

# South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

## The Foghorn

August 2022



Fig. 1. On this month, August 5, 1775, the first European explorers on board the Spanish ship, **San Carlos**, entered the Golden Gate into San Francisco Bay for the first time. Model of the **San Carlos** by the late **Charlie Parsons**, former SBMS member. (San Mateo Co. History Museum, Redwood City)

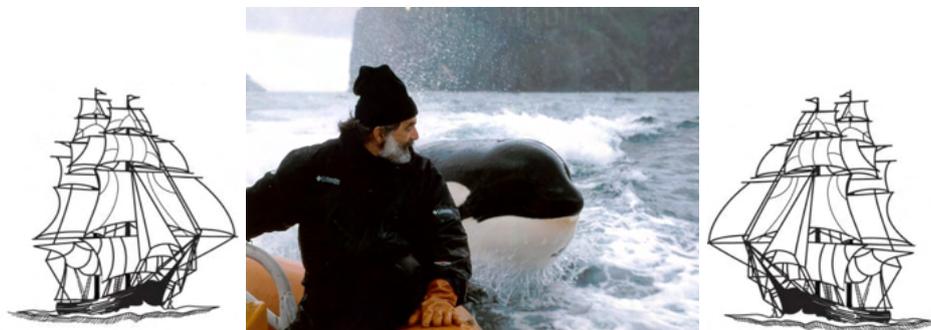


Fig. 2. An Orca checking out a dinner prospect. (Channel Islands Maritime Museum, Charles Vinick). Awww...He just wants to be petted!



## *Future Course Headings...*

- **Upcoming SBMS meetings for September. IPMS Convention Sept. 10. Zoom mtg. Sept. 22, 7 PM.**

Because the anticipated date of our in-person meeting for September falls on **Saturday, September 10**, which also coincides with the **IPMS Silicon Valley Classic** model convention in San Jose, we will declare the IPMS convention to be our in-person meeting for that month instead of being at the Game Kastle. More on that convention below.

Then, our usual Zoom meeting will be on **Thursday, September 22, 7 PM.**

We had a very nice discussion about ongoing projects at our August in-person meeting followed by further distribution of the late Lou Cierra's model building stuff. More on this at the "**Under Construction at the Model Shipyard**" section below. Thanks again to Lou's family for their donation.

- **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 .

- **IPMS Silicon Valley Classic VII, Saturday, September 10, 2022, 9AM-5PM.**

Well, here we go again! Maybe fourth time (or thereabouts) is a charm! The **IPMS Silicon Valley Scale Modelers** will be making another attempt to hold their annual **Silicon Valley Classic** scale modelling convention in San Jose (Fig. 3) this year on **Saturday, September 10, 2022, 9AM-5PM.** As in the past, it will be held at:

**Silicon Valley Classic VII  
Napredak Hall  
770 Montague Expw.  
San Jose, CA**



Fig. 3. (Left) **Jacob Cohn** and **Clare Hess** at the 2019 IPMS Silicon Valley Classic convention. (Right) Model builders being tempted into our version of sin and debauchery by model vendors at the *USS Hornet* during a 2021 IPMS model-making convention.

The SBMS will have a table to display the products of our labors along with invitations for others to join our group. So, bring your best and partly finished stuff for showing off and for having fun. Of course, we will need volunteers to crew the table. So, come, if you can, and spend a bit of time with us to help promote our hobby.

Clare Hess will also have a table representing the **Ages of Sail** hobby store at the convention, conveniently located next to the SBMS table.

Admission will be \$5. The COVID rules are as yet unclear. For the time being, I would bring a mask in case you need it and a copy of your vaccination record. **Oh, can it be, can it really bee finaleeee...!?**

**•Fleet Week San Francisco, October 3-11. Airshow Friday October 7, Saturday October 8, and Sunday October 9 afternoons.**



Fig. 4. The Navy's **Blue Angels** (US Navy)

In another sign of returning normality, the **US Navy** is again coming to San Francisco to give a show of its capabilities. Ships will arrive starting October 3, but the real events will begin Wednesday, October 5 and after. The ever-popular air show, which includes the Navy's **Blue Angels**, will put on their amazing aerobatic demonstrations over the Bay on the afternoons of **Friday October 7 (practice session)**, **Saturday October 8**, and **Sunday October 9**. Other spectacular aerial demonstrations will also be on display starting around 1 PM each day.

Unfortunately, this event does conflict with the **Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures** show in San Jose listed below. But some agile personal scheduling should allow most to attend both events for a wonderful weekend.

•**Good Sam Showcase of Miniatures, Saturday, October 8, 10AM-5PM and Sunday, October 9, 11AM-4PM.**



This annual show on miniatures is returning this year at the:

**Double Tree Hotel**  
**2050 Gateway Pl.**  
**San Jose, CA**

More on this at: <https://goodsamshowcase.org>. In the past, we had a table at this event to advertise our activities, and we will do so again this year. We will need volunteers to staff our table. It is worth attending, at least, to check in on projects, products, and techniques as well as promote our hobby.



## *Maritime Matters of the Month*

- [The Wellington Trust: Ships in Miniature: A Brief Overview of the Ship Model from 1800 BC to the Present. Lecture by Simon Stephens, Curator of the Ship Model and Boat Collections at The National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, U.K.](#)



Fig. 5. Mr. Simon Stephens inspecting a ship model at the National Maritime Museum, UK. (National Maritime Museum, UK)

Here is an interesting talk on the history of ship models by **Simon Stephens** of the National Maritime Museum in the UK illustrated with models from their collections. Mr. Stephens is also the author and coauthor of several books on the history of ship models, particularly **Ship Models: Their Purpose and Development from 1650 to the Present (with Brian Lavery)**, **Navy Board Ship Models (with Nick**

**Ball)**, and **Ship Models (The Thomson Collection at the Art Gallery of Ontario)** all of which contain exquisite photographs of ship models in UK and Canadian maritime museums.

Especially interesting in this talk is Mr. Stephens' account of his pioneering work on using flexible medical fiberoptic endoscopes to non-destructively inspect the interiors of antique models often revealing details and even notes from the model builders that have not been seen for centuries. Here is the link on YouTube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2iVZ8KE\\_pE&t=16s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2iVZ8KE_pE&t=16s)

- **The Best Navy Movies.**



Fig. 6. Seafaring at the Movies. (VectorStock.com)

Richard Walton sent me a most interesting link to a listing of the 10 best Navy movies of all time. Here is the link to this article.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/movies/news/the-10-best-navy-films-to-ever-be-released/ss-AA10w7G0?ocid=msedgdhp&pc=U531&cvid=4b44d9574b4e40b59daa62e71d9aa25c>

And here is a brief reiteration of that list from the above link. However, I noted an absence of some very iconic movies in this list, so I have added a few more to round it out. I have also rearranged the list into chronological order of release to add some historical context.

It is useful to think about what the real world was like when these movies were released. That included the anxieties and sufferings of the lead up to WW2 and then the efforts to rebuild that really took almost all of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century fueling the great economy of that time. I will also admit I have seen only most, but not all of these movies.

## (1) Mutiny on the Bounty (1935) and (1962)



Fig. 7. (MGM)

Classic movies about the tensions leading to the mutiny against Captain William Bligh in 1789 on board **HMS Bounty**. The movie is based on the 1932 novels of that title by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall. In the first movie, Charles Laughton portrayed Captain Bligh and Clark Gable was cast as Fletcher Christian. The 1962 movie cast Trevor Howard as Bligh and Marlon Brando as Fletcher Christian.

While the 1935 movie received rave reviews and was a financial success, the 1962 movie was a bomb. Seems the 1935 movie set the expectations and the later film was not able to meet them. Also, Marlon Brando was reported to have difficult behavior problems and turned in a less than convincing performance.

A full-size operating replica of the **Bounty** was built for the 1962 movie. The ship was used as a tourist attraction and in a number of movies afterwards and spent summers at the Fall River Heritage State Park, MA and winters in St. Petersburg, FL. Sadly, she was sunk by Hurricane Sandy on October 29, 2012 with the loss of her captain and another crew member.

Because of the fame of this event generated by these movies and novels as well as the existence of contemporary plans, many model companies have come out with some version of the **Bounty** in their catalogues. Another tidbit is that some years ago, I walked by an old apartment house in Lambeth, London across the street from the Imperial War Museum with a plaque saying Capt. Bligh lived here!

## (2) Captain Blood (1935) and Sea Hawk (1940)



Fig. 8. Warner Bros.

These classic swashbuckling thrillers established the handsome Errol Flynn as the classic man of action and adventure. In **Captain Blood**, Flynn plays a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Irish physician sold into slavery for treating a man who joined a rebellion against the English Catholic King James II. Blood and some fellow slaves are sent to the West Indies where they manage to escape and become pirates. After the overthrow of James II in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, Blood is commissioned into the

Royal Navy, fights more dramatic battles and wins the heart of his paramour, Arabella Bishop, played by Olivia de Havilland (who only died in 2020 at the amazing age of 104).

**Sea Hawk** is another extension of the swashbuckler genre with Flynn cast as Geoffrey Thorpe, an English privateer captain during the time just before the attempted invasion of the Spanish Armada (1588). Thorpe and his crew are captured during an ambush while trying to raid a Spanish treasure fleet in Panama. **And, here we go again!**, Thorpe and his surviving crew are sentenced to be galley slaves. Of course, they are eventually able to escape and seize a Spanish ship that contains the strategic plans for the Armada. Thorpe then fights his way back to England where he brings these plans to Queen Elizabeth I convincing her she should build a fleet to counter the Spanish. The rest, as they say, is history.

### (3) Captain Horatio Hornblower (1951)



Fig. 9. Warner Bros.

Another swashbuckler this time based on the 1938 Hornblower novels of **C.S. Forester**. These are set in the time of the Napoleonic Wars. Captain Hornblower is portrayed by Gregory Peck as a Nelson-like figure who invades a Spanish harbor where four French ships are anchored. Hornblower disables all of the ships and blocks the harbor by scuttling his ship at the entrance. They are then captured and transported to Paris to face piracy charges (where a guillotine awaits) but manage to escape (Of course!). After commandeering a captured British ship in the harbor of Nantes, they manage to sail back to England to a hero's welcome.

### (4) 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (1954)

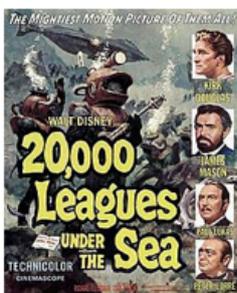


Fig. 10. Walt Disney

Classic Walt Disney portrayal of the **Jules Verne** novel from 1870. The Victorianized early industrial design of the **Nautilus** submarine by designer, **Harper Goff**, is now a pop culture icon. And there are many models of this version still available on the market and a number of RC models have also been built. James Mason authoritatively played Captain Nemo and Kirk Douglas was Ned Land, a master harpooner who was Nemo's protagonist.

### (5) The Caine Mutiny (1954)



Fig. 11. Columbia Pictures

The classic story, by **Herman Wouk**, of an executive officer of a US destroyer during WW2 who removes his captain from command for incompetence. The exec and others are later tried for mutiny. But the captain, Philip Queeg, portrayed by Humphrey Bogart, inadvertently reveals his mental instability during the trial, and the accused mutineers are exonerated.

### (6) Moby Dick (1956)

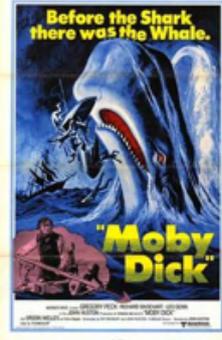


Fig. 12. Warner Bros.

While not a military drama, this classic movie version of the 1851 Herman Melville novel makes for an interesting telling about Captain Ahab, a whaling ship captain single mindedly and insanely determined to get revenge on a monster white whale that bit off his leg during a prior voyage. His fixation eventually leads to self-destruction of Ahab, himself, and the ship and crew he commands. Gregory Peck convincingly portrays the obsessive Captain Ahab and Richard Basehart is the seaman, Ishmael, who narrates the tale. Queequeg,

portrayed by Friedrich von Ledebur, is a fatalistic and inscrutable stereotyped Pacific Island nomadic aborigine (descriptive enough?) who obliquely foresees a bad future. On the other hand, why blame the white whale. Wasn't he just instinctively doing his whale thing?

This story was later adapted into the low budget **2010: Moby Dick** sea monster movie about a super-sized white whale that goes around sinking ships and killing their crews. The whale monster probably kept thinking "Oh Yum, Free Food!". And the poster looks like a rip of "Jaws".

## (7) Run Silent, Run Deep (1958)



Fig. 13. United Artists

Prominently starring Burt Lancaster and Clark Gable, the captain of an American sub sunk by an Imperial Japanese submarine seeks to sink the enemy submarine responsible for the initial sinking, but puts the crew at risk in his efforts. Quite a thrilling portrayal, actually.

## 8) Sink the Bismarck! (1960)



Fig. 14. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox

This is my favorite sea chase movie of all time. All the more remarkable given that the special effects had to be done with models without the benefit of CGI. I saw it in the theater as a school boy when it was first released and was very impressed. I'm also surprised that an updated version has not yet been made as it is such a compelling drama. Anyway, this movie launched a whole generation of a gazillion model kits of **Bismarck** and **Hood** making for a perpetually self-sustaining cottage industry of battleship models. The tonnage displacement of all the models and kits made now probably exceeds that of the original ships! Some of the movie scenes are posted on YouTube.

This was probably the first demonstration in open warfare of the vulnerability of surface ships to aircraft attack since Billy Mitchell's 1921 demonstration sinking of the **Ostfriesland**. This vulnerability was massively confirmed by the British, again, at the **Battle of Taranto (November, 1940)** and by the Imperial Japanese at the **Pearl Harbor (1941)** attack and so forth again and again throughout WW2. Even more amazing was that none of the very slow attacking Swordfish torpedo bombers were even shot down in the actual engagement despite the **Bismarck** and its accompanying ship, **Prinz Eugen**, being well endowed with anti-aircraft armament of the time (The movie shows, falsely, a Swordfish being shot down).



## (12) Midway (1976)

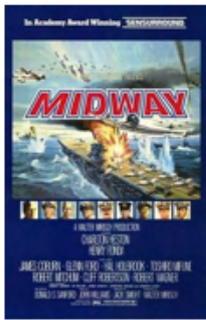


Fig. 18. Universal Pictures

Another sprawling movie account, like Tora! Tora! Tora!, this time of the battle of Midway. Actually, many of the scenes used were recycled from the earlier movie making for something of a cheap epic from an era before CGI. Some reviews criticized the movie as being confusing. But this was due to there being many units acting independently in the actual battle making the story hard for the audience to sort out. A preparatory reading about the battle in at least one of many books about it would be helpful. I read about it long ago in **Miracle at**

**Midway** by Gordon W. Prange, et al. Nowadays, good short accounts can also be found on Wikipedia and animated histories on YouTube.

Interestingly, the **Midway** movie was redone in 2019, but I do not recall seeing anything about it.

## (13) Das Boot (1981)

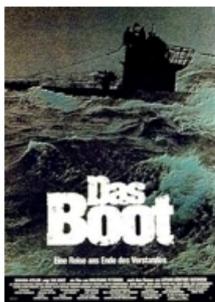


Fig. 19. Neue Constantin Film

Life at sea is hard, even in modern times. This drama from a 1973 novel by Lothar-Günther Buchheim about the adventures of a German U-boat crew in WW2 makes it look like they lived the lifestyle of a homeless encampment! At least it didn't come with Smellovision! But, anyway, War is Hell as General Sherman is credited with saying, and this movie shovels it out in gobs. There is lots of realistic action with the U-96 making the movie thrilling to watch. Also, Jürgen Prochnow is terrific as the captain. But, in the end, there is a sense that their courage and sacrifice is wasted fighting for a discredited and brutal ideology making for some strange juxtapositions.

This film was released in German with English subtitles as well as dubbed in English. I know some German from school days so I much preferred the German version which obviously had a much more authentic ring to it. The movie's director, Wolfgang Peterson, just died at age 81 on August 12.

#### (14) Top Gun (1986)



Fig. 20. Paramount Pictures

A fairly standard romance movie with Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis saved by spectacular aerobatics performed by aircraft and pilots from the Navy's **Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC)** now at NAS Fallon, NV and often known as **Top Gun**. (According to Wikipedia, mentioning the **Top Gun** moniker while on duty results in an immediate \$5 fine).

A sequel titled "**Top Gun: Maverick**"(2022) has just been released and is in the theaters now. Tom Cruise is again on duty, no doubt with the intervening years being helped with a great deal of hair coloring, plastic surgery, a crash diet, and maybe even CGI (Deepfake?!). No doubt about it, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDMVaQOvtxU> !!

#### 15) The Hunt for Red October (1990)



Fig. 21. Paramount Pictures

Based on the novel of the same title by author, **Tom Clancy**, about the efforts of the captain of a Soviet submarine, portrayed by Sean Connery, to defect. This was the first of several best-selling military novels by Clancy. I wonder if Connery still had hair when this movie was filmed or was his crewcut a toupée?

#### (16) Crimson Tide (1995)



Fig. 22. Buena Vista Pictures

A tense portrayal of a first officer played by Denzel Washington, staging a mutiny on board a nuclear submarine, **USS Alabama**, to prevent a trigger-happy captain (Gene Hackman) from launching nuclear missiles without orders.

### (17) K-19: The Widowmaker (2002)

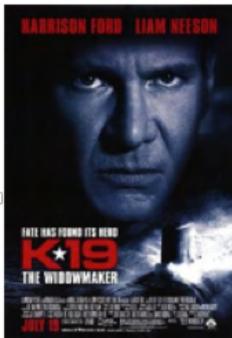


Fig. 23. Paramount Pictures

Harrison Ford plays the captain of the first Soviet nuclear submarine which suffered a reactor malfunction and near meltdown while at sea in 1960 at the height of the Cold War. In the actual incident, many of the crew suffered from acute radiation sickness and several eventually died while trying to contain the broken reactor.

### (18) Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (2003)



Fig. 24. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox

Adapted from the novels of **Patrick O' Brian** about naval warfare in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century age of sail with Russell Crowe as Captain Jack Aubrey. The ship used in the movie, **HMS Surprise**, is a modern replica fully operational sailing frigate now located at the **Maritime Museum of San Diego**. And no, this movie did not come from the **Far Side** cartoon strip!

There is a model kit of the **Surprise** from Mamoli available from Ages of Sail at 1:75 scale. And there was a real corvette named **HMS Surprise** originally built by the French and named **Unité**, but renamed after capture by the British in 1796. The Admiralty plans are in the Wikipedia posting.

This is only one of an infinite number of lists of favorite navy movies that are possible. The most recent such movie that I know of is **Greyhound (2020)** starring Tom Hanks which I have not seen. This list is a good place to start when you want some weekend entertainment but need a break from model building.

I also tried to find any movies about the **Battle of Jutland (1916)** but could only find a 2016 centenary TV documentary called **The Battle of Jutland: The Navy's Bloodiest Day**. I'm surprised there is so little on this key event. But YouTube and Wikipedia have a bunch of documentary stuff. And many more mostly plastic model kits of the ships involved are now available.

If you feel another movie should be on this list and did not get consideration, please let me know and I can check into it in the future. I do not mean it to be complete as of now. I just picked the ones on Richard's list and added ones that I could remember.



## *Kit News (Ken Lum):*

For those looking for a real challenge, the **Syren Ship Model Company** (<https://syrenshipmodelcompany.com>) and the **NRG**, through the efforts of **Chuck Passaro**, is offering a very extensively developed **semi-scratch** 1/48 scale model kit of the 32 gun British frigate, **HMS Winchelsea (1764)** (Fig. 25 and 26).



Fig. 25. Completed model of *HMS Winchelsea* built from the Syren Ship Models kit. (Syren Ship Models)

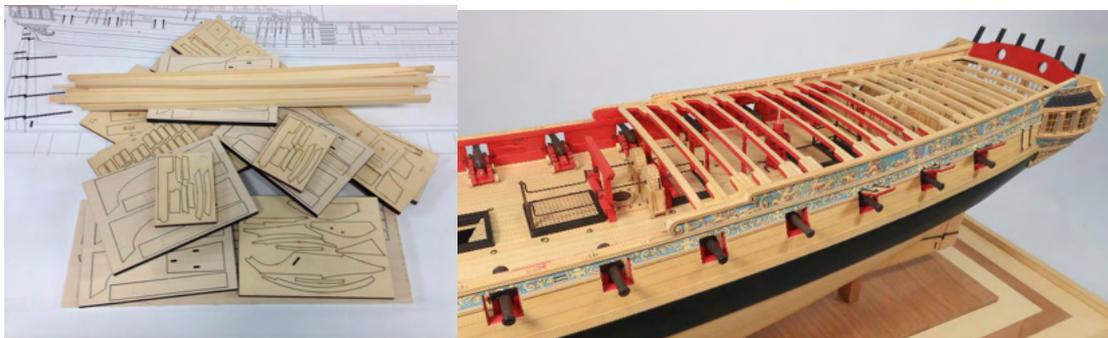


Fig. 26. (Left) A sample laser cut parts packet. (Right) Deck detailing on the partially finished unriggered model. (Syren Ship Models).

The model is based on a contemporary unriggered model of that name at the National Maritime Museum in the UK.

A full product description can be found here on the Syren Ship Model website:

<https://syrenshipmodelcompany.com/hms-winchelsea-1764.php>

A group project has been launched on the **Model Ship World** forum (<http://modelshipworld.com/>) to provide help and encouragement in the building of this model. There is a link in the above webpage showing how to join.

This is a large plank-on-bulkhead kit of 38" length consisting of multiple installment parts packets of laser cut Alaska Yellow Cedar that can be purchased individually when they are needed. A downloadable instruction manual is available as well from the website. The plans are available only if you join the group project and must be downloaded and printed at a printing shop like Kinko's. Much of the fittings are supposed to be scratch built so this model is to serve as a bridge between kit building and scratch building.

A similar 1/48 scale model of a single-masted cutter, ***Cheerful (1806)*** is also available. At this scale, these models can be fairly large for the typical home. **Vanguard Models** offers the frigate, ***HMS Sphinx (1775)*** and cutter, ***HMS Alert (1777)*** in a similar pairing at the smaller 1/64 scale if so desired and appear to be superb kits.



## *Methods to Our Maritime Madness*

### • **YouTube Modelling Videos of the Month.**



## The Nautical Research Guild

Here are a couple of useful video workshops from March 26. The first one is on:

(1) **Painting a Waterline** *presented by Kurt Van Dahm*

<https://www.thenrg.org/events/workshops/waterline>



Fig. 27. Title slide of Kurt Van Dahm's video workshop on painting waterlines (NRG).

And the second one is on:

(2) **Sharpening Slitting Saw Blades** *presented by Bob Filipowski*

<https://www.thenrg.org/events/workshops/sharpening>



Fig. 28. Title slide of Bob Filipowski's video workshop on sharpening small mini-table saw blades (NRG).

Both require NRG membership with Email and Password to access.



## *Under Construction at the Model Shipyard*

A considerable discussion about paper models this month!



Fig. 29. Clare Hess and George Sloup discussing paper models with George's *Papegojan* paper model in front. The camera flash seems to have given the main mast a very bright running light!



Fig. 30. Close up of the deck fittings on the *Papegojan* model.

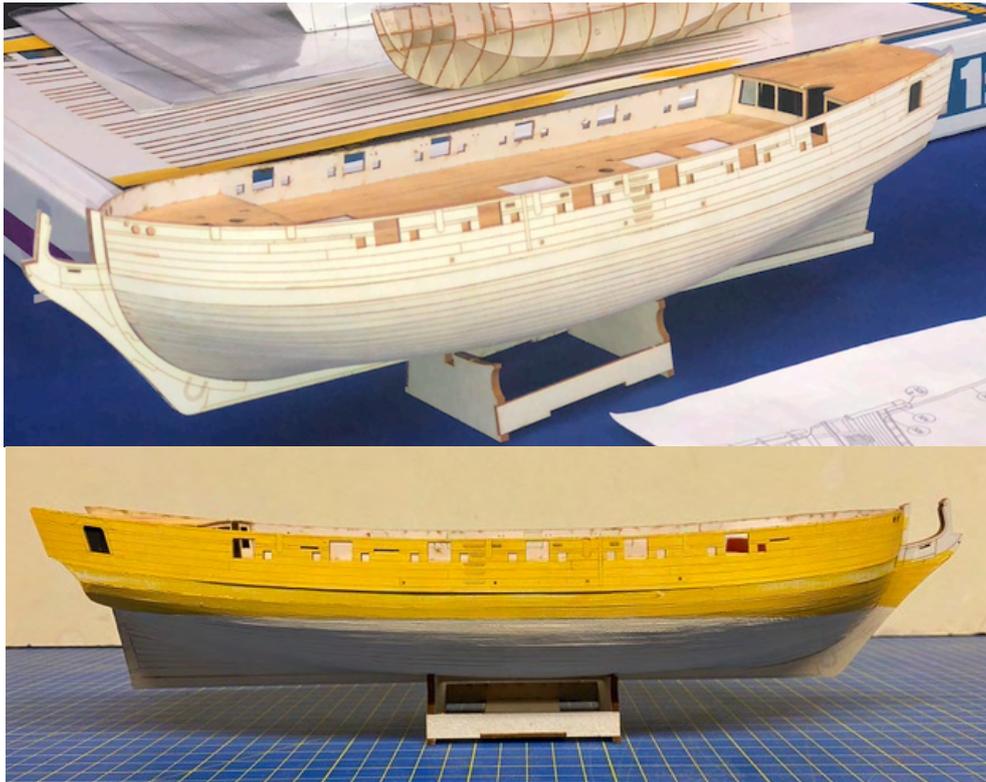


Fig. 31. Clare Hess's paper model of *HMS Wolf* by Shipyard. A model for the dog days of August, no doubt!

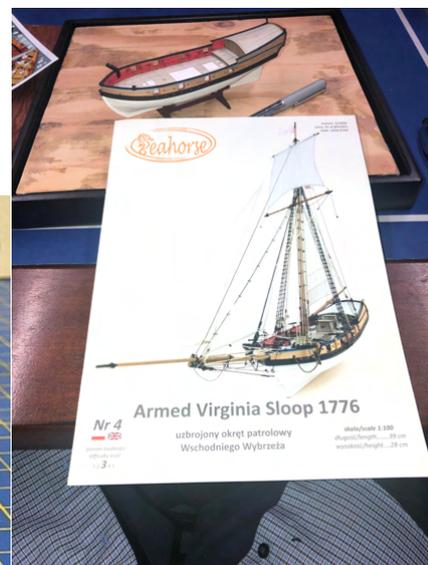


Fig. 32. A paper model by Clare Hess of an **Armed Virginia Sloop** from another Polish paper model company called **Seahorse** (<https://seahorse.pl/en/>).

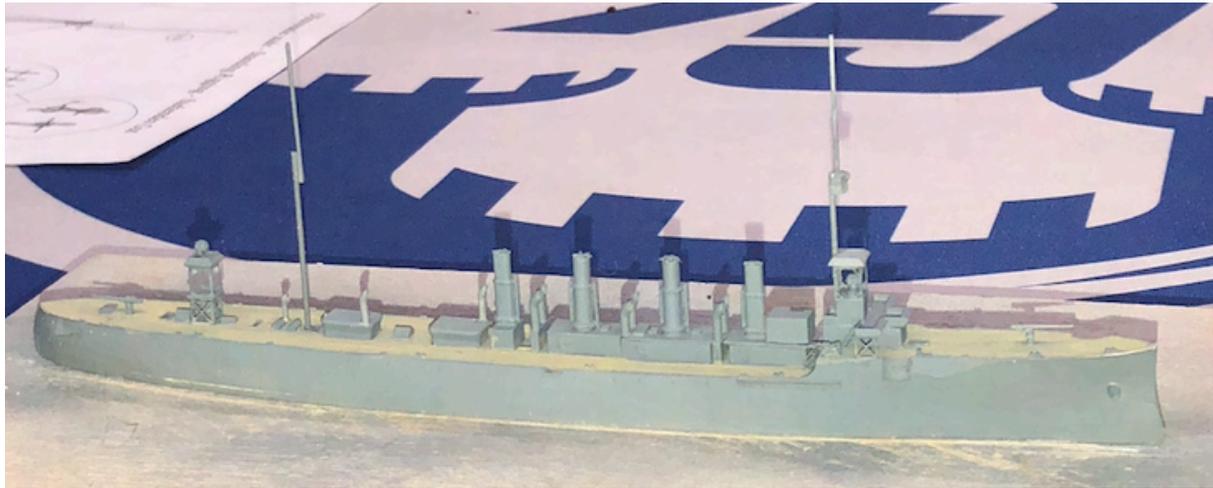


Fig. 33. More progress on Jacob Cohn's 1/700 *USS Salem from Kombrig*.



## *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>



## **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 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