



January 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. I

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Happy New Year, Guild!

As a new year begins with a fresh wish for health, prosperity and good luck, this thought came to mind.

“Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready.” - Ernest Hemingway, “The Old Man and the Sea”

Learning the skills of exactness can start with first models. **Jon Sanford** suggested a product line named “UGears Mechanical Models” and even Legos can be inspirational for model makers. The Editor can only wonder, “What happened to Lincoln Logs?”

Plan to join the Guild’s next Virtual Meeting on January 12, 2021!

From The Quarterdeck

by the Guild Master

The new year dawns with possibilities just over the horizon: what will it hold for the Guild?

As we continue with virtual meetings, we entertain hopes of meeting together once again on the BERKELEY.

As we craft our builds in isolation, we look forward to sharing them in person.

As the days and months elapse, we edge ever closer to the Guild’s 50th Anniversary in August.

Smiling faces, warm handshakes, shared times: these and more are slowly coming in view through the mist.

Fair winds and following seas, **Alex Roel**



The San Diego Ship Modelers Guild is affiliated with and supports the Maritime Museum of San Diego
1492 N. Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101



First call, Purser Jon Sanford reminds the membership that **it is time to collect Membership Dues!** Dues will remain at \$20.00. With COVID restrictions in effect, payment can be mailed to: Jon Sanford, <redacted>. Checks can be made payable to “San Diego Ship Modelers Guild”. **Please help keep dues payments current and the Guild Active Roster up to date.**

8 DECEMBER 2020 GUILD VIRTUAL MEETING REPORT

Participate in a virtual meeting and connect with the Guild. Send pictures of your project(s) or anything else you have to share to the Editor at newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org and they can be added to the newsletter.

The Guild’s second virtual meeting, attended by eleven (11) members and one (1) returning member, was called to order by **Guild Master Alex Roel**. Alex welcomed **Doug Ward** back to a Guild meeting and then called for Officer Reports. **Purser Jon Sanford** provided the bulk of the Officer Reports and spoke briefly about the Maritime Museum but the following paragraph probably summarizes the Museum’s status best.



Another closure of museums in San Diego is reflected in the picture of the Guild Meeting area on the upper deck of the Maritime Museum’s *Berkeley* waiting for the next Guild meeting. The closure brought the following message from the museum’s **Collection Manager Kevin Sheehan, Ph.D.**, “The museum is currently closed in compliance with current state mandates. We anticipate this will continue for some weeks, but there is no date set for reopening the state and the museum must comply with these policies. Remaining staff have had their hours further reduced. Volunteers are welcome to assist in maintenance in limited numbers. It is also permitted for ship modelers to access the model shop on a limited basis as well. Anyone needs to retrieve tools or supplies, I’d suggest letting (**Jon Sanford**) know as he has been in there regularly. Masks must be worn at all times. Occupancy in the shop is limited to one person only. And you must sign on and off with the security staff at the information booth.”

Wearing his **SD Fair Coordinator** hat, **Jon** is reporting that his fair contact is advising the 2021 Design in Wood show at the fairgrounds is extremely unlikely. Due to Covid restrictions, there is no staff to support DIW or any other exhibit and all entertainment contracts for the 2021 Fair have been cancelled.

Purser’s Report: Purser Jon Sanford reported the following Guild Account activity:

Beginning Balance on November 13, 2020 \$<redacted>

Ending Balance on December 10, 2020 \$<redacted>

January 2021

NEXT VIRTUAL ONLINE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 12 JANUARY AT 6:00 PM!

Notice: An email announcement will be sent with meeting details to the Membership.

PLAN ON ATTENDING!

SHARE A MODEL!

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						

Next Community Build Meeting Scheduled for 9 January, Cancelled.

Notice: The Community Build Leader will email an announcement when meetings resume.

Martin Luther King Day!

Guild Monthly Report continued:

Model Shop Coordinator Jon Sanford, along with his work on model restorations of which a couple can be seen in the **Show and Tell** section of the newsletter, has continued with a Model Shop clean-up effort to free up space for Guild model builders and make the space more attractive to Museum visitors. Following is a **current list** of recently donated model kits that are available on a first come, first served basis. There is **NO CHARGE** for the kits but it is requested that a donation, large or small, be made to the Museum Shop's donation box. Please email **Jon** at modelshop@sdshipmodelersguild.org to coordinate model pickup.

Name	Type	Company	Scale	Status	Year
AMERICA	Yacht	C.Mamoli	1=66	Partial	
ANDROMEDE 1790	Cutter	Modelismo Nav	1:50	Complete	English
BARQUENTINE	Barq	Ideal-o-Craft	Moulded	Complete	1939
BASS BOAT (2 kits)	Fishing	HOMA	HO Scale	Complete	Resin
BENJAMIN LATHAM	Schooner	Modelshipways	1/4"=1'	Complete	
BLUENOSE	Schooner	Modelshipways	1=100	Partial	
CONSTITUTION(4 kits)	Frigate	Megow	Balsa	Complete	1935
DESPATCH #9 1945	Tugboat	Modelshipways	5/32"=1'	Complete	paint inc
DIESEL TUG	Tugboat	Linberg Plastic	HO gauge	Complete	
ENDEAVOUR (8 3/4")	Jclass Sloop	Bluejacket	1/16"=1'	Complete	paint/tools
FRIENDSHIP (2 kits)	Sloop	HOMA	HO Scale	Complete	Resin
GREAT REPUBLIC	Clipper	Ideal-o-Craft	Moulded	Complete	1938
HANNA (Ship in Bottle)	Schooner	Modelshipways	1/300	Complete	
LEXINGTON 1775	Brig	Aeropiocola		Complete	
LIVELY LADY	Ship in Bottle	Ships-A-Sailing	1"=25'	Complete	
LOBSTER BOAT	FISHING	HOMA	HO Scale	Complete	Resin
NORSKE LODE	Man o War	Billings Boats		Complete	
PATROLTORPEDO BOAT	PTB-9	Comet		Complete	Balsa
PHANTOM 1868	Pilot Boat	Modelshipways	1/8"=1'	Partial	Mahogany
REVENUE CUTTER	Cutter	Ideal-o-Craft	Moulded	Complete	1939
RIVER TOWBOAT	Towboat	HOMA	HO Scale	Complete	Resin
ROYAL YACHT, 1661	Dutch	Modellbau	1=200	Complete	Germany
SLOOP FERRET	Sloop	Sterling	1"=7'	Partial	
SUSQUEHANA	Steam/Sail	IMAI	1/150	Complete	Plastic
USS CONSTITUTION	Frigate	Ideal Models		Partial	1947
USS MISSOURI	Battleship	Monogram	16"long	Complete	1946
WE'RE HERE 1897	Schooner	Bluejacket	1/8"=1'	Complete	
ZWARTE ZEE	Fireboat	Billings Boats	1=100	Complete	

Guild Monthly Report continued:

Model Shop Coordinator Jon Sanford (and **Guild Master Alex Roel**), is reminding the Guild that there is an extensive inventory of wood, fittings, and rigging in the Model Shop along with a few tools including a scroll saw for their use. **The Model Shop also maintains a library** with books on ship modeling and sundry



topics outside of the Maritime Museum's notable Research Library. These are amazing resources for times when researching maritime history and ship modeling is a welcome diversion from the times we live in. Please email **Jon** at modelshop@sdshipmodelersguild.org to coordinate Model Shop activities.



Presentations and Museum Model of the Month Programs were suspended over the past months until in-person Guild Meetings are resumed. As a reminder, the newsletter's new feature, **"Home Ports"**, is intended to provide an opportunity to get to know our fellow members outside of the Guild's general meetings and explore their interests in ship or other modeling crafts. The newsletter editor will be available to visit "Home Ports" to help with photography (the Editor only uses his cell phone camera) and to begin an article. Alternatively, a Guild member can easily create their own "Home Port" and send it to the newsletter editor as **Doug Ward** did here. Face masks and social distancing protocols will be observed, of course!

Home Port: "Port Ward" Featured by Doug Ward



Doug took the extra step and spent most of the weekend pulling his ships out of their cases and photographing them telling us he had put it off too long and the cases needed cleaning anyway! Clean cases, that is a bonus to sharing his ship modeling experiences with the Guild! Following is his story of building *HMS Victory* while building a family and having a career.

"The *HMS Victory* was a Sergal kit with a scale of 1:78. I bought the kit in 1982. I didn't get very far on it before I met my wife and started a family.

Needless to say there was no time for a challenging build, so the kit went into a cedar lined chest waiting for me to retire. Forty-three years later on the day that I retired I pulled the ship from the chest! It took me



four years to complete working on it almost every day. The ship is double planked with the outer being walnut. Almost everything you see on the ship is walnut."



Home Port: "Port Ward" continued:

All of us had a first model and **Doug** tells that "the *Lilla Dan* was my first ship which took two years to complete. It's a 35 meter top sail schooner built in 1951. The kit is by Billing Boats and the blueprint is dated 1962. It's single planked of mahogany and it took two years to complete. I finished the model in 1974 so it will be considered an antique soon."



For his second build

Doug decided to tackle the *Bluenose*, pictured to the left.

He tells that she "was a fishing and racing gaff rig schooner built in 1921. The kit was also a Billing Boat single planked of mahogany. I don't know the scale. It also took me two years to complete it finally in 1978."



Up next for **Doug** is *Independence* (1775), an Artesania Latina kit, scale 1:35, pictured to the right. He tells, "this ship is also double planked. After the Victory I swore I would

never build another double planked ship, but a friend gave the kit to me so I felt obligated to give it a go. The planking is thin and easy to bend and shape so I was able to complete the hull and deck planking in three months. The only problem with the planking is that it is so thin that I wasn't able to sand the hull as smooth as I normally do for fear of sanding all the way through to the first layer. Also, the quality of the walnut is not the best. I'm just starting working on the deck detail now."



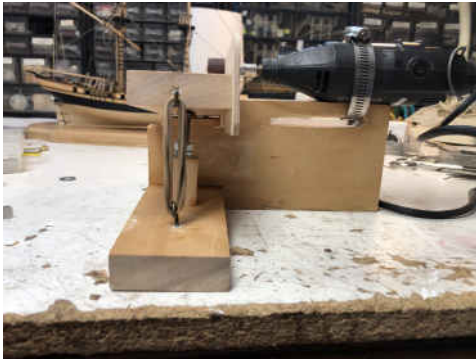
Thank you Doug for the visit to "Port Ward"!

Show and Tell

Show and Tell can include such entries as **Chuck Seiler** sending Greeting from the wilds of Santee and updating a story run in a recent newsletter. He tells about "finally finished re-reading "SEA VENTURE" and found the ship that left Jamestown, went to Bermuda then back to England was NOT the *Virginia* but another pinnace. *Virginia* stayed in Virginia for the duration of the book." **Show and Tell** can also include reports of continued ship modeling activity like that told about by participants of the December Virtual Guild Meeting. **Join the next Virtual Guild Meeting on January 12 and add to the conversation!**

Show and Tell continued:

Jay MacMaster told meeting attendees about his continued work on USS *Lexington* (1776) that he is building for his daughter, work on HMS *Surprise* (1796), and constructing a custom tool for rigging and especially deadeyes. Besides his exemplary model building skills, **Jay** demonstrates his ingenuity by taking spare materials and building a plank sander, rubber bands indeed!

***San Felipe* (1690)****By Don Bienvenue****Kit by Mantua/Panart****Scale 1:75**

Don told the members about his work on *San Felipe* following the November Guild Meeting. He reported, “I am continuing work on the stern of the model. Since our previous virtual meeting, I have completed the brass railings and moldings. The railings appear to be a brass coated Britannia metal and the supports between the two deck levels were solid brass castings. For the next meeting, I plan on adding the four stern gunports and adding the channels to the hull. Before installing the channels and while the cannons and gunport lids can still be easily accessed, I will install the dummy cannons and gunport lids which are located under the channels.”

Don also provided the following: “**Ship history** - The *San Felipe* is said to have been launched in 1690 as part of the Spanish Navy. There is some debate as to if the ship was actually built owing to lack of information. It is sometimes said that the *San Felipe* model is a representation of a warship of that time period, and not of an actual ship by that name. The *San Felipe* is typical of the highly decorated Spanish Ships of the Line of the late 17th/early 18th century. A ship of this type would have displaced about 1000 tons and could carry 110 guns onboard.

“The kit literature describes the *San Felipe* as having participated in a furious 24 hour long battle between 12 Spanish ships and 35 British ships in 1705 and was captured by the British. The *San Felipe* was badly damaged from fires caused by the British fire ships and eventually sank from its damage.

“**The Model** - The model is an Italian kit manufactured by Panart, a division of Mantua. The scale is 1:75, which will make the model approximately 3 feet long when finished. The planking is typical of European kits, being double planked. The first layer utilizes beech wood and the second layer is maple.”



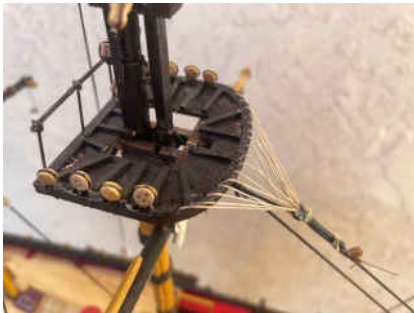
Show and Tell continued:**HMS *FLY* (Swan Class)****By Bob McPhail****VICTORY Model Kits****Scale 1:64**

Bob has sent along pictures of his progress on *Fly* and tells the Guild, “Yards are pretty much completed but will probably be left alone until I start the running rigging. I am starting to put on the standing rigging.



“Deadeye rigging is a tedious task so I decided not to put on the channels all at the same time but will add as needed as the standing rigging progresses.

“I would have liked to be further along but, Rome wasn't built in a day either.” Enjoy the build, Bob!

**USS *McDERMUT* (DD 667)****by Frank Dengler****Scratch build**

Frank spoke at the Guild Meeting of a busy schedule keeping him from continuing to build models of his series of U.S. Navy battle-tested ships. As seen in numerous newsletters and easily found in the Guild website's Build Gallery, [San Diego Ship Modelers Guild \(sdshipmodelersguild.org\)](http://SanDiegoShipModelersGuild.org), his primarily scratch built models and

detailed articles provide the reader a historical perspective of these important ships. Therefore, it was a pleasure to find **Frank** blew some dust off his incomplete model of the destroyer USS *McDERMUT* (DD 677), pictured above. He tells the Guild *McDERMUT* “sank 3 Japanese destroyers in the Battle of Surigao Strait 25 Oct 45. I hope to get back to it between Christmas and the New Year.”

After it was suggested his picture provided a unique visual on his creative process constructing a DD model **Frank** responded, “I don't know anything about the “creative process”. I just get an old piece of wood and chip off anything that doesn't look like a destroyer. If the wood is gnarly, I leave some of the stuff I'd normally remove and it looks like a cruiser.” Gnarly, indeed! It is hoped to see *McDERMUT* displayed one day like the model of destroyer USS *JOHN D. FORD* (DD 228) in a shadow box, pictured to the right, with her service details.



Show and Tell continued:***Scotland*, a merchant ship of uncertain origin**

by Tom Hairston

Kit by Corel**Scale 1:64**

Tom sent pictures of his latest project, the merchant ship *Scotland*. He tells the Guild, *Scotland* “is typical of a Baltic Ketch that was made between 1750 and 1800. They were used for transport of goods and passengers between the Baltic countries and also on lakes and rivers. Their small size, 50 to 60 feet, made them very versatile.” The Corel kit description adds, “their impressive sails and pleasing soft hull lines distinguished them from other types of work boats. In a note dated 1775, the famous naval architect, F.H. Chapman referred to this type of ship as a "Baltic Vessel."

Tom adds, “This is a Corel kit that I purchased to stay busy before I began work on finishing the *Bounty* for the Brown family. The hull was easily assembled following clear instructions. But when it came to using the metal fixtures provided in the kit, I had to throw away most of them and remake the parts in wood. Some were the wrong size or scale and others were distorted when they came out of the mold. That part of the build has been very challenging.



“I am moving into the rigging phase now and **think** that the project can be finished in about 2 or 3 months.” Ahh, best laid plans! The Guild looks forward to **Tom’s** reports and viewing another **Hairston Model!**



Restorations by Jon Sanford - **Jon** continues his unsparing efforts restoring ships for the Maritime Museum. The two restored models shown here, a **Mississippi Riverboat** and either a **Liberty Ship** or **Victory Ship**, are models belonging to the museum. **Jon** has also completed the restoration of several models donated by **Laura Kyle** in memory of gone member **Bob Kyle**. Those models are on display for sale in the Maritime Museum’s Gift Shop with any revenue to be to the museum’s benefit. **Jon welcomes any help with these projects, just contact him and become part of this worthwhile work!**



The End
Happy New Year Guild!