



JANUARY 2026

32°43'N 117°10'W

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD
NEWSLETTER

VOL LIV, NO 1

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[Steve Scheet](#)

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Fair Coordinator

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Community Build

Click This Link



STAR OF INDIA during our last meeting

That's right, friends, you have about four (4) months to finish up (best case scenario) that rigging and get your San Diego County Fair model entry into a protective case.

Too soon? When's the last time you rigged a model?

Tick, tick, tick...

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

Keep a weather eye to the horizon – that's what they say. In the spirit of one of my favorite Christmas songs, there are three ships on that horizon today – and those three ships are close and will be sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day (on Christmas Day in the morning!)

What a great time I had at the Guild's Christmas/Holiday party. What really struck me was the wonderful range of folks in attendance. We've got some young fresh minds crafting in Legos, wood and cardboard. We've got builders in their 20's and 30's to help our art persevere. We had a wise man who travelled from afar who followed a star to the party (the STAR OF INDIA in this case, but in writing I am all about the metaphor – was that a metaphor? Let's go with it.) As always our experienced masters were on hand. And the "Something-Nautical-in-a-Bottle" contest was like opening a bunch of little Christmas gifts before Christmas, a delight in each and every one. What a great time indeed.

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together.



Steve Miller

I hope you all get what you want this Christmas, be it fancy tools, that special ship kit or book, or even just some precious time to create your next masterpiece! But I also hope you find time to enjoy your family and friends. And when it is all over and those three ships warp back out to sea, having left the true gift of the holiday season for us, I look forward to seeing everyone at the January meeting. I look forward to the final work on old projects and the inspired choices of new ones. But most of all I look forward to the time we all get to share

This missive should hit the presses just before Christmas, so let's consider it a Christmas card to you all. On behalf of all your Officers, may we wish you and your families all a safe and wonderful Christmas, and Happy Holidays in general. Best wishes in this coming year to all our Members, both near and far.



(If you are out of the geographical area drop us a line and let us know what you're working on and how you are.)

Next year will likely be our best yet. Let's get together in the New Year and have some fun!!

Cast off the lines and set your course for 2026 folks. See you in January!!

STEVE



Something-Nautical-in-a-Bottle Challenge

The Guild's third and latest Crafting Challenge¹ was center stage at this month's December Holiday meeting. Congratulations to **Mike Florio** for his winning triple-entry that secured the Blue Ribbon.



Bottle 1) GATO-Class submarine attack on a NACHI(那智)-Class cruiser



¹ The first two challenges were the 2016 “Mini-Ship Challenge” (John Wickman’s winner spawned today’s Mini-STAR kit program) and the 2023 “Oar Challenge” (who could forget Frank Dengler’s “Either/Oar” entry?)



Bottle 2) Battle of Midway / HIRYU



Bottle 3) Pearl Harbor / ARIZONA

Mike apparently had some time left over so in addition to his official ships-in-a-bottle triple-entry he crafted another entry showing him at his workbench puzzling over this unique art form...

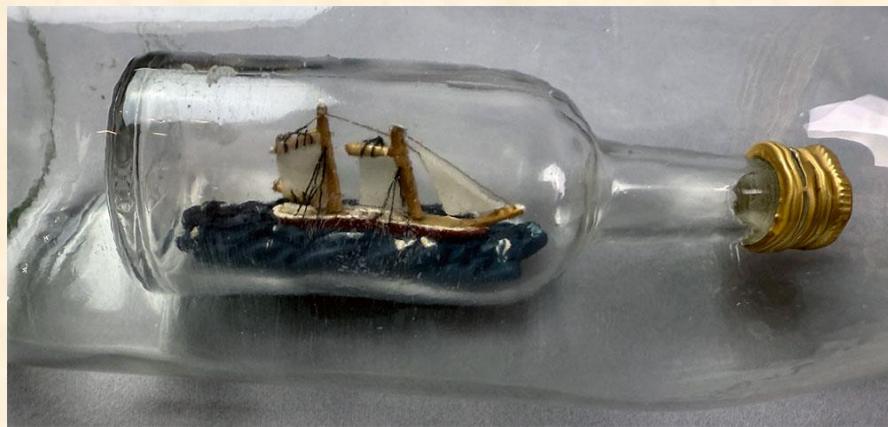


The following pages showcase the creativity and craftsmanship that was brought by all entrants to this edition of the “Crafting Challenge.”

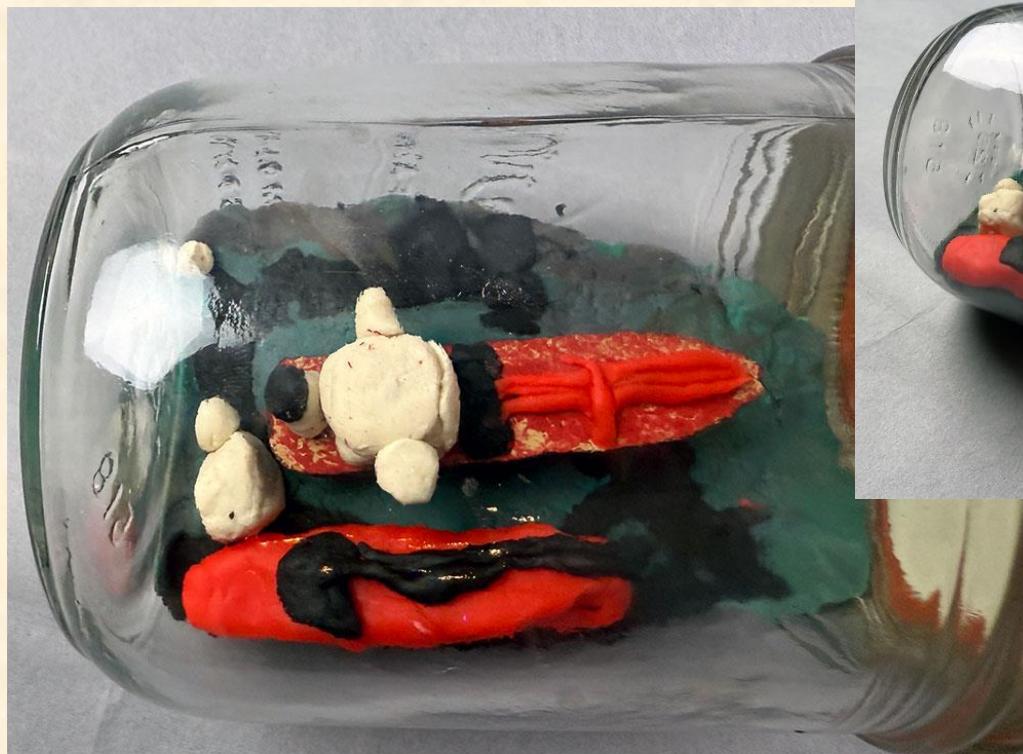
Mike Hite chose to depict a lush shoreline diorama...



Bob Jones countered with the classic *ship-in-a-bottle-in-a-ship-in-a-bottle...*



Trystan Lee combined Play-Doh and wood to re-create the EXXON VALDEZ oil spill of 1989...



Jay MacMaster created a diorama of the SYREN's three man launch being perilously enticed by three reef-bound sirens...



Jakob Nagatani represented a lonely hulk resting on the sea floor...



Phil Pizzuto matched Jakob's melancholy scene with one of his own: a sad diorama revealing betrayal on some far-flung spit of sand...



Your Newsletter Editor chose to depict a cross-section of an 18th century sailing ship complete with various cargo and ballast stone...



Fair Chair and First Mate **Steve Scheet** brought the Guild's County Fair Booth to life in every particular... right down to rope stations and Mini-STAR kits...



Chari Wessel captured the gargantuan battle between Captain Nemo's NAUTILUS and the giant squid within the small confines of her bottle...



And, finally, **Karl Zingheim** cleverly depicted an “entire” U-BOAT by representing the last visible portion of the submarine’s sail as she dives...



and *then* for fun Karl sought to find the absolute largest scale with which he could fit an entire vessel in the bottle.

Answer: 1:1000



Congratulations to each of our entrants for making this a fun and interesting challenge; we're all richer for the experience.

If you have an idea for our next Crafting Challenge contact any Officer.



2016 Mini-Ship Challenge
Winner: John Wickman



2023 Oar Challenge
Winner: Isaac Wills

⚓ Raffle! by Steve Miller

The Guild's donation program of local model shipwright Curt Madsen's kit stash continues next month with a fourth offering...

Next month's raffle will be HMS SUPPLY by [Artesania Latina](#) at 7/32"≈1' / 1:56 scale with an overall length of 28" and a height of 21".



The SUPPLY will be raffled off to Members and guests in attendance at the January 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:

⚓ December	FLY	Doug Ward	<i>in dry dock</i>
⚓ November	PRIDE OF BALTIMORE	Kirk Rummel	<i>under construction</i>
⚓ October	GRANADO	Don Dressel	<i>under construction</i>

Some very pretty wood and interesting metal bits. Looks to be a very nice but not overwhelming kit: who will take her home next month? Come out and see, my friends.

Christmas at Sea

Listen to it on
 YouTube

The sheets were frozen hard, and they cut the naked hand
The decks were like a slide, where a seaman scarce could stand
The wind was a nor'wester, blowing squally off the sea
And the cliffs and spouting breakers were the only things a-lee

They heard the surf a-roaring before the break of day
But 'twas only with the peep of light we saw how ill we lay
We tumbled every hand on deck instanter, with a shout
And we gave her the maintops'l, and stood by to go about

All day we tacked and tacked between the South Head and the North
All day we hauled the frozen sheets, and got no further forth
All day as cold as charity, in bitter pain and dread
For very life and nature we tacked from head to head

We gave the South a wider berth, for there the tide-race roared
But every tack we made we brought the North Head close aboard
We saw the cliffs and houses, and the breakers running high
And the coast guard in his garden, with his glass against his eye

The frost was on the village roofs as white as ocean foam
The good red fires were burning bright in every 'long-shore home
The windows sparkled clear, and the chimneys volleyed out
And I vow we sniffed the victuals as the vessel went about

The bells upon the church were rung with a mighty jovial cheer
For it's just that I should tell you how (of all days in the year)
This day of our adversity was blessed Christmas morn
And the house above the coast guard's was the house where I was born

O well I saw the pleasant room, the pleasant faces there
My mother's silver spectacles, my father's silver hair
And well I saw the firelight, like a flight of homely elves
Go dancing round the china-plates that stand upon the shelves

And well I knew the talk they had, the talk that was of me
Of the shadow on the household and the son that went to sea
And O the wicked fool I seemed, in every kind of way
To be here and hauling frozen ropes on blessed Christmas Day

They lit the high sea-light, and the dark began to fall
"All hands to loose topgallant sails" I heard the captain call
"By Lord, she'll never stand it" our first mate Jackson, cried
"It's the one way or the other, Mr. Jackson" he replied

She staggered to her bearings, but the sails were new and good
And the ship smelt up to windward just as though she understood
As the winter's day was ending, in the entry of the night
We cleared the weary headland, and passed below the light

And they heaved a mighty breath, every soul on board but me
As they saw her nose again pointing handsome out to sea;
But all that I could think of, in the darkness and the cold
Was just that I was leaving home and my folks were growing old



Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan except as noted*

The Guild's December Holiday meeting was attended by 29 Members¹ and 14 guests²; all Officers excepting the Purser were present. 1 new Member³ joined the Guild.

Powder Monkey **Karl Zingheim** rang the holiday jingle bells at exactly 5:59pm to signal the start of both the second dog watch and the meeting.



photo by Alex Roel

Following the traditional "Happy Hour" preceding the meeting, Guild Master **Steve Miller** officially welcomed all guests and Members to our annual Holiday meeting. Of special note was the presence of long-time Member

Karl Mariotti who resides in Bellingham, Washington, and was in town attending his first meeting! Also attending his first meeting was (soon to be) new Member **Hans Hogelucht**: welcome Karl and Hans!

Steve then drew the attention of those

gathered to the center table that held thirteen entrants for our "Something-Nautical-in-a-Bottle Challenge." The Guild Master briefly went over the voting procedures and then unleashed the holiday throng on the buffet



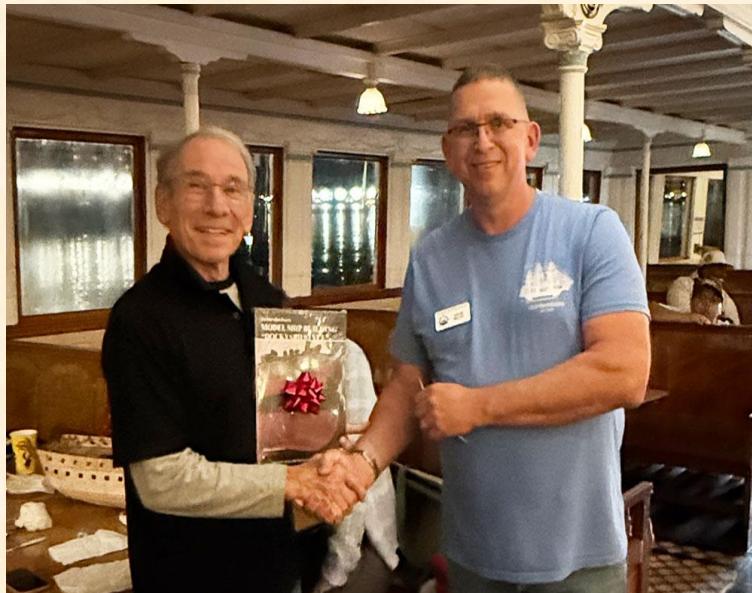
photo by Alex Roel

¹ Almaas, Claussen, Florio, Hairston, Hite, Jones, Kohnen, N.Lee, T.Lee, N. Li-Karins, S. Li-Karins, Lonnecker, López de Arenosa, MacMaster, Mariotti, McKinley, Miller, Nagatani, Pizzuto, Roel, Rummel, Sanford, Scheet, Sullivan, Ward, Warner, Wills, Yumoto, Zingheim

² Michael Denigan, Carmen Hughes, Liz Hua, Cati Kohnen, Deborah Lannon, Chloe Reeves, Hope Roel, MaryAnn Sanford, Ashley Shaughnessy, Ezekiel Shaughnessy, Alesia Slocum, Kim Ward, Patrick Williams, Sema Yumoto

³ Hans Hogelucht

area which was laden with BBQ ribs, chicken tacos, a Mexican casserole, pigs-in-a-blanket, various salads, and a multitude of desserts including the Guild Mistresses rum cake and toffee bars.



Mike Florio with the Guild Master

Viewing and voting continued throughout dinner and upon completion of the latter **Mike Florio** was announced as our winner. Steve invited each craftsman to take center stage in turn and describe the idea behind their build.

Following a curtailed Show and Tell session (shout out to **Michael Denigan, Kirk Rummel, Niko McKinley and Hans Hogelucht**) the Guild Master presided over the monthly raffle drawing and **Doug Ward** (who had rushed to get his ticket in first) was the winner (FIFO!) This brought the meeting to a conclusion and the Powder Monkey rang the jingle bells one last time at 7:42pm, bringing our December Holiday meeting to a close.



Early viewing getting under way



Michael Denigan, Alex Roel and Mike Lonnecker check out Hans Hogelucht's first build



Steve Scheet, Nolan Lee and Bob Jones



Tom Hairston and Doug Yumoto



Bob Jones and Jon Sanford



Carmen Hughes and Tom Hairston



Karl Zingheim and Mike Lonnecker

Steve Scheet and Deborah Lannon



Paco Arenosa, Chloe Reeves, Shannon Li-Karins, Nicholas Li-Karins, Niko Kohnen, MaryAnn Sanford, Cati Kohnen, Jon Sanford, Trystan Lee



Discussions around the entrant's table



Isaac Wills stands watch for Trystan Lee



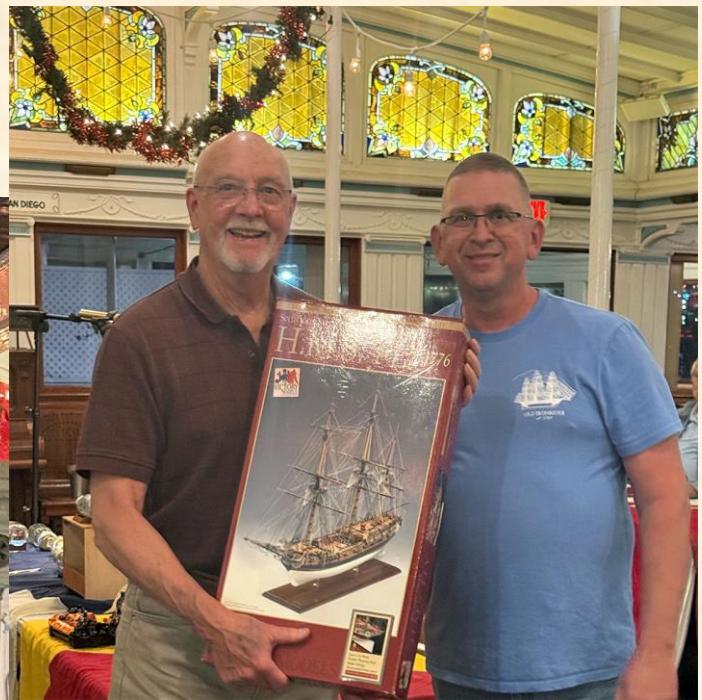
Mike Florio, Jakob Nagatani, and Hans Hogelucht



*Ashley Shaughnessy, Ezekiel Shaughnessy, Liz Hua, Niko McKinley, Patrick Williams
Tom Hairston, Michael Denigan, Jay MacMaster, Doug and Sema Yumoto, Doug and Kim Ward, Hope Roel, Erik Almaas*



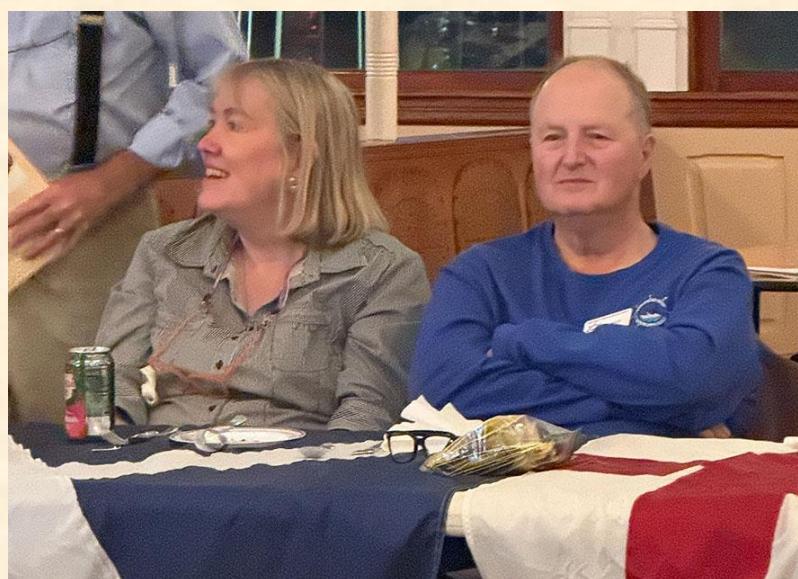
Kirk Rummel debuts his first build



Doug Ward wins FLY (aka MAYFLOWER II)



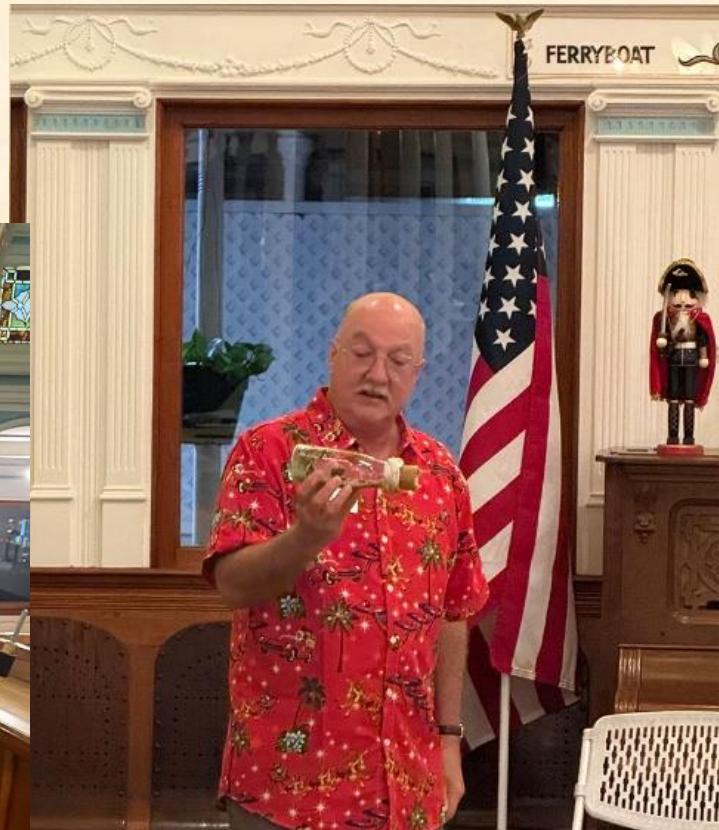
Jay MacMaster explains how mermaids work



Alesia Slocum and Paco Arenosa



Jakob Nagatani



Phil Pizzuto wonders whose bottle he has



Hope and Alex Roel



Bob Jones

Flotsam and Jetsam

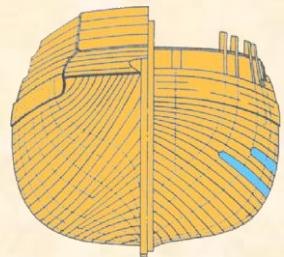
“Into every repair a little blood must flow”

unknown



Squared Away – understanding nautical terms

A **DROP PLANK** is a modified plank reducing a run of three strakes to two, or two strakes to one, where the hull narrows, generally towards the bow. Used to reduce the SNY of a strake. Technically a kind of stealer. Complement to a STEALER.

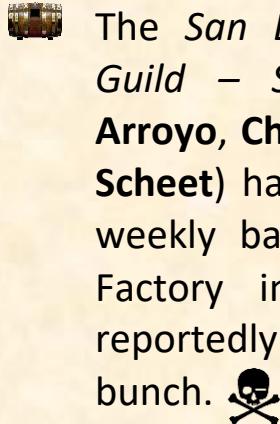


Museum Model Shop – utilize, support, volunteer



All Guild Members are welcome to work in the Museum Model Shop aboard the BERKELEY. Besides having five dedicated work stations, the Model Shop is also the home to the Guild's model shipcrafting library, tools, and a large inventory of building supplies. By volunteering time in the Model Shop our presence benefits the MMSD by affording their patrons the opportunity to see our craft in action and up close. Contact Model Shop Chair [Jon Sanford](#)

Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild – Santee Division (**Art Arroyo, Chuck Seiler, and Steve Scheet**) has been meeting on a weekly basis at The Omelette Factory in Santee. They're reportedly a (pretty) friendly bunch. 



The Community Build continues to meet during the regular Guild Meeting's social hour and set-up time, so stop by and see how the Masting and Rigging project is faring.



Be on the lookout for [Purser John Walsh](#)! Annual dues are due. \$20. Dues must be paid in full by the March Guild Meeting. A replacement name tag may be purchased at any time during the year for \$10.





Many thanks to **Karl Zingheim** who provided the MIDWAY's signal flags to serve as tablecloths for our Holiday pot luck.



On The Horizon



JAN 6	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JAN 13	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 13	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 20	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
FEB 3	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
FEB 10	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 10	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 17	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
MAR 3	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
MAR 10	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
MAR 10	6pm	Guild Meeting  Election	BERKELEY
MAR 17	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
APR 7	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
APR 14	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 14	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 21	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	website, email
APR TBA	8pm	SDCF model entry (deadline)	online application
MAY 5	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
MAY TBA	9am	SDCF booth set-up	Del Mar Fairgrounds
MAY 12	5pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY 12	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY TBA	noon	SDCF model entry (drop-off)	Del Mar Fairgrounds



Officer Nominations

Our annual Officer elections are approaching and nominations are open for the five positions.

Below is the slate of nominees *to date*. Please forward your nominations (names and positions) to the [Nominations Chair](#).

 NOMINATIONS — Officers			
Position	Nominee 1	Nominee 2	Nominee 3
Guild Master	Steve Miller	open	open
First Mate	Steve Scheet	open	open
Log Keeper	Karl Zingheim	open	open
Purser	John Walsh	open	open
Newsletter Editor	Alex Roel	open	open

Nominees per position listed alphabetically, left to right

Members may wonder “What about the various Committee Chair positions?”
Per the Guild’s Bylaws...

3.6 Committees. The Guild Master shall appoint Committee Chairs as he sees fit. (Example: Program Chairman, Audio Visual Chairman, Webmaster, etc.) Committee Chairs shall enlist the help of Members of the general membership as required. Committee Chairs shall attend Officers meetings as advisory members but will be non-voting. Committee Chairs will have the opportunity to provide reports during the “Reports” section of general meetings.

Dockyard Resources

Model shipcrafting resources originally compiled by Guild Member and master modeler Mike Lonnecker.

- ⚓ this list appears periodically in the ***The Second Dog Watch***
- ⚓ newly listed resources are highlighted in light red
- ⚓ local resources are highlighted in light green
- ⚓ forward your resource [suggestions](#)

BOOKS / FORUMS / LOGS / TUTORIALS

Company	Source For	Notes
ABE BOOKS	nautical books	some rare and out-of-print books
ANIMATED KNOTS	knot tying	animated knot compendium
CARVING ORNAMENTATION	carving tutorial	techniques, tools, materials
LAUCK STREET SHIPYARD	courses, practicums, books	modeling education aids
MODEL SHIP BUILDER	forums, build logs, plans, tips	array of information and tips
MODEL SHIP WORLD	forums, build logs, tips, info	modeling club (very informative)
MODEL WARSHIPS	forums, build logs	for the plastic ship modeler
NAUTICAL MIND	nautical books	some European books
NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD	quarterly magazine	modeling research group (excellent)
SEAWATCH BOOKS	modeling books	books geared to the model builder
WOODEN SHIP MODELING	photos, videos, tips	tips for building models

KITS / PLANS

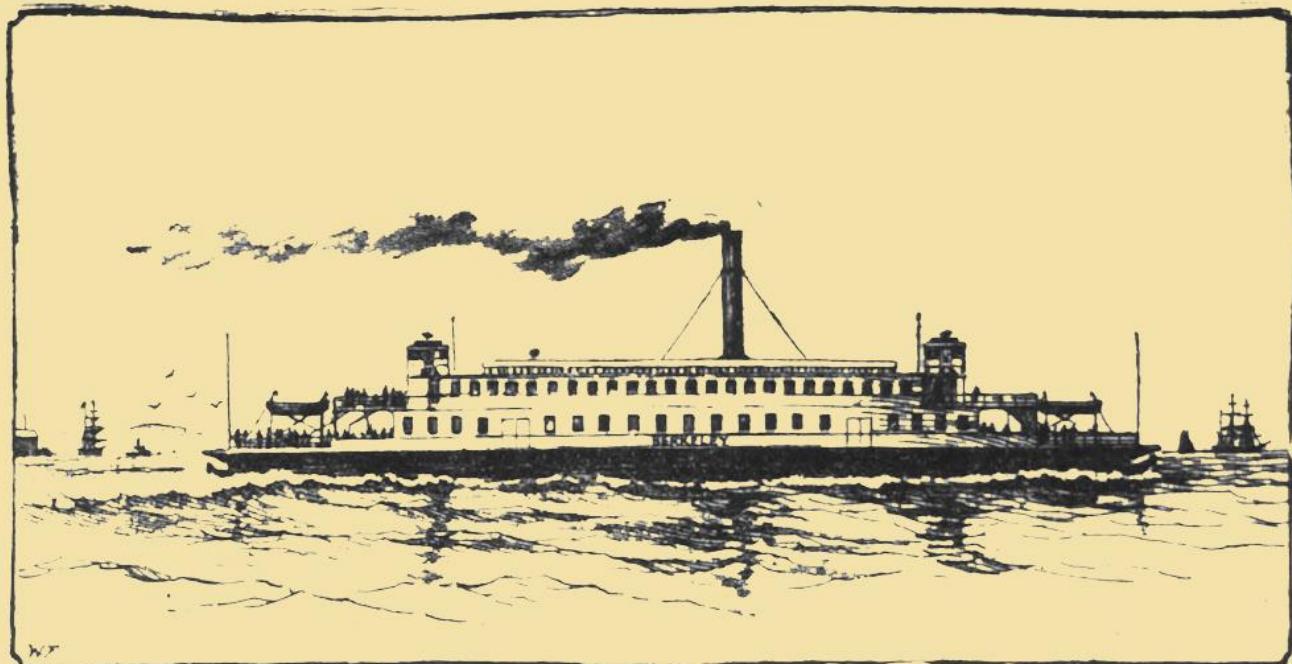
Company	Source For	Notes
ADMIRALTY MODELS	plans, photoetch, kits	by David Antsherl, Greg Herbert limited product line (excellent quality)
ANCRE	Plans, monographs, books	detailed and clear plans
AGES OF SAIL	kits, parts	complete line of Amati kits
BLUEJACKET SHIP CRAFTERS	kits, parts	(good quality)
LOYALHANNA DOCKYARD	kits, parts	mostly steel navy
LUMBERYARD	kits, wood, cannons	wood kits for Hahn-style scratch builds great cannon kits in 1/4" and other scales
MODEL-EXPO	kits, parts, tools	imported tools (large selection) (medium to poor quality)
SHIPWRIGHT SHOP	kits, parts, tools, accessories	line of Caldercraft kits
SYREN SHIP MODEL COMPANY	kits, blocks, fittings, rope walk, serving machine	(high quality)
UMM-USA	kits, tools, accessories, detailing	hobby shop cars, aircraft, armor, ships, subs

MATERIALS / TOOLS

Company	Source For	Notes
123 STITCH	sewing supplies	DMC cotton thread for rigging
BLICK ART MATERIALS	wood, glue, paint, paper, brushes basswood	art materials 3633 Midway Dr, San Diego CA
BYRNES MODEL MACHINES	table saws, disk sanders	(the best)
CINCINNATI SURGICAL	Swann-Morton blades, handles, hobby blades	surgical supplies (good selection)
CRAWFORD TOOL	screwdrivers, hex drivers	Wiha, Bondhus, Knipex tools
DEDECO	rotary tools, burrs, stones, cutoff wheels	cutting tools (big selection)
ePLASTICS	plexiglass, display cases, dustcovers	plastic supplies 5535 Ruffin Rd, San Diego CA
ESSLINGER	jewelry tools, parts	watchmaker
FOREDOM	rotary tools, handpieces, accessories	flexible shaft tools
FORSTER PRODUCTS	Swiv-O-Ling vise	gunsmithing tools
FROST HARDWOOD	hardwood, veneer, glue	hardwood supplier 6565 Miramar Rd, San Diego CA
GESSWEIN	hand tools, drills, burrs, finishing materials	jewelry supplies (high quality)
GRS	supplies, ring clamp system, vises, gravers, engraving tools	jewelry tools
GYROS	cutting tools, saws, sanding disk/drums	for use in rotary style machines
HOBBYLINC	cars, plane, ship kits, paints, supplies	online hobby shop
J I MORRIS	miniature fasteners	specialty hardware
JAPAN WOODWORKER	hand tools, chisels, gouges, hand planes, accessories, sharpening stones	woodworking tools
LEE VALLEY	hand tools, power tools, small planes, sharpening systems	woodworking tools (high quality)
LITTLE MACHINE SHOP	lathes, mills, tooling, parts	benchtop machinist tools (high quality) (good prices)
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)
MARSHALL'S HARDWARE	hardware	general hardware 8423 Production Ave, San Diego CA
MICRO-MARK	modeling tools, hand tools, machine tools	mostly from China (large selection) (medium quality)
MINI TAPS	mini taps, dies, fasteners	specialty hardware
MODELER'S SAWMILL	milled wood strips, sheets	boxwood, cherry, Alaskan yellow cedar
MODEL MOTORCARS	model size nuts, bolts	motorcar kits site with miniature hardware
OTTO FREI	jewelry tools, GRS BenchMate, vises, Woolf tools, Foredom tools	good prices
PLEXIDISPLAYS	custom Plexiglas dust covers	reliable custom Plexiglas source
PRECISION SCALE MODEL ENGINEERING	parts, materials, tools	huge selection

<u>PROXXON</u>	power hand tools, machine tools	specialty modeling tools (big selection) some machines used to be Preac
<u>RIO GRANDE</u>	jewelry supplies, files, pliers	Swiss, German, USA made (high quality)
<u>ROCKLER</u>	hand tools, power tools, wood, finishing	woodworking supplies 8199 Clairemont Mesa Blvd, San Diego CA
<u>ROPES OF SCALE</u>	scale rope and threads of various sizes	cotton, polyester (high quality)
<u>SHERLINE MACHINES</u>	table top lathes, mills, accessories	woodworking machines (good quality) excellent variety of accessories 3235 Executive Ridge, Vista CA
<u>SILVER SUPPLIES</u>	silver solder	jewelry supplies
<u>SWANN-MORTON</u>	scalpels, blades	(the best)
<u>TAIG LATHE</u>	table top lathes, mills, accessories	uses Sherline accessories similar in size to Sherline but more robust (excellent quality)
<u>TH&H</u>	domestic wood, trim, finishing	wood supplies 8849 Complex Dr, San Diego CA
<u>THUNDERBIRD SUPPLY</u>	tools, metal, beads, solutions	craft supply
<u>TRAVERS</u>	drills, end mills	machine shop tools
<u>UTOPIA TOOLS</u>	jewelry tools, hobby supplies	wide range
<u>WELD FABULOUS</u>	Smith little torch	welding supplies
<u>WOOD DATABASE</u>	wood information, color, hardness	wood compendium

THE FERRY-BOAT BERKELEY SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED.



San Francisco Chronicle, October 19 1898



Alex Roel

San Diego Bay, September 18 2025, 10:25am

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.







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.)