



MARCH 2026 32°43'N 117°10'W VOL LIV, No 3

GUILD OFFICERS

- [Steve Miller](#)
Guild Master
- [Steve Scheet](#)
First Mate
- [John Walsh](#)
Purser
- [Karl Zingheim](#)
Log Keeper
- [Alex Roel](#)
Newsletter Editor

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- [John Walsh](#)
Web Master
- [Chris Sullivan](#)
Photographer
- [John Walsh](#)
Presentations
- [Jon Sanford](#)
Model Shop
- [Isaac Wills](#)
Youth Coordinator
- [Steve Scheet](#)
Fair Coordinator
- [Karl Zingheim](#)
Expo Coordinator
- [John Walsh](#)
Community Build

Full Boat

The last of the shift slots on the Fair Volunteer Form were claimed at the February meeting: *four full months* before the Fair's opening day... impressive.

2026 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR
JUNE 10 THROUGH JULY 5
VOLUNTEER FORM
 BOOTH OPEN 11 AM - 6 PM
 PLEASE ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Set-Up / WED May 6th 9:00am	
SCHEET	MACMASTER
ROEL	ARROYO
WALSH	

June 10		June 11		June 12		June 13		June 14	
SCHEET	SANFORD	SEILER	ROEL	SEILER	WESSEL	SEILER	WESSEL	WILLS	WILLS
June 15		June 16		June 17		June 18		June 19	
exhibits closed	exhibits closed	SCHEET	SANFORD	SCHEET	ROEL	SEILER	ARROYO	SCHEET	ARROYO
June 22		June 23		June 24		June 25		June 26	
exhibits closed	exhibits closed	SCHEET	SANFORD	SCHEET	ROEL	WILLS	SCHEET	MACMASTER	MACMASTER
June 29		June 30		July 1		July 2		July 3	
exhibits closed	exhibits closed	SCHEET	HITE	HITE	WILLS	WILLS	WILLS	SULLIVAN	SULLIVAN
		ARROYO	ARENOSA	ROEL	ARENOSA	ARENOSA	SULLIVAN	WALSCH	SCHEET
		SEILER	WALSCH	SEILER	SEILER	SEILER	SCHEET		



Take-Down / THU Jul 9th 9:00am	
SCHEET	MACMASTER
ARROYO	WALSH

direct all questions to Fair Coordinator fair@sdshipmodelersguild.com

Bravo Zulu Guild Members.
All that remains is to get those model entry applications in!

Alex



MMSD Supported

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
 1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA, USA 92101
sdshipmodelersguild.org

founded 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill



NRG Chapter Club

🚢 **From the Quarterdeck** by Guild Master Steve Miller

In 2002 the Festival of Sail drew me in like a syren's song. I picked up the PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL kit on my way through the BERKELEY's gift shop and aspired to be a model shipwright. At home I fitted the bulkheads and deck with no trouble... and then proceeded to nail every single plank in the box (as provided) to the largest bulkhead I could find, with hopes that I could get them to somehow ultimately conform at the stem and stern (true story.)

Alas, I could not.

20 years in ordinary she sat.

One night in 2022 I sat down with my family for a marathon *Pirates of the Caribbean* watch party. I was inspired. I pried each and every dried plank from that forlorn and cracked bulkhead, and approached the problem with renewed vigor.



In This Issue

- ☑ [Full Boat](#)
- 🚢 [From the Quarterdeck](#)
- 🏠 [2025 Member of the Year](#)
- 🌐 [An Expansive Donation](#)
- 🚢 [NOT A Sea Shanty](#)
- 🔔 [Last Meeting](#)
- 🔔 [Parley](#)
- 🔔 [Show and Tell](#)
- 🚢 [Flotsam and Jetsam](#)
- 🚢 [Raffle!](#)
- ☑ [Officer Ballot](#)
- 🚢 [Cool Tool](#)
- 🚢 [Home Port](#)
- 🚢 [The Bitter End](#)

Where do you find your nautical inspiration? Spending one night a month at the Maritime Museum with your peers is a great start. And with our current raffle program I am thoroughly inspired by the number of new builds in wood progressing amongst the membership! It is motivating to be doing something unique, and yet in some way doing it together. I look forward to hearing about the progress of these builds during Show and Tell (and I expect some Parley to be invoked when you're stuck!)

We've discussed the books. Nothing like a good sea story to set the mind working. Movies, shows, memories, museums and

travels? Documentaries? All good places to find inspiration. Perhaps a good challenge is what you seek? (Looking ahead to the Nation's 250th anniversary, July's raffle will be Model Shipways' USS CONSTITUTION in 5/32"≈1' / 1:76 scale – there's a challenge for one lucky member!!)

Whatever the source, I hope you find the inspiration to really enjoy your projects. As Spring quickly approaches us, I would like to see more of you find your way to the Guild meetings. There are two distinct tacks – first, you find some inspiration from your Guild and its Members. And the second? You or your project can be someone else's inspiration. We should all aspire to inspire.

I look forward to next month's meeting – seeing you and what you're working on. And learning what inspires you.

STEVE



photo by Chris Sullivan

John Walsh

The Commander John C. Mathews Award for service is a longstanding Guild tradition, awarded annually to our *Member of the Year* who has provided noteworthy service over the last twelve months. The award for 2025 goes to the industrious and diligent **John Walsh**.



As a former two-term Guild Master, John's service far pre-dates the previous twelve months. During his term as Guild Master he instituted the Youth Outreach Committee



Chair as well as several other programs aimed directly at furthering the Guild's mission. A major concern that arose during that tenure was the Guild's banking situation: as it was no

longer tenable to keep the Guild's cash assets buried in a chest under the sands of Mission Bay's many beaches, something had to be done, so after his two terms as Guild Master, John ran for and was elected to the Purser's position.

As Purser this last year John has truly served the Guild immeasurably (much of it exceeding the duties of the position.) He worked diligently to update the Guild's banking practices (depositing all cash, updating access, establishing online banking.) But in addition to that, John has undertaken almost all the logistical needs of the Guild. He assures snacks for meetings, instituted tea service, and provided for the parties we enjoy. He delegates none of it. He has volunteered for a second term to continue to iron out any banking issues that still exist.



As Guild Master, I have personally benefited from John's steadfast, good-natured counsel – I can rely on his assistance and experience when things get sticky, and he has assisted at all hours. It is noteworthy that of the thirteen positions listed on **TSDW's** letterhead, John claims four (one Officer and three separate Chairs – truly a man of many hats!)

The *CliffsNotes* version of John's service this year follows: He provided goodwill outreach presentations to both the Maritime Museum of San Diego's docent staff and the Model Shipwrights of Western New York, describing our Guild, our mission, and our Members. He is our MMSD liaison, coordinating lights, security, and location conflicts as issues arise. As Presentation Coordinator, he facilitates our presentations and obtained use of BERKELEY's nice giant forward screen for media. He has taken the reins of Mr. Pitt's fine work, handling shirt orders, establishing local shirt stock and running shirt pickup and delivery. He provided photos and inventory of the DeGour plastic model kit donation on his lunch break to facilitate the timely distribution of those kits. He has provided cakes for Guild anniversaries, but *with* the benefit of MMSD refrigeration! He ensured that our NRG insurance/membership remains current. The logistical support he provided for the Guild's Christmas party while on his "death bed" with illness is truly the stuff of legend!

As John prepares to step up for another term in his very demanding position, one might question his sanity. Alas, his mind is razor sharp: he recently asked me whose name should be engraved on the brass plaque for Member of the Year (yes, he coordinates all our engraving as well) and, after a weak noncommittal "I can't say yet," figured out he was getting the award and directed me to give it to someone more deserving. I remain disinclined to acquiesce to his request.

Finally, after trying to vehemently decline this award, John told us how he recently staked out Howard Griffus' house for hours to correct Howard's lost contact information, visit with him, and present him with his long overdue Lifetime Membership Award certificate.

Dedication to Guild and its membership right there.



Bravo Zulu John! Well deserved.



2025 Member of the Year

An Expansive Donation



Tom Conant aboard the STAR

In July of last year retired model shipwright **Tom Conant** of Prescott Arizona contacted Guild Master **Steve Miller** and offered the Guild the very generous donation of his nautical and ship modeling library that consists of some seven boxes of hardcover and softcover books.

Steve fields such offers from the public from time to time as our Guild Master, and, while the Guild cannot always accommodate such donations, this one intrigued him.

At the next Officer Meeting Steve polled the Officers about the logistics of accepting Tom's offer: how to transport, inventory, and distribute such a large and valuable donation. The sticking points were twofold: 1) getting the books from Arizona and 2) the sheer physical size of the gift (seven heavy boxes of hardcover and softcover books.) After batting around a few ideas, First Mate **Steve Scheet** suggested that he might have a solution via Member **Art Arroyo**.



Art reached out to his brother **Richard Arroyo** (who also happens to live in Prescott) and arranged for him to pick up the donation directly from Tom. Fortunately, Richard visits San Diego on a regular basis to visit Art and take care of some other business and agreed to help. Richard delivered the entire donation to Art and the "SDSMG – Santee Annex" (AKA **Chuck Seiler**, Art, and Steve)



who later hosted Richard at the Omelette Factory in Santee to thank him for his help. Art or Steve has been bringing one box to each monthly meeting since then.

But at the core of these machinations is the great generosity of a fellow model shipwright, Tom Conant, who happily thought of our Guild.

Thank you Tom!



Sloop JOHN B

Listen to it on  YouTube

We come on the sloop JOHN B
My grandfather and me
Around Nassau town we did roam
Drinking all night, got into a fight
Well, I feel so broke up, I want to go home

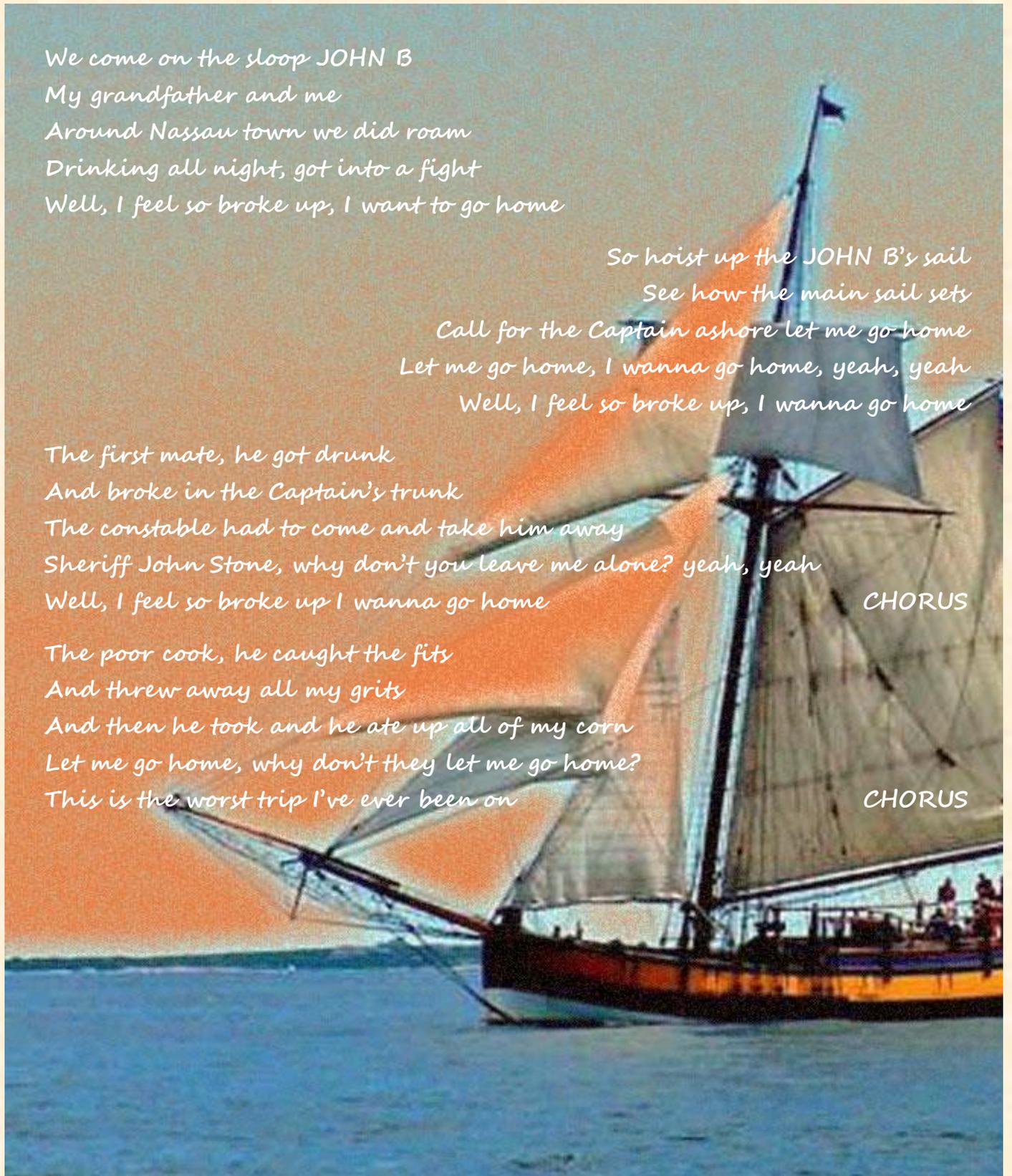
So hoist up the JOHN B's sail
See how the main sail sets
Call for the Captain ashore let me go home
Let me go home, I wanna go home, yeah, yeah
Well, I feel so broke up, I wanna go home

The first mate, he got drunk
And broke in the Captain's trunk
The constable had to come and take him away
Sheriff John Stone, why don't you leave me alone? yeah, yeah
Well, I feel so broke up I wanna go home

CHORUS

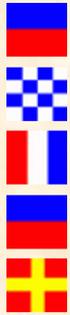
The poor cook, he caught the fits
And threw away all my grits
And then he took and he ate up all of my corn
Let me go home, why don't they let me go home?
This is the worst trip I've ever been on

CHORUS





Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan*



The February Guild meeting was attended by 26 Members¹ and no guests; all Officers were present. No new Members joined the Guild.

At 6:00pm Powder Monkey **Karl Zingheim** rang the bell to signal the start of the second dog watch... and the meeting.



Guild Master **Steve Miller** opened the February meeting by reminding Members that the Guild encourages them to enter their plastic models at the upcoming IPMS Expo. Expo Chair Karl Zingheim noted that the Expo date has been changed to Saturday, June 13th.



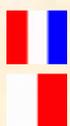
Purser **John Walsh** announced that the Guild's NRG charter had been received and immediately handed said document over to Log Keeper Karl Zingheim. John further informed Members that he has now instituted a new quartermaster standard by stocking at least one of every size and style of shirt so that they are immediately available upon request. It was also noted the vendor is working to resolve a problem with embroidering hats.



John then related that it was his honor to fulfill his predecessor **James Pitt's** final shirt order and delivered it to the hands of **Albert Tamayo** while also noting that James' memorial plaque had found its place in the Museum Model Model shop.



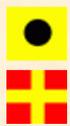
photo by John Walsh



(Still) speaking of shirts... the Guild Master invited **Jakob Nagatani** to model and discuss his new nautically-themed clothing site [Eternal Warfare Designs](#) (it should be noted that the Guild Master was seen sporting one of Jakob's designs.)



Steve then declared the break which was immediately followed by [Parley](#) and [Show and Tell](#). At 8:13pm the Powder Monkey rang the ship's bell a final time, bringing our February meeting to a close.



1 Clausson, Denigan, Dressel, Hairston, Hite, N. Li-Karins, S. Li-Karins, N. Lee, T. Lee, Lonneck, López de Arenosa, Miller, Nagatani, Pizzuto, Roel, Sanford, Scheet, Seiler, Shenkin, Sullivan, Tamayo, Walsh, Warner, Yotter, Yumoto, Zingheim



photo by John Walsh





"I invoke the right of parley!" Elizabeth Swann



Air-Brushing.

The Newsletter Editor requested Parley and asked for a mentor/volunteer from among his fellow Members to introduce him to the basics of air-brushing, including the tools required and some basic techniques and applications.

Photographer **Chris Sullivan** immediately volunteered, and Phil Pizzuto chimed in with a wish to learn the basics as well.





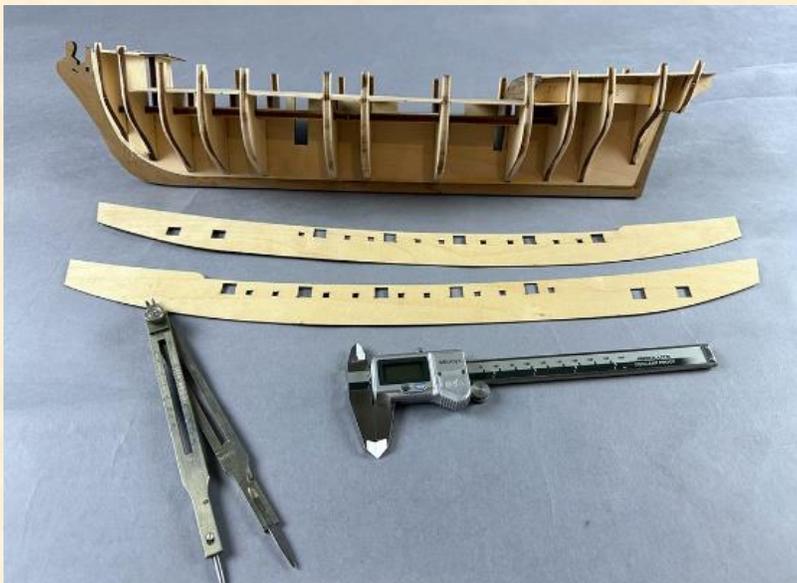
Photographer **Chris Sullivan** brought back his diorama of Imperial Japanese Navy transports offloading equipment on a beach, this time with scale personnel on deck.

- *TRANSPORTS* by Chris Sullivan
- Tamiya kit bash, plastic, brass
- 1/64"≈1' 1:700, under construction



Don Dressel checked in with his early days build of GRANADO, with which he was struggling to apply the kit's "prefab" bulwark planking strips. Unable to properly bend them along two axes at once, Don has

- *GRANADO* by Don Dressel
- Victory Models kit, wood
- 3/16"≈1' 1:64, under construction



decided he will simply use them as templates and simply plank the upper hull.

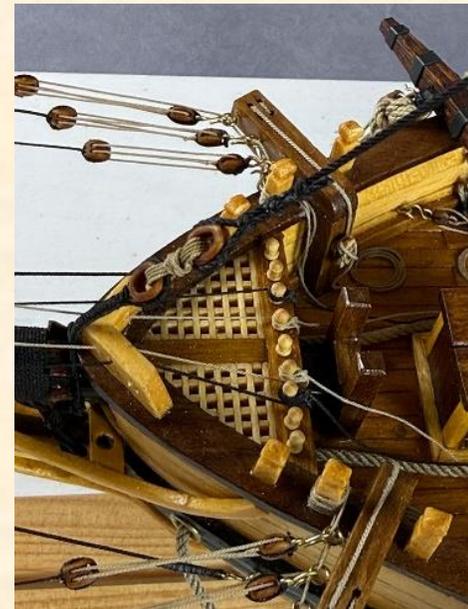
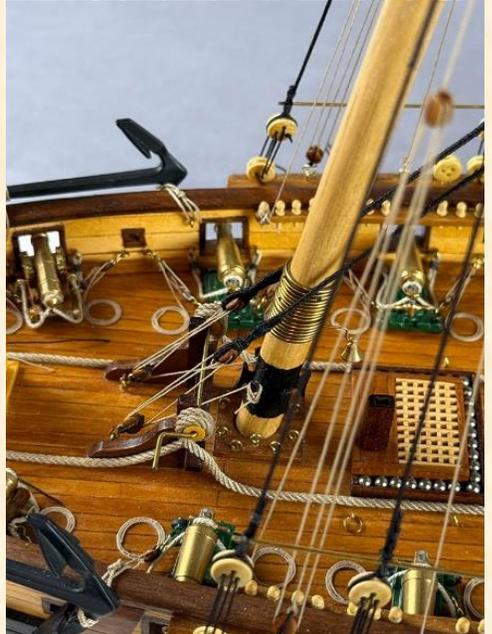
Don also brought in two tools that he deems essential to planking a hull: a pair of proportional dividers and a quality caliper.

Finally, Don reminded fellow Members "to have fun" while solving model shipcrafting challenges.

Steve Miller favored us with a reappearance of the PRINCE along with his tale of woe. Having stepped the masts and served the masts and served

- *PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL by Steve Miller*
- *Constructo kit, plank-on-bulkhead, wood*
- *13/64"≈1' 1:58, under construction*

and rigged the stays and shrouds per the Constructo instructions, Steve decided to check his work against the plans of PRINCE per Howard I Chapelle. To his dismay Steve found that his crosstrees had been constructed improperly, and was in a fix since the



shrouds would have to be removed in order to reconstruct them. Steve walked us through how he “refashioned” the crosstrees in place and avoided a very large re-rigging headache.



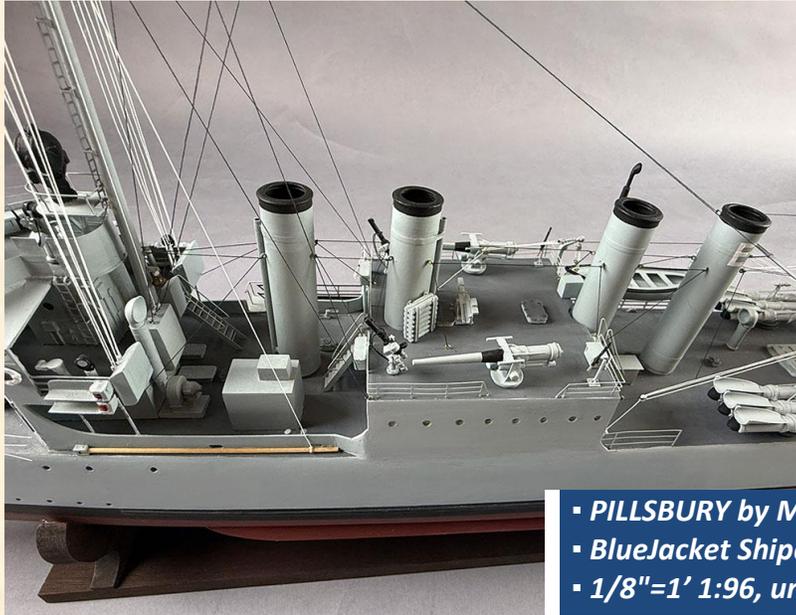
Trystan Lee also brought back a previous build: the Lego train engine that unfortunately “hit the deck” at a previous meeting’s Show and Tell. Now fully restored, Trystan reported that he rebuilt it better than it had been before. Trystan also brought in another Lego build, his old favorite subject: TITANIC.

- *TRAIN ENGINE by Trystan Lee*
- *scratch build, plastic Lego*
- *unknown scale, completed*

- *TITANIC by Trystan Lee*
- *scratch build, plastic Lego*
- *unknown scale, completed*

Michael Denigan debuted his classic “four piper” destroyer USS PILLSBURY. Michael recounted that while the kit was good, it had significant errors that he only discovered after the fact when he

unearthed the original plans. Mike chose to rebuild much of the midships including the deckhouse and ship’s launches.



- *PILLSBURY by Micheal Denigan*
- *BlueJacket Shipcrafters kit, wood*
- *1/8"=1' 1:96, under construction*



Shannon Li-Karins appeared at Show and Tell with her USS CONSTITUTION, the classic 1:96 Revell plastic kit. Members were immediately taken by Shannon’s beautiful weathering of Old Ironside’s coppered hull.

- *CONSTITUTION by Shannon Li-Karins*
- *Revell kit, plastic*
- *1/8"=1' 1:96, under construction*

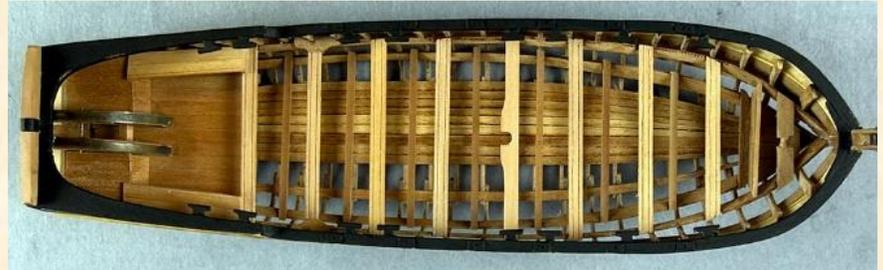


Nick Li-Karins debuted his first-ever wooden shipcrafting attempt: HMS SUPPLY (which he had won at a previous raffle.) Keel and frames firmly in place, Nick reported that he is enjoying working with wood despite making a number of errors along the way.

- *SUPPLY by Nick Li-Karins*
- *Artesania Latina kit, mahogany*
- *7/32"≈1' 1:56, under construction*



Mike Lonnecker's French longboat made another appearance as hull planking continues. While starting with the basic kit, Mike reports that he is essentially scratch-building most parts (example: frames consist of three pieces each) and that he had already discarded a different version of this kit.

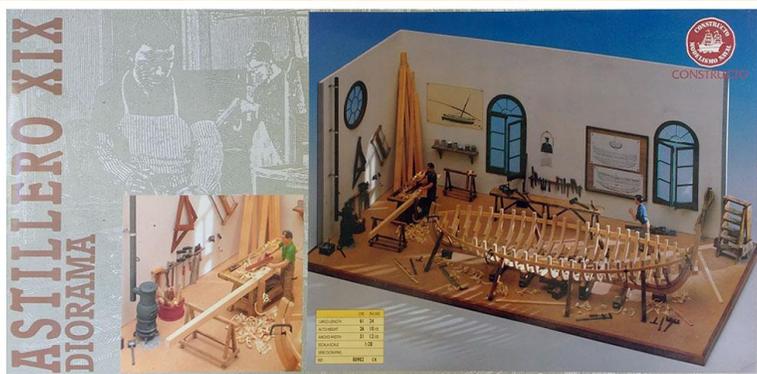


- *FRENCH LONGBOAT by Mike Lonnecker*
- *CAF Model kit, cherry, Swiss pear*
- *1/4"=1' 1:48, under construction*

Next up was **Paco López de Arenosa** and his build of the tops'l schooner FAIR AMERICAN. Hull and decks fully planked, Paco is working on a striking painting scheme of white, black, tan and red for this build.



- *FAIR AMERICAN by Paco López de Arenosa*
- *Model Shipways kit, wood*
- *1/4"=1' 1:48, under construction*



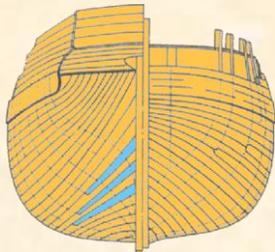
Mike Hite brought in an interesting kit of a Spanish shipyard (astilero) that he recently acquired via a donation.

- *SHIPYARD DIORAMA by Mike Hite*
- *Constructo kit, wood*
- *19/32"≈1' 1:20, unstarted*

⚓ Flotsam and Jetsam

"Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

Captain David Glasgow Farragut, USS HARTFORD, 1864



Squared Away – understanding nautical terms

A **STEALER** is a modified plank added to increase a run of one strake to two, or two strakes to three, where the hull widens, generally towards the stern. Used to reduce the SNY of a strake. Complement to a DROP PLANK.

Navigating the Website – sdshipmodelersguild.org

The website's **FAIR** page records the Guild's participation in the San Diego County (née Del Mar) Fair dating back to our first year of competition in 1991, complete with winners and ribbons awarded.



Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



Purser **John Walsh** is collecting annual dues. \$20. Dues must be paid in full by the March Guild Meeting. A replacement name tag may be purchased at any time during the year for \$10.



Glen Claussion took your **Newsletter Editor** aside last meeting and asked that a mention be made of the availability of his workshop and tools for use by Members. Glen has a number of tools that are not available to the average model shipwright. By way of refresher, see the [June 2024](#) issue of TSDW.



The entries for the Design in Wood competition for this year's San Diego County Fair are now being accepted ([entry information and instructions.](#))

☞ Entrants, please note that you **must** enter your build in one of two classes:

Class 009	Model Building - Scale
Class 010	Model Building - Not to Scale

☞ As always, awards are being presented by *both* the Maritime Museum of San Diego and the San Diego County Fair (Design in Wood):

- Maritime Museum of San Diego

1 st Place	Best Scale Model Ship Award \$500 and Blue Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$200 and Red Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$100 and White Ribbon

- San Diego County Fair (Design in Wood)

1 st Place	\$200 and Blue Ribbon
2 nd Place	\$175 and Red Ribbon
3 rd Place	\$150 and White Ribbon
4 th Place	\$75 and Yellow Ribbon
Honorable Mention	Pink Ribbon

☞ Direct all questions to our Fair Coordinator, [Steve Scheet](#).



——— SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR ———
DESIGNⁱⁿWOOD
 ——— WHERE CRAFTSMANSHIP COMES TO LIFE ———

WANT TO
 ENTER
 THE FAIR

SCAN HERE



On The Horizon

MAR 3	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
MAR 10	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
MAR 10	6pm	Guild Meeting  Election	BERKELEY
MAR 17	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
APR 7	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
APR 14	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 14	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 21	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
MAY 4	8pm	SDCF model entry (deadline)	online application
MAY 5	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
MAY 6	9am	SDCF booth set-up	Del Mar Fairgrounds
MAY 12	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY 12	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY 19	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
MAY 20	noon	SDCF model entry (drop-off)	Del Mar Fairgrounds
JUN 2	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JUN 9	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JUN 9	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JUN 10 - JUL 5	11am - 6pm	San Diego County Fair   (booth volunteering)	Del Mar Fairgrounds / Design In Wood
JUN 13	9am	SDME model entry	Gillespie Field
JUN 13	9am - 3pm	San Diego Model Expo  	Gillespie Field / IPMS San Diego
JUN 16	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
JUL 7	noon	SDCF model entry (pick-up)	Del Mar Fairgrounds
JUL 7	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JUL 9	9am	SDCF booth take-down	Del Mar Fairgrounds

Anchor Raffle! by Steve Miller

The Guild's donation program of local model shipwright Curt Madsen's kit stash continues next month with a sixth(!) offering...

Next month's raffle will be the American privateer PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL by [Model Shipways](#) at 3/16"=1' / 1:64 scale, plank on bulkhead with walnut and basswood double planking, and brass carronades and cannon.



The PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL will be raffled off to Members and guests in attendance at the March meeting's "no charge" raffle.

The rules for taking a raffle ticket are:

- Anchor** You intend to build the model *and* it is generally within your ability
- Anchor** You are present for the drawing at the end of the meeting
- Anchor** One entry per person

Raffle results to date:

Anchor	February	MARIE JEANNE	Jon Sanford	in dry dock
Anchor	January	SUPPLY	Nick Li-Karins	<i>under construction</i>
Anchor	December	FLY	Doug Ward	<i>under construction</i>
Anchor	November	PRIDE OF BALTIMORE	Kirk Rummel	<i>under construction</i>
Anchor	October	GRANADO	Don Dressel	<i>under construction</i>

Who will take her home next month? Come out and see, my friends.

Officer Ballot

Your ballot must be [submitted to Nominations Chair Phil Pizzuto by email](#), mail, phone, or in person by the March meeting.

The following Members have been nominated for Officer positions in the Guild (select one nominee for each position.)

 BALLOT — Officers			
Position	Nominee 1	Nominee 2	Nominee 3
Guild Master	Steve Miller (i)	open	open
First Mate	Steve Scheet (i)	open	open
Log Keeper	Karl Zingheim (i)	open	open
Purser	John Walsh (i)	open	open
Newsletter Editor	Alex Roel (i)	open	open

Nominees per position listed alphabetically, left to right, incumbents denoted with (i)

Per Guild [Bylaws](#):

3.4 Elections of Officers.

... Ballots with the nominees shall be published in the newsletter prior to a vote at the March meeting...

Battery-powered Pin Vise

Steve Scheet tells us that he tends to angle his pin vise *just enough* while working that he has broken a number of those very slender drill bits that we use in model shipcrafting. Steve was pretty sure there had to be a solution for him, and an Internet search produced the following battery-powered item:





San Diego Bay, July 8 2025, 5:02pm

Thanks to our sponsor, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild is fortunate to call not only San Diego Bay our home, but also the steam ferry BERKELEY, part of the Museum's fleet tied up on San Diego's Embarcadero.





The Bitter End

Our Founders

The Guild was founded in 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill in collaboration with Ken Reynard, Captain of the barque STAR OF INDIA.

Mission Statement



The [San Diego Ship Modelers Guild](#) is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the craft of building scale ship models and to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, and techniques.

Maritime Museum of San Diego



The Guild encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Maritime Museum of San Diego](#). As our sponsor, the MMSD provides the Guild space aboard the steam ferry BERKELEY to hold monthly meetings; allows us to work in, store supplies, and maintain the Museum Model Shop; and annually awards Guild entrants ribbons and cash prizes for the Design In Wood competition at the San Diego County Fair.

Nautical Research Guild



The Guild also encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Nautical Research Guild](#). As a chartered Chapter Club, the NRG accords certain benefits, privileges, and protections to our Guild.

Piracy in Model Shipcrafting

Although there is no single, agreed-upon definition of what constitutes "piracy", the use of another's intellectual or physical property without recompense is the basis for any working definition. Unfortunately, this is an issue that affects our craft: be scrupulous and avoid purchasing pirated kits or materials.



Back Issues

Back issues of *The Second Dog Watch* are accessible via the [Newsletter Archive](#) which has digital copies dating back to Volume I, Issue 1 (May 1977.)