



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

August 2007

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI No. 8

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**Newsletter
Distribution**
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Established in 1972
by
Bob Wright and
Russ Merrill

San Diego Ship
Modelers' Guild
is affiliated with
and supports the
Maritime
Museum of San
Diego



Minutes for 11 July 2007 San Diego Ship Modelers Guild Meeting

Guildmaster Hewitt opened the meeting. There were 26 members present. There were no guests. Hewitt did not have the nametags for new members. He will distribute them later.

Purser's Report: Purser **Ron Hollod** reported that the Guild balance as of 31 MAY 2007 was \$<redacted>. \$107 in dues and nametag fees were collected. There were no expenditures. Balance as of 30 JUNE 2007 was \$<redacted>. Recent sales of models and items (not counting tonight) netted about 40 more dollars. **Robert Hewitt** reported having purchased some saw blades for the saw in the model shop (not yet debited from account) and we are still waiting for the Museum to advise us how much we owe for past newsletter printings and mailing.

Editor's Report: Editor **Bob Crawford** had to leave early and was unable to make the meeting. **Robert Hewitt** passed on from him that he (Crawford) would be traveling soon and requested all inputs for the August newsletter be to him by 16 or 17 July.

Old Business: The Fair. The San Diego County Fair is now over and a good time was had by all, although **Hewitt** said he got dinged by the Design in Wood coordinator because some folks departed the booth way early. Hewitt reminded that the departure time is 6PM. He will have **Ernie Andrew** remind us of that next year. There was no discussion of a 'reward cruise'. **Ron Render** reported that **Maggie** from the Museum wanted to provide us with more decor and Museum related fluff-stuff for the back of the booth. Her main concern was that it be locked up at the end of the day. It was decided that this may not be a problem due to the security/floor walkers in the pavilion at all times. This would be discussed with her.

San Salvador. **John Wickman** reported that the bulkheads on the model he is working are all in place and he is just waiting for planking. The wood was ordered and should arrive in a week or less. **Dave Dana** is working on a process to cut the evenly spaced round window holes. He will demonstrate this at the break. The plank on frame model has stalled due to lack of mahogany. Some is on order.

LPD 22. **Tony Bunch** reported he and **Dave Manley** are waiting for the plans.

USS Chicago. Nothing to report,

Guild Birthday Party. Guild birthday party will be at the August meeting. It is tentatively scheduled for the main deck of the STAR of INDIA. (**Breaking news....Party will be on the SURPRISE.) Start time is 6:30PM. It will be "pot luck". Hewitt passed around a sign-up sheet, the results of which will no doubt also appear in this newsletter. He will also bring a traditional shrimp tray or two. REMINDER-The party is alcohol free (No, Frank, not free alcohol). Bring a guest!!!! Or two. Bring your wives and girlfriends, but it may not be wise to bring both at the same time.

Donated Models. The auction of the top of the line ship model kits netted \$1,100 to the Maritime Museum. Many thanks to the lucky ones. **Bob Crawford**, Museum model curator, decided to set the price at 50% retail. **Bill Grolz** was able to find the list price of all the ships and also did a fine job of handling the transaction. The kits, were donated to the Museum by Waver & Dorothy Campbell

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bluenose II | 1:75th scale | kit by Artesania Latina. |
| 2. Cutty Sark | 1:78th scale | kit by Sergal |
| 3. H.M.S. Bounty | 1:60th scale | kit by Sergal. |
| 4. H.M.S. Endeavour | 1:60th scale | kit by Artesania Latina |
| 5. H.M.S. Victory | 1:90th scale | kit by C. Mamoli. |
| 6. La Couronne | 1:50th scale | kit by Corel |
| 7. Le Mirage | 1:75th scale | kit by Corel. |
| 8. Roter Lowe | 1:55th scale | kit by C. Mamoli |

We also had another sale of models the Museum did not have room for. One of the items was a paper model of a three mast ship built by a prisoner in 192? Another was a large cutaway of a ship and it's interior. The ship was a not to scale rendering of a ship being loaded. **Frank Dengler** took the turret gun to repair it and donate it to the Midway Museum. **Robert Hewitt** ran the auction which netted \$70.00 to the Guild.

New Business:

Suzanne Levanne (from the Museum) was bequeathed some model items from a neighbor and wants to know if there is any interest for a Guild auction. They are quite large and before we have her bring them in, **Hewitt** would like to know if there is any interest. If you have any thoughts or interests in these items, contact **Robert Hewitt**. The items are:

- 1-Fiberglass hull VICTORIA steam launch. Hull only. 37" length
- 2-Wooden hull on stand, TRAVOLA. 4' length
- 3-Wooden hull on stand CHEIMARA. 4' length
- 4-Radio controlled berthing tug ANTEO. Complete kit
- 5-Digital proportional R/C systems by Futaba.
- 6-Ukulele kit in a box.

Bill Groltz was asked by a woman at the Fair for assistance in completing a radio controlled schooner. If interested, contact Bill.

Bill Norris was contacted by a woman who is interested in buying marine/nautical artwork and models. For further information, contact **Kathy Allen**, 1620 Los Altos Rd., San Diego, CA 92109.

A week or so before the last newsletter came out, **Frank Dengler** sent out an email to the online membership regarding possible opportunities for model builders. AT the request of management, it is reproduced here.

"Scale Reproductions LLC, of Fairhope, AL, one of the most reputable firms fabricating ship models for shipyards, cruise lines, museums, and individual customers in the nation, has a very full delivery schedule and contacted me (a former employee) seeking sub-contractors (individual ship modelers) to complete sub-assemblies, like aircraft carrier superstructures, or other model work given laser cut components, plans, etc. I don't have time for this work at present, but suggested some of you might and many have more model making skill than I do. Anyone interested should contact **Charles Phillips** at 251-928-3829 or 251-928-7238 or 2repro@bellsouth.net to negotiate tasking and compensation."

Tony Bunch indicated that the International Plastic Model Society (IPMS) will be holding its 2007 national convention for the first time on the west coast in Anaheim, 22-25 August. For details, contact Tony.

A break was declared. Much quaffing of coffee and manging of cookies. **Dave Dana** gave a demonstration of a technique he developed in order to fabricate evenly spaced round holes for windows on SAN SALVADOR. Guildmaster **Hewitt** presided over an auction of items.

After the break-show and tell: Finis.

SDMSG SHOW AND TELL

SDMSG SHOW AND TELL – July

***HMS Victory* Don Bienvenue**



This Victory kit by Heller, is at 1:100 scale, and is plastic. My goal for this model is to try to make it look as much like a wooden model as possible. Using dull-cote spray gave the hull a wood look, and I have planked the decks with wood, using Weldbond glue to attach the wood to the plastic deck.

Since the previous time I brought the model to the meeting, I have completed the wood planking of the upper deck using 1/64" strips, and have attached

the quarter deck, which will be planked with wood in the same manner as the upper deck. The transom/gallery assembly and beakhead bulkheads were also painted and then glued. I used a size 000 diameter technical drafting pen to paint the black in between the transom/gallery balusters after finding the space between them to be too small to paint with a brush. For the flags and other ornamentation I dipped the tip of a pin into the paint and dabbed the paint to the small details, again finding this method easier than using a brush. My next step will be to complete the quarter deck and add the cannons and furniture to this deck.



***CALIFORNIAN* by Shari Wessel**

Shari Wessel sails every day on the sail crew of the Maritime Museum's replica Californian built in 1984 at Spanish Landing. She is kit-bashing a kit of the *Dallas* that she bought for \$5 at a Guild auction. Her model is 1:66 (about 3/16 inch to the foot). Shari took on a kit bash challenge because the *Californian* is a very different ship – for one thing, it is 60 feet long, *Dallas* was 80 feet. Plans for the *Californian* from the Model Shop are her guide and she is using parts from other kits. She got started at the County Fair in Del Mar this year. Sounds like this is not a kit-bash, you are making it from scratch.



MISSISSIPPI RIVER BOAT by Charles Peabody



This little work is Charles Peabody's Mississippi Riverboat in 1:206 scale. He did not want to bring his *Cutty Sark* to the Fair, so he got this gem to demonstrate for the patrons. A Mamoli kit seemed the perfect small job for fair finishing. He ran into a major problem when he discovered that the plans were printed in six languages, none of which were readable. And the drawings were even worse. The small scale was another challenge, but Charles is making good progress.

USS ARIZONA by Tony Bunch



Tony Bunch brought another tiny masterpiece. This gem of the *Arizona* represents her at the time he was hit by bombs at Pearl Harbor. The model began as a Dragon scale 1:700 plastic kit of the pre- World War battleship. Some parts have been reshaped, and brass gun barrels installed. Tony has extensively researched her color

scheme, about which there is much internet discussion and several books. The ship will be painted measure 1, but with controversial 5-S sea blue instead of 5-D dark grey. Additionally, the turret tops (1, 2, & 4) were painted insignia red. The unpainted wood gun deck and shades of grey are used also. Tony selected the insignia on the spotter planes on deck to authentic squadron colors. When finished, the *Arizona* will be displayed under way with scout aircraft flying overhead.

SAN SALVADOR

The *San Salvador* construction crew working on the hull frames and bulwarks showed their progress and experiments and discussed the issues that have arisen. **John Wickman** has started one hull, and **Howard Griffus** has progressed with the framing of another. Creating the fifteen small windows in the planking on the upper aft hull has presented difficulties in how to get even spacing, uniform arches, and curved strake.



Dave Dana demonstrated a Dremel tool drill press used as a milling jig, with a devise for spacing, which, using hard wood and fine cutter or sander, looks like it may work. **Bill Norris**, **Robert Hewitt**, and others all had suggestions for improving the jig and other aspects of the *San Salvador* project.



***SULTANA* by Chuck Seiler**



I have done a lot of planking since the last time I brought the model to a meeting. Much of the work was done at the Fair, although a lot of little bits and pieces have been done at home. I have planked the hull from the waterline to the deck level. The foredeck area has been planked all the way up to the top of the bulwarks. Below the waterline will be painted and will not be planked. I am currently working on coloring of planking for the inner bulwarks. Once that is done, I will finish interior and exterior planking from the deck up.

I want the inner bulwarks red, but I don't want to paint. Also, I want more of a natural red, an old fashion barn red rather than a bright red. That doesn't seem natural for the period of the model. I had been playing around with staining and dying. Last month **Dave Yotter** talked about using a red ink with a touch of black to achieve the same result. I found some good fade resistant red ink, but it does not have the permanence I desire. I found some red ink that purports to be "permanent India ink", but I need to order it and see for sure. Meanwhile experimentation continues. I have found that the red ink on swiss pear has the same effect as red ink (with a drop of black) on holly. Continuing....

The decks have been planked twice...each deck, except the poop deck. In the case of the main and quarterdecks, I did not like the plank width. I was also uncertain about whether to stagger the planking butts or not. After looking at some pictures of the replica *SULTANA* in Maryland, I decided NOT to stagger the butts. Since the ship is so small (52 feet on deck) each deck is short enough to accommodate a single plank per strake (or whatever one calls a line of planking on deck). I also found that a 3/32" (scale 6") wide plank would give me the same number of planks as are on the replica *SULTANA*. On the foredeck, I tried to nib the planks into a margin plank. It looked like crap! I decided to sacrifice accuracy for esthetics. As usual, I simulated caulking by running a #2 pencil down one side of the plank before gluing in place. It tends to be a little messy when you first start sanding, but after awhile you get a nice clean finish with a crisp but faint line. I am happy with the result.

***SAN SALVIDOR* by Robert Hewitt**

The masts and spars were carved from bamboo and painted with Floquil freight car brown. 6/0 white silk thread was wrapped around the yards to simulate bending. The tops were made by gluing many pieces of .010 to .015 thick pear, boxwood and ebony in many stacks. The pieces were about one inch square. The inside diameter of the tops was drilled through each stack. A birch mandrel was turned to a press fit in each stack. The model shop lathe was used to turn the outside diameter of the tops. Thanks to **Phil Mattson** for putting a keen edge on the lathe bit. After soaking in water the rings were removed from the mandrel. The spindles were carved from boxwood and left un-painted as well as the caps. Rice paper sails were lined with a sharp hard pencil. Dipped in Earl Grey Tea then formed over a Sculpy clay mold, the stretch marks were made using a fine needle pressed into the corners of the sails. After 24 hours the sails dried to the shape of the molds. 6/0 thread was glued to the edge of the sails to simulate bolt rope. The sails were glued to the yards and the yards wired to the masts with .006 copper. Martnets were attached to the sails and yards using .003 painted tinned copper wire. According to **Wolfram zu Mondfeld** "Historic Ship Models (my bible) martnets were on both sides of the sail. He also states that clews were used since the fourteenth century. **Ray Acker's** plans do not show them but they were added. All of the rigging shown was made off of the ship on a square block with holes drilled in the top to accept each mast. It is big enough to tilt the mast 90 degrees to allow gravity to assist in rigging. The martnets took four days at the fair to complete.



USS CHESTER (CA 27) by Frank Dengler

USS CHESTER was a NORTHAMPTON (CA 26) Class heavy cruiser named for Chester, PA. It was built by New York Shipbuilding Corp., Camden, NJ and commissioned 24 June 1930. It's main armament included 9 Mark 14 8"/55s in 3 triple turrets, 4 5"/25's, and 2 triple 21" torpedo tube mounts (the latter being removed in the mid-1930s). CHESTER's length was 600 ft, its beam was 66 ft, and its maximum speed was 33 kts. CHESTER served in Cruiser Divisions 4, 5, & 7.



Other NORTHAMPTON Class cruisers included LOUISVILLE (CA 28), CHICAGO (CA 29), HOUSTON (CA 30), and AUGUSTA (CA 31). The first 3 ships had "short foc'sle's" extending from the stem to the after frames below the forward superstructure. The last 3 ships had flag and staff accommodations provided by extending the foc'sle to the frames below the after casing on the forward stack. HOUSTON, NORTHAMPTON, and CHICAGO were lost in action during 1942-43.

CHESTER's initial shakedown cruise took the ship to various ports in the Mediterranean. In 1931 CHESTER embarked Secretary of the Navy Charles F. Adams, namesake of the CHARLES F. ADAMS (DDG 2), to observe fleet exercise in the Caribbean. CHESTER was based in Southern California from 1932 to 1940, initially anchoring in San Pedro then, generally after the citizens constructed a new fleet landing in recognition of Navy assistance in recovering from the 1933 earthquake, in Long Beach. In 1934 CHESTER was the flagship of Special Service Squadron for fleet review by President Franklin D. Roosevelt off New York City. In 1935 CHESTER embarked Secretary of War George H. Dern (father of the actor Bruce Dern) to the inauguration of Philippine President Manuel Quezon. In 1936 CHESTER escorted USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA 35) with President Roosevelt embarked on a tour of South America. In September 1940 CHESTER transferred to the Atlantic Fleet during a period of concern that French naval units in the Caribbean might be a threat after Germany occupied France.

In January 1941 CHESTER returned to the Pacific Fleet as was based in Pearl Harbor, HI. In the fall of 1941 CHESTER escorted USS TASKER H. BLISS (AP 42) and USS U. S. GRANT (AP 29) to Manila with troops to defend the Philippines and subsequently escorted USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6) while the carrier ferried aircraft to reinforce U. S. Marines on Wake Island. The task force centered on ENTERPRISE returned to Pearl Harbor just after Japanese attack on 7 December 1941 and searched unsuccessfully for the Japanese strike force.

CHESTER received 11 World War II Pacific Campaign Battle Stars for the following operations: 1. Marshall-Gilbert Raids (bombed inboard of port catapult tower off Taroa, 8 crew killed, 38 wounded), 2. Coral Sea (shot down 8 aircraft defending USS YORKTOWN (CV 5), helping it survive to fight at the Battle of Midway, 5 crew wounded, evacuated USS LEXINGTON (CV 2) survivors to San Diego, CA), 3. Capture & Defense of Guadalcanal (torpedoed starboard amidships by submarine I-176, 11 crew killed, 12 wounded, aided troopship PRESIDENT COOLIDGE mined at Espiritu Santos), 4. Gilbert Islands (shot down 2 aircraft), 5. Kwajalein & Majuro, 6. Kurile Islands Raids, 7. Pacific-Asiatic Raids, 8. Leyte-Luzon, 9. Iwo Jima (shot down 1 aircraft, 2 crew wounded), 10. Okinawa, 11. 3rd Fleet Operations 1945.

CHESTER was decommissioned and placed in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet at Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (PNSY), Philadelphia, PA in 1946. The cruiser remained there until being scrapped in Panama City, FL in 1959.

The model depicts CHESTER circa September 1940 after overhaul at Mare Island Naval Shipyard (MINSY), Vallejo, CA during which the ship received 4 additional 5"/25s (atop the aircraft hanger surrounding the after stack), 4 3"/50s as interim anti-aircraft weapons pending availability of 1.1" quad mounts, 2 refurbished and enclosed Mark 19 gun directors, and one of the first production air search radars, CXAM serial number 4, atop her main mast.

The biplanes on CHESTER's catapults are Seaplane Observation Curtiss (SOC) Seagulls of the 2nd section (side numbers 5 through 8) of Fixed Wing Cruiser Scouting Squadron Five (VCS-5). At that time naval aircraft were generally painted silver with red tinted yellow upper wing surfaces. All VCS-5

aircraft had light yellow stripes in their tail surfaces. The 2nd section had white "Vs" and white side numbers outlined in black on their upper wings. The engine cowls of each plane were painted white in different areas so they could be recognized at a distances before black squadron and side number text on the sides of their fuselages could be distinguished. In January 1941 a new aircraft painting instruction resulted in an overall light gray finish with white squadron and side number text.

The signal flags on the outboard starboard halyard are CHESTER's call sign; N, A, F, V. The commissioning pennant flies at the main truck and the ensign flies from a main gaff. The lines between the masts and from the foretop to the foc'sle are radio antennas.

Commander Frank G. Dengler, U. S. Navy (Ret) of Devon, Chester County, PA, who made the 1:192 scale model, saw CHESTER in the PNSY, along with numerous other World War II veterans, like USS CALIFORNIA (BB 44), in the 1950s.



Star of India on Meeting Night

Buyers beware!!!!

More Del Mar Fair



Bill Grolz and Ernie Andrews man the Del Mar Fair booth July 2007.



Ernie Andrews working on his schooner.





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San Diego Ship Modelers Guild Officers

Guild Master	Robert Hewitt	<redacted>
First Mate	Bill Grolz	<redacted>
Purser	Ron Hollod	<redacted>
Editor	Bob Crawford	<redacted>
LogKeeper	Bob McPhail	<redacted>

**Next Meeting will be the Guild Birthday party
Wednesday August 8, aboard HMS Surprise at 7:00 pm**

