



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

Volume I

NEWSLETTER -- JULY 1977

Number 3

"Wait for the west wind, wait for the west wind!  
Then sail to Nuku Hiva of the dark bays  
To find the constant star  
Hold to it, hold to it ....."

from James Micheners' "HAWAII"

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW LETTERHEAD:

The above letterhead and club emblem was designed by Al LHEUREUX. A real nice job, Al!

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOTES From the Last Meeting:

Anne MERRILL, chairperson for the SIXTH Anniversary Party of the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild, wishes to thank all those who volunteered to bring food and made her job of organizing the party much easier. Special thanks also to Bill BENSON, who once again generously furnished the champagne. Those who contributed the delicious appetizers and hors d' oeuvres included Bunny BENSON, Alleen CROSBY, Shirley FRAAS, Naomi HARMELING, Patti MCFARLAND, Marie RAUNER, Bette THORPE and Donna NILSON. Donna provided the spectacular anniversary cake which looked much to beautiful to eat but was delicious. For any others who have been overlooked, sincere apologies.

We all enjoyed the social time and good weather which prevailed that night on the Main Deck of the "Star." With the magnificent atmosphere, the flow of champagne, and the delicious spread of fine food, who could have asked for a more perfect evening to share with good friends, our sixth anniversary.

Anne certainly deserves a big hand for her fine job in organizing the whole affair -- really professional! Special thanks also to Captain George FALKESCAARD for taking the time to stop by and give us a talk about his ship, the "California". More about this later.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW MEMBERS for June:

Mel and Freda TRUELLE  
Gerald W. PEARCE

On behalf of all Guild members, "WELCOME ABOARD!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## DEL MAR FAIR Results:

Our heartiest congratlulations to Vic CROSBY and Bob CRAWFORD who have joined a growing list of award winners belonging to the Guild. Vic won FIRST Place for seniors with his massive display of ships in bottles, over seventy separate models, while Bob won a BLUE Ribbon for his scratch-built destroyer, USS HOEL (DD-533). Nice going, fellows!

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

Elected Officers

CAPTAIN: WILLIAM D. "Bill" BENSON

LOGKEEPER/  
EDITOR : FRED FRAAS

PURSER: BOB BECKER

STEERING  
COMMITTEE: VIC CROSBY - DOUG MCFARLAND - AL LHEUREUX

MEETINGS: 3rd Friday of each month aboard the BEREKELY

MEMBERSHIP  
DUES: \$3.00 per year (Membership in the Maritime Museum of San  
Diego is very highly encouraged.)

Prospective members are entitled to two visits as a guest of a  
member. After two visits, dues must be paid for further participation  
in the activities of the Guild.

\*\*\*\*\*

KEELS LAID / LAUNCHINGS / COMPLETIONS: (inputs needed)

\*\*\*\*\*

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

- 15 July - Friday: Next scheduled meeting. Mike RIVERA has graciously  
consented to give us a demonstration of the sorcerer's  
art of fiberglassing. Should be very interesting.
- 17 July - Sunday: MODEL SHOW - San Diego Federal Savings will be having  
a model display and competition at their downtown office  
at 600 "B" St. The show will start on this date and  
run through the week until July 24th. All types of  
models are being accepted and there will be several  
categories of judging. Models entered for club dis-  
play only will be admitted free. Registration fees  
for competition models are \$2.50 for motorized and  
\$2.00 for non-motorized. Doors will be open at 0900AM  
Sunday, the 17th for receipt of models. Mr. Chuck  
KOHLMAYER will try to attend our next meeting to des-  
cribe the show and answer any questions.
- 23 July - Saturday: OPEN HOUSE - Bill BENSONS' "Monster" will be featured  
at an open house for club members on this date from  
0600 - 0800 (PM). More properly known as the "Köenig  
Albert", the model is seven feet long and weighs  
approximately 250 lbs. She was a British liner in  
the 1900 era.

To get to Bills' place, go to

- 30 July - Saturday: "CALIFORNIA" CRUISE - see accompanying flyer.

\*\*\*\*\*

## CALIFORNIA CRUISE

As the sleek white vessel clears the entrance to the harbor the order is given to set sail. Almost as if by magic a cloud of red, white and blue canvas appears overhead, the auxiliary engine is silenced and the "California" majestically parades up the bay toward San Diego's beautiful skyline. Heeling ever so slightly at the urging of the gentle breeze, she silently glides past giant behemoths of our modern navy; past her glorious predecessor the "Star of India"; past the "Ruben E. Lee" bringing to mind the wonderful era of riverboats plying the Mississippi. We sail beneath the graceful, sweeping span of the Coronado Bridge and reflect back upon a nearly vanished species - the ferryboat.

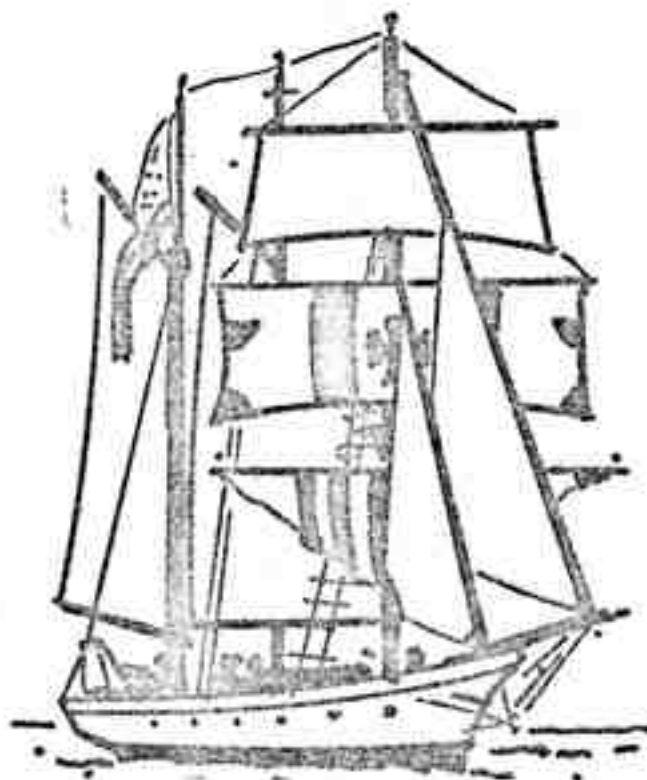
The "California" is a three masted barquentine owned and operated by Capt. George Falkesgaard and his lovely wife Lil. Built in 1935, she has truly seen the world and has even been a movie star appearing in the television series "Adventures in Paradise" and the motion picture Hawaii among others. She is the only barquentine in the U.S.A. certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.

To sail aboard a beautiful ship such as the "California" is a rare thrill and that thrill will be ours on Saturday, July 30 at 6:00 P.M. The club has chartered the "California" for a three hour cocktail cruise and since there are only forty-nine openings available, reservations will be made on a first paid-first go basis. Tickets are \$11.00 per person, payable to Doug McFarland. Please try to make your arrangements by the next meeting, July 15.

The price of the ticket is for the cruise only; cocktails are \$1.50 each. We plan to have a pot-luck buffet on board. Anyone who would like to volunteer to coordinate the dinner please contact Doug McFarland by meeting time. Reservations will be for club members and their families only.

The trip will depart from Cabrillo Marina, between the two Sheraton Hotels on Harbor Island.

See you aboard!



# The San Diego Ship Modellers' Guild

With the Bi-centennial Parade of Tall Ships and the sailing of San Diego's own *Star of India* creating a renewed interest in ship model building, a growing number of local residents are banding together to share their interests in this fascinating hobby. The club is known as the San Diego Ship Modellers' Guild and although it was formed five years ago with an active membership of about twenty people, the last few months have seen the roles swell to over sixty with more newcomers at every meeting. Sorrowfully, this growth has forced the club to change its meeting place from the *Star of India*, a three masted bark launched in 1863, to the *Berkeley*, a retired San Francisco ferry boat.

The club's commodore is Com-

mander Bill Benson, U.S.N. Retired. The proprietor of San Diego's only model shop devoted strictly to ship modelling, The Gray Whale, Bill has been a fountain of information for ship modellers both young and old alike. The club meets on the third Friday of the month and has nominal membership dues.

Starting off a number of planned club activities was a big scale model ship and boat show featuring both static display and operational models including the nine-foot long R/C *USS Missouri* featured in the next issue of *Model Ships and Boats*. Over thirty-five R/C models put in an appearance at the Model Yacht Basin located on Vacation Isle in San Diego's Mission Bay. Running the gamut from

sail to live steam there was something there for everyone interested in boats and ships.

Star of the R/C sailboats was a beautiful scratch-built San Francisco scow by Dick Rice. Val Peterson's forty-six year old fishing trawler looked as though it had just come off the ways and Bill Brown's L.A. County fireboat drew a lot of attention when all the nozzles started sending out streams of water. Fred Fraas, the club's log-keeper, had several modern naval ships in various stages of completion and John and Ed Sands sent their live steam powered *USS Oregon* on its maiden voyage (they brought it to the show in a gorgeous 1930 Packard!) Aircraft carriers, fishing boats, tugboats, a stern-

Turn to page 46



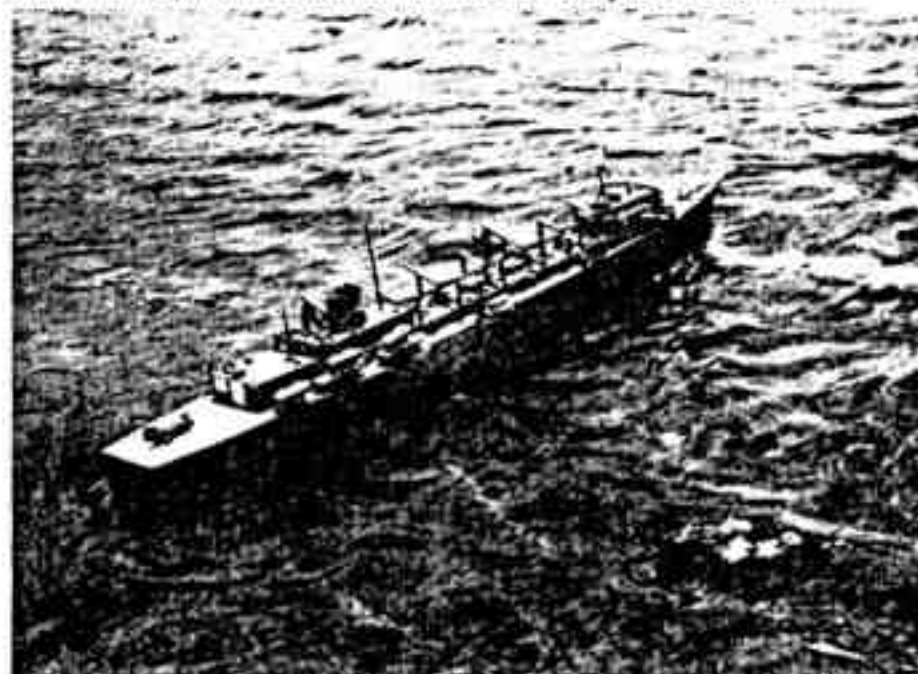
Some of the club's R/C models line up in review.



The static display tables included (left) *Norske Love* by Doug McFarland, while at center is *Endeavor* by Bob Becker.



Val Peterson's magnificent scratch built R/C tug at anchor.



Also at anchor is Fred Frase's 7' model of the armed transport *Camden*.

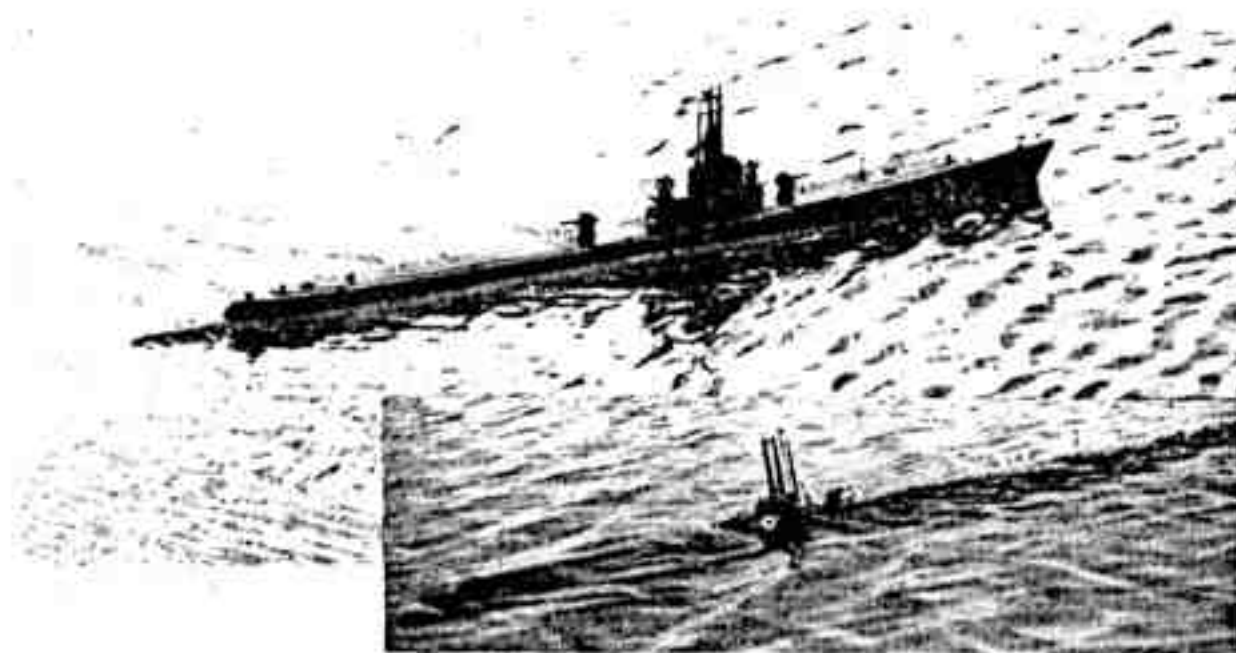
## SAN DIEGO

From page 31

wheeler and even a fully operational and extremely well detailed submarine by Phil Hudley rounded out a tremendous R/C turnout.

The static display portion of the show also drew it's share of ooh's and ah's from the crowd of spectators. Don Wesley brought his *Kate Corey* which won first place for kit-built models at the Model and Craft show held in Anaheim, CA, May 7th and 8th. Bob Becker, the club's purser, show off his beautiful partially completed, scratch built *Endeavour* and a couple of miniatures while demonstrating the art of seizing lines. Bill Kelly-Flemming demonstrated mast rigging while working on his *Flying Cloud* and Dave Sellars showed hull construction with his *Rattlesnake*. Other display models included miniature river steamboats by Mike Rivera, who also had a number of R/C boats in the water, a scratch-built destroyer by Bob Crawford, *Sovereign of the Seas* by Bill Thorpe and the *Santa Maria* and partially completed *Norske Love* by the author. Vio Crosby brought one of his fantastic ships-in-bottles (one of over sixty) to round out a great display.

With the new interest sparked by the show and the nautical atmosphere already prevalent here in San Diego it is hoped that ship modeling will grow further with a future as bright as a childhood dream of ships and sea.



Phil Hudley's Balboa class submarine, shown both on the surface and submerging, is 6' long. She is equipped with ballast tanks and a freon gas system allowing the hull to submerge or surface on R/C control. The radio receiver and other working parts are protected in water tight compartments.



R/C sailing models under way and at rest.



Another shot of the armed transport *Camden* and a torpedo boat anchored in review.



Mike Rivera's well detailed R/C model of a commercial fisherman with the highly detailed fishing equipment aboard.