

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

The Foghorn

May 2023



Fig.1. Sink the **Bismarck!** The battle cry from the most famous battleship engagement in history. The **Bismarck** will forever be coupled with **HMS Hood** (below) which she sank on this month, May 24, 1941. **Bismarck**, herself, was sunk May 27, 1941 when she was chased down by the Royal Navy during the **Battle of the Denmark Strait**. (Picture: *Süddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy Stock Photo*). Look at the smoke plume from its gun discharge!

The very successful 1960 movie of the same title inspired and continues to inspire so many model kits of **Bismarck** and **HMS Hood** that I cannot help but think that the total tonnage of ship model kits of these two ships now likely exceeds the displacement tonnage of the original ships!





Future Course Headings...

- **Upcoming SBMS meetings for June. In-person mtg. Saturday, June 10, 2 PM at the Game Kastle; Zoom mtg. Thursday, June 22, 7PM.** We had a wonderful meeting of 6 of us at the Game Kastle with **Walt Hlavacek** starting up with a paper model of a Dutch East India Company ship, **Duyfken**, which carried the first European explorers to their first encounter with the continent of Australia in 1606. A new member, **Jerry Cook**, joined us to show us a kit of **John Smith's Shallop**. It has a very interesting method of assembly as illustrated below. Prez. **Jim Rhetta** showed how he was closing in on finishing his **La Candelaria** bomb ketch model (Fig. 2).



Fig.2. Completed model of the bomb ketch, **La Candelaria** by **Jim Rhetta** from an Occre kit.

Clare Hess made further progress on his Japanese-American fishing boat and started on a new kit of a **Venetian gondola**. **Ken Lum** described a method for cutting small blocks of wood on a table saw safely and described a new ship model company from China, **Cafmodel**, which has passed the criteria of being fully licensed for the use of its sources. So no more piracy on the small seas! More on all of this below.

Our **Saturday, June 10 in-person** meeting from **2PM-4PM** will, as usual, be at:

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

And our **Zoom meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 22**, starting at **7 PM**. The Zoom specs will be sent out just before the meeting so keep an eye on your inboxes. Hope to see you all there!

- **Upcoming Online NRG Workshops**



The Nautical Research Guild

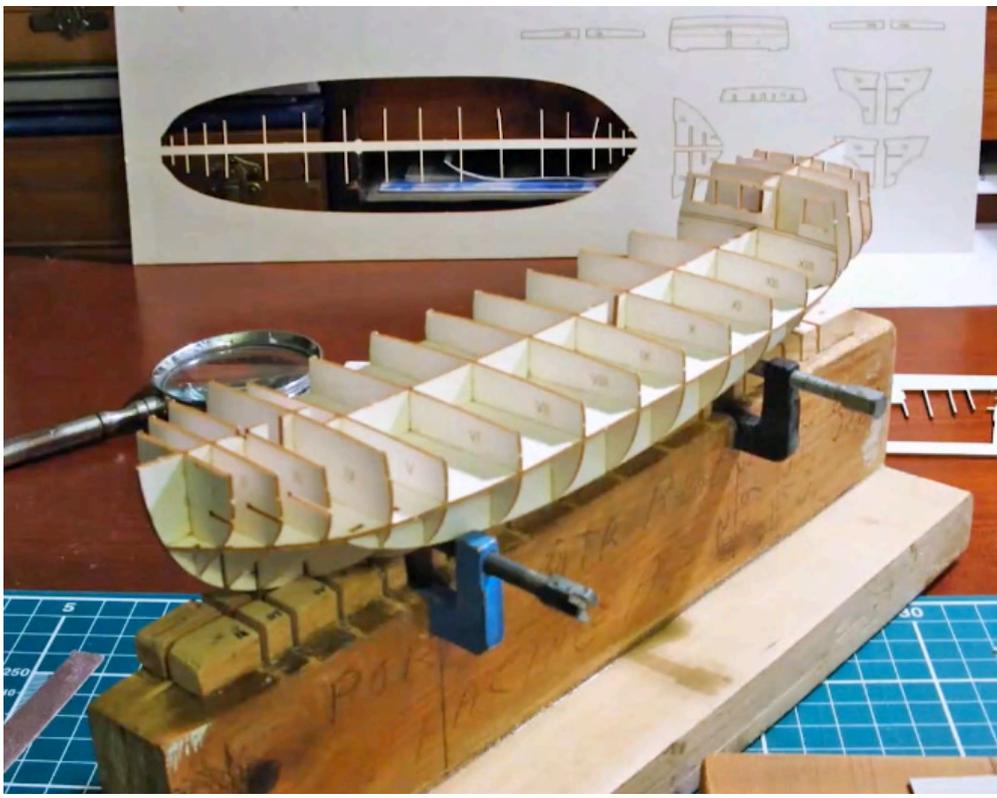


Fig. 3. Card ship model under construction. (NRG).

The NRG has announced a series of very interesting **online workshops** relevant to ship modelling. They are **open only to NRG members** so if you are not now a member, I would take this as a good excuse to join this marvelous organization by registering at the NRG website (<https://thenrg.org>) and make a contribution to keeping it afloat(!).

All the workshops are broadcast on **Zoom** on **Saturday mornings** at 10:30 AM Central time (**8:30 AM Pacific time**). All of them are being recorded, and the recordings will be accessible on the NRG website to members only. The dates and topics of the upcoming workshops are below:

March 18 and April 15: Paper models (Fig. 3). This two-part workshop on paper models by the **Society of Model Shipwrights** in the U.K. has already been completed, and both have been recorded. The recordings can be found at:

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

Our own **Clare Hess** has a brief presentation as part of the second session.

June 17: Diorama Watercrafting presented by **Ron Neilson**.

July 15: Online Resources in Nautical Research presented by **Paul Fontenoy**.

There is no registration necessary if you are an NRG member. The **NRG Secretary, J. D. Bondy** (jdbondy007@gmail.com), will send out the Zoom link to all members near the time of the event. Any further inquiries can be sent to Mr. Bondy or to the **Office manager, Mary Van Dahm** (nrghomeoffice@gmail.com). Other previous workshops have also been recorded and can be accessed by NRG members on the NRG website at: <https://thenrg.org/events/workshops>.



Maritime Matters of the Month

- **3D Scans of RMS Titanic.** One Hundred and eleven years after her sinking, *RMS Titanic* continues to make news. This time, the firms of **Magellan Ltd**, an ocean mapping company, and **Atlantic Productions**, a documentary film company, have sent two submersible remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) down to the wreck and obtained the most accurate digital photographic survey of the remains yet. The more than 700,000 photos obtained have been assembled with computer aid into a high-resolution 3D rendition that can be explored virtually (Fig. 4).

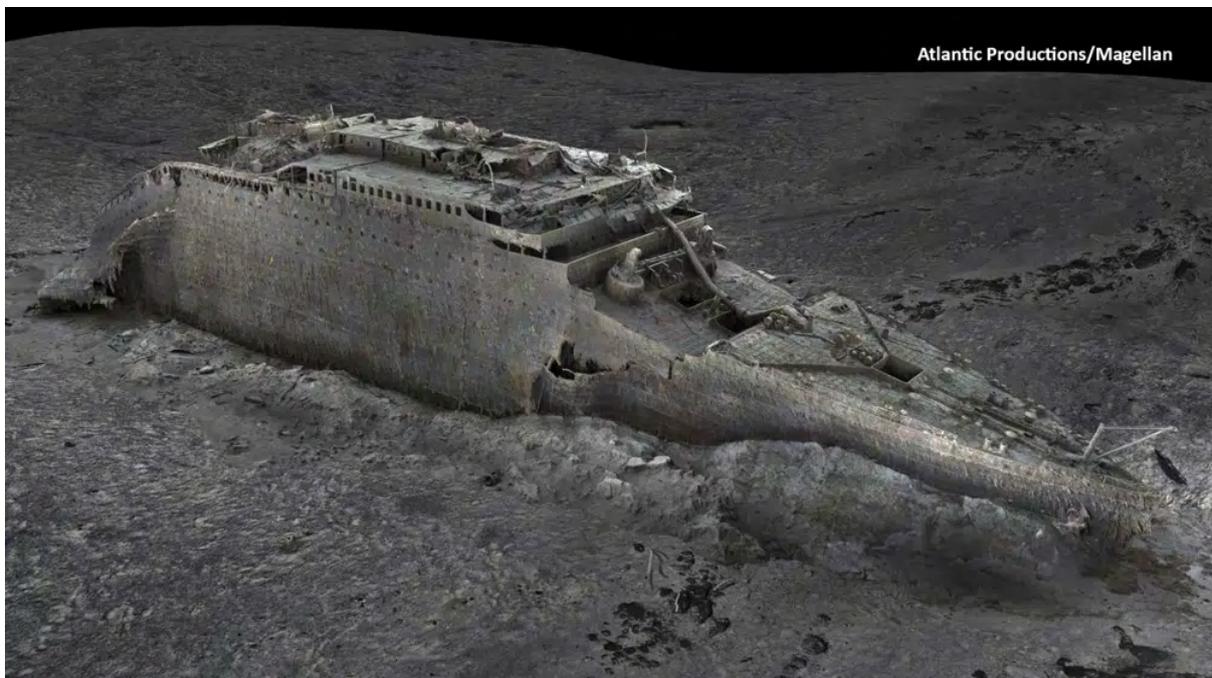


Fig. 4. Sample digital rendition of the bow/midships section of the wreck of *RMS Titanic*. (Courtesy Atlantic Productions/Magellan)

RMS Titanic sank April 15, 1912 in the north Atlantic after colliding with an iceberg just south of Newfoundland, Canada. Over 1,500 passengers and crew perished in one of the worst peacetime transportation disasters in history. The wreck was located by a team led by **Robert Ballard** in 1985 and surveyed with the best photographic technology of the time. *Titanic* was found to have broken into separate bow/midships and stern sections that formed two enormous main debris fields separated by 2,600 ft at a depth of 12,500 ft.

Up until now, the Ballard survey, made up of mosaics of thousands of hard copy photographs, was the only comprehensive survey available. From this, artist **Ken Marschall**, produced the best overall large-scale

artistic view of the wreck which was published by National Geographic. However, these types of manual surveys have now been superseded by more sophisticated digital surveys which are not only much more accurate, but enable the viewer to explore the wreck virtually. The work with the ROVs was done over 6 weeks last summer of 2022, and the latest results have just been released.

An excellent narrated 32-minute video of these results can be found on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNWeUm0WnNw&t=1491s>

Not surprisingly, the images reveal the ship to be slowly corroding away. In the centuries to come, aside from the few conserved artifacts retrieved, *RMS Titanic* will be reduced to gigantic piles of rust. And so, this project is essential to preserving our memory of this iconic vessel.



Kit News (Ken Lum):

- **Cafmodel, a new ship model kit company.** While recently perusing through some Nautical Research Journals, I found an intriguing ad in the **NRJ special 2022 issue** for a Chinese model kit company named **Cafmodel** (Fig. 5). The company offers what look like very good kits of ships, nautical accessories, and historically significant Chinese buildings in a way that looks similar to what the Japanese firm of Woody Joe does. Given that these Chinese companies have had issues with licensing and piracy of source material, the NRG has recommended not buying from them (see November, 2022 Foghorn).

Nonetheless, Mary Van Dahm of the NRG has said that Cafmodel, specifically, seems legitimate at the present time, and she has said it is alright to buy their products. Hence the ad in the NRJ. Looking at their offerings, their models look like what was offered by ZHL, a model firm which the NRG has previously proscribed. In any case, I will take it on Mary Van Dahm's word that Cafmodel is now clear of questionable activities, and discussion of Cafmodel products is also permitted on the **Model Ship World** forum.



Fig. 5. The Home page of the **Cafmodel.com** website (Cafmodel).

In looking at their offerings on their website at: <https://www.cafmodel.com> it would seem they offer very high-quality kits done in the Admiralty style of ship model building, typically at 1/48 scale. Some of these models, such as the **HMS Bellona** 74-gun ship-of-the-line build up into a very large model that might require a prohibitively large space for display in some people's homes, even without rigging. But the smaller offerings such as the model of **HMS Granado** bomb ketch (Fig. 6) seem to be of much more manageable size.



Fig. 6. Box art for the model of **HMS Granado**. (Cafmodel)

In addition to their ship model kits, other maritime offerings include finely carved boxwood figureheads that can be used on ship models or displayed on their own with decorative frames. The photos of these appear to be very exquisitely done (Fig.7). Clare Hess tells us that these are carved by CNC machines and can be scaled to whatever scale the customer wants. The sample ***HMS Royal William*** figurehead below could be used on the Euromodel kit of the ***Royal William*** that is offered at 1/72 scale.



Fig.7. CNC-carved boxwood figurehead for the ***HMS Royal William***. (Cafmodel)

I recommend that all take some time to explore their website to look at their products. They look very good. And we can only hope that Xi Jinping's political machinations will not end up cutting off access to these kits.



Methods to Our Maritime Madness

- **Safely cutting small wood parts on full-size woodworking machines.** As model makers, we sometimes have occasion to cut small blocks of wood on full-sized woodworking machines such as table saws. Doing this, however, is risky business as our fingers can come dangerously close to the saw blade.

This situation can be greatly improved by gluing the small subject piece to a larger piece of scrap $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood so as to enable the plywood to be used as a handle to feed the subject piece into the saw blade with your hands being at a safer distance. Then, the subject piece can be separated from the plywood for use after the cut. A scrap plywood piece of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " thickness is recommended as thinner plywood can lead to vibrations during cutting making for a defective cut.

But gluing the two pieces of wood together is a problem as the glue joint can be stronger than the wood itself making the separation process difficult and risking tearing of the wood surfaces. This problem is best solved by gluing a piece of paper (say some old newsprint) between the wood pieces (Fig. 8 and 9). Then the glue joint is strong enough to allow the wood to be accurately cut, but weak enough to be easily separated using a chisel to leverage the pieces apart or using a vise to hold the subject piece down while the scrap plywood is pulled off. This leaves some paper on the surface of the subject piece which can easily be sanded off (Fig.10).



Fig. 8. **Left**-gluing piece of paper onto surface of small subject wood piece. **Right**-then gluing the small subject wood piece to a larger piece of $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood with the paper sandwiched in the glue joint and making the needed cut with your hands safely away from the saw blade.



Fig.9. Cross-cuts can also be made in this way as well. It is done here on a cross-cut sled.



Fig.10. **Upper left**-the subject piece of walnut is clamped to a vise under the plywood. **Upper right**-the scrap plywood is pulled off the subject piece in the vise with the separation going through the paper. **Bottom**-the left-over paper is sanded off the subject piece.



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard



Fig. 11. **Jerry Cook**, a new member, came to show his efforts with a model of **Captain John Smith's Shallop** model from the Ukrainian kit maker, **Pavel Nikitin**. The assembly method looks like a modification of **Harold Hahn's** modeling technique for his Admiralty style models of American Colonial vessels.

Model builder, **Olha Batchvarov**, has posted a series of videos on YouTube showing a step-by-step unboxing and assembly of this model. The kit has an extensive inventory of parts and seems to have very good plans and instructions despite its small size..

UNBOXING - Captain John Smith's SHALLOP

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qymcF3Zc0g>

#1 Captain John Smith's shallop - scale 1:32 (KIT made in Ukraine)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5MvmvYbZtE&t=1181s>

#2 Captain John Smith's shallop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ndm9XaWIJYM&t=742s>

#3 Captain John Smith's shallop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H8LuKsUv5c&t=36s>

#4 Captain John Smith's shallop

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

#5 Captain John Smith's shallop

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

#6 Captain John Smith's shallop

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj8D0VNMRAE&t=726s>

#7 Captain John Smith's shallop - Installing SAILS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ffdVZ7_xTfU



Fig. 12. Clare Hess has taken over a very well made, but unfinished **Mamoli/Dusek** model of a 17th Century Yacht *Mary* from a prior owner with the intent of finishing it.



Fig. 13. Clare Hess has also started in on the new **Amati** model of a **Venetian Gondola**.



Fig. 14. With all the developing hubbub concerning paper models, **Walt Hlavacek** looks like he's jumping into a paper model of the Dutch East India Company ship, **Duyfken**, which carried the first European explorers to Australia in 1606. He looks like he's making good progress! Amazing to think the early explorers made such lengthy voyages in such small and rickety ships.



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



Annual Club Membership

Send in your Club Membership fee with the 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. Mostly, we use the money to pay for our in-person meeting venues and hosting of our website.. Welcome Aboard!

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