



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

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NEWSLETTER

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Established in 1971 by
Bob Wright and Russ
Merrill



The fog rolls in on the Maritime
Museum of San Diego on March 10

While we all observe the Coronavirus
guidelines and look towards a brighter day,
the times might bring to mind this song by
The Doors, "Land Ho!"

Grandma loved a sailor, who sailed
the frozen sea
Grandpa was that whaler and he took
me on his knee
He said, "Son, I'm going crazy from
livin' on the land
Got to find my shipmates and walk in
foreign sands."

An Important Message:

From The Quarterdeck

by the Guild Master

As your new Guild Master, I wanted to share a few
thoughts with you as we sail on troubled seas due to the current
health advisory. Be assured that our Officers' first priority is the
well-being of our Members and thus we will monitor public health
developments and modify meeting and event schedules as warranted.
Please watch your email for announcements from the Guild.

As we shelter from this storm, opportunities arise: dusting
off that neglected build that now can enjoy your full attention, or
picking up that old sea story you've been meaning to read or reread
(for ideas visit [Fiddler's Green](#) on our web site.)

Personally, I'm looking forward to an exciting year for our
Guild, a renewed sense of purpose by all, and the moment when next
we meet on the second deck aft of the steam ferry BERKELEY.

Fair winds and following seas,

Alex Roel



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

<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

MINUTES OF 10 MARCH 2020 GUILD MEETING



Karl Zingheim, standing, and Don Bienvenue share a look at plans

First Mate Ed Torrence brought the meeting to order on the second deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY* and he greeted fourteen (14) brave and hardy souls plus one guest. **Past-Purser Gary Seaton** and **Diane** took a break from their East Coast traveling and were happily welcomed. **Past-Guild Master Don Bienvenue** re-joined the guild after taking a short hiatus and the Guild looks to seeing more of him in the future. Following a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*, **Ed** began the business portion of the meeting by conducting the **2020 Guild Officer Election**.

Guild Master James Pitt let known his intention of returning to the roots of his interest in the ship modeling craft and a floor nomination was taken and seconded for **Web Master Alex Roel** for the post of Guild Master. Following a voice vote of attending members and a count of votes cast with **Log Keeper Tom Hairston**, the

Guild Officer roster shown on page one was approved with incoming **Guild Master Alex Roel** the only change from the 2019 roster.

Guild Master Alex Roel assumed the post and as a first order of business extended the Guild's appreciation for **Out-going Guild Master James Pitt's** service to all of the Guild's members over the past year and the initiatives that were taken to improve the outlook of the Guild over his time in service. **Alex** noted one of those initiatives with an announcement of the Guild's charter as a **Nautical Research Guild Chapter Club**. The Guild now joins other ship modeling associations across the country expanding the enthusiasm for the craft of building models.



The Commander John C. Mathews Award recognition plaque displayed in the Model Shop aboard the Steam Ferry *Berkeley* at the Maritime Museum of San Diego

Alex continued with the annual presentation the **2019 Commander John C. Mathews Award**. The **Commander John C. Mathews Award** is the Guild Master's and Guild Officers' recognition for on-going service to the Guild during the previous year. The award was created and awarded posthumously in 2003 to John "Chris" Mathews, a long-time Guild Member who exemplified steady and selfless service.

Award recipient's plaque



April 2020

**Next Meeting
Tentatively Scheduled
for 14 April, Look to
Email for further
update.**

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		

**Next Community
Build Meeting
Tentatively
Scheduled for 11
April, Look to
Email for further
update.**

Commander John C. Mathew Award continued:

The 2019 Award Recipient is **Royce Privett**, congratulations!

As **Alex** has noted on the Guild website, [http://](http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/public/homeport/frmAwards.htm)

www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/public/homeport/frmAwards.htm

(this link will directly access the award page), The Guild Officers were pleased to recognize **Royce** for his long-time contributions

to the Guild. A master craftsman, **Royce**

faithfully brings his current build to

meetings on a regular basis, keeping

Members abreast of his progress, issues, and

solutions. **Royce** is also a recipient of the

Guild's **Life Member Award** and has been a

valued Member for forty-one of the Guild's

forty-eight years.

In 2017 Royce completed his impressive New Bedford Whaleboat circa 1720-1920 and described details of the model as Don Dressel listened in.



Royce Privett, left, being presented the Award by Guild Master Alex Roel

Officer reports began with the **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>

Jon reported that dues collections for the most part is complete. Those who have either not made arrangements for the payment of dues or have not contacted **Jon** will be considered inactive.

Jon, wearing the **Model Shop Coordinator** hat, reported he has completed the organization and cataloguing of rolled model ship building plans. He offered these plans to the Guild and many plans were gratefully taken for future projects. **Jon** hopes to continue this worthwhile project in the future. Additionally, he commented on the popularity of the San Diego Ship Modelers' "Model of the Month" display with museum visitors. 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:Jon@sdshipmodelersguild.org) and he will work with you. **All are welcomed and urged to participate!**

Jon is the Guild's **San Diego County Fair Coordinator** and has been attending planning meetings for this year's fair. **The Fair is currently planning to go forward as scheduled**, see <https://sdfair.com/> for details including entering a model in the "Design in Wood competitive exhibit, but **Jon** will keep the Guild notified of any changes to the schedule. In preparation, **Tom Hairston** has cut and shaped 600 Mini-*Star of India* kit to be handed out to young fair booth visitors and Other members have begun painting the hulls. The San Diego County Fair Maritime Museum/Guild Booth staffing signup form is being filled and one can visit the Website directly at <http://www.sdshipmodelersguild.org/sdsmg.htm> to view our Guild in action. **Please consider helping with the fair this year!**

First Mate Ed Torrence reported work continues on an upcoming presentation to be announced at a future meeting.

Officer Reports continued:

Log Keeper Tom Hairston reported his completion of the 600 Mini-*Star of India* hulls at a cost of 4.5 cents each. With his scratch built 1:96 scale *Star of India* completed as reported last month, **Tom** has completed 601 models of the *Star* in one year. Quite the achievement!

Editor Guy Lawrie reported the newsletter is currently mailed via USPS to 4 members with nothing additional to report.

Community Build Leader and Web Master reports:**Community Build Sails On!**

by **Community Build Leader Alex Roel**

Our March 14th meeting aboard the BERKELEY was canceled due to the current health threat, however our members remain busy and in touch via email and utilizing online builds.

Alex sent a further update telling us that he is happy to pass on that planking work in our group proceeds apace and he just received a new LED desk lamp for his workstation! He reported he also received the following message from our furthest member, **Tom Hairston** in Modesto...

"I have been busy working on my Community Build kit, so far I have made it to page 26 - just finishing fairing. I wish I could have started with the rest of you, but the comments emailed by the other members have been very helpful."

Alex closed his update with, "Great job Tom, and thanks for checking in! Now is a great time for our group to get some work done, and, as you can see from what Tom said, sharing experiences via email so that we all can benefit."

On The Web

by **Web Master Alex Roel**

Keep up to date with all of the Guild's announcements on our home page [Home Port](#) regarding possible meeting and event changes, and visit our [Awards](#) page to view Royce Privett's recent acceptance of the "Commander John C Mathews Award".

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?**

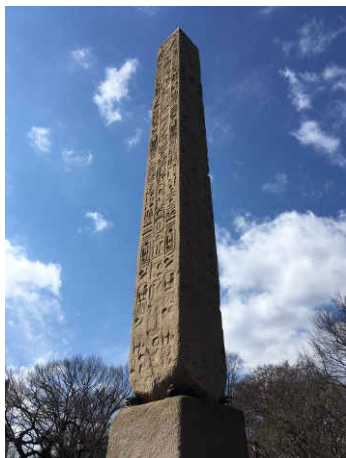
All the information you'll need is on our website on our [San Diego County Fair](#) page under the *Voyages* menu. You'll find links to the "Design in Wood" Information Sheet as well as our sign-up sheet for volunteering to help in the booth.

Last month, **Alex** told about a new web page that might bear repeating. 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. Help to make [Fiddler's Green](#) a comprehensive list of yarns, old and new by contacting **Alex** with your suggestions.

Show and Tell

Editor's note: With inclement weather in the area on meeting night and an emerging public health threat, still, **Don Dressel** and **Karl Zingheim** brought projects to share. During **Show and Tell** **Jon Sanford**, **Alex Roel**, and **Mike Lonnecker** spoke briefly about the upcoming **2020 NRG Conference** scheduled for October 15-17 at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum in Oxnard, CA. Early reservations are highly recommended, especially for any special events. Go to <https://thenrg.org/the-nrg-conference.php> for further details.

Jon and **Alex** also spoke about the upcoming **Rigging Class that will be held at BlueJacket Shipcrafters' headquarters in Searsport, ME** and how valuable this class might be to a ship modeler. Further detail can be found by contacting BlueJacket at <https://www.bluejacketinc.com/>.



A New York, NY Landmark

As March got underway, **First Mate Ed Torrence** was sharing a story with a compatriot about a landmark found in New York and the achievement of moving it begun in 1880 by **LCDR Henry Honychurch Gorrington, USN (ret.)**. **Ed** was wondering how one moves such a structure from its site to a port, how it is loaded on a ship, how a ship sails such a load in the 19th century, how it was unloaded at the destination, and finally moved from the port to a new location. Just stabilizing a load that heavy in a ship of the size of the late 19th century and making a Mediterranean cruise and Atlantic crossing must have been harrowing.

After **Ed** shared the story with **Guild Master Alex Roel**, **Alex** replied, "How timely! I just returned from visiting my Son in NYC and while in Central Park came across an obelisk named **Cleopatra's Needle** (see photo to the left). It's curiously anchored in its setting by four giant crabs (from the date of installation, I believe). I too was wondering how the Needle was transported to New York..." Well, one of **Ed's** compatriots humorously offered, "It brings to mind thousands of men with lots of rope and logs and guys in chariots and whips leading (or was it pushing) the brigade. Well that's not too far wrong. It was rolled into the ship, anyway, on canon balls!" So, let us look to Wikipedia for a bit more of this story.

Wikipedia tells us **Cleopatra's Needle** is one of three similarly named Egyptian obelisks. It was erected in New York's Central Park on 22 January 1881 after being secured in May 1877 by the United States Consul General at Cairo as a gift for the United States remaining a friendly neutral as the European powers, i.e. France and Britain, maneuvered to secure political control of the Egyptian government.

Made of red granite from the quarries of Aswan, the obelisk stands about 69 ft high, weighs about 200 tons, and is inscribed with Egyptian hieroglyphs. It was originally erected in the Egyptian city of Heliopolis on the orders of Thutmose III in 1475 BC with inscriptions on two sides from that time. 200 years later, inscriptions were added to the other two sides by Ramesses II to commemorate his military victories. The obelisks were eventually moved to Alexandria and set up in a temple built by Cleopatra during the reign of Augustus before they were toppled some time later. This had the fortuitous effect of burying their faces and so preserving most of the hieroglyphs from the effects of weathering. The inscriptions are amazing and can be found at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra%27s_Needle_\(New_York_City\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleopatra%27s_Needle_(New_York_City)) with a translation that is well worth the read for those with an interest in ancient Egypt.

A New York, NY Landmark continued:

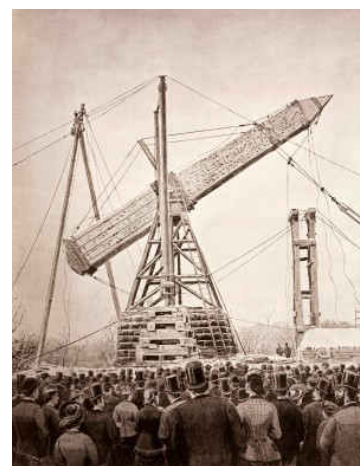
Who was **LCDR Henry Honychurch Gorringe, USN (ret.)**? Again Wikipedia tells us **Henry Gorringe** came to the United States from the British colony of Barbados at a young age and entering the merchant marine. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union Navy in 1862 with the rank of Mate, serving in the Mississippi Squadron. **Gorringe** elected to stay in the Navy after the war receiving a regular commission as a Lieutenant in 1868 and later promoted to Lieutenant Commander that same year. Gorringe discovered the underwater mountain range now known as the Gorringe Sea Bank in 1875, while commanding the exploration vessel *Gettysburg*. That same year he compiled a book on the exploration of the Río de la Plata and served in the Mediterranean from 1876 -1878.

In 1879, on leave from the U.S. Navy, **Gorringe** put in an application for the contract to remove the obelisk of Thutmosis III from Alexandria to Central Park. His was the only complete plan, and in August 1879, he was granted the contract, for which he was to be paid \$75,000. After proceeding to Egypt, Gorringe encountered local opposition, diplomatic obstruction from European countries, technical problems, and obstruction from local authorities all of which he overcame. The 200-ton granite obelisk was first shifted from vertical to horizontal, nearly crashing to ground in the process and the obelisk was transported seven miles to Alexandria before being put into the hold of the steamship *SS Dessoug*. The *Dessoug* was heavily modified with a large hole cut into the starboard side of its bow and the obelisk was loaded through the ship's hull by rolling it upon cannonballs. Setting sail 12 June 1880, and despite a broken propeller she arrived at the Quarantine Station in New York in early July with the obelisk and its 50 ton pedestal.



After again cutting open the side *Dessoug*, temporarily removing railroad ramps and flattening the ground the obelisk was rolled out of the ship. Taking 112 days and 32 horses hitched in pairs, the obelisk was brought from the banks of the East River to its final resting place in Central Park. The final leg of the journey was made by pushing the obelisk with

a steam engine across a specially built trestle bridge from Fifth Avenue to its new home and the obelisk was righted by a special structure built by Henry Honychurch Gorringe. The official ceremony for erecting the obelisk was held 22 February 1881.



To fill the page, because, why not? Humorist **Arthur Guiterman** referenced **Gorringe** as a rhyme for "orange" in his poetry:

In Sparkill buried lies that man of mark
Who brought the Obelisk to Central Park,
Redoubtable **Commander H.H. Gorringe**,
Whose name supplies the long-sought rhyme for "orange."



HMS Roebuck (1774)

by Don Dressel - Seen here sharing his *Roebuck*

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

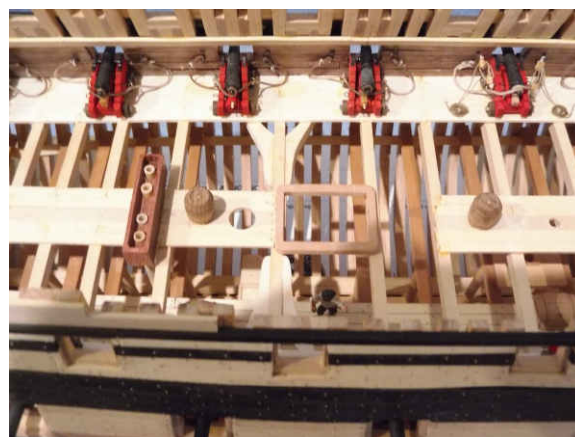
Scale 1:64

Don offered the following on progress he is making on building *Roebuck* and he also offered a book recommendation for any modeler working on masting and rigging. First though, a quote from **Don** about building a model, "If it does not make logical sense, it was probably not built that way."

Since the last time I brought the model in, see the pictures here, a few things have been completed. The frame extensions (long, after removing the Hahn jig from the model) have been sanded down to the proper position except for the stern. The bulkheads between the lower gun deck and the upper gun deck have been installed, the lower cannon and carriages have been glued in place (a wooden block inserted between the gun carriage and the deck glued in place also, to keep the cannon and carriage from moving - the block cannot be seen). The breaching line has been installed on all 20 cannon - the gun tackles will also be installed (one has been completed). There are 920 scratch eyebolts required for the 20 lower gun deck cannon and carriages. The eyebolts consist of twisted annealed wire,



28 gage. The rudder has been formed, as well as the tiller. The next step is to make and install the upper deck beams, carlings, etc. At the same time, the sweep has to be done (for the tiller). The stern and the quarter badges are also under consideration, which will be ebony and boxwood. Unfortunately, the lower gun deck with cannon will probably not be visible once the upper deck is completed - at least a large part of it.



Don also brought in the book Modeling the Extreme Clipper *Young America* 1853 Volume 3 by Edward J. Tosti, which is about the masting

and rigging of the ship. **Don** highly recommends this extremely valuable book for all modelers - the masting and rigging details and how to do it are very well explained and well worth reading by all ship modelers - all you wanted to know about masting and rigging is there for all to see. Available from SeaWatchBooks.com. \$85.00 plus \$9.00 shipping in the US - Money Well Spent!

“In Retreat”, Japanese destroyer *Suzutsuki* (1942)

Diorama by Karl Zingheim, seen here showing his diorama

Scale 1:200



Karl tells us about how the Japanese destroyer *Suzutsuki* was an escort ship on the final mission for the doomed battleship IJN *Yamato*. As is told in Wikipedia, on 6–7 April 1945, *Suzutsuki* escorted the *Yamato* from the Inland

Sea on her attack mission against the Allied forces fighting on Okinawa. In a last effort to thwart the American invasion of the Japanese mainland, the Japanese committed almost all of their remaining surface strength to Operation Go-Ten when, in concert with *kamikaze* and Okinawa-based army units, they planned



to attack the Allied forces assembled on and around Okinawa. *Yamato* would then be beached to act as an unsinkable gun emplacement and continue to fight until destroyed. Unfortunately for the Japanese, the Allies had intercepted and decoded their radio transmissions, learning the particulars of Operation Ten-Go. *Yamato* and her nine escorts including *Suzutsuki* were intercepted by American aircraft and for the most part sunk or severely

damaged. As **Karl's** diorama depicts, *Suzutsuki* suffered major damage to her bow when hit by a torpedo from American aircraft though she survived and returned to Sasebo, by steaming in reverse the whole way. She and three of her sister ships survived the ordeal, despite suffering heavy damage, but *Yamato*, and five escorts were all sunk with heavy losses of life. Some of the survivors were picked up by *Suzutsuki*.



Lastly, For the next month or two, folks are invited to share projects that they are working on. James Pitt has offered projects that he has been working on in the brief weeks since the March meeting as an example of how Guild members can continue to share their work during these difficult times. Extensive write-ups are not necessary but always welcomed!

Completed! **Jim** reports this is a SD Fair Booth project that originated as a wood boat model kit by Midwest that is no longer in production. This sloop is a model of a design by John G. Alden which is probably a modification of “The Sakonnet Daysailer” which was designed in 1939.

James Pitt projects continued:



These two pictures show **James** beginning work on a Stage Coach 1948 by Artesania Latina with **James'** giving thanks to **Mike Lonnecker** for building wheels advice

James initiates a new project, an HMS *Victory* cross section at mainmast, 1:98, by Corel



Gun station, French 24, 1:17, kit by Mantua, Almost done



English 32 Carronade, 1:17, kit by Mantua, Almost done



Hiding in the house, **James?**
Be Well, Be safe!

Bonus, Random Pictures from the Meeting



David Yotter and Jay MacMaster
having fun



A future project?



A good memory!

