



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

P.O. BOX 6725, SAN DIEGO, CA. 92106

Volume 11, Number 3 March 1987

A CENTURY & ONE HALF ~ That's right: "150 years of Expertise"

TO BE SHARED
AT THE MARCH 20TH MEETING

Every member who has built a model
(ship or otherwise) is asked
to share at least one tip
they have found helpful in their modeling.

AND THAT MEANS YOU!!



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SHOW & TELL by Nilson



"SOME OF YOU SEEM TO THINK WE'RE HERE FOR THE FUN OF IT."



BY BILL KELLY-FLEMING

I needed these binoculars last week to determine the winner of an old fashioned merchant ship race. Two cargo ships were racing each other to see who got to one of our berths first. Both needed to use the same berth and it was "first come first served." The ALASKA RAINBOW was originally due first by a day from Vancouver with half a load, to pick up 10,000 tons of potash and then head to Japan. Meanwhile the VENTURE STAR was heading here to off-load fertilizer from northern Europe with additional cargo for other West Coast ports. Then the ALASKA RAINBOW hit a terrible storm off the Oregon coast and was slowed to only 2.7 knots for four hours. The projected times were for 0800 and 1200 on the same day, VENTURE STAR due first. Constant revisions were coming in. The looser

would have to wait at anchor for several days since rain the forecast and neither ship would be able to work her particular cargo in the rain. At 0900 I received a call that a ship was due to pick up the pilot at 1040. Since the last word I had indicated STAR was ahead, I expected her, but as I looked down the channel as she headed in I saw the stack markings were those of Tokai Shipping, and thus the ALASKA RAINBOW. She had come inside the Channel Islands, and pulled all the speed she could out of the engines. The Captain gave the engineers a case of beer for a job well done, and they were able to proceed without undue delay. The VENTURE STAR went on to Long Beach to offload part of her cargo and then sat at anchor off Coronado for two and a half days.

Not all has been as cheery though, in addition to the tragedy of the HERALD OF FREE ENTERPRISE capsizing, a Philippine freighter, BALSAM 24 capsized in a North Atlantic storm with the loss of all but a couple of her crew. One man was being rescued after over 20 hours in the water and lifeboat, only to be swept away by a huge wave when near the top of a 30 foot jacob's ladder.

Back on the local scene, a few developments have taken place. Three cruise ships are scheduled to make inaugural calls in San Diego this Spring, The new EXPLORER STARSHIP on May 5, the elegant SEA PRINCESS on May 23, and the schooner WIND SONG on her maiden voyage June 25. So far seven ships have announced plans for next season with others still in negotiation.

Chula Vista will be having special festivities at their marina park on April 11. I have been asked to provide a display of ship modeling. I could use three or four models for the exhibit to be set up very early that Saturday morning. If you would like to join in, especially some of you from the South Bay area, let me know.

From the South Bay Model Shipwrights comes this information: The style of lettering used on ships in the mid and late 1800's was called "Extended Roman." Do you know that you can obtain Extended Roman lettering in white dry transfer, along with striping in various colors from some graphics dealers. I have not checked out the San Diego places, but the resource mentioned by Jean Eckert does mail order. It is Clover House, P.O. Box 62, Sebastol, CA 95472. Send for their free catalog using a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Someone at the last meeting was asking about a rope walk. I see from the Scale Ship Modeler that just arrived that Model Expo is having a tool sale with a special deal on a new rope walk. Several other new tools especially for modelers are featured. Gregor Yapov is at it again. He stopped by the meeting of the Ship Model Society of Northern New Jersey just after everyone left with plans for the 'sidetrack steamer' RAMBLER 1902, Alameda; with the comment that he was preparing those plans for a model he is building for the San Diego Maritime Museum. Unfortunately most of the membership had drifted off to the Millburn Diner for malts and Strudel.

Meanwhile, a one Michael J. H. Swensen, a distant cousin of Gregor Yapov stopped by our museum the other day doing research for a sail powered submarine supposedly built in New London, Conn. around the turn of the century. This model is to tour the East Coast next Fall and be a special feature at meetings of the model clubs in the Northeast. He originally had been invited to be the feature speaker at the combined meetings in New London on April 11, 1987 with his current research being part of his keynote address: "Developing Plans of Historical Vessels of One Coast While living or Doing the research On the Opposite Coast." Unfortunately, his current research will go until May.

LOG of THE FEBRUARY MEETING

by Tim Petitt

The meeting began with the presentation of a beautiful book on sailing ships to Doug McFarland, last year's Guild Master. Doug was duly recognized for his services and dedication to our Guild, thanks again, Doug!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roger Smith graciously volunteered, oops! was graciously volunteered to serve as our Radio Officer. Registration of your radio frequencies will be the first order of business. Please see Roger for frequency list and sign up. The goal is to have everyone fly frequency flags and establish a clip-board system at the pond.

George Barber told of several events for the end of February and early in March.

The San Diego Argonauts are hosting a major national event, NAMBA "NATS" (national regatta) drawing more than 600 models, on July 16-25.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Crawford has requested that people interested in the April Static Show sign up as soon as possible. Please use the Entry Form from last month's newsletter or contact Bob or Bill K-F. Bob also need to indentify those interested in attending the sessions on model construction. These will be held the first week of the Static Show on April 18. Please sign up with Bob or Bill if interested.

The Guild is scontinuing to ask for volunteers to spend a few hours working in the Model Shop aboard the BERKELEY. The Model Shop tools and library are still available for use on the third Saturday each month. Contact Bob Crawford IN ADVANCE to gain access.

The Museum is looking for additional volunteers to build 1/4" to the foot models representing each major vessel class used to defend the America's Cup. Also as mentioned in the January newletter, multiple scale models of a "Sabot" or other dingy are needed. Please contact George Oliver or Bob Crawford if interested.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Guild is looking for volunteers to give technical presentations to the membership on various subjects. (See the list elsewhere in the newsletter.) Other suggestions for presentations are welcome, please contact Bill K-F.

LOG continued:

The San Diego Argonauts have requested help to maintain the pond at maximum fill level. This requires about three hours time during high tides 2-3 times per month. A few extra mates are needed for the rotation schedule.

Gordon Jones has asked for help locating plans and other details to build the PRESIDENT PIERCE, the same class as the 535' AMERICAN MAIL.

PRESENTATION:

Phil Mattson gave an excellent and very interesting talk on the history of the Whaleback Lake Freighter, also known as a "Pig Boat" because of its unusual construction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these unique vessels a quick check of our files reveals the following articles in model magazines on Whalebacks:

MODEL SHIP BUILDER

#7 - Sept/Oct 1980 "Era of Whalebacks" p 28

#12 - July/Aug 1981 "Whaleback JOHN ERICSSON" including plans p 44

SHIPS IN SCALE

#2 - p 22

#3 - p 30

#5 - p 5 "Passenger Whaleback CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

MIKE RIVERA - brought his super mini 1/87 scale steam boat made from a whaleboat off the Blue Devil kit and an HO boiler.

LOUIS JOHNSON - nicely detailed model of the 1/25 scale Norwegian OSEBERG circa 800 A.D. The original was recovered from the mud in 1904 near the town of Oseberg. This was Lou's first attempt from a Billings kit, great job.

PHIL MATSON - brought a scratch built 1/8"=1' model of the JOHN ERICSSON a whaleback Lake Freighter. Phil's model is an excellent example made from a solid wood hull with brass details. The first of its type was launched in 1896 in Superior, Wisconsin, and was used for hauling grain and ore. The vessel was recognizable by its very round submarine-type hull.

DOUG (this was a first timer and we missed his last name, we'll try and get it at the next meeting.) Came with his first attempt of an R/C plastic tug. 90% complete, Doug has shown what kit bashing can do by adding interior wheelhouse and deck details. This boat also can be easily converted into a fishing trawler.

Model
Ship
Shows

THE SAGA
Tells
us
SHOW

RUSS LLOYD - brought his Dynamic Models glass hull of 1101 Sub Chaser, with running gear and bulkheads partially installed.

DOUG SMAY - architect's model of the San Diego Naval Hospital and grounds. Doug built this beautiful display model for San Diego Veterans Council and their efforts to save this site as a memorial for vets. Doug suggested that we propose a fresh water pond be included as part of the site restoration.

JOHN MCDERMOTT - USS San Diego, about 30% complete. It is a scratch built POF display model in 1/192 scale. John has cast the turrets in epoxy and used a variety of other materials in this construction.

ROGER SMITH - brought his very authentic 1/96 scale scratch built R/C model of the USS PAUL JONES. Roger's representation of the DD230 is as it was in early 1942. The ship, commissioned in 1942 was built by W. Cramp & Sons and served with the Asiatic fleet with three other antiquated flush deckers. These ships distinguished themselves by destroying many Japanese merchant ships at Balickpapan Harbor while under the protection of 15 Japanese warships.

BILL PAYLOR - returned with his completed 1/300 model of the schooner HANNA built from the Amrti kit. At last report Bill was preparing to launch the HANNA into a bottle, but unfortunately the bottle broke. Members of our crew immediately volunteered to empty as many bottles as Bill may need.

TOM WELLS - showed off his very nice POF kit model of the SWIFT, an 1805 Virginia pilot boat. The original type was used by the British Navy. The SWIFT type was later used as the basis for larger vessels known as Baltimore clippers. Tom used lemon wood and walnut in construction, designing custom clamps for planking and decking.

ROYCE PRIVETT - CONSTITUTION cross-section on 1/8" scale. The model is 30% complete and is made from walnut, limewood and mahogany. Royce is adding realism by making hull plates from copper foil used for stained glass, which include the rivet detail. Beautiful job!

HERMAN BOEHME - had two models; the first was a paper kit of Jules Verne's airship conceived in 1886. The kit from Europe contained over 700 parts, including 76 propellers. His second model was an in progress POF hull of the 1840 vintage ALBATROSS sailing ship.

DOUG MCFARLAND - HOTSPUR is gaining more rigging each time we see her. Doug is continuing to install ratlines on his beautiful 1/60 20 gun sloop of war.

MODEL YACHT POND

RADIO OFFICER

Roger Smith has agreed to serve as our radio officer and will keep a roster of frequencies. Please register the frequencies you have with Roger when you are at the pond, at our next meeting, or send it to him at 3141E Via Alicante Dr., La Jolla, CA 92037. FREQUENCY CLIPS will soon be in use ON SATURDAY MORNINGS.

HELP NEEDED TO KEEP THE POND FILLED

As Bob Cornell reported, the person who used to take the responsibility of keeping the pond filled is no longer able to do this important task. Volunteers are needed to take a shift of opening the valve one hour before to two hours after the highest tides, two or three times a month. Please see Bob or call him (/redacted/) if you can help.

REPRESENTATIVE TO ARGONAUTS NEEDED

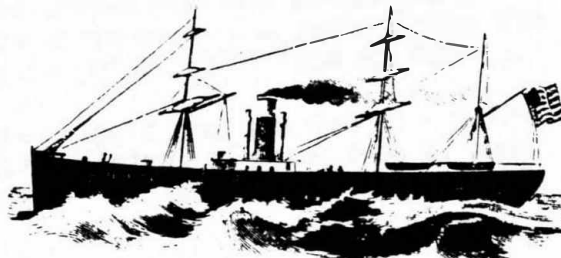
One of our members, preferably one of our R/C modelers, is needed to serve as liaison to the ARGONAUTS. We have no right to gripe about schedules or pond use if no one is willing to attend meetings on our behalf. As Master, Bill K-F could serve this position, but not being an R/C modeler, he feels someone else could better serve the interests of those who use the pond.

1987 SCHEDULE IS FINALLY AVAILABLE

GENERAL NOTE: Traditionally, the pond has been used by SAIL boaters on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday afternoons, by POWER boaters on Thursday afternoons and on Sundays, and by SCALE boaters on Saturday mornings. While this is not strictly designated, it is traditional. Please try, when possible, to adhere to these days and times. It is hoped that all boaters will continue to display the high degree of courteousness and cooperation which have been present in the past.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE ABOVE SCHEDULE occur when special regattas are scheduled with the Argonauts. The 1987 Regatta Schedule is as follows (Saturday mornings involved are underlined):

MARCH 21 & 22 District Heat Race
APRIL 25 & 26 Spring Sail Regatta
MAY 23 & 24 District outboard Series
JUNE 20 & 21 SMG Steam & Electric Scale Regatta
JULY 11 & 12 Summer Sail Regatta
JULY 18, 19-24, 25 NAMBA Nationals, power
AUGUST 8 & 9 ACCR
SEPTEMBER 5, 6 & 7 District Heat, SO. CA scale thunderboat
SEPTEMBER 19 So. Ca, scale Thunderboat race
OCTOBER 24 & 25 Fall Sail Regatta
DECEMBER 5 & 6 SCRS #4 (Sail)



THE WHITE METAL DETERIORATA MYSTERY

An article in the Ship Modelers Association Newsletter was quickly followed by comments from members of the Ship Model Society in Northern New Jersey. We present both along with observations made at our museum and recent research brought to our attention.

White Metal Castings Used in Ship Model Kit Construction by Don Dressel

At the December meeting of the Ship Modelers Association I brought my model of the Mamoli kit of the Yacht Mary that I had built several years ago. The purpose in bringing this model in was to show what happened to the metal figures on the model - they were oxidizing away!

I have built other models using the white metal. I have always used Floquil metal primer paint on the white metal part before painting it the proper color. All my models are put into cases when completed. Apparently, some of the white metal fittings oxidize (the Yacht Mary) while other models with white metal have not (my model of the Sultana). In both cases the two models are in cases made the same way.

Upon throwing this out to the membership at the meeting, one member came up with the possibility that paint with metal in it such as gold paint will react with the white metal and make it oxidize. Upon close inspection of the Yacht Mary's figurehead, it appears that this may be true. The part of the figurehead that is painted white appears to be fine, while the unicorn on top of the figure's head, which is painted gold is oxidizing!

It also appears that the white metal parts which were treated by the manufacturer in gold are OK, while the white metal parts where the gold came off and were subsequently painted with the metal primer and then gold paint are now oxidizing!

My only suggestion in solving this problem at this point with the kits which have white metal parts (Mamoli, Euro, Model Shipways, Corel, etc) is not to use gold paint or any paint with metal pigments in it. The model of the Friesland by Mamoli which I have recently completed appears to be fine, but I used gold leaf on it, not gold paint.

The task which lies before me now is to repair the Yacht Mary and try to stop the oxidation process which is taking place. One problem with my theory - the black pintals are also oxidizing! Any further comments on this subject and/or suggestions as to how to deal with it will be welcome. For the purist, and those who do not wish to take chances, simply do not use white metal on your models. If it comes in the kit, substitute it with wood or some other medium.

I hope I have started something.

Michael Heinrich of SMS of NNJ picked up on this article and after a quick summary he added the following comments.

"Jim Roberts cites complaints about worn or scratched plated fittings that indicate the same problem. Okay, if we assume an electrolytic reaction at the point of contact or breach between two metals, this makes sense; now, Don says that certain white-metal fittings that he had gold-leafed are still intact -- could gold leaf be more noble? Tell us, Don, were the gold-leafed pieces primed differently, and what did you use as sizing for the gold leaf? Anybody else have a comment?"

This problem is not new to those of us in San Diego. Bill Benson used to advise us of the problems and some ways of avoiding the mysterious problem. At the Museum we have several models with the problem, notably a few of the tuna boats and certain fittings on Al's MISSOURI. All of the problems seem to be in glass cases and with fittings with any amount of lead in the alloy.

Recently an article was brought to Bob Crawford's attention. It came from a journal for museum curators and discussed a problem of lead artifacts which after centuries of existence started oxidizing when placed in a museum case. Fairly extensive scientific research revealed a probable culprit of formaldehyde in the case's atmosphere. The source appears to be from the glues used in laminating plywood! Newer cases with wood still releasing fumes may be a factor.

The mystery continues, but with a few more clues. More as it becomes available.

MASTER'S MESSAGE

OUR NEXT MEETING

Recently I have had several of our Guild members tell of a technique they have used which proved very helpful in their work, often just after I did the procedure wrong! From makin jigs, to proper tools, to what wood works best, not mixing paint brands, etc. None of these seem to warrant a full presentation although a few could be part of a program. With all our new modelers, all of these tips would be very helpful, and us old sea dogs can still learn a few new tricks. At any meeting we have at least 150 years of combined experience present. Therefore, as Master, I am giving an order for all hands who have ever built a scale model to bring along at least one tip that can be shared in a minute or two (if longer, sign up for a presentation!). Visual aides are welcomed and encouraged. Please write a few sentences on your tip so we can add it to our newsletter.

I have several future programs lined up;

- MARCH "150 Years of Expertise"
- APRIL "Basic Principle of R/C" -Dan LePage
- JUNE "Silver and Soft Solderong" -Bob Cornell
- JULY 16th Birtday Party
- SEPTEMBER "What Museums Look FOR in a MOdel" -Dave Brierly, Curator, Maritime Museum

dates to be confirmed:

- "Lift Method of Hull Construction" Bob Crawford
- "Award Winning Finishes"

In addition to a great overall meeting last month, it was a real pleasure to welcome two members of far away clubs, Bob Wormold from Briish Columbia, Canada and Robert Nobel of the U.S.S. CONSTITUTION Model Shipwright Guild in Boston. A special WELL DONE to everyone who brought one of the 15 models or tools or books at show and tell last month. I felt all the models shown were superbly done.

Another WELL DONE to Tim Pettit for another excellent job of taking notes. Aurora especially thanks you, she can even read them!, (More than I can say about my handriting, right ROY?!!)

If you plan to bring a model, why not fill this out before you come. And, do bring a model, since that is what our Guild is all about.

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODEL GUILD
SHOW AND TELL

MEETING of March 20, 1987

Please provide as much information as you can. This is used in our newsletter under the Show and Tell section.

Vessel Name _____ Type _____
 Scale _____ and/or length overall _____
 Builder's Name _____
 Kit _____ Scratch _____ Solid Hull _____ Plank Hull _____
 Materials Used _____
 Display Model _____ Radio Control _____
 Degree of Completion _____
 Notes on Original Vessel (date launched, size, where built, type of use, interesting points in history, etc.) _____

 Comments on Model (challenges presented, how problems overcome, most recent phase of construction) _____

Flotsam and Jetsam

- Butch Harris is getting ready to sail for the Near East in April. He donated a number of ship model magazines to the Guild. Thanks, Butch, and have a safe journey.
- The Maritime Museum Membership Program this month will be held on Wednesday, March 25 - aboard Ferryboat BERKELEY. It is on AMERICA'S CUP CHALLENGE 1987. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Members and guests are free. The public gets in for \$1.00. At 7:00 p.m. there will be coffee and cookies.
- PLEASE check you mailing label -- is it correct?

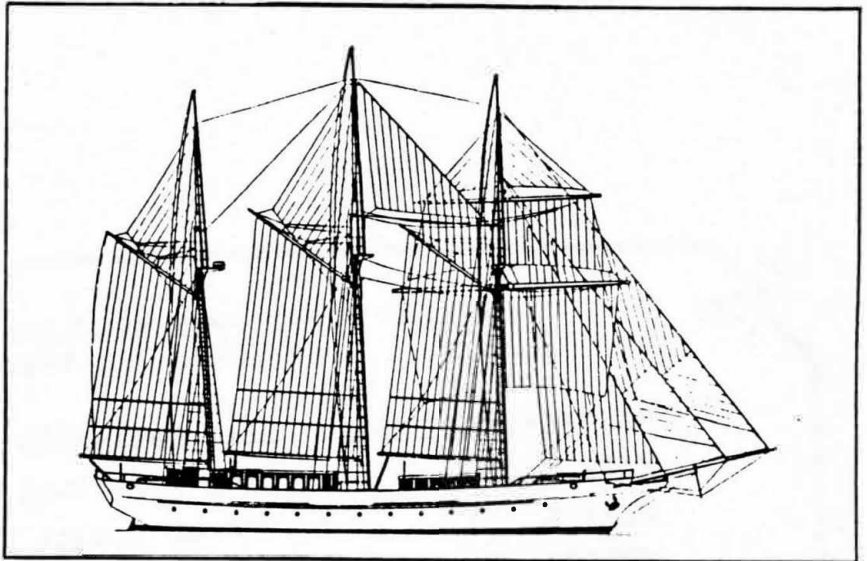
We have just reactivated our computerized mailing list with our updated roster. Hopefully, all is correct--but, we know how things go with this crew!!!

Let Bill K-F know (IN WRITING!!!) of any chnages or corrections.

- DO WE HAVE YOUR NAME TAG? Bill K-F has tags for: JOHN BRODA
RICHARD MCCARTHY
RICK MEDLEY
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM

MEDICAL SCHOONER

Recently, San Diego has seen a short visit by the ANASTASIS, a medical mission ship, and at NASCO the USN Hospital Ship MERCY underwent conversion from tanker to her present configuration. Both of these vessels do very different kinds of medical and relief work. Now, word comes by way of Gordon Jones of yet another medical ship on the ways at Whidbey Island in Washington state. She is a 150' hulled schooner to be owned and operated by the



government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This \$2.4 million project is being financed by the Mari-Med Foundation in Hawaii.

The foundation director and his doctor wife began this project after a five year sailing trip in Micronesia where they wotness first hand the poor health care and conditions in the islands. This is what they decided to do. The TOLE MOUR is the result of their efforts. TOLE MOUR means "leading to wellness." Her crew of 12 plus a dozen medical personnel and complete medical facilities will, when she undertakes her work, lead many Micronesian Islanders to wellness.

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD
BILL KELLY-FLEMING
/redacted/



SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD
OFFICERS FOR 1987

MASTER- LOGKEEPER	Bill Kelly-Fleming	/redacted/
MATE	Doug McFarland	/redacted/
PURSER	Herman Boehme	/redacted/
EDITOR	Aurora Joan Selenian	/redacted/
STEERING COMMITTEE	Al L'Heureux	/redacted/
	Fred Fraas	/redacted/
MEETINGS:	3 rd Friday of each month, 8:00 P.M. aboard the bark STAR OF INDIA on the Orlop Deck.	
MEMBERSHIP:	Dues are \$10.00 yearly. After July the dues are $\frac{1}{2}$ for the rest of the year. We highly encourage all to join the S.D. Maritime Museum.	