



February 2024

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 52, NO. II

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 Valentine's Day!



January's meeting brought in **Paco Arenosa, Glenn Clauson, Frank Dengler, Don Dressel, Mike Hite, Mike Lonnecker, Steve Miller, Gary Seaton, Kevin and Patrick Sheehan, Alex Roel, Jon Sanford, Steve Scheet, Chuck Seiler, Chris Sullivan, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Dave Yotter, and Powder Monkey Karl Zingheim** to ring in the new year. Guild Master John announced that our chapter is in good standing with the Nautical Research Guild for the rest of the year. He also reminded everyone that officer elections are on for the March meeting and to submit nominations for all the offices. Since dues were to be collected by the present meeting, a discussion ensued about enacting a dues hike without any prior debate. Discussions on such matters made be sustained, but the planned dues increase is still in effect for next year.

Kevin announced that the very large donated model fo the battleship *Fuso* will be installed on January 10th in its new exhibit. Model kits are still for sale, with proceeds going to benefit the Museum. Jon attended a planning session for the Del Mar Fair which produced a tentative schedule. He emphasized that more wood model participation is a must to keep the Fair contests viable. An entry fee of \$25 per model applies. A call for volunteers to staff our booth will go out at the February meeting.



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!

There was much discussion during the January meeting in regards to the announcement in last month's newsletter of the plan to raise dues from \$20 to \$25 for 2025. For the sake of record, I'd like to go over some of the points made.

The first concern voiced was in regards to why this decision was made at an officers meeting rather than during a monthly gathering. While that was initially my plan, my fellow officers did remind me that the whole point of our having been elected was for us to make decisions like this, a sentiment supported by the guild's bylaws. Hence, the newsletter announcement. For anyone who felt blindsided, my sincerest apologies.

The next question was naturally why this was being done. And while rampant inflation across the economic board is more than reason enough, it did spark a line of discussion which made obvious that two important things have been missing from our guild: transparency and analysis.

As decided in the meeting, the Purser's monthly report will again be published in the distributed version of the newsletter while being redacted/removed from the publicly accessible archived edition available on our website. Building upon that, I would like to take it a step further.

Looking back, all of our financial statements are completely transactional. We have recorded deposits, withdrawals, and some brief notes on what each of these was for. But what's missing is comprehensive data that shows us a more complete story of how we are operating over time. This is why I am asking whomever is elected as our new Purser in March to begin aggregating and publishing our financials in a way that will clearly report to all members the full story of how exactly our dues are supporting the guild, with percentage breakdowns as well as amounts.

If after (almost) a year of reporting this data to the guild we collectively feel that the choice to raise the dues was too alarmist, then it's a decision that's easily reversed. I would rather be prepared for foul weather and find it smooth sailing than vice-versa.

To close out this month's report, I once again invite members interested in serving the guild through officer or chair positions to step forward with self-nominations before March 5. For everyone who has thrown their hat into the ring already, you have my deepest gratitude. It's been extremely encouraging to see such a willingness to engage with guild business!

Fair winds and following seas,

John Walsh
Guild Master





Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club Inc.

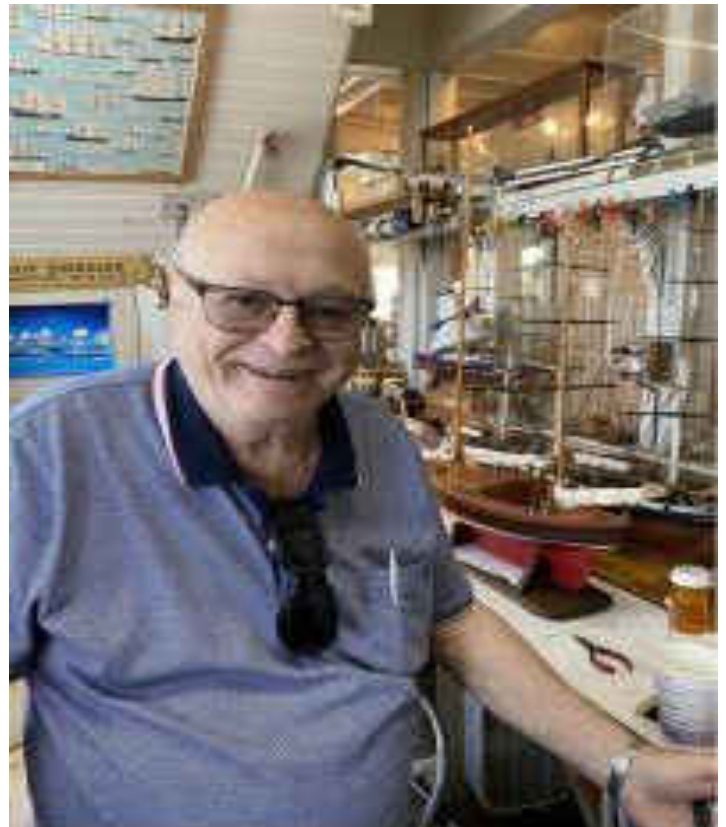
CHATTERBOX

www.smsc.org.au

Jon Sanford recently played host to a visit by Tom Wolf of the Sydney Model Shipbuilder's Club. Tom was pleasantly surprised when he was shown over to Jon and our shop after he identified himself as a ship modeler.

Something of a rover for his own club, Tom was delighted to explore the Museum's collection of ship models and committed nearly three hours to admiring the exhibition. He was especially impressed about our mini-*Star* program.

Jon hopes he can return the favor on his upcoming trip to Sydney and will look up Tom when he is there.





Ship Modeling Resources-Model Ship World

By Chuck Seiler

Guildmaster Walsh reported at the January meeting that the Guild had renewed its membership with the Nautical Research Guild (NRG). He reminded us that we (SDSMG) are one of a baker's dozen NRG Chapter clubs and have been affiliated with the NRG since our founding in 1971. He noted the large number of resources available through the NRG.

One resource I have come to rely on heavily is the interactive ship modeling website MODEL SHIP WORLD (MSW). It is one of the largest (if not largest) site of its kind, boasting over 45,000 members. To be honest, I suspect many of those joined at one point but are no longer active. Regardless, active members include at least one maritime archeologist, professional modelers, kit developers, serious modelers and schlubs like me. Members are from all over the world.

MSW sponsors (most of which are members) provide kits, scale limber, scale rope, accessories, tools and much more.

The heart of the site is the modelers' build logs and discussions. If you are building a kit, the chances are very good that there is at least one build log to help you with your build. Have a question? Ask away. You are liable to get multiple answers. There is usually more than one way to peel a carrot and you can decide what is best for you.

From a discussion standpoint, there are many things you didn't even know you needed to know. No worries, you can always check the archive when you DO need to know. Recent (and not so recent) discussions

include:

- What is the best way to drill a hole through wire?
- What is the best plywood for bulkheads and where do I get it?
- What is the best glue to use?
- How do I simulate deck caulking?
- What is the best saw blade for my mini saw and where do I get them?
- How do I fix boo-boos and oopsies?
- Correct color and pigmentation for period models.
- Where do I get get scale rope? Scale lumber?
- How do I affix sails to the yard?
- Should I use bee's wax on my rigging?
- What is a good starter kit?

The list is quite extensive. Check it out yourself and spend time browsing. If I recall correctly, non-members have access to many areas but some areas need membership. Membership is free and there are no obligations attached. For a rollicking good time, go to:

<https://modelshipworld.com/>

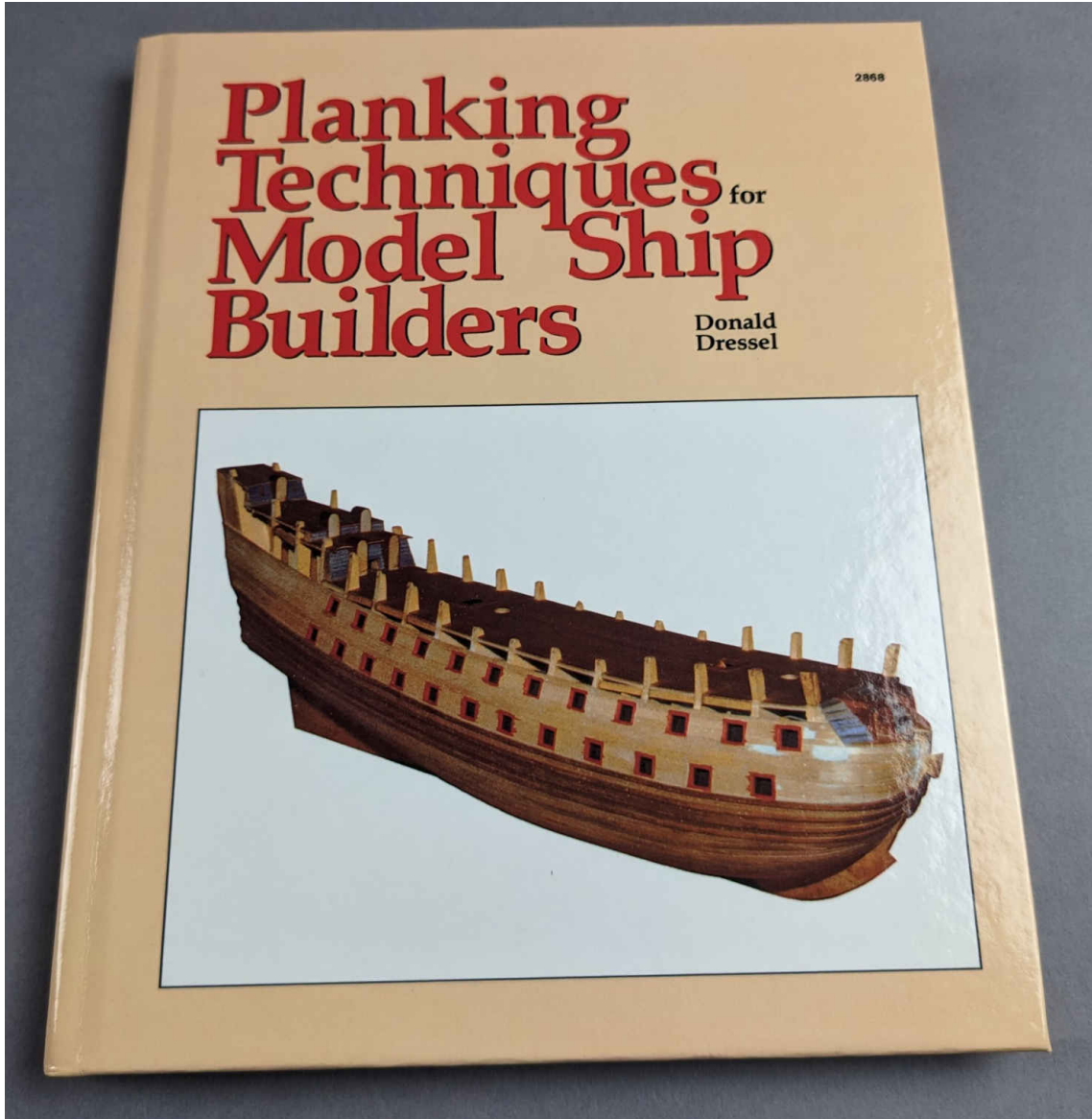


January's Hat Month!



Thanks to Everyone Who Participated!

Looks At Books



John Walsh recommends a work from one of our own, Don Dressel! John has praise for this book because of its focus on one important aspect of ship modeling, planking hulls. Due to this concentration, it provided considerable insight into this challenging and critical component of wood ship crafting.

The Cool Tool of the Month

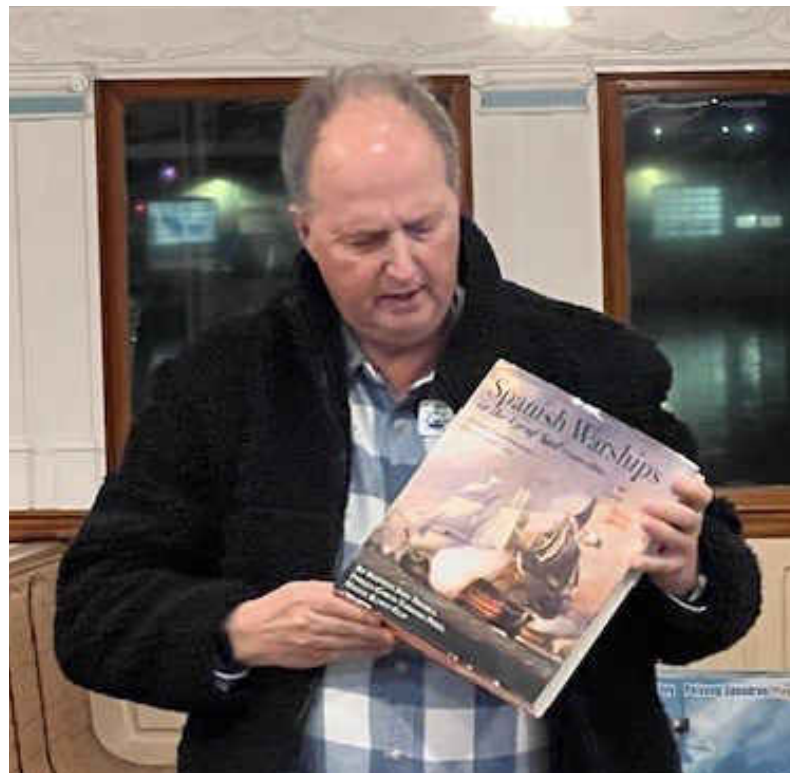


John Walsh recommends most highly these disposable micro-applicator brushes. The round sponge-like head holds glue and permits a precise application on the model. This is vital for affixing parts with white glue.



Jon demonstrates how to tie a miniature bowline with new invisible thread...if he can find the thread.

Paco shows off the latest addition to his library.



*Somebody's a fan of the new **Napoleon** movie!*



Alex closes in to admire Kevin's Catalina diorama...



..and Steve's *Polaris* model.

John patiently awaits his turn to audition for the new revival cover band for *Paul Revere and the Raiders*.



Last Month's Puzzle

Across

1. Holland
8. Skip
11. Prinz Eugen
12. UCSD
13. Eli
14. RS
15. Esmonde
20. Bismarck
21. AC
22. URI
23. Mole
25. Astin
29. KGV
30. Zoo
31. Luttjens
33. EF
34. KO
35. Tovey
39. AFI
41. Norfolk
42. Hood
44. DL
45. Ludovic
49. Wake
51. Mk
52. Victorious

Down

2. Opus
3. LRC
4. Lis
5. Andes
6. NZ
7. Denmark Strait
8. SE
9. Knee
10. Prince of Wales
14. Royal
16. SMU
17. Orig
18. NC
19. DKM
20. Bitt
21. Aloe
24. Oz
26. Suffolk
27. IJK
28. Neon
32. Eel
36. Of
37. VOR
38. YK
39. AH
40. IOU
43. DDV
44. DKU
46. Oi
47. VC
48. CO
49. WI
50. AO

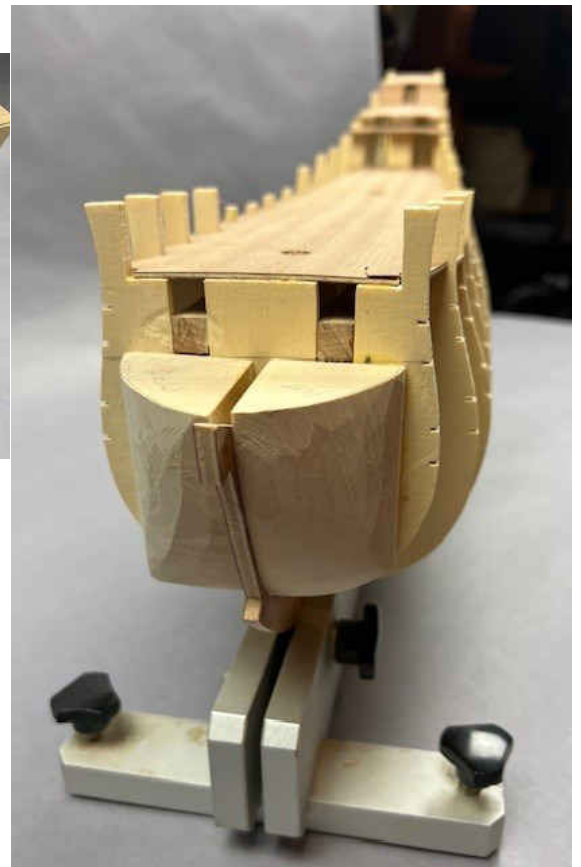
Show & Tell

Paco Arenosa brought in his newest project, the Shapeways kit of the American Revolutionary War privateer *Fair American*. Eight months in, Paco observed that the kit has presented few problems and its working into a good build.





Setting aside his HMS *Roebuck* project, Don Dressel has turned to the Corel Swedish flagship *Vasa*. In a new approach, the bulkheads use steadying beams to hold them in place and have no rabbets. Because of the precise cut of the kits parts, Don recommends that the hull parts be all dry-fitted before any glueing. He anticipates much sanding before the planking, but it's been an enjoyable build. The base board is an aluminum brace he found years ago.



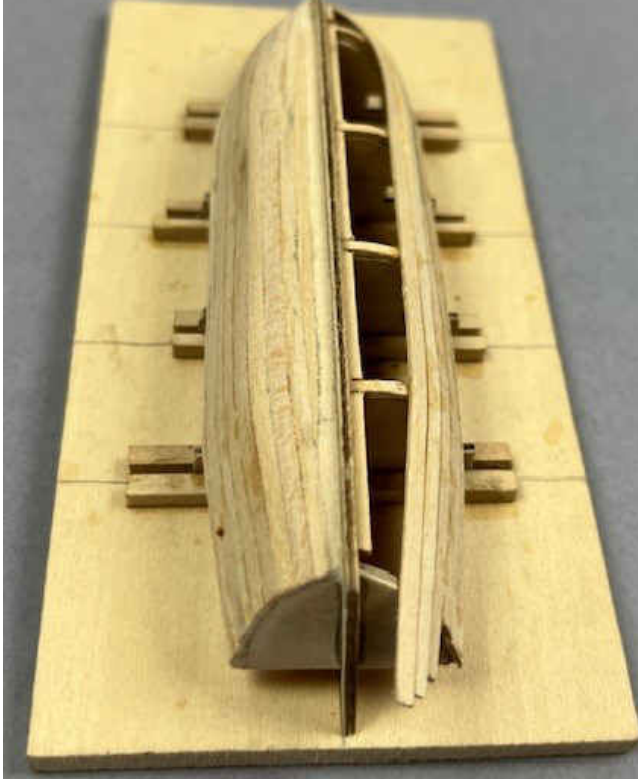
During a recent visit to the Zeppelin Museum in Bavaria, Mike Hite found this metal etched kit of the airship *Hindenburg*. The kit is from a Japanese firm and builds out into a skeletal frame of the doomed zeppelin. Mike's father worked on fabricating blimp gondolas.





Steve Miller brought in his *Prince de Neufchateau* to exhibit the hull repair featured in last month's *Rocks & Shoals* segment. A fine syringe completed the repair. Moving to the railing, he finds that walnut does not bend well, so he has opted to cut directly from walnut sheet in the appropriate sheer line.





Purser Jon Sanford introduced us to a Model Shipways plank-on-frame kit of an open boat. Many ship kits include boats, but usually as metal or plastic casts as an afterthought. Having a built-up boat on a built-up ship only makes sense. Employing a custom build board, John is constructing the kit in a traditional manner, and has found it a diverting change from the full rig ships he usually crafts.





Demonstrating the fine detail and technical expertise he lavishes on radio control kits, Steve Scheet demonstrated his show-stopping build of the a harbor tug, complete with running and navigation lights! Steve opted to use a metal tube for the mast to run the wiring for the masthead lights. Speaking of lights, his initial electrical test blew out the first set of bulbs! Sea trials are next.



Taking a break from aircraft modeling, Steve Schepersky crafted this Occre *Polaris*. The build is two months along, and Steve found that the kit plans were awful, but the ample construction photo series was a plus.





Patrick Sheehan showed us this delightful diorama of a Consolidated PBY Catalina making an at sea rescue. The water base is a foam sheet, carved and contoured, with a notch cut out for the aircraft hull. The wavelet surface was accomplished with eight layers of tissue and glue. For color, he used a black base coat and applied blue tints over it. The raft is from a 1/144 Revell kit, and the PBY is a diecast 1/150 metal miniature.

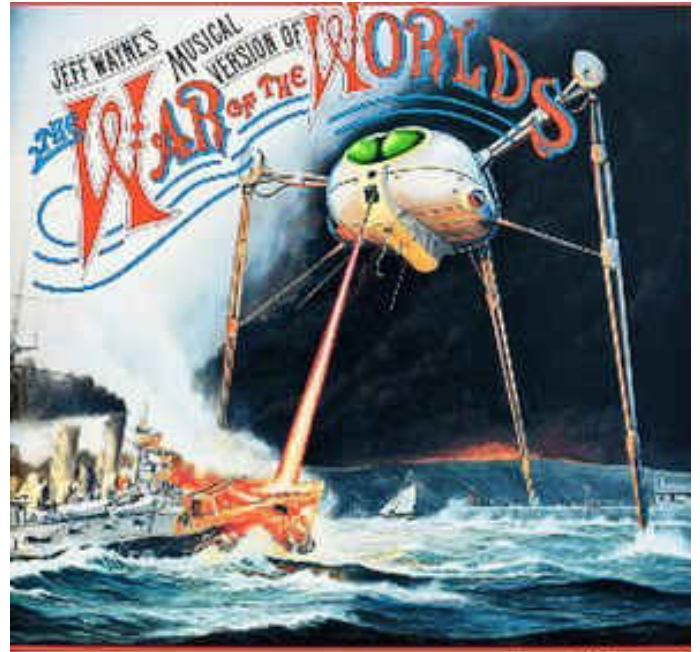




Chris Sullivan demonstrated his progress with this 1/350 AFV Club LST. Despite the modest size, the model uses extensive photo etching to bring out deck details. An advantage of amphibious subject matter is the mix of nautical and ground vehicles, which Chris exhibited with the tanks and trucks emerging from the well deck. The elaborate camouflage was applied with an airbrush, with soft feathering on the edges requiring a tiny sponge. The tiny bridge has an interior, and rigging uses fine wires.



Karl Zingheim suggested a touch of whimsy with the potential of blending two scale modeling genres to replicate a memorable scene from H. G. Well's *War of the Worlds*. In the novel, a Martian tripod machine is engaged by a British warship, HMS *Thunder Child*. To create this scene in three dimensions, Karl proposes using a Victorian-era warship, in this case, the Chinese *Ping Yuen* kit from Bronco, and the Pegasus interpretation of a Martian tri-pod. Representing the Martian heat ray and its effects, however, remains a technical challenge, but we shall see!



Purser's Report

**Beginning Balance on December 13,
2023**

\$<redacted>

Deposits: (2) Dues: (12/18/23) Lonnecker, Roel, Sanford, Scheet, Dressel, Hite,
Arenosa, Lee,T., Lee,N., Shep-
ersky <redacted>

Dues: (01/10/24) Wills, Seiler, Dressel*, Yotter, Dengler, Miller,
Zingheim, Seaton, Sullivan

<redacted>

Withdrawals: (2) Christmas Party
(Food)

<redacted>

Christmas Party (Egg
Nog)

<redacted>

**Ending Balance on January 11,
2024**

\$<redacted>

*Dressel paid twice, refund due



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.

Photo Credits

Guy Lawrie for meetings pictures and the birthday cruise, Isaac Wills for the John Walsh portrait.