

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

Website: <http://www.sbmodelships.com>



The Foghorn

January 2020



Future Course Headings...

- **Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:00 PM:**

Here we are at **The Duke of Edinburgh** Pub in Cupertino last month for our rousing annual Holiday Party! It was a much less distracting and more pleasurable experience compared to last year as we were able to get back into their private “**Duke’s Room**” where we only needed to listen to our own noise! (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1 Left to Right: Vikas Kapur, Ken Lum, George Sloup, Jim Rhetta, Jim Lunt and Mrs. Lunt, Jim Tortorici, unknown, Jack Lindley, Clare Hess, and Bruce Lindsay. Turned out that both Vikas Kapur and Bruce Lindsay volunteered to work on the construction of the *Matthew Turner*, a two masted square rigger docked in Sausalito.

And so we sail on into another New Years! Our next meeting will again be at the **Los Altos Public Library at 13 S. San Antonio Rd.** in **Los Altos**. We will finish our slide show of the last **NRG** meeting in New

Bedford, MA with a tour of the **Herreshoff Marine Museum** in **Bristol, RI**, home of many **America's Cup** contenders, and the **Naval War College** in **Newport, RI**, often called the "**Home of Thought**" for the **United States Navy**. Then we will have our usual show and tell of projects underway and being proposed for the New Year! Also, some books retrieved from many contributors will be brought over for those in attendance to look over and see if anyone wants them.

We will have a pre-meeting dinner at **Chef Chu's** Chinese restaurant starting at 5:30 PM. Please let Ken Lum know at lum40@comcast.net if you plan to come so appropriate reservations can be made.

- **Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 6:30 PM:**

The **South Bay Civil War Roundtable** hosts presentations on various topics from that era at the **Holder's Country Inn** on **998 South DeAnza Blvd.**(near **Bollinger**), **San Jose**, The next meeting will be on "**The US Navy in California**" by **Bob Burch**. He will present details not often found in the standard history books which tend to overlook the roll of California in that conflict. Dinner can be purchased at the meeting.

Mr. Burch is now preparing a presentation about the "**Ironclads of the Confederate States of America**". We hope to invite him to one of our meetings when he is ready.

Jim Tortorici gave a presentation to this group last year on Ironclads and used his models of the **USS Cairo** and **USS Monitor** for it.

• **Saturday, April 18, 2020, 9 AM-5 PM:**

The International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS)/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers 7th Annual Silicon Valley Classic scale modelling convention will be held on this day at **Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expwy, San Jose, CA**. We have had exhibitions there annually over the last several years in conjunction with **Ages of Sail** and always had great fun. Here are a couple of pictures from the last convention last spring (Fig. 2 and 3).



Fig. 2 Clare Hess at the Ages of Sail table

Fig. 3 Various WW 2 ship models on display

Our table will need volunteers to staff it all day, and we can set up an informal shift schedule to have at least one person on duty to promote our hobby. **And we promise not to use impressment!** More on this as we get nearer the date.



Maritime Matters of the Month

•**Planning for 2020(Jim Rhetta)**- January is a time for some planning on activities we'd like to do this year. We mentioned a few possibilities last month such as the **SS Red Oak Victory** in Richmond (Fig. 4), **SF Maritime National Historical Park**, **SS Jeremiah O' Brien**, and **USS Pampanito** perhaps in the early summer. We can also consider a **Saturday meeting** at our Los Altos Library location to accommodate members who cannot make our Friday meeting dates.

The Club needs to have elections again and I've been holding off on it until we have a meeting with 8 members or more attending. Plan on holding them anytime in the next few months that we have a good attendance.



Fig. 4 The crew checking out models by the Red Oak Victory Model Shipwrights during our last visit there in 2015.

•**Request for a Ship Model Restoration (Jim Rhetta)**- The Club has been contacted by **Peter Hurd** of San Jose about an antique ship model he'd like restored. This is his description of model (Fig. 5).

“The dimensions of the entire ship are 32” long x 7-1/2” beam x 26-1/2” tall. The actual hull is 20-1/2” long. The principal work to be done is in much of the rigging including the ladders. Some anchor chain work, cargo hold hatch roof replacement and general tidying up. The ship is very old I believe. At least 100 years or more. The sails are long gone which is fine.

I like the rustic appearance and need no repainting except on the roof hatch replacement.”



Fig. 5. Peter Hurd's antique model in need of restoration

Peter and his wife are planning to attend our meeting and bring the model for evaluation. He is offering to pay for restoration so this is an opportunity to spend time on a very valued project. This is the fourth restoration project we have been contacted about in the past three years and is a good indication that the club has visibility on the internet. This project is a good one to post pre and post restoration photos to the club website.



Kit News (Ken Lum)-Resources for Learning How to Plank a Hull.

• **Nautical Research Guild (NRG)** issues **18th-Century Merchantman Half-Hull Planking Kit** (Fig. 6).



According to the **NRG**, “The purpose of the kit is to teach the novice model builder how to plank a hull the way it was actually done in the shipyard. This process is known as *spiling*.”

“ The kit includes all the materials needed to produce a (handsome) half-hull model.

Fig. 6. Photo Courtesy of the **NRG**
A downloadable monograph takes the builder step-by-step through the process of planking the hull.” The kit is available on the NRG website(<https://thenrg.org>) priced at \$65 for non-NRG members and \$52 for NRG members with \$10 shipping for US customers. It can be ordered at:

<https://thenrg.org/the-nrg-store.php#!/Half-Hull-Planking-Kit/c/41410202/offset=0&sort=normal>

Of course, the more ambitious modeler can extend this kit to a full hull model or even a fully rigged model. This kit was introduced by **Dr. Toni Levine** at last year’s NRG convention. An excellent learning experience!

• **Eye Catching Kits of Open Boats**

The lessons learned from the above **NRG** kit on planking a model hull can be applied very readily to several very decorative open boat plank-on-frame kits. The ones that have most caught my attention are those offered by the **Syren Ship Model Company**:

(<https://www.syrenshipmodelcompany.com>)

and **Model Shipways** via **Model Expo**:

(<https://modelexpo-online.com>).

These companies sell kits designed by **Chuck Passaro** of the **Ship Model Society of New Jersey** which are great for beginners and experts alike and produce very pleasing results.

In particular, an excellent starter would be the **HMS Medway Longboat (1742)** which is offered in basswood at 1/48 scale for \$69.99 from **Model Expo**:

https://modeleexpo-online.com/Model-Shipways-18th-Century-Longboat-Wooden-Model-Ship-Kit-Tools-148-Scale--MS1457CBT_p_3447.html

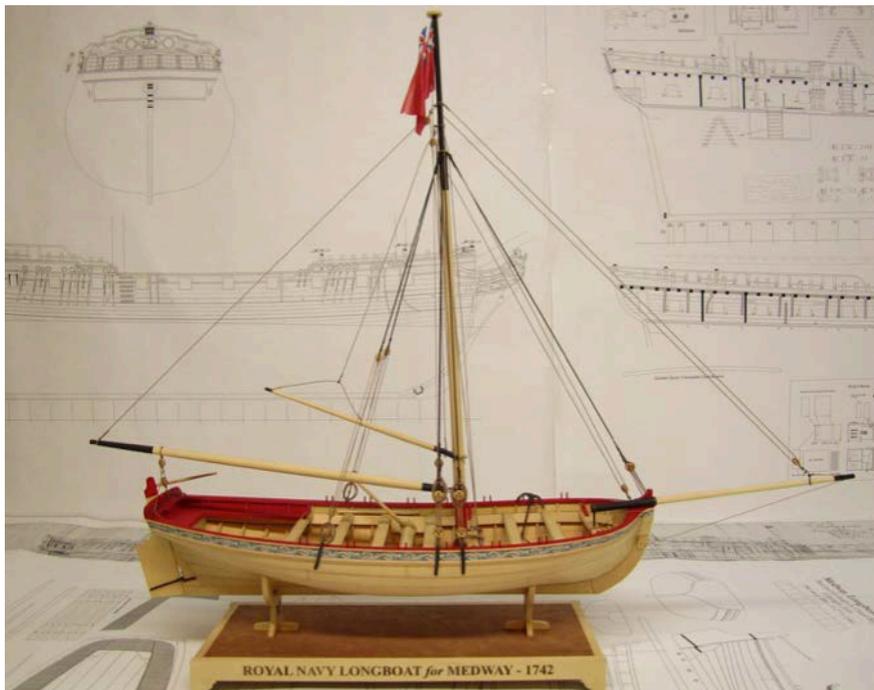


Fig. 7. Chuck Passaro's **Medway Longboat (Syren)**

or much more expensively in **Alaskan Yellow Cedar** at \$210 from **Syren** (Fig. 7). Spars and mast are available separately for \$40 and an engraved base for another \$32 for those wanting to work in a harder wood.

<https://www.syrenshipmodelcompany.com/medway-longboat-1742.php>

Clare Hess has already built the basswood version of this model, and it is a beauty!. It is based on an original contemporary admiralty model in the **National Maritime Museum (NMM), Greenwich, UK.**

A larger **1/24 scale Longboat** by **Ken Foran** (Fig. 8) with photoetched decorations is also offered by **Model Shipways** via **Model Expo**:

https://modelexpo-online.com/Model-Shipways-MS1460-18th-Century-Armed-Longboat-124-Scale--Laser-Cut-Wood-Metal-Photo-etched-Brass-Kit_p_3218.html



Fig. 8. **1/24 Longboat (Model Expo)**

Another couple of beautiful subjects from Mr. Passaro to reinforce one's planking skills include a **21 ft. English Pinnace** at 1/24 in basswood for \$75.99 from **Model Expo** (Fig. 9):

https://modelexpo-online.com/Model-Shipways-21ft-English-Pinnace-Wood-Metal-Model-Ship-Kit-124-Scale--MS1458_p_959.html



Fig. 9. **English Pinnace (Model Expo)**

And a **Queen Anne Style Royal Barge** of around 1710 (Fig. 10) also in 1/24 from **Syren Models**. It is available in cherry and boxwood at \$210. Decorative accents are available separately.

<https://www.syrenshipmodelcompany.com/royal-barge-kit.php>



Fig. 10. **Queen Anne Style Royal Barge (Syren Models)**

An original contemporary model of a similar barge in the **NMM** has figures rowing the oars and a figure of **Queen Anne** sitting on the stern thwart. According to a **NMM Catalogue**, the **Queen Anne** figure was replaced in 1965 after the original was “treasonably abducted” (no mention of a ransom!).

Of course, there are several other kits of open boats from other manufacturers as well which can be searched for, but those listed here struck me as having a particularly strong sense of authenticity and charm. In that vein, we should not forget the excellent **19th Cent. New Bedford Whaleboat** kits from **Model Shipways** and **Bluejacket** which have graceful lines but a more utilitarian aesthetic.

•**The Greenwich Hospital Barge of 1832 by David Antscherl**

Finally, **Seawatch Books** (<https://www.seawatchbooks.com>) offers what looks like a superb reference on plank-on-frame decorated open boats with this book on the **Greenwich Hospital Barge of 1832** (Fig. 11 and 12) by **David Antscherl**. for \$45. The techniques expounded in here are said to apply both to lapstrake (clinker) and carvel construction.



Fig. 11. (Sea Watch Books)



Fig. 12. (Sea Watch Books)

And don't forget the classic old references:

- Charles G. Davis, **The Built Up Ship Model** (1933),
- Harold Underhill, **Plank-on-Frame Models** (1958-71)
- Donald Dressel, **Planking Techniques for Model Ship Builders** (1988)
- Ron McCarthy, **Building Plank-on-Frame Ship Models** (2004)



Ship Model Clubs in the Bay Area

Astonishingly enough, there are no less than 5 ship model clubs in the Bay Area stretching from Los Altos in the South Bay to Rohnert Park in the north. Here is the list of them for those who would like to travel around and sample their offerings. List is courtesy of Clare Hess.

•**South Bay Model Shipwrights** – contact Jim Rhetta, jmrhetta@aol.com.

Meets at 7:30pm on the 3rd Friday (check the website for the schedule as it sometimes has to be on a different Friday) of every month at the **Los Altos Public Library at 13 S. San Antonio Rd., Los Altos**. Website is: <http://www.sbmodelships.com>

•**Hyde Street Pier Model Shipwrights** – contact Leo Kane, kanebulota@comcast.net. Meets 9:30am on the 3rd Saturday of every month aboard the Ferry Boat *Eureka* in the **San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park**. Website is: <http://hspms.wordpress.com>

•**San Francisco Model Yacht Club** – contact Colleen Stobbe, commodore@sfmvc.org. Meets at 11am on the second Saturdays of most months at the **Spreckles Lake Boat House in Golden Gate Park**. Emphasis is on radio control models of all kinds. The club holds frequent sailing regattas on Spreckles Lake. Check their calendar for the schedule of events. This is the oldest of such clubs in the Bay Area having been founded in 1898. Website is: <https://www.sfmvc.org/index.php>

•**Red Oak Victory Model Shipwrights** Meets at 10:00 am on the second Saturday of every month in the Petty Officers Mess aboard the **Red Oak Victory at Pt. Richmond, 1337 Canal Blvd, Richmond, CA 94804**

•**Redwood Empire Model Shipwrights** – contact Randy Smith, redoakboat@aol.com. Meets at 10:00 am on the first Saturday at the **Fundemonium** store in Rohnert Park. The address and telephone is:

**579 Rohnert Park Expy W Expressway Center
Rohnert Park, CA 94928
(707) 800-4060**



Bay Area Hobby Shops

Here is a list of Peninsula, East Bay, and South Bay hobby shops with supplies relevant to ship modelers. There are other area hobby shops listed on the web, but they are not relevant to ship modelers. **Sadly, Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo is closing after 66 years, evidently a victim of competition from online retailers.**

<p>Ages of Sail 676 Bockman Road , Unit B & C San Lorenzo, CA 94580 Phone:(510) 889-6000 Website: https://www.agesofsail.com Primarily wooden and resin ship kits. Outstanding resource for this area. <u>SBMS members are eligible for a 10% discount on all purchases.</u></p>	<p>Hobbies Unlimited 937 Manor Blvd. San Leandro, CA 94579 Phone: (510)351-7112 Website: http://www.hobbiesunlimited.net Outstanding selection of plastic steel navy kits. Great complement to Ages of Sail which is only a short distance away.</p>
<p>The Hobby Co. of San Francisco 5150 Geary Blvd. San Francisco, CA 94118 Phone: (415) 386-2802 Website: http://www.hobbycosf.com</p>	<p>Sheldon's Hobby Shop 2130 Trade Zone Blvd. San Jose, CA 95131 Phone: (408) 946-3801 Website: https://sheldons hobbies.com</p>
<p>Talbot's Toyland 445 S. B St. San Mateo, CA 94401 Phone: (650) 931-8100 <u>Sadly, this store is closing</u></p>	<p>Michaels Website: https://www.michaels.com A chain of general crafts stores with many branches throughout the Bay Area. Great source for scale wood, paints, and tools.</p>
<p>J & M Hobby House 1660 Laurel St. San Carlos, CA 94070 Phone: (650) 593-5019 Cute little hobby shop with a good selection of tools, wood, paints, and a comprehensive selection of Model Shipways kits and fittings.</p>	



Club Ship Model Fittings Library

The club now has a substantial slop chest library of kit fittings acquired from the estates of members and other ship model builders who have passed away or retired due to disability (Fig. 13).



Fig. 13

It is all now in the possession of **Jim Rhetta** (jmrhetta@aol.com) and is available to members in need of fittings for their projects.

This library will be brought to meetings for us to pick over. They include a variety of blocks, deadeyes, pins, chains, belaying pins, rudder hinges, rings, guns in various sizes and more. We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to this library.



Traveling this Year?

Add these museums to your travel plans either locally or elsewhere if you can.

Bay Area:

- San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park: <http://www.nps.gov/safr/index.htm>
- San Mateo County History Museum (home of Charlie Parsons exhibit, Redwood City): <http://historysmc.org>
- Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum: <http://www.vallejomuseum.org>
- Mare Island Museum (Vallejo): <http://www.mareislandmuseum.org>
- SS Jeremiah O'Brien (San Francisco): <http://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org>
- USS Pampanito (San Francisco): <https://maritime.org/uss-pampanito/>
- SS Red Oak Victory (Richmond): <http://richmondmuseum.org/ss-red-oak-victory/>

- **USS Hornet (Alameda):** <https://www.uss-hornet.org> -By far the largest museum ship on the Bay
- **USS Potomac FDR Presidential Yacht (Oakland):** <https://www.usspotomac.org>

Elsewhere in US:

- Channel Islands Maritime Museum (Oxnard, CA): www.cimmvc.org
- Los Angeles Maritime Museum: <http://www.lamaritimemuseum.org>
- San Diego Maritime Museum: <http://sdmaritime.org/>
- **SS Lane Victory (San Pedro, CA):** www.lanevictory.org/
- **USS Texas (LaPorte, TX):**
<http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/battleship-texas>
- **USS Alabama (Mobile, AL):** www.ussalabama.com/
- **USS Constitution (Boston, MA):** www.ussconstitutionmuseum.org/
- **USS Constellation (Baltimore, MD):** www.historicships.org/constellation.html
- The Hart Nautical Gallery, MIT, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA
<https://mitmuseum.mit.edu/installation-or-collaboration/hart-nautical-gallery>
- **New Bedford Whaling Museum (New Bedford, MA):**
<https://www.whalingmuseum.org>
- **South Street Seaport (New York, NY):** <https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org>
- **National Museum of American History (Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.):**
<https://www.si.edu/museums/american-history-museum>
- **National Museum of the U.S. Navy (Washington, D.C.):**
<https://www.history.navy.mil>
- **US Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD):**
<https://www.usna.edu/Museum/index.php>
- **Mariners Museum of VA (Newport News, VA):** www.marinersmuseum.org/
- **Steamboat *Bertrand* (DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri Valley, IA):**
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Desoto/wildlife_and_habitat/steamboat_bertrand.html

Outside US:

- **Vancouver Maritime Museum (Vancouver, BC, Canada):**
<https://www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com>
- **Royal Museums Greenwich (Greenwich, UK. Includes National Maritime Museum):** <https://collections.rmg.co.uk>
- **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard | Royal Navy Museum (Portsmouth, UK):**
<https://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/index.php>
- **Titanic Belfast (Belfast, N. Ireland):** <https://titanicbelfast.com>
- **National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam (Netherlands):**
<https://www.hetscheepvaartmuseum.com>
- **Maritime Museum in Rotterdam (Netherlands):**
<https://www.maritiemmuseum.nl/en>

•Musée national de la Marine (National Navy Museum) (Paris, France):

https://web.archive.org/web/20130101102816/http://www.musee-marine.fr/version_uk.html

•Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum (Bremerhaven, Germany):

<https://www.dsm.museum>



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	Jim Tortorici	email: oday20@earthlink.net



2020 Meeting Dates

Third Friday of each month. Please note changes in the meeting schedule each month. The club does its best to schedule the 3rd Friday, but library priorities and competition for the conference room may require meeting dates to be rescheduled!!!

**Los Altos Public Library
13 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos at 7:00pm**

January 17, 2020

February 21, 2020

***March 13, 2020**

These dates are confirmed by the Los Altos Library.

* Indicates date change



2020 Annual Club Membership

Send in your 2020 Club Membership with 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. Welcome Aboard!

2020 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