



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 2026

Welcome to the New Year!

Monthly Meeting

Shipwrights meet the THIRD Saturday of the month at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware. The store opens at 9:00 am and the meeting starts at 9:30.
2553 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO 80222

Next Meeting Jan. 17, 2026

[Click here to stream the Rocky Mountain Shipwright meeting](#)

January Presentation

Towards a Better Model
by Ralph Buckwalter

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: Feb. 7, 2026

Officers

Commodore.....Martin Jelsema
Skipper..... Phil von der Heydt
First Mate..... Alice Sampson
Purser.....Steve Lofshult
Clerk.....Jay McKeown

Committees

Photographer: Jay Phillips
Historian: Bruce Bollenbach
Scuttlebutt: Hugh Long
Webmaster: Dave Niss/Martin Jelesma
Workshop Chair: Ralph Buckwalter
Librarians: Alice Sampson

Website

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>

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Skipper's Log

Winter has arrived, but with longer days ahead, we can work on our boats indoors while watching the snow. It is also a good time to plan ways to make future meetings more engaging for all members. Our group now has 91 members and continues to grow.

Thank you for supporting the club officers and reelecting the incumbents. We aim to focus on topics and activities that benefit as many members as possible. Please share your ideas with any officer; all suggestions are valued and will be considered.

This month's program features Ralph Buckwalter, and I encourage everyone to attend. We will take membership inventory with dues collection. Credit cards will be accepted this year, but \$12 in cash or check is preferred by Steve.

The annual auction will take place during the February meeting, led by Bob Fivehouse. He will need assistance with the auction, and we also need items to auction off. Please check your supplies and bring anything you have not used in the past five years so others can have the chance to use what you no longer need.

Thank you to Hugh and Dave for enhancing our audiovisual technology and streaming services. If the weather is bad, remember you can join club meetings online using instructions on the website. This year, we are adding a technology resource list to the site—please share any useful links with Dave so they can be included.

I am looking forward to a great new year and hope that each of you will make extra effort to come to the meetings and share with your colleagues.

Fair winds and following seas.

Phil

Phil von der Heydt, Skipper

Bvdh@aol.com

817 832 7631

Editors Note: Due to the holidays, the videos from the December meeting were not formatted and posted.

Hopefully, we will catch up soon.

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. Payment can be cash (small bills please), check (get information from Steve), or by credit card (Steve should have the card reader). Please pay before March 1st.

December 20, 2025 Meeting

There were twenty-four attendees including four spouses at the meeting. In person attendees were Steven Alford, Fred Bell, Ralph & Martha Buckwalter, Michael Caramia, Ross Clark, Bob Fivehouse, Dan Hart, Hugh Long, Jay McKeown, Dennis Newman, Dave Niss, Jay & Carol P, Giuseppe (Joe) Presta, Steve Presta, Jeffrey Ross, Bob Rushford, Alice Sampson, Scott & Beth Shilling, Martin & Debbie Ters, and Phil van der Heydt

The meeting was streamed on Zoom with David N and Hugh L at the helm.

Skipper Phil called the meeting to order at 9:42am and lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Fred, Alice, Scott, Jeffrey, Steven A, Jay McK, Debbie (Martin T's wife), Michael C, Giuseppe (Joe), Dan, Steve P, Martin T, and Bob F



Beth (Scott's wife), Scott, Alice, Jeffrey, Steven A, Dennis, Debbie, Jay McK, Martin T, Fred, Giuseppe (Joe), Michael C, Steve P, Dan, Ralph, and Bob F

Members can find the full minutes [here](#).



Jeffrey, Jay McK, Steven A, and Dennis



Jay McK, Dennis, Hugh, Bob F, and Ralph

After the Skipper's reports, a new member that was in attendance was introduced.

- Dennis Newman from Aurora - lots of ships at home.



Fred, Dennis, Dan, Michael C, Bob F, Steven A, and Ralph



Jeffrey, Steven A, Alice, Bob F, Debbie, Michael C, Martin T, Dan, Giuseppe (Joe), Steve P, and Ralph

After the new member introduction, the new and old business items of the club were discussed. Members can review the full minutes [here](#).



Jay McK, Giuseppe (Joe), Phil, and Ralph

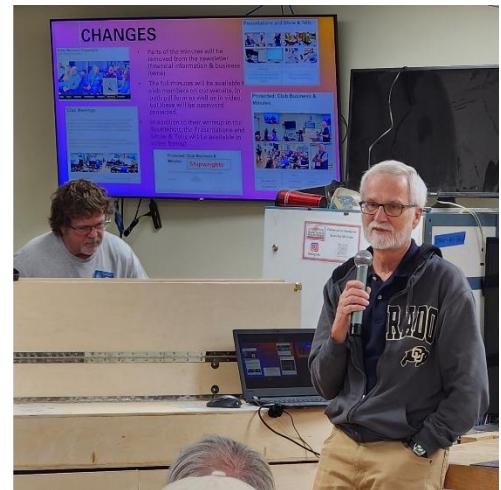


Giuseppe (Joe) and Steve P

Presentation



Hugh and Phil



Hugh and Dave

- Hugh Long: RMSW year in review
 - Jan: Golden Hind animation and an article on removing glue.
 - Feb: Shackleton's Endurance, James Caird, and Ushuaia Argentina - End of the World
 - Mar: Gjoa, building materials organizer, Golden Hind, and Ushuaia
 - Apr: Minnewaska, SS Republic, running knots, and the brass plate of Sir Francis Drake
 - May: Ship railings
 - Jun: Last Gentleman of War, planking, Emden, SS Insulinde, Manitowoc, and rope coils
 - Jul: HL Huntley, knots, rubber band models, Chinese junk restoration, Gjoa, Berbice, and Baltimore clipper
 - Aug: Shipwrecks that changed the world, US Constellation, Berbice, and hull planking.
 - Sept: First streaming meeting. Remember the Maine!, deadeye jigs, and workshop photos.
 - Oct: Salty update, ChatGPT usage, Bluenose update, Albatros, La Renombré plans, Sultana, deadeyes again, SS Insulinde, and the art of sanding.
 - Nov: Exhibition.
 - Dec: History of steam powered ships, micro drills, albatross, workshop photos, and rat lines.
- Dave Niss:
 - Do we do things differently:
 - Use of streaming & online.
 - Our show and tells are on YouTube, but some info is not for public consumption.
 - We are working on getting links to other people's work.
 - What are we interested in seeing/doing?
 - We have a YouTube channel.

Show and Tell

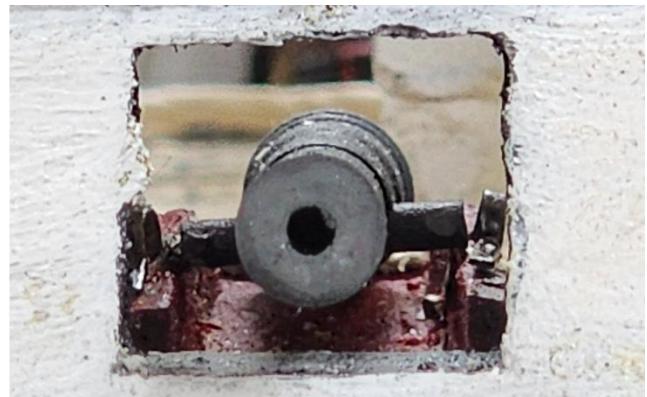
A video of the Show and Tells can be found [here](#).

- Scott Shilling and the Salty
 - Fred Bell joined Scott & Beth. They left Annapolis and sailed to Solomons, but severe weather set in and Fred was sent back.
 - Dolphins by Cape Hatteras.
 - Ran aground by Beaufort.
 - Rough wind from the north at Cape Fear. Wave roll put Salty's rail in the water.
 - Week and a half in Charleston, where they saw the Hunley.
 - Made it to Brunswick and left the boat there.



Beth, Scott, Alice, Jeffrey, Steven A, Dennis, Debbie, Jay McK, Martin T, Fred, Giuseppe (Joe), Michael C, Steve P, Dan, Ralph, and Bob F

- Jay McKeown
 - Jay was going to show his model of USS Constellation 1797, but the food for the party arrived, and he was unable to show it.



The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am and the Holiday Party commenced.



Scott, Michael C, Carol (Jay P's wife), Beth, Dan, Ross, Ralph, Bob F, Martha (Ralph's wife), Giuseppe (Joe), Fred, Jeffrey, Steven A, and Bob R



Martin T plays his "Martin"-made guitar



Bob F, Steve P, Giuseppe (Joe), Beth, Martha, Scott, Carol, Ralph, Michael C, Debbie, Jeffrey, Rob R, Hugh, Steven A, Dave, Jay McK, Phil, Alice, Fred, and Ross



Hugh, Steven A, Jeffrey, Dan, Dave, Jay McK, Alice, Fred, Ross, and Phil



Martha, Ralph, Giuseppe (Joe), Steve P, Scott, Bob F, Beth, Debbie, Steven A, Jay McK, Martin T, Dave, Dan, Carol, Ross, Jeffrey, Fred, and Phil



Steve P, Giuseppe (Joe), Martha, Ralph, Michael C, Scott, Hugh, and Beth



Bob F, Steve P, Giuseppe (Joe), Martha, Ralph, and Scott



Ross, Steven A, Dave, Fred, Martin T, Michael C, Ralph, Dan, Phil, Jeffrey, Scott, Beth, Martha, Carol, Debbie, Giuseppe (Joe), Bob F, and Steve P



Bob F and the food



Martha, Giuseppe (Joe), Steve P, Ralph, Michael C, Beth, Scott, Jeffrey, Debbie, Carol, Steven A, Martin T, Jay McK, Jay P, Dave, Alice, Dan, Ross, Fred, and Phil



Alice, Jay McK, Steven A, Ross, Dave, Jeffrey, Fred, Martin T, Ralph, Dan, Phil, Rob R, Debbie, Michael C, Scott, Martha, Beth, Giuseppe (Joe), Steve P

The life of our club photographer...



Carol, Jay P, Debbie, Martin T, Beth, Bob F, and Scott

Jay P

January 3, 2025, Workshop

There were twelve club members at the workshop including Ralph Buckwalter, Brian Davies, Bob Fivehouse, Dan Hart, Martin Jelsema, Charlie Krinsky, Hugh Long, David Niss, Alice Sampson, Scott Shilling, Martin Ters, Phil von der Heydt.

Additionally, there were five guests: Melinda McGann, Angela Morley, and Jay plus 2 scouts (friends of Phil).

Here's what everyone is working on:

- Ralph Buckwalter: Barbwire Baltimore Clipper
- Brian Davies: Brig Eagle 1814
- Bob Fivehouse: Insulinde
- Dan Hart: Cousteau's Calypso
- Martin Jelsema: Rattlesnake Frigate
- Charlie Krinsky: Baltimore Clipper (club build)
- Hugh Long: Lego Titanic, Bluenose & Molino/Buccaneer
- David Niss: NRG Half-hull Planking Model
- Alice Sampson
- Scott Shilling
- Martin Ters: Royal Caroline
- Phil von der Heydt

Phil had invited a former Eagle scout of his, and he in turn brought two scouts. Melinda came to the workshop as Angela Morley had reached out to the club about a ship that John McGann had been restoring for her.

The ship was returned to Angela, and has an interesting history of the ship. It had been a present to her, but had been severely damaged during a move. The ship is the HMS Bounty, and the reason she was given the model was that she actually served on the Bounty (Brando replica). The ship was commissioned by the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film studio



Melinda, Charlie, and Phil discussing the wreck of the Bounty

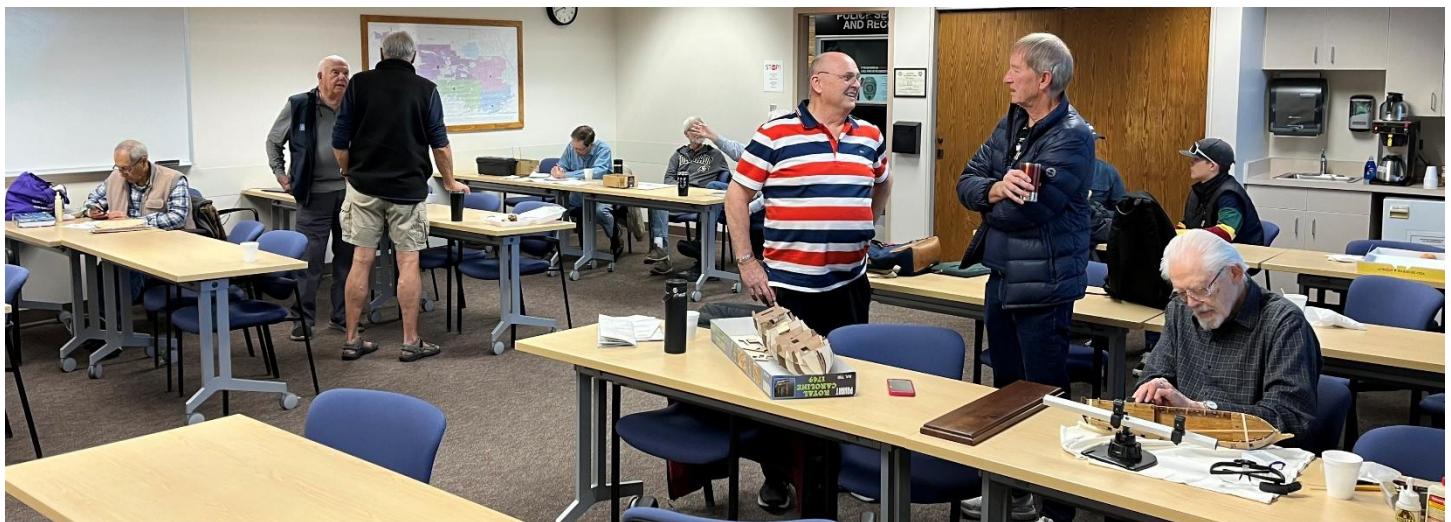
for the 1962 film Mutiny on the Bounty staring Marlon Brando. The replica was the first large vessel built from scratch for a film using historical sources.

Yes, she sailed on the Bounty but was not one of the Fletcher mutineers that lived on Pitcairn Island.



Ralph, Charlie, Dave, Bob F, Phil, Scott, Jay & scouts (friends of Phil), Martin T, Dan, and Martin J

Our great photographer Jay Phillips was unable to attend the workshop and the quality and quantity of pictures suffered.



Charlie, Phil, Scott, Ralph, Dave, Bob F (hidden), Martin T, Dan, Jay & scouts, Martin J

January 17, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Please join us on Saturday January 17th at Rockler Woodworking and Hardware for our monthly meeting. The store opens at 9:00 am and the meeting starts at 9:30 am. Rockler is located at 2553 S. Colorado Blvd. Denver, Colorado 80222.

[Click here to stream the Rocky Mountain Shipwright meeting](#)

- Flag Ceremony
- Skipper's Report
- Purser's Report
 - Introduction of new members
- Old Business
 - How to use Shipwright Technology – Dave Niss

- New Business
 - Annual Auction – Bob Fivehouse
- Break
- History, Mystery, and Technology
 - Towards a Better Model – Ralph Buckwalter
- Show and Tell
- Break

Auction

Our auction will be on February 21st, following an abbreviated meeting.

We have a number of great items but are still looking for more. I am sure there are a lot of you whose eyes have been bigger than your available time and you have some great stuff that you would like to get rid of.

The members should bring the items they wish to sell to the February meeting. You can bring them to the January meeting or if you set something up, to the February workshop. When you arrive at the meeting, check in and get a bidding number and paddle. The items should be clearly identified on the item with the owner's name and a description of the item. If you have a reserve for the item, it should identify the item, the seller's name and the reserve on a separate sheet that will then go to the auctioneer in confidentiality.

We will need two or three runners and the treasurer and an assistant. The money transactions will be explained to the members at the January meeting.

Seller pre-registration

Each item/lot you wish to auction off must be accompanied by a Lot Description Form. *These forms are being distributed along with the Meeting agenda for the January Meeting.* Up to three items can be registered on a single page. Fill in your name and item description for each lot. A lot may be a "bundle" of items (three books for instance) or a single item. For sheets with multiple items, it is best to print out the sheet and then cut the page into three separate forms. Fill in the lot description for each lot. *Bring the completed forms along with the items to the auction between 9:00am and 9:30 on February 21st.* **NOTE:** there will be blank forms available if you have last-minute items to sell.



LOT DESCRIPTION FORM		
SELLER'S NAME: _____		
LOT DESCRIPTION:		
<u>LEAVE THE FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS BLANK. THEY ARE FOR AUCTION ADMINISTRATION</u>		
Lot Number: _____	Winning Bid Amt: _____	Winner's Paddle Number: _____

Lot Registration Process

Upon arriving at Rockler's on the day of the auction, find the check-in table. There each lot will be assigned a Lot Number that will be recorded on the Lot Description Form. If you wish to place a reserve on a lot, (i.e., designate the lot must be sold for more than the designated reserve amount.) tell the in-take person who will record the amount on a reserve list for the auctioneer. Once registered, the lots and their forms will be placed on the review tables for potential bidders to review.

Bidder participation

At the bidder participation table, potential bidders will be assigned a unique numbered bidding paddle to be used to indicate you are bidding on the current lot. Raise the paddle to participate at the current auctioneer's call; lower the paddle if you no longer wish to participate. You may re-enter the bidding again by raising the paddle. If a lot has a reserve designation and the bidding has not reached that reserve, the auctioneer may ask the lot owner if they wish to cancel the reserve and accept the last bid. Once a winner is declared that person will take possession of the lot. The accompanying Lot Description Form will be updated with the winner's paddle number and the purchase amount. The purser will use the information to consolidate all purchases into statements for each winner. *Those statements will be distributed at the March meeting.* Any winners not attending will receive their statement by email.



Non-member participation

Any non-member who participates and wins a lot must pay for their purchase in cash or by check at the meeting.

RMSW Meetings are Streaming

If you cannot join us in person, please join us online as the meetings are now streamed on Zoom, but we will not be delivering food to the online attendees. 😊

We are still looking for a person to help with the behind-the-scenes stuff that it takes to stream a meeting. If you are interested in helping (even just for this meeting), please let us know.

The link to join the stream is [Rocky Mountain Shipwright meeting](#).

- Meeting ID: 873 8516 5128
- Passcode: 887438

Please remember that our meetings are on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 9:30 am (mountain).

Rocky Mountain Shipwright Online Presence

In addition to the [Rocky Mountain Shipwrights website](#), we also have a [YouTube channel](#).

Please let us know how you would like either of these platforms to improve, as well as how you would like the Scuttlebutt improved.

Please let us know specific topics you would like to see.

Other Online Content

With today's access to the web, there is a huge amount of useful information available to ship modelers. In addition to the list that will be at the end of the newsletter on an on-going basis, we will include links we found recently.

As always, please let us know what links you have found helpful.

Dan Hart's YouTube channel

Dan Hart has videos of two of his models on his YouTube channel. Check out and like and subscribe to his channels. These videos are a splendid example of how to display a completed model. The videos, as with your modeling skills, are amazing. Fantastic job Dan and thanks for sharing.

The USS Yorktown CV-10 is all still shots of the model with music: [USS Yorktown CV-10 1944](#)



The video of his Bismarck is a narrated video of the model with some history of the ship: [Battleship Bismarck and 1:350 Scale Model](#)

Olha Batchvarov

[Olha Batchvarov](#)'s channel is dedicated to ship modeling and everything connected with it. Exhibitions, competitions, and maritime museums. Build models from keel to final photo shoot, with details and secrets as it was done. Under the picture you will find the link to a series on her tools.



[Hand Tools for Shipmodeling](#)

Curtis Wooden Shipyard

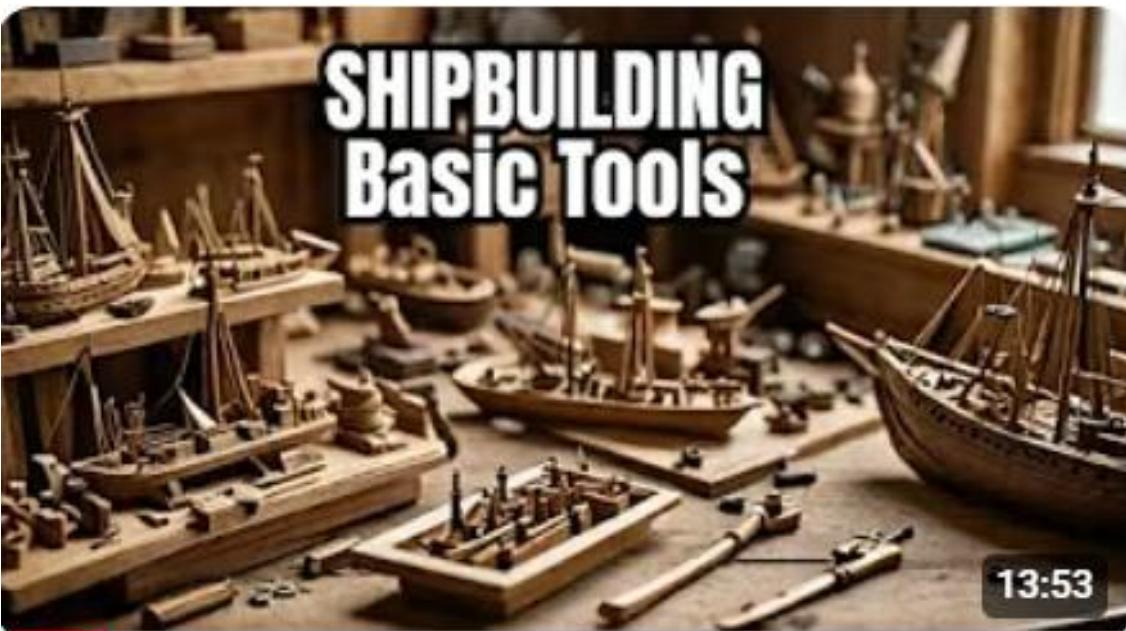
The [Curtis Wooden Shipyard](#) channel is dedicated to wooden boat model building! Whether you are a beginner or an experienced model shipbuilder, I hope you will find some inspirational tips and tutorials on crafting beautiful wooden ship models. Under the picture you will find the link to a video about his essential tools.



[Essential Tools & Materials for Wooden Model Ship Building](#)

G Kip

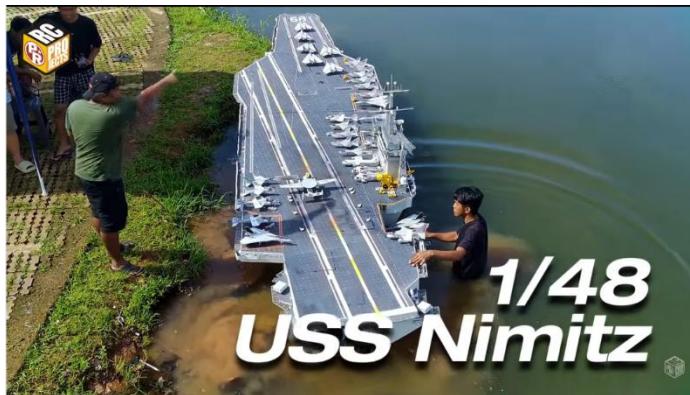
The [G Kip channel](#) is dedicated to ship modelling and everything connected with model ship construction, equipment and books. Model ship building, ship model making kits by various manufacturers, (Occre, Constructo, Artesania Latina, Deagostini Modelspace, Ships of Pavel Nikitin) predominantly building wooden model ships, customizing kits to build more authentic models, working towards scratch building models from plans.



[The Essential Tools for Wooden Shipbuilding](#)

Giant Radio-Controlled USS Nimitz

And just for fun and enjoyment, here are two links to a huge 1/48 Scale USS Nimitz. Each is about 25 minutes, some of which is duplicated, but watching them at faster than normal speeds makes watching both a bit more manageable.



The model is 23 feet long and is radio controlled and even has planes that can take off and land from/on the carrier. Definitely two great watches.

[Giant DIY RC USS Enterprise with RC Plane Take Off and Landing](#)

[Massive 1/48 Scale USS Nimitz](#)

Fairing

As we all know, building a wooden ship model requires precision and patience... lots of patience. We need precision in the structural assembly and patience in just about everything else.

Two of the most critical tasks include fairing the hull to ensure a smooth planking surface and then planking the hull. These two tasks define the final shape and overall look of the ship.

Planking is generally one of the tasks that get a lot of attention in books, magazines, and videos, while many times fairing is not given the same amount of attention. After all, everyone sees the planking, but once the planking has been completed, the fairing is completely covered.

So, what exactly is fairing? Fairing is the foundational process of shaping the ship's skeleton (the internal frames or bulkheads) and external hull to create a smooth, continuous curve, ensuring planks lay flat and true, preventing bumps and gaps, and ultimately forming a "fair," beautiful hull. It involves sanding and shaping using a sanding block and/or files, using a plank or batten to find high spots, and sometimes adding wood strips to build up low areas.

Without fairing, planks will only touch the sharp corners of the bulkheads, leading to poor glue adhesion, bumps, or a "wavy" appearance in the finished model.

And again, it will be completely covered and hidden from view.

To be honest, I am only working on my second ship, and I have taken different approaches to fairing each of them.

On the first ship (Model Shipways' Bluenose), I felt I had read and watched enough to know fairing was needed but now I know that I had not read or watched enough to know just how important it is. To be fair, the Bluenose has a painted hull, so while a very smooth hull is desired, a lot of imperfections



can be covered with filler, so I am assuming what I had read or watched (which were mostly Bluenose specific) did not fully cover fairing.

By the time I started my second build, OcCre's Buccaneer, I had learned a bit more about fairing. I again point to what I had read and watched that this time were Buccaneer specific. And since the hull on the Buccaneer has a more drastic curve (it is a Spanish galleon) than the smooth, almost artistic curves of the Bluenose (it is a fishing schooner), anything that can be done to improve the first planking, is necessary. Yes, it is a double planked hull, and filler can still be used on this first planking, but spending adequate time on fairing makes the second planking a lot easier, as well as improving the overall look on the planking once completed.

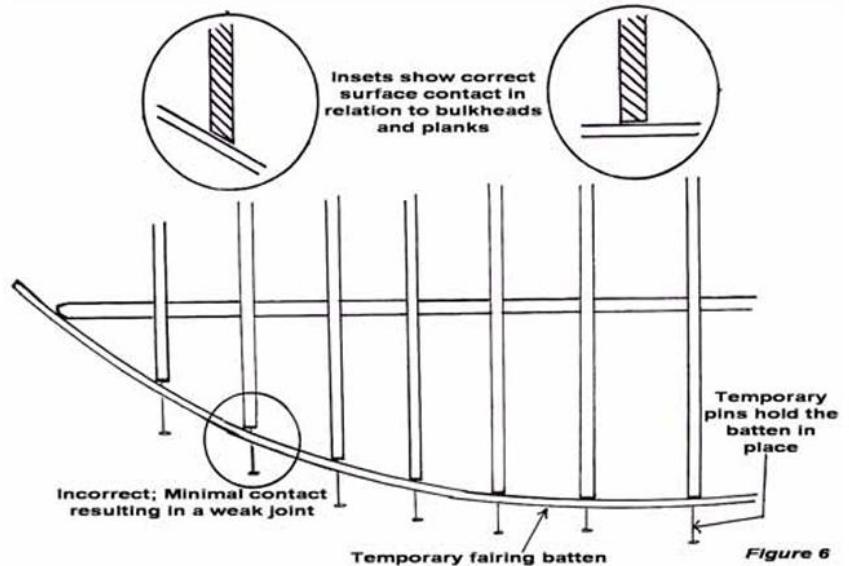
In retrospect, I could have done a better job with the fairing on the Bluenose. Oh well, live and learn.

Let us explore the fairing process. There are three goals to fairing. You want to create a smooth, flowing shape from bow to stern and from deck to keel. This smooth curve then allows the planks to sit flush on the entire edge of each frame/bulkhead, and not just on the "square/pointy" corners. By focusing on these first two goals, you will meet the third goal of eliminating any distortions, such as bumps, waves, and hallows, that will show up later in planking.

The tools you will need are a sanding block or file and at least one piece of planking that we will refer to as a batten. You will also need to use your senses of vision and touch as you will be able to see much of what you need to sand, but your touch will also point to areas that need more work. Using a camera can help as well as the camera lens will see things that our naked eye may miss.

To start fairing, using a sanding block or file, place your sanding block on at least two bulkheads. It helps to use a sanding block that is long enough to span at least three bulkheads at once. This ensures you are sanding a continuous curve rather than flattening individual frames.

If bulkheads move while you are sanding, insert temporary wooden blocks between the bulkheads to keep the frame rigid. This prevents "chatter" and ensures a more accurate fairing.





While sanding, use a gentle rocking motion as you move across the bulkheads, try not sand in one continuous area as that may cause over sanding. Over sanding will create a low spot that may need to be built up using a sliver of wood. It is better to build up the “low” bulkhead instead of sanding the adjacent bulkheads “down.”

To build up a bulkhead, glue a thin strip of wood to the bulkhead’s edge. Let it dry and then continue with the fairing process. Sure, building it up is more work, but it will create a better-looking finished product. Remember, everything you do now will be covered by the planking later, so do not worry if you have pieces of mismatched wood glued together. It is far more important to obtain a fair hull at this point.

Do not focus on one area or one bulkhead but rather move around. The sanding will not be done in one spot and then you will move on, but rather think of it as an onion, and peel a little then move on, and at some point, you will hit this first spot again. Just keep going until you feel the correct curve has been created but know that the bulkheads near the bow and stern will usually need the most sanding as those portions of the ship’s hull have the most extreme curves.

To complete the fairing at these extreme curves, filler blocks may be needed. They will be discussed later.

When you think you are done, take a close look at the bulkheads from multiple angles, feel the curve. Do not be surprised if you find something that needs more work. Mark these places with a pencil and then work with the sanding block to remove the pencil.

A camera can help at this point to more easily see bulkheads that need more work.

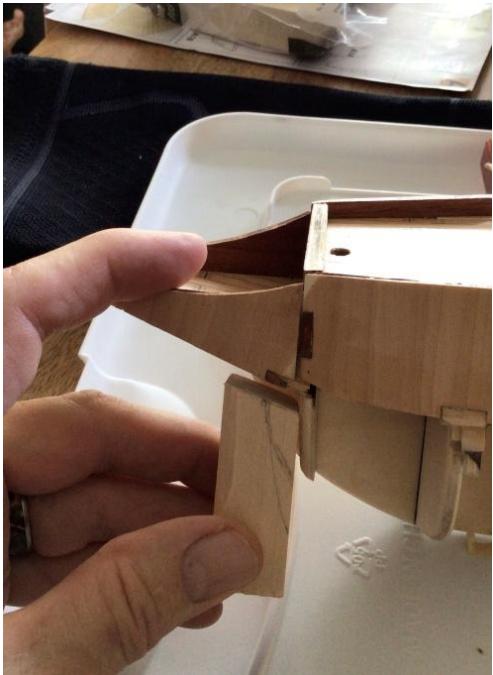


Mixed into the overall sanding process is the use of a strip of planking. Place this plank/batten against the bulkheads in the rough place and direction that the planking will be installed later. Look at where the batten touches each individual bulkhead and ask yourself, does the batten lay flat across the entire edge of the bulkhead, or does it only touch a little bit of it, or is there a gap between the bulkhead and the batten? If the batten only touches a little bit of a frame, sand it until the batten rests flush against the entire bulkhead. If there is a gap, glue a thin strip of wood and sand it until the desired curve is achieved.

Move the batten around, from all the way up at deck level to the bottom at the keel. Constantly check and recheck how the batten lays against every bulkhead and repeat the sanding process until the plank sits flat and true across all the bulkheads.

It is at this point where the fairing is complete, and the ship is ready for planking.





As previously mentioned, the extreme curves of the bow and stern may require the use of filler blocks. A filler block is made of soft wood (balsa, basswood, or pine). Cut the block to fit snuggly between the bulkheads with the extreme curves. The block will need to be carved and sanded to fill in the space between the bulkheads. While this can be done after the block has been glued in place, I prefer to do the heavy cutting with the block off the ship.

To do that, hold the block in place between the bulkheads and use a pencil to mark where the bulkheads are. Remove the block and cut the block down to near the line. Do some preliminary sanding to get it even closer to the correct shape and now glue it in place.

Now the blocks can be sanded down until they flow perfectly from one bulkhead to the next, using the process previously described.



These blocks provide a large gluing surface when planking, preventing “flat spots” where planks would otherwise sag between frames.

To successfully fair a hull, remember the following:

- Be patient. Fairing is a repetitive process, do not rush it.
- Shrink your work area. While fairing is done to the entire hull, focus on small areas.
- Variety is key. Do not sand in one spot too long.
- Be Patient. The process can take hours but is essential for a quality build.

So yes, an excellent job of fairing will be covered by the planking, but it will make what is visible, the planking, look that much more impressive.

Content for this article was pulled from multiple locations including:

- [Suburban Ship Modeler](#)
- [Ships of Scale - Fairing \(beveling bulkheads\) - help](#)
- [Modelers Central - Planking Tips For Building a Model Ship](#)
- [Model Ship World - Getting the Courage to Start Fairing a Hull for the First Time](#)
- [YouTube - Fairing the Lines](#)
- [Ships of Scale - Simple Hull Planking Techniques for Beginners](#)

Chart of Scales and Equivalents

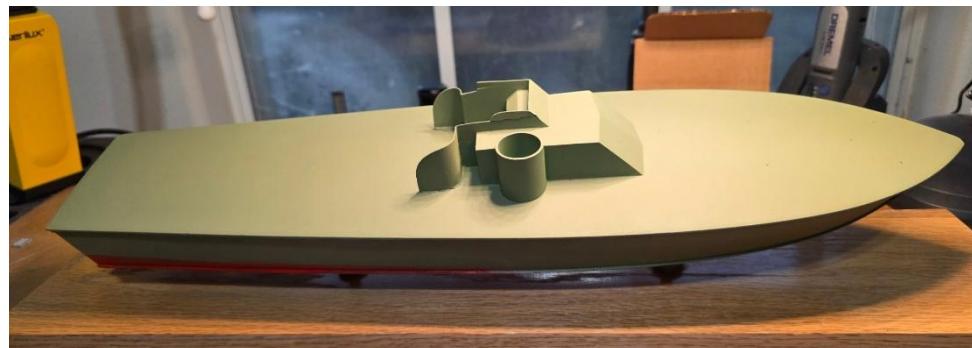
Scale modelers use Charts of Scales and Equivalents as essential reference tools to maintain precision and realism when shrinking real-world objects into miniatures. They help modelers to build parts from raw materials (scratch building). A chart provides the exact "scale model feet" or meters required to match a real-world object. Without these precise measurements, components may not fit together or will fail to look like a "faithful replica".

Fractional Inch	Decimal Equivalent	Millimeter Equivalent	% of Size (Scale)	Inch to foot Equivalent
1/16	.0625	1.588	1/192	1" = 16.0'
3/32	.0936	2.38	1/128	1" = 10.5'
1/8 (HO Gauge)	.1250	3.175	1/96	1" = 8.0'
11/64	.1666	4.365	1/72	1" = 6.0'
3/16 (S Gauge)	.1875	4.763	1/64	1" = 5.2'
1/4 (O Gauge)	.250	6.35	1/48	1" = 4.0'
19/64	.300	7.54	1/40	1" = 3.9'
11/32	.343	8.73	1/35	1" = 3.3'
3/8	.375	9.53	1/32	1" = 2.6'
1/2	.500	12.7	1/24	1" = 2.0'

- A .pdf of this chart can be found on our website [here](#).

Members Checking In

We received a couple of pictures from **Jon Sorensen** who now resides in Gulf Shores, Alabama He is currently working on Bluejacket's 1:48 Elco 80-foot PT boat. The kit has been a very advanced kit and full of obstacles.



Get Your Swag

- For polo shirts, caps, and vests, ask **Steve Lofshult** at any meeting.
- For name badges, ask **Rob Cuscaden** at any meeting.



Website Password

The website is now broken into content that needs a password, and content that is open to the public.

Moving forward we will be pulling parts of the minutes out of the newsletter, specifically the financial information and business items of the club. But do not fret, the full minutes will be available to club members on our website, in both pdf form and generally in video as well, but these will be password protected.

In addition to the normal write up of the Presentation and Show and Tells, most will have links to the club's YouTube channel where you can view that portion of the meeting. We will be working at getting the full video of the meeting posted to the channel as well – but it will be password protected.

If you do not know the password, please reach out and it will be sent to you.

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 **3rd 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. **Think of these lists as incomplete.** If you use or have discovered others, please email them to RockyMountainShipwrights1991@gmail.com and they will be added to the lists. With your contributions, we can make these lists a more comprehensive and valuable resource.

Useful Websites

With today's access to the web, there is a huge amount of useful information available to ship modelers. Here is a brief list that was pulled from Ships Of Scale.

Please send any links that you find useful, and we will add them to the list.

[Ship plans of the Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

- 3000 contemporary ship plans, 800 of which are high resolution.

[Royal Museum Greenwich collection of contemporary ships plans](#)

- Royal Museum Greenwich collection of contemporary ships plans (low resolution for free), paintings, contracts, and more.

[The Elements and Practice of Rigging And Seamanship, 1794, by David Steel](#)

- David Steel's book on rigging and seamanship.

[A primer on planking](#)

- Planking tutorial by David Antscherl

[Textbook of Seamanship, 1891](#)

- Textbook on seamanship 1891

[The Rigging of HMS Invincible](#)

- A study of the rigging of HMS Invincible

[Photographing Scale Models](#)

[Universal Dictionary of the Marine](#)

- Useful for maritime definitions, both English as well as French sea terms.

[Original contracts of various ships and eras](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

- Library of Congress – Search from home page for detailed plans and photos.

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 other tools

Contenti Jewelry Supply

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

MicroMark

Small tool specialist; a small selection of ship kits, and ship modelling supplies.

UMM-USA

Modeling tools for plastic and wood models

Razor Blade Company

Cutting blades and handles

Materials

Cards of Wood

Thin veneer and plywood

Constantine'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 diverse types of wood. It may 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

J.T. Sitek Props

Scale model ships propellers.

Graphics

Shapeways

3d printing company with 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

[Meininger Art Supply](#)

499 Broadway, Denver

303-698-3838

Paints, brushes, tools, paper, 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 model-train store 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

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

These are good local hobby shops that have a selection of 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 Tracy

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. The site also has archived issues of "Warships and Workboats" and "MSB Journal."

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; those are the intellectual property of 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

The Nautical Research Guild operates this large comprehensive site. 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 "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 judged 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

