



San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1306 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

JULY, 1997 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 21, NUMBER 7

This month's meeting will be "PARTY TIME", held, hopefully, on the main deck of the STAR OF INDIA in fine weather. Should that vessel be otherwise employed, trudge next door to the BERKELEY and see if you can find us. Remember, gatherings are no longer on Thursday, but WEDNESDAY! The bar is courtesy of the club, but the food this year is whatever you wish to bring for yourself and guests. Pick out a spare spar or whatever to sit on and munch away. Bring stories to tell--even pictures, if they are suitable for mixed company.

THE DATE? Wednesday, July 16



THE LAST MEETING, held on Wed., June 18th, aboard the STAR, had 19 attendees, all ripe for the swap/sale/give-away meet. Purser Ed White shamed Guild-Master Tom Taylor into proceedings being started early (it was only 6:57 Ed!), consequently after a very short business meeting the tables were opened for bartering. Mr. White had brought some very clever, small metal clips for holding parts together while glueing. These were offered "free" to the masses and they did not last. Items for sale ran from film carousels to plans to plastic kits to solid wood-hulled types. The top-priced item was a metal lathe at \$400. Some items were sold, others were not. Some kits went also, their new owners full of determination to show that they would not keep the item around for years: no, they would get busy and complete the project as it should be! Small parts went fairly well. In short, everything was carted off the ship, some of it with new owners.

Jack Klein passed out the passes to attend the Del Mar Fair to volunteers who were to man our booth there. All went very well, and Jack's report will be published next month. Cont'd. next page.



Cont'd...last meeting.

The swap meet was brisk and members got around the tables making inquiries and meeting the two or three new people who showed for this event.

At 7:50 Guild Master Taylor announced that for those interested a 90-minute audio-visual tape would be played in the after cabin on the main deck. It was about soldering, both lead and silver, and explained the processes, the gases used and the equipment necessary to make a neat and useful joint. Half the program was shown only because of the hour. The August meeting will feature the last half of this very interesting and informative tape. Thanks Tom! Meeting adjourned.



"KC" EDWARDS with his current project, a model of the New York pilot schooner "PHANTOM", DESIGNED BY DENNISON LAWLER. It is offered as a kit from Model Shipways. **WEST COAST MODEL SHIPS**

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Story on Page 3, Cont'd.



Jack Klein is shown at the Del-Mar Fair in July, spreading the Gospel about ship-model building to youngsters. Our club owes much to Jack for faithfully promoting the hobby and organizing various projects whenever he is called upon. At this time, he was affixing lanyards to gunports to his Continental frigate "RALEIGH".

James Craig Relaunching a Milestone in her Long History

One hundred twenty-three years after her 1874 Sunderland UK launching, the three-masted bark *James Craig* was relaunched on 23 February, after a hull restoration that involved the labor of 1500 Sydney Maritime Museum members and staff over the last 25 years. New South Wales Premier, the Hon. Bob Carr, officiated at the relaunching from Garden Island Graving Dock.

In her heyday, the *James Craig* sailed around Cape Horn 23 times and circumnavigated the globe more than a dozen times. She saw most of her service on the busy trade between New York, New Zealand and Australia, carrying kerosene and manufactured goods south, returning with flax, kauri gum and wool.

The mammoth task of restoring her has required the replacement of 400 steel plates, more than 50,000 rivets, a kilometer of new deck planking, and the repair and replacement of more than 180 frames. The final tasks of rerigging and refitting below decks has now begun and the museum hopes to have her fully operational by early next century. (SMM, 6 Mansfield Street, PO Box 431, Rozelle NSW 2039, Australia; (02) 810 2299, FAX: (02) 810 1756)

The museum's 1902 steam tug Waratah tows the James Craig to Rozelle Bay after her relaunching.



JAMES CRAIG news
from SEA HISTORY
GAZETTE.

K.C. EDWARDS--our own "QUIET MAN".

He might appear to be asleep, or utterly relaxed in an easy chair, with no particular purpose in mind. Perhaps he doesn't have a great deal to say; he certainly never "blows his own horn", as the saying used to go.

But be not fooled by all of the above; "KC" is a man of action and his suave exterior hides a mind that "is always thinking". But even that gives us no hint that KC spent four years in the U. S. Navy on the diesel fleet boat GUPPY from the years 1965 thru 1968.

At age 20, while in the service, Edwards built his first ship model, a scratch-built navy whaleboat such as those 26, 28 and 30-ft. varieties so common, seen about any navy port. His second was of a Ted Brewer-designed sloop, the NANI-KAI. In the late 70's he read a description of the hard-drinking Irishman, Matt Talbot, in Eric Hiscock's book. That particular fictional character needs but one more miracle to become a Saint. Billboards carried the plea, "Pray for Matt Talbot", and KC selected that name for one of his models.

After the service KC worked for the telephone company and learned just about everything there was to know about his particular type of job. After 23 years, however, technology abruptly changed the old ways and introduced new methods, skills...and people. Along with many others, KC was dropped from the payroll suddenly and that's when he decided to satisfy his earning to be in the hobby business.

We are fortunate to have this man of experience with us. Now that this man is in the limelight, talk to him about your shipmodel problems. He'll have some good advice for you--and will never try to "hard sell" you on buying parts from his shop.



"KC" Edwards at work in his ship model parts dig.

Revolutionary War boat found

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ■ TUESDAY, JULY 1 1997

Vessel was member of fleet commanded by Benedict Arnold

By David Gram
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FERRISBURGH, Vt. — A Revolutionary War gunboat that was part of a fleet commanded by Benedict Arnold before he turned traitor has been found sitting upright at the bottom of Lake Champlain, astonishingly well-preserved by the cold, deep water for the past 220 years.

The wooden vessel, which was either abandoned or scuttled by retreating American forces after a losing 1776 battle against the British, was found by a team scanning the lake for wrecks before they become encrusted by a new invader, the tiny zebra mussel.

The 54-foot vessel, whose name is not yet known, is largely intact, its mast still standing over 50 feet high and its large bow cannon still in place, said Art Cohn, director of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

"This could prove to be the most significant maritime discovery in American history in the last half-century," said Philip Lundeberg, curator emeritus of naval history at the Smithsonian Institution's American History Museum. "The apparently excellent condition of the gunboat is highly unusual for an artifact this old and is one of the reasons the discovery is so significant."

No decision has been made yet on whether to raise the ship. Its exact location and depth in the 115-mile-long lake between New York and Vermont were not released.

The lake's cold water, up to 400 feet deep, is credited with preserving a number of wrecks that have been found there in recent years.

Only four of the 15 boats commanded by Arnold survived the Battle of Valcour Island on the lake and its aftermath in October 1776. One other member of the fleet, the Philadelphia, was raised in 1935 and now sits in the Smithsonian in Washington.

Cohn, lake historian Peter Barranco and others were scanning a section of the lake in early June when a long-sought image appeared on the sonar screen.

There was a mast, intact but for a small piece broken off the top. There was a nearly two-ton bow gun. And it was a nearly exact copy of the Philadelphia.

Cohn said that when he went down on the first dive to the ship, "there was a voice screaming in my head, 'Oh my God, this is the gunboat! Benedict Arnold probably walked on this deck!'"

While the Philadelphia was damaged and sunk during the battle, this vessel apparently escaped.

It may have been hit during the engagement and then allowed to sink after the crew stopped bailing. Or the Americans may have punched a hole in it. The boat is sitting in mud, which obscures any possible damage to the hull.

Although the tiny fleet was defeated, it slowed the British advance from Canada. When the British finally made it to the Hudson Valley south of the lake the following spring, the Americans had been able to amass enough troops to win what many historians have called the decisive battles of the war.

Three years later, in 1780, newly married and strapped for cash to maintain an extravagant lifestyle, Arnold began providing information to the British and eventually joined British forces as a brigadier general.

This was the last of the 11 missing ships from Arnold's fleet to be found.

"There was never any doubt in my mind that it was out there," Barranco said. "History had told us so."

A team headed by Cohn has been using sonar to scan the depths of the lake for artifacts, including ships sunk in storms and battles in the 18th and 19th centuries. Their work has been lent new urgency by exploding populations of zebra mussels, a species that has wreaked havoc in North American waters since it arrived in the bilge water of European ships a decade ago.

Cohn said the strategy of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, founded in 1986, has been to leave wrecks in the cold preserving water. But the threat of zebra mussels may change that approach.

In the meantime, the team won't say exactly where the ship is.

"It should not become a thing for souvenir hunters," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

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MARY ROSE, Cont'd.

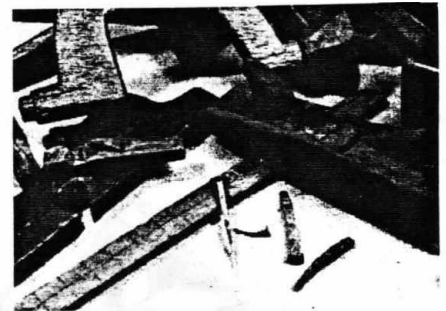
Called *Mary Rose: Life and Death on Henry VIII's Lost Warship*, the display tells the story of this great ship, built in 1510 and sunk with great loss of life in 1545.

Henry's great ship was rebuilt in 1536. Gunnery was becoming more important than hand fighting and the new battle at sea involved firing broadsides at each other until one ship went under. *Mary Rose's* big guns were increased from 43 to 71 in number, and the ship was probably then somewhat unstable. Some experts consider that her gun ports were too close to the sea but Henry's loss was our gain.

The 200 artefacts on display at the National Maritime Museum would not now exist if the ship had not sunk. To preserve them and the wooden remains of the ship, the hull is kept in a special hall where it is sprayed with a fine mist using 27,000 litres of water an hour to stop it drying out.

The hull remains in England but in Sydney there are guns, longbows, pikes and tools.

The surgeon barber's cabin is recreated. In it are the tools of the barber and the surgeon. Pewter drug flask, cutting implements, syringe, bronze mortar, even



Pre-industrial handcrafted carpenter's tools from the *Mary Rose*, are obvious predecessors of modern counterparts.

his hat to wear when operating — all are there awaiting their duty.

Cont'd.

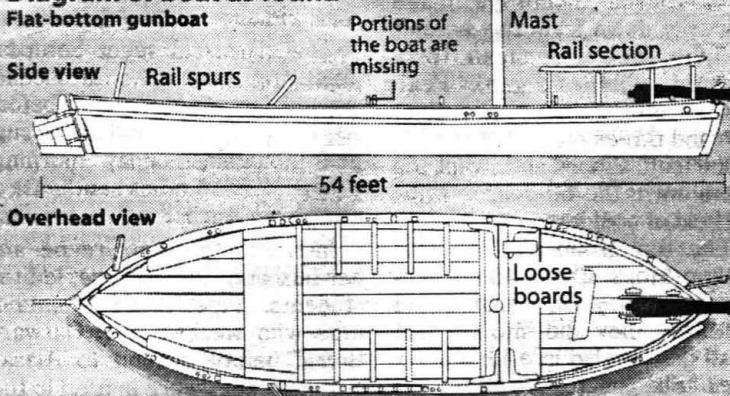
Historic gunboat discovered

A Revolutionary War gunboat has been found nearly intact on the bottom of Lake Champlain.



Benedict Arnold commanded the small fleet that included this historic gunboat at the Battle of Valcour Island on Oct. 11, 1776. He later turned traitor.

Diagram of boat as found



SOURCE: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

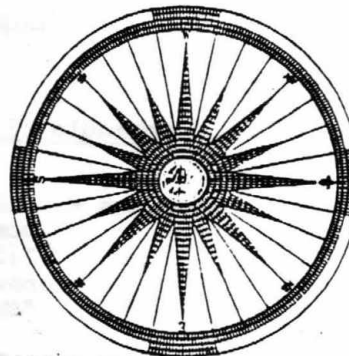
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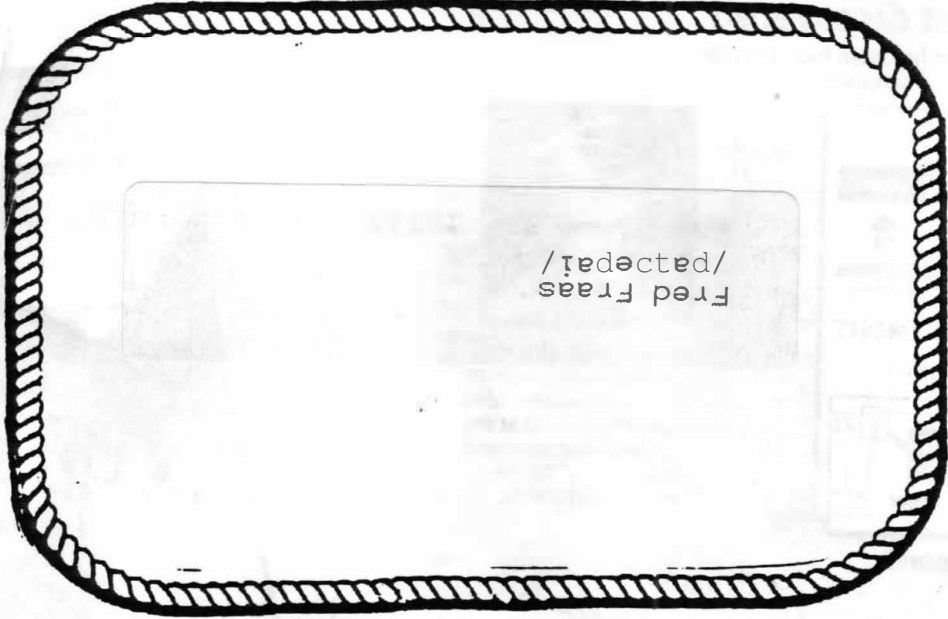
Everyone's "Treasure", the STAR of INDIA , maintained by the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The Ship Modelers' Guild extends its very deepest "Thanks" for use of this facility over the years.



"Perpetual" modeler Joe Bompensiero on board BERKELEY, working on his French Frigate "La Licorne". Joe has produced several excellent models.



Be a real "card" and steer a course to our August meeting, Third Wednesday in the month.
Ed.



San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
c/o Maritime Museum Assoc. of San Diego
306 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, California 92101

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

Officers for 1996

Guild Master	Tom Taylor	/redacted/
First Mate	Jack Klein	/redacted/
Purser	Ed White	/redacted/
Logkeeper	(open)	
N'letter Editors	Fred Fraas	/redacted/
	Gordon Jones	/redacted/
Regatta Commodore	Dave Manley	/redacted/

Schedule of Activities:

Membership:

Meetings — Third Thursday of the month. 7:00PM Social, 7:30PM Meeting, held on board the ferryboat "Berkeley."

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

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

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

Annual Regatta — Third weekend in June.
