



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

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



Guild Meeting Report: 14 March 2012

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Bill Grolz opened the meeting on board BERKLEY. There were three guests. Brian Davies is designing his own ship model. He brought in his plans and would like to build a model from his design. Mike Aubrey likes to build wooden ships. His favorite model to build is submarines. The third guest, Ken Byer is from Maine. The purser, Ron Hollod, gave his report. The balance as of February 29, 2012 was \$<redacted>. The balance as of 14 March was \$<redacted>. He reminded everyone that annual dues of \$20 should be paid as soon as possible. If dues are not paid loss of membership will result.

Katherine Pogue was not present. Members can contact her at <redacted>

An Election of Guild officers was held. A voice vote was conducted and the officers for the next year are: guild master: Robert Riddoch, first mate: Chuck Seiler, purser: Ron Hollod, logkeeper: Bob McPhail, and newsletter editor: Katherine Pogue. It should be noted that Bill Grolz withdrew his nomination for guild master and graciously recommended Bob Riddoch. Upon being elected, Bob recommended life memberships for Bill Grolz and Robert Hewitt. The membership present voted on and approved the request for life memberships.

Dr. Sheehan provided a Museum update. He discussed the SAN SALVADOR card board model project. Two model designs will be available in the future for construction - one for an advanced modeler and one for beginners. Completed models can be submitted for judging and prizes will be awarded for the best ones. These prize winners will then be given as token gifts to SAN SALVADOR Project donors. The USS SAN DIEGO model will be ready for the May commissioning of USS SAN DIEGO. Her coat of arms has a depiction of the SAN SALVADOR.

The San Diego County Fair will be held June 8 through July 4. The Museum will again sponsor the competition for best wood ship model. The model can be from a kit or scratch built. Deadline for submissions will be April 27, 2012.

There was a request for someone to build a half hull model of a ship belonging to a family which sunk approximately 150 years ago. If you are interested please contact Bill Grolz.

OFFICERS

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Guild Master
Robert Riddoch
phone redacted

First Mate
Chuck Seiler
phone redacted

Purser
Ron Hollod
phone redacted

Editor
Katherine Pogue
phone redacted

Log Keeper
Bob McPhail
phone redacted

Newsletter Distribution
Robert Hewitt

Write-Ups
Dave Dana

Photographs
John Wickman

Established in 1972
by Bob Wright
& Russ Merrill

SHOW & TELL

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HMS LADY NELSON Don Dressel

Amati (Victory) kit.

HMS Lady Nelson is a British Cutter made to chase smugglers who tried to bring contraband into England from France and other countries without paying taxes.

The kit is Plank-on-Frame in 1/64 Scale as is basically built with the material supplied in the kit. The exception is the holly deck, ebony wales, rigging blocks (Warner Woods West blocks), and the ships flag (No flag was provided in the kit). The hull is double planked with the final layer being walnut. The lower hull was spray painted white. All spars were a mixture of kit supplied dowels (for the yards) and lemon wood (for the masts). The Lemon wood was not part of the kit. The ships pumps were also not part of the kit, but all other deck furniture was, including the cannons and carriages. Most of the rigging line was kit supplied with some additions by the modeler. Some rigging discrepancies were noted and corrected. Plans and instructions supplied with the kit were adequate to above average. The flag was made with rice paper following the method developed by Gus Agustin.



MAYFLOWER Don Bienvenue

Since we last saw Don's Model Shipways Mayflower, he has completed painting and installing the hull molding. Decorative painting between the moldings, based on the kit color scheme was also completed.

Don then focused on constructing the beakhead which connects to the stem of the hull. This work took some trial and error until it reached a point where he was happy with the results.

Next on his list is to install the rudder and to work on deck fittings, ladders, fife rails, etc.



TOMOL John Sauvajot

Plank canoe made by Chumash Indians of Santa Barbara and Channel Islands. Records kept by Spanish explorers of the 16th and 17th Century describe Indians as sailing to the Islands to bring the Spaniards fish and other products.

This scratch built, primarily Box wood canoe has been previously shown at Guild meetings and is earmarked for future museum exhibit.

Since last shown painted "Red Ochre" as originals were. Decorations were made by using pieces of abalone shell. Length was approximately 12 feet with some up to 20 feet in length. The canoes were usually operated by 2 persons and a third person bailing.



USS SAN DIEGO PARTS Jon Sanford

Jon has meticulously fashioned the Starboard Boat valley wall and Crane for the USS San Diego Project.

SS GREASED CRUISIN' Brian Davies

Brian's 1:48 scale model is based on a Grand Banks 49' Classic. He then doubled her size. Brian wanted a design that was large in scale but also detailed. So far this is not modeled on an actual boat but with luck she could become real. Brian got the idea for this model after reading a book by Philip Reed. Brian is using 3/16" basswood and also plans to incorporate 1/4" basswood. Brian is still in the design phase of this very ambitious project.



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ARMED VIRGINIA SLOOP Lee Green

Lee is doing Model Shipways 1:48 scale Armed Virginia Sloop as his first wooden ship model. Lee is following the Bob Hunt Practicum and expressed his thanks to Bob Riddoch and Mike Lonnecker for their assistance and patience.



SUBMARINES Mike Aubrey

Mike brought in two Scratch built submarines. The first is a 1958 – 1964 Russian Juliet Class made for Cruise Missiles. The model is made from solid pine.

The second is a Chinese “Song” Type 39 submarine also carved from solid pine and painted with 1-shot enamel. Mike spent 32 hours on this scratch built beauty.



GUNBOAT PHILADELPHIA Dave Yotter

Scratch built 1:16 scale (3/4”=1’)

The Philadelphia was built in 1776 on Lake Champlain under the direction of General Benedict Arnold for defense of Lakes Champlain and George from the British. Philadelphia was sunk, in action, on October 11, 1776 as a member of the fleet that participated in the Battle of Valcour Island. She was raised in 1935 and donated to the Smithsonian Institution in 1961. Philadelphia is the country’s oldest existing warship. The scale is 1:16 and representing a hull 53 feet long, 13 feet wide and drawing 2 feet of water. Displacement is 29 tons. The model is constructed using beech wood to represent the oak construction of the original and Sitka spruce for the spars.



The rock ballast was found at an aquarium supply store. The finish is tung oil. The original was likely to have been finished with linseed oil only, as there was no evidence of paint found on the hull.

Notes on recent work: “I stopped trying to figure out how to make more of the deck clutter such as butts and half butts for gunpowder and water storage and decided to work on rigging. One of the first problems was how to make round thimbles. This was accomplished by annealing some thin walled brass tubing and slicing off short pieces. Tapping them onto a little mandrel put a flare into the rings. The mandrel was made from other brass tubing with the flare shape cut into it with a lathe and then a guide pin soldered in. So the first task was to make the gun tackles and another problem arose. How do you hold all the parts; thimble, block, line, so everything can be seized together? I made another jig that holds all the parts in their relative position by drilling holes into a small plywood base and adding pins of appropriate size to hold the blocks and thimbles. The line could then be put into relative position and held with a constrictor knot (a clove hitch on steroids) and the seizing completed. Then to complete the gun tackle all that had to be accomplished was to eye splice a line to the thimble and add some hooks and rings.

“The anchors are in progress. I had them cast in silicon bronze, the same as the guns, by Brad Bluth, a guy who does lots of lost-wax castings for live steam guys. The castings needed very little cleanup, were pickled and then blackened using Birchwood-Casey brass black. I am working on fitting the wood stocks now. The smaller anchor was interesting in that it had a stock that could be rotated to line up with the arms for easier storage aboard ship. The small anchor was 112 Lbs. and was about 5’7” long; the larger was 134 Lbs. and 6’4” long.”

AGAMEMNON Robert Hewitt

1:480 scale

Since the last time we saw Robert's Scratch built *Agamemnon*, the masts have been glued in place. All the mast stays, but not the back stays, have been added. The fore shrouds and ratline assemblies that we saw in the jig last month have been installed. The dead-eyes are .03" diameter pear wood discs. Three pieces of .006" blackened wire are glued to two discs. The disc assemblies are then glued to the shrouds. A tip from Dave Yotter on blackening brass and copper: first clean the material by soaking in TARN-X for at least 30 minutes.

"The model will eventually be mounted on an ebony pith which is then bolted to a 4" x 8" x 1" piece of Purple Heart. The piece was cut and beveled by Ron Render and I gave it a fine finish. Don Dressel recommended Behlen sanding sealer and gloss finish which he had purchased from Rockler. I had some sanding sealer on hand and decided to use it. The brush-on results were not very satisfactory. I then decided to go to Rockler and purchase the two spray cans. I sprayed the piece with a number of coats of sanding sealing and it looked beautiful. The next day I noticed a line in the finish. Thinking it was caused by the cat, I would just redo it. After a few hours there were more lines in the surface meaning the two sealers did not match. The only thing to do was to sand down the piece to bare wood. The spray Behlen sanding sealer worked well and now I had a good solid base coat. Due to the deep grain of the Purple Heart, I actually had about eight coats of sealer on.

"The gloss coat was not as easy. Spraying too close developed runs and moving back while spraying made the surface look like an orange peel. I brought the piece to the meeting and both Mike Lonnecker and Bill Norris gave me some good advice. Bill sprays a small amount of varnish into a dish and with a lint-free rag, wipes a thin coat onto the surface. Mike advised me to buy 'Rottenstone' to rub out the finish.

"Both methods worked well. I gave the piece a final coat, let it dry for two days and rubbed it down. Rubbing the finish with 'Rottenstone' and oil gives a matte finish and with water brings out a glossy finish. The piece came out better than I had hoped."



GUILD MASTER

Bob Riddoch accepts the "Gavel of Power" from Bill Grolz after being elected the new Guild Master.





San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

The next meeting will be
Thursday, 12 April 2012
aboard the *Berkeley* at 7:00pm



Schooner party seen off of *Californian* on Saturday, 31 March.