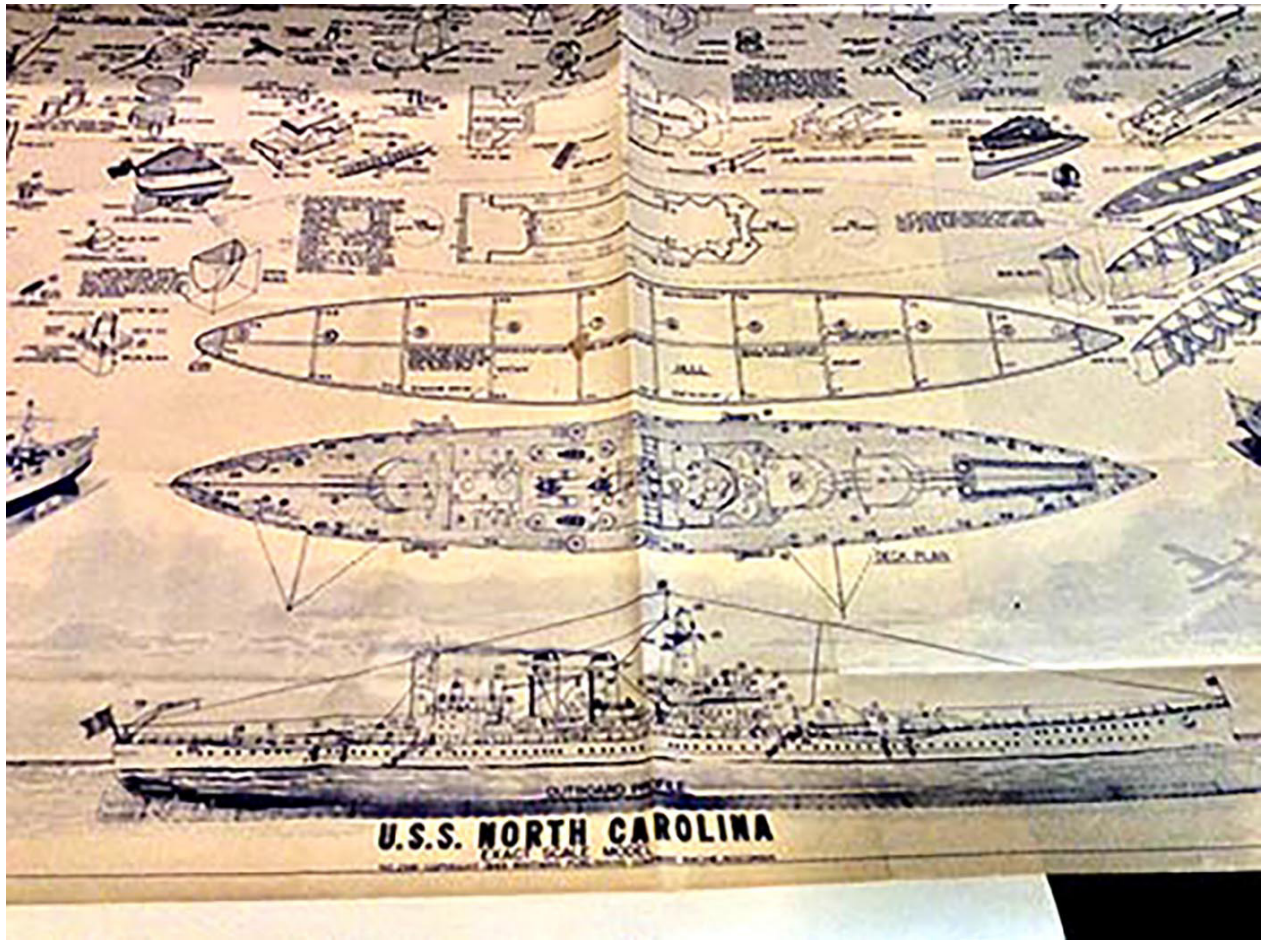
The 45-inch wingspan should keep Dave busy for a day or two.

A request from William Prentice, who volunteers at the Beaufort Maritime Museum, has had a request from an Associate that is looking for a kit or model of North Carolina Ferry's. No time period was mentioned, so if anyone has any information regarding N.C. Ferry Boats models or a kit please let William know via the Beaufort Maritime Museum.

(above) Photo of Dave Mahoney's PBY Flying Boat. With a 45-inch wingspan, I'm sure Dave will be busy for a few days.

(below) Dave Mahoney's 1950's Sterling model of the Sea Dart with a 0.49 gas operated engine that still runs.





USS North Carolina Project

As most model boat builders that are actively involved in numerous types of boat building projects, my good friend and member of the Carolina Maritime Model Society located in Beaufort N.C., William Prentice sent me a photo of a model the owner was interested in restoring.

Well, being a N.C. native and that of the Battleship named after our State, who could possibly not have a spike of interest. I contacted the owner who has a residence in Emerald Isle, N.C., and made arrangements to go and discuss his desire and get my first look at this model.

What a surprise when I saw the model! At first, my thought process funneled it to a “folk art” model because the North Carolina did not have portholes and the turrets were rounded like the British and French warships pre-WWII.

Have you ever heard the word “research”? Well, I learned a valuable lesson from that day regard-

ing this old 1940* model, built by the owner’s best friends dad. So now that the base line regarding the model is established, lets proceed.

I kept thinking to myself what was I going to do with a 80 year old model as the owner had given me a brief history that his best friends dad had built this model from a kit in 1940, and he has had it ever since.

Now the word research begins to make me appreciative of history and my folk-art theory shot down in flames.

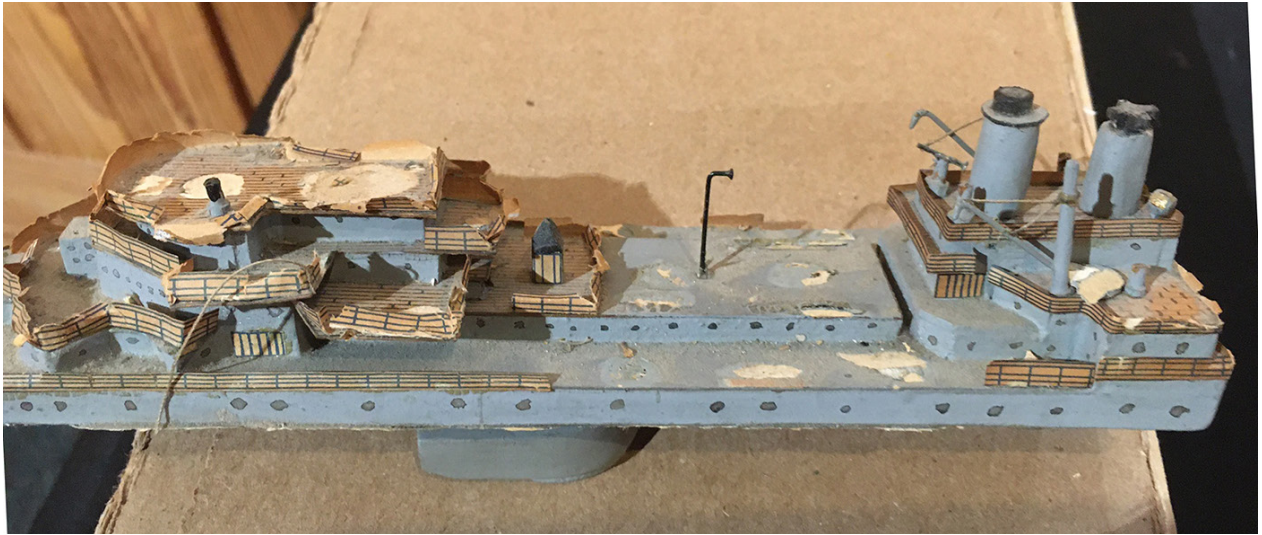
After a few days, I posted a few photos of the model online and the curator of the real U.S.S. North Carolina Memorial in Wilmington, N.C. picked up on the photos and proceeded to inform me of this model.

It seems this kit which is balsa and bamboo paper/card stock was distributed in 1940 by Whitman-Ace Publishing Company. Mary



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March, 2022



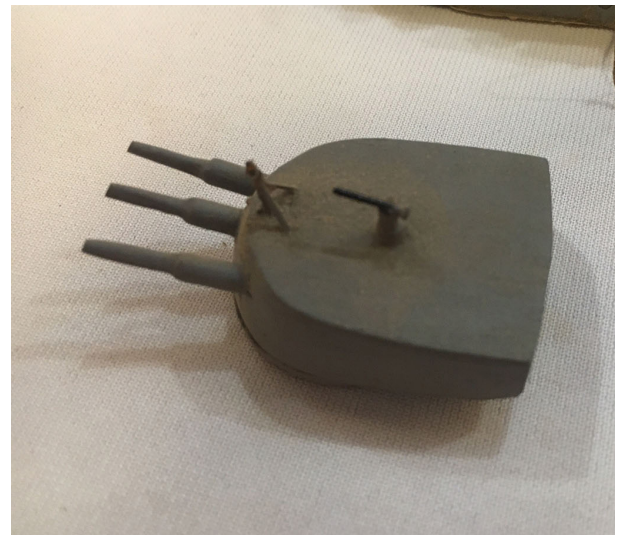
We have removed the superstructure from the hull. Note that despite the ravages of time, the paper railings are still intact after 80 years.

Ames Booker, the curator informed me that they had 2 complete kits of this same model and a partial one there at the museum. She offered to send me a copy of the original plans, along with some parts out of the partial kit they had. (In the meantime, our club the New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild decide to make this a club project. We decided at the time to keep as much of the original pieces, clean them repaint and restore the model.)

After that, Mary sent me a copy of an article that appeared in the New York Times, dated April 9 th, 1941, regarding the portholes on the North Carolina. At the time of launching or shortly before she had portholes, and it was decided that they would be covered over since the British and German navies decided that they tended to create unsafe features on their ships as they would create more damage and allow flooding from bombs or shells in the event of battles. (see attached copy of the article and also note this ship was the first battleship the U.S. Navy had built since 1923. It was considered a fast battleship and the most powerful in the world due to her massive 16-inch guns.)

So now this model has us all foaming at the mouth, because we are finding out more and more about this model almost weekly.

But wait, what about the model displaying painted portholes, and rounded gun turrets?



One of the 16-inch gun turrets and note the rounded design of the turret. Refer to the article regarding the portholes and turret design at the time this kit was introduced to the market.

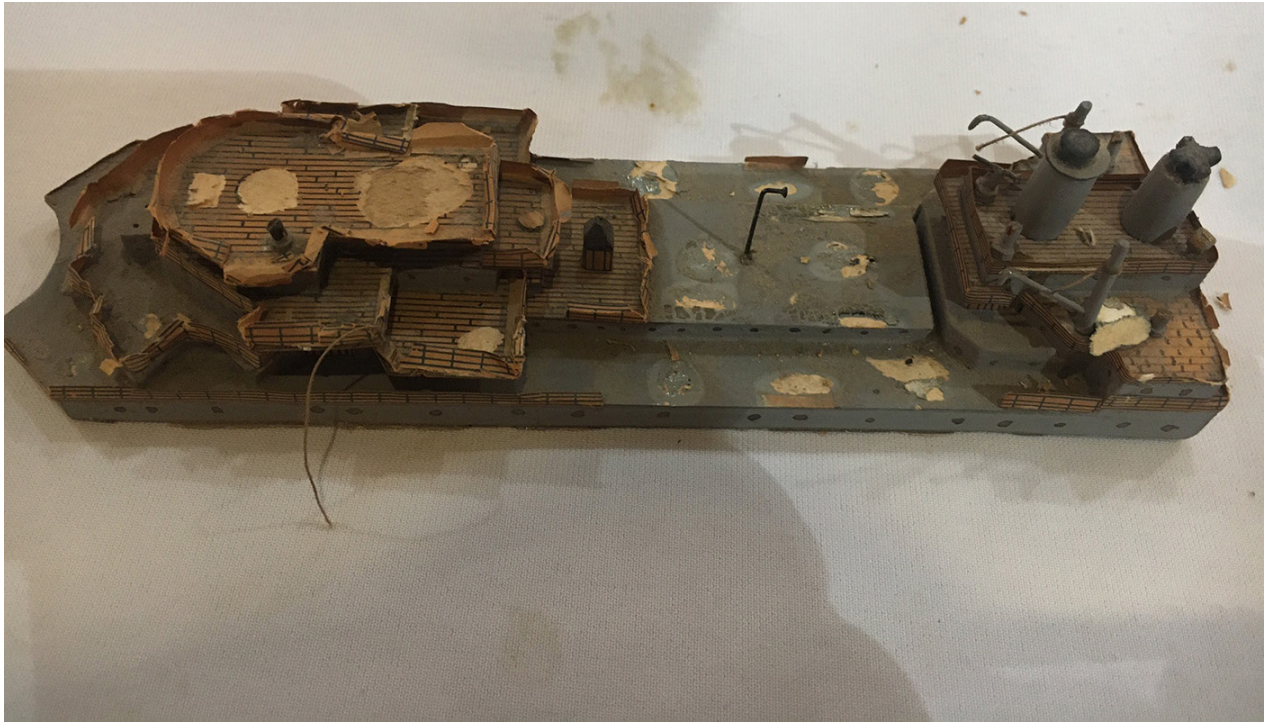
Let's backtrack and pick up about Whitman Publishing Company.

This kit came out before the N. C. was launched, and the navy did not want to divulge the final design of the ship as war clouds were approaching the U.S. Whitman designed their kit and took designs from post-WWI ships and distributed their kit based on that information.

Conversations with the curator and the owner have shifted to the owner showing interest in donating the finish model to the Memorial Museum in Wilmington.



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We are in the process of using actual parts that have been supplied by the curator to restore this model. It is mostly all the bamboo card stock that make up the decks, and we will use the plans to construct any smaller parts needed. It is worthy to note, that if you look closely, the model had paper rails which were printed on the side of the plans, along with signal flags. We will make the final decision on railing when we meet with the owner and curator at a later date.

I will be adding more photos as progress continues and we get a clear picture of what the

Although she currently looks like a wreck on the ocean floor, this model will live again.

Memorial and owner agree to. The main item to remember is that this 80 year old restored model will have 98 percent of the original parts when it was built.

*-Jim Gower
President*

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild

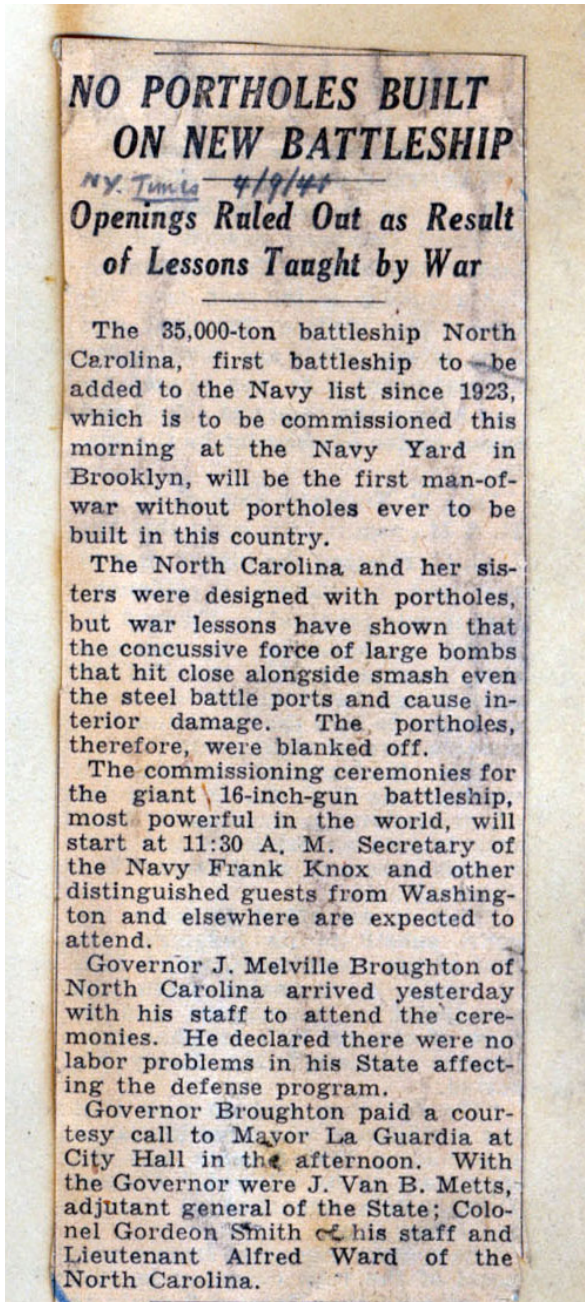
The infamous portholes as noted in the article. Like the real ship these will be plated over . . . in this case with paint rather than steel.





New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

March, 2022



Meeting Schedule for Carolina Maritime Model Society 2023

Schedule for the calendar year 2023:

- January 28,
 - February 25,
 - March 25,
 - April 22,
 - MAY ?
 - June 3,
 - September 23,
 - October 28,
 - December 2 (combined November-December meeting)
- All meetings start at 2:10pm, in the Museum's Auditorium.

North Carolina Maritime Museum
315 Front Street
Beaufort, NC 28516

Meeting Schedule for the New Bern Maritime Modeler's Guild 2023

- January 14,
 - February 11,
 - March 11,
 - April 8,
 - May 13,
 - June 10,
 - July 8,
 - August 12,
 - September 9,
 - October 14,
 - November 11,
 - December 9.
- All meetings start at Noon, at the Shop Class building, in New Bern.

