



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92101

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Established in 1972 by  
Bob Wright and Russ  
Merrill

**MINUTES OF 11 JULY 2017 GUILD**

**MEETING**

The Dog Days of Summer are Upon Us! Not to despair just because Sirius rises with the Sun, Howard Griffus is catering a Spaghetti Dinner for the Membership in Celebration of the Guild Birthday at the Guild Meeting on August 8 aboard the *Berkeley!*

“If a man must be obsessed by something, I suppose a boat is as good as anything, perhaps a bit better than most.” - E.B. White; American author

**MINUTES OF 11 JULY 2017 GUILD**

**MEETING**

Guild Master Jon Sanford opened the meeting at the San Diego Maritime Museum aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY* on the Passenger Deck. Twenty one (21) guild members were in attendance in addition to three (3) visitors. **Karl Zingheim**, History Director from the *USS Midway* Museum, joined us once again and **Rob Wood’s** guest **Jarod Black** visited from the SD Argonauts. **Steven McGivern**, who found the Guild at the SD County Fair, attended the meeting telling us about his long time interest in ship models, and joined the Guild. **Welcome aboard, Steven!**

The meeting proceeded directly to **Show and Tell** and **Jarod Black** began by showing membership his radio controlled model-in-progress of the Maritime Museum’s steam ferry Berkeley. **Don Dressel, Robert Hewitt, Albert Powell, Howard Griffus, Bill Grolz, and Isaac Wills** all brought in samples of their ship modeling.

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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 -**

Rob Wood brought in a sample of his tool making prowess and Jon Sanford showed two of five restoration projects waiting for volunteers willing to take on a restoration. Photos are included in the **Show and Tell** section.

**Purser's Report:** Purser Gary Seaton reported the guild balance as of 1 June was \$<redacted>.

**Editor's Report:** Editor Guy Lawrie reports no new concerns with email delivery of the newsletter but if anyone has a problem please report it. **Please note:** It would be helpful to have basic info on models brought to the monthly meetings. The form will be sent out by separate email as an attachment so that it can be easily edited. Though a picture is worth a thousand words, a bit of explanation brings clarity to the photos included in the newsletter.

**Web Coordinator's Report:** Web Coordinator Rob Wood is reporting continued work on a revised web page that will soon be ready for review. Web page content will be a major driver of the revised web page and Rob will be reaching out to membership for model building "how to" input. As a side note, there were 528 website visits in July to the current website. Visits continue to originate from off shore locations such as Beijing, Moscow, and Kiev but great majority of visits continue to originate stateside. **Our guild's presence is more than just San Diego!**

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

**Maritime Museum Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, PhD** was unable to attend. **ALERT: Jeff Loman will give us a presentation on the 2017 Labor Day Festival of Sail at the August meeting.** Jeff is the volunteer coordinator for the Maritime Museum. He will talk about the history of the festival, the different events and activities, the needs for volunteers and the opportunities to do something you can enjoy while helping the Maritime Museum. The Guild's goal is to staff the model shop with two members the days of the festival so put September 1-4 on your calendars!

**San Diego County Fair Report:** Coordinator **Bill Grolz** reported the fair booth was a big success again this year and especially with many small ship give away kits being handed out. **The Guild extends a hearty Bravo Zulu to those who staffed the booth and Bill Grolz for all his hard work and leadership on the fair project this and every other year!**

**New Business:** Gary Seaton's investigation of a guild logo update is reported as ongoing and a discussion on setting a date to vote a change in the logo was begun.

**Ed Torrence** reported **Mike Lonnecker** is working on a ship rigging seminar for a future presentation and the shirt logo project is ongoing with the logo being finalized.

**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.

August 2017

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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		

## Community Build Report



To Guild Membership,

The Community Build Group will be back in session with the ordering of kits at the August meeting. The kit selected is an Admiral's Barge of the Late 1700's in 1/24 scale. The kit is designed and produced by Chuck Passaro which means ease of construction and great instructions. The kits will be produced in cherry making them of higher quality than the usual bass wood kit.

If you are not already signed up, you can join us by bringing the kit price of \$125.00 to the August meeting or contacting me at <redacted> prior to the meeting

If you are not sure if this kit is for you contact me and I can send additional photos and a sample of the instructions from the kit to help you decide.

See you in August

Mike Lonnecker

## Show and Tell (less Tell more Show this time!)



**Jon Sanford and Mary Ann** send greetings from Jamestown and wish us a good time at the Guild's birthday meeting. Jon sent a pictures of models of the ships that brought the settlers to the New World and asked if we could find the error in the models. Anyone figure it out?



**Meeting getting underway!** Left to right:

Robert Hewitt coffees up; new member Steven McGivern (standing) finds a seat next to Bill Grolz; guest Jarod Black with Isaac Wills, Gary Seaton, Ed Torrence, and Jon Sanford



**Five restoration projects are waiting for volunteers!** Jon Sanford reports Bob Kyle might take the Danish fishing boat shown below. The *HMS Victory* is looking for a willing member!





**Robert Hewitt shows his fair project and talks about his blue ribbon award winning fair entry, the Galliot Dutch Merchant Ship shown below.**

Scale 1:192, 1/16" = 1 foot

Scratch built

“I received a call from the Design &

Wood chair that the Galliot model was accidentally dismantled. I decided to wait until my first volunteer day at our fair booth to see the wreck. It also gave me time to cool off. The model took eleven months to complete. I took a few pictures of the model and set it aside and worked on my current model at the fair. At home I printed the pictures out at 8 1/2 x 11. I noticed the main mast was broken at the deck level. The sails were not torn, the flag was still waving and one ratline assembly was intact. The flying jib was still attached to the mast and bowsprit. Most of the rigging is made up of hard brass wire which is stiff and straight. The finer wire is soft brass rolled straight between two glass plates. The two carved men were still standing on the deck, one was still holding on to the line. Various pulley sub-assemblies were scattered about, but un-bent. There was no hull damage.



I was concerned about keeping the Maritime Museum's prize money since the ship would not be viewed. The next week I decided to tackle the project at the fair. The boxwood mast was shattered at the base and I was able to lift it in place with the jib attached. The other ratline assembly was under the sail with the third sailor attached. With Howard Griffus' keen eye I was able to glue and align the mast propped up with tooth picks. After letting the glue dry on the mast I was able to set the ratline assemblies. I set the jibs sails next, then the vang. The tiller assembly was last. The only line that needed replacing was from the end of the boom to the top of the mast. The entire time to repair took six hours and the model was back on display. I deposited the check.

Prior to starting the rebuild, an independent news reporter came to our booth. She asked a few questions and one was “where is your entry”. I told her of the mishap and thought nothing more of it. Two days later, an article was in the Tribune, noting the wreck of the model by the set-up crew. I was not happy that this was published and I hope this does not discourage modelers from entering next year.” Prior to repair below:





**Rob Wood shows a remarkable tool die he fabricated to silver solder custom propellers as Mike Lonnecker looks on.**



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**Below Don Dressel shows off an early project from the 1960's, the *Phantom*, and tells how it was used as his entry model to the Tokyo based Model Ship Builder's Club *The Rope*.**

David Yotter sits to the left of Don and Robert Hewitt sits to his right. Don also spoke of an international model show scheduled next year in France and said he would keep the Guild updated.



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**H.L. Hunley by Albert Powell** Albert, who was himself a submariner, shows his model and tells a bit of its history. As reported by Wikipedia, "**H. L. Hunley**, often

referred to as **Hunley**, was a submarine of the Confederate States of America that played a small part in the American Civil War. **Hunley** demonstrated the advantages and the dangers of undersea warfare. She was the first combat submarine to sink a warship, although **Hunley** was not completely submerged and, following her successful attack, was lost along with her crew before she could return to base."



**Howard Griffus shows progress on his commissioned model HMS Bellona.** Howard offered a builders tip. A pool toy, styrofoam "noodle", cut in half make a good inexpensive temporary stand. Thanks, Howard!





## Gunboat *Philadelphia* by Bill Grolz

Scale 1:24, kit by Model Shipways

Bill talks about working on the *Philadelphia* at the fair and a bit of the ship's history. Model Expo reports, "Launched in August of 1776, the gunboat *Philadelphia* is the oldest American fighting vessel in existence. Part of the American fleet commanded by General Benedict Arnold, she sank on October 11, 1776 during the Battle of Valcour Island

against the Royal Navy on Lake Champlain. She remained sitting upright in the cold waters of the lake until she was raised in 1935. Today, she's on permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., complete with 24-pound ball that sent her to the bottom.

Benedict Arnold's gunboats (gundalos or gondolas, as they were called at the time) were the perfect vessels for the defense of Lake Champlain. These flat-bottomed boats were around 53 ft. long with a 15-1/2 ft. beam and a shallow 2 ft. draft. Armament consisted of three carriage guns, one 12-pounder, two 9-pounders and eight swivel guns. Although equipped with a square sail and topsail on one mast, the gondola's navigability depended on its sweeps or oars. Because of its small size and the ability to row, it could easily enter into the furthest reaches of the lake."



**Isaac Wills shows progress on his 1:96 scale pilot boat *Phantom* (a few years after Don Dressel completed his) and more of his work *Le Soleil Royal* and longboat**







**Radio controlled pond boat steam ferry *Berkeley* by Jarod Black.** The pictures on this page show the *Berkeley* after her sea trial. Though the propeller was only operational on the stern, Jarod plans on having both the stern and bow propulsion operational. Jarod is beginning to finish details on the model and mentioned the difficulty of replicating the stained glass on the passenger deck windows and installation of smoke stacks. Jarod is a member of the San Diego

Argonauts and we can look forward to seeing the *Berkeley* sail again one day in Mission Bay!





**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 Museum Model Shop!**

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

