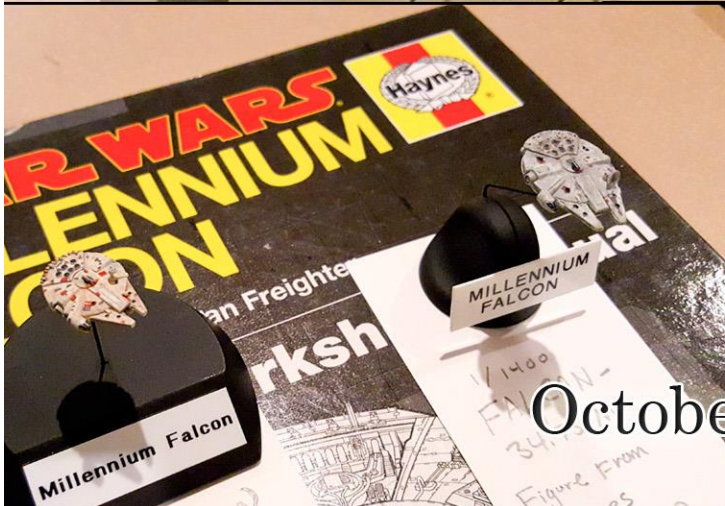
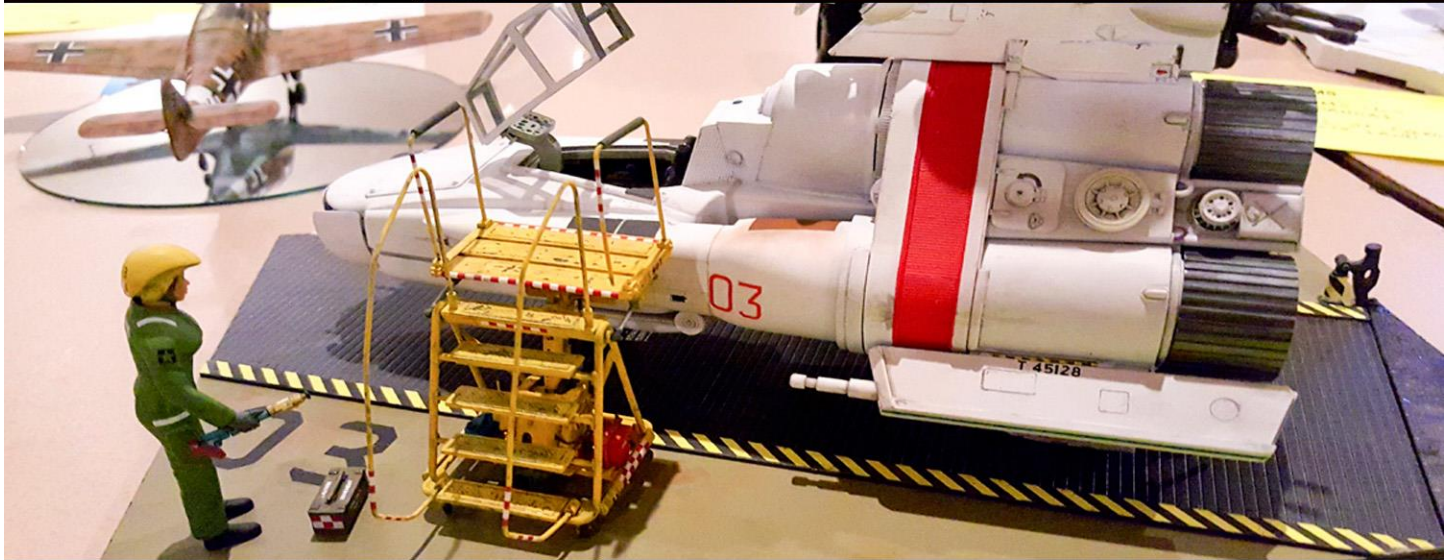
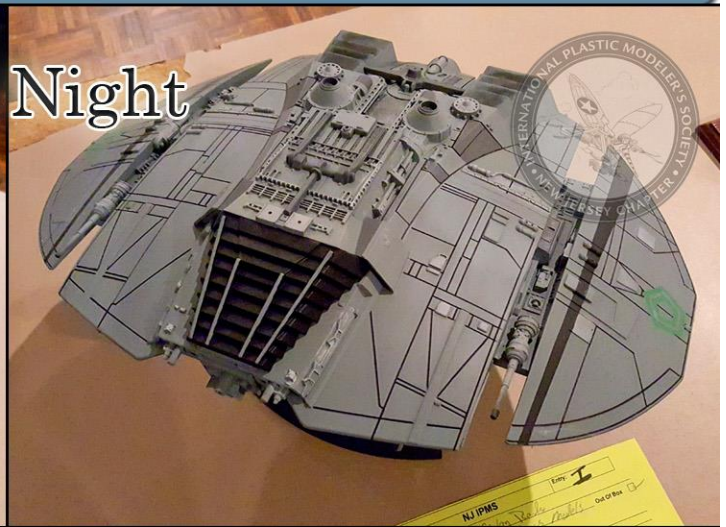


# MosquitoGram

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Chapter of IPMS



SciFi Night



October 2016



# From the Editor

By Devin Poore

A little shake-up in the newsletter this month, as Big Bill and Joe are down at the Region 2 show in Virginia Beach, they won't be able to contribute an article to this month's edition. They wish you all the best, however, and look forward to the meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

First order of business is to remind everyone that the meeting is not this week, but a week from Friday. I've received several emails asking for confirmation. The meeting is the same time, same place, next Friday, October the 14<sup>th</sup>, for Russian Night.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter and at the meeting, I'm looking for a volunteer to take over the newsletter. Let me know if you're interested.

I also have a second volunteer opportunity: MosquitoCon 2017 photographers. My new job in Times Square has its big opening day on April 4<sup>th</sup> of next year. As you all know, that's only 3 days after MosquitoCon. In all likelihood, I will be working April 1<sup>st</sup> and unable to attend the show. I generally have had one or two people to help with photos in

the past, and that's likely all I'll need to cover my absence. Again, see me if you're interested in helping out the club.

Sci-Fi night was a huge success, as always. I'm always thrilled to see everyone jump outside of the military realms of modeling now and again. There was some great work on the table. With this year being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Star Trek, and next year bringing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Star Wars, there's a lot of interest in sci-fi in the modeling community. Great to see the work showcased at the club's meetings.

See everyone on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

*~Devin*

Next Meeting:  
Friday,  
October  
14th

Upcoming Events:

October  
Russian Night

November  
Finish  
What  
Someone  
Else  
Started

December  
Annual  
Christmas  
Party and  
Chrysler  
Night

January  
Out of the  
Box Night



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<http://groups.google.com/group/njipms>



# From the Vice President's Desk

By Vince D'Alessio

A warning and call for patience: The October meeting is here. Holy Cow. A prime time of year for us weird guys and girls out there, we grown adults who play with plastic. We keep hunting and buying kits we know we will never be able to build. We hate to go out into public, unless it's to a club meeting, a hobby shop, a Model Show or Contest. Our patience is all used up on building models, we have little left for traffic and people in supermarkets and restaurants with young kids. Don't be me, count to 10 take a couple

of deep breaths, relax and don't flash the Jersey Salute every 20 seconds from your car because the guy or girl in front of you is doing 35 in a 50 on a 2 lane highway. Life is too short. Relax, have a drink, put your feet up, watch a sit-com. Or maybe build a model.

The ramblings of a guy on pain killers.

~Vince

## THE JUDGES TABLE

By Jon Da Silva

Hello all! I originally thought I wouldn't be able to attend this month's meeting, because I'm an idiot. I'll be heading to Seattle from October 4-8 and thought the meeting was the 7th. Math has never been my subject!

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in Sci-Fi month. Much like last year, the turnout was amazing. I hope we have an equally amazing turnout for Russian Night this month, sponsored by Simon. Next will be our kit swap group build, followed by the Chrysler snap-tite cars Bill handed out earlier in the year in December.

As per usual, if you'd like to sponsor a monthly theme please let me know. We're already having Nostalgia Night in March and I'll do Sci-Fi or Out of the Box in September.

In other news, other than my kit-swap kit, I started building a model! It feels like it's been years since I actually worked on something. It's the 1/350 Graf Spee from Trumpeter and I'm adding photo etch from White Ensign. I'm backdating the kit, too. I don't have much else to say, I hope to see everyone at the meeting!

~Jon



# The Contact's View

By Mike Pavlo, VP

A big thank you to Bill for setting up last month's end of summer party for meeting night. The giant subs were terrific and all the food was great.

I was able to attend ArmorCon up in Danbury again this year. I'm always amazed at the workmanship on the armor pieces and dioramas that are on display. Several entries really caught my attention and I went back to them over and over. There was a good turnout of vendors also, with some interesting new products and hard to find kits and supplies. I was looking for a

particular hard to find kit and I found it on two different vendor tables, so that was a plus. The same venue will play host to the 2017 AMPS show, several weeks after MosquitoCon.

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler autumn weather, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Best Wishes,

~Mike





# Mike Builds a Boat

By Mike Terre



We all know that changing your building venue helps you get out of a case of "modelers block". Well I can say it's one hundred percent true. I'm a 1/72 scale builder of Pioneer and WWI aircraft with a special affinity for vacuform models. After completing my latest project, a Westland Pterodactyl flying wing (a future newsletter candidate) I felt really burnt out, just did not want to build anything!

One night I was communing with my stash trying to get some inspiration and then I saw the Lindberg 1/124th scale model of the USS Harriet Lane, a Civil War side wheel steam ship. This is a very old kit, originally produced by Pyro Plastics of Union New Jersey back in the late 50's. This model appealed to me as it was different from my normal builds yet it had complexity in the

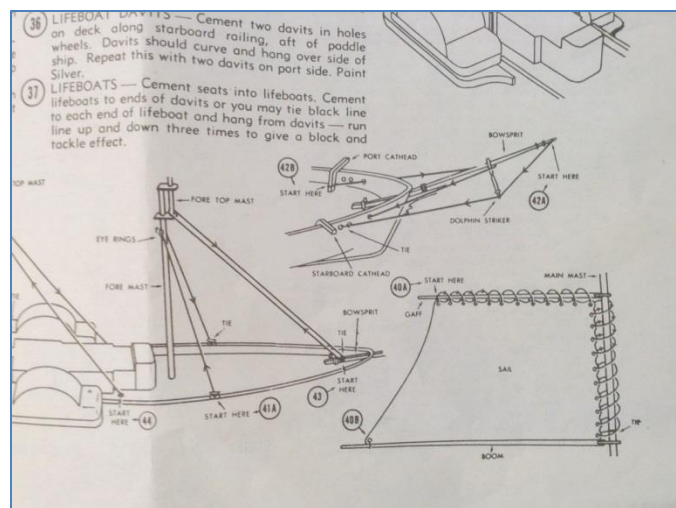
rigging of the sails and masts, and I dearly like rigging biplanes! So without further thought the Harriet Lane went from stash to bench.

I did a little research on the history of the Harriet Lane. First I found out that it was not a USS, that is a United States Ship, but rather a USRC, a United States Revenue Cutter. It was used in the Civil War by the Union Navy until 1863 when it was captured by the Confederates at the battle of Virginia Point. The ship was then used by the Confederates as a blockade runner until recaptured by the Union forces about a year later. After capture the Harriet Lane was found unfit for service. It was renamed the USS Elliot Ritche and sold at Philadelphia in late 1865. The ship lasted until 1868 when it



was abandoned at sea. Ok class, history lesson over, no quiz, onto the model. Opening the box I was very surprised to find the hulls wrapped in tissue paper as were the masts. This was done to prevent damage to the parts, and something I had not seen in a long time, kind of shows the age of this kit.

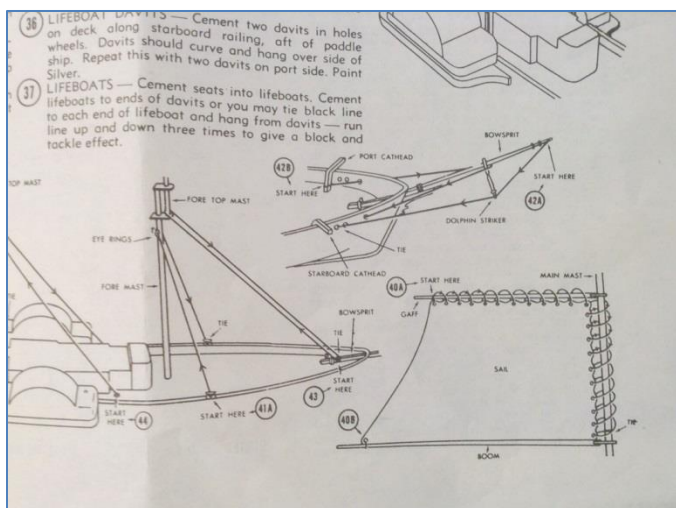
First thing I read was the instructions and this was a real treat. Knowing little of ship terminology I was pleased to find that they used nautical terms. For example, you know those "L" shaped pieces that the anchors are attached to, they're called a "cat head". We all know that the long horizontal mast at the very front of the ship is called the "bowsprit" but I bet you never knew that the little arm hanging down from it is called the "dolphin striker", a very politically incorrect name in today's animal friendly society! First thing was getting the two piece hull together along with the deck. The pieces went together perfectly, no flash at all. I had painted (Tamiya paints used throughout) the deck XF-78 Wooden Deck Tan (what else would you use). The upper portion of the hull was painted XF-26 Deep Green, the lower portion XF-6 Copper, with the side railings XF-2 White. The decorative carvings on the bow and paddle wheel housing was highlighted with Rub-N-Buff Antique Gold. By the way I used Tamiya curved surface



masking tape on the hull, it worked beautifully, many thanks to Marc Rocca for recommending the stuff!

Ok, the hull is done and onto the side wheel paddles and here's where it starts to get interesting. Each paddle wheel has twenty five parts and they are "handed" meaning there's a left and right. You really had to pay attention to the instructions to get it right. Here's a sample of text from the instructions: STEP 12 Take one paddle wheel side spoke unit with the blind side hole and one with the hole running through it. Cement paddle boards across the wheel spokes. Notch on paddles fit over rim of side units. Line your assembly up carefully. Make two of these units. Note that paddle boards must be on front edge of spokes to make a right and left unit. You know it took me over three hours to get these things right! But wait it gets better.





Once the paddle wheels and pilot house had been completed and attached to the hull it was time for the masts and boy did I get an education. Do you know that the masts and their individual parts have individual names? The front mast is called a "foremast" and the rear one a "main mast". The bottom cross member of the "foremast" is called the "fore yard", the middle cross member is called the "fore topsail yard" and the top cross member the "top gallant yard". The top of the "foremast" is called the "fore top mast" (only one that made sense so far) and that they were connected together by a "cross tree".

See those two horizontal arms coming off the "main mast" (that's the rear mast) and supporting the "steading sail". The top one is called the "gaff" and the bottom the "boom". And you know something? All these individual parts kind of look the same. You had to really read and comprehend the instructions before you started gluing. It was so easy to make a mistake.

I painted the mast assemblies XF-59 Desert Yellow and streaked them with XF-10 Brown to give a wood effect, with Micro Scale gloss for a final finish. This was not unlike the technique I use for wooden struts and propellers for my aircraft. The "cross trees"

were painted XF-2 White. It took three late night modeling sessions to correctly layout and complete the masts.

After the masts were completed I had to build the "windlass", that's the thing that lifts the anchors. I used the kit supplied anchor chain (real metal chain!) and followed the instructions carefully with no problems. By the way that cross piece on the anchor is called the "anchor stock" and that's what holds the anchor to the "cats head". If you've read the article you'll know what the "cats head" is all about.

I then completed all the items for the deck. The pilot house was painted XF-2 White, with XF-53 Neutral Gray for the roof. The windows for the pilot house and main cabin skylights were finished with Testors clear plastic cement. The smokestack was painted XF-84 Dark Iron with some XF-1 Black streaked on for a little weathering. The steam whistle was picked out with XF-6 Copper. And I just couldn't resist, the smokestack support wires are made from stretched sprue. The cannon barrels were painted XF-56 Metallic Gray with their carriages painted the same way as the masts. The life boats were done in XF-2 White with XF-10 Brown for internal structure.





With the model basically completed it was on to the rigging and this is where the instructions were invaluable. They showed you where to start and finish and worked in a logical manner so completed work did not interfere with work yet to be done. Also you had to be careful where you placed the "blocks" (that's the pulleys the rope went through) on the masts. There were single and double "blocks" and their attachment angle was critical.

I won't go much into the individual rigging projects but the rigging of the "steading sail", that's the one in back is worth



describing. The sail was one piece of injected plastic, not vacu-form, with holes molded in to support the rigging. These holes had to be cleaned with a #60 drill to ease passing of the thread. By the way the "steading sail" was painted with Insignia White out of a rattle can with a little brown pastel used for weathering.

You started with one long piece of kit supplied thread and secured it at the tail end of the "gaff" and then looped it through the holes in the sail and around the "gaff". You

continued along the "gaff" until you hit the "main mast" and then continued down till you hit the bottom of the mast and secured it to the "fife rail", a structure at the bottom of the mast. The lower trailing end of the "steading sail" was secured to the "boom" with a small loop of thread. The "steading sail" was centered by attaching thread from a "cleat" (that's one of those anvil shaped things on the top of the railing) up across the end of the "gaff" and then down to another "cleat" on the opposite railing.

I should point out that I'm not very good with tying knots and maybe this might make a lot of ship modelers cringe in horror but I secured the ends of the thread with super glue and then cut the loose end. A little Micro Scale flat took the sheen off the glue.

And here's your final history lesson. See the railings that run from one paddle wheel housing to the other? It was called the "bridge" and steering commands were issued from the center of the "bridge". This is how the term "bridge" came into use.

All in all this was a very pleasant build that I thoroughly enjoyed. It really broke my "modelers block". I've got to say something about the quality of the instructions. They were the original Pyro Plastics instructions from the late 50's were immensely interesting. You had to learn new terms and really had to read and comprehend them to produce a good model. Further, this model was meant for a kid to build, with a little help from the parents. Models like this educated the builders and fostered family ties. It's so sad that things like this are rapidly being lost in our turbulent times. Anyway, enough on the philosophy...thanks for reading....now get building something and complete it for a change! ~Mike





# Kit Review: USS Spuyten Duyvil

By Devin Poore

*\*Quick Disclaimer: I designed and maintain the website for Cottage Industry Models\**



Among the many weapons first used successfully in combat during the American Civil War, one of the most successful has to be the torpedo. What we would commonly refer to as a mine today, torpedoes were often nothing more than beer casks filled with gunpowder, placed on land or in the water, and detonated by remote electric detonation or pressure triggers. These weapons resulted in multiple casualties and the loss of several vessels on both sides. Another less successful method of employing the devices was in the method of "spar torpedoes", which basically amounted to "bombs-on-a-stick". USS Spuyten Duyvil was contracted, built and launched in mid to late 1864. She was unique in that she carried multiple torpedoes and spars, which could be reloaded inside the ship's hull and deployed through a clamshell door below the waterline. She saw service on the James River, just outside of Richmond, as part of the Union blockade. While she never used her torpedoes in combat, she did use them to destroy obstacles in the James River during and after the war. Post-war she was utilized

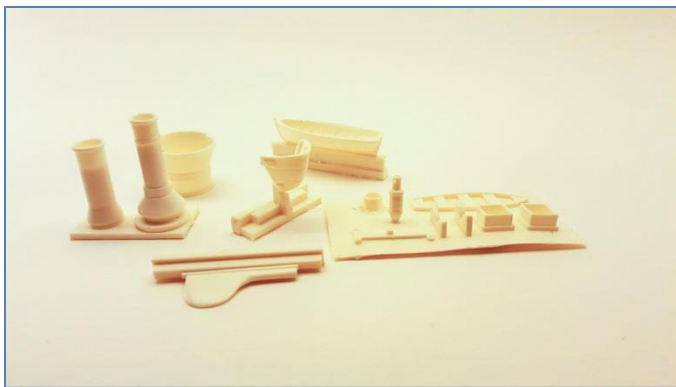
in much testing, but simply disappeared from the Naval Register in 1880, likely scrapped or sold-off.

The Cottage Industry Models' kit of USS Spuyten Duyvil is in 1/96<sup>th</sup> scale resin, and just over 10" in length. As shown in the photos, the upper and lower hull are cast in resin, as are other details such as the rudder, stacks, cockpit, ship's boat, torpedo, and the clamshell bow doors. White metal castings provide the propeller, anchors, ship's wheel, bits and chocks, and other fittings. A wooden spar and metal link chain are included, as well as printed flags.

Honestly there isn't much to this kit, and it should prove an easy build. The upper and lower hulls fit together quite nicely and will require little clean-up. My sample has little to no evidence of air bubbles in either resin or metal parts. The instructions are full-sized 8.5 X 11" sheets, with close-up photos and detailed drawings and annotations as to what goes where and how to assemble it.

With its simple parts, and large (for ship modelers) scale, this should be a quick and fun project. It'll make a quick weekend build for someone that wasn't something unusual on the shelf, and if you're if the mind to go really nuts and super-detail the model with

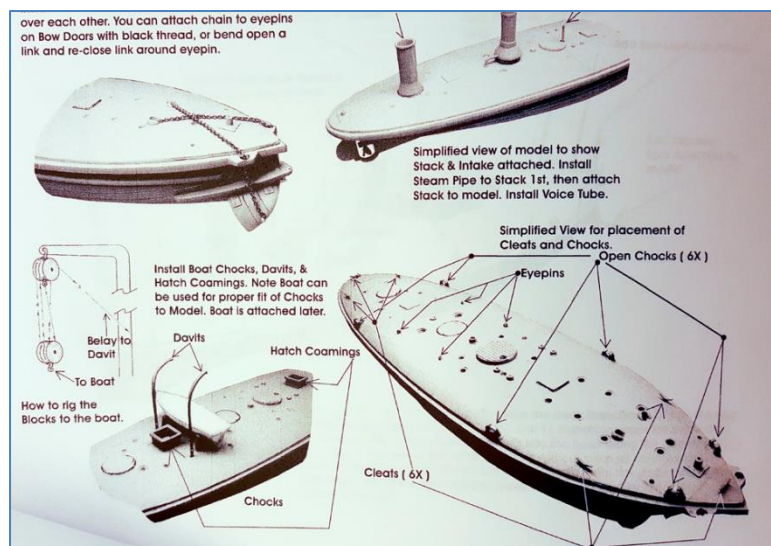
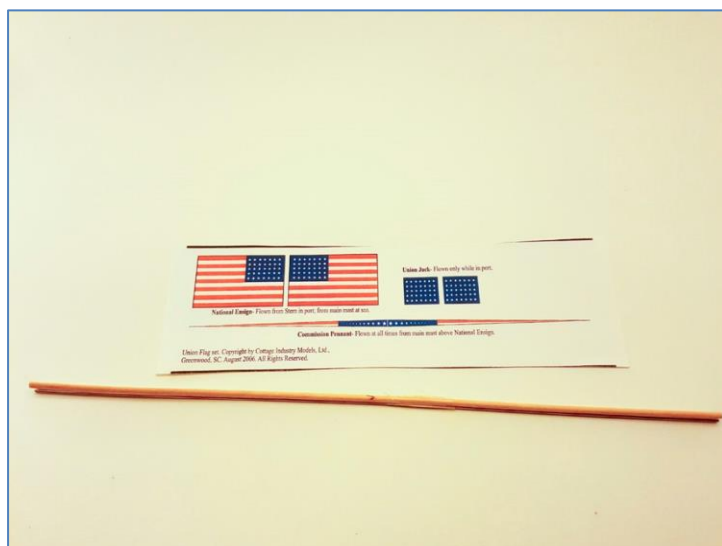
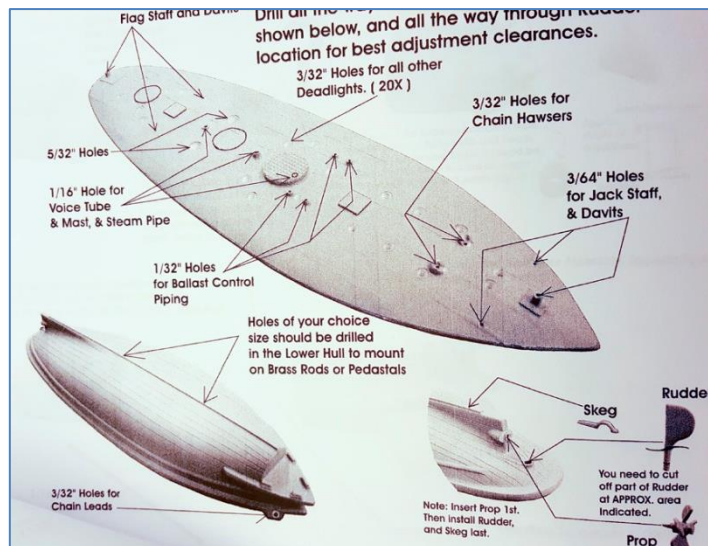




an interior, there's plenty to work with here.

Recommended for anyone looking for something unique and easy to build. You can read more on the Spuyten Duyvil [HERE](#) and find the model [HERE](#). You can also find my NYT article on torpedoes during the Civil War [HERE](#).

~Devin





This month's meeting will be on:

**Friday**

**October 14th, 2016**



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