

# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

August 6, 2006. Mark your calendars.

San Diego, CA 92101

OFFICERS AUGUST 2006

**NEWSLETTER** 

Meeting night change!!! Because of a schedule conflict, the August

meeting will be held aboard Berkeley on the forward Party deck a 7:00 pm Tuesday

VOLUME XXX, NO. 8

**Guild Master**Robert Hewitt
phone redacted

July 12, 2006 Minutes

Contributed by Bob McPhail

First Mate

K.C. Edwards phone redacted

Purser

Ron Hollod phone redacted

**Editor** 

Bob Crawford phone redacted

**Log Keeper**Bob McPhail

Bob McPhail phone redacted

Newsletter Distribution Bob Wright Robert Hewitt

Established in 1972 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill Robert Hewitt opened the meeting and gave an update on K.C. Edwards. He is still in the hospital and he is awake, off the ventilator, and working with a speech therapist. K.C. can also sit on the side of the bed. He is at Scripps Green (La Jolla/Torrey Pines). Steve Vick introduced himself. He intends to become a new member and likes to model 1:96 scale warships. Jay Barnes ( <redacted>) was a visitor to the museum.

He is the class secretary for U.S. one meter racing yachts. Ron Hollod then gave the purser's report. The balance as of 31 May was \$<redacted>. With income and expenses, the balance as of 30 June was \$<redacted>. Bob Crawford gave the editor's report and indicated that 8 to 10 newsletters were returned thru email as undelivered. Bob asked everyone to update their email/addresses if changes are needed. Bob mentioned that the widow of Chris Matthews would like to donate his tools to the guild. Robert Hewitt and Bob Crawford will visit her. Chris was a previous modeler of the year. He recommended that K.C. Edwards be nominated for the 2006 award. After a request for other nominations and discussion, it was voted on to select K.C. for this recognition. Bob also mentioned the PILOT boat cruises. These go on throughout the day and there is a nominal fee.

There will be a cruise on the CALIFORNIAN August 19. Because of the number of people who will be attending, (there will be limited reservations divided among fair participants, model entrants, and Design in Wood volunteers) and crew members there will not be room for other guests. Robert Hewitt passed around a sign up list for this trip. For the cruise, the maritime museum will provide soda and beer. John Wickham will obtain snacks for the cruise.

The annual "party" will be in lieu of the August meeting. IT WILL BE HELD TUESDAY AUGUST 8. There will be no meeting on Wednesday, August 9. Bill Luther offered to help buy needed items. Guests are invited. If you plan to attend, it is requested that a dish to share (4-6 servings) be brought.

For the Nautical Research Guild Conference, there is a meeting planned for July 20. The brochure has gone to the printers. Anyone interested in helping should attend this meeting. Some of the things needed to be done for the conference include: conference bag stuffing, table set up/break down, registration, guest liaison, round table demonstrators, model management/control, floor walking (security), and as required tasks. Information about the conference can be found on the museum website (go to events). Vendors will be on the orlop deck of the STAR. All models will be on the tween decks of the STAR and main deck of Berkeley.

There was a motion to purchase a free standing "lighted" magnifying glass for the model shop. It was also brought up that there is a request to get new overhead lighting. Bob Graham mentioned that he might have a suitable magnifying glass that he could donate. A break was then called.

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



#### SDMSG SHOW & TELL - JULY 06

By Dave Dana - Photos by John Wickman

SDMSG members do not shy from challenges. This week we saw an RC model that does all but shoot down planes, a plastic ship destined to look wooden, a kit bash into a different size, scale, and design, a 30 year job completed, mini-milled brass details, and a climb over a real ship with tape and camera. Here are the details:



#### Don Dressel - Phantom

This model New York pilot schooner *Phantom* is headed for the 2007 ROPE exhibit in Tokyo in January. Don Dressel started with a Model Shipways kit, which he quickly decided did not offer much. He used the kit's solid wood hull, but virtually scratch made everything else. The deck is planked with holly wood, edges blackened with marker, #80 holes drilled for dowelling. Don added built details based on Chapelle drawings, lemonwood spars, and deck structures. Now working on detail fixtures from copper and brass, Don will have the Phantom fully rigged, carefully cased and boxed for Japan.

## Tony Bunch - USS Bunker Hill

The USS Bunker Hill, commissioned in 1943 participated in the Gilbert Islands, the Tarawa landing, the Marshall Islands, Truk, Palau raids, Marianas, the Phillipine Sea, Caroline Islands, Iwo Jima, and the China Sea. In May 1945 while supporting the Okinawa landing she was struck by 2 kamakazi planes, and about 600 men were killed or wounded. Her badly damaged, battered hull, and exhausted crew, that had seen so much action retired from action for repairs and memorials. She received the Presidential Unit citation and 11 battle stars. Tony Bunch built this plastic model Bunker Hill as she was in 1944 out of the box on commission, and painted and finished her beautifully with



camouflage and fogged umber and tan weathering. This model will be a birthday gift to a veteran of her wartime service.



## Bob Graham - Flying Cloud

Bob Graham's exquisite model *Flying Cloud*, one of the fastest clippers Don McKay ever designed (NewYork. to San Francisco in 89 days), is entirely scratch built. Bob explained how he made some of the brass fittings – mast rings, barrel hoops, ships' wheels – using lathe, milling machines, and fingernails. He admitted to experimenting, trying different techniques and tossing out lots of inadequate efforts. Actually, many of those efforts were given to other modelers who found them perfectly adequate. In spite of the perfection and realism, Bob has declined to let an admirer try out the working bilge pumps by pouring coffee into the hold.

## Ernie Andrews - Benjamin W. Lathem

This is Ernie Andrews "Fair boat!" The original worked the East Coast in 1906 as a seine fisher, hauling in mostly mackerel. The basswood planking is finished and he has started on the deck and hatches. This will be a powered steamer, and the deck can be removed to insert the radio gear. Ernie had not worked on this model for some time but brought it to demonstrate with at the San Diego County Fair booth. Working on it once a year - - - let's see, Ernie will finish in about .... Ernie estimated two years!!



John McDermott – USS San Diego



Our home town cruiser! John McDermott had her75% finished in 1981. A long time to completion, this USS *San Diego* has been entirely scratch built from plans drawn by Ed Wiswess that John got from a plan dealer, Coker Craft. The hull is p[lank on frame covered with fiberglass, and fitted with a variety of manufactured (by H&R and Toms Modelworks) and John built details. The superstructure includes balsa, card stock, brass, and any other thing that did the job. After 30 years at it, John has said "It's finished – even though it doesn't have any life rafts!"

Stephen Vick - USS Atlanta.

USS Atlanta, an anti-aircraft cruiser, has a distinguished World War II record for combat at the battle of Midway and numerous heavy enemy engagements off Guadalcanal. The enemy damaged her so badly that the Navy abandoned her in November 1942. She was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for her "heroic example of invincible fighting spirit" and 5 battle stars. Steve Vick is building this RC model with remote ability to rotate gun turrets, sound small and large gunfire, and raise a tsunami of a wake which has swamped beached ships! A mounted scanning camera lets the operator see on a laptop screen what it's doing. He has more work to do to



complete the details and RC controls. When it's done, the RC aircraft better keep a safe distance.

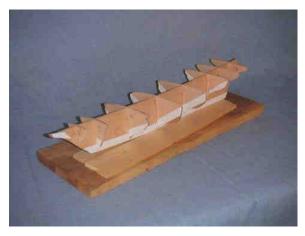


## Ron Hollod -- Lexington

Ron Hollod making the 3/16 inch to 1 foot *Lexington* following an internet project with supplemental *Ship in Scale* articles. He says the internet part of the project is done, but he's about a year behind because he's done most of his work at the Fair. *Lexington* was a converted merchant brigantine fitted with 16 guns. In 1776 she became the first American warship to capture another ship on the high seas. Operating in English waters, she was herself captures in 1777 after running out of ammunition.

## Chari Wessel - - Dallas/ Californian

Chari is now a crew member of the *Californian*, the Maritime Museum's tall ship schooner and the official State Ship of California. She wants to make a model of her day job site, and is kitbashing a 1:50 scale Artesania Latina kit of the *Dallas* she bought at a SDSMG auction. The *Dallas* was 80' and the *Californian* 106' so Chari had to make major changes using *Californian* plans from the model shop. She has completely reshaped the bulwarks and keel. "I'm sure I'll learn more," she says, "making mistakes along the way1"



**Bob Hewitt** - *Rival* 

He made it after seeing and liking the real ship, and persuaded the owner to let him go aboard to take pictures and measure. After acting like a curmudgeon over Bob's project, the owner relented, gave Bob the original left over paint, then tore off the superstructure and made a different looking ship of her. When the owner happened to see the model original ship at the fair, and

it's price, Bob sold it to him! We won't see it again.

Bob Hewitt brought his 1999 model from the fair exhibit.



Don Bienvenue - HMS Victory

A plastic Victory made to look like wood! Don Bienvenue's ambition for this model 1:100 scale will depend a lot on the paint job. He has sprayed the copper sheathing, and used Dullcoat above the copper. Not content with the paint yet, Don is planking over the deck with wood glued with Weldbond. It will look like wood, but will the it stick to the plastic?

The model is the Heller Victory plastic kit, at a scale of 1:100. The copper plates were molded onto the model, so copper spray paint was all that was needed. The black portions of the



hull are painted with flat black spray paint, and the yellow is painted with "Trainer Yellow" made by Testors (Model Master). I found this color to closely match the Ochre Yellow of the Victory.

The cannon are each made up of 7 pieces, and I also super-glued a pin to the rear of each gun carriage, which I then glued into a drilled hole in the deck. This gives a little added security to hold the gun in place in case a cannon gets bumped. If a cannon on these decks becomes unglued, it will be lost forever somewhere 'tween decks!

I decided to experiment, and am in the process of added wood decking on top of the plastic decking. This is being done with wood strips approximately 1/64" thick, and held in place with Weldbond glue.

## Received the following report from Chuck Seilor:

KC is awake and alert, responding to questions/requests etc. His chest is healing slowly but infection is under control. He had his first pureed food on Thursday and did well with that. He was smiling a lot and has his typical KC sense of humor. The speech therapist is working with him to strengthen his voice which is a bit weak after all those weeks with the breathing tube. Also he's helping KC fill in the missing pieces for the 4-5 weeks he missed. KC said more than once that he wants to get busy with his "projects" and I told him that his project now is rehab. He was not getting up yet so will have long rehab with physical therapy- walking etc. Was happy to see him looking so good. KJ

#### THE USS ATLANTA

We have lately seen a number of World War II ship models of outstanding detail. These ships all have had colorful histories and distinguished battle records. Steve Vick's USS Atlanta is one. The following article is taken directly from the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships with heavy editing to condense the long article, found on the internet web page of the Naval Historical Center. See the webpage for more deteails.

The third *Atlanta*, the first of a new class of ships conceived as flotilla leaders but became effective antiaircraft cruisers—was sponsored by Margaret Mitchell, the author of *Gone With the Wind* and commissioned at the New York Navy Yard on 24 December 1941; Capt. Samuel P. Jenkins in command.

She joined Vice Admiral Halsey's Task Force 16, formed around the carriers *Enterprise* and *Hornet*, to respond to an imminent Japanese thrust in the direction of Midway atoll. Atlanta participated i the Battle of Midway, but missed the heavy action. *Atlanta* was then assigned to TF 61, screening the carriers as they launched air strikes to support the initial landings on Guadalcanal on 7 and 8 August. As the Americans consolidated their gains on Guadalcanal, Japanese Admiral Yamamoto sent the Combined Fleet south to cover a large troop convoy. A Japanese raid with at least 18 carrier bombers came in from the north northwest. Over the next 11 minutes, *Atlanta's* 5-inch, 1.1-inch and 20-millimeter batteries contributed to the barrage over *Enterprise*, as she maneuvered violently to avoid the dive bombers. Thanks to the heavy antiaircraft fire, *Enterprise* took only one hit and suffered some shrapnel damage from five near misses. *Atlanta* may have shot down five of the attackers during her first major combat. Much more was to come.

On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> October, Rear Admiral Scott from *San Francisco* came aboard and *Atlanta* became the flagship of the newly designated TG 64.2. After fueling, *Atlanta* headed northwest by north to shell Japanese positions on Guadalcanal. Subsequently, *Atlanta* and four destroyers escorted the transport *Zeilin* and cargo ships *Libra* and *Betelgeuse* to Guadalcanal where they unloaded supplies and disembarked troops.

On November 11, nine enemy bombers and 12 fighters approached. *Atlanta* led the three auxiliaries to the north, in column, with the destroyers spaced in a circle around them. Fifteen minutes later, the bombers emerged from the clouds. The American ships opened fire, putting up a barrage that downed several planes. Fortunately, *Zeilin, Libra* and *Betelgeuse* suffered no more than minor damage. The action on 11 November, however, gave only a foretaste of the ordeal that followed.

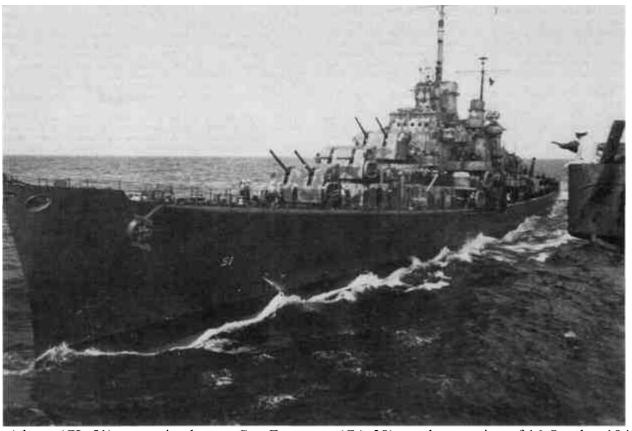
The next day, 25 enemy planes headed for Guadalcanal. *Atlanta* went to general quarters to "prepare to repel air attack . . . ." Within six minutes, 25 twin-engined bombers ("Betties") in two groups came in from 25 to 50 feet. *Juneau* and *Atlanta* opened fire training their guns at planes headed for the gap between *San Francisco* and the destroyer *Buchanan*. *Atlanta* shot down two "Betties." One crippled "Betty" crashed the after superstructure of *San Francisco*, inflicting the only damage on the force. Once the last Japanese plane had been splashed, the work of unloading the transports and cargo ships resumed. The abrupt end of the air attack gave *Atlanta* only a brief respite.

A Japanese surface force, comprising two battleships, one cruiser and six destroyers, was steaming south toward Guadalcanal. When *Atlanta* began moving ahead of *San Francisco* to meet them, the Japanese destroyer *Akatsuki* illuminated her and fired torpedoes. *Atlanta* opened fire at a range of about 1,600 yards. As two other Japanese destroyers crossed her line of fire, *Atlanta* engaged both with her forward 5-inch mounts, while her after mounts continued to blast the illuminating ship. Another assailant also opened up on the light cruiser. At about that time, at least one of *Akatsuki's* torpedoes plowed into *Atlanta's* forward engine room from the port side. *Atlanta* shot out *Akatsuki'* s searchlight, and the enemy ship, battered by *San Francisco's* gunfire as well, sank with all hands. Tragedy, though, struck shortly thereafter. Soon after her duel with *Akatsuki* ended, *Atlanta* reeled under 19 8-inch hits when *San Francisco*, confused, fired into her. Fragments killed many, including Admiral Scott. *Atlanta* recognized her "non-Japanese hull profile" and did not fire back. Now battered, largely powerless, down by the head and listing slightly to port, and a third of its crew dead or missing, *Atlanta* had been badly hurt.

Daylight revealed three burning American destroyers, the disabled *Portland*, and the crippled Japanese destroyer *Yudachi*, which *Portland* summarily dispatched with three salvoes. Weakened *Atlanta*, drifting toward the enemy-held shore, anchored. In the meantime, boats from Guadalcanal came out and took off the more seriously wounded men. Then *Bobolink* took *Atlanta* under tow. During the voyage, a "Betty" neared, and one of *Atlanta*'s two surviving 5-inch mounts fired and drove it off.

Capt. Jenkins, who was awarded a Navy Cross for his heroism during the battle, later wrote, "It was by now apparent that efforts to save the ship were useless." Authorized by Commander, South Pacific Forces, to act at his own discretion, Capt. Jenkins ordered that *Atlanta* be abandoned and sunk with a demolition charge. At 2015 on 13 November 1942, *Atlanta* sank three miles west of Lunga Point in 30 fathoms. Her name was struck from the Navy list on 13 January 1943.

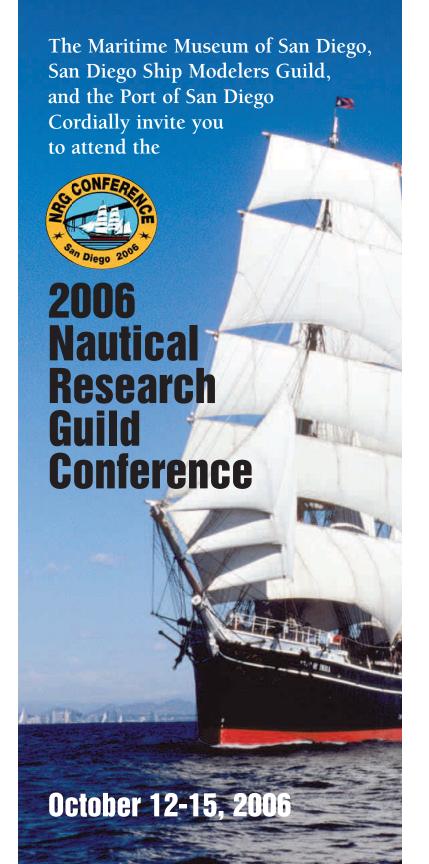
Atlanta (CL-51) was awarded five battle stars for her World War II service and the Presidential Unit Citation for her "heroic example of invincible fighting spirit" in the battle off Guadalcanal on 13 November 1942.



Atlanta (CL-51) moves in close to San Francisco (CA-38), on the morning of 16 October 1942.

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## Conference site and events

Returning to the site of the 1999 NRG conference, we invite you to see all of the changes to our museum and ships over the seven intervening years, including the acquisition of *H.M.S. Surprise* from the 20th Century Fox production of *Master and Commander, the Far Side of the World*, the replica 1847 revenue cutter *Californian*, the original 1914 San Diego Pilot Boat Pilot, and the 1972 Soviet Navy's Foxtrot class submarine *B-39*.

#### Our schedule of events includes:

**Thursday:** Tours of the San Diego Aircraft Carrier Memorial Museum, U.S.S. Midway, (CV-41) and an evening no-host bar and social hour aboard the 1898 Steam Ferry *Berkeley*.

**Friday:** All day hourly docent led tours of the various Maritime Museum of San Diego ships and 1-1/2 hour harbor cruises aboard *Pilot*, *Medea*, and/or *Californian*. The NRG business meeting will be held aboard *Berkeley* late Friday afternoon.

Friday evening there will be a cocktail reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres aboard *Star of India* highlighted by one of our Southern California late summer sunsets and musical entertainment.

**Saturday:** A continental breakfast, which is included in registration fees, will be served from 8-10 a.m. aboard *Berkeley* before and during the morning technical sessions. The speakers planned are as yet to be determined but will include Lloyd McCaffery, Don Pruel, Roger Cole, Don Dressel and Maritime Museum of San Diego Executive Director Raymond Ashley, PhD. Saturday evening will culminate in the annual banquet aboard *Berkeley* with Lloyd McCaffery as guest speaker providing a "fireworks" display of some of his works in and out of ship models.

**Sunday:** All of the speakers from Saturday will be available to answer questions in the morning aboard *Berkeley* in the vendor area. There will also be modeling technique demonstrations.

## **Hotel Accommodations**

Holiday Inn on the Bay will provide our attendee hotel rooms in an ideal setting, directly across the street from the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Room rates are \$50 off published rates, \$149 for single and double occupancy. Guaranteed bay view rooms are an additional \$20 based on availability. Suites are also available at additional cost. For reservations, go to http://www.holiday-inn.com/sandiego-onthebay or call the hotel reservations department at (619) 232-3861 or toll free at (800) 877-8920. You must mention the Nautical Research Guild (or code NRG) to receive the conference rate. These rates are good for up to a week after







the conference; however, higher rates are in effect before and after these dates. For other nearby hotel rates, see our web site <a href="http://arestravel.com/">http://arestravel.com/</a> 206 welcome.html

## **Transportation**

The San Diego International Airport is one mile from the conference site. A Holiday Inn on the Bay shuttle runs every 15 minutes from 5 a.m. to midnight free to registered guests. The Amtrak station and San Diego Trolley are one block east of the Holiday Inn. As all conference venues are within a two-block radius of the hotel, attendees will have little or no need for a rental car. For those arriving by car, there is an \$18 per day hotel parking fee.

## **Spouse Tours**

San Diego is a world class tourist destination with far too many tour possibilities to restrict any one to just two or three. Therefore, we are not offering organized group tours, but suggest customized tours through the hotel concierge service or visiting the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau http://www.sdcvb.org/nav/Visitors.

## **Area Attractions**

Within easy walking distance of the hotels and Museum are the San Diego Harbor Excursion, Hornblower Yachts, Coronado Ferry, Seaport Village shopping, and San Diego Gaslamp Quarter providing days of shopping, dining, and entertainment. One block east of the hotel is the Santa Fe Railroad Station, connecting you to many wonderful destinations. San Diego is one of the top five tourist destinations in the country and we know how to entertain!

## **Model Exhibit**

Once again we are attempting to attract as many model exhibitors as possible. We hope that many of our conference attendees will wish to show their work. Please indicate any special needs and the fact you will be bringing a model, on the registration form.

## NRG Schedule

**Monday-Sunday** Registration (\$45.00) aboard *Berkeley* 

#### Thursday, October 12, 2006

All Day Tours of San Diego Aircraft Carrier

Memorial Museum U.S.S. Midway (CV-41)

(included with registration).

Morning NRG board meeting aboard Star of India

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Vendors set-up aboard Star of India

Model exhibit set-up Star of India and Berkeley

Evening No host bar and general social hour in the

vendor area 6:30-8 p.m.

## Friday, October 13, 2006

All Day Vendors open – Star of India

Model exhibit open - Star of India and

Berkeley

Museum sponsored harbor cruise 8:30 & 10 a.m., 12:30 & 2 p.m. - \$25.00, aboard

Medea, Californian, and Pilot.

Docent tours of Maritime Museum of

San Diego

Afternoon Guild business meeting aboard Berkeley -

4-5:30 p.m.

Evening Cocktail reception aboard Star of India

- 6-7:30 p.m. No host Bar with heavy

hors d'oeuvres \$35.00

#### Saturday, October 14, 2006

All Day Vendors open – Star of India

Model exhibit open - Star of India and

Berkelev

Morning Technical sessions aboard Berkeley

8:30-11:30 a.m. (Continental breakfast

included w/registration) Lunch 11:30 a.m. (Anthony's Restaurant doors open)

Afternoon Technical sessions aboard Berkeley 1-4:30 p.m.

Evening Banquet aboard Berkeley 6:30-9:30 p.m.

\$45.00. Evening speaker will be

renowned model builder Lloyd McCaffery

#### Sunday, October 15, 2006

Morning Round Table discussions & demonstrations -

Berkelev

Star of India sail crew training 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Afternoon Conference end Model exhibit break-down

Star of India and Berkeley

Attendees are highly encouraged to spend a little time before and after the conference exploring the many activities in our city and Southern California.



## San Diego Nautical Research Guild Conference October 12-15, 2006

## **MAIL-IN REGISTRATION FORM**

Conference Registration includes admission to the Maritime Museum, *USS Midway (CV-41)*, model exhibit, technical sessions (w/continental breakfast), demonstrations and round table discussions. There are additional fees for tours, reception, and dinner.

Name			
Guest/Spouse Name			
Street Address			
City			
State, Province, Country, Zip			
Phone			
Affiliation (Club, institution, posit			
E-mail address			
FEES	Registrant	Guest	Total
Conference Registration - \$45.00			
Friday night reception - \$35.00			
Saturday night banquet - \$45.00			
Beef			
Chicken			
Vegetarian			
Friday harbor tours Package @\$25	.00 for		
the entire day (1st come -1st serve	2)		
Pilot, Californian, and Medea			
TOTAL PAYABLE			
I will/will not bring a model/s to exhibit			
0	Model, Name/s		

#### Return registration form and fees to:

Nautical Research 2006 Conference Registration Maritime Museum of San Diego 1492 N. Harbor Dr. San Diego, CA 92101

Please make checks payable to: Maritime Museum of San Diego

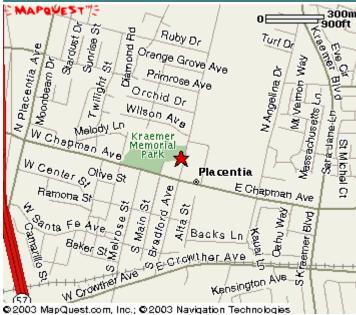
For On-line conference registration http://www.sdmaritime.org

For On-line hotel reservations http://www.holiday-inn.com/sandiego-onthebay

While I am not advocating defections to the North, if you ever get a free Wednesday you might travel to a SMA meeting.



## **How to Find Us**



the left.

Each month, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7PM, we hold a membership meeting The location is in Placentia, CA at the Backs Community Building, 201 N. Bradford, Placentia, CA Vistors are always welcome.

From the coast, take the 91 FWY East to the 57 North. Exit on Chapman. Take a right. continue thorugh a few lights to bradford. Take a left. The Backs Community building is on the left.

From Orange County, take the 5 FWY North to the 91 East to the 57 North. Exit on Chapman. Take a right. continue thorugh a few lights to bradford. Take a left. The Backs Community building is on the left.

From Los Angeles, take the 5 FWY South to the 91 East to the 57 North. Exit on Chapman. Take a right. continue thorugh a few lights to bradford. Take a left. The Backs Community building is on

1 km Golden Ave Bradford Par Acacia Park Buena Vista Ave Alta Vista St Placentia 召 Chapman Tustin Los Ninos McFadden. Q Harbor Lemon E La Palma Ave Edison Park eralta Hills Vista Park (55) ©2003 MapQuest.com, Inc.; ©2003 Navigation Technologies

This is the large monthly membership meeting of the club. Typical attendance is 50 or 60 people. The primary activity has always been a Show and Tell session at which members discuss their models, and answer questions from the audience. Both complete and in-process models are welcome.



## San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101



## San Diego Ship Modelers Guild Officers

Guild Master Robert Hewitt phone redacted First Mate K.C. Edwards phone redacted Purser Richard Strange phone redacted Editor Bob Crawford phone redacted LogKeeper Bob McPhail phone redacted

Next Meeting Tuesday August 8 on the Ferryboat Berkeley 6:30 pm social, 7 pm Meeting