



JUNE 2026

32°43'N



117°10'W

VOL LIV, No 6

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Community Build

BUSY TIMES

Summer is a busy time for most of us and this Summer is no exception for the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild:



First up is the Guild's continued support and participation in the annual San Diego County Fair (and specifically the Design in Wood competition.) [Read more here.](#)



Next up is the Guild's new effort to support our plastic styrene builders by encouraging Member entries at this year's IPMS San Diego Model Expo. [Read more here.](#)



Third is the final installment of Chari Wessel's LUPA build log; our thanks to Chari and we wish them both a fair wind and following seas. [Read more here.](#)



And finally we urge all Guild Members to join, support, and post on *Model Ship World* in the wake of the recent web attack that erased the entire website. The new site is already online and in time it will be rebuilt, but it will require a large lift on the part of the model shipcrafting community to do so. [Read more here.](#)

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

Just how important is the Guild and its Members in the “modern” connected world? As recent events demonstrate, very important indeed!

As you may know, my journey to today has been long and circuitous. Twenty-three years ago I bought my PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL kit in the BERKELEY Gift Shop. After a couple false starts and almost two decades in ordinary, I started her build again in earnest in 2022. The support network I chose was [Model Ship World](#) and the [Nautical Research Guild](#) (NRG). *Model Ship World* provided technical and moral support – and one of those providing that support was none other than our very own Chuck Seiler!



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Chuck invited me to a Guild meeting downtown and the rest is history. *Model Ship World* led me to our beloved Guild! And now here I sit writing “From the Quarterdeck”. Wow.

When *Model Ship World* disappeared from the World Wide Web this early May, I wasn't concerned. We've seen server outages before. But then NRG announced the global knowledge base collected over the previous 23 years was entirely gone, and I was shocked and forlorn. The loss to the ship modeling community was immense.

But for us in the Guild, all was not lost, for we have each other. That value is

immeasurable! I see nothing but mutual moral support and genuine appreciation for each other's projects and ideas. Technical knowledge amongst our Members runs deep indeed, and advice is a mere Parley, email or phone call away. This is

the value of the Guild – we are there for each other. Our Museum Model Shop aboard BERKELEY is well supplied and even comes with an excellent reference library for members to use. Even without the Internet, we would be ok.

If we're honest, this hobby does skew towards a more, shall we say, “experienced” demographic. With that experience comes great wisdom – and this Guild has that in spades! In light of the loss (and hopefully the rebuilding) of *Model Ship World*, one of our great sages, Trystan Lee, recently admonished us in a short talk about playing on the Internet – that playing in the real world was much more fun and beneficial! On the decks of the BERKELEY, Trystan's advice could not be more sound. Thanks Trystan!

Ironically then, I would ask everyone in the Guild to keep Trystan’s advice in mind but still consider signing up at [Model Ship World](#) (it's free!) and start a build log or answer some technical questions. Post some finished builds in the gallery. Help rebuild the knowledge base that is so crucial to folks who don't live near a Guild or a club.

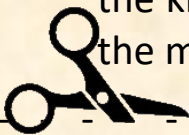
Internet ship modeling resources are the branches of a beautiful tree, but make no mistake about it – the local Guild or club are the roots of the art. We are dedicated to making our Guild be the best it can be, and that requires you! Model ship building in San Diego is in great hands my friends. Keep up the great work, and I hope to see you all in June!

Steady as she goes then.

A handwritten signature in black ink. It features a large, stylized 'S' that loops around the word 'STEVE', which is written in a bold, slightly slanted, sans-serif font.



It is time once again for the San Diego County Fair. Here we're able to set up our booth and wax wise about model shipbuilding to all who wish to wander by. Some of the newer Members may be intimidated and may feel they do not have the knowledge for such a daunting task. Never fear! I bring you the answers to the most frequently asked questions we get at the Fair.



Take this with you to the Fair and feel free to use the answer you think most appropriate to the question asked:

1. Yes, I know where the restroom is. From the expression on your face, I'll bet you wish you did too.
2. No, this is **NOT** made of balsa wood.
3. No, this is **NOT** a pirate ship (unless you are in fact building a pirate ship, then say "yes".)
4. Yes, it does take patience to build one of these... and desire.
STOP TOUCHING THAT!!!
5. Huh? What's that you say? Loud? The wooden bowl makers are too loud? Sorry, I can't hear you.
6. No kid, I'm **SURE** it's not a pirate ship (unless, of course, it is.)
7. I don't know what *that* is. We think the builder may have been on drugs at the time (describing the Mystery Project of the Year... which changes each year, so I cannot describe it... you will know it when you see it, however.)
8. No, I don't know how they get the ship into the bottle. My job is to **EMPTY** the bottle. After that, I don't remember much.
9. I don't care if the guys in the wooden bowl booth gave you something, you cannot have Mike Lonnecker's model as a sample. **STOP TOUCHING THAT!!!**
10. Okay, okay, kid, you're right! It's a pirate ship! A balsa wood, Mississippi River sternwheel steam powered pirate ship! Don't you have some place else you need to be? Hey lady, doesn't he need to go to the restroom or something?

Enjoy the Fair. If you are not volunteering at the booth, drop by and say “Hi!” but *don’t* ask me if it’s made of balsa.

Remember:

1. Be sure to bring something to work on. It must be wood in nature, since we are in the *Design in Wood* pavilion. Pack it in your car the night before so you don’t forget it (like I did one year.) If nothing else, be sure to pack a piece of sand paper and something to sand... and some good stories.
 2.  *If using a rotary tool or other high-speed device, make sure you bring safety glasses of some sort.*
 3. Please bring any spare *Model Expo*, *Micro-Mark* or other interesting catalogs for the folks to look at.
 4. If you are unable to make it to the Fair any day you are assigned, contact Fair Coordinator [Steve Scheet](#) as soon as you can so a substitute can be arranged.
 5. ***Have fun!!!***
-

One Day in May

The set-up crew arrived on time at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on the morning of May 6th to unpack the on-site storage crate and rebuild the Guild's booth (once again) for the upcoming Fair season.

As with last year, Fair Chair **Steve Scheet** unveiled a new feature for our booth: the addition of display shelves that now occupy the back wall of the booth. These shelves are intended to hold several completed builds (strictly as decoration) to add interest to what has heretofore been a rather large and uninteresting blank space.

Last year Steve introduced two knot tying stations, raised the height of the modelers' work table to give the public a better view as we work, and purchased two new director's chairs.

Steve was (more or less) ably assisted by **Art Arroyo**, **John Walsh**, and the **Newsletter Editor**.



photos by Alex Roel and Steve Scheet



Eliza Lee

Listen to it on
 YouTube

The smartest clipper you can find
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
Is the MARGARET EVANS on the Blue Star Line!
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

To me, rig a jig in a jolting car
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
With Eliza Lee all on me knee
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run

Oh the MARGARET EVANS on the Blue Star Line
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
She's never a day behind the time
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

CHORUS

Oh we're outward bound for New York town
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
We'll dance them Bowery girls around
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

CHORUS

Well we stowed our freight on the West Creek pier
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
We'll head right back for some Liverpool beer
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

CHORUS

Oh I thought I heard the old man say
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
We'll leave that brig three points away
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

CHORUS

And when we're back in Liverpool town
Ho eh, ho ah, are you most done?
I'll stand youse whiskeys all around!
Clear away the track and let the bulgine run.

CHORUS



Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan*



The May Guild meeting was attended by 24 Members¹ and 1 guest; all Officers were present. 1 new Member² joined the Guild.



At exactly 6:00pm the Powder Monkey rang the ship's bell at the Guild Master's command.



The meeting opened with Guild Master **Steve Miller** welcoming **Kerim Baran** of the San Diego Argonauts to our meeting. Kerim introduced himself and his modeling journey; he joined as our newest Member during the break.

Steve then touched on a number of topics, including the recent website attack on *Model Ship World*, and opened the floor to Members who wished to comment on its past usefulness and value to (specifically) our own Guild Members, several Members speaking up. Then the Guild Master called for Officer Reports, and these were fairly brief: the Purser **John Walsh** reported that we are still in the black, Expo Chair **Karl Zingheim** reminded the gathered of the IPMS Regional Expo coming up in June, and Fair Chair **Steve Scheet** reported the successful set-up of the Guild's booth in Del Mar.

Steve opened the floor to Members; **Mike Hite** announced that he had brought in a donated ship model and woodworking toolset (subsequently claimed by **Andrew Warner**) and 1000 new compasses embossed with the Guild logo that he has arranged to donate to us for Fair give-aways. Steve then announced that remote Member **John Baker** also graciously donated two kits (RATTLESNAKE and VICTORY) to the Guild: Photographer **Chris Sullivan** immediately swooped in to claim VICTORY.



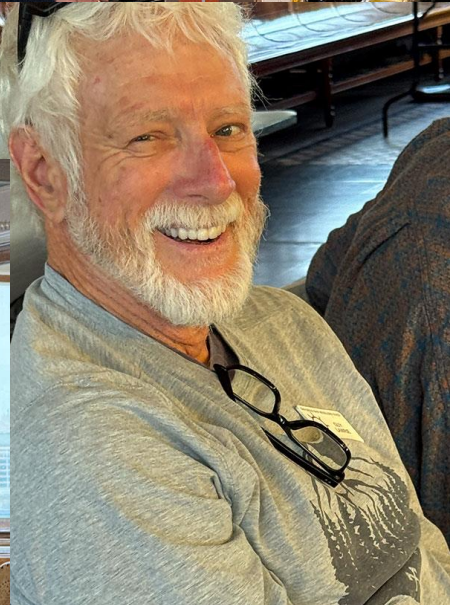
The Guild Master signaled the start of [Parley](#), followed by our usual break which was in turn followed by [Show and Tell](#).

Erik Almaas won the night's big raffle, taking home the Artesania Latina kit SAN JUAN; Erik had earlier agreed to take on a donated Victory Ship kit.

The May meeting ended at 8:08pm as the Powder Monkey closed the meeting by once more ringing the ship's bell.

1 Almaas, Arroyo, Clausson, Dressel, Florio, Hairston, Hite, Lawrie, Lonneck, Lopez de Arenosa, MacMaster, Miller, Nagatani, Pizzuto, Roel, Sanford, Scheet, Seiler, Sullivan, Walsh, Warner, Wills, Yotter, Zingheim

2 Kerim Baran





Rigging Plans.

Mike Florio requested parley to relate that he had been unhappy about the rigging plans for his NIAGARA, and that he had sought out other sources for her rigging... only to end up with three different rigging plans.

Mike then realized that rigging plans for a given vessel do change over her useful life and somewhat sheepishly reported that he had decided to go with the kit's rigging scheme after all. A journey worth taking, though, and protected by the right of parley.



Transom Lettering.

Parley was granted **Phil Pizzuto** who queried those present on how he might paint or letter the name on a vessel.

The **Newsletter Editor** suggested using vinyl lettering (available in various fonts and sizes) as a mask for painting the name: initially painting the transom the desired color of the name, then applying the vinyl laser-cut letters, painting over all with the transom color, finally removing the vinyl lettering to reveal the name giving a very flat, painted effect. **Mike Florio** suggested using transfer lettering which is also available in a variety of fonts and sizes. **Chuck Sieler** noted that the name can be printed on "decal paper" using an ink-jet printer and applying the printed decal with Micro Sol setting solution. **Steve Miller** suggested using a Cricut decal making machine.



Wood for Longer Hull Lengths.

New Member **Karim Baran** asked the Members what wood was available of sufficient length to hull his remote-control boat build.

Isaac Wills noted that for longer lengths of planking the use of scarfed joints might prove useful regardless the type of wood. Both **Steve Miller** and **Steve Scheet** argued for using mahogany or teak, sufficiently sealed against water. Various sealants including varnish and epoxy were discussed by the group, and it was noted that **Art Arroyo** "glasses" his water-borne builds with fiberglass.



Chris Sullivan has officially completed his diorama of an Imperial Japanese Navy / Army combined shoreline operation (circa 1944) unloading tanks and transports. He bashed from five different kits and utilized photo-etched brass for the superstructures.

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



Dave Yotter displayed some of the high-quality line, rope, and tackle that he has used regularly on his models. These can be ordered online via [Syren Ship Model Company](#), [Ropes of Scale](#), and [Dry-Dock Models and Parts](#).

- *Rope and Tackle by Dave Yotter*
- *Syren Ship Model Company*
- *Ropes of Scale*
- *Dry-Dock Models & Parts*

Note:

Mike Lonnecker reports that Dry-Dock Models & Parts (a Chinese company) does have some pirated kits offered (*do not purchase*) but that the parts are not pirated.



Jon Sanford made a return trip to a model shop in England where he had previously purchased a “matchstick” model. This time he bought three more including a locomotive with coal tender,

- *TRAWLER by Jon Sanford*
- *Hobbies Matchmaker kit, wood matches*
- *unknown scale, under construction*

a paddlewheeler, and his current build: a fishing trawler. Jon reports that the build is time-consuming (and sometimes boring) but that the results when the matchsticks are sanded down and finished can be quite pleasing.



Mike Florio brought in a lovely little dockside diorama of a Bluejacket catboat kit and her companion that illustrates Mike’s clean style and attention to detail.

- *CAPE COD CATBOAT by Mike Florio*
- *Bluejacket Shipcrafters bashed kit, wood*
- *3/4"=1' 1:16, completed*





Phil Pizzuto graced Show & Tell with his very tidy and fun loving re-imagining of John Steinbeck's WESTERN FLYER fishing boat that he and Ed Ricketts sailed to the Sea of Cortez. Phil bashed the kit given him by **Jon Sanders** at the Guild's December Holiday meeting and she's nearly complete (see [Parley.](#))



- WESTERN FLYER by Phil Pizzuto
- unknown kit, wood
- unknown scale, under construction

Jay MacMaster brought us up to date on SYREN's progress (in her third year of construction.) Jay noted that one of the difficulties of not using paint on SYREN was that hull planking became a bit tricky when using only native wood colors to faithfully represent the waterline.



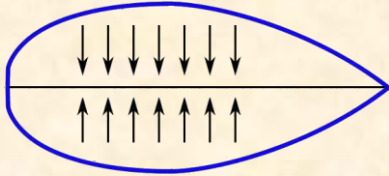
- SYREN by Jay MacMaster
- Model Shipways plans, scratch build, wood
- 3/16"=1' 1:64, under construction

Flotsam and Jetsam

"The sea finds out everything you did wrong"

Francis Stokes

Soundings – pronouncing nautical terms

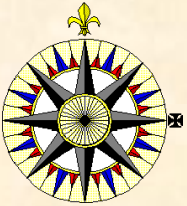


AMIDSHIPS is one of the family of terms that describes a relative position aboard a vessel, in this case inboard and on or toward the vessel's centerline (keel.) Hint: when trying to pronounce this term, less is more.

Reads like: *a•mid•ships* (one word, three syllables, accent on second)

Pronounced: *mid•ships* (one word, two syllables, accent on first)

Navigating the Website – sdshipmodelersguild.org



Visit the [COMPASS ROSE](#) page and learn about the origins and use of this well-known nautical tool. You'll also find the meaning behind the phrase "box the compass" and in which direction to expect the onset of "La Tramontana".

Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



Summer travel options to the Embarcadero (see our [map](#)):

- ☕ Arrive early (5pm) and enjoy the Guild's social hour aboard the BERKELEY and/or help set up before the meeting
- ☕ Embarcadero public parking lots (metered pay stations)
- ☕ North Harbor Drive street parking in front of the San Diego County Administration building (parking meters)
- ☕ MTS trolley (Blue or Green Line / County Center Station); 0.2 mile walk
- ☕ AMTRAK train (Santa Fe Depot); 0.3 mile walk
- ☕ USS MIDWAY public parking lot; 0.5 mile walk
- ☕ Tuna Harbor public parking lot; 0.6 mile walk
- ☕ Uber / Lyft / taxi
- ☕ Car pool



Wood crafters! The [San Diego County Fair](#) kicks off June 10th! Model entry drop-off is May 20th at noon at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.



Plastic crafters! The [San Diego Model Expo](#) kicks off June 13th! Model entry

drop-off is same day at 9am at Gillespie Field.



The SDSMG Santee Annex drew the interest of model shipcrafter **Colby Brown** who recently brought his BLACK PEARL to a meeting at the [Omelette Factory](#) in Santee. Wait... is that **Mike Lonnecker** down from Poway?



The Annex was also recently spotted outside the Santee city limits at the [Studio Diner](#) in Kearny Mesa.



On The Horizon

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 (day of)	Gillespie Field
JUN 13	9am - 3pm	San Diego Model Expo 	Gillespie Field / IPMS Regional
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
JUL 14	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JUL 14	6pm	Guild Meeting  Birthday	BERKELEY w/cake
JUL 21	—	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
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

The Guild's raffle program of donated kits continues next month with a ninth offering...

Next month's raffle will be the American whaler KATE CORY by [Model Shipways](#) at 3/16"=1' / 1:64 scale, plank on solid hull with brass and pewter fittings, and copper sheathing. She measures 24" long and 18" high.



The Kate Cory will be raffled off to Members and guests in attendance at the June 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:

	May	SAN JUAN	Erik Almaas	in dry dock
	April	NIAGARA	Shannon Li-Karins	in dry dock
	March	PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL	Doug Yumoto	in dry dock
	February	MARIE JEANNE	Jon Sanford	<i>under construction</i>
	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>



In *Log Entry: No. 3* I discussed creating the steering oar and carving the bireme's figurehead.

- LUPA by Chari Wessel
- Mantua kit, wood
- 3/8"≈1' 1:30, completed

One Year Later

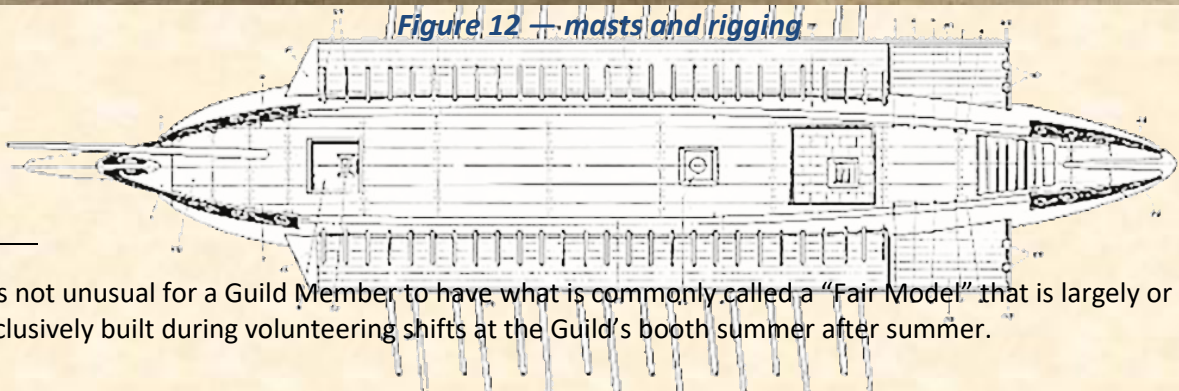
A year later I was back in the Guild's booth volunteering for my 2025 fair days¹, and I dusted LUPA off and got to work once again.

Masts and Rigging

I set up the masts and rigging and my fabricated railings. From a 1:72 scale Italeri Roman infantry figure set I painted and attached shields (Figures 12, 13) along the railings.



Figure 12 — masts and rigging



¹ It is not unusual for a Guild Member to have what is commonly called a "Fair Model" that is largely or even exclusively built during volunteering shifts at the Guild's booth summer after summer.



Figure 13 — shields on railings

Figure 14 — afterdeck detail

Once the model was back home from the Fair, I added final fragile details: raised oars projecting from the outriggers and Roman figures manning the lines and readying their weapons. Many of the final touches I added were accoutrements for my tiny crew: a water butt by the main-mast and latrines on the stern, which is where these were located on ships until the bow ram was abandoned.

In Conclusion

If I were to build this model again, I would have spent more time and effort soaking and bending the planking to fit the bow and stern curves for a neater, more precise fit. I would also have spent more time on the sails, penciling more precise seams and forming



some curves and folds in the fabric by soaking in glue or starch, and then adding them to the model later. The oars could also have been more refined.



Figure 15 — foredeck detail

Another thing I would try to do is soak and straighten the line I used for the running rigging, so that it would form proper catenary curves from turning blocks and tackle when rigged onto the model. At the scale I was working that might not be enough; additional wetting and application of some sort of stiffener or glue to the line to make it hang in a proper curve (as if by gravity) might be needed.

But, for this first build, my goal was to use as much of the given kit as I could to produce an attractive finished model, and learn about this type of ship along the way. Mission accomplished!

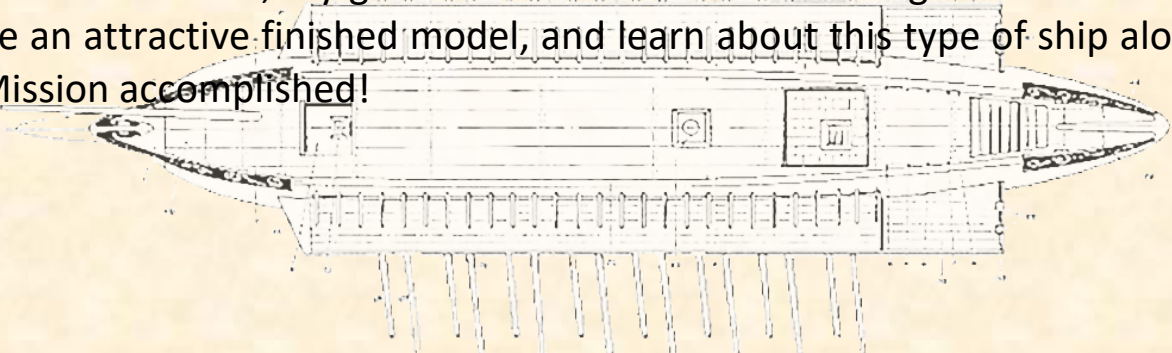
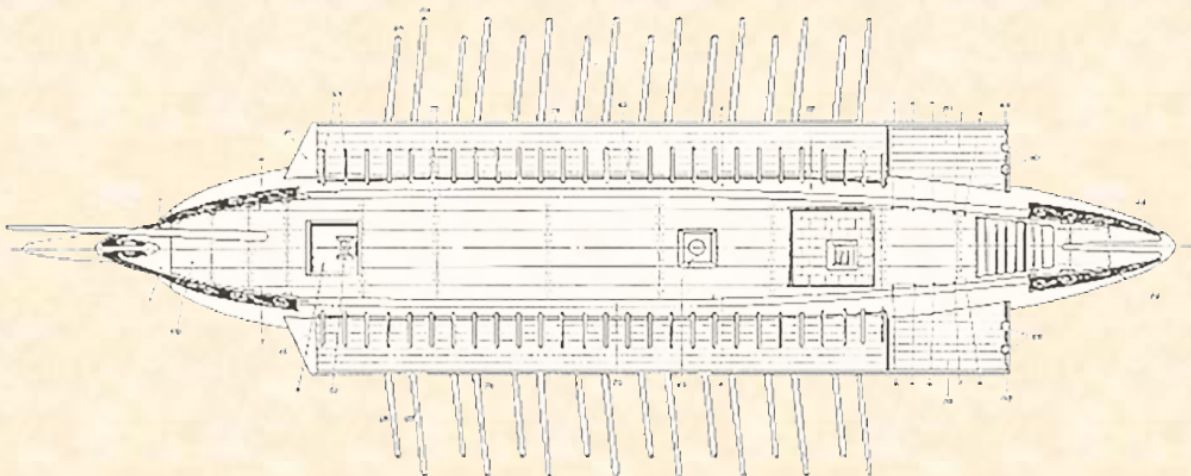
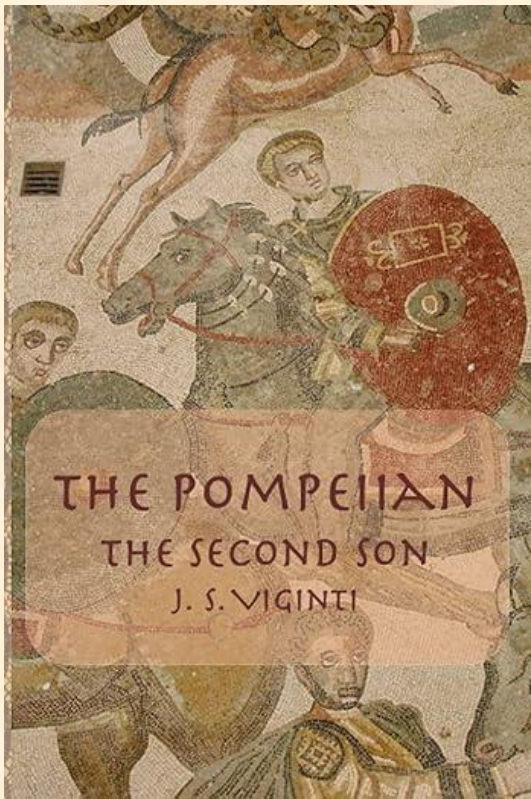


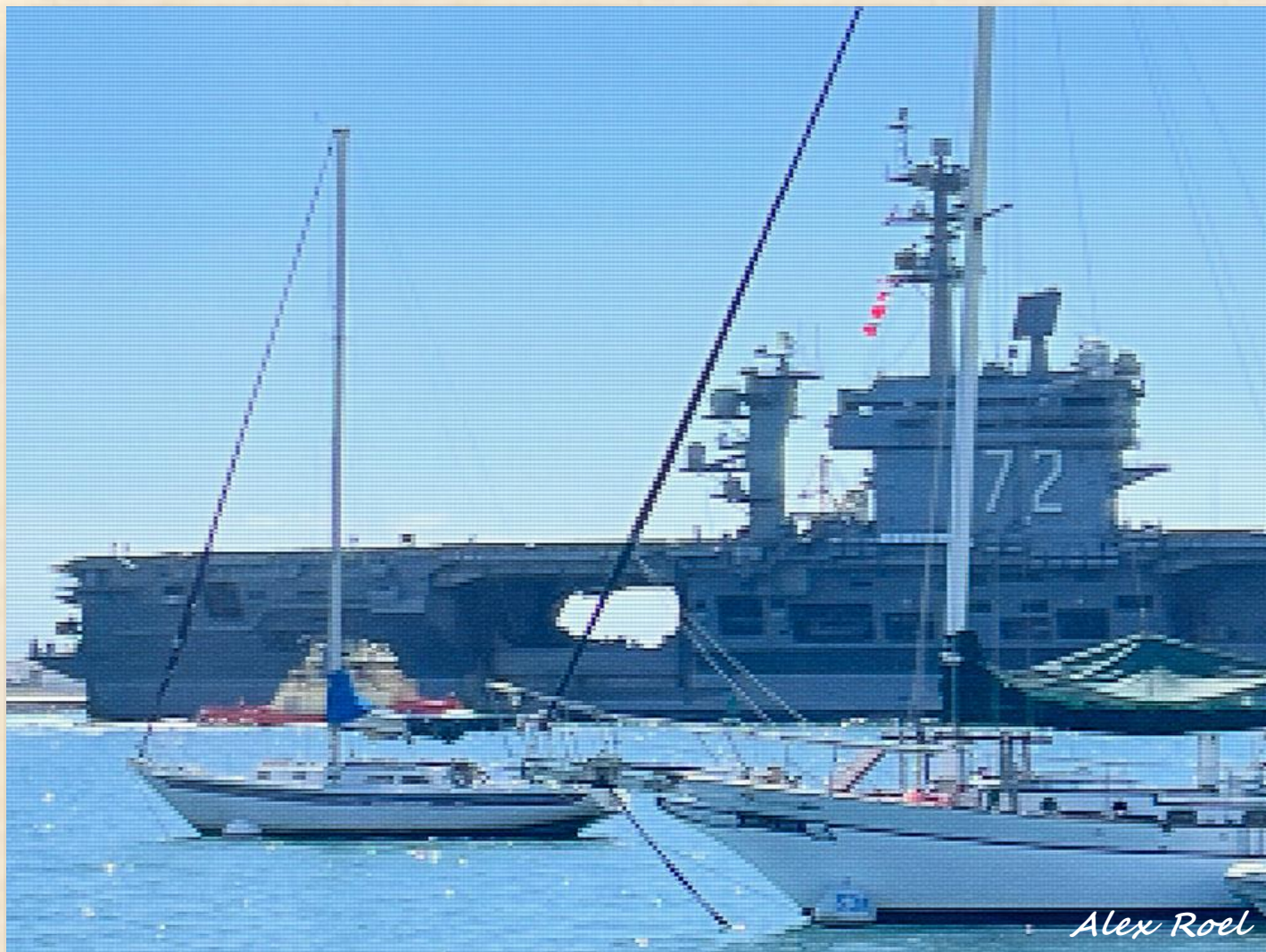


Figure 16 — LUPA port view



Figure 17 — LUPA starboard view





San Diego Bay, September 9 2025, 10:44am

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.)