



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

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



## **Guild Meeting Report:** **09 May 2012**

June 2012 Vol. XXXVI No. 6

### **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 and*

#### *Photographs*

John Wickman

#### *Established in 1972*

*by Bob Wright*

*& Russ Merrill*

Robert Riddoch opened the meeting on board BERKLEY. There were two guests. Mike Peace enjoys building wooden models. John Waverly is scratch building a 40 inch model of an Arliegh Burke destroyer. The purser, Ron Hollod, was not present but it was reported that the current balance was \$<redacted>.

The newsletter editor, Katherine Pogue had nothing to report. Katherine requested that she would like feedback about the newsletter. Please contact her at <redacted>

Summer hours for the monthly meeting will be from 1900 until 2100. During the winter, the meeting will end at 2000. Start time needs to be determined.

It is requested that everyone attend the July meeting. There will be an auction. (Members should bring items they wish to have auctioned) There will also be discussion on the August Party.

The San Diego County Fair will be held again this year. The museum will again sponsor the competition for best wood ship model. Copies of the booth schedule were made available at the meeting. If help is needed to transport items on a volunteer day, you should go to the Docent Booth (in the Design in Wood Building) for assistance. It was requested that if you have any old copies of catalog and/or magazines that are no longer wanted, they should be brought to the booth for "giveaway" items.

Equipment for the model shop and use by guild members was discussed. Member badges must be worn when working in the shop. There will be two spaces available for Guild members to work on models. Each month, a demonstration will be given on a different piece of equipment in the shop.

The USS SAN DIEGO project was discussed. The model is complete and will be on display at the Museum. There is money available for a case to hold the model. It was noted that USS SAN DIEGO will be commissioned in San Diego on 19 May.

There is a plan to start a "community" work project such as the "Mayflower Project" at SMA. Details will be discussed at the next meeting but the intention is to start in the Fall.

## **TITANIC Chari Wessel**

I presented my plastic 1:570 scale RMS *Titanic* kit, which I've unearthed from the "model closet" after visiting the "Titanic Artifacts" exhibit at the Balboa Park Natural History Museum. I have ordered a set of mini LED lights (ordered from Cascademinatures.com) to try to light the inside of the model, and I'm currently drilling out all the portholes so that the lights will shine through.

*Titanic* is a ship which needs no introduction: Launched May 13, 1911, lavishly appointed and pronounced as "unsinkable," she struck an iceberg and sank on her maiden voyage on April 12, 1912 with the loss of over 1500 lives. Don Bienvenue has given me many links to *Titanic* modeling sites, and I've ordered the photoetch brass set of railings and details. In addition to the model, I also brought my "boarding pass" from the "Titanic Artifacts" exhibit and a White Star Line coffee cup I bought in the gift store of the exhibit. The *Titanic* wreck is collapsing and dissolving, and will probably be consumed by the sea in the next fifty years, so seeing these items brought up from 2.5 miles deep was thrilling for me. I recommend this exhibit to anyone who has an interest in historical shipwrecks.



## **AGAMEMNON Robert Hewitt**

Finally it's finished! I started the model on June 10, 2010 and finished on April 10, 2012, 231 years after the launching of the real ship. I did complete two other models during that time, Cairo and the Pakistani fishing boat. I did not keep a record of my time, but a year and six months to finish Agamemnon would be a good guess. This is my forty-third model since starting in 1996.

I followed the book "Rigging Period Ship Models" by Lennarth Peterson. The book is a great help in rigging a British ship with three masts. In the book, each page gives a complete picture of each line, where it starts and finishes. The one difficulty was there is no order to the rigging and each mast and yard is scattered throughout the book. Each page was followed, but not in order.

There are three basic ways to rig a ship: with sails, with furled sails, or no sails. I chose the latter. On the miniature, the rigging from the yards to the masts was started first. Then the masts are installed on the ship from the bowsprit going aft. The fore and aft standing rigging is completed as each mast is stepped. There are five sizes of standing rigging wire from .004 to .012. and there are three sizes of running rigging: 44, 40 and 38 gauge wire which are .001, .002. and .003 in diameter. The falls around the masts to the bitts are then added.

After the falls come the lines for the braces that attach to the fore and aft running rigging; the shrouds and ratline assemblies; followed by the bowlines to each yard. Next come the cross jack braces on the mizzen, the boom and gaff and the back stays. The completion of the braces was next. The lifts and tyes that are attached to the channels are added. The fore and main sheet and tack are added to complete the rigging.

The base of picture frame molding was made by CT Arts and Frames on Bond Ave. in Orange, CA. He has a booth at Kolby's Swap Meet on Sundays. The glass cover (not shown in the picture) is made by Karl's Glass Co. on Federal Blvd in Lemon Grove, CA. The sequence in getting the two pieces made starts with the inside base that needs to be made first. In this case it was a piece of purple heart. The inside dimensions of the glass are given to Karl's Glass along with a height dimension. When the glass is completed a cardboard cutout of the outside of the glass is made. This cardboard is given to the frame maker and he uses it as a template to make the base. He cuts the picture frame stock 90 degrees from the normal way he makes a picture frame. The purple heart piece is glued and then bolted to the base with angle brackets. The glass rests in a groove created by the two pieces. The base and glass cover are similar to the display recommendations in Justin Camarata's book "Waterline Dioramas".





## ARMED VIRGINIA SLOOP **Lee Greene**

Lee Greene did an update on the AVS, following Bob Hunt's Practicum. The planking is almost completed, and the inner bulwarks are from Jeff Hayes done with bloodwood



## SCRATCH BACK BOAT **Robert Hewitt**

Scratch back boat or tao-pa-tzu  
Scale 1"=20 ft.

Tao-pa, meaning to scratch back, embodies an omen of prosperity. These junks were from the lower and middle Yangtze River, mostly from Tungting Lake and the Siang River. They ranged from 60-70 feet, built mostly of pai-mu wood. They carried paper, wood, bamboo ware, porcelain, rice and beans. The description in "Junks and Sampans of the Yagtz River" from which the plans of this model were obtained, states "This junk is by no means the most handsome on the Siang River".

The seventy-foot scale model is made mostly of boxwood construction. The wood, purchased from Jeff Hayes of the Hobby Mill, was cut in preparation for the San Diego Fair. I kept running into questions on the construction, so I started building and could not stop. I had to make a scrap wood former for the bow and stern. The floor was laid and the fourteen bulkheads were added to the floor. Each area of the Yangtze has its own variation of a Junk but no two boats have the same rudder. My rudder followed the plans.

The top rails were added next, then the planking, which was .025" thick x .05" wide. Some planks were soaked in water and formed over an old fashioned curling iron. A few of the planks in the stern were carved. A full length deck was added, then the house walls. A green stripe was added to put a bit of color into the model. The wales were fabricated from two pieces of boxwood glued together, then rounded off with a sandpaper block and finally drawn through a Burnes drawplate. Then the pieces were cut to length, soaked in water, bent and separated. The flat side was glued to the hull.

The bamboo masts are fitted with tabernacles and are pinned to pivot. A block from the mast base to the next forward bulkhead keeps the mast upright. The plans in the book show only the hull and the location of the masts. I chose the tall sails of the Shanghai waterways. The book has 600 plus pages, but only fifteen pages devoted to sails and rigging.

AUTO-CAD made the sail layout easy and accurate. A simple paper cut-out was made for each sail. The dimensions were transferred to the computer drawing. Each side of the drawing was divided into equal spaces and lines were drawn to represent the position of the battens. These lines were extended beyond the edges of the sails. Then the outline of the sail and the batten portion were removed from the drawing. Tick marks were placed above and below the outline. A print was then made. Rice paper was glued to the print and the sail cloth lines were marked off with a 6h pencil.

Computer lines are too thick and that is the reason for using pencil. The sail cloths are eleven inches wide as opposed to the European width of twenty-four inches. Each sail was then cut out of the rice paper, but in width only. Another print of the drawing was made and long bamboo battens were glued to it but only at each end. The sail was glued to the lower batten first, then formed over the next and glued. This gives a billowing effect to the sail. When finished, the battens were cut from the drawing and the sail trimmed on the top and bottom. Painted wire is used to attach the battens to the mast. At present the masts are not glued in place. The fore mast is not shown in the correct position. It will be perpendicular to the flat bottom of the boat.





# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

The next meeting will be  
Wednesday, 13 June 2012  
aboard the *Berkeley* at 7:00pm.



Completed USS *San Diego*.