

Monthly Newsletter of the Washington Ship Model Society

Wednesday, January 08, 2014

Happy New Year to All!

Skippers Corner

Time to shake off the dust of 2013 and look forward to a happy and productive New Year!

Looking back on 2013 I think our Society had its share of ups and downs but adding it up overall the ups certainly outweighed any downs.

Last year I decided to follow the tradition of making some New Year's WSMS Resolutions. So, as your Skipper I suggested 5. As nobody objected or recommended changes I pursued them. These are reiterated with my assessment of progress:

1. *Try to re-invigorate the interest of and participation in the Society among those members that we haven't seen for awhile*
 - **D+** In truth, it could have been better. There are too many of you out there that we would really like to see more of. Let the Bridge team know what would help encourage you to re-engage. On the bright side, we did ramp up our membership with 7 new members.
2. *Identify attention grabbing topics that would spark more interest in the monthly meetings*
 - **B** There were some excellent presentations on tools, tool sharpening, a tour of the National Navy Museum & Museum Ship, etc... However we still need more members to share their talents and advice by volunteering to give a talk or demonstrate a modeling technique.
3. *Conduct a maritime-related road trip*
 - **A+** The visit the Naval Museum in DC and the trip to Philadelphia to visit the USS Olympia were big hits for those that attended. Look for more in 2014.

**This Month's Meeting
Saturday, January 11th, 2014
at 10 A.M.**

**Hollin Hall Senior Center,
1500 Shenandoah Road,
Alexandria, VA 22308
Room 217 "Class Room"**

Directions:

- From the beltway go south on Route One to the first left which is Fort Hunt Road (SR 629) and head south about 3.5 miles to Shenandoah Road. There will be a Shell Gas station on the near right corner and the Hollin Hall Shopping Center sign on the far right corner. This is Shenandoah Road.
- Make right turn and go to the right drive entrance just beyond the 7-11 store and some trees. There is a large parking lot. The building is a converted school.
- Enter the building by the doorway under the green pitched roof/canopy at the flag pole. Turn right and there is an elevator. Go to second floor, turn left, go to end of hall, turn right and go down corridor to room 213 or 217.
- Coming from the south turn off Route One to the right at Sherwood Hall Road and continue past the Library about a mile to Fort Hunt Road. Turn right on Fort Hunt Road and head south to the gas station noted above.

See You There!

4. Sponsor a Regional Ship Modeler's meeting

- TBD Work is underway with the Philadelphia SMS on planning one for 2014

5. Hold a WSMS Awards Dinner

- F Discussed but never gained traction. I remain convinced that we need to do this so that we can honor the work of many of our unnamed members that have contributed to our organization over the years.

While I will be stepping down as your Skipper this spring, I am still going to offer a 2014 update to these resolutions. They are:

1. *Add 7 more new members in 2014*
2. *Conduct 3 maritime-related road trips*
3. *Organize a WSMS Awards Dinner*
4. *Institute an outreach program to increase our contact with other regional ship modeling organizations*
5. *Work with the Bridge and WSMS Commodores to strengthen our administrative and planning processes*

**These are not for the Bridge and Skipper alone to pursue but are for all of us to become engaged in. What say you?
Let your Bridge know!**

Concerning this month's meeting, unless a last minute volunteer steps forward to present a modeling related demonstration the meeting will be a **Holiday Haul Show-And-Tell** plus business meeting. If however anyone planning to attend would like to have the floor and conduct a presentation, please let me know!

December Meeting Minutes

There are no minutes for the meeting due to the Ship's Secretary having been SIQ (Sick-In-Quarters). However here's a quick run down from our 1st Mate, Warren, who officiated: Attendees were; Joel Labow, Lee Hall, Ron and his wife, Warren Yaun, and John Eberhard who was voted in a new member. John has completed the Model Shipways USF Confederacy, Blue Jacket's USS Maine 100th Anniversary limited edition, a Vasa, and several others. John was recruited by Carl

Editor's Notes

1. We need a Newsletter editor!

I am filling in, in the interim until one of you hopefully has a yen to be published steps up to the plate and takes over, please!!

2. Auction February 8th.

We have amassed a considerable amount of material ranging from model kits of all genres and eras; research material ranging from books, magazines to related plans; various modeling materials, some tools, etc.... Please be sure to thank Lon in particular for the enormous amount of kits, books, and other things that he has donated. If you like me, have some ship modeling stuff that is occupying space you want back for more such stuff, please contact Lou Husser at LBHusser@verizon.net

3. New Members Elected since 2011

There a number of members we have voted in over the past two years. If you are one, please send me an email (LBHusser@verizon.net) reminding me to provide you with a WSMS Coffee Mug, coin & patch



Upcoming Schedule:

January 11, 10 AM – WSMS Regular Meeting Hollin Hall Senior Center, Alexandria, VA

January 25, 10 AM – WSMS Focus Meeting Lou Husser House, Stafford, VA

February 08, 11AM – WSMS Auction & Meeting Rhodeside Grill, Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

February 22, 10AM - WSMS Focus Meeting John William's house, Gaithersburg, MD

after they met at his retirement community. John has already pitched in and will host the February Focus Meeting March Focus Group meeting.

Joel demonstrated several of his interesting and unusual tools as well as his completed

Heller model of the Soliel Sole model. Lee Hall brought his in progress skipjack for show and tell (see photos). Lee's skipjack (a Wyd River Model) required a lot of scratch work. He said the instructions were of little help



Joel's Soliel Sole



Joel's Surface Gauge tool



Lee Hall talking about his progress on his skipjack

Various Tools demonstrated by Dr. Joel Labow

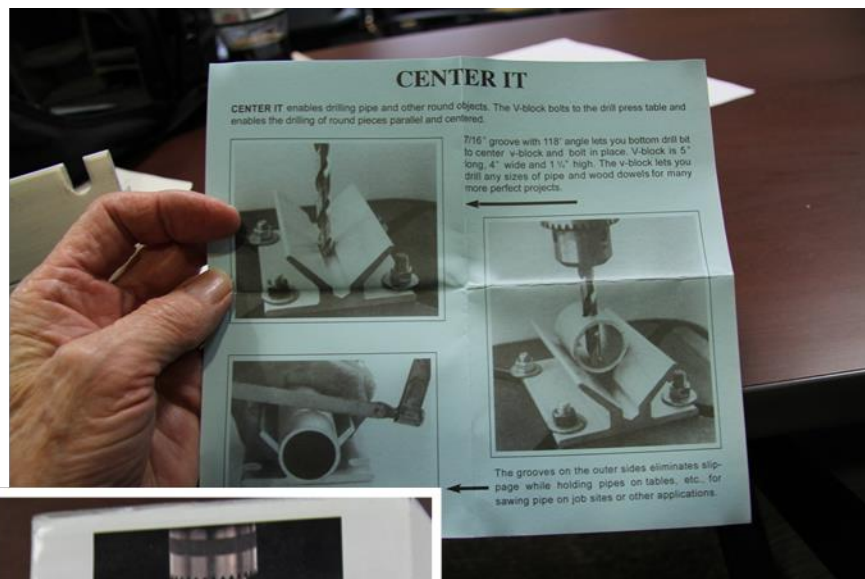


PHOTO PAGES OF WSMS MEMBER MODELS

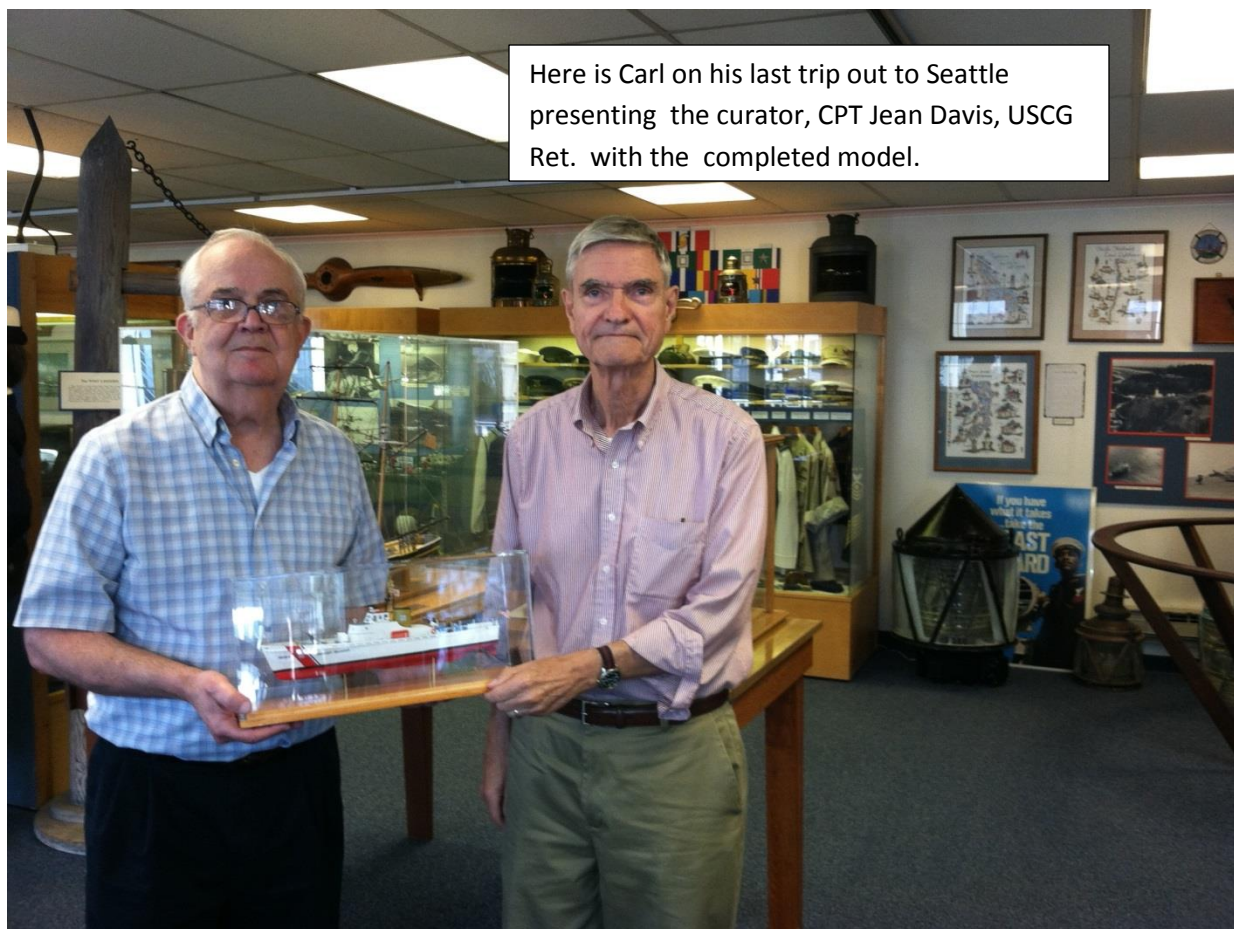


Photos of our new member, Paul
Eberhard's Confederacy



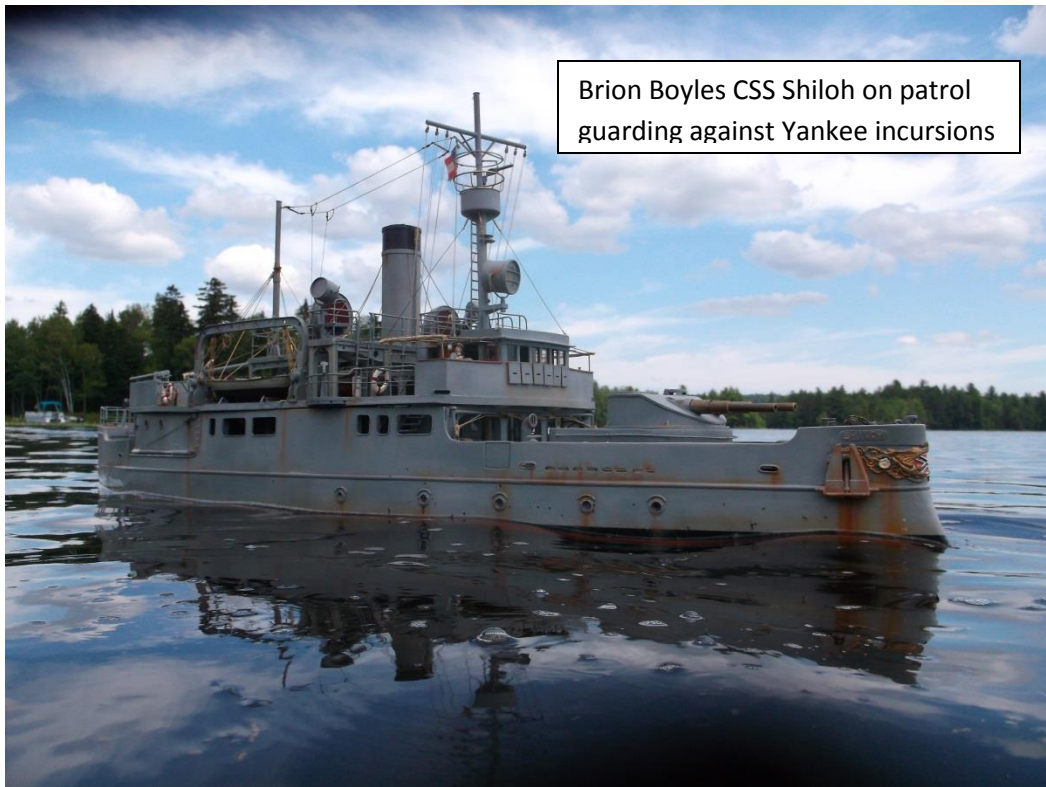
WSMS Member donation to The Seattle WA Coast Guard Museum:

Carl Erickson and his wife often visit Seattle to visit their son and his family. Carl often visits the US Coast Guard Museum there and noticed they did not have a model of a 95 ft Cape class cutter. Carl was given a kit of one by a "coastie" friend from Homeland Security days and promptly filled the void.



Submitting Photos

We need more photos to place on our website! We are particularly under-represented by photos of wind powered (sailing) ship models. Please consider sending our webmaster, Carl Erickson photos of some of your work at astridcarl@aol.com



Brion Boyles CSS Shiloh on patrol
guarding against Yankee incursions

Photos of CSS Shiloh's Galley,
boiler room and Officer's salon



Continued on Next Page

January's It Ought to Be a Model!

The What If Model: The Subsurface Torpedo-boat

By Doug Wilde

Like many of you, I have been collecting plans for ship models I wish to build. (Pay no attention to that stash of unbuilt kits behind the curtain) In addition to those of actual vessels are plans for those that might have been. (Why should the plane guys have all the “what ifs” or Luft ‘46?) A lot of these ship plans come from those fertile periods of great change, when no one knew what would work or which technology was feasible. A great source of these ships and more importantly plans is the early issues of the *Transactions of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers*, often shortened to SNAME.

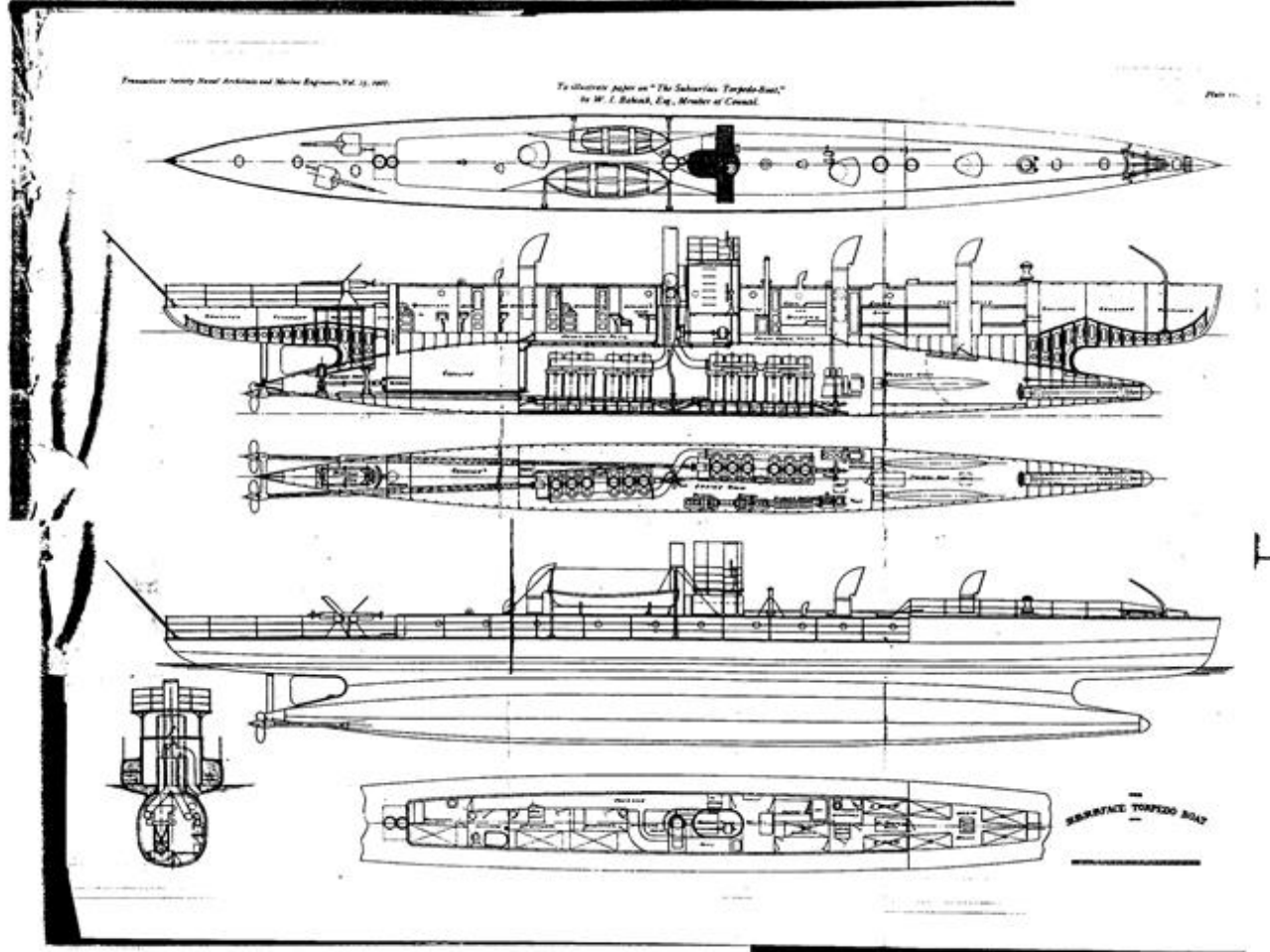
One of my favorite “what if” vessels is the Subsurface Torpedo-boat, described in 1907 (SNAME Trans 15:243-247). It is a reaction to the shortcomings of submarines and their non-participation in the Spanish-American or Russian-Japanese Wars as well as the extreme vulnerability of conventional torpedo boats to rapid-fire and machine guns. The designer, W. I. Babcock, thought of the subsurface torpedo-boat as “...a water-protected torpedo-boat, a waterclad, as the cruiser protected by armor is an ironclad.” The below figure is a compilation of a number of drawings that accompanied the article and provides sufficient detail that one “practiced in the art” should be able to build a model.

Mr. Babcock described the Subsurface Torpedo-boat as “...simply a submarine boat running just under the surface, with a heavily armored conning-

tower always high above the water to give air and clear vision, the whole being supported by a distinct surface hull, which is filled with cellulose in compartments, so as to preserve the buoyancy, stability, vision, air supply, and thus the efficiency of the whole boat, even if the exposed hull should be riddled with shot. When in action, the crew are all in the submerged hull, so that shells can pass through the upper hull without materially affecting boat or crew, the cellulose acting to close up the shot-holes and keep out the water. The offensive armament consists of a bow torpedo-tube and three 21-inch torpedoes...rapid-fire guns on the upper deck...two 6-pounders.”

The boat proposed is 140 feet in length with a 13’6” beam and draught of 11 feet. Two 6-cylinder engines of 1,500 bhp each would give a speed of 19 knots. Five models were built and “...tested in the Government’s experimental basin at Washington...” I wonder if any of the surveys from those tests still exist. There you have it, one of my favorite “what ifs”, a model that would be most interesting to build.





SNAME Plans for a Proposed Subsurface Torpedo-boat

UPCOMING - **WSMS** - EVENT NEWS

WSMS AUCTION & LUNCHEON

Our February meeting will be an Auction & Luncheon affair which **will be held the 8th of February at the "Rhodeside Grill, 1836 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201** It will start at 1100 and run to not later than 3:30PM. The website is listed below. As per the "Editor's Notes" a significant amount of material will be up for member-only bidding/purchase. We have not yet determined whether to have a buffet lunch or order from the menu. This will be discussed at our January meeting. If you plan to attend, please contact Bruce Buchner at:

buchnerb@cox.net

so that we can get a count of the number of members planning to attend to provide a head count to the restaurant.

IPMS RICHMOND EVENT PARTICIPATION INVITATION

Mr. Chazz Klanian, the IPMS Richmond event coordinator has invited the WSMS to participate in its 2014 Old Dominion Open Model contest. For over 2 decades, IPMS Richmond has been sponsoring a model show covering all genre' of model building including maritime. Working closely with the Hampton Roads Ship Modelers Society they are contacting other regional ship model organizations to spread the word across the tri-state region that their model show is open to them to also participate.

This year model show on **February 22nd at the Richmond International Raceway**. Attached is a brochure that outlines the one day event. Typically it has on display between 500 to 700 models of all types with the added attraction of 40 vendors spread out over 130 tables.

Attendance generally averages over 400 general admission and 130-140 contestants.

Note that it occurs on the same day as our focus meeting however this sounds like an opportunity to meet new people and possibly recruit new members. If there is sufficient interest expressed by members, I will work with the IPMS to arrange a WSMS display table. Please contact me at lbhusser@verizon.net if you would like to attend.

NORTHERN VA IPMS MODEL CLASSIC SHOW

Our April focus meeting will take place on Saturday, 26 April at the IPMS annual model show. We will again plan on having 3 tables for displaying and demonstrating our craft. It's also an excellent opportunity to pick up a model kit, participate in some of their excellent workshops and if inclined, enter one of the model contests. We plan to sponsor a ship model award this year. Contact Warren Yuan at wyaun@cox.net and let him know you plan to participate in the IPMS event.

CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM (CBMM) 9TH MARITIME MODEL EXPO

WSMS along with the Model Guild of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and the North American Steamboat Modeler's Association (NASMA), and are sponsoring the 9th Maritime Model Expo on **Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19** at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) in St. Michaels, MD. The two-day event is open to the public and free for WSMS member participants. As previously, the Expo offers visitors pond demonstrations, model races, exhibits, family activities, food, and more.

During the event, radio-controlled (R-C) steamboat modelers can sail model boats in a large, temporary pond that can also be used for other R-C models—including sailboats, submarines, electrically driven models with modest motors, and self-steered pond sailing models.. R-C model sailors can also race and sail their craft along the museum's waterfront. On Sunday, CBMM's Model Sailing Club will race five-foot R-C skipjack models along

CBMM's Fogg's Cove. Our participation will include not only RC models but a collection of static models. We also expect that other highly acclaimed modelers will exhibit their watercraft along with us. In addition to radio-controlled operating models and static model displays, the event offers children the opportunity to select, build, color, and sail a simple model boat they can keep.

To support this event WE NEED AN EVENT CHAIRMAN to organize and manage the event. If you think you would like to do this, let qir First Mate, Warren Yuan know.

PLANNED SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

1. Informal planning for a roadtrip to tour the USS New Jersey is underway. We are working with the President of the Philadelphia Ship Modeling Society and the Chairman of the Battleship New Jersey Board of Trustees to set up a special tour sometime in the late April or early May timeframe. Our friends from the Annapolis club are also interested and will join us on the visit.
2. Arrangements are being made through our long time member, Dana Wegner to visit his workplace, the David Taylor Research Center (DTRC) & Model Basin in Bethesda; most likely in the summer. It is also homeplate for all of the USN's model collection which Dana has the responsibility to maintain. Because DTRC is a government facility there are some points to be aware of. Security requirements require that visitors must be able to show U.S citizenship and a photo ID. No cameras or cell phones can be taken in. Because it is a workplace, our visit will have to be on a week day during normal business hours. Dana will arrange a tour guide to conduct a tour of the various facilities (depending on how much time we have) and we will end up down the basement with Dana and his museum-type models.

TIP OF THE MONTH - FOUR BASIC MARINE KNOTS

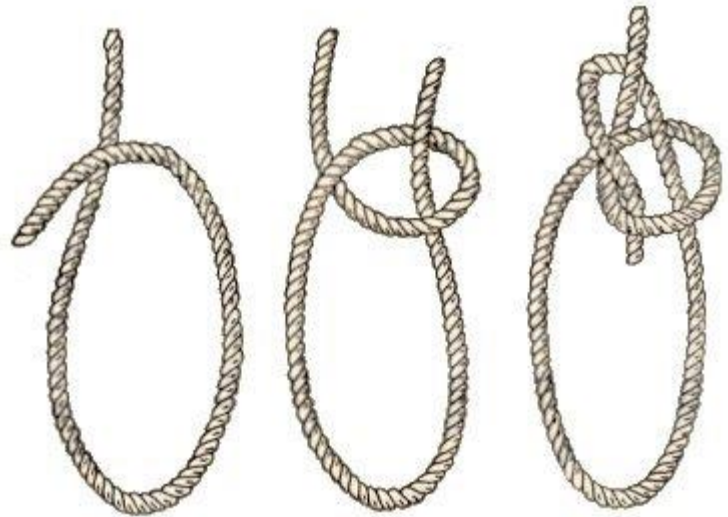
Courtesy of Bluejacket Models

These are; a figure-eight knot, reef knot, clove hitch, and the bowline, which is sometimes referred to as "The King of Knots" because of its importance. Its purpose is to make a loop at the end of a rope. It is easy to tie, and more importantly, easy to untie, even after it has had considerable force applied.

The earliest possible finding of this knot is in the rigging of the excavated Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu's solar ship. In written text, it might be in John Smith's 1627 work "A Sea Grammar" where he speaks of a "Boling knot."

Square rigged ships use this knot to connect the edge of a sail to the bow of the ship (hence bowline.)

On models, this knot can be used to attach smaller anchors, or to the eyes on the ends of yawls and other small craft. Of course, it would be used if doing sails on a square-rig. The diagram below show how easy this knot is to make.



WSMS COMMUNICATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: <http://www.dcshipmodelsociety.org/>

Yahoo link: dcshipmodel

Skipper, Lou Husser, skipper@dcshipmodelsociety.org

First Mate, Warren Yuan, firstmate@dcshipmodelsociety.org

11 January 2014 WSMS MEETING AGENDA

Hollin Hall Senior Center,
1500 Shenandoah Road,
Alexandria, VA 22308 Room 217 "Class Room"

- Ψ 1000 – Skipper's Remarks
 - 1. Recognition of New Guests or strikers
 - 2. February Meeting and Auction venue - Donations still welcomed! Contact Lou Husser
 - 3. Proposed spring & summer events
 - 4. 2014 Candidates for office needed
 - 5. Continued need for demonstration/presentation volunteers
 - 6. Computer & projector status
- Ψ Treasurer's Report – John Reeder
- Ψ 1000 – Show & Tell
 - 1. Holiday's Haul Show & Tell (Also models in progress, kits, books, visuals)
- Ψ 1130 – Business Meeting
 - 1. Old business
 - Combined Annapolis, Philadelphia, New Jersey & WSMS meeting – Lou Husser
 - WSMS Coordination Committee volunteers
 - Auction Committee report
 - Lou Husser– lead
 - Bruce Buchner – assist as auctioneer
 - Charlie Bingay – assist
 - 2. 1050 - New Business
 - Volunteers to chair WSMS events
 - IPMS Model Classic
 - Maritime Model Expo
 - NCMSS Annual Show
 - Philadelphia Club Proposed spring visit to the USS New Jersey
 - Proposed WSMS visit to the Navy David Taylor Research Center
- Ψ 1200 –Meeting Adjourn

Upcoming Schedule of Events

- Ψ Northern Virginia IPMS Model Classic Show Saturday, April 26th
- Ψ Maritime Model Expo Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum – Sat. 31 May & Sun. 1 June
- Ψ WSMS Visit to the David Taylor Naval Research Center, MD, July or August
- Ψ National Capital Model Soldier Society 53rd Annual show, Sat. September 13
- Ψ Sultana Projects' Downrigging Weekend 1st weekend in November 2014
- Ψ Focus Group Meetings
 - 1. December – None due to Christmas Holiday
 - 2. January - Lou Husser
 - 3. February - Bob Williams
- Ψ Looking for opportunities/venues to display our creations

