



Newsletter

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Meeting - Wed., Jan 20, 7 PM,
Fullerton Senior Multi-service
Center, 340 W. Commonwealth
Ave, Fullerton, CA. 92832

Officers meeting - Wed., Feb 3, 7
PM, Bob Beach's house, 130 Clove
Place, Brea. (714) 529-1481.

Work in Progress

December 16, 2009

Reporter: Bill Russell

It was our annual Christmas meeting. About 35 members and six wives were present. A large amount of cakes, cookies, and soft drinks were available to the festive crowd. At the beginning of the meeting, we were entertained by a barber shop quartet named Harmony.com.



The Barber Shop Quartet has been a main feature of the December SMA meetings for a number of years now and is enjoyed very much by the SMA members and their wives. The idea and effort involved in obtaining the groups every year is due to the efforts of our SMA member BOB BEACH, who is to be congratulated.

The Ketch NONSUCH by Dennis Kachmarsky

Dennis Kachmarsky has completed the hull, including excellent wood carvings of his scratch built 1:48 scale model of the two-masted

ketch *NONSUCH* of 1668. He used drawings from the Manitoba (Canada) Nautical Museum. At present Dennis is working on the masting and rigging. This is a beautiful



model with realistic looking deck fittings. The keel is mansonia, bulkheads birch, deck planking pau marfim, hull planking Swiss pear, and wood carvings are boxwood. Dennis did give us some history on the real ship, her replica and the replica's present location.

Los Angeles class atomic submarine

David Okamura brought in his 1:144 card stock model of a *LOS ANGELES* class atomic submarine. He

downloaded the patterns from the internet. The model seems to have a perfectly round center section that reduces smoothly toward each end. If you looked at the model casually, you very probably would not conclude that it is made of card stock. I continue to be amazed at the complex three-dimensional shapes that can be made from paper. David won third place with this model at the Paper Models Division of this year's Orange Con. This is a beautiful model of a modern ship. Dave has printed out a smaller 1:250 model of the submarine that he plans to build.



HANCOCK of 1776 by Dr. Henry Bikhazi



Dr. Henry Bikhazi continues to make progress on his 1:96 scratch-built plank-on-frame model of the Continental Frigate *HANCOCK* of 1776. He is using Harold Hahn's drawings and method. Since last month he has been working on the framing of the stern. The bow remains to be done. Henry is framing the model with curly maple that he gets at Rockler in Tustin and says that the wood is an excellent wood to work with for framing.

VAQUERO by Clyde Emerson

Clyde Emerson has accelerated the construction of his 1:64 scratch-built model of the stern-wheel steamer *VAQUERO* in order to meet the May delivery date requested by the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum. This was the first steam ship to enter Newport Harbor, thus the interest by the Museum. After much research, Clyde's only primary information is a single grainy photograph of the bow of the vessel, so he has based much of the design on speculation based on the type of steam vessel that plied the Western Coast of the United States. The model is nearing completion and is looking good. Clyde has incorporated many features that are difficult or impossible to see on the model, since he has now covered up the lower deck. But if you look real closely, you can see some of the details. I am sure that we have all done that to some extent.



FAIR AMERICAN by Don Dressel



Don Dressel is making progress on the masting and rigging of the early Carolina State ship *FAIR AMERICAN* of 1777. Several masting and rigging plans are being consulted including the information supplied by Dr. Clay Feldman with his plans, CD and booklet, the Model Shipways plans drawn by Eric A. R. Ronnberg, Jr., which are in turn based on plans by John Stevens. Much of the rigging detail is based on the book Modeling the Brig-of-War "IRENE" by E. W. Petrejus. The model itself is based on

the original model of the *FAIR AMERICAN* collected by the late Col. H. H. Rogers which is now part of the exhibit in the U. S. Naval Academy Museum at Annapolis. The lower fore and main mast shrouds are in place, along with the lower fore and main stays. All standing rigging is black and properly served as originally done. A rigging jig was used to insure the proper location of the deadeyes while installing the lanyards. Don likes to try and rig the model much like was really done with the real ship. Once the shrouds are all in place, then the rattling down will take place with appropriate clove hitches.

Block size is determined by the size of the line that is running through the block, and this is made easy by the use of Warner Woods West blocks. Don is making a great model.

FLYING CLOUD Ships Boats by Bob Graham

Bob Graham brought in several 1:96 scratch-built models of ship's boats for his *FLYING CLOUD*. He built them over a mould, using Seran wrap to assure that the finished hulls would separate easily from the mould. Bob pointed out that on lap-stake hulls the planks cease to overlap near the bow. Bob's models are marvelous examples of the miniature woodworker's art. His primary reference is William Baker's book, "Running Her Easting Down". Baker is the marine architect who designed the *MAYFLOWER II*, but I had never seen the book mentioned above before Wednesday evening.



Dues Are Due

It is that time of year again, and the annual dues are due of membership in the Ship Modelers Association:

1. If within 100 miles of Fullerton - \$25.00
(I hope to see you at the meetings)
2. If beyond 100 miles, then \$20.00

There are two ways of payment, either by check to the SMA sent to our treasurer, Gary O'Donnell or by going to the SMA Website at www.shipmodelersassociation.org and using PayPal.

All are welcome!!

Members Models - December 09



Dennis Kachmarsky's scratch built model of *NONSUCH* of 1668



David Okamura's *LOS ANGELES* class sub

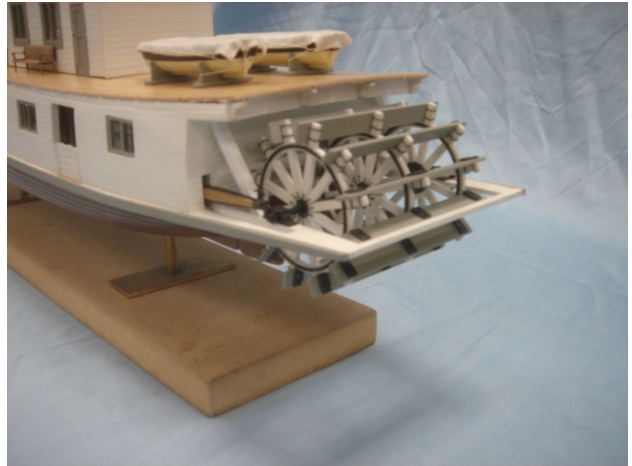


Dr. Henry Bikhazi's *HANCOCK* of 1776



Greg Wilcox's scratch built model of *HANNAH* based on plans by Harold Hahn. Greg did not talk about his model, but it is a beautiful example of ship modeling. This is Greg's first model!! He has shown it at the Mayflower Group meetings. You should see the "box" that the model fits in.

Members Models - December 09



Clyde Emerson's model of the 1:64 scratch built stern-wheel steamer *VAQUERO*



Don Dressel's FAIR AMERICAN



Bob Graham's Ships boats

Mayflower Group

There was no meeting of the Mayflower Group this month, which is the usual practice in December, since the Sunday of the meeting is so close to Christmas. There will be another Mayflower Group meeting next month, which will fall on January 24th, the Sunday after our regular SMA meeting on Wednesday, January 20th. The meeting will be at John Bakker's home, as usual. All are welcome.

‘Steady As She Goes....’

THE LOG OF THE SMA

*Being an account of the launching of the Ship Modelers Association in 1974, and its continuing voyage (now in its 35 year), as seen by its first log-keeper, Tom Palen with additions after March 1996 by Don Dressel.
(Continued from previous month)*

Bill Russell retires as Editor – April, 2005

A major milestone in the history of the SMA is when an editor retires. Such was the case for Bill Russell, who was the SMA Editor for 10 years. During that time, the SMA Newsletter evolved into one of the best ship modeling newsletters in the country. Bill never missed an issue or a deadline. He did indicate the members of the SMA who assisted him during his tenure, those being Jack Moffett, resident artist, Don Dressel for providing an article every month, Sid Siegel for the “Works in Progress” write-up and other articles, and Ed Averkieff and Richard Denny for faithfully mailing the newsletters to the membership.

Bill has not left the SMA, he has just retired as the editor. Bill is now the individual who prepares the “Works in Progress” every month, thus assisting the new editor. He is also still involved in many of the SMA projects currently being done. Hopefully, he is also finding more time for ship modeling!

2nd SMA Member Trip to the ROPE in Japan, our Sister Club

The members of the SMA who went on the second trip to Tokyo, Japan, after months of planning, were Yas and Cleo Komorita, Clyde and Mila Emerson, Gus and Barb Agustin, Bill Russell, Don Dressel, Sid Siegel, John Simmons and Coleman Seskind.



The ROPE’S exhibition was centered in the Ginza district of Tokyo on the ninth floor of Ito-ya, a store of stationary, art supplies and other things. There was also a ship model store there. Sid relates, in his article, that “ROPE members exhibit their latest work, which is limited to sailing ships, and it is on the whole excellent.”

Along with the excellent exhibit, tours were conducted with the able assistance of ROPE members to Yokohama and the

Maritime Museum followed by a guided tour of the battleship MIKASA, Admiral Togo's flagship during the battle of Tsushima Straits in 1905.

Another day we visited Shizuoka and the home of one of the ROPE members, Mr. Tsuchiya, who had built the superb model of LE FLEURON. This was followed by a visit to the Tamiya plant in the afternoon. Also visited was the building where the Woody Joe ship model kits were manufactured, along with wooden kits of pagodas and tea houses.



Next day, we were escorted to Osaka by bullet train to visit the Osaka Maritime Museum. There, we saw the full-size reconstruction of





NANIWA MARU, a traditional Japanese cargo vessel that plied the coastal waters and carried goods from Osaka to Edo, now Tokyo.

The trip was rounded off by the wonderful ROPE Exhibit and the parties we attended while there. The final Sayonara party in a fine restaurant closed to the public for the occasion was enjoyed immensely by everyone. I particularly liked the Sake.



A wonderful time was had by all members of the SMA who went to Japan. A hearty thank you to our hosts for all the trouble they went to in showing us the maritime sites of JAPAN and providing us with all the wonderful experience and friendship.

The Ship Modelers Credo

This was written by Sid Siegel in April of 2006 and I thought it was appropriate to include in the history of the SMA, since Sid was a major player until his untimely passing.

“Why do we build ship models?

Why do we build ship models? It is a fair question in the age of computers, short attention spans and instant gratification. Why does a person spend months, or even years, making something that only a select few will ever see, let alone understand and appreciate?

Start with a abiding interest in history. The story of humankind, from the earliest days of dugout log canoes, inevitably runs down to the sea in ships. It is a story of empires won and lost, of exploration and discovery, of heroism and triumph over the elements of nature, and sometimes it is a story of disaster. The sea is vast, immutable, eternal, and its mastery is always a great achievement.

And then there are ships themselves. Their lines and curves fascinate with a beauty that is at once esthetic and practical. Ships may be simple or ornate with decorations that reflect the peoples who built them. Ship fittings are quaint or workmanlike, delicate or deadly. Or just plain baffling. Ships are a culmination of technologies, old and new. A thousand years of technical evolution led to the tall sailing ships of the last century. Ship models bring to life the people who sailed them. Can we really appreciate the discovery of America without seeing the small ships that made that long voyage into the unknown?

For the ship modeler, there is satisfaction in creativity, in making something with one’s own hands, in exercising skill and craftsmanship and knowledge. In solving problems and sorting out the elements of what may seem at first to be an impossible task. Ship modeling trains the

mind to anticipate difficulty and to plan and execute complex projects. It teaches patience and persistence and ingenuity.

Ship models are decorative art, and fine ship models are rare. If a person wants to own a ship model, to admire it closely and often, then there are few options beyond making the model yourself.

In the final analysis, ship modeling is about meeting challenges and yes, it's about love.

SMA Models at Lions Club

The Orange County Register had an article in their newspaper concerning a meeting of the Brea Lions Club in which several members of the SMA attended and brought their ship models. This evening was a lot of fun and generated a lot of good publicity for the SMA. Organized by Bob Beach, other members were Ed Averkieff, Don Dressel, David Okamura, Clyde Emerson and Sid Siegel. All members brought their models and talked about them.

The newspaper article stated “The purpose of the club is to foster research and interest in building scale ship models. The club has had shows at the Brea Gallery, Queen Mary and the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, among other locations.”

The meeting was a great success with a lot of interest and appreciation shown by the audience.

History and Meaning of the SMA Logo

Bill Russell wrote a very fine article on the history of the SMA logo which is of interest to many of the members of the SMA. When Craig started writing the newsletter in 1975, the logo had a line drawing of the Golden Hind along with the name of the club. To quote Bill:

“In January, 1978, a new logo appeared on the masthead of the newsletter that you all will recognize. The 1978 logo is shown below. It is a little old fashioned



compared to our present logo, and it contains the words “of Fullerton, California”, to recognize the city where the club originated.

Eventually, we came to think of the club as having a wider geographic coverage than one city, and we dropped the “of Fullerton” part. We

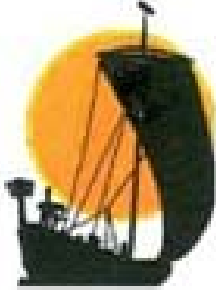
considered substituting the words “of Southern California”, but by that time, the Ship Modelers Association was so widely known that it did not seem to need a geographic tie. Though our club name seems very generic, I am not aware of any other club in the country with the same name, and people everywhere know who we are and where we are.

The 1978 logo was the invention of Jack Elem who was President in 1976, and newsletter editor from 1976 to 1982. Jack was a leader in the club for a very long time. His explanation of the logo is as follows: .

(to be continued next month – Ed.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WESTERN SHIP MODEL CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT – 2011



The meeting held on December 15 at Bill Russell's house was very productive. A number of decisions were made. The Hyatt Hotel in Newport Beach (also known as the Newporter) has been booked for March 31, April 1, 2 and 3, 2011. The Newport Harbor Nautical Museum has enthusiastically agreed to host the event. Arrangements are currently under way to set up the exhibit on the second floor of the pavilion, which is right next store to the museum. Discussions took place concerning the duration of the exhibit, which may go for one full week. A search is now under way to obtain the services of a professional photographer to take professional pictures of all the models on display at the exhibit in order to produce a book on the event. A CD will also be made. More plans are being discussed, along with a great list of potential speakers for the conference. The next meeting will be again at Bill Russell's house, January 14, at 7 pm. All those interested in participating in the exciting upcoming event should attend the meeting and become part of the group. The goal is to provide the best ship model conference and exhibit that has ever been done. All ship modelers in Southern California are encouraged to submit models to the exhibit, along with any other models from across the country and models especially appreciated from across the oceans. There is also talk of a contest and award to be given out by the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum. Learn all the details and enjoy the experience of participating in an extraordinary ship model happening!!

Election Results

The ballots were counted at the December SMA meeting resulting in the unanimous election of Don Dressel as vice president of the SMA for 2010. The new president will be Dr. Henry Bikhazi. All other officers will remain the same as last year.

Thank You

The SMA wishes to thank ROY ROBERTS for his excellent hand drawn personal note cards of lighthouses that he drew and put together so nicely. I am sure the ladies of the SMA at the recent Christmas SMA meeting enjoyed them very much.

Ship Model Repair

Mrs. Priscilla Beissel wishes to engage the services of a member of the SMA to complete a ship model of the HMS VICTORY started by her late father. She can be reached at 22272 Canaveras in Mission Viejo, CA 92691 or by telephone at (714) 838-0602 (Day) or (949) 707-4606 (Evening). The stern (she has all parts) needs completion, and the rigging has commenced to the point of lower shrouds being installed and rattling down started.



Tony Devroude's French Ship-of-the-Line under construction



Donald C. Dressel
908 W. 22nd Street, Upland, CA. 19784-1229

Next meeting Wednesday January 20, 7 P.M., Fullerton Community Center