



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

NOVEMBER 2005

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIX, NO. 11

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### **Newsletter**

#### **Distribution**

Bob Wright  
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Established in  
1972 by

Bob Wright and  
Russ Merrill

## MINUTES OF 12 OCTOBER 2005 MEETING

Contributed by Bob McPhail

Guildmaster **Hewitt** opened the meeting at 7PM. There were 26 members and one guest present. Robert asked everyone to stand for a moment of silence to remember **Lyle Starkweather**, who passed away on September 14th. Lyle was a person who asked a lot of questions, many which were used to spake discussion topics at the meetings. There was one guest at the meeting. His name is **Tony Bunch**. Tony was a member in the late 80's. He likes to do research and is a plastic kit builder. Welcome Tony!

**Purser's Report:** **Ron Hollod** reported the balance as of 31 August 2005 was \$<redacted>. With income and expenses, the balance as of 30 September is \$<redacted>.

**Editor's Report:** **Chuck Seiler** reminded everyone who is supposed to be getting the e-mail newsletter to let him know if you have not received it by the Friday before the Guild meeting. He also reported that he does not plan to run for reelection and would not be continuing in that capacity after the March newsletter. He urged the members to consider volunteering for the post. Chuck will assist the new editor as required.

**Robert Hewitt** reported The Trafalgar Project diorama is now complete and on display on the SURPRISE/ROSE gun deck. Robert passed out a sheet for volunteers who worked on the project to record the hours worked and any expenses incurred. Later in the evening everyone who wished to had a chance to view the diorama. Museum Director **Ray Ashley** provided an excellent presentation about Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson. Ray gave some insights as to why he believed Lord Nelson was such a memorable person.

**Bob Crawford** talked about the Nautical Research Guild Conference next year. The Guild and Museum will be hosting the 2006 Conference in October 2006. He will be going to the 2005 Conference on November 4, 5 and 6 in Hampton Roads, Virginia to get a look-see and spread the word about what we intend to do. Advertising for this event will begin next month

San Diego Ship  
Modelers' Guild is  
affiliated with and  
supports the  
Maritime Museum  
of San Diego



## MINUTES- Continued.

(although there has already been some discussion and “advert” in various ship modeling discussion groups). His is looking for ideas and suggestions for guest speakers. Anyone with inputs should contact Bob at the museum phone number extension 113. The Conference planning committee will be meeting at 6PM before the general meeting on 09 November. Anybody who wants to get involved is invited to attend. The Guild will be briefed during the general meeting. As we get closer to the conference, there will be a call for volunteers to assist in the various tasks. Keep October 2006 open!

**Bill Luther** was scheduled to brief the Guild on the status of IRVING JOHNSON, but was not in attendance. The brief will be rescheduled.

### New business:

The STAR OF INDIA will sail next month on November 12 and 13 in celebration of the 142nd anniversary of its launching. A pierside ‘birthday party’ will be held Saturday November 5th.

It was voted on and approved (again...) to reimburse **Chari Wessel** for refreshment expenses.

**Robert Hewitt** passed around a list of plans available from PIER BOOKS. Some plans were done by **Portia Takajian**. For more information, contact Robert.

A. J. Fischer is back in business. (kind of). Machinist **John Bender** was fortunate enough to gather the necessary funds needed to purchase the remaining inventory as well as the tooling and machinery. He will be moving the machinery into storage until a new location can be obtained. He plans on continuing the A.J. Fisher tradition of offering the finest products the modeling community has come to expect. They will be operating under a different company name but the quality will be as good if not better than before. As soon as he gathers a complete inventory of what items he has, he will be opening the online store with a limited selection. He will be setting up a shop somewhere in the metro Detroit area where he will start producing the parts the same way **Robert Irwin** did for so many years. The web site is [WWW.AJFISCHER.COM](http://WWW.AJFISCHER.COM) 1-978-462-4555

**Robert Hewitt** showed a book he has available at **K. C. Edward’s** shop, or through Model Expo. It is “HOW TO BUILD **FIRST RATE SHIPMODELS FROM KITS**” by **Ben Lankford**. Ben is a skilled modeler and has designed many Model Seaways models. It is a treasure trove of information for the kit modelers and is a highly recommended addition to your reference library.

There was a break followed by show and Tell, then a trip over to SURPRISE for the unveiling of “The Trafalgar Project” and a talk by Museum Director **Ray Ashley** regarding Nelson and the battle.

## SHOW and TELL



**Bill Groltz’s** junk RED DRAGON  
Photo by John Wickman



**Bob Mc Phail’s** LANE VICTORY  
Photo by John Wickman

S.S. LANE VICTORY (VC2-S-AP2) scale 1/32 (1:384). Built in balsa wood by the “lift” (bread and butter) method from a kit.

LANE VICTORY completed June, 1945 in Los Angeles, CA. Used in the Pacific in World War II and during the Korean War. Reactivated in 1966, LANE VICTORY used for VIETNAM service. Deactivated in 1972, in 1988 title was transferred to the U.S. Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II for use as a floating museum.



SWEDISH GUNBOAT by **Dick Roos**.

this is an Amati kit with very little information on the box regarding scale or background. He is using beech for hull planking, walnut for deck planking, rails, etc, and boxwood for the gratings. He is using Min-wax finish “in rough” for old look (presumably 1700-1800). Three shades of wax used for tone variation.

Photo by John Wickman.



British 12 pound naval gun by **Dick Roos**. 1:16 scale kit by Artesanea Latina. Plain use of minwax finish. Used ‘aluminum blackening’ by Birchwood-Casey (found in gun finishing store).

Photo by John Wickman



Hewitt’s Hardware. Pieces-parts from **Robert Hewitt’s** frigate SOLEBAY. I didn’t get a picture of the model itself, so we will have to wait until next month.

Photo by John Wickman





## Show and Tell Continued



Greek Bireme by **Ed Trasoras**. Scale-unknown, but a whole lot bigger than those Trafalgar models. This is a model of a warship from over 2500 years ago. It was approximately 80 feet long and 10 feet wide with 44 oarsmen. Fleets roamed the Mediterranean. If need be, they could stay out at sea for a day or two, but normally pulled in to shore each night. Sailing this ship was tricky since it was relatively flat bottomed and would easily capsize. Sails were primarily used to sail downwind. This ship had a bronze bow ram which could be used to sink an opponent. The model is finally done after nine months!!! Ed spend a lot of time on the detail and sanding. Elmer's glue was all he used except when securing the brass fittings he used super glue. Tung oil was used for the finish. It worked really well and made the wood planking stand out nicely. He thought the oars would be hard to make but mass production had them done in a couple nights. Inlaying the brass was a task requiring weeks to do right. The sail is one of Ed's world famous 'multi layered tissue paper' sails. It looks a lot better than the cloth sail that came with it. Great job Ed! What next?

Photos by John Wickman



**PINTA** by **Dick Little**. PINTA was the middle-sized of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage of discovery. It was about 74 feet long and 20 feet wide with a crew of 25. PINTA was a caravel like the NINA, but unlike SANTA MARIA which was a slower, heavier nao. This is a 1:48 scale kit from Mantua. It is double plank on bulkhead, with a walnut outer planking. The kit is well done, but the lines of the running rigging were not clearly described, especially where they tie down on deck or rails.

Photos by John Wickman

## SHOW and TELL-Continued



Gunboat PHILADELPHIA by **Dave Yotter**



Close up view of PHILADELPHIA bowgun

Gunboat PHILADELPHIA, by **Dave Yotter**. Scratch built, 1:16 scale. The gunboat PHILADELPHIA was part of Benedict Arnold's colonial fleet built and assembled on Lake Champlain in August 1776 to thwart the British advance south from Canada. PHILADELPHIA was sunk at the battle of Valcour Island in October 1776. The wreck was salvaged in 1936 by Colonel Lorenzo Hagglund and then will to the Smithsonian in 1961. Howard Hoffman of the Smithsonian drew plans of the PHILADELPHIA and all her artifacts. Dave used these plans to build the model. The artifacts are on display at the Smithsonian and there is at least one replica of the gunboat on the water. Dave used beech since it is a close replica of miniature oak, which was used in the original. Spars are spruce. The cannons are sand cast in bronze and blackened to represent the cast iron of the original. The model is assembled with brass nails (doll house nails) with the heads squared and blackened. "Ironwork" is of brass shapes, soldered and blackened. He is currently working on the swivel gun mounts and cannon balls.

Photos by John Wickman



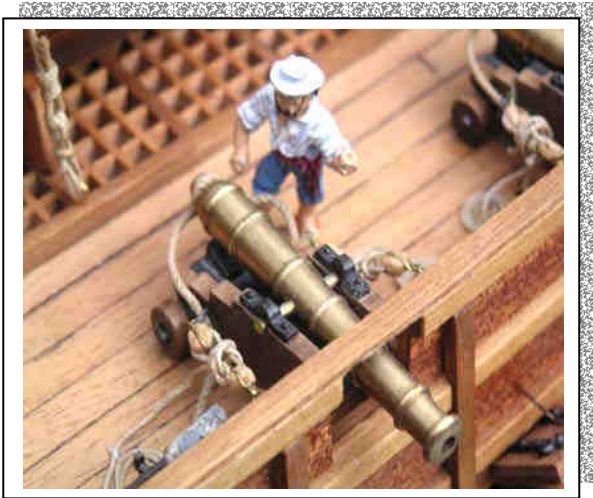
**Dave Dana's** ROTER LOWE (RED LION). (Above)  
Close up of RED LION stern details (Right)

Photos by John Wickman





## SHOW and TELL-Continued



RED LION deck gun and gunner. Dave hand made all the figures.

Photo by John Wickman



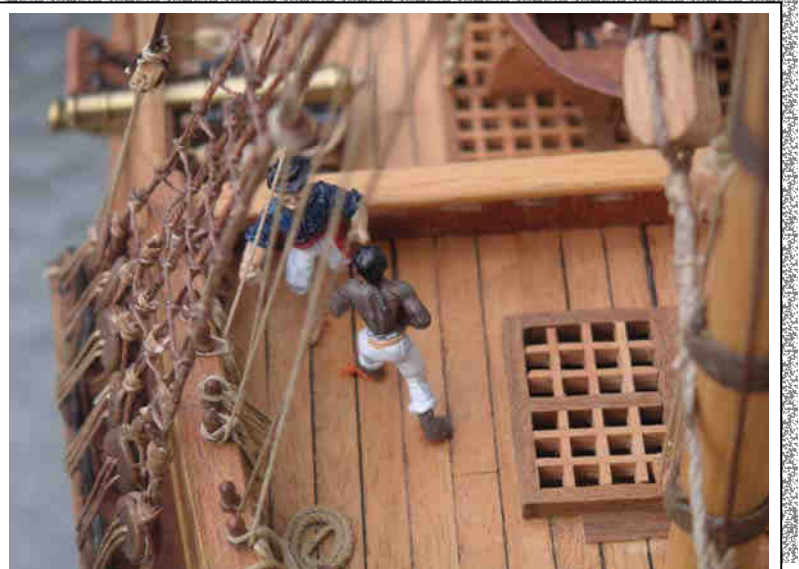
Miniature model builder aboard RED LION prepares to put model in bottle. Miniature kibitzer tell modeler what's wrong with the model. Photo by John Wickman

The Galleon Roter Lowe was built in the Netherlands in 1597 and was bought by the Council of Konigsberg. It was in service as a vedette-boat in Pillau from 1602 to 1605 under captain Peter Hintze's command.

The Roter Lowe (Red Lion) was a versatile 18 gun scouting vessel. She was often pressed into service to carry cargo. This is a Mamoli double plank-on-bulkhead kit.. Structural woods are tanganyka, mahogany, maple, poplar, boxwood and beech. Planking is limewood and walnut. Ornamental fittings are turned brass, copper and steel.

Scale 1:55.

Great job Dave, especially on the figures. What next?



A fistfight breaks out on the RED LION. Is it over a woman? Did somebody take the last cup of coffee? Or did somebody badmouth somebody else's model. Look out guys, here comes the master-at-arms!!!!

Photo by John Wickman





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NRG 2006 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning Committee for the 2006 NRG Conference will meet at 6PM, Wednesday 09 November (meeting night) on the upper deck of the BEREKELEY. Bob Crawford will review the events of the 2005 NRG Conference in Hampton Roads, Virginia. We will also discuss future planning efforts. Anybody interested in helping plan this event is invited to attend.

## ROSTER ADDITIONS and CORRECTIONS

New Member

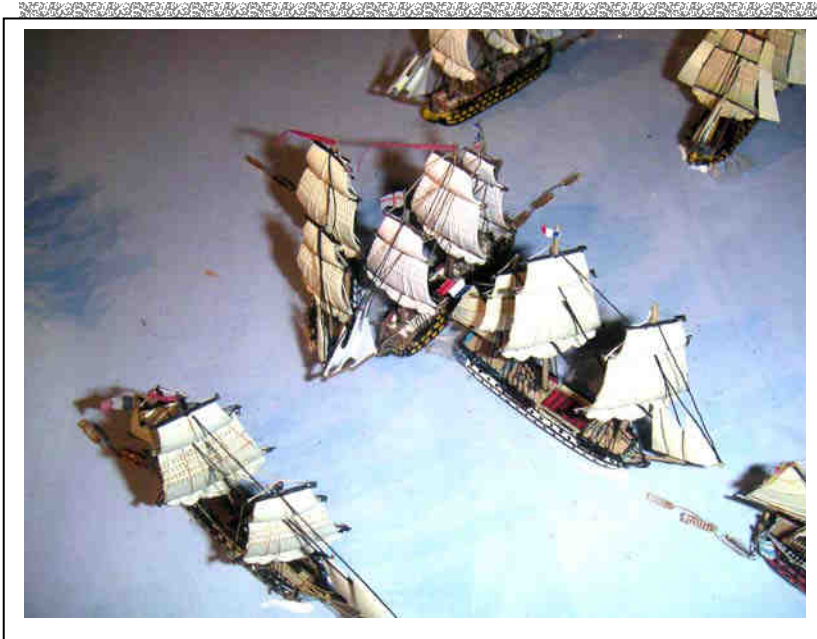
Ron Render  
<redacted>

## STAR OF INDIA BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Museum will be celebrating the STAR of INDIA's 142nd 'birthday' this November. The STAR will be sailing on 12 and 13 November (two 1 day outings). The official 'party' will be held on Saturday 05 November, pierside. Come on down for some cake, tunes and some fun.

Not much else going on. I guess everyone is working on models and writing articles for next month's newsletter. I will have an article by Dutch Sachs on BOXING the COMPASS.

MD♦



You can never have too many mini Trafalgar pics. Here, an overhead view of HMS VICTORY cutting the line between BUCENTAURE and REDOUBTABLE.

*Photo courtesy of Goodyear blimp*



**HAPPY 'BIRTHDAY' STAR of INDIA**

The Maritime Museum of San Diego celebrates the 142nd Anniversary of the STAR's launching on 13 November. The STAR will be sailing on 2 and 13 November. A pierside party will be held onboard the STAR of INDIA



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27	28	29	30			

NOVEMBER 2005

**Next meeting is Wednesday November 9th on the Berkeley  
NRG Planning Meeting 6:00PM 6:30 PM- social. 7:00PM Meeting**

*Bring a model*