



# 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: 10 July 2013

Aug. 2013 Vol. XXXVII No. 08

### AUGUST MEETING --- BRING A SHIP MODEL!

Chuck Seiler opened the meeting. There was one previous member. James McMaster is a returning member. His last project was HMS DOLPHIN. There were also two guests: Jeff Shea and Gary Pitt. The purser, Ron Hollod, gave his report. The balance as of July 1 was \$<redacted>.

The newsletter editor, Katherine Pogue was not present. She will be leaving in the Fall and anyone interested in becoming editor or photographer should contact the Guild Maser.

Dr. Sheehan did not have a report.

The annual party will be held during the AUGUST Meeting. Details for the party were discussed at the July meeting. John Sanford volunteered to obtain a cake and associated items for it. As usual, all guild members and their guests are invited to this annual event. A MAYFLOWER Model kit will be auctioned. Guild members are requested to bring a ship model to the meeting as part of SHOW AND TELL.

The Community Build Project was discussed, the objective of the Community Build and ideas for a new project were discussed.

The San Diego County Fair was discussed. Items discussed included: making things at the booth and requesting donations for them, accepting donations such as kits, tools, etc., and making things to hand out to visitors. Lowering the sides of the booth and/or replacing the front wall with plexiglass were also discussed. This discussion will be brought up again at the next guild meeting.

There was also discussion about the content of the monthly meeting. Most of the meeting involves business related/general admin items and show and tell. Seeing more "work in progress" and technique demonstrations were discussed. The discussion will continue next month.

### OFFICERS

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*Guild Master*  
Robert Riddoch  
phone redacted  
address redacted

*First Mate*  
Chuck Seiler  
phone redacted  
address redacted

*Purser*  
Ron Hollod  
phone redacted  
address redacted

*Editor*  
Katherine Pogue  
phone redacted  
address redacted

*Log Keeper*  
Bob McPhail  
phone redacted  
address redacted

*Newsletter Distribution*  
Chuck Seiler

*Write-Ups and  
Photographs*  
John Wickman  
address redacted

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, 14 August at 7:00pm**

*Established in 1972  
by Bob Wright  
& Russ Merrill*

# SHOW & TELL

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## *PHILADELPHIA* **Chuck Seiler**

Scale 1:48, scratch based on Model Expo plans.

*PHILADELPHIA* was one of eight gunboats, or gundolas, built by colonial forces on Lake Champlain in the summer of 1776. These gundolas, along with three row galleys and two schooners, were assembled to prevent British forces from invading south from Canada. Built in August, *PHILADELPHIA* was sunk in October 1776 at the battle of Valcour Island. Outnumbered and outgunned, General/Admiral Benedict Arnold (yes that one) positioned his fleet so the British had to attack upwind, preventing many of the heavier ships from engaging. While the Americans lost the battle, the delay prevented the British from continuing their campaign until the spring of 1777. By then the American forces were strong enough to defeat them.

The model is being built from plans by Model Expo, from their kit of the same name. The Model Expo kit is 1:24. This was too big for me so I rescaled the plans to 1:48 scale. Frames are made from modeling plywood. Underdeck supports are basswood. The first three strakes of the outer planking are installed (boxwood).



## *SIR EDWARD HAWKE* **Robert Hewitt**

Scratch build, scale 1:32

England suffered heavy losses of Colonial and British merchant ships in the war with France from 1757 to 1763. Most of the losses came from French Privateers. The British did not have sufficient small craft to protect the shipping and losses increased steadily. It was found necessary to employ small naval ships and crew to protect the Americas.

In Essex County Massachusetts the building of fishing schooners at Marblehead was in operation since 1721. There was real demand for fast fishing schooners as fishing ships were a prime target for pirates. This gave rise to the term "Marblehead schooner". They achieved a reputation in the Colonies for speed.

Six were purchased by the Admiralty and delivered by 1760. In 1767 two schooners were purchased for Jamaica and built in New York under the supervision of Capt. Kennedy RN. They were the Earl of Edgemont and Sir Edward Hawke. Each

had a complement of thirty men and a lieutenant in command. The ships were 59 feet on deck and 17 feet extreme beam. At one time Sir Edward Hawke carried eight small carriage guns and eight swivel guns. The schooners were built mostly of red cedar. They had white bottoms, a mixture of whitewash and tallow. The topsides were multi colored with black, yellow and red. Some were varnished or oiled with a transom of colors. The rigging plan dates the ship 1767 to 1773 in Chappelle's book "The Search for Speed Under Sail" but he does not discuss the demise of the vessel.

The model; The plans were reduced to a scale of 1:32 to the foot giving a deck length of 1.84 inches. A copy was made and glued to a piece of tupelo that was a 1/4" wider than the width and length of the ship. A scroll saw was used to cut the piece of tupelo in two pieces along the deck line. Pear wood, 0.020" thick pieces, a bit larger than the length and width of the ship were prepared. These pieces were glued together with black glue to form two blocks. One block formed the upper bulwarks and the other formed the lower hull. Each stack was pressed between the tupelo block and allowed to dry forming the sheer of the ship. A slot was cut in the stacks to locate the keel, stem and stern. The two pieces were shaped to the outline of the ship. The main deck was made of 0.020" holly. The bulwarks were cut out, gunports cut and painted. The stern cabin is planked with tapered planks. The grating on the main deck hatch has 0.008" square holes.



## DR. FRANKLIN Dave Dana

Scratch built, scale 1:48

By 1850 steamboats brought guns, bags of flour, sugar, salt, and crates of supplies to settlers and US Army troops on the growing frontier west of the Mississippi, and brought back lumber and ore. As a tourist Dave Dana's great grandmother rode on one of these as far as the river was navigable to the Minnesota Territory, and wrote a journal briefly describing her upper river steamer, the Dr. Franklin. Research revealed that there were two Dr. Franklins, hull dimensions of one sidewheeler, but no plans existed, boat builders experimented with designs, and just built them. So Dave is "just building" this model from scraps of wood and pictures of other 1850's steamboats. The open first deck contained visible machinery and cargo, the second deck housed crew, passenger and dining space. Dave is hung up on the unavoidable fact that the upper deck covers his detailed first deck interior, and is waiting for lights. A roof and pilot house remain to be built.



## D-DAY DIORAMA Jon Sauvajot

Scale 1:35, scratch/kit

It's 6:30 am on June 6, 1944, and the first wave of US infantry is landing on a beach in Normandy, France, code-named Omaha. The diorama attempts to capture the atmosphere, tension, hazards, horrific number of casualties suffered, and the final achievements of US troops on that memorable day. The diorama depicts Company F of the 16th Regimental Combat Team (US First Army, V Corps) disembarking from an LCVF and wading ashore in the sector named "Fox Green Beach." The nearly empty "Higgins Boat" (LCVP) is tossed around by incoming surf and is dangerously close to underwater

boat obstacles that are visible because it is low tide.. Among the infantry making their way to dry land are US Rangers who were unloaded from their LCVF at the wrong place. Under heavy machine gun fire, most of the soldiers are attempting to take cover behind tank obstacles. One of the three duplex drive tanks that made it ashore at this location is stuck in the sand and abandoned by its crew.

The order of battle was for a special engineer task force to precede the infantry and open gaps in the underwater boat obstacles and the beach tank obstacles thereby allowing tanks (deep wading amphibious tanks) to provide protective fire for the infantry to follow.

Things did not go as planned. A strong current parallel to the coast caused nearly every combat team to land further east of their designated landing point; of the 27 tanks sent ashore, three made it to the beach and only one was operational. Many of the landing craft (LCVP's) were stranded on sand bars and disembarked the infantry in deep water causing many to drown. The assault troops were intended to penetrate inland after landing by using draws between the cliffs. Unfortunately they encountered a first-rate German division in well-placed positions defending the beach. Machine gun enfilading fire pinned down the troops on the beach causing heavy casualties. As they landed, one third of the assault troops in the first wave were casualties. Little progress of what had been planned was made on the first day at Omaha Beach. In spite of the heavy casualties and the chaotic situation, the beach head held and the draws were cleared of German resistance.

As next year will be the 70th anniversary of D-Day and, since I lived on that historic day less than six miles from Sword Beach, another one of the five landing beaches, I thought it would be nice to add this diorama to my model collection.

The models and figures:

The focal point of the diorama is the landing craft (LCVP) and secondarily the stranded tank (Sherman M4 with wading trunks). Both are plastic kits and were substantially modified to suit the situation. Specifically, the crew of the LCVP was made to represent US Coast Guard men and the interior and exterior were modified to match war time photographs; wading trunks were installed on the M4 tank and other modifications were made to the hull. Each figure (from kits) was posed differently to create a life-like representation of soldiers under fire. The troops' equipment was modified to accurately represent the gear and materiel they carried ashore. Beach and tank obstacles were scratch built as well as the debris floating in the water. Again, period



# SHOW & TELL

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## *D-DAY DIORAMA Jon Sauvajot*

photographs provided references for them. There are twenty figures in various poses, representing soldiers of Company F of the 16th Regimental Combat Team and U S Rangers landing with them due to an error in locating their intended disembarkation point.

*World War II LCVP* (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel) [Also known as "Higgins" Boat, so named after the designer and main builder of these landing craft]

This model is made from the Lindberg 1:35 scale LCVP kit # 7414. Aboard the LCVP is a soldier losing his footing as he exits the craft. The crew is composed of Coastguardsmen. The markings on the LCVP are those of a landing craft off the USS Bayfield (APA 33) which transported the first wave of assault troops at Omaha Beach.

Description of the actual LCVP:

Length: 36 feet 3 inches

Beam: 10 feet 10 inches

Draft: 2 feet 2 inches forward; 3 feet aft

Crew: three

Engine: 225 hp Gray Marine diesel or 250 hp Hall-Scott gasoline

Speed: 12 knots

Range: 102 miles

Displacement: 18,000 pounds

Load: 8,100 lbs. of cargo or 36 soldiers with equipment or one Jeep and 12 soldiers

Armament: two .30 caliber machine guns

More than 8,000 LCVP's were built during World War II by various companies, including San Diego's Kettenburg Boat Yard.

## *Sherman M4*

On the beach is an abandoned Sherman tank that did not suffer battle damage but is trapped in the sand and is now offering the troops some shelter from enemy fire coming from the bluff further up the beach.

The tank was built using Tamiya Kit No. 190. It is an early production Sherman equipped with wading trunks to allow the tank to "wade" ashore in water that could reach up to the top of the turret. Due to errors in judging the depth of the water, most tanks sank immediately on exiting the landing crafts. At Fox Green Beach, depicted by the diorama, 27 Shermans were launched and three

made it ashore; two got stuck in the sand and only one remained operational.

More than 55,000 Shermans were produced in all variations. The tank in this diorama is armed with a 75mm gun and two Browning .30 caliber machine guns.

## *The water and surf:*

It is low tide but rising, and the surf is gentle even though offshore the sea is still agitated due to the severe storm in the preceding days. The foundation for the water was made by layering foam board to shape the contours of the ocean floor. The water, waves, etc. were sculpted with lightweight spackling paste. The water surface and effects were painted with enamels. The glossy finish was obtained by brushing several coats of "Future" floor finish on the "water" surface.

## *List of products :*

Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel, Lindberg Kit no. 7414

M4 Sherman tank, Tamiya kit no. 190

U.S. Rangers, Dragon Kit no.6235

U.S. Infantry West European Theater, Tamiya kit no. 35048

U.S. Army Infantry, Tamiya kit no. 35013-500

Tank Barricade set, Tamiya Kit no. MM 127-150

Paints: Humbrol enamel, Floquil colors, Model

Master enamel

Styrofoam board

"Future" floor finish by Johnson Wax

"Fast'n Final", DAP lightweight spackling

Sand from the beach, Scenics landscape material

Twigs from the yard



*I just want to send a quick reminder that the August meeting will be the Guilds 42nd Birthday. We will be having a regular meeting with a few extras. Cake and refreshments will be available and I am asking everyone to bring a Show and Tell item. Please bring in that Model, Tool or book that we have not seen in a while.*

*Also, this will be our last meeting for the summer with a 7:00pm start time. Since museum hours will be shifting, we will also need to shift to a 6:00pm start for the September meeting.*

*I hope to see you all on Wednesday the 14th.*

*Bob Riddoch*

**Yokohama Sailing-Ship Modelers Club  
35th Exhibition of World Sailing Ship Models  
Part 3**

Bob Riddoch

Not only did the Exhibition contain spectacular models but I was pleasantly surprised to find numerous dioramas on display as well as Relief Carvings and paintings. Here are a few examples:

Boats and the Soroban Bridge” by Rikuro Kodama. Mr. Kodama was attracted by the beauty of small boats and the curvature of the Kintai-Bridge reflecting off the water. He visited this scene and was encouraged by Master Carpenter M. Nakamura, and Mr. S. Kaneda of Iwakuni and Mr. M. Nagata of Yokohama to complete the project. Mr Kodama's 1/30 scale model took extreme patience and motivation.



“The Old Man and the Sea” by Shuji Onoda. This scratchbuilt 1/18 scale diorama was inspired by the Hemmingway novel of the same name. Fighting with all his might for three days to catch an 18’ tuna and bringing it home lashed to his boat.

The figure of the old man in this diorama was originally a figure of Field Marshal Rommel from the Tamiya 1/16 World Figure Series.



1/50 scale Scratchbuilt Rabelo by Jun Hida. Portugal's famous Port wine is made from more than 20 types of wine. Rebelo are the river boats that transported wine from upstream on the Douro River to breweries along the river estuary. Still today, these boats remain a main tourist attraction. The diorama depicts a scene where wine is loaded onto boats upstream.



**Yokohama Sailing-Ship Modelers Club  
35th Exhibition of World Sailing Ship Models  
Part 3 (continued)**

Bob Riddoch

Turtle in 1/10 scale by Toshio Miyajima. Built in 1774, this submarine had a barrel of explosives attached to its stern. A drill attached to a piece of rope extending from the barrel was used to make holes in the bottom of English ships and attempt to ignite the explosives by a crude timing device.



1/20 scale Nautilus by Toshio Miyajima. In 1797 Robert Fulton tried to sell this submarine to Napoleon but was rejected. When sailing on the open ocean retractable sails were used. While submerged, manual operated propellers moved the vessel. A trail test on the Siene River was successful but Fulton switched his focus to steam.



During my two visits to the Exhibition I took over 200 pictures and will share those with the Guild via CD soon.

Next month I will complete by article on the 35th Exhibition of World Sailing Ship Models by the Yokohama Sailing Ship Modelers Club.

Please check out the Club at their English website:  
<http://ysmc-world.la.coocan.jp>