



September 2023

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 51, NO. IX

GUILD OFFICERS

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Summer's Wane



August's session saw **Frank Dengler, Don Dressel, David Gary** and his dad **Stacy, Mike Lonnecker, Steve Miller, Alex Roel, Chuck Seiler, Kevin** and **Patrick Sheehan, Chris Sullivan, Albert Tamayo, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Dave Yotter, Doug Yumoto,** and Powder Monkey **Karl Zingheim** in attendance, and we were thrilled to have as our guests young **Nevidh Gammudali** and his father **Buddhika**, as well as **Steve Scheet**.

After calling the meeting to order, John welcomed our guests and presented budding ship modeler Dave Gary a pin driver, and Isaac gifted him a *San Salvador* kit. Next, John announced a potential public display in Balboa Park may be in the offing if a suitable partnership with a park museum be arranged. To celebrate the coming Guild anniversary, a **pot luck banquet** (and pizza) will be the fare for the September meeting. See below for details!

John revealed that a new series of "How to" classes are being arranged in conjunction with the Maritime Museum soon. Alex then updated everyone on his work to complete the Build Section on the Guild website. Please be sure to give Alex more information on your completed models!



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!

Well, it's finally here: the oft-debated anniversary celebration!

As Chuck Seiler presented during the July meeting (and as recorded in the August newsletter), the guild considers its official founding as being July 1971, the same way we celebrate Fourth of July for the founding of our country. So why then are we celebrating the occasion all the way in September? The simple answer is logistics—members travel during the summer months and it gives us time to recover from the San Diego Fair—but I've always been one to prefer poetic reasons over mundane ones. Here, then, I present my short but heartfelt case for a September celebration in addition to marking the official occasion of our founding in July.

The easy way out would be to say it's because that's when our first official meeting (after being granted approval in August) took place, but the way I look at it, September is our own version of Thanksgiving. It's a time to additionally recognize that our guild has only persisted because of its members continually coming together and sharing their knowledge. That's the

reason why we're doing this potluck style—to symbolize what each of us has individually brought to this storied group in order to make it flourish for 52 years.

Our guild started humbly, and so we humbly marked our founding in July with some cupcakes. But we've also grown into something incredible and unique, and that's what we'll be celebrating at the September meeting. We're honoring our longevity and everyone who's ever contributed to our growth and success. Sure, we could have done all of that at the meeting two months ago, but I love the poetic idea of our celebration itself growing from something small to something big, just like our guild.

Will this become the annual norm? Who knows. As our history has shown, there's been no one singular way to celebrate our guild. But for this year, at least, I'm thankful to you all for the opportunity to contribute a slightly different take on honoring our history. I hope you'll join us for a feast of food and fellowship on September 12th as Chuck and Alex Roel take us on a trip down memory lane with a presentation on the guild's history that's sure to unearth a few surprises!

Fair winds and following seas,

John Walsh

Guild Master

Pizza Time Is Coming!



It's anniversary time, and that means fine models, fellowship, and food! The September meeting will feature a pot luck, so bring in your best dishes, and prepare for pizza!

Participation is limited to members, plus one guest each. So, we hope to see you and a bestie at our tables!



The Western Naval History Association will hold its annual symposium on February 17th and 18th in 2024 aboard the USS Midway Museum. They would be delighted to have a segment on classic wood ship modeling presented by none other than the talented members of the San Diego Ship Modeling Guild. If you care to help present the history of our fine calling, please contact Guild Master John Walsh or Karl Zingheim.

You'll be glad you did!

What is Alex Cooking Up?



From the Web Master

Curious to see what your fellow Guildmates have accomplished? Stop by the [Build Gallery](#) on our website for a comprehensive list of completed builds sorted by year. Our archive now stretches back several years.

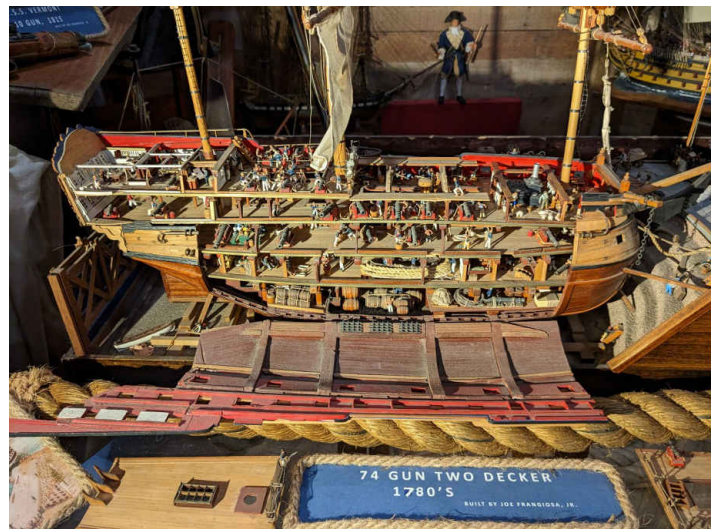
Tom Hairston's BUTCHER BOY is our latest addition to the Build Gallery, and illustrates some of the standard features of each gallery entry. Besides the build's construction notes (model type, materials, scale) we have recently introduced additional detail photos immediately below the main photo, and now all photos may be clicked to view them full size in a separate browser window.

Note that photos of the completed build *while under construction* are also welcome and help to illustrate the process. If you have a completed build that you would like added to the Build Gallery please [contact me](#).

August's Presentation: Nautical History Gallery

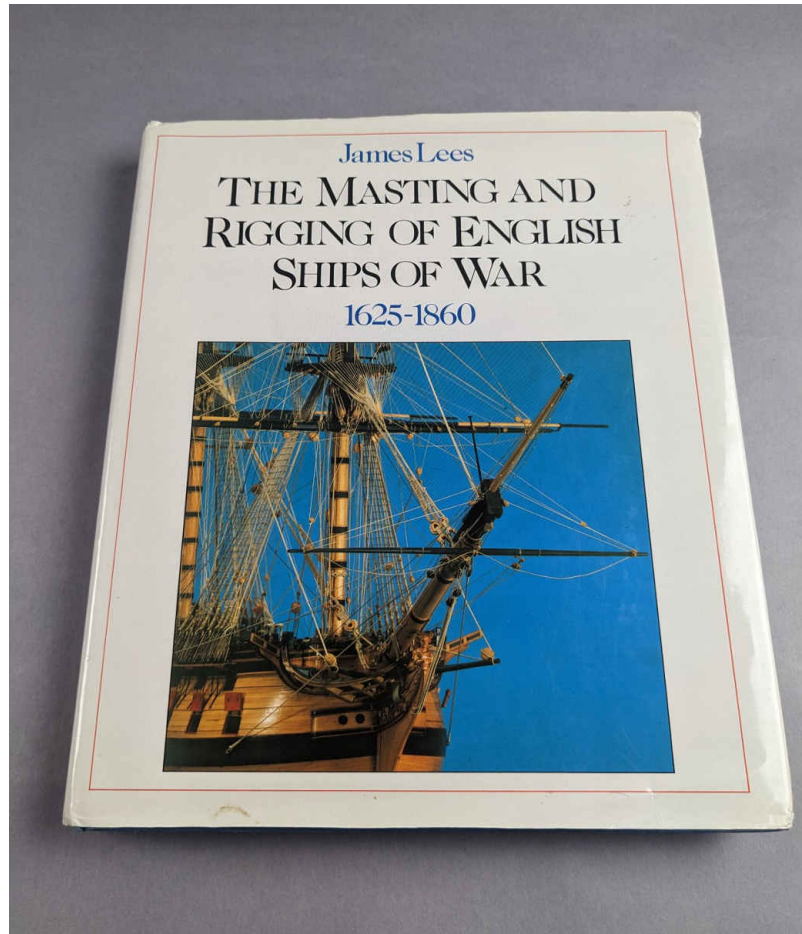


John led a fascinating slide show on a remarkable collection of scratchbuilt naval memorabilia and authentic artifacts on the U.S. Navy presented by Joe Frangiosa, Jr. Recently relocated to Liberty Station, this unique tribute features models from 1775 to 1945, depicted in lush historical settings. Joe himself is always on hand warmly welcome his guests to show visitors around.





Looks At Books



From Tom Hairston's work bench comes this indispensable volume on rigging recommended by none other than Mike Lonnecker!

The Cool Tool of the Month



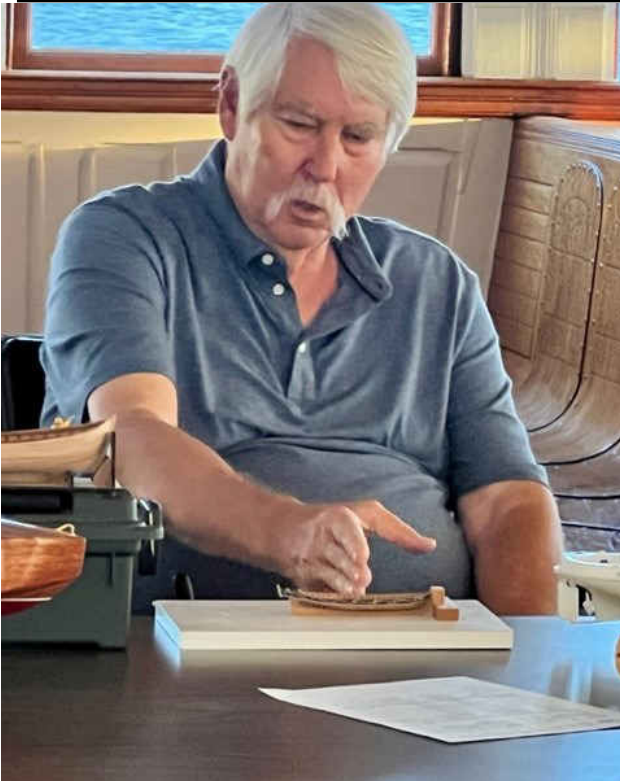
Guy Lawrie gives us a “two-fer” with Doctor’s Brush Picks for precise glue applications, and an adjustable sanding sheet clamp for absolutely “no-slip” sanding.

“And fourth, I demand that the McRib be available all year round.”



“Seriously, guys, I don’t even *like* the McRib!”





Mike demonstrates his patented hands-on method for bisecting a model.



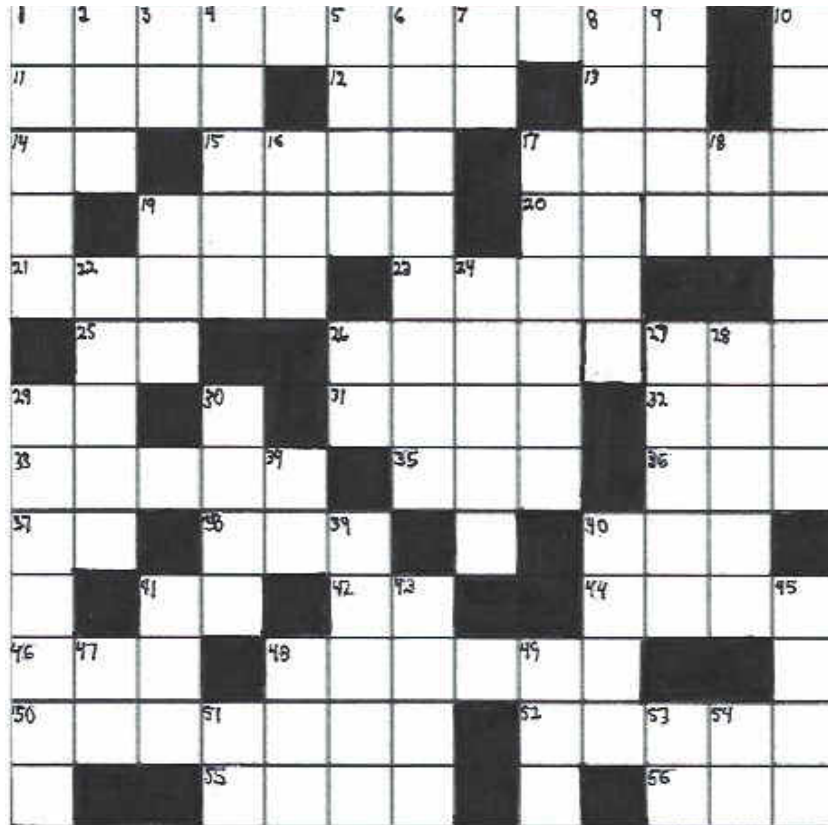
“Looks like I picked the wrong week to stop drinking decaf!”



“And if you run your fingers just so along the rigging, it sounds like a zither!”



This Month's SDSMG Crossword



Across

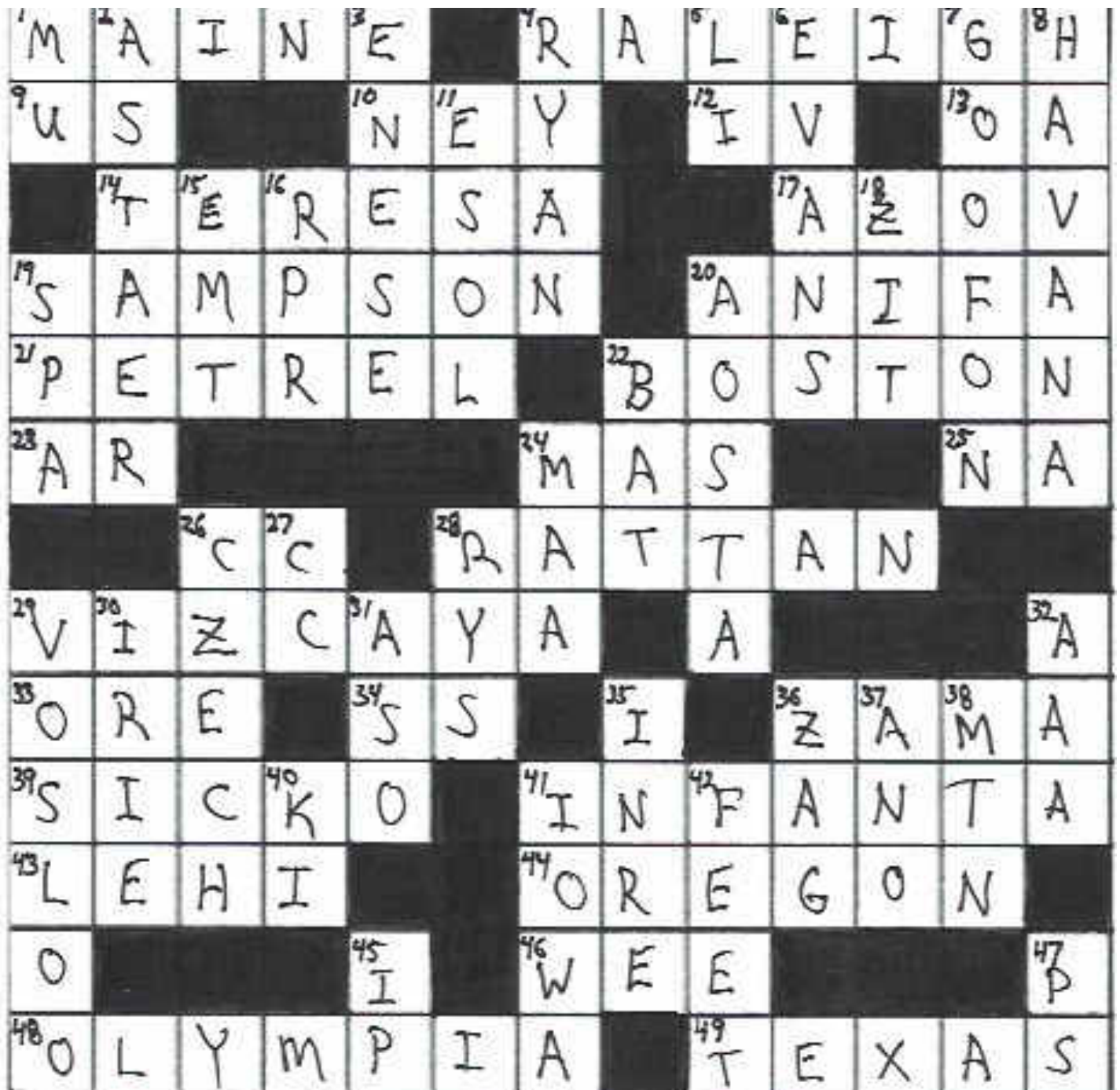
1. Destroyer sunk pre-WWII
11. Inflatable pilot in *Airplane!*
12. Flight attitude
13. Unlucky Chancellorsville Corps
14. Broad valley in Italy
15. IRA type
17. Scurvy cure
19. Mythical mariner threat
20. "All ____", put down
21. Starship 1st officer
23. Locked receptacle
25. Japanese river
26. Not stale because...
29. War captive
31. Destroyer lost in East Indies in WWII
32. Destroyer testbed for floats planes
33. Guadalcanal destroyer

____ *Ward*

Down

1. Made 1st U.S. U-boat kill
2. War region in Old World
3. SDGO paper
4. Had epic fight with U-boat
5. Ki.27 codename
6. Destroyer at Samar
7. Threat to warplanes
8. UK's last heavy cruiser
9. Destroyer at Coral Sea
10. Rammed midget sub
16. Hockey legend
17. Kamikaze target in 1945
18. Early Middle Age lang.
19. Winter sport implement
22. Hawkeye State dweller
24. Tree in Colorado
26. Web giver
27. Coda
28. Town near Dortmund
29. Asiatic Fleet survivor
30. Japanese cruiser sunk in 1945
34. Inter-cardinal point
39. Hullabaloo
40. South Pacific destroyer
41. Hawaiian moonshine
43. 1st shot destroyer
45. Lost in December 1944 typhoon
47. Indication of recognition
48. Keystone State airport codename
49. Sci fi computer
51. AM radio band
53. Whiskey brand
54. Duce for Romans

Last Month's Puzzle





BUILD LOG: HELLER AMERIGO VESPUCCI BY DON BIENVENUE

Don is nearing completion of his build, as the tensioning of the rigging has created challenges...





Don has progressed on the running rigging, but the flexibility of the fine plastic yardarms makes warping very easy. The nameplate was painted brown with the name rendered with a fine Sharpie pen by hand. The balcony was also installed, but other deck furniture and the multiple lifeboats still remain to finish this challenging kit.







Show & Tell

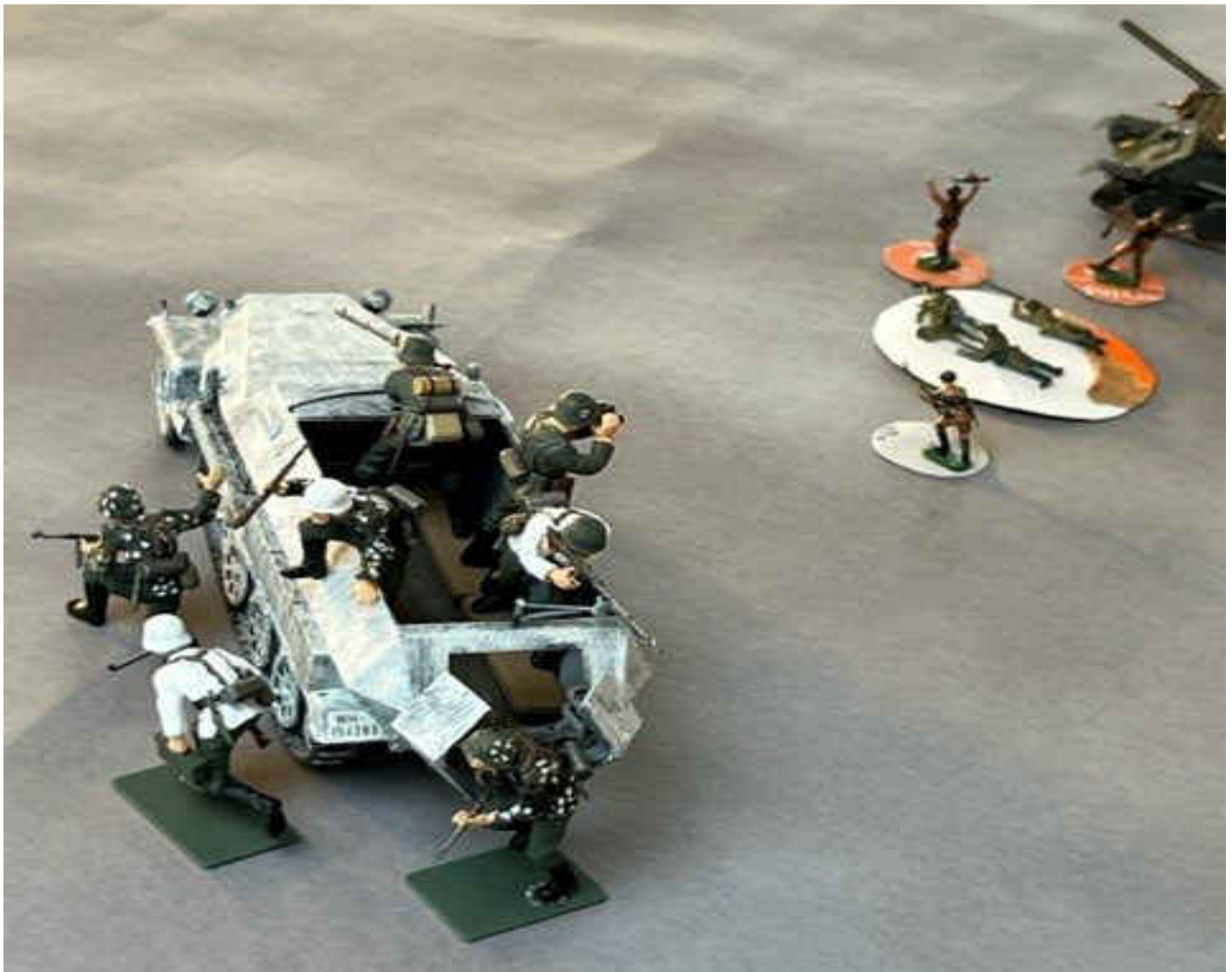


Don Dressel brought in what was a simple project for him: the Midwest Products canoe! Of plank-on-frame basswood construction, the kit came with its own jig. The oars proved a bit more challenging, but it was a straightforward build. Don intended to take it to the Tokyo Shipcrafters show, but they insisted that all models must have masts!

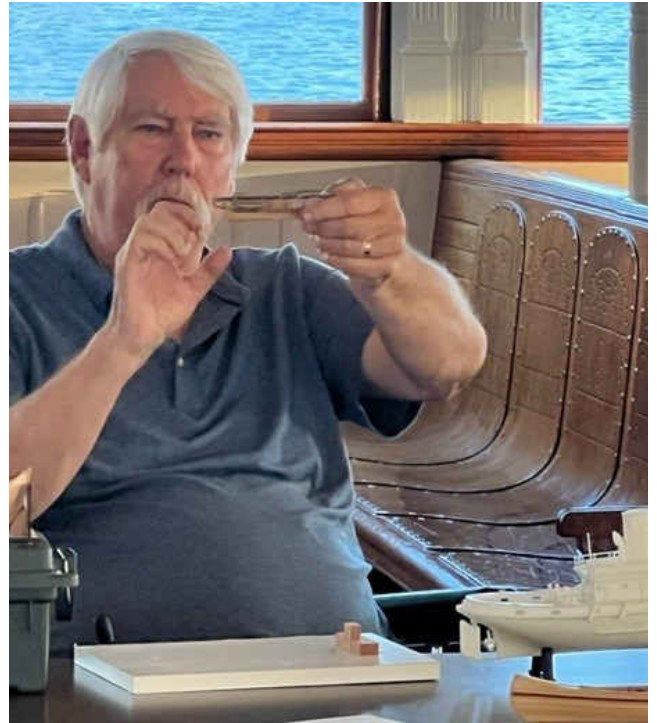




David Gary brought in a mix of his fascinating subjects, including a 1/35 German halftrack kit donated by a friend who was moving, though Gary admits it still needs finishing. The soldiers come in a mix of fall and winter camouflage patterns that feature the use of washes and dry brushing. He also brought in another example of his scatch-building prowess out of cardstock such as a 1/73.5 scale T-34 tank. The turret curves and angled armor alone took up three sheets of index cards!



Mike Lonnecker arrived with a 1/48 English pinnace built from plans out of boxwood and holly. He decided to display this small model Admiralty-style with exposed planking. Pinnaces usually transported officers, so there is ornate decoration on the sides and transom though there is still more to do. Mike also brought in a build board that was customized for this project.



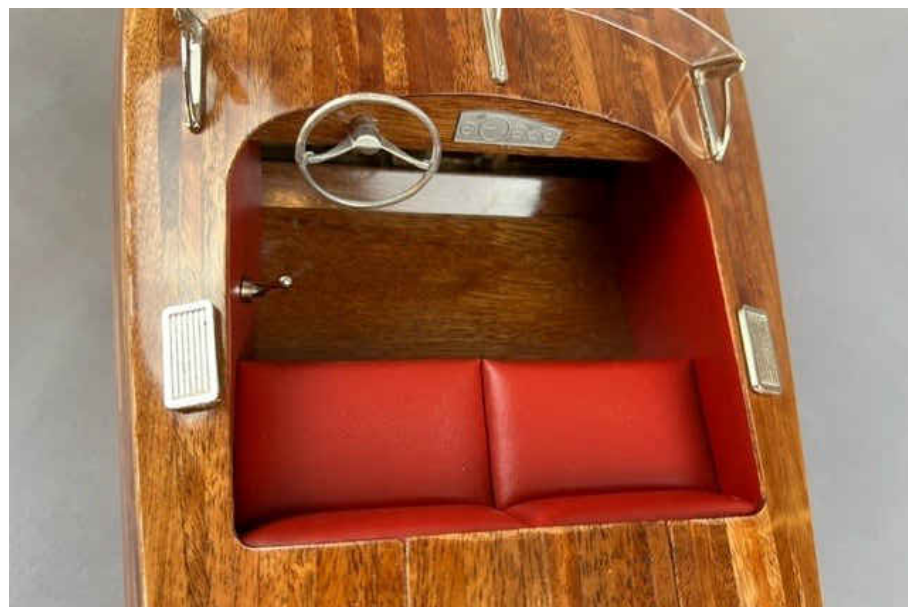
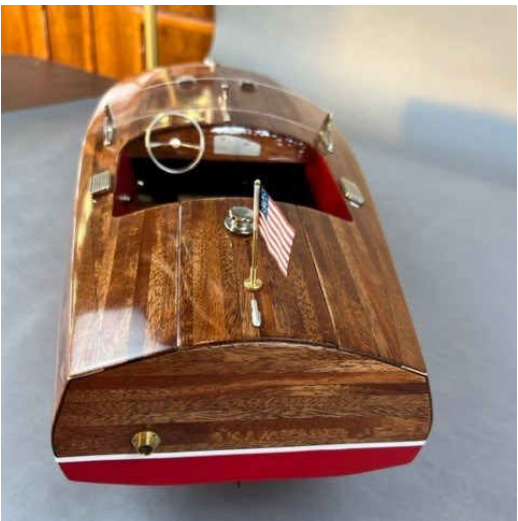


An example of a perennial build is Steve Miller's 20-year ongoing project on the Constructo kit of the privateer *Prince de Neufchateau*. The hull was missing three pieces, but the Guild model shop made good. Mike Lonnecker reported that the vessel's plans by Chapelle are a part of the NRG tabulation collection.



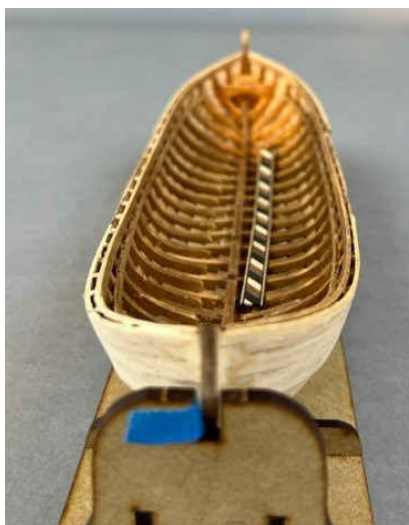


First time visitor Steve Scheet delighted everyone with his tricked-out take on the 1/16 Model Shipways *Miss Adventure* cockpit speedboat kit. Plank-on-frame, the kit is intended for radio control. Sporting a plywood bottom, Steve used mahogany and many coats of varnish topside. The cockpit interior and fittings were scratchbuilt, especially the cushions. He used the gas cap as a latch to hide the access to the model's radio control workings. Now, it's off to the water!





Steady progress is shown in Chuck Seiler's shallop project. He installed a lapstrake build up to the wale, and then installed carvel planking up to the gunnel, until he found he was two planks short! The decorative panels shown will improve the carvel ports, and then staining will be applied. Chuck also revealed a handy way to remove unneeded glue: 70% isopropyl alcohol solution to soften the set glue, and then a scraper to remove the buildup.





One of our newest members, Patrick Sheehan, displayed his latest build, the Lindberg Harbor Tug. After removing a significant amount of flash from such an old mold, he used Tamiya adhesive throughout which worked well. Patrick prefers to substantively complete his kits before applying paint. Since the subject is a hard working harbor tug, he intends to employ washes to produce the substantive weather such ships acquire over time.



For John Walsh, his jolly boat project is a special diversion: he prefers to work on it offsite, such as at the County Fair, or while visiting family. Started in 2019, the model has been an off-and-on journey, but one John relishes as an example of how the Guild can help a novice find joy in wood ship crafting through encouragement and thoughtful advice. After applying the paint coats, John turned to the rigging, completing it just as the Del Mar Fair was concluding this past July.





Sometimes serendipity can aid in modeling, as Karl Zingheim learned recently when estate artifacts arrived at the museum where he works. Since the museum had no need for a naval gun carriage model, Karl happily took the object on and will build a vignette around it. The model appears to be a good representation of a heavy naval carriage of the early 19th century, including a cast metal barrel. The scale appears to be circa 1/12, so adapting model crew figures will be a challenge!



