

# Ship's Log



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## Meetings

are typically held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month except December.

## Location

is the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 411-5th St. N., St. Petersburg. From I-275, Exit at I-375 East to second exit (4th Ave. N.). Proceed to traffic light at 5th St. N., turning left. Church is on right. Parking is to the left of the church.

## Objectives

This Society is an organization of model builders, historians, authors and artists who encourage the construction of nautical models, creation of marine art, and research in maritime history, at every level of expertise, through the exchange of ideas and presentations.

## Membership

There is no charge to attend meetings, and all interested parties are invited. Dues are \$12. (this year), annually, payable at the January meeting.

## Presentations

Members and guests are encouraged to bring in projects past and current, plans, modeling problems or maritime-related items of interest for discussion, or inclusion in the Ship's Log.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 27, 7:00 p.m.**

# TampaBayShipModelSociety

AN AFFILIATE OF THE FLORIDA MARITIME MUSEUM AT CORTEZ

Meeting of April 22, 2014

[tbsms.org](http://tbsms.org)

**Skipper Brut** called the meeting to order and opened the floor for comment. **Treasurer Fehér** reported little change in the bank account. We have 27 paid members.

The annual award of up to \$100 to go toward the encasement of models completed, was discussed. **Howard Howe** moved that it be discontinued, and the crew agreed. If some special circumstance arose in which the club decided to make such an award, it can do that on an individual basis. Alternate meeting sites was brought up in light of geographical distribution. The merits of our site: cost, stability, availability, hours and the mutual inconvenience for most of our far-flung constituency make the current location most agreeable.

It seems that the Bay Area Electric Boaters has split off a group named the Suncoast Scale Model Boat Club: "We are all about radio controlled scale model boats. Most members have enough skills to build virtually all kits and often build from scratch. New members are welcome, even if you need help to get you up to speed. We are not about non-scaled sailboats (pleasure & competition) nor speedboats (hydros, etc.)." BAEB caters to the others, presumably.

Discussed The Sarasota Sailing Squadron/TSCA event, Crystal River, Cedar Key, and two ship model clubs down the coast: Southwest Florida Ship Modelers Guild headed by Phil Roach, and the Naples Ship Modelers helmed by Dick Ritchie.

These clubs, as I understand it, are primarily concentrating on historical sail, and are hands-on groups, meeting to build.

The SSS-TSCA had poor weather to start, and about a dozen boats showed up. The complaint was that there was too much normal activity going on and the nature of the event was compromised. A good place to sail, but the traditional aspect was way down the list, and parking a problem.

Sec/Ed attended Crystal River, which had maybe 25 boats and beautiful weather. Not a great site to sail to-from-at, but plenty of parking, a shuttle trailer and well attended as it shared the occasion, on the opposite side of the bayou with Earth Day folks. The Crystal River Boat Builders are just that, constructing the old fashioned way.

Cedar Key is the Mother of All Small Craft Events on our coast and is totally non-organized. Nobody is in charge or responsible for anything... (except you have to kick in to eat), and that concept has worked quite well for years. Show up, launch, paddle, row, sail or motor. Eat, chat, sleep and do it again.

The Venice IPMS Model Show was reported upon by a few. There were 45 entrants and a couple hundred models displayed. Many ships and submarines, but **NO** junior entrees. This show is attended by the general public.



Skipper Brut has come to grips with the fact that you can never have enough clamps. Here are some...



## Show & Tell

**Special consideration is given this month, to modeling tools; the good, the bad and the indifferent.**

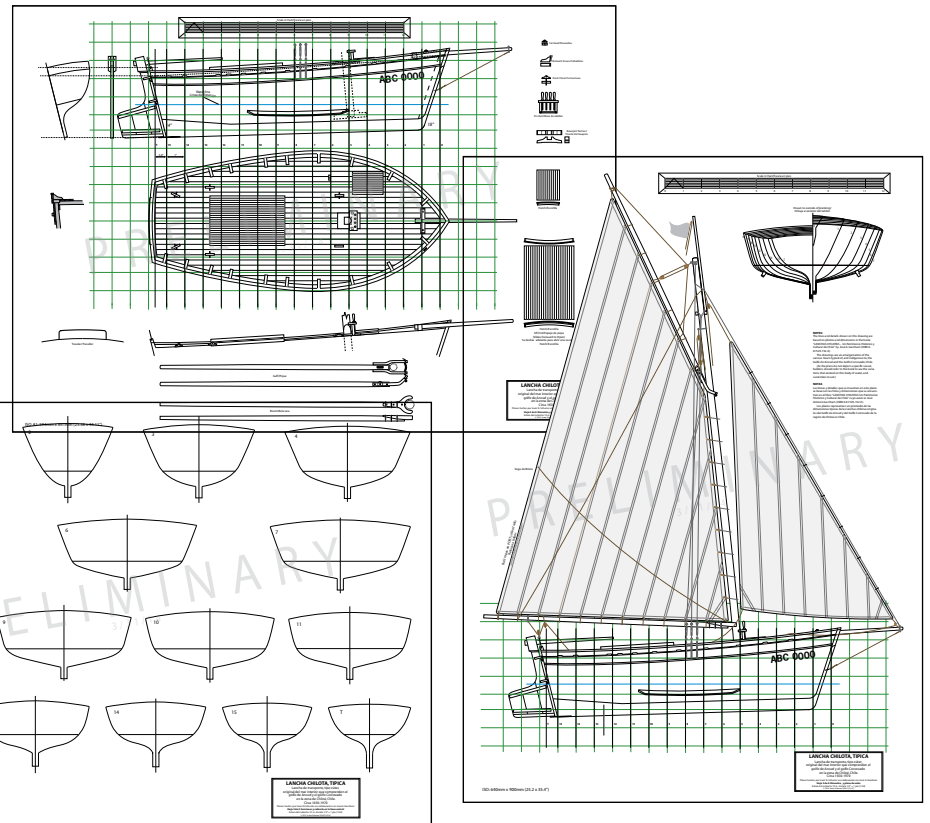
**Howard Howe** kicked off S&T with the now complete rowing skiff from MIDWEST kit. While a much smaller project than his usual fare, he said he was happy with the kit, instructions and results.

**I., Sec/Ed** brought the plans developed for the Chilean *Lancha Chilota*, in three sheets: hull, rig and sections. Without further guidance or correction, the project is considered complete. Next I touted a little STANLEY plane which I find very useful but was a bit embarrassed by. Then, maybe 15 years ago I visited the shop of professional ship modeler **Erik A.R. Ronnberg**, and saw one on his bench. I now display and use it proudly. On the other side of the ledger, I store a **SAND-IT** square jig device designed for precise finishing of strips and such. Maybe it's just me, and granted I have not been using the shop much, but it has seen little use.

It is part of a series consisting of sisters, **CHOP-IT**, a miter cut off rig and **DUPLICATE-IT**, a jig for replicating identical size flats. All of these are probably more useful for marquetry than boats.



**Howard Howe** displayed his MIDWEST kit, given him by **Mike Hanson**, complete, tidy and on the articulated vise he favors.



**Above; not so useful. Left; used proudly.**

**Chilean water truck, "Lancha Chilota," plans reasonably complete.**





**George Fehér** has solved a universal problem... How could we put a man on the moon and still can't figure out an insert for bottle caps that doesn't stick to the glass instead of the cap? Well, George spin-cuts vinyl inserts that seal and remove easily. He uses a dedicated plastic circle cutter. You can also buy or make a cutter blade for an old-fashioned, draftsman's hand compass. Next, George showed a variety of vises and adapter-accessories he finds really useful. He adds foam jaw liners. Look at MICRO-MARK and, of course, HARBOR FREIGHT. Magnetic (refrigerator) vinyl makes easy-on-easy-off liners. For finer work, George uses articulated alligator clips for assembly, and painting. Available from RADIO SHACK and model suppliers.



**George Fehér exhibited his grabbers, available from the usual suppliers. Below, his cutter for paint bottle cap inserts.**



**Charlie Blume** brought a grand vise, heavyweight class. Fine old, solid, articulated tool; again, not really a model maker's article, but wow... proudly marked "Made in U.S.A.," a fine example from our glorious industrial past.

**Charlie Blume showed a sturdier model, but check out this one at Crystal River.**



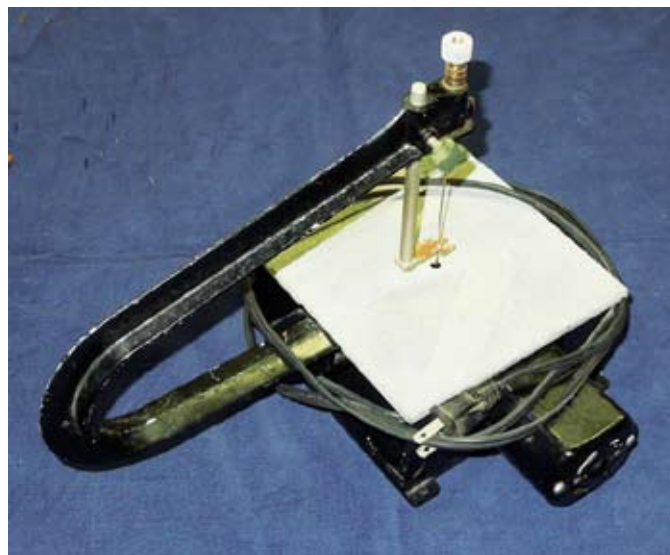


**Ed Brut** brought the most astonishing collection of little clamps. Clearly a definitive assemblage worthy of a book on the subject. Customized clothes pins at one end and watchmakers rigs at the other. Hemostats and other surgical clamps, snack bag clips, "Doll House" clamps, BOSTON BULLDOG Binder Clips and ACOSTA models, all find use in Ed's toolbox. He also praised flush-cutting sprue clippers and a couple sets of micro chisels. AND revealed that magnets, particularly the powerful, rare earth types are useful for materials up to about 1/8"!



**More of Ed Brut's clamping devices and a few other favorite tools.**

**Emory Massman** brought a little jigsaw that he would like to use, but can't, because it will not run. **Howard Howe**, who lives not far from Emory offered to solve that situation, hopefully just a switch failure or loose wire.



**Emory Massman has a miniature jigsaw he hopes will cut and run, again.**

**Chuck LaFave** praised step-down bits from HARBOR FREIGHT, SEARS, ACE and the Home Stores. They do not snag metal and plastic sheet in particular, giving clean holes in thin materials. Chuck also showed some collector's tools; signed editions of Tim Allen's *Tool Time* series. Not that he uses these in model making.



**Chuck LaFave had collector's edition hammers, step drill he favors, and a bolt artifact from a sunken vessel.**





### BlueJacket Ship Crafters

**Tip of the Month** (Ship Shape Newsletter, April) [www.bluejacketinc.com](http://www.bluejacketinc.com)

"Some kits come with line that is black and tan, or black and white. Actual observation is that tarred rigging (standing rigging) is actually a very dark brown color. The running rigging is generally a more or less pale tan color, depending on the fiber used (mostly hemp up through the early 1900's.) So quite a few modelers stain their rigging line to make their models look more realistic.

While searching Google for ways to stain rigging line, I found nine different ways do this. There are probably nine dozen more ways, but these are all good solid solutions. Although several people use coffee or tea, they contain acids and would stay away from those methods. One method is to use RIT fabric dye. An extra tip is to add some Kodak Photo-Flo to the water to reduce surface tension, letting the dye penetrate into the fibers better. As with all water-based stains, the line has to dry before you wind it on a spool or card.

"Minwax" wood stain was another popular choice, as was "General Finishes" brand of water-based wood stain. The author and modeler Harold Underhill used shellac to color his lines. Some use colored beeswax, which a Google search revealed is readily available, and used in candles. Color and wax at once.

Thinned down oil and acrylic paints also are used, especially because of the almost infinite variety of colors. Two other methods used are: Kiwi liquid shoe polish. Soak the foam applicator in the

polish, and then run the line across it. Like beeswax, you get the benefit of doing two things at once, since the shoe polish has wax in it.

The other method is to buy Prismacolor brand artist markers, and run the line across the tip. Most craft stores carry this brand. The "sand" color #70 is a good hemp shade. Being (an) artist's supply, I am reasonably sure the colors won't fade out."



### This is a tale for the ages/aged & all.

Many years ago, a ship's carpenter I knew caught a splinter in the eye. This was a man of such experience that he was commissioned to build a replica of – or repair the skipper's desk from the USS Constitution, so you have to figure that he had ripped a lot of wood in his time. As your Editor races toward 80, he is reminded that you never outgrow your need for care and personal safety. Wear those safety goggles or shield, and lung protection, too. Maybe not for brush painting a scale waterline, but on the big jobs, at least.

**At Crystal River, a couple of watercraft extremes, yet similar in that they both employ treated fabric covers for water-proofing. The sleeker one is a Penn Yan, Ceestepper, outboard powered hydroplane ca. 1928-29, in need of restoration, but structurally intact. The second is a coracle-like basket with what looked like a coarse canvas or maybe more modern composite, well coated (probably epoxy).**



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Canadian Fishing Schooner  
Bluenose  
1921  
Model by Bill McLearn

Wings, Wheels and Keels show last month. Photos by George Fehér.



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## Still not a member?

**Our new 80-page Journal has more model ship articles than ever!**

The annual cost of membership remains at \$38 US, and \$50 for all other countries. Visit our website at [www.theNRG.org](http://www.theNRG.org) for more information.



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