



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

May 2018

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 46, NO. V

OFFICERS

Guild Master

Ed Torrence
address redacted
phone redacted

First Mate

James Pitt
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

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” - Aristotle

MINUTES OF 10 APRIL 2018 GUILD MEETING

Guild Master Ed Torrence opened the meeting at the San Diego Maritime Museum on the Passenger Deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. **Isaac Wills** began by leading twenty (20) members in a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*. **Ed** spoke briefly about some goals for the Guild as incoming Guild Master. In addition to basic housekeeping such as assuring a U.S. Flag is displayed at our meetings and Show and Tell Information Sheets are available, **Ed** is planning on concentrating on information management (this can sometimes be thought of as “telling our Guild story”) and he began with a review of the Guild by-laws to familiarize himself with them. **Ed** requested the purser update the membership role with contact and dues information. He is also initiating a risk management assessment to determine how the Guild would react to a negative event. He inquired how the Guild was maintaining a meeting log and the newsletter Editor mentioned that he was maintaining hard and electronic copies of newsletters with meeting minutes though whereabouts of newsletters



prior to his time as editor will need to be researched. An officer pass down is not a practice at this time but **Ed** will request each Officer prepare a “how to” pass down for subsequent officers. Lastly, **Ed** spoke about increasing our exposure on social media and the website with the importance of growing the membership in mind.

From the left: Log keeper Isaac Wills, First Mate James Pitt, Guild Master Ed Torrence, and Community Build Coordinator Mike Lonacker listen to a Show and Tell Presentation

continued next page

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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

MINUTES continued -

The meeting proceeded to the following Officer and Special Assistants Reports before moving to Show and Tell, a meeting break, the conclusion of Show and Tell, and the close of the meeting with a book auction. The Show and Tell offerings included Doug Ward's HMS Victory, Tom Hairston's steamboat, King of the Mississippi, an update from Alex Roel on his NY pilot boat Phantom, and Don Dressel's scratch built San Felipe in addition to his Spanish Galley, Le Real. Jon Sanford showed off his progress on a restoration of HMS Royal Sovereign and Robert Hewitt showed off another of his exceptional projects of a Dutch boat. Don Bienvenue spoke about progress on his kit model of San Felipe, Howard Griffus showed off his commission build of HMS Bellona, and Isaac Wills rounded out with his kit bash/scratch built Halcon.

First Mate's Report: Welcome aboard! First Mate James Pitt reported his interest in a couple of initiatives to spur recruitment! He mentioned the Weekly Reader or even "Ken Kramer's About San Diego" as a potential forums for a human interest story. The Guild looks forward to James' efforts in this area in addition to his assistance in organizing programs for future meetings.

First Mate's Report Continued: James reports the shirt vendor has completed all the orders we have submitted. If you ordered a shirt and have not received it, chances are it is now in his care. He may be contacted directly by text or voice at <redacted> for arrangements or for further order information. Nice shirts with a good look and very appropriate for Guild meetings, Museum Model Shop staffing, and San Diego County Fair volunteers!

Purser's Report: Beginning another season in this position, Purser Gary Seaton reported the guild balance as of 1 April was \$<redacted>. Gary reports he is beginning to contact folks whose dues are in arrears. Dues remain at \$20.00. Gary Seaton accepts checks or cash and they can be brought to a monthly meeting or mailed to: Gary Seaton, <redacted>. Checks can be made payable to "San Diego Ship Modelers Guild".

Editor's Report: Returning editor Guy Lawrie reported no outstanding issues though it is requested folks participating in Show and Tell complete a "Show and Tell Information Form" for their model. Guy noted that even basic information is a big help when preparing the newsletter. A form is included at the end of this newsletter with some suggested questions for consideration when completing background for the actual ship and model detail information. Something is better than nothing, so help tell your model's story! Again, the newsletter is sent to other ship modeler associations around the country.

continued next page

Note Earlier Officer Meeting Time

Next meeting is 8 April 2018

5:15 Officer's Meeting

5:30 PM - Social

6:00 PM Meeting

May 2018

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		

Community Build Meeting, 1:00 PM aboard the Berkeley upper passenger deck!

Log Keeper Report: Isaac Wills reports he will continue in this assignment until he leaves for college later in the year. Earlier in April, **Guild Master Ed Torrence** had a separate message sent to membership that included the following. “As many of you know, **Isaac Wills** (our Log Keeper) is a member of his Point Loma High School’s Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC). His unit has competed in and won First Place (overall) and First Place Finisher in two specific categories of the Navy SEA PERCH Competition. Sea Perch is an innovative underwater robotics program that equips teachers and students with the resources they need to build an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) in an in-school or out-of-school setting. Because of their local success the Team has been qualified to compete in the 8th International Sea Perch Challenge which will be held [June 1-3, 2018](#) at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Details about the competition can be found on the website www.seaperch.org/about.” Please contact **Isaac** or **Ed** if interested in making a donation to this worthy cause.

Web Master’s Report: **Rob Wood** was unable to attend the meeting and had no news to report.

Community Build Report: **Build Coordinator Mike Lonnecker** and **Build Log Keeper Steve McGivern** were unable to attend the meeting on April 7 aboard the *Berkeley* so **Jon Sanford** stepped up and conducted the meeting.

Unfortunately notes and pictures were not available documenting the progress of six members on their Royal Barges Circa 1700.

Guy Lawrie initiated a search for an alternative meeting location due to parking difficulties in the area. Some success was found at a University City library and discussion can take place at the **May 5 meeting aboard the *Berkeley***.

Fair Coordinator and Museum Report: **Fair Coordinator Jon Sanford** reported on the “Fair Sign Up Sheet” for volunteers. He noted that many of the time slots are filled by the same members and that if anybody would like to step up and fill a slot, they should contact him. The schedule as it stands now is found at the end of the newsletter. **The Guild Officers approved up to a \$<redacted> expenditure for a table to replace the Fair Booth’s small table that was unstable and in disrepair. The Guild Officers also authorized the purchase of 100 small ship model kits at \$<redacted> ea. as discussed in last month’s newsletter.** To briefly refresh, **Jon Sanford** reported last month “the purchased kits could be repackaged with our Guild information. The fair’s Design in Wood group are looking for youth workshops on Wednesday evenings in the chair-making area. These would fill that need.” See the following pictures, left is **Jon’s completed Pirate Ship** and right is the **Titanic completed by Isaac Wills**



Isaac reports “these models are tons of fun and I got this done in a little less than 2 hours! Perfect for older kids.”

Jon responded, “Terrific! Save your model for the fair where we can use it as an example. Tom Hairston is making the sail boat, which looks even easier to do. I’ll order 33 models of each type, which we will have by fair time, if there is no back order. I’ll also buy the cheaper square, work table from Home Depot, to replace the old one at the fair.”

Volunteer to Man the Booth!

Check Fair Schedule on last pages!

Show and Tell

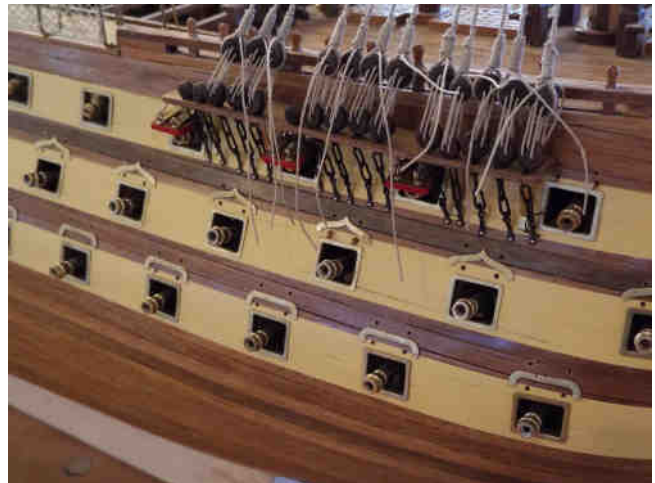
HMS *Victory*

by **Doug Ward** - Here telling us about his model with, from the left; Tom Hairston, Alex Roel, and David Yotter listening in

Mantua Company of England, Italian Model by Sergal

1:78 scale

Doug reports he bought the model "kit" in 1981 from the Mantua company in England. It is an Italian model by Sergal. He put "kit" in quotes because it was basically a box of lumber with blueprints and a ten page manual, and the blueprints were all in Italian. Doug tells us the kit did come with very nice brass fittings including 104 cannons. He tells the story that shortly after buying the model he got married and had three kids! He put the model away in a cedar hope chest planning (hoping) to build it when he retired. Well, when he retired three years ago, he brought it out of storage and has been working in it steadily ever since. The ship has a double planked hull, the first layer of spruce, and the second of walnut. All of the wood seen in the pictures including the masts, posts, and rails are walnut. Doug reports he just started the rigging and estimates it will take about a year to rig. The ship is 1:78 scale. The actual ship is 207 feet long. The model will be 4 feet long and 3 feet tall. **below, a stern closeup and hull detail**





King of the Mississippi

by Tom Hairston - seen here talking about only the second model he ever built with Alex Roel looking on

Artesania Latina

Scale 1:80

Tom provides some background on riverboats of which his model is a composite of the type and not any particular boat. **Riverboats:** While a ferryboat is often used to cross a river, a riverboat is used to travel along the course of the river, carrying passengers and cargo, or both, for revenue. Riverboats were of two types; stern wheelers and side wheelers. Side wheelers were usually larger and used where navigation and docking were not issues. Stern wheelers were used where stops could be made anywhere along the river at any time, and thus were of shallower draft and smaller size. These boats carried a brow (a short bridge) on the bow, so they could head in to an unimproved shore for transfer of cargo and passengers. Another type of riverboat is the gambling boat, but it is usually stationary. It is these early steam-driven river craft that typically come to mind when "riverboat" is mentioned, as these were powered by burning wood, with iron boilers drafted by a pair of tall smokestacks belching smoke and cinders, and twin double-acting pistons driving a large paddlewheel at the stern. This type of propulsion was an advantage as a rear paddlewheel operates in an area clear of snags, is easily repaired, and is not likely to suffer damage in a grounding. By burning wood, the boat could consume fuel provided by woodcutters along the shore of the river.



The most famous riverboats were on the rivers of the Midwestern and central southern United States, on the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri rivers in the early 19th century. Out west, riverboats were common transportation on the Colorado, Columbia, and Sacramento rivers. These American riverboats were designed to draw very little water, and in fact it was commonly said that they could "navigate on a heavy dew."

Australia has a history of riverboats. Australia's biggest river, the Murray, has an inland port called Echuca. Many large riverboats were working on the Murray, but now a lower water level is stopping them. The Kalgan River, in Western Australia is one of the oldest rivers in the world; it has had two main riverboats. The *Silver Star*, 1918 to 1935, would lower her funnel to get under the low bridge. Today, the *Kalgan Queen* riverboat takes tourists up the river to taste the local wines. She lowers her roof to get under the same bridge.

The Model: The "King of the Mississippi" model is constructed of walnut and basswood for a natural wood finish and the model is a composite of several boats so that it represents a typical riverboat of the time. It is a kit made by the Artesania Latina company, with a plank on frame form of construction. The kit was designed for the intermediate model builder.

Phantom New York Pilot Boat

by Alex Roel - Seen here with Tom Hairston

Model Expo solid hull kit No. MS2027

Scale 1:96 1/8 in = 1 foot



Alex tells us that since last reported in the March newsletter he has planked the foredeck (individually nibbed planks), installed the foredeck waterway (nibbed), planked the cockpit, and built the cockpit grating. Great progress since last reporting that after thinning the bulwarks he separated the kit supplied scribed sheet planking into separate planks and completed the aft deck and waterways! Great first modeling!



Le Real, A Spanish Galley

by Don Dressel - Seen here sitting behind the galley with David Yotter

Kit by Dusek—D015

Scale 1:72

Don offers the following. The model includes “very fine structural details. Plank on bulkhead construction with very rigid frame work. First layer of planking will be easy, second layer will be very difficult due to the “little bumps” on the stern.” **A brief history taken from**

Wikipedia: *Real* was built in Barcelona at the Royal Shipyard and was the largest galley of its time. The galley was 60 metres (200 ft) long and 6.2 metres (20 ft) wide, had two masts, and weighed 237 tons empty. It was equipped with three heavy and six light artillery pieces, was propelled by a total of 290 rowers and, in addition, carried some 400 sailors and soldiers at (The Battle of Lepanto in 1571, the largest battle recorded in history between galleys in which a Christian fleet of the Holy Alliance defeated an Ottoman fleet under admiral Ali Pasha). To help move and maneuver the huge ship, it was pushed from the rear during the battle by two other galleys.

Befitting a royal flagship, it was luxuriously ornamented and painted in the red and gold colors of Spain. Its poop was elaborately carved and painted with numerous sculptures, bas-reliefs, paintings and other embellishments, most of them evoking religious and humanistic inspirational themes.



Photo shows the first layer of deck planking.

San Felipe 1690

by **Don Dressel** - seen here introducing his model

Scratch Built

Scale 1:112

Don tells us about his ship seen below. “The model of the San Felipe of 1690 is scratch built to the scale of 1:112. All the carvings are boxwood, which is the reason I brought the model in. It turns out that boxwood is a VERY old carving wood, having been used in Roman times to carve chess pieces. One



of the finest carving woods in the world. There are different types, English, European and Asian varieties. She is flying her “launching flags”, which in her case are Spanish from the 1690’s period. The fore flag is the “admirals” flag, the main mast flag is the “kings” flag and the stern flag is the Spanish flag inspirational themes.”

A bit of ship history taken from www.sailboatmodelinfo: *Launched in 1690, San Felipe was one of Spain's most majestic fighting ships of the XVII century. Displacing 1000 tons and armed with 108 cannons, she could engage the most capable ships in the French and British navies. She possessed a slim profile and wide spread of sails which bestowed great maneuverability*

and agility. Her beauty was enhanced by a variety of beautiful sculptures which adorned her stern transom.

San Felipe was an integral part of the great Spanish fleet when it was engaged in perennial wars against both Britain and France over dominance of territories in the Caribbean and South America. Her role was to protect Spanish settlements and harbors, transport treasure back to Spain, safeguard other vessels on their passages back to Cadiz and other Spanish ports.

In 1705, she participated in a furious battle involving a total of 12 Spanish and 35 English ships. After a 24 hour battle, she was captured by the English ship REVENGE. Too badly damaged, San Felipe could not be salvaged as a prize of war and sank with several tons of gold and other treasure still on board.



Royal Barge Circa 1700

by **Jon Sanford** - seen here with his **Show and Tell** models with Bob Kyle looking on

Syren Ship Plans and kit design by **Chuck Passaro**

Scale 1/2 inch = 18 inches



Jon showed his plank on frame model of a Queen Anne Style Royal Barges telling us that his goal is to have it finished in time for the San Diego County Fair. **Bob Kyle** remarked at a recent Community Build Meeting that **Jon** is about halfway there! The cherry wood with boxwood is making a beautiful model!



HMS Royal Sovereign, a restoration

by **Jon Sanford** - seen taking notes

An offshore purchase, perhaps the Philippines?

Back in February **Jon** reported the start of this restoration project for **Joe Renteria**, a WWII veteran with a remarkable story as seen below right with the model as it first was seen by **Jon**. What a project!



The Editor notes that Robert brought in a Dutch ship model in progress. Unfortunately, the Editor failed to gather notes on Robert's build so the following is a bit of a guess but at times, pictures can be worth a thousand words.

Perhaps a Dutch Herring Buss, a 17th Century Fishing Vessel, modeled on the picture to the right?

by Robert Hewitt

Scratch Built

Most Likely Scale - 1:192, 1/16 inch = 1 foot

to sense the scale compare the ship and Robert's raw carving of the display on the table next to him



Below: the deck figures and barrels



Below: hull and stern detail are well along to completion!



San Felipe 1690

By **Don Bienvenue** - seen telling about his project with Howard Griffus looking on

Italian kit manufactured by Panart, a division of Mantua

Scale - 1:75

Don is building the same ship as **Don Dressel** as shown on page 7 where a brief history of the ship can be found. **Don's** model will be approximately 3 feet long when finished. He tells us the planking is typical of European kits, being double planked. The first layer utilizes beech and the second/finished layer is made of maple. These woods have been fairly easy to work with and shape. The deck planking was installed using individual strips of wood. **Don** felt fortunate to have one of the older kits of this particular model because the newer version has pre-printed deck planking sheets. He relates he gets more satisfaction out of creating the deck plank-by-plank.



The gun ports were located by using a cardboard template provided with the kit, with holes in the cardboard locating the center of each gunport. It is important to put together a cannon assembly to make sure the height of the cannon will match the location provided on the cardboard template. Overall, the template was accurate, with only small adjustments having to be made.

After cutting out the rough shapes of the ports in the first layer of planking, **Don** applied thin strips of wood around the perimeter of each the openings and painted these strips red. These are the pieces the gunport lids rest against. The second layer of planking was then installed, leaving a recessed area for the gunport lids to fit when closed.

After completion of the second layer of hull planking, **Don** plans to continue with the various rails along the different decks.



***H.M.S. Bellona*, a 74-gun Warship**
Commission build by Howard Griffus
kit by Corel # SM54
Scale - 1:100

As reported from the internet, *Bellona* was 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.



Left: model in October 2017 Then **Howard** told us the *Bellona* was being built on commission for a gentleman in Walnut Creek, CA and the build began on 24 March 2017. He reported he works on the model 3 to 4 hours a day and at that time had invested about 375 hours on the project and now has 528 hours invested. 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, especially when castings and supplied parts vary as to scale! 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 (if he has not already!) with the *Bellona* and we look forward to seeing her again!



And Now!



Please note the following show and tell offering is built from a kit of dubious origin and as noted in previous newsletters, kit duplication is a practice that cannot be condoned. Isaac's experience with this model certainly underscores how corrupted these kits often are.

Halcon (1840)

by Isaac Wills - seen here with Gary Seaton paying close attention

Kit bash/scratch built

Scale - 1/8 inch = 1 foot

Isaac previously reported 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*.

Isaac reports that the unidentified manufactured kit's only useable parts were the bulkheads, cap railings, and fife rails. All other parts are built from scratch. The kit instructions were unreliable and Isaac reports considerable research effort was necessary to advance the project. After constructing the bowsprit, masts, and topmasts, running rigging blocks along with shroud stays and the blocks for braces, halliards, lifts, and sheets were put in place. 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.



Isaac reported he struggled to get the deadeyes level with each other and he constructed a jig to hold the dead eyes in place when attaching the shrouds. He tells us his next effort will be the rigging of ratlines and topmast backstays. Of concern is that the masts are not parallel so he hopes to correct that with tension on the backstays. Isaac is very pleased with the stand he constructed and the way in which the hull is securely cradled even to the point the model can be held upside down by the stand!



Fair Sign-UP Sheet 2018

San Diego Ship Modellers Guild

Booth Hours: M-F 1100 - 1800 -- Weekend: 1000 - 1800

Fair take down

- 1 Jon Sanford
- 2 Bill Grotz
- 3 Jay MacMaster
- 4 Guy Lawrie
- 5 **Volunteer Needed**

Fair set up Mon. May 14, 12:30 pm

Fair Take Down Sat. July 7, 10:00 am

Friday June 1

Fair Opens at 1600		
---------------------------	--	--

Saturday June 2

1	Jon Sanford
2	Bill Grotz
3	Howard Griffus

Thursday June 7

1	James Pitt
2	Jon Sanford
3	Guy Lawrie

Friday June 8

1	Bob McPhail
2	Bob Kyle
3	Howard Griffus

Saturday June 9

1	James Pitt
2	Bill Grotz
3	Howard Griffus

Wednesday June 6

1	James Pitt
2	Jon Sanford
3	Bill Grotz Demo

Tuesday 5

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Monday June 4

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Sunday June 3

1	Bill Grotz
2	Jon Sanford
3	Howard Griffus

Thursday June 14

1	James Pitt
2	Jon Sanford
3	Guy Lawrie

Friday June 15

1	Bob McPhail
2	Jon Sanford
3	Howard Griffus

Saturday June 16

1	James Pitt
2	Bill Grotz
3	Alex Roel

Wednesday June 20

1	David Dana
2	Bob Kyle
3	Bill Grotz Demo

Tuesday June 19

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Monday June 18

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Sunday June 17

1	Bill Grotz
2	Jay McMaster
3	Jon Sanford

Thursday June 21

1	James Pitt
2	Robert Hewitt
3	Guy Lawrie

Friday June 22

1	Bob McPhail
2	John Sauvajot
3	Robert Hewitt

Saturday June 23

1	Bill Grotz
2	Alex Roel
3	Howard Griffus

Wednesday June 27

1	Robert Hewitt
2	Howard Griffus
3	Bill Grotz Demo

Tuesday June 26

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Monday June 25

Exhibits Closed	
------------------------	--

Sunday June 24

1	Bill Grotz
2	Jay McMaster
3	James Pitt

Thursday June 28

1	James Pitt
2	Jon Sanford
3	Guy Lawrie

Friday June 29

1	Jon Sanford
2	Alex Roel
3	Howard Griffus

Saturday June 30

1	James Pitt
2	Bill Grotz
3	Howard Griffus

Wednesday July 4

1	Howard Griffus
2	Volunteer Needed
3	Bill Grotz Demo

Tuesday July 3

1	Bill Grotz
2	Howard Griffus
3	Volunteer Needed

Monday July 2

1	Bill Grotz
2	Robert Hewitt
3	Howard Griffus

Sunday July 1

1	Bill Grotz
2	Alex Roel
3	Howard Griffus

WEDNESDAYS ARE DEMO NIGHTS

June 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

July 4th

1800-2000



SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

Show and Tell Information Form

(Use back if required)

Name of Modeler: _____ Name of Model: _____

Scale: _____ Kit or Scratch (Name of kit company): _____

Background on actual ship; e.g. What made it an object of interest to build?, Did the ship have an interesting purpose or mission?, Perhaps a story behind its naming or christening?, Were there newsworthy events, persons, or accomplishments during its service?, Are there historical insights about the ship?

Information/Details about the model; How long have you been building the model?, What challenges has it presented?, How far along is the model?, Details of the build?, What skills, techniques, or special tools might a modeler want to have to undertake this build?