



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

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March 2020

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 48, NO. III

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Established in 1971 by
Bob Wright and Russ
Merrill



The February Guild Meeting welcomed the beginning of later sunsets as this picture of the Maritime Museum's replica of Juan Rodriguez' flagship *San Salvador* depicts. The meeting closed with the Maritime Museum's *Star of India* being moved to dry dock for regular inspection. The sight might trigger further reflection.

"Light boats sail swift,
though greater hulks draw deep." - William
Shakespeare



MINUTES OF 11 FEBRUARY 2020 GUILD MEETING

Guild Master James Pitt brought the meeting to order on the second deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY* and he greeted nineteen (19) members plus three visitors. Joining the meeting to explore their interests in model ship building were **Jack Vitale, Walter Ainslie, and Doug Sjoberg**. Following a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*, **James** began the business portion of the meeting by calling for Officer reports. First order of business:

Attention on Deck!

It is that time to elect Guild Officers. Please find the 2020 Officer Ballot at the back of the Newsletter on page 11. The ballot is attached as a separate Word document to facilitate an electronic ballot casting.

Write-in candidates and floor nominations are encouraged. Other instructions for voting are included on the ballot.

Please consider serving our Guild!



Walter is shown in the picture speaking about his interest in ship modeling flanked by Howard Griffus on the left and Doug Yumoto on the right and no, his interest did not include the case of Champagne!



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 reported the following Guild Account activity:

Beginning Balance on January 14, 2020

\$<redacted>

Ending Balance on February 22, 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. Payment can be brought to a monthly meeting or mailed to: Jon Sanford, <redacted>. Checks can be made payable to "San Diego Ship Modelers Guild". **Do not get dropped from the Guild Active Roster.**

Jon reported he has organized approximately 200 model ship building plans into two group, those rolled up and those in envelopes. Please find a list of the rolled up plans after the **Show and Tell** section on page 10. These plans are available to Guild members and others who want them. Since Kevin Sheehan, Ph.D, Manager of Collections and Librarian of the Maritime Museum has been giving the Guild a large number of plans during house cleaning of the Library and Research Collection, the Guild has received approximately 140+ plans in envelopes. **Jon** is currently compiling a list of plans in envelopes to be released at a later meeting for similar disposition . He reports the idea is to get them out of the Museum Model Shop into members hands to reduce clutter.



From left; Bob Costa, Mike Lonnecker, and Don Dressel survey the giveaway.

Jon, wearing a Model Shop coordinator hat, brought a treasure trove of donated materials and supplies to the meeting that have been donated to the Guild. Members found the free gifts fun to go through and the Model Shop finds a little bit more space; win, win!

There are upcoming calls for volunteers! The San Diego County Fair Maritime Museum/Guild Booth staffing is coordinated by **Jon** and a signup form will be coming soon. A Mini-*Star of India* kit is handed out to young fair booth visitors and help will be needed to assemble 600 kits. Other members have begun painting the hulls that **Tom Hairston** has cut and shaped. **Please**

consider helping with the fair this year! See the **Web Master's Report, "On the Web"**, on the next page with a link to the Website for more details on volunteering at the Guild's fair booth. Visit the Website directly at <http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/sdsmg.htm> to view our Guild in action.

Next Meeting is

10 March!

5:15 PM Officer's Meeting

5:30 PM - Social Time

6:00 PM - Meeting Time

Bring a Model!

March 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	30	31				

Next Community Build Meeting aboard the Berkeley!

7 March, 1:00 PM

All Guild Members are Welcome!

St. Patrick's Day

Community Build Sails On!

by Community Build Leader Alex Roel

The third meeting of the Community Build group continued to enhance Members' understanding and appreciation of the importance of getting the rabbet and garboard strake "right" as critical steps in proper planking...

We also embraced the attendance of **Robert Hewitt** who brought his current build to the group's attention: his challenge of planking hulls with chines... yet another facet to the art of planking.

All are welcome to drop by Saturday, March 14th at two bells of the Afternoon Watch aboard the BERKELEY to observe and participate in our next meeting.

Editor's note: Even though the **Editor** was in attendance at this meeting, the many community build projects and topics under discussion distracted us all from pulling out our phones and taking pictures of the projects underway. Look for pictures next month.

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



It's coming... the annual San Diego County Fair. Are you interested in entering a build this year? **Are you planning to help the Guild man our booth?**

All the information you'll need is on our website on our [San Diego County Fair](#) page under the *Voyages* menu. You'll find links to the "Design in Wood" Information Sheet as well as our sign-up sheet for volunteering to help in the booth.

Howard Griffus, one of the Guild's most noticeable fair volunteers, sharing a ship modeling story with visitors at a past fair.

Alex told about a new web page as reported last month. 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.

Editor Report: Editor Guy Lawrie spoke briefly about the upcoming 2020 Guild Officer Election and that any person interested in taking on newsletter duties or just helping out with producing the monthly newsletter can count on his help. Also, as can be seen by the lack of pictures from the February Community Build Meeting, **help taking pictures at the meetings would be appreciated and accredited.**

Here, Alex Roel and Mike Lonnecker share a moment before the meeting. The Editor could use help taking pictures of models and moments.



The meeting continued with a brief discussion by **Log Keeper Tom Hairston** describing his progress on the production of the 600 Mini-Star kits for the County Fair and **First Mate Ed Torrence** noting an upcoming presentation to be announced at a future meeting. During meeting break, **Jon Sanford** urged members to help themselves to the donated materials and supplies with the hope there would be nothing left to return to the Model Shop. After the meeting break for coffee, **Guild Master James Pitt** called for **Show and Tell** before adjourning the meeting.

Maritime Museum of San Diego Model of the Month

Note: Anyone interested in displaying one of their models at the Maritime Museum of San Diego can contact [Jon](mailto:Jon@sdshipmodelersguild.org) at burser@sdshipmodelersguild.org and he will work with you. **All are welcomed and urged to participate!**

Gunboat *Philadelphia* (1776) by Bill Grolz Model Shipways Kit, MS 2263 Scale 1/24 (1/2"=1')



Philadelphia as displayed at the National Museum of American History after being discovered and raised from Lake Champlain by amateur military marine archaeologist Lorenzo Hagglund. The vessel is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. – Wikipedia

Model Shipways reports “Launched in August of 1776, the gunboat *Philadelphia* is the oldest American fighting vessel in existence. Part of the American fleet commanded by General Benedict Arnold, she sank on October 11, 1776 during the Battle of Valcour Island against the Royal Navy on Lake Champlain. She remained sitting

upright in the cold waters of the lake until she was raised in 1935. Today, she's on permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., complete with 24-pound ball that sent her to the bottom.” **Bill** told the members that this was his “Fair Model”, built while manning the Maritime Museum/Guild booth at the San Diego County Fair. He reports he built the *Philadelphia* over two fairs. However, **Bill** confessed that he did work on the model at home making the square-head nails. He said there was no particular difficulty making the boat though he spent a lot of time trying to maintain the historical accuracy of the boat as the model plans were not in agreement with historical details.

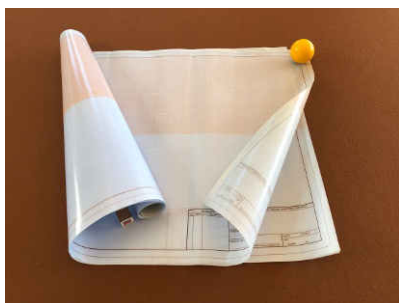


Show and Tell

Guy Lawrie reported during **Show and Tell** on a story that appeared in the newspaper The Boston Globe. A member of the Globe staff, Brian MacQuarrie, wrote a story published on February 8, 2020 named “*Tale revealed of 8-year-old veteran of USS CONSTITUTION*”. This is a remarkable story of an 8-year-old free Black serving aboard CONSTITUTION in her final battle at the end of the War of 1812 and his service aboard her over the subsequent years. Read the full article at the following link. <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/02/08/metro/tale-revealed-8-year-old-veteran-uss-constitution/> The story generated a discussion among Guild Members about the folks that manned the sails and guns on ships during the Age of Sail as well as a discussion about the Commander of the CONSTITUTION from 1974 to 1978, Tyrone Martin, who led an effort to identify as many of CONSTITUTION’S crew as possible. Ship modeling can bring to mind the stories behind the ships and the Guild enjoyed the stories from several members who have a personal connection to USS CONSTITUTION.



From Wikipedia, USS *Constitution* in her final battle defeating HMS *Cyane* and HMS *Levant* 100 miles East of Madeira



Drafting Linen by Dave Yotter

Dave reported that in response to a fellow Guild member’s request for a high quality model ship sail cloth to help in a restoration project, he suggested drafting linen. As background, Wikipedia reports “from the late 19th century until the middle of the 20th century, **drafting linen**, also known as **drafting cloth**, was commonly used as an alternative to wood-pulp and rag papers in creating technical drawings. Manufactured as an undyed muslin woven fabric, typically using cotton or linen fiber, the textile was highly starched.” **Dave** told how simple washing (separately, of course) would remove the starch and leave a very fine weaved cloth suitable for scale model sail cloth. This material is now difficult to find since it has been replaced by polyester and cellulose-based products and the sheets pictured here were recovered from a recycling effort at a government agency. Good hunting, mates!



“Derinoe and the Whale”, a Yachting Adventure

Diorama by Karl Zingheim, seen here telling about building the diorama with Diana Griffus listening

Scale 1:35

Karl took a break from preparing his “Final Friday” diorama for the WNHA’s naval history symposium scheduled at the USS *Midway* Museum with this whimsical scene from his series depicting yachting adventures. He tells us he named this yacht after an Amazonian princess who fought in the Trojan War (on the side of the Trojans). The yacht is from a kit that **Karl** modified to fit his diorama and he found his breaching whale from a supplier in Florida.



“Derinoe and the Whale” by Karl Zingheim continued:

The following are a few more pictures showing **Karl’s** diorama. Note the figures and rigging detail.



Sharpie Schooner

by **Doug Yumoto**, pictured here with the mystery champagne box holding his sharpie schooner

Kit by Midwest

Scale 3/8 inch = 1 foot



Doug shared his first model with the guild and described this model as a beginner’s kit that is now somewhat rare to find. He told us a bit about sharpies with the following. Sharpies are a type of hard chined sailboat with a flat bottom, extremely shallow draft, centerboards and straight, flaring sides. They are believed to have originated in the New Haven, Connecticut region of Long Island Sound. They were traditional fishing boats used for oyster dredging, and later appeared in other areas. With centerboards and shallow balanced rudders they are well suited to sailing in shallow tidal waters. Some believe the



Chesapeake Bay skipjack with its v-bottom may have evolved from the early sharpies. Sharpies first became popular in New Haven, Connecticut, towards the end of the 19th century. They came into use as a successor to the dugout log canoe and most likely were derived from the flatiron skiff. These sharpies were typically used for oyster tonging and evolved to suit that work. They grew in popularity because they were easy to row, cheap to build and fast under sail.

Varying in length, the 24–28 ft. one-man boats usually had one sail, while the larger two-man boats which were around 35 ft. were rigged with two sails, as cat-ketches. The larger boats had three mast-steps; one at the bow, one amidships and one in between. Their hulls were narrow with a large sheer and low freeboard. The centerboard was long and shallow as was the balanced rudder. The sharpie type migrated south and west to other regions where shallow water prevented deep-draft vessels from operating, including Chesapeake Bay, the Carolinas, the Great Lakes (Ohio) and Florida.



Tom announces *Star of India* project completion!***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 rigging is complete and declared the end of this project. The Guild looks forward to see what project he takes on next. Following are a few pictures that prove the Editor could use a bit of help taking meeting pictures followed by Tom's model display documentation.



Star of India

The Ship

The Star of India was built in the Isle of Man in 1863 as the Euterpe, a merchant cargo ship for the tea trade. The hull and lower masts were made of iron, a fairly new technique at the time. In 1871 she was converted into an emigrant carrier for the trip from London to Australia and New Zealand. In this capacity, she served for 25 years, making 21 complete trips around the world, carrying between 350 and 400 people on each trip. The first leg of these trips lasted from three to four months at a time.

Continued next page

Star of India continued:

In the late 1890's Euterpe began her next career under new owners, carrying lumber and coal across the Pacific. In 1901 she was purchased by the Alaska Packers Association and was renamed the Star of India in 1906. She worked in this capacity for 22 years as a salmon packing plant and going back and forth between San Francisco and Alaska every year. In 1927 she was brought to San Diego in retirement and eventually became the sole ship in the San Diego Maritime Museum. Other ships and boats have been added to the museum until a wide range of ages and types are represented. The picture above was taken when the Star of India sailed out of San Diego on November 17, 2018.

The Model

The plans for the model were obtained from another member of the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild. They are the 1977 plans which were made shortly after a restoration project was finished. There is no kit produced for this ship, materials were gathered separately, and the model was "scratch built." The only parts purchased ready-made were deck fittings; blocks, cleats, anchors, belaying pins, helm, bells, and deadeyes. The type of construction is plank-on-bulkhead. The scale is 1/8th of an inch of the model equals one foot of the ship. The running rigging was simplified to exclude the sails and their control rigging. The standing rigging is complete. It took just over one year to complete the project. The case is made of poplar wood and glass.



Restoration Projects

From time to time folks come to the Guild for help restoring their family heirlooms.



Constitution before restoration

Constitution by Howard Griffus—Howard reports this pre-made display model of *Constitution* was purchased for the owner's son when he was six years old. The lad is off at college now and the model had suffered a storage accident. For sentimental reasons, the mother decided to have the model repaired. It was not a very accurately detailed model and the repairs were just enough to put everything back in its original configuration. Most of the damage to the model was in the top masting. The shrouds

were loosened and a line passed over a rafter on **Howard's** patio was used to stretch the masts upward so they could be aligned and repaired by butt gluing and splicing. Original wooden parts were repaired and the original rigging was retained. About a dozen missing wooden pieces, mostly gun port lids, and one cannon had to be constructed made and, of course, the painting required some touch up.

An odd thing about the model was the use of thimbles or wooden "ox eyes" as blocks. **Howard** said he had not seen that in rigging since the Tangaroa balsa raft that the Hyerdahl group sailed across the Pacific.



Constitution after restoration

Restoration Projects continued:



From the Museum Model Shop. Above and left: *Richard C Paul* before restoration, note condition of rigging

Richard C Paul by Jon Sanford -

Jon reports a model restoration of a Buttermen Schooner, *Richard C Paul*. The owner told how the model was built by owner's great grandfather 1873. It is said by family that the great grandfather sailed on her as a young man and that the model is a family heirloom.

Jon reports along with a thorough cleaning and preservation of the model, he replaced most of the rigging and rebuilt the bowsprit

to support the sail plan. Below is *Richard C Paul* after restoration.



Extra Meeting Items



Guild Master James Pitt shows off the Guild's new coffee maker before the meeting, critical infrastructure!



L to R: Walter Ainslie, Bob Costa, Frank Dengler, Don Dressel, & Mike Lonnecker



First Mate Ed Torrence speaks about the Community Build being focused on planking and how informative and helpful the Community Build is.

Jay MacMaster talks about re-crafting a lower deck on one of his projects.



Keep Modeling!

PLANS: MODELSHIP, rolled

Code	Name	Scale	Description
A	Boats, Man of War	1/8"=1'	Longboat, whaler
B	Juan Sebastian de El Cana		Training Ship, 4 masted schooner
C	Tijuca		Freighter
D	Santa Maria		Manuta Models, Plans reversed
E	Vaisseau Francais La Couranne	1=105	1636 AD, French Vessel
F	Seguin	3/8"=1'	1905-15, Coastal Steamer Yacht
G	Elizabeth	1=48	1600, Galleon
H	Sultana	3/16"=1'	Armed Schooner, Model Shipways, Enlarged plans
J	Harbor Schooner	1/2"=1'	250 Ft.,
K	Lovell		1797, Merchant Vessel, Simular to HMS Bounty
L	C.A. Thayer	3/4"=1'	3 masted Schooner
M	Posters		English Naval Recruiting , 1700's
N	Prince de Neufhratel	1/4"=1'	Nat, Maritime Museum, London
O	Purse Seiner	1/4"=1'	1200 Tons, Campbell's Shipyard, 1978
P	Tug	1"=1'	English Iron Side Paddle
Q	Queen Mary		Draft Drawing
S	Wasp		Brig, 1805, On Acetate
T	Californian	3/8"=1'	Revenue Cutter, Topsail Schooner
U	Savannah		US 44 Gun Frigate, 1820-42
V	Rosie Parks	1/4"=1'	Skipjack, 1955, Chesapeake Bay Museum
W	Smuggler		1877 Gloucester Fishing Schooner, Bluejacket Models
X	Wawona	1/4"=1'	Schooner, Seattle, WA, 1897
Y	Le Hussard		Brig, 1848, Artesania Latina Model
Z	Emily F. Whitney	3/16"=1'	1885, Boston
AA	Bear	1/8"=1'	US Revenue Cutter
BB	Zephyr		Sloop, Webster
CC	Typhoon		1929, Speedboat Racer, Dumas Models
DD	HMS Prince		Amadi Enlarge Plans
EE	Pirate Ship		Chineese, 17th Century, Giunca Pirota, German Kit
FF	Alma	1/4"=1'	Scow Schooner, 1891, Nat Marine Museum
GG	HMS Halifax		Schooner 1768-1775, Admiralty Drawings

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
2020 Officer Elections
Ballot

The Ballot includes space for a write-in candidate and you may vote by mail, email, telephone, or in person at the March meeting. Voting will be tabulated by Log Keeper Tom Hairston. Mail ballots to 3816 Noor Way, Modesto, CA 95356. Email to tomwhairston@gmail.com. Telephone 209 524-6378.

Officer Post	February Nominations	Yes	No	Write in
Guild Master	James Pitt			
First Mate	Ed Torrence			
Log Keeper	Tom Hairston			
Purser	Jon Sanford			
Editor	Guy Lawrie			

The ballot will be sent as a separate word file for email purposes along with the March newsletter.