



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

DECEMBER 2005

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIX, NO. 12

## OFFICERS

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Robert Hewitt  
(phone redacted)

### **First Mate**

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### **Purser**

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### **Editor**

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### **Newsletter**

### **Distribution**

Bob Wright  
Robert Hewitt

Established in  
1972 by  
Bob Wright and  
Russ Merrill

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



## MINUTES OF 09 NOVEMBER 2005 MEETING

Contributed by Bob McPhail

**Chuck Seiler** called the meeting to order at 7:02PM (Guildmaster **Hewitt** was out of area on travel and First Mate **K. C. Edwards** was running late. Guests and new members were requested to introduce themselves. **David Paa** is retired and is building a model of a cat boat. **Ron Render** is a new member and is building a model of a yacht (circa 1806). It was announced that **Ernie Andrew** recently celebrated his 37th birthday...again. **K. C. Edwards** arrived, assumed control of the meeting and ended the raucous goings on.

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

**Editor's Report.** **Chuck Seiler** indicated that he is sending two emails to each member. The first is to announce that the newsletter is coming. The second is the actual newsletter.

**Bob Crawford** talked about the Nautical Research Guild Conference recently held in Virginia. He felt it was a good program. Bob is looking for ideas and suggestions for guest speakers for the NRG Conference to be held in San Diego, 12- 15 October 2006. Anyone with inputs should contact Bob at the museum phone number extension 113.

**Bill Luther** gave a status report on IRVING JOHNSON. There was damage to many parts of the vessel including: frames, gripe, some machinery, transmission, electrical subsystems, chain plates, stays, and shrouds. Repairs should be completed this month at an estimated cost of \$1 million.

All members are requested to think of some topics for discussion for our meetings. Topics in the past included: painting, plank bending, types of kits, tool sharpening, figure head carving, etc. All suggestions should be sent to **Chuck Seiler** or **Robert Hewitt**. It was recommended that **K. C. Edwards**

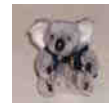
## MINUTES-Continued

talk about latest kits coming out from his distributors Also topics/speakers for NRG.

**Chuck Seiler** announced that **Dave Stevens** of THE LUMBERYARD was working on a consolidated model building project which would involve people working together on one or more 'museum quality' models. Presumably, people would be given instructions and parts for one section or piece of the model, then mentored to complete it in. The pieces would later be assembled. I'm not sure if this is correct, but if anybody is interested in finding out more, contact Chuck for the appropriate link.

It was decided that we would have an informal holiday potluck for the December meeting. Nothing fancy. All members are requested to bring food items to share at the December meeting

**Chari Wessel** announced she has become a crew member on the CALIFORNIAN. Her tasks include outer jib sheet handler. (Note: Chari sailed on the CALIFORNIAN on 13 November, escorting the STAR of INDIA on its birthday cruise. Details and insight from that cruise are provided on page 6.



## SHOW and TELL

**Peter Jacquith's** Virginia pilot boat KATY. Model Shipways solid hull, ¼"-1' scale model. KATY is a Virginia pilot boat circa 1800, based on Steeles' Naval Architecture of 1804. The design, referred to as a Jamaica or Baltimore boat, evolved into the highly successful Baltimore clipper. The real KATY was 56 feet long with a 15 ½ foot beam, a depth of 6 ½ feet and displacement of 52 tons. While a solid hull, both the deck and the hull will be fully planked, Peter replaced all the original lead fittings with scratch built components. Masts, spars and rigging are currently under construction. This is Peter's first ship model project in 40 years. Lookin' good Peter!



Above: Peter Jacquith's KATY. Below: KATY as seen from top view. Photos by Chuck Seiler



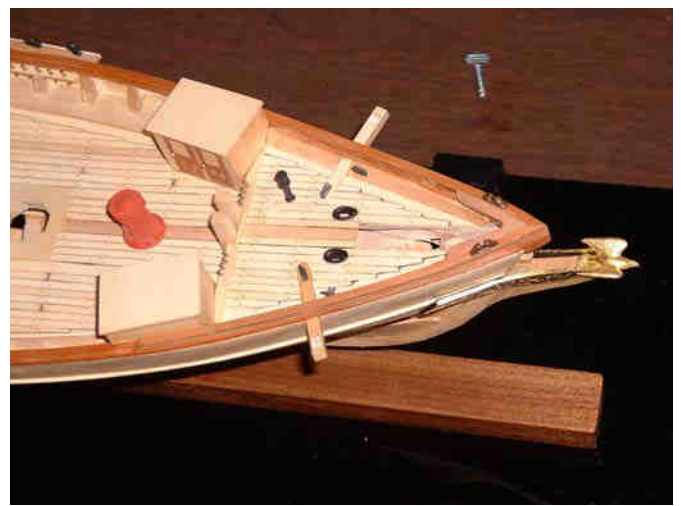
## Show and Tell-Continued

**Don Dressel** continues his work on the JEFFERSON DAVIS. This is a 7/32"=1" (who came up with that scale?) plank on "frame" kit from Bluejacket Shipcrafters. The model is primarily basswood. Her 30+ frames were made by taking a solid hull 'loaf' and slicing it up into 60+ slices. Half the frames (alternating) would go in one kit and the other HALF INTO A SECOND KIT. A lot of work is required to get the frames into shape. All structures and furniture are made from basswood with other hardwoods used as trim. Planking is also basswood, with the deck planking nibbed at the bow curves. The rudder works as the steering wheel is connecting to the rudder shaft via slotted sprocket. The 24 pounder cannon on pivot is scratch built and rotates freely 360 degrees. The model is in a specially designed plexiglass case, flag and spars are removable to enable the model to be transported to Japan. For that reason (taking to Japan), she will not be rigged. JEFFERSON DAVIS was a Baltimore clipper, schooner rigged U.S. Revenue Cutter circa 1848. Armament varied by captain. The ship was named after Jefferson Davis, the then Secretary of War. Jefferson Davis went on to be more famous as the President of the Confederacy.



Don Dressel's JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Photo by Chuck Seiler



JEFFERSON DAVIS from above showing deck details and plank nibbing. Photo by Chuck Seiler

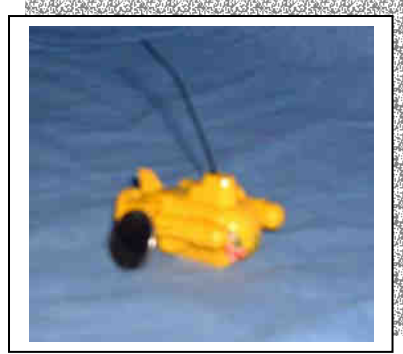
**Don Ferguson** continues to work on his model of HMS SURPRISE. This is a 1:130 scale plastic model; a heavily bashed version of the Linburgh JOLLY ROGER.. The kit was made in the early 1960s and was based on the French frigate l'Unite, which was captured in 1796 by the British and renamed....SURPRISE!!! No, really, it was renamed Surprise. By happenstance, Patrick O'Brien's HMS SURPRISE is loosely based on the 1796 SURPRISE. ...and who says there isn't symmetry in the universe. In order to make JR into the SURPISE Don wants, he has to do some cutting and plastic re-transformation.

Photo by Chuck Seiler



## Show and Tell-Continued

Birthday boy **Ernie Andrew** brought in a little radio controlled vessel that his daughter gave him for his birthday. It is a 'deep sea submersible' that dives to a hull crushing depth of 6 inches. The dive planes are functional and the motors are in the torpedoes.



New member **Tony Bunch** brought a bunch (☺ sorry, couldn't help) of modern ships. First in the collection was the 1/700 scale model of the USS **LONGBEACH** (CGN 9) from JAG Collective. This is a cast resin (waterline?) model. The railings and some other of the details are photo-etched brass. Tony scratched built the masts, platforms and rigging from stretched sprue



**Tony Bunch** also brought in a 1:700 scale model of USS **BENJAMIN STODDART** (DDG 22) circa 1972. The diorama of this Charles F. Adams class destroyer shows **STODDART** evasively maneuvering to avoid NVA shore based artillery while conducting a shore bombardment run. This is an injected plastic kit from Dragon. It includes a partially scratch built mast assembly, 5" gun director and other details. Other details are photo etched brass from Gold Metal Models.



**Tony Bunch's** current project. This is a 1/96 scale **FRAMED FLETCHER** destroyer (to be determined). He eventually plans to 'steam' it around Santee Lakes. Stay tuned.

Photos by **Chuckie**



## Show and Tell-Continued.



USS San Diego (ACR 6)



USS San Diego (AFS 6)



USS Ainsworth (FF 1090)

**Bob Crawford** in a few hulls that are not yet under construction. They are all 1:350 scale cast resin models from the All Commander series. Bob is looking for builders of the various San Diegos for display at the museum (Presumably he will be tackling the Ainsworth himself). He is still trying to acquire the kits for USS San Diego (CLAA 53) and soon to be built USS San Diego (LPD 23). ACR-6 was built in 1905 and served in WW I. It was sunk by a German U-boat in 1918. CLAA-53/CL-53 was in a class of light anti-aircraft used during WW II. It was built in 1939 and is credited as being the first allied vessel (not trying to blow things up) that entered Tokyo Bay prior to the surrender. AFS-6 was built in NASSCO shipyard here in San Diego in the 1960s and decommissioned in the 1990s. LPD-23 was awarded last year and will have its keel laid sometime next year.

Photos by Chuckie

Speaking of models....Guildmember **Chari Wessel** modeled a 'civil war era dress' she made.

Chari says... "It is based on a Simplicity Fashion Historian pattern, this two piece Civil War-era day dress took 6 months, 27 yards of fabric and 5 spools of thread to construct. In the 1850s and 60s, the popular look was the classic hourglass figure, with wide padded shoulders, a narrow cinched waist and a huge flaring skirt. To achieve the look, the dress is worn over a corset and a crinoline (hoop skirt) with spring-steel hoops that hold the heavy three-tiered skirt away from the wearer's feet. The crinoline is surprisingly flexible, bending easily to pass through narrow doorways and for sitting down. Even so, the garment is heavy and restrictive; the pattern instructions say 'The wearer should not expect to have modern freedom of movement'--an understatement to say the least. Only well-to-do women would have worn hoops, and then only for "dress-up" public occasions. During the Civil War, coastal blockades inconvenienced many Southern ladies, who had difficulty getting enough fabric to make these fashionable huge skirts. I made the dress for the Star of India 142nd birthday party but I didn't finish in time to wear it. Maybe next year. Now back to ship modeling!"

In addition to wearing the dress for Museum events, Chari plans on wearing the dress at various Civil War era reenactment events.

Chari poses with 'light house keeper' Captain Israel (**William Doyle**) at the Point Loma Lighthouse.

Photo by Jacki Jones



Chari Wessel models Civil War era dress at meeting. Photo by Chuckie



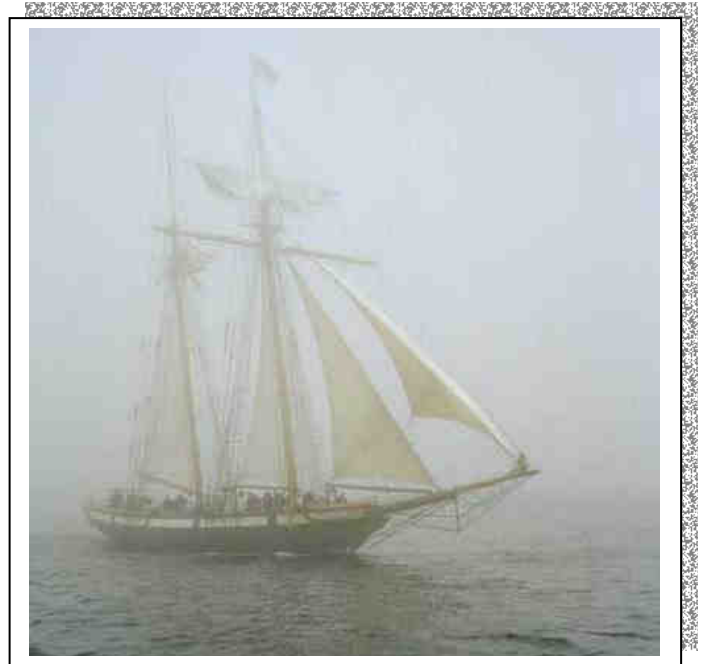
# Escorting the Star

Star of India Birthday Sail Nov 13, 2005

by Chari Wessel

The day started early: 6 a.m. The crews reported to the deck of the Star of India for a briefing by the captain and a photo of massed red shirts. After the 'team photo', we dispersed to our ships, helping the caterers carry their equipment and provisions aboard and getting all the sails into their gear and ready to sail. The early morning mist burned off, the sun came out, the passengers came aboard and we all began to anticipate a beautiful day of sailing. At 9 the tow tugs showed up and the Maritime Museum fleet ("Star of India", "Californian", visitor "Lynx", "Pilot", and various escort boats) got under weigh. We crossed San Diego Bay and passed under Pt Loma Lighthouse. As we rounded Cabrillo Point and prepared to drop the tow-lines on the "Star", everyone was startled to see a fog bank that looked like the Great Wall of China. "Star of India" sailed in and disappeared. "Lynx" disappeared. All the escort boats disappeared. For the next 3 hours we sailed in grey glare, fog so thick that sometimes I could not see the bowsprit of "Californian" in front of me.

long reach meant the crew didn't have much to do, so we were split into lunch shifts and got to enjoy the catered goodies we'd helped carry on board. "Californian" made 8.7 knots. We learned later that the "Star" got up to 7.7; but we all sailed very circumspectly, not wanting to find each other suddenly in the fog! Finally in the late afternoon, the



**FELLOW ESCORT LYNX COMES LOOMING OUT OF THE FOG**

Photo by Ray Stewart

view cleared. From afar, we watched "Star" back her headsails for the annual wreath-laying ceremony in honor of all Museum members who have died this past year. At the conclusion of the ceremony all the ships came about and headed back to San Diego. The wind stayed brisk enough that "Star" was able to drop sails again and sail to her berth across the bay after the tugs got her safely into the channel. This was a real treat for the "Star"'s crew, who work all year for the chance to go aloft under sail.

It was a great day of sailing, although it was a disappointment for the photographers because of the fog. My camera went on strike just as the fog cleared, so my photos leave much to be desired. I have all the best pictures saved in my brain, which is the most important camera of them all.



**FOG ENSHROUDED STAR OF INDIA**

Photo by Ray Stewart

Foghorns hooted around us; one a deep basso voice from a container ship which thankfully passed us by (wooden ships do not show up well on radar.) Occasionally a ship would appear ghostly in the fog, only to vanish again. After one close call, our skipper took us away from the rest and just played in the wind and swell for a long run down the coast of Baja. This





San Diego Ship Modelers Guild  
1492 N. Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

November 29, 2005

Dear fellow members,

It occurred to me that in the chaos of the previous couple of months I have been remiss in not acknowledging all of the great work our members put into the Battle of Trafalgar diorama. It was truly wonderful for everyone to take an idea and run with it.

Robert Hewitt, Chuck Seiler and Dave Dana did a great job of organizing, researching, trouble shooting and informing the principles of the many changing standards and requirements. The level of detail achieved by all modelers and the sheer number of models involved brings the battle to life and draws in the viewer. It is awe inspiring and continues to receive extremely positive comments. Well done and thank you to all involved.

The next exhibit being planned for "HMS" SURPRISE is "Pirates", much to the consternation of the curator involved. The good news is that Ray Ashley is so impressed with the "Trafalgar Exhibit" he has forbidden its removal. This is an opportunity for the Guild to get involve; we need to find a way to tie in the Trafalgar Exhibit" with "Pirates". Are there any ideas?

Anyone for a Great White Fleet diorama? The Museum wants to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Great White Fleet's 1908 visit to San Diego. Ray was so impressed with the Guild's efforts with the "Trafalgar Exhibit" he would like us to get involved in this one as well. It would be a feather in our cap and a great opportunity to contribute.

Once again, let me express my appreciation and that of the Museum, for a job well done.

Very sincerely,

Bob Crawford  
Curator of Models and Collections Mgr,  
San Diego Maritime Museum and  
Fellow Guild member

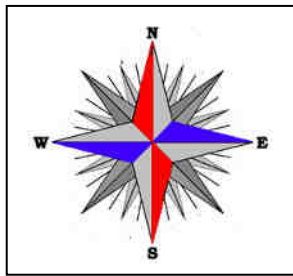


# Boxing the Compass

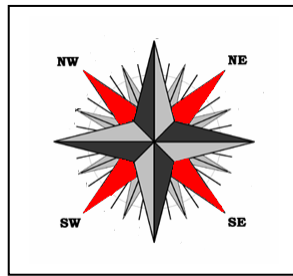
by Dutch Sachs

(Editor's note: I have known for a long time that there are 32 points to the compass—each point being 11.25 degrees. However, I have only been able to name 16 of them. Here Dutch helps us identify the mystery points.)

The old sailing vessels didn't steer by degrees but by points and 1/8 points. We start boxing the compass with cardinal points (north, south, east and west) and then by naming the inter-cardinal (also known as ORDINAL) points (northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest).



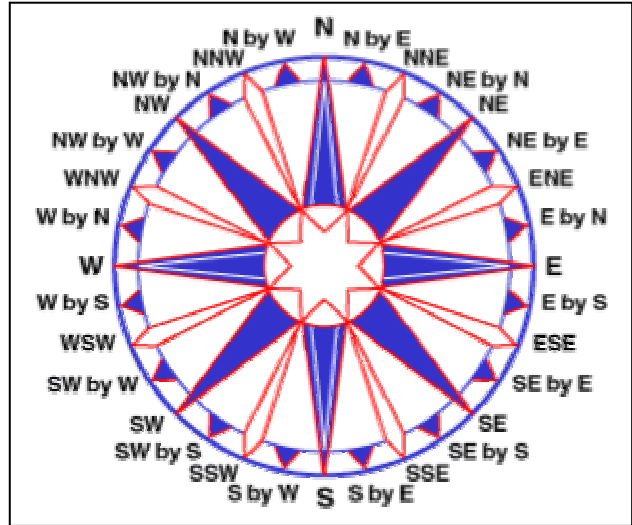
Cardinal Points



Inter-Cardinal or Ordinal Points

This is the US Navy method of boxing the compass, however there are 32 points of the compass.

(Halfway) between the cardinal and inter-cardinal points are eight more points. They are designated by naming the cardinal point it is closest to, then naming the inter-cardinal point it is closest to (north-northeast, east-northeast, east-southeast, etc). Do not put a "by" in between.



On either side of the cardinal and inter-cardinal points, there are 8 "by" points. They are designated by naming the cardinal OR inter-cardinal point it is closest to, followed with a "by", then the cardinal point in the direction of the point. (North by east, northeast by north, etc)

## The 32 Points of the Compass

Direction	Symbol
North	N
North by east	N by E
North-northeast	NNE
Northeast by north	NE by N
Northeast	NE
Northeast by east	NE by E
East-northeast	ENE
East by north	E by N

Direction	Symbol
East	E
East by south	E by S
East-southeast	ESE
Southeast by east	SE by E
Southeast	SE
Southeast by south	SE by S
South-southeast	SSE
South by east	S by E

Direction	Symbol
South	S
South by west	S by W
South-southwest	SSW
Southwest by south	SW by S
Southwest	SW
Southwest by west	SW by W
West-southwest	WSW
West by south	W by S

Direction	Symbol
West	W
West by north	W by N
West-northwest	WNW
Northwest by west	NW by W
Northwest	NW
Northwest by north	NW by N
North-northwest	NNW
North by west	N by W





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## NRG 2006 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning Committee for the 2006 NRG Conference will meet at 6PM, Wednesday 14 December (meeting night) on the upper deck of the BERKELEY. We will also discuss future planning efforts. Anybody interested in helping plan this event is invited to attend.

## NEW CONCEPT IN MODELING

Recently, Marc Mosko of Model Expo sent an email to the Seaways Shipmodeling List with the following information.

. Dear ship modelers:

We are thinking about doing something new on our website. Experimentally we have placed a pdf file of the complete instruction book for the Virginia Armed Sloop (MS2160) on the site. The idea is that a modeler thinking of building a kit can make a more informed decision by perusing the instruction book. I would appreciate feedback from those who might take the time to go the site at [www.modelexpo-online.com](http://www.modelexpo-online.com), search for MS2160, find and open up the pdf instruction booklet.

If your comments are positive we'll start doing the same for all Model Shipway kits and possibly European kits as well if we can get pdf files from the manufacturers.

Thanks. We need your help.

Marc Mosko  
Model Shipways/Model Expo

The response was significant. You can expect to see instruction books for all the Modelshipways kits in this format soon. Marc is working on getting his foreign distributors "in-line" as well.

## TOPICS WANTED

We are still looking for discussion topics for the next year. Plz give it a thought and let either Robert Hewitt know what you have in mind.

## 8th FLEET/TF 96 RUN

The above organizations will be holding a get together and R/C ship model "run" at Santee Lakes at 1100 Saturday 10 December. For those of you unfamiliar with the group, they build and operate radio controlled warships (usually WW2, some more modern) using 1/8"=1', 1:96 scale (hence the names).

# HOLIDAY POTLUCK

**REMINDER:** We will be having an informal "Holiday Party" associated with the December meeting. Please bring a item or two for your fellow Guildmembers to chow down on. There is no list so you are on your own.

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

As previously announced, I will not be running for a third term as newsletter editor and my last newsletter will be the March 2006 edition. To date, nobody has expressed interest in the post. Please let us know if you are interested. Our newsletter has bloomed into a nice resource. You can help continue the tradition.

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**HAPPY 'BIRTHDAY' STAR of INDIA-Part 2**

Guildmember **Chari Wessel** (centre) serves as crew on CALIFORNIAN as it escorts STAR of INDIA (fog shrouded in the background) on its 142nd Birthday Cruise. Topman (top person) **Julie Miles** at right. Story on page 6

Photo by Ray Stewart



**San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild**

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DECEMBER 2005

**Next meeting is Wednesday December 14th on the Berkeley  
NRG Planning Meeting 6:00PM 6:30 PM- social. 7:00PM Meeting**

*Bring a model . . . and some Christmas Potluck Goodies*