

# If summer had one defining scent, it'd definitely be the smell of barbecue.

— Katie Lee

# **Meeting Information**

Shipwrights meet the THIRD Saturday of the month at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 2553 S.

Colorado Blvd. Denver. The store opens at 9:00 am and the meeting starts at 9:30.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2024

Martin Ters will lead a discussion on Running Rigging.

# **Arvada Workshop**

The workshop is on the FIRST Saturday of every month beginning at 9:00 am at the Arvada City Hall, Police entrance. The address: 8101 Ralston Road.

Next workshop: August 3, 2024

### **Officers**

#### **Committees**

Events Chair: Erik Collett
Photographer: Jay Phillips
Historian: Roger Hanson
Scuttlebutt: Hugh Long
Webmaster: Rob Cuscaden
Workshop Chair: Ralph Buckwalter

# Website

http://rockymountainshipwrights.org

# **Meet Up Group**

https://www.meetup.com/rocky-mountain-shipwrights/

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# Skipper's Log

Hi, gang:

Not much to say this month except, "Damn it's hot!", but you all knew that.

I want to congratulate Bob Fivehouse and Ralph Buckwalter on their bringing home trophies from the Manitowoc model contest. They are both consistent winners there. Perhaps someone (or two) members who have never experienced competing might think of entering next year's show - you have ten months to prepare.

We have our regular meeting in about week (July 20), our <u>month-long display at the Louisville Library</u>, our <u>picnic in August</u>, and have already begun planning for our October show at Rockler. I hope we will have a volunteer step up to manage that event.

Speaking of events, part of this issue is <u>dedicated to managing events</u> - both hosted exhibits and static displays. Erik Collett authored (with a little help from yours truly) a document to help someone through the process.

Hope to see you at the July meeting - and please, bring something for Show and Tell.

Martin Jelsema, Skipper

# Get Your Gear

- For polo shirts and vests, ask Steve Lofshult at the next meeting.
- For caps, ask John Lamb at the next meeting (they are back in stock.
- For name badges, ask Rob Cuscaden at the next meeting.



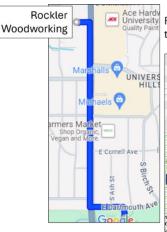
# RMSW Picnic - August 17th

At the meeting this month, the idea of having a picnic was brought up and it is now officially "on." It will take place on August  $17^{th}$  at Eisenhower Park (Picnic Site 2). The park is on the east side of Colorado Blvd, about a mile south of Rockler.

The picnic will replace the August meeting but will start at about 11:00 am (instead of 9:00 am). The meat

(burgers, brats, and shaved steak), buns, condiments, and soft drinks will be supplied by the club.

Members are encouraged to supply side dishes (salads, chips, dessert). Family members are encouraged to come.



From Rockler, head south on Colorado Blvd. for 1 mile, turn left on Dartmouth Ave.



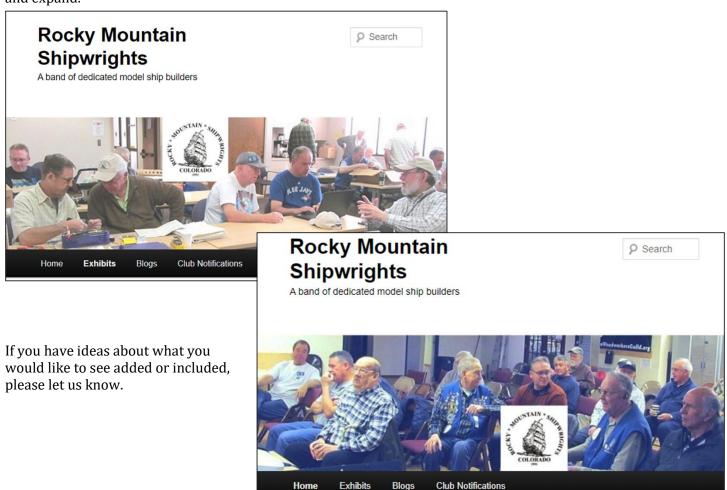
# **Take and Donate**

The sad news of Larry Hamil's passing was included in the June issue of the Scuttlebutt. But just as there is sunshine after a rainstorm, we are happy to announce that at the July 20<sup>th</sup> Club meeting we will be holding what we are calling a "Take and Donate" event which includes a large assortment of items donated to the club by Larry's late wife, Susan. More items will be included in our annual auction as well.

During the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, we will have a few tables set up at the back of the room with these items. "Take" whatever you want or need, and "Donate" what you can. <u>Pictures of the items</u> are included towards the end of this issue begin to show what will be available. If there is something you would like more info on, please reach out to Hugh and he will try to help.

# **Rocky Mountain Shipwright's Website**

Rob Cuscaden has been putting the <u>Rocky Mountain Shipwrights' website</u> back in order and if you haven't looked at it recently, you should. It is (and probably always will be) a work in progress, as the club continues to grow and expand.



# **Meeting - June 15, 2024**

Our Skipper, Martin Jelsema called the meeting to order at 9:31 am. Members stood at attention and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.



There were twenty-four in attendance, with one new (renewed after a long lapse) member, Bob Bunch.

# **Drawings for Rockler Gift Cards**

- Joe (Giuseppe) Presta
- Erik Collett



**Bob Bunch** New (Returning) Member

# Presentation – Standing Rigging

After needing to be rescheduled a couple of times, Scott Shilling's presentation on Standing Rigging was held. For a complete recap, please see Standing Rigging.



#### **Purser's Report - Steve Lofshult**

- RMS has \$7,854.21 between checking and savings.
- Martin J. asked the group if there was anyone besides Scott S. who wanted to be Purser. None spoke up.
  - Hugh Long motioned, Phil van der Heydt seconded Scott S. to be the Purser.
  - Martin J. clarified that there was nothing in the By Laws prohibiting a person from holding two offices at once.
  - The motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion on use of funds for catered events. History was brought up about the \$5,000 gift made by deceased member Harry Magnie. More historical discussion on keeping an Emergency



**Martin and Steve** Purser's Report

Fund balance of \$3,000 to \$5,000 in case the club must start paying rent for a meeting facility.

#### **New Business**

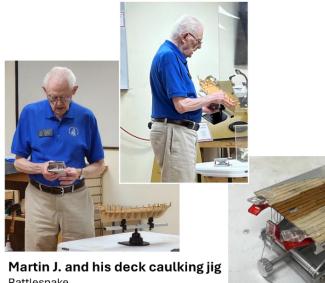
Martin J. brought up the possibility of having a club picnic (spouses included) at a park near Rockler. Jay Phillips will research. This event is already scheduled. See RMSW Picnic – August 17th for more information.

# Show & Tell



**Show and Tell Table** 

Martin J. gave an update on his Rattlesnake, including using a jig to use thread as caulking on deck planking.



Rattlesnake

- Ralph Buckwalter announced that Bob Fivehouse's Republic took a Gold Award and Ralph's Fergus took a
  Silver Award at Manitowoc. Ralph also revealed that his Fergus received the Modeler's Choice Award. See
  2024 June Scuttlebutt for more information.
  - o Ralph gave out discounted Nautical Research Guild membership forms.
  - Ralph showed his Black Prince and Lady Martha ships, both of which will be displayed in Louisville. See 2024 June Scuttlebutt for more information, or <u>Louisville Public Library Display</u>.

Ralph Lady Martha







**Ralph**Lady Martha and Black Prince

**Bob** Republic

**Jay M.** Mikasa



- Martin Ters brought three kit boxes from community member Kelly Kling whose husband passed away and is requesting bids. Contact Kelly directly at 850-377-4899.
  - o Corel's HMS Victory
  - o Anteo Rimorchiatore Portuale, an RC wooden tug kit
  - o Dikar's Dandy II, a tuna boat



# 10:55 meeting adjourned.

# **Standing Rigging**

After needing to be rescheduled a couple of times, Scott Shilling's presentation on Standing Rigging was held.

A quick definition from Wikipedia states that standing rigging is the fixed lines which support a mast or bowsprit on a sailing vessel and reinforce them against wind loads transferred from the sails. While they may be slightly adjusted over time or if a new Captain were to take the helm, think of standing rigging as permanent. In contrast to running rigging which represents the moveable elements of rigging which adjust the position and shape of the sails.

On July 20th, we will continue with the rigging topic and discuss Running Rigging.

Scott's presentation garnished a lot of discussion. The presentation started with a discussion on the various parts of standing rigging, then looked at shrouds, stays, and knots, then moved to a discussion on the tools

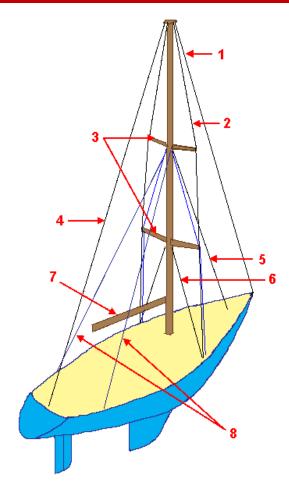
Standing Rigging Basics Scott Shilling

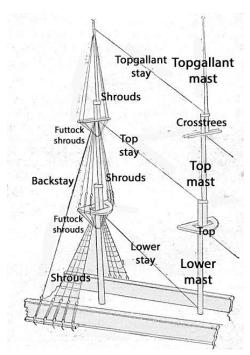


used for rigging, and wrapped up with a discussion on good reference books on rigging.

To get a basic understanding of standing rigging, look at the simplified diagram of standing rigging (right) on a fore-and-aft rigged sailboat from Wikipedia.

- 1. Forestay
- 2. Shroud
- 3. Spreaders
- 4. Backstay
- 5. Inner forestay
- 6. Sidestay
- 7. Boom
- 8. Running backstays





Standing rigging on a square-rigged vessel (left) is more complex as it supports the masts comprising three sections; the main, the top, and the topgallant (illustrated right). Each section and thus the entire mast is laterally (side to side) supported by the shrouds support each section laterally while the stays support each section fore to aft (front to back).

# Shrouds, stays, and knots

Scott generally starts his standing rigging on the backstays, with those closest to the middle of the mast first and works his way out before working on the ratlines.

A point of clarification... shrouds are the strong ropes that hold each mast up (see picture above). Ratlines are horizontal ropes (think of them as the rungs of a ladder) strung between the shrouds. You climb by holding on to

the shrouds and stepping on the ratlines like ladder rungs. Some ratlines are solid wooden slats rather than rope. These are called rathers.

He then moves onto the forestays, working from the back to the front.

Martin Ters recommended mounting any/all blocks on the masts before the masts are installed on the ship as it is easier to work on and manipulate a single mast as opposed to working on a mast that is already installed on a ship.

Ralph agreed, saying to build each mast completely before installing and save the ratlines for last.

Someone in the group asked about using a serving machine and Jay McKeown replied that he had one. A rope is "served" when a smaller diameter rope is wound around a larger diameter rope to help prevent fraying when the

larger rope rubs against sails or other rigging. You make a "mouse" by serving repeatedly over a small area, building up layers.

Again from Wikipedia, service is the three step process (worm, parcel, and serve) that applies a multi-layered protection against chafing and deterioration to standing rigging. While not usually used on modern small boats, it was used extensively on traditionally rigged sailing ships. Worming, parceling, and serving —referred to collectively as "service"— is traditionally



applied only to traditional twisted rope. It can be applied to the entire length of a line, such as a shroud, or

selectively, to specific parts of a line, such as over the spliced ends of a stay, where the chafe on the middle section of the stay precludes complete protection.

Modelers typically only do the last step of serving as it makes the individual ropes look more realistic. A serving machine twists an extra layer of rope over the rope.

As stated above, not everyone does rigging the same way, and Phil explained that he does not glue masts into place, but rather uses beeswax. He warms it with his fingers until it is pliable and sticky, and puts it on the base of the mast and presses it into place. The beeswax gives him a little bit of play with the mast as he completes his rigging. Then once the beeswax "cools," the mast is held firmly in place by the beeswax and the completed rigging.

Ralph follows the more standard process of gluing a mast, but only glues after he has double, and triple checked the verticality rake of the mast.

After the forestays, Scott addresses the shrouds, looping the stay at the top, and then making the attachment on one side of the deck/hull, and then does one for the opposite side. This alternating of the sides helps keep the mast square.





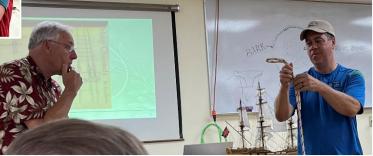
Bow to stern angle varies by ship; <90° Port to Starboard angle 90° from deck

### **Knots**

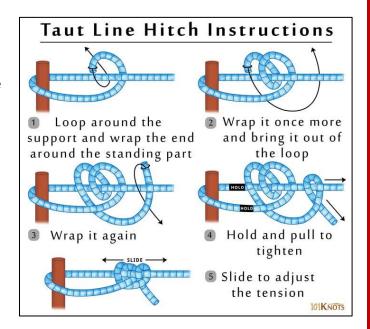
There are many distinct types of knots used in modeling and here are a few of the ones our members use. I found a good site called "101 Knots" that has a lot of good drawings of many of the knots used in modelling, plus it gives the pros and cons of most of the knots. The pictures below come from 101 Knots.

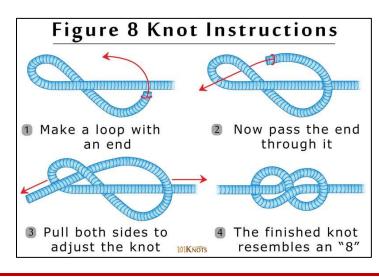


**Standing Rigging Basics**Scott Shilling with help from Phil and Jay M.



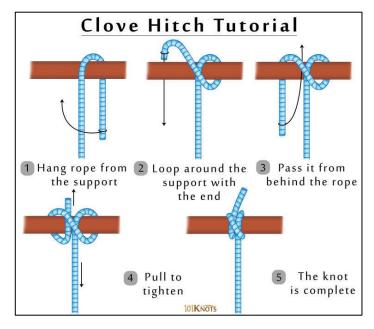
Phil talked about using a block knot, also called a Taut Line Hitch.

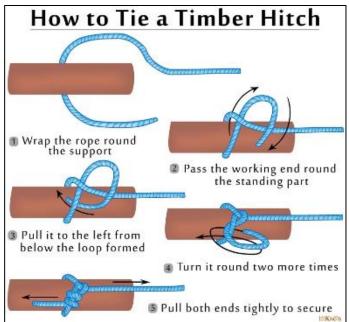




Ralph discussed using a Figure Eight knot on horizontal rigging.

Martin T talked about timber hitches for diagonal rigging.





Martin does not use Clove Hitch knot on ratlines.

# **Rigging tools**

Just like there is not one way to rig, there is not one tool either. A few months ago, I posed the question on Ships of Scale about what tools does someone need for rigging. While the list below is not complete, it is a good start. One tool that many people said was mandatory was... patience. Not sure where I can buy that, but if you know, please let me know. Probably would have been great to have some in my back pocket while I was raising my two daughters.





For the complete Ships of Scale thread, go to <u>Tools for Rigging</u>. It is an enjoyable read and is highly informative.

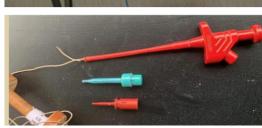
- Tweezers
- Alligator clips (to close on and hold fine thread)
- Helping Hands" or equivalent
- Binder clips (to put weight on lines to keep them straight)

- Capturing spring hooks, spring loaded. The hook comes out of the end when the end cap is pressed and is retracted by the spring as you release the pressure on the cap.
- Cheap medical hemostats and tweezers (helpful to grab and hold lines in work)
- Magnifier (to see holes in blocks as they are threaded)
- Thin CA (super glue) to dip the end of line into so you can make it stiff then cut the end to make a sharp needlelike end to push into holes.
- Needle threaders or big eye needles - two fine wires about 100mm long welded together at each end and pointed (for getting lines through blocks and deadeyes
- A tailor's cutter or nail clippers (for cutting threads)
- Slide Lock Soldering Tweezers
- Old paintbrushes. Pull the ferrules off, cut them clean.











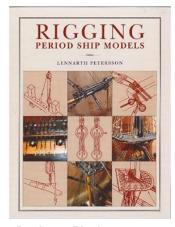
and you have handles for making your own improvised tools. For instance, drill a small hole in the end, glue in a piece of wire, and bend it around to your heart's content for a (cheap) rigging hook.

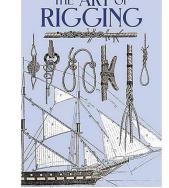
#### Reference books

Rigging Period Ship Models by Lennarth Petersson

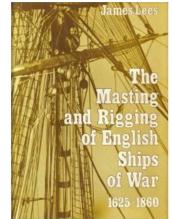
The Art of Rigging by George Biddlecombe

The Masting and Rigging of English Ships of War by James Lees





George Biddlecombe



**Books on Rigging** 

Rigging Period Ship Models by Lennarth Petersson The Art of Rigging by George Biddlecombe

The Masting and Rigging of English Ships of War by James Lees

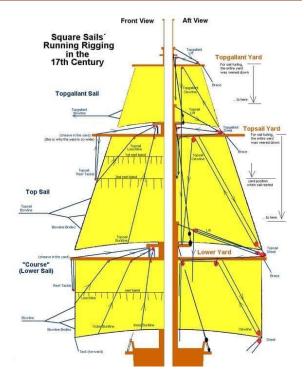
# **Summary**

One key rigging takeaway is that like much of our hobby, there is not just "one" way to rig a ship. Listen, read, watch what others have done before you have done, and find what works best for you. Do as much of the rigging as you can on the masts and yards before mounting them on the model. Study the plans carefully to figure out what blocks and lines can go on first that may be covered up later; work from the inside out as rigging in tight spaces can be a nightmare.

# **July's Meeting Presentation**

Join us at Rockler's on Saturday July  $20^{th}$  as we continue the rigging series with a presentation led by Martin Ters on Running Rigging.

As always, please let us know what topics you would like to see covered in future presentations and what topics you would like to present.



# **Louisville Public Library Display**

Our exhibit of ship models is in place at the Louisville Library. The models there will stay on display until the end of July.

Models on display include Ralph Buckwalter, Bob Fivehouse, Martin Jelsema, Mark Persichetti, Daniel Siemens, and Martin Ters.

Models in Louisville can be removed the last few days of this month (July 29-31). Any club members who want to

come up to Louisville directly to get their models can do so; just ask one of the front-desk workers to unlock the display case. Mark Persichetti will collect any models that are still there on July 31st and ensure they are returned to their builder.









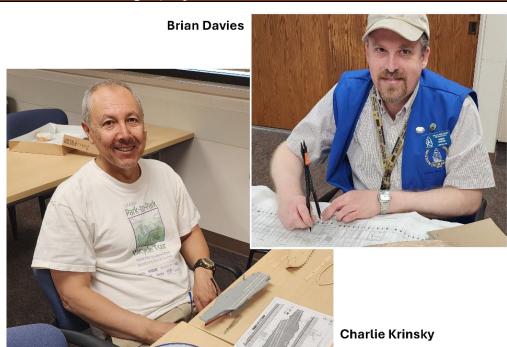
# **Hosting & Managing Exhibits and Displays**

Events like the display at the Louisville Library, or any of our exhibits at Rockler take some preparation and coordination. Erik Collett and Martin Jelsma have created a document to aid members in holding successful exhibits and displays. This document walks members through the process from proposing a venue and date to cleanup and celebration.

A copy of the document can be found on our website - Event Guidelines.

# Workshop - July 6, 2024

There were fourteen members in attendance at the workshop. Attendees: Ralph Buckwalter, Jim Cuscaden, Rob Cuscaden, Brian Davies, Doug Graham, Martin Jelsema, Charlie Krinsky, Steve Lofshult, Hugh Long, Del Milne, Jay Phillips (and Carol Phillips from the Women's Auxiliary), Scott Schilling, and Phil von der Heydt.





Hugh, Del, Bob, Ralph, Steve, Phil, Martin, Doug, Jay P., Jim, Scott, and Rob





# MeetUp.com

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights is on Meet Up. For those that do not know what Meet Up is, it is an online platform for hosting and organizing in-person or virtual activities, gatherings, and events based on interests, hobbies, and professions.

It is free to join, and a terrific way to find activities that you enjoy, from fishing to trivia to model ship building. Currently there are **thirteen meetup members**. Please note that being a meetup member is different that being a member of the club. Meetup allows you to see and RSVP for upcoming events.

To find us, go to www.meetup.com, and search for Rocky Mountain Shipwrights or go to <a href="https://www.meetup.com/rocky-mountain-shipwrights/">https://www.meetup.com/rocky-mountain-shipwrights/</a>.

You will find links to our meetings, workshops, and other events. You will have the ability to RSVP to the events, and then download them to your calendar if you like.

# Modeling Egyptian Ships - Four Models by John McGann

This memorial lecture for John McGann discusses Ancient Egyptian shipbuilding using John's models as examples. The lecture was presented to Rocky Mountain Shipwrights, and to the Egyptian Study Society, two groups to which John and Jay both belonged. ESS recorded the lecture and recently posted it online. You can view it here:

# https://youtu.be/e2Pg6hEzuk4

This presentation was given as a memorial to Egyptian Study Society founding member (a "plank owner" in nautical terms) John McGann. John passed away in July 2022 from covid while on a Danube River cruise.

The presentation uses John's four Egyptian models to discuss the history and technology of ship building in Ancient Egypt, as well as illustrate some

fine craftsmanship by John. This is for a general audience; no background is needed in ships, or models, or Ancient Egypt. It is all spelled out as required.

John McGann's avocational interests were Ancient Egypt and historically accurate model ship building. He was a construction supervisor during his working career. Many of the tall buildings in downtown Denver, and the main terminal at Denver International Airport, had their construction overseen by John. Duplicates of John's models have been commissioned by professional Egyptologists for personal display, and by museums such as Chicago's Oriental Institute for public display.

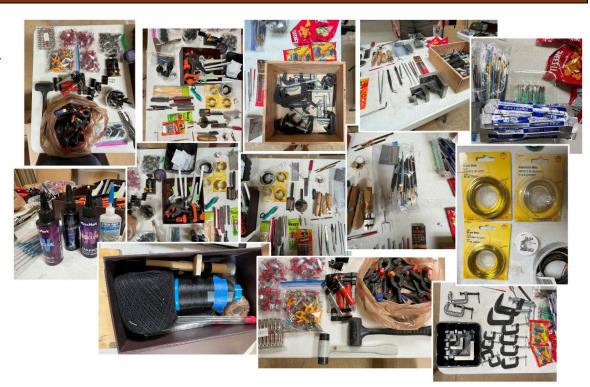
Jay Phillips is a retired geologist and paleontologist. Like John, he has interests in Ancient Egypt and model ships. In 2017, Jay helped John organize the first version of this lecture for presentation to Denver's model ship club, the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights. Following John's passing, Jay expanded John's original lecture as a memorial.



# **Take and Donate Pictures**

Here is a snapshot of the items that will be available on July 20th.

If there is something you would like more info on, please reach out to Hugh and he will try to help.

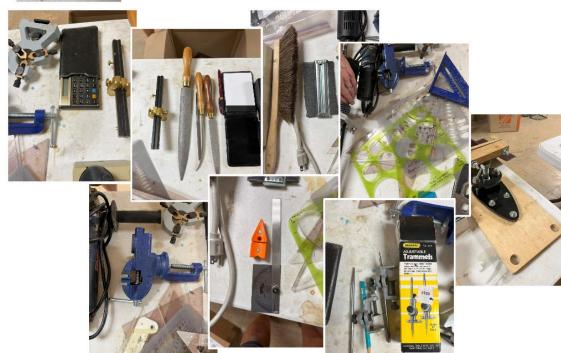


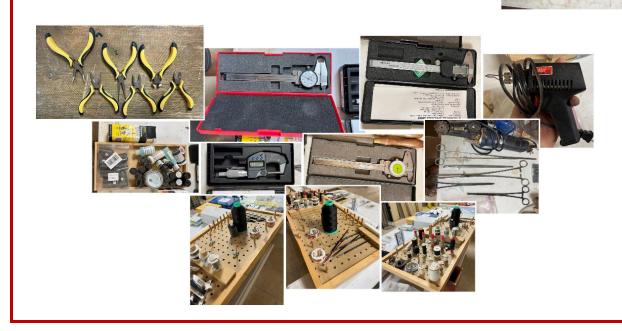












# Sources of Tools, Supplies & Services

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights is not affiliated with any of the companies in the lists below (other than the fact that we meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at Rockler).

The first list is of selected on-line suppliers. The second list is of local suppliers of goods and services that could be of value to ship modelers. And the third list is of additional resources. **These lists can be thought of as incomplete.** If you use or have discovered others, please email them to <a href="https://linear.com/hlong222@comcast.net">hlong222@comcast.net</a> and they will be added to the lists. With your contributions, we can make these lists a more comprehensive and valuable resource.

# **Online Suppliers**

# **Nautical Hobby Shops**

# **Ages of Sail**

Kits, parts, plans, supplies, and tools.

### **Blue Jacket Shipcrafters**

Kits, parts, plans, supplies, and tools.

#### **Cast Your Anchor**

Kits, supplies, and tools; based in Canada so shipping is a little longer.

#### **Model Expo**

Nautical hobby shop, extensive ship kits, parts, tools, and supplies

### **Modelers Central**

Kits, supplies, plans, and tools

#### **Seaworthy Small Ships**

Kits are geared towards new and younger modelers.

### **Syren Ship Model Fittings and Supplies**

Ship model kits, parts, and scale fittings.

#### **Wooden Model Ship Kit**

Ship model kits, parts, and scale fittings.

#### **Tools**

# **Byrnes Model Machines**

Top of the Line micro saws, sanders, and more.

# **Contenti Jewelry Supply**

Jewelry tools, fair prices on hand tools, cheap and quality versions of most tools.

# **MicroMark**

Small tool specialist; tools, ship kits, and ship modelling supplies.

#### **UMM-USA**

Modeling tools for plastic and wood models

# **Razor Blade Company**

An assortment of cutting blades and handles

#### **Materials**

### **Cards of Wood**

Thin veneer and plywood

### **Constantines's Wood Center**

Wood veneers plus Rockler-like tools and supplies.

#### **National Balsa**

Wood supplier, airplane centric but good stock of dimensional strips, sheets, and substantial number of blocks in many types of wood, does have a \$50 minimum order.

# **Northeastern Scale Lumber**

Wood and fabricated wood for models, doll houses and railroad layouts

### **Saunders Midwest Products**

Balsa, basswood and more – strips, sheets, and dowels. Also, beginner boat kits

# **Parts**

#### Flags of the World

Info about all types of flags but not a source of nautical modeling flags

### I.T. Sitek Props

Scale model ships propellers.

### **Graphics**

### **Shapeways**

3D printing company, parts for units ranging from complete ships to figureheads. Also does custom work.

# **Local Sources**

### **ABC Imaging**

77 Klamath St. Denver 303-573-5757

Large & small format copying, B&W printing

### **Art Parts Creative Resource Center**

3080 Valmont Road, Boulder

720-379-5328

Contributed used arts stuff you get for cheap, from chalk to sewing machines, and more.

### **Austin Hardwoods of Denver**

975 W Mississippi Ave, Denver 303-733-1292

### **Colpar/Hobbytown** – two locations

**Aurora Location** 

1915 S Havana St, Aurora, CO

303-341-0414

#### **Lakewood Location**

3355 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO

303-988-5157

Good local hobby shops, wood ship kits, supplies and tools.

#### **Guirys**

Multiple locations 303-412-6522

Art supplies and house paints

#### **Hobby Lobby**

Multiple locations

Arts and craft supplies

#### **Laird Plastics**

10004 E 45th Ave, Denver, CO

866-292-9090

For plastic case covers ask for Tom

# **Meininger Art Supply**

499 Broadway, Denver

303-698-3838

Paints, brushes, tools, papers and more

#### Michael's

Multiple locations

Arts and crafts supplies

### **Plasticare**

4211 S Natches Ct Suite K, Englewood, CO

303-781-1171

Plastic supplier/resin with customer shop. can do

acrylic fabrication & laser engraving.

### **Reynolds Advanced Materials**

3920 Grape Street, Denver

303-399-0202

Clays, resins, silicone, and more

# **Rocky Mountain Train Supply**

6060A W 55th Ave, Arvada, CO

303-456-6702

Only train shop in Denver, broad selection of supplies,

strip wood, details, scenic supplies.

# **Rockler Woodworking and Hardware**

2553 S Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO

303-782-0588

Home base for wood, tools, and supplies

# **Thinker Tinker Workshop**

3735 Ames St. Wheat Ridge, CO 80212

303-748-9180

A building and creative space for all ages

### **Woodcraft of Colorado**

6770 S Peoria Street, Centennial

303-290-0007

# **Selected Informational Resources for Model Builders**

### **Model Ship Builder**

This website has a popular forum with over 1900 members and an extensive group of building logs. They also sponsor group builds and provide an opportunity for members to place articles. In addition, archived issues of "Warships and Workboats" and "MSB Journal' can be accessed here.

#### **Ships of Scale**

This website provides a forum and build logs from around the world, though it is an English language site headquartered in the USA. It was never associated with the now-defunct *Ships In Scale* magazine (whose intellectual properties were acquired by the Nautical Research Guild).

### **Nautical Research Guild**

Official website for this premier ship building organization. There are articles, links, and NRG news.

#### **Model Ship World**

This large comprehensive site is now operated by the Nautical Research Guild. It is a major forum with build logs and responses to modeler's questions. Also access shop notes, tips, techniques, and research.

#### **John's Nautical & Boatbuilding Page**

This site includes mostly life-size boat building material, but its self-proclaimed "Mother of All Maritime Links" can be helpful.

#### **Bottled Ship Builder**

This is a forum that is all about ships in bottles and miniature buildings. Information for anyone interested in ships in bottles and miniatures.

#### **Model Ship Building Secrets**

This is an English blog with a directory, "50 of the Best Model Ship Building Sites".

#### **DeAgostini Model Space**

A British commercial site selling kits and tools with a forum filled with build logs of large models.

#### **Arsenal Modelist**

Olivier Bello's ship modeling site features forty-three short tutorials, closeups of his fine work and building logs.

#### **Wooden Ship Modeling for Dummies** (aka Naval Model Making for Dummies)

The site contains illustrated photos (three thousand) and videos (two hundred). However, unless you pay to subscribe, you may only access a limited amount of this instructional material. Those unrestricted tutorials are certainly worth exploring.



# THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

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Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magažine, Nautical Research Journal, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trute, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

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