



October 2023 NEWSLETTER VOL. 51, NO. X

**GUILD OFFICERS**

**Guild Master**

[John Walsh](#)

**First Mate**

[Tom Hairston](#)

**Purser**

[Jon Sanford](#)

**Newsletter Editor**

[Karl Zingheim](#)

**Log Keeper**

[Isaac Wills](#)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Web Master**

[Alex Roel](#)

**Presentations**

[Karl Zingheim](#)

**Model Shop**

[Jon Sanford](#)

**Photographer**

[Chris Sullivan](#)

# Happy 52nd, SDSMG!



This year’s birthday bash featured members **Paco Arenosa, Art Arroyo, Don Dressel, Zander Fettel, Buddhika and Nevidh Gammudali, Tom Hairston, Mike Lonnecker, Jay MacMaster, Steve Miller, Alex Roel, Jon Sanford, Steve Scheet, Chuck Seiler, Kevin and Patrick Sheehan, Chris Sullivan, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Dave Yotter, Doug Yumoto,** and Powder Monkey **Karl Zingheim.**

With the aroma a hot pizza wafting about, Guildmaster John kept the business portion of the meeting intentionally brief with a courteous mention of an upcoming naval history symposium aboard the USS Midway Museum in February that is inviting wood ship crafters to present. After a delicious repast of selective fare, Alex and Chuck took the floor with an extended and fascinating retelling of the history of the Guild *Newsletter* which served as a window to the ups and downs of the Guild through the years (see below). Afterwards, a show and tell was held after the plates were cleared away, and the rest of the night was spent partaking of what the Guild members do best—fellowship!

Here’s looking to a fabulous 53rd next September!



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, ghoul-d members! (Sorry, couldn't pass on such a perfect Halloween pun.)

Last month's "official" celebration of our 52 years of storied history was a grand time! I loved seeing the camaraderie on display — as well as some very inspired and fascinating culinary offerings from our creative members! For those of you who unfortunately couldn't be there in person to celebrate with us, there's a full report with pictures included later in this newsletter.

One thing I would like to highlight is the incredible amount of time and research that Alex Roel and Chuck Seiler put into their stellar presentation. When I asked them to talk at the meeting, all I was requesting was maybe 10-15 minutes with a few fun tidbits culled from the archives they had been cataloging. They went far above and beyond and delivered a true *History of the Guild: Part One* (all credit to Chuck for that brilliant reference, by the way). It was as inspirational as it was informative, and it gave me a new perspective on this merry band of craftsmen that you all asked me to lead.

What struck me most was the ongoing simplicity of our guild, from its very origins. The oft-cited genesis of two ship modelers coming together over the brig *Volante* might be our roots, but look at all we've accomplished and become since then! And yet, at our core, we are still what we've always been: a bunch of passionate hobbyists who find joy in being together. I'd never thought of the guild in that way before, but I think it's an excellent anchor to never cut loose from.

When I took over as Guild Master, I felt an immense weight of expectations. I was now the one responsible for continuing a legacy of 50-plus years. I took it seriously. And I still do, but looking back at our history, I can see that it wasn't coordinated outreach growth, formal presentations, and large-scale projects that kept the guild going through thick and thin — it was us, by simply choosing to come together, month after month, because we enjoyed the very act of it.

I'm sharing these personal thoughts mainly because I think that it's important to pass on what I have learned to those who will take over the helm from me. And perhaps the greatest lesson I am learning from my time as Guild Master is that of finding balance. Like any rig, if you apply too much tension — or too much slack — then that's when something breaks. Perhaps the ship doesn't always have to sail "full and by" each and every month.

Thus, October's meeting has no set agenda beyond officers' reports addressing guild business. It will be a simple, largely informal gathering of ship model builders, getting together to share their knowledge, enjoy the fruits of this fascinating hobby, and ask questions of fellow modelers. We'll get out of it whatever we bring, so let's make it a good one!

Fair winds and following seas,

John Walsh



# September's Presentation: the SDSMG Newsletter

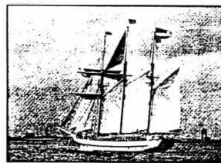
(continued)

The miniaturization revolution of electronics in the 1960s made hobby applications of radio control (RC) an *avant garde* pastime by the early 1970s. In fact, the founding membership of the Guild was primarily composed of RC ship builders and the Guild featured regattas in June and October that featured RC operations in Mission Bay and the display of the occasional scale model. So popular were these regattas that modelers from Fullerton and Los Angeles would regularly attend. Social norms also caught up with the Guild when smoking was officially banned at meetings in 1981!

While the two houses of ship modelling co-existed under the Guild's broad canopy, by 1992 a schism

### New Award to *Tole Mour*

The *Tole Mour* is the recipient of the first Black Pearl Sail Training Award. The Award is given by the Black Pearl Sail Training Trust, established by ASTA founder Barclay H. Warburton, III, to further sail training and acknowledge vessels that epitomize the organization's goals. It consists of a silver bowl inscribed with the motto "Eternal vigilance is the price of safety at sea" and a \$1000 scholarship. One of the main criteria for the award is participation in an ASTA Rally—regular events designed to improve the skills of participants through competition and cooperation. In presenting the award, Barclay H. "Tim" Warburton, IV, noted that "this ship gave generously of its time to the

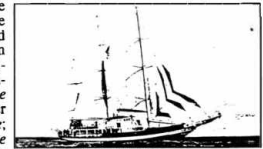


Tole Mour

purposes of the ASTA. In all respects the *Tole Mour* showed the way in unity of spirit and purpose... and created an example of enthusiastic teamwork." (ASTA, PO Box 1459, Newport RI 02840; 401 846-1775)

### Americas' Sail Draws Tall Ships this Summer

Tall ship crews in the Americas have been eagerly awaiting June of 1995 since the idea of Americas' Sail was proposed seven years ago. Training ships from nine countries are eligible to participate. As of now, 12 vessels are scheduled to join the fleet: USCG bark *Eagle* (the host vessel); Uruguay's schooner *Capitan Miranda*; the Frigate *Rose*; Belgium's 93-foot ketch *Zenobe Gramme*; the Hudson River sloop *Clearwater*; the Chesapeake Bay schooner *Lady Maryland*; Vision-Quest's schooners *Bill of Rights* and *New Way*; *Norseman*, a 1/3-scale replica of a Viking longship; the schooner *Quinnipiac*; and Mexico's *Cuahtemoc*.



Uruguay's Capitan Miranda

Vessels will begin arriving off Norfolk, Virginia, on Friday, 23 June, for the Americas' Sail Race on Monday, 26 June. They will reach Long Island's Montauk Point, New York, on Wednesday, 28 June. For the next several days, many of the vessels will visit Long Island ports, including Greenport (expected to host *Cuahtemoc*, *Capitan Miranda* and *Zenobe Gramme*), Sag Harbor (expected to host *Lady Maryland*, *Bill of Rights* and *New Way*), and Oyster Bay (expected to host *Clearwater*).

They will then head out to New Haven for the Grand Parade of Sail planned as part of the 1995 Special Olympics World Games Harbor Festival on 2 July 1995. The Parade of Sail will begin at 4PM. Their participation in the harbor festival is sponsored by the *New Haven Register*. During Games week, students from across Connecticut will be invited to participate in Youth Day, for educational programs aboard the vessels. (Americas' Sail, PO Box 462, Oyster Bay NY 11771; 516 671-0534; 1995 Special Olympics, 195 Church St., 16th floor, New Haven CT 06510-2009; 203 498-7773)



Washington crossing the street

TOLE MOUR was built on Whidbey Island, Washington a few years ago. She visited San Diego a couple of years back. Ed.

### Tech Tip reprinted by permission American Woodworker magazine

I recently found a new use for those flexible desk lamps in vogue years ago. After removing the bulb holder



Attach magnifier with tape, wire or small hose clamps.

and wiring, I attached a large magnifying glass as shown. Now I can have both hands free when working on miniature projects.

Howard Moody



My brother found an unusual propeller in Singapore and was told that it came from Australia. He has been told that it is a Napier Boomerang Propeller that was made about 1910 in Sydney.

Other information given suggests that the propeller was designed during the American Civil War with a capability to jump over the cables and ropes that were used as barriers across harbours.

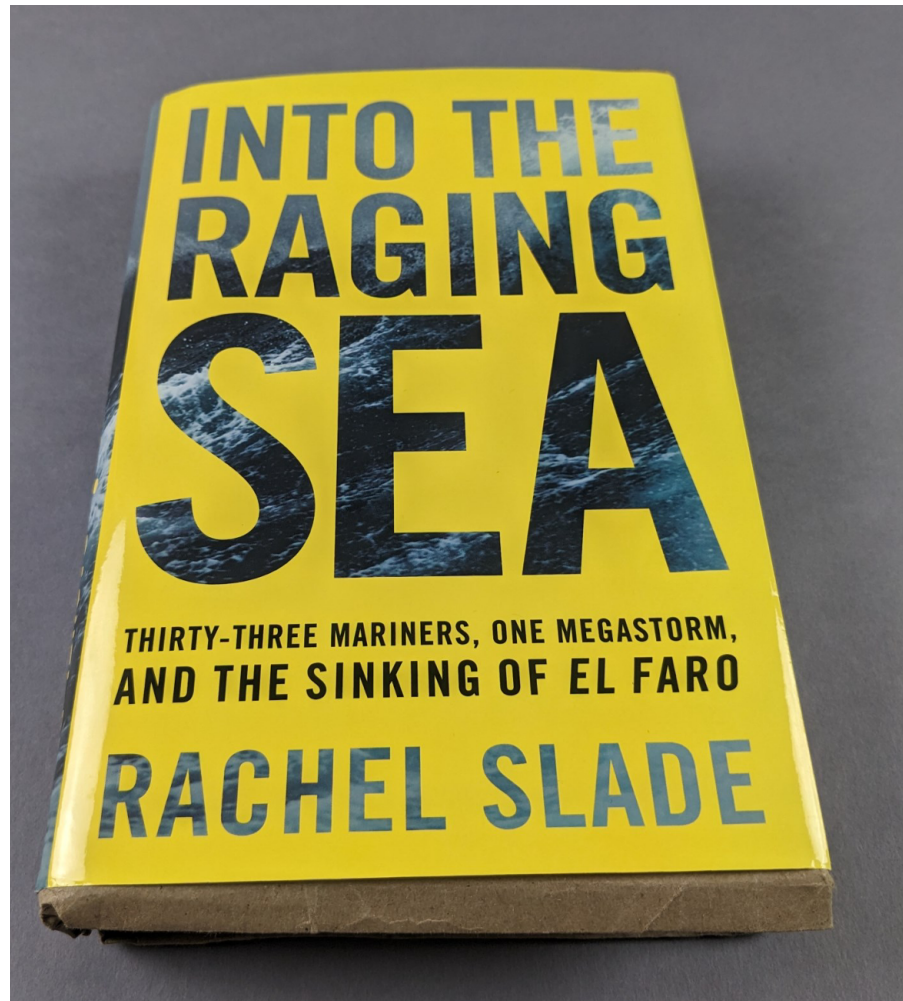
Can anyone tell us anything about our find?  
 Grethe Guerin,  
 Hampton Park,  
 Victoria.

Australian Sea Heritage  
 Summer, '93

came to the fore which erupted in a complete organizational break in 1998, with many RC members joining the San Diego Argonauts organization. Past *Newsletter* editions revealed that while individuals brought their scale models to the Del Mar Fair as early as 1977, it was not until 1992 that the Guild represented each summer as a featured organization. The Guild has also contributed to Tall Ship visits to San Diego, and played host the sponsoring Nautical Research Guild gathering in 1999 and in 2006. A special Guild project in recent years was a Battle of Trafalgar bicentennial exhibition for the Maritime Museum in 2005.

Thanks to Chuck and Alex for their work for efforts in reviewing our colorful history as told by editors of the past!

## *Looks At Books*



Guy Lawrie presented this recent work on the loss of the container ship *El Faro* in a major hurricane in the Caribbean as a font of nautical inspiration.

## *The Cool Tool of the Month*



A trip to the dentist seems to be the motivator for James Pitt's re-purposing of the lid from a cookie tin to serve as a tray to help contain small tools and attachments, with the help of spot magnets.

# SDSMG Celebrates Two and Fifty Years!



## Nevidh Contributes His First Model

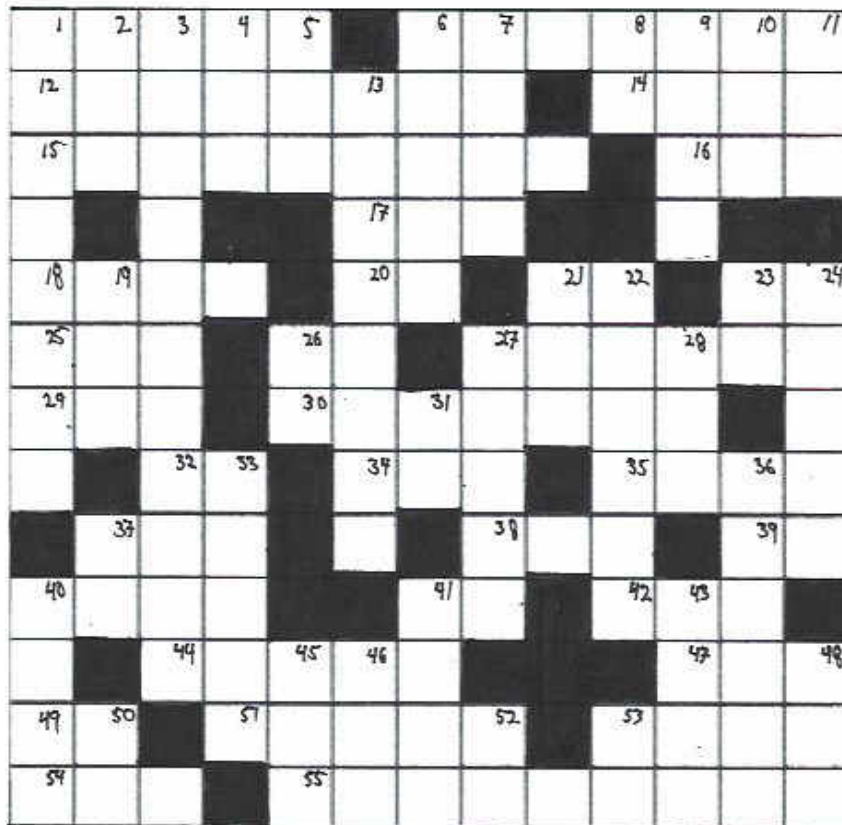


Nevidh and his dad Buddhika visited the SDSMG booth at the Del Mar Fair this past summer before joining us at our recent guild meetings. Nevidh went right to work on his mini-Star kit and presented it at the celebration. Guildmaster John then gifted him a more complex San Salvador kit to further challenge his nascent building skills. Here we see Nevidh showing his completed mini-Star, viewing Steve Miller's project up close with new kit under arm (with Art Arroyo looking on), and a dedicatory shot of Nevidh's first ship. Keep modeling, Nevidh!





# This Month's SDSMG Crossword



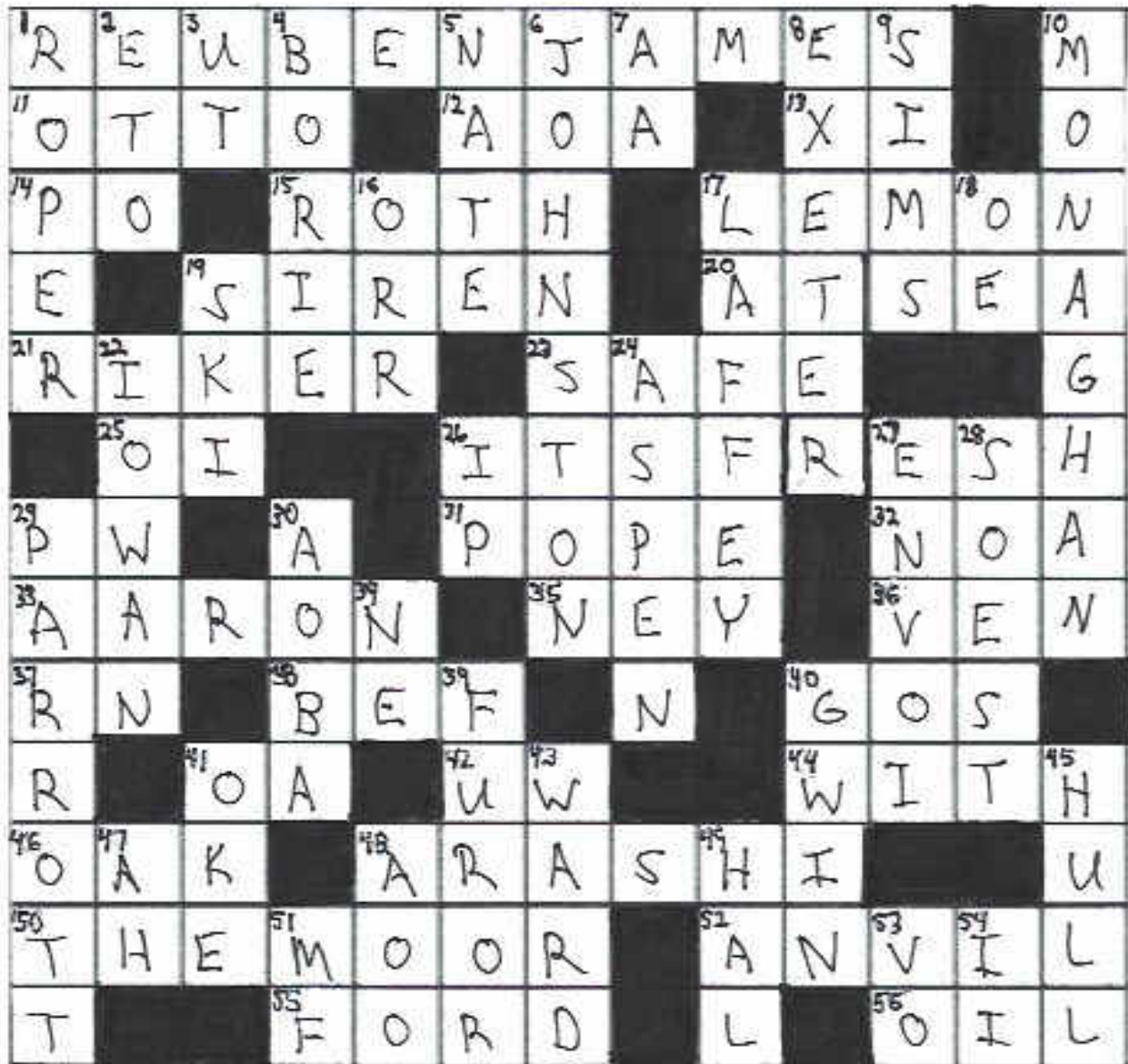
**Across**

- 1. WWI German raider
- 6. Cruiser escaped to Turkey in WWI
- 12. Arena for naval war in WWII (two words)
- 14. Montgomery's last post after 1945 (abbrev.)
- 16. CIA forerunner
- 17. SDG&E for UK
- 18. Guard ship in the Humber in WWI
- 20. "Thick \_\_ pea soup."
- 21. Major govt lawyer
- 23. 1930s gangster \_\_ Barker.
- 25. Kidney health org.
- 26. Destroyer hull desig.
- 27. Skier's milleu
- 29. New prefix
- 30. Gunned down at Dogger Bank
- 32. Desig for miscellaneous aircraft in WWII
- 34. Supposed arrival (abbrev.)

**Down**

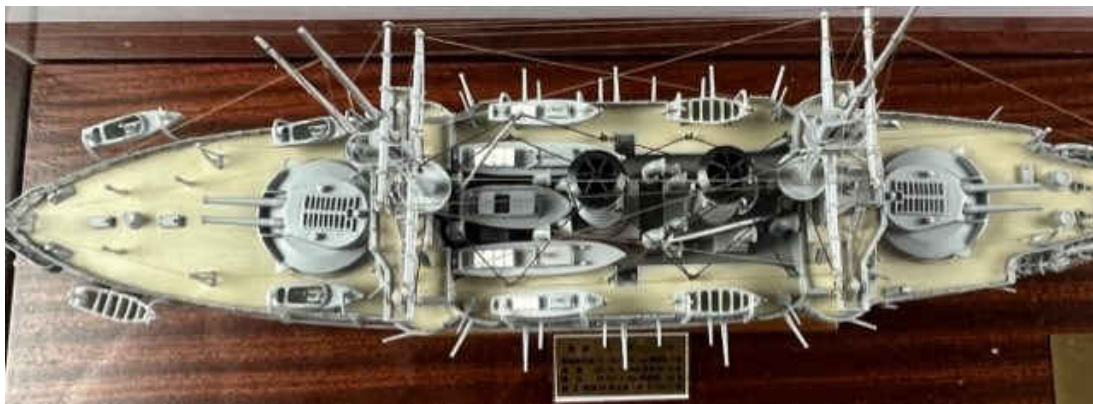
- 35. Northernmost city
- 37. Self, in philosophy
- 38. "Nevermore" poet
- 39. Short conjunction
- 40. Pachyderm herpes (abbrev.)
- 41. Pooh writer's initials
- 42. Old horse
- 44. Poor shooter at Dogger Bank
- 47. New life holder
- 49. Anti-discrimination title
- 51. USN loss in WWI: *San* \_\_\_\_
- 53. German leader in WWI Pacific
- 54. novel
- 55. Most turrets ever shipped
- 1. Carried planes at Jutland
- 2. "My" for Emile
- 3. Game changing ship
- 4. School for wiring (abbrev.)
- 5. Naval archive (old name)
- 6. Painful diver condition
- 7. Has a 'roo in insignia
- 8. Citadel home (abbrev.)
- 9. WWI RN flagship
- 10. USN survey ship desig.
- 11. Steel fabricator
- 13. WWI Sail raider
- 19. IJN battleship
- 21. white crystal compound
- 22. Fled to Istanbul in 1914
- 23. Pine Tree st.
- 24. Major business family
- 26. Robber \_\_ Cooper
- 27. WWI RN base
- 28. Not amateur
- 33. 2020 issue
- 36. 1915 Battle of \_\_ Bank
- 37. Wiring cse prefix
- 40. Impressed RN battleship
- 41. Flier advisor org.
- 43. Health org. for mums
- 45. Early Jolie role
- 46. Brain readout
- 48. '60s show \_\_ *Smart*
- 50. Noble gas

## Last Month's Puzzle



## Show & Tell

In 2003 Don Dressel took an opportunity to tour the preserved battleship *Mikasa* in Yokosuka, and he spotted a large kit of the ship in the gift shop. But, when he attempted to purchase it, his lack of yen was a deal breaker. Just after he walked away, Don encountered the president of The Rope, Tokyo, a premier ship modelling club. Understanding Don's plight, he lent the nearly 41,000 yen needed to make the purchase! The model is a 1:300 scale resin kit with brass fittings, and Don built it out-of-the-box style.

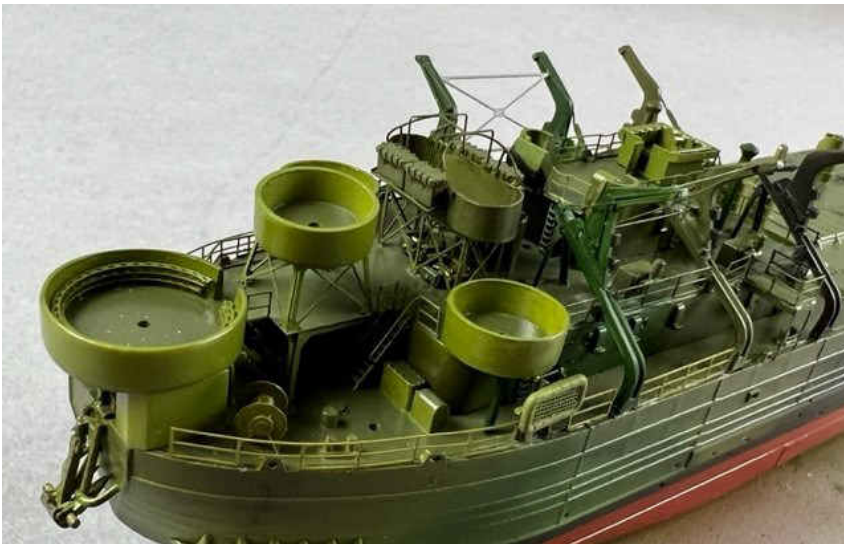




Steve Miller brought in his re-started project of building the privateer *Prince de Neufchatel* from the War of 1812 period. Purchased at the Maritime Museum's shop back in 2002, Steve has refreshed his work recently and took the opportunity of the Guild anniversary to announce the installation of the "whiskey" plank: the final part of the hull structure built on a planked vessel. This milestone is traditionally celebrated with a round of whiskey, though in this scale, it was probably a portion of a shot glass!



**Chris Sullivan took some photos of his own 1:350 scale AFV World War II LST still under construction. Like Don, Chris purchased this kit in Japan, while on active duty. Much aftermarket photo-etched has been included which has brought out a great deal more detail. Chris even added paint and detail to the fully enclosed tank deck! For the exotic camouflage scheme often employed in tropical operations, he airbrushed Vallejo acrylics freehand to get the father look of a field application.**





### *Mission Statement*

The Guild is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the craft of building scale ship models and to providing a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, skills, and techniques.



### *Maritime Museum of San Diego*

The Guild **strongly** encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Maritime Museum of San Diego](#). As our sponsor, the MMSD provides the Guild space aboard the BERKELEY to hold monthly meetings; allows us to work in, store supplies, and maintain the Museum Model Shop; and annually awards Guild entrants ribbons and cash prizes at the San Diego County Fair.

### *Museum Model Shop*

All Guild Members are welcome and encouraged to regularly work in the [Museum Model Shop](#) aboard the BERKELEY. Besides having five dedicated work stations, it is also the home to the Guild's model shipcrafting library and a vast repository of free building supplies. By volunteering time in the Shop our Members' presence benefits the MMSD by affording their patrons the opportunity to see our craft up close on a daily basis.

### *Piracy in Model Shipcrafting*

Although there is no single, agreed-upon definition of what constitutes "piracy", the use of another's intellectual or physical property without recompense is the basis for any working definition. Unfortunately, this is an issue that affects our craft: be scrupulous and avoid purchasing pirated kits or materials. See our [Piracy](#) page for detailed information.



### *Our Founders*

The Guild was founded in 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill in conjunction with the Maritime Museum of San Diego's Ken Reynard, Captain of the STAR OF INDIA.