



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

June 2017

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 45, NO. VI

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Established in 1972 by
Bob Wright and Russ
Merrill

MINUTES OF 9 MAY 2017 GUILD

MEETING

“There is but a plank between a sailor and eternity.” - Thomas Gibbons

Alert! - June 13 Meeting will host a talk by **Karl Zingheim**, History Director, U.S.S. Midway Museum, “Misadventures in Scratch Building and Kit Conversions”

Minutes: Guild Master Jon Sanford opened the meeting at the San Diego Maritime Museum aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. Twenty three (23) guild members were in attendance in addition to an unidentified couple who sat through the presentation by **Bob Munson**.

The meeting began with a relaxed presentation on ship models displayed at the Cabrillo National Monument. The talk evolved into a discussion of Spanish ships from Cabrillo’s time in the mid-1500’s and their characteristics led by **Cabrillo National Monument Historian Bob Munson**. A summary and pictures of the presentation are included in the **Presentation Report**. The unedited handouts including a selected bibliography can be found at the end of the newsletter. The handouts are used for volunteer training at Cabrillo National Monument.

After a break (thank you **Jon Sanford** for the coffee and treats), the meeting proceeded to **Show and Tell** and included offerings from **Jon Sanford, Don Dressel, and Isaac Wills**. A highlight was the discussion on removing mast stubs from Don’s model of *Derfflinger*.

Purser’s Report: Purser Gary Seaton departed the meeting early but reported the guild balance as of 1 May remains positive. **continued on Page 2**

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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

MINUTES continued -

Editor's Report: Editor **Guy Lawrie** reported no new concerns with email delivery of the newsletter but if anyone has a problem please report it. Stories of interest by members are always welcome such as the background story for **David Dana's** *Dr. Franklin* in last month's newsletter.

Web Coordinator's Report: **Web Coordinator Rob Wood** reported the project to refresh our website is underway and he circulated a handout displaying how a home page to the website might appear. He described how the homepage would be supported by slideshows and briefly touched on slideshow topics. Do not be surprised if **Rob** reaches out to you for input on this project! As a side note, there were 434 website visits in April to the current website. Visits continue to originate from places such as Beijing and Amsterdam in addition to state side cities. **Our guild's presence is more than just San Diego!**

Maritime Museum Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, PhD was unable to attend but it was noted that the elevator to the upper passenger deck is on schedule to be repaired in the second quarter 2017. **ALERT: It is now reported that the elevator repair is complete! Come Aboard for the June meeting!** **Jon Sanford** also reminded the membership a volunteer sign-up sheet for the Museum's 2017 Labor Day

Festival of Sail is being circulated. Volunteers for the event, including the staffing of the SD Maritime Museum Model Shop, will receive a Festival of Sail tee shirt. Our goal is to staff the model shop with two members the days of the festival so put this on your calendar, September 1-4.

San Diego County Fair Report: **Coordinator Bill Grolz** reported the fair is underway and the schedule for the guild's fair booth is set. A separate message was sent on May 29 to membership with the final schedule and **Chuck Seiler's** unique outlook on working with visitors. It is reported the booth and small ship give away kits are ready for the fair opening, thank you to those who helped in this effort.

New Business: **Gary Seaton's** investigation of a guild logo update is reported as ongoing.

Ed Torrence led a discussion with a proposal to create a guild logo identified T-shirt for membership purchase. He is working with a brother to develop a price for a shirt with an embroidered guild logo. The shirts will use our current logo and give members volunteering at events a unique identifier.

Though **Mike Lonnecker** was unable to attend the meeting, he requested a list of all those interested in a community build and he would be contacting them. If you interested please contact Mike, wml4@cox.net with your interest.

A visit to Orange County's SMA meeting is being planned for August. Interested? Contact Jon Sanford.

At the conclusion of new business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting is
13 June 2017
5:30 PM - Social
5:30 Officer's Meeting
6:00 PM Meeting
Bring a Model!**

June 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Presentation Report

A Talk Regarding Models of 16th Century Ships on Display at the Cabrillo National Monument

By

Robert W. Munson, Historian, Cabrillo N.M.



Left: **Bob Munson**, center, appears relaxed as he begins his talk with the membership. He has the full attention of **Jon Sanford**, on the left, and **David Yotter**, right.

Bob told us he gained much of his expertise in early Spanish colonial history over 45 years of study and working at the Cabrillo National Monument then opened his talk with a brief history of ships in the 1400's and early half of the 1500's. The 1400's saw merchant ships in the Mediterranean called carracks with fore and aft castles built up to as much as four decks. Since the carrack was designed to carry a large cargo, the castles were built primarily as a defensive measure to fight off pirating. Bob described how ship design began to change rapidly by the late 1400's and 1500's as ships began sailing in the Atlantic and the use of cannons on ships became more common. The tall castles of the carrack quickly became a liability to this new reality and already the galleon and the nao were being refined. Bob described how galleon and nao were referring to the purpose of the ships and not of any specific type of ship. He talked to us at length about how Columbus' ships were built during this period of ship building as it evolved from the Spanish and Portuguese focus on the more coastal oriented caravels and carracks. And so, Bob's early discussion led to a discussion about two ship models on display at the Cabrillo National Monument; Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo's *San Salvador* and *La Victoria* (*San Miguel*, a smaller bergantina, is not modeled) which sailed into San Diego history in 1542 and introducing the first Europeans to set foot on what was to become the West Coast of the United States.



Bob worked on the *San Salvador* project since its beginnings and was interested in its cargo capacity, matching the replica's lower deck capacity at 200 toneladas to the best historical record. The *San Salvador* as built at Iztapa, Guatemala was a proto-galleon, something part way between the evolution of the carrack and a true galleon as seen some 45 years later fighting off the Spanish Armada. Bob noted that though it is unknown precisely how the ship appeared, Cabrillo's history in the conquest of the Aztecs gives clues to what he would be building. For more detail on Bob's talk see the articles at the back of the newsletter. Here to the left is Jon Sanford mounting swivel guns on *La Victoria* at the Cabrillo National Monument's visitor center after restoring the ship in the Maritime Museum's Model Shop.



A Special Notice

The Guild extends its condolences to David Alvarez' family and the San Diego Argonauts on his sudden and unexpected passing.



At the October 11 Guild meeting, **David** displayed his radio controlled scale model of the *S.S. Minnow* of television's Gilligan's Island fame. **David** will be remembered for his enthusiasm, humor, and skillful modeling. Here to the right David shows the removable bridge and to the left a close up. "The mate was a mighty sailin' man" as the song goes!



Show and Tell

***Violeta*, a Scratch Craft Build
by Jon Sanford**

It has been several months (April newsletter) since we viewed Jon's model of a friend's 49' Grand Banks Trawler. Remember that Jon bought a crystal candy dish of a boat's hull that was similar in design to the boat, he is now building the super structure above it. Very unique and we look forward to seeing the final result!



***Derfflinger*, a 17th Century German Fluyt built by John Bakker and now, masting and rigging by Don Dressel
Kit no longer available by Art Amb Fusta**

Scale - 1:52

Here from left to right, **Jay MacMaster** and **David Yotter** listen in as **Don Dressel** speaks about some problems with adding masts to the *Derfflinger*.

Below is a picture from the SMA newsletter, note the mast stubs.



Orange County Ship Modeler Association member **John Bakker** built the model after obtaining the original kit from Don Dressel and his work can be viewed in the SMA newsletter Volume 42, Number 8, Aug. 2015, Mayflower Group article. Upon completion of the hull itself, of which John did a beautiful job, he put stub masts into the model and did not rig it. After residing in John's home for a couple of years, Don asked why the model was not rigged. John told Don that he had no intention of rigging it and, in fact, wanted to get rid of it. Don volunteered to take the model, mast and rig her.

The main problem is that John installed (glued) the stub masts into place, so the first order of business for Don is to try and figure out how to remove the stub masts! Any suggestions would be appreciated.

By the end of the 17th century the fluyt *Derfflinger* belonged to the fleet of Kurfuersyentum Brandenburg. In the "triangle trade" of that same time she transported rum and other stuff to Africa, to buy slaves, who were then exchanged in the West Indies for sugar, which was then brought to Europe. Later she and other Brandenburg ships were used in the war of Spanish Succession.

The ship was named in honor of cavalry general Georg von Derfflinger, who in 1675 won a Brandenburg victory in the battle of Fehrbelin against the Swedish. He is depicted on the stern of the ship. The flag at the stern shows the Kurbrandenburg red eagle with hat, scepter, sword and breast shield.

Don hopes to mast and rig the model. John did furnish the plans so that this can be accomplished. Perhaps sails will be installed on the model as well.

IJN Jintsu, Soleil Royal, and ship's boat (school studies, pictures only this time!)
by Isaac Wills



Additional Stuff



As we prepared for the talk by **Bob Munson**, **Rob Wood** captured this timely shot of the *San Salvador* from the passenger deck of the *Berkeley*.

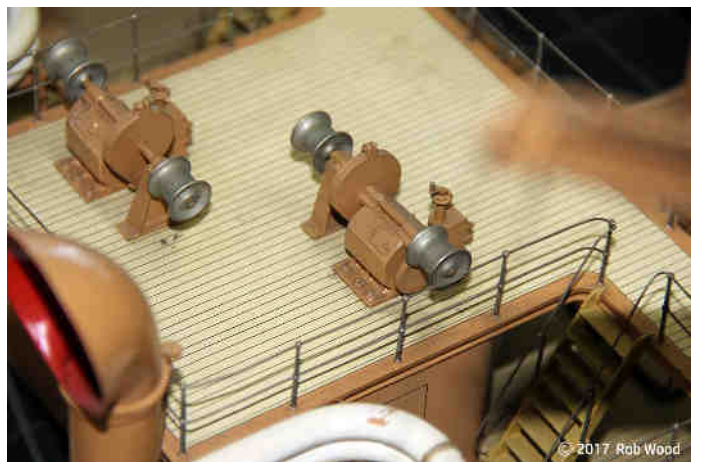
In the two pictures below, the crew gathers together as some belly up to the bar (coffee only, no grog!)



Cleanup work, below are pictures from a Museum cleanup project on the *U.S.S. San Diego (ACR-6)*, referred to as "Armored Cruiser No. 6". The work consisted of primarily cleaning the decks and repairing broken line running in the deck stanchions. The work was requested by the Museum while the model case was

being refurbished. The size of the model required work to take place in the public exhibit area and gave **Jon Sanford**, **Rob Wood**, and **Guy Lawrie** ample opportunity to interpret the model for visitors young and old alike! Rob's pictures are detailed and document the work so pictures continue on the next page. Next project will be restoration work on the *U.S.S. Shamrock Bay*, which is showing some lead bloom.





Thanks for pictures,
Rob!



Think about

(Bob Kyle making progress on a project in the Model Shop)

Helping Out
(Tommy Thompson working on a restoration project and interacting with Museum visitors)



In the Model Shop

(with Bob Duncan who tells a fine tale of the P-51 Mustang as he works on *La Santa Maria*)

