



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

DECEMBER 2013

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVII, NO. 12

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Established in 1972

by

Bob Wright and  
Russ Merrill



## MINUTES OF 14 NOVEMBER 2013 MEETING

**G**uildmaster **Bob Riddoch** called the meeting to order at 1800. Thirteen members were in attendance (three more showed up during the meeting). There were no guests.

**Editors Report:** Early inputs this month were/are appreciated. Please get your newsletter inputs to the editor at least two weeks prior to the next Guild meeting to ensure the newsletter gets out in time.

**Pursers Report:** Account balance as of 31 OCT 2013 is \$<redacted>

**Museum Report:** December meeting will have to be shifted again due to other Museum commitments.

**Community Build Report:** Next Community Build meeting will be Saturday 14 December at **Mike Lonneker's** house. See back page for agenda.

**Webmaster Report:** The new Guild website is up and running. Check it out at: [SDSHIPMODELERSGUILD.ORG](http://SDSHIPMODELERSGUILD.ORG) Comments and suggestions are welcome. Good news: Current cost of the website is only \$12 per year vice \$60.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Plastic cases. Hopefully everybody had a chance to get what they wanted.

-**Bob Riddoch** reported he received word from the executor of the will for CDR MATTHEWS. Although the Guild was listed in the will, all of the ship modeling stuff was given to the Museum. Instead, the Guild will get a monetary donation of undisclosed amount.

Continued on page 2

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

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES - Continued

### New Business:

-Holiday Party. The December meeting will be a combination meeting and party. Pizza and soft drinks will be provided. It was decided we would NOT have door prizes this year. With any luck (and enough stuff brought in by you) we will also have an auction.

-NRG Conference. **Don Dressel** gave a brief regarding this year's Nautical Research Guild in Charleston, SC. There were ships, ship models and model topics aplenty. Don will do (or has done) a write-up on this in the SMA Journal, which the snailmailians do not get.

. NRG Mentor Program. The NRG is proposing a new program that will establish a group of ship modeling mentors across multiple levels of talent and experience. The goal will be to use the vast pool of experience in the Guild to expand ship modeling by helping both newcomers and folks who have been around awhile but need help getting to the next level. More information will be forthcoming about the program. They will be looking for both mentors of various levels and mentees (Is that a word? Apparently so, spell check likes it.) Face to face mentoring is not a requirement. As **Mike Lonnecker** points out, he has received a significant amount of helpful mentoring online.

Coffee Break

## SHOW AND TELL

### Topsail Schooner

Jon discovered this model in a Poway thrift shop awhile back. It was damaged, with broken masts and rigging, with the sails a total mess. After moving all rigging and yards, he is repairing or replacing most of the damaged deck furniture. He is also staining all the wooden parts. He searched the web and a number of model companies, but was unable to identify the ship kit. Any ideas?

(Ed. Note: John Wickman thinks it is the 1847 HARVEY. I am skeptical, but not entirely sure. Didn't HARVEY have the outhouses up forward?)



Jon Sanford's Topsail Schooner

Photo by John Wickman

## SHOW AND TELL-Continued

### Canadian Pacific Railroad tug *YMIR* by John Sauvajot. Model Shipways kit. Scale: 1:96

This is Model Shipways' kit No. 2021 to build a typical steam tugboat (tug) circa 1900-20 which they have named *Taurus*. I don't like to build models that lack identity or a history. Since I have had a continuing interest in the vessels (I.e., ferries, river and lake tugs, cargo and passenger sternwheelers, etc.) operated by various companies in western Canada, I found in my book collection a Canadian Pacific Railway tug that closely resembled *Taurus* in overall appearance and dimensions. I figured that with some modifications, I could make the Model Shipways kit to look very much like the Canadian tug. It should be noted that screw-driven, steam tug construction in the final decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century was similar in both the United States and Canada. So, my model is not *Taurus*. It is *Ymir*, a sturdy wooden-hulled, screw-driven tug.



John Sauvajot's Canadian Pacific Railroad tug *YMIR*

*Photo by John Wickman*

The tug, SS *Ymir* was launched in 1899 at the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) shipyard at Nelson on Lake Kootenay, British Columbia. The tug was the first built for CPR's barge service on Kootenay Lake. It was designed to push or tow railroad car barges, some carrying as many as 15 loaded rail cars, between Nelson, Procter, and Kootenay Landing in southern British Columbia. CPR would eventually complete a rail line linking those points, but not before 1928.

*Ymir* was a wooden-hulled, screw-driven tug of about 90 gross tons with the following dimensions: 77.7 ft (23.7 m) long, 16.7 ft (5.1 m) beam, 6.5 ft (2m) hull depth, 27.3 hp steam engine

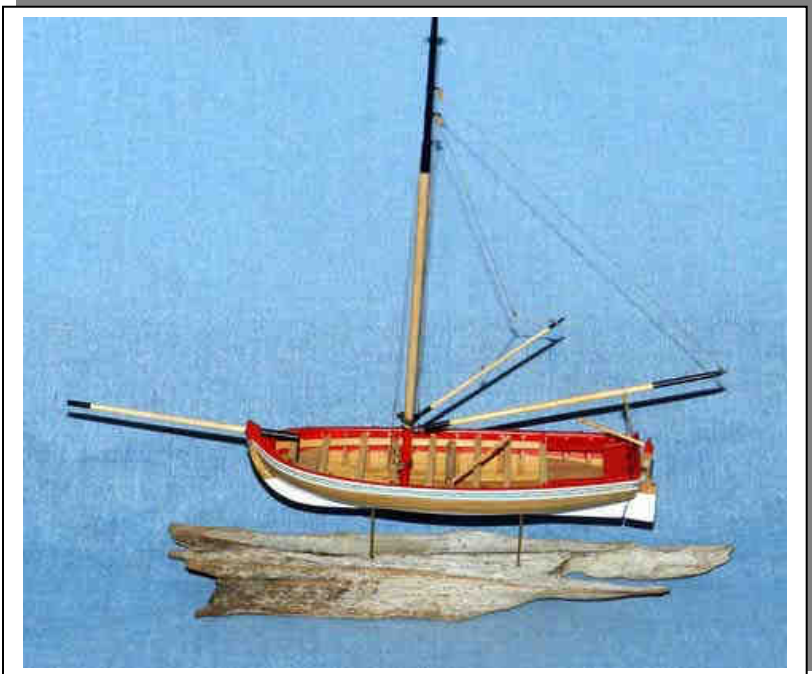
*Ymir* does not have a colorful history involving collisions, being frozen in ice, fires, or other mishaps. Instead, she is remembered as a steady, dependable vessel doing its part during the hectic Klondike gold rush days and the years following. She was retired in the late 1920's after CPR completed rail service around Kootenay Lake.

#### About the kit

The Model Shipways kit provides nearly all the materials to build a respectable model. It allows for the hollow construction of the deck house and pilot house using a "bread and butter" approach. This makes for an awkward build and since at this scale one can't see inside anyway, I recommend building the two deck houses using a shaped solid block of wood. This is a kit supposed to be HO scale (1:87) but it's a little smaller (1:96). This became evident in fitting some of the white metal cast parts. Some cast parts seem to have been made for another kit and are too large for this boat, such as bits and bollards. Although I used most of them, anyway, I can't help but notice that they are slightly oversized.

The modifications that I made to convert *Taurus* into *Ymir* are primarily to the deck furniture and other deck features. A wood grating replaced the cast metal one. The mast was modified to look like CPR's standard masts; windows were glazed; davits for the ship's boat are too short and were replaced; two-ball stanchions were used to construct the rail on the main cabin roof (the kit didn't provide stanchions). Other modifications replaced parts to improve appearance or size, such as replacing the kit's poorly shaped wood dowel with a brass tube for the funnel.





Bob Riddoch's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat  
 Photo by John Wickman

**Model Shipways 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat.**

The longboat was the largest boat aboard an 18<sup>th</sup> century ship. The ship's principal lifeboat, it was also used for coming and going to the ship to transport supplies and take empty water casks ashore to be filled with fresh water. Longboats were kept fully provisioned at all times in case of emergency.

Bob is currently rigging his model using blocks ordered from **Chuck Passaro's** new Syren Ship Model website and kit provided line. Bob expects to be done by the December meeting.

(Editor's Note: Chuck' SYREN SHIP MODEL supply company will be the subject of "Vendor in the Spotlight", JAN 2014 Guild Newsletter)



Photos by John Wickman

Dave Yotter's Civil War gunboat ALBERMARLE.

1:600 scale

Dave brought this in to demonstrate the blackening agent he used . "JAX" from Otto Frei.

ALBERMARLE and cannon

I apologize that I do not have Dave's write-up. I will include this in future newsletter



## SHOW AND TELL-Continued

### HMS FLY

by **Mike Lonnecker**

He brought in his model of the Fly to update his progress. He says: " I have continued with work on the interior. The next step was the construction of the aft platform. In analyzing the construction it became apparent that a lot of parts of the interior were interdependent on each other. In order to locate the platform, the mizzen mast step had to be constructed and located. Also the pillars supporting the lower deck beams had to be located to miss any beams, carlings, or ledges of the platform. To locate the pillars, the lower deck beam had to be made. I also wanted to check that the mizzen mast penetrated the decks at the proper locations. This required the upper deck beams be made and located. All of these parts were then temporarily "glued "together using Elmer's glue stick. This is a water-soluble glue meant for paper but works well for temporary gluing. The pieces can be easily separated by dampening with a wet paper towel. I created a gantry and mast support block to temporarily locate the mizzen mast. The half hole used to support the mast was cut at the 4 deg angle of the mast and glued to the gantry. A mockup of the mast was installed in the step and gantry block and everything checked for clearance and location. When all was right I permanently installed the mizzen mast step. The photos show this configuration. I can now disassemble all and finish the aft platform. The aft platform is the base for the magazine and several store rooms. I will attempt to build these outside of the model and then install as a module. I am currently debating what woods to use for pillars bulkheads and planking. Right now I am leaning towards Swiss pear for bulkheads and pillars and holly for planking. I want the interior to be as visible as possible and think these colors will contrast with the boxwood of the rest of the structure. I am open to suggestions.



Hey Mike, your FLY is open!!!! Top picture shows upper deck and interior detail of Mike's SWAN Class HMS FLY. Bottom picture shows port side framing and wale. You should be able to increase size to 200% to se detail.

Photos by John Wickman



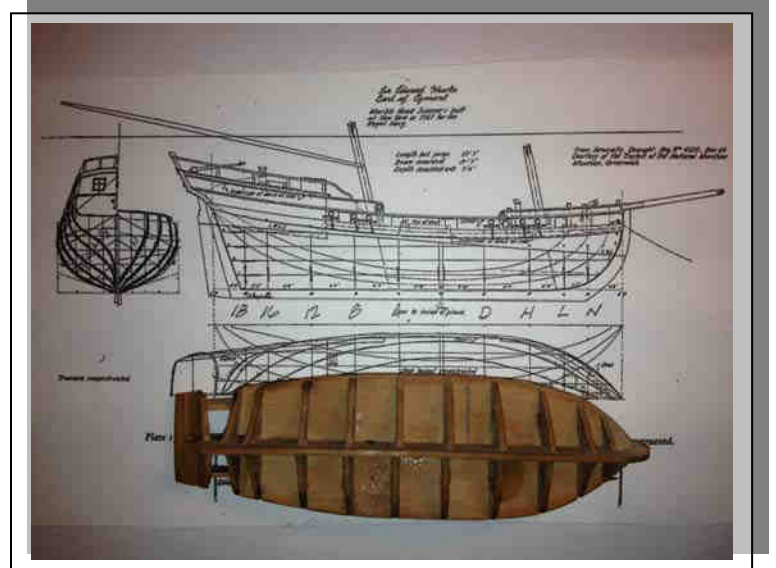


## SHOW AND TELL-Continued

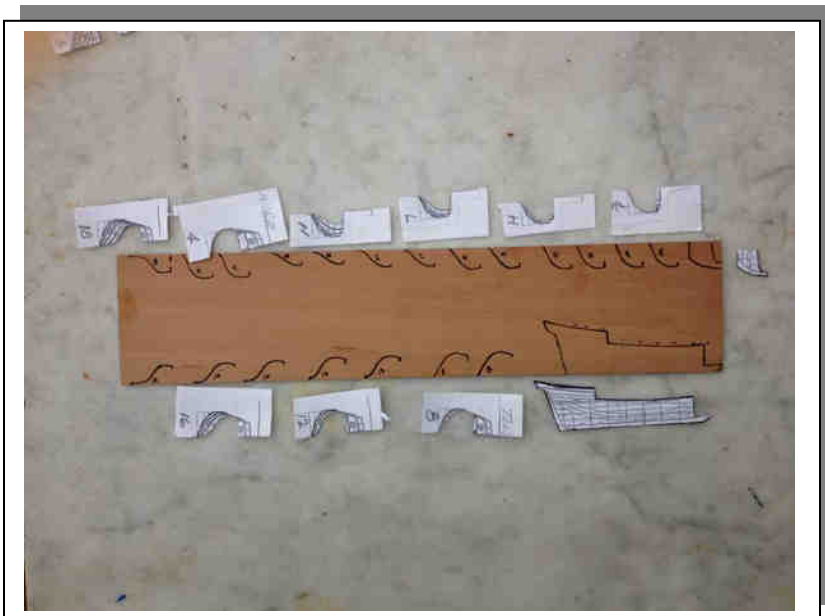
Sir Edward Hawke  
Scale 1"=20 feet  
Scratch built  
Robert Hewitt

I wanted to build a planked model of a British ship. Most of my models are of solid hull or admiralty style. I have built planked Chinese Junks and Arab Dhows, and found them to be quite easy and straight forward. I decided to use Sir Edward Hawke as I just finished a waterline solid hull in a smaller scale.

I chose a bulkhead design, but without the usual slotted egg crate method. I made the center keel, stem and stern post in two pieces. This was done so the grain of the wood was perpendicular to the stem and keel. On the keel piece, the deck level was lowered to compensate for my usual finished deck.



SIR EDWARD HAWKE. Bulkhead model and plans.  
Photo by Robert Hewitt

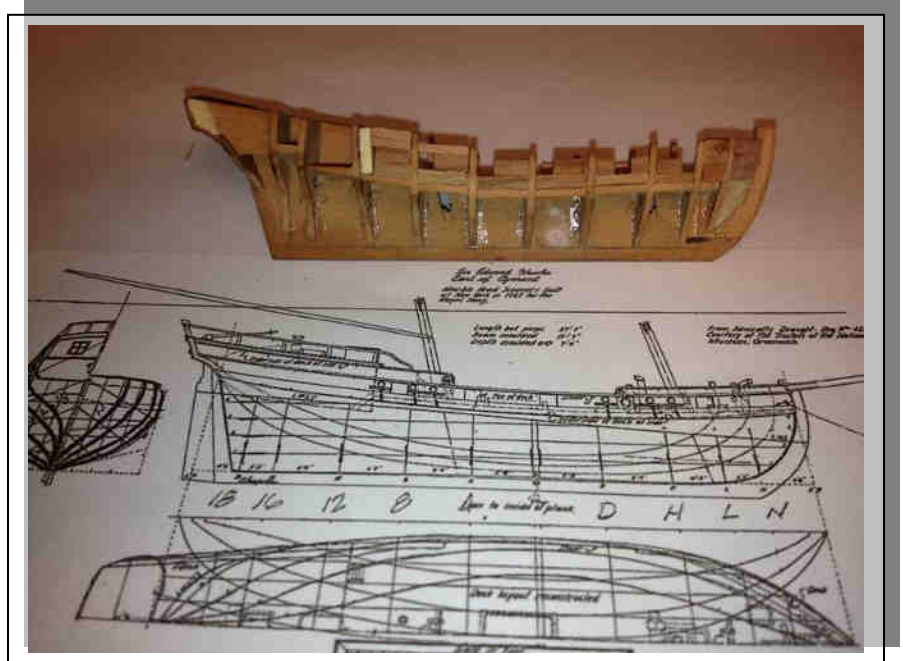


SIR EDWARD HAWKE. Bulkheads and center keel marked out on Swiss pear sheet.

Photo by Robert Hewitt

The bulkheads were marked on the same piece of pear, the center of the ship with the edge of the wood. The pear wood .040" thick x 2" from Hobby Mill was square and straight, as is all of his material. Two copies of each bulkhead were marked off, but only the outer surface. The two pieces were cut out and lightly glued together keeping the center line edges parallel. The outline was then shaped; the floor position was transferred from the keel piece to the bulkhead and cut out. All of the pieces were then finished the same.

A measurement of the distance between the frames was taken off of the plan. Subtracting one frame thickness gave me the width of a spacer. I separated the two center bulkhead pieces and glued one of the pieces to the keel piece. The other piece was put aside. A spacer was then glued to the bulkhead and keel piece. The next bulkhead was glued to it. Working from the center out I glued all of the bulkheads and spacers on one side only. The keel piece remained flat and square with no twisting. The remaining bulkheads and spacers were glued to the opposite side of the ship. The spacers were trimmed to the edges of the bulkheads by carving and the whole lot faired with 80 grit sandpaper glued.



to wood blocks and cylinders as needed. This is the most symmetrical hull that I have made. The structure is also very strong. Four pieces of ebony were soaked in water and steam-bent to the hull shape and glued in place for the wales. The gun ports were framed in and planked with pear wood. Holly was chosen for the planking below the wales and .024 x .020 pieces were cut on my Priac saw. They represent 5 1/2" to 6" planks in full scale. The garboard and first plank were larger. These were soaked in water and steam bent. The remaining planks were thinned down to .012" at the bow and required only breath moisture before bending over the hair curling iron. This was a trick I learned from Ab Hoving at a SMA conference on the Queen Mary. After installing a few planks, I found that stealers were required in the bow, not the stern as I thought. I wound up putting four in each side of the bow and none in the stern.



Robert Hewitt's SIR EDWARD HAWKE. Hull is completed and painted. Masting and rigging to follow.  
Photo by John Wickman



# Guild Masters Corner

**G**reetings.

I would like to take a second and wish everyone **Happy Holidays** and remind all the members that the December meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, 10 December at 1800** will include pizza and drinks for members in attendance and their guests. We will also be having our regular monthly meeting so please don't forget to bring a "Show and Tell" item.

There might also be an auction if enough members bring in items that they would like to "relocate".

On Saturday, 14 December at 1030, we will be kicking off our Community Build Seminar Program at Mike's house. This is open to all members and Mike has a great itinerary planned for his Soldering and Blackening Class. Details are found in this Newsletter.

Seasons Greetings,  
*Bob Riddoch*

## Next Community Build Meeting.

The next Community Build Meeting will be held at **Mike Lonnecker's** house Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. In addition to the usual discussions of attendees projects (Bring your models) a seminar on Silver Soldering and Metal Chemical Blackening will be conducted. This is the first in a series of seminars to be conducted in conjunction with the Community Build Meetings. Those of you that attended a previous silver soldering demo will still want to attend as the seminar is greatly expanded from that demo. A copy of the "proposed" agenda is shown below.

Mike Lonnecker

### Silver Solder Seminar Agenda

1. Review Silver Soldering per Handout.
2. Demo cleaning
3. Solder wire rings for Chain plates
4. Solder larger pieces
5. Student try / Solder student projects
6. High temp vs low temp demo
7. Solder Copper pieces
8. Demo pickling solution and part clean up
9. Questions/ discussion

### Blackening Seminar Agenda

1. Review Blackening per Handout
2. Demo cleaning
3. Demo Win-Ox
4. Demo Bluejacket Solution
5. Demo Liver-of-Sulfur
6. Blacken Student Projects
7. Questions/discussion

For directions, contact Mike at:



Next meeting is **TUESDAY**  
**10 December 2013** on the  
Berkeley.  
**5:30 PM- Social.**  
**6:00PM Meeting**  
*Bring a model*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	<b>10</b>	11	12	13	<b>14</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

COMMUNITY BUILD



DECEMBER 2013

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