



# 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.

December 2024

## Setting Sail for 2025

### December Meeting

There will not be a full club meeting in December, instead we are having our [Annual Year End Party](#). For more information, please see the article in this issue.

**2553 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO 80222**

**Next meeting: December 21, 2024**

### Arvada Workshop

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

**8101 Ralston Road, Arvada, CO 80002**

**Next workshop: Jan. 4th, 2025**

### Officers

**Commodore**..... Bob Fivehouse  
**Skipper**..... Martin Jelsema  
**First Mate**..... Scott Shilling  
**Purser**..... Scott Shilling  
**Clerk**..... Jay McKeown

### 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>

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## Skipper's Log

Hi, Shipwrights:

What a year it has been for Rocky Mountain Shipwrights!

We put on two exhibits at Rockler. We displayed models at the Louisville Library (thanks Mark). We were bequeathed with tools, kits, books, and supplies from four different sources. We had a very successful auction in November (the club garnered over \$2,000), even though attendance was not what we had expected. Our roster increased by 10 or 11 members. And we can celebrate on December 21st at our [annual holiday party](#) after voting in a new set of officers.



I particularly want to thank Scott Shilling. He took the First Mate's position at the first of the year. Then because we thought we would be losing our Purser and no one volunteered to take the position, Scott took on those additional duties. One of the first things he did was to transfer a major amount of our funds from our savings account to a certificate of deposit, thus providing a considerable influx of funds to the club. He also got the club a means of taking in credit card payments from the sale of items we sold at the auction as well as doing all the accounting of funds acquired and dispersed from the auction. Scott brought us into the 21st Century.

It has been my pleasure to have been your Skipper this year. The main pleasure came from collaborating with the members who gave their time and talents to make the year successful. I'm sure I'll miss a name or two, but I will acknowledge the aforementioned Scott, and his predecessor Steve Lofshult; Hugh Long for editing the Scuttlebutt; Jay McKeown as clerk doing the minutes and more; Ralph Buckwalter for managing our workshop; and Rob Cuscaden for being our webmaster and name tag/plaque liaison.

And lastly, I want to thank those who volunteered to be the 2025 officers: Phil von der Heydt, Skipper; Jay McKeown, First Mate; Doug Graham, Clerk; and Scott Shilling returning as Purser. I hope all members will support them as you supported me this year.

Martin Jelsema, Skipper

## Year End Party

As you probably know, the club gained a considerable amount of money during our auction and subsequent sales through the woodworker guild's sale of our bequeathed tools. So rather than have a potluck as we have done for many years at our December meeting/party, this year the club will be catering and paying for the entire food and drink bill out of our treasury.

To ensure we have an adequate amount of food, we need to know how many people (members and their families) will be attending.

If you and/or your family plan to attend, please email Martin at [martinjelsema@gmail.com](mailto:martinjelsema@gmail.com) with your headcount. Please let him know **by December 13** so we can place our order. Also, let me know if you or your guest has any diet restrictions.

## November 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Auction

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am, November 16th by Martin Jelsema, Skipper.

After the pledge of allegiance, Martin asked Ralph Buckwalter, our officer nomination chairperson, to announce the [slate of nominees for 2025](#). They are:

Phil von der Heydt - Skipper

Jay McKeown - First Mate

Scott Shilling - Purser



Ralph asked for a volunteer from the floor for our Clerk position and Doug Graham volunteered. Martin announced that the election for officers would take place at the December meeting (before the party), and that anyone who wished to run for one of the positions could throw their hat in the ring at that time.

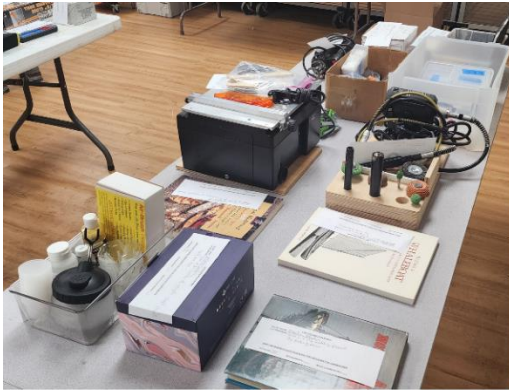
Rob Cuscaden announced that long-time member, [Ed Leviker](#) had died in October. His name will be added to our memorial plaque.

Martin adjourned the meeting, and the auction began at approximately 10am.

Although there were only between 12 and 15 members present, the auction was successful.







## In Memoriam

It is with a sad heart that I report that long time member Ed Leviker passed away in October.

Until I can give the story of the club's origins the time it deserves, here is a teaser... Ed and Harry Magnie used to sit in Fred Tournier's basement, watch Fred work on ships, and drink beer (sounds like a good start to me). It was during these get-togethers that Harry had the idea of forming a club, our club, and the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights were off the ground. So, it can be said that Ed was one of the original founding fathers of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights.

His full obituary can be found [here](#).





Edward (Ed) John Leviker flew to the stars on October 11, 2024, from his home in Grand County, Colorado.

Born in 1944, he is survived by his wife of 43 years, Susan Leviker, and their daughter, Kelly Leviker of Denver, and his six-year-old grandson, Fenot Leviker-Workineh.

Ed graduated from Lowville Academy in New York in 1962 and attended Paul Smith College. He moved to Miami, Florida to attend flight school and enlisted in the Coast Guard, serving with honor until receiving an honorable discharge. He was hired by Braniff International Airlines in 1966 as a commercial pilot.

One of his passions included building scratch-built model ships and being a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights and the Nautical Research Guild.

He died peacefully in his sleep on the same night many Grand County residents and visitors were able to witness the Aurora Borealis, which would be very special to him as a stargazer and fan of the evening sky.

## Workshop – December 7, 2024

There were ten members in attendance at the workshop. Attendees: Ralph Buckwalter, Brian Davies, Bob Fivehouse, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, Del Milne, Jay Phillips, Scott Shilling, Bob Tucker, and Phil von der Heydt.

There was not much model building at the workshop, and instead the group made plans for the year-end party which will be held at the December meeting on 12/21.



Scott, Jay, Ralph, Bob T, Martin, Steve, Bob F, Del, Phil, and Brian

## Get Your Swag

- For polo shirts, caps, and vests, ask **Scott Shilling** at any meeting.
- For name badges, ask **Rob Cuscaden** at any meeting (free for new members).



## 2025 Officers

At the November meeting, Ralph Buckwalter, our officer nomination chairperson, announced the nominees for 2025. They are:

### Phil von der Heydt - President/Skipper

- The President/Skipper shall have general supervision of the Club and its functions, preside over meetings of the club and the Board of Directors, call any special meetings, and appoint committees as required

herein or as deemed appropriate, including appointment of an editor of the monthly newsletter ("Scuttlebutt").

#### **Jay McKeown - Vice President/First Mate**

- The Vice President/First Mate shall preside over the meetings in the Skipper's absence and shall organize a program for the regular meetings of the Club. If possible, program topics are to be announced in advance in the newsletter.

#### **Scott Shilling - Treasurer/Purser**

- The Treasure/Purser shall maintain the membership list of the Club, shall receive, and disburse the Club's funds as authorized and shall maintain a bank account for such purpose, as well as the financial records of the Club. He/she shall report periodically to the membership on the balance of any bank account. In addition, once yearly, an audit of the accounts will be conducted in concert with competent and responsible club members. To reserve/protect our sole usage of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights Club name the Purser shall renew the registration/certification with the Colorado Secretary of State every two years.

#### **Doug Graham - Secretary/Ship's Clerk**

- The Secretary/Ship's Clerk shall maintain any official records of the Club including minutes of the monthly Club meetings.

Our formal election will take place at the December meeting (before the party). Anyone who wishes to run for one of the positions can throw their hat in the ring at that time.

### **Website Password**

Club members have access to the archive of the Scuttlebutt on the website. This portion of the [website](#) is locked to members only. If you cannot access them, please let me know and I will get you your password.

### **Member Opportunities**

Recently we were approached with a few items that may interest our members.

#### **HMS Victory Restoration**

Terry Combs is looking for someone to perform repairs on a model of HMS Victory belonging to his ranch manager, Geoff Polidoro.

The model is 44" long, 32" tall, and 15" wide.

If you are interested, please contact Terry directly.

[terry@terry-combs.com](mailto:terry@terry-combs.com) or 303-638-4151





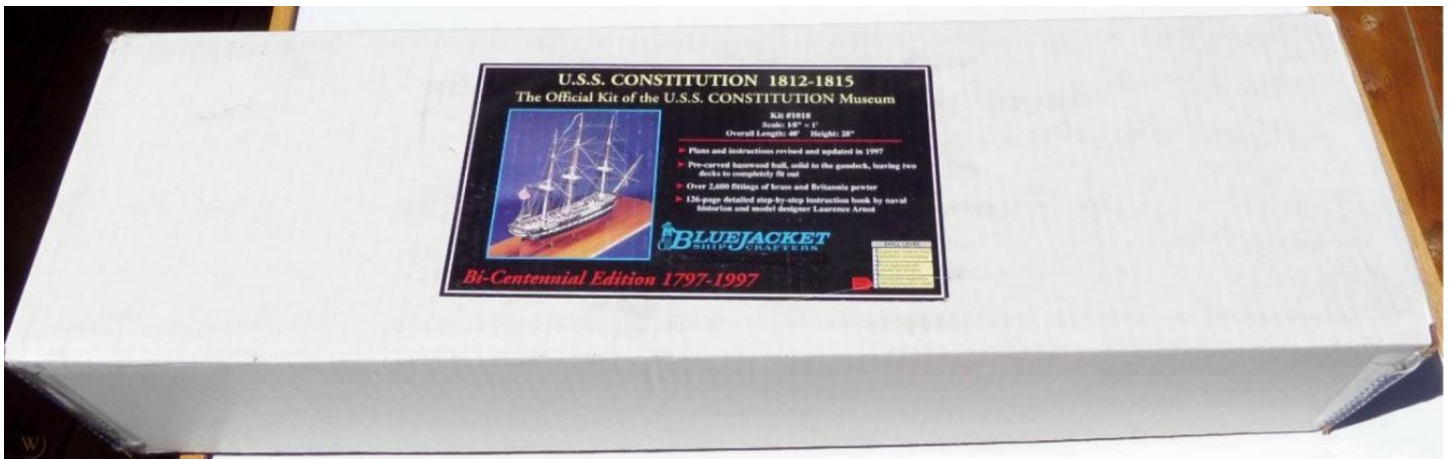


## USS Constitution by Bluejacket

Club member John Lamb has a new Bluejacket kit of the USS Constitution that he would like to sell. Please note - the picture below may not be accurate.

If you are interested, please contact John directly.

[jhlambo44@gmail.com](mailto:jhlambo44@gmail.com) or 520-241-3016



## 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 [hlong222@comcast.net](mailto:hlong222@comcast.net) 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, etc.

##### [Contenti Jewelry Supply](#)

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

##### [MicroMark](#)

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

##### [UMM-USA](#)

Modeling tools for plastic and wood models

##### [Razor Blade Company](#)

Many types 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, many 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, some wood ship kits, lots of 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 lots 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 plenty of 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. There is a lot of information on the site 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](#)

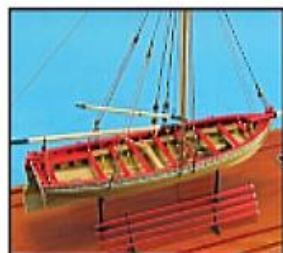
A British commercial site selling kits and tools with a forum filled with build logs of large models.

### [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

"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](http://www.thenrg.org) or call 585 968 8111

