

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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



Future Course Headings...

- **Future meetings-Still cancelled until further notice**
(Ken Lum): Until the Los Altos Public Library announces a reopening date, we will continue our Zoom meetings every two weeks. Our next scheduled meeting will be **Thursday, August 5 at 7 PM**. Keep an eye on your inboxes for Jim Rhetta's announcement and Zoom link information. And take pictures of your projects for show and tell!
- **Museums are starting to open!**

Great News! I see the museums are starting to open and have been doing so for the past couple of months! **For the most part, masks are required and being fully vaccinated is helpful.** To see what museums are open,

I recommend checking their websites and/or calling. Check the museum list in the included **SBMS Resource Guide** for contact information.

By being fully vaccinated, you will stand the best chance of avoiding becoming a casualty of the coronavirus variants now emerging in the population.

• **Entry deadline, August 2, 2021. 2021 NRG Photographic Ship Model Competition.**

The **Nautical Research Guild Board** is proud to announce that the **2021 Photographic Ship Model Competition** is accepting entries. Entries must be received by **August 2nd, 2021**. **Entry fee is \$30 to be paid via the NRG store.** The last NRG photo competition was in 2015 so you have had six years to build your masterpiece!

All the photos will be submitted on-line...no more downloading files to a DVD or driving to the post office. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the top three models in the categories of Apprentice, Journeyman and Master builder. There will also be a Best of Show medal awarded. In addition, achievement ribbons will be awarded on a point basis. Every model entered will receive a written review of their model from our judges.

The Competition is open to **Regular NRG Members in good standing only**. To see all the details and enter your model, go to <https://thenrg.org/contests>. We look forward to seeing your model photographs soon.

• **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.



Figure 1. Prisoner-of-War bone models at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum, Oxnard, CA

• **2021 NRG annual conference will be held virtually later this year.** More on this later on the NRG website.

• **October 3-11, 2021 Fleet Week in San Francisco Bay.**

It looks like our traditional annual **Fleet Week** US Navy ship exhibition with the **Blue Angels** air show (Fig. 2) is scheduled to be on! We all certainly hope this will, indeed, come to pass.



Figure 2. The **Blue Angels** flight demonstration team over San Francisco. (US Navy)



Maritime Matters of the Month

- **The Largest Ship in the World.** Given how large modern ships have become in the extreme drive for cost efficiency, Richard Walton kindly sent me a reference to what is now considered the largest ship in the world. She is the ***Prelude*** which is a cargo ship designed to carry liquified natural gas (LNG). Therefore, it is designated a **Floating Natural Gas (FLNG or FLING?)** facility. This behemoth was built in South Korea for **Royal Dutch Shell, KOGAS, and Inpex** at an estimated cost of somewhere between \$12 billion to \$17 billion. Its hull was launched in 2013 and is said to have a cargo capacity of 600,000 tonnes, 1,601 ft. length, and 243 ft. wide. (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. Liquefied natural gas cargo ship, ***Prelude***, under construction.
(Seong Joon Cho/Bloomberg)

The cargo theory under which it was constructed was to fill up with LNG by directly going from one oceanic gas field to another without having to transfer gas from the drilling platform to onshore facilities first and then fill up the ship in port. This currently requires expensive pipelines that are a redundant step.

Unfortunately, it seems that construction and equipment problems have caused cost overruns and constant delays so it now sits offshore of Australia still not being used. Once operational, however, **crew hiring will**

give priority to non-smokers. Also, wild parties involving fireworks will not be permitted. Any incidents could have planetary scale effects and all those exoplanets discovered by astronomers going around other stars are still too far away to escape to!

• **Piracy on the High Seas on an Uneven Decline.** High seas piracy has seen a resurgence over the past generation, particularly off the sea coasts of a number of African countries such as **Somalia** on the eastern coast and in the **Gulf of Guinea** on the western coast (Fig. 4). This has even resulted in a movie being released in 2013 about a Somali ship hijacking titled “**Captain Phillips**”.

Piracy encounters in these regions typically involved kidnapping of cargo ship crews with pirate money being made from ransoms as well as selling any stolen cargo. Fortunately, security has improved off the **Horn of Africa** and the activities of Somali pirates have been mostly shut down from what I read. However, crew kidnappings still continue in the Gulf of Guinea where security remains light.



Fig. 4. Regions of Africa being afflicted by piracy on the high seas. (Wikipedia)

Another area of high piracy activity is in south Asia in the **Strait of Malacca** which is a narrow seaway between Malaysia and Sumatra, Indonesia and the nearby **Singapore Strait** (Fig. 5). Piracy activity here involve well financed **organized crime cartels which own their own tankers that can pull up alongside a cargo tanker, overpower their crews and then siphon off their liquid cargos of petroleum products**

to be sold to clandestine buyers for below market prices. Almost sounds like what parasitic insects do!



Fig. 5. The Strait of Malacca where there is much piracy of petroleum cargo ships going between the Middle East and Asia. (Welt-atlas.de)

Thus far, local security forces have been too thinly spread to protect the enormous amount of commercial traffic going through the Strait. And there are not enough security details available to protect each and every vessel. Arming ship's crews remains a topic of debate which has not yet been settled.

But everyone now knows where not to book your next vacation cruise, Gov. Ron Desantis notwithstanding!



Under Construction at the Model Ship-yard

Jacob Cohn is rapidly closing in on finishing his Caldercraft model of **HMS Pickle** (Figure 6 and 7). This small schooner was at the battle of Trafalgar but too small to participate in the battle. She brought back the news of the victory to Great Britain. Both before and after Trafalgar, she did participate in the capture of a number of prizes. She was lost in a wreck in 1808. Beautiful work, Jacob!



Fig. 6 Model of *HMS Pickle* by Jacob Cohn



Fig. 7. More photos of *HMS Pickle* model



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 |
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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. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 7 PM. 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