

South Bay Model Shipwrights

Founded by Jean Eckert 1982

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

The Foghorn

December 2023

Merry Christmas!



Fig. 1. Team SBMS engaging in Fine Dining at Chef Chu's on December 13, 2023. From front clockwise we have: Vikas Kapur, Prez Jim Rhetta, Web Master Jim Tortorici, VP Ken Lum (with the Vulcan salute), Loh-chung Lum, Harbor Master George Sloup, Clare Hess, Sherle Frost, and Walt Hlavacek (in Santa cap). Hmm... Yum!

Seas and Greetings!





Future Course Headings...

Oh, it was such a nice Christmas Holiday Party!(Fig.1) And this year's party was most especially blessed with some free ship model kits delivered by **Prez Jim Rhetta** from a generous patron from Hawaii, **Laura Rogers**, who gave us the kits that once belonged to her late husband. She is happy they have found good homes. I can only hope our intrepid little group of model builders will have many more parties like it into the future and be around long enough to finish these models! Our most sincere thanks to Laura R.! And, finally, let us not forget the outstanding food of **Chef Chu's**! It has been suggested that we have another such party in mid-summer, and we will keep that in mind!

With the coming of the New Year, we can start to look towards a new slew of fun events chock full of model building! Those upcoming events will include:

- **In-person SBMS meeting, Saturday, January 13, 2024, 2 PM.** Our first event of the New Year will be on Saturday, **January 13, 2024, 2 PM**, when the SBMS will hold its first **In-person** club meeting. As usual, it will be held at:



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

Fig. 2. Storefront of Game Kastle in Santa Clara.

So bring your newest projects and Holiday gifts to show and tell.

- **Thursday, January 21, 7 PM: Monthly Zoom meeting.** Keep an eye on your inbox for the Zoom specs. **Happy Holidays!**

•IPMS Silicon Valley Classic convention, Saturday, June 15, 2024.



Fig. 3. Models entered by SBMS members in the recent 2023 **IPMS Tri-City Classic** model convention in Fremont. Left to Right: Fishing cutter, *Dana*, American Gunboat, *Arrow*, HM Schooner, *Pickle*. Close up photos of these models in the **November Foghorn**. (Jacob Cohn)

Next year's **IPMS Modeling Convention** will be held at an earlier date of **Saturday, June 15**. As like 2023, this convention will be held at:

Fremont Elks Lodge
38991 Farwell Dr.
Fremont, CA

This year, **Jacob Cohn** and **Clare Hess** won prizes for the superb models they entered in the **IPMS Tri-Valley Classic** convention (Fig. 3). **Hurray, Clare and Jacob!!** Like the Silicon Valley Scale Modelers convention of past years, this should be a really fun event with lots of models of everything made mostly from plastic, but other materials also being welcome. The SBMS will have a display table devoted to our hobby of ship model building so we will need complete and in-progress ship models for display as well as volunteers to staff the table! More on this event later come the Spring.



Maritime Matters of the Month (Ken Lum)

• **SBMS needs a new webmaster.** Just to remind everyone that we still need a new webmaster to manage our club website. After many years of conscientiously setting up and maintaining the SBMS website (Fig. 4) at:

<http://www.sbmodelships.com>

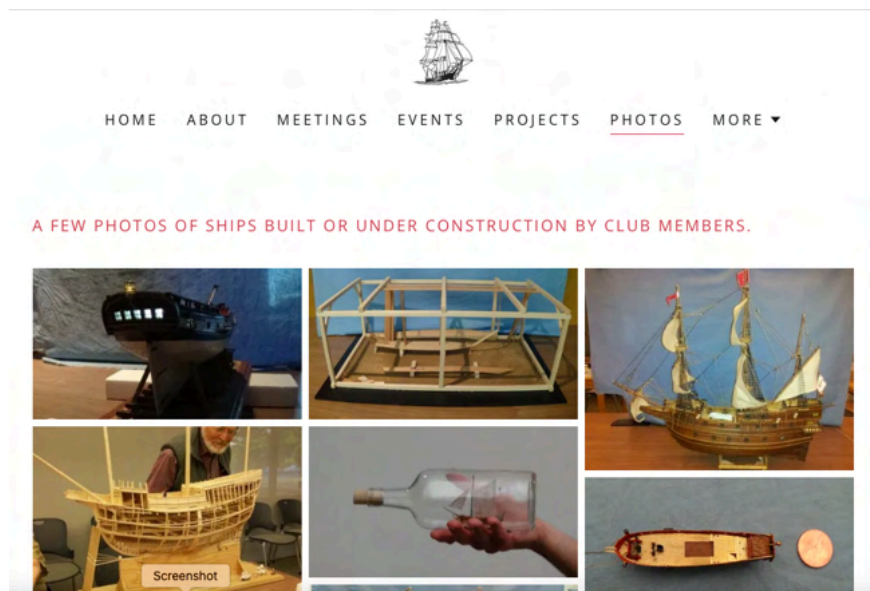


Fig. 4. The Gallery page of the SBMS website. So many beautiful models over the years!

Jim Tortorici is desiring to pass this duty to another member beginning January, 2024. This website has brought in many inquiries about restoring damaged ship models over the years which has helped to keep the club treasury filled. **Thank you so much, Jim!**

Please check with Jim at: oday20@earthlink.net about getting oriented in working with this website, especially if you have experience with maintaining a such a thing. It is actually a very valuable club asset that has kept the public informed about our club! And don't worry. It is not at all like being a galley slave!



Maritime Books of Interest (Ken Lum):

- **New Books on Viking Ships.**

The receipt by Jacob Cohn and Ken Lum of new Viking ship kits from Laura R. in Hawaii has inspired me to look more deeply into the source material of these amazing ships from long ago. **Viking ships** are a perennially favorite subject of model builders due to their graceful lines and their simplicity of engineering making them perfect for beginners as a first modelling attempt. For the most part, our pictorial concept of these ships come from fairly lean original material made up mostly of a few ships, now heavily restored, that have been excavated from ceremonial grave sites, most notably the **Oseberg ship** and the **Gokstad ship** (Fig.5).



Fig. 5. Left-The **Oseberg** ship. Right-The **Gokstad** ship. (Viking Ship Museum, Oslo, Norway)

In addition, there are partial remains of five somewhat smaller boats known as the **Skuldelev ships** that were excavated in 1962 from a waterway near the town of **Roskilde** in **Denmark** (Fig. 6).



Fig.6. Two of the **Skuldelev ships**. Left-**Skuldelev 2**. Right- **Skuldelev 3**. (Roskilde Viking Ship Museum)

Other more fragmentary remains have also been excavated. These ship remains date from around **800 AD to the 1000s AD** and are now exhibited with associated artifacts in the [Viking Ship Museum, Oslo, Norway](#)

<https://www.visitoslo.com/en/activities-and-attractions/attractions/%3FTLp%3D181482%26The-Viking-Ship-Museum>

and the [Roskilde Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde, Denmark.](#)

<https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/en/>

Be aware that the Oslo museum is currently being remodeled and will be closed until sometime in 2025-26 in case you are thinking about a trip.

Another extremely useful contemporary source is the amazing depiction of the ships (Fig. 7) used by **William the Conqueror** and his army to conduct an amphibious invasion of Anglo-Saxon England from Normandy in **AD 1066** on the **Bayeux Tapestry** estimated to have been made around the **1070s AD**. This event was to influence the evolution of English culture and language in the most amazing ways all the way to our time.



Fig. 7. Some of the ships of the army of **William the Conqueror** on their way to invade Anglo-Saxon England.(Bayeux Museum)

As depicted, they clearly look to have been built using Viking shipbuilding methods and designs. The renditions show them to be decorated with dragon heads and shields on the bulwarks. They even show what the sails looked like. As an aside, remarkably, the tapestry also shows a rendering of the 1066 apparition of what is now known as **Halley's comet!** (Fig. 8)



Fig. 8. Portrayal of what is now known as **Halley's Comet** during its **1066 AD** apparition. The top caption says in Latin, **"ISTI MIRANT STELLA"** Translation: (They marveled at the star). It's amazing to think the astronomer, Edmund Halley, for whom this comet was later named, was still almost 700 years into their future! (Bayeux Museum)

Rarely do we have such a detailed contemporary account of such a major event from such a remote period of time. Having miraculously survived nearly a thousand years of turbulent events, this incredible 230 ft long artifact is now beautifully displayed in a [special museum](https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/)

<https://www.bayeuxmuseum.com/en/the-bayeux-tapestry/>

in the town of **Bayeux, France** just adjacent to the beaches of the D-Day Normandy landings of June 6, 1944. In such a place the weight of history is almost too unbearably felt.

For the model builder, past scholarly publications have been very useful. I have found these widely available sources to be particularly helpful. Of course, many other references can also be found.

Brøgger, A.W. and Shetelig, Haakon, The Viking Ships (1951)

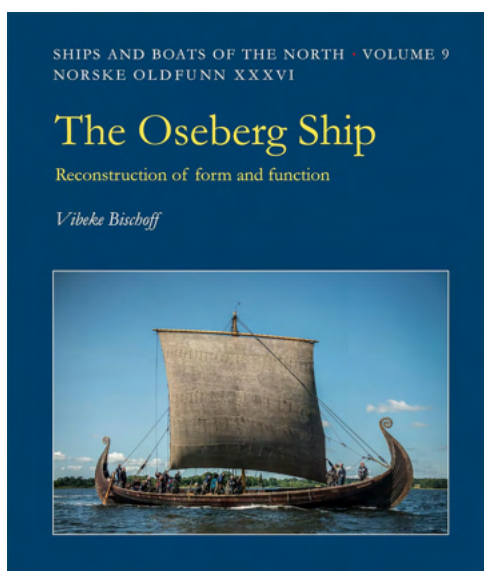
Sjøvold, Thorleif, The Oseberg Find (1976)

Dammann, Werner, Das Gokstadschiff und seine Boote (1983) (in German, incl. foldout plans)

Almgren, Bertil, et al, The Viking (1999)

Durham, Keith and Noon, Steve, Viking Longship, Osprey Publ. (2002)

And now, some updated books are available or that will be released this coming spring that will include new research that look very exciting. The first of these is:



The Oseberg Ship: Reconstruction of form and function by Vibeke Bischoff (2024). Price: \$60.

This book is a very welcomed update on the archeology of this famous Viking ship. Most especially, a replica of the ship was built in 1987 based on the ship as exhibited in Oslo which embarrassingly capsized and sank when it was tested for sea-worthiness!

A return to the drawing board introduced some modifications that were made to a second replica in 2012 which performed much more credibly. Hopefully, those modifications will be detailed in this book that will help model builders create more functionally

Fig. 9. The new upcoming book on this famous Viking ship. (Amazon)

accurate models.

Well known model kits of this ship are available from [Amati](#),

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/amati-viking-ship-am1406-01.html>

[Billing Boats](#),

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/billing-boats-ship-kits/all-ship-kits/billings-boat-oseberg-bb720.html>

and, more recently, the Ukrainian firm of [Pavel Nikitin](#).

<https://shipsopavelnikitin.com/details?id=3>

See below.

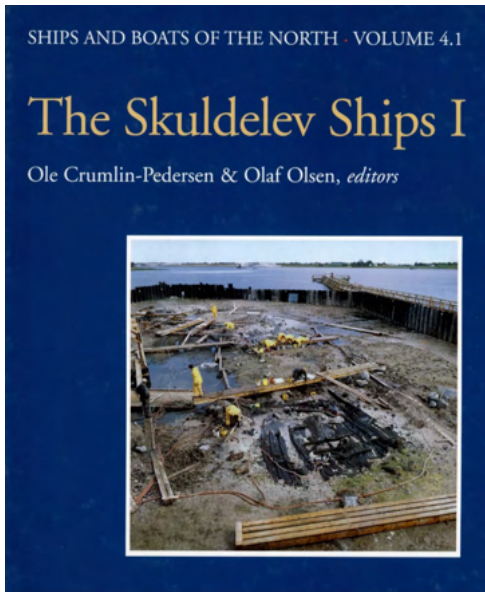


Fig.10. Book on the *Skuldelev ships*. (Amazon)

The *Skuldelev Ships I* by Ole Crumlin Pedersen and Olaf Olsen (2002). Price: \$83.

The second book is about five boats excavated from a waterway near **Roskilde, Denmark** in 1962. They seem to have been deliberately sunk to blockade the waterway perhaps to protect a settlement from attack. The numbered volume of this book suggests a second volume is forthcoming although this material may already be available in earlier printings in the scholarly journal, [Acta Archaeologica](#).

<https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/title/skuldelev-ships/author/olaf-olsen-ole-crumlin-pedersen/>

The excavated remains are now reassembled and on exhibit at the [Roskilde Viking Ship Museum](#), **Roskilde, Denmark**.

<https://www.vikingeskibsmuseet.dk/en/>

Replicas have also been constructed that can be taken out for excursions on the nearby waterway. **Billing Boats** offers a kit, named [Roar Ege](#), of one of these boats.

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/billing-boats-ship-kits/roar-ege-viking-ship---billing-boats-bb703.html>

Below are photos of the available kits of the **Oseberg** ship, the **Gokstad** ship and the **Roar Ege Skuldelev** ship.



Fig. 11. *Oseberg* Viking ship models. Left-1/50 model built as a SBMS group project from an [Amati](#) kit labeled as a '[Drakkar](#)'. Right-1/25 model from [Pavel Nikitin](#).



Fig. 12. 1/25 or 1/20 scale model of the *Oseberg* ship built from the [Billing Boats](#) kit. The stem decorations of this kit are molded plastic that look very good. A good paint job to make them look like wood is very feasible. (Finemodelships.com)

The model in Fig. 12 has many excellent closeup detail pictures on:

<https://www.modelships.de/Oseberg-Ship/Oseberg-Ship.htm>



Fig. 13. 1/35 scale model of the *Gokstad* Viking ship from [Dusek. \(Dusek\)](#) To my knowledge, this is the only decent wooden Gokstad ship kit that I can find.

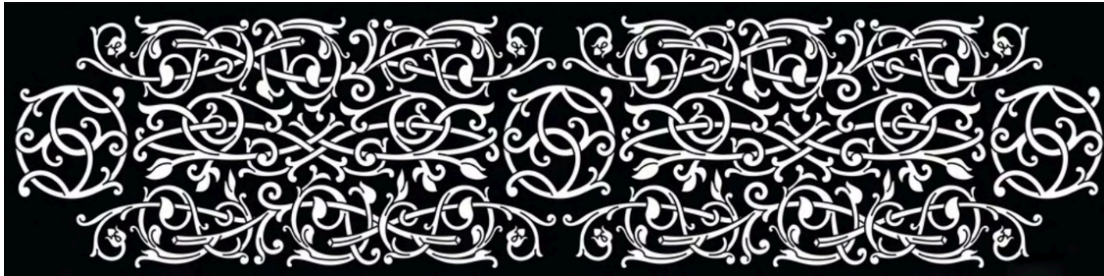


Fig. 14. 1/25 scale model of the *Skuldelev* Viking ship, *Roar Ege* from [Billing Boats](#) (Billing Boats)

There are other smaller kits available both in wood and plastic of Viking ships for anyone, irrespective of skill, to build such a model. But these appear to me the ones to consider for more experienced model builders. And all the ones illustrated above are available from [Ages of Sail](#).

<https://www.agesofsail.com>

Finally, [YouTube](#) and [Model Ship World](#) has many unboxing and build logs of all these kits.



- **New Book on the *Vasa* of 1628.**



Fig. 15. The reassembled remains of the 17th Century Swedish warship, *Vasa*, on display at the *Vasa Museum* in Stockholm, Sweden. (RIBWilson and the *Vasa Museum*)

Another famous Scandinavian ship of a much later era is now also

getting a new book. The **Vasa** (Fig. 15) was a 64-gun warship built in **1626-28** in **Stockholm, Sweden** under the orders of **King Gustavus Adolphus** as part of a military expansion meant for a war aimed at a **Poland-Lithuania** alliance. Unfortunately, the ship was somewhat top heavy, and it sank in Stockholm harbor on **August 10, 1628** during its maiden voyage when a moderate wind heeled her to port while the gun ports were open. Sea water poured in rapidly, and she sank to a depth of about 105 ft. with the loss of 30 people on board.

After the sinking, most of her bronze guns were salvaged, remarkable, given the diving technology of the time. An inquiry into the sinking was done to determine causes and responsibility, but no one was punished as some thought the King, himself, was ultimately responsible due to his haste in wanting her to put to sea as soon as possible. And then, the wreck was mostly forgotten.

It was not until 1961 when she was relocated by marine technician and amateur archaeologist, **Anders Franzen**. With the help of the Swedish Navy and the Swedish National Heritage Board, **Vasa** was raised, mostly intact, along with many artifacts, some human remains, most of the ship's decorations and even six of the ship's ten sails. She then underwent decades of conservation and final reassembly in the [Vasa Museum](https://www.vasamuseet.se/en)

<https://www.vasamuseet.se/en>

in **Stockholm, Sweden** where she is one of Sweden's most popular tourist attractions to this day being the most intact 17th Century ship to come down to our time. The sinking was a terrible loss for those of the past, but preserved this ship for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Since the recovery of the ship, there have been several good references worth looking at to learn about **Vasa**. These include:

Franzen, Greta (no relation to Anders Franzen), The Great Ship Vasa (1971) A good early account of the ship shortly after raising.

Franzen, Anders, The Warship Vasa, Deep Diving and Marine Archaeology in Stockholm (1974) Account from the ship's discoverer.

Landström, Bjorn, The Royal Warship Vasa (1980) Without a doubt, the most compelling artistic account of the ship. Landström is a book illustrator without peer. Available in English and Swedish. He is also the author of the beautiful 1961 book, **The Ship, An Illustrated History**. Maybe the best general illustrated history of ships ever.

Hocker, Fred, *Vasa, A Swedish Warship (2011)* A really beautiful and profusely illustrated color coffee table book on the ship.

The definitive account of the nautical archeology of the *Vasa* began to be published in 2006 with the release of:

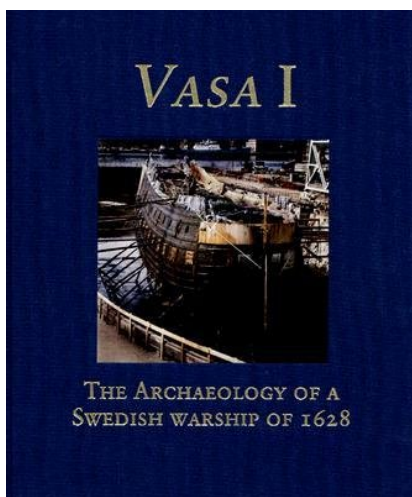


Fig. 16. **Cederlund, Carl Olof, et al, *Vasa I, The Archaeology of a Swedish Warship of 1628, Statens Maritima Museer (2006)*** In addition to a fine text and many archaeological photos, the back cover contains a folded complete set of plans for the hull.

And now the material on the ship's rigging is starting to come out in this **new volume.**

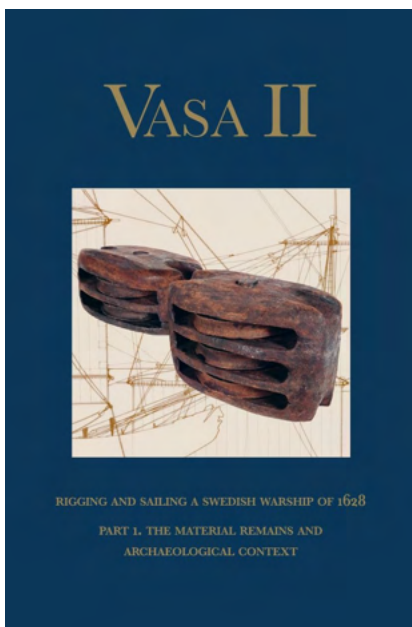


Fig. 17. **Hocker, Fred, ed., *Vasa II: Rigging and sailing a Swedish warship of 1628. Part 1. The material remains and archaeological context, Statens Maritima Museer (2024)*** I have read that this new book on the *Vasa's* rigging was released in November, but Amazon says it will start selling it on March 1, 2024. The title suggests the authors will now examine the remains of the ship's recovered rigging as a way to analyze how the ship was meant to be handled by its crew. I would suppose to hope that there is likely to be an updated rigging plan to come with this book.

It is of interest that this is also titled Part 1 of the second volume suggesting a future Part 2 to complete the series (?). But we will see and hope we all can live long enough to see it. Based on what I see of Volume 1, I suspect the final edifice will be monumentally magnificent! This could be the first contribution to research on 17th Century ship rigging since:

**Anderson, R.C., The Rigging of Ships, In the Days of the Spritsail
Topsail 1600-1720 (1927)**

**Anderson, R.C., Seventeenth-Century Rigging, A Handbook for
Model-Makers (1955)**

**Lees, James, The Mastng and Rigging of English Ships of War 1625-
1860 (1984)**

Not to mention books on crew handling of large square-rigged sailing ships of which there are several.

Given the fame and popularity of the **Vasa**, it is not surprising that there are several decent wood kits of this ship. I was able to identify kits by [Corel](#) (1/75)

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/corel-wasa-wood-ship-kit-model-sm-13.html>

, [Artesania Latina](#) (1/65)

[https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/swedish-warship-vasa-\(artesiania-latina,-1:65\).html](https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/swedish-warship-vasa-(artesiania-latina,-1:65).html)

, [Billing Boats](#) (1/75) (Fig. 18)

[https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/wasa-\(billing-boats,-1:75\).html](https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/wasa-(billing-boats,-1:75).html)

, and [Mantua](#) (1/60).

<https://www.agesofsail.com/ecommerce/mantua-wasa-ma737.html>

And like the Viking ships, all these kits are available from [Ages of Sail](#).



Fig. 18. The 1/75 scale model of *Vasa* Billing Boats (Billing Boats)

Finally, for reference purposes of builders in the Bay Area, there is an excellent model by the late **Charlie Parsons** on display at the [San Mateo Co. History Museum](https://historysmc.org) in downtown Redwood City (Fig. 19).

<https://historysmc.org>

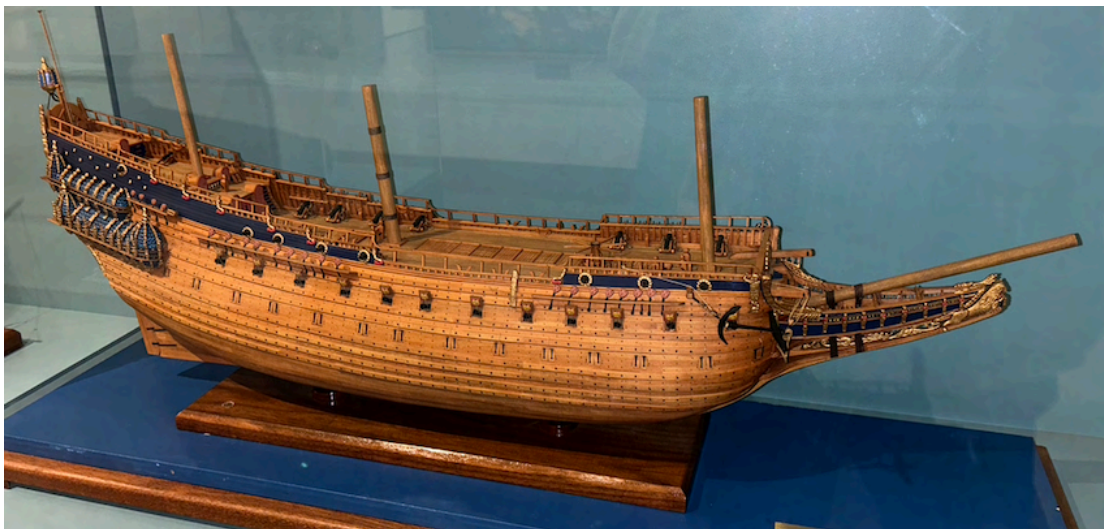


Fig. 19. Magnificent 1/70 scale unrigged scratch-built model of the *Vasa* by the late **Charlie Parsons** on display at the **San Mateo Co. History Museum**.



Under Construction at the Model Shipyard

Due to the Club Holiday Party, we did not have our usual show and tell in-person meeting with models in progress. But we will be back with models to display at our upcoming January 13 meeting. Happy New Year's Day for 2024!



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 (<http://www.sbmodelships.com>). 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

