



SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD ¹

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NEWSLETTER

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GUILD MEETING REPORT 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

Bill Grolz opened the meeting. Tony Bunch brought two guests with him: Glenda Lawton and Carl Zingheim. Carl is the ship's historian for USS MIDWAY. The editor of the newsletter, Katherine Pogue gave her report. She thinks that everyone should have gotten their newsletters. Any questions or comments should be sent to her at: <redacted>.

The purser's report was read by Ron Hollod. The balance as of 31 August \$<redacted>. It was noted that the purser's report covered two months.

Kevin Sheehan provided an update. The Masters in Miniature exhibit is now open. Kevin stated that "advertising" for the exhibit appeared in the Nautical Research Guild Journal and Ship's in Scale. The San Diego Museum's magazine most recent issue was prepared as a "souvenir" issue. The exhibit will stay open until May 2010.

A case for USS SAN DIEGO is now available. Since it is such a large model, it was mentioned that the Guild should request a space in the museum for the model construction. Chuck Seiler mentioned that the museum requested construction of USS SAN DIEGO per Bob Crawford. Therefore, the museum should provide a space to finish the model. Since it is unclear what the correct status is and in order to resolve this issue, the following actions will be taken: Bill Luther will check with Bob Crawford to find out the background for the model; Kathy Pogue will check back issues of the newsletter to find any information about the model request; and Tony Bunch will write a letter to the museum about obtaining space for the model construction. Once the letter is written, it will be given to Guild officers to sign.

The annual party was considered a success even though the temperature was a little cool. It was agreed that future parties would be held on BERKELEY unless "bumped" to another location. If this happens, the Guild will vote on the location. It was voted on and approved to reimburse Robert Hewitt \$60 for the cost of a security guard who was used during the annual party. Also, it was voted on that the annual holiday party will be held on the BERKELEY.

It was noted that the model kits of K.C. Edwards would be put up for auction on EBAY.

The October meeting will consist of an auction of tools, parts, kits, and miscellaneous items in addition to regular business.

Bill Luther reported that he has accepted a job in Wisconsin and will be leaving San Diego. He does not think that he will be attending any more meetings until he returns to San Diego in retirement.

The "Family Day Model Building" Day is still being researched.

The STAR OF INDIA returned to its berth on September 11. Funds are still required to pay for the recent dry docking.

OFFICERS

Guild Master
Bill Grolz
phone redacted

First Mate
Chuck Seiler
phone redacted

Purser
Ron Hollod
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Editor
Katherine Pogue
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Log Keeper
Bob McPhail
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**Newsletter
Distribution**
Robert Hewitt

*Established in 1972
by
Bob Wright
and
Russ Merrill*

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



THERMOPYLE Alan Good

Alan Good is making his extreme clipper from a Sergal 1:124 scale kit with scrap wood improvements. The beautiful model's prototype sailed in the China tea trade rigged as a three masted ship from 1868 until 1877. A British clipper, she set numerous speed records between London and Far Eastern ports. Even when racing each other Cutty Sark never beat her. Her career in the tea trade was relatively short lived. The Suez Canal opened soon after she was launched and could not accommodate large sailing ships. Steam powered ships eased clippers out on the shorter route, and helped ruin profits on clipper cargos. She then carried lumber from Canada, served as a Portuguese training ship, and in 1906 the fast and the beautiful ship met a lonely and undignified demise when she sank mysteriously. The Portuguese navy torpedoed her, or a Sultan celebrated his birthday with too much gunfire, or she hit rocks off the Cape of Good Hope.



CAMPBELLTOWN Joseph Walther

Joe Walther showed and briefly told about his model of the British destroyer Campbelltown. This originally was the American ship Buchanan launched in 1919 and after an unremarkable career was in reserve when World War II broke out. In 1940 President Roosevelt transferred her with 40 other old ships to the royal Navy to help with escort duty to protect vital British shipping. Being an old often repaired ship, in 1942 she was filled with explosives and steamed into a German held harbor at St. Nazaire, France, set off and destroyed the harbor. See article. Joe's model is in unknown scale and possible was an old Revell kit.



FAIR AMERICAN Don Dressel

We see Don Dressell's magnificent workmanship monthly as he progresses on this scale 1:48 Model of the Fair American. The model is based on a model Revolutionary War brig in the Annapolis Museum. Three Fair Americans did serve in the revolution, and no one knows which one the model represents. Don's plank on frame hull is of cherry wood. About half the model is from a Hunt kit, the other half is entirely scratch. Boxwood, pear, ebony planks and a holy deck, decorated with boxwood carvings are topped with lemon wood spars. He used pink-ivory accent wood.



FAIR AMERICAN Mike Lonnecker

Another Fair American is being kit bashed and super-detailed this one by Mike Lonnecker. The Lauck Street Shipyard kit furnished the laser-cut plank on frame hull. The quality and fit was "quite good." Mike discarded most of the kit's walnut deck furniture and is rebuilding in cherry. No guns, masting or rigging were included in the kit. Below the unplanked deck Mike has designed and created the forward lower platform with cabins, central well and shot locker, aft platform with cabins, powder magazine, including double entry and light room, and various mast steps, breast hooks, and knees. He plans officers' and captain's cabins. This is his second model and he confesses to tons of mistakes., but enjoys the research and building and has learned a lot.



CHEBEC VESSEL Jon Sauvajot

This voluptuously sleek half hull is Jon Sauvajot's model Chebec class vessel. The shapes were so hard and complex, that he made half of the hull. These vessels plied the Mediterranean Sea in the 1750 -1886 period. Lateen sails and oars powered her. She carried 24 six-pounders and 30 to 40 smaller guns. The Barbary pirates raided ships and shore ports in these swift ships. The original ship had elaborate gilt designs along the deck and rudder. Jon fears that the may bleed through the paint, and members suggested ways to prevent this.



SHOW AND TELL (CONTINUED)

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GOLDEN STAR Howard Griffus

One of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs for the twitterers among us) heard at the Del Mar Fair was "Does it float?" Of course. It's made of wood. Howard Griffus's Golden Star does indeed float - upright. She is ballasted to float at the waterline, and the hull is completely waterproof. Howard purchased the 1:30 Mantua kit of this English brigantine of the late 1600s or early 1700s to interest his grandson in model shipbuilding. The young modeler soon lost patience, and Howard finished the model to get it out of his workspace. He has not researched the ship, but figures that the sparsity of guns, only ten, leads him to think that she was more a supply or merchant ship than a war ship.



DR. FRANKLIN Dave Dana

Dave Dana researched to find the steamboat named Dr. Franklin on which his ancestors cruised the Upper Mississippi in 1852. He learned that two Dr. Franklins were rivals at the time, and that the historian where they were built said there were no original plans - the steamboats were constantly redesigned the needs of the western rivers demanded - high pressure engines, shallow water, debris guards, side or stern paddles, etc. So, armed with only the ship's name, outside hull (not deck) dimensions, and that it was a side wheeler, Dave is designing it as he goes. Model railroad figures and cargoes populate the main deck with Dave's scratch built fuel stores, machinery, and blacksmith shop. He's working on the second deck, which will cover the main deck detail. An optical fiber battery lighting system from Micro-Mart was suggested.



LE TONNANT Bob Duncan

This French Corsair kit in 1:50 scale is well under way under the helm of Bob Duncan and his capable fingers. The kit came from France so the plans and directions are printed in French. Bob cannot read the language, but gets help as needed from friends. However as a result of this circumstance, he is unable to decipher the kit maker's identity or to say much about the construction, other than that it is a French pirate ship. In spite of the handicaps, Bob's workmanship is excellent.



EAGLE Pete Jaquith

'I have recently completed all deck furniture / deck details on my Maine Topsail Schooner "Eagle" 1847 build project. The model is being constructed in my shop in Hancock, NH so its not convenient to bring it to "show an tell." Construction of the ship's long boat, masts, spars, and rigging are next on the program. The addition of sails is also a consideration.'

The topsail schooner "Eagle" had a length of 81' 7", beam of 22' 8", depth of 7' 10", and tonnage of 140 tons. Both the "Eagle" and her sistership "Arrowsic" were built in Arrowsic Island on the Kennebec River (near the present shipbuilding city of Bath, ME) in 1847 for the lumber and ice trade by builder Samuel Pattee. During the mid-19th century small schooners of this sort were widely employed in the East Coast trade; their schooner rigs an easy adaption to the prevailing westerly winds and economy in crew size.



The model is scratch built to a scale of 3/16" to the foot (1:64) using old Model Shipways plans by William Zakambell. Additional research was conducted at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, ME where a large scale model of the "Arrowsic" is on display. The model is plank on solid construction, with built up bulwarks, planked decks and topsides, coppered bottom, and scratch built deck furniture/fittings. Limited commercial fittings were utilized where appropriate, and the rigging will be proportional linen line with Warner Woods' blocks. Additional construction photos and description can be found in the "Eagle" build log located in the Dock Yard at www.drydockmodels.com.

USS WARD **Bill Luther**

The USS Ward, DD-139 was commissioned 24 July 1918. She was 314 ft. long, 1,154 tons standard displacement, armed with four, 4" guns and twelve, 21" torpedoes arranged in 4 triple tubes, she was typical of the 267, four stack, flush deck destroyers built during WW I. The Ward's greatest claim to fame was firing the "first shot" on 7 December 1941, at Pearl Harbor, when she fired on and sank a Japanese mini-sub at 0700 off the entrance to Pearl Harbor, a hour before the Japanese air attack that fateful day. It is ironic that after being converted to a fast amphibious transport (APD), the Ward was sunk exactly 3 years later, on 7 December 1944 by a Japanese Kamikaze.



The model was built from the Revell, 1/240th scale kit of the Ward. After considerable research, many modifications were made and details added to make the model as accurate as possible to 7 December 1941. In addition to scratch built details, the Gold Medal Models PE set was used to add additional detail. Paints were from Coluorcoat, through Snyder & Short of Sacramento.

THROUGH THE LUBBER'S HOLE

BY ROBERT HEWITT

Agamemnon, Nelson's Favourite

The first break occurred at home. During rigging of the mizzen mast, I needed my workbench clear to make a block assembly. I placed the model on its usual shelf to keep it out of the way of the cat and myself. I wasn't looking and placed the model on half of the shelf. The building block, my first mistake, was open on the bottom. The building block, with the ship, came crashing down to the floor mast first. The mizzen mast was gone and the main topmast was broken. The San Diego Fair was already started and I volunteered to work the second week. After collecting my anger I made new masts and carried on. The first day I worked the fair I had the model standing in a vertical position and knocked it over. I damaged the rigging and masts. The thought of repairing it again was overwhelming. I finally excused myself, none too politely I may add, and went home. My apologies to Bill Grolz and Ron Hollod for leaving them a man short at the fair.

Arriving home I placed the wreck on my workbench and thought long and hard about continuing. Determining that there were too many mistakes; the gun ports were not in line, the masts wobbled, the decks were not correct. A portion of these errors were due to using two sets of plans. I crushed the model into pieces. It was a delightful feeling! A day went by and I decided to start over.



I picked out all of the unbroken pieces from the rubble. Amazingly, all of the sails and yards were useable. I saved a portion of the traffrail with all of the scroll work and the stern lights. Two of the tops were useable along with some of the gratings, the capstan and the charley noble. This time I decided to use only the Admiralty plans for the hull, mast and hatch locations and only the "kit" plans for gun sizes, deck furniture and rigging. I started out with a fresh hull and this time I was able to cut the gun ports on my Priac saw giving a much crisper look. The mast holes were drilled on a drill press. I finished my obligation at the fair making gun barrels and masts. I hope to have the model finished for the fair in 2010.

STUFF FOR SALE!

The following ship model kits are for sale from Joanne Edwards. Please contact Robert Hewitt if you are interested at **619-234-8032** or **zhewitt@cox.net**.

WOODEN SHIP KITS:

1. SLOUP Brittany fishing boat scale 1:25, Coriel kit make offer
2. DACHS P6094 Graupner kit German make offer
3. GRIMSBY English frigate scale 1:65 Constracto kit not complete, no bulkheads make offer
4. KING OF THE MISSISSIPPI scale 1:80 list price \$199.00, sale \$90.00
5. FORRESTER solid hull, Model Shipways kit make offer
6. SKIPJACK (two kits) by Dumas length 15" make offer
7. HANNAH 1775 scale 1:70 Amanti kit \$100.00

PLASTIC SHIP KITS:

1. PAMIR scale 1:150 Heller kit \$ 70.00
2. TOWDA MARU scale 1:280 make offer
3. HELLEN R/C scale 1:20 Artesania Latina kit no motor \$60.00
4. THE FIREFIGHTER, harbor fire boat Revell kit 19" \$25.00
5. THE LATE GREAT LUSITANIA scale 1:350 Entex kit \$ 70.00
6. USS RANDELL attack transport Revell kit \$25.00





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**The next meeting will be
Wednesday, 14 October 2009
aboard the Berkeley at 7:00 pm.**



Looking down the barrel of one of *Californian's* six-pounders.