



March 2024

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 53, NO. III

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](#)

How Many Members Did It Take to Finish Jamming the Model Shop?



A crowded February session saw **Paco Arenosa, Art Arroyo, John Baker, Glenn Clauson, Don Dressel, Tom Hairston, Mike Hite, Guy Lawrie, Noland and Trystan Lee, Mike Lonnecker, Steve Miller, Gary Seaton, Alex Roel, Jon Sanford, Steve Scheet, Chuck Seiler, Chris Sullivan, John Walsh, Isaac Wills, Doug Yumoto, Powder Monkey Karl Zingheim,** and guest **Don Mirko-**vich taking to the passenger benches for an entertaining evening session.

With no contested offices for the upcoming election next month, it is likely that the only changes to the leadership of Guild will be Isaac becoming Purser, Alex as editor, and Karl as Logkeeper. Tom announced he now has 570 Mini-Star kits fabricated, and they can be assembled into packages next month. Jon put out a reminder that dues for active members is \$20, and for new members, \$29 to help cover the cost of name tags. The Del Mar Fair will run from June 12th to July 7th. Those manning our booth will have free parking & admission, and two free tickets for each day on duty.

So, how many Guild members did it take to finish jamming the model shop: one!



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!

We have officially arrived at our 2024 Guild Officer Elections, and I am thrilled with the slate being presented for members' ratification. I know that I stated before that I wished for there to be choices for at least some of the positions, but the enthusiasm with which these prospective officers have stepped up to their respective nominations has me truly excited for the next year!

Beyond officer positions, I also want to give kudos to Mike Hite and Steve Scheet for stepping forward to work with Jon Sanford on two different chair positions this year: Mike is assisting with the model shop, and Steve is training to be the next Fair Coordinator. Their eager willingness to contribute to the guild's success is another reason why I think this next year will be a great one.

As we look to the future, I also want to thank those who are stepping down from longtime roles.

The first is a big one: Elected in 2019, Jon Sanford is the only Purser I have known in my time at the guild — a role that he has performed on top of his two official chair positions. I say "official" chair positions, because let's be honest, Jon has also been the guild's *de facto* lead restorer and the chief spokesperson to the museum-visiting public. That's a lot of hats for one man to wear, and I want to thank Jon for giving so much of his time and talent to guild!

Next is a personal one: Also appointed in 2019, Alex Roel has been "the web guy" since the first time I joined a meeting. His contributions to the guild in this position cannot be overstated. As he has been training me to take over for him as Webmaster, I have gotten to see up close the crazy amount of hard work he has done over the past five years. The website may load up in a matter of seconds, but Alex has poured countless hours of love and labor into everything happening behind the scenes. He has left me the biggest of shoes to fill; I hope I will honor his fine work!

And finally, the one that will hit closest to home for all you readers: As our Newsletter Editor for the past two years, Karl Zingheim was the first person I worked alongside as a newly elected Guild Master, writing this very feature. When no one else would dare take the mantle from Guy Lawrie (myself included), it was Karl who answered the call with gusto, and I'm thankful to him for highlighting the fun side of our hobby along with the technical each month.

Speaking of the technical side of our hobby, remember that March's meeting will feature a "show and tell" presentation on weathering. If you have ever weathered a model — whether it be as an expert or a complete novice — please bring one in. (Or more, if you'd like!) My hope is that we'll be able to discuss a wide selection of techniques based on our members' experiences while still keeping it casual and conversational. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Fair winds and following seas,

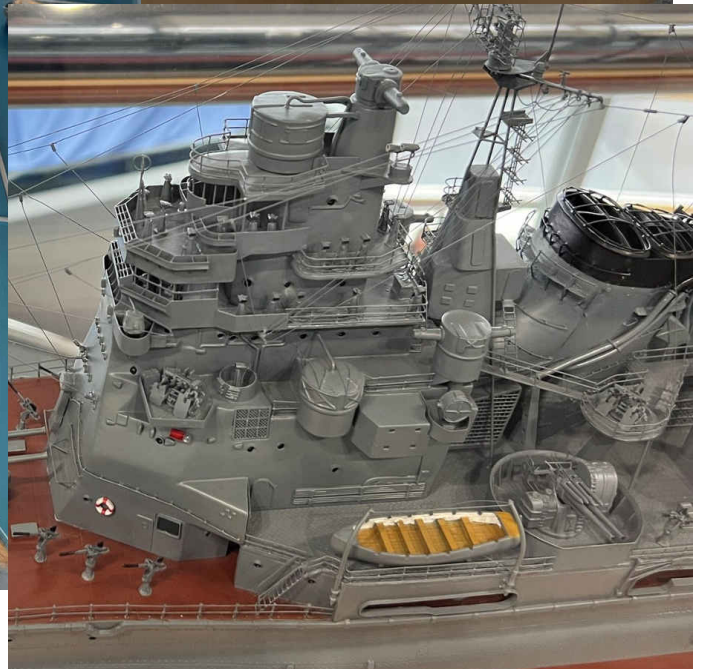
John Walsh
Guild Master



Image courtesy of Bill Horstick



Chris Sullivan, an active duty warrant boatswain, produced a slide show of the models exhibited inside Sasebo's Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force while he was visiting Kyushu last November. The displays tell the origins of this important base, and contain much information and many models of Imperial Navy as well as more modern Japanese warships.



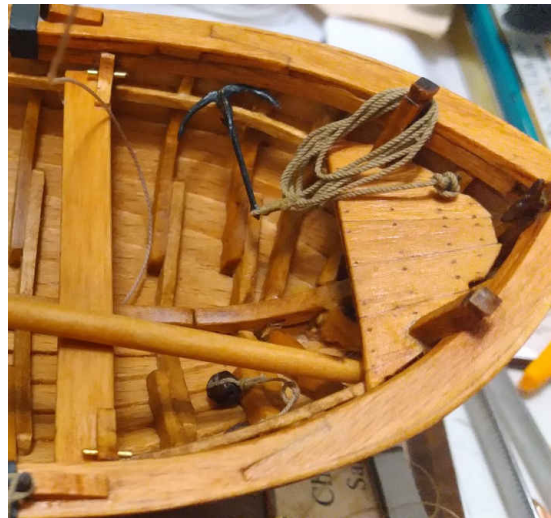
Chuck Seiler has moved on to the rigging for his Jamestown Shallop, but he admits the progress has been slow due to the rig's delicate nature. However, as shown below, the hull is finished, complete with lee boards and the rudder and anchor affixed. Since the tiller is fragile, Chuck will leave its installation for much later.



The extent of the inner construction is shown below.



In the image below, we see the solution Chuck settled upon to securely mount the model on its base: a machine screw through a strongback. It will be covered over by a barrel in the final configuration.



At left we see the anchor is actually a grapnel attached with an eye bolt to the bow. Chuck used an anchor hitch to attach the line to the eye. The anchor and cable fell to Chuck's floor and his foot found it!

Chuck will bring this masterpiece in for the March meeting, hopefully with the shrouds and forestay complete!



Vote for Our Guild Officers

The following names are the official nominees for the elective positions in the Guild:

Guild Master: John Walsh

First Mate: Tom Hairston

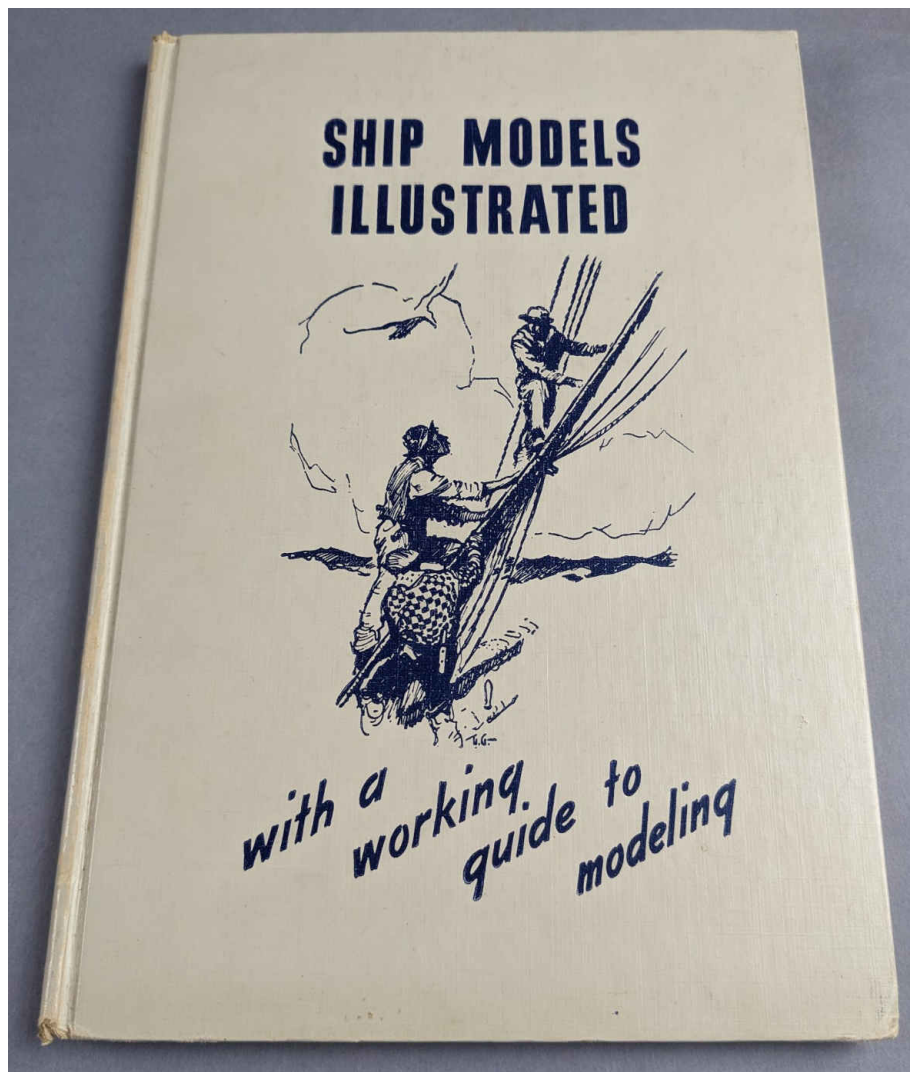
Logkeeper: Karl Zingheim

Purser: Isaac Wills

Newsletter Editor: Alex Roel

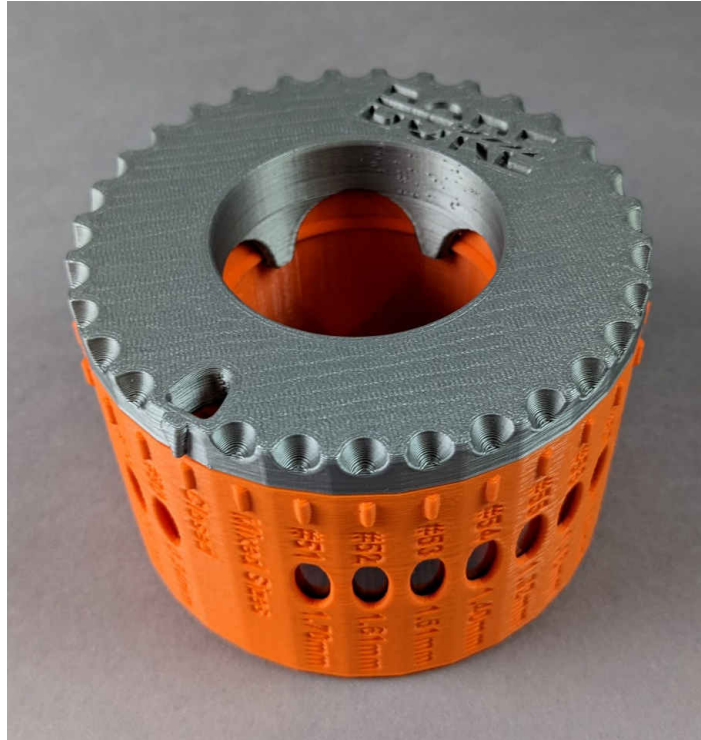
Voting will take place at the March meeting on Tuesday, March 12th on board the *Berkeley* at the San Diego Maritime Museum.

Looks At Books



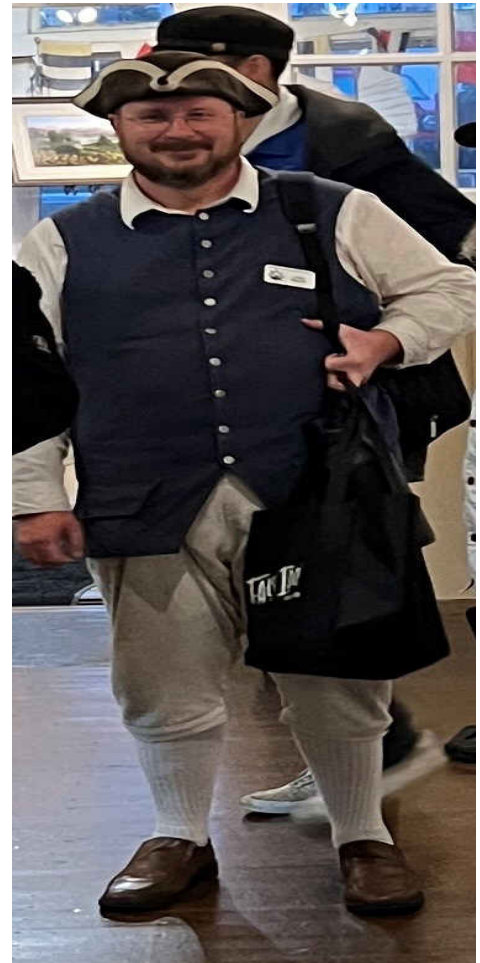
This “oldie-but-goodie” is recommended by Isaac Wills. Filled with precise illustrations and extensive explanations on how to construct ship models from various eras as well as details on how to produce rigging.

The Cool Tool of the Month



Dave Yotter brought in this drill index which can verify a drill size up to 80. Having various sizes of drill bits organized in one handy device can save time and result in the correct application of a miniature drilling job.

“The Captain’s aboard!”



A meeting of the minds on the main deck outside the shop before the meeting topside.



Call this the “San Diego Ship Modelers’ Guild ‘Mount Rushmore’!”

“So, *that’s* what a little tug looks like with the top off!”





Tom demonstrates his “old soft shoe.”

Everyone gathers to admire Tom’s latest contribution to the Museum.





Our Greatest Attribute: Fellowship!



If Jeff Foxworthy Knew Ship Modelers, He'd Say...

“If tying the knot does *not* require a preacher, you might be a Guild member.”

“If you know Charlie Noble is not a casual reference to the King of England, you might be Guild member.”

“If finishing off a Mini-Star does not mean a Carl’s Junior kid’s meal is done, you might be a Guild member.”

“If having a dolphin striker avoids a PETA lawsuit, you might be a Guild member.”

“If making a gaff is not a faux pas, you might be a Guild member.”

“If spanker does not refer to physical violence, you might be a Guild member.”

“If deadrise to you is not a zombie reference, you might be a Guild member.”

“If double planking is not an abdominal routine with a partner, you might be a Guild member.”

“If a carronade is not a citrus-flavored beverage, you might be a Guild member.”

“If a build board does not involve a home owners commission, you might be a Guild member.”

“If Occre is not a country music venue, you might be a Guild member.”

“If making a punt is not necessarily a fourth down play, you might be a Guild member.”

“If going to Berkeley to learn things does not involve a Bay area campus, you might be a Guild member.”

“If conjoined fingers is an occupational hazard, you might be a Guild member.”

“If Britania metal is not a regional genre of pop music, you might be a Guild member.”

“If having a little gig is not a side job, you might be a Guild member.”

“If working with Roe Buck does not involve Sears, you might be Don Dressel.”

“If shag carpeting is the doom of dropped things, you might be a Guild member.”

“If rosewood is not a Judge Reinhold character, you might be a Guild member.”



Show & Tell

Art Arroyo showed off the progress on his 1/30 scale tug *Ulysses*, a kit from the Occre line. It features plank-on-frame construction with a fiberglass sealant. A smoke generator and motor are included with the package. These views show about a year's work that Art has put in.

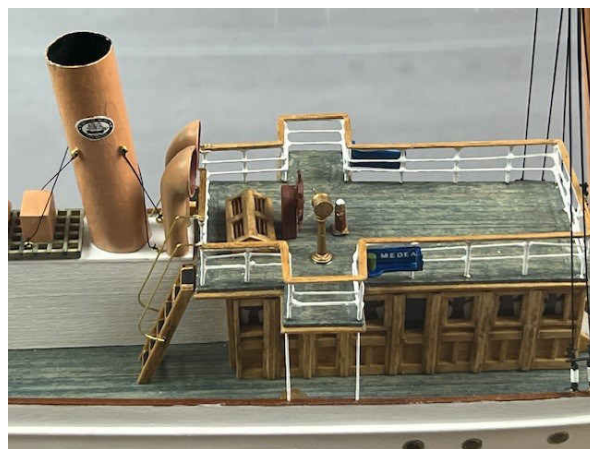




Professional model maker Glenn Clausson brought in a set of etched birch ply he produced in his shop. The prevalence of advanced shop equipment now becoming available to private model crafters like 3D printers, lathes, milling machines, and programmable laser etching devices is erasing the line between a commercial shop and a home pastime.

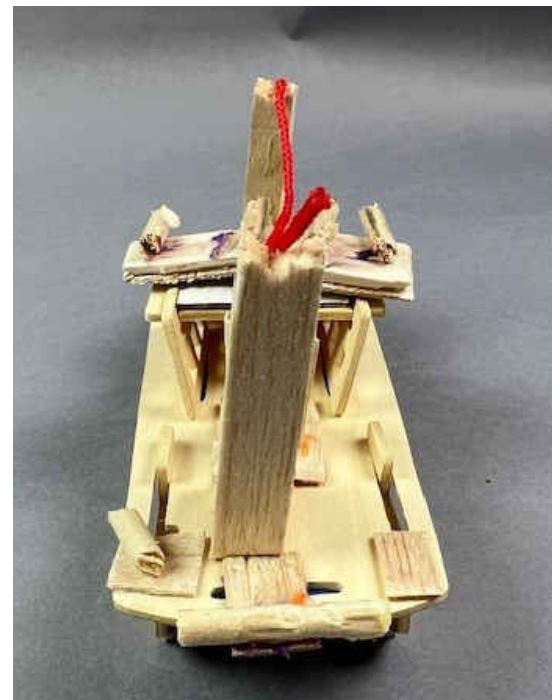
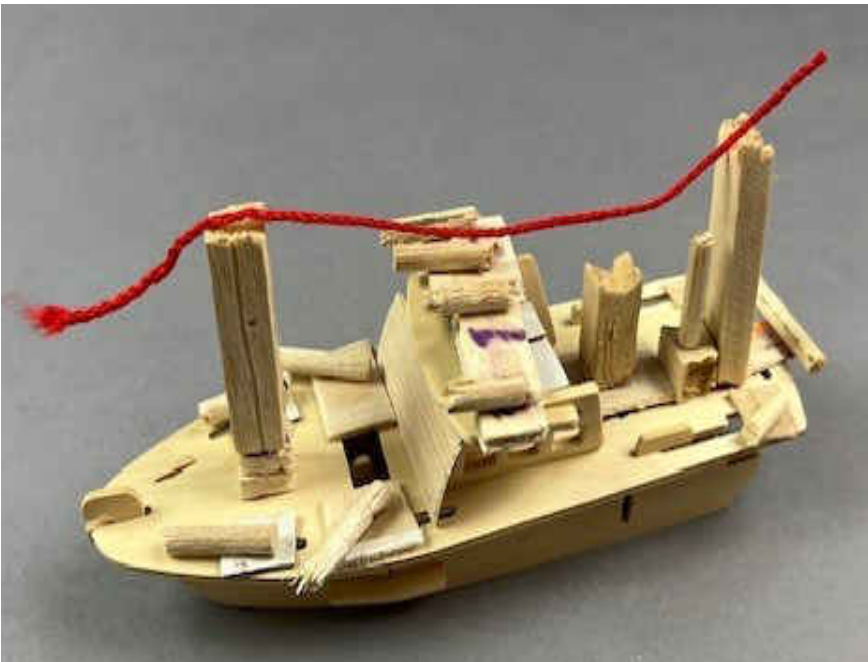


As part of his on-going project of representing the vessels of the San Diego Maritime Museum's collection in miniature, Tom Hairston presented his recently-finished rendering of the steam yacht *Medea*.





One of our younger members, Trystan Lee came over with his dad Noland and actually constructed a model as the meeting progressed. It features not only rigging, but lengths of “solar paneling” to power this theoretical design. In appreciation for his enthusiasm for our pastime, Guild Master John presented Trystan new kits of a battleship and a submarine to practice on!

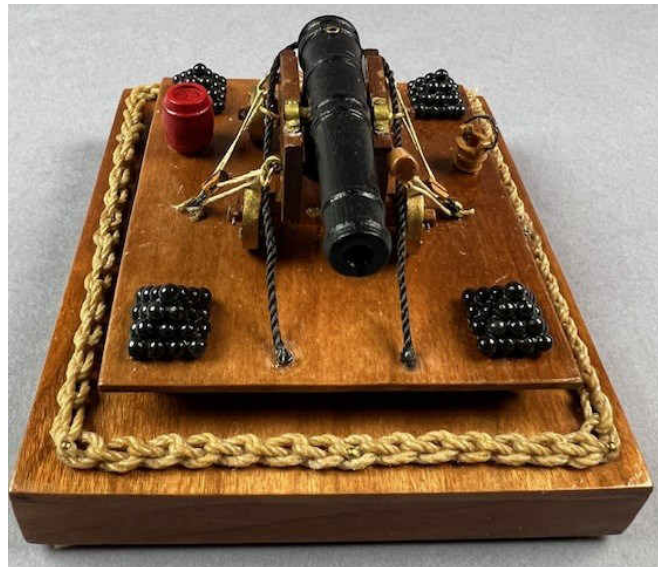
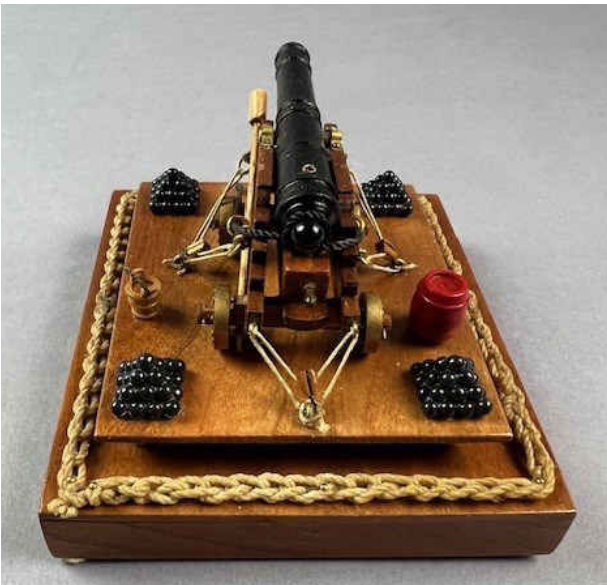


Steve Miller displayed the latest work on his *Prince de Neufchatel* privateer model. His pattern cut approach for the rail worked well, and he has stepped the masts preparatory to working on the rig.



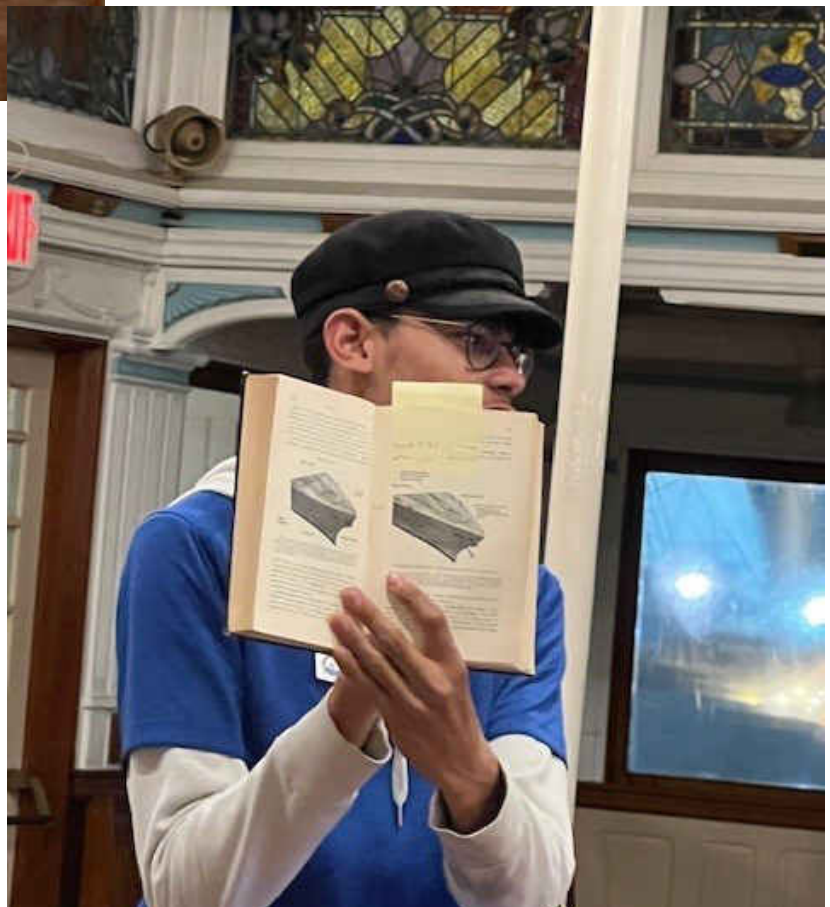


Purser Jon Sanford passed around a neat vignette of a naval gun carriage with gunnery tackle, powder keg, rammer, swabbing bucket, and plenty of shot.





Isaac Wills is a young man of letters, and he demonstrated this with his presentation of a 1942 edition of *Knight's Modern Seaman-ship* that featured a family note to the original owner dated December 7, 1942.



Working on a World War II convoy display, Karl Zingheim used the opportunity to show how pastel chalks can be used to render a weathered deck coloring even to a plastic painted surface. Many types of artist's materials can be used to depicted color effects, including weathering, that extend beyond paint and brush.



Winter in San Diego

Image by Chris Sullivan





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.