



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

December 2007

NEWSLETTER

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**Newsletter
Distribution**
Bob Wright
Robert Hewitt

Established in 1972
by
Bob Wright and
Russ Merrill

Guild meeting Report November 14, 2007

This month's meeting was held on the STAR OF INDIA since the Maritime Museum member's meeting was being held on the BERKLEY. Robert Hewitt opened the meeting as usual requesting any guests or visitors to introduce themselves. There were no new members or guests. Robert asked all members to introduce themselves and describe their interests in modeling. It was reported that Bill Fleming passed away. Bill was involved in model shipbuilding and associated with several nautical organizations. A sympathy card was passed around for members to sign. The pursers report was read by Ron Hollod. The current balance as of 31 October was \$<redacted>. There was a vote taken to renew the subscription to "Ships and Scale" magazine for another year.

Bob Crawford gave his editor's report. Bob requested that the Guild send a donation to the maritime museum to cover the costs of the newsletter. To date, the museum has not sent the Guild a bill for materials and postage. \$300 was approved by a vote of those present. Part of the donation is to be used to off set accrued expenses for the newsletter. Bob also asked for inputs to the newsletter. It was decided that the newsletter would contain a profile of a member each month. Bob will develop a set of questions that will be provided to each member which will be used for this newsletter feature.

Robert Hewitt discussed the Maritime Heritage Conference which was held at the Maritime Museum (Oct 9 -12). It was well received and overall went very well.

Bob McPhail briefly discussed the SAN SALVADOR Project. Progress was reported in the "Show and Tell" section of the meeting.

The LPD 22 (USS SAN DIEGO) project has shown a little progress. Tony Bunch discussed the work that is needed to be done and plans on how it will be accomplished. Some contact has been made with NASSCO for the plans.

Don Dressel discussed an email he received from Bob Hunt. Bob has developed a series of practicums for ship modeling. These four "courses" go from "freshman" to "senior". He has also developed a true plank on frame kit for the SWAN CLASS frigate. The kit is in two versions based on the level of detailing. Details can be found at www.lauckstreetshipyard.com and Bob can be reached at BobHunt@lauckstreetshipyard.com

The **December meeting** was discussed. It was decided that the guild will have a "pizza party". Pizzas and soft drinks will be provided. Members are encouraged to bring in "holiday desserts" if they desire.

There will be an auction at the January meeting. Please bring in items that you would like to have auctioned. No part of the proceeds of the auctioned items will be remitted to the guild.

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



SDMSG SHOW AND TELL – November

By Robert Hewitt - San Salvador



Scale 1"=20 ft.

All of the deck furniture is made and installed. The model is mounted to a rigging stand. The stand is built so the model can be set on its sides or ends. Gravity plays a big part when rigging a miniature. The quarter deck is the third attempt, one destroyed on the sander, the other stepped on. The quarter deck grating is cut from .016" boxwood strips and notched with a .008 thick circular saw on the Priac table saw. The grating is framed

in ebony. All of the boxwood railings were notched to fit .02 square stanchions. The ship's bell was turned on a Dremel Moto Tool from pear and painted with gold acrylic paint. The ladders to the quarter deck are made of boxwood. The rails are glued with school glue to a block of scrap wood at the angle that they are placed on the deck. The opposite rail is mirrored to the first. Notches are then cut in the rails with the .008 saw blade. The steps are cut from .008 thick boxwood. A slot was cut in the stem and 8/0 fly tyne was used to make the gammoning.

Don Dressel - Chinese Junk

This is a switch – **Don Dressell** is making a Chinese junk, and **Bill Grolz** is making a lavish 80 gun European warship. And both kits model a creation of the kit-maker's imagination. Bill seemed chagrined that his prototype never existed. He responded with private critique of the Amati Italian designed junk.

Don says his junk is a generic junk, with little accurate detail, but it does contain the watertight bulkhead compartments unique to Chinese ship design well before the Europeans adopted the idea. It also has the characteristic bamboo slat sails, yet to be modeled, which worked so well that even with many holes in the sail, they still held wind. The Amati kit's very limited instructions and plans required careful study because of inconsistencies. For example, several pictures showed 4 guns per side, others showed 5. Don used brass rod rather than the kit material for the railings. He removed the upper bulkheads and made other modifications. The kit design also lacked several interesting Chinese features, such as an open bow, leaving the hull open to the sea, which flowed in to act as ballast. For those interested, the authority on Chinese ships is G.R.G. Worcester, *Junks and Sampans of the Yangtze* (\$455 on Amazon!).



Bil Grolz – Mirage



Bill Grolz's double planked giant hull for the French Naval Man of War *Mirage* is a new venture for Bill, who is something of an expert on Chinese Junk design. *Mirage* is just what its name implies – a mirage – a representative design of French King Louis XIV's effort to out-shine the huge and elaborately decorated ships of other European kings. Bill needs to make wooden rails to replace the plastic rails Corel furnished. The three sheets

of plans and illustrated instructions are suited for the advanced modeler, says the Model Expo catalogue. Next, Bill may want to tackle the eunuch Ming Dynasty admiral Zheng He's four hundred foot treasure ship that led the Chinese fleet that reached Africa in the early 1400s.

Tony Bunch – USS Brewton



Less than a foot long, 1/350 scale **Tony Bunch's** USS Brewton Knox Class Frigate configured as she was in 1976-1977, will go to a client for a bargain price. The real ship was 439'6" long, held 17 officers and 271 men. She carried one 5"54 Cal MK 42 gun, 18 cell Mk 16 ASROC launcher and 2 twin MK32 torpedoe tubes. These ships served as escorts and ASW platforms. The

model is about one-half scratch built, the other half kit-bashed hull and major deck shapes of cast resin. The kit included photo-etch and cast white metal parts. The details, some of which had to be re-done twice: Tony is making them from researched photographs and plans. Tony passed around to expressions of awe a fantastically detailed lattice work mast with radar screen, ladders and railings, all scratch built from brass, resin, plastic and a few other materials, then air brush painted black. He has to deliver it by Christmas, so sadly we will not be able to see Tony's amazing skills on this one again.

San Salvadore Project.

The *San Salvadore* teams reported on their efforts at scratch building the tiny replicas for the Maritime Museum's fund-raising awards. They passed around samples, practice hulls, and pieces, discussing construction problems and possible solutions. Three hulls are completed through the under-planking stage. **Ron Hollod** suggested making bulwarks separately and then inserting them onto the hull. **Howard Griffus** showed his method of modeling leaded glass windows with wedding



tulle sprayed with gold paint. He distributed cast stern carvings. **John Wickman** demonstrated his reversible jig for shaping plywood upper hull pieces for bulwark internal planking. Gluing the planks to the plywood held in the form will hold the curved shape. **Dave Dana** thought he would make the bulwarks right on the hull with planking only. **Robert Hewitt** thought it interesting that three different members were using three different construction methods. This confirmed that the



best method is "What works for you!" **Bob McPhail** said that all three models do not have to be the same. The important purpose of this work, he emphasized, means that the aesthetics are key – the models have to look nice.



Fiddlers Green

Sorry to say that long time Guild member Bill Fleming has crossed the bar after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. Bill joined the Guild in the mid 70's and continued his membership for many years from his new home in Boston. He will be sorely missed.



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**Next Meeting will be Wednesday December 12, 2007
aboard the HMS Surprise at 7:00 pm**

Happy Holidays!!!

