



July 2023 NEWSLETTER VOL. 51, NO. VII

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Summer's Off With a Blast!



June's session featured appearances by **Frank Dengler, Don Dressel, Zander Fettel, Tom Hairston, Guy Lawrie, Steve Miller, James Pitt, Alex Roel, Jon Sanford, Chuck Seiler, Patrick Sheehan, Chris Sullivan, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Dave Yotter,** and Powder Monkey **Karl Zingheim.** Maritime Museum Librarian **Kevin Sheehan** was also present as a guest.

With the Del Mar Fair in full swing, Guild Master John thanked Tom, Jon, Guy, Alex, and **Paco Arenosa** for their combined efforts in producing hundreds of Mini-Star kits for distribution at our booth. John's presentation of **Jay McMaster's** Member of the Year award at the booth was a heartfelt surprise for Jay. The Guild's entries in the Fair model contest produced a sweep with 1st and 2nd places and trophies for Tom, 3rd and 4th places for Jay, an Honorable Men-tion for Alex, and a 4th in another category for **Doug Ward.** Look forward to our next issue for in-depth coverage of our Fair participants and champions!

Jon shared a compilation of photos of the Fair booth construction while Isaac followed through with our second presentation on scratch building techniques. Young Patrick introduced himself to the Guild and we were delighted to officially welcome our newest member!



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



From the Quarterdeck by the Guild Master

Ahoy Guild members!

That's a wrap from the Del Mar Fairgrounds! Twenty-two days have come and gone — days filled with stories of connection and guild comradery. I'd like to reflect on one of those stories here, and I invite other guild members to share theirs with our Newsletter Editor for inclusion in August's publication.

I don't think it's any secret that I place a great deal of importance on our Mini-Star project. By having a tangible, giftable piece of our craft, we have the potential to plant a seed in a young mind. Now, it is absolutely true that almost every person who receives a Mini-Star kit will not go on to join our ranks as a future ship modeler. That's just a fact of life. So why do it? Why go through so much trouble just to reach one hypothetical kid out of hundreds? Thousands, even! Because that kid isn't as hypothetical as you'd think.

Sometimes, I like to hang around for a little longer at the booth, just in case someone has a question (about something other than where the heads are located). On one of those occasions, a boy around eleven years old wandered over to the booth, wide-eyed. He asked, with a quiver in his voice, "Do you... build ships?" When I told him that indeed we did and directed his attention to Tom Hairston's blue-ribbon-winning STAR OF INDIA model across the way, you'd have thought that I was showing him an ancient relic on par with the Ark of the Covenant. Mouth agape, he turned back to me and asked, "How? How do you build something like that?!"

So we began to talk about how one goes about learning a new skill like ship model building, based on my own experience: Starting small, and then continuing to push yourself. The major importance of accepting things going wrong as part of the path to doing them right. Making sure that you enjoy the process and not just the end result.

As we're having this discussion, I begin to piece together his experience: He'd always wanted to build something, but was never given the opportunity. No one around him shared in this interest, and so no one ever fostered his inherent passion. He didn't know where to go or where to start.

For as long as I live, I will never forget the look on his face when I reached into the cabinet and presented him with his own Mini-Star kit. What I put into his hands was far more than a plastic bag with some bits of wood and paper — it was permission to pursue a dream, the key to a door that had always been locked to him. In that moment, a whole future lay before him.

"If it was allowed, I'd come in there and give you a hug!" he said. We settled on a fist bump. And as I watched him walk away, a smile splayed from ear to ear, holding his kit with a reverence reserved only for the most priceless of treasures, I thought to myself, *That's why we do this.*

Fair winds and following seas,

John Walsh
Guild Master



Meet Patrick Sheehan!

Patrick is the son of the San Diego Maritime Museum's Librarian, and Guild supporter, Kevin Sheehan. Patrick is just beginning his voyage into ship modeling and was kind enough to introduce us to his newest project: the classic plastic kit of the battleship *North Carolina*!

Setting his sights high, Patrick also asked for a recommendation for a starter wooden kit, and Guild Master John Walsh proffered the Artesania Latina Jolly Boat kit.

Welcome aboard, Patrick! And enjoy your journey into our hobby!



Our Latest Presentation: “Scratch This!”



Isaac produced the first of his multi-media presentations on scratch building techniques in classic ship modeling. This segment covered the preliminaries that are necessary in setting out in crafting an accurate vessel from raw materials.

Research, and a firm grasp of actual ship building skills and techniques, are crucial in getting the details right and avoiding construction errors that can compound as the project moves forward. In the photo to the right, Isaac uses a bulkhead and frame model to demonstrate what a plan’s diagonal lines mean for the buttock lines on the planking to come.



The photo at left shows Isaac and Zander Fettel examining various types of ship’s plans that represent body forms. Future installments in Isaac’s series will cover progressive steps in making a scratch build.

July’s meeting will feature a presentation by Mike Lonnecker on build boards.

If you have an idea for a live presentation, contact Isaac or John for details!

SDSMG Models at Del Mar

The Guild was well represented at the Fair this year, with the work of **Jon Sanford, Isaac Wills, Alex Roel, Doug Ward, Jay McMaster, and Tom Hairston** being proudly displayed for the public in the “Design in Wood” Exhibition.



Just Hanging Around...



Stemming from a recent post on our own Log Keeper's social media, **Isaac Wills** and fellow Guild member **Zander Fettel** are pictured here in an excellent montage meme standing in the shrouds of the Maritime Museum's *Californian* during her recent drydocking. Both Isaac and Zander serve as volunteer maintenance crew for the Museum's collection of vessels. Whether it's full scale, or smaller, Isaac and Zander are both into the details!

One Person's Choice

PEOPLE'S CHOICE
Design in Wood Exhibition
Donated Awards

Vote for your favorite entry

Entry number of Piece: 10 72

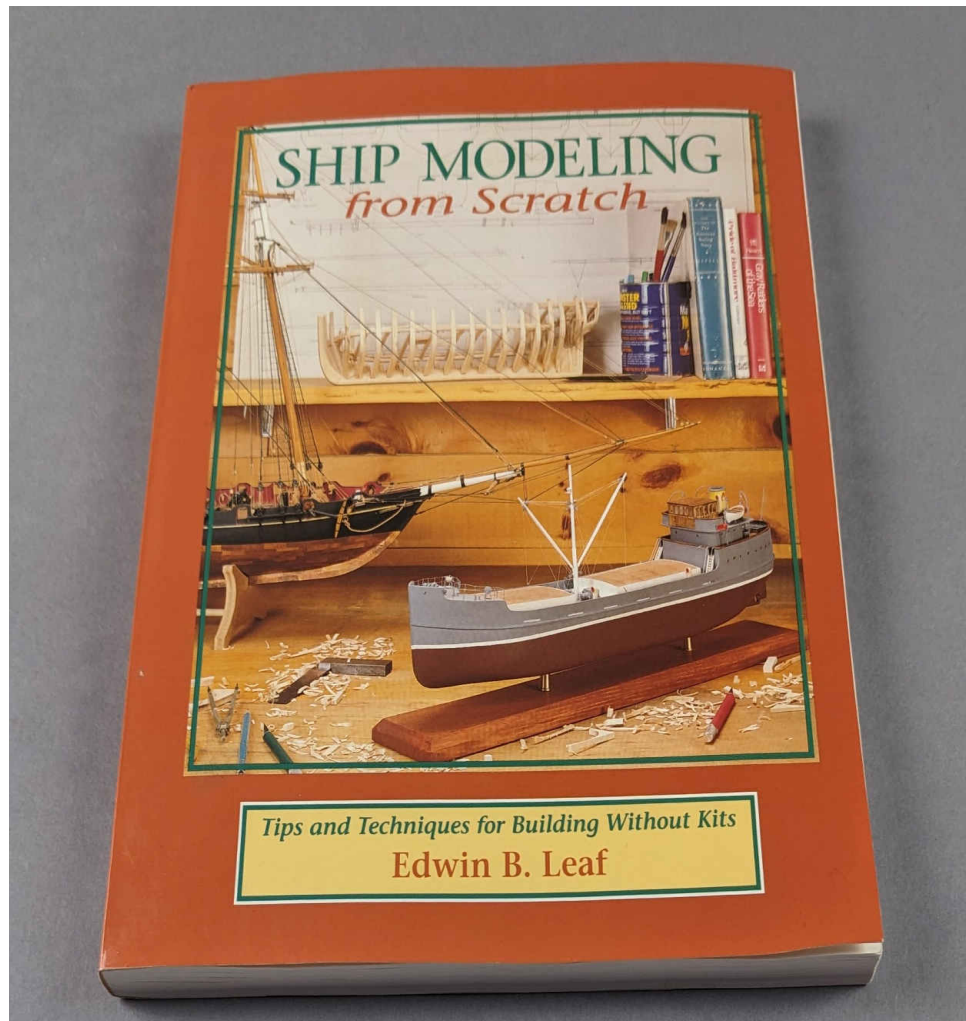
Name of Piece: ★ 02 INDIA

Name of artisan: Tomas Hairston

Drop this ballot in the voting box- at the information desk, or at the back of the Exhibit.

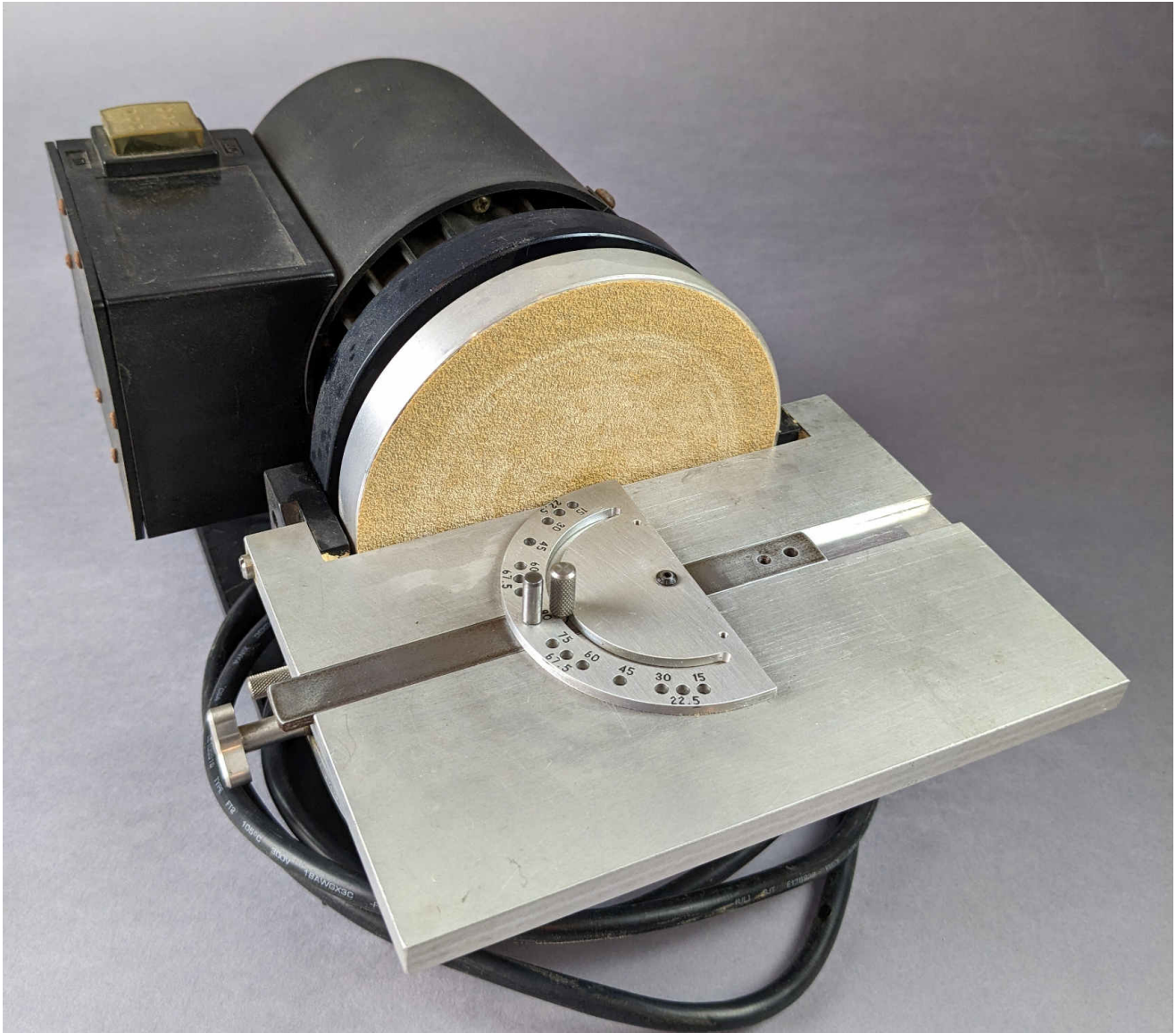
The Del Mar Fair features a “People’s Choice” balloted award for various classes of exhibits, and a little girl decided that **Tom Hairston’s** *Star of India* entry was most worthy of her vote—only, she thought the ballot had to be presented to Tom personally! Fortunately, when she asked Guild Master John where she may find him to cast her filled-in ballot, John took this wonderful snap before placing it in the ballot box.

Looks At Books



This month's recommended publication comes from Paco Arenosa who favors it because of the insights it provides on starting wood model construction as well as scratch building.

The Cool Tool of the Month



Don Dressel recommends this desk top circular sander because of its multiple uses in wood ship construction such as spilling, planking, masting, and producing deck furniture components.



Chuck Seiler: glad to be plaid!

Plaid—it's what's for dinner!



“Excuse me, where might I get some plaid?”

“He really makes plaid work.”



The fans turn out for the road show performance of *Forever Plaid*.

“You know, plaid and checked shirts are practically the same.”

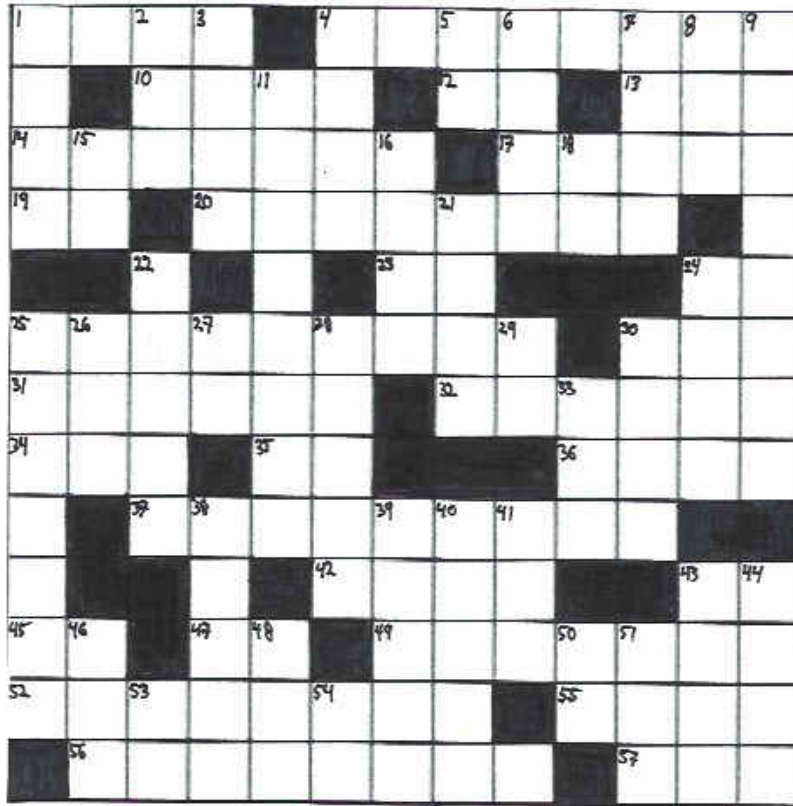


Plaid is the New Black!



"That's All, Folks!"

This Month's SDSMG Crossword



Across

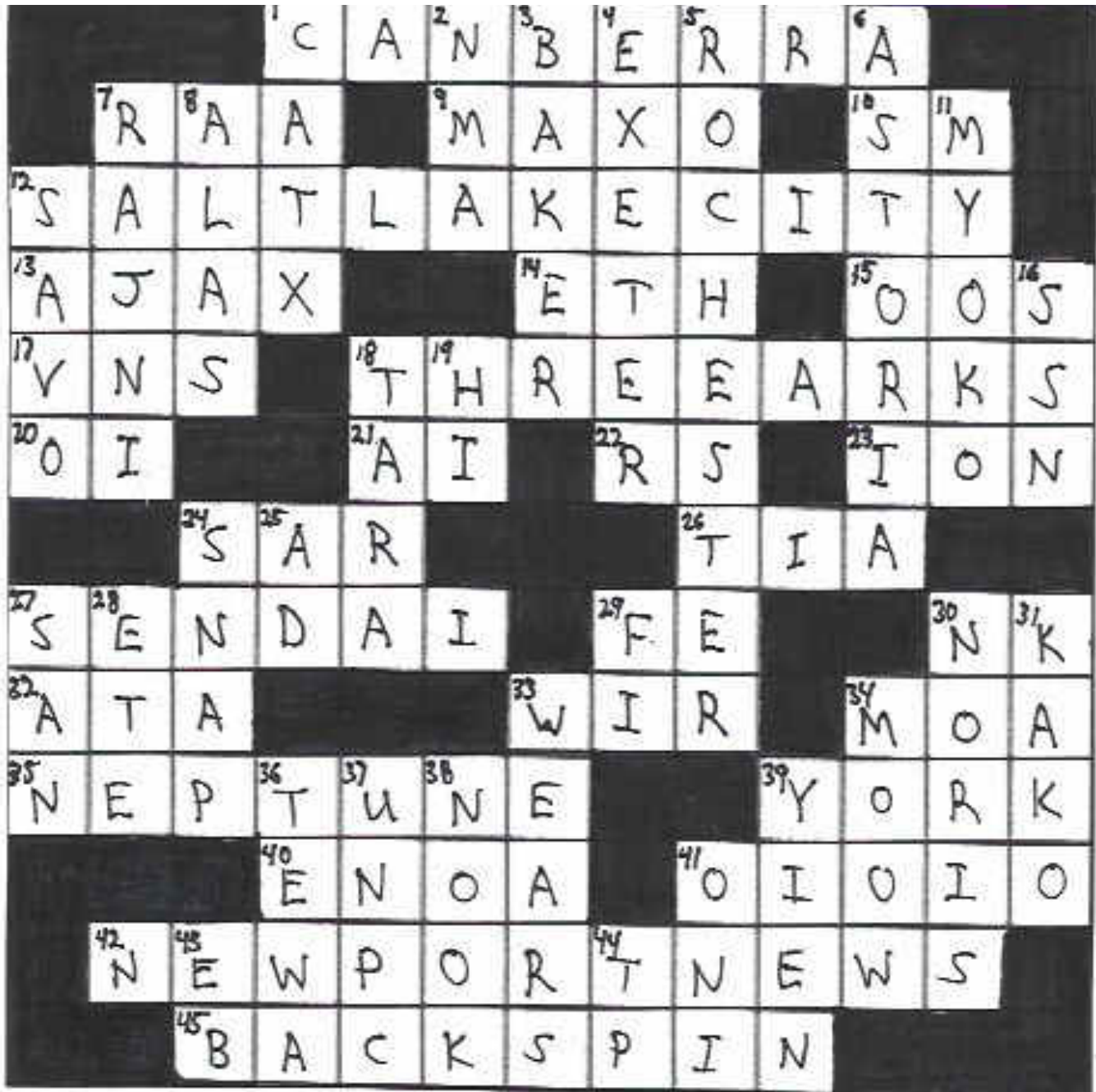
- 1. Sail storm precaution
- 4. Monitor at Mobile Bay
- 10. "Are We Not Men?"
- 12. Beast of burden
- 13. Russian missile boat
- 14. Twin funneled CSN raider
- 17. Timberclad at Shiloh
- 19. Formerly
- 20. Hesitant screw sloop at Mobile
- 23. 51 to Caesar
- 24. Long range radio
- 25. Frigate burned at Norfolk
- 30. Alt. form of Theodore
- 31. Caribbean for "great king"
- 32. Proper to Moshe
- 34. Maiden name
- 35. Molten Jovian moon

- 36. Ancient Scottish name
- 37. Victor over the *Alabama*
- 42. Julius' last line
- 43. Two part putty brand
- 45. Number one in binary
- 47. Digestive route
- 49. Famed Civil War raider
- 52. Land transaction, two words
- 55. Legal examination
- 57. Exclamation of understanding

Down

- 1. Actor Spall
- 2. Old Japanese capital
- 4. All for Jorge defender
- 5. Deadly gas
- 6. Commercial baking device
- 7. Watery compnd.
- 8. Inter-cardinal point
- 9. Farragut's flagship
- 11. Terror of Hampton Roads
- 15. Five dozen in Roma
- 18. Chromosomes in *Alien* sequel
- 21. Leg action
- 22. Inland stream
- 24. Army to Franz
- 25. Revolutionary ironclad
- 26. Struggle
- 27. Regarding
- 28. New Orleans naval
- 29. Victory in the ring
- 30. You in another sense
- 38. British carrier
- 39. Crop shaft
- 40. Churchill successor
- 41. Crater for kiwis
- 43. Nanny in the raj
- 44. Town in west England
- 46. Ironclad ___
- 48. Imprecise suffix
- 50. Wargame publisher
- 51. Actor Butterfield
- 53. Cable network
- 54. Author Milne

Last Month's Puzzle



Show & Tell

Don Dressel presented his Amati plank-on-bulkhead *La Nina*, which he took on as a distressed kit missing several parts, and incorrect renderings of the gratings and anchors. Don decided to depict the famed vessel in her lateen rig used at the start of her discovery voyage to America. Kit sails and rigging with aftermarket blocks completed the build.



Tom Hairston brought in a special project: a pilot boat similar to what Museum staffer Kiki Rossi's father worked aboard in Italy. This scratch built model started with conflicted plans, but photo research and interviews helped. Deck furniture and painting remain, and then the little pilot boat will go back to Italy for Kiki's mother as a special memento.





Guy Lawrie treated us with a pair of on-going projects, a paper model of a steam tug that was unceremoniously crushed to make room for his other promising endeavor: the pinky *Glad Tidings*. This plank-on-bulkhead model has now progressed to the planking stage now that the bulkheads have been braced and squared true. Good luck on the planking, Guy!



Karl Zingheim introduced a complete 3D printed kit of the British aircraft carrier HMS *Illustrious* in 1:350 scale. Although the kit parts suggest the model is largely finished in form and detail, special handling with adhesives, fillers, and paints will be required to prevent unfortunate reactions with the 3D material.

