



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.

January 2024

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 January 20, 2024

Scott Shilling will be presenting his build log of his current build, the ZHL San Felipe.

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: February 3, 2024

Officers:

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

Committees:

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

Website:

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>



Skipper's Log

Hello, Shipwrights:

Yes, it is your new Skipper writing.

First, I pledge to do my best to continue in the footsteps of our past Skippers to make Rocky Mountain Shipwrights informative, entertaining, and stimulating. But I will need help. Yes, your help. It's simple. All you need to do is participate and contribute.

Your elected officers (First Mate Scott Shilling, Purser Steve Lofshult, and Clerk Jay McKeown) who have enthusiastically embraced their rolls. And so have these volunteers:

- Events chair, Erik Collett
- Photographer, Jay Phillips
- Scuttlebutt editor, Hugh Long
- Web Master and audio/visual specialist, Rob Cuscaden
- Workshop overseer, Ralph Buckwalter
- and finally, Commodore, Bob Fivehouse

There are a couple of other activities that need leadership, specifically librarian and publicist - anyone interested?

Our January meeting should prove interesting. First Scott Shilling will make the presentation. It will be about the trials, tribulations, successes, and discoveries around his current build. He hopes it will serve as a pilot for the types of presentations members can make in the future.

Second, we will discuss a Spring exhibit at Rockler and continue to discuss a Louisville library exhibit.

And finally, Scott's has an intriguing idea for a club-build diorama at the VA hospital.

I hope to see you at the meeting, and please bring something for show and tell, preferably a model in progress.

Yours for smooth sailing, Martin Jelsema, Skipper

From the Commodore

In my list of people to thank for the auction, I inadvertently omitted Jeff Potter. Before moving away, he put a lot of time and effort into planning the auction and I truly thank him for that! Jeff was a real "doer and shaker", and we all miss his willingness to work for the good of the club. Happy New Year!

Bob Fivehouse

Minutes of the December 16, 2023 Meeting

The Skipper, Bob Fivehouse, called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Members stood at attention and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. There were eighteen members and six guests in attendance.

Elections of Officers for 2024

Ralph Buckwalter introduced the 4 proposed Board members for 2024. As noted in last month's meeting, the Club would accept alternative volunteers as challengers for these positions. No additional volunteers declared themselves. On this basis, the new 2024 Board members were approved by acclamation and are presented as follows:

President/Skipper: Martin Jelsema

Vice President/First Mate: Scott Shilling

Treasurer/Purser: Steve Lofshult

Secretary/Ship's Clerk: Jay McKeown

As an addendum, the Club recognizes the outstanding contribution made by Martin Jelsema in maintaining the Club website and in publishing the Scuttlebutt. Hugh Long will be taking over the Scuttlebutt duties, while Rob Cuscaden will

head up the website.

Treasurer's Report

Steve Lofshult stated that the total take from the Club auction was \$858 from the 55 lots sold. He will finalize the final income stream in January, including the Club's net take and that returned to the sellers. He will also present a summary of the 2023 year Club financial statement. For December, the interest income remained at \$0.23.

Old Business

Club Computer - Ralph Buckwalter presented to the Club, his laptop; this will primarily be used to prepare presentations. Rob Cuscaden will assist in setting up the machine for this task and in installing Power Point.

Louisville Library – Mark Persichetti has continued his negotiations with the Library for a Club display of our models in the June timeframe. There are 2 glass cases (2' x 2' x 6') available for the whole month.

New Business

Boston Tea Party, Joint Club Display - Scott Shilling has been making preliminary investigation into a display at the Rocky Mountain VA hospital possibly by next October. They have a 15-foot table on which a train station, wharves and period ship models would be displayed, representing the Boston Tea Party. Members of the Shipwrights and the Train Club will support the exhibition. He will summarize his ideas in the January newsletter.

Additional Club Storage – Bob Fivehouse stated that we received 2 more models from past member families. It has become increasingly difficult to store the models and related modeling gear that has been donated. Commercial locker space is obviously too expensive. We are currently checking into lockers that might be available at Rockler's. Martin Jelsema will progress the solution to the problem.

Show N Tell

Chuck Stroble – he showed his downloaded paper model of the sailing ship Pagoda.

Ralph Buckwalter illustrated the ups and downs in modelling the Civil War gunrunner "Fergus". He broke the mast and associated rigging, but after some sole searching, he is back and near completion.



Jay McKeown brought his plastic 1/350 scale model of the Russian battleship "Borodino". The ship was built in France in 1900 and had an undistinguished fighting the Japanese in the Pacific.



Don Kibbe headed a group of three guests from the Colorado RC Club. They meet at 10am at Rockler's on the fourth Saturday of each month. During the summer, they sail their boats on lakes in Fort Collins, Keystone, and Washington Park. He brought copies of their Club magazines, together with photos of Club boats and regattas.

Peter Kennewan brought his beautiful 5-foot 1/72 scale plastic Trumpeter model of the Titanic. It is equipped with three 6-volt motors and has LED lighting to highlight the boat in low light conditions.



Martin Ters closed the meeting in playing his home built French Bouchete guitar. He played two familiar Christmas carols to provide a very festive atmosphere.



Respectfully submitted, Jim Cuscaden, Clerk

It is Dues-paying Time

Yes, it is that time again. The dues are still just \$12.00. Your Purser, Steve Lofshult, can take your payment at a meeting or a workshop. Try to pay with small bills. You may also mail him a check, made out to Rocky Mountain Shipwrights, at Steve Lofshult, 4025 D, W.104th Drive, Westminster, CO 80401. Please pay before March 1

Shipwright's Workshop January 6, 2024

The new year brought out 11 members to the January 6th workshop. For those of you who have not attended one of the workshops, I heartily encourage you to stop by. Work is done, advice is doled out, but the conversations can be just as satisfying as finishing that last plank on the hull. And do not forget the coffee and donuts.

Attendees: Ralph Buckwalter, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, Brian Davies, Bob Fivehouse, Alice Sampson, Jay Phillips, Jim Cuscaden, Rob Cuscaden, Will Pierson, and Dan Siemens.



January Workshop



Brian Davies



Steve Lofshult



Jim and Rob Cuscaden



Dan Siemens' 1/1200 model (Ballpoint pen for scale)



Jay Phillips, Alice Sampson, and Martin Jelsema



Martin Jelsema, Bob Fivehouse, and Will Pierson

We received a donation of books from Robert Schneider's widow. Ralph brought them to the workshop and will take them to the February meeting for members to purchase/donate to the club for books they want.

Additionally, we received 2 ship models and 2 ship model kits from Bob Lattanzio's widow who donated them to the club. Bob was a previous Shipwright member.



Ralph Buckwalter's Confederate blockade runner

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.



Let's get more people into wooden ship building!

Here's an offer from the ***Ships of Scale*** website that a neophyte, or even a journeyman, shouldn't refuse

Have you ever heard someone say that they'd love to try building a wooden ship, but that they would never be able to make one "as good as yours" or they didn't know where to start. I'm a relative newbie and I hear it all the time. Recently I ran across this deal on the Ships of Scale website and wanted to pass it on.

<from [Ships of Scale](#)>

It's one of the oldest and most rewarding hobbies in the world. Used to be huge. But then came plastic kits, then video games, internet, smart phones... and our world got smaller.

Some people think "I'll never be able to build something like that". Well, we don't believe in it. And we put our money where our mouth is.

Here is the deal: You buy the Dory - with or without tools - build it and send us a picture of you with your masterpiece. We will GIVE YOU BACK everything you spent in store credit. Chances are you'll build wooden ships life.



If you build plastic kits, now it's the opportunity to give it a try. And if you already are a wood modeler, help us spread the word.

Let's make wooden ship building great again ;)!

Buy [The Dory Here](#)

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. 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 the now-defunct *Ships In Scale* magazine (whose intellectual properties were acquired by the Nautical Research Guild). <https://shipsofscale.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 ships in bottle and miniature building. there's a lot of information on the site for anyone 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

