



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

FEBRUARY 2006

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXX, NO. 2

OFFICERS

Guild Master

Robert Hewitt
phone redacted

First Mate

K.C. Edwards
phone redacted

Purser

Ron Hollod
phone redacted

Editor (fading fast)

Chuck Seiler
phone redacted
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Log Keeper

Bob McPhail
phone redacted

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



OFFICER NOMINATIONS IN FEBRUARY

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR "RESOURCE LIST" INPUTS

MINUTES OF 11 JANUARY 2006 MEETING

Contributed by Bob McPhail

Guildmaster **Hewitt** called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and it immediately degenerated to a flurry of dues paying...which is good. The meeting recommenced (according to the log keeper) at 7:15. There were 25 members and one guest in attendance. Guest **Alex Creighton** and his son are interested in model building.

Purser's Report: Purser **Ron Hollod** reported the balance as of 30 November was \$<redacted>. With expenses, the balance as of December 31 was \$<redacted>. Dues are due for those who have not paid them.

Editor's Report. The recent newsletter showed a picture of three guild members. The mystery guild member was identified as **John McDermott**. Chuck mentioned that **Peter Jaquith** is developing a resource list for modeling. There was some discussion on how to assist Peter in this effort. Anyone who has information about vendors, suppliers, model manufacturers, or related info should send their information to Chuck who will put it into the March newsletter.

New Business. **Bob Crawford** talked about the model shop renovation. There will be a clean up of the shop prior to renovation. Everyone is asked to remove any personal items, equipment, tools, etc. as soon as possible. There will be a working party the weekend after the March meeting (March 11/12) on the BERKLEY to move everything out of the shop and commence renovation. Plans for the shop include: work bench/desk rebuild and window replacement with the goal of facilitating easier visitor/modeler interaction. ☺

MINUTES Continued.

Bob mentioned that the objectives of the model shop are to promote the modeler's guild and act as an outreach for the hobby. This prompted a semi-lively discussion about the model shop, its purpose and how much it is actually used by the members. **(Note: The model shop is used by the Museum to build and refurbish museum models. It is also available to Guild members for their own projects, with the idea that Museum guests have the opportunity to watch and interact. It is a good deal for Guild members because it affords a place to work and provides a number of tools not available in everybody's workshop. The bone of contention over the years is that it does not afford ENOUGH access to the public. Huzzah to all of those who made this happen!!)** Bob also mentioned that he has a large number of ship models; both military and civilian (1:1200 scale). Suggestions are desired about what to do with them.

Robert Hewitt discussed the San Diego County Fair. The sign-up list will be available at the February meeting. **(Ernie gets it last.)** Dates of the fair are June 10th thru July 4th. The fair will be closed on Mondays (June 12, 19, 26). Everyone is encouraged to submit scratch built models for the Design in Wood competition. There are prizes of \$500, \$200, \$175, \$125, and \$75.

Olde Business

There was discussion that there is a need for a new newsletter editor. Currently no single person wants to take on the job. It was suggested that there might be a bimonthly "big issue" and just meeting minutes/business notes in alternate months. Another idea was perhaps more than one person can do the job. As example, cover and back page, show and tell, middle pages, etc. **Bob Crawford** offered to do collating if there were volunteers for the various sections. **John Wickman** and **Dave Dana** volunteered to do pictures/related text. **Robert Hewitt** will contribute various, timely material. **Bob Crawford** will do editing. More to follow.

Elections for the Guild are going to be held in March. Nominations will be discussed at the February meeting.

There was a meeting of the NRG 2006 Convention Committee. prior to the regular meeting. The convention will be hosted by the Museum and the Guild, and will be held in October 2006. The planning committee is still trying to nail down primary speakers, sawdust session topics and other details. If there are items you would like discussed or covered, please advise **Bob Crawford** or **Chuck Seiler**.



Remember the old *Lost in Space* TV show where the robot would warn little Will whenever danger came out of nowhere? I sure would like to have something to warn ME of unexpected danger. Our hobby has unexpected dangers aplenty. Most people use appropriate safety gear when working with power tools; saws, drills, etc. ..fewer than should, however. Some of the adhesives and finishes we use are quite toxic and must be used in a well-ventilated area. Similarly, spray painting and machine sanding could cause respiratory hazards. Even the woods we use can be toxic, particularly the exotic ones. Ingestion or inhalation of these wood products could cause illness or worse. Use care when building that masterpiece. Think safety!!

Verily I say unto thee....
Forget not to bring your PDAs and Social Calendars for June/July to this month's meeting. Clear your schedules and blow off your commitments. Its time to sign up for two or three days at the Fair.
First come first serve

Show and Tell



Peter Jaquith's Virginia Pilot Boat KATY.

Photo by John Wickman

The model is an old Model Shipways solid hull kit, 1/4" to 1' 0" scale, purchased in the 1960's (with the original yellow box). KATY is a Virginia Pilot Boat circa 1800, based on Steel's Naval Architecture of 1804. The design, referred to as a Jamaica or Baltimore boat, evolved into the highly successful Baltimore Clipper. KATY had a length of 56' 0", beam of 15' 6", depth of 6' 6", and displacement of 52 tons. The hull is fully planked, deck is planked with nibbing, original lead fittings were replaced with scratch built components, sails are cotton, and rigging is proportional with linen line (seven sizes) and blocks by Warner Woods. Peter said that KATY was his first ship model project in over 40 years, and building it was both enjoyable and educational.

In addition to the kit drawings and instructions, Peter utilized the following references: *Planking the Built-Up Ship Model* by Jim Roberts; *How to Build First-Rate Ship Models from Kits* by Ben Lankford; *The Neophyte Shipmodeller's Jackstay* by George Campbell; *Modeling the Armed Virginia Sloop*, a Practicum by Robert Hunt; *The Art of Knotting and Splicing* by Cyrus Lawrence Day; and, *Steel's Elements of Masting, Sailmaking, and Rigging*.



RATTLESNAKE by Dick Roos

Photo by John Wickman

Model Expo kit 1:48 scale. Rattlesnake was launched as a Colonial privateer in 1779 at Plymouth Mass. Despite her moderate size of 89 feet on deck, she was fast and weatherly, with 85 men and twenty 6 pound guns. She had a short but spectacular career; in two years it captured over \$2 million in British shipping, over a million dollars on her first cruise, establishing a reputation as a formidable vessel. The British ordered her captured at any cost. She was captured by the 44-gun frigate HMS Assurance in 1783, sent to England and taken into the Royal Navy as the CORMORANT (14 guns). Sometime around 1784 she was renamed RATTLESNAKE when it was determined there was already a CORMORANT in service (who says government incompetence is new). She was sold out of service in 1786. The model is solid hull (the newer ones are plank on bulkhead). It took Dick over 20 years to finish this model. This can be seen in the various shades of rigging on the different masts. The plans are very clear and detailed.



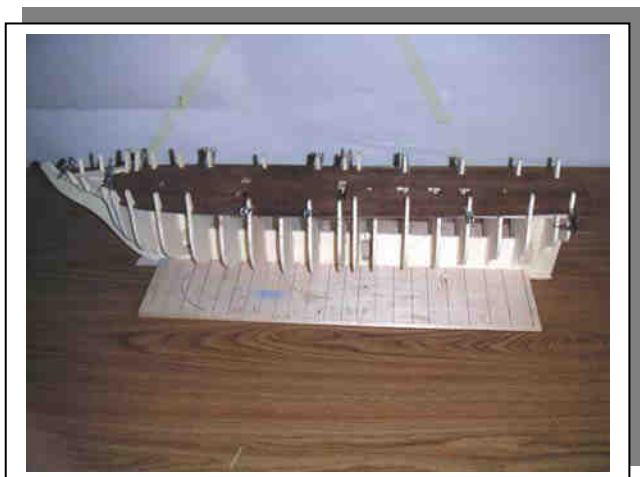
Howie Franklin's scratch built model yacht TAYANA. A 1/2"=1' scale model of an actual yacht, a 64 foot modern sloop enroute to Miami from San Diego (at the time of the meeting). The sloop was built in Taiwan. The model is all basswood.

Photo by John Wickman



Ron Hollod is working on the Continental brigantine LEXINGTON. If it looks familiar, it's because it is the same model **Chuck Seiler** is working on (see last month). It is a 3/16"=1' scale semi scratch kit based on Clay Feldman's practicum. Chuck and Ron are taking slightly different approaches. Chuck is using bloodwood for the bulwarks and boxwood for all exterior planking (except the black) while Ron is using pear for both bulwark and exterior planking above the wale, with boxwoox below the wale. Some 400 people have started the LEXINGTON practicum. How many will finish?

Photo by John Wickman



Ed Trasoras' USS CONSTITUTION

Photo by John Wickman

Hot on the heels of his Greek bireme, **Ed Trasoras** has started the Mamoli kit USS CONSTITUTION. Ed bought this plank on bulkhead kit at a club auction several months ago. The kit has alot of nice wood and good full sized drawings. The problem is that nothing fits, so he has had to assemble and disassemble the bulkhead/keel assembly over 100 times prior to gluing in order to get it right. We will be seeing this guy alot more in the near future.



Robert Hewitt's HMS SOLEBAY approaches completion. Next newsletter we should have alot of good pictures and narrative. (Unavailable this newsletter due to technical difficulties.

Photo by John Wickman



Don Ferguson's HMS SURPRISE continues to progress. This is a bashed version of the plastic Lindberg kit JOLLY ROGER discussed last month. Gee! This is turning into "the frigate page".

Photo by John Wickman



Paper Sails

By Ed Trasoras

The model kit I had was 30 years old when I started to assemble it. The “English Man-O-War” was a plastic model by Revell made in 1972. For \$10 I bought this at a church rummage sale. There were no missing parts and the little damage found was easily repaired, with the exception of the plastic sails. These had been crushed and age had cracked them to be unusable. I wanted sails and someone said make them out of tissue paper and Elmer’s glue. I had nothing to lose so I experimented and found that I could fabricate very realistic sails, which were durable, and of exceptional detail.

I decided to try and repair the plastic sails and use them as a mold. Scotch tape was used in abundance on the inside and the sails were restored to a semblance of their original shape. They were still too flimsy to work on so I filled the inside with plaster which when hard gave me a perfect mold. Now I left the plastic sail on the plaster mold for nothing would stick to it. Neither the plaster nor any of the paper or glue would adhere which was really great. I used masking tape around the edge of the mold to keep the plaster and plastic sail together.

Two dollars worth of tissue paper was all I needed. This is the same paper used to cover a balsa wood airplane. To age the sails a pot of tea was made approximately 1 to 2 quarts and one tea bag. The tissue paper was dipped into the tea for a few moments then removed and stretched out on paper towels to dry. Drying only took a couple of hours and the tissue had a light brown tint to it. A bottle of Elmer’s Glue was obtained along with a spray bottle. 1 part glue to 10 parts water seemed to work the best. Four layers of tissue paper were used to make a sail. The tissue was cut larger than the mold 1 inch all around. The tissue was sprayed with the glue and water mixture then it was laid on the mold. Each layer has to be allowed to dry. The tissue will form around all protrusions and indentations...This is good for the cloth seams and reef strips were picked up on the finished sail. The second layer was rotated 90 degrees to the first layer and this was sprayed as well as the dry first layer again. The second layer was

stretched out over the first and allowed to dry. A brown pastel pencil was used to highlight the sail seams and folds. Two more layers of tissue paper were applied to complete the sail. Pulling the corners of the tissue layer toward each clew could induce folds and ripples.

The sail did not stick to the plastic but it stuck quite well to the masking tape edges. A pair of scissors trimmed the sail to the proper shape. To create more realism the bolt line was attached to the inside edge of the sail with a small bead of pure Elmer’s Glue. I utilized a string used to make tassels for curtains or lamps. This string was also soaked in the tea stain concoction. I literally shoved the string into the glue and allowed it to set. I even formed the clews on the foot of the sail. The bolt line (head, leech & foot) was very helpful in stiffening up the sail to hold it’s shape and make it impossible to tear the tissue paper. As was the purpose on an actual sail this bolt line helped keep the rope bands from pulling out of the edge of the sail.

The Main Course was supposed to have the letters **ER** on it. A decal came with the model but it disintegrated in the water. I drew the letters on the sail and painted them with flat red enamel paint. To give the letters a sun washed out look I applied a layer of tissue paper over the letters, which worked perfectly.

Problems encountered were too much glue and the sails were brittle. Not enough glue and the tissue paper layers delaminated. This happened on one sail but was easily fixed. Just brush on the water and glue solution on the delaminated area and it soaks all the way through all layers and glues them back together. Also the sails are susceptible to water.

The tissue paper sails are extraordinarily realistic and feel like cloth. The plastic and plaster molds were the key to the realism. They were not hard to make.





MAKING PERFECT ROPE COILS

By Dave Dana

I've often admired those precise coils of rope we sometimes see on model ship decks, so round, so flat, so evenly turned - so perfect that no full sized ordinary seaman could possibly have done them. When I realized that the lines on the tackles for setting the cannons on my *Roter Lowe* galleon had to be long enough to let the gun recoil, I had to make coils - or let the lines flap dangerously about the deck. The rigging thread wouldn't sit still long enough to make a second turn. If I did get several turns, they weren't even, or overlapped, or promptly fell apart. There wasn't enough room on the model deck for fingers; tweezers really don't coil rope. Moving a gluey coil from bench to deck destroyed any semblance of a shipshape neatness.

After some frustrating efforts, I hit upon this method:

Put scotch tape - double stick or folded sticky side up - on the bench top. Using a round tool with a flat, or close to flat end, stick the end of the line to the tape. I used the end of an Xacto knife; a new wood pencil eraser should work, too. Then press the tool on the stuck end to hold it down. Wind the line around

and around itself just under the tool. Rock the tool carefully as you wind, so that its pressure sticks the line to the tape as you go around. Peek as curiosity strikes you, to see how it's going. Back up to fix any blemish, tap down the line to stick it, and continue. Do as many turns as you want, leave a loose end. A nice round coil should then be stuck to the tape. If there are imperfections - most frequently a bit off round - remember a sailor shanghaied out of a bar, or well satisfied with his ration of grog, is not likely to do a better job. While the line is still stuck to the tape, slather the coil with diluted Elmer's white glue. When the glue dries, lift the coil off the tape. Carefully! Sliding narrow tweezers slowly between the coil and tape worked for me. Glue the coil on the deck, and secure the loose end at the block. Admire.



Treating Rigging

Or Mind Your Own Beeswax!

The following comes from Seaways Shipmodeling List.

Jean Therrien asks:

Why and how do you use bees wax on rigging? Should I use bees wax or Antiquax original wax polish, and why wax. Secondly how do you apply it?

Mike Graff responds:

Why use beeswax:

- It coats and protects the thread
- It is nonvolatile and will stay on the thread a LONG time
- It tends to slightly darken and enrich the thread color
- It knocks down and keeps down thread fuzz and frizz
- It slightly stiffens the thread
- The process of waxing works the thread to reduce its stretchiness work out curl introduced by coiling the thread

- It makes the thread just a bit tacky and easier to work with
- Snugged down knots on well waxed thread tend to stay tied and resist working loose.

How to apply beeswax:

- Pull the thread across the wax cake 2-3 times while holding one end and then the other to load wax on the thread surface
- Slowly draw the thread across a lighted (and therefore hot) light bulb - the goal is to melt the wax so it soaks into the thread
- Pull the thread across the wax cake again, 2-3 times in each direction, giving it a small turn before each pass
- Heavy thread will need a little extra wax while light/thin thread will be fine with a bit less wax
- IF the light bulb step leaves wax on the bulb, THEN you're putting too much wax on the thread in the first step
- IF the light bulb step generates smoke THEN you're either moving too slowly or the bulb is too powerful (50-60 watt bulbs are just right) or both.



Web News

by **Chuck Seiler**

from January 2005 Newsletter

Recently, Gene Larson of Alexandria, VA (former Chairman of the NRG and current member of the Washington Ship Model Society) shared with the Shipways Subscriber List that he had been working on a series of tips (shop notes) related to deck caulking, which he included on his website.

<http://members.cox.net/elarson5/>

Closer examination shows that the website is a compilation of articles, hints and tips gene had recently removed from the *Nautical Research Guild's website* due to their age. These shop notes were written by Gene in the 1990s. He has also developed some new ones. Topics covered, include:

- Methods of Caulking Ship Model Decks
- A Method to Form Hull Frames
- Corian for Ship Model Parts
- Dremel Router-Shaper Stand
- Examples of Belaying Lines
- Glues and Adhesives for Model Building
- Lead in Britannia Metal Fittings
- Linen Thread for Ship Models
- Cutting Logs and Planks
- Your Own Lumber Mill
- Ship Model Rigging Materials
- Constructing and Operating a Ropewalk
- Model Scales and Conversions
- Constructing and Operating a Thickness Sander
- Make Your Own Walnut Stain
- Woods for Model Building
- Filling Wood Gaps, Dents and Blemishes
- Insurance Protection for Models
- Scratch Building Criteria
- Ship Model Kit Quality

If you are serious about ship model building (and you have internet access) and EXCELLENT source of information is the "Seaways Shipmodeling List". You will see me refer to it in the newsletter. It is a Yahoo group of over 2600 ship modelers sponsored by the publisher of seaways "Ships in scale" magazine. It is a forum where you ask a question and 20 people answer it. You can give your thoughts on a particular topic or just sit back and learn. The list is populated by novices, long time builders and outright expert modelers. There are several maritime archeologists on the list ready to share their knowledge. A kit designer from one major model ship company and the owner of another are known to chime in from time to time. Participants hail from a dozen or so different countries.

Mind you, you may have to sift through a lot of chaff to get to the wheat, but I believe it is well worth it! You will have to join YAHOO, but it is easy nad entails no obligation. For more info contact:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SeawaysShipmodelingList/>

Another handy resource is a list of frequently asked questions (and answers) compiled by a chap named John Kopf. John is very much in NRG functions and with the SSL discussed above. His "Frequently Asked Questions" can be seen at:

<http://home.att.net/~ShipModelFAQ>

Any Questions?

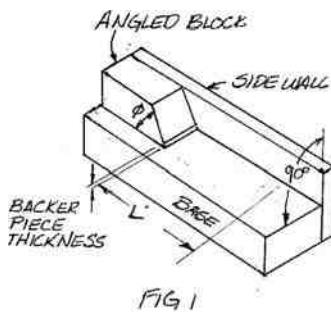


SHOW AND TELL-HMS GLAGOW: Making quarterdeck stairs

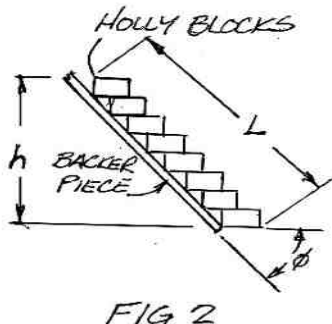
by Robert Hewitt

The upper decks have been installed. The round houses and the basket works were added next. The belfry and railing are carved from ebony. The stern windows are silk thread coated with Testors clear parts cement. I had a difficult time with the quarter deck stairs. I finally decided to build a jig and to make them solid.

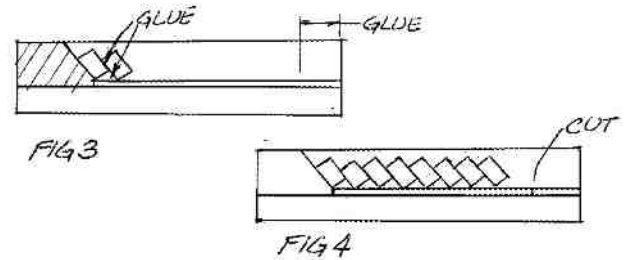
The Jig is two pieces of pear glued together to make a 90 degree nest. An angled piece of pear was made by trial and error, as my computer was not operating, and glued to the 90 degree nest. The tip of the angle was cut off so the flat portion is the same height as the backer piece of the stair assembly. (Figure 1)



I measured the height (h) from the quarter deck to the gun deck. Eight pieces of holly were cut to make up this height. Fig. 2 They were trimmed to the width of the stairs and made twice as deep as the tread. The backer piece is then glued to the far end of the jig. This should be the width of the holly pieces. I did not make this piece as wide as should be and the result is one of the treads is out of line. This was not noticed until I saw John Wickman's photo of the model.



I positioned the first holly block on the fixture and glued the second block to the first and also to the backer piece. The blocks are also pushed against the side wall. Fig. 3.



When all of the pieces have been added and the glue is dry, cut the backer piece from the fixture. Fig. 4. I added a piece of pear to the flush side of the assembly and let the glue dry. I sanded the opposite side flush and added a piece of pear to it. The sides of the stair assembly were trimmed with a razor blade and it was glued to the two decks. Fig. 5



Good luck and good modeling.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



NRG 2006 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The planning Committee for the 2006 NRG Conference will meet at 6PM, Wednesday 08 February (meeting night) on the upper deck of the BEREKELEY.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR

The San Diego County Fair (formerly the Del Mar Fair) is still four months away, but it is not too early to start planning. **Robert Hewitt** will be giving us more information. (See meeting minutes from last meeting for details). The basic story is that we man (person) a booth in the "Designs in Wood" pavilion of the Fair and demonstrate ship modeling. It is a way to promote the Museum, promote the Guild and promote the hobby. Guildmembers are encouraged to work two or more days. In the past, this earned you a lunch cruise on the steam yacht MEDEA. Its also great fun!!



NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Photo by John Wickman

TOPICS WANTED

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

MODEL SHOP CLEANOUT/REFURB

All hands are reminded that we plan on refurbishing the model shop the second week of March. As such, it is requested that all 'stuff' now stowed in the model shop be removed in order to facilitate the work. 'Stuff' may be re-ensconced after work is complete.

Volunteers are requested for a working party on 11 and 12 March to help start renovation and excess 'stuff removal' from the model shop. Contact **Bob Crawford** for details.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations for club officers will be held during the February general meeting. While Guildmaster, First Mate, Purser and Log Keeper have agreed to remain on-post, members are encouraged to throw their hats into the ring. Also, while the concept of running the newsletter by committee was discussed last meeting, it is not too late for some enterprising soul to step forward and take the plunge.

Elections will be held in March, with ballots going out in the March Newsletter. I think we will be able to get the NRG Committee for Election Reform to oversee the election to ensure it is carried out fairly, the ballots are counted properly and no candidate receives undue benefit.

♣



GUILD MEMBERS “ROUGH IT” DURING JANUARY MEETING IN STAR ORLOP

(Left) **K. C. Edwards** and **Dick Roos** tell ship modeling sea stories while **Robert Hewitt** looks on. In the background **Ernie Andrew** searches for the Del Mar Fair sign up sheet. (Right) **Bob McPhail** and **Chari Wessel** wait their turn at the “model table”. In the background other members check out the various models.

Photo by Chuck Seiler



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

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26	27	28				

FEBRUARY 2006

Next meeting is Wednesday February 8th on the Berkeley
NRG Planning Meeting 6:00PM 6:30 PM- social. 7:00PM Meeting

Bring a model . . . and your Social Calendar for June