

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

The Foghorn

April 2021



Credit: David Morris/Apex



*Look, a Flying
Ship!
April Fools!!
Of course, it's a mirage!*



Future Course Headings...

- **Future meetings: In-person meetings still cancelled until further notice.** But Jim Rhetta is continuing our Zoom meetings every two weeks. Another one is expected around May 6. Check your email inbox for upcoming specifics. And make sure to get your COVID vaccine if you have not already done so.
- **All local museums are closed until further notice due to the coronavirus outbreak.**

• **Cancelled- Spring, 2021 International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS)/Silicon Valley Classic.** This event has been cancelled for this year due to the pandemic. Perhaps a return in Spring of 2022.

• **Cancelled-October, 2021. Nautical Research Guild Annual Convention, Oxnard, CA.** The in-person NRG convention for this year has been cancelled as the problems with the coronavirus pandemic are anticipated to continue to the end of this year. It has been rescheduled still at the **Channel Islands Maritime Museum** (Fig. 1) for October, 2022. Check the NRG website for more news on this.

A virtual visit to this wonderful little museum can still be done via its website at;

<https://cimmvc.org>

and there are several very nice video tours of the museum on YouTube as well. More news about this event can be found at the NRG website.

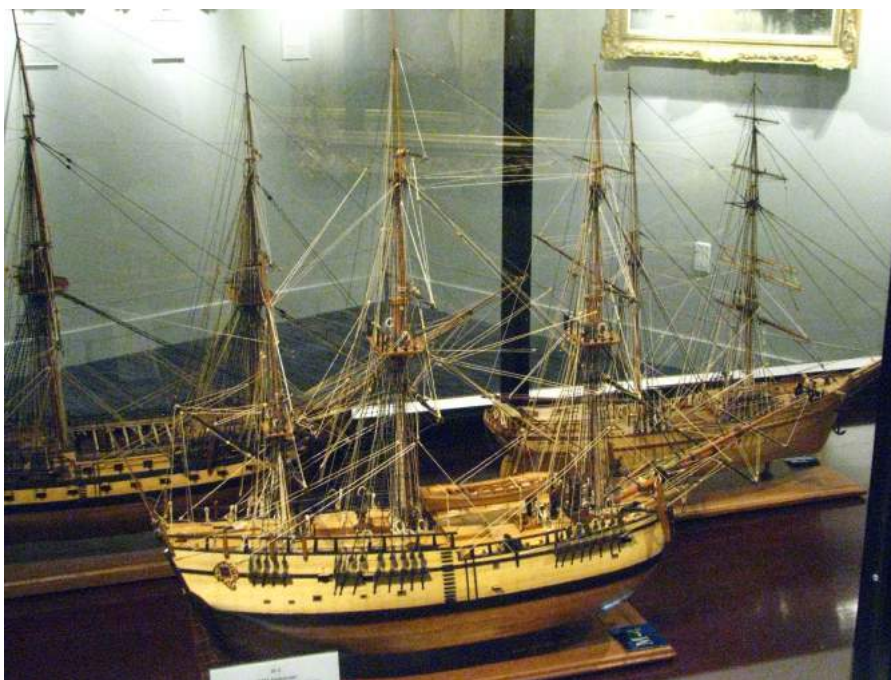


Fig. 1. ***HMB Endeavour*** model at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum

• **NRG annual conference will be held virtually later this year.** More on this later on the NRG website.



Maritime Matters of the Month (Jim Rhetta and Richard Walton)

- **Most Expensive Shipwreck in History?** On March 23, the 400m-long (1,312ft) ultra-large container ship, ***Ever Given***, with a full load of cargo-bearing containers, was struck by high winds in a sand storm while traversing the Suez Canal. The crew lost control of the ship, and she ran aground diagonally oriented to the canal thereby blocking it completely (Fig. 2). The ship was going from Tanjung Pelepas in Malaysia to Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

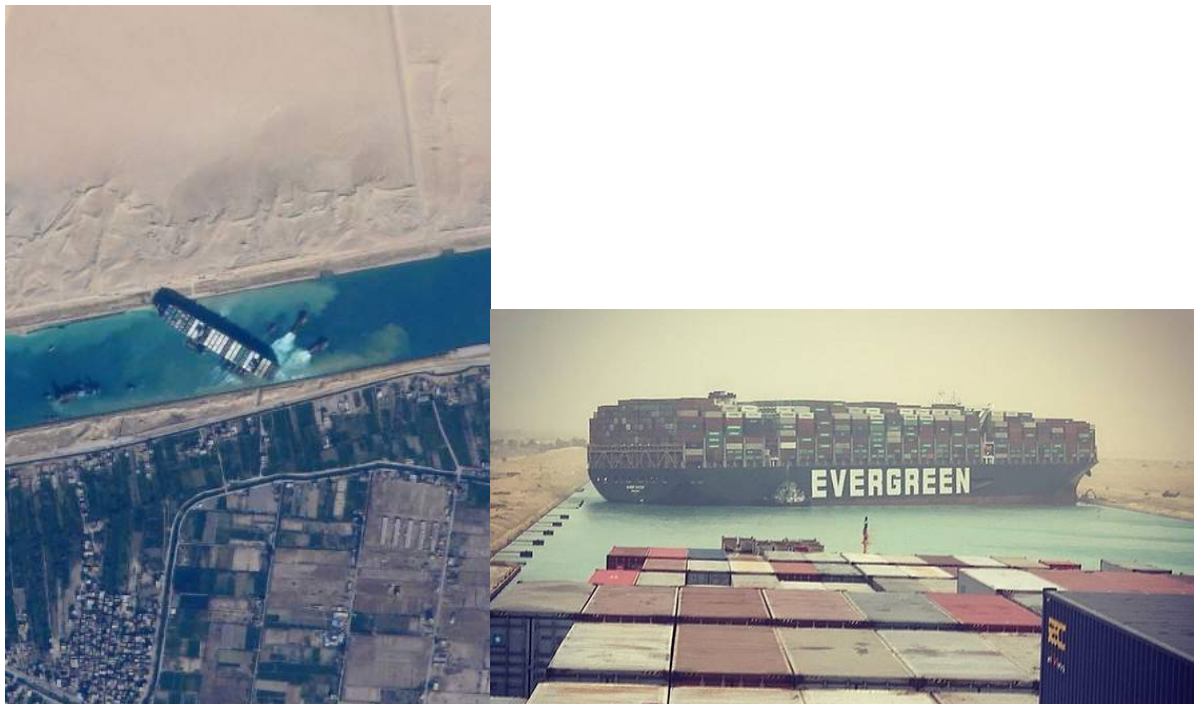


Fig. 2 Container ship ***Ever Given*** aground and clogging up the Suez Canal
Left: from the International Space Station (NASA)
Right: (Instagram/fallenhearts17)

Eight tugboats began trying to push the ship free, and a Komatsu excavator was used to remove sand from around the bow as part of that effort. Finally, after 6 days, during high tides, on March 29, the ship was floated free to clear the canal passageway. A great example of how to use the gravity of the Moon, an extraterrestrial astronomical object, for lifting exceptionally large and heavy objects!

At the time of the incident, some 30 cargo ships to the north of the blockage and three to the south were prevented from traversing the Canal. In addition, more than 20 oil tankers were also blocked from delivering their cargos of crude oil. Over the subsequent days, an estimated 400 more ships backed up in the traffic jam. Some bypassed around the Cape of Good Hope to reach their destinations at considerable additional expense.

With this interruption of international trade and supply chain deliveries, downstream costs began adding up at the rate of some \$400 million/hr or \$9.6 billion/day just to start. In addition, the Suez Canal Authority and Egypt claim to have sustained costs of \$1 billion in the effort to free the ship. The backup of oil tankers were also reported to have caused the price of oil to jump 4% by March 24, the day after the accident.

Currently, the *Ever Given* has anchored in the **Great Bitter Lake** along the canal for inspection. On April 13, the ship was impounded by the Egyptian government which is demanding \$916 million in payment for unblocking the canal. And we have not yet begun to see where all the legal cases involving all the ships involved in courts around the world are going to end up.

Despite no loss of ship, crew, or cargo, this may yet take a record for being one of the most expensive shipwrecks in history. Migrating to Mars on one of NASA's rovers may be the only way to escape liability!

• **Loss of Indonesian Submarine, *KRI Nanggala 402*.**

The German-built Indonesian submarine, *KRI Nanggala 402* (Fig. 3) has apparently sunk with the loss of its crew of 53 while performing a training dive off the island of Bali on Wednesday, April 21. It was said to have enough oxygen on board until Saturday, April 24, should the crew have survived whatever caused the ship to sink.



Fig. 3. *KRI Nanggala 402* in 2015. (US Navy)

Debris has been found that is said to have originated from the *Nanggala*. Indonesian Navy officials now conclude that the ship and its crew are lost.

Nanggala is an electric-diesel submarine with a maximum operating depth of 200 to 250 meters (about 655 to 820 feet). It is now thought to have gone down to at least

850 meters (2,800 feet) for unknown reasons probably causing a catastrophic high-pressure implosion.

India, Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, the U.S. and other countries sent ships and aircraft to assist with what many had hoped would be a rescue mission. Efforts are now being made to locate and possibly recover the wreck.

• **Financial Woes for the *RMS Queen Mary*.** The financial status of the *RMS Queen Mary* ocean liner (Fig. 4) has been rocky for quite a few years now, but the collapse of tourism from the coronavirus pandemic over the past year may have made its woes insurmountable. The City of Long Beach, CA, which is the ship's owner, has filed a court complaint against the real estate firm of **Urban Commons** for leaving the ship in a state of disrepair.



Fig. 4. *RMS Queen Mary* in Long Beach, CA
([David Jones](#) from Isle of Wight, United Kingdom)

Urban Commons signed a 66-year lease in 2016 requiring them to maintain the ship. However, they have declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy this January and some \$23 million cannot be found after an audit by the City of Long Beach. Thus far, Urban Commons has only offered to pay \$750,000 in missed rent payments. Its bankruptcy proceedings have also included auctioning off the ship's lease.

The *Queen Mary* was retired and moved to Long Beach as a hotel and tourist attraction in 1967. The City of Long Beach then acquired it in

1972. It was brought together with Howard Hugh's giant sea plane, the **Spruce Goose**, to serve as a tourist attraction. The **Spruce Goose** was subsequently moved to the **Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum** in Minnville, OR in 1993 where it still is now.

The **Nautical Research Guild** has held past annual conventions there. Sadly, we have to ask, can the ship breaker's blow torches be far behind? Also, with some worry, the museum ships **USS Iowa** and **SS Lane Victory** are nearby leaving one to consider their futures as well.



Kits News (Ken Lum): The **Kit News** column this

month is being devoted to listing ship models available for SBMS members to purchase at a discount or take for free for building. It has been a while since this was done, so I am taking this opportunity to update the list from what is listed under 'kits' on our website. Any proceeds from sales will go to the SBMS treasury. Let me know via email if you are interested in any of these.

Model	Manufacturer	Comments
Chesapeake Bay Lighthouse	Precision Lasercraft	Complete kit Electric rotating lights
Danmark	Billings	Complete kit
Fair American	Model Shipways	Complete kit solid hull
Grand Banks Dory	Midwest Products	Complete kit
HMS Victory cross section	Corel	Complete kit
La Courrone	Mantua	Complete kit
La Reale de France (Galley)	Heller	Complete kit large plastic kit
Le Chebec (Xebec)	Heller	Complete kit large plastic kit
Lila Dan	Billings	Complete kit
Meta	Billings	Complete kit

<i>New Bedford Whaleboat</i>	Model Shipways	Complete kit
<i>Oyster Pirate (Skipjack)</i>	The Laughing Whale	Complete kit
<i>Phantom pilot boat</i>	Model Shipways	Complete kit solid hull
<i>Santa Maria</i>	Mantua	Complete kit
<i>Skipjack</i>	Midwest Products	Complete Kit
<i>Statenjacht</i>	Billings	Complete kit
<i>Titanic</i>	Mantua	Partially built Large model RC capable
<i>Trotamares</i>	Mantua	No fittings



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard

Sorry to say there were no pictures submitted of ongoing projects this month, so will leave this section blank for now. However, I am learning how to stop the blocks for my carronade model and hope to finish this soon as I am getting use to this and picking up the pace. I would like to share this progress as a Techniques piece in the May Foghorn.

Hope our membership can submit some project pictures next month. We did have a good show and tell at our last Zoom meeting on April 22.



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



2021 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.



2021 Annual Club Membership

Send in your 2021 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!

2021 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