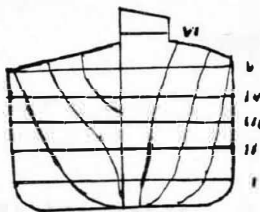




San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 1983



In brief, if anyone sees a model ship then his heart begins to beat faster and simultaneously with the enthusiasm the thought arises "Could I make something like that?" Usually it stops at the thought, but many go to work and after some time proudly exhibit their first model, whatever it looks like.

Andre Veenstra

HANDBOOK OF SHIP MODELING

SPECIAL MEETING FEATURES AUGUST CRABTREE

October 14, 1983, 8 PM

MARITIME MUSEUM

NOTE: This is a WEEK EARLIER than normal!

The reason for meeting at a special time this month calls for a story

Back when I was a junior in high school, I went to Homer L. Ferguson High School in Newport News, Virginia. Homer L. Ferguson was the founder of Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company. We were known as the Ferguson Mariners because of being named after Mr. Ferguson and because of our back yard neighbor (literally) -- the Mariner's Museum. In my year there I made numerous trips to this great museum. While my mother enjoyed the Winslow Homer paintings, I was fascinated by the ship models, especially since in those days I built plastic models at a prolific rate. My visits put a dream in my head like the one in our opening quote, to someday build a "real" ship model. The museum gift shop sold a set of plans for OLD IRONSIDES, and I couldn't wait until I could afford to buy them. (At that time I wasn't aware of what was really involved in building a CONSTITUTION and luckily I never got the plans.)

It wasn't until many years later that I learned of the modeler who built many of those models I had so admired as a youth. Thus it is with great eagerness that I personally look forward to our special guest at our October meeting, AUGUST CRABTREE, the builder of those models. Since those youthful days I have come to learn of his greatness as a ship modeler and carver. Recently I heard someone acclaim him as the Donald McNearv of of the United States, only to be corrected by another modeler, "McNearv is the August Crabtree of Great Britain!"

We have a special treat in having August Crabtree with us. He is on a tour visiting ONLY museum related groups. This will apparently be his only presentation in Southern California if not all of California. We as a Guild decided to financially help our Maritime Museum by financially co-sponsoring his visit with us. He would have been one of the museum's quarterly speakers except for the way the schedule worked out. (continued on next page)

This is the first time in over six years that we have been able to formally help out the museum. He reportedly will have with him some examples of his models and carvings. Because this is such a special event, we want to issue an open invitation to anybody interested in ship modeling to come, so help us pass the word.

For those who don't know about August Crabtree, he is probably the foremost ship modeler in our country. His exquisite collection has been willed to the Mariner's Museum, where they have been on display. He selected the Mariner's Museum after carefully checking out many of the major maritime collections. A few years ago, PBS put together a special TV show on August Crabtree and his work. In watching that program I gained a great respect for this master of our craft.

BRING A MODEL -- BRING A FRIEND!

LOG OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Guild Master Fred Fraas called the meeting to order and introduced our guests for the evening, Roman Yerema from World Video Productions, and visitor Bruce Jamieson. Bruce has worked with plastic forms and cases, and he invited any member to use the shop he has access to at work for making plastic cases at very low cost. He is at American Design Inc., phone 429-1995 at work or 575-1550 at home. Bruce has joined the Guild and was very enthused about becoming a part of our group.

We have purchased a public address system for \$125 for use at our regattas. Fred reported on the regatta in Long Beach, which was an informal regatta with one run per boat. Loren Perry was the top prize winner with 4 trophies. According to the Ship Modelers Association Newsletter, there were 42 boats entered, including 6 submarines. A separate category for subs was included for the first time. Fred and First Mate Roy Nilson represented our Guild at the regatta.

Under Old Business, samples of the name tag were passed around. The tags themselves will be ready at the regatta. 100 of the guild medallions have been made. Under New Business, an OK was given to Roman and World Video to produce a program on our regatta. The Guild also voted to appropriate \$100 for sponsoring a talk by noted modeler August Crabtree if he can come to San Diego.

For "Show and Tell," Bob Wright brought in several copies of PROCEEDINGS which appeared to get scooped up in a hurry at the end of the meeting. Special note was made of the feature article in MODEL SHIPBUILDER about Albert's RATTLESNAKE. Other models present included Doug McFarland's HOTSPUR which is progressing nicely. Butch Harris brought in the kit he just obtained of the gas turbine patrol boat K.D. PERKASA in 1:32 scale.

Other items discussed were updates on the CALIFORNIAN, the RENDEZVOUS, and the arrival only hours before our meeting of the PRIDE OF BALTIMORE. We also talked about various methods of dving sails.

The program portion of our meeting consisted of viewing several videotapes by Roman, including a sample of the type of program he might make for us using past footage of some of our R/C models, and his international award winning program, "The World of RC." Most of the seventeen persons present took off by 10 pm to get home and see "Das Boote" on cable tv!



Californian

PROJECT UPDATE

YET ANOTHER SPECIAL EVENT!

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1983, 9:30 AM.

Arrangements have been made for a presentation to our Guild of the CALIFORNIAN project at Spanish Landing. Richard Miles will tell us all about the history of the project, the plans for operating the ship, and of course everything we ever wanted to know about the construction methods.

The construction is progressing along and director Steve Christman is confident all will be done in time for her to sail in the Olympics spectacular on July 4. The Quarterdeck with its Great Cabin below is beginning to take shape, most of the deck beams are in place, and planking has begun. By the time we have our presentation, the decking should be in place. The decking will be installed before all the planking is completed in order to help provide protection during the rainy season.

Everyone is invited to join us for this special presentation.

REGATTA REPORT

Although this year's regatta was not as extravagant as past years, it was one of some impressive models. Albert's RATTLESNAKE was a major winner, with Loren Ferry's boats collecting prizes and "oohs" and "ahhs." Both The RATTLESNAKE and the TITANIC were popular with the crowd, with the TITANIC taking the trophy for Best of Show. The TITANIC was very impressive as it backed away from the dock with a sounding of its horn, and then strains of the dance band drifting over the waves to shore, only this time TITANIC made it to her destination. (The iceberg we ordered melted before it got to the pond!) Loren also took Best of Show in the static category with his destroyer USS VOGELGESANG. As is usual, competition from up north took many of our awards.

We were also pleased to have several participants from Arizona with us. Ed Haigh and his son reported enjoying the regatta despite being plagued with mechanical problems. Another Cooper Stater was in San Diego on vacation so he brought along his cabin cruiser to run. And it was good to see Ray Adee after corresponding with him several times.

The day concluded with a fine potluck picnic with some good food and great fellowship. Loren Ferry went over to the fresh water pond by the tower of Vacation Village to run his TITANIC at night and to clean off his hull and props. I didn't get to see that but it must have been some sight for the tourists at the hotel!

A Bravo-Zulu to Fred Fraas and Roy Nilson who did a great job as regatta commodores. If they hadn't put in the effort they did we literally would not have had a regatta this year. Thanks guys!

Logkeeper Bill Kelly-Fleming

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

Heartiest congratulations to all of our winners. We were especially pleased to have the static modelers with us again for one-third of all entries were for static display. Even though we had no scheduled competition for Sunday, many modelers "from up north" stayed overnight and came back to run again on Sunday. A fair share of our own also showed up and the weather turned out to be perfect.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who volunteered time and effort to make this regatta a success. It takes a lot of hard work, prior planning and preparation to insure success. We received many favorable comments from those not directly involved, but certainly appreciative.

Mate Roy Nilson deserves special recognition for his single-handed efforts in producing the sixteen first place (and first class) trophies. Phil Hedlev, Mike Dorv and Roy worked hard and fairly as judges. Bill Kelly-Fleming did a bang up job of announcing on our new P.A. system in spite of the fact that he had to leave over the lunch hour to perform a wedding. Butch Harris supplied the new all aluminum launch dock as well as insuring our new name tags were ready to go. To those and the others who assisted in setting-up and putting away, many thanks again.

Master Fred Fraas

It is good to know that people do read this newsletter. I have had several responses to various items I have run in the past. First thanks to several of you who answered my call for help in locating the McCann materials on the Spanish Galleon, especially to Gordon Jones who happened to have an extra copy of the book to sell me.

Several of you have challenged some of my statements, which I appreciate. Sometimes things do slip by and I have wrong information. Other times more research is needed. Recently I have had some comments about some of our tall ship visitors, namely the *ESMERALDA* and the *JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO*. Question one is over their classification, topsail schooner or barkentine. In the process I have been in discussions over whether the *RENDEZVOUS* is a brigantine or a hermaphrodite brig. (continued next page)



CROW'S NEST (continued)

Unfortunately many of my sources tend to contradict each other. As to the latter, the RENDEZVOUS is officially listed on her plans as a hermaphrodite brig. According to Webster a Hermaphrodite Brig is a two masted vessel square-rigged forward and schooner rigged aft. Likewise Webster lists a brigantine as "1. a two-masted ship differing from a brig in not carrying a square mainsail. 2. Hermaphrodite brig."

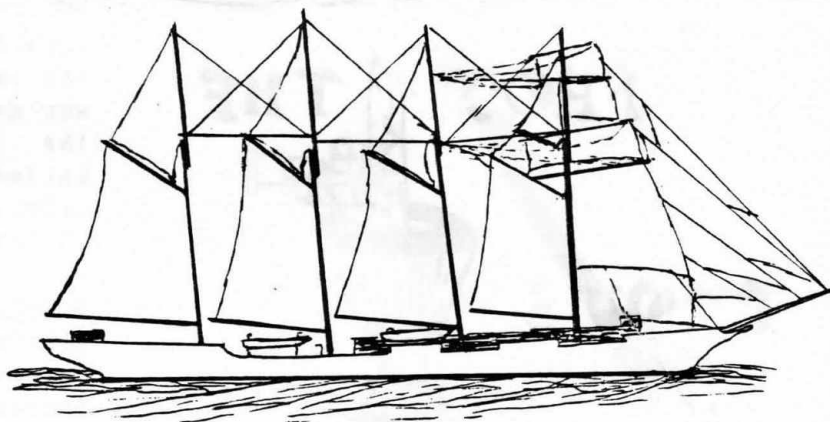
Now for the difference between a square topsail schooner and a barkentine especially in four-masted vessels. I have seen several drawings which would indicate the difference is determined by the position of the lowest of the square-sail vards. If it is well above the fore-top, or where normally the fore topmast would be stepped with the foremast, then it is a square topsail schooner, because the lowest square sail is a topsail (as opposed to a course).

The other method is by how the fore and aft sails just aft of the foremast are rigged. If the primary and lowest sail is a staysail, then it is a barkentine, but if this sail is bent to the foremast in either a marconi-rig or gaff-rig, then it is a square topsail schooner. Apparently it is this latter method that has been the accepted one in the question of the two sister ships, for the ESMERALDA is a barkentine as she is staysail rigged, and the J.S. De ELCANO is a square topsail schooner with her gaff-rig off the foremast. So unless someone out there has further information on this matter, I stand corrected.

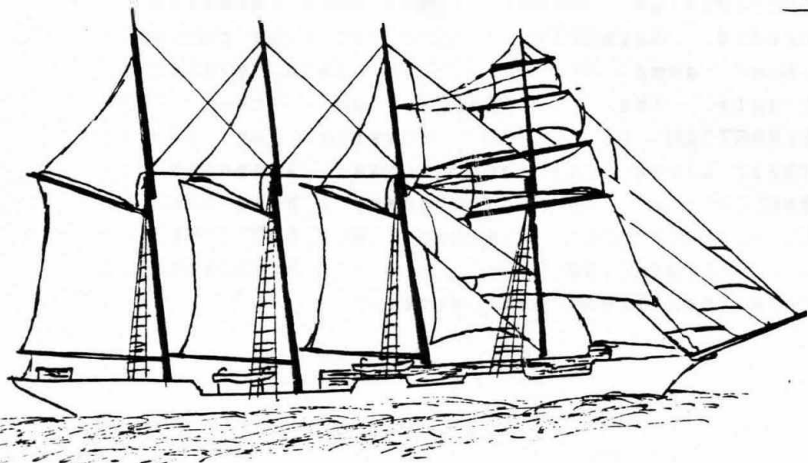
The other matter I was challenged on was the height of these sister ships masts. On this matter I stand by my previous information. Here is a list and height of several of the well known and tallest of the ships according to the best records I can locate.

USCGC EAGLE	265' 10"
AMERIGO VESPUCCI	269' 2"
J. S. DeELCANO	289' 2"
LIBERTAD	301' 1"
ESMERALDA	308' 6"

(continued next page)



J. S. de Elcano



Esmeralda

CROW'S NEST (continued)

We have a new look to our newsletter this month because I was able to get down to use my father's home computer. It makes it much easier for me, and the appearance is better. Unfortunately my schedule doesn't always work to make the special trip to inland Chula Vista. With the special interest in our October meeting, we are using an expanded mailing list this time. We are sending this to all those who have been members in the past few years, but haven't renewed because we believe they might want to be a part of this very special event.

We have several new members and address changes to report.

Bruce Jamieson
/redacted/

John Piper
/redacted/

Edward R Haigh
/redacted/

WELCOME ABOARD!

Changes:

Dave Manley
/redacted/

John McDermott
/redacted/

FROM THE MAILBAG:

I just wanted to drop you a short letter saying how much my son and I enjoyed participating in your Scale Regatta at the Model Yacht Basin on Vacation Isle. Loren Perry's boats are the most impressive R/C models we have ever seen, and as most of you members would agree very stiff competition.

Yours,

Edward R. Haigh

FROM THE DEEP SIX:

Six years ago--

- Static and R/C models from our guild were used in a taping of a Dina Shore Show.
- Al L'heureux showed slides of models in a Paris museum.
- Bill Brown showed slides of New England maritime sites

Five years ago--

- Discussion of a project to build a model of the LANGLEY for the Aerospace Museum.
- Movies of Al L'heureux's and Phil Hedley's submarines were shown.
- Our first annual regatta was a great success. Gordon Wiles of Encino and our own Val Peterson took top prizes.



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild
Bill Kelly-Fleming - Lookkeeper
/redacted/

TO: Fred V. Fraas
/redacted/

NOTICE:
SPECIAL MEETING
ONE WEEK EARLY

SPECIAL MEETING DATE THIS MONTH ... OCTOBER 14 ... ONE WEEK EARLY
AUGUST CRABTREE IS OUR GUEST SPEAKER!

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD
OFFICERS FOR 1983

MASTER	Fred Fraas	/redacted/
MATE and PURSER	Rov Nilson	/redacted/
LOGKEEPER	Bill Kelly-Fleming	/redacted/

MEETINGS: 3rd Friday of each month, 8:00 p.m. aboard the
Bark STAR OF INDIA, on the Orlop Deck.

MEMBERSHIP: Dues for Members of the San Diego Maritime Museum
and anyone living outside of San Diego County -
\$7.50. Non-Museum Members - \$15.00. After July
the dues are 1/2 for the remainder of the year.
