

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

Website : <https://sbmodelships.com/>

The Foghorn

May 2025

National Maritime Day
May 22, 2025



Fig. 1. **National Maritime Day** is a holiday that was created by the US Congress on **May 20, 1933** to recognize the value of the merchant marine. It is observed each year on **May 22** which is the day in 1819 when the American sailing steamship, **SS Savannah** (above), became the first steamship to cross the Atlantic partly under steam power from Savannah, GA to Liverpool, UK. (Wikipedia)





Future Course Headings...

- **Saturday, May 10, 2025, 2 PM: In-person SBMS meeting.** Our next In-person meeting will be on **Saturday, May 10 at 2 PM.** As usual, it will be held at:

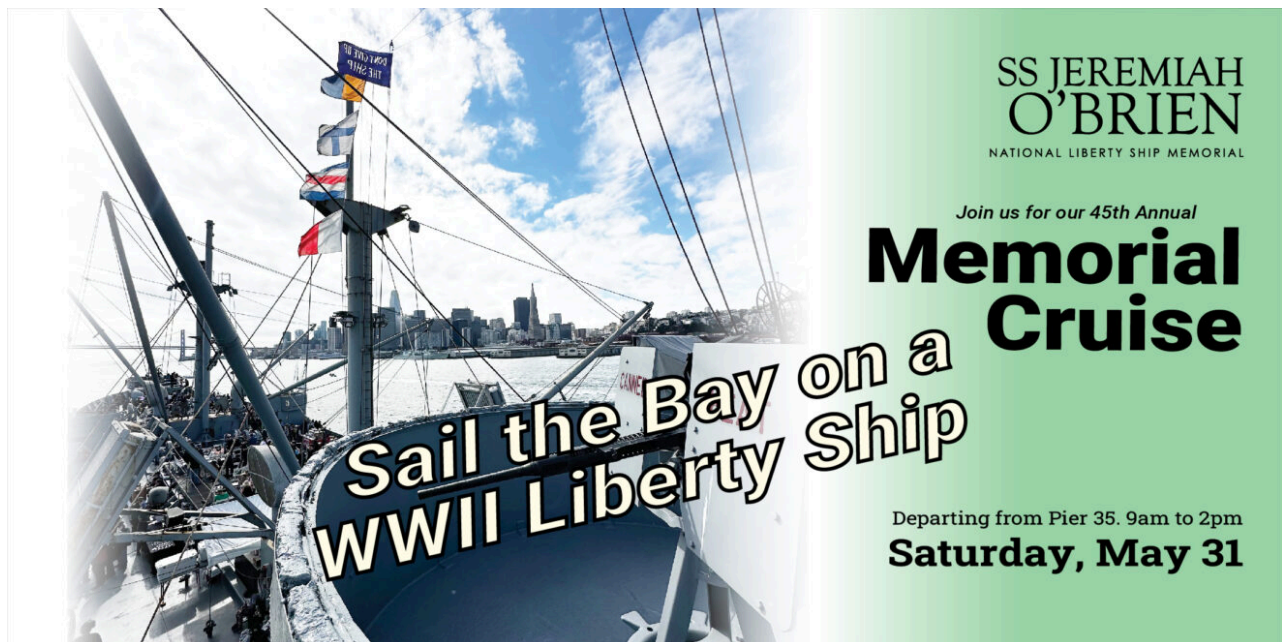
Game Kastle
1350 Coleman Ave
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 243-4263

Bring your latest projects and other maritime goodies for discussion!. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2. A somewhat thinner meeting on April 12 as some principals were on trips. But good participation from those who did come. Good discussion about the models and other issues. Left to right: Jacob Cohn, Clare Hess, George Sloup, and Jim Tortorici and Ken Lum taking the picture.

- **Thursday, May 22, 2025, 7PM: Monthly Zoom meeting.** And then our monthly Zoom meeting will be **Thursday, May 22 at 7 PM** so the Zoom specs will be sent out just before the meeting. Keep an eye on your inbox.
- **Saturday, May 31, 2025: 9AM TO 2 PM, 45th Annual Memorial Cruise 2025 of the SS Jeremiah O' Brien.**



For those interested in a grand cruise aboard the Liberty Ship, **SS Jeremiah O' Brien**, in San Francisco, **Saturday, May 31** offers such an opportunity around the Bay with boarding at **Pier 35** starting at **9AM**, departure at **10 AM**, and cruising to **2PM**. Tickets can be purchased at:

<https://ssjeremiahobrien.org/event/annual-memorial-cruise-2025/?v=0b3b97fa6688>

Ticket Prices at:

\$155 Adults, \$110 youth (8-18), \$400 for family (2 adult, 2 youth) (includes lunch and onboard activities)

And dress warmly! The next scheduled cruise will be during **Fleet Week** on **Saturday, October 11**.

• **Saturday, June 14, 2025, 9:00am to 4:30pm PDT**
Silicon Valley Classic, 2025. The **IPMS/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** will hold its next modeling convention on **Saturday, June 14, 2025** from **9:00AM to 4:30PM**. As in the past, this event will be at the:

**Elks Lodge
38991 Farwell Drive
Fremont, CA 94536**

Fantastically fun event to attend with a wide variety of models on display of all kinds of subjects made from all types of materials. Wooden and paper ships most welcome. (fig. 3 and 4)



Fig. 3. George Sloup (left) and John Garis (right) staffing the SBMS booth at the 2022 Silicon Valley Classic with many models to show off.

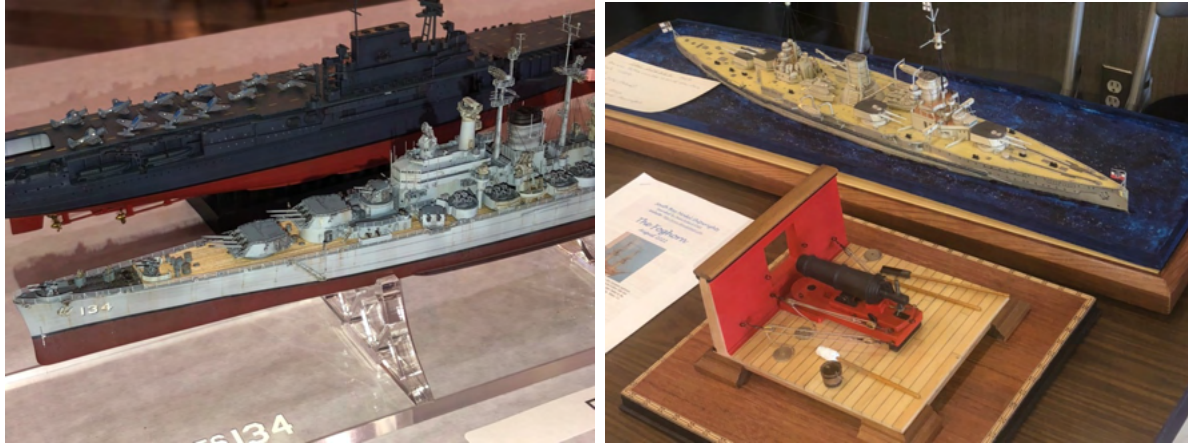


Fig. 4. Models on display at the **2022 IPMS/Silicon Valley Classic**. **Left:** Highly detailed 1/700 scale models of WW 2 vintage cruiser, *USS Des Moines (CA-134)* in the foreground and Fleet carrier, *USS Enterprise (CV-6)*, in the background. **Right:** 68-pound British Carronade model c. 1800 in the foreground and paper model of WW1 vintage German battlecruiser, *SMS Goeben*, in the background.



Maritime Matters of the Month (Ken Lum)

• **Design of New Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD.** Everyone will recall that on **March 26, 2024**, the container ship, *Dali*, lost power and control and rammed into one of the piers of the **Francis Scott Key bridge** which straddles the **Patapsco River** at the entrance of **Maryland's Baltimore Harbor**. The collision caused the bridge to completely collapse into the river and tragically killing six bridge maintenance workers. The incident was described in the **April 2024 Foghorn** and other news outlets and captured on surveillance video.

In the aftermath of the collision, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has focused its investigations on the uncontrolled loss of electrical power by the ship that was associated with loss of propulsion and maneuvering control systems. However, a definitive cause for the accident still awaits the NTSB's final report due out in May this year.

In the meantime, President Joe Biden, last year, said the Federal Government would pay for the construction of a replacement bridge, along the same route as the old bridge. It will be estimated to cost \$1.7 billion to \$1.9 billion and be built by the construction company, **Kiewit Corporation**,

of Omaha, Nebraska (admittedly not much ocean geography there!). A preliminary design for the new Key bridge was unveiled by Maryland Governor, Wes Moore, on February 4, 2025 showing it to be a cable-stayed bridge with two support towers with cables which hold up a bridge with four traffic lanes (two in each direction) (Fig. 5) to be completed by fall, 2028.



Fig. 5. Same-scale comparison of the old **Francis Scott Key** bridge above with the proposed new one below. (Maryland Transportation Authority)

Aside from the very different design, the new bridge will accommodate a much larger ship channel raising the vertical clearance from 185 ft. for the old bridge to 230 ft for the new bridge. The distance between the tower piers will also be greatly increased from 700 ft. in the old bridge to 1000 ft. for the new bridge that will provide better maneuvering room and perhaps accommodate somewhat larger ships. The tower piers will also be surrounded by much more robust ship collision fenders to protect them from potential future ship collisions. Finally, it will be estimated to provide at least about 100 years of service (Maybe longer as some of our own Bay Area bridges are already closing in on a century with no known plans for replacement).

- **F/A-18 US Navy Fighter Plane Falls Off USS Harry S. Truman into the Red Sea.**



Fig. 6. A claimed cause by Mr. Gordon Russell of Redwood City, of the loss of an F/A-18 fighter jet from the *USS Harry S. Truman*. (Gordon Russell)

The nuclear aircraft carrier, *USS Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75), can't seem to catch a break! In last month's Foghorn, there was a story about a fender-bender collision between the *Truman* and a merchant vessel while on patrol in the Red Sea. On **Monday, April 28**, the carrier was taking a hard turn while engaged with drone-firing Houthi rebels in Yemen when a crew moving an F/A-18 fighter jet in the hanger deck lost control of the plane causing it, and its tow truck, to fall overboard into the ocean (Fig. 6). One of the crew was in the cockpit, as per procedure, and was luckily able to escape with only minor injuries. No doubt, there will be efforts to recover the aircraft. Each F/A-18 is said to have a price tag of about \$67 million.



Kit News:

- **Tariffs Are About to Hit Ship Modeling (Rig for Collision!).** By now everyone has heard about **tariffs** being imposed on foreign imported goods to the US in an apparently confused and chaotic attempt to resurrect the manufacture of physical stuff in deindustrialized parts of the US. This began in earnest on April 2, otherwise known as "Liberation Day", when nearly universal tariffs of varying amounts were announced to be imposed on almost all imported goods made outside the borders of the US.

Without getting into the politics of tariffs, it is fair to say, economically, that the prices for ship model kits, accessories, and tools will increase as the cost of the tariffs are passed onto consumers who ultimately pay for them. By how much will depend on where they originate varying from around 10-20% for the UK and EU to over 100% for Asia, esp. China.

Currently, there are still some modeling products being made in the US. The major American manufacturers are Model Shipways, Bluejacket, Micro-Mark, Syren Ship Model Co., and Dumas. Of course, there will not be price changes forced on these manufacturers. However, most ship modeling kit manufacturers nowadays are located elsewhere such as the EU (e.g., Amati, Billing Boats, Mamoli, Occre, Shipyard, Vallejo paints, etc.), UK (e.g. Vanguard Models), Japan (e.g., Woody Joe, Tamiya, etc.), even Ukraine (e.g., Pavel Nikitin), and, especially, China (e.g., Cafmodel, etc.), and they will have forced price increases if they can even be imported. **But the prices of kits made in the US may still increase once their foreign competitors are forced to increase theirs. So, beware of what is wished for!**

But I am skeptical that most ship modelers will be that much affected. Most ship models take a long time to complete, so their builders are not usually buying products very frequently. By comparison, builders of model airplanes, cars, and consumers of model trains will be much more affected as they buy products more frequently due to finishing projects in shorter time periods. The latter are also dependent on kits containing assembly parts made to odd shapes via complicated and sophisticated processes. And they have far fewer options for scratch building compared to ship modelers.

From some preliminary example prices of non-modeling products I have seen so far, retailers seem to be splitting the cost of the tariffs between the retailer and the consumer. So, if there is a tariff on some item, the retailer will absorb some of it while the consumer sustains a corresponding symmetrical price increase. This reduces the profitability of the seller's business while increasing the price the buyer has to pay. A lose-lose scenario and not a good result. But the split will vary from retailer to retailer and from product to product. Most professional economists I have heard from doubt this policy will produce the desired result of bringing manufacturing back to the US.

In the interim, the likely best approach for the consumer will be to purchase what you want from a retailer as soon as possible as in-stock existing retailer inventory will not be subject to a tariff charge. Once new orders arrive, however, a tariff charge will be imposed. That may begin as soon as this summer. **And don't forget, another way around the tariffs is to look for pre-owned kits on eBay and the online forums of Model Ship World and Ships of Scale.**

The parties most severely affected likely will be retailers as they scramble to adjust to these new policies and change prices while having to accept possibly reduced sales and lower profits. In any case, best of luck, and we will see what happens!

•**Kits Available From an Estate For Sale.**

Prez Jim Rhetta has been informed that a stash of unbuilt model kits has become available for sale. The sellers are listed as:

Claudia Palos <paligal76@gmail.com> and Miguel at: veritas@harvard76.com or 626 827-1954. The 626 area code is in the San Gabriel Valley in S. California.

The models along with their manufacturers are listed below.

Sir Winston Churchill-plastic, Imai

HMS Victory-Hull Section, Corel

Frigate Essex-Hull Section- Aeropipicola

USS Missouri-Sterling

Wright Flyer-Model Airways

Schooner Atlantic-Bluejacket

1949 Chris Craft 19' racing runabout-Dumas

For those interested, the sellers are offering at a discounted price 30% below the lowest posted retail price from conventional retailers such as Ages of Sail or Model Expo. You can also contact the sellers above and negotiate a price.



Maritime Books of Interest:

• **Ships in Scale Magazine to Return in 2026!**



Since the ship modeling magazines, **Model Ship Builder**, **Ships in Scale** and the UK publication, **Model Shipwright** shut down between 2012 and 2018, the English-language ship modeling community's only publication to share knowledge and ideas about ship models has been the **Nautical Research Journal** published by the **Nautical Research Guild**. Aside from this, the less formal online forums, **Model Ship World** and **Ships of Scale** also are great information sources.

Now, we have the good news that **Michael Ellison**, publisher of **SeaWatch Books**, has decided to make a go at resurrecting **Ships in Scale** magazine starting in 2026. For more information on this, check out:

<https://shipsinscale.com>

To that end he has acquired the rights to the magazine from the Nautical Research Guild, which took over the assets of **Model Ship Builder** and **Ships in Scale** magazines after they stopped publication.

The **March 2025 Foghorn** described how the NRG was making **Model Ship Builder** and **Ships in Scale** back issues available for digital-only purchase along with a **free index for Model Ship Builder**. **Model Ship Builder** is available for individual digital-only and complete collection digital-only purchase at:

<https://www.thenrg.org/page-1075426> and
<https://thenrgstore.org/collections/ships-in-scale>

Ships in Scale back issues, however, now appear available only for complete collection digital-only purchase at:

<https://thenrgstore.org/collections/ships-in-scale>



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard

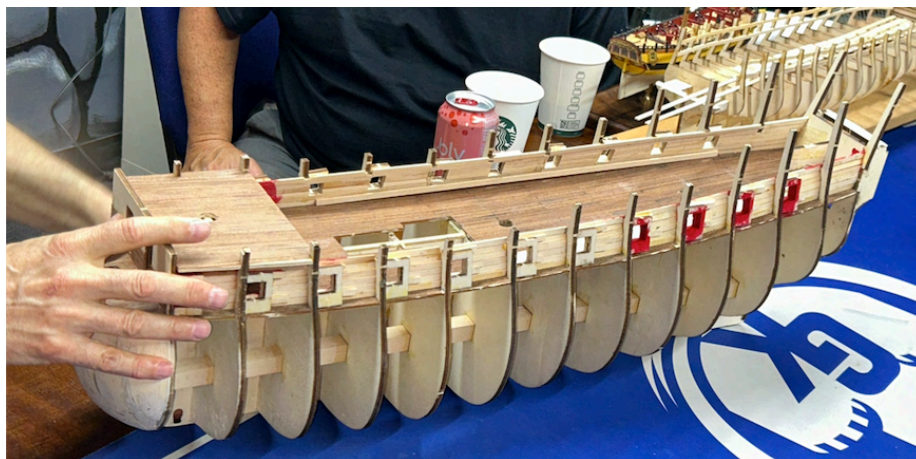


Fig. 7. 1/46 scale Spanish ship-of-the-line, ***Nuestra Señoria del Pilar***, from an Occre kit by Jacob Cohn. The original was built in 1731-33 in the Port of Cavite in the Philippines and provided relatively routine convoy duty between Manila and Mexico. Lost in a storm in 1750 with all hands while sailing towards the Mariana Islands.

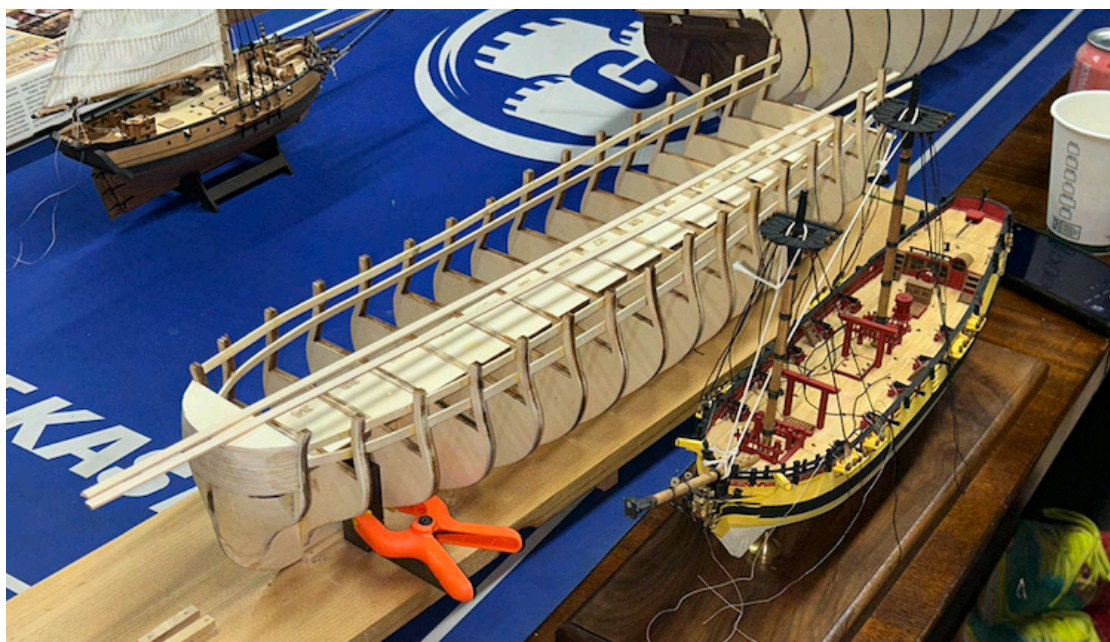


Fig. 8. Both 1/72 scale models of the French frigate, ***L'Hermione*** (1779) from Disar, above, and the ***HMS Wolf*** (1752) paper model from Shipyard, below-right, by Clare Hess. The same-scale difference in size of the two ships is remarkable.

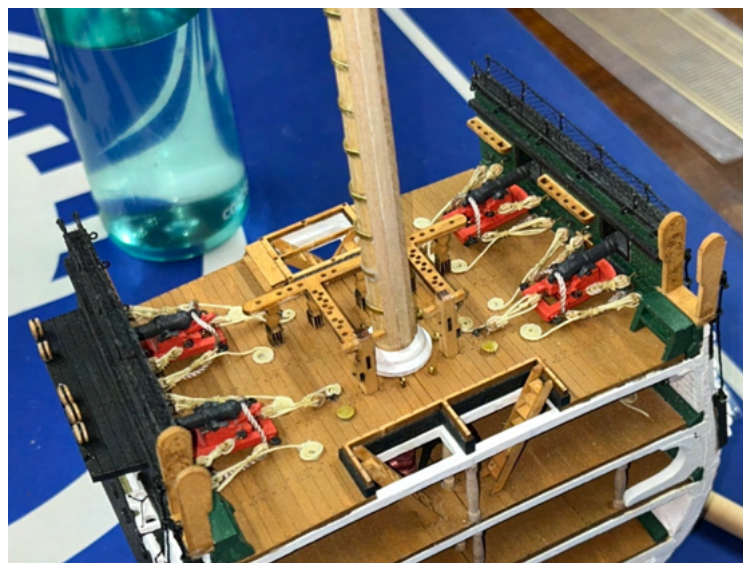


Fig. 9. Jim Tortorici's *USS Constitution* hull cross section with main mast stepped. The plan is to install a full-scale height mast with crossed yards. That will be lofty!



Fig. 10. Above-George Sloup showing the plans of his Russian Tender, *Avos* (1806), from Master Korabel. Below-the model in progress with its spanker sail in place.



SBMS Club Officers

President	Jim Rhetta	email: jmrhetta@aol.com
Vice President And Newsletter Editor	Ken Lum	email: lum40@comcast.net
Treasurer	Jacob Cohn	email: jcohnster@gmail.com
Harbor Master	George Sloup	email: george.p.sloup@outlook.com
Webmaster	Clare Hess	email: catopower@mac.com



Annual Club Membership

Send in your Club Membership fee with the attached renewal form. Submit a \$20 check made out to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063. Mostly, we use the money to pay for our in-person meeting venues and hosting of our website (<http://www.sbmodelships.com>). Welcome Aboard!

Membership Form

Make check out for annual membership of \$20.00 to South Bay Model Shipwrights and mail to Jacob Cohn, 726 7th Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063

Print your name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____



Receive our Foghorn newsletter by email? Yes ___ No ___

Email address _____

To order a club name badge, add \$15.00 to your check and print your name exactly as it should appear on the badge

