



May 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. V

**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

**Welcome to May, Guild!**



“May Grey” (for those not familiar with San Diego, a description of cloudy mornings that can occur during the month of May when a thick marine layer of clouds can be found along the San Diego coast) may soon begin. So, what is this picture of a grey ship to the left and what tragic events occurred over 150 years ago that is commemorated in May? A brief explanation can be found in the Editor’s Report on page 4.

That being said, May hosts a few other days not to be ignored on the USA calendar. May 31 is, of course, **Memorial Day** when we remember those who served in the armed forces and gave their last breath for the freedoms we enjoy. May 22 is **National Maritime Day** when we celebrate the Merchant Marine and also the first steam powered transoceanic crossing by SS *Savannah* in 1819 AND never ignore May 9, **Mother’s Day!**

**From The Quarterdeck by the Guild Master**

As we anticipate meeting in person in the coming months, now is a good time to reflect that our Guild is sponsored by the Maritime Museum of San Diego.

The MMSD not only sponsors us but affords us meeting space and time aboard the steam ferry BERKELEY for Guild and Community Build meetings, gala events, and use and management of the Model Shop where the Guild’s workstations, tools, fittings, and supplies are housed.

The Officers encourage all Members to support the MMSD in turn by becoming an [annual member](#), and continuing our 50-year relationship.

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



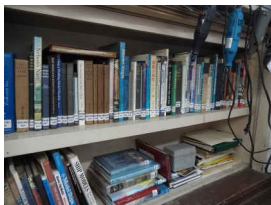
**13 APRIL 2021 GUILD VIRTUAL MEETING REPORT**

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](mailto:newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org) and it can be added to the newsletter.

The Guild’s sixth virtual meeting was attended by twelve (12) 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, Bob McPhail, Gary Seaton, and Doug Ward** with **Frank Dengler** joining by phone. Use your phone or computer to join the meeting on May 11 and add your voice to the conversation!

**Guild Master Report:** Alex opened the meeting with a discussion about resuming the Guild’s monthly meetings in-person aboard the Maritime Museum’s steam ferry *Berkeley*. It was reported that **Jon Sanford** is keeping in contact with museum staff including **Collections Manager Kevin Sheehan, Ph.D.** Work to identify protocols for an in-person meeting include coordinating Guild meetings with the museum’s hours of operation which are earlier in the afternoon than pre-pandemic. On a second topic, **Alex** reported that the **Nautical Research Guild** is highlighting charter clubs on the NRG website of which, one is the SD Ship Modelers Guild. He is exploring the development of a page to highlight the SDSMG for that purpose. See [Nautical Research Guild - Chartered Chapters \(thenrg.org\)](http://thenrg.org) for a look at this topic.

**Purser Report:** **Jon Sanford** welcomes a new member. **Dr. Randal Davis**, pictured to the right, found the Guild while visiting from Arizona. Besides his work in the medical field, **Randal** was educated as a Nautical Archeologist and has worked on many underwater projects and discoveries. He spends time volunteering aboard the Maritime Museum where he met **Jon** and helped in the Museum’s Model Shop effort to organize the Guild’s inventory of ship model fittings and the shop’s library. **Randal**, when in San Diego, would like to attend Guild meetings and possibly even give a nautical archeology talk to our membership when we resume in-person meetings. **Welcome aboard, Randal, and the Guild looks forward to meeting you in person!**



Thank you, **Randal**, for the organization effort on the Model Shop’s library, it looks great!

**May 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	31					

**NEXT VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 11 MAY AT 6:00 PM! Notice:** An email announcement will be sent with meeting details to the Membership.

**PLAN ON ATTENDING!**

**SHARE A MODEL!**

**Next Community Build Meeting Scheduled for 8 May, Cancelled. Notice:** The Community Build Leader will email an announcement when meetings resume.

**Mother’s Day, Memorial Day, National Maritime Day**

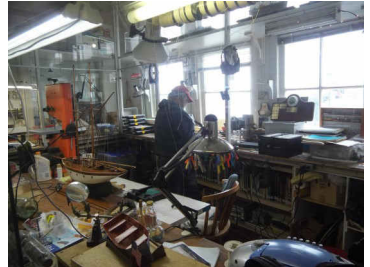
**Purser Report continued:**

Purser Jon Sanford reported the following Guild Account balance:

**Beginning Balance on March 11, 2021**                      \$<redacted>

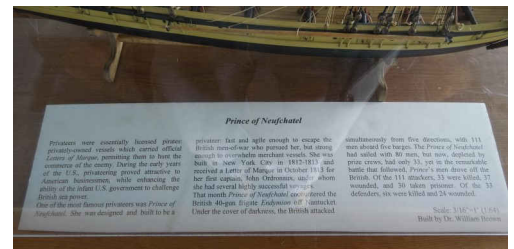
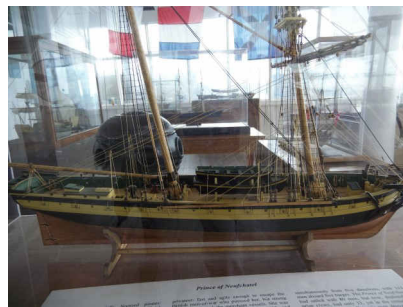
**Ending Balance on April 12, 2021**                      \$<redacted>

**Jon** reported from his post as the **Model Shop Coordinator** at the Maritime Museum that he has three restorations underway for the Museum. Over recent months he has completed numerous restorations at the Model Shop and those models not already taken are available in the museum’s Gift Shop with all proceeds and donations to be directed to the museum. Pictured to the right, on many days **Jon** can be found by glancing in the window of the Model Shop working away on a restoration. Contact [Jon](#) if you are interested in joining the party!

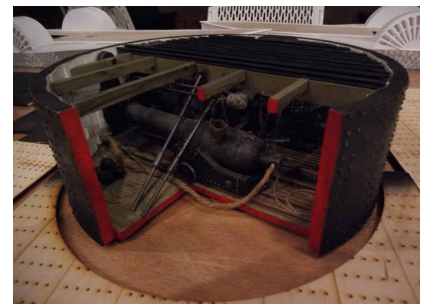


The Maritime Museum is open with limitations and members are welcome to use the shop’s resources including its **tools, supplies, and the library**. With the Model Shop cleanup continuing as a “front burner” task, contact [Jon](#) to help out with clean-up or make use of the Model Shop’s resources! In this picture to the left, he is making a repair to the shop’s band saw and it is ready for use! 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](mailto:modelshop@sdshipmodelersguild.org) to

coordinate model pickup or come for a visit and take a cruise on the museum’s PCF 816 Swift Boat! Take a wander aboard the *Berkeley* and even with her restricted access to only certain areas, there are ships and models well worth the look such as the ones below and one might even hitch a ride aboard the *San Diego Pilot Boat!*



**First Mate Report:** **Mike** told the Guild that for any who might be interested in modeling an ironclad ship of the Civil War era, and there were many besides the two most well known, there is soon to be a resource offered on the Nautical Research Guild’s website that is well recommended. MODELING CIVIL WAR IRONCLAD SHIPS By Steven Lund and William Hathaway has been updated and edited for release and will be offered in .pdf format by the NRG. Note: at the Guild’s February 2018 meeting, **Karl Zingheim** showed this cutaway model of the USS *Monitor*’s turret by another modeler and told the story of the turret’s fascinating salvage.



### April Guild Meeting Report continued:

**Editor Report:** Guy Lawrie had nothing new to report but to finish the story about the sculpture pictured at the opening of the newsletter at the top of Page 1, Wikipedia offers the following. The National Famine Commemoration Day is an annual observance in Ireland during the third weekend in May commemorating the Great Famine of 1845-49 that led to a million Irish men, women, and children to flee their country with many coming to America. The sculpture is known as The National Famine Monument and is found at the base of Croagh Patrick in Murrisk, County Mayo, Ireland. It depicts a “coffin ship” with skeletons and bones as rigging. Sculpted by



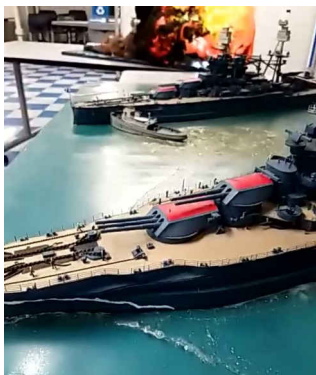
John Behan, it is Ireland's largest bronze sculpture. The sculpture captures the ordeal that many endured or perished from, desperate to escape the Great Famine of Ireland at the time. While aboard ships as “steerage passengers”, the passengers were allocated an area of 6 foot square for up to 4 passengers (who might not be related) and their children. Often 50% died on passage aboard a "coffin ship". The tragedy is noted internationally with commemoration ceremonies held in many US cities.

**Log Keeper’s Report:** Tom Hairston talked about inventorying the ship modeling plans formerly belonging to William F. Brown. He spoke about a plan for a *Monitor*-like ship, the USS *Monterey* of 1893, whose distinction was having two turrets. Tom reports that all the plans are going to be cataloged and made available to the Guild. Among the plans available to a willing ship modeler is a tug featured on page 10 in the latest ROPEWALK, the Newsletter of “The Shipwrights of Central Ohio” edited by Bill Nyberg. Quoted from the article and accompanied by the picture to the right of *Eppleton Hall*, “*Eppleton Hall*, (is) a **steam sidewheeler** with side-lever engines, (and) is the only remaining intact example of a Tyne paddle tug ... She was sold for scrap in 1967 and, while sitting on a mud bank, fire (part of the scrapping process) destroyed her wooden afterdeck and interior. For most of 1969 she underwent repairs, including modifications for an epic trip (via the Panama Canal) to San Francisco passing through the Golden Gate, in March of 1970.



“The vessel was donated to the National Park Service in 1979 and is now berthed at Hyde Street Pier, San Francisco. “Original Source: "On the Hawser" by Steven Lang and Peter H. Spectre, 1980; & San Francisco national park web site.”

If interested in constructing a model of this unique tug contact [Tom](#) and arrange for acquiring the plans!



**Presentations Coordinator Karl Zingheim** reported he continues to pursue opportunities to “cross deck” a presentation with other organizations. Karl’s presentation, “Naval Dioramas: Construction Tips and Techniques.” given at the recent Navy History Symposium presented by The Western Naval Historical Association (WNHA) remains under consideration for a future in-person Guild meeting. Perhaps then the Guild will be able to view his remarkable dioramas, one of which is pictured to the left, of Pearl Harbor and the fate of USS *Arizona* (BB-39) on December 7, 1941.

## Show and Tell

**Show and Tell** began with an **Item of Interest** that was initially driven by an announcement that **Chuck Passaro** of “Syren Ship Model Company” fame was intending to end supplying model rope for model ship rigging. This news initiated a general discussion about rigging thread and rigging in general among the assembled members on the virtual meeting. It was first noted that **Mike Lonnecker** has made several presentations over the years and might even be persuaded to reprise a presentation when in-person meetings resume. The discussion centered around types of thread with it generally being agreed that linen is the best thread material but is difficult to obtain. Mercerized cotton is thought of as an adequate substitute to linen thread but nylon thread is a poor choice for rigging thread. Polyester thread is preferred by some of those at the meeting for its initial appearance but all agreed that polyester thread stretches over time. **Mike** said that he believes the best cotton comes from France and thread of different materials and thicknesses can be obtained through a **company named 123Stitch.com**.

**Chuck Seiler** offered the following comment and product pictures. “During the “rope making” discussion, a couple products were mentioned. The first was **TransTint** which is a dye **Mike Lonnecker** recommends for coloring rigging. The other was conservator’s wax. This is used in lieu of beeswax to treat cotton or linen line in order to keep the fuzz down. **Mike** says it is not necessary if you use mercerized cotton. Not everybody has that option though, since they use kit-supplied rigging. Conservator’s wax has a neutral ph that will not damage the rigging over time, whereas beeswax is slightly acidic. The wax **Chuck** reported he uses is **RENAISSANCE**, but there are other brands as well.”

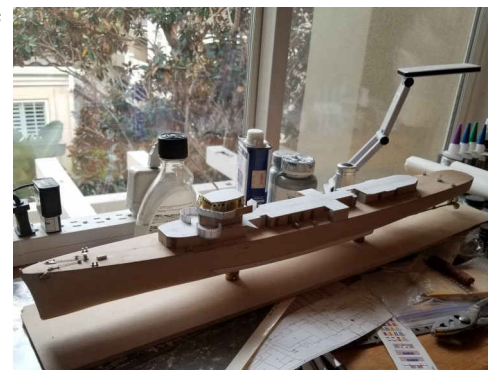


Join the next meeting and introduce a topic you are interested in and who knows where it might lead!

**Show and Tell** was quite enjoyable to listen into and even participate in when talking about building models during the April virtual meeting. Again, all are encouraged to join in!

Including the following offerings from members, **Karl Zingheim** spoke from his perch as Historian aboard the USS *Midway* Museum about a 1:48 scale model of the *Midway* being decommissioned. He told that it has been difficult to find a home for the 20 foot long, 6 foot wide model that **Karl** helped construct as a promotional aid to bring the USS *Midway* (CV 41) to San Diego for conversion into a museum. **Karl** also spoke about developing a technique to construct a “cage mast” and that he looks forward to demonstrating the technique at a future in-person meeting.

**Frank Dengler** called into the virtual meeting and told the assemblage that he was continuing to work on a shadow box display for his model of USS *McDERMUT* (DD 677). The Guild looks forward to seeing another of **Frank's** destroyer models displayed in its historical context, in this instance, *McDermut's* place as a one of the victorious ships of the last battleship-to-battleship engagement in history at the Battle of Surigao Strait. Here, *McDermut* is pictured under construction after **Frank** spoke about his project at the December 2020 virtual Guild meeting.



**Show and Tell continued:****Lively Lady, a ship in a bottle****By Doug Ward**

Doug tells that *Lively Lady* is built to 1:300 scale and he put a penny in one of the photos for size reference. He reports he just recently put the model in the bottle and further said, “it was an interesting experience. I built the model per the dimensions on the plans and assumed they made it to fit into the bottle that came with the kit. I guessed at the thickness of the

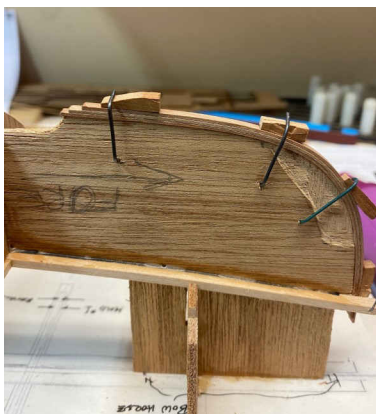
glass and figured 1:16" for the plasticine water. It looked like it was going to be tight and it was. I had to reach in with a custom tool and pull the foremast upright wedging it into the top of the bottle. Well it all worked out in the end. I still need to make a wooden base. I don't know how the sailors used to do this on a rocking ship with crude tools. The kit said "tools included" which entailed a two inch piece of sandpaper and a small tube of dried up glue. I used at least twenty tools including micro drills and several custom made tools.”



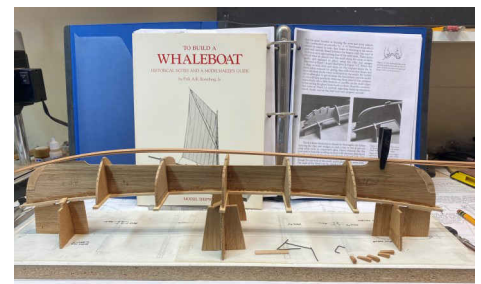
Here are a couple more pictures of **Doug's Lively Lady** installed in her bottle. **Doug** said that the ship in a bottle project was an interesting diversion from beginning to rig his model of USS *Independence* (1775) when line color bled onto the sails which he said was accompanied by some colorful language!

**Whaleboat, a Model Shipways kit****By Gary Seaton**

**Gary** tells the Guild, “The Model Shipways Whaleboat project is presenting me with some new learning experiences from “standard building steps” he learned from previous model ships. Firstly, it is not a “ship” project, it is a “boat”.



I say that because the supportive directions for building this boat are starting out with an entirely different method of building the stem post and keel. The starting frame is turned over onto a Bow Horse, Midship Horse and Stern Horse to start work on the bow and stern posts and the keel. Rather than cutting wood pieces curved to form the posts that join the keel, the posts are formed by bending three strips to fit the bow and stern molds and clipping several wedges to “teach” the strips to hold that shape, fore and aft, to be connected to the two-layer keel strips.”



### Whaleboat by Gary Seaton continued:

Gary continues by saying, “The three strips forming the stems, after they have dried into the proper shape, are glued together and sanded to create the beginning of the keel rabbet. Three additional strips are added on top of the previously formed stems to create the second edge of the rabbet for the garboard strake.

“That is where I am at this time, still in the middle of preparing to create the space for the garboards and connecting lap boards to get to the planking I am most used to in “ship building”. The pictures are provided to make sense to the reader about my attempts to sound like I have an idea about how to build a whaleboat. It’s a work “in progress”; slow progress but progress indeed.”



### *Elizabeth*, a Baltimore Clipper

By Don Dressel

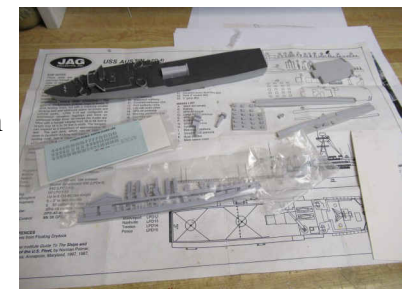
Don was inspired by another builder to include *Elizabeth* in the April newsletter edition of the Ship Modelers Association of Orange County, CA. His model of a Baltimore Clipper is named after his wife and as Don tells about his model, “This model started from a old Mamoli kit model of the *Black Prince*, a small French schooner that was purchased by Ben Franklin in 1795 when he was our French ambassador. The kit was pretty bad however and the material (it was an OLD kit) was poor. At the same time, I had obtained the book The Baltimore Clipper by Howard Irving Chappelle. Since many Baltimore Clippers were built and named after the builder’s wife in America, I decided to use what I could of the kit (which was not much) and scratch build a Baltimore Clipper of the 1812 period. (Baltimore Clippers were) built primarily for speed and was very much over-sparred (heavy masted) for her size enabling her to carry a very large set of canvas.



“The model was then scratch built using plank-on-bulkhead construction with English Sycamore for the hull planks, ebony and pear for the bulkheads, boxwood for the decks and fittings, lemon for the spars and linen for the rigging. I remember cutting all the planking using my old Unimat saw attachment (the only saw I had at the time). All the inspiration and plans came from Chappell’s book. Inspiration was also obtained at the time from an old SMA member, **Jack Elam**, who showed me how to make a flag for the model

painted on a piece of aluminum cut to size with acrylics. See the attached photo for the results, the model still (is) in place in its case at my home.”

Don spoke at the Guild meeting about his "works in progress", pictured to the right., He served as a signalman aboard **USS *Duluth* (LPD-6)** off Vietnam when he was in the U.S. Navy (1965-1968). It is a resin model in 1/700 scale and is very small. Don is also a proud plank holder of *Duluth* and the Guild looks forward to viewing the results of this project!



**Show and Tell continued:**



**HMS FLY (Swan Class)**

**By Bob McPhail**

**Victory Model Kits, Scale 1:64**

**Bob** reports his *Fly* project is completed! Congratulations! **Bob** reported during the Guild’s first virtual meeting (December 2020) that he began his “pandemic build” in April. He told the Guild then that the masts had not yet been secured to the hull since he was currently working on the yards. He said the next step after the yards would be to set the masts and install the standing rigging. **Bob** tells anyone who has worked on this model that there are many plan sheets for rigging and in December he was only on plan sheet nine of twelve with standing and running rigging still to go. **Bob** finally completed the rigging and tells that he is moving on to his next project, the gunboat USS *Philadelphia*. You go, **Bob!**

**Californian, the Official Tall Ship of the State of California**

**By Tom Hairston**

**Tom** showed a couple of boats from his scratch built project just underway of *Californian*. *Californian* is found at the Maritime Museum of San Diego where it is learned she “is a replica of the 1847 Revenue Cutter C.W. Lawrence, which patrolled the coast of California enforcing federal law during the gold rush.” She is available for public sails and serves as a platform for dockside and sea educational programs.



**Tom** is building from 10 pages of plans in 1:64 scale. This will be his second model of the Maritime Museum’s collection of National Historic Landmark Vessels following his scratch building of *Star of India*.



**Left: picture of Californian berthed at the Maritime Museum**



**Show and Tell continued:****English Pinnace (Circa 1750-1760)**by **Mike Lonnecker****Scratch Built Scale - 1:48**

**Mike** talked about working on a project he began in 2017 but had set aside as he worked on other projects and interests.

Quoted from the November 2017 SD Ship Modelers Guild's newsletter, **Mike** noted the excellent kit in 1:24 scale designed by

**Chuck Passaro** and offered by Model

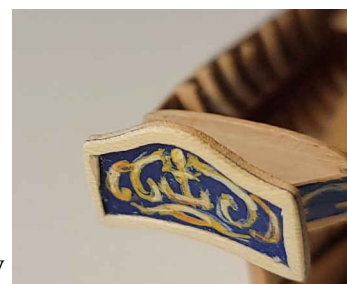
Shipways. **Mike** said he models only in 1:48 scale but wanted to build a model of this boat so he got hold of a set of the kit plans and instructions and set out to scratch build one after he obtained permission to use the plans from Chuck.



The Model is being constructed primarily of boxwood. Typical of **Mike's** models, this one is being constructed Admiralty Style and he reported back in 2017 the planking was an interesting adventure. The planks are very thin, .015 inch, and highly curved. He thought of trying to spile each one, but decided to bend each one in place. This required bending in two directions at once. He soaked the plank, cut to width and tapered at the bow, in water.

Because the planks were so thin only a couple of minutes was required. Mike gently forced the plank into place and held it there for a few minutes, rubbing and pressing to make sure it fit right next to the plank above it and lay flat against the frames. Again, because of the thinness it would start to dry very quickly. When it would hold its shape and was still damp, he would glue it into place. The last plank had to be spiled in order to fit against the plank above it and below it.

The flying transom is hand painted with a holly border glued in place. The border is only about .030 inch wide and .015 -.020 inch thick. All the pictures shown here were recently captured and the Guild looks forward to seeing and hearing more about this project since several Guild Members participated in a Community Build of **Chuck Passaro's** kit.

**KATE COREY, a Whaling Brig**By **Alex Roel**

**Alex** begins his project by working on the 4 whale boats pictured here. The Guild looks forward to seeing and reading about Alex's work and documentation of this project!

**Show and Tell continued:**

**A Restoration**

**By Mike Hite**

Mike is reporting he has begun a restoration of an “old, very fine ship after a Professor of Biology reached out to the Maritime Museum after a recent visit. The professor believes her great-grandfather worked in a harbor in Croatia and built the model sometime during the 1920’s or 1930’s.” Mike is intrigued by a few unique characteristics of the model such as a working anchor winch and stationary buttons used for ornamentation.



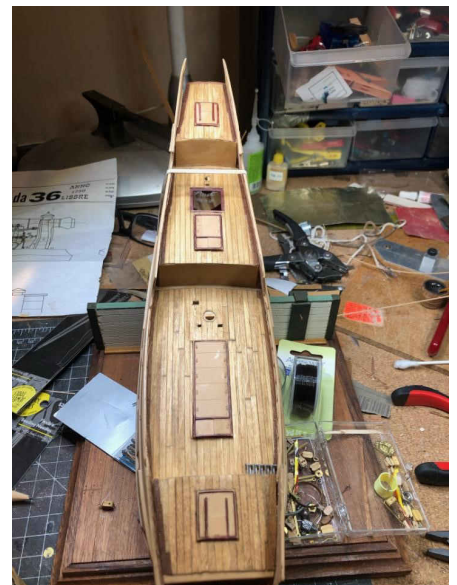
Mike adds, “the solid hull model is equipped with hatch covers that can be removed to show inside the hull and a forward hatch that has a sliding clear plastic hatch cover. Luckily, the bowsprit is not broken but a few ratlines, shrouds, and stays need replacement. Overall, the model is just dirty and he appreciates the look of the model.”



**Golden Hind, a galleon captained by Francis Drake**

**By James Pitt**

James sent this picture of his plastic ship model that he has modified by installing deck planking. He reports he will be continuing to modify the model to improve its appearance and the Guild looks forward to seeing it at a future meeting.



**Be well, Guild!**

**The End**