

# South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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



Fig. 1 Roman Trireme model at the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island (Ken Lum)



## The Foghorn

August 2020



### *Future Course Headings...*

- **Future meetings-Still cancelled until further notice**

**(Ken Lum):** The Los Altos Public Library continues to be closed to in-person meetings in an effort to control the coronavirus pandemic. Clare Hess informs us that orders to **Ages of Sail** has actually increased due to many people being confined at home and needing something to do to keep occupied. While the lockdown is not fun, I am glad that it and other hobby shops may actually be doing good online business.

Our Zoom meeting in July went very well, and we even had an attendee from S. California! I hope we can have more soon. That will be up to our president, Jim Rhetta. We found we could easily do our monthly show-and-tell as a Power Point. So I encourage everyone to take pictures of your project and put them into that program so they can be easily seen.

- **All local museums are closed until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak.**

- **Saturday, September 26, 2020, 9 AM-5 PM:**

The **International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS)/Silicon Valley Scale Modelers 7th Annual Silicon Valley Classic** scale modelling convention has been tentatively rescheduled for this day and time 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

Should this convention go forward, 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 event at:

<https://calendar.ipmsusa3.org/event/silicon-valley-classic-vii-rescheduled-sep-26th>



## *Maritime Matters of the Month*

### •**PT-59, commanded by JFK after the sinking of PT-109, is found in New York (Ken Lum):**

The story of the ramming and sinking of **PT-109**, the boat commanded by **Lt. John F. Kennedy** in WW 2, by the Japanese destroyer, **Amagiri**, August 2, 1943, is well known. What is not so well known is what happened to Kennedy immediately after he and his surviving crew were rescued.

Kennedy was given command of another PT boat, the **PT-59** (Fig. 4), which he and his crew used to attack Japanese barges and shore batteries, and rescued 10 stranded Marines in the northern Solomon Islands, one of whom died in Kennedy's bunk.



Fig. 4 **PT-59** seen here while in U.S. Navy service in the Solomon Islands (US Navy)

After the war, the boat was sold as surplus to a charter company which operated it for recreational fishing during the 1950s. It was renamed **Sun Tan** and then the **Sea Queen V**.

In 1970, an English teacher at Bronx Community College, named **Mr. Redmond Burke** purchased the boat for \$1000 and lived in it while docked at an abandoned pier at North Cove on the Harlem River at 208<sup>th</sup>

St. in Manhattan. He said “It was me, the rats and the few corpses that came floating by.”

Out of curiosity, he copied the serial number of the boat- **274398**- down from the main beam and took it to the U.S. Coast Guard office in New York where he was told it belonged to **PT-59**. One of Mr. Burke’s students then researched **PT-59** while researching **PT-109** and found that it was previously under Kennedy’s command.

Burke failed to interest any Kennedy historical groups in the vessel, and so he let the boat sink into the river bottom. Then, in May of this year, divers came upon the wreck while clearing an area for installation of a sea wall. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) has decided to excavate and preserve some artifacts but has not yet decided where they would go.

Remnants of what are felt to be **PT 109** were found by a team led by **Robert Ballard** in 2002 near Kolombangara in the Soloman Islands.

From an article by Corey Kilgannon in the NY Times, June 9, 2020 titled “**Solving the Mystery of What Became of J.F.K.’s Other Patrol Boat**”



## *Kits of 17th Century Dutch Ships (Ken Lum)*

Many have been admiring George Sloup’s **Shipyard** paper model of the **Papegojan**, a Dutch 17th century pinnace (Fig.5) that he has been working on for several months.



Fig 5. George Sloup’s paper model of the **Papegojan**

It turns out that for those with a particular interest in ships from the **Dutch Golden Age**, there is a company, named **Kolderstok**, that copiously supplies their needs. Citing **Ages of Sail**, “The aim of **Kolderstok** is to offer a high quality range of wooden model boat kits for ships not available elsewhere. Models of famous ships of the Dutch Golden Age, such as those belonging to the **VOC (Dutch East India Company)**, but also ships



famous for the great battles in which they served. Ships under the command of well-known names: **Michiel de Ruyter**, **Marten Harpenszoon Tromp**, **Jan and Cornelis Evertsen** and **Adriaen Banckert**. Kolderstok models are created using old images and existing models as guidelines, thus ensuring the best possible accuracy.”

The company offers 5 kits to date all pictured below:



Fig. 6 VOC Retourship *Batavia*, 1628



Fig. 7 Exploration Ship, the Pinace *Duyfken*, 1595



Fig. 8 Statenjacht of Willem Barentsz, 1594



Fig. 9 Northeast Passage (north of Siberia) Exploration Ship of Willem Barentsz 1594



Fig. 10 *De Zeven Provinciën*, Flagship of Admiral Michiel de Ruyter, 1665

Of course, there are other model kits of Dutch 17<sup>th</sup> Century ships manufactured by other model companies. For example, there are the ever popular Dutch **Statenjacht** kits offered by **Dusek** and **Woody Joe (Charles Royal Yacht)** and the *Half Moon* of **Henry Hudson** also from Woody Joe just to name a few. But the Kolderstok offerings certainly are unique and are all available from **Ages of Sail**.

An extremely valuable source on 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch ships, published in Dutch, is:

Ketting, Herman, *Prins Willem-Ein Ostindienfahrer D. 17.Jhds*, De Boer Maritiem, 1986

which is available for a modest price from online booksellers. I have a copy available to lend out.



## *Under Construction at the Model Shipyard*

- **Imperial Japanese Navy battleship, *Kirishima*, 1915 configuration by Jacob Cohen:**



Fig. 11 Jacob Cohn's 1/700 model of *IJN Kirishima* by Kajika models in her 1915 configuration.

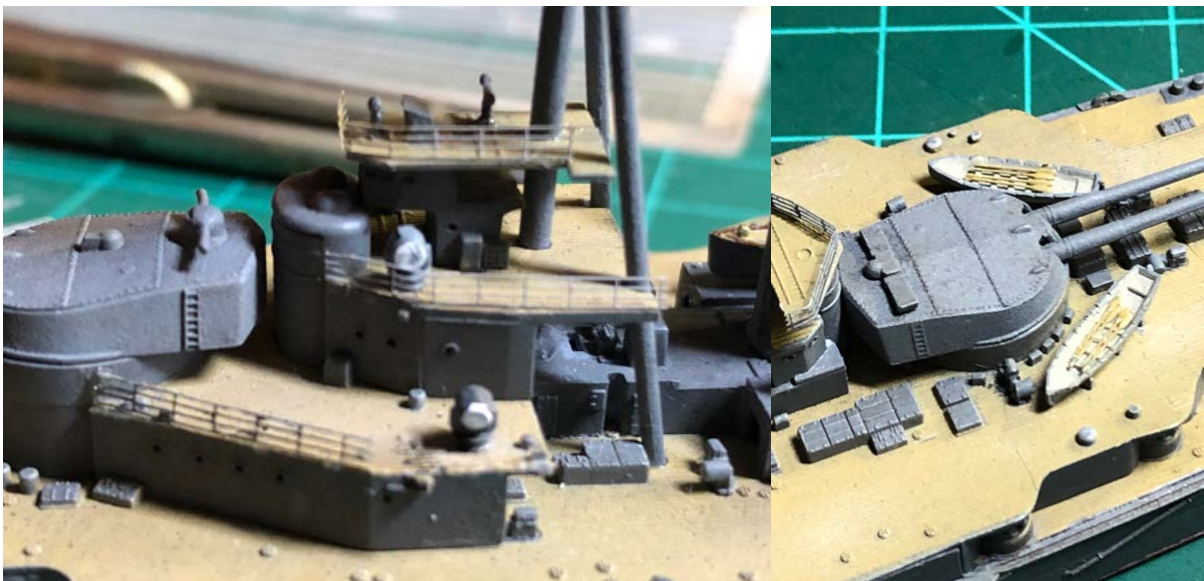


Fig. 12. Details of the *Kirishima* superstructure. Left is the area around the bridge. Excellent rail placement! Right is the quarter deck turret.



When the British launched the *HMS Dreadnought* in 1906, all the major naval powers of the time said “we have to have a bunch of those!”. So the Imperial Japanese hired British naval architect, **George Thurston**, to design the *Kongo* class of battlecruisers and had them built in Japan with the *Kirishima* being built in 1915 as the third ship of the class of four. Starting in 1927, she was modified into a battleship with improved armor and speed as well as acquiring a pagoda mast bridge (Fig.13)



.Fig. 13. *Kirishima* in 1937 after modification into a battleship (Kure Maritime Museum)

*Kirishima* accompanied the **Kido Butai** (carrier battle group) under Vice-Admiral **Chuichi Nagumo** when he commanded the attack on the American fleet in **Pearl Harbor** at the outset of WW 2. She was subsequently involved in several naval engagements shortly after Pearl Harbor including the **Battle of Midway** (June 4-7, 1942).

During the **First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal** (November 13, 1942), *Kirishima* scored hits on the light cruiser, *USS Helena* and heavy cruiser, *USS San Francisco*, causing much damage and casualties. Then, on the night of November 14-15, 1942, during the **Second Naval Battle of Guadalcanal**, *USS South Dakota* was hit multiple times by *Kirishima* and accompanying destroyers crippling the American battleship. Finally, the undetected *USS Washington* fired on *Kirishima* with its 16” guns at 5,800 yards, a near point blank range, and destroyed her operational capability. She sank with the loss of 212 crew on the morning of November 15 joining the remains of many ships and sailors from both sides in what became known as **Ironbottom Sound**.

The wreck of *Kirishima* was found in 1992 by an expedition led by **Robert Ballard**. She was discovered on the ocean bottom at 4,000 ft. depth upside down with her bow blown off forward of the bridge due to a



magazine explosion. She was the only Japanese battleship of World War Two to be sunk by an enemy battleship.

The Kanji characters of her name, 霧島, mean foggy or misty island.

A YouTube video unboxing review of this model can be found at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q\\_JRwwnzRU0&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q_JRwwnzRU0&t=2s)

Models of this ship in her later battleship configuration in 1/700 scale are available from **Hasegawa** and **Fujimi** (same mould?). It is also available in 1/350 scale from **Aoshima**: But the 1915 configuration only seems available in 1/700 from **Kajika** as above and not in 1/350.

Supplemental wooden decking and photoetch detailing can also be found.

- **Completeion of a Santa Maria restoration by Jim Rhetta:**

Pictures of the damaged **Santa Maria** model can be seen in last month's **Foghorn**. Here are pictures of the restored model (Fig. 14).



Fig. 14. Completed restoration of a decorative **Santa Maria**

- **Jim Tortorici's Recent Ship Model Projects:**

I have undertaken two ship model restorations in the past few months for a close family member.

**Restoration of a *Miss America* toy power boat**

The first was actually a toy power boat called the "*Miss America*". It was built around 1920 with a solid wood hull and a wind-up propeller (fig. 15). A similar "*Miss America*" has been featured on **American Pickers**. My task was to build a replacement brass seat and skeg. I looked through available pictures to best recreate the seat and skeg.



Fig. 15. *Miss America* toy power boat with new parts.

The production seat was a stamped brass part. I could not include the arm rest portion of the seat as it required a rolling stamping process which I could not do. I informed the customer, and he was satisfied with just creating the bottom and back cushion of the seat. I created a new skeg based on pictures which best matched the toy production version since there were several variants. I also built a ship model stand with the ship model name and manufacturer's logo (Fig. 16).



Fig. 16. New Ship Model Stand

I wanted to refinish the wood and install a new ship name and logo, but the customer said this was a no-no and would take away from the value of the toy motor boat in its original condition. I did clean the wood and removed the tarnish from the brass.

### Restoration of a Racing Sloop

The next ship model restoration was a generic racing sloop (Fig. 17) with a detached bow spirit, detached rigging on all masts, and chipped paint. I also built a stand for the ship model.



Fig. 17. Racing sloop model in original condition





Fig. 18. Restored racing sloop

**Cross Section Model of *USS Constitution*:**

My current new project is the cross section of the *USS Constitution* (Fig. 19). It is a **Model Shipways** kit and has superior parts, drawings, and instructions. My only criticism so far would be that the ship model hides details which require a lot of work to make.



Fig. 19. Cross section model of *USS Constitution* in progress

**Happy ship modeling everyone!!!**



## *SBMS Club Officers*

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim Rhetta</b>	email: <a href="mailto:jmrhetta@aol.com">jmrhetta@aol.com</a>
<b>Vice President And Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Ken Lum</b>	email: <a href="mailto:lum40@comcast.net">lum40@comcast.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jacob Cohn</b>	email: <a href="mailto:jcohnster@gmail.com">jcohnster@gmail.com</a>
<b>Harbor Master</b>	<b>George Sloup</b>	email: <a href="mailto:george.p.sloup@outlook.com">george.p.sloup@outlook.com</a>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Jim Tortorici</b>	email: <a href="mailto:oday20@earthlink.net">oday20@earthlink.net</a>



**2020 Meeting Dates:** All club meetings are cancelled by the Los Altos Public Library until further notice. Stay tuned for further news



## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Redwood City, CA 94063

Print your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_



Address

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\_\_\_\_\_

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