



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

FEBRUARY 2014

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXVIII, NO. 2

## OFFICERS

### Guild Master

Robert Riddoch  
(phone redacted  
address redacted)

### First Mate

Chuck Seiler  
(phone redacted)

### Interim Purser

Gary Seaton

### Acting Editor

Chuck Seiler  
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### Log Keeper

Bob McPhail  
(phone redacted)

### Photographer

John Wickman

### Webmeister

Barry Rishel

address redacted

Established in 1972

by

Bob Wright and

Russ Merrill

## MINUTES OF 08 JANUARY 2014 MEETING

Contributed by Bob McPhail

**G**uildmaster **Bob Riddoch** called the meeting to order at 1800. There were seventeen members in attendance as well as four visitors (two family members and two modeler guests). **Paul Mitchell** was visiting San Diego (snowbird) and he likes to model “steel” navy and wooden ships. He also helped to make CDs of back issues of the NRG Journal. The other guest was from Minnesota (sorry, did not get the name) and he enjoys modeling ships and airplanes. We look forward to both returning as members.

Editor's Report: **Chuck Seiler** requested that articles, book reviews, announcements, vendor write ups and modeling tips be provided by members on an ongoing basis. He indicated that the newsletter will start a **VENDOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT** section next month. Two vendors will be reported upon next month. Please get newsletter inputs to Chuck two weeks prior to meeting date.

Purser's Report: **Gary Seaton** announced that the treasury balance as of 31 December 2013 was \$<redacted>. Everyone was reminded that annual dues of \$20 should be paid as soon as possible. If dues are not paid by the March meeting, loss of membership will result. ☠

Museum Report: **Dr. Kevin Sheehan**, museum liaison, gave his report. A “SMUGGLER” ship model was reported missing from the model shop. The owner would like to have it returned. In the future, the door lock will be replaced with a more robust lock and the shop key will have to be signed in and out. **Dr. Sheehan** also complimented **John Sanford** and **Bill Norris** for their continuing work of cleaning, fixing, and restoring models. **Dr. Sheehan** asked for volunteers to construct waterline models of the museum’s ships and boats, similar to a project we did several years ago. Those models had been and are being used by **Dr. Ashley** to demonstrate the Museum's plans for museum layout. They are greatly appreciated. The new models will be in a smaller scale. The models will be used for “presentation” purposes at future meetings, briefs, etc. More details will be provided as the project firms up.



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

## JANUARY MEETING MINUTES - Continued

### Old Business:

--Nomination of Guild officers will be held at the February meeting. Positions include: Guildmaster, First Mate, Purser, Newsletter Editor and Log Keeper. If you would like to run for one of these positions please indicate your desire at the February meeting. Elections will be held in March.

--The San Diego County Fair will be held June 7 through July 6. The Sign Up Sheet for volunteering in the booth will be available at the February meeting. The museum will again sponsor the competition for best wood ship model. The model can be from a kit or scratch built. Application forms will be available "on line". Everyone is requested to start saving any catalogs they may get. These will be used as "handouts" at the Fair.

--The Guild Website is now in operation. Three past newsletters are online and **Webmaster Barry** is working to get generic Guild officer email addresses.. The site is "SDShipModelersGuild.org"

--It was reported that the model shop library maintenance project will be delayed to a future date.

### New Business:

--Guildmaster **Riddoch** is working on having the shipwright crafting the SAN SALVADOR give a presentation to the Guild.

--GMR outlined some common sense rules for use of the model shop. We look forward to having them written down and published.

## SHOW AND TELL

U.S. Revenue Cutter  
RANGER –

Corel kit,  
Scale 1:64  
Circa 1810-20  
by **Gary Seaton**



Gary Seaton's RANGER

Photo by Gary Seaton

Early stages of this model were shared at the Community Build meeting, but the RANGER has not been shown at the full SDSMG meeting. I started the kit for the County Fair in June

There is no actual ship (of this type) named "RANGER", it is an example of the type of US Revenue Marine cutter plying the coastal waters in the period 1815-1825. Congress, often reluctantly, authorized the building of revenue cutters beginning in 1791 to collect customs duties and, especially during the quasi-war with France and the War of 1812, protect our eastern and southern coasts from privateers and slave traders and other illegal activities going on at the time. There is little written history available about the activities and exploits of the revenue cutters and most of the plans and drawings have been lost due to fires and lack of interest in the small underfunded USRM service.

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SHOW AND TELL-Continued from page 2

The RANGER is a model of a mid-sized cutter, about 57' long on deck, a beam of 17' and weighing some 50-60 tons. There were later cutters that reached 110' on deck and carried up to 18 guns. This (Ranger-type) cutter design had only a swivel carronade on deck, amidships. The crew was normally composed of 20-30 seamen, including several officers, and each ship's captain was able to independently sail the assigned waters and respond to situations as he saw fit, within the general orders of the Secretary of the Treasury.

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Bob Riddoch's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat

Both Photos by Gary Seaton



## SHOW AND TELL-Continued



A close up look at Bob Riddoch's 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat. Superb work!

Photo by Gary Seaton

18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat by Bob Riddoch. Model Shipways kit (bashed). 1/4" Scale

The longboat was generally the largest boat aboard 18<sup>th</sup> century ships. It was the ship's principle lifeboat and was also used for general transport to/from the ship/shore and to transport supplies, water casks and other items. (While making the longboat, we also learned they were often used to tend the ship's anchors. Ed.) Longboats were kept fully provisioned at all times in case of emergencies.

Bob bashed the kit by providing most of his own wood. He used boxwood from "HOBBYMILL" to plank the boat, and to make the thwarts and risers. He replaced the kit supplied blocks with blocks from Chuck Passaro's new website "Syren Ship Model Company". (the subject of this month's 'Vendor in the Spotlight')

The base is Paduk wood, sanded and coated with Minwax wipe-on poly clear satin. The dust cover was made by Ridout Plastics.

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Chuck Seiler's colonial  
gunboat PHILADELPHIA

Photo by Gary Seaton

SHOW AND TELL-Continued

Gunboat PHILADELPHIA:  
Chuck's model and the real ship on display in Washington, DC. Note: Forward gun on the model is actually one of the midship nine pounders as opposed to the twelve pounder normally found there.



Close-up shot of PHILADELPHIA gun deck and stern cockpit. Worker sits on arms locker.  
Photo by Gary Seaton

## SHOW AND TELL-Continued

Colonial Gunboat (Gundola) PHILADELPHIA by Chuck Seiler  
Scratch from Model Expo plans. Scale 1/4" Circa August to October 1776



Progress on the model continues. Inner and outer planking has been completed, gun deck supports have been installed, hawse hole has been drilled and filled. The black dots on the planking represents actual nails, as opposed to treenails. The hulls were slapped together in a few weeks and they did not expect them to last very long, so rusting nails was not a problem. The forward part of the cap rail had to be cut away because after they built the hull and installed the forward gun, they found it did not reach over the stem...ooops! That's what you get for having army guys design warships.



Gunboat PHILADELPHIA in action during the Battle of Valcour Island: 11 OCT 1776

Photo by a very young Bill Grolz

PHILADELPHIA was one of 8 gunboats, along with 4 row galleys, 2 sloops and a schooner, to make up the American fleet at Valcour Island. The guns were extremely large in comparison to the size of the vessel (as opposed to a sea-going vessel) because they did not have to contend with rough seas or long periods away from shore. PHILADELPHIA has 1 twelve pound gun forward, 2 nine pound guns amidships and several swivel guns festooned about the bulwarks. The ship was sunk by shots received during the battle, sinking after both sides had broken off engagement. The wreck was discovered in the early 1900s, with a 24 pound ball still wedged in the hull planking, and raised in 1935. The ship is on display in the Smithsonian Institution. A replica of the PHILADELPHIA has been made.

# Perception of Color by Chuck Seiler

I am often reminded that shipmodeling lends itself to a wide range of creative expression. It can be a hobby, it can be a craft or it can be art. Once you get the basics down, you can fine tune the details, like size of the blocks, style and color of rigging, even color itself; not just 'which is the correct color' but what is the correct SHADE. In a recent post on the Seaways Shipmodeling List (SSL) **Wiley from Dallas** asked about the proper way to represent color at a distance in order to give the model proper scale.

**Fred Hocker** from the WASA Museum responded: "Scale color" comes up in modelling fora on a regular basis, especially among aircraft modellers. It derives from the practice that painters of landscapes use to show distance. Objects farther away look lighter in color due to diffraction and absorption of light by dust in the air, as well as the air itself. This allows painters to give an illusion of depth on a two-dimensional surface.

"The same effect can be used on models to make them appear farther away, and thus more "real" and less like a model - it fools the eye into interpreting what it sees as a large object 48 meters away instead of a 1:48 scale object one meter away. Adding a slight amount of light gray or white to the color is the usual method.

"There is also the matter of scale perception of color. A small area of a color will look more intense than a large area of the same color, which is what gives models a toy-like appearance in some cases. By toning down the color with a little gray, it looks more "realistic," even if it is technically inaccurate. This is related to the phenomenon of rigging sizes - if you use accurately-sized thread in rigging a scale model, it tends to look too small. Some model builders deliberately use slightly overscale rigging to make it look correct. Just one of the paradoxes of working at scale.

"If you follow the logic to its absurdly rigid conclusion, you can come up with some odd things. For example, if the "rule" says that you should add 10% white to a color for every 100 feet (30 m) away that you want it to appear, what about a long object, like a ship or an airplane wing? If you are viewing a large airplane from the side, the near wingtip might be 30 meters away, but the far wingtip will be 60 meters away. Should you graduate your paint from 10% at one tip to 20% white at the other? And then what happens when you look at the model from the other side? With boats, if you are looking at the end, you have the same problem.

"With all of that said, I like a model to be accurate in scale, so I use scale size rigging, but I find paint colors straight from the tin too intense. I tend to tone down bright colors to make them look a little less intense and a little more weathered, usually by adding a few drops of light gray. Red is a little trickier to lighten without it turning pink, so I have used a medium gray there to take the edge off the brightness, or started with a duller red."

**David Antscherl** chimes in:

"**Fred Hocker** makes some very perceptive remarks on color and distance. However, it's more complex than even he states. With distance, certainly color appears to be paler than when close, but it also is less saturated (has less color). Adding white or grey alone to simulate this effect (called 'aerial perspective' by painters) is insufficient. One needs to consider two steps.

"First, reduce the chroma; the amount of color present. For instance if you have bright red, it needs to have less redness. Rather than adding white or grey, add a very small amount of the complimentary color to red. This is the color found on the opposite side of a color wheel. In the case of red, it happens to be green. Now, this is counter-intuitive, but it works. It reduces 'redness' without making it paler.

"Secondly, you can add white or pale grey to tint it, which means making it lighter. This is actually a slight simplification: when viewing a color at a distance through the atmosphere, red wave-lengths of light are either scattered or absorbed more readily than blue end of the spectrum: this is why distant mountains, etc, appear bluish and the daytime sky is blue. For a really distant effect, a small amount of blue also needs to be added to the mix. However, this is unlikely to be required unless working on a diorama at a very small scale."

So, now ya know!!!

(**Fred Hocker** is a marine archeologist working on the recently recovered Swedish warship WASA. **David Antscherl** has co-developed a practicum and has written related books on scratch building the plank on frame SWAN class sloop. I have found on-line forums and discussion groups such as Seaways Shipmodeling List to be a great source of information. Several of our own Guildmembers post there. For more information, research sources, go to "The Information Seaway", at <http://www.seaways.com> .

I am not associated in any way with Seaway Shipbuilding List, except as a member, nor with Ships in Scale Magazine, the WASA Museum or the SWAN practicum. Not valid in Hawaii, Alaska, Bolivia or some parts of New Jersey. Consult your local listing.



## Community Build

5 in attendance: 1/11/14

**Lee Greene**  
**Chuck Seiler**

**Bob Riddoch**  
**Jay MacMaster**

**Gary Seaton**



The January Community Build meeting was held at **Bob Riddoch's** house on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a small but enthusiastic turn out with a wide variety of projects on display.

**Gary Seaton** displayed his Corel Ranger. He has completed planking the hull and is currently working on installing deck furniture. Gary also discussed his plans for his HMS Naiad frigate scratch build which he is getting ready to undertake. Gary is currently working on the building board for this project and will be building using Ed Tosti's book.





**Chuck Seiler** brought his scratch built Sultana which he started back in the late 40's. (Editor's Note: Hey!!!!) This has been Chuck's "Fair" model. He is currently cleaning the model and will be starting to complete the rigging soon.



**Lee Greene** showed off some carronades he purchased through Caldercraft to install on his Syren. Lee had a difficult time finding the right carronade for his build but seems happy with his latest purchase.

**Bob Riddoch** is back to work on Constitution after completing his 18<sup>th</sup> Century Longboat.

**Jay MacMaster** was present and had a great time participating in the various discussions.



Photos by Bob Riddoch

Our next Get Together at Bob Riddoch's will be on **February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**. ***Everyone attending is requested to bring a model to discuss.***

You can also follow us at Model Ship World using the following link:  
<http://www.modelshipworld.com/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=75>



# Salty Language

From the Oxford Companion  
to Ships and the Sea

**Abaft**, towards the stern of a ship, relative to some other object or position. Abaft the beam, any bearing or direction between the beam of a ship and her stern.

**Aft**, at or towards the stern or after part of a ship, as a word either of position or motion. A gun may be mounted aft (an expression of position) and seamen sent aft to man it (an expression of motion). Fore and aft, from stem to stern. It is a contraction of abaft, though used in a general, not a relative, sense. The adjective is after, e.g., the after part of a ship, as above.

**Man the Yards, to** or **Man Ship, to**, a form of ceremonial salute in a warship with masts and yards in the days of sail to honour the visit of a high official. The yards were lined by men standing upon them supported by lifelines rigged between the lifts and the masts and with one man, known as the button-man, standing on the truck of each topgallant mast. This form of salute continued in the British Navy until about 1885, when sail finally gave way to steam. But the practice is still occasionally seen in square-rigged sail training ships and in shore training establishments which have a mast crossed with yards.

**Son of a gun**, a description given by the lower deck to children born on board ships of the British Navy during the period when the wives of seamen were allowed to live on board in harbour and, occasionally, at sea. As the gangways always had to be kept clear, the only place on board where women in labour could produce their children was in the spaces between the guns on the gundecks. Inevitably, any male child born on board was known as a “son of a gun”. Such a birth gave rise to the saying “Begotten in the galley and born under a gun. Every hair a rope yarn, every tooth a marline spike, every finger a fishhook, and his blood right good Stockholm tar.”

**Founder, to**, the act of a ship which sinks at sea, generally understood to be by the flooding of her hull either through springing a leak or through striking a rock. Other causes of a ship sinking, such as explosion, etc., are not usually

associated with the word.

**Scandalize, to**, a method of reducing sail in fore-and-aft rig by hauling up the tack and lowering the peak of a sail. It was used by the older sailing trawlers to reduce speed through the water when operating a trawl. Also the yards in a square-rigged ship are said to be scandalized when they are not set square to the masts after the ship has anchored. Scandalizing the yards of a ship was a sign of mourning for a death on board.

**Furniture**, the whole moveable equipment of a ship – rigging, sails, spars, anchors, boats and everything with which she is fitted out to operate her, but not including her consumable stores, such as fuel and victuals.

**Cuddy**, originally a cabin in the after part of a sailing ship under the poop deck for the captain and his passengers. The term is also sometimes used to denote a small cabin on board a boat, or very occasionally a small cookhouse on board, though caboose was a more usual word for this. In larger ships the cuddy was the compartment where the officers had their meals.

**Pendant**, sometimes written and always pronounced pennant, a narrow tapering flag used for signaling or to designate some particular purpose. There are ten numbered pendants and fourteen special pendants used in British naval signaling, and ten numbered pendants and an answering pendant in the International Code of Signals.

**Yoke**, a transverse board fitted to the top of a rudder in a small boat instead of a tiller, the rudder being moved by yoke lines attached to the ends of the yoke and operated by the helmsman. Yokes are mainly to be found in small boats which are pulled by oars; and very occasionally in small, open sailing craft where the position of a mizzen or jigger mast makes the operation of a tiller impossible.

**Timbers**, the frames or ribs of a ship, connected to the keel, which give a ship’s hull both its shape and its strength. In wooden ships of any size, the timbers are made of several pieces of wood scarfed together to the required shape. In steel ships the frames are of steel angle iron, bent to the desired shape by heat treatment..

**Filler**, old article from past newsletters used when the editor ends up with an odd number of pages because nobody submits articles.



## Vendor in the Spotlight

by Chuck Seiler



### SYREN MODEL SHIP COMPANY

It's a wonderful time to be a model ship builder!!! Technology is allowing people to do things they could not do before and kits to be made far beyond the quality of previous years. It also allows handy ship modelers to provide services to other modelers.

This month's VitS is one such case. Many know Chuck Passaro as a master model builder and kit designer. Others know him as a great practicum builder. His website "Model Ship World" provides a forum for people to learn and share. Now comes his efforts to help scratch builders and kit bashes alike... Syren Model Ship Company.

While I am not entirely sure why he started the company (yeah, well a good reporter would have figured it out...oh leave me alone!!!!) The jist of it was he was making line, blocks, etc to enhance and replace the same items (of lower quality) found it kits. He found a need and filled it.

In his own words Syren Ship Model Company supplies the finest scale ship model fittings, boxwood rigging blocks and turned brass cannon to the most demanding of ship modelers.

In addition, he will be offering after-market figureheads and carved details for the most popular retail kits along with ship model plans and other small projects. He is just getting started so check back often as he continues to add more new ship model supplies and products.

Items he currently offers include:

- Boxwood Rigging Blocks: Single Double Triple. 2MM, 2.5MM, 3mm, 4mm, 5mm 6mm
- Swiss Pear Rigging Blocks of the same dimension
- Turned Brass Cannons (limited sizes)
- Miniature Rope .008", .012, .018, .025, .035, .045, .054 and .062 in black, tan and dark brown
- Gun carriages, lanterns

For more information go to:

<http://www.syrenshipmodelcompany.com/>



### SEAWATCH BOOK

On our next episode of VitS, I will bring you a long time purveyor of books (although under a different name) about ship models and modeling BY modelers.

(I might even tell you about the time the owner endured torrential rains INSIDE the Star of India during the last NRG Conference held in San Diego...and can still smile about it.)



# Guild Master's Corner

Greetings all,

As you know by now, the San Diego County Fair is approaching and it is time to sign up to "Man the Booth". This year there will be a large gap to fill due to Ron Hollod being unavailable. We started filling up the sign-up sheet at our last Guild Meeting and it will certainly be passed around again during the next couple of meetings. Weekends tend to fill quickly so get your names in now.

I would also like to make this year's "Design in Wood" a Model Ship show. Dr. Sheehan sent out applications a few weeks back to get your model in the show. **I would like to challenge the Guild to get a dozen models into the show.**

February Guild Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be nominations of Guild Officers with elections to follow in March. If you are interested in becoming a Guild Officer, please drop me a line or be at the February meeting.

Our next Guild Meeting is on Wednesday, 12 February at 6:00pm onboard the steam ferry Berkeley. Please bring a Show and Tell item. Our next Community Build meeting will be held on Saturday, 8 February at 10:30am at a location to be determined. (Sounds mysterious). (Ed. Note: NSA Intercepts indicate meeting will be at Bob Riddoch's casa).

Bob Riddoch  
*Bob Riddoch*



# Editor's Sandbox

Another newsletter in the books. Whew!!!! As Guildmaster Bob says, we have alot going on (potentially) and things coming don the pike. Bear a hand and help me document our accomplishments and interests for members and affiliated clubs alike.

When I was editor nine years ago, we routinely had twelve pages of informative newsletter. Those were the days, yes they were, those were the days...article everywhere, where are they now? They're gone!!!! Instead, I have to pilfer articles from old newsletter to pad the poor beast. How long can that last? I'm not as creative and Hewitt is not as prolific as we used to be.

Anywho, it is my heartfelt hope that some of the membership can uncork their creative juices and provide literary inputs of the following variety:

- Tips and hints on how to do ship modeling things.
- Original** articles on nautical related stuff. (Editor reserves the right to print debunked urban legends.)
- Book reviews on modeling or nautical themed books.
- Write-ups on vendors you have found useful.
- Detailed write-up on a model you have featured in that newsletter
- Announcements. Things you want to sell, buy or let the Guild know about.

Chuck Seiler



Next meeting is  
**WEDNESDAY**  
12 February 2014 on the  
Berkeley.  
Happy Birthday Abe  
5:30 PM- Social.  
6:00PM Meeting  
*Bring a model*

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Arrows point from the text labels to the circled dates in the calendar: 'COMMUNITY BUILD' points to the 8th, and 'Happy Birthday George' points to the 22nd.

FEBRUARY 2014

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