



AUGUST 2026 32°43'N 117°10'W Vol LIV, No 8

GUILD OFFICERS

[Steve Miller](#)

GuildMaster

[Steve Scheet](#)

First Mate

[John Walsh](#)

Purser

[Karl Zingheim](#)

Log Keeper

[Chuck Seiler](#) (Interim)

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

SUMMER DOLDRUMS

The Fair is over. The IPMS competition is over. People are still recovering from the exotic Fair Cuisine (deep fried, bacon wrapped, Twinkie encrusted turkey legs) despite the fact Fair cuisine has ZERO calories (it is known). We are in the doldrums of summer when kids are out of school and folks are on vacation.

In days of old, when one required an antenna on their roof to get TV, the good TV shows would go on hiatus from June until September. Summer 'replacements' and reruns filled the void. This summer, I will be your replacement newsletter editor and you will see reruns from past issues. Just becuz.

The July meeting was the 55th Birthday Celebration Meeting, as opposed to August, which is the Founding Meeting, or September, which is the Anniversary Meeting. Fear not, it shall all be made clear. I build ship models and I know things.

Chuck



PS. Hey, this is great!!! When I was last editor, we had to send out some of the newsletters by snailmail (Somebody explain snailmail to Tristan and Niko. Nicholas and Shannon too, maybe. ☺) We were limited to 14 pages before we had to pay extra postage. Now I can do 100 pages. ☺



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*

By the time you read this, it will be August, and the end of summer will be approaching fast - vacations in the books, school starting soon, and the Fair come and gone. Waiting for the inland heat to subside has felt a bit like being becalmed at sea (doldrums indeed!) - waiting for that first hint of a cool fall breeze to rustle the t'gallants. I fear we may have to wait a bit longer on that.

But wow - the July meeting really livened things up! From the bright and crisp new ship's bell, to welcoming no fewer than SIX new members at one meeting; that was one for the ages. We gave away the great USS Constitution kit - what a treat - and there was birthday cake for all hands. Without question a great night!



The important takeaway here is that six ship modelers found their way to the Guild in one night!! Welcome aboard all! During my time in office if someone had asked, I would say we are a Guild of around 60 members. As of this writing, we have 71 on our rolls! That is wonderful news to be sure. And to see so many beautiful Mini-Stars showcased at our meetings, and first time members invoking their right to "Parlay", it just warms a Guild Master's soul.

As summer comes to a close I look forward to having the larger turnouts at the meetings. I love to see what everyone is working on! I hope you can come out and join in the fun. Bring your projects, and bring your questions! But by all means, come out.

On a personal note, I feel like my Parlay last meeting was effectively an intervention. What I finally heard was "tie the ratlines already". To that end, as of this writing I have tied the port foremast ratlines. 6 hours and 15 minutes of work!! What do they say at the fair? "That must take a lot of patience". Aye. Patience to be sure matey. Patience t' be sure!

I hope you're finding time to bring your ships to life as well. Let's muster all able and available hands at the next meeting and break free of these summer doldrums. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan*

The June Guild meeting was attended by 13 Members¹ and 6 guests; Guildmaster, Purser and Logkeeper were present.

At the Guild Master's signal the Powder Monkey rang the ship's bell at exactly 1800 (6:00pm) and the meeting commenced. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Guildmaster Steve welcomed all members and guests, thanking them for making the journey. Not only was it the Guild's birthday, it was America's 250th anniversary.

Guildmaster reported the sad new that the Museum's HMS SURPRISE would be closing to the public next year. A recent survey of the vessel uncovered damage/deterioration that is currently too costly to repair. More details will be provided in future newsletters.

It was previously reported that newsletter editor **Alex Roel** will be stepping down and that **Chuck Seiler** would be filling that role on a temporary/emergency basis. A vote was taken to officially ratify Chuck as the new INTERIM newsletter editor. It passed. Steve noted that Chuck had been newsletter editor in two previous decades (2004-2006 and 2013-2016) and anticipated the newsletter would be in good hands. (Editor's note: Ha ha ha ha.)

OFFICER'S REPORT

-First Mate (and Fair Coordinator) **Steve Sheet** was not present. He was in Alaska recovering from his Fair duties. Guildmaster noted the Fair was very successful and thanked all those who participated. (Editor's note: See pages 11, 12 and 13 for details.)

-Purser **John Walsh** announced the arrival of new member badges.

-Log Keeper/IPMS Coordinator **Karl Zinghiem** thanked **Steve Scheet**, **Mike Lonnecker**, **Chris Sullivan**, and **Chuck Seiler** for their successful participation in the recent International Plastic Modelers Society regional contest. (See page 14 for details.)

With the conclusion of official business, Guildmaster signaled the floor be opened to PARLAY. (Page 5). After that, the crew adjourned to the mess for Birthday Cake.

The evening concluded with an active Show and Tell, then the drawing for the USS CONSTITUTION model. Guest **Chris Velasco** won the night's raffle, taking home the Model Shipways kit USS CONSTITUTION. Powder Monkey rang the bell and adjourned the meeting at 2000. That's Karl's story and he is sticking to it.

1 Art Arroyo, Glenn Claussen, Mike Florio, Mike Hite, Mike Lonnecker, Steve Miller, Jakob Nagatani, Philip Pizzuto, Alex Roel, Chris Sullivan, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Karl Zingheim



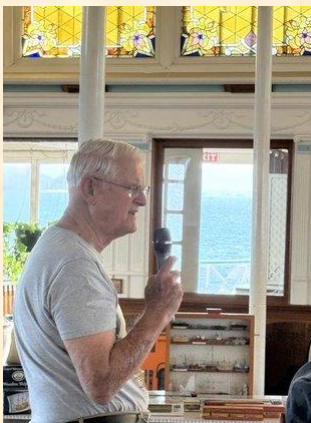
Chef **John Walsh** presents the Guild birthday cake to Pastry Inspector **Phil Pizzuto**. John brought the cake commemorating the Guild birthday as well as the 250th anniversary of the USA. By chance, it is also Phil's birthday.



Above-Auctioneer **Miller** introduces the raffle item for the month, Model Shipways USS CONSTITUTION. Below-Steve and raffle winner **Chris Velasco**.



We finally know what the Photographer looks like.





Last Meeting's *Parlay*

"I invoke the right of parley!" Elizabeth Swann



Airbrushing.

Alex Roel inquired about airbrushing in a previous meeting. At the current meeting he reported his progress in developing his skills working with the device in person.



Affordable Kits.

One of our new members enquired about affordable kits. The full discussion was not provided to the editor, but I am sure the feedback was ample. Hopefully the discussion was directed towards Model Ship World sponsors.



Ratline Installation.

Steve Miller has been making great progress on his PRINCE de NEUFCHATEL but is currently bogged down with the bane of all rational sentient beings-rigging. He asked whether it was best to install ratlines sooner or after finer rigging was installed. **Mike Lonnecker** replied it was best to stage such installations by mast level.



Benefits of NRG Membership

Mike Lonnecker discussed the benefits of Nautical Research Guild (NRG) membership. One such benefit is discussed on page 15.



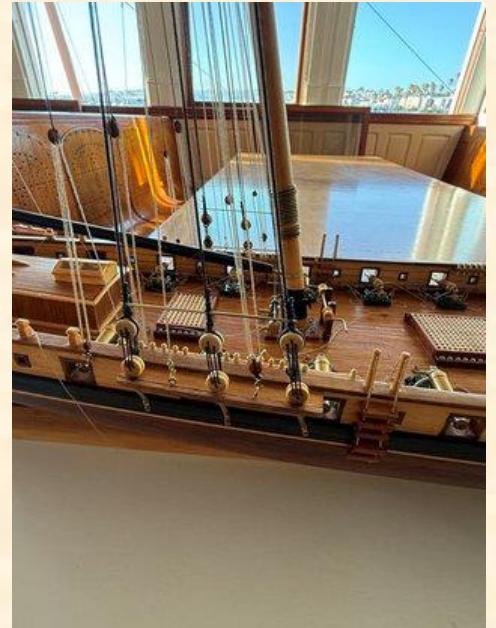
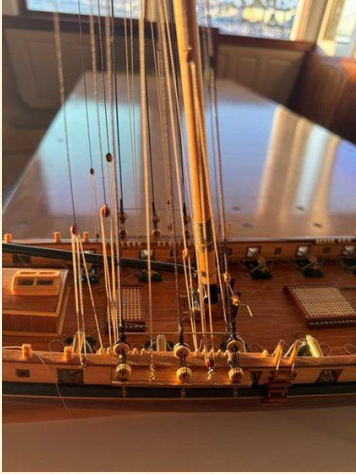
The Fleet

Two completed mini STAR kits from the Fair **Karina Hernandez** and **David Hernandez the Younger (L'il David)** bracket CUTTY SARK by L'il David.

Background-Larger scale CUTTY SARK by **Mike Hite**.



Last Meeting's Show and Tell *photography by Chris Sullivan*



- **PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL** by Steve Miller
- Constructo Kit, wood
- Scale 1/58, under construction

Steve demonstrated his rigging progress to date. During PARLEY he asked for advice regarding when he should start the ratlines.



- **DETROIT NEWS ICEBOAT** by Mike Florio
- Dumas Kit, Circa 1940s
- Scale 1:12 (1"=1'), under construction



- *FISHING BOAT WESTERN FLYER-by Phil Pizzuto*
- *Kit (unknown) Scale (Unknown) Complete*

Phil got this kit from **Jon Sanford** at the Christmas party. He put it together to look like the WESTERN FLYER, the fishing boat John Steinbeck chartered to the Sea of Cortez with Ed Ricketts in 1940.



- *CUTTY SARK-by L'il David Hernandez*



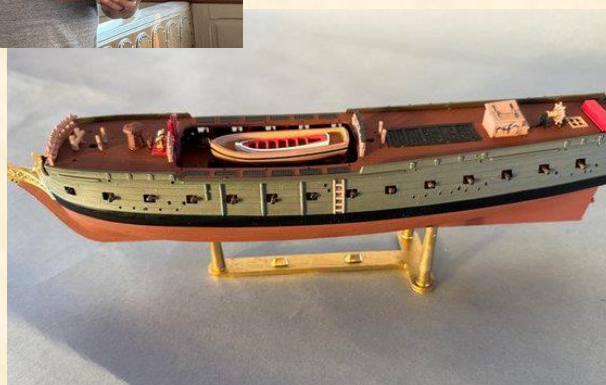
OSPREY BOB pays a visit to neighboring STAR OF INDIA during Show and Tell. It was reported that he squawked "Miller, do the ratlines! Everybody is waiting!!"



- *ANTELOPE by Isaac Wills*
- *Isaac's Fair model.*
- *Ask him to sing the song. A sad tale of a sorry sloop*



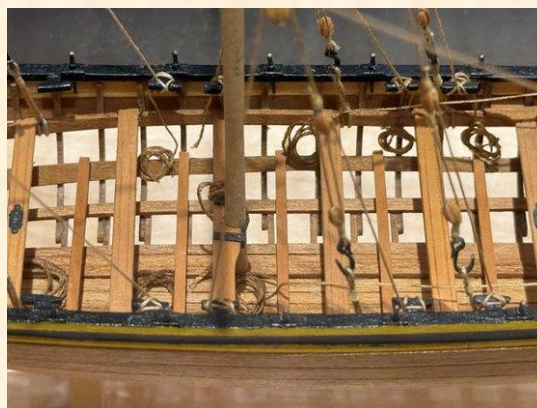
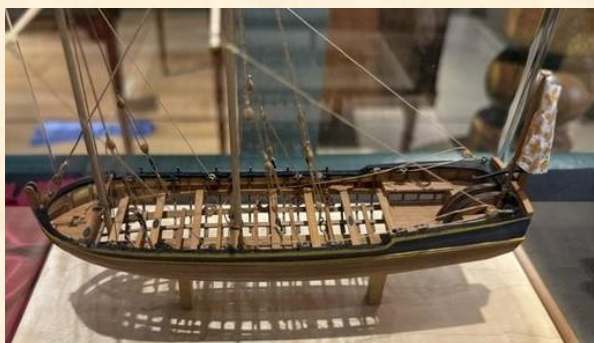
- *US Frigate CONSTELLATION by Jakob Nagatani*
- *Scratch built wargame miniature hull*
- *Scale undetermined, In progress*



- *JOLLY ROGER by Chris Velasco*
- *Plastic Lindberg kit*
- *Scale undetermined. In progress*



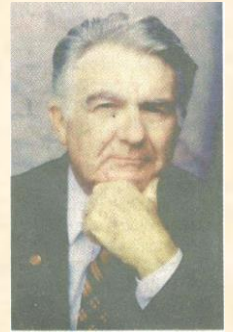
- *18th Century French Longboat-by Mike Lonnecker*
- *Cherry, Boxwood, Holly, Swiss Pear*
- *Scale 1:48, Completed*



THE FOUNDING-A Birthday Saga

It all started with the “Volante”. It is a cute Model Shipways model of a brig.

Way back in 1971, founder **BOB WRIGHT** enjoyed building models, but often had problems. VOLANTE was one such model. The challenge was to finish model as accurate as possible. He shared his concerns with fellow modeler **AL HOLLIE**, who noted that modelers often quit when they found the rigging difficult. They agreed it would be a lot easier if there was a group of modelers to talk to about the problems. Bob later spoke to **RUSS MERRILL** of Hillcrest Hobby to see if you knew any likeminded model builders. He knew a few.



**Co-Founder
Bob Wright**

The plan was to get as many of these guys together and talk about forming a club. It probably would have been easy to hold the initial meeting in Russ’ store, but Bob had another idea. He had been working on the STAR OF INDIA as a volunteer and thought it might be a good place to meet. Bob had a meeting with **Capt. KEN REYNARD**, captain of the STAR OF INDIA, to see if a club could meet onboard. (the Berkeley was not here then). Ken was all in favor of it.

The first meeting was held at 8:00 pm, 30 July 1971 in the office on the Star which was aft of the Saloon. Russ took the minutes*. About nine people came to the meeting. The attendees decided a club would be a good thing. At **CAPT REYNARD’S** direction, Bob wrote a letter officially requesting permission* to meet on the Star. The request was delivered to the Museum’s board of directors by **CAPT REYNARD**.

On **17 August 1971** a letter was received from the Maritime Museum approving the Club meeting on the Star – with a stipulation. The club must join the Nautical Research Guild, which it did and is a Charter Member to this day. The first meeting was held 17 or 24 SEP 1971 (depending on source). Dues were 50 cents.

* Note: Neither Russ’ minutes nor Bob’s written request exist. However, the Museum Board’s reply exists and is in the Guild Archives.

THE FOUNDING-Continued.

The first year went fairly well with a few scale modelers (4-6) attending. They tend to be loners. What really moved the club along were the Radio Control modelers who came later.

Milestones: 1st Fair-1991, Newsletter first published-May 1977 (Dues were \$3 a year). Newsletter first went digital-SEP 2004. Dues were increased to \$20 in SEP 2000 because we would run out of money by December and would not be able to put out a December or January newsletter. ☹️

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Editor's Note: In August 2014, at the 43rd Birthday Party, **Bob WRIGHT** approached me to talk. This was unusual. He did not attend much anymore and we were never close. I think he was just nostalgic and since I was the editor, I had some familiarity with the past. Perhaps he knew his time on Earth was short.

He was very proud of the Guild. He and Russ never really expected it to last that long. He wished Russ could be there to see it. (Didn't mention Al). He said a huge step in keeping the Guild together was the Newsletter. It is was important! He also credited the radio control guys who kept the club afloat when it faltered early on. (The R/C group would break away in the early 90s after internal conflict.)

'I am sure all the past members who are no longer with us would be pleased with how well the present members are keeping the craft alive. Keep up the good work!'

The Guild was founded with the intent of **MODELERS HELPING MODELERS**. It is something we still strongly believe in and practice.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Despite a couple articles by **Bob WRIGHT** over the years, the Founding story remained vague. I want to thank **Alex ROEL** for archiving a huge portion of the newsletters so we can go back and read them. He also distilled them into a spreadsheet of major milestone. I also want to thank **John WALSH** for championing the Guild history during his tenure as Guildmaster.

THE FAIR-The Booth

The Fair has come and gone. It was another incredible and successful outing culminating in new members, illuminated booth visitors and fun had by all. A hearty WELL DONE is offered up to Coordinator **Steve SCHEET** for orchestrating a great production, as well as to all those who participated and help make it great.

From the Coordinator:

Hi everyone,

With the 2026 Mariners booth now behind us, I want to celebrate the incredible effort everyone put in. You brought enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork every single day, and it showed. We had so many genuinely interested folks—young and old—stop by to learn more, ask questions, and share their excitement. Because of the way you all showed up, I fully expect to see some new faces joining us in the months ahead. Thank you for making this year unforgettable.

Best, Steve Scheet.



A new feature this year was “The Model Wall” where we showed various completed and in-progress models. Some were designated “demonstration” and could be brought to the front for visitors to view. It proved to be very popular. I hope that next year we will have a greater variety.

Booth Volunteers (Days Worked)

Paco ARENOSA:	7	Jon SANFORD:	5
Art ARROYO	4	Steve SCHEET:	8
Tom HAIRSTON:	1	Chuck SEILER:	8
Mike HITE:	3	Chris SULLIVAN:	4
Jay MACMASTER:	4	John WALSH:	1
Steve MILLER:	1	Chari WESSEL:	3
Jakob NAGATANI:	1	Isaac WILLS:	6
Phil PIZZUTO:	3		

Booth Set-up

Scheet, Walsh,
MacMaster, Arroyo

Booth Take-down

Scheet, Arroyo,
Sullivan, MacMaster

THE FAIR-The Competition

This year's competition was unique and (by some opinion) a bit strange. There is actually two competitions going on at the same time. First is the Design in Wood (Scale Model or Not Scale Model) judging and the Maritime Museum of San Diego Perpetual Trophy judging. In the past, the winners overlapped. If a model placed in one category it usually placed in both. This year NO MODEL that placed in one category also placed in the other. Sorry Mike. And the winners are...(Guild members only)



DESIGN IN WOOD

1st- Steve Scheet / BELLA

2nd- Mike Lonnecker / FRENCH 30 FT
LONGBOAT

Honorable Mention:

Chari Wessel / ROMAN BIREME LUPA

Chuck Seiler / VIKING KNARR NARWHAL

Tom Hairston / S.S. PORTLAND

Doug Ward / BLUENOSE

MARITIME MUSEUM

2nd- Tom Hairston / S.S. PORTLAND

3rd- Chuck Seiler / Viking Knarr
NARWHAL



BELLA by Steve SCHEET



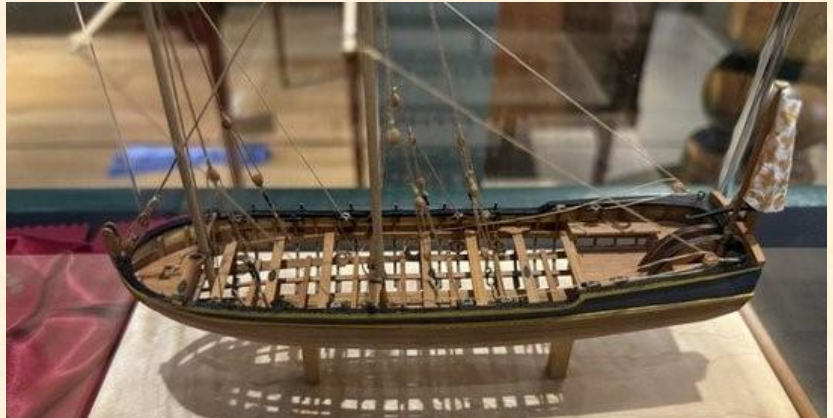
Fair Competition-Continued



S. S. PORTLAND by Tom HAIRSTON



FRENCH LONGBOAT by
Mike LONNECKER



NARWHAL by Chuck SEILER



BLUENOSE by Doug WARD



LUPA by Chari WESSEL



IPMS-The Competition

In the last newsletter we mentioned The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild participated in not one, but TWO competitions this Summer. The International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS) recently opened their competitions to 'other media'. This allowed us woodies to participate. Thanks to IPMS coordinator, **Karl ZINGHEIM**, SDSMG was invited to compete in the San Diego Regional IPMS EXPO on 13 June 2026. To be sure, there was some stink-eye from some plastic modelers, but...



**18th Century English Longboat-Mike Lonnecker
1st Place SHIP (Wood). Division
Best in Category (SHIP)**



**491 Class LANDING SHIP TANK (LST) -
Chris Sullivan
1st Place SHIPS (Surface Diorama)**



**MISS WEBBITA-Steve Scheet
2nd Place SHIP (Wood) Division**



**JAMESTOWN SHALLOP-Chuck Seiler
3rd Place SHIP (Wood) Division)**



PHOTOS by **Chris SULLIVAN**



BLAST FROM THE PAST



The Guild's first year with a booth at the Fair. **Jack Klein** wows the crowd in 1992. I think that lamp is still there, but the wall in front is different



MODELING DIVAS. Guild members **Chari Wessel** and **Jacki Jones** at the shipmodeler's booth June 2003.

Photo by Abe Busoni

The Fair Wouldn't Be The Fair Without Delicious, Nutritious Fair Cuisine



NRG ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The Nautical Research Guild offers an ongoing series of online workshops that feature subject-matter experts discussing ship modeling topics in a live setting that includes detailed instruction and extensive Q&A. Workshops are offered online, allowing you to attend regardless of where you live. Just sign up and enjoy the workshop. They have hosted multiple workshops on different topics and have many more workshops in the works.

Workshops are FREE to NRG Members. Non-members can register for any workshop for a nominal fee.

If you are an NRG member, previous workshops can be viewed at the following link.
<https://www.thenrg.org/events/workshops> Previous workshops include: Making Display Cases, Painting Models by Hand, Ship Model Photography, Creating Realistic and Working Furled Sails, How to Airbrush, Paper Ship Models.

Questions about the program can be directed to **Mike Lonnecker**.



Dockyard Resources

We printed a large offering of Dockyard Resources in the July issue. While going through it I found three items that had changed, but did not have the time to make corrections. Here they are:

[BYRNES MODEL MACHINES](#)

table saws, disk sanders

(the best)

As best we can tell, Byrnes Model Machines is no longer in business. I reported earlier in the year that after the death of **Jim Byrnes**, his wife **Donna** was looking for somebody to take over the company. Conversations with NRG Director Kurt Van Dam indicates he is unable to reach her.

[MALCO SAW](#)

saw blades for table saws and modeler's table saws

blades for PROXXON and BYRNES MODEL MACHINES, carbide and high-speed steel (blades CT302012000 and CT303012000 recommended)

MALCO was bought up by Martindale Electric. When I spoke to the Martindale folks earlier in the year they indicated they would be folding MALCO's catalog into theirs. A check of the MALCO website shows they are still in full force, but you would order through Martindale.

[MODELER'S SAWMILL](#)

milled wood strips, sheets

possibly reopening

Modeler's Sawmill is gone. At the time of closure a new wood supplier, HOBBY MILL EU, opened up. There may have been confusion because they used to be a HOBBY MILL and perhaps it was thought the old HM was reopening. The new company is in Estonia and is not the same. HOBBY MILL EU gets great comments/ratings from people on Model Ship World. Quality product, reasonable price, excellent customer service.



On The Horizon

AUG 4	–	<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
SEP 1	–	<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	BERKELEYw/pot luck
OCT 6	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
OCT 6	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
OCT 13	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
OCT 13	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY

The Guild's raffle program of donated kits continues next month with an eleventh offering:

Mamoli Rattlesnake

20 gun American Privateer – 1781

Detailed English instructions included.

Kit contains laser cut frames and false keel. Double Planked in beech and walnut.

Most fittings are case white metal. Blocks, dead-eyes and belaying pins are walnut.

Scale: 1:64 Length: 28" Height: 19"



The RATTLESNAKE will be raffled off to Members and guests in attendance at the August 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:

	July	CONSTITUTION	Chris Velasco	in dry dock
	June	KATE CORY	Adam Tamimi	in dry dock
	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>



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.



Where in the World is Carmen San
DiegoShipModelersGuildSanteeAnnex
?



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.) 