



APRIL 2025

32°43'N

117°10'W

VOL LIII, No 4

GUILD OFFICERS

[Steve Miller](#)

Guild Master

[Steve Scheet](#)

First Mate

[John Walsh](#)

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

ELECTION RESULTS



Out with the old, in with the new: after all the confetti settled on the upper deck of the good steam ferry BERKELEY, the San Diego Ship Modelers Guild found itself under new management. Two-term Guild Master John Walsh was out (but not without many thanks) and new Guild Master Steve Miller assumed the helm.

Steve will be seconded by new First Mate and Fair Coordinator Steve Scheet who won a tight race over Chris Sullivan.

Isaac Wills turned over the Guild's purse strings (and presumably bank balance) to new Purser John Walsh, while Karl Zingheim and Alex Roel were returned in their capacities as Log Keeper and Newsletter Editor, respectively.

Committee Chairs will remain unchanged for the time being pending review by the incoming Guild Master.

For the record, Steve becomes our 31st Guild Master, dating back to our founding in 1971.

We sail on.

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

From the Quarterdeck *by Guild Master Steve Miller*










Warm greetings to all my fellow Guild Members. I hope this finds you well.

I am humbled and honored to fill the role of Guild Master for the next year. Thank you for your vote of confidence.

In the run up to the election I joked about my "lack of qualifications" – that I haven't even built a wooden ship model (yet!) but... no worries. That is the beauty of the Guild – so many of you have, and done so spectacularly! Together we foster a relatively rare art. What has endeared this Guild and its Members to me is the spirit of sharing and open willingness to help each other out. I have yet to meet the builder with a "proprietary" secret they just won't impart. The willingness to share has vastly improved my model building skills over the last two and a half years – I hope you have all had similar experiences.



In This Issue

- ☒ [Election Results](#)
-  [From the Quarterdeck](#)
-  [Step Back](#)
-  [A Sea Shanty](#)
-  [Last Meeting](#)
-  [Show and Tell](#)
-  [Flotsam and Jetsam](#)
-  [Roll Call](#)
-  [Tales of the FLY: A Study](#)
-  [Home Port](#)
-  [The Bitter End](#)

I want to extend a hearty thank you to John Walsh for his vision and hard work over the last two years.

Between John, his Officers, and all the behind-the-scenes Committee Chairs, they have fulfilled John's initial vision of welcoming new members into the fold and providing tools and skills to improve everyone's abilities and further their craft.

Huzzah!



I see no reason to change our heading. If you had asked me about model ship building two and a half years ago I would have described it as a solitary endeavor. As a Guild Member, I now appreciate the synergy and camaraderie that comes from getting together with fellow builders. I look forward to furthering that synergy and camaraderie over the next year. To that end we will continue to seek out new members and welcome them to our fold. We will continue our exertions in finding and supporting the next generation of model shipwrights (youth outreach.) And we will continue to share and grow together in this fine hobby.

I am looking forward to it.

Cast off the lines and set a course, folks – we're taking her out!

Steve

Guild Master



No matter what endeavor we are working on, from writing an essay to planning a garden to building a model, it may be beneficial to step back from our project and take a hard look at it from distance. This is especially true for exacting projects which require careful attention to minutiae or specialized skills where it's very easy for the builder to get lost in the details.

This bit of wisdom came to mind when Isaac Wills recently forwarded an Internet “find” of his to *The Second Dog Watch*, depicting seven vessels nested outboard a



photo sourced by Isaac Wills from the Internet

battleship. The caption says it all: sometimes we can lose perspective by slavishly pursuing “accuracy” and forgetting that most of our models represent working vessels subject to everyday wear, weather, and accidents.

Here we have seven identical yet unique decks: which is right? Of course, the answer is “all of them.”

So, during your build process occasionally take a step back and try to see it with fresh eyes... ***it's all too easy to get lost in those details.***

“When you are worried about the exact deck color...”



Spanish Ladies

Listen to it on
 YouTube

Farewell an' adieu to you Spanish ladies
Farewell an' adieu to you ladies of Spain
For we've received orders for to sail for Old England
But we hope very soon we shall see you again

We'll rant an' we'll roar, like true British sailors
We'll rant an' we'll roar along the salt seas
Until we strike soundings in the Channel of Old England
From Ushant to Scilly is thirty-five leagues

We hove our ship to, with the wind at sou'west, boys
We hove our ship to, our soundings to sea
We rounded and sounded got forty-five fathoms
Then we squared our main yard and up Channel steered we

CHORUS

The next land we made was called "The Deadman"
Next Ramshead off Plymouth, off Portland, and Wight
Then we sailed by Beachy, by Fairlee and Dungeness
'Til we came abreast of the South Foreland Light

CHORUS

Then the signal was made for the Grand Fleet to anchor
All in the Downs that night for to lie
Then it's stand by your stoppers, steer clear your shank-painters
Haul up your clew garnets, let tacks and sheets fly

CHORUS

So let every man toss off a full bumper
And let every man drink off a full glass
We'll drink and be merry and drown melancholy
Singing, here's a good health to each true-hearted lass

CHORUS



Last Meeting



The Guild's rain-swept March Election meeting was attended by 19 Members¹ and 1 guest²; all Officers except the Purser were present. No new Members joined the Guild.

Powder Monkey Karl Zingheim rang the bell at 6:06pm to signal the start of the second dog watch.



John Walsh opened his final meeting as Guild Master on the aft upper deck of the BERKELEY as the overhead scuppers alternately dribbled or gushed rain runoff during the course of the meeting. Photographer Chris Sullivan returned to the fold after his recent deployment.

Before convening the Officer Elections John requested an update from James Pitt on the status of Guild shirts and hats. James reported that our vendor had sold the business but that he had met with the new owner and discussed some new varieties, fabrics, patterns, and costs (~\$20-30.) Polo shirts (two styles) a long-sleeved shirt and one hat are now available for sale. James urged Members to place orders at the next two meetings in anticipation of the upcoming 2025 San Diego County Fair.



John announced the commencement of voting and those who had not submitted ballots earlier to Log Keeper Karl Zingheim cast their votes. As is Karl's custom, the briefcase / ballot box was securely hand-cuffed to his person at all times. The only contested race resulted in a one-vote victory margin for Steve Scheet for First Mate.

This final task done, John immediately assumed his new post as the Guild's

Purser and turned the helm over to new Guild Master Steve Miller.

¹ Clausson, Dennigan, Dressel, Hairston, Hite, Lonacker, MacMaster, McKinley, Miller, Nagatani, Pitt, Roel, Scheet, Sellen, Sullivan, Tamayo, Walsh, Yotter, Zingheim

² Liz Hua

Freshly-minted Guild Master Steve Miller thanked the Members for their vote of confidence and got down to business by polling the outgoing Officers for reports. (Former) First Mate Tom Hairston reported that Mini-STAR production continues apace and on target for the 2025 San Diego County Fair.

Fair Coordinator Steve Scheet presented two items of interest:

- 1) Four images of the new knot-tying instruction placards (thanks Tom and Alex) for the front of the booth.



- 2) Three possible chair models being considered to accommodate the booth's new work desk height. The height is being raised this year to make our work more visible to the viewing public; the "Kid's Table" (aka "Chuck's Workstation") and chair will remain unchanged.

Steve then called for the refreshment break, after which he introduced and moderated [Show and Tell](#) for the balance of the evening.



Letting go is hard to do



Show and Tell table

At precisely 7:43pm the Powder Monkey rang the ship's bell to bring our Election Night meeting to a close.



Niko McKinley kicked off Show and Tell by premiering five short animated films he created which included the sinking of the TITANIC and the grounding of the COSTA CONCORDIA. Next, Niko displayed a medley of water craft that he has been collecting and building. Ranging from wood to plastic to Legos, Niko noted that he acquired these from arcade wins, school gifts, and kits. For his scratch-built battleship, Niko said "It is from my *Groot* Marvel model. Ha-ha! I took parts of him to create this HMS GROOT-Y YA BOOTIE!"

- *SHIP MEDLEY* by Niko McKinley
- various kits, wood and plastic
- unknown scales, completed



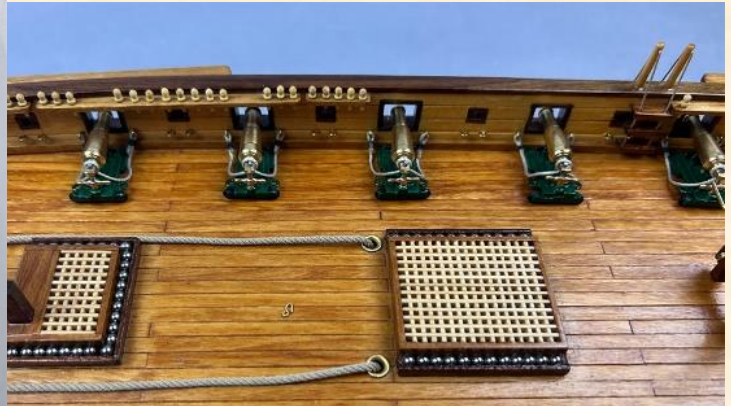
Mike Dennigan brought in an 80 year old model of a four-stacker destroyer that he recently restored. While the full provenance of this wooden model is unknown, Mike thinks the EDSALL was probably scratch-built in the 1940s at Cavite Naval Yard in the Philippines by a sailor or dock worker.



- *EDSALL* by Mike Dennigan
- restoration, wood
- unknown scale, completed



Steve Miller brought back the PRINCE, now featuring the first signs of rigging which can be seen at the tiller, the hawsers, and some of the cannon breechings.



- *PRINCE DE NEUFCHATEL* by Steve Miller
- Constructo kit, plank-on-bulkhead, wood
- 13/64"=1' 1:58, under construction

Mike Lonnecker's completed PINNACE was on show in Mike's favored "Admiralty" build style: fully planked on the port side, exposed framing starboard. Made primarily of boxwood and holly, the model also features a curly maple and cherry base. Mike used a scaled-down version of Chuck Passaro's 1:24 scale plan, with Chuck's permission.



- *PINNACE* by Mike Lonnecker
- Passaro plans, boxwood, holly, maple, cherry
- 1/4"=1' 1:48, completed



Don Dressel braved the weather and the drive down from Orange County to bring in VASA, now sporting cannon on the main deck and heavily laden with decorative giltwork on the hull exterior, figurehead, and lantern.



- *VASA by Don Dressel*
- *Corel kit, plank-on-bulkhead, wood*
- *5/32"≈1' 1:78, under construction*



Kurtis Sellen showed off his latest work on SAN SALVADOR: mizzen shrouds and deadeye blocks (hearts.) He also started to learn how to blacken copper fittings, and is contemplating adding ratlines once all shrouds are complete.

- *SAN SALVADOR by Kurtis Sellen*
- *MMSD kit, solid hull, wood, walnut*
- *3/32"≈1' 1:135, under construction*



At far left are Kurtis' various attempts to fashion deadeyes: to the immediate left is his finished product.

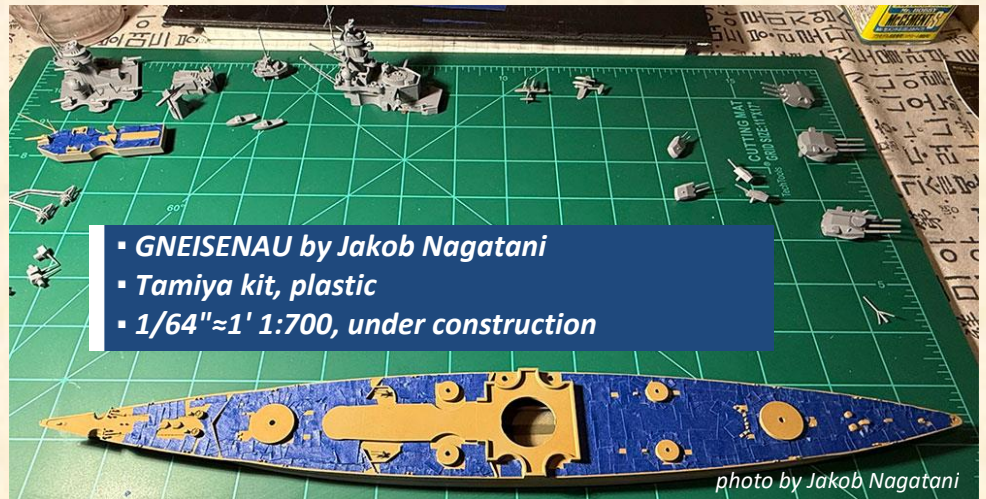
With SAN SALVADOR Kurtis is giving the Guild a great demonstration of how a build can be used to learn or enhance one's crafting techniques.

Jay MacMaster brought us up to date on SYREN, a 16 gun brig and one of his ongoing scratch-builds. Like Jay's other projects no paint adorns SYREN: Jay prefers to simulate the proper colors solely using various natural wood species. Boxwood, African Ebony, African Mahogany, Alder, East Coast Holly, Red Oak, Birch and African Padauk already grace the build. Cannon (which seems to be a theme this month) litter the main deck and their rigging is well underway. This model will also feature LED lighting that Jay has been incorporating into his most recent builds. Jay notes that all parts are scratch built except for blocks, deadeyes and the two chase guns.



- SYREN by Jay MacMaster
- Model Shipways plans, scratch build, wood
- 3/16"=1' 1:64, under construction

Jakob Nagatani wrapped up Show and Tell with a pair of models he currently has under construction. Jakob reported that GNEISENAU “represents the 1940 refit and its raised bow. Currently all of the superstructure and armament is complete, and now I am just masking the deck. Masking has been the most tedious and time consuming part of the build, where hundreds



- **GNEISENAU by Jakob Nagatani**
- **Tamiya kit, plastic**
- **1/64"≈1' 1:700, under construction**

photo by Jakob Nagatani

of small pieces of masking tape were cut up and fitted to the shape of the deck, and its other accessories, but allows for using airbrush much more freely. The waterline was painted black, and the deck painted brown, all with an airbrush using Tamiya's acrylic paints. After I finish masking the deck I will paint everything else with a mix of Tamiya's variety of grays.”

Jakob then went on to describe his CONSTELLATION... “The hull, sails, and other accessories not shown like ratlines, are all provided by a freelance business called

- **CONSTELLATION by Jakob Nagatani**
- **3D printed file, plastic**
- **1/64"≈1' 1:700, under construction**



photo by Jakob Nagatani

Turner Miniatures. These models are mainly used for a tabletop war game called *Black Seas*. As an alternative to building the age-of-sail ships from scratch in wood, Turner is able to provide more than satisfactory detail and accuracy to these ships. Another benefit to these miniatures is the price, with the hull costing \$10, and the sails

(not only for the CONSTELLATION, but an entire set from 1st to 5th rate ships) costing \$12. For many new ship modelers building an authentic age-of-sail ship is fairly daunting, and the plastic model kits like Revell offers are pretty bare bone, so these 3D printed miniatures are definitely a good stepping stone to build these ships while not demanding the intricate woodworking skills a more veteran ship modeler needs, but still preserving the superb level of detail.”

Flotsam and Jetsam

"How inappropriate it is to call this Earth, when clearly it is Sea"

Arthur C Clarke, author

Soundings – pronouncing nautical terms



By definition a **BOATSWAIN** is the ship's senior deck boss who is responsible for all components of the hull including rigging, anchors, cables, sails, deck maintenance and small boat operations. Actually, we have one of our own in Chris Sullivan: find him at the next meeting and ask *him* how to pronounce his title.

Reads like: **bote•swane** (one word, two syllables, accent on first)

Pronounced: **boe•zun** (one word, two syllables, accent on first)

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



VOLUNTEERS: Sign-ups for manning the Guild's Booth at the 2025 San Diego County Fair has commenced: [check available volunteer dates here](#) and contact Fair Coordinator [Steve Scheet](#) with your selections.



MODEL ENTRANTS: You must register and pay (\$30) for your entry no later than 8pm on April 30. Scale models should be entered in Class 009 and Not-to-Scale models in Class 010. Entry is *only* via the [online site](#).





Due to scheduling difficulties the March Officers Meeting was cancelled.



Mike Lonnecker's Show and Tell PINNACE features a custom Plexiglas dust cover from [PlexiDisplays](https://www.plexidisplays.com/) in La Habra. Several Members have used this resource and report satisfaction with quality, price, accuracy, and turn-around time. PlexiDisplays has been added to the Guild's "Dockyard Resources" list which appears periodically in **TSDW**.

On The Horizon



APR 1	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
APR 8	4pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 8	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
APR 29	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
APR 30	8pm	SDCF model entry (deadline)	online application
MAY 6	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
MAY 7	9am	SDCF booth set-up	Del Mar Fairgrounds
MAY 13	4pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY 13	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
MAY 20	noon - 8pm	SDCF model entry (drop-off)	Del Mar Fairgrounds
MAY 27	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
JUN 3	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JUN 10	4pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JUN 10	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JUN 11 - JUL 6	11am - 6pm	San Diego County Fair (booth volunteering)	Del Mar Fairgrounds / Design In Wood
JUN 24	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email
JUL 1	6pm	Officers Meeting	online
JUL 8	4pm	Community Build Meeting	BERKELEY
JUL 8	6pm	Guild Meeting	BERKELEY
JUL 8	noon - 8pm	SDCF model entry (pick-up)	Del Mar Fairgrounds
JUL 11	9am	SDCF booth take-down	Del Mar Fairgrounds
JUL 29	–	<i>The Second Dog Watch</i>	Website, email





1) How did you come to call San Diego home?

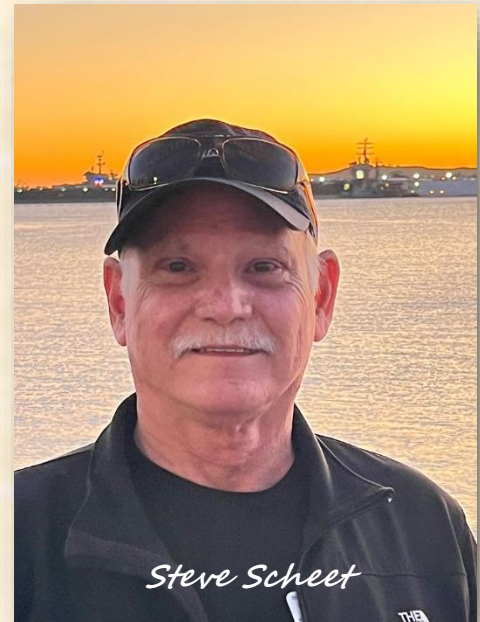
I was born in April 1958 in Jacksonville Florida. My dad was a career Navy man, so we were soon transferred to Rhode Island where I spent several years. In 1966 we were transferred to San Diego; we lived in Imperial Beach until 1973 when we relocated to Clairemont. I moved once more after that to my current home in Santee.

2) Tell us a bit about your life/career path.

I was not the best student and up until 10th grade I attended Catholic schools. After relocating to Clairemont I enrolled in my first public school: here I discovered shop classes (wood shop to be exact) and school now took on a new life for me. My woodshop teacher Mr. Bishop saw some potential in me and guided me through my first build which was a China cabinet that I entered at the Del Mar Fair. It did not win any awards but it had me hooked on woodworking as a career. Soon after graduation I was hired at a large architectural woodworking company and enrolled in the local union apprenticeship program, and eventually worked my way to journeyman cabinet maker. Throughout my 42-year career with the company I wore many different hats including department supervisor, shop foreman and plant manager. I also co-managed a plant in Tijuana, Mexico, which was a challenge since I spoke no Spanish. I retired in December 2022.

3) How did you come to the Guild?

Having just retired and with a lot of time on my hands I decided to try building wooden ship models. Later that year my girlfriend and I went to the San Diego County Fair, and while walking around the Design in Wood exhibit we stumbled upon the Guild's booth. I spoke for a while with Jon Sanford: he gave me the rundown on the group and an application to join, so here I am.



4) Do you recall your first model?

I don't recall the first model I ever built but as a youngster I built many plastic model cars. I do have one build in particular that I recall: it was a Saturn V rocket and I'm quite not sure what happened to it, but knowing me I probably blew it up!



5) Of the models you've made, which is your favorite?

I don't have that many ships under my belt yet, but so far the one I had the most fun with has been the OcCre ULISES steam tug: adding working lights, remote control, and weathering made this challenging and most importantly fun.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Steve's ULISES took home a ribbon at the 2024 San Diego County Fair.

6) Describe another avocation you enjoy.

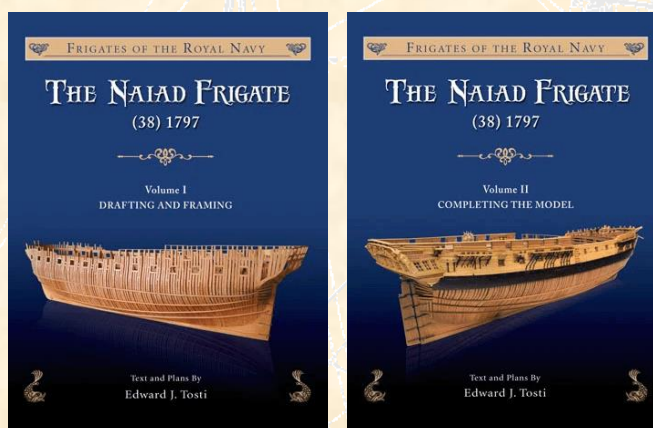
I don't have much else I like to do; I tinker a lot to keep out of trouble. This is about to change as my daughter told me the other day that I am going to be a grandfather... so I will be looking forward to spoiling the heck out of my first granddaughter. Who knows? Someday she may be a new Member.



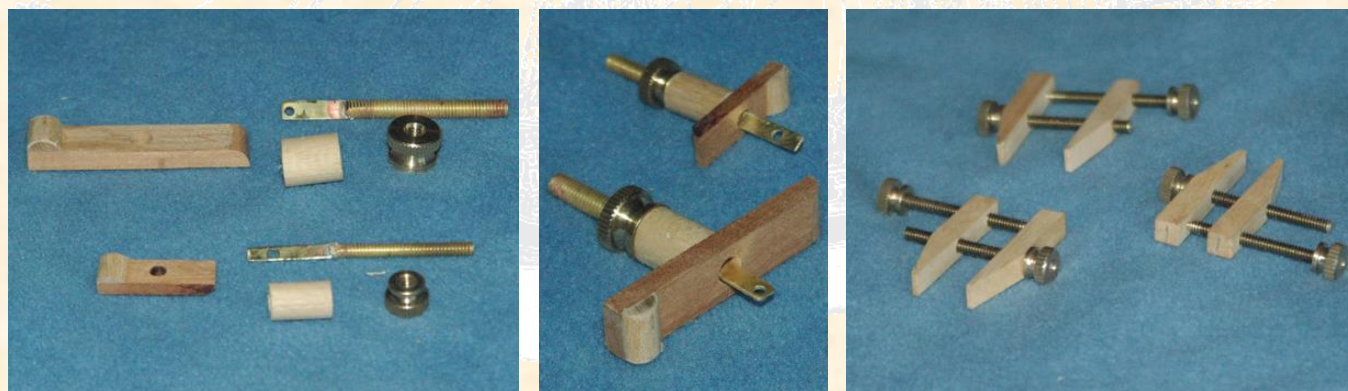
In [Part Six](#) I detailed crafting and installing the counter timbers and side counters. Now we move on to the black strake and wales to the hull framing. Adding the black strake and the wales added greatly to the strength of the hull structure. They are fairly simple structures but offered a couple of challenges: the first was *how* to clamp them in place while the glue dried and the second was the *unusual configuration* of the wales themselves.

Useful Tools

The idea for the clamps to hold planking in place for fully framed models was illustrated by Ed Tosti in his book series *The NAIAD Frigate*.



The clamps are made of sheet brass, threaded brass rod, knurled nuts, and some wooden pieces. The blade was silver-soldered into a slot cut into the threaded rod: I made a whole bunch in two sizes.



To use them, the blade is inserted between frames, a toothpick is placed in the hole in the blade on the inside, the wooden clamp is placed over the rod, followed by the spacer and the nut. While I was at it, I also made tiny hand-screw clamps that will be used later. It came in handy for clamping strakes next to each other ensuring that there was no gap.

Black Strake

The black strake¹ was fairly straightforward. It was made up of five pieces with standard butt joints. I used Swiss Pear for these and the wales. The curved parts at the bow were soaked in water and clamped in place and allowed to dry overnight. They were then removed, glue applied, and clamped back in place.

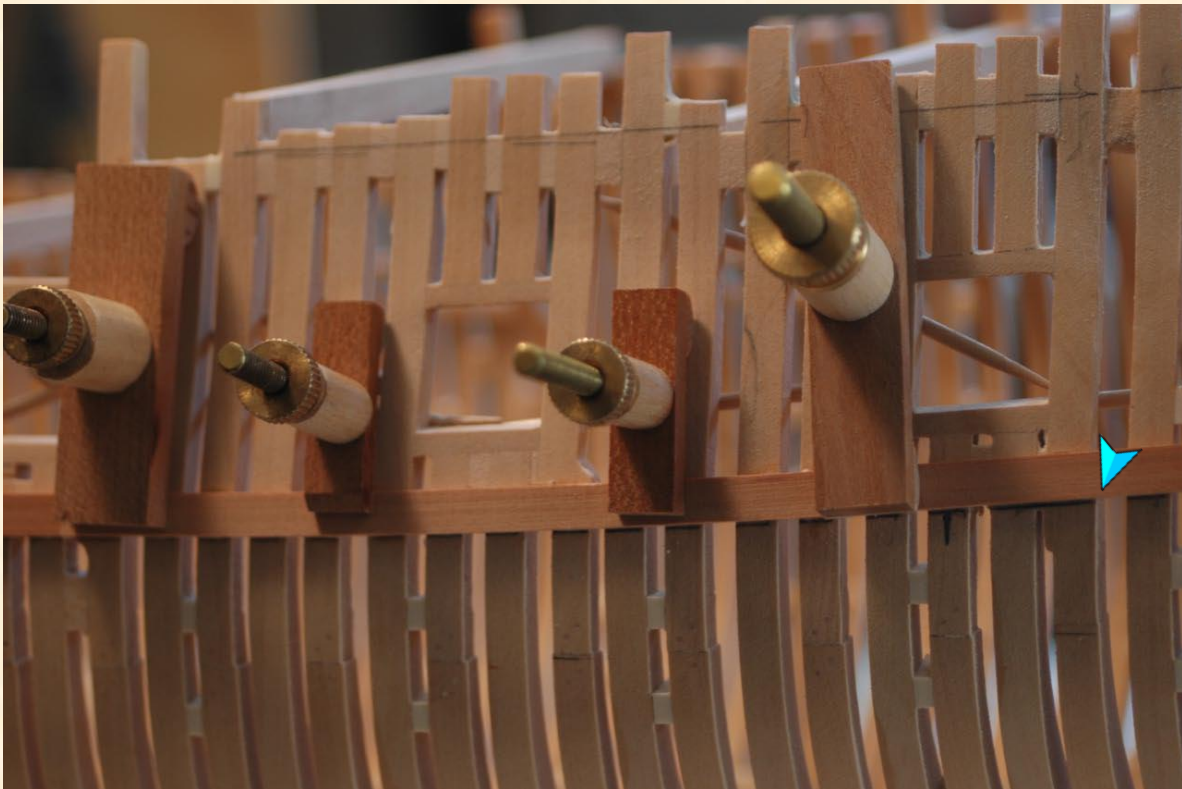


Figure 42 — clamps used to hold black strake



Figure 43 — black strake glued and clamped

¹ A wide band of planking along a ship's side, just above the wales, which was painted during the 17th and 18th centuries with tar and lamp black as a preservative. It was also used to contrast the white boot-topping of the ship's bottom with the varnished wood of the sides.

Main Wale

The main wale is made up of three strakes. The upper one is of straight pieces like the black strake and is made of four sections. Application was performed the same as the black strake.

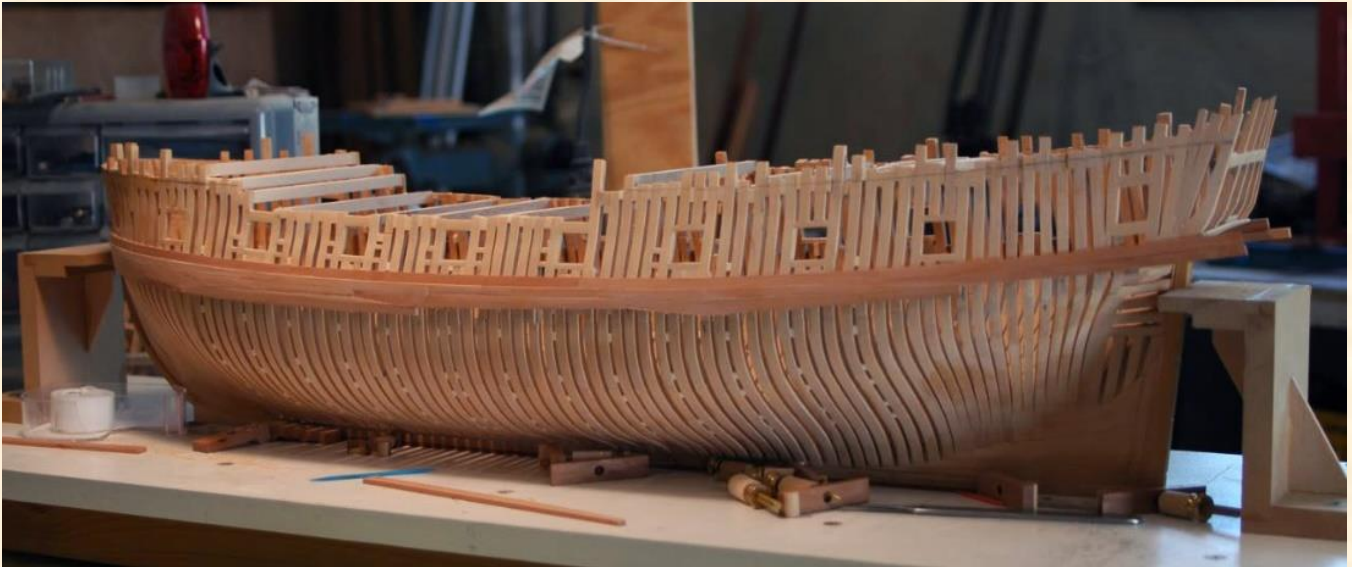


Figure 44 — black strake, main wale and lower wales in place

The lower two strakes are done “top and butt” fashion. They are each made of five sections. Top and butt planking interlocks the two strakes making them much stronger than standard straight planks.

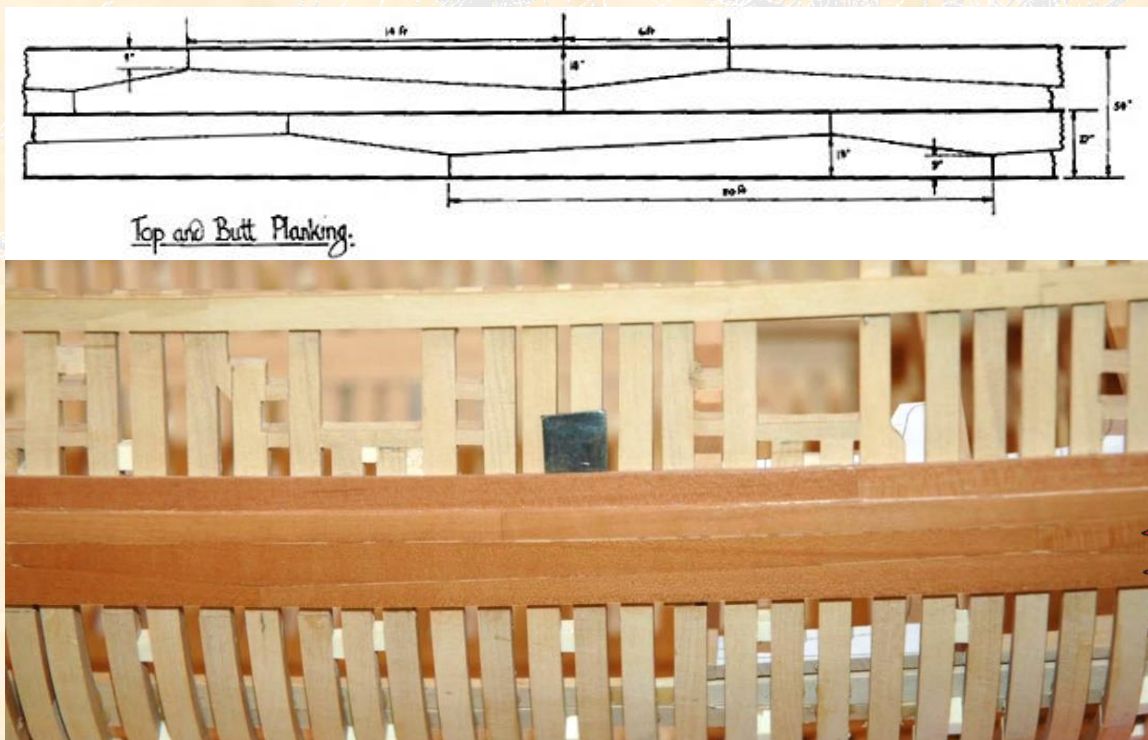


Figure 45 — top and butt planking on lower two strakes

Next time: We move to the interior.



Alex Roel

San Diego Bay, April 3 2022, 10:27am

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.





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.)