



July 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. VII

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**Have a Happy 4th of July, Guild!**

**“In Congress, July 4, 1776  
The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen  
united States of America”**

“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.— We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness ...”

- sourced from National Archives

**Attention on deck! “From the Quarterdeck” by the Guild Master**

Last month we met aboard the BERKELEY for the first time in fifteen long months. It was fantastic to see so many familiar and new faces in person... we had so many Show and Tell items we could not accommodate them all...

Many thanks go to the Maritime Museum of San Diego for making our meeting place available.

Please join us July 13th for our next Guild Meeting... current attendance policies and procedure will be sent by email before then.

Fair winds and following seas, **Alex Roel**



**Jon Sanford and Kevin Sheehan greeted Members as they boarded the Museum's Steam Ferry Berkeley before the meeting.**



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



**8 JUNE 2021 GUILD MEETING REPORT**

Those unable or hesitant to meet aboard the steam ferry *Berkeley* at the Maritime Museum are encouraged to send pictures of project(s) or anything of interest you would like to share with the Guild to the Editor at [newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org](mailto:newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org) so it may be added to the newsletter.



Mask restrictions were observed as California relaxed social gathering protocols. From the left: Don Bienvenue, Mike Hite, and Chuck Seiler listen to a speaker.

The Guild’s first in-person meeting in over a year was attended by nineteen (19) members and was called to order by **Guild Master Alex Roel**. The Guild’s crew of ship modelers were well represented by **Gary Seaton, Isaac Wills, Albert Powell, Don Dressel, Dave Yotter, Don Bienvenue, Mike Hite, Chuck Seiler, Karl Zingheim, Frank Dengler, Peter Fink, Doug Yumoto, Diana Griffus, Howard Griffus, Mike Lonnecker, Guy Lawrie, Jon Sanford, and Tom Hairston**. Joining the meeting as welcomed guests were the Maritime Museum’s Manager of Collections / Librarian **Kevin Sheehan, Ph.D** and **Diana Griffus’** Granddaughter, **Emmi. Quite the crew!**

**Guild Master Report:** Alex, pictured to the right, opened the meeting by

remembering two Members who passed away during the suspension of Guild meetings due to the pandemic and asking that Members bring to mind **Ed Torrence** and **Royce Privett**. Alex then went on to introduce Members who joined the Guild during the pandemic. **Gary Campbell** has his home in Arkansas and has contributed more than a couple of his stunning builds to the Guild’s website, see [San Diego Ship Modelers Guild \(sdshipmodelersguild.org\)](http://San Diego Ship Modelers Guild (sdshipmodelersguild.org)) to find his scratch built USS *Arizona* (BB-39). **Dean Shellenberger** resides in Alpine and joined the Guild early in the pandemic while **Mike Hite** was able to attend his first in-person meeting and during the pandemic has been enjoying financially contributing to the model display areas of the Maritime Museum and restoring models that are family heirlooms. **Peter Fink** joined the Guild at this meeting after visiting the Maritime Museum and was



introduced as the Guild’s newest member. He spoke about building a model of Sir Francis Drake’s *Golden Hind*. **Welcome aboard, the Guild looks forward to getting to know you folks and about all your interests in ship modeling! Plan on attending as the Guild gathers again aboard the steam ferry Berkeley at the Maritime Museum on July 13! One might even enjoy the view of San Diego Bay from the Berkeley with USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-71) in port!**



**July 2021**

**NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 13 JULY AT 6:00 PM! Notice:** An email announcement will be sent with meeting details to the Membership.

**PLAN ON ATTENDING!**

**SHARE A MODEL!**

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

**Independence Day!**

**Next Community Build Meeting Scheduled for 10 July, Cancelled. Notice:** The Community Build Leader will email an announcement when meetings resume.

### Meeting Report continued:

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

**Beginning Balance on May 13, 2021**                      \$<redacted>

**Ending Balance on June 10, 2021**                      \$<redacted>

**Jon** reported the refreshing of the Museum Model Shop with shelving restoration and painting has been completed by Museum staff and the appearance of the Model Shop is much improved. Museum staff member **Marge** was recognized for her able assistance for the work. **Jon** remarked that reducing the number of model kits found in the shop would reduce the clutter and he reminds the membership that any kit is available for the taking, a donation to the museum is all that is requested. At this meeting, a raffle was held for those in attendance and a beautiful kit of USS *Constitution* with her hull already planked and a saw (pictured to the right on the table by **First Mate Mike Lonnecker**) were taken home by **Diana Griffus**.



**Kevin Sheehan with Don Bienvenue to his left and Dave Yotter and Don Dressel to his right**

**Museum Report:** Kevin Sheehan welcomed the Guild to the Museum as the first group to hold a meeting at the museum since the beginning of the pandemic! He told how during this period approximately 60 museum quality models have been received by the Maritime Museum. Notably, in addition to the collection of models built by **Dr. William Brown**, the family and estate of SAIC founder **John Beyster** donated several remarkable models, and the estate related to a former Guild member, **Dr. Charles Stern**, also donated several beautiful models. **Kevin** has remarked that the museum's "aim is to put as many of these fine models in public view and we have made great strides in this direction thanks to a number of generous donors." **Kevin** mentioned in this regard the donation made by Guild Member **Mike Hite** in support for the new and upgraded Model Show Deck on

*Berkeley's* aft deck where some of these models can be found. He also noted the Museum is working on a new nautical themed art display in addition to investigating the removal and disposal of the rapidly disintegrating Russian submarine berthed next to the *Berkeley*.

**Other Officer Reports:** **First Mate Mike Lonnecker** spoke briefly about The Nautical Research Guild's 2021 Photographic Ship Model Competition opening for entries. Go to [Nautical Research Guild - 2021 Photographic Ship Model Competition Open for Entries \(thenrg.org\)](https://thenrg.org) for further information. Other than **Presentations Coordinator Karl Zingheim** who reported a few members were missing a cookie or two at the meeting, the other officers had nothing new to report. **However, during the meeting it was noted that planning for the Guild's 50th Anniversary Celebration is ongoing with discussion of venue and menu at the forefront. Any suggestions or ideas for the celebration are welcome!**

### End of Officer Reports.



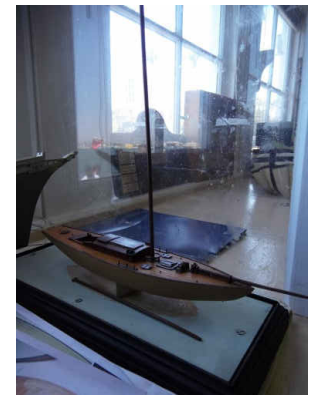
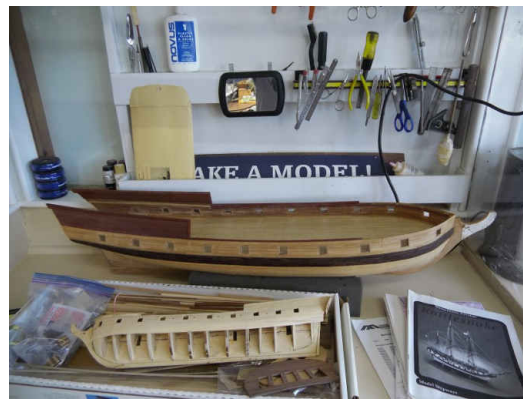
Left, the Maritime Museum ships greeted members as they approached the *Berkeley* and right, **Doug Yumoto** was found standing by on the *Berkeley's* passenger deck to help set up the tables and chairs for the meeting.



## Show and Tell

### Restorations by Jon Sanford

**Jon** tells about having 5 restorations currently in the queue at the Museum Model Shop similar to the one pictured to the right found on his work table. Most of these restorations are for private parties and one is for the Maritime Museum. He also reported he is working on several models at home. If interested in taking on a restoration project, respond to emails alerting the Guild to restoration opportunities from the Guild Master or contact [Jon](#) and let him know of your interest. Below are several more pictures of restorations underway.



### *Berlin* (1674) by Howard Griffus

#### Advanced Level Corel Kit No. SM29

Length 32"/ Height 28"  
Scale 1:40

From Ages of Sail: "The frigate *Berlin* was built in 1674 as a 15-gun warship for the Grand Electorate of Brandenburg. She saw almost continuous action in the Mediterranean and the Baltic until 1681. She was captured by the Dutch in 1688 and never seen again."

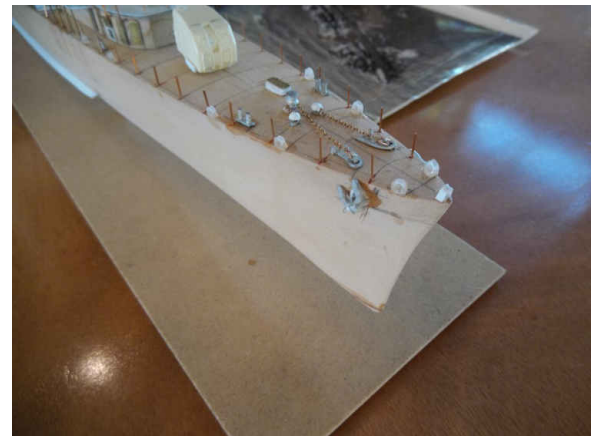
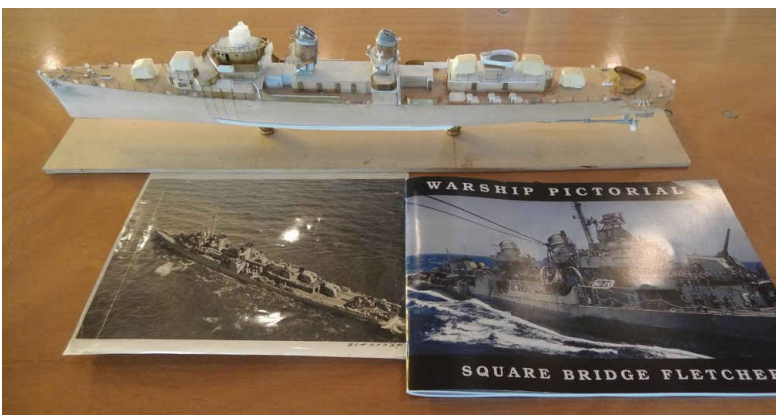
**Diana Griffus, Granddaughter Emmi, and Howard sit behind *Berlin* and Diana's covered HMS *Endeavor*. *Endeavor* is Diana's 2nd project and though her model did not become uncovered at the meeting, she told the Guild planking has been a challenge. She said on Howard's advice she has already removed her planking and started over at least one time! It is rumored Howard is already bringing Emmi into the art of rigging!**

The Editor was not sure of the source for **Howard's** model when **Howard** reported the keel was about 15% warped and required soaking and drying in a jig to restore it and then re-planked the hull. He said the kit is very detailed and even the canons were well cast and gilded.



**Show & Tell continued:****USS *McDERMUT* (DD 677) by CDR Frank G. Dengler, USN (Ret)***McDermut shadow box display*

Not content to rest upon completing a shadow box display of *McDermut* at something close to 1:300 scale to save space at home, **Frank** is taking on *McDermut* by scratch building her closer to 1:200 scale. He reports he is constructing her to the 1943 configuration from wood and brass. The bow view of the model below shows some of the work necessary to build the model from scratch and the other picture includes a couple of **Frank's** references. Filling his space at home for sure!

**HIJMS *Yudachi* Meets her End, a diorama by Karl Zingheim**

Karl (pictured to the left) tells that this diorama is intended to be one of a two-part diorama depicting the aftermath of the 13 November 1942 Guadalcanal Campaign and the fate of *Yudachi* (translated as Evening Squall/Evening Shower). As a bit of context and found at [Wreck of HIJMS \*Yudachi\* \(□□\) \(wikimapia.org\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wreck_of_HIJMS_Yudachi):

**“The First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal, or 'a bar room brawl with the lights shot out' as it was later called,** began at 0148hrs after the Japanese Destroyer *Akatsuki* flipped on her searchlights to illuminate the Cruiser USS *Atlanta*, causing both sides to open fire. Still at the lead of her formation, but heading away from the fray, HIJMS *Yudachi* quickly launched a spread of eight 'Long Lance' torpedoes at the US formation, and began to turn South towards the US ships, firing her deck guns. One of her torpedoes struck the USS *Juneau* directly amidships, breaking the Cruisers back and forcing her to limp away from the battle. A second torpedo struck the USS *Portland* in her stern, forcing the US Cruiser to steer



in uncontrolled circles away from the action. As the *Yudachi* continued to close on the rear of the US formation she steamed in between the Destroyers USS *Sterett* & USS *Aaron Ward*, which almost simultaneously opened fire on the *Yudachi* as it passed between them. Taking four full salvos of 5-inch round from the *Aaron Ward* and at least the same from the *Sterett*, the *Yudachi* quickly caught fire and began to slow down as her engine room began to flood and her boiler fires went out.

### ***Yudachi* by Karl Zingheim continued:**

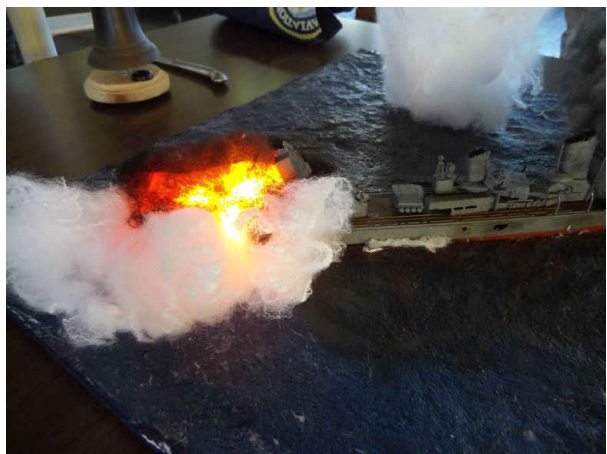
“The fires onboard grew worse and the *Yudachi* was raked by several more rounds from US ships before her Captain passed the order to abandon ship at approximately 0220hrs. 207 survivors of the battle abandoned the *Yudachi* onto the Destroyer *Samidare*, which then torpedoed the *Yudachi* and left the area with the withdrawing Japanese force.”

“At 0226hrs, after 40 minutes of intense and brutal close quarters combat, both fleets broke contact and withdrew from the area. Morning’s light found Ironbottom Sound littered with burning ships, including the *Yudachi* which had stayed afloat during the night and was drifting aimlessly in the sound. Sighted by USS *Portland*, still steaming in wide circles from



*Yudachi's* torpedo, the *Yudachi* was taken under fire and sunk shortly after dawn on November 13th, 1942 at this location.”

This diorama depicts the moment when the *Portland* landed a direct hit on the drifting and burning *Yudachi*, detonating her after magazines. The ship then rolled over and sank. Following his discovery of the *Bismarck* wreck, a survey of the *Yudachi* wreck in 1992 by Robert Ballard’s team showed she likely hit the bottom bow-first separating that section. The survey also revealed that the bridge shows evidence of a major fire.



**Karl** tells “the other half of the two-part diorama will be the crippled *Portland* firing her salvos at the *Yudachi* as a

separate scene. The model is a modified Nichimo *Shiranui* kit in 1/200 scale. In addition to the prominent hull damage, and the mayhem occurring right aft, the superstructure was modified to conform to the layout of the *Shiratsuyu* class, including a rearrangement of the torpedo tubes and the creation of a single main gun mount. An extensive oil slick was produced with successive washes of brown, dark gray, and black acrylic paints. The smoke billowing out of the forward superstructure was painted fiber fill material. The blast is a wax paper dome illuminated from within, braced with Halloween black cotton. The shell splash nearby is Halloween spiderweb material braced by an internal support. The sea is painted Cell-u-clay.”

### **A Hanseatic cog by Chuck Seiler **but first, a Modeler’s Tip****

**Got Wood?** Good modeling wood is hard to find. If you have a band saw and full size table saw to work billets, there are choices, but if all you have is a Byrne’s Saw or Preac...not so much. You are even more out of luck if you don’t have one of these. Good wood providers come and go. They are usually one or two person operations that come on to the scene, stay awhile and get overwhelmed. Good news! A new provider is in town.

Joe Volpe’s **MODELER’S SAWMILL** is a custom wood milling shop located in New Jersey. He caters to scale model builders, ship model enthusiasts and hobbyists. His forte is top quality milling of exotic wood sheets and milled wood strips. His specialty is clear hand-picked Boxwood sheets and milled boxwood strips for your ship model.

### Got Wood? by Chuck Seiler continued:

He is currently providing Boxwood, Swiss Pear, Walnut, Alaskan Yellow Cedar and Cherry strips and sheets. Details can be found at: <http://www.modelerssawmill.com/>

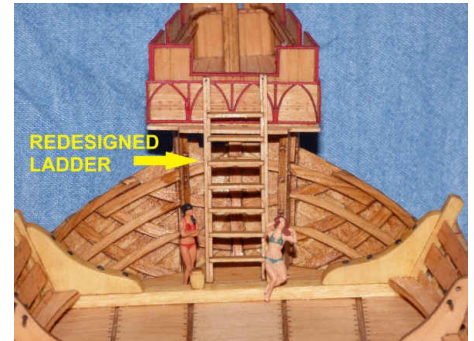
To order, email Joe with what you want and include your zip code (for shipping). He will send you a response with the cost and, if agreeable, a PAYPAL invoice. Joe's email can be found on his website. Joe posts on Model Ship World as "JOE V" and **MODELER'S SAWMILL** will soon be a full sponsor on MSW.

I have purchased a small amount of Boxwood for an upcoming project that I may or may not ever get to. The service was great, the prices reasonable, delivery was fast and the wood quality was good. Strongly recommended!!! No financial interest, just a satisfied customer.

Thank you for the tip, **Chuck!** Now, back to your model of a **Hanseatic cog:**

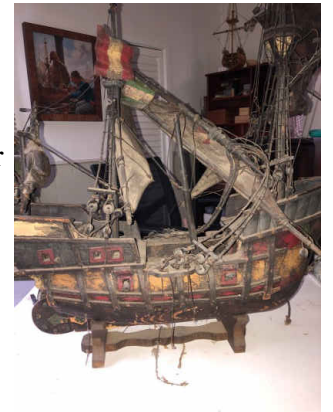


**Chuck**, pictured here behind his "woody cog" tells the Guild a bit about aligning ladders and other challenges furthering his project toward completion. The discussion about the cog's forecastle original purpose in battle was of much interest to the meeting though it is somewhat doubtful the figures in **Chuck's** cog by the redesigned ladder were around back in the times when the cog was a trading "work horse". For a fascinating look at the evolution of ship building by northern European trading nations from the late 1100s to about 1450 (of which the cog was a mainstay), search **PBS for a program titled "Ship That Changed the World"**. This is about the archaeological investigation of the 1495 wreck of the *Gribshunden* off the coast of Sweden in the Baltic Sea and is interesting since the vessel bridged the hull construction from a 'Bremen Cog' and the 15th C. Carrack to later vessels.



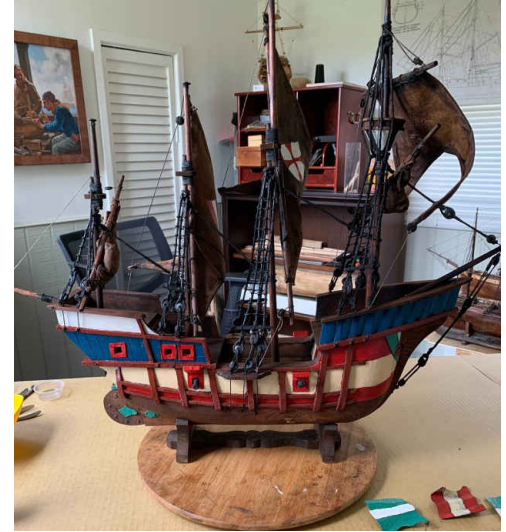
### Restorations by Mike Hite

**Mike**, pictured to the left, completed a restoration he began last month that is for a Rancho Bernardo resident who said that her great grandfather picked this model up in Europe after the "war" but she was not sure which war. The sails are treated canvas, stiff as boards and they are shellacked or treated with some similar compound. The model is about 24" long. See the next page for the progression to a completed restoration.



**Restorations by Mike Hite continued:**

**Mike** told how this particular restoration posed difficulties due to the dirt and grime that had built up on the model. Regardless, he felt he has accurately color matched to the original colors. The finished restoration is on the right. The owner must be happy to have her great grandfather's model bought in Germany long ago when he held pilot's license 57 in the US Army Air Corps!



**Mike** is also embarking on a new build and brought plans to the meeting. The HMS *Prince* kit pictured right was made in 1978 and **Mike** reports it is like a 36" long treasure chest and he hopes not to disappoint with the build!



**HMS *Bounty*, also known as HM Armed Vessel *Bounty* by Don Bienvenue**



In the September of 2013 edition of the Guild newsletter, **Don** was featured with a picture of his model of *Bounty* telling this is the model he uses for his San Diego County Fair "project"? The picture to the left is a picture of *Bounty* then along with the transom and galleries of his model of *Victory*.

Fast forward to 2020 pandemic times, **Don** determined his 1:66 Mamoli kit build needed a rebuild from the wale up and she turned out appearing like the picture to the right!





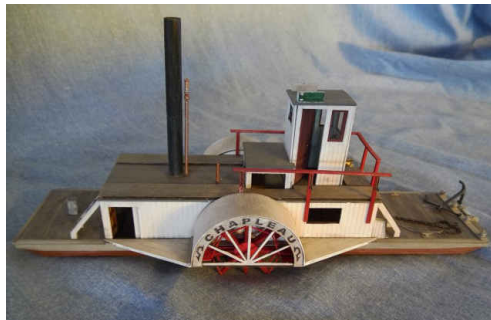
### HMS *Bounty* by Don Bienvenue continued:



Don's *Bounty* has a refreshed look!

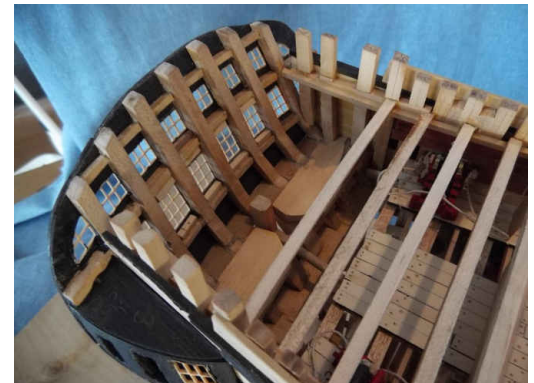
### Baby Alligator *Chapleau* by Dave Yotter, a Kit by Train Troll, Scale 1:48

Dave first showed his alligator at a January 2020 meeting of the Ship Modelers Association from Orange County, CA. He said at that time the model is a waterline, side-wheel version of the warping tug. At that time, the hull was put together and the engine house was started. Since the model required painting Dave said he was delighted to find that his ancient hoard of Floquil paints had been easy to resurrect. The ones that were tightly capped only required some extensive stirring. Below are pictures of a finished *Chapleau*!

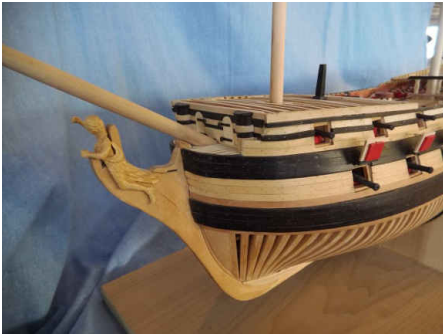


Don sits between Albert Powell on his right and Dave Yotter on his left waiting for the meeting to begin. Notice the difference in size of the 1:48 scale *Roebuck* in front of Don and the 1:48 scale alligator *Chapleau* in front of Dave.

**HMS *Roebuck* (1774) by Don Dressel, Scratch Built based on 1:48 scale plans by Harold Hahn** Don's *Roebuck* has been an ongoing project often reported on in the Guild newsletter and for this newsletter, the pictures will tell the story of his remarkable build after last month when reporting he was working on stern details and quarter galleries. Note below decks details such as rigging on canon that will never be seen!



**HMS Roebuck (1774) by Don Dressel continued:** Below are a few more meeting pictures of *Roebuck*.



***Mrs. Flora*, a CHESAPEAKE BAY BUY BOAT by Albert Powell** Albert showed his “Buy Boat” previously found in last month’s newsletter and he spoke how having lived on the Chesapeake Bay 40 years ago not only inspired his build but also his interest in Chesapeake Bay Bugeyes (a two masted sailing vessel used for dredging oysters), Chesapeake Bay Skipjacks (also used for dredging oysters and the last remaining commercial sail powered fishing fleet in the U.S.A.), and the Chesapeake Bay Log Canoe (they preceded bugeyes and skipjacks and now are often seen racing in the bay). These are all available kits from Wye River Models and along with the 9’ submarine model Albert now has taking space in his home, he reminds us that ship modeling “**requires the experience and expertise to build the model AND the poor judgement to take the project on!**” Laugh out Loud, indeed! *Mrs. Flora* is pictured below left.



And the aforementioned 9’ submarine model in need of a sail and other hull details is pictured above.

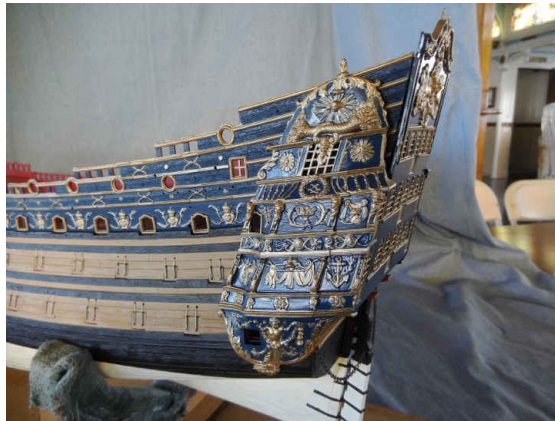
**So, as time constraints upon the meeting began to impose themselves, the remaining members to tell about their models, Isaac Wills and Tom Hairston, were cut short.**



Isaac could be found with museum visitors in the Model Shop before the meeting and following are pictures of his ongoing project, **Soleil Royal (1670)**. Though he was unable to tell about the model this meeting, the pictures speak for themselves.



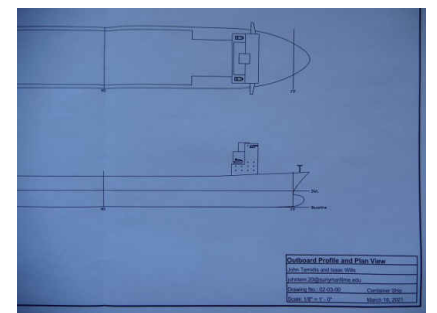
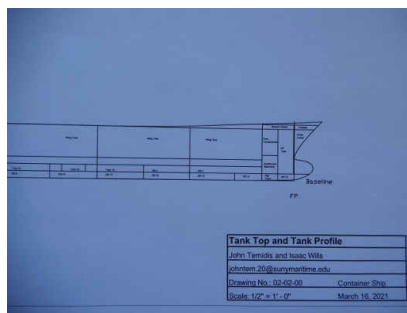
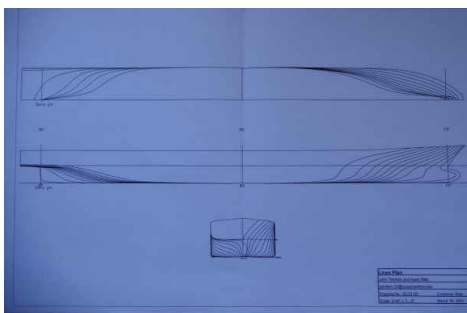
**Soleil Royal (1670) by Isaac Wills continued:** Below are a few more meeting pictures of *Soliel Royal*.



**Isaac** uses his considerable talents as a student at S.U.N.Y. Maritime College in New York and following are a few examples of his talent and his work as a student beginning to design vessels. To the right is a sketch of the Maritime Museum's S.Y. *Medea* and the picture in the center is an unnamed vessel in the center.



One day, there might be a **Wills** ship plying the high seas if the pictures below of a school project are a hint!



How about a couple of more meeting pictures! The picture on the left is of **Gary Seaton** sitting behind the pole and **Isaac Wills**. The picture on the right has **Frank Dengler** sitting to the left and **Peter Fink** sitting to the right.



***Californian* by Tom Hairston, a scratch build.** Tom was unable to speak to his model but enjoy the pictures below of his in progress model of the Maritime Museum's official tall ship of the State of California, *Californian*. A day cruise on her is an adventure to remember for both young and old!



And last up; **a ship modeler's tool tip by James Pitt**

**James** has found that a fishing fly tying rig pictured right is a third hand especially when seizing lines.

**And James offers a use for all those unused face masks lying around the home!** A vacuum filter to replace the filter taken from the vacuum in 2020 and converted into a face mask!



THE END

