



April 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. IV

GUILD OFFICERS

Guild Master

[Alex Roel](#)
guildmaster@
sdshipmodelersguild.org

First Mate

Mike Lonnecker
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

Presentations

[Karl Zingheim](#)
presentations@
sdshipmodelersguild.org

Model Shop

[Jon Sanford](#)
modelshop@
sdshipmodelersguild.org

No April Fooling Here, Just Guild News!



When listening to a unique electric guitar rendition of "Soon May the Wellerman Come" [c. 1860–70], a New Zealand whaling song, the Editor was reminded of Royce Privett's New Bedford Whaleboat pictured to the left. It might be noted that whalers in New

Zealand practiced shore-based whaling unlike whaling in the Atlantic and northern Pacific. This well known song could have been either a "sea shanty" or a "cutting-in shanty" of unknown authorship but might have been written by a teenage sailor or shore whaler. To read the first verse and chorus of the shanty "Soon May the Wellerman Come" see the Editor's Report on page 3. To listen to the unique electric guitar rendition of the shanty visit <https://www.express.co.uk/entertainment/music/1410007/Brian-May-Wellerman-sea-shanty-Nathan-Evans-Ant-and-Dec-Queen-guitarist> and scroll down to Brian May's performance. With a little patience one might even envision how the ship's crew would hope for a "wellerman" to arrive and bring them supplies of luxuries.

From The Quarterdeck by the Guild Master

Our elections complete, we welcome back Mike Lonnecker as First Mate for the coming year.

Speaking of which, the coming year promises to be one of eventually transitioning back to our accustomed ways: including, hopefully, celebrating the Guild's 50th Anniversary together as a community.

Have ideas to help us celebrate? Pass them on!

While the timing of normalization remains uncertain, the golden glimmer of sunrise on the horizon is surely a cheering sign for us all.

Fair winds and following seas, Alex Roel



The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild is affiliated with and supports the Maritime Museum of San Diego
1492 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101



9 MARCH 2021 GUILD VIRTUAL MEETING REPORT

Participate in a virtual monthly meeting and connect with the Guild. Send pictures of your project(s) or anything else you have to share with the Guild to the Editor at newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org and it can be added to the newsletter.

The Guild’s fifth virtual meeting was attended by eleven (11) members and was called to order by **Guild Master Alex Roel**. The Guild’s crew of ship modelers were well represented by **Chuck Seiler, Mike Lonnecker, Karl Zingheim, Guy Lawrie, Don Dressel, Jon Sanford, Tom Hairston, Mike Hite, Dave Yotter, and Doug Ward**. Use your phone or computer to join the meeting on April 13 and add your voice to the conversation! **Alex** began the meeting by moving the meeting to **Log Keeper Tom Hairston** for the Guild’s Officer Election report. **Tom** reported five ballots were received electronically with four additional voice ballots cast by members who were in attendance at this meeting. It was moved and seconded that since all ballots received electronically and those cast at the meeting had voted for the officers on the ballot that the officer slate on the ballot be approved. The move was voted on and passed unanimously.

Guild Master Report: **Alex** reminded everyone the Guild’s 50th Anniversary celebration is underway! As he reported in his “From the Quarterdeck” message, Have ideas to help us celebrate? Pass them on!

Purser’s Report: **Purser Jon Sanford** reported the following Guild Account balance:

Beginning Balance on February 11, 2021 \$<redacted>

Ending Balance on March 10, 2021 \$<redacted>

Jon reported from his post as the **Model Shop Coordinator** at the Maritime Museum that he has six restorations underway, four for the Museum and two for private parties. Over recent months **Jon** has completed eleven restorations at the Model Shop and those not already taken are available in the museum’s Gift Shop with all proceeds and donations to be directed to the museum.

The Maritime Museum is open with limitations and members are welcome to use the shop’s resources including its **tools, supplies, and the library**. With the Model Shop cleanup continuing as a “front burner” task, contact **Jon** to help out with clean-up or make use of the Model Shop’s resources! There is **NO CHARGE** for the kits found in the Model Shop but it is requested that a donation, large or small, be made to the Museum Gift Shop’s donation box. Please email **Jon** at modelshop@sdshipmodelersguild.org to coordinate model pickup or come for a visit and a cruise on the museum’s PCF 816 Swift Boat!



NEXT VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 13 APRIL AT 6:00 PM! Notice: An email announcement will be sent with meeting details to the Membership.

PLAN ON ATTENDING! SHARE A MODEL!

April 2021

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 Scheduled for 10 April, Cancelled. Notice: The Community Build Leader will email an announcement when meetings resume.

March Guild Meeting Report continued:

Editor Report: Guy had nothing new to report but to the right are the sea shanty lyrics continuing the opening of the newsletter at the top of Page 1. For the complete lyrics visit Shanty Net at [Soon May the Wellerman Come | Shanty Net](#)

Right: From the February 2012 newsletter: *Charles W. Morgan* by **Royce Privett**. She was the New Bedford, Massachusetts whaling ship that caught and processed more whales than any other whaling ship in history.



Soon May the Wellerman Come

There was a ship that put to sea,
And the name of the ship was the Billy of Tea
The winds blew up, her bow dipped down,
Oh blow, my bully boys, blow.

*Soon may the Wellerman come
And bring us sugar and tea and rum.
One day, when the tonguing is done,
I'll take my leave and go.*

So folks, why a picture of a skull in the middle of a newsletter. Former Editor **Chuck Seiler** best interprets it by offering this explanation. “About 2/3 of the way through the March meeting, **Jon Sanford** asked me about the skull on the shelf over my left shoulder. **Guy Lawrie** was curious as well. What? Doesn't everybody have a skull laying around the house? My response was “That belongs to the last person who tried to talk me into being newsletter editor again”.



I got this about 15 years ago as conversation piece in my office. Up until I retired in December, I was the head of security for a small Navy training command on Point Loma. I figured having a skull on my desk would set the tone. I must say, it DID get a number of sideways glances from the hundreds of Sailors who checked in with me over that period of time.

In addition to the skull, my office sported 2 of my ship models, a 1 foot tall TARDIS from “Dr. Who”, my family tree and other oddities. I always found it interesting which item somebody might point out and say “That's interesting”. Surprisingly, for as many people that passed through my office, not many people noted ANY of the items. I guess you don't ask too many questions of a person who has a skull on his desk. Bravo Zulu to Jon and Guy for noticing and commenting.

Now that I am retired, Bob has come home and sits on a shelf, watching me model.”

Presentations



above: A Pearl Harbor anniversary aboard USS *Midway*.

Presentations Coordinator Karl Zingheim reported about his initial efforts as coordinator and opportunities to “cross deck” a presentation with other organizations. **Karl's** remarkable presentation, “Naval Dioramas: Construction Tips and Techniques.” given at the recent Navy History Symposium presented by The Western Naval Historical Association (WNHA) and streamed from the USS *Midway* Museum is also under consideration. See the next page for a few pictures from his presentation.

Presentation Report by Karl Zingheim continued:



The pictures that follow from **Karl's** presentation, pictured to the left, are just one part of the WNHA presentation program that was included in the March newsletter. Those interested in naval history were well rewarded by attending the 2021 virtual symposium and hearing historians, authors, and educators give fascinating presentations. The U.S. Navy in Viet Nam and the evolution of the Navy War College following WWII as it prepared for the coming Cold War are just a couple of other subjects that were discussed.

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the records of history?” - **Marcus Tullius Cicero** (106-43 BC)

Karl's presentation and the techniques he utilizes to create dioramas can be found at:

[WNHA 2021](#) Choose “Naval Dioramas Construction Tips and Techniques” . Several other presentations are also well worth a look! Naval history buffs might well consider joining the WNHA and they can be contacted at the following link. [Home | Western Naval History Association \(wnha.net\)](#)

His presentation includes the research that he conducted to recreate the scene of USS *Arizona's* (BB-39) forward magazines exploding during the attack on Pearl Harbor. The scratch-built diorama is historically accurate and captures the scene that Dr. Haakenson filmed from the USS *Solace*, pictured to the right and with **Karl's** diorama below, that is now in the collection of the National Archives. **Karl** is nearing completion of a second scratch-built diorama capturing a moment in time as *Arizona* and USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37) are moving towards their moorings on Friday, December 5, 1941 for a future Pearl Harbor anniversary display.



Above: *Oklahoma* moving to her mooring as *Arizona* positioned at her mooring on Dec 5



Above: A picture of one of the construction techniques to create the smoke plume



Items of Interest

The following came to the attention of the Guild through the Guild's association with the Nautical Research Guild (NRG). Members are encouraged to consider joining the NRG where ship modelers can find research such as this.

Col. John Glovers Marblehead schooner *Hannah* (1765-1775): Fishing For The Truth – NOW AVAILABLE

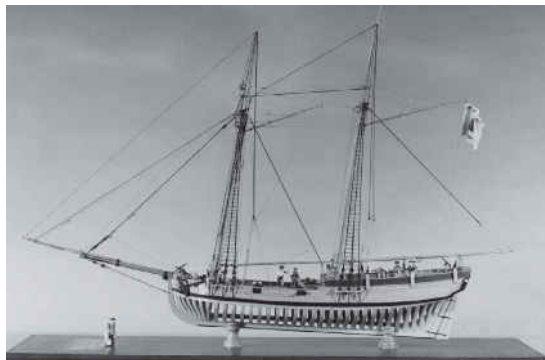
If you are a Nautical Research Guild member and therefore a subscriber to our *Nautical Research Journal*, you should know that all five parts of this 250-page monograph on *Hannah* are now available as Extended Content on the Nautical Research Guild Website. The work is heavily illustrated in color, and includes extensive End Notes, many of them annotated.

You can find these materials here, including the Introduction which first appeared in the Winter 2020 print and digital editions of the NRJ.

<https://thenrg.org/journal/extended>

My monograph is the result of over two years of research and writing, made possible by the contributions of nearly 75 friends, colleagues, and others from dozens of libraries, historical societies, and other institutions.

If you ever modeled *Hannah*, or have been thinking about doing so, please read this study first. The origin and appearance of this schooner had not been investigated for over 50 years. These new findings will surprise you, and...keep you from making yet another model unsupported by the primary historical record.



The Schooner *Hannah* (1775). Scale model by Harold Hahn. Courtesy of the Estate of Harold Hahn.

Learn...

Why—through no fault of his—the plans by Harold Hahn are in error, and how they came to be. Why reconstruction attempts by others—including for full-sized construction—are also off the mark.

What is a “Marblehead schooner” from a study of the origin and evolution of that type? Not what you might think.

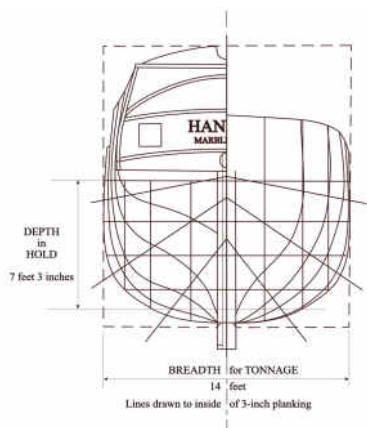
How a single model built as early as 1865 led to the misleading vision we hold today of what *Hannah* looked like.

How we developed a new interpretation and a more likely appearance of Col. Glover's *Hannah*.

Study a set of faired hull lines drawn at 1:48, Deck layout, Outboard and Inboard Profile, Stern elevation with supporting text for each decision in the design. Includes a period hull framing arrangement from which a POF-style hull can be developed. Extend our work through your own interpretation based on this study, or by incorporating your own thoughts and research. Two variants of *Hannah* are now possible for modeling.

Learn what happened to *Hannah* during and after her brief career as the first private vessel hired by George Washington; armed to harass British merchant shipping in the last few months of 1775, and how those events inform our new interpretation of the schooner, and in particular her armament.

***Hannah* (1765-1775): Fishing For The Truth continued:**



Left: **John Glover's** Marblehead-owned Schooner *Hannah's* Body-Stern Plan, A new interpretation by the author. Copyright Randle McLean Biddle (2019).

Please read “Col. John Glovers Marblehead schooner *Hannah* (1765-1775): Fishing For The Truth”, and share your comments, critiques, and questions.

If you are NOT a member of the Nautical Research Guild, please consider joining today. Details at this link.

<https://thenrg.org/about/membership>

Doing so will give you full access to this *Hannah* research monograph and the

Drawings set, and to many other useful features, previous articles, shop notes, and much more.

The *Hannah* text and drawings set, were they to be sold separately would cost more than your first-year's NRG membership fee.

Comments, Questions? Contact the author:

Randle (Randy) McLean Biddle

Fifty-Year Member of the *Nautical Research Guild*

windships@earthlink.net

661-645-5742 (Mountain Time Zone)

A second item of interest comes from **Jim Knox** of the Grand Knight Council 7902, Ascension Parish, San Diego, phone 858-775-0101, email jimknox@wwdb.org who when raised locally became childhood friends with attorney and former mariner of the Merchant Marine, **Frank Tepedino**. **Frank**, who is also an avid H.O. railroad enthusiast, has been a prolific ship modeler and is now intending to make his models available to the public with all proceeds to be donated to charity through the Knights of Columbus. Anyone interested in taking part in this worthy endeavor are urged to contact **Jim Knox** directly at the above contact information. Following here and on the next page are a few pictures from **Frank's** collection.



Frank Tepedino Collection continued:



There are model monographs available from **Jim**, several directly from Wikipedia, for some of the models **Frank** is offering for charitable donations including monographs for:

HMS *Victory*, the Russian ship of the line *Goto Predestinatsia*, a generic brigantine description, *La Santa Maria*, the lightship *Nantucket*, the German flagged bark *Passat*, the SS *Great Western*, *Cutty Sark*, a German Type VII U-boat, the *Gato*-class submarine USS *Cobia* (SS-245), and the USS *Constitution*.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is a bit sparse this month on pictures though it was quite enjoyable to listen and participate in talking about building models during the March virtual meeting. Again, all are encouraged to join in! Including the offerings from **Chuck Seiler** and **Karl Zingheim** in the previous pages, **Dave Yotter** showed his Baby Alligator – a 1:48 scale log tug which could not only tow logs down stream but cross up to a mile and a half across land. **Dave** talked about also doing model railroad items in various scales. **Guy Lawrie** showed his in-progress working model of a Hurdy-Gurdy, **Mike Hite** spoke about his challenges working on his C. Mamoli kit of the USS *Lexington* with its instructions in Italian, and **Chuck Seiler** reported that the strakes of his “Woody Dog” model cog with its clinker built design are almost complete. **Mike Lonnecker** told that his next project will be a build of an admiral’s pinnace in admiralty style to 1:48 scale and **Jon Sanford** spoke about his restorations reported earlier in the newsletter.

HMS *Roebuck* (1774) by Don Dressel

Don told about his progress with his 1:64 scratch-built model and he showed the rigging of the gun tackle and gun port lids. As deck beams are completed on the forecastle, **Don** finds research into plans obtained from the Greenwich Museum in England are indispensable. See the March edition of the SMA newsletter emailed earlier to the Guild for more information on **Don’s** progress with his remarkable build.



Show and Tell continued:**American Schooner *Independence* (1775) by Doug Ward**

Doug showed his 1:35 Artesania Latina model and reported he finished the deck and installed the chain plate channels and is ready to begin rigging. He said he had the masts, booms, and yards finished. Reporting he was not finding much information about this ship on the internet he found what info he did find is often conflicting about what the ship really looked like. That being said, he reports taking a lot of artistic liberties on his model. "The kit included a stamped out pot metal transom so I planked the transom and added wooden windows and some brass trim. I think the makers of the kit did the best they

could with the limited info, but to me, the scale is kind of whacky. At 1:35 the cabin access door would be three feet tall



and two feet wide. Of course these are things only the pickiest of us model ship builders would notice. All in all though, it's a fun ship to build and I think it will look pretty good when it's finished with full sails."



Guild Member Don Bienvenue reported he came across a model build of the *Star of India*. **Don** contacted the builder and obtained permission to share the build with the rest of the Guild. The build log can be found by NRG Members by visiting the NRG homepage and Model Ship World at [Nautical Research Guild - Home \(thenrg.org\)](http://NauticalResearchGuild-Home(thenrg.org)) and finding "Star Of India by Kathy Teel - FINISHED - iron bark - - Build logs for subjects built 1851 - 1900 - Model Ship World™". With a bit further investigation **Don** obtained the a statement from the builder, **Dave Teel**, Kathy's Husband. **Dave**, pictured to the right with another project underway, provided **Don** with the information found on the next page about his modelling background and a couple of photos, one with the *Star* and one with what looks like the *San Felipe* (the same ship **Don** is building).



Star of India by Dave Teel continued:

Dave wrote, "I've been building model wooden ships for over 40 years now. I started with plastic models as a child but stumbled across an advertisement offering "Build a Wooden Ship" . After completing The "Constellation" I was hooked. I've completed over a dozen ships and several commissioned builds. Living In San Diego for over 50 years the Star Of India has been a fixture on the waterfront. There are no commercial kits for the Star so I decided I would try my hand at a scratch build. I purchased three sets of plans from the gift shop and spent over two years coming and going on board to take reference pictures and

measurements. It is now my favorite build, no one has another just like it. I live in Oregon now and it reminds me of San Diego each time I look at it."

Don, well done finding **Dave** and his fine build of the Maritime Museum of San Diego's *Star of India*!

NRG Members can find more pictures by visiting the NRG homepage and Model Ship World at [Nautical Research Guild - Home \(thenrg.org\)](http://NauticalResearchGuild-Home(thenrg.org)) and finding "Star Of India by Kathy Teel - FINISHED - iron bark - - Build logs for subjects built 1851 - 1900 - Model Ship World™".



The End