



# San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive

San Diego, CA 92101

March 2007

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXI No. 3

## OFFICERS

### **Guild Master**

Robert Hewitt  
phone redacted

### **First Mate**

### **Purser**

Ron Hollod  
phone redacted

### **Editor**

Bob Crawford  
phone redacted  
address redacted

### **Log Keeper**

Bob McPhail  
phone redacted

### **Newsletter**

#### **Distribution**

Bob Wright  
Robert Hewitt

Established in 1972

by

Bob Wright and  
Russ Merrill

San Diego Ship Modelers' Guild is affiliated with and supports the Maritime Museum of San Diego



## **Guild meeting Report February 14, 2007**

Robert Hewitt opened the meeting and asked if there were any visitors or new members. There were no visitors or guests. Ron Hollod gave his purser's report. The balance as of December 31, 2006 was \$<redacted>. With income and expenses the new balance as of January 31 was \$<redacted>. All members were again reminded that dues are due. (\$20.00 annual or \$27.00 if a nametag is desired)

Bob Crawford reported that an account can be set up through the museum and the postage meter used to send out the newsletter. Bob should be notified for any email or address changes.

Robert Hewitt talked about the San Diego County Fair and passed out the sign up sheet. Three volunteers are desired for each day the fair is opened. The San Diego County Fair will be from June 8 thru July 4<sup>th</sup>. The fair will not be open on Mondays and two Tuesdays. (June 11, 12, 18, 19, 25) Theme will be "Salute to Heroes". Prices are \$12 entry, \$9 parking, and \$15 for a badge. Robert Hewitt will be obtaining lot passes and tickets for those who will be volunteering in the booth.

There was a request for additional volunteers to help build three SAN SALVADORs models at 1/8 scale. Bob Crawford will be providing additional information about construction of these models next month.

Last month, Tony Bunch indicated that he would take the lead on the LPD 22 (USS SAN DIEGO) project. This project was to build a model of this new ship. This topic was to be discussed at this meeting but was again tabled to the next meeting. It was announced that next month, there will be a guest speaker. Mr. Dan Salazar is the lead systems engineer for the LPD 17 Program. He works at the Raytheon Expeditionary Warfare Center.

A vote was taken and approved to renew subscriptions to "SHIPS IN SCALE" and "NAUTICAL RESEARCH JOURNAL"

Nominations were discussed for guild officers for next year. Nominations were made, voted on, and approved. For guild master, Robert Hewitt; first mate, Bill Groat; purser, Ron Hollod; and logkeeper, Bob McPhail.

Robert Hewitt read a letter of thanks from Dr. Ray Ashley for the guild's donation to the museum in memory of K.C. Edwards.

Bob Wright discussed two vessels of potential interest to modelers. These were a Chinese junk and HMS Great Britain. During the meeting there was auction of miscellaneous wood and a plastic model kit.

## SDMSG SHOW AND TELL - Feb 14, 2007

### Rattlesnake - Privett

**Royce Privett** is building this 3/16" to the foot Model Shipways kit of the privateer *Rattlesnake*. It is plank on bulkhead, so far built with poplar, basswood, walnut and beech. He replaced the kit's metal gratings with wooden ones. Royce writes that the 89 foot-on-deck ship was originally built in 1780 at Plymouth Massachusetts. She proved fast and weatherly, carrying 85 men and 20 six-pounders. Her first cruise fixed her reputation as a formidable force, by capturing a million dollars of British goods. Working next with the *Scourge*, a New York privateer schooner, *Rattlesnake* captured 22 prizes when they attacked a British grain fleet returning from Russia in 1813. The American Navy then bought her, and she sailed to the Caribbean where she took 3 more prizes. The frustrated British ordered her captured at all costs, and the 44 gun HMS *Assurance* did so and brought her into the Royal Navy. The "Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships" says the heavy British 50-gun frigate *Leander* captured her off Cape Sable near Nova Scotia, after she had jettisoned all but two of her guns trying to escape in the poor weather.



### Flintlock pistol - Graham

Last month **Bob Graham** advised the group that gun oil was an excellent finish to preserve wood without discoloring it. This month Bob brought in this replica 45 caliber flintlock, a combination of purchased barrel and lock mechanism and Bob's expert embellishments. He formed the wooden stock of black walnut, beautifully finished with . . . ta da . . . gun oil. Bob delivered a passionate talk on the benefits of gun oil as a wood finish. Then, he said he had actually fired the pistol in the past and demonstrated. He loaded it with a figment of imagination and pulled the trigger, setting off a bright flint

spark.

### Albatross - Grolz

The beautiful Baltimore Clipper *Albatross* by **Bill Grolz** is now rigged, fitted, and finished.





### Sultana - Seiler

**Chuck Seiler** is currently taking a break from his *Lexington* and working on the colonial schooner *Sultana*. It is 3/16"=1' scale and started out life as a Model Shipways/Model Expo kit. He decided NOT to use the solid hull provided in the kit. It would take much work to fair the hull and it would not do everything he wanted to do with the model. Chuck decided to make his own solid hull by using the plans provided in the kit. What you see here is the hull built up from 1/2 inch horizontal lifts built up and sanded until smooth. He has made it up to just

above the water line. The plan is to plank above the waterline and paint below. Chuck also indented some areas of the deck and planked them so if observed through the deck gratings and ladderways, depth and deck planking can be seen. The picture depicts the solid hull as provided in the kit and the partial hull Chuck made.

*Sultana* was originally built in Boston in 1767 as a pleasure boat and small trading vessel. It was about 90 feet from bowsprit to taffrail. In 1768 it was purchased by the British Royal Navy (Boston was part of Britain then) for duty as a dispatch boat. It served for four years as a dispatch boat and revenue cruiser between Boston and the Chesapeake Bay, enforcing Britain's Navigation and Stamp Acts; two acts which were ultimately some of the catalysts for the American Revolution.

### USS Constitution - Walther

We have had a spate of *Constitutions* lately! **Joseph Walther** acquired this half completed one from Bob Wright. Joseph will be attempting his first wooden model and has no information about the model, or how to start finishing it. He has not done any work yet and asks any help he can get. A number of members offered suggestions and future advice.



### Gryphon - Griffus



**Howard Griffus** has named this 1/4" scratch-built model *Gryphon* (or *Griffon*?) with a clever corruption of his own name! A Gryphon is a mythological creature born of an eagle and a lion, its four legs, head and shoulders like those of an eagle, the rest of the body a lion. The gryphon was sacred to the sun and kept guard over hidden treasures. Produced by the most noble of animals, the creature has been an emblem of valor and magnanimity for heroic commanders. Howard's treasure is a noble remake of a *Wasp* hull into an 18<sup>th</sup> Century warship. He is in the middle of the heroic task of carving a Gryphon for the figurehead.

# THRU THE LUBBERS HOLE



The Guild  
by Robert Hewitt

The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild was formed in 1972 by Bob Wright and the late Russ Merrill. The first meetings had only five to six attendees. The guild currently has ninety-five members with approximately thirty five active members who attend our evening meetings. We display our models and give advice on model construction. We also publish a monthly newsletter by snail mail and e-mail. Those on the internet are also treated to newsletters from five other model clubs in the United States.

Our members build all forms of models: static sailing, steam, steel navy, pond models and we even have one ship-in-the -bottler. We use all types of construction: solid hull, plank on bulkhead, plank on frame and dioramas. Material used is wood, plastic, fiberglass and paper. Most of the members build from kits. Some modify the kits, called kit bashing. Some modelers build only from plans, called scratch building. Two of our modelers are building from plans and instructions on the internet. A few have even built twelve inch to the foot boats. Some members have never built a model but enjoy the camaraderie of the group.

We also have members who donate their time in the model shop on the BERKELEY.

Each year for the past eighteen years we have had a booth at the San Diego County Fair. We erect the booth and have three members present each day to demonstrate their modeling skills. We also enter our models in the fair for display, judging and prize money.

This past October we, along with the Maritime Museum hosted the Nautical Research Guild Conference. Seven of our members gave modeling demonstrations.

Our guild meets the second Wednesday of the month on the upper deck of the BERKELEY. Dues are only \$20.00 for the year and we welcome new members. Applications are available in the model shop.



## Vendors of the NRG-Part 1 by Chuck Seiler

If you missed the Nautical Research Guild Conference back in October, you missed quite a bit. Even if you had the opportunity to attend, there was so much going on, you may have still missed some of the many things **Bob Crawford** and his band of merry modelers had to offer. There were a number of mighty fine vendors present and others not present but who provided samples and doors prizes.

I will be submitting a series of articles on these vendors and their wares, not just because we need more articles in the newsletter, but because the vendors offered product I believe you would be happy with. When possible (and when I make it to the meetings) I will bring samples or items for you to peruse.

### WARNER WOODS WEST

For scratch builders and kit bashers alike, for many years **Lloyd Warner** supplied some of the finest milled wood a model shipbuilder could get. Alas, success and time have put the kibosh on this source of lumber. Lloyd's wood was so much in demand that he was unable to keep up with it. After all, he is a one man operation and you can only do so much. However, that is not the story. What IS the story is that Lloyd still makes fine blocks and linen line for we neophytes and not so neophytes.

In my opinion (and that of others) these blocks are at a scale and quality not normally found in commercially available blocks. He provides single, double or triple blocks in various sizes; 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 5, 6 and 7 millimeters. I tried to get some good pics but my humble camera was not up to the task. I will bring samples to the next meeting and hopefully the Royal Photographer can get some good pictures for the newsletter.

Lloyd also provides linen line...not thread, line. This is made on a ropewalk. I dunno, to me it all looks the same, but I am told it isn't. This is the

good stuff. It comes in many diameters from .01" to .130" in various lengths. The line comes in a single colour, au naturale, but can be dyed or stained to the colour you desire.

Products from Warner Woods West can be ordered by email at [warwoods@infowest.com](mailto:warwoods@infowest.com), by phone at (435) 652-4400, or by old fashioned snail mail at WARNER WOODS WEST, P.O. Box 100 Ivins, UT 84738. Unfortunately, Lloyd does not have a web site.

### HOBBYMILL WOOD

After working with a place or two whose wood is not as good as WWW, I happened upon Hobbymill from discussions on the Seaways Shipbuilding List. Much like Lloyd, **Jeff Hayes** runs this as a one person operation...although his wife participates once in awhile on the business side. Jeff started by providing wood for **Bob Hunt's** kits and for folks that wanted to use better lumber in the other commercial kits Bob has practica for. (I will feature this cottage industry in a future article).

Jeff provides stripwood of various sizes and types of wood for those who have no re-saw capability. He also provides sheets of various thicknesses for those with saws so they can cut their own planking. The woods he has listed include boxwood, holly, pear, aspen, mahogany, walnut and cherry...although he said he may try a hand at ebony since many people want it. I have spoken to him and he appears to be very willing to cut to the customer's specifications. I found the quality to be excellent and the delivery time to be fast. He did not require payment until after the wood was received and inspected. I will have samples of strips and sheets at the March meeting.

Information and prices sheets for both Warner Woods West and Hobbymill will be available at the next Guild meeting. This information will also be available in the Model Shop.

NOTE: I have no affiliation with any of the vendors listed in these articles, nor do I receive any compensation for anything presented herein. ♪♦



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First Mate	Bill Groat	
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Editor	Bob Crawford	<redacted>
LogKeeper	Bob McPhail	<redacted>

**Next Meeting Wednesday March 14, on the Ferryboat *Berkeley* 7 pm**



USS New Orleans (LPD-18), sister to the USS San Diego (LPD-22)

