



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

February 2020

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 48, NO. II

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

The first Guild Meeting of 2020 featured a presentation by **Mike Lonnecker**. He spoke about his experience with display case construction, rigging, and ratline modeling. This month's quote is from David Seidman, author of *The Complete Sailor*.



"In the Great Age of Velcro; rope, knots, and all things done with them seem charmingly irrelevant. Then you step aboard a sailboat and realize the rules have changed." We might slightly change that to, "Then you build a ship model and realize the rules have changed."

Jon Sanford's four year old grandson, Nicolas Sanford, building his first wooden model ship! Next step, rigging!

MINUTES OF 14 JANUARY 2020 GUILD MEETING

Guild Master James Pitt brought the meeting to order on the second deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY* and greeted sixteen (16) members plus visitor and newest member, **Tony Baihaghy**, pictured here with **James** in the background. Following a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*, **James** began the business portion of the meeting by calling for Officer reports. Before beginning that first order of business: **Attention on Deck!**



It is that time to elect Guild Officers. Nominating Chairman James Pitt, who is stepping down from the post of Guild Master, and assistant Ed Torrence are putting together a slate of those folks interested in serving the Guild. If you are interested in any Officer assignment, please contact [James](#) or [Ed](#) by clicking on their links or email to addresses listed on the banner to the left. Please consider serving our Guild!

Section 3.4 of the **Guild Bylaws** governing officer elections: "3.4 Election of Officers. The Guild master shall conduct an election yearly. In January the Guild Master shall appoint a nominating chairman who shall report nominations at the February meeting. **Continued next page**"

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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

Election of Officers continued:

Nominations from the floor shall also be taken. Ballots with the nominees shall be published in the newsletter prior to a vote at the March meeting. All votes received by mail, electronically, by phone and those given at the meeting will be tabulated to determine the winners. Mail, email and phone votes shall be made to the log keeper. In the event of a close election, telephonic votes will be verified. The elected slate of officers shall take office at the March meeting.” **End Section 3.4, Election of Officers.** Following the February Guild Meeting, a newsletter addendum will be sent to Guild Members with a ballot and contact information for the Log Keeper for vote tabulation.

Purser’s Report: Purser Jon Sanford was unable to attend the meeting but he reported the following Guild Account activity:

Beginning Balance on December 12, 2019	\$<redacted>
Deposits: (2) Interest	<redacted>
Community Build, (11 members X \$55)	<redacted>
Dues: Nickerson	<redacted>
Dues: Seiler	<redacted>
Total Deposits:	\$<redacted>
Debits: (2) <u>Roel:</u> Navajo Engraved plates	<redacted>
<u>Sanford:</u> Model Shop Misc., Antique Table,	<redacted>
MM Masts, Badges, Filippis' Dinner	<redacted>
Total Debits:	<redacted>
Ending Balance on January 13, 2020	\$<redacted>

The Purser reminds the membership that **It is time to collect Membership Dues!** Dues will remain at \$20.00. **Purser Jon Sanford** accepts checks or cash and they can be brought to a monthly meeting or mailed to: Jon Sanford, <redacted> Checks can be made payable to “San Diego Ship Modelers Guild”.

**Next Meeting is
11 February!
5:15 PM Officer’s
Meeting
5:30 PM - Social Time
6:00 PM - Meeting
Time
Bring a Model!**

February 2020

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

**Next Community
Build Meeting
aboard the
Berkeley!
8 February,
1:00 PM
All Guild
Members are
Welcome!**

President’s Day

Community Build Under Way!

by Community Build Leader Alex Roel



The Community Build met for the second time and all those in attendance brought their builds in order to help facilitate hands-on and detailed discussions about... wales... planking fans... rabbets... glue...

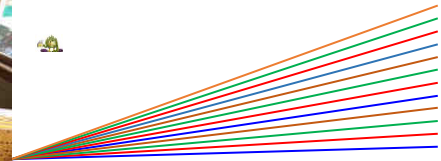
The CB Crew on hand clockwise from lower left: Jim Potts, Bob Costa, Chuck Seiler, Alex Roel, Ed Torrence, and Jon Sanford discussed their build progress



The group has already been solving members' issues with ideas, experience and good humor. Many of the builds have been framed and initial planking is under way.



The Community Build Project is "Introduction to Planking" developed by Nautical Research Guild Directors Toni Levine and Mike Lonnecker. The Half Hull Planking Kit is available at <https://thenrg.org/plans-and-projects.php>



De Old Planking Fan

All topics are on the table to help novice to experienced builders develop or improve skills and methods to plank a model in the way it is done in a shipyard. Chuck Seiler is pictured here explaining a tool called a "planking fan".

All are welcome to drop by Saturday, February 8th at two bells of the Afternoon Watch aboard the BERKELEY to observe and participate in our next meeting.

Web Master Report: **On The Web** by Web Master Alex Roel

Need a break from sanding, rigging, or planking? Pick from one of the many titles listed on our Website's new Fiddler's Green page. This page features some of the best nautical reads of all time. You can find it under the *Scuttlebutt* menu.

Don't see one of your favorites listed? Share your title with other Guild Members by sending a note to the Web Master. Help to make Fiddler's Green a comprehensive list of yarns, old and new.

Log Keeper Report: Log Keeper Tom Hairston reported that Fair Coordinator Jon Sanford has begun planning for the 2020 San Diego County Fair Guild participation and to look for updates at future meetings but, **FRIDAY, MAY 1 IS THE ENTRY DEADLINE**. With the success of the *Mini-Star (of India)* model kit give-away to younger fair goers over the last few years, the goal is to produce 600 kits before the fair begins. To that end, Tom has produced the first 100 hulls and brought them to the Museum Model Shop for painting. Jon Sanford is spray painting the decks white in preparation for painting the hulls black with red hull accent. Look for a call for volunteers to help with this worthy project as Tom continues to produce hulls and masts for the kits. **Bravo Zulu, Tom!**



As reports proceed, from left to right, Royce Privett, Tony Baihaghy, Bob Costa, Alex Roel, David Yotter, and Don Dressel listen in

In a reprint from the January newsletter for those who might have missed it, Presentation Coordinator Frank Dengler notes an organization for those interested in Naval History. The link, <https://www.hnsa.org/ship-type/sail/> will access their website and go directly to sailing vessels at various maritime museums.

Another organization, Western Naval Historical Organization, found at <https://www.wnha.net/> is hosting the WNHA 2020 Symposium on 29 February - 1 March on board the USS *Midway* Museum. Registration can be found on the link. Go to the WNHA.net link above for a list of the speakers, roundtable, and workshops that include Guild Member Karl Zingheim speaking about dioramas and modeling, see Karl's offering in this newsletter edition's **Show and Tell**.

Frank also reported that the link, www.navsource.org/, will access "NavSource Naval History, Photographic History of the U.S. Navy". From there, selecting "Old Navy Steam & Sail" will lead to photographs of many of U.S. Navy sail-powered ships.

BONUS ARTICLE: Demonstrating the reach of the Guild's website and perhaps of some interest to the reader, the Guild received the following edited email from a Corvallis, OR ship modeler.

"I'm in the process of building a 1/96 scale model of USS *West Virginia* BB-48. I noticed that Commander Frank Dengler was associated with the San Diego ship modelers guild. I first saw Commander Dengler on a George C. Scott narrated video about battleships and was aware of his work on the *Texas*. I was wondering if there is some way of contacting him since *Texas* is the only surviving dreadnought. I thought he might be able to answer some fairly specific questions regarding ships of that era. I greatly appreciate any information that might be available. **My dad served in *West Virginia's* Marine detachment from 1931-1933 so I have a very personal interest in getting everything absolutely correct.**

(signed) Thanks, Kim"



USS *West Virginia* (BB-48), the fourth dreadnought of the Colorado class, from <http://navsource.org/archives/01/048/014809p.jpg>. Frank supplied Kim with a series of photos picturing paint schemes and cage mast details of BB-48 along with some reference sources for the model build.

Continued next page

Bonus Article Continued: A follow up message from Kim to Frank Dengler regarding the ship model of BB-48 that is pictured on this page under construction, “Still roughing it in but will soon have the hull framed and plated over. After I sand it smooth I’ll be applying alternating 020 and 030 Plastruct strips to simulate the lap joints.”

Kim wrote “I actually have accumulated quite an archive of pictures of the West Virginia in particular and the Colorado class in general, both from Navsource.com and other internet sources as well as quite a few pictures my dad took during his time on the ship. What I can't seem to find is information about what color the inside of the ships were painted in those days. with a ship of this scale I'm able to allow for some detail to be visible in the casemates, pilot house and some of the areas of the fighting tops. ... The next problem is the teak deck planking. Can you give me a ballpark figure of the length and width of the planks? I'm sure they were not all the same but, I'd like

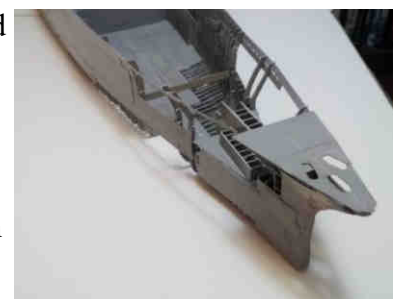


to avoid having them be grossly out of scale. Then there are the cage masts. Truly not intimidated by them but I'm having difficulty determining how many platforms there were inside the cage itself. ... I was able to start accumulating the microfilm of the ships blueprints but haven't found any images of the cage masts. I bought Norman Friedman's book "Naval Firepower" which has nice images of the actual fire control directors, which I'm planning on including. Can you suggest any other databases? Lastly, Are there any data bases that would have the formulas for WWII and pre WWII paint colors? I was using some from the UK that I felt were quite accurate but now they've become unavailable in the US.”

Frank replied to **Kim** with the following. “since you referred to your dad being on the ship ... your model will depict the ship in the late 1930s through early 1941. Here are a few sources for fleet paint information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II_ship_camouflage_measures_of_the_United_States_Navy
<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/naval-aviation-history/aircraft-markings.html>
<http://www.shipcamouflage.com/>
<http://www.researcheratlarge.com/Ships/USNTurretTops.html>

Frank additionally offered ship interior color schemes based on his shipboard service 1964-1990 and employment as the Texas Parks and Wildlife Superintendent of the museum battleship TEXAS (BB 35) and as the Battleship ALABAMA (BB 60) Commission Director in the 1990s ... (He further recommended a) look at the photographs to estimate the length and width of WEST VIRGINIA’s deck planks by finding objects of known length in proximity to wood decking. Shoe lengths might be used to estimate plank widths. Boat lengths might be used to estimate plank lengths. If you can’t get a set of plans from the National Archives and Records Administration (<https://www.archives.gov/research> 1-866-272-6272) depicting cage masts, you might call and ask if they could engage a researcher to look at COLORADO Class photos for close-up and/or vertical view pictures.”



Guild Member **Karl Zingheim** also offered **Kim** insights on paint schemes and cage mast configuration. If anybody else would like to offer help, please contact [Frank](#) (Ctrl + right click activates the link) or email to the Presentation Coordinators’ email address on page 1 of the newsletter.

First Mate and Presentation Coordinator Ed Torrence reports that a future Guild meeting will hold a presentation by **Chuck Seiler** on the Trafalgar Project as found on the Guild Website, <http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/public/projects/frmTrafalgar.htm> with further discussion of the project in the October 2015 newsletter also found on the website.

Presentation Report: For this meeting, **Ed** introduced **Mike Lonnecker** who used his model of the brig *Fair American* (1780) to illustrate his perspective on the "Challenge of Making Display Cases, Making Realistic and Sturdy Rat Lines and General Rigging." **Mike** noted that his presentation relied on his perspective of building and displaying a model and that there are many techniques and methods of building that experienced modelers employ and none are right or wrong, just what works for the builder. He began his presentation with a talk about display cases and how it is to the modeler's best interest to consider how the model will be mounted and displayed before beginning the build. This planning will allow for any mounting hardware to be incorporated into the build before hull construction makes installation of mounting hardware difficult or impossible without disassembly. For a complete discussion of the mounting of *Fair American* as well as her rigging and ratline construction please follow the link to the Guild Website > Scuttlebutt > Documents > Build Logs page, <http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/public/scuttlebutt/frmDocuments.htm> **Mike** provided a number of tips in his presentation. In no particular order, 123stitch.com is a source for mercerized cotton thread for rigging in various diameters and TransTint dye diluted with alcohol works well for achieving realistic colored rigging. **Mike** is not a fan of commercial ratline jigs because he feels

Mike Lonnecker begins his discussion with Bob McPhail listening on. Notice Fair American in its display case with the display stand in front of Mike.



Here, Mike is pointing out how lines vary in color and thickness from the deck to the top of masts and how the build benefits from careful planning for each line.

The crew moves in for a closer look.

To the right, Ed Torrence, James Pitt, and Doug Yumoto also take a closer look.

there are too many variables between models for there to be one size fits all. Variables would include things like Scale, shroud size, number of shrouds, Shroud spacing, shroud angle and so on. Even if the builder had a jig that matched the model, one would still run the risk of moving everything to the model and besides it's just as easy to rig in place. His little display during the presentation was just to demonstrate how ratlines were tied, it is not intended to be a jig. For stand construction, consider a kit like those available from Osbourne Wood Products and use acrylic for lightness and durability. **Mike** also reported that BlueJacket Ship Crafters will supply a kit based on dimensions. The builder needs to assure dimensions are accurate and there is provision for clearance space of at least 1" at the bow, stern, and both sides of the beam as well as 2" in height.

Even with case glare, *Fair American* makes quite a picture.



Show and Tell



Lifeboat No. 6, SS *TITANIC* (1912)

by Alex Roel

Modified Kit by Artisanía Latina #19016

Plank-on-Frame

Scale 1:35, 11/32" = 1'

Alex reported on his completed build of Lifeboat No.6 that he started as a San Diego County Fair project in the Maritime Museum / Guild Booth. He has charted progress from the 2018 Fair to



December of 2019 with detailed descriptions of the challenges and successes he found in a very complete Build Log found on the Guild Website, <http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/documents/builds/TitanicLifeboat1912BuildLog.pdf> (Ctrl + right click activates the link). Alex reported he initially took on the project to gain experience in lapstrake (clinker) planking but that he learned much more researching issues with the model by utilizing build logs found at the NRG (Nautical Research Guild). Follow Alex' build log linked above to see more detail of how he came to modify the kit's hull shape and many other features. For the purposes of this newsletter, his "Regrets and Delights" from the build log are recorded below.

Delight: Received much-appreciated input from Don Dressel (among others) to choose a kit other than this one for my first build. Facing the frustrations of solving clinker planking on a first build may well have led to a very short modeling career.

Regret: Failing to fully consider each step of the build. Here on my second build I find I am still apt to move ahead with a construction step before fully researching / understanding the parts in question. The upside of this that I get experience rebuilding parts (in some cases three or four times until I get it right.)



Delight: I am finding great satisfaction in learning to scratch-build parts for which the kit-supplied part is inferior or simply wrong.

Delight: I find the curved-tip syringes that Tom Hairston donated to Guild Members to be really useful: I can apply glue precisely to the area needed and can easily control the amount to apply. I also have companion "water" and an "isopropyl alcohol" syringes handy.

Delight: Another tool that I'm finding extremely useful is the fine-toothed saw that came as part of a miter box set I bought. I use this saw on the majority of my straight cuts of a certain length now; rarely using the miter box itself.

Regret: I almost achieved my goal of not using any CA glue on this build. At the near end of the project, however, I did use a single drop to attach a brass ring to the anchor.

THE GUILD LOOKS FORWARD TO ALEX' NEXT PROJECT.



The following reports from Dave Yotter and Don Dressel are direct reprints from the Ship Modelers Association's (SMA) January 2020 newsletter. As many of you know, Dave and Don are highly skilled ship modelers of some renown but in addition, Dave is a frequent reporter and Don is the editor of the SMA newsletter. The SMA can be found at <http://www.shipmodelersassociation.org/index.html>



Baby Alligator *Chapleau*

by Dave Yotter, pictured here at an SMA Meeting

Kit by Train Troll

Scale 1:48



From Wikipedia: Alligator boats were a type of amphibious vehicle used in the forestry industry throughout Ontario, the Maritime provinces of Canada and the northern United States from the mid-19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. These boats were so named because of their ability to travel between lakes by pulling themselves with a winch across land. Alligators served as “warping tug”. They towed log booms across lakes and then portaged themselves using a winch to the next body of water. The rugged, steam-powered tugs were one of the pioneers in the mechanization of the forest industry in North America.

Alligators were scow-shaped, shallow draft boats, fitted with side-mounted paddle wheels, powered by a 20-horsepower steam engine and provided with a cable winch and large anchor. By using the winch Alligators could pull themselves over land, around portages and up as much as a 20-degree incline at the rate of 1 to 2 ½ miles per day. They could haul a boom of some 60,000 logs across water against all but the strongest winds. They were heavily but simply built, making rebuilding and repair easy. Alligators began with paddle wheel propulsion. Later versions used screw propellers and diesel engines in place of steam.

Dave has started work on his 1:48 (O scale) Train Troll kit of the baby alligator-warping tug *Chapleau*. He purchased the kit at a past NRG Conference. Andy Small is the designer, builder and manufacturer at Train Troll, www.traintroll.com and the kits are of very high quality. All his kits are designed around the model railroad scales of O, S, HO and he even has some F (1:20) scale models in the works. Andy says: “Train Troll is a “Small” family model railroad business specializing in waterline and full hull vessels, small paddle wheelers, towboats, barges, and On30/On2 narrow gauge craftsman kits, as well as unique detail kits, crates, wagons and carts in various scales.”

The kit Dave is working on is a waterline, side-wheel version of the warping tug. Andy also has a screw propeller version of the same tug. So far, the hull is put together and the engine house is started. Since the model will require painting I was delighted to find that my ancient hoard of Floquil paints have been easy to resurrect. The ones that were tightly capped so far have only required some extensive stirring.



HMS *Roebuck* (1774)

by Don Dressel, , pictured here at an SMA Meeting

Scratch Built based on 1:48 scale plans by Harold Hahn and instructions that Harold Hahn included with his book [Ships of the American Revolution and their Models](#)

Scale 1:64

In June of 2019, Don showed *Roebuck* still in her building jig. Compare to the pictures shown below.



For some historical context, **Don** tells us HMS *Roebuck* was a British 2-decker 44-gun frigate (ships classed as fifth rates by the Royal Navy, ships that were frigate-like but not actually classed as true frigates) and she fought against the American Colonies during the Revolutionary War. She was launched in 1774 and was often mistaken for a much bigger 74-gun ship which worked to her advantage on several occasions. She was one of the ships of a squadron of British ships that captured the Continental Frigate *Confederacy*.



Don reported he is slowly continuing progress on his model of the HMS *Roebuck*. More history as well as construction details can be obtained from reading the book by Harold Hahn – [Ships of the American Revolution and their models](#). Don has now basically completed the exterior hull planking and removed the model from the Harold Hahn building jig in order to make more progress on the interior of the hull and all the decks. Removal of the model from the jig turned out to be laborious and time consuming, but with his trusty Dremel tool with a small circular saw blade attached, the frames were successfully cut through. An “upright” stand was made for the model to continue to work required. As mentioned earlier, the masts, spars and rigging will also be completed, but first the decks have to be done, the gunports made, and the cannon installed along with other deck furniture. The installation of the cannon on the decks would have been problematic is the hull was still upside down – a crewman was subsequently lost and then re-installed on the orlop deck due to the original upside down nature of the model. Next steps will include construction of stern details to replace the drawing seen to the right designed to give a sense of the final appearance of the stern



As mentioned earlier, the masts, spars and rigging will also be completed, but first the decks have to be done, the gunports made, and the cannon installed along with other deck furniture. The installation of the cannon on the decks would have been problematic is the hull was still upside down – a crewman was subsequently lost and then re-installed on the orlop deck due to the original upside down nature of the model. Next steps will include construction of stern details to replace the drawing seen to the right designed to give a sense of the final appearance of the stern



“Final Friday”, USS *Arizona* (BB-39) and USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) on 5 December 1941

Diorama by Karl Zingheim, seen here telling about building the diorama as, from front to back, Chari Wessel, Frank Dengler, and Jay MacMaster listen

Heavily Modified Kits, Trumpeter 1:200 for model of *Arizona*
Scale 1:200



Karl reported that the diorama, “Final Friday” will be incorporated into his workshop, “Dioramas/modeling”, in the upcoming **WNHA 2020 Symposium on 29 February - 1 March on board the USS Midway Museum** hosted by Western Naval Historical Organization. As many of you know, **Karl** is a historian aboard the USS *Midway* Museum and spent the last semester as a history instructor at a San Diego local university. Register for the symposium with the Western Naval Historical Organization, found at <https://www.wnha.net/> The array of speakers, roundtable, and workshops is listed below.

Karl told that the diorama will depict the arrival inside Pearl Harbor of the *Arizona* and *Oklahoma* on Friday December 5th. As the senior ship of the division, the *Arizona* tied up first, and the *Oklahoma* moved past to her own mooring. The time captured in the diorama was chosen as a way to incorporate an intact *Arizona* and *Oklahoma* into the same scene accurately since neither ship survived the attack on the following Sunday.

The completed scene will of course feature a water base, mooring quays, and the tug *Hoga*. Crew figures will be installed performing



duties that would occupy both crews at that stage of the ships’ voyages. **The Guild looks forward to viewing the completed diorama.**



Symposium Speakers: **Dr. Bernard Cole**, National War College, **James Hornfischer**, (invited), *Neptune’s Inferno*, **Charles MacVean**, Captain USN (ret). “Recollections of a Cold War sub skipper.”, **Stephen McLaughlin**, *Russian and Soviet Battleships*. “*Russian SIGNIT in World War I*”, **Dr. David J. Ulbrich**, Norwich Univ. “USMC & the dawn of amphibious operations”, **Dr. Sam Tangredi**, Naval War College, **Dr. Dorothy Watson**, National War College. “How History Vivifies Joint Professional Military Education”, **Michael Whitby**, Senior Naval Historian, Canadian DND. “Cold War submarine intelligence operations.”, **Mark Fiorey**, Deputy Director, Hattendorf Historical Center. “U.S. Navy and Operation Passage to Freedom during the partition of Vietnam, 1954-55.”

Roundtable: **Topics in Cold War Naval History**, Rear Admiral **Michael McDevitt**, **Michael Whitby**, **Mark Fiorey**, **Karl Zingheim**, and **Sam J. Tangredi**

Workshops: **Lonnie Gill**, *General Quarters*. “*Naval Wargaming*”; **Richard Russell**, Director of the Naval Institute Press: “Writing for Naval Institute”, **Vince O’Hara**, *Six Victories*, “*Making maps for publication.*”, **Robert Stern**, *Battleship Holiday*. “*Photography to illustrate books and articles.*”, **Karl Zingheim**, USS *Midway*. “*Dioramas/modeling*”

LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST.***Star of India*, a barque**

by Tom Hairston, Seen here at the December meeting flanked on the left by Ed Torrence and on the right by James Pitt

Scratch built based on 1977 plans by Captain Kenneth B. Reynard, William F. Wilmurt, and Edmund F. White

Plank-on-Bulkhead

Scale: 1/8inch or 1:96



Tom reported his progress on this beautiful scratch built model of *Star of India*. When the Editor asked about a build log, **Tom** laconically replied, "I do not have a build log, don't have time for such niceties." He then went on to report that there are four things that he added to *Star* after the November showing. All ten yards were mounted, including jackstays, footropes, support & lifting chains, and fixed lifts on the upper three yards of each mast. Next, iron braces were added on the sides of the ship to support the braces of the three lower yards on each mast. Then, fore tack lines were added on the fore yard leading to each cathead cleat. And lastly, a case was made to protect the model during transporting. Without the case, he could not protect the yards from damage.



Tom reported he will hopefully have her finished by the February meeting, or at least by March. **Amazing, a first scratch build.**

