

# *South Bay Model Shipwrights*

*Founded by Jean Eckert 1982*

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

## *The Foghorn*

*November 2020*

*Happy Thanksgiving!*



The ***Mayflower II*** under way.  
Photo Courtesy of Plymouth Plantation



### *Future Course Headings...*

- **Future meetings: In-person meetings still cancelled until further notice.** With news that a coronavirus vaccine (or vaccines) may be on the way, we possibly can look forward to a time when in-person meetings can happen again! For many, this necessary state of

lockdown does seem to be getting old. Nonetheless, I read that, at its most optimistic, a vaccine may not be available for general distribution until the middle of next year or even later. So, that means we must have patience, wear our masks when out, and get modeling! And above all, have a safe Thanksgiving!

We had a great meeting last time where Jim Rhetta gave another of his wonderful summaries of interesting recent events and histories. Jim tells me that the next meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7 PM. We will hear more about the agenda as we get close to that date. Hope to see all of you then!

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

- **March 20, 2021 International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS)/Silicon Valley Classic.** This annual convention has been cancelled for this year and has been rescheduled for next March. We'll see what happens.

- **October, 2021. Nautical Research Guild Annual Convention, Oxnard, CA.** The cancelled 2020 NRG convention has been rescheduled for October of 2021 at the **Channel Islands Maritime Museum** in Oxnard, CA.



## *Maritime Matters of the Month*

- **Recommendations for a Superyacht (Jim Rhetta).**

With the Bay Area still awash in money, even during this pandemic, it is interesting to note that we are home to some 75 billionaires. So, what can such people recommend for the person who wants everything? Huge mansions, sports cars, and aircraft usually come to mind. But the pinnacle of conspicuous consumption remains yachts, especially superyachts. After all, it was J.P. Morgan who is credited with saying that “**if you have to ask how much it costs, you can’t afford it.**” while referring to yachts.

To find out what this really means, the **Boat International Media's World Superyacht Awards 2020** was held virtually recently. And the winner of the event's **Motor Yacht of the Year** award was...



Fig. 1. The superyacht, ***Pi***. (Photo courtesy Feadship)

***Pi*** (Fig. 1) is a 77m (295ft) ship said to be worth £120 million. It was built by **Feadship** for an unnamed owner. The judges noted that its design was 'bordering on perfection with its harmonious Zen minimalism'. Pretty ostentatious 'minimalism' one should say!

Other yachts in the competition had such features as salons, gyms, 3D IMAX theaters, helipads, grand pianos, swimming pools, bar lounges, sundecks, and garages for jet skis, ATVs, submersibles, and motorcycles. One frontier of opulence not yet explored is an aircraft carrier yacht with its own complement of aerobatic aircraft. Now there's a suggestion! For the rest of us, a model will have to do!

### • **Proposed Return of Sailing Cargo Ships to Help Deal with Climate Change (Ken Lum).**

During the **1973 OPEC oil crisis**, there had been proposals for the return of sail-powered commercial cargo ships as part of an effort to wean the world off oil dependence. Now, 50 years later, we are dealing with climate change as a different reason to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. And, again, some are reconsidering the resurrection of sail-powered commercial cargo ships to decrease CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

To that end, a new company, called **Sailcargo**, has set up shop on the Pacific coast of **Costa Rica** to build a three-masted topsail schooner, named **Ceiba**, based on a classic design from the age of sail originally built in 1906 on the Åland Islands, Finland (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Proposed electric topsail schooner, **Ceiba**.  
(image courtesy of **Sailcargo**)

While the **Ceiba** will look very much like her predecessor, the new ship will be an experiment aimed at showing whether ocean transport can be done efficiently and economically sustainably without using fossil fuels for propulsion. Of course, the **Ceiba** will use sails to make headway. **But she will also have electric motor-driven propellers and batteries powered by solar cells to supplement her sails. In addition, her propellers will be used passively to generate electricity to be stored in her batteries.**

The ship is presently in the framing phase of her construction, and is being built entirely with wood (Fig.3 and 4). It is hoped that she will be launched at the end of 2021 and be operational by 2022.



Fig. 3. Wood framing of the **Ceiba**. (photos courtesy of **Sailcargo**)





Fig. 4. Wood framing of the **Ceiba**. (photos courtesy of **Sailcargo**)

The global shipping industry generated about a billion tons of greenhouse gases in 2018 making up around 3% of total global emissions. Hopefully, this approach will lead the way to reducing these emissions in the future. Unfortunately, the biggest barrier to success looks like the continued low price of petroleum driven by falling demand from the increased fuel efficiency of automobiles and the rise of renewable energy sources. So, we will see how things go with this project.



### *Kits News (Ken Lum):*

#### •More about ZHL Models.

My mention of **ZHL Models** from China in last month's **Foghorn** led to my judgement that the company seemed "dodgy" and "it seems best to stay away for now". Well, according to Clare Hess, it appears that this company has been guilty of a number of copyright and licensing violations, and builders of its kits have even been banned from the Nautical Research Guild's **Model Ship World** forum. So, it seems best, out of respect for the more reputable manufacturers, to continue to stay away!



## *Under Construction at the Model Shipyard*

- **Doug Shenk's *Black Falcon* pirate ship by Mantua.**

Doug purchased this model from the club's stash and has made much progress on the model (Fig. 5). Doug has also just purchased a kit of the famed Canadian schooner, ***Bluenose***, by **Billings** as his next model project.



Fig. 5. The ***Black Falcon*** pirate ship by Mantua.

Fig. 6 shows an earlier first model of a ***Baltimore Clipper*** bilt by Doug now on display in his garage.



Fig. 6. ***Baltimore Clipper*** model by Doug Shenk.

- Progress on Jacob Cohn's models.



Fig. 7. Continued progress on Jacob Cohn's **V 108** WW 1 vintage torpedo boat. See **October Foghorn** for more information on this ship.

As seen in Fig. 8 and 9, it appears Jacob has also started work on an early US revenue cutter, the **Alert**, by **Krick** models.



Fig. 8. **Krick's** model of the US revenue cutter, **Alert**.

Small ships like this were built at the request of then Secretary of the US Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, from around 1790 onwards. They formed the only naval presence in US waters until the US Navy was reestablished in 1798. Their early role was to enforce trade tariffs, interdict pirates and smugglers, and provide shoreline security.



Fig. 9. Jacob's new project of the U.S. revenue cutter, **Alert**.



The model is a plank on bulkhead construction (Fig. 9). Another very fine smaller scale model kit of such a revenue cutter is from **Bluejacket Shipcrafters**.

- **New paper ship model from Clare Hess.**

While away on prolonged personal business, Clare ordered a paper 1/96 scale **Shipyard** kit of a Dutch fluit (or fluyt) named the **Schwarzer Rabe (Black Raven)** from **Ages of Sail** to work on which did not require a large inventory of tools (Fig. 10). Clare's initial progress on the model can be seen in Fig. 11 and 12.

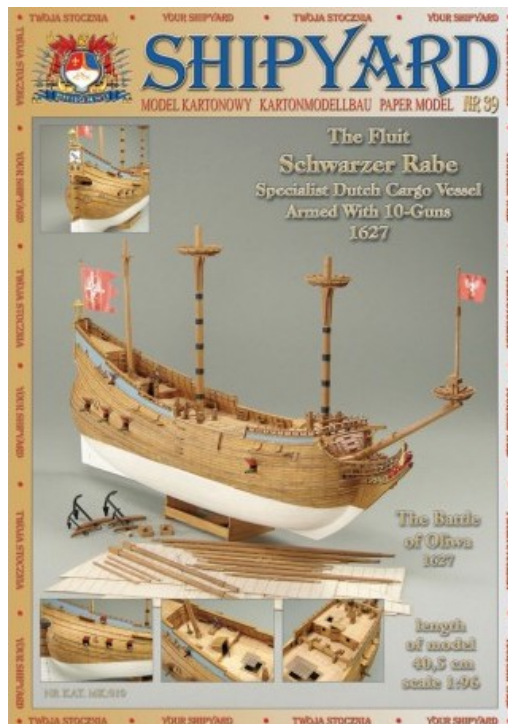


Fig. 10. **Shipyard** paper model of the **Schwarzer Rabe**.

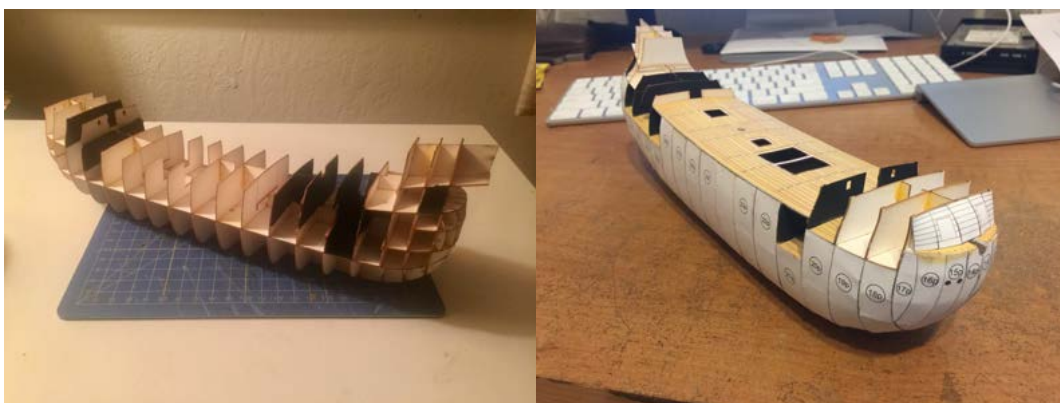


Fig. 11. Clare's start on the **Schwarzer Rabe**



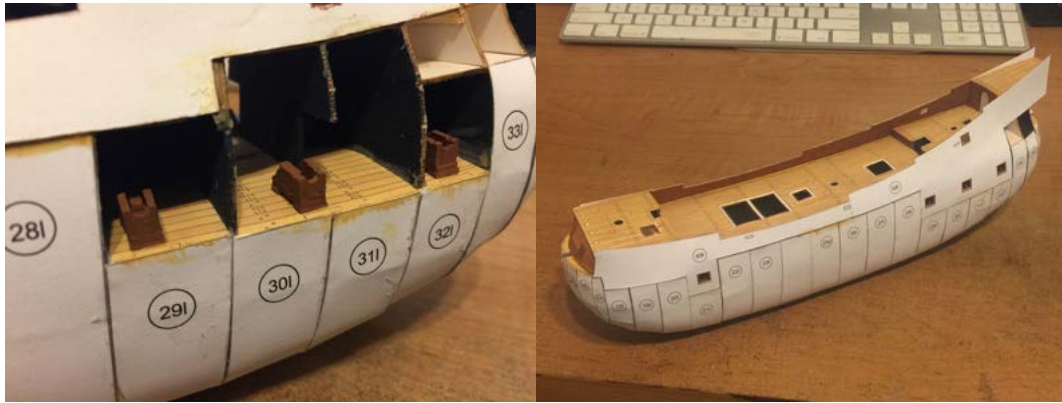


Fig. 12. Clare Hess's progress on his **Schwarzer Rabe** model.

The **Schwarzer Rabe** was built by the Dutch and employed by the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth fleet at the **Battle of Oliwa**, also known as the **Battle of Oliva**, or the **Battle of Gdańsk Roadstead** in 1627. Their adversaries, the Swedes, had a powerful navy which it used to blockade trade at the Commonwealth's ports, the largest of which was Danzig.

On November 28, 1627, a Swedish fleet sailed to blockade Danzig and was met by the Polish–Lithuanian fleet, which had shipboard marines and more ships than the Swedes. In the ensuing melee, the Swedish flagship, **Tigern**, was captured by the marines and another Swedish ship was blown up by her crew to avoid capture. The rest of the Swedish fleet then retreated giving the Polish–Lithuanians a victory. But the commanding admirals of both sides died in the fight.

Interestingly, the **Papegojan ("Parrot")**, also a ship of Dutch construction, participated on the Swedish side. Both the **Schwarzer Rabe** and the **Papegojan** survived the battle. As many of us know, the **Papegojan** is additionally available from **Shipyard** as a paper model at the same scale of 1/96 as well as at 1/72. George Sloup has been working on the 1/72 version of the kit.



## *SBMS Club Officers*

|   |                      |   |
|---|----------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>                                    | <b>Jim Rhetta</b>    | email: <a href="mailto:jmrhetta@aol.com">jmrhetta@aol.com</a>                     |
| <b>Vice President<br/>And<br/>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 in-person club meetings are cancelled by the Los Altos Public Library until further notice. Instead, we are conducting Zoom meetings as an alternative. 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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