

# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92101

http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/

### MARCH 2014

**Guild Master** 

Robert Riddoch

phone redacted address redacted

First Mate

Chuck Seiler

Gary Seaton

Chuck Seiler

Log Keeper

Bob McPhail phone redacted

Photographer

John Wickman

<u>Webmeister</u>

Barry Rishel

address redacted

F stablished in 1972

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Bob Wright and

Russ Merrill

phone redacted

Interim Purser

Acting Editor

address redacted

**OFFICERS** 

### NEWSLETTER

### VOLUME XXXXI, NO. 3

### **MINUTES OF 12 FEBRUARY 2014 MEETING**

Contributed by Bob McPhail

Guildmaster Bob Riddoch called the meeting to order at 1800. Bob Costa and **Rick Mitchell** (aka Paul Mitchell) are new members.

Purser's report: Gary Seaton reported that the treasury balance as of January 31, 2014 was \$<redacted>. He reminded everyone 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. It was also mentioned that the name tag for \$7.00 can be ordered with either a magnet or pin style.

Editor's Report: Chuck Seiler requested, yet again, that he is looking for articles and related inputs to the newsletter. Inputs are due to him two weeks prior to the next meeting. Chuck would like everyone to consider what is a good first model. Responses should be sent to him for inclusion in the "About Ship Modeling" handout. Chuck also requested that if anyone has changed their address and/or email they should contact him.

Museum Report: Dr. Sheehan, museum liaison, requested a volunteer to build a 1/16 inch scale waterline model of a Navy swift boat. Details will be forthcoming.

### OLD BUSINESS.

--Community Build. The community build is going well. The March meeting will be held at Mike Lonnecker's house. There is no specific topic of discussion. Bring a model and your own bad self.

--San Diego County Fair. The San Diego County Fair will be held June 7 through July 6. The Sign Up Sheet for volunteering in the booth was made available. There are still some spots needed to be filled. If you would like to volunteer please contact Bill Grolz. The museum will again sponsor the competition for best wood ship model. The model can be from a kit or scratch built. Deadline for entry submissions will be May 2, 2014. It was requested that everyone save any catalogs received that they no longer need so that they can be collected and used as handouts at the fair.

--Guild Elections. Nomination of Guild officers was held. Nominations include: Guild master: **Robert Riddoch** First Mate<sup>.</sup> Mike Lonnecker Purser: Gary Seaton Logkeeper: Bob McPhail Newsletter Editor: Chuck Seiler

If you would like to be nominated for one of these positions please indicate your desire at the March meeting. Final voting will be held at that time

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

### 12 FEBRUARY 2014 MINUTES-Continued

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

--Bob Riddoch reported that the pictures we have posted behind modelers at the Fair are looking rather dated and ratty. It is requested that members provide pictures, displays, etc. in order to update the display.

--It was reported that a new restaurant/bar/museum, called the "GREEN DRAGON TAVERN", just opened in North County. The owner would like ship models of the Revolutionary War period for displaying in their museum section. (The Green Dragon Tavern" was the site of many Revolutionary events, including the planning of the Boston Tea Party ). It was decided that we will wait and see how they do, then touch base.

--Frank Townsend master shipbuilder working on SAN SALVADOR gave a status report and a number of stories regarding the building of that ship, as well as a question/answer session.



### <u>SHOW AND TELL</u>

#### Fishing Boat LUCY by Dave Dana

The 7 inch fishing boat is a model of a Portuguese fishing boat that was once on a beach in Portugal. My father, in a fit of something, decided he wanted it, and had it sent to Massachusetts where he sailed it for many years on a lake.

The original arrived complete with bailing can, sardines can for bait, rope and anchor, a few dead fish, and lots of sand. These details are included in the model. It is not to scale, but eye-balled, and built from scratch from memory and a photograph.

Dave built this model for his father on his 80th birthday.

The boat is named "Luzenchino" or "Lucy" for short.





SAN SALVADOR By Robert Hewitt Scale 1'=20 feet, plans by Ray Acker

After four months the model is finished and is shown in a carved Tupolo wood sea. The sea is carved with wood chisels and painted with ultramarine blue, black, white and permanent green light acrylic paints. The sea is then given six coats of Liquidtex gloss medium varnish. The crew is preparing to raise the sails. Cabrillo is on the quarter deck waving his hat. There is a man on the waist with a sounding line. All of the men are made from twisted copper wire, coated with Gesso and painted with acrylic paints. The model was inspired by a painting by Gordon Miller in 2001 and shown on the cover of the museums Mains'l Haul. Fall/winter 2006.

Photo by John Wickman

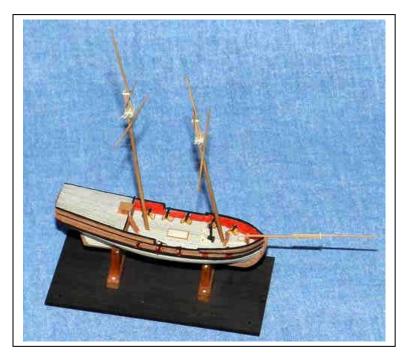


HMS SURPRISE by Jay MacMaster Bashed Kit, 3/16"=1' Scale

Kit, bashed based on screen shots from "Master and Commander-Far Side of the World" as well as cover art from Patrick O'Brian's book featuring HMS SURPRISE.

Wood used: Boxwood, Holly, African Ebony, African Mahogany

Photo by John Wickman



Sir Edward Hawke Scale 1"=20 feet (1:240) Scratch built Robert Hewitt

After the planking was finished, the next items to be added were all of the deck furniture. The hatch grating is holly framed in pear. The holes are .008" square. The capstan is holly and the Charley Noble is carved from ebony. Ten guns were built and glued to the deck. Donald McNairy had a clever way of building his guns. I somewhat followed this procedure on all of my models. The axles are glued to the deck and the wheels are butted to the axle and glued. The two side pieces making up the carriage are installed on the axle. The barrel of the gun is then added. McNairy built each gun on the deck of his

models. I find that too difficult to do. I build the guns on the workbench and install them on the model complete, except for rigging. When finished, each gun consists of 24 pieces which includes rigging.

The masts and yards are turned from boxwood. I tried to use bamboo, but the quality of the wood has deteriorated over the years. When trying to taper the bamboo in making small yards, the material becomes fuzzy and is difficult to polish clean. The boxwood was so much nicer to work with. I was able to turn very small mast tops using the Dremel Moto tool. The crosstrees and caps are made from holly. The crosstrees are made over hardwood formers. The formers are placed on a balsa wood block. The holly is soaked in water for a few minutes. The holly is formed by pushing it against the former and plunging pins into the balsa to hold it's shape. Each piece is left in its former overnight. The pieces are trimmed to length and glued to the mast after the mast cap is installed.

Photo by John Wickman



Bone model.



British Armed Launch-1803 by Jon Sanford Panart Mantua Kit 748 Scale 1:16

Jon Sanford's British Armed Launch, with accoutrements. Photo by John Wickman



Detailed photo of bow section with gun. Photo by John Wickman

This is a triple plank on frame model with limewood and walnut used for planking.

The launch was 10 meters long and carried three guns of varying calibers. This boat was employed in coastal patrols or in escort duty. It was also used in surprise actions, attacking enemy craft in difficulty, anchored or at a roadstead. It had remarkable maneuverability and was employed in great numbers during landing actions. It usually preceded the slower main fleet.



HMS SULTANA by Chuck Seiler Scale 3/16"=1' 1767-1772

Chuck had been working on this several years ago, but set it aside in order to accommodate more Fair friendly models. He recently dusted it off and decided he wanted to get it ready to show in the Fair this year. After working on it for a month, he came to realize he had greatly underestimated the amount of work required. Some of this involved relearning rigging techniques he had used before. He decided to set it

aside and finish the Revolutionary War gunboat PHILADELPHIA for this year's Fair. He re-rigged the forward shrouds, the main stay and lower jib stay with a dark brown line made by SYREN SHIPMODEL COMPANY. He likes the look of the line, but not the quality of his work on those areas. This picture would have included the jib boom and both top masts if he had remembered to bring the box they were in. We will be seeing more of this after the Fair.

Photo by John Wickman



### You too can be a master model builder and make your fortune on Ebay

This was brought to my attention via MODEL SHIP WORLD website. This model was listed on EBAY as a 'restored model'. The seller wanted 700 British Pounds. He probably needed the money to buy the crack he was obviously smoking.

### Sir Edward Hawke, the Admiral

Contributed by Robert Hewitt

Edward Hawke was born in London in 1705. Little is known of his early life. His father was a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. In 1720, Hawke entered the navy at age fifteen. He was a volunteer on the twenty-gun frigate Seahorse. Colonel Marten Balden, Hawke's uncle helped him rise steadily into the officer's ranks. His first command in 1733 was the sloop of war Wolf. During the War of the Austrian Succession, Hawke was the youngest rear admiral in the service. Off Cape Finisterre in 1747, he tried an unorthodox battle plan when he attacked an enemy convoy. Instead of the standard naval practice of keeping his ships in a single line of battle, he broke up his formation and ordered each of his ships to chase individual foes. Hawke's plan was successful and six warships were captured. The poorly protected convoy was intercepted in the West Indies, and forty ships were taken.

The War of Austrian Succession ended in 1748. There were a few years of peace but the French and Indian war began in 1754. Hawke was assigned to the channel fleet and he kept a well organized system of supply ships bringing fresh food. Despite long spells at sea, scurvy did not appear on his ships.

In 1759 the French fleet sailed from Brest, escaping the British blockade with twenty-one ships of the line under Vice Admiral Hubert de Brenne, the Comte de Conflans. In London, an angry mob burned Hawke in effigy for letting the French escape the blockade. A storm had driven Hawke out of position, but he was aware of the escape and gave chase. The two fleets met in a storm in the Bay of Biscay. They exchanged fire and Conflans steered his fleet into Ouiberon Bay. He knew the British did not have up-todate charts of the dangerous bay, and expected to escape. Hawke, in his one hundred gun flagship Royal George, had other plans. "Lay me alongside the French Admiral", he ordered to the sailing master Thomas Conway. Conway warned that the churning seas ahead of them were littered with shoals and rocks. "You have done your duty in pointing out the danger", replied Hawke. "You are now to obey my orders, and lay me alongside the Soleil Royal". All around Royal George relentless winds roared in the Naval commanders usually choose the most Atlantic. favorable conditions for giving battle. On this day, November 20, 1759, Hawke chose the worst day imaginable when he ordered his fleet into Quiberon Bay.



Sir Edward Hawke's flagship HMS ROYAL GEORGE

As the gap between the fleets closed, the storm increased as well. Maintaining a line of battle was impossible. The winds shoved the combatants together, and then pulled them apart, each ship finding a new opponent. Sailing into the bay, *Royal George* opened fire on the seventy gun *Superb*. After taking two broadsides, *Superb* suddenly sank. It may have had water rushing into the lower gun ports. *Royal George* and *Soleil* traded broadsides and then the seventy four gun *Intrepide* pushed between them, and the outgunned *Soleil* broke off and headed north. *Heros* struck her colors to *Magnanime* but it was impossible to send boats to secure the capture. *Heros* captain ran her aground and all of her crew escaped.

As darkness ended the short but deadly battle, Hawke ordered his fleet to anchor. The next light brought a great surprise to the British. Anchored among them was the greatest of prizes, the flagship *Soleil Royal*. The French quickly cut their cable and made a run for it. Chased by *Essex*, both ships ran aground and were lost. The French lost six ships of the line with twenty-five thousand (?) men lost and an unknown number of wounded. Hawke lost two ships, thirty-nine killed and two hundred and fifty wounded. Hawke was lauded as a national hero. Quiberon Bay ended the threat of a seaborne invasion of England. Parliament granted the victorious admiral a lifetime pension of two thousand pounds. Until it was overshadowed by Trafalgar, the battle of Quiberon Bay was considered the greatest victory of the Royal Navy.



## Guild Master's Corner

### Greetings all,

Once again I want to take the opportunity to mention the San Diego County Fair Designs in Wood, which is right around the corner. This is our opportunity to show off. Not only do we need volunteers to "Man the Booth", but we need model entries. My challenge to Guild members is to have 12 models entered into the Fair.

Officer elections will be held during our March meeting. There is still time to throw your name into the hat if you are interested in being a Guild Officer.

Our next Guild Meeting is on Wednesday, 12 March 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 March at 10:30am at **Mike Lonnecker's** house.

> Bob Riddoch Bob Riddoch



## Editor's Sandbox

It is a relatively small newsletter this month. My heartfelt thanks to **Robert Hewitt** for an article.

As stated in past issues and at past meetings, I am hoping for some support with the newsletter in terms of inputs, just as **Bob Riddoch** would like some folks to step up and provide presentations at the meeting or community build. Please provide:

-- Tips and hints on how to do ship modeling things.

--Original articles on nautical related stuff. (Editor reserves the right to NOT 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.

Newsletter inputs are due to me two weeks before the next meeting.

Dues are due. Anybody not paid up by the end of March will be removed from the roster. If you have a mitigating circumstance you would like to discuss, contact one of the Guild officers

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