



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

November 2016

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 44, NO. XI

OFFICERS

Guild Master

Jon Sanford
address redacted

First Mate

William (Bill) Norris
address redacted

Purser

Gary Seaton
address redacted

Newsletter Editor

Guy Lawrie
address redacted

Log Keeper

Bob McPhail
address redacted

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

Web Coordinator

Guy Lawrie
address redacted

Presentations Coordinator

Unfilled

Established in 1972 by
Bob Wright and Russ
Merrill

MINUTES OF 11 October 2016 GUILD

MEETING

Guild Master Jon Sanford opened the meeting at the San Diego Maritime Museum on board the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. Sixteen (16) guild members were in attendance. **Mark Weber** and **David Alvarez**, guests from the **San Diego Argonauts**, were welcomed aboard. Moving directly into **Show and Tell**, **Mark** and **David** spoke about the **Argonauts** and their activities built around radio controlled model boating and racing. See sandiegoargonauts.com for a complete look at the club including where to find the pond where entries from the club's **Scale Division** can be seen on Saturday mornings (i.e. models of warships, fishing trawlers, luxury yachts and other intricately detailed model watercraft). **David Alvarez** displayed his radio controlled scale model of the *S.S. Minnow* of television's Gilligan's Island fame. Please see the pictures of his impressive build in the **Show and Tell** section. Also to be found in the **Show and Tell** section, pictures of **Jon Sanford's** *H.M.S. Borrowdale*, **Isaac Wills' H.M.S. Repulse** and **Le Soleil Royal**, and **Gary Seaton's** *USS Eagle*.

Following a break when miscellaneous donated items including ship plans and maps were given away, **Guild Master Jon Sanford** began the general business meeting. It was noted **Log Keeper Bob McPhail** was unable to attend this meeting and the Presentations Coordinator post remains unfilled resulting in suspension of the presentation program. **Guild Master Sanford** reported that signed guild bylaws will be posted on the website and included at the back of this monthly newsletter.

Purser's Report: **Purser Gary Seaton** reported a positive guild balance as of 1 October.

Editor's and Web Coordinator's Report: **Editor Guy Lawrie** once again noted that the newsletter welcomes submissions and articles from members. He mentioned that he would like articles, model pictures, and other items for the newsletter.

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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

MINUTES continued -

Web Coordinator Guy Lawrie reported an increase of (103) website visits over the previous month with 639 visits in September. Google and other search engines accounted for 73% of the visits while 6% of the visits originated from the NRG website. The website continues to be viewed from overseas including Germany, Beijing, London, and Brazil. Fully 71% of our visits originated from outside California and other international locations. **Our guild's presence is more than just San Diego! Your ship model pictures and documentation help show off our guild!**

Presentations Report: There was no presentation at the October meeting and there is not a presentation scheduled for future meetings at this time. Your ideas for presentations and demonstrations are welcome!

Maritime Museum Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, PhD reported the *San Salvador* had safely made her passage to Morro Bay and other points North on its **Pacific Heritage Tour**. He reported we can expect to see the *San Salvador* dockside at the Maritime Museum by the end of October.

New Business: Mike Lonnecker reported that the NRG conference on October 6-8 was well

attended and a complete success! This is not a surprise to any of us who attended all or part of the conference and it was a wonderful opportunity to share our hobby with fellow modelers from around the country. Please find a special section after the **Show and Tell** section to see pictures of some of the remarkable models exhibited at the conference. Look for more pictures to come.

Guild Master Jon Sanford opened the book auction as announced in the October newsletter. Numerous books were awarded at bid including from such notable authors as Harold A. Underhill and James Lees. The books held over from the auction will be offered again at a later date. To date, the generous contribution of books by the estate of Robert L. Pranka has generated \$189 to the Guild's treasure chest!

From the helm Guild Master Jon Sanford discussed three topics for future consideration. 1) Update the Guild logo picture from the Medea to the San Salvador with a minor change to wording. 2) Investigate identifying Guild members with a polo or T-shirts decorated with a logo. 3) Investigate a Guild scholarship related to woodworking and/or model building awarded to a high school student. **Guild Master Sanford** also notes an upcoming presentation on modeling to be held for Point Loma High School's ROTC program conducted by **Jon Sanford, Mike Lonnecker, and Guy Lawrie**. Thank you for the invite, **Isaac Wills**.

**Next meeting is
8 November 2016**

**5:30 PM- Social
5:30 Officer's Meeting
6:00 PM Meeting**

Bring a Model!

**Bring a Tale, Taller the
Better!**

November 2016

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			

Show and Tell

(not so much tell in this edition but pictures are worth a thousand words)



The Guild assembles to get the meeting underway



Attention on deck!

David Alvarez (on left) and Mark Weber from the San Diego Argonauts display David's radio controlled model of the *SS Minnow*. Remember Gilligan's Island?



Skipper on the bridge! Attention to the "supplies" at the skipper's feet might give a clue on what happened when "Five passengers set sail that day, For a three hour tour, A three hour tour."

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Show and Tell continued -

"The mate was a mighty sailin' man" as the song goes! David Alvarez built *Minnow* with a removable cabin and bridge to access the running gear.



***HMS Borrowdale*, a donation to the San Diego Maritime Museum**

Restoration by Jon Sanford

Scale 1:50, best approximation

Builder unknown, scratch modified plank on frame



The Model

The *HMS Borrowdale* was built in 1785 at Sunderland, England. She was a storeship in the First Fleet and used to transport convicts to Australia. After the convict transportation, her only Captain, Hobson Reed, sailed East around the horn and on to Rio de Janeiro where her crew

recovered from scurvy. Returning to England, *Borrowdale* was put back in service as a coal carrier in general coastal trade. On 31 October 1789, she and 33 other ships were lost or damaged in a massive gale off Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, England.

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Show and Tell continued -

***USS Eagle*, a US Navy Brig launched 11 August 1814**

Modeler Gary Seaton

Scale 1:85, approximately 1/8" = 1 foot

Corel kit (Italian)



Gary talks about building his *Eagle*

The Ship

As late as the end of May 1814, the US Navy thought that they would be undisturbed with the small

squadron of warships on Lake Champlain. However, England had ended the war with Napoleon and in June began a new ship building effort in Canada, some of which were destined to go up the St. Lawrence River to meet the Americans on that lake. President Madison authorized another brig of 18 guns to supplement the Navy there. The local shipbuilders were notified in mid-July of the need. On July 23 the keel was laid and in 19 days the *Eagle* was build and ready for men and provisions. The Navy reluctantly advanced Lt. Robt.Henley to master commandant on Aug. 12, 1814 and, with the addition of several other new officers transferred from other ships in the area, the *Eagle* was made part of the squadron. Construction was fast but substantial, having thick frames and planking and 11 gun ports on each side (only 10 in this kit) for the 20 cannon, classing the brig as a "sloop of war." Sailors also needed to be transferred from nearby ships, some good, others from the bottom of the barrel, including chain gang prisoners sent from work crews for the Army.

Despite the inexperience of the newly upgraded captain, a few other transferred officers and mismatched men, given a month of getting acquainted with the new ship, new mates, new jobs, and learning how to shoot cannon and carronades, the *Eagle* was part of the battle when the Royal Navy sent warships down Lake Champlain to challenge the American squadron on September 11, 1814. *Eagle* entered into the fight as an effective unit, taking fire and giving even more. The British armed sloop *Chub* soon surrendered after being hit many times by the *Eagle's* 18- and 32-pounders in the calm water of Plattsburgh Bay (now known as Cumberland Bay). Most of the ships in the battle were held in position by anchors and spring lines. After losing most of the guns on the starboard side, Cdr Henley raised sail, cut his spring line and moved to attack the enemy from his port battery, significantly helping to bring a complete victory for the US Navy, led by the squadron commander, Thomas Macdonough. Following this victory, with the heavy damage to his own ship and the transfer of most of the crews to other stations, Macdonough used *Eagle* as his flagship to monitor the northern reaches of the lake to maintain control of the area for another year or so.

Ultimately the squadron's ships became unnecessary and were left near the shore in several different areas of Lake Champlain to rot and then sink. There is still a good amount of *Eagle's* frames and the bottom of the hull to study near Whitehall, N.Y. at the south end of the lake.

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Show and Tell continued -



Gary Seaton's Eagle stern view from above

Gary Seaton's continued comments on *USS Eagle* model.

Double planked hull: Tanganyika base and walnut overlay, holly deck. The model is taking much more time to build than the 19 days needed for the real thing in 1814!! Corel is forcing the expanding of my research practice since kit's drawings leave plenty to figure out on my own.



Left-Isaac Wills displays his model of *Le Soleil Royal* a 1:100 kit from Heller. This kit presents challenges but Isaac is up to it!



Right-Isaac takes advantage of the meeting giveaways and loaded the *Soleil's* hull!

Right and Below-Isaac Wills displays his model HMS *Repulse*, a battlecruiser of the Royal Navy built during the First World War. Isaac entered his model in a model contest and won a blue ribbon. Congratulations, Isaac!



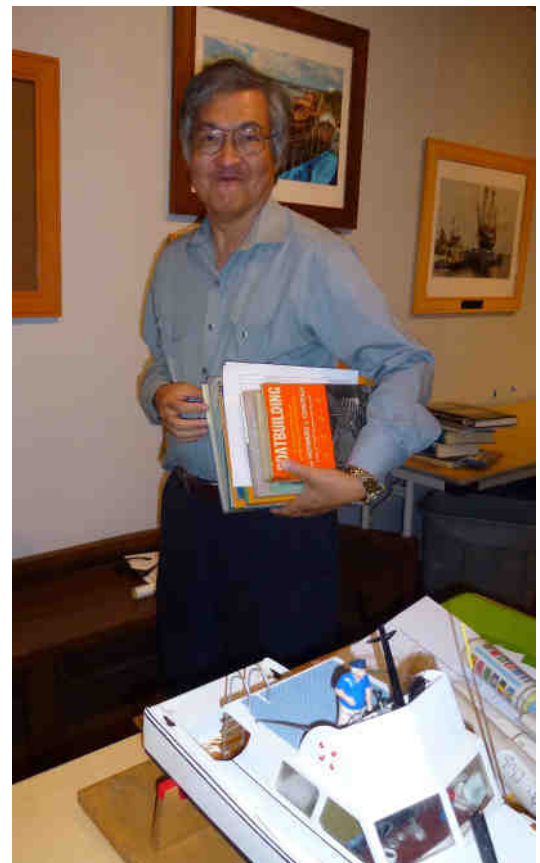
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Show and Tell continued -

Guild Meeting Auctions are announced and giveaways happen regularly. Here to the right, members are captured looking over ship plans that are here for the taking. Also given away at this meeting were model materials (see Isaac Wills' loaded hull of the *Le Soleil Royal* on the previous page) and maps. Below, members survey the books donated by the estate of Robert L. Pranka before they are auctioned away. Some remarkable volumes were included in this auction as listed in the October newsletter.



Below-Doug Yumoto with the fruit of his winning Bids!



Below- The auction is underway with the help of Jon Sanford and Auctioneer Robert Hewitt



Bonus NRG Photos



Sail aboard the *California* to begin a Thursday morning. Later, tours including the Maritime Museum!



Plenty of vendor displays!



Above-Bill Norris' Chris*Craft Runabout



Bob Kyle displayed both his *Papoose* and below, his *Nymph*



Chuck Seiler's *Far West*

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Above-Gary Seaton's U.S. Revenue Cutter *Ranger*

Jay MacMaster displayed his *H.M.S. Dolphin*



Below-Frank McMahon's Dunbrody Irish Famine Ship



Below-Aft detail from Mike Lonnecker's *Fair American*



Below-Detail from Jon Sanford's British Royal Navy Armed Launch



Baltimore Clipper Lively
 1812 1:48 Modified Lumberyard (Jim Roberts) kit
 Mitch Michelson

Baltimore clippers were topsail schooners, sharp built - meaning they had a V-shaped hull that could efficiently cut through the waves - with strongly-taked masts and square jibs and main, which created the speed they were famous for. These vessels could sail closer to the wind than all of their contemporaries and faster than most. The kit was designed by Jim Roberts to represent a typical Baltimore clipper, used during the War of 1812. The model is under construction.

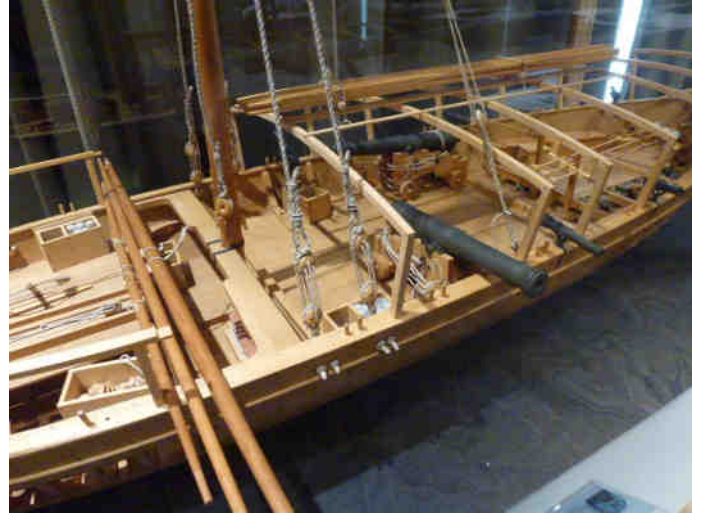


Left-Gus Agustin's Royal William

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Above-Honchoro by Claire Hess



Above-detail of Continental Gondola *Philadelphia* by Dave Yotter

Below-H.M.S Fly by Mike Lonecker

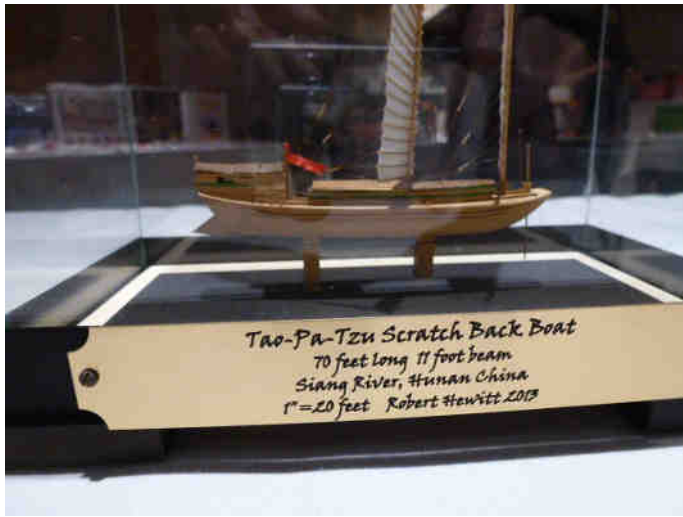


Left-Schooner *Bluenose* by Dave Yotter

Below-Higaki-Kaisen by Don Dressel

Below-US Navy Anchor Hoy by Paul A. Payne





Right-Gunboat *Philadelphia* by Chuck Seiler



Left-19th Century Sharpie by Wm. R. "Bill" Strachan



Right-*Friesland* by Don Dressel



Below-*Eidsvoll Baten* (The Boat of Eidsvoll)
by Michel Mantin

