



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

July 2007

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI No. 7

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**Newsletter
Distribution**
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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



Guild meeting Report June 13, 2007

Ron Grolz opened the meeting, due to the absence of Robert Hewitt and asked if there were any visitors or new members present. Alan Good is a new member who was introduced to the guild after visiting the fair. David Clark was a visitor who came to the meeting to obtain information about modeling and general information for his brother in Ireland. Lou Hills is visiting from Concord, Mass. John Sauvajot is a new member who works from wooden kits. The pursers report was given by Ron Hollod. The balance as of April 30 was \$<redacted>. With income and expenses the new balance as of May 31 was \$<redacted>. Ron mentioned that there are ninety six people on his list. Forty seven have paid their dues. .

Bob Crawford then gave his editor's report. The email version of the newsletter had twelve pages. The mailed version had eight pages. Bob would like to continue this trend. He is also still waiting for a bill from the museum for the cost of mailing the newsletter.

Bob McPhail briefly discussed the SAN SALVADOR Project. Wood has been ordered for the project. There is good progress on the plank on frame model. Test models are being made to determine the best way to model the windows along the sides of the ship.

The LPD 22 (USS SAN DIEGO) project is moving along. The hull has not arrived yet. The set of plans has not arrived either. Tony Bunch will need help with final construction and detailing when the SEVEN FOOT long (1/96scale) model arrives.

Bill Luther provided an update to the USS Chicago (CG 11) brass model project. The model has arrived at the museum and will require some minor work and general clean up.

The coffee mess was brought up, specifically, reimbursement to Chari Wessel for the coffee, cookies, and miscellaneous items. Ron Hollod, the purser, has been taking care of this.

There was discussion about the burning of CUTTY SARK and what was going to happen to restore her.

Since K.C. Edwards' passing, his wife has not had time to sort through his "business/hobby/modeling" things that need to be disposed of. She plans to meet with Robert Hewitt and Bob Crawford who will be assisting her in this task.

The Guild's birthday party was discussed. Although it is in July, it was agreed to have the party at the August Meeting (second Wednesday – August 8). Bob Crawford will check availability of the BERKLEY or STAR. It will be "pot luck" plus some catered items.

SDMSG SHOW AND TELL

SDMSG SHOW AND TELL - June 2007

Santa Maria – Doug Yamato



Doug Yamato is building an Amati kit of Columbus' *Santa Maria*. He has the model's hull and decks planked. He confessed that in one place he sanded the planks too much and will need to hide or stain the blemish. No records, drawings or paintings of the *Santa Maria*'s design exist. Estimates of her size have ranged from 100 to 200 tons, measured by the number of "tuns" (toneladas, or large casks) she could carry. She is thought to have been a nao, square rigged, stout and deep hulled. As the largest ship in Columbus' fleet, she became the flagship, even though she was dumpy, sluggish, top-heavy, and uncomfortable. A modern replica was called downright dangerous to sail.

The "Golden Devil," the Dutch called the English King Charles I's ostentatious showpiece, the *Sovereign of the Seas*. She exhibited some major "firsts" – the most decorated ship ever built, the first to carry 100 guns, the first to carry royal sails, the most costly ever - three ships were built from the waste wood. If there were records on such things, Don Dressel's model masterpiece must include "firsts" of its scale as well. Likely the most perfect elaborately hand-carved of wood stern ever built. Surely the first model square-rigger to have been fully rigged with 35 to 40 different appropriately sized lines, all stays left hand twisted on a ropewalk. One of the most thoroughly researched historical ship models ever built – Don learned that the *Sovereign* had no ratlines on the t'gallant and royal shrouds, no belaying pins at all, footropes only on the main yard. The only remaining details after 20 years, thousands of hours, work are the anchors, rudder chains, and carved and painted people. Then Don will put a case around it and will not be able to bring it to the meetings any more.

Sovereign of the Seas – Don Dressel



24 Pounder Gun – Dave Yotter

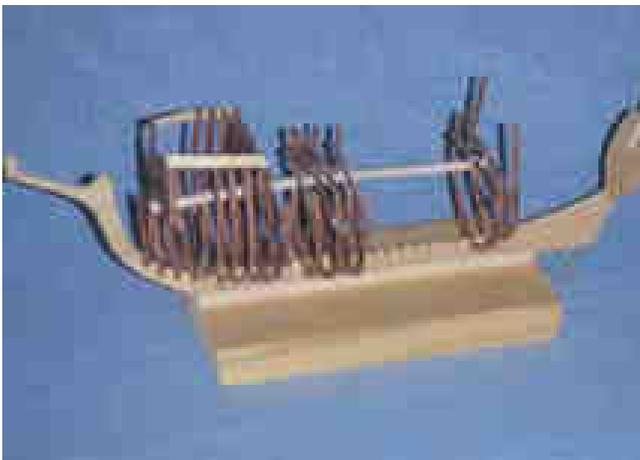
Dave Yotter made this 24 pounder from the *USS Constitution*. He will add it to the ordinance on his 1:16 scale *Philadelphia* model. He liked the Ship Ahoy Model kit for the scale and the cast brass barrel. He cleaned up the barrel, retextured its surface, and blackened it with Birchwood Casey brass black. The wood parts were replaced with beech which nicely replicates in scale the prototype's original oak. India ink stained the wheels and axletrees; scarlet red ink with a few drops of black stained the rest of the carriage a dark red. He made the quoin bed removable and made bracket bolt heads from brass stock and recessed the bolt heads and ring bolts as shown on engineering drawings. Dave used a CD of engineering drawings of the *USS Constitution* available through the Naval Historical Center Detachment, Boston, to supplement the kit instructions.

Newsboy – John B. Sauvajot

John Sauvajot showed us his work in progress on the *Newsboy*, a model of an New England built 1854 brigantine that had sailed for trade in the Caribbean and Europe. She is a Model Shipways kit of which John figures only 25% will be used because it is over 20 years old and “pretty rudimentary.” The solid hull model is nearly ready for the masts and spars. Copper sheeting looks out of scale, John thought, so he painted below the waterline with verdigris, a greenish color, and muddied it up with black for wear. He sprayed the deck and interior with 2-3 coats of Testor’s Dull Coat, and used styrene for smooth surfaces.



San Salvadore Project



Howard Griffus and John Wickman are working toward the start on the *San Savadore* models for the San Diego Maritime Museum. Howard displayed the partially framed hull pictured here. John Wickman and Dave Dana have been working on methods to make the row of identical small windows (some open, some shuttered) on the

hull. So far, the techniques are experimental, and need study. Due to the small scale, it looks like the kind of wood used for the planking will be critical to achieve satisfactory quality for the windows and likely other details. Pictured is John’s plank on bulwark plan model built to identify and try to solve model challenges.



USS Brewton – Tony Bunch [No picture]

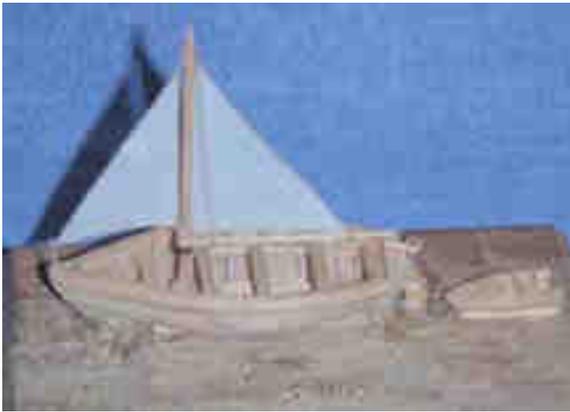
Tony Bunch brought in his model of the USS Brewton, an FF-1086 Knox class frigate. There have been few changes since he last showed it. The ship had been a carrier escort and Anti-Submarine Warfare platform. The resin kit with photo-etch details including radars, latticework masts and lifelines had to be back-dated to Wespac 1976-7 by removing the raised bulwarks above the foredeck, and spray strakes on the sides of the hull. He is making it for a US Navy veteran who served on her from 1975 to 1979. The client wanted her displayed under weigh on the water, which Tony made by painting the underside of 1/16 dark blue Plexiglas, and adding painted wake and bow wave. He added non-skid textured deck walkways and is researching very carefully to determine the correct patterns and shades of gray.

USS Arizona – Don Bienvenue

This is a 1:700 scale model of the USS Arizona in its 1941 configuration by Don Bienvenue. It is a kit, manufactured by Dragon (China). At this stage, Don has completed the main deck and is beginning the construction of the 16" guns. He is using the U.S. Navy Measure 1 paint scheme for the model, which is a dark gray for surfaces (except the wood decking) up to the top of the smokestack, where a light gray paint is applied to all superstructure surfaces above the stack. Don was surprised at the amount of detail in the small plastic fittings, and was also surprised to see the making of such small pieces to be possible. The kit also comes with a photo etch sheet for railings and cranes. This particular kit also came with brass 16" guns to replace the plastic guns.



Sailing Dingy – Ben ?????



Ben _____ has made this nice little sailing dingy only three inches long as well as its companion boat out of scrap pieces of wood he found. He made a mold for the hull first, then laid the pieces in place in order, building the structure piece by piece – he called it a “salami” method. All planks were carefully carved by hand. He crafted the metal hinges on the tiller and rudder assembly. Ben is an artist and working with his hands comes naturally, he says.



If you missed the Nautical Research Guild Conference back in October, you missed quite a bit. Even if you had the opportunity to attend, there was so much going on, you may have still missed some of the many things **Bob Crawford** and his band of merry modelers had to offer. There were a number of mighty fine vendors present and others not present but who provided samples and doors prizes.

KINGSHOUSE CANNONS

Don Stout is another one of those “I do other things and, oh by the way, I can make ship model stuff”. In this case, he makes very nice ‘turned’ guns of various sizes. The majority are turned

black acrylic, but he has also branched out (so to speak) into rosewood. The guns are ¼ inch scale, and include 4#, 6#, 9#, 9# long, 12#, 12# long, 18#, 24# and 32#. I believe he is also working on swivel guns. Since guns are, pretty much, guns, those of us working in scales other than ¼ inch can use the appropriate sized gun to meet our needs. The gun carriages are laser cut and relatively easy to assemble. Ask **Ron Hollod**.

These guns and carriages offer the modeler a more delicate looking gun...not the big clunky, out of scale guns you often find in kits and for sale.

Don/Kingshouse does not have their own website. Instead all info and ordering is done through the LUMBERYARD website:

<http://www.dlumberyard.com/Kingshouse>

Don can be reached at:
kingshouse41225@gmail.com

USS Chicago, Home Ported in San Diego Again

Bill Luther, QM3, USS Chicago (CG-11) '70-'72



This past December, Bob Crawford, the Collections Manager and Curator of Models at the Maritime Museum of San Diego and I were chatting, he and I are both members of the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild, he was telling me about a donation that had just been offered to the Museum, a model of the USS Chicago, CG-11. The model had been built in 1999, by Doug Hunzinger, a professional model builder in Paramount, California for a Mr. Robert Montague. Bob Montague had been a LT JG aboard the Chicago, from Dec. '66 to June '68. The model was built to a scale of 1/16" = 1 foot or 1/192nd actual size, which makes the model about 3 ½ feet long

and with it's mounting base over 4 feet long, there-in lay the problem. Bob Montague lives in Minnesota and the cost of shipping such a large, fragile, model from Minnesota, to San Diego, is about \$800.00. Montague was hoping the Museum could pay the shipping costs, unfortunately the Museum didn't feel it had the funds at the time. That's when I got myself in trouble, being a member of the Maritime Museum and a loyal Chicago sailor and knowing we had a reunion coming up in San Diego, I volunteered to raise the money. I felt we could raise some of the money at the reunion and/or through the Association via the Bulletin. In as much as model shipbuilding is my hobby, I asked the Reunion Committee if I could build a couple of models to raffle off to raise money to help pay the shipping costs for Montague's CG-11 model. To that end I built a 1/500th (16" long) scale model, each of the CA-136 and the CG-11, the raffle raised \$400.00! \$200.00 toward shipping costs, \$50.00 for an appropriate plaque for the model and \$150.00 towards models for the Quarterdeck of the USS Chicago Barracks at NTC Great Lakes (that's another story...). I also approached the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild for a donation, pointing out the CG-11 had been home ported in San Diego her entire career, and the Museum would be a great venue for a great model of a great ship. They generously appropriated \$200.00. By this time word had gotten out to the US Navy Cruiser Sailors Association, of our quest to bring the CG-11 "home" to San Diego. Their board very generously voted to contribute \$400.00 to the cause. Mission accomplished! To make a long story short, the funds were presented to Bob Crawford, at the reunion banquet, the funds were forwarded to Montague and the model arrived at the museum in perfect condition at 1100 hrs, 3 May 2007! I have had a chance to look the model over and it is very nice. The Museum is having a case made for it and of course the plaque to explain the Chi-town's significance to San Diego and its' place in naval history. By the way if you have a chance visit San Diego, don't miss the Museum, we have a very nice naval model section that is even better, now that the Chicago is back "Home".



2007 Del Mar Fair



Ron Render contemplates his next move on his Pilot Boat before being inundated with Fair goers.



Robert Hewitt impresses the fair Visitor with his micro scale pieces.



Joe Bompensiero's *Raleigh* was the third place winner.

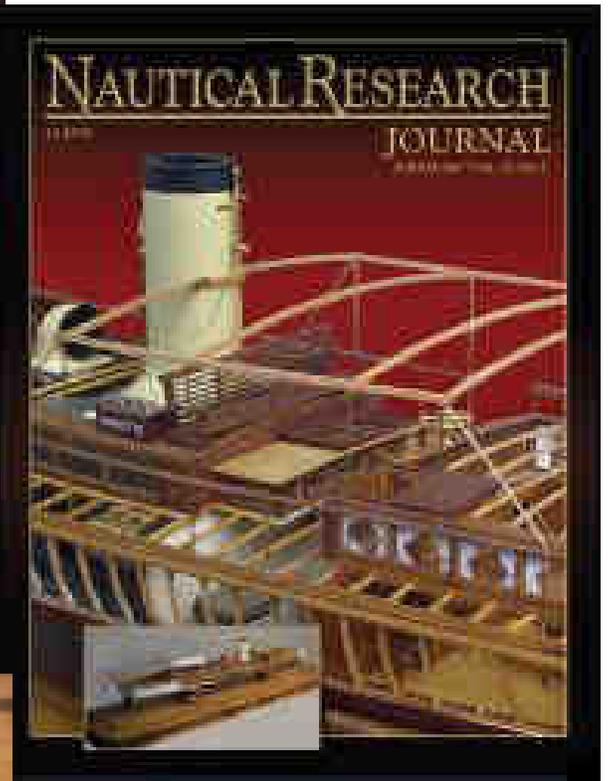
An excellent start to a *San Salvador* also displayed at the demonstration booth.





Gus Agustin's 16' to 1" (1:192) scratch built model of the *Fair American* was the second place winner

This year's first place winner and winner of the San Diego Maritime Museum's Best Ship Model award was Clyde Emerson's Commuter Yacht *Navette*, which also graces the cover of this month's Nautical Research Journal, which has an excellent article on its building.



A closer view of Ron Render's Pilot boat



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San Diego Ship Modelers Guild Officers

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Editor	Bob Crawford	<redacted>
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Next Meeting Wednesday July 11, on the Ferryboat *Berkeley* 7 pm



Festival of Sail 2002

Planning has begun for Festival of Sail August 2008 – be a part and volunteer