

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

The Foghorn

April 2022



Fig. 1. For "Sail" on Craigslist!
Become an Oligarch!





Future Course Headings...

- **Next SBMS Meetings Thursday, May 5, 7PM (Zoom) and Saturday, May 21, 3PM-5PM (In-Person).** We had a small turnout this time for the In-person meeting consisting of Ken Lum, Jacob Cohn, Jim Rhetta, and George Sloup. But we had plenty of nice models to show and tell as shown below in the **Under Construction in the Model Shipyard** section.

As the prime maritime event of the month was the sinking of the Russian cruiser, *Moskva*, we spent a fair amount of time discussing that topic and viewing a short YouTube video about it. We will show these items again at the next Zoom meeting on **Thursday, May 5, 7 PM** for the benefit of those who did not attend.

And the next In-Person meeting will again be at the **Game Kastle** at:

The Game Kastle
1350 Coleman Ave.
Santa Clara, CA 95050
Pnone: (408) 243-4263

on **Saturday, May 21 from 3 PM-5 PM.** We will stick with the slightly later time that we last had. Many great models this last meeting and hope to see more next time also! Keep an eye out for more on these meetings as the dates approach.

- **Fall NRG Annual meeting cancelled again :^(** George Sloup has just informed me that the NRG is cancelling its annual meeting again for a third year in a row due to the COVID pandemic. We were still scheduled to meet at the **Channel Islands Maritime Museum** in Oxnard, CA, but now are not sure what will happen next. Stay tuned on this story!

- **Museums are opening up!**

Great News! I see the museums are starting to open and have been doing so for the past few 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



Maritime Matters of the Month

- **Russian Cruiser, *Moskva* (Moscow, Москва) has sunk in the Black Sea.** In an unusual turn of events, in a war that continues to surprise, the Russian guided missile cruiser, *Moskva* (Fig.2), was sunk April 14 while being towed to the Crimean port of Sevastopol after being disabled by shipboard explosions. The Ukrainians, now at war with Russia for several weeks following a Russian invasion on February 24, claim to have hit it with a couple of Ukrainian-built **R-360 Neptune** anti-ship cruise missiles.



Fig. 2. Russian guided missile cruiser, *Moskva*. Check out the proximity of the two helicopters to each other in the upper right! Were they about to collide?! (Russian Ministry of Defense)

Naturally, the Russians deny this was the case, but their Defense Ministry acknowledges that the ship was sunk as a result of an explosion in its ammunition magazine. A photo released to the press shows the ship to have sustained considerable damage (Fig. 3). At 12,490 tons displacement, it was the largest warship of the Russian Navy in the Black Sea as well as being the largest warship sunk in combat since WW 2. The extent of casualties has not been released, but it has been acknowledged that the commanding officer was killed. The ship carries a crew of around 500 men.



Fig. 3. The heavily damaged *Moskva* following shipboard explosions (Twitter).

Moskva was laid down in 1976 in [Mykolaiv](#), Ukraine and commissioned in 1983. It displaced 12,490 tons and was the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet leading the naval portion of the invasion of Ukraine.

The sinking of ***Moskva*** continues to reveal the distressing vulnerability of expensive surface ships to anti-ship cruise missiles and airborne bombs as last shown by the loss of six ships of the British Royal Navy in the 1982 Falklands war.

In the meantime, the Russians are continuing to pursue their usual ways of making enemies and influencing (by eliminating) people...

• **Russian Oligarch Superyachts being Seized.** In another aspect of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, many countries around the world have sanctioned the ultrawealthy oligarchs associated with Russian president Vladimir Putin. This has provided a legal basis for seizing the overseas assets of these members of Putin's inner circle.

Special attention in the media has focused on the seizure of their superyachts which are often docked in foreign ports mostly around Europe and the Mediterranean. They are also often involved in many fraud and money laundering schemes with complicated chains of unclear ownership designed to hide large sums of money.

Among the ships thus far seized or under investigation are:

1. **Amadea** (Fig. 4): 106.1-meter superyacht docked in **Fiji** where it has been impounded over questions about its ownership.



Fig. 4. *Amadea* (Superyachttimes.com)

2. **Tango** (Fig. 5): 77.7-metre motor yacht at the Marina Real in **Palma de Mallorca, Spain**. The vessel is said to be linked to **Viktor Vekselberg**, a sanctioned Russian billionaire. Spanish authorities say it is a focus of investigations into fraud and money laundering.



Fig. 5. **Tango** (Superyachttimes.com)

3. **Phi** (Fig. 6): 58.5-metre superyacht detained in the U.K. over issues of ownership. Looks like a torpedo boat!



Fig. 6. **Phi** (Superyachttimes.com)

4. ***Flying Fox*** (Fig. 7): 136 meter monster yacht now detained in the **Dominican Republic** and under investigation by the US Dept. of Homeland Security. It is believed to be owned by the CEO of the Domodedovo airport in Moscow, Russia. This ship is said to be able to accommodate 22 guests looked after by a crew of 54. A rather opulent guest to crew ratio!



Fig. 7. ***Flying Fox*** (Superyachtimes.com)

5. ***Axioma*** (Fig. 8): 72-meter motor yacht believed to be owned by the CEO of the steel group TMK. It is now detained in **Gibraltar (U.K.)**.



Fig. 8. ***Axioma*** (Superyachtimes.com)

6. ***Royal Romance*** (Fig. 9): Another monster 92.5-meter motor yacht now impounded in **Rijeka, Croatia** is believed owned by **Viktor Medvedchuk** who holds the title of the **People's Deputy of Ukraine**. **No doubt the title makes him the most equal of equals!**



Fig. 9. *Royal Romance* (Superyachttimes.com)

In any event, this seems an adequate sample of the kind of uber-ostentation enjoyed by Russian oligarchs. More impounded ships can be found in other lists. What will eventually happen to these ships remains to be seen. Given how much trouble they seem to be, I think I would prefer a model!



Kit News (Ken Lum):

- **Maris Stella Models.** In my meanderings around the web, I found out about this interesting model kit company, named **Maris Stella**, headquartered in the city of **Split** in **Dalmatia, Croatia**. Founded in 2008, its emphasis is on kits of ships and boats that figure prominently in the maritime history of the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas. Their website is:

<http://www.marisstella.hr>

Here are some samples of its offerings. All photos courtesy of Maris Stella.



Fig. 10 Ragusian galleon, *Argosy*, of the 16th and early 17th Centuries. Ragusian refers to the Republic of Ragusa which was centered on the city of Dubrovnik.



Fig. 11. Croatian *Brazzara* vessel type dating from the 16th Century to modern times.



Fig. 12. Ragusian *Galley* of the 18th Century.



Fig. 13. British ship, *HMS Ontario*, 1779. Built for the British on Carleton Island in the St. Lawrence River and used to transport supplies and troops around what is now northern New York during the American Revolutionary War. She was sunk in Lake Ontario in a storm only 5 months after launching without ever seeing combat.

The wreck was discovered in 2008 and was found to be mostly intact. It is still the property of the U.K. and is considered a war grave. So, it has been left undisturbed. Admiralty drafts for this ship are in the possession of the National Maritime Museum, U.K. and can be seen in the ship's Wikipedia article.

This unboxing video of the *Ontario* by Olha Batchvarov show these kits to be of excellent quality.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zwfbpdrupw>

There are also other YouTube videos on both the kit and the ship itself.

So here is a model kit company offering some unusual subjects for those looking to build something different. While these kits are not yet available from Ages of Sail, they can be currently purchased from Model Expo according to their website. Prices range from around \$120 to \$1200 for their largest kit. I encourage everyone to look at their website to check out their complete catalogue.



Methods to Our Maritime Madness

• **YouTube Modeling Videos of the Month (Ken Lum).**

More on Planking.

Last month, I listed some excellent planking videos by Chuck Passaro. This month, I found a really good planking video of a 16th Cent. **Ragusian Carrack** (Fig. 14) from a kit by Maris Stella done by Olha Batchvarov.



Fig. 14. Very nice hull planking of a 16th Century *Ragusian Carrack* model from Maris Stella by Olha Batchvarov (Olha Batchvarov).

It's a little long at 28 minutes, but it shows a complete stem to stern planking job in fast motion with the plank widths marked on the bulkheads and the planks properly shaped and fitted. None of the planks appear to be strangely shaped to fit into awkward spaces; nor does there appear to be a need for filler or too many stealers. A very nice job, and it reminds me of some of the better planking work of Admiralty Board models. Here is the video URL.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfyjH_ELtL4

There are many book descriptions of model hull planking. Here are two that would be good supplements to the Batchvarov and Passaro videos.

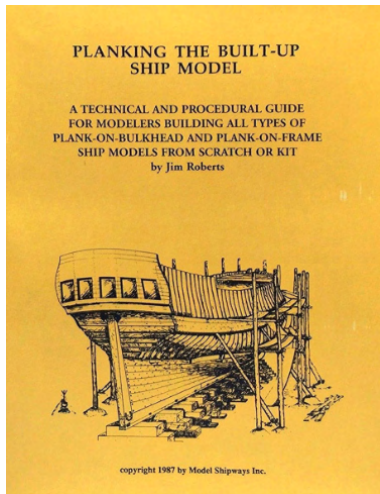


Fig. 15. Model Shipways, **Planking the Built-Up Ship Model** (1987)

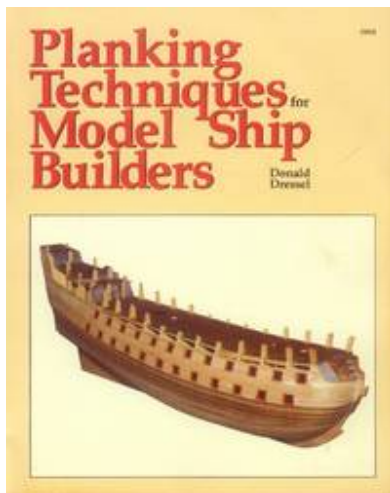


Fig. 16. Dressel, Donald, **Planking Techniques for Model Ship Builders** (1988)



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard

Let's start with a couple of restorations. It looks like Jim Rhetta is finished with the semi-scale **HMS Victory** restoration (Fig. 17. Left). And Jacob Cohn has made much progress on the **Emma C. Berry** model having made it to the rigging stage (Fig. 17. Right), Great work!



Fig. 17. Restorations of **HMS Victory** by Jim Rhetta (Left) and **Emma C. Berry** by Jacob Cohn (Right).

And here's the latest on some club member models...



Fig. 18. George Sloup's *Papegojan* with cannon now installed. Paper model from Shipyard.



Fig. 19. Paper model of the **Alcatraz lighthouse** from Shipyard by George Sloup.



Fig. 20. Jim Rhetta's model of the bomb ketch, *La Candelaria* from Occe models.



Fig. 21. U.S. Revenue Cutter, *Alert*, by Jacob Cohn from Krick models.



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



2022 Annual Club Membership

Send in your 2022 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!

2022 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