



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

May 2019

NEWSLETTER

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## GUILD OFFICERS

### Guild Master

[James Pitt](#)

guildmaster@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

### First Mate

[Ed Torrence](#)

firstmate@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

### Purser

[Jon Sanford](#)

purser@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

### Newsletter Editor

[Guy Lawrie](#)

newsletter@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

### Log Keeper

[Tom Hairston](#)

logkeeper@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Web Master

[Alex Roel](#)

webmaster@  
sdshipmodelersguild.org

### Presentation

### Coordinators

[Ed Torrence](#)

[Frank Dengler](#)  
presentations@

sdshipmodelersguild.org

Established in 1971 by  
Bob Wright and Russ  
Merrill

This month brings us United States National Maritime Day, a day that honors the Merchant Marine and our nation's maritime industry. The day also commemorates the day in 1819 when the



American steamship SS *Savannah*, seen here in an illustration taken from Wikipedia, set sail from Savannah, Georgia on the first ever transoceanic voyage under steam power even though she was under sail power for a great portion of the voyage. One bit of tragedy preceded the voyage when a heavily inebriated sailor fell from the gangplank and drowned delaying the voyage for a couple of days. The tale of *Savannah* may be somewhat of a

reminder of the following quote from **Sir Francis Chichester**, the first person to sail single-handed around the world by the clipper route.

“Any damn fool can navigate the world sober. It takes a really good sailor to do it drunk.”

## MINUTES OF 9 APRIL 2019 GUILD MEETING

**Guild Master James Pitt** brought the meeting to order at the San Diego Maritime Museum on the Passenger Deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. Following a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*, **James** greeted seventeen (17) members including two spouses, **Eileen Costa** and **Naomi Sauvajot**. Significant others are always welcome at our Guild Meetings!

**James** continued with the business portion of the the meeting and called for the following Officer Reports.

**Log Keeper Tom Hairston and Editor Guy Lawrie** reported there were no updates to their respective posts.



**John Walsh, right, and Bob Costa take a seat with Gary Seaton watching the arrival of John Sauvajot and Naomi in the background**

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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

**Purser's Report:** Purser Jon Sanford was unable to attend the meeting and Guild Master James Pitt reported in his stead. James reported a positive guild balance as of 1 April 2019. **The May meeting is the final day for any who have not paid their Membership Dues to catch up!** After that, letters of notification will be sent to confirm, and the former member will be dropped from the mailing list. Dues remain at \$20.00. Checks or cash can be brought to the May meeting or mailed to: **Jon Sanford**. Checks can be made payable to "San Diego Ship Modelers Guild".

**Fair Coordinator's Report:** In Jon Sanford's absence, James noted important dates for the SD County Fair Design in Wood competition including the recently passed April 26 Entry Registration Deadline. The fair booth will be staffed with three volunteers each day as shown on the Fair Volunteer Form found at the back of the newsletter. The form is current after being passed around during the April meeting. The form will again be passed around at the May meeting and the remaining spots will hopefully be filled. Several fellow Guild Members are volunteering for a lion's share of the spots so **if interested in volunteering for a specific day, contact Jon at [purser@sdshipmodelersguild.org](mailto:purser@sdshipmodelersguild.org)** and he will help you. James is reminding volunteers that the Guild is looking for a uniform appearance from the booth volunteers to promote our Guild visibility and is urging all volunteers to **wear a Guild polo shirt with the Guild logo and a name tag**. If a volunteer does not have a shirt or a name tag, contact **James at [guildmaster@sdshipmodelersguild.org](mailto:guildmaster@sdshipmodelersguild.org)** and he can help you acquire one. **IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING THE GUILD AND THE MARITIME MUSEUM, VOLUNTEERING AT THE GUILD'S FAIR BOOTH IS A WONDERFUL WAY TO BRING SURPRISE AND DELIGHT TO THE MANY FAIR VISITORS OF ALL AGES!**

**REMINDER: BOOTH SETUP IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, MAY 13, 11:00 AM.**

**500 Mini-Star of India kits are completed!** Guildmaster James Pitt noted the Guild's many thanks to **Jon Sanford, Ed Torrence, Howard Griffus, Alex Roel, and Tom Hairston** for their heavy lifting on this project and let us not forget **Jon Sanford** even recruited help from visiting college students from China who had been volunteering at the museum! Not only are these kits used to inspire young visitors to the Fair but they are a tool to engage young visitors that pass by the Museum Model Shop.



**Next meeting is**

**14 May**

**5:15 Officer's Meeting**

**5:30 PM - Social**

**6:00 PM Meeting**

**Bring a Model!**

**May 2019**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	<b>14</b>	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Website home page



**Web Master's Report:** Web Master Alex Roel reported the following activity on the web page. If any member has any input on the following items they can contact [Alex](mailto:Alex@sdshipmodelersguild.org) at [webmaster@sdshipmodelersguild.org](mailto:webmaster@sdshipmodelersguild.org) and he can help you. If not already, members are urged to take a look at our website found at [www.sdshipmodelersguild.org](http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org) and to explore some of the tabs.

1. Current and historical Guild Officers are presented under the "Officers" menu.
2. The "Documents" page under the "Scuttlebutt" menu has been updated with **Mike Lonnecker's** recent hatch grating presentation. **Alex** is looking for presentation materials from earlier presentations and welcomes any member input.
3. Historical newsletters are being added to the website after phone numbers and personal data is redacted from them.

Following a break, **Guildmaster James Pitt** asked for any new business and a discussion ensued about the Guild's upcoming donation to the Maritime Museum. The discussion was tabled until **Purser Jon Sanford** returns from his overseas vacation in early May. Following a break and **Show and Tell**, **James** adjourned the meeting.

## Show and Tell

**NOTE THAT TWO MODELS WERE PRESENTED AT THE APRIL MEETING FOR SHOW AND TELL. THIS IS HOPEFULLY JUST AN ANOMOLY AS SHOW AND TELL PARTICIPATION IS USUALLY MORE ROBUST AND MEMBERS ARE WORKING ON MODELS FOR THE FAIR'S DESIGN IN WOOD COMPETITION.**

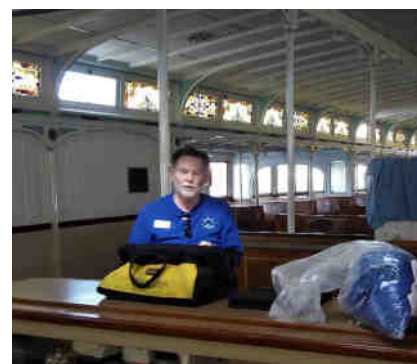


### Museum Model of the Month

**H.M.S. *Surprise* (1796)**  
by **Tom Hairston**; right, Tom is preparing to help with the April meeting setup aboard the steam ferry *Berkeley*

**Kit: C. Mamoli MV58**  
**Plank on Frame**

**Scale 1:75**



Note: The Guild's monthly model display outside the Maritime Museum Model Shop is an ongoing success as it continues to draw the attention of many of the Museum's visitors including younger visitors who are more than happy to walk away with a Mini-Star of India kit to explore their ship building capabilities! Anyone interested in displaying one of their models at the Maritime Museum of San Diego can contact [Jon](mailto:Jon@sdshipmodelersguild.org) at [purser@sdshipmodelersguild.org](mailto:purser@sdshipmodelersguild.org) and he will work with you. All are welcomed and urged to participate!





**H.M.S. *Surprise* by Tom Hairston continued:**

The following is taken from Tom's Museum writeup.

**HMS *SURPRISE* (1796)**

*L'Unite* was a corvette of the French Navy built in 1794, the lead ship of her class. She was captured by the Royal Navy in 1796 and renamed HMS *Surprise*. In 1799 she famously recaptured HMS *Hermione* before being sold out of the service in 1802.



**Construction:** *L'Unite* was built at Le Havre, France. She was launched on 16 January 1794 and was armed with 24 eight-pound and 8 four-pound long guns. The French initially rated *Unite* as a corvette, although the ships of that class bridged a gap between smaller warships and frigates, and at various times were rated as frigates.



**Capture by the Royal Navy:** *Unite* was ordered to join the Mediterranean fleet at Toulon, and arrived there in March 1795. She spent the remainder of the year either blockaded in port or serving as a courier. In April 1796, she sailed on a courier mission to North Africa to deliver personnel and messages to the port of Bone. At the time, Captain Le Drezenec was suffering smallpox and was incapacitated and the ship was commanded by the first lieutenant, Lieutenant Le Breton. Captain Thomas Fremantle in the frigate HMS *Inconstant* had heard there was a French frigate in Bone, and sailed there to intercept her. *Inconstant* arrived in the

afternoon of 20 April 1796 and the watch aboard *Unite* identified *Inconstant* as a neutral vessel so Le Breton did not clear the ship for action. About an hour later, *Inconstant* sailed alongside, boarded and captured the *Unite* intact.

About a year after capture, *Unite* was renamed HMS *Surprise* because another captured French ship also named *Unite* had already been taken into the navy. *Surprise* was re-classed by the British as a 28-gun frigate even though she bore the main-mast of a 36-gun ship and was equipped with more armament than was usual for a 28-gun ship.

**Recapture of HMS *Hermione*:** Under Captain Edward Hamilton, the *Surprise* sailed in the Caribbean for several years, capturing several privateers. HMS *Surprise* gained fame for the cutting-out expedition in 1799 of HMS *Hermione* after *Hermione*'s crew mutinied and sailed her into a Spanish port in South America. The "cutting-out" attack, a nautical term describing a boarding attack, usually by small boats and preferably at night against an unsuspecting and anchored target, has the goal of cutting the anchor loose and loosening the sails then making an escape. The attack led by Captain Hamilton was discovered during the approach of the small craft to *Hermione* as she lay at anchor and led to a bloody battle as *Hermione* was being boarded. Captain Hamilton was wounded before the *Hermione* could be cut-out and sailed from what now is the Venezuelan port of Puerto Cabello.



**H.M.S. *Surprise* by Tom Hairston continued:**

Though the Spanish lost 120 men killed, the British did not lose a single man and Captain Hamilton brought this prize into Port Royal, Jamaica in November, 1799. Captain Hamilton was subsequently knighted for the action and the recapture of the *Hermione*. In popular culture, *Hermione's* captain, against whom his crew mutinied, is the inspiration for Captain Sawyer, commander of the ship of the line HMS *Renown* in the Horatio Hornblower novel, "Lieutenant Hornblower".



**The HMS *Surprise* replica, seen here to the left:** At the Maritime Museum in San Diego, the HMS *Surprise* is a magnificent replica of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Royal Navy frigate used in the academy award winning film "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World." This film is based on a book by author Patrick O'Brian where Captain "Lucky" Jack Aubrey is restored to his place as a captain of his ship, *Surprise*. On board, visitors find fascinating exhibits featuring artifacts, costumes, weapons and props used in the film and a recreation of the HMS *Surprise* (1796)'s gun deck. The *Surprise* replica is a

179-foot fully rigged ship. Her designers and builders made a painstaking effort to recreate a 24-gun frigate of Great Britain's Nelson era Royal Navy. The result is a replica vessel unmatched in its authenticity and attention to detail. Originally christened HMS *Rose* when she was launched in 1970, she served as a sail training vessel operating out of several East coast ports for over 30 years. The museum purchased the HMS *Surprise* replica from 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox in October 2004. The ship underwent extensive modifications for the production of the film leaving her unable to operate as a passenger or sail training vessel. The museum plans to restore the ship to seaworthy condition but it may be several years before she is ready to sail.

**The Model:** The kit was made by C. Mamoli in Milan, Italy. It is a 1/75<sup>th</sup> scale of the actual ship. The kit comes as a collection of sticks, some flat wood, some string, and small pre-shaped parts. This kit was rated for an advanced model builder and it took about a year to fully finish building the model. This particular kit was missing some parts and short on string, so parts had to be made from scratch and string found that closely matched the supplied material. Conflicts in the plans for the model allowed interpretation in the way to construct different parts. The model was completed in 2012.

**"Battle off Samar (1944), the attack on USS *Gambier Bay* (CVE-73)**

**Diorama by Karl Zingheim - left:** Karl begins to tell the story about his diorama and his search for wood decking material as John Sauvajot and Doug Yumoto listen

**Ship from Hasegawa kit #40027**

**Scale 1/350**

## Diorama "Battle off Samar" by Karl Zingheim continued:

**Karl** anchored his diorama to the recently released Hasegawa 1/350 kit of the U.S. Navy Escort Carrier USS *Gambier Bay* (CVE-73) and he reports it as a superbly engineered kit. The sea surface depicted is of the Philippine Sea off Samar Island and is constructed from textured Celluclay papier mache material, painted in sea colors. **Karl's** scene depicts *Gambier Bay* dodging near misses from Japanese surface



guns. The water columns are tinted yellow because the Japanese were using dye packs installed with their shells to color water splashes from near misses in order to tell one ship's fall of shot from another against the same target. If each firing ship had a different dye color loaded with its shells, it would be a simple matter to tell the splashes apart and adjust fire to get on target. *Gambier Bay*, after helping turn back a much larger force, was sunk by surface fire, the only aircraft carrier lost in that manner during WWII. The story of the survivors floating for two days before rescue is harrowing and a memorial to the battle commander, Rear Adm. Clifton Sprague, and the task unit, "Taffy 3", can be found next to the USS *Midway* (CV-41) Museum in San Diego.



The following text and picture below are taken directly from **Wikipedia**. The complete **Wikipedia** entry is a fascinating read and the reference list provides sources for direct research.



The escort carrier *Gambier Bay*, burning from earlier gunfire damage, is bracketed by a salvo from a Japanese cruiser (faintly visible in the background, center-right) shortly before sinking during the Battle off Samar.

"The **Battle off Samar** was the centermost action of the Battle of Leyte Gulf, one of the largest naval battles in history, which took place in the Philippine Sea off Samar Island, in the Philippines on October 25, 1944. It was the only major action in the larger battle where the Americans were largely unprepared against the opposing forces. The Battle off Samar has been cited by historians as one of the greatest last stands in naval history.

Adm. William Halsey, Jr. was lured into taking his powerful 3rd Fleet after a decoy fleet, taking with him every ship in the area that he had the power to command. After subtracting Halsey's entire force the only remaining American forces in the area were three escort carrier groups of the 7th Fleet. The escort carriers and destroyer escorts which had been designed to protect slow convoys from submarine attack had been repurposed to attack ground targets, and had few torpedoes as they could normally rely on Halsey's fleet to protect them from any threats from

armored warships. A Japanese surface force of battleships and cruisers, battered earlier in the larger battle and thought to have been in retreat, instead turned around unobserved and encountered the northernmost of the three groups, Task Unit 77.4.3 ("Taffy 3"), commanded by Rear Admiral Clifton Sprague. Taffy 3's three destroyers and four destroyer escorts possessed neither the firepower nor the armor to effectively oppose the 23 ships of the Japanese force, but nevertheless desperately attacked with 5"/38 caliber guns and torpedoes to cover the retreat of their slow "jeep" carriers.



**Diorama “Battle off Samar” by Karl Zingheim continued:**

“Aircraft from the carriers of Taffy 1, 2, and 3, including FM-2 Wildcats, F6F Hellcats and TBM Avengers, strafed, bombed, torpedoed, rocketed, depth-charged, fired at least one .38 caliber handgun and made numerous "dry" runs at the Japanese force when the American planes ultimately ran out of ammunition.

Sprague's task unit lost two escort carriers, two destroyers, a destroyer escort and several aircraft. Over a thousand Americans died, comparable to the combined losses of American men and ships at the better known Battles of the Coral Sea and Midway. But in exchange for the heavy losses for such a small force, they sank or disabled three Japanese cruisers and caused enough confusion to persuade the Japanese commander, Vice Admiral Takeo Kurita, to regroup and ultimately withdraw, rather



than advancing to sink troop and supply ships at Leyte Gulf. In the combined Battle of Leyte Gulf, 10,000 Japanese sailors and 3,000 Americans died. Although the battleship *Yamato* and the remaining force returned to Japan, the battles marked the final defeat of the Imperial Japanese Navy, as the ships remained in port for most of the rest of the war and ceased to be an effective naval force.”

A copy made from an illustration of *Gambier Bay* by famed Japanese artist Noriyoshi Orai

**Bonus Items**

**Pictures by Jon Sanford from overseas, might need to attend a meeting to view the complete set!**



**H.M.S. Belfast**



**H.M.S. Victory**



**Seen at the British Museum**



# SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

## 2019 San Diego County Fair Volunteer Form Booth

open 11am-6pm, please arrive 15 minutes before your shift

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<b>Booth Set Up: Mon May 13 11am</b>	<b>Booth Take Down: Fri July 5 10am</b>			MAY 31	JUNE 1	JUNE 2
1 SANFORD	4 GROLZ	1 SANFORD	4 LAWRIE	<b>FAIR OPENS 4pm</b>	1 SANFORD	1 SANFORD
2 MACMASTER	5	2 MACMASTER	5 GROLZ		2 PITT	2 PITT
3 LAWRIE	-	3 GROLZ	-		3 GRIFFUS	3 GRIFFUS
JUNE 3	JUNE 4	JUNE 5	JUNE 6	JUNE 7	JUNE 8	JUNE 9
EXHIBITS CLOSED	EXHIBITS CLOSED	1 SANFORD	1 SANFORD	1 GRIFFUS	1 ROEL	1 SANFORD
		2 GRIFFUS	2 LAWRIE	2 GROLZ	2 GROLZ	2 GRIFFUS, H
		3 GROLZ (demo)	3 PITT	3	3	3 GRIFFUS, D
JUNE 10	JUNE 11	JUNE 12	JUNE 13	JUNE 14	JUNE 15	JUNE 16
EXHIBITS CLOSED	EXHIBITS CLOSED	1 PITT	1 LAWRIE	1 MCPHAIL	1 ROEL	1 GROLZ
		2 HEWITT	2 HEWITT	2 HEWITT	2 GROLZ	2 WALSH
		3 GROLZ (demo)	3 TORRENCE	3 GROLZ	3	3
JUNE 17	JUNE 18	JUNE 19	JUNE 20	JUNE 21	JUNE 22	JUNE 23
EXHIBITS CLOSED	EXHIBITS CLOSED	1 PITT	1 LAWRIE	1 MCPHAIL	1 TORRENCE	1 GRIFFUS
		2 GRIFFUS	2 PITT	2 SANFORD	2 ROEL	2 MACMASTER
		3 GROLZ (demo)	3 TORRENCE	3 GROLZ	3 GRIFFUS	3 GROLZ
JUNE 24	JUNE 25	JUNE 26	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 29	JUNE 30
EXHIBITS CLOSED	EXHIBITS CLOSED	1 PITT	1 LAWRIE	1 GROLZ	1 ROEL	1 SANFORD
		2 GRIFFUS	2 PITT	2 WALSH	2 TORRENCE	2 MACMASTER
		3 GROLZ (demo)	3 TORRENCE	3	3 GROLZ	3
JULY 1	JULY 2	JULY 3	JULY 4	<b>Wednesdays are Demo Nights</b> <b>June 5, 12, 19, 26</b> <b>5pm-8pm</b>		
1 PITT	1 PITT	1 MACMASTER	1 LAWRIE			
2 GROLZ	2 SANFORD	2 GROLZ	2 GROLZ			
3 WALSH	3 GROLZ	3 WALSH	3 WALSH			