



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92101

JUNE 2014

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXXI, NO. 6

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Established in 1972

by

Bob Wright and Russ  
Merrill

## San Diego County Fair Issue-Part 1

By the time this edition hits the streets, we will be mere days from Open Day at the County Fair. With it comes the traditional deep fried chocolate covered bacon and the Guild's manning of a booth in the Design in Wood Pavilion. Here we wax wise about the Museum, pirate ships, locations of rest rooms and balsa wood ships in bottles. By next newsletter, the Fair will be only days completed, wedged perfectly in between the two issuances.

My intention is to use this opportunity to ramp up our stalwart members partaking of this noble endeavour and prepare them, as well as encourage those members NOT manning the booth to stop in and say "Hi". In the next issue, I hope to have photos of the numerous ship model entries, photos of members at work, stories aplenty and even pics of the "mystery piece", as determined by yours truly, **Karen Johl (Robert Hewitt's significant other)** and whoever wishes to chime in.

Check out "The Top Answers to Frequently Asked Questions at the San Diego County" on page 12 and "DO's and DON'Ts For Working the Fair" on page last.

## MINUTES OF 14 MAY 2014 MEETING

Contributed by Bob McPhail

**Robert Riddoch** opened the meeting on board BERKLEY. 19 members and 3 guests (plus 2 family members) were in attendance. A guest, **Russell Hedges** donated a ship model kit to the Guild. **John Curtis** was also a guest who builds surfboards. He discussed surfboard construction and use during Show and Tell.

**PURSER'S REPORT:** **Gary Seaton** reported that the current treasury balance was \$<redacted> as of May 1. It was mentioned that a donation of \$500 to the museum will be presented to Dr. Sheehan.

**EDITOR'S REPORT:** **Chuck Seiler** stated that he received an email from a modeler in Germany who read our newsletter via our webpage. The modeler

*Continued on page 2*



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

<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

had asked a question regarding one of **Don Dressel's** models. Chuck put Don and the modeler in contact. . It was requested that Chuck would like feedback about the newsletter. The newsletter editor is also looking for information sources, websites, local vendors, small hand tool suppliers, etc. that could be beneficial to model ship building enthusiasts. Items to be put into the newsletter should be sent to him at least two weeks prior to the next Guild meeting.

**Dr. Sheehan** gave his report. He showed the “Best Ship Model Trophy”. Spots for names are enough for thirty more years. He talked about the SWIFT BOAT model and the model of USS SAN DIEGO. He also mentioned the exhibit: History of the Military in San Diego – Presidio to Pacific Powerhouse. **Dr. Sheehan** also recognized **Ron Render**, **Bill Norris**, and **Jon Sanford** for their continued effort in model restoration in the museum.

The San Diego County Fair will be held again this year (7 June thru 6 July). The museum will 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, a volunteer 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. Volunteers were asked to be selective in giving away these items and handouts to visitors sincerely interested in the hobby.

The “community” build project is ongoing. New projects are currently being considered. If you have a suggestion, please contact **Robert Riddoch**.

A list of members was completed and given to current members. If you do not want your name and address listed, please contact the guild master.

It was reported that **Mike Lonnecker** is a new member of the Board of Directors for the Nautical Research Guild (NRG). **Don Dressel** recently retired from this position. Congratulations Mike!!! Mike has shared some of his ideas he plans to push as a director. Mike is active in the NRG mentor program.

It was voted on that the summer hours for the monthly meeting will remain from 1800-2000.

The Museum volunteer recognition and awards meeting was held last month. Some Guild members were unable to attend and were awarded at this meeting. Awards were given for “volunteer hours” to the Museum for calendar year 2013. This represents cumulative hours. **Howard Griffus** received a plaque for 1000 hours, and two 500 hour deck plank sections. **Bob McPhail** received a deck plank section for 500 hours and **Sharron Norris** received a pin for 250 hours.

During the June meeting, there will be a major auction. Among items to be auctioned include: 1:1200 scale models of steel hull warships, clipper ship kit, plans for EMMA C. BERRY, books, etc.



BLAST FROM THE PAST  
Modeling Divas from the 2003 (I believe) Fair. We called it the Del Mar Fair back then

# SHOW AND TELL



Higaki Kaisen  
by Bob Riddoch  
Woody Joe Kit (Japan)  
Scale: 1/72

Bob is currently working on a kit he brought back from Japan. It is the Higaki Kaisen from Woody Joe. Bob is currently assembling the “keel” which is installed around a set of removable frames. The Japanese Cypress wood used in the kit is outstanding and the laser cut parts are high quality. Bob notes that the odor when sanding was very pleasant. He also noted that all the instructions are in Japanese but he had help

from a friend in Japan to translate the “important bits”. Bob is working on the kit in hopes of displaying it at next year’s Rope Exhibition in Tokyo.

The Higaki-Kaisen (hee-gah-kee-kah-ee-sen) is an Edo Period cargo boat used from 1600 to about 1868. Higaki was a Trades Guild in Osaka, Japan and Kaisen translates to cargo boat. During the Edo Period, Osaka was the center of the national economy and Edo, which is Tokyo today, was a big consumer city. The Higaki Guild held the chartered right of maritime transportation of consumer goods from Osaka to Edo. The Higaki-Kaisen were the sailing freighters of the Higaki guild.

The Higaki Kaisen hull structure has no framing. Instead, its’ hull consisted of only planking firmly joined with nails and clamps.

Photo by Bob Riddoch



BLACK PEARL  
By Barry Rishel

Circa 8th Century pirate ship, not the one in the movies. This was a very simple metal model kit, easy to assemble. Barry says he would like to make SAN SALVADOR next

Photo by Bob Riddoch

## SHOW AND TELL- Continued



Bob McPhail's LA GLOIRE



LA GLOIRE-A different angle  
and a look into the gun deck

Photos by Bob Riddoch

LA GLOIRE, 18th Century Frigate  
by Bob McPhail  
MAMOLI Kit, L. 840 MM, H 635 MM  
Scale 1:90

French Frigate planned by the shipbuilder engineer Guignace and launched at St. Malo in 1778. In 1779 the hull was covered in copper plate. LA GLOIRE had twenty six 12 pounders on the gun deck and four carronades and four 6 pounders on the main deck.

The model kit has fourteen sheets of plans. Plywood was used for the bulkheads and keel. Gun ports were metal which were painted red. Good detail on the 12 pounders and gun carriages. There was plenty of lumber for the ship planking/deck furniture and appears to be of good quality. Stern window frames/ornamentation made out of metal. Wooden dowels supplied for the mast and yards will be replaced with different wood.

General appearance of the ship resembles HMS Surprise (MASTER AND COMMANDER)





## SHOW AND TELL-Continued



John's boat on it's "mold" (above)

The mold revealed (right)

Photos by John Wickman



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

The boxwood masts were drilled through where the spars are located. The spars are wrapped with black wire, then fed through the mast hole and wrapped around the other side of the spar. The spar rigging is attached before stepping the masts. The rigging is 38 and 40 gauge tinned copper wire rolled straight and then primed and painted. Floquil rust is the closest that they make to rope color.

## SHOW AND TELL-Continued

Mast coats were turned from pear wood using a Dremel. The masts were then stepped. A paper pattern is made of the stays. Fly line is used for the ratlines and is wrapped around a wood jig. Extension springs determine the spacing. .010 straight wire is then placed over the fly line and glued in place using the paper pattern as a guide. After twenty-four hours the assembly is cut out. Discs of wood are glued to the assembly representing the dead-eyes. Three pieces of .004 black wire were then glued to the discs. The assemblies are then glued to each mast and channel. The rigging to the pin rails completes the rigging. The flag was drawn in

auto-cad and printed on cigarette paper from my computer. I folded the flag months ago, trying to get the best-looking draped flag but the bottom corner would not cooperate and kept sticking out. I finally gave up and snipped that part off with scissors and painted the white edge red.

The model is mounted on two mahogany stands with an ebony pith onto a padauk base. These pieces are doweled with holly to show contrast. The model is set in a picture frame base and covered with a glass case from Karl's Glass.



John Wickman, Dave Dana and John McShefferty man the ship modeling booth at the 2005 Fair.

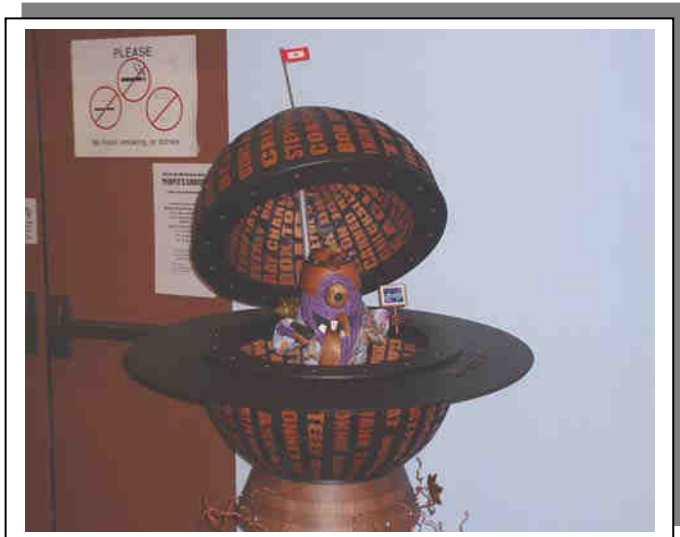
## SHOW AND TELL-Continued



A few months ago we had a discussion about the use and pitfalls of beeswax on rigging line. Chuck brought in some "conservator's wax" which is used by some ship modelers in lieu of beeswax



This stuff must be good. Made by Appointment to the Queen, eh?



"MYSTERY PIECE" winner from the 2004 Fair



Chuck Seiler's Continental Gunboat PHILADELPHIA  
A work in progress and candidate for 2014 Mystery Piece



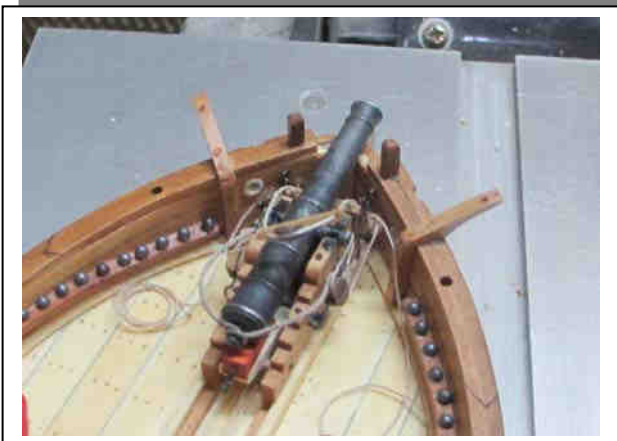
## SHOWAND TELL-Continued



PHILADELPHIA  
Continental Gunboat Circa 1776  
1/16 Scale Scratch

Left: PHILLY as it appeared at the meeting

Below: PHILLY as it appeared a few weeks later. Getting ready for display at the Fair. Nice ladder rungs, eh?





## SHOW AND TELL-Continued



Whale Ship VIOLA  
Brigantine  
Scale" 3/16 Scratch  
Circa: 1850  
by Howard Griffus

VIOLA was built for the purpose of whaling. Originally a schooner, it was converted to a brigantine for easier handling during the cutting down process. After 3 or 4 trips, VIOLA was lost at sea with all hands.

Howard started this 13 years ago with a block of Dove Fir. After shaping the hull, it dried and split (common for Dove Fir). He screwed the hull together and glassed it for stability.

Howard planked over the original hull and continued sporadically building. While researching rigging problems, Howard got into the whaling aspects of the ship and decided to do a diorama. The diorama is intended to show what happens shipside during the "butchering of the whale", in this case a Right Whale (Baleen) which is less messy. During the presentation Howard described how the blubber is peeled off like removing an orange peel in a single piece. He demonstrated using an actual orange (which I suspect he pre-peeled).



SHOW AND TELL[Continued



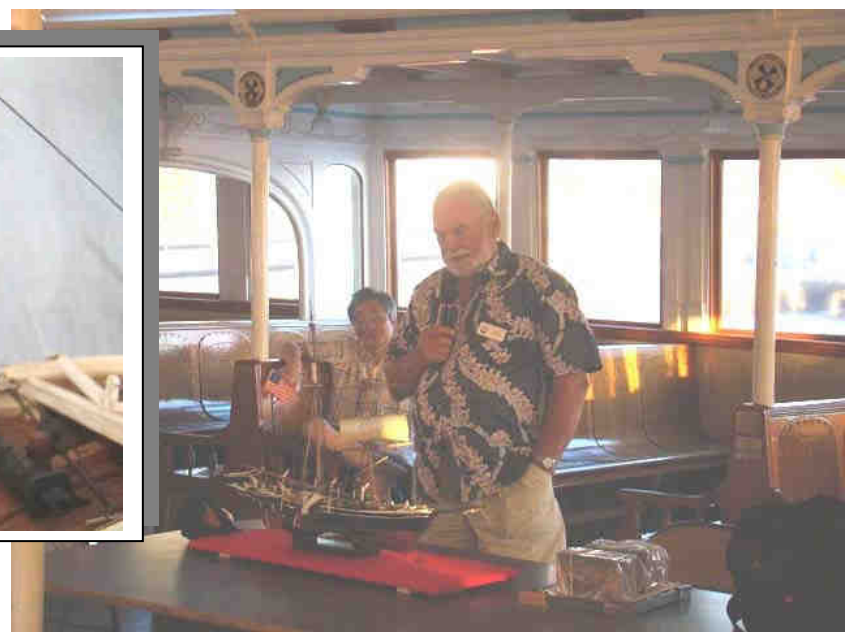
THE BUTCHERING PROCESS



LIKE THE ORANGE, THE LOOKOUT ALOFT KEEPS AN EYE PEELED FOR WHALES. HEY MORON, LOOK DOWN!!



HOWARD'S MDEL HAS ALOT OF DETAIL. HERE A MAN GOES ALOFT. PROBABLY TO TELL THE LOOKOUT TO LOOK DOWN. HOWARD'S MODEL WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT THE FAIR.



HOWARD TALKS ABOUT THE VIOLA

## SHOW AND TELL-Continued



Brig NIAGARA  
By Royce Privett  
Model Shipways Kit  
Scale: 3/16  
Circa: 1813

Progress has continued since we  
last saw it in March



Royce Privett and Jay MacMaster listen to  
one of the presentations

2005 Mystery Piece





## Let's All Go to the Fair !!!

Its time once again, boys and girls, for the San Diego County Fair. It is a special occasion for many of us at the Guild because it is a time when we get to interact with thousands of people on a daily basis and tell them a little bit about ship modeling. For many, its an idle curiosity. Most know nothing about model ship building and we provide an interesting tidbit of knowledge. For some, however, it is an opportunity to learn about something that may soon be (or already is) an enjoyable hobby.

Aside from having a great time, we are at the Fair to inform. Here are some things to consider:

--Bring a model to work on that you can display various modeling techniques

-- Check with others in the booth before arrival to possibly include different types of models or different phases of construction.

-- Bring various tools, jigs, etc that you normally use but may NOT be using at this point in the model so they can be shown/explained to the public.

-- Be familiar with the information sheets and handouts available at the booth. In addition to those, we have included catalogues and old newsletters to show people who interested or who have questions about kits etc. Familiarize yourself with some of the basic kits and their good and bad points.

-- Take time to listen to your boothmates when they talk. I must admit, I have learned a thing or two at the Fair myself.

--Make sure to sign in and out. Get around to see the Fair and have a good time.

*Sandy Eggo County*

## The Top Answers to Frequently Asked Questions at the ~~Del Mar~~ Faire by Chuck Seiler

It is time once again for the San Diego County (formerly Del Mar) Fair. Here we are able to set up our booth and wax wise about model shipbuilding to all who wish to wander by. Some of the newer members may be intimidated and may feel they do not have the knowledge for such a daunting task. Never fear! I bring you the answers to the most frequently asked questions we get at the Fair. Take this with you and feel free to use the answer you think most appropriate to the question asked.

1. Yes, I know where the restroom is. From the expression on your face, I'll bet you wish you did too.

2. No, this is NOT made of balsa wood.

3. No this is NOT a pirate ship (unless you are in fact building a pirate ship, then say "yes").

4. Yes it does take patience to build one of these...and desire. STOP TOUCHING THAT!!!!

5. Huh? What's that you say? Loud? The bowl makers are too loud? Sorry, I can't hear you.

6. No kid, I'm SURE its not a pirate ship (unless, of course, it is).

7. I don't know what that is. We think the builder may have been on drugs at the time. (This is describing the mystery project of the year. It changes each year, so I cannot describe it. You will know it when you see it, however.)

8. No, I don't know how they get the ship into the bottle. My job is to EMPTY the bottle. After that, I don't remember much.

9. I don't care if the guys in the bowl booth gave you something. You cannot have Hewitt's model as a sample. STOP TOUCHING THAT!!!

10. Okay! Okay, kid! You're right. It's a pirate ship! A balsa wood, Mississippi river sternwheel steam powered pirate ship! Don't you have some place else you need to be? Hey lady, doesn't he need to go to the restroom or something?

Enjoy the Fair. If you are not working it, drop by and say HI! But don't ask me if its made of balsa.

## PHOTOS FROM FAIRS PAST



## MAY COMMUNITY BUILD

The Community Build Group met as usual on the second Saturday of May. In attendance were Mike Lonnecker, Jay McMaster, Bob Riddoch, Jon Sanford, Gary Seaton and Chuck Seiler.



Chuck brought in his scratch built Philadelphia. (No, I didn't. You are thinking about the general meeting. I only brought the base.) He had temporarily assembled it to take photos for his fair entry. Discussion continued with talk about mounting board coloration. The consensus was that the mounting board should be darker than the basic color of the model. Chuck was doing this with a dark stain on an oak base board. We also had a short discussion on treating rigging line. Chuck was using a product called

Renaissance Wax. This wax has come to be preferred by museum conservators and model restorers in place of bee's wax.



Next was Gary with his scratch build of the frigate Naiad in 1:48 scale. Gary was working on the bollard timbers and how difficult they were to make. These are very large timbers at the very bow of the ship and are very curved and tapered. We discussed how the templates from the Tosti' books worked to define these parts.





Jon brought in a resin model kit of the Buckley a Gearing class destroyer. Everyone enjoyed seeing this rare model kit. Jon also had some tools. The first was Quick Release Sticks. These are sticky ended sticks that can be used for the handling and placement of small parts. A little twist releases the part. The other tool was finger drills from Harbor Freight



Jay brought in his Model shipways kit of the Syren. Jay has the hull planked. He talked about his upgrade of the kit wood and his plan to add lights to the interior

Bob brought in his Woody Joe kit of the Hagaki Kaisen merchant ship that he got while attending the annual Rope meeting in Japan. Unfortunately this very fine kit is not exported to the US. Bob showed us the unique construction method. It is more puzzle like with lots of interconnected parts than we are used to seeing with US and European kits. The wood in this kit is a very fine grade of Japanese Cypress.

The final discussion was about our next project. The consensus of the group was to try and start our next project in the Fall. We want to encourage new members and keep the project simple, much as our Longboat project. Several models were mentioned along with the possibility of a project with one model and each member doing a part of it.

Join us at the next meeting, Saturday 14 June.

Mike Lonnecker



# Guild Master's Corner

Greetings all,

As of this printing The San Diego County Fair is in full swing and I am glad to see so many model ship entries. Congrats to all the winners and participants. My thanks also to all who have volunteered to man the booth and show your skills. If you have never done it before, it is a great time and fun to interact with the guests. Please make sure you document your hours spent at the Fair.

As summer heats up, I want to take a moment to remind everyone about shop safety. It is going to be a very dry season so be sure you clean that sawdust up. Using power tools creates heat and just a small spark can ruin your day.

Despite the fires in North County last month I was happy to see so many members and guests at our last meeting. There were quite a few models for show and tell and we used our allotted 2 hours to the minute. Let's keep the participation going.

We are also bringing back a project for the Community Build this fall. We have a few models in mind but we are always looking for additional input. I would like to advertise this at the Fair to draw in new members. I will keep everyone updated.

Our next Guild Meeting is on 11 June 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, 7 June at 10:30am at Mike Lonneckers' house.

Bob Riddoch

*Bob Riddoch*

## Do's and Don'ts for Working at the Fair

**DO** bring a wood ship model to work on.

**DO** be prepared to discuss ship modeling with Fair goers.

**DO** spend time talking to Fair goers about the Maritime Museum. Remember, we are representing the Guild AND the Museum.

**DO** arrive early to the booth. The letter you received with your tickets and parking passes tells you when to report. I try and get there about an hour early so you can take in the sights of the Design in wood Pavilion and be ready for when the Fair opens.

**DO** be familiar with the Top Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (Page x).

**DO NOT** wear sandals or open toed shoes.

**DO** wear your name tag.

**DO** bring and use protective eyewear if you are using power tools.

**DO** bring and utilize a dust mask if you are doing alot of sanding.

**DO** consider bringing a 'hands on' model or project Fair goers can handle and ooooh, ahhh at.

**DO NOT** use one of Hewitt's models as a 'hands on' model.

**DO NOT** eat 3 orders of deep fried chocolate covered bacon before you go on the Bungee Jump.

**DO** take time and see the Fair.

**DO** document your volunteer hours.

**DO** Enjoy your time representing the Guild and Museum in the Ship Modeler's booth.

mp♦

<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

Next meeting is  
**WEDNESDAY**  
11 JUNE 2014 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	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

FAIR Closing DAY → 5  
(how sad)

JUNE 2014

-FINIS-

FAIR OPENING DAY

COMMUNITY BUILD