



THE SCUTTLEBUTT

The Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights. Its objective is to promote, develop and further scale model shipbuilding, as well as study maritime subjects, including art, history and traditions.

March, 2023

I'd Rather Sail Than March

Meeting Information:

Shipwrights meet the THIRD Saturday of every month at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware, 2553 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver. Store opens at 9:00 am and meeting starts at 9:30.

The Next Meeting Will Take Place on March 18, 2023

Martin Jelsema will update an earlier presentation on decking ship models he originally did two years ago

And remember our Arvada workshop.

It is held at the Arvada City Hall, Police entrance.
The address: 8101 Ralston Road.

This workshop is scheduled for the FIRST Saturday of every month beginning at 9:00 am

Next workshop: April 1, 2023

Officers:

Commodore.....Alice Sampson
Skipper.....Bob Fivehouse
First Mate.....Ralph Buckwalter
Purser.....Steve Lofshult
Clerk.....Jim Cuscaden

Committees:

Library
Bob Bunch
RMS History
Roger Hanson
Mentoring Program
Ralph Buckwalter
Communications
Martin Jelsema (Scuttlebutt & Website)

Website:

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>



Skipper's Log

Hi Shipwrights,

With the passing of John McGann last year, we have been asked to dispose of his ship books. The club officers are keeping those that seem best for modeling for the club library and will make the rest available to club members in a way that seems fairest. I know that some of you have asked about certain books and when we decide how to divvy them up, we would like to honor those requests. In the meantime, we will keep you current with the decision making. Hopefully, we can update you at the next meeting.

The auction that we planned for May is now postponed to November due to logistical problems. Again, we will keep you posted on the progress. Otherwise, the cold weather is a great time to get stuff done on your models. My CARPATHIA model is getting there slowly but steadily. Don't put off until tomorrow what you should have done last week! See you at the meeting!

Bob Fivehouse, Skipper

Minutes of the January, 2023 Meeting

The meeting was brought to order by Skipper, Bob Fivehouse, at 9.30am. Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty two (22) members were present, but no guests or new members were present.

Finances: Steve Lofshult summarized the status of the Current and Savings accounts. Recent income has included 15 membership renewals and 3 new member dues. Monthly earned income remained at \$0.24.

Name tags Rob Cuscaden distributed ID badges to new members.

Old Business

Ralph Buckwalter, First Mate, said that the February Scuttlebut included a list of 14 topics that could be the foundation of our 2023 Presentation series. To date, he has received 2 volunteers; he will be contacting all members to get commitments for each Club meeting. He particularly wants to get new faces for these presentations. He welcomed any additional presentation topics that might be added to the list.

New Business

Donation of books from John McGann's library. The club has received 9 boxes of books from John's estate; Bob Fivehouse is making a list of these books to select the very best for our library. The remainder will be made available to member's for small donations.

Show & Tell.

Jon Sorensen brought Terry Goodwin's exquisite model of the HMS Warrior that was built to the standards of an Admiralty model. Back in the 19th century, a ship designer would complete a model of the hull; showing the inner works, but without the masts and rigging, to win a contract. Terry has restored the guns and is now working on the upper deck fittings

Jay Phillips presented a model of the Canadian ship SS. Maple Leaf. This was a paddle wheel cargo ship built in 1851 for work in Lake Ontario. It was sold in 1864 to a US company and subsequently leased to the Union Army. It was then used to ferry troops to the Florida area and earned some notoriety as the first ship to be sunk by a mine. It went down in St. Johns River in an anoxic environment that preserved its contents immaculately to the extent that newspapers and leathers were in their original condition after discovery in the 1980's. Jay's paper model is derived from a downloaded kit that shows the large hogging truss used in the ships of that era.

Jay McKeown showed the mast and rigging of the British frigate HMS Unicorn. The original vessel was designed from a captured French ship and was built in 1748. Its success led to the development of the first "True Frigates" built for the Royal Navy. Jay is building his model from a Correl kit and he brought the mast to illustrate his problems with the kit. He researched the rigging problems using the book "The Mast and Rigging of English Ships of War – 1625-1860".



Jon Sorensen's Warrior



Jay Phillip's SS Maple Leaf



Jay McKeown's HMS Unicorn

PRESENTATION

Rigging of Masts and Spars by Jon Sorensen

The discussion is part of a four-part presentation that he presented previously. The discussion on rigging is complex both in defining the procedures that are used but also in the terminology. Before proceeding with the rigging of a model, spend some time in understanding the names of the connection points in the mast, yards and spars. Always remember that the rigging plan would change through the vessel life, as each ship master would make changes to improve ship performance.

The general rule of thumb, undertake the standing rigging first, before the running rigging. The standing rigging would be black, running rigging would be tan. Research the size of line used to make them stay in scale. In many cases, kits will lump line size provided to reduce costs. Your rigging activity should start at the bow and proceed aft., inboard to outboard. Rigging should start at the top proceeding downwards with the exception of the shrouds.

The ship masts are called bowsprit, foremast, mainmast, mizzenmast and jiggermast. A fully rigged ship had at least 3 masts. Masts on the bigger ships had 48 components. Spars were defined by the sails that they carried. These included from the top, sky sail, royals, top gallant, top sail and main sail. In fair winds, studding sails were rigged.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Cuscaden, Clerk

It's Dues-Paying Time

If you're reading this appeal for dues, you are probably haven't paid them yet. But time is running out to be listed in the 2023 Roster, and continuing to receive Scuttlebutt. Please pay by March 18th (still just \$12.00/year) at the meeting. You may also mail a check, made out to Rocky Mountain Shipwrights, to the Purser, Steve Lofshult, 4025 D, W.104th Drive, Westminster, CO 80401.

A Renewed Appeal for Presentations

Please volunteer by telling Ralph Buckwalter the subject you want to present. Reach him at rkbuckw1657@gmail.com, or phone him at 303-914-0897 to commit or get more info. Below are some recommended topics, but if you have another in mind, check with Ralph.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Background research for models, library sources | 8 Rigging, knots, scale rope sizing, seizing |
| 2 Hulls, bread and butter, plank on frame, | 9 Standing rigging, deadeyes hearts, ratlines |
| 3 Model table saw use | 10 Running rigging, blocks, belaying pins and rails |
| 4 Hull planking, spilling, | 11 Sails and sail making |
| 5 Deck planking. lengths, spacing, trenails | 12 Painting, finishing |
| 6 Bulwarks, deck furniture, companionways, hatches | 13 Casting resins, metals |
| 7 Lathe use, masts and yards | 14 Bases, cases, mounting |

March Workshop

Few guys attending this month, but we all had a good time. Won't elaborate, but if you weren't there, you missed out.



Martin Jelsema



Ralph Buckwalter

Bob Fivehouse



Jeff Potter



Jay Phillips



Steve Lofshult

Get Your Gear at the Next Meeting

- 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.



Will No One Identify Their Favorite Local Resources?

This message appeared in the last Scuttlebutt, and guess what? Not a single member responded. Does this mean no one has any resources? Or that no one reads the Scuttlebutt? Or that no one wants to take the time to even ask this rather simple request?

“At a recent meeting, someone thought it would be great to have a list of local resources published in the Scuttlebutt. So here’s an appeal to members to provide your editor the names, phones, addresses and emails of resources you’ve discovered that have helped you in your modeling. We’re looking for wood suppliers, case fabricators, large-size copiers, and any others you have used and can recommend.. You can email this information to your editor, or give him your list at an upcoming meeting or workshop. The email is: martinjelsema@gmail.com. “

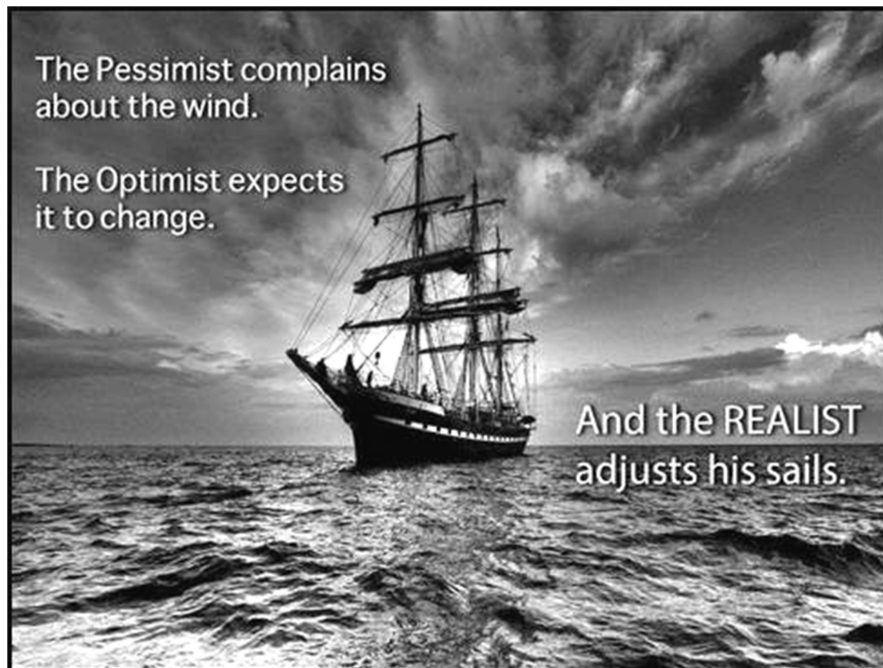
A Reminder About Manitowoc

Ralph Buckwalter told us last month about the annual modeling contest and exhibit in Manitowoc. Please contact Ralph if you have any interest in entering a model or attending the event. He can fill you in because It’s a show Ralph attends regularly and comes away with at least one award for his models.

He encourages our members to enter models in the contest and participate in the activities. If you are interested, talk to Ralph about the experience . And in the meantime here’s a bit more about the event: May 19-21, 2023 at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc, WI. Get more information here: [Wisconsin Maritime Museum](http://www.wisconsinmaritimemuseum.com) . May 1st is the closing date for registration.

John Lamb’s Contribution

Thank John for his contributions to Scuttlebutt. He always finds a little something to lighten the atmosphere.



Fairing the Hull for Planking

The following tip appeared in the Bluejacket Shipcrafters newsletter and came originally from the Redwood Empire Model Shipwrights.

Using a file, fine rasp or coarse sandpaper on a wooden block, or a combination of all of these, bevel the edges of the frames so that the planks will come in contact with a full thickness of each frame - not just a sharp leading or trailing edge. While the midships frames will require little adjustment, those toward the bow and stern will require more. A piece of broomstick with sandpaper glued to it will make it easier to shape those frames with a hollow curve.

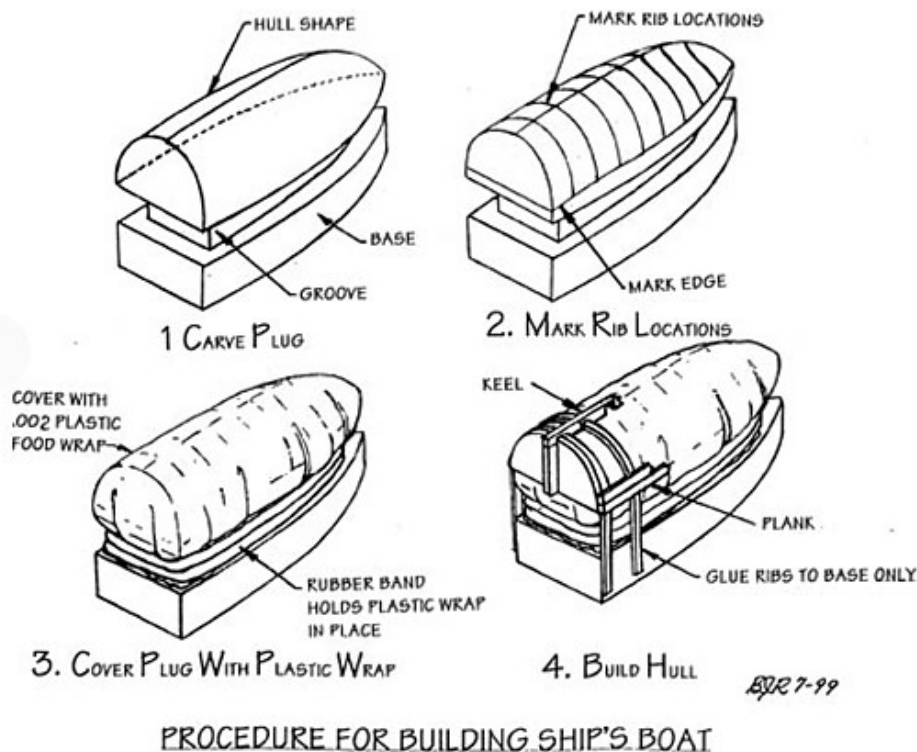
Use a plank and lay it over the frames in various positions to check the bevel (i.e. the plank should touch the full face of each frame as it is bent around them.) If you do have a hollow spot on one (or more) frames(s) it can be built up using slivers of timber.

The whole process of leveling and checking is known as fairing and is extremely important to ensure that when planked, the hull is free of bumps and hollows. Please take your time and resist the temptation to start planking before the hull is satisfactorily faired.

Check again. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the fairing process described above is the single most important step in building a model ship of which you'll be proud.

Building Ship's Boats on a Plug

Here's an approach to building life boats using a plug.



Selected Internet Resources for Model Builders

Modelshipbuilder.com

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. www.modelshipbuilder.com/.

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 now-defuncted *Ships In Scale* magazine (whose intellectual properties were acquired by the Nautical Research Guild). <https://shipsoscale.com/sosforums/>

Nautical Research Guild

Official website for this premier ship building organization. There are articles, links, and NRG news. <http://www.thenrg.org/>

NRG's Model Ship World

This large, comprehensive site is now operated by the Nautical Research Guild. It's a major forum w build logs and plenty of response to modeler's questions. Also access shop notes, tips, techniques and research. <https://modelshipworld.com>

FAQ for Ship Model Builders (by John Kropf) This is a model ship building site which answers all sorts of questions about ship modeling. Many of the links do not work. <http://sites.google.com/site/shipwrightsfaq/>

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. <http://www.boat-links.com/>

Bottled Ship Builder This is a forum that is all about ship in bottle and miniature building. there's a lot of information on the site for any one interested in ships in bottles and miniatures <http://Bottledshipbuilder.com>

Model Ship Building Secrets This is an English blog with a directory , "50 of the Best Model Ship Building Sites" <http://www.modelshipbuildingsecrets.com/resources.html>

Modeler's Central – An Australian commercial site that features a blog with many modeling tips as well. <https://www.modelerscentral.com/>

DeAgostini Model Space A British commercial site selling kits and tools with a forum filled with build logs of large models <http://forum.us.model-space.com/>

Arsenal Modelist – Olivier Bello's ship modeling site featuring 43 short tutorials, closeups of his fine work and a building log. <http://www.arsenal-modelist.com/index.php?page=accueil>

Wooden Ship Modeling for Dummies (aka Naval Model Making for Dummies) contains illustrated photos (3000) and videos (200). However, unless you pay to subscribe, you may only access a limited amount of this instructional material. Those unrestricted tutorials are certainly worth exploring. <https://shipmodeling.ca>



THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

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

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

For more information contact us at: www.thenrg.org or call 585 968 8111

