



October 2021 NEWSLETTER VOLUME 49, NO. X

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Have a Happy Fall Season, Guild!



In September of 2021, the Guild celebrated its 50th Anniversary! There were reminders from the Guild Master of how in 1971 an interest in ships and ship modeling brought folks together who used their hands, tools, and sharp wits to build models of ships. Now, 50 years later, we find that still holds true! Pictured to the left, enjoy **Tom Hairston's** model of the *Star of India*.

So, a party and a cake just might just call forth a sea shanty or a song that sailors long ago sang!

For grog is our starboard, our larboard,
Our mainmast, our mizen, our log—
At sea, or ashore, or when harbour'd
The mariner's compass is grog.

From Naval Customs, Traditions and Usage by
Leland P. Lovette



“From the Quarterdeck” by the Guild Master



We celebrated our 50th Anniversary aboard the **BERKELEY** this past month and it was a perfect setting for old (and new) friends to catch up and renew bonds: barbecued ribs, chicken, coleslaw, cake, chanteys, raffles... we hope everyone had a good time!

Speaking of new friends, the Guild is experiencing an influx of new Members these past few months... be sure to reach out as you come across new faces at our upcoming meetings.

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



14 SEPTEMBER 2021 GUILD MEETING REPORT

Those unable or hesitant to meet aboard the steam ferry *Berkeley* at the Maritime Museum are encouraged to send pictures of project(s) or anything of interest you would like to share with the Guild to the Editor at newsletter@sdshipmodelersguild.org so it may be added to the newsletter.

The Guild's September monthly meeting was suspended to make room for its 50th Anniversary Celebration and this newsletter will be for the most part filled with pictures from the event. Pictures are offered by **Alex Roel**, **Guy Lawrie**, **James Pitt**, and substantially by **Chuck Seiler** who took the picture to the right during festivities. Wait, no, that can't be right. There were no togas!



The “Jack Straws”, pictured to the left, greeted members and guests from the *Berkeley*'s passenger deck with a sea shanty as they walked the quay to board her. The group continued to entertain the party with their renditions of classic sea shanties throughout the celebration. **Guild Master Alex Roel** opened the celebration by greeting the members and their wives/guests then introduced the Guild's most recently joined members; **Randel Davis**, **Mike Hite**, **Dean Shellenberger**, and **Chris Sullivan**.

As host, **Alex** spoke about the “party favor” given to members upon their arrival, a compass to guide their way and a raffle ticket for a vintage model kit of *Volante*. **Alex** put together a ‘place holder’ sheet which told the story of the Guild's beginning with the building of a *Volante* model, “How Did Our Guild Get Started? With a Kit That Had Only Two Masts” written by **Bob Wright**, cofounder of SDSMG. Visit the Guild's website at [San Diego Ship Modelers Guild \(sdshipmodelersguild.org\)](http://San Diego Ship Modelers Guild (sdshipmodelersguild.org)) to read about our Guild's beginnings. The second ‘place holder’ was a copy of the Guild's first newsletter that can be found at [SDSMG197705rc.pdf \(sdshipmodelersguild.org\)](http://SDSMG197705rc.pdf (sdshipmodelersguild.org)).



Alex also introduced the CEO of the Maritime Museum, **Ray Ashley**, and then **Alex** spoke about the Guild's relationship with the museum. **Ray**, pictured left, spoke briefly and mentioned the contribution of Guild member **Mike Hite** for his donation for several enhancements to the museum's model display areas designed to protect the models with UV



resistant window film and display ship models for the museum's visiting public. Pictured above right, **Mike** and his wife **Jennie** are pictured in the new “model hall” that they made a donation towards. This is found aboard the museum's steam ferry *Berkeley* and was formerly a storage area! **Bravo Zulu, Mike**, and to all the others who support the Maritime Museum!

GUILD MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO PLAN ON ATTENDING THE NEXT IN-PERSON MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 12 OCTOBER AT 6:00 PM!

BRING A SHIP MODEL! BRING A TALL TALE!

Meeting Report continued:



Alex is pictured here setting up ‘place holders’ with a copy of the Guild’s first newsletter with his wife **Hope**. Their hard work preparing ‘party favors’ and ‘place holders’ along with coordinating the activities necessary for the celebration deserve a **Bravo Zulu!** Alex took a moment during the celebration to recognize **Editor Guy Lawrie** for his service as editor of the newsletter. For Alex’s trouble, **Guy** did an imitation of a sailor’s jig to the Jack Straw’s rendition of the old shanty, “What Shall We Do



with a Drunken Sailor’?” How disturbing was that for the membership?

Alex kept the celebration on pace as the meeting included 38 catered meals provided by Phil’s BBQ and **Show & Tell** offerings from **Doug Ward** and **Jay MacMaster**. Too soon, it was time to clear the decks and pass a clean ship back to the Maritime Museum.

Outside of the festivities, **Purser Jon Sanford** sent the following **Purser’s Report** for inclusion in the newsletter.

Beginning Balance on August 12, 2021 \$<redacted>
Ending Balance on September 13, 2021 \$<redacted>



Guild member **Bill Grolz**, seen seated here alongside his wife **Janet**, has once again made a generous contribution to the Guild. **Bill**, a one time Guild Master, is an accomplished photographer in addition to being a fine ship model craftsman whose work has been displayed at many San Diego County Fairs and other events. **His support for the Guild is much appreciated!**

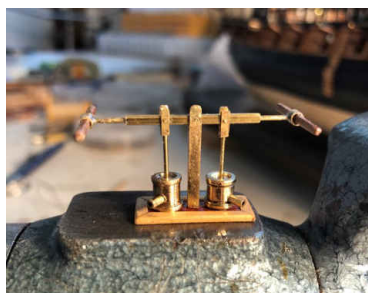
End of Meeting Report.

Show and Tell



Jay MacMaster brought in his custom rope walk along with his fabricated masts, bilge pump, and canon for his model of his U.S. Brig *Syren* (1803). Pictured to the left; as members gathered for the celebration, **Jay** and **Howard Griffus** examine **Jay’s** rope walk. In the background, **Mike Hite** (seated) and **Chris Sullivan** get settled on the passenger deck of the *Berkeley*. His *Syren* is a modified kit constructed with natural woods for all ship coloring with a goodly part of the ship’s hardware

fabricated by **Jay** from scratch. As reported on in previous newsletters, much of the model’s construction is based upon his research into the original admiralty plans.



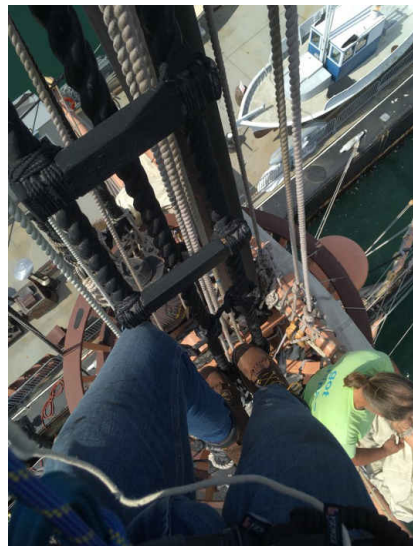
Show and Tell continued:



Doug Ward (pictured to the left) showed his Artesania Latina 1:35 model of the schooner *Independence* (1775) at the celebration. ‘Ages of Sail’ wrote that the model “is a faithful replica of a colonial topsail schooner with six cannons that helped to consolidate the United States as an independent nation.” He spoke about his surprise at finding the kit’s stern was simply the cast metal part shown in the pictures below and, along with other modifications to enhance the appearance of the finished model, he completely rebuilt this significant part of the model. **Doug** also brought with him a pandemic project, a ship in a bottle, the *Lively Lady*, also pictured below. The Ships-A-Sailin’ kit, a very old and no longer produced kit, was picked up at the Maritime Museum’s Model Shop for a donation to the museum. If interested in any of the kits, materials, or plans the Guild maintains in the Model Shop, please contact **Jon Sanford** and you might walk away with a treasure, too!

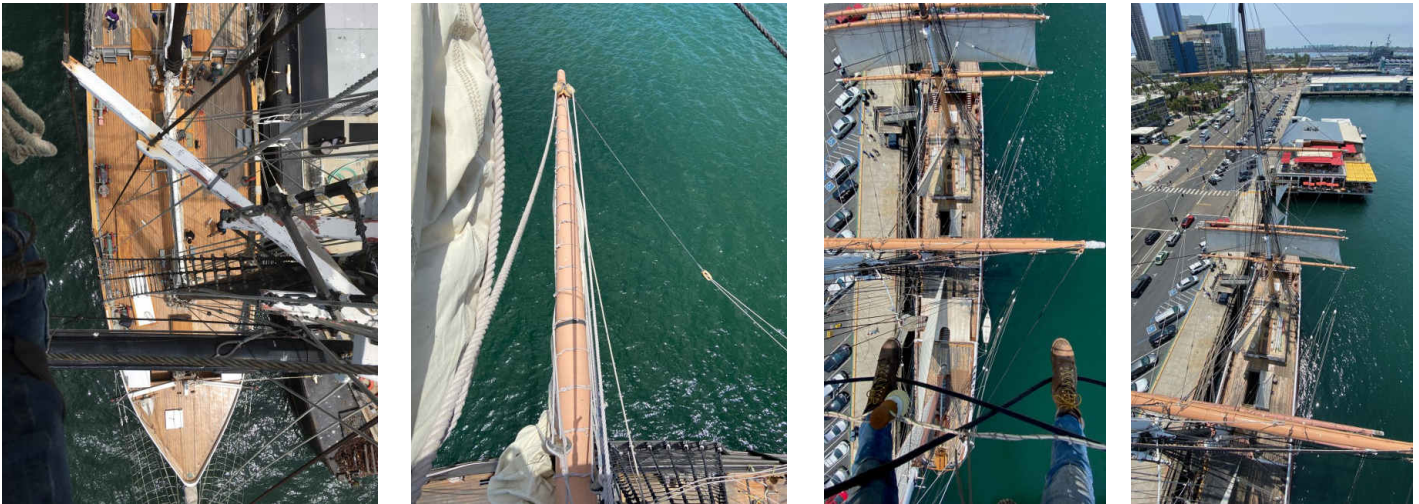


Isaac Wills was unable to attend this year’s gala celebration due to out of state school commitments. His Dad, **Robert Wills** (pictured to the right along with his friend **Daniella**), who many of the members got to know as a former member who shepherded a young **Isaac** to Guild meetings over the years, attended the celebration in his stead.



To celebrate the Guild, **Isaac** sent along the pictures to the left and on the following page. They were taken over the summer as he became proficient going aloft on the tall ships of the Maritime Museum as a member of the Maritime Museum’s Sail/Maintenance Crew Volunteers.

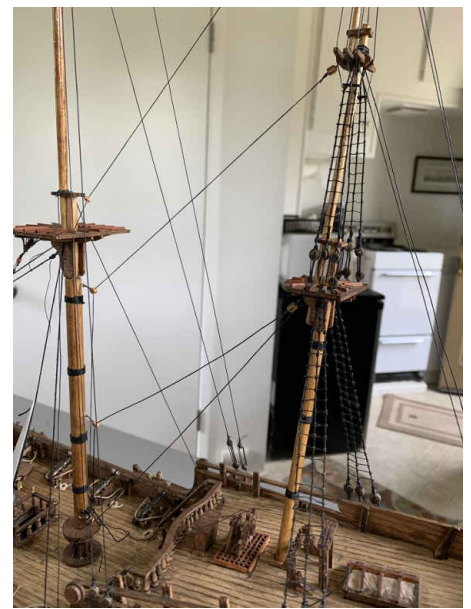
far left: aloft the top sail schooner *Californian*;
near left: aloft the heritage galleon *San Salvador*

Show and Tell continued with Isaac Wills aloft on the Maritime Museum's Ships:

Left to right: aloft the top sail schooner *Californian*; along a spar of the heritage galleon *San Salvador*; and the last two pictures show the view from the barq *Star of India*, the world's oldest active sailing ship!

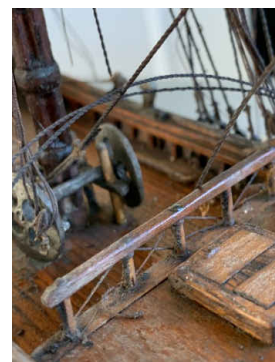
Heights bother you?

Mike Hite sent along pictures (see below) to share of his “training ship” for future projects, the *Black Pearl*. He reports he received the model kit from an associate from abroad and it has been a real challenge with plans being just so-so. He reports that the parts are laser cut yet are of some laminated wood so the laminations show after each part is glued in place. He reported that the kit included some very nice die cast parts that have great detail. He said he was able to paint the stern ornamentation that he will add later to the model because it turned out quite nice. He also said he will try furled sails on a model for the first time.



Show and Tell continued with a Mike Hite restoration:

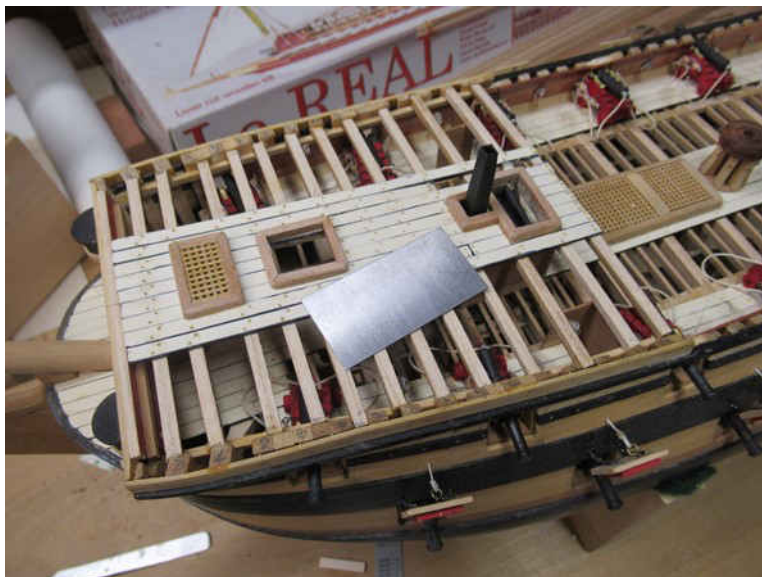
Mike additionally sent the picture to the right of a restoration he tells is a “very old, solid hull clipper ship.” He reports finding some really fine details in the model that revealed themselves as the model was cleaned. Though **Mike** said that he has not restored any models that were dated, this one has the builder’s initials carved in the base, “P G”. He noted the model has very fine wire inside the railings and since most of the wire is missing from the model he is planning to replicate and replace the wire.



Don Dressel was reluctantly unable to attend the Guild’s celebration but in his stead he sent along the following update on his extraordinary model of **HMS Roebuck**. The *HMS Roebuck* was a fifth rate British Navy frigate completed on 4 August 1775 at Chatham Dockyard. She served in the American Revolutionary War (Assault on Philadelphia, Operations against Charleston, blockade duty), the French Revolutionary Wars, the Anglo-Dutch War and the Napoleonic Wars. During her long career she had many awards (long list). She was a two-decker designed by naval architect Sir Thomas Slade in 1769 as an improvement on his *Phoenix* model.

The model is scratch built using boxwood, holly, Swiss pear, ebony, bamboo (dowels), and brass primarily. The scale is 1:64 based on plans by Harold Hahn and information obtained from Greenwich in England, among other sources.

This article pertains to the current progress on the model. The fore deck is being laid down the center of the ship leaving the port and starboard areas open to be able to view the lower decks and hold. The comings and hatches are in progress and the belfry has yet to be constructed, but the Brodie stove and vent stack are installed. The metal scrapper shown in the photo on the fore deck is used to scrape the bamboo dowels flat with the deck before sanding. A few planks will be installed port and starboard on the fore deck also due to the “walkway” that has to yet be installed on either side between the poop deck and the fore deck. Lots of work yet to be done.



The quarter badges are also still being worked on. After the belfry is finished, the next challenge will be the double ship’s wheel.

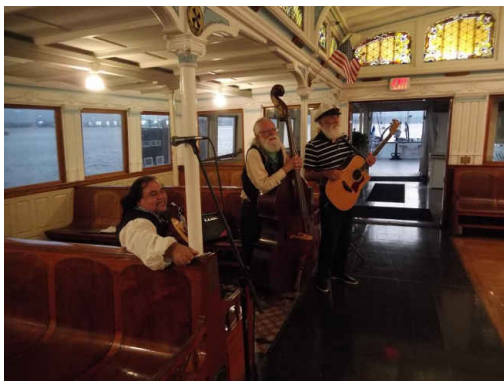
Don tells, “So much fun.”

End of Show & Tell.

50th Anniversary Celebration Gallery



Beginning the picture gallery is **James Pitt** cutting the 50th Anniversary cake. The picture on the right, L to R, is a “Raft” of Guild Masters (aptly named by Alex) attending the celebration: **James Pitt** (careful with that cutlass!), **Don Bienvenue**, **Bill Grolz**, **Robert Hewitt**, **Alex Roel**, and **Jon Sanford**.



‘**Jack Straws**’ preparing to play for the Guild!



Camera shy **Karl Zingheim** (center) with **Bill Grolz** pictured at a previous meeting. **Karl** managed the meal decisions and coordinated with **Phil’s BBQ** for a delicious meal shared by the Guild!



Jon Sanford handled the coffee mess setup for all to enjoy!



Left: The Guild Master, **Hope Roel** (so named by **Alex**), prepares the “party favor” basket as **Alex Roel** (standing) and **James Pitt** look on!



Right: **Guy Lawrie** examines the ‘party favor’ and enjoys the ‘place holder’ sheets that **Alex Roel** thoughtfully provided for the part goers!



Pictured right: L to R; **Frank Dengler**, **Chuck Seiler** (in his camera mask), **Doug** and **Sema Yumoto** (seated) finding seats!

Far Left: **Diana Griffus** found a seat!

Left: **Doug** and **Sema Yumoto** found seats, too!



50th Anniversary Celebration Gallery continued:



The pictures above are of folks finding a place to sit and celebrate. L to R: **Tom Hairston** greets **Jay MacMaster** as he arrives, **Dave Yotter** examines a 'place holder', **Don Bienvenue** and his friend **Anh Vu** find seating, and **Robert Hewitt** takes a stroll



Above, the party begins! L to R: **Alex Roel** announces grub has arrived as **Randel** and **Julie Davis** chat with the **Hites**, **Phil's BBQ** is ready to go as **Julie** finds a drink, **Janet Grolz** and others make their way through the grub line!



After dinner, **Howard Griffus** takes a stand and folks listen in to **Jay MacMaster** and **Doug Ward** as they present at Show & Tell. A good time for all!

THE END