



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1306 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

NOVEMBER, 1993 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 17, NUMBER 11

## NAMES ARE SHIPS

Names! The lure in names of places  
 Stirring thoughts of foreign faces,  
 Ports and palaces and steamers.  
 Names are ships to carry dreamers.

Pago-pago, Suva, Java,  
 Languor, lotuses and lava,

Everything a dreamer wishes,  
 Buried treasure, flying fishes,  
 Cocoanuts and kings and corals,  
 Pirates, pearls and pagan morals,  
 Rum and reefs and Christian teaching,  
 Gin, and jungle parrots screeching.

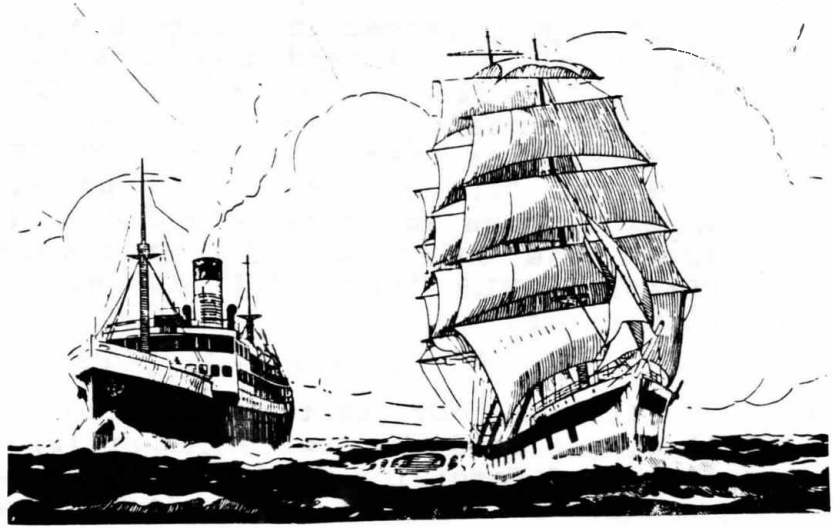
Kobe, Nikko, Yokohama,  
 Views of sacred Fujiyama,

Bales of silk and bowls of lacquer,  
 Dragons on a sugar cracker,  
 Temples high on pictured mountains,  
 Purple gold-fish, perfume fountains,  
 Amber, obis, geisha dances,  
 Almond eyes and slanted glances.

Sailing ship and ocean liner  
 Bringing stuff from Asia Minor,

Ferry boat or lazy freighter,  
 Folks from China or Decatur,  
 Mozambique or Madagascar,  
 Slav or Serb or savage Lascar,  
 Barber, Berber or Brazilian  
 Clad in blue or bright vermilion.

Fascinating names of places  
 Stirring thoughts of foreign faces,  
 Ports and palaces and steamers,  
 Names are ships to carry dreamers.



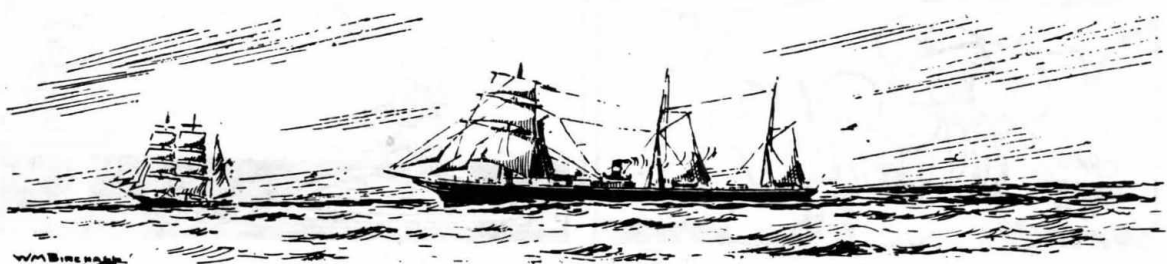
From VAGABOND'S HOUSE BY DON BLANDING

"We're all going to  
 the next Club Meeting  
 on the 18th. Join us!"



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
NOVEMBER						
	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	29	30				

We just learned recently that the replica of Captain Robert Gray's  
 brig LADY WASHINGTON will be here in January. She's well worth  
 seeing.



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK:

In the May 1993 Newsletter, Guild Master Bob Crawford wrote an open letter to all members. While he discussed several topics and thanked several people, he also issued an appeal for some missing items from the model shop, as follows:

Finally, I regret to inform everyone, but we may have a thief in the model shop aboard the BERKELEY. Presently we are missing a variety of items, from a binder containing a wealth of Floating Drydock catalogs, newsletters and informational pamphlets, to books such as Charles Davis's "The Built up Ship Model" and a book from the "Anatomy of the Ship" series, "~~Christopher Columbus's~~ \* ~~ships~~". These are very valuable to all us and I hope I am mistaken about the thief and the materials have simply wandered off. PLEASE-NOHING LEAVES THE SHOP without having been checked out and signed for.

*\* Returned by press time Ed.*

It seems obvious to your editor that whoever took these items (1) didn't read the newsletter or (2) chose to ignore Bob's very polite and forgiving appeal or (3) developed a case of "convenient amnesia." In any case, these items have not been returned some six months later. Those of us who know we did not take these items are MAD AS HELL at those individuals who did.

Since these materials pertain to both period modelers and static/R.C. naval vessels, nearly all members are effected by this loss. Those who use these books on a very frequent basis have expressed particular anger at this gross display of inconsideration shown to all members. Besides the two period items listed above, Petrejus's "Modeling The Brig Irene" has also not been returned. The Floating Drydock black 3 ring notebook included Ordnance Pamphlets, camouflage schemes etc. very difficult if not impossible to replace.

Our club was founded on a principal of "SHARING." These missing items were donated as an act of kindness by generous members who believed in and "shared" this ideal.

So much for axe-grinding. Please check your book shelves or shop area if you are unsure you didn't inadvertently take these books. To preclude any undue embarrassment, I have a face-saving suggestion. These items can be returned with no questions asked by dropping them off on the Berkeley any evening or weekend (when the model shop is closed.) Simply place it/them in a brown paper bag and mark the outside to the attention of Bob Crawford, Ship Model Shop. The gift shop operator/ticket seller would be glad to see it gets to Bob.

Anyone else have a better idea??? More or this next month... either good or bad...

**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** by DIK BROWNE Submitted by founding member Bob Wright



identical model as yours but it should be the same make and size. Admittedly, your taking a chance as to its condition and the cause of the failure if it's not working. At a recent swap meet I found several servos the were mechanically abused but the boards and the motors were OK. For six dollars I repaired three servos that had died.

The critical thing to keep in mind is the arrangement and lead of the (usually) six wires emanating from the PC board. The replacement must be installed exactly the same way. Necessary tools are a small point soldering iron (not transformer type) and some fine gage rosin core solder. Do a sloppy soldering job and you've only blown 2-3 dollars. If the problem is a suspected motor it can be tested by removing the two wires and testing it with a four volt DC power source. If it's bad, replace it with one from your swap meet cache. If all that sounds like it's beyond your soldering skills all you need is \$20-\$35 for a shiney new servo. If you havn't used them try one of the generic imports. They've served me well for most applications.



Courtesy Mike Rivera

**QUICK TIP**

From *American Woodworker*, April 1993, reprinted with permission.

**Fast Steamer**

When steaming small pieces of wood for models, I just stick a piece of PVC pipe, 10 or 15 in. long, into the spout of an electric kettle. You have steam, and plenty of it, in minutes. Tie a length of string to the end of the stock so you don't burn your fingers getting it out. Also, be careful not to let the water level get too low or you'll fry the heating element.

Guy Bush  
Nova Scotia, Canada

**FRED LO... Sailmaker**  
...5 HARBOR BLVD., COSTA MESA, CALIF., Phone Beacon 6077

**SAN DIEGO**

**KEN BEYNARD**  
*Sailmaker*  
12 B STREET PIER SAN DIEGO 1, CALIF.

*Herbert Sinnaker*  
Racing a...

A sailmaker's ad in the Feb., 1951 issue of SEA MAGAZINE features a well-known personage.

## CHULA VISTA HARBOR DAYS

submitted by Club Member Doug McFarland

The Chula Vista Harbor Days celebration September 18 at the Chula Vista Marina was a tremendous success. At the invitation of John Andrews, Harbormaster, the Guild and the San Diego Argonauts were invited to participate in the festivities. Jim Hawkins, Roy Norton, Bob "Essex" O'Brien and Doug McFarland represented the Guild displaying models and answering questions from the thousands of visitors. Bob Cornell did double duty representing both the Guild and the Argonauts' schooner division.

The star of the show was Bob O'Brien's incredible 9 ft radio controlled model of the aircraft carrier USS Essex. Numerous people stopped by the booth who had served aboard a carrier or new someone who had been stationed on the prototype Essex. Due to the relative inaccessibility of the water, Bob was unable to run "Essex" but he still amazed the spectators with the realistic appearance of the ship and the operating elevator (until the radio battery died).

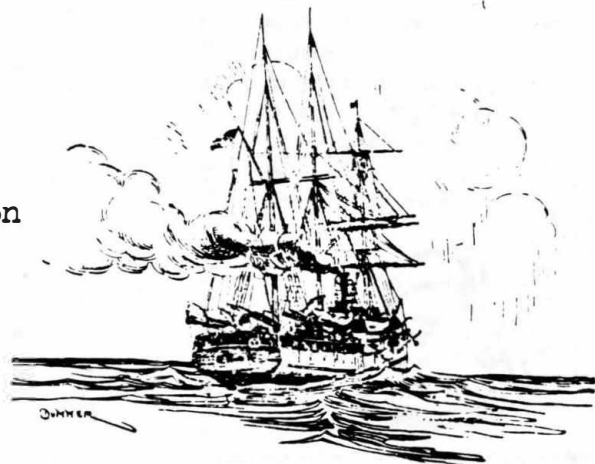
Jim Hawkins displayed his under-construction RC cruiser "Chicago" and Doug McFarland brought the eternally unfinished "Norske Love" and his wishbone gaff-rigged schooner "Incentive" which he ACTUALLY SAILED. When teamed up with Bob DeBow's schooner "America" it gave the public a spectacular view of what RC sailing is all about. Out of the water "Incentive" entertained passers-by with its now-you-see-it-now-you-don't retractable auxilliary drive motor.

In addition to Bob Cornell and Bob DeBow, the Argonauts were represented by Pete Jefferson, Rocky Gallo, Steve Andre and Dick Davis. The team put on an excellent show of how the racing aspect of RC sailing works with a number of heats for which points were awarded and a trophy being given to the winner.

Unfortunately, the Marina was unable to provide the access ramp to the water's edge so not all of the models were able to be operated; however, the tide peaked at about 11:30 AM so those who were able to wet their bottoms had plenty of time to sail before the "pond" turned into a sand bar. The Marina made up for the lack of the ramp by graciously supplying a boat to allow placement of bouys marking the racing course.

Overall, the day was very enjoyable, the weather cooperated beautifully and the public appeared to thoroughly appreciate the presentation. Many thanks to the participants and may their servos remain forever dry.

Steam barkentine BEAR on  
Bering Sea Patrol.



Guild Master Bob Crawford opened the meeting with a welcome for the 17 members present. A summary of the October 19 Steering Committee meeting included the following program schedule:

November 18th: An open forum on those not-so-secret tips and ideas.

December 13: Christmas party & cocktail and dinner party on the Star. Jim Hawkins was nominated "Chef" and needs suggestions for the menu as well as a list of volunteer setter-uppers and cleaner-uppers.

January 27: Gordon Jones is scheduled to lead a discussion on the nuances of tool sharpening. If you can't snave with your plane blade you need help.

ALSO: This is the night to nominate your choice for 1994 Guild officers.

February 24: A program on wood finishing, probably chaired by Henry Wenc.

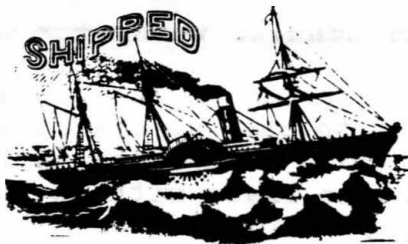
March 24: With Doug McFarland officiating we can learn about how to hook up all those wires in your model.

ALSO: Election of those nominees tagged in February.

In the on-deck circle: programs on Ancient Mariners and Reading the Flags.

Treasurer Ed White reports a balance of \$/redacted/. When the remaining T-shirts are sold (at the now bargain price of \$10.00 each) the kitty will be fatter. NOTE: all shirts are "LARGE" size.

For those who have dunked their radio receiver or servos in the salt lick Bob Cornell gave some hints on salvage and/or repair procedures. Included were ideas for getting repair parts at the periodic swap meets for mini bucks.



*Bob Cornell  
Recording Secretary*

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**ANOTHER YEAR  
HAS PASSED AND  
WE ARE  
SAFE AND SOUND**

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING from  
everyone in the Model Club!!

The following are notes from a talk given by Bob Cornell at the October 21st. meeting. Thanks, Bob, for the fine job.

Salt Water V. Radios  
Bob Cornell

Anyone who has operated their model boat on the San Diego pond probably has had some electronic problems. The pond's water is salty, the same as the ocean, and salt is famous for causing corrosion and electrical problems. A minuscule coating of damp salt water is essentially a short circuit.

Luckily, there are some things that will minimize or eliminate such problems. Further, if a radio component does get exposed to salt water it can usually be salvaged if proper and prompt action is taken. Notwithstanding this, the best remedy is prevention by protecting the components. Those who operate racing power boats take great care to completely enclose the radio and batteries. This is no easy matter and the failure rate is high.

Those who operate non-racing model boats have an easier task. Here are some things that can be done without resort to a water tight radio box. The simplest one is to provide an elastic bag or cover for the receiver. This can take the form of a balloon or (don't laugh) a condom. Either should be tied at the neck with a tightly wrapped rubber band or a small nylon tie wrap. The battery pack is not as vulnerable so simply dipping the pack in hot paraffin or the commercial plastic coating used for tool handles works for me.

What if you've really soaked the receiver or servos in salt water, or any water for that matter? Step one is to open up the component housing promptly and rinse it with water from the drinking fountain. Although some folks do it, I take issue with the use of oils such as WD40. The objective is to get rid of the salt water and replace it with fresh water which is essentially non-conductive. Next, if you have some alcohol handy flush the component with that. This will absorb water and promote drying, the next step.

For either receiver or servo: When you get home, again wash the PC board with fresh water with a little added Tide and scrub the back of the board with a tooth brush. Put the board on a window sill in the sun and let it dry for a day. If you have a convection oven put the board in it and run for an hour or so at 150 degrees. NEVER, NEVER use a micro-wave oven. It will instantly ruin the component, be it receiver or servo. If the servo or receiver, doesn't respond and act normal after the above treatment you have another problem.

A servo may be salvaged by obtaining a replacement circuit board. This is usually not economical if you send it to a Futaba or Airtronics' service facility. Assuming that the servo is a "standard" or common model your salvation is a swap meet such as is held by the San Diego Association of Model Clubs from time to time. Hobby shops such as Hobby City sponsor them, too. There, you can find used servos for a couple bucks. It does not have to be the



## Smithsonian Plans

There are two catalogs available from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. These two books each contain a list of ship plans which can be purchased from the Smithsonian.

The first is a plan list from the Maritime Collection which can be obtained by sending \$10 to: Ship Plans, Division of Transportation, NMAH 5010/MRC 628, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

The second is a plan list from the Smithsonian Collection of Warship Plans. The cost for this catalog is \$6. Mail to: Naval Section, Division of Armed Forces History, NMAH 4011/MRC 620, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

Catalogs are shipped postage paid. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to the Smithsonian Institute. For those persons seeking a more detailed description of these catalogs and the plans that can be purchased through them, the May/June issue of Seaways/Ships-In-Scale has an article written by Paul F. Johnston who is currently the Curator of Maritime History at the National Museum of History at the Smithsonian Institution. Ω

From VCM Model Guild, 2731 S. Victoria Ave.  
OXNARD, CA, 93035, May '93 issue.



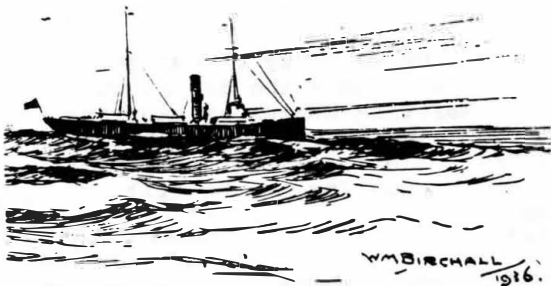
Whitney's Hand Drill in Box, per set, \$1.00.

Circa 1890  
Advertisement  
For Jeweler's  
Drill Set.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

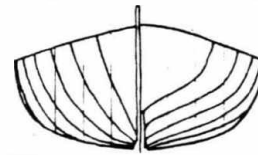
To Phillip Matson for his being elected

MODELER OF THE QUARTER !!!



## PLANS, ANYONE?

PLANS, ANYONE? Bob Wright calls our attention to the fine list of ship plans from the Historic Documents Dept. of the San Francisco Maritime Nat'l Historical Park. Call Erica S. Poland, Ass't. Archivist, at /redacted/. The list covers sailing vessels, tankers, ferries, steamships, patrol boats and even barges, but not to forget tuna vessels and tugboats.

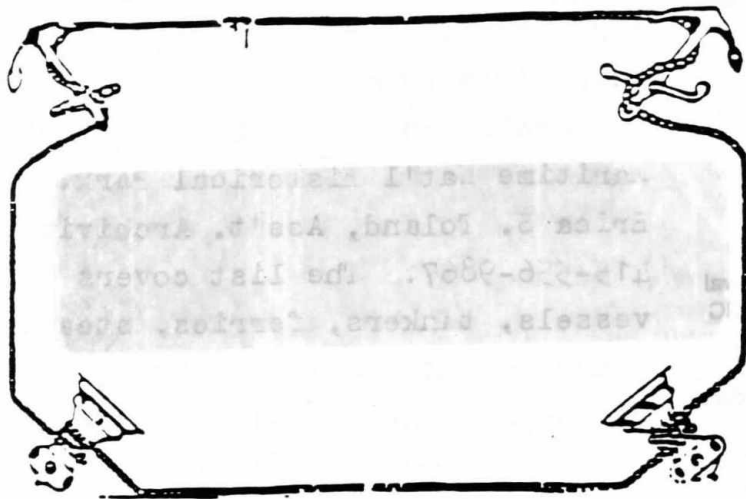


Oftentimes, first-timers ask what basic tools are required to begin ship-modeling. Here is the list of tools suggested by the Neophyte Shipmodeler's Jackstay. There are other items, such as crochet hooks and small-toothed back saws which can be added later.

List from VCM Model Guild Log of Sept., '93.

- Chisels - 1/8", 3/8" and 1" widths (approx.). Keep razor sharp.
- Dividers - with 2-3" span.
- Scale rule - steel, 6".
- Scriber - used also as an awl, hole punch, etc.
- Small plane - 1" blade.
- Pin vise - Lightweight to take the smallest drills ranging from 1/16" down to No. 75.
- Pliers - needle nose and flat jaw, 4 or 5 inches long.
- Tweezers.
- Manicure scissors - for rigging work.
- Jewelers saw and blades.
- Spring clothes pins.
- Jewelers hammer.
- Hand drill.
- Knives - X-Acto type with assorted blades.
- Small C-clamps - 1 or 2" throats.
- Magnifying glasses - for making delicate parts.
- Small files - assorted shapes.

Again, there are sure to be other items that will help out and some others that might be necessary



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild /redacted/  
c/o Maritime Museum Assoc. of SD

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild  
Officers for 1993

Master  
First Mate  
Purser  
Logkeeper/Secretary  
Newsletter Editors

Bob Crawford /redacted/  
Jim Hawkins /redacted/  
Ed White /redacted/  
Bob Cornell /redacted/  
Fred Fraas /redacted/  
Gordon Jones /redacted/  
Bob Wright /redacted/  
Ed White /redacted/  
Bob O'Brien /redacted/  
Jim Hawkins /redacted/

Steering Committee

Regatta Commodore

Schedule of Activities:

Membership:

Meetings --Third Thursday of the month  
7:00PM Social; 07:30PM Meeting

Dues are \$15 annually  
(\$7.50 after July 1st)

Static Workshops -- (discontinued)

R/C Operations --Saturday mornings at the  
Model Yacht Pond. (Mission Bay)

We strongly encourage  
all to join the San Diego  
Maritime Museum as express-  
ion of appreciation for  
the facilities they provide  
for our benefit.

Annual Regatta-- Third weekend in June  
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