San Diego Ship Modelers Guild

1492 N. Harbor Drive San Diego, CA 92101

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Autumn is upon us! This picture of *California,* the official tall ship of the State of California, captures another day on the waters of San Diego Bay after she set sail from her berth at the Maritime Museum.

"To reach a port we must set sail - Sail, not tie at anchor! Sail not drift!" - Franklin D. Roosevelt

MINUTES OF 10 SEPTEMBER 2019 GUILD MEETING

Guild Master James Pitt brought the last meeting of Summer to order at the San Diego Maritime Museum in the Compass exhibition area across from the Model Shop aboard the Steam Ferry *BERKELEY*. **James** led a recitation of *The Pledge of Allegiance* before greeting fourteen (14) members and (2) visitors. **Frank McMahon** and **Will Pearson** joined the meeting from the Phoenix area and **Frank** brought his remarkable scratch built skipjack, *Kathryn,* last seen at a Guild meeting in May of 2018. Note that the Newsletter Editor was unable to attend this meeting and extends appreciation to **Jon Sanford** and other Guild Officers for providing the meeting pictures.

Guild Master James Pitt addresses the members as the meeting begins.

James continued with the business portion of the meeting. He reported that the newsletter of the Maritime Museum of San Diego, "Full & By", includes an article about Guild member **Isaac Wills**. His story of becoming a model ship builder can be found reproduced on page 4. The Guild membership is encouraged to become members of the Maritime Museum and enjoy the many benefits of museum membership. Support the Maritime Museum of San Diego through your membership! **Continued next page**

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

http://sdshipmodelersguild.org/

Meeting Minutes continued with the Guild Master Report:

Guild Master James Pitt reported that through the efforts of Web Master **Alex Roel,** business cards for the Guild will be ordered and a new form for registering guests at Guild Meetings was implemented. **Howard Griffus** suggested at this time that an easel with a meeting announcement and invitation to sit in on the meeting be erected at the start of meetings to inform museum visitors to the Guild's activity. **James** reported increased activity on the Guild Master email from folks looking for help restoring models. **Guild Members interested in taking on a commission to restore a model are urged to contact James Pitt who is maintaining a sign up sheet.**

Guild meetings are preceded by an Officer and Coordinator's meeting and here left to right are Ed Torrence, Alex Roel, James Pitt , Tom Hairston, and Mike Lonnecker

First Mate's Report: First Mate Ed Torrence reported **Frank Dengler** offered a future talk on computer generation of model decals. Additionally, the hope for a presentation on the **Battle of Trafalgar** and the Guild's diorama of the battle is still being considered. **Guild Members are encouraged to offer topics or presentations that they would enjoy. Ed can be contacted at** firstmate@sdshipmodelersguild.org and an opinion poll for Guild members is being to considered to further this aim.

Purser's Report: Purser Jon Sanford reported the guild balance as of 12 August 2019 was $<redacted> with the following expenditures since the last report: Lawrie (mailing, copies) $<redacted>, Maritime Museum of San Diego (donation) $<redacted>, Sanford (printing) $<redacted>. **Jon** includes a message to the Guild about the need for Guild members' staffing of the Museum Model Shop and support for the "Model of the Month" exhibit outside the shop's door. Volunteers are always welcome! **Bob McPhail** suggested using a continuous loop video and screen in the Model Shop for those times when the shop is not manned.

Editor Guy Lawrie was absent and **Log Keeper Tom Hairston** reported log keeping duties are proceeding as expected. The editor notes the initiative to offer ship modeling workshops to military members and their families through the magazine "Wave Winds" is still being explored. The suggestion by **R.G. Head** and others at last month's meeting that a good first step would be to meet with the magazine's Program Manager and/or Editors will be pursued. The goal of such a meeting will be to determine if there is a way to reach out and invite their readers to the Guild's monthly meetings. Look for progress on this project in future newsletters.

Next meeting is
8 October
5:15 Officer's Meeting
5:30 PM - Social
6:00 PM Meeting
Bring a Model!

October 2019

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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	31		

Web Master's Report: Web Master Alex Roel reported the following activity on the web page.

Completed Activities:

1. Updated following pages:

Website Traffic

MONTH	DAILY VISITS
August 2019	62
July 2019	58
June 2019	60
May 2019	55
April 2019	53
March 2019	20

a. "Home Port" (home page) content refreshed on the 1st of the month in conjunction with release of Newsletter

b. Recent updates to "Scuttlebutt > Documents"

i. "San Diego County Fair Booth Checklist" uploaded

In Progress Activities:

1. "**Model Sales**" page: Mock-up created for Officers' consideration. **Tom Hairston** has a model for sale and is going to send info to Web Master.
2. "**Model Restorations**" page: Mock-up created for Officers' consideration. **Howard Griffus** finished a restoration and **James Pitt** is going to send info to Web Master.
3. The Web Master is researching various historical Guild projects for eventual inclusion on Website (these will go on the "Voyages" menu along with the new "Trafalgar Project" page).

a. **Mini-Star Project** – partially complete, **Jon Sanford** is assisting Web Master

b. **USS San Diego Project** – Web Master will contact **Howard Griffus** and **Bob Crawford** for project history

c. **San Salvador Project** – three models were made as gifts to donors to Maritime Museum. **need assistance, if any Member has knowledge of this project, please contact the Web Master**

d. **Maritime Museum Fleet Model Project** – see January 2011 Newsletter on the Guild Website for a picture of the Project that is copied below with the builders on the project. **need assistance, if any Member has knowledge of this project, please contact the Web Master**

Star of India by **Bob Crawford**
Californian by **Howard Griffus**
HMS *Surprise* by **Chuck Seiler**
Berkeley by **Kevin Sheehan**
Pilot by **Howard Griffus**
B-39 Russian Submarine by **Howard Griffus**
USS *Dolphin* by **David Yotter**
San Salvador by **Robert Hewitt**
America by **Gary Seaton**
America's Cup yachts by **Ron Render**

Following the Guild Officer Reports, a break for coffee with snacks, and Show and Tell; **Guild Master James Pitt** adjourned the meeting.

Following is an article published in the Maritime Museum's newsletter, "Full & By", telling the story of **Isaac Wills'** start as a model ship builder. **Isaac** is also a museum volunteer and would like to alert the Guild that *Star of India* will be getting her three Main Royal Topgallant Yards raised back into position. Using an intricate rigging system, volunteers will hand haul several tons of yards just as in times past.

Big Dreams Start Small

ISAAC WILLS, SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS' GUILD & STUDENT

Like many children, Isaac Wills was a lover of nautical swashbuckling themed toys and movies when he was young. As he grew up, Legos turned to cheap model kits and then on to his first Revell model ship kit, a 1:570 scale of RMS *Titanic*. Now Isaac is training to build the real thing.

During the 2014 Holiday Season, Isaac's grandfather gifted the family a membership to the Maritime Museum of San Diego. It was there where Isaac met Jon Sanford, a member of the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild. They talked extensively about the hobby and Jon invited Isaac to one of the Guild's monthly meetings.

Isaac was welcomed and encouraged by all the members to keep true to the hobby and join the Guild. Jon has served as a mentor and friend to Isaac as he introduced Isaac to the many avenues of ship modeling. The members exposed him to new tools, kits, knowledge, and even career opportunities. Isaac has since volunteered at the Museum Model Shop and San Diego County Fair, tinkering in scratch building models and competing in model expositions from San Diego to Los Angeles, and he is now serving as the Guilds' secretary.

All of these influences have led Isaac to pursue his passion and future career by studying Naval Architecture at SUNY Maritime College in New York, where he is now a sophomore. He intends to work in the commercial shipping industry for the early part of his career and eventually make his way into yacht design. Despite his busy schedule, he still finds time to come back to his longtime, home away from home, and volunteer at the Museum Model Shop. The Maritime Museum and Guild are very dear to Isaac's heart and he continues to participate in the guild and volunteer in the Model shop during his free time.

Presentation

The following article is ***Reprinted with the permission of the Nautical Research Guild*** in the upcoming editions of the newsletter. In this newsletter, Mike Lonnecker's article on power tools explores rotary tools, disc sanders, table saws, and drill presses. The full article exploring more power tools can be found on the Guild Website by simply "clicking" on **Scuttlebutt > Documents > Presentations / Articles**.

POWER TOOLS FOR SHIP MODELING, part 3 of 3

By Mike Lonnecker

MILL. The mill is similar to the drill press in that it is comprised of a vertical spindle with a table underneath. The difference is in the accuracy and versatility. The spindle is raised and lowered very precisely with a calibrated hand wheel and the table can be moved very precisely side to side and forward and back also with hand wheels. This gives very precise control of the cutter and material in 3 dimensions or the X, Y and Z planes. Hand wheels screws that move the spindle and table can had in metric or English units. The mill, because of its versatility, is said to be the only machine in the shop that can reproduce itself. Sizes from tabletop to huge are available. There are lots of accessories. Material hold down sets, collet sets, vices, angle tables, rotary tables, chucks; the list of accessories is almost endless. Sherline offers a vast list of accessories that are usable on most tabletop mills. Cutters for tabletop sized machines come in sizes from .005 inch diameter up to about 3/8 inch diameter, end mill or ball end types, center cut or not, and 2 or 4 flute. The choice of cutter depends on the material and the cut to be made. As with the lathe your budget should be split about 50/50 between the machine and a selection of accessories. Set ups and use of the machine requires a lot of skill and basic knowledge. Again, Joe Martin's book on tabletop machining is highly recommended. The mill is capable of making straight cuts, cuts on a radius, through cuts, bottom cuts, groves, etc. It can even be set up to perform like a lathe. Like the lathe, speeds and feeds are an important part of operating the mill.

Tiag Mill

Sherline Mill

SCROLL SAW. The scroll saw uses small thin blades moved up and down to make very fine cuts in wood, plastics and soft metals. The scroll saw is very useful for cutting parts from sheet stock and can cut very sharp radii. They can easily be used to cut out interior holes such as windows. Variable speed models are available and are probably the best choice. Because of the motion of the arms moving up and down rapidly some saws tend to vibrate. Higher quality saws run smoothly and are easy to use, while less desirable models can jump all over the table or stand. Other features to look for are maximum thickness of material that can be cut, depth of the throat and maximum tilting table angle. Some models have internal blowers that are used to continuously blow dust from the area being sawn. Blades are usually pin less and are held in place by clamps in each arm.

DeWalt Scroll Saw

Continued next page

Power Tools by Mike Lonnecker continued with Scroll Saw:

Ease of changing blades and of tensioning the blade should be considered. Learning to choose the proper blade, blade tensioning, and blade speed are important things to learn when using the scroll saw. The basic theory of operation can be learned from books but practice is essential in learning its use.

THICKNESS SANDER. If you are going to scratch build and cut your own wood, a thickness sander is a necessity. The thickness sander consists of a table with a sanding drum above it. The gap between the table and drum can be varied by moving the table or drum up or down depending on the model. This precise control gives very accurate thickness and repeatability. The wood in smaller units is pushed thru the gap by sliding it on the table. Larger units may have a self-feeding mechanism. The sandpaper on the drum is usually held in place by some kind of a clamp on the drum. Some units have a dual clamp that allows one grit of paper on the right side and another on the left.

Byrnes Model Machines Thickness Sander

SPINDLE SANDER. The spindle sander consists of a fixed table with a vertical drum that is rotated and oscillated up and down at the same time. This up and down motion spreads the wear on the sanding drum. The spindle sander is great for sanding inside curves to shape. Most sanders come with a set of replaceable drums of varying diameter. Using a diameter just smaller than the curve to be sanded makes it easy to control the finished arc to be sanded. A tilt table is an option with some sanders.

Delta Spindle Sander

DUST COLLECTOR. If you acquire a shop full of power tools, dust control will become a priority. Most of the sanding and sawing tools discussed here have some kind of dust collection port. If your tools are brought out of some type of storage space, then a simple collector such as a small shop vac that can be connected may be the way to go. If your tools have a permanent place and remain set up for use, then a permanent system connected to each tool with directional control valves may be the way to go. If using a large permanent system, you will want to provide a grounding of all of the piping to prevent static electricity build up within the system. Static electricity in a dust environment can be a huge fire hazard.

Grizzly 1.5 hp Dust Collector

This Ends Mike Lonnecker's Series, "Power Tools for Ship Modeling"

Maritime Museum of San Diego Model of the Month

Note: Anyone interested in displaying one of their models at the Maritime Museum of San Diego can contact Jon at purser@sdshipmodelersguild.org and he will work with you. **All are welcomed and urged to participate!**

Columbus' Ship, *Nina* 1492

by Don Dressel

Amati Kit

Model completed in 2017

Scale 1:65

The display plaque tells visitors *Nina* was a famous **caravel -** a small, highly maneuverable sailing ship developed in the 15th century by the Portuguese. She was part of the fleet Christopher Columbus in the service of Spain took on his voyage of discovery of the America's in 1492. The model is built almost completely from a kit with a few minor scratch built items. The Lateen sails gave her speed and the capability to sail to windward easily.

Show and Tell

HMS *Fly* (1776)

by Mike Lonnecker, seen here telling the Guild about his project as Log Keeper Tom Hairston takes notes

Scratch Built based on the Swan Series of books by David Antscherl and Greg Herbert

Plank-on-Bulkhead

Scale 1:48

For the beginnings to **Mike's** project, one can reach into the December 2013 newsletter found on the website and find that at that time he was working on the ship's interior and debating what woods to use for pillars, bulkheads, and planking. This report builds on this beginning.

Continued next page

Show and Tell continued with Mike Lonnecker's *Fly*:

Mike tells the Guild HMS *Fly* was a sixth rate ship rigged sloop of the 25 ship Swan class. She was launched 14 Sept 1776. The Swan class was of 14 to 16 guns, the *Fly* carrying 14 - 6 pounders and 16 swivel guns. The Swan class of sloops was unusually attractive for a sixth rate both for her hull lines and the amount of decoration. They were built just before the Admiralty issued orders for the reduction of decoration to save cost because of continuing wars. The Swan class measured 97'7" on deck, displaced 300 tons and, carried 125 officers and men.

The *Fly's* career was short as she foundered off Newfoundland in 1802. She performed primarily convoy escort duty and dispatch duty. She did capture two French privateers.

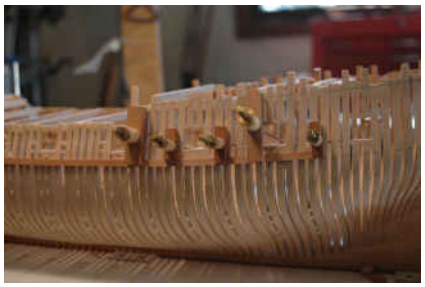
When looking for a new project, **Mike** knew he wanted a ¼ inch scale fully framed model that he could find adequate plans for. He read ads for the 4 volume set of books by David Antscherl and Greg Herbert and was was hooked. David Antscherl also offers a set of plans including a CD of all frames and transoms and he acquired a copy of the original drawings from the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, London. Antscherl's plans and books describe a model built exactly as the real ship was built, piece by piece with no short cuts or stylizing. It is also constructed right side up following full size ship practice. The model is being built following these plans to a scale of 1:48 using boxwood. The photos supplied by **Mike** illustrate the story of working on his project.

He reports he has taken a short time off and has done very little in recent months, but is getting back at it now with work on the interior. The most recent work was the construction of the aft platform. In analyzing the construction it became apparent that a lot of the interior parts were interdependent on each other. In order to locate the platform, the mizzen mast step had to be constructed and located. Also the pillars supporting the lower deck beams had to be located to miss any beams, carlings, or ledges of the platform. To locate the pillars, the lower deck beams had to be made. **Mike** also wanted to check that the mizzen mast penetrated the decks at the proper locations. This required the upper deck beams be made and located. All of these parts were then temporarily "glued "together using Elmer's glue stick. This is a water soluble glue meant for paper but works well for temporary gluing. The pieces can be easily separated by dampening with a wet paper towel. He created a gantry and mast support block to temporarily locate the mizzen mast and the half hole used to support the mast was cut at a 4 deg angle of the mast and glued to the gantry. A mockup of the mast was installed in the step and gantry block and everything checked for clearance and location. When all was right **Mike** permanently installed the mizzen mast step. The aft platform is complete.

Show and Tell continued with Mike Lonnecker's *Fly*:

The next step was the trenneling of all the internal clamps and planks. In keeping with making everything to scale, these trennels were of ¾ inch diameter or .015 inch at scale. This was smaller than **Mike** wanted to attempt to make. Since these items probably will not to be seen in the finished model, the trennels were simulated by drilling an appropriately sized hole, filling with putty, then sanded smooth. **Mike** purchased several colors of putty to get what he thought was the right color. He does not have an exact count but is reporting there were over 1000 of these.

The aft platform is the base for the magazine and several store rooms. **Mike** will attempt to build these outside of the model and then install them as a module. He is currently debating what woods to use for pillars bulkheads and planking. Right now he is leaning towards Swiss Pear for bulkheads and pillars and Holly for planking. **Mike** wants the interior to be as visible as possible and thinks these colors will contrast with the Boxwood of the rest of the structure. The next step is to make and fit all of the pillars that go between the keelson and the lower deck beams. This will provide locations for the magazine and store room bulkheads of the aft platform. This being a scratch build, one of the hardest tasks is not the manufacturing and fitting of parts but recognizing and then planning the steps to take and the order in which to take them. One must plan far ahead to prevent having to go back and undo something just completed that is suddenly in the way. The figurehead was carved in English boxwood. **Mike** reported that English boxwood is an exceptionally fine grained wood and very difficult to find. Castello boxwood, and more easily found and believed to be from South America, is the more common type and what is used in the model. The figurehead was carved by **Tony Devourde**. An article on carving by him can be found in the Autumn 2019 Nautical Research Journal.



Kathryn, a Chesapeake Bay Skipjack

by Frank McMahon - seen here telling about his skipjack

Scratch Built, Build Log maintained on Model Ship World, https://modelshipworld.com/index.php?/topic/15453-skipjack-kathryn-by-mahuna-132-based-on-haer-drawings/&_fromLogin=1

Scale 1:32 https://modelshipworld.com/index.php?/topic/15453-skipjack-kathryn-by-mahuna-132-based-on-haer-drawings/

Frank first showed his impressive build of *Kathryn* in-progress at the May 2018 Guild meeting and now, he shows us his beautiful finished model. His craftsmanship is well documented in the above link to **Frank's** build log and a visit to the June 2018 guild newsletter on the Guild's website includes the story of **Frank's** earlier visit to the Guild.

Continued next page

Show and Tell continued with Frank McMahon's *Kathryn*:

Frank writes about his inspiration for building his model including the pleasure he takes in the graceful lines of skipjacks and being able to spend a short time on board *Kathryn* during October 2015 as she was docked at Deal Island before the oystering season. Left is a picture of *Kathryn* under sail and the other pictures were supplied by Frank of his finished model, note the metal work on the deck machinery. The Guild hopes to see more of Frank's fine work in the future!

The Schooner Hannah, circa 1775

by Don Dressel - seen here describing his build seen to the right

Scratch Built

Scale 1:48

Don tells the Guild about his admiralty style plank-on-frame project and how the frames are made up and installed using the **Harold Hahn** method. This is a simpler model than most of **Harold Hahn's** models in that the model has little or no carvings.

Continued next page

Show and Tell continued with Don Dressel's *Hannah*:

Don references the book shown to the left, "Ships of the American Revolution and their models" by **Harold M. Hahn** book which details the construction of the frames. **Don** tells us there is another fine reference, "The Colonial Schooner, 1763-1775" also by **Harold M. Hahn** which details the construction of the Hannah. To build his model, **Don** is utilizing Apple Wood for the frames and Lemon Wood for the spars with woods such as Ebony used for other structures. In the picture to the right, the deck boat and tiller are displayed next to the plastic case with assembled fittings and under the mast and spars is a display of the construction method used for the frames.

HMS Surprise (1796)

by Jay MacMaster, here to the left pointing out a detail on his model of *Surprise*

Bashed Kit by Mamoli (may be difficult to find at this scale)

Scale - 1:75

Jay talked about how he is constructing ships to pass on to his children and *Surprise* is one such model being built for his son. The model was last seen by the Guild in October of 2017 and found on the Guild website's November 2017 newsletter where **Jay** reported the unique history of *Surprise* . The "bashed" Mamoli kit includes LED lights installed below decks for illumination. Jay researched Admiralty plans and manufactured the majority of hardware himself. Other than using paint on four metal parts, all the wood color is from natural wood. Jay used African Ebony, Alder, African Mahogany, African Bloodwood, European Boxwood, and East Coast Holley to achieve the ships color. **Jay** reported he used a "liquid window" product he found at a model railroad shop for windows but that he finds Elmer's glue works also.

Schooner *Caroline* (1902)

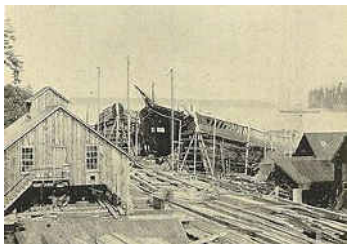
by David Yotter, **seen to the right introducing his half hull model with help from James Pitt holding the backboard**

Model Shipways Kit (Model Expo MS2040)

Plank-on-Bulkhead

Scale 1:64, 3/16" = 1 foot

Before ships were designed and built from drawn plans, half hull models were used by master shipwrights. The shape of the ship was carved by the Master, taking into account its intended usage. The model was then used to determine the exact shape of the ship's frames by enlarging the model's lines on the mold loft floor. Molds (patterns) were cut out on the floor and taken to the saw pit for use as a guide in sawing the ships frames.



The model represents the hull lines of the lumber schooner *CAROLINE*, a Pacific Coast four master. *CAROLINE* was built by the Hall Brothers in Port Blakley, Washington for Joseph Knowland of San Francisco for the sum of $37,500in 1902. See the picture to the right for a scene from the Hall Brothers Port Blakely Shipyard of this period, note the lumber mill next to the schooners under construction (picture from a Bing internet search). She was considered small for a typical four master at 511 tons, as most ranged between 600 to 800 tons. Between 1902 and 1920 she hauled lumber from the Pacific North West and San Francisco, San Pedro and ports in Australia and New Zealand.* The details of her construction and rig were typical of the Pacific Coast lumber schooner. The four masted gaff rig was easy to handle for a small crew and gave necessary windward performance for the stormy Pacific Coast. The after cabin, with it's distinctive narrow half deck to break the force of boarding seas, provided housing for the master and officers. The forward cabin houses the crew's quarters, galley, donkey boiler, bilge pump, and the water and fuel tanks. The forecastle deck, characteristically integral with the cabin top, covers the donkey engine, anchor windlass and cables.* All of Knowland's vessels bore the names of girls and they were all taken over by his Gardiner Mill Company during the First World War.

This model was not intended for use in building a ship. Instead, it serves a decorative or study function. It was built to a scale of 1:64 (3/16" = 1'). The woods used in the half model are alternating lifts of mahogany and poplar. Cherry has been used for the built-up bulwarks, keel, stem, stern post and rudder. The rail cap is holly. The spars are of spruce and the backboard is mahogany. The model was built by Dave Yotter and finished in 1993.

*Reference: Gleason RC. Caroline, pacific four-master. Seaways 1990;1(5):27-35.