



# SAN DIEGO<sup>1</sup> SHIP MODELERS' GUILD

DECEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXIII No. 12

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



## GUILD MEETING REPORT 1 1 N o v e m b e r 2 0 0 9

Bill Grolz opened the meeting and recognized one guest. His name is Brad and he is a scratch model builder currently working on HMS *Serapis*. Ron Hollod was not present so there was no pursers report. Updated information will be provided in this newsletter.

The newsletter editor's report was given by Katherine Pogue. Katherine requested that she would like feedback about the new format of the newsletter. Please contact Katherine at <redacted>

Dr. Kevin Sheehan talked about the upcoming San Diego County Fair Design in Wood Competition. Dates of the fair will be June 11 through July 5. The Museum donated a \$500 cash prize. There was continued discussion about the USS *San Diego* Project. A letter was read aloud about the circumstances surrounding the project. It was voted on by the members present to be signed and passed to Dr. Sheehan. (A copy of the letter is provided in this newsletter) Dr. Sheehan will take the letter for further action and the guild will wait for a reply.

The December meeting will be a social/pizza party. Guests are cordially invited. \$120 was voted on and approved for pizzas. Howard Griffus will provide salad. Soft drinks will also be provided. Everyone is welcome to bring models, but there won't be Show and Tell or pictures. There will be at least **three door prizes**: Nautical Research Guild Shop Notes II, Model Kit "Emma C. Berry", and a model kit (subject unknown at this time).

Ernie Andrews received a plaque from the Museum for 1,000 hours of volunteer service. Howard Griffus received a pin for 100 hours of volunteer service.

There was discussion about the Family Kit Builders Day. When the next one is scheduled, it will be announced and volunteers will be requested to act as assistants/mentors for this event.

Don Dressel announced that the SMA will hold their well known Western Ship Modelers Conference March 31 through April 3, 2011 (Yes it is 2011 not 2010). It will be held at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum and Hyatt Regency. More details will follow but the advanced notice is to give everyone an opportunity to plan, build, and complete a model(s) for this event.

Chuck Seiler provided a status on Richard Strange. He is doing very well. He cannot drive and has limited mechanical ability but he can paint and doing many other things. He would like to attend Guild meetings but would require transportation. Anyone wishing to provide transportation should contact Chuck.

## OFFICERS

**Guild Master**  
Bill Grolz

**First Mate**  
Chuck Seiler

**Purser**  
Ron Hollod

**Editor**  
Katherine Pogue

**Log Keeper**  
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Distribution**  
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**Write-Ups**  
Dave Dana

**Photographs**  
John Wickman

**Established in 1972**  
by BOB WRIGHT  
& RUSS MERRILL



# SHOW AND TELL

O c t o b e r 2 0 0 9



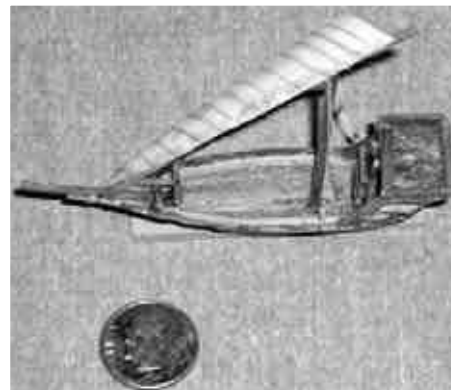
## SEED POD DHOW **Karen Johl**

Karen Johl has a Pondorea tree in her yard, and noticed that the seed pods looked like a ships hull. She worked on the pod to enhance appearance to a ships hull. Then, using twigs, she established a mast and spar. She went on the internet



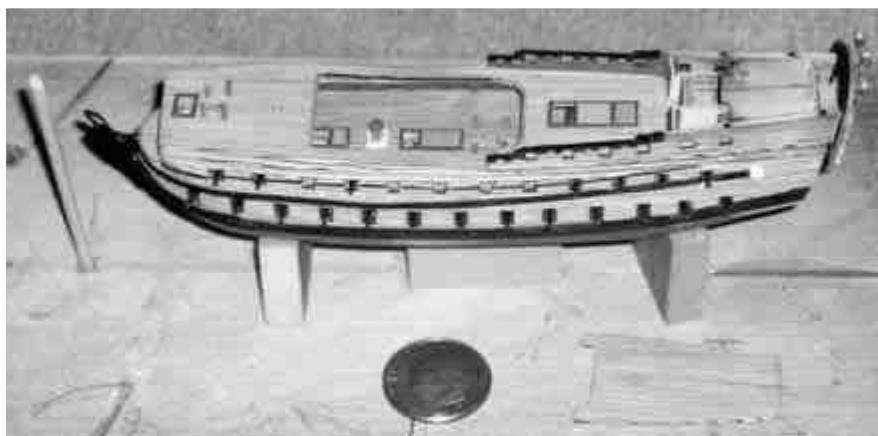
and decided her hull was that

of a Dhow. So, using information from that source, she constructed a cabin, ladder, etc/ using bark and twigs from the Pondorea tree. Robert Hewitt showed how to make the sail and we have this great first effort at model construction. She said this would be her first and last attempt at ship modeling. Alas, we believe that your imagination and talent would have been a real talent find.



## HMS AGAMEMNON **Robert Hewitt**

Scale: 1:480 (1"=40 feet) All of the dummy guns have been installed in the upper and lower gun decks. The ebony wales, .007 inches thick, were soaked in water and formed over an old-fashioned curling iron. These have been installed up to the rear gun ports, the remaining portions will be applied after the quarter galleys are permanently installed. The hatches and hatch comings and capstan are installed. Holes were drilled in the decks for the beams to hold the pin rails. The .02 square pear wood beams are notched and positioned on the main deck and the forecastle deck. The upper deck is not glued in place, awaiting the finished eighteen-pound guns to be installed and rigged in the waist. The bamboo post at the bow of the model will support the bowsprit when rigging the gammoning. The poop deck, yet to be installed is to the right of the Roosevelt dime.



## TONNOT **Bob Duncan**

Scale: 1/50 This was a write up last month. Since then considerable deck furniture has been added, including stern cabin windows, catheads and rudder and tiller. Nice progress.



# SHOW AND TELL

O c t o b e r 2 0 0 9



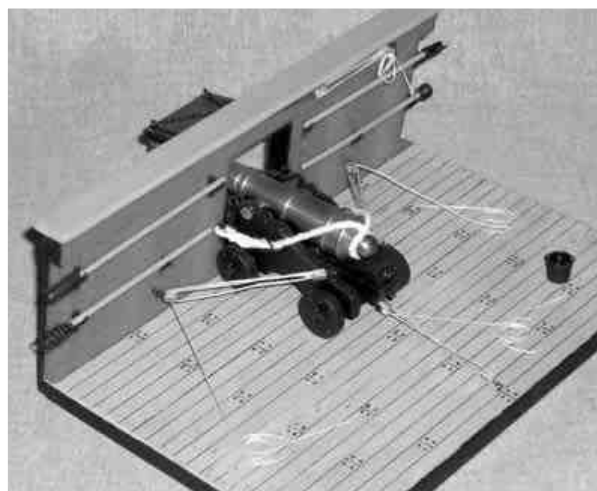
## **FAIR AMERICAN Don Dressel**

*Scale: 1/48* This model was last seen in October. This model is based on the model in the USNA Museum, and it is not sure which *Fair American* it is as there were 4 or 5 *Fair Americans* during the Revolutionary War. Since then Don discovered that he had large dead eyes in the fifth position on the channels, and they should be small dead eyes supporting the top masts. This required careful work to correct. He made a tool to ensure proper dead eye spacing, a small piece of wood with three pins for the channel dead eye and the shroud dead eyes, then with this in place you can ensure proper shroud installation to the mast head. He suggests that if you are building the *Fair American* from a Hunt kit that you use Dr. Feldman's book & plans along with Model Slipways plans for carvings, rigging, guns, anchors, etc.



## **NAVAL SMOOTHBORE DECK GUN John Sauvajot,**

*Scale: 1/24 (1/2" = 1 foot)* The model represents a bronze smoothbore six-pound gun ready for action on a typical deck section of an 18th Century British or French warship. These guns armed warships into the first years of the 19th Century. They were flat trajectory weapons with a point blank range of 300 yards. Probably more noise than accuracy. The model was built straight out of the box; Marine Model Co. Inc., kit #1109. Thread and tools seemed out of scale to me, so I scratch built the tools and replaced the thread. It was painted with Humbrol enamels. The color scheme could be different, but I wanted to keep the barrel with its shiny brass appearance. I think the kit maker was concerned with aesthetics and, consequently, some liberties were taken with deck arrangement and spacing of model elements. It's an easy model to build and looks good on my desk. This is the first time it was brought in to a meeting.



## **CHARLES W. MORGAN, 1841 WHALER Royce**

Last seen in October. Since then waterways, plank sheers, bulwark stanchions, bulwarks, knightheads and forward timber heads, main rail, log rail, & topgallant rail have been added, and the hull has been partially planked. Royce has been busy.



## **USS CONSTITUTION Bob Riddoch**

*Scale: 1/76* This model was last seen in August. Since then strakes have been added, the main deck gun ports are complete, and upper outer deck planking has been started.



# THROUGH THE LUBBERS' HOLE 4

by Robert Hewitt



From *Traditions of the Navy* by Cedric W. Windas

**Lateen sails**, mainsails cut to a triangular shape, were originally called "Latin sails", in order to designate the rig of Mediterranean type vessels.



**Ammunition**, referring to powder and projectiles, comes from the French "minire", meaning "to provide".

**Dead reckoning** is a method of navigation by which a position of a ship is fixed by plotting the distance steamed and course steered from the last well established position. It was originally called "deduced reckoning", and then shortened to "ded reckoning". Somewhere along the line someone thought the "a" had been left out, so it was put in, and that's how it's been ever since.

**Ditty box or bag** which sailors used to keep small personal items, was first known as "ditto box" because a man was supposed to have two of everything, spools of thread, needles, buttons, etc.

**Screws versus propellers.** The first steamboats used paddlewheels. Similar wheels had been used before that in water-powered mills on the banks of streams, and people knew how they worked. A screw propeller, turning completely under water, was something new. In 1839 the British Admiralty ordered a tug-of-war between HMS ALERT (a screw steamer) and HMS RATTLER (a paddle wheeler). Made fast to each other stern to stern, the ships steamed in opposite directions, and the ALERT proved victorious.

**Great lakes navigation** began in 1679 when the French explorer LaSalle built a small ship named Griffon and sailed it in Lake Michigan. The first iron ship was the side-wheeler Michigan. The first vessel from overseas was the steamer Madeira Pet, which steamed from London to Chicago through the Welland Ship Canal in eighty days.

**Swiss Navy**, normally a joke. In 1799 there was an English Captain Williams who commanded a fleet of small vessels on Lake Zurich in operations against the French.

**Topsail buster** was an old seagoing slang for a howling gale.

**Big ocean waves** are whipped up by the wind and their height in feet will usually be half the wind speed in miles per hour. An eighty mile per hour hurricane will produce waves forty feet high. Some times they are bigger. The SS QUEEN MARY, off Greenland, had her bridge, ninety feet above the sea, flooded by a giant wave. The biggest wave ever recorded was seen from the USS RAMAPO in the Pacific on February 7, 1933. It was one-hundred and twelve feet high.



**Find an angel.** This theatrical term has a nautical origin. It refers to the art of finding someone with more sentiment than business sense, who will provide the funds necessary to produce a "sure hit" show. It had its origin in the fact that Luis de Sant Angel helped finance the voyage on which Columbus discovered America.

# LETTER TO DR. RAY ASHLEY

C o n c e r n i n g U S S S a n D i e g o



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## San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

11 November 2009

Dr. Ray Ashley  
Maritime Museum of San Diego  
1492 N. Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA

Dr. Ashley,

I am writing to you in order to resolve some issues associated with the building of 1/96 scale model of USS SAN DIEGO (LPD 22). First, we are currently looking for a place large enough to work on the model after completion of the current build phase, when it must be moved from the home of one of the builders. Second, we need to establish the status of the project; whether it is an official Museum sanctioned project or not.

I will address the second issue first, since everything hinges on the answer. When we first approached Dr. Kevin Sheehan (Museum/Guild Liaison) about the need for space to work on the model, his response seemed to indicate that he thought we were asking the Museum for a favor. When advised that we were, in fact, building the model FOR the museum, AT the Museum's request he seemed surprised. This begs the question as to whether or not the Museum sanctioned this project. I assure you, it was not independently entered into by the Guild.

Background. Through correspondence available to us and past newsletter narratives, we have been able to put together the following information. Bob Crawford had been working on a series of 1:350 scale models of the various USS SAN DIEGOs that he hoped would be placed in the museum. In December/January timeframe he approached the Guild with the proposal to build a 1/96 scale of USS SAN DIEGO (LPD 22). This would be displayed with the other SAN DIEGOs in the Museum. This request is documented in the January 2007 SDSMG Newsletter, which he was the editor of. A \$2000 grant was acquired from Raytheon. This was for the purchase of the hull, required parts and to build the final display case. The hull and fittings were purchased from this. Last we heard, Bob Crawford indicated there was still \$1400 in the account.

Was this project ever sanctioned by the Museum and does the Museum want us to continue the project as a Museum sanctioned project?

If the Museum does want us to continue, we will need a place to work on the model after it is moved from Dave Manley's house. The space needs to be able to accommodate the seven foot long hull as well as sufficient workspace to work on the various sub structures associated with the model.

Sincerely,

William Grolz  
Guildmaster



# SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD



The next meeting will be  
Wednesday, 9 December 2009  
aboard the Berkeley at 7:00pm



View of the quarterdeck from the mizzen t'gallant yard of HMS Surprise.