

The SECOND DOG WATCH

SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

32° 43' N



117° 10' W

Vol LIII, No 1

GUILD OFFICERS

[John Walsh](#)

Guild Master

[Tom Hairston](#)

First Mate

[Isaac Wills](#)

Purser

[Karl Zingheim](#)

Log Keeper

[Alex Roel](#)

Newsletter Editor

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

[John Walsh](#)

Web Master

[Chris Sullivan](#)

Photographer

[John Walsh](#)

Presentations

[Jon Sanford](#)

Model Shop

[Isaac Wills](#)

Youth Coordinator

[Steve Scheet](#)

Fair Coordinator

[John Walsh](#)

Community Build

RESOLVED

The approach of the New Year conjures thoughts of resolutions for the coming year. Here are some model shipcrafting goals we might consider:



⚓ Dust off one of those seven unfinished builds stashed in your closet and physically place it on your workspace table.

⚓ Sign up to work three or more days in the Guild Booth at the upcoming 2025 San Diego County Fair in June.

⚓ Commit to entering a finished build at the Fair.

⚓ Self-nominate for a 2025 Officer position.

⚓ Earmark a couple hours each week to volunteer in the Museum Model Shop.

⚓ Consider starting a build outside of your comfort zone: perhaps in a different medium such as paper or resin, or display technique such as a diorama or ship-in-a-bottle.

⚓ Select one new skill to learn this coming year such as silver soldering or serving rope or clinker planking.

There are plenty of ways to further your model shipcrafting experience... the key, as always, is to just START.

Alex



MMSD Supporter

San Diego Ship Modelers Guild
1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA, USA 92101
sdshipmodelersguild.org

founded 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill



NRG Chapter Club



I want to thank everyone involved in making the 2024 Holiday Party such a huge success. It was a wonderful celebration of both our craft and camaraderie. For



me, it was a great reminder of why I love being a part of this Guild. After a year full of challenges both official and personal, getting to see the



collective joy of our Members gathered together, sharing the mutual joy of each other's company, creativity, and knowledge — that was the best gift I could ask for (short of a lifetime supply of *Insta-Rig*[™], that is.)

Now, with us officially beginning the business of 2025, [per the Bylaws](#), I am appointing Alex Roel as the Nominations Chairman for the upcoming elections. So, if you wish to nominate yourself or a fellow Guild Member for one of the five Officer positions, please contact Alex. He will publish all collected nominations ahead of the official ballot, which will be included in the March newsletter.

3.4 Election of Officers.

The Guild Master shall conduct an election yearly.

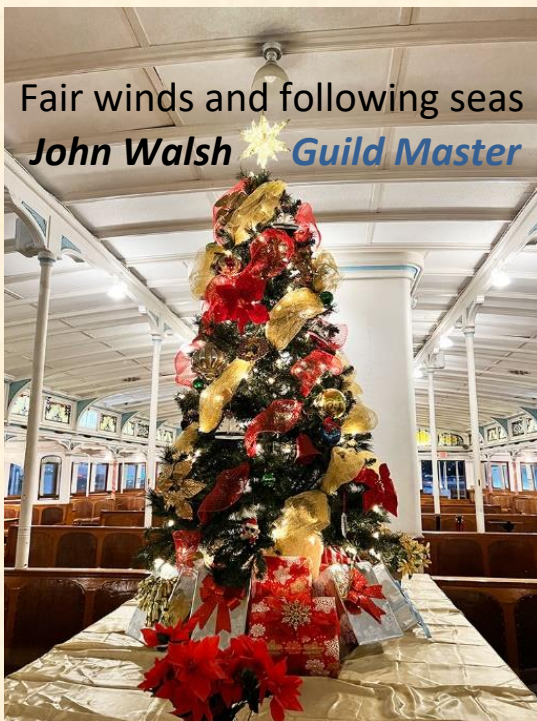
In January the Guild Master shall appoint a Nominating Chairman who shall report nominations at the February meeting. Nominations from the floor shall also be taken. Ballots with the nominees shall be published in the newsletter prior to a vote at the March meeting. All votes received by mail, electronically, by phone and those given at the meeting will be tabulated to determine the winners. Mail, email and phone votes shall be made to the Log Keeper. In the event of a close election, telephonic votes will be verified.

The elected slate of Officers shall take office at the March meeting.

Speaking of nominations and newsletters, I did leave you all with a slight cliffhanger back in the December issue. Apologies for that, but I felt it best to wait until nominations were officially open to make the announcement that Steve Miller has accepted my nomination to be on the 2025 ballot as your potential next Guild Master.

Steve has been a prolific contributor to our 2024 meetings with his monthly PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL updates. He embodies the best qualities of the Guild and has been an excellent ambassador of the craft to our younger members and guests, working alongside Youth Coordinator Isaac Wills. Steve has approached his ongoing build of PRINCE with both curiosity and humor, making his Show and Tell presentations something that we look forward to each month. I would be honored to have him be the one at the helm of our Guild, and I hope that you'll agree.

As I stated last month, I still intend to continue serving the Guild as an Officer, if you'll have me as the Purser come the March election. As much as I have enjoyed my time steering the ship, I'm excited to focus on specific needs and projects, such as technical upgrades to our website server. If you too want to serve the Guild in some capacity, consider submitting a nomination!



In This Issue

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Mike recounts

Several years ago (2013) and over several discussions (then Guild Master) Bob Riddoch and I came up with the idea of getting a group of Members together to build identical models and share ideas, build techniques, and problem solving while enjoying general comradery building ship models. Our main purpose was to help new folks build something that could be completed in a reasonable amount of time, would offer the opportunity to work on most facets of building a ship model (such as framing, planking, masting, rigging, and detailed wood and metal work) and still be easy enough to complete.

We had both seen a kit from Model Shipways, the "MEDWAY Longboat 1742" and thought that it might work for our purposes as it was fairly simple and would involve all the essential processes of ship modeling while not being too expensive. We went to the Guild and received a positive read on interest in such a group, and through personal contacts with Model Shipways we got a deal on a quantity of kits. Twelve Guild Members signed up and I ordered the kits.

The monthly meetings were held at my house and were well attended. The sharing of information was as great as Bob and I had hoped. Later in the build I



Community Build I



obtained a quote for a quantity of dust covers for finished models and nearly all Members ordered one. As I recall

10 of the 12 models ordered were completed over a period of about 7 or 8 months. Bob and I were really pleased with this result. In addition, four of the models were entered in the 2014 San Diego County Fair and took 1st, 3rd, 4th and the Best Scale Ship Model Award from the Maritime Museum of San Diego.



Mike Lonnecker's "MEDWAY Longboat 1742"

Another positive indication that we had started something good was that we were copied: several of the Members published build logs in [Model Ship World](#) with references to our Community Build. Months later at least two other clubs started Community Builds using the MEDWAY Longboat!

Four years later in 2017 the second Community Build was organized and featured the "Royal Barge 1705" kit from Syren Ship Model Company. I was less involved with this build even though I did purchase a kit: it was in a larger scale than I usually work in so I lost interest fairly quickly, and as I recall work was getting in the way as well.



Community Build II

Meetings for this build were held aboard the steam ferry BERKELEY on the upper deck and in the nautical library. I don't



recall how many models were completed, but Jon Sanford had a nice one which took 3rd Place at the 2018 San Diego County Fair. The Royal Barge was a small step up in skill level from our first Community Build.

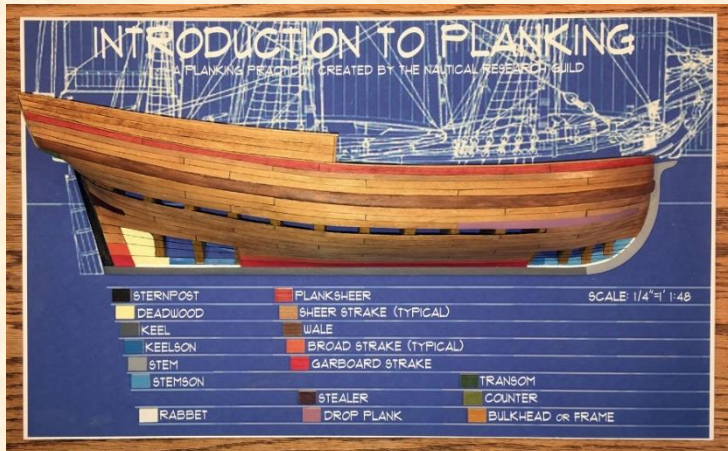


Jon Sanford's "Royal Barge 1705"

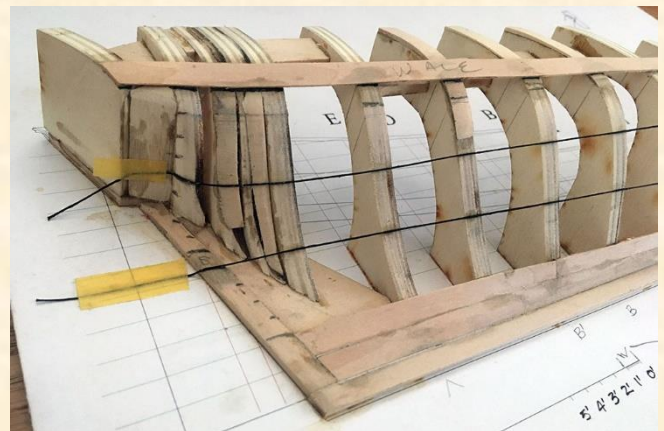
In 2019 Alex Roel took the reins from me and led Community Build III. This build's focus project was the Nautical Research Guild's "[Introduction to Planking](#)" kit. I was able to get a price break on an order for 10 of these kits and meetings were once again held on the upper deck of the BERKELEY.



Community Build III



Alex Roel's "Introduction to Planking"

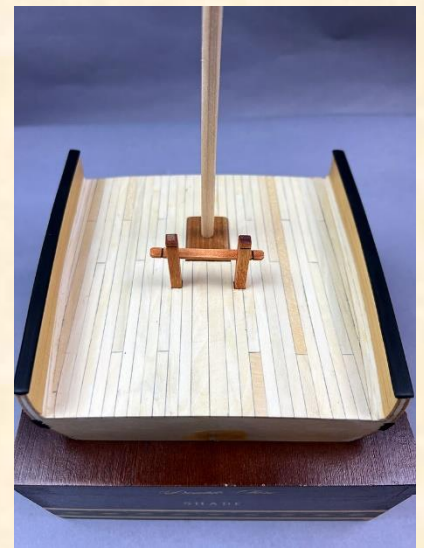


One completed model was especially well done and I submitted a photo of it to the NRG which they chose to include on their annual calendar for 2020.



Community Build IV

Our current Community Build IV is being led by Guild Master John Walsh, and centers on the "[Masting and Rigging Project](#)" kit, also from the NRG. I was again able to get a price break on a group of 12 models.



Chuck Seiler's "Masting and Rigging Project"

To date the meetings aboard the BERKELEY are well attended; a number of the same people continue to enroll in each succeeding Community Build and this enhances the skills of our Members, which of course was our original intent.

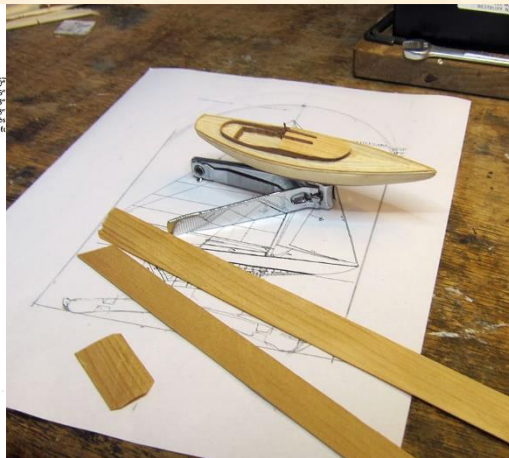
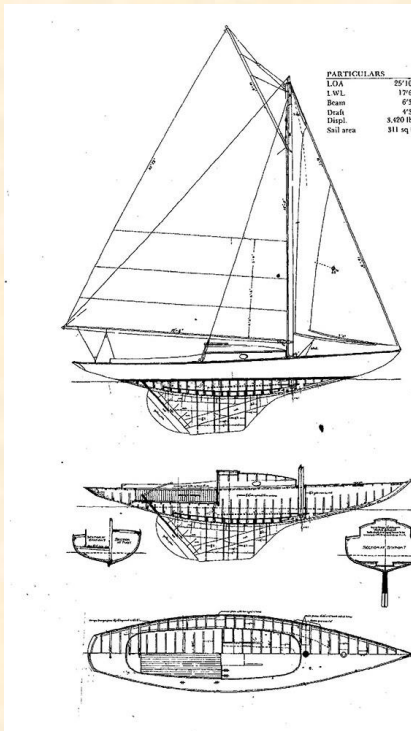
Alex picks up the thread

Mike mentioned that other model shipcrafting clubs picked up on the idea of the Community Build: that's still happening today. In 2019 I attended the annual week-long rigging class offered by Nic Damuck of [BlueJacket Shipcrafters](#) in Searsport, Maine. While there I had the good fortune to share a workspace with another modeler, Mark Sceery, from Newburyport, Massachusetts. Mark and I worked alongside each other for the week and after hours we and our spouses spent time together enjoying Maine.



Mark, foreground, Nic standing at back

Fast-forward to earlier this year: I contacted Mark to let him know that my wife and I would be in the area while visiting our daughter in New Hampshire, some 30 minutes from Newburyport. Mark and Beth invited us down for dinner and we caught up, toured their home and Mark's workspace. Over dinner I happened to mention our Guild's Community Build...



members.

Shortly after arriving back in San Diego I received a text from Mark that at his prompting the Merrimack River Ship Modelers were in the planning stages of starting their first Community Build: a Dark Harbor knockabout day sailor, apparently to be scratch-built from plans by the

Twelve years later it's gratifying to see Bob and Mike's original Community Build idea continue to flourish and further the model shipcrafting skills of others.

Rio Grande

Listen to it on  YouTube

Our ship went a sailin' out over the bar
Aweigh, for Rio!
And we pointed our bow to the old Southern Star
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

And aweigh, boys, aweigh
Aweigh, for Rio!

So fare thee well all you pretty, young girls
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

Oh say was you ever down Rio Grande
Aweigh, for Rio!
It's there that the water runs down golden sand
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

CHORUS

There were some of us sick and some of us sore
Aweigh, for Rio!
We scoffed all our lime-juice and can't get no more
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

CHORUS

So, pack up your donkeys and get underway
Aweigh, for Rio!
Them girls we are leaving will get our half-pay
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

CHORUS

Well, it's goodbye to Molly and goodbye to Sue
Aweigh, for Rio!
You folks on the quayside it's goodbye to you
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

CHORUS

Sing only pull whilst heaving my sons
Aweigh, for Rio!
Sing only one chorus it's blowing big guns
And we're bound for the Rio Grande

CHORUS x 2



Last Meeting *photography by Chris Sullivan*



The Guild's festive December meeting was attended by 20 Members¹ and 8 guests²; all Officers were present. No new Members joined the Guild.



Powder Monkey Karl Zingheim rattled the holiday bells at 5:58pm to signal the start of the second dog watch.



Guild Master John Walsh opened the annual holiday dinner and meeting by welcoming the guests.



John then announced that he was tabling all Officer Reports and that the first order of business was to commence dinner, directing all to the buffet station laden with a long row of pizza varieties, sodas, waters, sides, and desserts.



The Powder Monkey



James Pitt, Guy Lawrie



Mike Florio, Hope Roel, Phil Pizzuto

Over dinner new acquaintances were made and old ones renewed as Members and guests kicked off the holiday season; the Guild Master interrupting only to announce that Show and Tell would follow dinner along with an innovative rigging demonstration.



¹ Clausson, Florio, Hairston, Lawrie, Lonneck, López de Arenosa, MacMaster, McKinley, Miller, Pitt, Pizzuto, Roel, Scheet, Sellen, Sullivan, Walsh, Ward, Wills, Zamora, Zingheim

² Liz Hua, Carmen Hughes, Deborah Lannon, Hope Roel, Alesia Slocum, Kelly Sullivan, Kim Ward, Jake Williams



Alesia Slocum, Paco López de Arenosa



Tom Hairston, Carmen Hughes

As dinner began to wind down John called for the start of [Show and Tell](#) during which he also awarded recognition certificates to various Members:

- ⚓ *Most Informative Technical Demonstrations – Mike Lonnecker*
- ⚓ *Most Helpful Assistance – Paco López de Arenosa*
- ⚓ *Keeping Us All Clothed and Looking Presentable – James Pitt (Guild shirts)*
- ⚓ *Making Our Models Look Great for Posterity – Chris Sullivan (photography)*
- ⚓ *Most Models Built During Guild Meetings – Trystan Lee*



John Walsh, Glenn Clausson



- ⚓ *Most Meeting Appearances by a Single Ship Model – Steve Miller (PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL)*
- ⚓ *Most Unique Modeling Technique – Glenn Clausson (silverfish weathering – complete with silverfish on his certificate)*
- ⚓ *Most Models Started by an Individual Member – Tom Hairston (600 or more Mini-Star kits)*

The final presentation of the night was a surprise demonstration of *Insta-Rig™*, the latest innovation from the (fertile?) minds of your elected Officers (and a sadly revealing behind-the-scenes glimpse into a typical monthly Officer Meeting.)



Alex Roel and LA TEDIOSA, pre-Insta-Rig™

The ~~victim~~ subject of the demonstration was the paper model build of LA TEDIOSA (née SAN SALVADOR) which, only lacking running rigging for completion was promptly and instantly rigged by the Guild Master to the ~~horror~~ delight of all...



At precisely 8:01pm the Powder Monkey re-rang the holiday chimes to close out our December holiday festivities.

Thank you to all who brought dinner sides and beverages, and special thanks to Hope Roel for providing the tableware and cutlery.



Newer Member Phil Pizzuto led off Show and Tell with a scratch build that he started some 50 years ago from a found Eucalyptus branch.

After he finished carving the hull Phil found a book on how to build a ship-in-a-bottle model, and later came across a cigarette ad that featured a sailing ship on which he based his final design.

- *Ship-in-a-Bottle by Phil Pizzuto*
- *scratch build, wood, glass*
- *unknown scale, complete*



- *TAURUS by Mike Florio*
- *Model Shipways kit (bashed), wood*
- *1/8"=1' 1:96, complete*

Mike Florio made another Show and Tell appearance with his modified kit build of the 1930's vintage steam powered tugboat TAURUS. This is another example of Mike's waterline style of model display showcased last month.



Mike Lonnecker's admiralty-build of the MEDWAY's longboat appeared at our

- *MEDWAY Longboat by Mike Lonnecker*
- *Model Shipways kit, wood*
- *1/4"=1' 1:48, complete*



holiday Show and Tell featuring both Mike's woodworking and his wife Sandy's painting craftsmanship. Mike admitted that he had to rebuild a part of the longboat which required re-enlisting Sandy's help to repaint the new portion.



Having completed his MAYFLOWER, Doug Ward chose to do a less demanding follow-up build and landed on kit-bashing the ZWARTE ZEE, an ocean-going Dutch tugboat.

Doug came across an old Billings Boat kit and decided to craft and display her as a hulled shipwreck that his grandchildren can play with.

- *ZWARTE ZEE by Doug Ward*
- *Billings Boats kit (bashed), mahogany*
- *1/8"≈1' 1:90, under construction*



Steve Miller looked a bit lost without the PRINCE nearby, but powered through and shared his recently completed build of the aircraft carrier YORKTOWN (circa 1942 Battle of Midway.) Steve added a complete complement of aircraft from Skyhawk and photo-etched brass railings, and somewhat sheepishly noted that there is a “scratch built hangar deck that no one can see.”

Steve also brought in his “test bed” destroyer THE SULLIVANS on which he had honed his skills using photo-etched pieces.

- *YORKTOWN by Steve Miller*
- *Tamiya kit, plastic, photo-etch brass*
- *1/64"≈1' 1:700, completed*



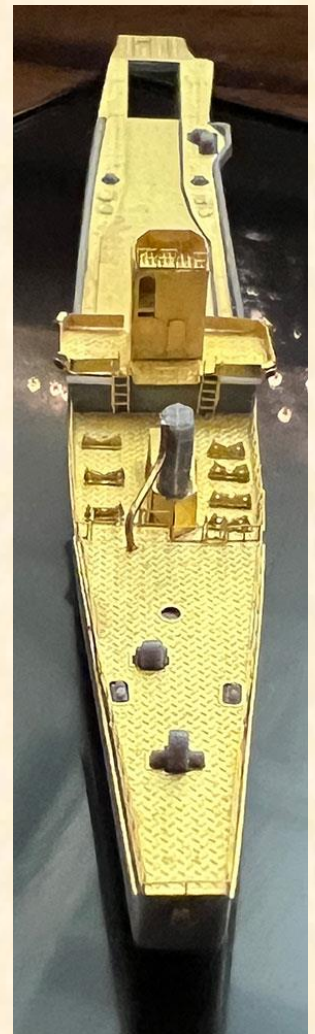
Kurtis Sellen showed up with an intriguing project that he recently completed: a one-sixth scale model of a full scale row boat that he had previously built in 2020. Kurtis thought building a scale model of his row boat would be a useful next step in honing his new model shipcrafting skills. Although “complete”, Kurtis is still toying with the idea of adding the moveable sideboard rudder. Tick, tick, tick...

- *Row Boat by Kurtis Sellen*
- *scratch build, plywood*
- *2"=1' 1:6, complete*

Chris Sullivan took a short break from photography duties to share his latest work in progress: a late-1940’s Japanese troop landing ship. Chris noted that very few of these were produced and that even fewer have survived (although one did feature in the recent *Godzilla Minus One* film.)

This is another Tamiya kit that Chris is bashing with photo-etched brass superstructure, deck, and railings.

- *No. 101 Class Landing Ship by Chris Sullivan*
- *Tamiya kit, plastic, photo-etched brass*
- *1/64"≈1' 1:700, under construction*



Oh, to be a MacMaster family member: Jay made a holiday appearance and talked about his latest build for one of his younger family members which will include the carved skull and crossbones that he displayed.

- *Pirate Ship by Jay MacMaster*
- *scratch build, wood*
- *unknown scale, under construction*

Last up was your Newsletter Editor with the now infamous LA TEDIOSA.

As previously noted, she underwent an impromptu application of **Insta-Rig™** (since dissolved with a fine brush and acetone.)



- LA TEDIOSA by Alex Roel
- MMSD kit, paper
- 1/8"≈1' 1:100, under construction

All standing rigging, including deadeye lanyards and ratlines now being complete, the next step is to get her actual running rigging on her... the old-fashioned way. The kit instructions have almost no useful mention of running rigging but fortunately there is floating example (SAN SALVADOR) dockside that will furnish the required information.



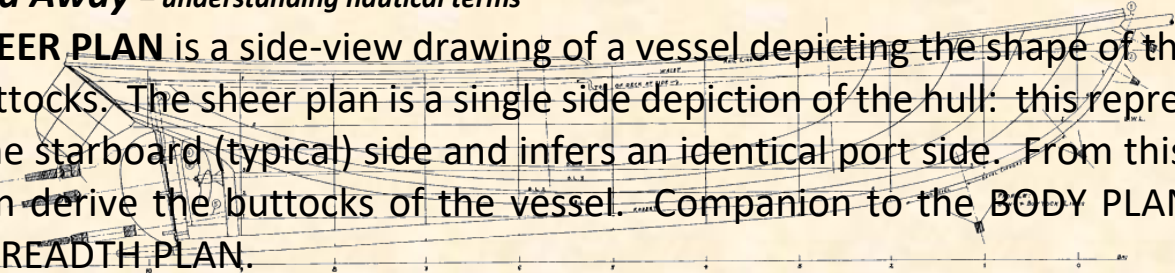
⚓ Flotsam and Jetsam

“Wooden ships on the water, very free and easy”

Crosby, Stills & Nash, Wooden Ships, 1969

Squared Away – understanding nautical terms

The **SHEER PLAN** is a side-view drawing of a vessel depicting the shape of the hull and buttocks. The sheer plan is a single side depiction of the hull: this represents both the starboard (typical) side and infers an identical port side. From this plan one can derive the buttocks of the vessel. Companion to the **BODY PLAN** and **HALF-BREADTH PLAN**.



Museum Model Shop – utilize, support, volunteer



All Guild Members are welcome to work in the Museum Model Shop aboard the BERKELEY. Besides having five dedicated work stations, the Model Shop is also the home to the Guild’s model shipcrafting library, tools, and a large inventory of building supplies. By volunteering time in the Model Shop our presence benefits the MMSD by affording their patrons the opportunity to see our craft in action and up close. Contact Model Shop Chair [Jon Sanford](#) for more information on how you can participate.

Around the Scuttlebutt – latest Guild news



Nominations for Officer positions for the coming year are open. Submit your nominations to the Nominations Chair, [Alex Roel](#).



Community Build IV did not meet in December and will resume their project on January 14th.

On The Horizon



JAN 7	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JAN 14	3pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 14	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JAN 28	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
FEB 4	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
FEB 11	3pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 11	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
FEB 25	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email

Officer Nominations

Our annual Officer elections are approaching and nominations are open for the five positions.

Below is the slate of nominees to date. Please forward your nominations (names and positions) to Nominations Chairman [Alex Roel](#).

 NOMINATIONS — <i>Officers</i>			
Position	Nominee	Nominee	Nominee
Guild Master	Steve Miller	open	open
First Mate	Steve Scheet	Chris Sullivan	open
Log Keeper	Karl Zingheim	open	open
Purser	John Walsh	open	open
Newsletter Editor	Alex Roel	open	open

Nominees listed alphabetically, left to right

Newer Members may wonder “What about the various Committee Chair positions?” Good question! Per the Guild’s Bylaws...

3.6 Committees. The Guild Master shall appoint committee chairmen as he sees fit. (Example: Program Chairman, Audio Visual Chairman, Webmaster, etc.) Committee chairs shall enlist the help of members of the general membership as required. Committee chairs shall attend Officers meetings as advisory members but will be non-voting. Committee chairs will have the opportunity to provide reports during the “Reports” section of general meetings.

In [Log Entry: No. 5](#) I discussed the installation of the Funnels, Deck Benches, and Lifeboats, where I resume.

- *TITANIC* by Don Bienvenue
- Trumpeter kit, plastic, wood, photo-etched brass
- 1/16"≈1' 1:200, under construction

Rigging and Detailing the Lifeboats

There were small portable fences on the inboard side of each lifeboat to keep passengers away from the boats when they were stowed in place. The fences can be seen along the nearest lifeboats in photos 1 and 2.

The lifeboats are rigged with block and tackles. The block and tackle assemblies are attached to the fore and aft ends of each lifeboat. The upper blocks are attached to the lifeboat davits. These assemblies are all photo-etched pieces (see Figures 1 and 2.) There are also two chains attached to the side of each lifeboat, while the other end of the chains are attached to the deck.



Figure 1 — starboard aft lifeboats looking forward

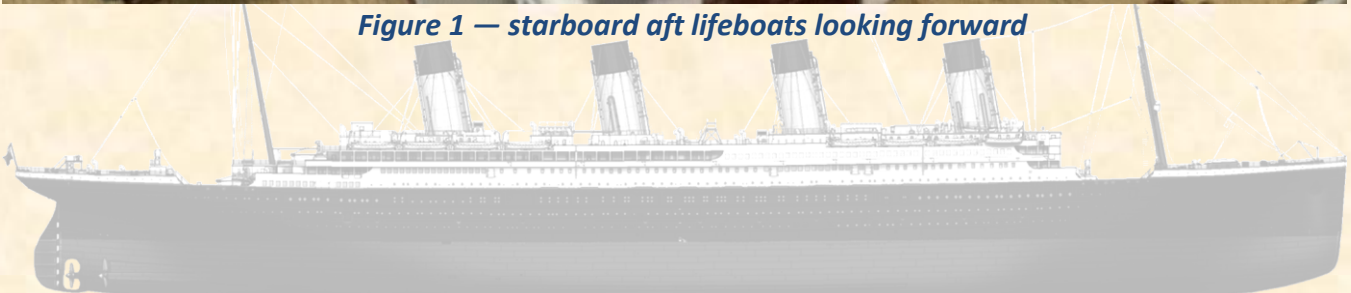




Figure 2 — port aft lifeboats

The 24' emergency cutters were rigged to the ship with the davits swung outwards so that they could be ready to use in an instant. There were two cutters, one on each side of the forward end of the boat deck. The model interiors of the lifeboats are photo-etched pieces and the hulls themselves are resin cast (see Figure 3.)

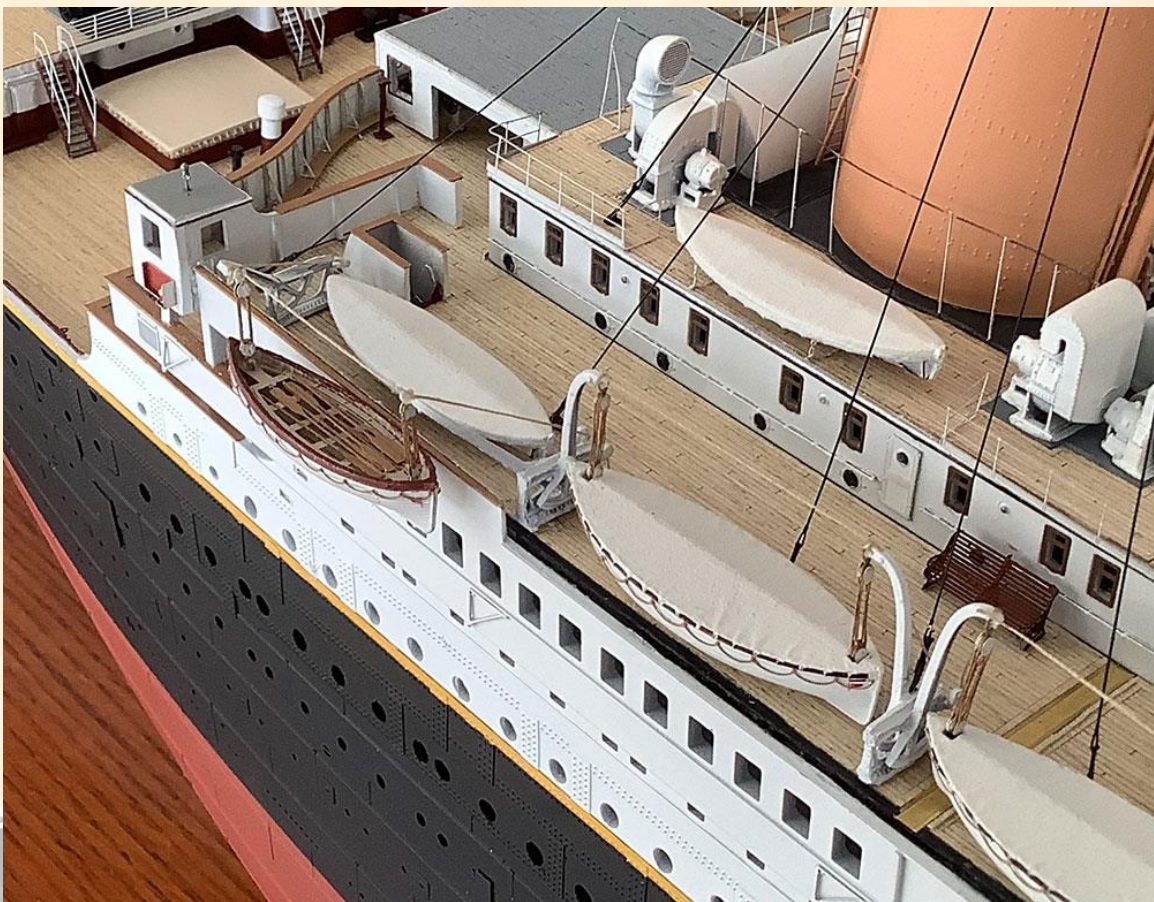


Figure 3 — port 24' emergency cutter

Building the Cranes

TITANIC had eight cargo cranes: two were on the forward Well Deck, two on the aft end of A (Promenade) Deck, two on the aft Well Deck, and two on the Poop Deck. For the model the cranes were sub-kits in themselves. All pieces were photo-etched, except for the crane towers, which were resin cast. Figure 4 shows some brass pulleys and the photo-etched part sheet used for the eight cranes.

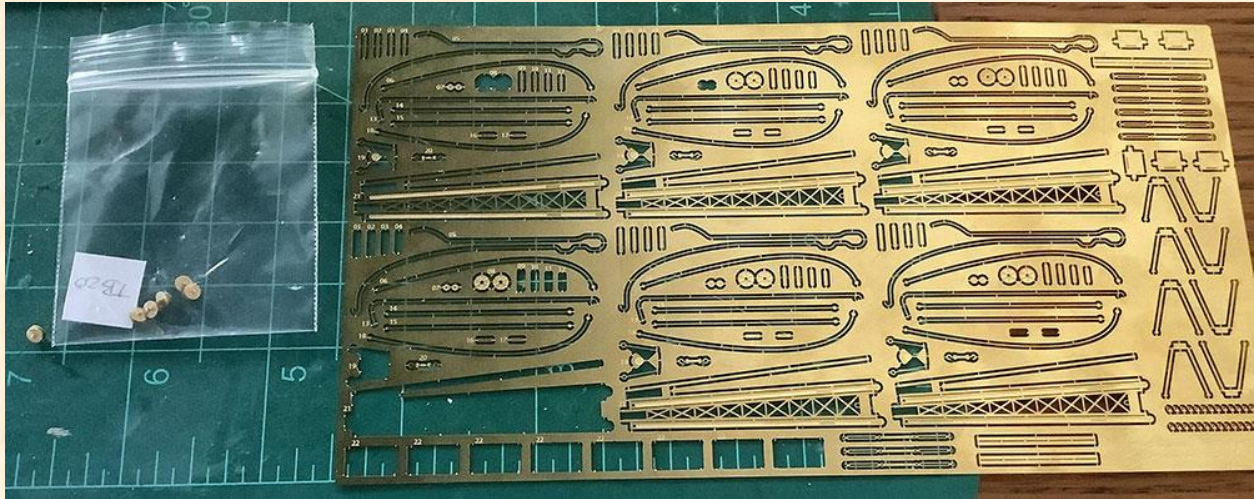


Figure 4 — brass crane pulleys and photo-etched crane parts

Figure 5 shows one of the crane photo-etched assemblies in the process of being assembled.



Figure 5 — photo-etched crane assembly

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate the completed aft cranes in place. The rigging for the cranes are done with photo-etched pieces instead of using thread.



Figure 6 — Well and Poop Deck cranes looking forward



Figure 7 — side view of aft cranes

The Masts

I have used after-market brass masts that are much stronger than the plastic kit masts, as those will eventually bend. Figure 8 shows the parts used to construct a mast.



Figure 8 — mast assemblies

Next time: I will continue discussion of the construction of the masts and will discuss the ship's rigging. This will complete the model and the TITANIC Build Log.

Dockyard Hacks

Model shipcrafting hacks compiled by Guild Members. New hacks are highlighted in light red. This list appears periodically in the Newsletter. Forward hack [suggestions](#) for addition to the list.

Loosening wood glue

Wood glue (PVA – polyvinyl acetate, such as *Titebond* or *Elmer's*) can be loosened by applying isopropyl alcohol to the bonded joints of glued pieces. Repeat the process until the wood glue starts to soften and becomes gummy. This can be effective even on joins years old. The alcohol will not harm surrounding wood and will dry rapidly.

Removing dents from wood

It may be possible to remove small dents or nicks on raw wood (not stained, painted, or finished) by adding a few drops of distilled water to the affected area. This will soak into and expand the wood pores somewhat without harming the wood. Let the area dry and repeat as necessary.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Dockyard Hacks* is a new compendium feature meant to gather and disseminate useful and convenient modeling methodologies for newer model shipcrafters. This will complement the existing *Dockyard Resources* list. Please contribute your tips, tricks, and hacks to this [resource](#).



Alex Roel

San Diego Bay, March 12 2024, 7:08pm

Thanks to our sponsor, the Maritime Museum of San Diego, the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild is fortunate to call not only San Diego Bay our home, but also the steam ferry BERKELEY, part of the Museum's fleet tied up on San Diego's Embarcadero.





The Bitter End

Our Founders

The Guild was founded in 1971 by Bob Wright and Russ Merrill in collaboration with Ken Reynard, Captain of the barque STAR OF INDIA.

Mission Statement



The [San Diego Ship Modelers 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 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 steam ferry 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 for the Design In Wood competition at the San Diego County Fair.

Nautical Research Guild



The Guild also encourages all Members to join and maintain an annual membership in the [Nautical Research Guild](#). As a chartered Chapter Club, the NRG accords certain benefits, privileges, and protections to our Guild.

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.



Back Issues

Back issues of *The Second Dog Watch* are accessible via the [Newsletter Archive](#) which has digital copies dating back to Volume I, Issue 1 (May 1977.)