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Shipwreck project finds remains of WWII aircraft carrier *Hornet*

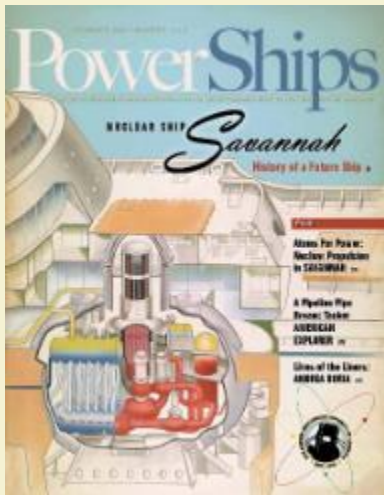
One of the most important aircraft carriers in WWII history has been located thanks to efforts from the crew of Paul Allen's R/V *Petrel*. The discovery of the USS *Hornet* was made during *Petrel*'s first mission of 2019.

The *Hornet* played a pivotal role in some of the most important moments in WWII naval history, including the Doolittle Raid and the Battle of Midway. From the deck of the *Hornet*, U.S. Army Lt. Col. James Doolittle led the first airborne attack on Japanese homeland targets, including Tokyo. The aircraft carrier was sunk during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands after a relentless coordinated attack by Japanese dive-bombers and torpedo planes, and eventually, torpedoes from two Japanese destroyers. She lost 140 sailors from her crew of nearly 2,200.



Wreckage of the USS *Hornet* was discovered in late January about 5,330 meters (17,500 feet) below the surface, resting on the floor of the South Pacific Ocean. The effort was organized by the Vulcan project, which was founded by Allen, the late Microsoft co-founder and has located about 20 vessels to date. Allen died Oct. 15 in Seattle from complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The 10-person expedition team on the 250-foot *Petrel* were able to locate the *Hornet*'s position by piecing together data from national and naval archives that included official deck logs and action reports from other ships engaged in the battle. Positions and sightings from nine other U.S. warships in the area were plotted on a chart to generate the starting point for the search grid. In the case of the *Hornet*, she was discovered on the first dive mission of the *Petrel*'s autonomous underwater vehicle and confirmed by video footage from the remotely operated vehicle, both pieces of equipment rated to dive down to 6,000 meters.



The winter issue of *PowerShips* is landing now

Issue #308 of *PowerShips* features articles on the NS *Savannah*, the development of nuclear power for ships, the *American Explorer* and the *Andrea Doria*. Whether you're new to SSHSA or your membership has lapsed, it's not too late to come on board! Sign up or renew today by [clicking here](#) or calling our headquarters at (401) 463-3570. Don't miss out!

What you're missing on social media

If you don't follow us on social media, you may be missing out on a lot of exciting things going on at SSHSA. Click the icons and links below to check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Tumblr](#) to stay up to date on all things #shiphistory.

You can read more about the *Petrel's* discoveries and projects [by clicking here](#).

(Photo: The guns of the USS *Hornet*, Vulcan project)

Inventors Hall of Fame to celebrate maritime innovations

The National Inventors Hall of Fame will recognize a true maritime hero, Andrew Higgins, as part of its class of 2019 celebration on May 2. A New Orleans-based boat builder and inventor, Higgins developed and manufactured landing craft critical to the success of the U.S. military during World War II. Among the best-known was the Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel (LCVP), or Higgins Boat, used to land American troops on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.

During the 1930s, Higgins developed the Eureka, a fast, maneuverable and rugged flat-bottomed craft. In a series of competitions with boats from other manufacturers prior to the American entry into World War II, the Eureka's superior performance resulted in the U.S. Navy awarding contracts to Higgins Industries to build landing craft for the military.



Higgins then evolved the Eureka into a series of boats including the Landing Craft, Personnel (Large), and the Landing Craft, Vehicle (LCV), which featured a ramp. Soon afterward, he combined the functions of the LCP(L) and the LCV into the LCVP.

Capable of carrying 36 combat-equipped infantrymen, a Jeep and 12 troops, or 8,100 pounds of cargo, the LCVP featured a crew of four and could float in 3 feet of water, reach a speed of 12 knots, and was protected by two .30 caliber machine guns. Used in North Africa, Italy, France and across the Pacific, and by the U.S. Army to cross the Rhine River into Germany in March 1945, the Higgins Boat became the standard personnel landing craft for the military during World War II.

Higgins was honored by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps for his work, which included high-speed Patrol Torpedo (PT) boats. Named on 18 patents, Higgins remained president of Higgins Industries until his death in 1952.



Potential Chesapeake Chapter to meet

There will be an exploratory meeting for a potential Chesapeake Chapter on Saturday, March 23, at 1 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, Virginia. There will be a PowerPoint presentation on Portuguese and Spanish ships. Attendees are encouraged to bring items to share. For more information, contact Theodore Xakellis at 301-649-2140 or TheodoreXakellis@juno.com.



**SSHSA member
recognized for service**

(Photo: Andrew Higgins, National Inventors Hall of Fame)

Time is running out to save money on Ocean Liner Dinner tickets

Ocean Liner Dinner IV is coming up fast, and so is your last chance to save some money on tickets. Prices will rise in just over a week, so give us a call at 401-463-3570 or [click here to lock in your seat now!](#)

This year's event will be held **May 4** at the historic Quantum Association in East Providence, Rhode Island, and feature a presentation from Bill "Mr. Ocean Liner" Miller. Reserve your spot now for \$150 per person and \$250 per couple through Friday, March 1. After that date, the price will rise to \$200 per person and \$300 per couple.

Can't make it to the dinner, but still want to help SSHSA share its archives and continue its educational outreach efforts like www.shiphistory.org? [Sponsor a photo in our souvenir program book](#), or donate to our silent and live auctions. We're looking for help acquiring hotel loyalty points and stays at rental properties and vacation homes that our guests can bid on to **help keep the history of steam alive here at the Ship History Center in Rhode Island.**



If you can contribute in any way, **we'd love to hear from you!** Give us a call at 401-463-3570 or email info@sshhsa.org, and thanks in advance for your generosity. We hope to see you in May!

Photo: Italian Line poster advertising the Andrea Doria and services to the Mediterranean and Europe via the "sunny southern route." (Stephen Barrett Chase collection, SSHSA Archives).

Eight Bells

We are sad to report that three friends of SSHSA died recently, including a former board member, a longtime supporter, and a well-known maritime author.

Longtime SSHSA member Pat Hartle was recently named the 2018 Maritime Heritage Hero by Northwest Seaport for her decades of dedicated service to the cause of maritime heritage in the Northwest.

After a career with American Mail Line and American President Lines, she served on the boards of both Northwest Seaport and Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society and has been a central member of the Council of American Master Mariners.

Those who have worked with Hartle commend her bright and welcoming smile and say she has been the hub of the community by connecting people, creating lasting friendships, keeping people up to date on all upcoming meetings, and greeting everyone she meets.

(Photo: Patricia Hartle, Puget Sound Maritime)



Take a trip to the *Titanic*

Are you one of those people who bought *Titanic* when it came out on VHS and wore the tape out because you watched it so much? Maybe it's time to see the real thing.

Cookson Adventures, an English travel company, is offering a trip that includes a dive to the wreck and a recreation of a wine-paired dinner served to first-class passengers on the maiden voyage. Only nine people will be able to participate in the 3,800-meter dive, scheduled for July, and the group will be accompanied by a

Former SSHSA Secretary **Dr. William Henry Flayhart III**, 72, professor emeritus at Delaware State University, died at his Dover home on Jan. 26. Dr. Flayhart was a distinguished scholar, specializing in world history and maritime history, and was the author or co-author of six books, most notably the complete history of the American Line.



The son of William Henry Flayhart II and Naomi Flayhart, he was born in Williamsport, Pa. on July 12, 1944.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Feb. 16, at the Presbyterian Church of Dover. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Dr. Flayhart's name to the homeless shelter of the Dover Interfaith Mission, P.O. Box 1148, Dover, Delaware, 19903.

Letters of condolences may be sent and guestbook signed at www.torbertfuneral.com.

Dr. Frederick Murray, 94, a fellow in the American Speech, Language & Hearing Association, passed away on Jan. 24 following a brief illness. Fred was a speech-language pathologist and scholar (Professor Emeritus, University of New Hampshire), a passionate and tireless member of the stuttering community, and a mentor and friend to many. We were glad to host him at the Ship History Center last summer, where he recounted his decades with SSHSA and all of the friends and memories he made along the way. Among his favorite ships were the San Francisco ferries that he used to ride when he was young.



Family and friends are welcome to join in a celebration of Fred's life on March 2 at 1 p.m. at the Lake Seminole Resort Hall, 10245 110th Ave., Largo, FL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the National Stuttering Foundation, www.westutter.org, 800-937-8888, or the Stuttering Foundation of America, www.stutteringhelp.com, 800-992-9392.

Finally, we bid farewell to **Mark H. Goldberg**, 68, of Baltimore, who died after a short illness. A graduate of NYU, he was an avid traveler

professional researcher who will talk about the marine life and provide a detailed tour of the ship.

To cap off the trip, chefs will recreate one of the 10-course dinners served before the disastrous iceberg collision. Food will be paired with wines from the period, including a 1907 Heidsieck Gout Champagne recovered from the wreck of a Swedish schooner that sank in 1916. The champagne is the same vintage drunk on the *Titanic*. Food will include oysters, filet mignons, foie gras, roasted squab and Consommé Olga.

Full prices for the trip are available 'on application,' but the dinner alone is expected to range from £1,000 to £10,000 depending upon the wines that are chosen. More information can be found at <https://cooksonadventures.com/where-were-going-next/titanic/>.

(Photo: *Titanic* rendering, Cookson Adventures)

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who circled the globe many times over. Mark was a recognized maritime historian who both authored a series on nautical history and collected a trove of cruise line memorabilia. He was raised in Hawthorne, N.J., and lived in New York City and California before settling in Baltimore. He was predeceased by his spouse, Chris Smith. He is survived by his brothers, Dr. Robert Goldberg, of Morristown, NJ, the Honorable Richard Goldberg of Hawthorne, NJ and sister, Jane Goldberg of Las Vegas, Nevada. He was the loving uncle of Jonathan, Adam, Melissa, Jeffry, Margo and the great-uncle of Haley. Services were private.



Registration open for CAMM Annual Conference in April

Registration is open for the upcoming Council of American Maritime Museums Annual Conference, which is being hosted by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, from April 24-26. Full conference registration is \$199 and includes all conference sessions, lunches, receptions and banquet. Daily rates are available for one-day attendance, and a spouse/guest registration is available for social events (no sessions) at \$125.

The registration deadline is April 15. [Click here for the registration form](#), or [click here for the 2019 Conference Program](#).

What's happening in ship history?

This is a brief listing, so make sure to check locally for what's going on in your area.

February 16 to 18

Ice Festival

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

\$28.95 for adults, \$26.95 for seniors, \$24.95 for youth ages 13-17 and \$18.95 for children ages 3-12

Members will be admitted free

Mystic Seaport Museum

Mystic, CT

www.mysticseaport.org

March 2

Chili Cook Off to support the Maritime Academy of Toledo and the National Museum of the Great Lakes

1:00 to 5:00 PM

\$10 to taste all available chilis; \$5 to purchase a bowl of your favorite National Museum of the Great Lakes

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March 9

Civil War Lecture: The Battle of the Ironclads
2:30 to 3:00 PM
Free with \$1 museum admission; reservations are suggested
The Mariners' Museum and Park
Newport News, VA
www.marinersmuseum.org

March 10

Winter Film Series: Sister Queens of the Great Lakes
2:00 to 3:00 PM
Free
Dossin Great Lakes Museum
Detroit, MI
www.detroithistorical.org

March 14

Fishing for Our Future Fundraiser: Author Talk with Jack Davis
6:00 to 8:30 PM
\$45 for students and \$50 for general admission; see website for table and sponsorship information
Florida Maritime Museum
Cortez, FL
www.floridamaritimemuseum.org

March 23

The USS Maine and American Propaganda
2:00 to 3:00 PM
\$17.50 for adults, \$16 for senior citizens, \$10.50 for children ages 6-12, and free for members and children younger than 6
Maine Maritime Museum
Bath, ME
www.mainemaritimemuseum.org

March 30

Schooner Cup Charity Regatta
9:45 AM to 3:30 PM
Sail aboard the Californian while it competes in the race: \$89 for adults and \$59 for children age 12 and younger to; watch the action from the sidelines aboard Spanish galleon replica San Salvador: \$99 for adults, \$94 for senior citizens, \$59 for children ages 3-12 (members get a \$10 discount)
San Diego Maritime Museum
San Diego, CA
www.sdmaritime.org

May 4

Ocean Liner Dinner IV Featuring the Italian Line
4:30 to 10:00 PM
\$150 per person or \$250 per couple

Squantum Association
East Providence, RI
www.sshsa.org

May 18

SSHSA Annual Meeting
9:00 AM
Aboard the NS Savannah
Baltimore, MD
www.sshsa.org

May 18 and 19

Classic Workboat Show
10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Free
Northwest Seaport Maritime Heritage Center
Seattle, WA
www.nwseaport.org

May 19

Great Steam Extravaganza
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Free
Aboard the NS Savannah
Baltimore, MD
www.marad.dot.gov



Steamship Historical Society of America
RECORDING, PRESERVING, AND DISSEMINATING THE HISTORY OF ENGINE POWERED VESSELS

Ahoy! is the quarterly electronic newsletter for those interested in maritime history. It is produced in February, May, August, and November and distributed by Steamship Historical Society of America to friends, members and any other individuals interested in maritime heritage.

Bryan Lucier, Editor, *Ahoy!*

[Renew Your Membership Today](#)

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