



# December Report



December 2024 Newsletter

*(above) "Merry Damned Christmas." -  
(every January 1st.)*

Meeting was called to order by Jim Gower, President with the following members present: Jim Brode, Nichlos Paz, Denny Cole, Mike Hooper, and Andy Fulcher.

New business was the first order, and Jim Brode who is President of the Beaufort Model Club gave an update on the closing of the Maritime Museum for major renovations. It seems the facility will be closed down for at least 6-8 months thereby closing down the meeting place for the Beaufort Club.

You would think, ok no problem, we will shift to the Harvey Smith Boat Building Shed across

the street, but as the N.C. State Government Division that controls both facilities has decided to keep the Smith Center closed on the weekends until they can hire another boat builder to manage the various projects they have lined up.

Jim is concerned that with the dwindling member roster and attendance, that this may be the death knell for the club. NBMMG has voted and agreed to extend to the current members of Beaufort, to join our group until the Museum reopens sometime in late 2025. We have discussed moving our site to

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# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

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Havelock, N.C. to cut down on the travel time from Beaufort to New Bern (about an hour's drive). We are obtaining the current member roster from Beaufort to invite them to our meetings and based on responses will hopefully find a temporary meeting facility in the Havelock area.

All MBMMG will be kept abreast of any developing situation regarding this situation, and I don't perceive any positive results until after the first of the year.

Jim Brode also gave a final report regarding their annual auction which has been an extremely successful event for Beaufort over the past decade. It seems due to lack of communication from the maritime facility no one was notified that the Auction would be held on the first Saturday of December in the Harvey Smith facility which is closed on Saturdays. Jim reported only five members attended with little or no items to auction off. A disappointing report to say the least, so again NBMMG is jumping in full force to shore up this club who has had a roster of up to 300 in its day, many years ago.

## President's Message for 2024

Wow!! Where did 2024 go!!! It's already history with the exception of ringing in 2025. NBMMG celebrated our 6th year and have had notable events to occur throughout the year. Early in the first part of 2024 we attended the New Bern Train Show to solicit anyone who would be interested in our Guild and also to support the local members of the train club. This is a big event each year as the convention center is filled with vendors, train displays, most of which are running, and always draws 1500 or more for the 2-day event. NBMMG had a display table with various models and nautical items.

We completed the restoration of the BB55 North Carolina Battleship for the owner, Tom Werner, which you will remember was a 1939 version model of the Navy's first battleship built since the 1900's. The model is now over 81 years old as it came out in kit form in 1939, 2 years before the actual ship was launched. We gained  
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*The aft deck of the very real USS North Carolina.*



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notoriety, thanks to Mary Ames Booker, the curator on the Battleship as she identified the kit, the manufacturer, and even supplied us a copy of the original plans plus the cardboard decking she had obtained several years ago from a partial kit.

We also were privileged to have an interview and accompanying video with "Our State Magazine" (ourstate magazine/ussnorthcarolina) which came out in the June issue.

Mary then invited us to help sponsor a model exhibit held in the officers ward room aboard the ship in mid-October. We coordinated with 3 other clubs in the area, NBMMG-New Bern, Model Warships-Rocky Mount -Wilson, Eastern Carolina Plastic Modelers, now based in Bridgeton, and the Wilmington NC Plastic Modelers. Scales ranged from 1/1200 miniatures, to 1/700,1/350, 1/200, 1/400, and 1/96. NBMMG featured the restored BB55, and super display of 3D printed ship accessories which included 5-inch gun mounts, direction finders, and a boat crane. All of this info can be found in our newsletter section in our website and also on Facebook.

I truly thank each and every member who have supported this Guild over the years and also to our out-of-town members who have participated in our exhibits along with the other clubs who help make the exhibit on the North Carolina a successful show. Here's to a bigger and better 2025, and from my house to yours, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

For our show and tell, we were presented the trailer for Denny Coles water skier. You will recall Denny made this skier to sit atop his modification of a belt sander which he raced at the belt sander race at Shop Class' Building in October. See last month's newsletter for more pics. This trailer was built by Mike Hooper, all out of plastic channel, tubing and brass rods at the request of Denny. Truly amazing detail and a great looking model. Great work Mike.

Mike Hooper presented a scratch-built model of a 650 Continental Motor bike. OK its not a ship model but its Christmas, so Mike is not fined for showing it off. The real bike was owned by the artist, Eddie Reveria which the paint scheme matches one of Eddie's paintings. A dazzling abstract, Mike has  
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*(above) Mike Hooper crafted, (scratch built), this trailer for Denny Cole's water skier.*



*(above) Here is the wench at the front of the trailer.*

*(below) The combo all together*





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duplicated the same as the painting on his model which is mostly plastic, brass rods, and a whole lot of patience. Note the gages on the handle bars.

Finally, Jim Gower presented a 1/72, 20-year-old model of the K 18 a Flower Class Corvette. Another kit Jim has had and finally getting around to start the build. It is a Revell kit from Germany, which includes plastic, and photo-etched parts, along with a wooden deck which compliments the camouflage painted hull.

Don't forget the National IPMS Convention will be held in August, 2025 in Hampton Roads Virginia this year, and they are accepting model ships as one of their categories. Its only about a 3-hour drive from New Bern, so let's plan to attend.

The Hampton Roads Maritime Museum, along with the BB Wisconsin docked in Norfolk are two areas we should consider going to visit, the only problem would be spending enough time for either one or the other.

Merry Christmas again to all!! ■

*-Jim Gower*

*(above & below) Jim Gower is tackling the Revell/Germany kit of the 1/72 Flower class Corvette. This is a most interesting project.*



*(above & below) Mike Hooper also scratch built this 650cc Continental motorcycle.*





Stolen this month from the interweb

# The Curious Case of the SS Warrimoo

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain John DS. Phillips, the result.

The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was December 31, 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime.

He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed.

The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor. At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

- The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.
- The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.
- The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.
- In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

*This ship was therefore not only in:  
Two different hemispheres,  
Two different days,  
Two different months,  
Two different years,  
Two different seasons.  
But in two different centuries -  
**all at the same time!***





# Art Director's Corner

We all know and love Captain Jim, and I have learned, through a secret source whose name I cannot divulge, that there is something he REALLY, really wants for Christmas this year.

So, if any of you swabs out there are stuck for an idea for the boss's Yuletide gift, take a gander to starboard there.

Problem solved.

And from me, personally, Merry Christmas you lot. And may the new year bring you fair winds and following seas. ■



## And, a message from the Legal Department

I wish you <sup>but in no way guarantee</sup>  
<sup>reasonably</sup> a Merry Christmas <sup>and/or festive period</sup>  
<sup>including but not limited to</sup> and a <sup>reasonably</sup> happy new year: <sup>+twelve (12) months from the date hereof.</sup>





# New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

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## Meeting Schedule for New Bern Maritime Model Guild 2025

All meetings start at Noon, at  
The Shop Class Building,  
406 Guion St., New Bern.

New Schedules to be announced in the  
January issue.

*Merry  
Christmas!!*

## Meeting dates for the Carolina Maritime 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



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and on facebook at:  
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