



MAY 2026 32°43'N 117°10'W VOL LIV, No 5

- 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
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Community Build

FAIR DAYS AHEAD



For the 34th year the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild will participate in the San Diego County Fair.

The annual Fair has evolved over the years since its founding in 1880: changing names, locations, and responding to crises.

Known variously as the *Southern California Exposition*, the *Del Mar Fair*, and originally (and currently) the *San Diego County Fair*, it first debuted on a ranch in National City. The Fair later moved to Balboa Park before settling permanently in 1936 at the new Del Mar Fairgrounds. The Fair's run has been interrupted on three occasions: 1917-18 during World War I, 1942-43-44-45 during World War II, and most recently 2020-21 during the COVID-19 pandemic.



It's your Fair: come out and support your fellow Guild Members!

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



There are ships, and then there are ships. For me this April was an exciting month. Having been only 2 years old at the time of Apollo 11, I would guess the energy of the first Moon landing and visits were lost on me. Not so this time around. With the wonders of technology I followed every minute of the Artemis II mission that I could. It was quite an adventure and an amazing display of technology and physics. And, it was truly reminiscent of the great explorers and their beautiful tall ships.



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Ronald Reagan saw the correlation: “Just as the Yankee clipper ships of the last century symbolized American vitality, our space shuttles today capture the optimistic spirit of our times.” NASA sees it too. The MAGELLAN spacecraft to Venus. The Ponce de Leon tracking station in Florida (see what they did there?) The Apollo 12 patch depicts a clipper ship crossing the Moon's Ocean of Storms. There's even a EUROPA CLIPPER traveling to Jupiter and due to arrive there in 2030.



The Artemis II Orion capsule INTEGRITY has taken humans farther from their home than any other ship in history, all while allowing her crew to see sights never before seen by human eyes. Even more amazing? Near constant communication with home over the vast distances covered. What fun!

Anyway, it is clear the drive for human exploration has never abated, and I love that the modern explorers tie the past with the future. To that end, I find myself taking a short break from the PRINCE to build Revell/Monogram's Saturn V kit in plastic – the molds originally released in 1968! It includes the Command Module, in this case Apollo 11's COLUMBIA. Clearly my imagination has been captured.



All this to say: I'll be getting back to work on the PRINCE once I finish my new Saturn V model kit. But I am still building a ship, right?

Wishing you favorable winds my friends – see you all next month!

STEVE



Small Wooden Barrels, Casks, and Pails

By Dave Dana

Ships use barrels, casks and pails for all sorts of things: water storage, sand for putting out fires, grog, and more. Every ship has many of them aboard. Scatter a few on the deck to add a realistic detail. Here's a technique for making small wooden barrels (up to 1 inch) that I developed after some trail and error. It works pretty well, and can probably be adapted for some semblance of mass production.

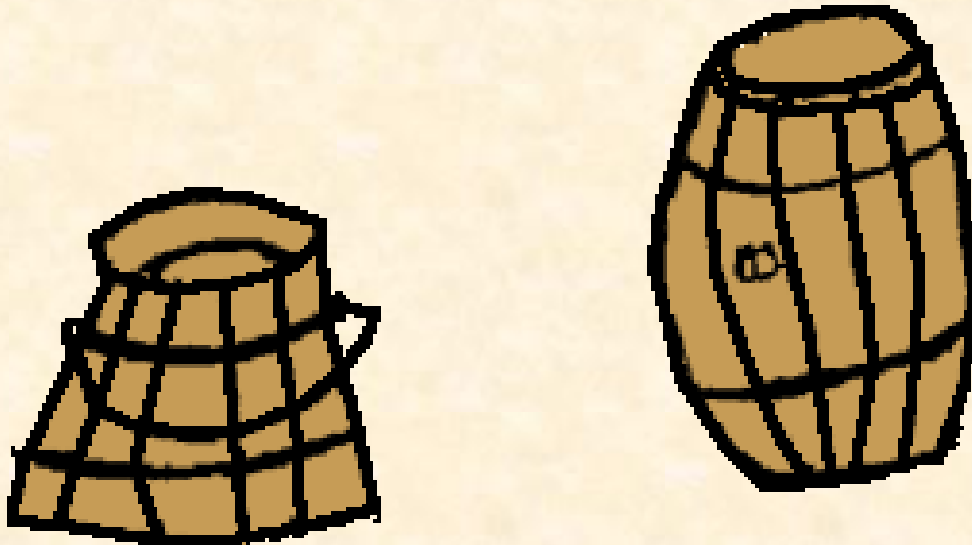
1. Turn a dowel of the appropriate diameter to the shape desired – barrel, tapered pail, et cetera. This will be covered by staves. The dowel should be of diameter smaller than twice the thickness of the material to be used for the staves. The barrel is shaped on the end – don't cut it off – yet. The rest of the dowel is the handle.



2. Prepare pieces of strip wood for staves. It's not really necessary to taper them if they are narrow. Figure about eight pieces to go around a ¼ inch diameter dowel. The length is immaterial – keep each long enough so you can get a grip when you place it in glue.
3. Around the dowel near the barrel put a rubber band, twisting it a few times to keep it tight. Put a ring of carpenter's glue around the bottom of the barrel. This will glue one end of the staves. The other end may fly in the air. That's OK. Roll the rubber band over the staves to hold them while the glue dries. They can be pushed, squeezed, slid, straightened and fussed into place while they are held by the band.



4. When the glue dries, place glue on the rest of the dowel. Then roll the rubber band to the end of the barrel tightening the staves against the barrel-shaped dowel. Be careful not to break off a stave, or roll all the way off. Wipe off any glue that has squished out, and let dry.
5. Trim the staves to the top of the barrel. Leave as much stave over the end as you want. For a pail, allow room for its contents. A piece of sandpaper, for example. Wrap the staves with a piece of thin wire, or tape. Drill a hole in the side and insert a toothpick or small dowel for a plug. Then cut the barrel off the dowel. Stain, seal or varnish as desired. Ta Da!



Don't Forget Yer Old Ship Mate

Listen to it on  YouTube

Safe and sound at home again, let the waters roar, Jack
Safe and sound at home again, let the waters roar, Jack

Long we've tossed on the rolling Main, now we're safe ashore, Jack.
Don't forget yer old shipmate, faldee raldee raldee raldee rye-eye-doe!

Since we sailed from Plymouth Sound, four years gone, or nigh, Jack
Was there ever chummies, now, such as you and I, Jack?

CHORUS

We have worked the self-same gun, quarterdeck division
Sponger I and loader you, through the whole commission

CHORUS

Oftentimes have we laid out, toil nor danger fearing
Tugging out the flapping sail to the weather earring

CHORUS

When the middle watch was on, and the time went slow, boy
Who could choose a rousing stave, who like Jack or Joe, boy?

CHORUS

There she swings, an empty hulk, not a soul below now
Number seven starboard mess misses Jack and Joe now

CHORUS

But the best of friends must part, fair or foul the weather
Hand yer flipper for a shake, now a drink together

CHORUS x2



Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan*



The April Guild meeting was attended by 21 Members¹ and no guests; several Officers were AWOL: where was the Purser – the Log Keeper (*and* Powder Monkey) – the Newsletter Editor? No new Members joined the Guild.



Reportedly, the meeting started at precisely 6:00pm.



Guild Master **Steve Miller** opened the meeting by welcoming the Members to the April meeting. Steve once again offered up March's kit give-away (PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL, recently returned by **Isaac Wills**) and **Doug Yumoto** raised his hand to take her on.



It was noted that the upcoming May meeting will meet at its regular date and time (May 12, 6pm): the scheduling conflict that had caused the meeting date to change no longer exists.



That problem solved, The Guild Master then oversaw an abbreviated Officer report rundown, with Fair Chair/First Mate **Steve Scheet** requesting mailing addresses from booth volunteers so that their tickets can be mailed to them.



The Guild Master then invoked [Parley](#), during which a power outage aboard BERKELEY occurred. Shortly thereafter Steve called for the break and sent crew to half-brewed pots of coffee which seemed to get them by.



At 6:40pm much commotion and alarm bells sounded in commemoration of the exact moment the TITANIC struck the iceberg 114 years ago and led to the loss of so many lives at sea. After a few moments of reflection the break continued. The meeting was finally called back to order about 7:00pm and proceeded on to [Show and Tell](#).



Shannon Li-Karins was the night's big raffle winner, taking home both NIAGARA and a plastic 1/100 Heller LE SOLEIL ROYAL.



The meeting ended around 7:50pm, closing with not one but two quotes by Anne Morrow Lindbergh.

1 Clausson, Denigan, Dressel, Florio, Hairston, Lawrie, N. Lee, T. Lee, S. Li-Karins, N. Li-Karins, Lonneckner, Miller, Rummel, Scheet, Seiler, Sullivan, Ward, Warner, Wills, Yotter, Yumoto





Last Meeting's *Parley*

"I invoke the right of parley!" Elizabeth Swann



Running Rigging.

Steve Miller posed a question (under parley protection) to the Members about whether running rigging should remain on a ship model when the sails have been removed.

Mike Lonnecker and **Isaac Wills** concurred that once again this is a "Captain's Choice" situation, but added that in this case more is better.



Bending Planks And Double-Planking.

A double-barrelled parley query was posed by **Guy Lawrie** who asked for ideas about planking his current build (a 1:64 Mamoli model of the 1893 yacht Britannia.) Specifically, Guy noted that the kit comes with hull-length (500mm) tanganyika laths for planking, and he was having difficulty putting a complex 3-dimensional bend in such a long plank on the first layer of his double-planked build.

Mike Lonnecker, **Tom Hairston**, **Don Dressel**, and **Doug Ward** each offered ideas and tips involving the usual soaking and heat solutions; Guy reported that he found the solution most helpful to him was to shorten the plank lengths to fit simpler bends and not worry so much about appearance since this first planking layer will be planked over by the second layer anyway. This freedom allows him to focus more on establishing the "fairness" of the hull.



Air-Brushing (Another Update!)

The **Newsletter Editor's** parley invoked back at the February meeting requesting a demonstration of the basics of air-brushing resulted in a recent "Parley Party."

Guild Members **Chris Sullivan**, **Phil Pizzuto**, and **Mike Florio** gathered at the Newsletter Editor's home and Chris brought his air-brushing equipment (along with a guineau pig styrene hull) to explain the basic components required and demonstrate some common techniques and practices. Thank you Chris!



photos by Alex Roel

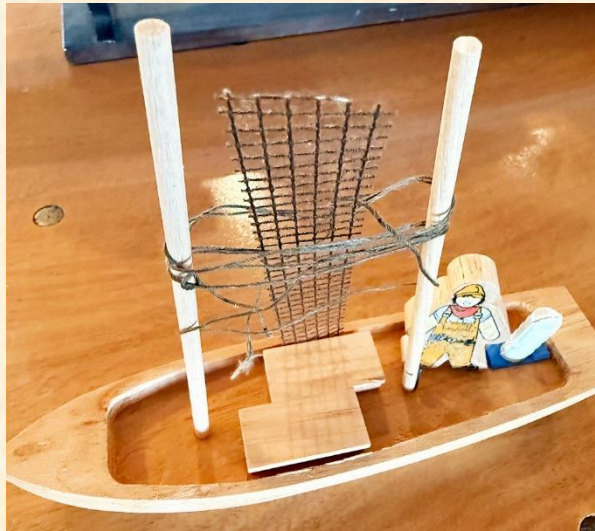




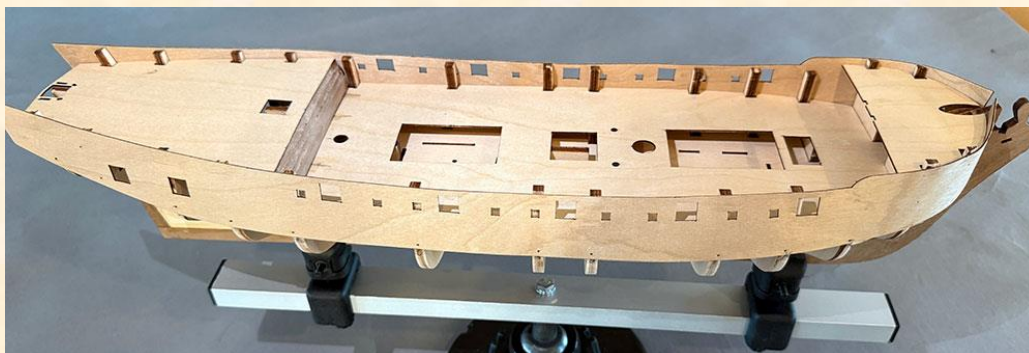
Trystan Lee continues to be one of the Guild's most creative (and prolific) model ship crafters. This month Trystan brought in a wooden toy hull form that he's bashing by adding rigging,

ratlines and some deck furniture.

- *SLOOP by Trystan Lee*
- *bashed from wooden toy, wood*
- *unknown scale, under construction*

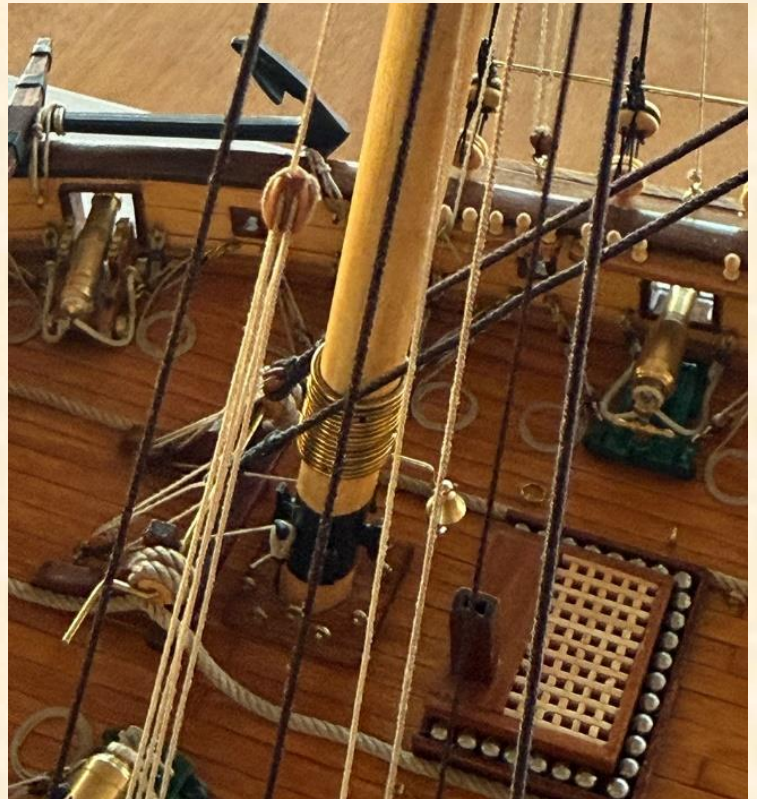


Don Dressel's GRANADO build continues apace. GRANADO is one of the (actually the first) kits from donor Curt Madsen given away free at raffle: it's nice to see her progress month by month instead of sitting unbuilt in her box.



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

The PRINCE was back in fine form as **Steve Miller** continues the rigging process. Standing rigging essentially complete, running rigging is starting to appear. Word from Steve is that PRINCE will be aiming for the San Diego County Fair... of 2027.



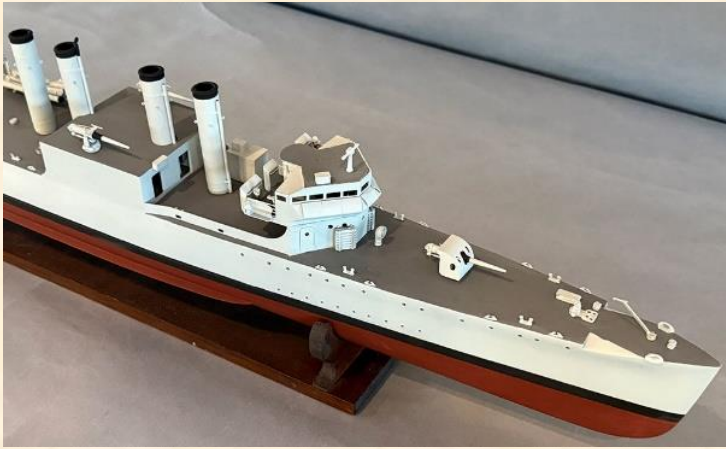
- PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL by Steve Miller
- Constructo kit, plank-on-bulkhead, wood
- 13/64"=1' 1:58, under construction

Kirk Rummel brought in another raffle-won kit (PRIDE OF BALTIMORE) and showed the tremendous progress he has made. This is Kirk's first attempt at building wooden ship model...

Bravo Zulu Kirk!

- PRIDE OF BALTIMORE by Kirk Rummel
- Model Shipways kit, wood
- 13/64"=1' 1:64, under construction





Michael Denigan's EDSALL made a return voyage to Show and Tell this month and has progressed by leaps and bounds: last time Michael displayed a few superstructure build-outs, but this month EDSALL already looks like a ship nearing completion.

- *EDSALL by Michael Denigan*
- *BlueJacket Shipcrafters kit, wood*
- *1/16"=1' 1:192, under construction*



Mike Florio brought in a beautiful little fireboat from his vast collection. This is another good example of Mike's precise craftsmanship.

- *REX by Mike Florio*
- *unknown kit*
- *unknown scale, completed*





Chuck Seiler's cargo boat **KNARR** also nears completion in time for the San Diego County Fair. Since last we saw her Chuck has added lots of cargo and equipment on deck and begun to rig his Viking ocean-going vessel.

- *KNARR by Chuck Seiler*
- *Dusek kit, wood*
- *1/32"≈1' 1:36, under construction*



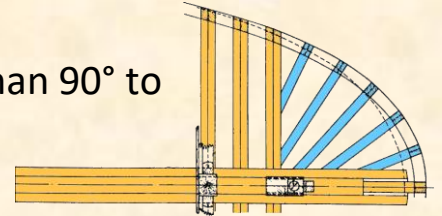
⚓ Flotsam and Jetsam

“Never buy the ‘Mark 1’ version of anything”

unknown

Squared Away – understanding nautical terms

A **CANT FRAME** is a ship’s frame set at an angle other than 90° to the keel/keelson, and is usually situated in the bow or stern.



Build Gallery ★ ★ ★

Members are invited to submit completed builds to Web Master [John Walsh](#) for inclusion in our website’s BUILD GALLERY. Provide the name of your vessel, circa depicted, scale, materials, and whether built from scratch, kit or bashed. Be sure to include a full view photo along with detailed supporting photos.



Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



The previously reported scheduling conflict with the Maritime Museum of San Diego for our May meeting is no more: we will be meeting at our regular day and time. See you May 12th!



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

☞ Entry deadline is Monday, May 4th 8pm.

☞ 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](#).



On The Horizon

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
AUG 4	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
AUG 11	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
AUG 11	6pm	Guild Meeting  Founding	BERKELEY
AUG 18	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
SEP 1	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
SEP 8	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
SEP 8	6pm	Guild Meeting  Anniversary	BERKELEY w/pot luck
SEP 15	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email

 **Raffle!** by Steve Miller




The Guild's program off raffling off donated kits continues next month with an eighth offering...

Next month's raffle will be the Spanish galleon SAN JUAN by [Artesania Latina](http://www.artesania-latina.com) at 13/32"=1' / 1:30 scale, plank on bulkhead with walnut and sapele woods, brass and die-cut fittings, and 100% cotton line. She measures 20" long and 24" high.










The SAN JUAN will be raffled off to Members and guests in attendance at the May meeting's "no charge" raffle.

The rules for taking a raffle ticket are:

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

Raffle results to date:

	April	NIAGARA	Shannon Li-Karins	in dry dock
	March	PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL	Doug Yumoto	in dry dock
	February	MARIE JEANNE	Jon Sanford	in dry dock
	January	SUPPLY	Nick Li-Karins	<i>under construction</i>
	December	FLY	Doug Ward	<i>under construction</i>
	November	PRIDE OF BALTIMORE	Kirk Rummel	<i>under construction</i>
	October	GRANADO	Don Dressel	<i>under construction</i>



Easter Egg Reveal #4

Back with another Easter Egg reveal, and this one is close to my heart. Every other month **TSDW** profiles a Guild Member to get a better sense of who they are, their interests, and their connection to model shipcrafting. This recurring feature is simply known as the *Roll Call*.

Reveal #4: Happily for me *Roll Call* in the December 2024 issue of **TSDW** featured your very own Newsletter Editor. It was a simple matter of making a couple intentional typos:

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- [Cool Tool](#)
- [Home Port](#)
- [The Bitter En](#)

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[Roel Call](#) an interview with Guild Member Alex Roel

you will just have **How did you come to call San Diego home?**

Fair winds and following seas, My father relocated our family and construction firm

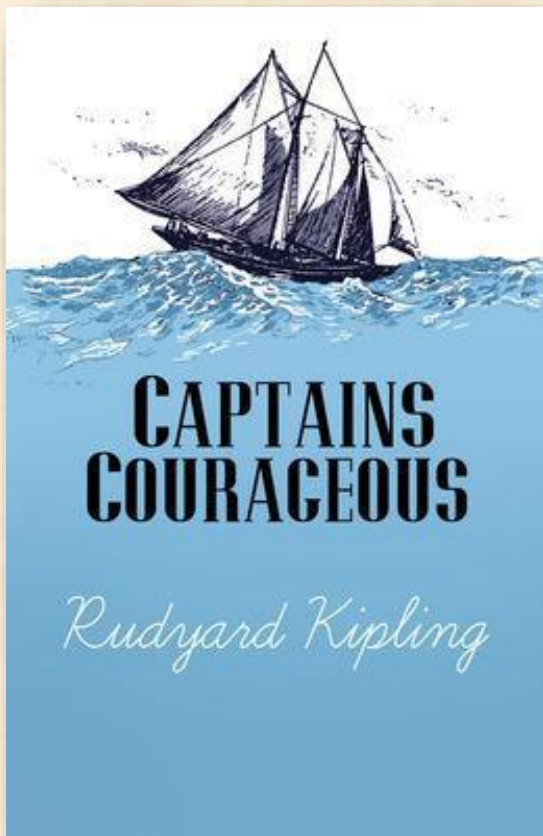
John Walsh, Guild Master

DECEMBER 2024

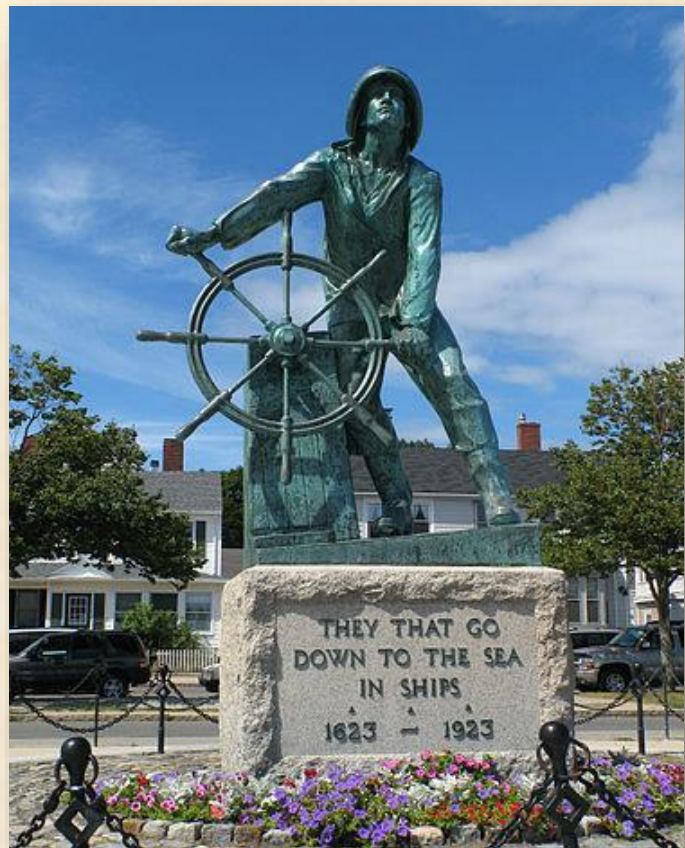
Captains Courageous: A Story of the Grand Banks
by Rudyard Kipling | published 1897 | 245 pages

[Fiddler's Green](#) on our website offers us a different kind of sea story: having been washed overboard during a trans-Atlantic crossing, young Harvey Cheyne is rescued by the crew of the fishing schooner WE'RE HERE while working the grounds of the Grand Banks during the height of the fishing season.

Despite repeated pleas and remonstrances to take him ashore Harvey finds himself effectively pressed into service against his will, which in time he comes to reluctantly accept. During his time aboard, however, Harvey gains an unlooked-for measure of fishing acumen and maturity.



The WE'RE HERE sails home to Gloucester, Massachusetts at season's end and Harvey is finally reunited with his parents. New England cod fishing, whaling, and fishing grounds are the order of the day.





Alex Roel

San Diego Bay, September 8 2025, 6:36am

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.)