



# San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

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NEWSLETTER

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## OFFICERS

### Guild Master

Jon Sanford  
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phone redacted

### First Mate

Ed Torrence  
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### Purser

Gary Seaton  
address redacted  
phone redacted

### Newsletter Editor

Guy Lawrie  
address redacted  
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### Log Keeper

Isaac Wills  
address redacted

## SPECIAL ASSISTANTS

### Web Master

Robert (Rob) Wood  
address redacted

### Presentations Coordinator

Ed Torrence  
address redacted

Established in 1972 by  
Bob Wright and Russ  
Merrill

## **Attention on Deck!**

It is that time to elect Guild Officers. Guild Master Jon Sanford, who will term out after two years of admirable service, is putting together a list of those folks interested in serving the Guild. If you are interested in any Officer assignment, please contact Jon. His email is  
<redacted>

**Please consider serving our Guild!**

“I’m not afraid of storms, for I’m learning how to sail my ship!” - Louisa May Alcott

## MINUTES OF 9 JANUARY 2018 GUILD MEETING

On a stormy Tuesday evening; well, at least to Southern California standards, **Guild Master Jon Sanford** opened the meeting at the San Diego Maritime Museum on the Passenger Deck aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. **Isaac Wills** began by leading a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance*. Eleven (11) Guild members braved the rain and were in attendance. It is noted **Tom Hairston** proved adventurous enough to drive down from Modesto and **Don Dressel** and **David Yotter** braved the freeways from Orange County! The meeting proceeded directly to **Show and Tell** before break. **Jon Sanford** talked about his restoration project of HMS *Royal Sovereign*, **Tom Hairston** brought in his in-progress *Mary Rose* (1545), **Alex Roel** showed his hull plating on NY pilot boat *Phantom*, **Karl Zingheim** brought in several offerings including the sidewheelers USS *Port Royal* (1862) and her sister USS *Octarara* (1861), and **Isaac Wills** spoke about his kit-bashed Spanish vessel, *Halcon*. At right from top, **Kevin Sheehan**, **David Yotter**, **Don Dressel**, and **Tom Hairston** find an amusing moment.



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



<http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/>

**MINUTES continued -**

Following coffee and a snack, **Jon Sanford** conducted a book auction and past volumes of the magazine "Wooden Ships" were up for grabs. The meeting was concluded with the following business meeting before adjourning.

**Purser's Report:** Purser Gary Seaton was unable to attend but reported the guild balance as of 1 January was \$<redacted>. **It is time to colle Membership Dues!** Dues will remain at \$20.00. Gary Seaton accepts checks or cash and they can be brought to a monthly meeting or mailed to: Gary Seaton, <redacted>. Checks can be made payable to "San Diego Ship Modelers Guild".

**Editor's Report:** Guy Lawrie had no news to report.

**Log Keeper Report:** Isaac Wills reported he would be pursuing his education next Fall but would be able to continue as Log Keeper until that time. Isaac also reported that he would be attending The Secret Society of Model Builders Winterfest 2018.

**Web Master's Report:** Rob Wood was unable to attend the meeting and had no news to report.

**First Mate's Report:** Ed Torrence reported that Isaac Wills will be making a presentation based on his experience at Winterfest 2018.

continued above

**First Mate's Report continued: James Pitt**

presented a collared "polo" shirt with embroidered logo for \$23.25 including tax. The sample polo shirt shown below is displayed with two logos just for comparison, the shirts have ONE embroidered Guild logo. Initial orders were taken at the meeting and late news from James indicated the orders are available for pickup at the February meeting. In addition to the premium quality no iron polo shirt, a Hanes long sleeve "T" shirt in the same color with embroidered logo and elastic cuffs is also available for \$25.25 including tax. Look for further ordering



details soon! Good work, James and Ed!

**Guild Master and Museum Community Group**

**Build Report:** Guild Master Jon Sanford reported he is termed out of service as Guild Master this year and would be participating as the San Diego Fair Coordinator. Fair meetings have begun and Jon reports the fair theme will be "How Sweet It Is!". Fair booth setup is scheduled for May 14th and Model delivery is scheduled for May 22nd. Booth takedown is scheduled for July 7th and 8th.

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**Next meeting is  
13 February 2018**

**5:30 PM - Social**

**5:30 Officer's Meeting**

**6:00 PM Meeting**

**Bring a Model!**

**February 2018**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Community  
Build Meeting,  
1:00 PM aboard  
the Berkeley  
upper passenger  
deck!

**Guild Master Report continued:** Along with Museum Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, Jon reported a cash award for 2nd and 3rd place finishers is well under discussion. **Look to submit your model(s) to qualify for these awards!**

Jon reported ongoing progress with the mini-”Star” model kit projects with about 250 kits already completed for handout to young visitors at the fair booth. Increasing the inventory will provide many more opportunities to interact with visitors at not only the fair booth but also the Museum Model Shop. Jon noted **Museum Model Shop volunteers are always welcome and we are always looking for more support!** Working in the Museum Shop not only supports the Museum but also provides its own rewards including the smiles seen in the following pictures. This is what happened to the paper model projects (shown to the right) that Guild members took on last Fall. Good work, well served!



**Guild Master Jon Sanford** led **Ed Torrence** and **Guy Lawrie** on an expedition featuring Jon and Ed’s dueling navigation aids to the Ship Modelers Association’s January meeting in Orange County. The SMA meeting featured some very interesting model-making ranging from a paper model to a collection of Essex -Class Carriers under construction. **Don Dressel’s** SMA newsletter promises to feature some amazing model-making but below are a couple of pictures. The center picture is a paper model of a Caspian Sea energy rescue vessel!





**Guild Master Report continued:** Jon and Kevin Sheehan visited with Dr. William Brown, model maker extraordinaire and, a bit of a jokester by some reports ! Jon and Kevin were returning some ship models to Dr. Brown, a retired dentist and past Guild member, who makes his home in Fallbrook. He has completed over 100 museum quality model ships in his long ship modeling career of which some were displayed last year in the San Diego Maritime Museum of San Diego's "Steering Small" exhibit. Dr. Brown maintains a special display room in his home to show off most of his models. **If one were to question if the artistry and craftsmanship of a master model maker still exists in this technological world, they would need to only look at some of Dr. Brown's models!**



Last but certainly not least, **Auction Items for February Meeting!** Gary Seaton will be auctioneer.

#### Books:

**Eisenstein's Potemkin,** David Mayer  
**Dog Boats at War,** Leonard Reynolds  
**British Motor Torpedo Boats,** Angus Kovstam  
**A Small War in the Balkins,** Machael McConalle  
**The Fair Mile 'D' Motor Torpedo Boat,** John Lambert  
**Pacific Square Riggers,** Jim Gibbs  
**Naval Customs, Traditions and Usage,** Leland P. Lovette  
**Historic Ships,** Rupert Sargent Holland  
**World of Model Ships and Boats,** Guy Williams  
**The Art of Ship Modeling,** Richard Masir  
**The Wasa,** a pamphlet  
**The Baltimore Clipper,** Howard Chapelle  
**A History of Seafaring,** George Bass  
**Cross-Section, Man of War,** Stephen Biesty  
**Anatomy of Nelson's Ships,** C. Nepean Longridge  
**Color Treasury of Model Ships,** Toby Wrigley  
**They Came by Sea, Pictorial History of SF Bay,** Jerry MacMullen  
**Ship Carvers of North America,** M.V. Bremington

#### Ship Hull:



## Community Build Report

**Build Log Keeper Steve McGivern** reported 10 members attended the January 6 meeting aboard the *Berkeley*. At right, the meeting begins by going around the table with each builder discussing progress and challenges with their Royal Barge Circa 1700 build.

**Ken Selzer**, below left, opened the discussion talking about his planking. One end of a plank had split and asked about how to attach another plank. The conversation moved onto a discussion on the ways to clamp planks.



**John Sanford** showed how he used rubber bands, attaching the bands to both sides of the frame going over the keel. John cautioned about warping the keel.



**Ed Torrence** talked about a slight tweak he had in his keel as he built out the frames.

**Guy Lawrie** said he was just starting his keel build and described the need to taper the pieces. **Mike Lonnecker** suggested the use of double sided tape to keep the keel flat and straight on a jig or build board. Mike also suggested a high quality hand-held planer for shaping. Following is the web site: <https://www.lie-nielsen.com/product/block-planes/small-block-planes?node=4072>



**Bob Kyle** showed his build and discussed his challenges with planking. He stated that any early mistakes are exacerbated as you further the build.



**Mike Lonnecker** shared a great reference book for planking; **Planking Techniques for Model Ship Builders** by **Donald Dressel**. Steve McGivern studies the book below!

Mike said that he was using a modified admiralty build. He intends to plank one entire side and partially plank the other side.





## Show and Tell

### *HMS Royal Sovereign*, a restoration

by Jon Sanford (seen here to the right with the model)

### An offshore purchase, perhaps the Philippines?

Jon reports a visit to the Museum Model Shop by model owner **Joe Renteria**, pictured below, with *Royal Sovereign* in a sorry state of disrepair. *HMS Royal Sovereign* was a 100-gun first rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, which served as the



flagship of Admiral Collingwood at the Battle of Trafalgar. This will be a challenging restoration but Jon reports the model is of good quality. Additional history of the ship can easily be found on Wikipedia but let us explore Joe, a centenarian with a Native American heritage, who is a noted photo journalist with a storied past starting as an 8-year-old orphan. His work ranged from duty conducting photo reconnaissance from land and from air in the

Pacific during WWII to later service on Admiral William “Bull” Halsey’s staff. He photographed Eleanor Roosevelt, Presidential inaugurations, and ran San Diego State’s photo lab but he is also noted for his work with Native American advocacy groups. To truly do justice to Joe’s remarkable story, read **Taking his best shot: 100-year-old WWII photographer recounts remarkable life** by Peter Rowe, an article published in The San Diego Union-Tribune that can be located by searching “Joe Renteria San Diego”.

### *The Mary Rose 1545*

by Tom Hairston (seen here to the right with Don Dressel listening in)

### Caldercraft Model Boats, Heritage Series

### Scale 1:80

Tom reports this high quality kit features walnut CNC cut parts and a double plank on frame hull with black and natural hemp for rigging. Wikipedia reports “The *Mary Rose* is a carrack-type warship of the English Tudor navy of King Henry VIII.

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### **The *Mary Rose* 1545 by Tom Hairston continued:**

After serving for 33 years in several wars against France, Scotland, and Brittany and after being substantially rebuilt in 1536, she saw her last action on 19 July 1545. While leading the attack on the galleys of a French invasion fleet, she sank in the Solent, the straits north of the Isle of Wight.



The wreck of the *Mary Rose* was rediscovered in 1971. It was raised in 1982 by the Mary Rose Trust, in one of the most complex and expensive projects in the history of maritime archaeology. The surviving section of the ship and thousands of recovered artefacts are of immeasurable value as a Tudor-era time capsule. The excavation and raising of the *Mary Rose*

was a milestone in the field of maritime archaeology, comparable in complexity and cost only to the raising of the Swedish 17th-century warship *Vasa* in 1961. Tom is reporting the keel, stern post and stern are nearing completion and he is making good progress.



### ***Phantom* New York Pilot Boat**

**by Alex Roel**

**Model Expo solid hull kit No. MS2027**

**Scale 1:96 1/8 in = 1 foot**

Alex reported his progress on applying copper strips to cover the hull. After fairing the hull and beginning the process to cover the hull, Alex said developing patience and resisting the urge to rush the work was his greatest challenge. Alex reports that though this build presents some difficulties, overall he believes this has been a very good kit for folks new to ship modeling. Alex also sent out a thank you to Isaac Wills for supplying him with additional copper strips after he used all his kit supply.



Please note the following show and tell offering is built from a kit of dubious origin and as noted in previous newsletters, kit duplication is a practice that cannot be condoned. Isaac's experience with this model certainly underscores how corrupted these kits often are.



### *Halcon* (1840)

by Isaac Wills

Kit bash/scratch built

Scale - 1/8 inch = 1 foot

Isaac previously reported not much is known about *Halcon*, a

Spanish ship from the 1840's. Isaac thinks she might be a type of coastal cutter or patrol vessel and she has similarities with a British vessel, HMS *Albatross*, and with the U.S. revenue cutter *Harvey*.



Isaac reports that the unidentified manufactured kit's only useable parts were the bulkheads, cap railings, and fife rails. All other parts are built from scratch. The kit instructions were unreliable and Isaac reports considerable research effort was necessary to advance the project. For example, though the kit instructions called for a 32 pound canon to be mounted amidships between the masts, the correct armament is a mortar. He reported he has consulted the Maritime Museum's tops'l schooner *Californian* for guidance rigging *Halcon* and its cannons since it also is a tops'l schooner. He is drawing a sail plan from the tops'l schooner *Lynx* due to its similar hull configuration.



### USS *Monitor*

by Karl Zingheim  
(caught mid-yawn)

Scale 1:32

The purpose of this picture is to capture the scale of the deck sheeting, obtained by Karl long ago and probably designed to support RC components through the empty deck spaces.

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**USS *Monitor* by Karl Zingheim continued:**

Karl reported he “purchased the *Monitor* set on eBay with an eye towards producing a cutaway display of both the *Monitor* and CSS *Virginia* (for the Midway Museum). The Museum went in another direction, so I had a completed turret cutaway from another modeler and a partial set of custom deck plates with no immediate assignment. This material sat in storage for about a dozen years when I came across a couple of maritime artists’ renderings of the *Monitor*’s foundering in the gale of 13 December 1862. Since the ironclad’s decks were largely awash in the scene, I decided that the 1:32 scale size was no longer such a liability for personal modeling



since about half of the model would be submerged, and therefore, out of sight. I need only portray what was still above water. Further research revealed the harrowing details of her abandonment, and how some men did not leave the turret (seen at left) when she finally succumbed to the seas. When the turret was salvaged, a pair of skeletal remains were found beneath the overturned guns. Facial reconstruction on the recovered skulls led to a likely match with a crewman from Wales who is seen in a photo on deck from earlier in the ship’s career.”

**USS *Port Royal* and *Octarara*****by Karl Zingheim****Scale 1:96**

Karl reported on progress with his diorama based on the sloop *Richmond* reported in previous newsletters. “The screw sloop *Richmond* in 1:96 was intended for a Vicksburg campaign diorama, but the relatively smooth progress in her scratch build encouraged me to promote her assignment to the epic Battle of Mobile Bay instead, where she can be depicted with her sisters *Hartford* and *Brooklyn*, as well as the rest of Farragut’s squadron. Since she was now going to be at Mobile, I embarked on fashioning her battle consort, the sidewheeler *Port Royal* (and the sister *Octarara*, note the extra “a”) while awaiting white metal parts for the *Richmond*. To take the *Richmond*’s place in the original Vicksburg scene, I will convert a Revell *Kearsarge* kit into the USS *Iroquois*, who was also present for the CSS *Arkansas*’ foray out of the Yazoo and down the Mississippi to Vicksburg.”





### Think about

(Bob Kyle making progress on a project in the Museum Model Shop and representing the Guild to Maritime Museum visitors!)

### Helping Out

(James Pitt and Jon Sanford working on a restoration and sharing a tale!)



### In the Museum Model Shop!

(and while there, maybe give a young visitor the gift of modeling in the form of one of our paper ships”!)