



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

June 2008

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXII No.6

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Established in 1972  
by  
Bob Wright and  
Russ Merrill

## Guild meeting Report May 14, 2008

Robert Hewitt opened the meeting. He introduced Dr. Raymond Ashley, President and CEO of the San Diego Maritime Museum who gave a presentation about the museum, future projects and his vision for the museum. Dr. Ashley provided information about an "add on" to the pier which will provide approximately 7,000 Square foot of additional space for offices, storage, etc. He described upcoming exhibits such as an interactive history of San Diego from a maritime perspective and discussed some additions and deletions to the museum. (San Salvador to be added, FOXTROT submarine to be deleted). At the end of the presentation, Dr. Ashley answered several questions asked by various guild members.

After Dr. Ashley's presentation, Robert Hewitt returned to the business portion of the meeting. There was one guest, Steve Sand from Arizona. The pursers report was then read by Ron Hollod. The March balance was \$<redacted>. Balance as of 30 April was \$<redacted>.

Bob Crawford provided a short editor's report. His email addresses for all communications is [models@sdmaritime.org](mailto:models@sdmaritime.org) or [collections@sdmaritime.org](mailto:collections@sdmaritime.org)

San Diego County Fair tickets were distributed. Contact Robert Hewitt if you would like additional information about this event.

Bob McPhail discussed the status of the San Salvador Project. Dr. Ashley was able to view all three models which are being built. He was generally impressed with all and liked the variations that the modelers have incorporated into them such as using different woods for planking, decks, etc.

**FESTIVAL OF SAIL:** The Maritime Museum will participate in a Festival of Sail August 20 – 24. Volunteers are still being recruited. Contact Bob Crawford if you need additional information.

On Saturday, June 14, KOLER CRAFT will hold a Wooden Boat Festival and that Father's Day is on Sunday, June 15.

The San Diego chapter of the International Plastic Model Society (event 21 June) was discussed. The one day event will be held at the Aerospace Museum, Gillespie Field. You can rent a table for \$30.00 and/or enter up to two models for \$7.00 total. The form is available at [www.air&spacemuseum.org](http://www.air&spacemuseum.org)

It was announced that Mr. Garth Graves from San Diego Wood Workers is looking for someone to make a scale model of a 62 foot sailboat. If interested, please contact Robert Hewitt.

Every one is reminded of the DESIGN IN WOOD competition at the San Diego County Fair. First place is \$200, 2nd is \$175, 3<sup>rd</sup> is \$150, 4<sup>th</sup> is \$75 and perpetual trophy for best model is \$500. If interested, please contact Robert Hewitt.

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



**SDMSG SHOW & TELL  
MAY 2008**



**Mike Lonnecker's** plank on frame 1:48 *Fair American* is well under way. +All parts are computer generated and cut and are of very good quality. Mike felt that the computer generated parts have more realistic look without burn discoloration yet are very accurately cut. He did more furring on the inside of the hull using a right angle head on his hand tool at a slow speed and fitted with a disc sanding adhesive disc. Bill's Lauck Street Shipyard kit only included the framing for hull and deck and some deck furniture. He is adding some additional detail below decks and intends to fully rig the model.

**Ron Render – 1806 Schooner yacht**

The idea of an American yacht built in 1806 is quite extraordinary. All American vessels before 18th century were utilitarian, used for defense, commerce, fishing. "There are vague traditions of yachts in use in the eighteenth century, and doubtless some of the old Dutch burghers of Niew Amsterdam made pleasure cruises on the Hudson River at a far earlier date; but the first definite records begin with the advent of the nineteenth century. Crowninshield "... in 1801 ... had built, by Christopher Turner, of Salem, a sloop of 22 tons, named *Jefferson*, which he used as a yacht." American Yachting, by W. P. Stevens, New York, 1904. This Crowninshield family of Salem, Mass. was behind the construction of *Cleopatra's Barge*, which was planned after a famous fast merchant ship *America*, the finest of its merchant ships. **Ron Render** mentioned some yacht building history in describing his model. He said that famous shipbuilder Joshua Humphreys of Philadelphia built his in 1806. Ron said that some records identify vessels used solely for pleasure as early as 1780, although the yacht *Cleopatra's Barge* of 1815 is generally acknowledged as the first American yacht, although it was eventually used for smuggling opium in China. Ron's model is built at 5.32" = 1" from plans and a hull blank from an unknown kit. Most of the hull and structural detail follow the plans. The masting and rigging deviate from the plans to more accurately represent schooner rigging of the era, based on other references and his prior knowledge. Ron attempted to add details not included on the plans until he started breaking more than he added.



Leading the progression of *San Salvadors* is **Howard Griffus's** model. Howard gave the other modelers jewelry hasps that resemble the stern lantern. **Robert Hewitt** passed out his capstans to all. Howard has completed the railings, including the smallest commercially available belaying pins, which he had to sand down to fit into the rails, but the handles of the pins are over-sized. He may re-make the gunports to match the siding. Howard was very happy with is stern windows and the leaded glass made from tule painted gold.

### Dave Dana – *San Salvador*

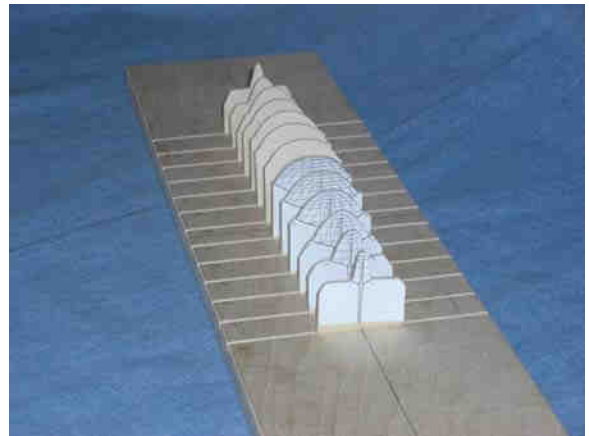
The *San Salvador* by **Dave Dana** and **John Wickman** is progressing nicely. Dave is pleased with the stern windows. He simulated the leaded glass by lining the plastic sheet with a knife and filling the lines with white paint. Dave demonstrated a tiny jig he made for making the ship's ladders. The rows of small windows and the quarterdeck rails are installed, and the hull about half planked.



**Ron Hollod** also showed his progress on the Museum *San Salvador* project, too. He is currently finishing up the deck furniture and the hull planking. Then the next step will be the masts and rigging.

### Dave Yotter – *Hjortspring boat*

This 4th century “war canoe” is **Dave Yotter’s** contribution to the Maritime Museum’s new exhibit for the *Star of India*. Near the village of Hjortspring on the Danish island of Als an iron age warship lay stuck in a peat bog. Academic speculation thinks it was in the bog because it was a prize of war, Fighting implements such as spear points and shields were buried with it. The ship was discovered in 1920, a remarkable archeological find. So far, all Dave has to show is a building board with station lines. The information for the ship’s construction is found in a book on the find: [Hjortspring, A Pre-Roman Iron-Age Warship in Context](#), edited by Ole Crumlin-Pederson and Athena Trakadas, and published by the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde, Denmark. Dave’s model will be about 12 inches long. The warriors made the original by building the planks first, then adding frames inside, sewn to the planks with bark of the linden tree (basswood). They then added seats for the rowers.



### Bob McPhail - *Oneida*

**Bob McPhail** has completed the framing on his *Oneida* model. The nine pieces of each frame were laser cut, punched out and glued together. Bob said he was not a purist on frames and found the pre-cut kit a big help. The progress and of course, the visible frames are impressive.

### ***Mediator***

Colonial American Schooner ca 1742

Scale 1/16"= 1 foot (1:192)

By Gus Agustin

The sails and flag are made from Kleenex tissue. The flag is cut to size, soaked in water, folded into a ball and allowed to dry. The flag is then painted with acrylics, and then shaped to its final form. The square sail and spanker are shaped dry with only the moisture from the fingers to set the sail. The jibs were formed by rolling the sails over a file handle. The case is made of birds-eye maple. There are three different moldings that Gus cut with his router.

A panel between the moldings gives the base a pleasing architectural look. The acrylic panels are finished off with brass angles. The nameplate was drawn on his Mac computer with a program called "In Design". The name plate was drawn at 200% and printed on cardstock at 50%. The model was sent to Robert Hewitt who will enter it into the fair for Gus. Gus is a member of the Midwest Model Shipwrights of Chicago.



### ***Agamemnon***

By Robert Hewitt

Scale 1"=40 ft.

The model is mounted on its building block. The keel extends below the slot and is attached with a wedge pin. Two blocks under the mid-point of the hull stabilize the structure. The lower gun deck has all of the guns and gun

port lids installed. The lower guns were 32-pound shot. Twenty-six guns were turned on a Dremel Moto-tool, the outside diameter is .036 with a # 76 (.020" diameter) drill for the bore. The hole is about 1/16" deep. The guns were painted with Floquil engine black with the muzzle molding signal red. Each gun was mounted on a dummy carriage, glued and pinned to the deck.

The model is still not glued together and is held in place by .062 stainless steel dowels. The holly was painted with Floquil oil the colors being rail-box yellow and light blue. These were the only colors that came close to the painting of Geoff Hunt. Both colors are a bit bright but will mellow over time. The paint needs to be scraped off the black ebony to sharpen the contrast.

All of the decks were made in one large section, starting with a sheet of holly .020 thick x 2 inches x 2 feet long. The .020" is a 10" plank at this scale. The sheet is sealed with Floquil flat finish and painted black on both sides. The sheet is cut in 1/2" pieces across the grain (this gives a plank 20 feet long) then cut to approximately 1/16" thick along the grain. An area big enough to cover all decks was laid out in AutoCAD. The area was divided into eighth inch increments. Over 700 pieces of holly were laid in a four step shift pattern. The black paint simulates deck caulking. The entire area was sanded to approximately .02-.03 thick. A paper pattern was made for each deck, traced on the large sheet and cut out with a sharp scalpel. Deck frames and skid beams were made of pear and glued to the underside of each deck, forming a crown.

President Roosevelt overlooks the stern. The ten-cent coin fits nicely in the keel slot in the building block.

Scale	1 inch	1 scale foot = (fraction)	1 scale foot = (decimal)	1 scale meter =(mm)	Comments
1/4	4"	3"	3"	250.0 mm	Flying models, live-steam trains
1/8	8"	1 1/2"	1.5"	125.0 mm	Cars, motorcycles, live-steam train
1/12	1"	1"	1"	83.3 mm	Cars, motorcycles, dollhouses
1/16	1' 4"	3/4"	.75"	62.5 mm	Cars, motorcycles, live-steam trains
1/20	1' 8"	19/32"	.6"	50.0 mm	Cars
1/22.5	1' 10 1/2"	17/32"	.53"	44.4 mm	G scale trains
1/24	2'	1/2"	.5"	41.7 mm	Cars, trucks, dollhouses
1/25	2' 1"	15/32"	.48"	40.0 mm	Cars, trucks
1/32	2' 8"	3/8"	.375"	31.25 mm	Aircraft, cars, No 1 scale trains, "54mm" figures
1/35	2' 11"	11/32"	.343"	28.57 mm	Armor
1/48	4'	1/4"	.25"	20.83 mm	Aircraft, armor, O scale trains "1/4" scale ships
1/64	5'4"	3/16"	.187"	15.62 mm	Aircraft, S scale trains
1/72	6'	11/64"	.167"	13.88 mm	Aircraft, armor, boats
1/76	6' 4"	5/32"	.158"	13.16 mm	Armor
1/87	7' 3"	3.5mm	.138"	11.49 mm	Armor, HO scale trains
1/96	8'	1/8"	.125"	10.42 mm	"1/8"scale ships, aircraft
1/100	8'4"	--	.120"	10.0 mm	Aircraft
1/125	10'5"	--	.096"	8.0 mm	Aircraft
1/144	12'	1/12"	.083"	6.94 mm	Aircraft
1/160	13' 4"	--	.075"	6.25 mm	N scale trains
1/192	16'	1/16"	.062"	5.21 mm	"1/16" scale ships
1/200	16' 8"	--	.06"	5.0 mm	Aircraft, ships
1/220	18' 4"	--	.054"	4.54 mm	Z scale trains
1/285	23' 9"	--	.042"	3.5 mm	Wargame pieces
1/350	29' 2"	--	.034"	2.86 mm	Ships
1/700	58' 4"	--	.017"	1.43 mm	Ships
1/720	60'	1/60"	.016"	1.38 mm	Ships
1/1200	100'	1/100"	.01"	.83 mm	Wargame Ships
1/2400	200'	1/200"	.005"	.42 mm	Wargame ships

## San Salvador Tips & Tricks

My how to do it file is full of articles from prestigious modelers on how to make ships ladders. Some made them on a backing, some used stacked angled pieces, some required cutting off excesses, some needed special tools some simply lacked realism. None worked for the *San Salvador*. *San Salvador* is a small scale. Open air breathed through between treads. The quality and detail had to be as first rate as possible. My fumble fingers couldn't find a way to using the articles would work— maybe they (both the fingers and the article ideas) would be OK for larger scale work.

After several trials and errors, and a jigger or two, I finally figured a jig that fumble fingers couldn't wreck:

1. A strip of wood having the thickness of the riser, the space between the treads. Glue to it a strip of the wood to be used for the treads. Leave bare enough base strip at least as wide as the treads will be. Make sure no glue squishes out.

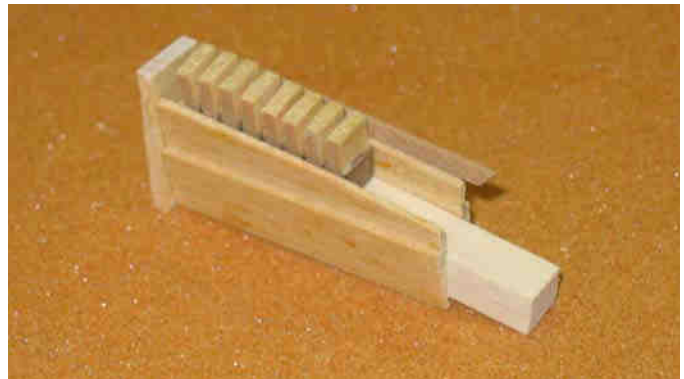


2. With a fine table saw, cut the glued strip into pieces slightly ( $1/16 - 1/32$  inch) smaller than the width of the treads. Cut as many pieces as there are treads, plus one.
3. Stack the pieces and glue together, so that a tread piece alternated with the riser piece. This will require another jig to hold the stacked pieces, because they fall over, and need to be held in place.

4. Make a holder as wide as the stack. The bottom of the holder should slant at the angle the ladder will have.
5. Glue the pieces to each other (not the holder!) in the holder. The holder can be sprayed with a polish, or coated with furniture wax to prevent any glue spill from sticking to it.

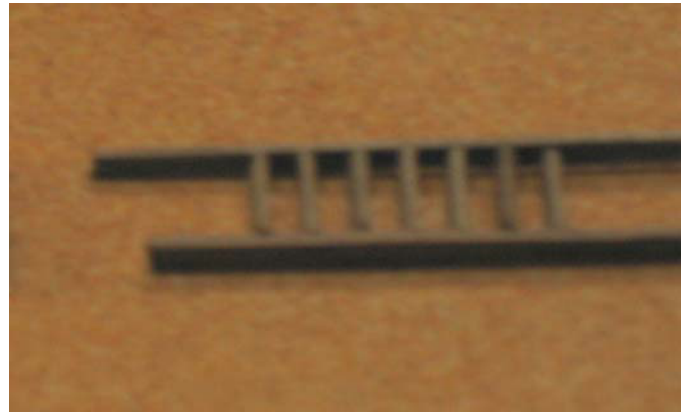
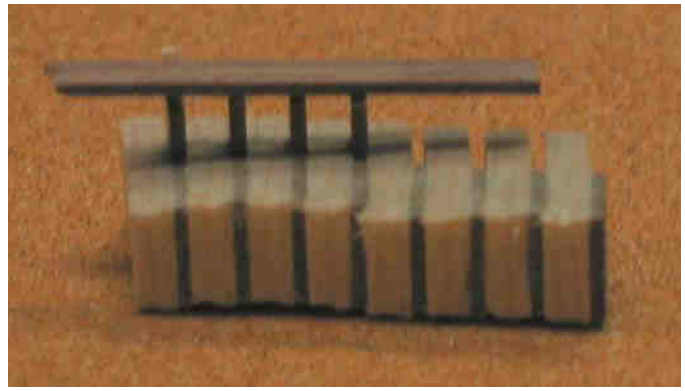


6. When the glue dries, remove the stack from the holder. You will have a strip with slots in it, spaced as needed for the ladder.



7. Cut treads to exactly the same finished length. Lay the stack on its side. Slide the treads into the slots. Be sure the treads sit evenly and consistently seated into the slots and against to surface on which the stack lays. The other ends of the treads will stick up above the stack.

8. Put glue on the ends of the protruding treads. Lay one side of the ladder on the ends. When the glue dries, CAREFULLY lift the ladder out of the jig and glue a side on the other end of the treads. If you have to even the tread ends, the jig will hold the treads while GENTLY sanding them even. Re-insert the one-sided ladder back into the jig with the uneven treads protruding. Lay the ladder flat while gluing the second side, so that the ladder does not twist.
9. The finished ladder ready to cut to length and install.



### **Auction items for June meeting**

These items were graciously donated by the late John Christopher Mathews CDR USN RET . His models are for sale at Wall Gallery and include his personal model along with a miniature Dutch Yacht of 1600 by Lloyd Mc Caffery.

Dremmel #271

Bench sander with cover

Jarmac table saw with cover

Wood tool box

Chopper

Scroll saw on 3 leg stand with cover

Many hand tools, files, saws, gouges.

Wood mini- tool bench top with wood vices

Wood dowels

Kits, Lexington, patrol boat, Willie Bennet, DD445 Fletcher, Steam Trawler.

Books,

Ship building in Miniature by Donald McNarry

Ship models in Miniature by Donald McNarry

Scale Model Sailing Ships by John Bowen

Ships of the past by Charles C. Davis

In addition there are other items donated by various other contributors, they are:

Two pond yacht hulls

Kits: Emma C. Berry and Cutty Sark

Unimat lathe



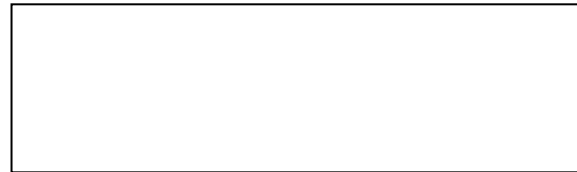
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## San Diego Ship Modelers Guild Officers

Guild Master	Robert Hewitt	<redacted>
First Mate	Bill Grolz	<redacted>
Purser	Ron Hollod	<redacted>
Editor	Bob Crawford	<redacted>
Log Keeper	Bob McPhail	<redacted>



**Next Meeting will be Wednesday June 11, 2008  
aboard the Berkeley at 7:00 pm**



**Next Festival of Sail – Irving Johnson**