



December 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. XII

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

Have a Season filled with Happy and Healthy Holidays, Guild!



A Guild meeting aboard the *Berkeley* can be filled with surprises and with the Holiday Season underway, just a drive along the Embarcadero is an opportunity to enjoy the sights! The picture below of the Maritime Museum's barq, *Star of India*, was taken during a December

some years past by Rob Wood. It might remind some of the poetry by John Masefield and these words:

“And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by”. Now, that is a wish worth having for a holiday gift!



HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“From the Quarterdeck” by the Guild Master

Wanted: Newsletter Editor. After five plus years of dedicated service Guy Lawrie is ready to bring the next Editor up to speed on guiding the Guild's newsletter.

Wanted: Guild Master. My two-year tenure is coming to a close, please consider who among us (maybe yourself) would be a good nominee to take the helm.

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

GUILD MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO PLAN ON ATTENDING THE NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 14 DECEMBER AT 6:00 PM!

A Bone and Ivory Whaleboat found aboard the *Berkeley* at the Maritime Museum. Come to a meeting and enjoy this and other models in the “model hall”!



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 NOVEMBER 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 so it may be added to the newsletter.

The Guild's November meeting aboard the steam ferry *Berkeley* was convened on the McKinney Deck since the lift to the upper deck has been repaired for those with mobility issues. **First Mate Mike Lonnecker** called the meeting to order and **James Pitt** led the members in a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. The Guild's crew of ten (10) ship modelers included **Tom Hairston, Frank Dengler, Don Dressel, David Yotter, Karl Zingheim, Chris Sullivan, Guy Lawrie, James Pitt, and John Walsh**. **Art Arroyo** joined the meeting and indicated his intention to become the Guild's newest member. **Art** spoke about his interest in modeling that began with the story of his family's history in the San Diego tuna industry. He described building a powered model of a bait boat, pictured here, and how they worked with the tuna fleet. He reported the model is 53 inches long, 13 inches wide, and 21 inches high from the keel to the pilot house and he had to weigh it down with 50lbs of lead to stabilize it. The project started to bring back memories of his father, Arthur S Arroyo. His father was a San Diego fisherman with a job title of a navigator and radio operator and he served on the bait boats before moving on to serve aboard tuna seiners. **Art** said he named the model, *Grace A*, after his mom, Grace Arroyo. **Art** is commemorating his mom as a representative of all the wives who supported their husbands and took care of their families while the men went to sea. **Welcome Aboard, Art!** The Guild looks forward to viewing your next project!



First Mate Report: **First Mate Mike Lonnecker** reported the Guild Master and Purser were unable to attend this meeting and commented on the upcoming Guild officer election. He noted that going forward, finding a Guild Master and Editor are pressing needs for the Guild. **Mike** also announced that in the wake of the recent dinner celebration for the Guild's 50th anniversary, a holiday dinner will not be held this year but that the usually scheduled Guild meeting for December aboard the *Berkeley* will be conducted.

For the Purser update, **Mike** reported the guild bank balance was positive and **Purser Jon Sanford** later sent along the following banking update:

Beginning Balance on September 14, 2021	\$<redacted>
(Guild 50th anniversary dinner celebration expenses)	
Beginning Balance on October 14, 2021	\$<redacted>
Ending Balance on November 10, 2021	\$<redacted>

Mike said at the meeting that **Jon** wanted to remind the Guild that he is already taking part in planning for the **2022 San Diego County Fair and its Design in Wood model competition**. **All members are encouraged to begin preparations to enter a model in what is sure to prove a strong showing for the model competition prizes!**

Log Keeper Tom Hairston and **Editor Guy Lawrie** had no updates to report.

Presentations Coordinator Karl Zingheim alerted members that in 2022, the U.S. Navy will celebrate a century of aircraft carriers and local celebrations are being organized. **There is sure to be more on this topic in the future, perhaps this is time to build a model of an aircraft carrier!**

End of Officer Reports

Show and Tell

December holds **National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** and so, this **Show & Tell** begins with the following.

Karl Zingheim brought his diorama to the meeting depicting the scene of USS *Arizona*'s (BB-39) forward magazines exploding during the attack on Pearl Harbor . **Karl**, who is also the Ship Historian of the USS Midway Museum, graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1986. This background aided him in the research that he conducted to help him create the scratch-built diorama



that is historically accurate and captures the scene that Dr. Haakenson filmed from the USS *Solace*, a film now found in the collection of the National Archives. A picture from the film is below left.

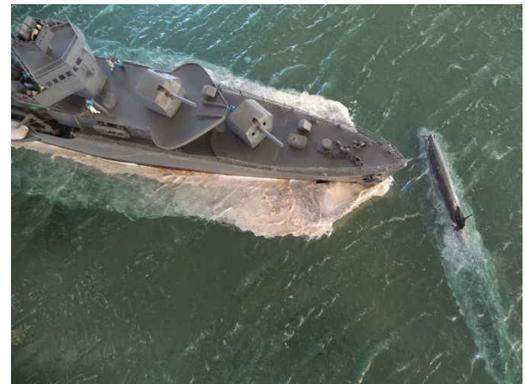
Karl used this diorama in his presentation at the 2021 annual Western Naval History Association Symposium. Presenting aboard the *Midway* Museum, he reports he had to assemble and dismantle the scene aboard the *Midway* because the completed scene was too large to fit into his truck cab, and riding in the slipstream of an open bed would have been a catastrophe. At any rate he reports, he has decided to re-work

the diorama to a point microseconds earlier in the blast to make it more dramatic and accessible to the viewer. Karl's presentation and the techniques he utilizes to create dioramas can be found the following link.



[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. The association can be contacted at this link: [Home | Western Naval History Association \(wnha.net\)](#)

Here is another of **Karl's** dioramas that might remind us of the day of remembrance. "**The Greyhound and the Flea**" captures the USS *Monaghan* (DD-354) on 7 December 1941 pursuing (and eventually sinking) a Japanese midget sub in Pearl Harbor. The *Monaghan* is scratch built and the Japanese midget sub was built from a kit long forgotten with *Monaghan's* crew adapted from model railroad figures at scale 1/144.



From Wikipedia, "On December 7, 1941 at 08:27, *Monaghan* was notified of the presence of a Ko-hyoteki class midget submarine in the harbor. *Monaghan* headed for the trespasser as the captain gave the order to ram the sub. The submarine turned and fired its torpedo at the *Monaghan*. It missed, passing within 50 yards of the destroyer's starboard side. The *Monaghan* rammed the submarine glancingly, then sank it with two depth charges. Because of the shallowness of the harbor, when the depth charges detonated, the explosions lifted the *Monaghan's* stern out of the water. The destroyer then went out of control and smashed into a barge."

Show and Tell continued:

One of the Guild's newest members, **Karl Mariotti**, sent a message from Bellingham, Washington from where he reports he has yet to find a guild in the area. Occasionally traveling to San Diego as part of an air crew, **Karl** said he makes a beeline to the San Diego Maritime Museum (SDMM) when time permits. He reports a meeting a few months ago with one of the Guild's members who talked to him about the Guild and he also reports working with **Isaac Wills** on the SDMM maintenance crew. When he is next down, he says he hopes to visit and talk shop. Here is how he puts it, "I've got a couple projects on the go. I found plans and planks for the *Fair American*, and have been putting it together in my spare time (pictured left). Slow going, but it's fun.



"My other project is a 4 foot schooner I built in high school. (pictured right) It's completely bashed about with a lumpy hull. It's got a few pound of lead in the keel, and it sails. Unfortunately, it leaks and then sinks so it must be periodically rescued. I am refurbishing it before I work on my next project. It's fun to sail, but the salt water his hell on the fittings.



"My final project will hopefully feature a well rounded hull. (pictured left) Unfortunately work and other obligations limit my time working on them.

"I know very little about proper modeling, just what I've read or gleaned from museum displays, so it will be nice to learn more."

Again, welcome aboard, Karl! The Guild members look forward to meeting you one day and hearing how your projects are working out!

For the next two **Show & Tell** offerings by **Don Dressel** and **Dave Yotter**, the story of their model building is copied directly from the [November 2021 SMA Newsletter](#).

Don Dressel brought in his scratch-built HMS *Roebuck*, his ongoing ship model project, to show his steady progress. The picture to the right shows him talking about the project with **Mike Lonnecker** listening in and that he positioned a figure of a sailor below decks that he is attempting to find! Progress has been made on the installation of the inner bulwark planking at the stern and along the poop deck. Additional work has been done on the quarter galleries with the steam bending of ebony for the upper lights on the port side aft. Also, continuing research is being done in preparation for the rigging details (size of lines, size of blocks, number of blocks required, type of blocks, etc.). Apparently, in this period, belaying pins were just being introduced to the Royal Navy, but sizing shroud cleats for some lines was still being done (instead of leading to a belaying pin) as well as other details.



Show and Tell continued with Don Dressel's *Roebuck*:



When viewing *Roebuck* pictured here, one has to remember that the *Roebuck*, although she LOOKS like a two-decked ship, is really a frigate. Don said the best reference source that he is using for detailed rigging of the *Roebuck* is his "Anatomy of the Ship" series book, [The 24-Gun Frigate Pandora 1779](#) by John McKay & Ron Coleman. Don said



that "this reference was made to him by a good friend in England, Magnus McCloud. Although Don also said he has no intention (at least at this point) of building a model of the *Pandora*, the book is still very valuable for his current model. It seems that one can never tell which ship book will some day be of great importance!"

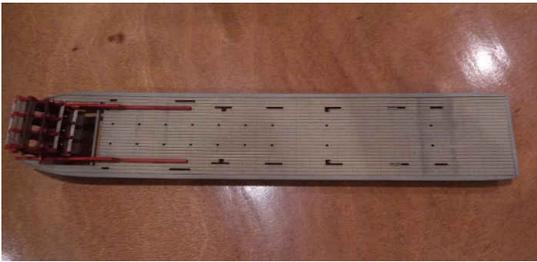


Dave Yotter, pictured here with **Mike Lonnecker**, brought in his **Western River Towboat *K.C. Belle***, sharing another of his HO scale (1:87) models. *Belle* is from a kit supplied by Train Troll who can be found at [HO Scale \(1:87\) Western River Towboat "Custom" :: TrainTroll](#). Dave sited Train Troll literature to tell that "the *K.C. Belle* towboat is a freelance small towboat based on common construction methods of vessels used on the western rivers of the United States. This is a prototypical western river small towboat design. While this version is more typical of towboats used from the 1890s till the 1930s, these small but very powerful steam powered wood hull paddlewheel vessels

plied the western rivers up into the 1960s. (The picture to the right was copied from the Train Troll website.) For those unfamiliar with towboats, the term "tow" is used as a noun, with "tow" referring to the collective name given to the grouping of barges (a tow) these vessels pushed through the rivers from West Virginia across to the Dakotas and from Minnesota down to Louisiana."



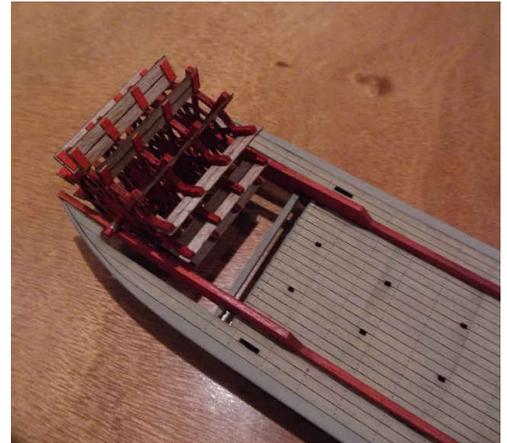
Show and Tell continued with Dave Yotter's *Belle*:



These vessels had to navigate very shallow rivers as well as deal with strong river currents while remaining maneuverable, so they were constructed to float more like a leaf on top of the water than like the traditional deep hull of a vessel built for the open ocean. In addition to the transport of materials, towboats were used with transfer barges to

transport rail traffic across rivers and move "showboats" (theaters built on barges) from town to town. This kit builds either a full hull version or waterline model. The length of the HO (1:87) scale model is 13.5 inches and a custom towboat name and homeport can be supplied by the customer and added to the kit production.

Dave said since beginning the project, the hull has been completed and painted. *Belle* will be built as a full hull version mostly because **Dave** reports he does not like the idea of hacking off the bottom of the nicely detailed paddlewheel.



James Pitt, pictured here with **Frank Dengler**, built two guns, a circa 1700 32-pound Napoleon Cannon and a circa 1800 64-pound Carronade. **James** told how he substantially modified kits to build models that are designed to show how a gun was rigged and worked during use. He used the internet to support his research on the guns including a site that he felt was very helpful, [Gunnery, Guns & Ammo in the Age of Sail \(1650 -1815\) - YouTube](#). Pictures on the internet such as the picture to the right of a carronade found on the U.S.S. *Constitution* were also very

helpful in building models that can be displayed and used for educational purposes. **James** might even be found at next year's San Diego County Fair Booth talking about how impurities were removed from iron refining as the process matured from the earlier cannon to manufacture a more



robust gun in the later carronade.

Some visitors might also show interest in how wadding evolved from old rags to flannel. This substantially reduced smoldering remains from the combustion process allowing for a more efficient firing procedure.

Pictured to the left, Napoleon appears to be considering his cannon's next target. Just not the editor's car in the distance!



Show and Tell continued with James Pitt's Guns:

“Click” the YouTube link on the previous page for an interesting talk about these types of guns. The pictures that follow show the detail that **James** put into his models, the cannon is pictured on the first row and the first picture of the second row. The carronade is pictured on the second and third row.



James tells that figures are sometimes difficult, especially matching scale. Pictured on the left, Prussian commander **Marshal Gebhard von Blücher** has been painted in a Continental Navy uniform even though an Iron Cross can still be noticed. The pictures to the right show Napoleon with a strange looking right hand to which **James** explains, he learned to perform an amputation on a doll when he lost the original hand!

Show and Tell continued:

Though unable to attend the meeting, **Don Bienvenue** is sharing his model of *Cutty Sark*, a British clipper ship by way of email. The picture to the left was shadow impacted but still shows the lines that made this one of the fastest clipper ships of her times and; even now, is a popular visitor attraction in Greenwich, London.

Don reports that he used the old bread and butter method of construction to build his scratch built model instead of plank on bulkhead. He tells that this was his first wooden model having

begun the model in the late 1990s. Living on the East Coast then, he packed the hull to make the trip from New England to San Diego. The trip was successful with no broken parts!

The model was built to a scale of $1/8"=1'$. For reference, **Don** reports he used the Longbridge book which describes how to build a model of the ship. Also used were a set of the Campbell plans from the National Maritime Museum, and the plastic Revell kit, which was at the same scale. Working on the model every now and then, it took him about 10 years to complete the ship. Enjoy **Don's** pictures!

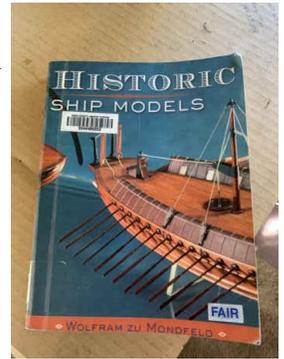


Also unable to attend the Guild's November meeting was **Mike Hite** who is reporting by email that he has begun another **Restoration of a Clipper Ship**. **Mike** wrote that, "this is another antique store find and only for \$85. The model has a very old and very nicely made solid hull though each mast has been broken and wrapped with string and glued back together. Assembled with very small square nails, the bowsprit is missing and all lines are rotten. Further, the model builder placed his initials on the stand but he could not find a date on the model."



Show and Tell continued with Mike Hite's Restoration:

Mike continues by saying that he is always curious about the builder, where the model was built, when it was built, and how it traveled throughout the world only to end up on an out of the way top shelf in an antique store in Long Beach, CA. When asked about his reference material for a restoration, **Mike** replied, "I don't do well at all with written instructions, pictures are worth thousands of words. (I) have several books and use one in particular." He sent a picture of this book by Wolfram Zu Mondfeld. A copy can be found in the Maritime Museum's Model Shop library where Guild members are always welcome to come and take a look around!



Mike reports he intends to fix this model up real nice. He said, "(he) is learning a lot by working on these derelicts and deeply appreciates their history, what ever it is; or he simply guesses as to where the model has been." What a project as the pictures below can attest!



End of Show & Tell



Well; the fellows in the picture (L. to R.: **Chris Sullivan, Don Dressel, Dave Yotter, Mike Lonnecker, and Tom Hairston**) and the pictures below are the end to this edition! **Tom** declined to bring his *Californian* into the meeting but the pictures of a trussed model for a ride to Modesto in the back seat was worth the capturing! There is usually a solution to a problem!

Or a ship to build! As the ship model gallery aboard the *Berkeley* pictured to the left



proves or even a cruise ship begging to be modeled like the picture on the right taken by **Jon Sanford** on Saint Lucia!



The End