



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

October 2017

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 45, NO. X

OFFICERS

Guild Master

Jon Sanford
address redacted
phone redacted

First Mate

Ed Torrence
address redacted
phone redacted

Purser

Gary Seaton
address redacted
phone redacted

Newsletter Editor

Guy Lawrie
address redacted
phone redacted

Log Keeper

Isaac Wills
address redacted

SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

Web Master

Robert (Rob) Wood
address redacted

Presentations Coordinator

Ed Torrence
address redacted

Established in 1972 by
Bob Wright and Russ
Merrill

Mike Lonnecker presented a talk on “Masting and Rigging, How it Looks” at the September meeting bringing to mind a classic movie with this line: “Up that rigging, (you swabbies). Break out those sails and let them fill with the wind to carry us all to freedom.” - Captain Blood (Errol Flynn)

MINUTES OF 12 SEPTEMBER 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. Eighteen (18) guild members were in attendance and **Karl Zingheim**, History Director from the *USS Midway* Museum, joined us once again bringing us his insight on ship modeling with different mediums. A motion was made by **Isaac Wills** and approved by the members present to open meetings with a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Isaac led a moment of silence to honor those who lost their lives on 9/11 followed by *The Pledge of Allegiance*. A second motion was made and approved to donate \$<redacted> to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Here is a picture of **Guild Master Jon Sanford** presenting the donation to **Maritime**



Museum Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, PhD in the Museum’s Library.

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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 -

Jon Sanford spoke briefly about his visit to numerous East Coast nautical sites during the Summer and told us he would put together a photo journey of some sites for a later presentation. Jon noted that during his journeys it was curious in places such as Cincinnati he did not see much of a display of the U.S. flag on homes when compared to a journey through San Diego. Jon also spoke briefly about **The Port of San Diego 2017 Festival of Sail** hosted by the



Maritime Museum. The festival was a great success again with tall ships and booths of all sort. Guild

volunteers for the event were **Jon Sanford, James Pitt, Isaac Wills, John Wickman, Doug Ward, and Rob Wood. Bravo Zulu to all!** Pictures of the event can be found on the Museum's web site and blog link.

The meeting then proceeded directly to **Show and Tell**. **Karl Zingheim, Howard Griffus, Royce Privett, Don Dressel, and Isaac Wills** all brought in samples of their ship modeling. Pictures can be found in the **Show and Tell** section.

First Mate's Report: Ed Torrence reported there was not a presentation scheduled for the October meeting but he welcomes suggestions for future meetings. Ed reported that pricing for Guild logo identified shirts is being developed, look for future information on this. Ed also will be providing backup photography support for Guild meetings and has already been providing much appreciated photos for the newsletter.

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

Web Master's Report: Rob Wood reported that the Guild website has been transitioned to Hypergold and content updates are underway. Rob has requested that anyone with a build log for their projects, especially with a photo journal of the project, contact him at <redacted>. Rob reports how this type of content will direct web searches to the guild website.

Also, note that the detailed model photos in the Show and Tell section were taken by Rob.

Community Group Build Report: Mike Lonnecker reported the Chuck Passaro designed kit of the Admiral's Barge is progressing and will soon be deliverable. Mike told us in a later email that drawings will be ready as soon as the October meeting.

New Business: The meeting ran late and so, at the conclusion of the presentation by **Mike Lonnecker**, the meeting was adjourned.

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

October 2017

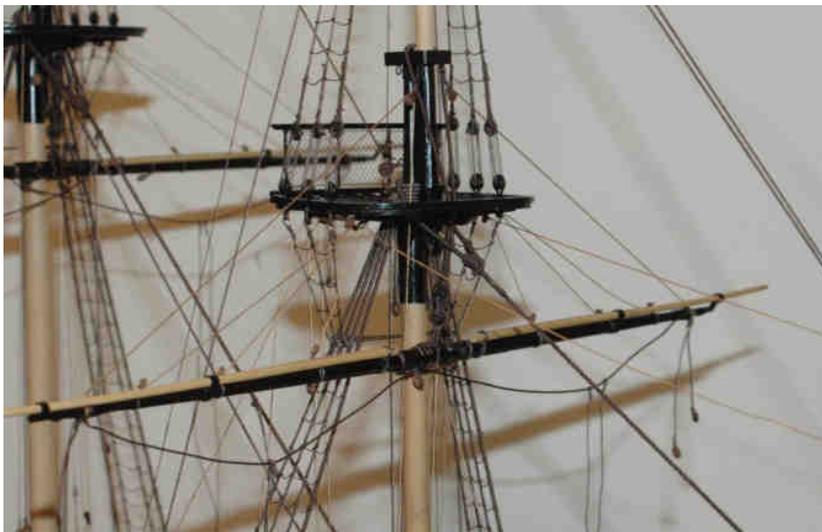
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Presentation Report

Masting and Rigging, How it Looks

By Mike Lonnecker

Mike Lonnecker used his model of the *Fair American* as the example for his presentation and all pictures are of the *Fair American* (editor: details of this project can be found in the [Nautical Research Journal](#), Autumn 2014 VOL.59. NO.3, "Building the *Fair American*" by Mike Lonnecker). Noting that the purpose of his presentation is not a "how to" make or build masting and rigging but the importance of masting and rigging to the overall appearance and presentation of the model. Mike noted that more than often a model viewer's eye is first drawn to the model's masting and rigging giving an overall impression of the model and the level of detail and realism it holds. Mike spoke about how a model's looks are influenced by the



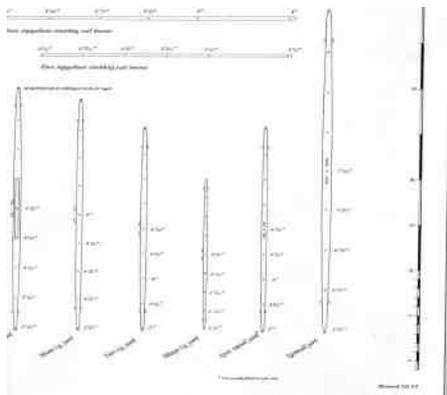
artistic property of the model, i.e. its colors and shape. The realism of the model also influences the way a model looks; i.e. the miniaturization of the real thing, the representation of the materials utilized in the real thing, and if the model reflects how the real thing was built.

Note here the coloring and sizing of the blocks, standing rigging, and running rigging.

Mike spoke about the shape and size of the masting and rigging noting that line and block size decrease as you go aloft creating

an illusion of height. Use of reference material will help assure that proper line and block size are reflected in the model and it sometimes requires the builder to construct his own line and blocks.

Creating realism in arms requires attention to tapering. Tapers were done on a curve, not a straight line, increasing as you move toward the ends. Plans and reference materials help the builder in this also.



Continued: Mast and Rigging, How it Looks By Mike Lonnecker

Realism often requires the use of reference material to expand and add detail to kit models as well as assure the integrity of the model to the correct era and country of the origin. Mike notes that a lot of the details may be invisible to the viewer, especially novices, but they add to the overall look of the model. The modeler should use materials that are the same as the real ship; wood for wood, metal for metal, and line



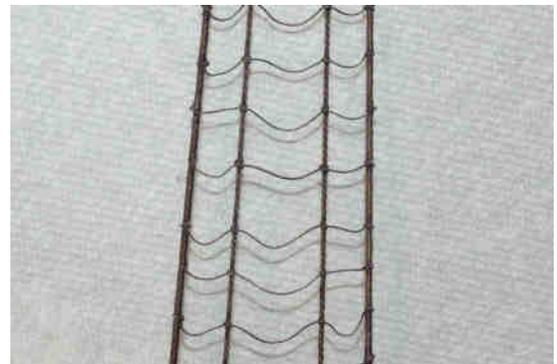
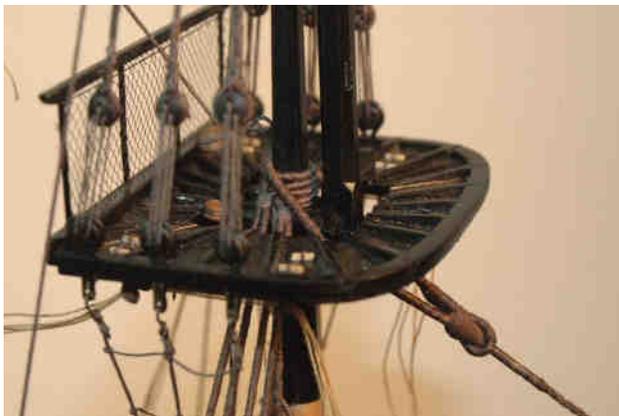
for line. Note that kit blocks and line are usually of poor quality and the builder will need to purchase or build replacements and that a subtle change in size can, with



repetition, create a realistic impression.

Mike concluded his presentation with some tips to enhance the appearance of a model. Make sketches of each section of a mast and yards and make a separate sketch for each type of rigging;

i.e. shrouds, stays, backstays, and running rigging. This will aid the builder



when attaching blocks and other items prior to mounting the mast. Mount and rig the spars in the same order as the real ship adding a new section only after completing the lower section with its standing rigging. When building ratlines use actual knots, very small line, and allow them to droop. Duplicate how real lines are attached and if not sure, consult reference material. Finally, give attention to how guns are rigged. Reference material will help determine the proper size and detail of the rig including breeching and tackle lines.



See the following page for recommended reference material.

Continued: Reference Materials: Mastng and Rigging, How it Looks By Mike Lonnecker

Lees **, “Masting and Rigging of English Ships of War”, Complete guide by time period to what rigging was used where.

Boudriot, “The Seventy Four Gun Ship”, Excellent series of books on French Frigate with section on how it was rigged.

Petrejus, “Modeling The Irene”, Building and rigging of a brig.

Biddlecombe, “The Art of Rigging”, Rigging definitions and order of rigging application.

Anschrel **, “The Fully Framed Model – Rigging A Sixth Rate Sloop of 1767-1780” Vol. IV, Complete guide to rigging a ship including line and block sizes.

Petersson, “Rigging Period Ship Models”, Pictorial of rigging of a ship.

Lever, “The Young Sea Officers Sheet Anchor”, Descriptions of types of rigging and its use.

Anatomy of Ships Series, Specifics of the rigging of the ship being described

** - If you can only have a couple of books these are the ones to have.

One section at a time!, Happy building:

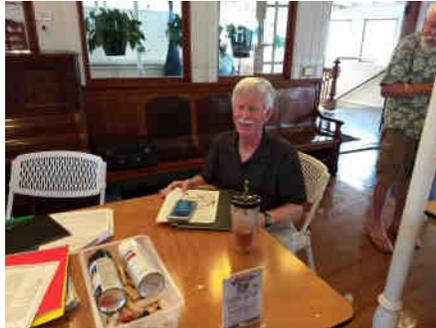


Going aloft on the *Spirit of Dana Point* during The Port of San Diego 2017 Festival of Sail, photo by Rob Wood. Rigging indeed!



Show and Tell

The September meeting preparing to get underway!



Left to right: Doug Yumato, Ed Torrence, David Yotter, Karl Zingheim, Howard Griffus, and Royce Privett stand ready!



USS Richmond (1860)

by Karl Zingheim

Scratch Built

Scale - 1:96

Karl tells us *USS Richmond* was a wooden steam sloop that was a member of Admiral Farragut's squadron during the Civil War. She saw significant action in the capture of New

Orleans, Vicksburg and Port Hudson and other engagements before taking part in the naval assault against Mobile Bay. This is the naval battle that when his squadron was confronted by a field of moored "torpedoes" or mines, Admiral Farragut gave his famous command, "Damn the torpedoes ... full speed ahead!" During service in the Civil War, 33 sailors and marines earned the Medal of Honor serving aboard the *Richmond*.

Karl is scratch building *Richmond* using styrene sheet with wood stiffeners and hand cut deck planking. He is planning a diorama depicting a scene from the Vicksburg campaign in June 1862.



***H.M.S. Bellona*, a 74-gun Warship
Commission build by Howard Griffus
kit by Corel # SM54**

Scale - 1:100

As Royce Privett listens in, Howard updates us on his progress with the *Bellona*, first seen in the May 2017 SDSMG Newsletter. As reported then from the internet, built to a draft designed by Sir Thomas Slade (who also designed

Victory), *Bellona* was ordered from the Royal Dockyard at Chatham on 28th December 1757 and commissioned on 22nd February 1760. *Bellona* was the product of a process of evolution which had been



ongoing for about 100 years before she was built. The 74 gun ship was the best compromise between the massive 1st rate ships (like *Victory*) and the smaller, faster and handier frigates. Strong enough to stand in the line of battle, the 74 gun ship was able to outsail anything more powerful and powerful enough to outgun anything faster. The 74 gun 3rd Rate was the smallest ship able to carry a full battery of 32 pounder guns, the most effective cannon in service with the Royal Navy at the time.

Howard tells us the *Bellona* is being built on commission for a gentleman in Walnut

Creek, CA and the build began on 24 March 2017. He reports he works on the model 3 to 4 hours a day and presently has invested about 375 hours on the project. The kit is proving to be difficult to build not in the least due to the work translating the Italian nomenclature throughout the instructions!

Howard reports many hours are spent researching where kit parts go, reshaping parts that do not fit, and figuring out assemblies when there are no instructions at all! Demonstrating this difficulty, he showed us a lower mast assembly that required research of the literature to complete. Members believe that Howard can easily achieve a \$.50/ hour project with the *Bellona* and we look forward to seeing her again!





U.S. Brig *Syren* (1803)

by Royce Privett

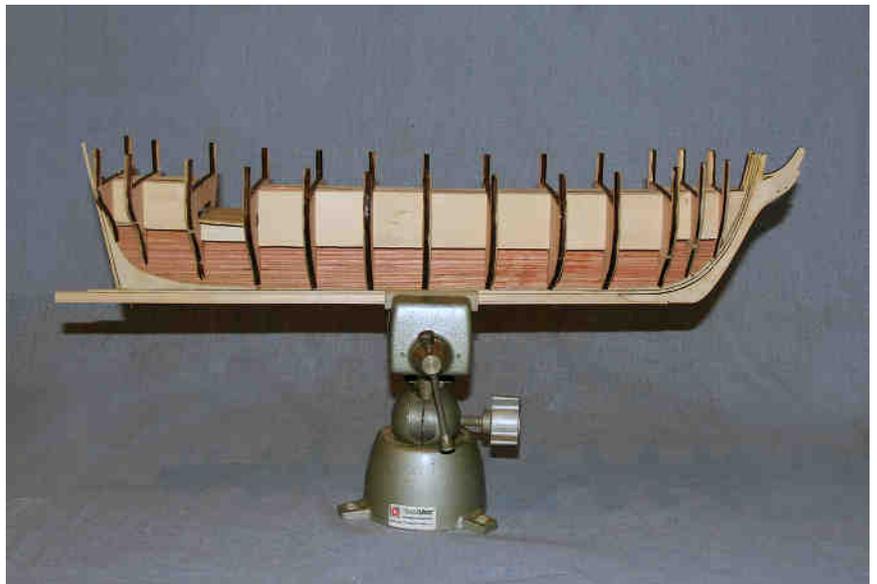
Plank-on-bulkhead kit by Model Shipways

Scale - 1:64, 3/16 inch = 1 foot

As Howard listens in, Royce reports from the Chuck Passaro designed kit that USS *Syren*, a 240-ton brig, was built by Nathaniel Hutton at Philadelphia in 1803. On September 27th, she set sail for Gibraltar under the command of Lt. Charles Stewart. *Syren* cruised the Mediterranean during the spring and summer of 1804 and participated in the attacks on Tripoli. She remained there for almost a year after the peace treaty with Tripoli was signed on June 10, 1805. Departing Gibraltar on May 28 of 1806, she reached the Washington Navy Yard in early August, where she was laid up until

her reactivation in 1807. During her service in the War of 1812, she was captured by the 74-gun HMS *Medway* after an 11-hour chase. Wikipedia tells us the British never commissioned her but apparently used her for a year or so as a lazaretto (quarantine ship for maritime travelers). She then disappears from the records.

Royce reports he is just getting underway with the *Syren* with the keel and bulkheads in place. He is planning the build with walnut, beech, and basswood. Another fine Privett build underway!



Derfflinger

by Don Dressel

Kit by Art Am. Fuesta, Scratch built masting and rigging

Scale - 1:52

Don reports with Dave Yotter and Mike Lonnecker looking on, at the end of the 17th Century, the fluyt *Derfflinger* belonged to the fleet of Kurfverstentum Brandenburg. In the "Triangle Trade" of that time she transported rum and other stuffs to Africa, bought slaves and sailed for the West Indies, then exchanged the slaves for sugar for the return journey to Europe. Later, she and other Brandenburg ships were used in the war of the Spanish Succession.



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

The kit, originally purchased by Don, was given to Orange County, CA Ship Modelers Association member John Bakker. As reported in the June 2017 San Diego SMG newsletter, John built the hull with stub masts and gave the model back to Don.



Unfortunately, the kit instructions from the out of production kit were disposed of so the masting and rigging need to be completed from scratch. Don is utilizing the book, The Ships of Abel Tasman by A. J Hoving & Cor Emke for masting and rigging information since the ship is a Dutch fluyt. Don reports the stub masts have been successfully removed (with a hammer!) and masts are under construction. The bowsprit required lengthening to its full length and was achieved by joining two pieces of wood together. Once all the spars are constructed Don reports rigging will begin.

Bonus Show and Tell

Isaac Wills reports on 30 September “Don Dressel and I were at the Orange County Model Expo/Contest and Don took home a lot of trophies so could you give him a shout out in the newsletter? (you bet Isaac, **Congratulations, Don!** We look forward to hearing about it from you at our next meeting!) Isaac did not initially tell me about his own winnings, humble young man! Take a look at the pictures below, we have seen all these models at different stages of construction during many of our meetings.

Congratulations, Isaac! Nice work!



Please note the following show and tell offering is built from a kit of dubious origin. As noted in Kurt Van Dahm's letter published in last month's newsletter, kit duplication is a practice that cannot be condoned and this newsletter page will not be forwarded to other clubs. Isaac's experience with this model certainly underlines how corrupted these kits often are.

Halcon (1840)

by Isaac Wills

Kit manufacturer is unidentified

Scale - 1/8 inch = 1 foot

As Gary Seaton listens, Isaac speaks about his model noting that not much is known about *Halcon*, a Spanish ship from the 1840's. Isaac thinks she might be a type of coastal cutter or patrol vessel and she has similarities with a British vessel, HMS *Albatross*, and with the U.S. revenue cutter *Harvey*.



As Isaac progresses with the fittings, he reports he needed to scratch build the helm and since the supplied brass rudder strips did not fit the model, he constructed rudder strips from card stock. Masts and the bowsprit are being made and fitted in



preparation for rigging. Isaac recruited Jon Sanford to help him drill out the supplied cannons for cross pins and he found the instructions called for him to mount a 32 lb cannon amidships. Believing the instructions might be corrupted since an armament fired from that location would likely hit the foremast, he plans to replace the cannon with a stack of barrels. Isaac also found the cannon trucks were oversized and required him to cut them down. He reported he has consulted the Maritime Museum's tops'l schooner *Californian* for

guidance rigging *Halcon* and its cannons since it also is a tops'l schooner. He is drawing a sail plan from the tops'l schooner *Lynx* due to its similar hull configuration.



Think about

(Bob Kyle making progress on a project in the Museum Model Shop and representing the Guild to Maritime Museum visitors!)

Helping Out
(Isaac Wills working on a project during 2017 Festival of Sail and interacting with Museum visitors!)



In the Museum Model Shop!

(with Rob Wood who works on a project and takes a surprising photo (among his other fine photos) during 2017 Festival of Sail!)