April 2026

Trim the Sails

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 Apr. 18, 2026

Click here to stream the Rocky Mountain Shipwright meeting

April Presentation

Dan Siemens presents The Unconventional Building Methods of Ships in Bottles.

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: May 2, 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

Cargo Hold

Skipper's Log

Many of you have noticed that the website is down. We are actively working on a solution to the problem and hopefully by the time you see this, it will be fixed. Thank you to Hugh, Dave, Martin, and Steve for their efforts in resolving a complicated issue, which may end up that we just failed to pay the bill on time.

We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming weekend at the Great Western Train Show, which will be held at the Denver Coliseum. This event consistently provides us with valuable opportunities to connect with new friends and to discover helpful resources for our club. We invite everyone to stop by and visit our booth during the show. If you have not already arranged to join us at the booth, you are more than welcome to sit in with me, Dave, Steve, Alice, Terry, and Ralph. Over the years, our participation in this show has proven to be phenomenally successful and well worth the effort put in by everyone involved.

Again, thanks to David Brooks of the Wood Turners for his effort in cleaning up the downstairs area and display cases. You may know that several of us have placed boats in the cases and in the stairwell. Please let me know if you are interested in displaying one of your models. We can arrange that. This turns out to be a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our partnerships with the Wood Turners and the Woodcrafters Guild, who share the wonderful resources of the Rockers facility.

Please join us on April 18 for our monthly meeting. We have a great program presented by Daniel Siemens: The Unconventional Building Methods of Ships in Bottles.

Fair winds and following seas.

Phil
Phil von der Heydt, Skipper
Bvdh@aol.com
817 832 7631

March 21, 2026 Meeting

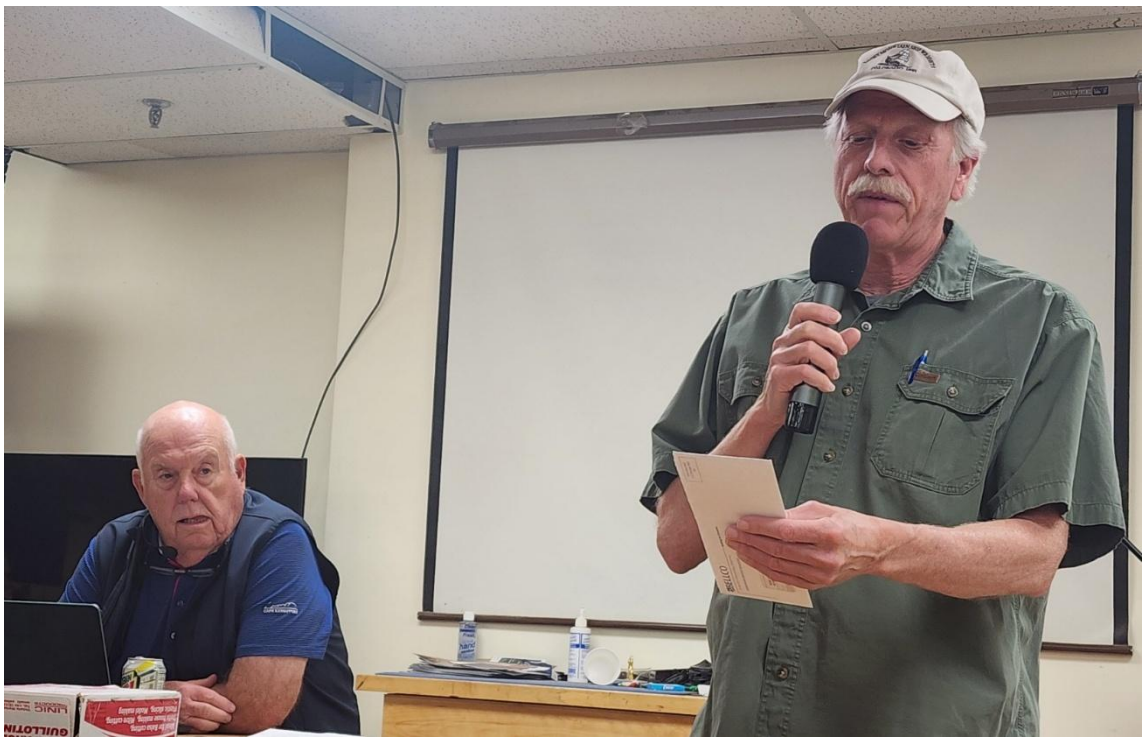
There were twenty-one in attendance, including 1 guest and 5 online members (z) for the meeting. They were Fred Bell, Gary Broeder (z), Ralph Buckwalter, Michael Caramia, Erik Collett, Bob Fivehouse, Steve Lofshult, Hugh Long (z), Jay McKeown, Dennis Newman, Dave Niss, Carol & Jay Phillips, Jeff Ross, Bob Rushforth, Alice Sampson, Thom Scheerer, Scott Shilling (z), Jon Sorensen (z), Phil van der Heydt, and John Worgan (z)

Online view of the Purser's Report
Hugh L, Gary B, Jon S, and John W

Skipper Phil vdH called the meeting to order at 9:35am and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom S, Bob F, Erik C, Fred B, Jeff R, Carrol P, Ralph B, Jay McK, and Michael C

After the Skipper's and Purser's reports, any new member introductions, the new and old business items of the club were discussed. Members can review the full minutes here.



Phil vdH and Steve L

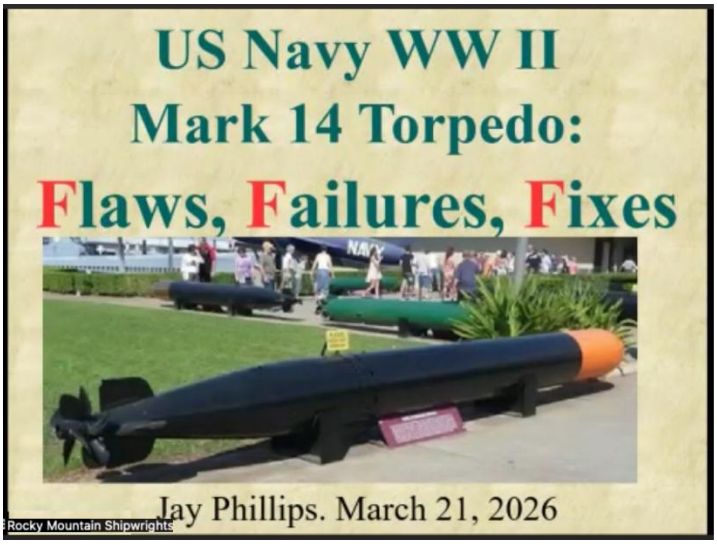
Tom S, Jeffrey R, Jay McK, Bob F, Erik C, Michael C, and Ralph B

Bob F, Dennis N, Carrol P, Erik C, Jeffrey R, Fred B, Ralph B, Steve L, Jay McK, and Michael C

Online attendees (clockwise from top left) – Gary B, Hugh L, John W and Jon S

Steve L, Alice S, Carrol P, Tom S, Jeff R, Jay McK, Bob F, Erik C, Michael C, Bob R, Ralph, Fred B, and Dennis N

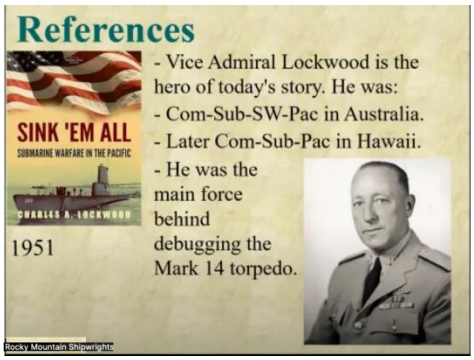
Presentation - Flaws, Failures and Fixes of the USN WW II Mark 14 Torpedoes

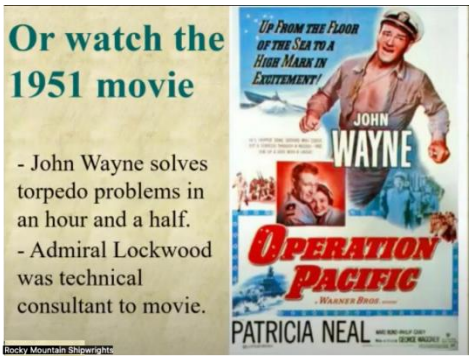


Jay P and Mark 14 Torpedoes

Jay Phillip's Resources

- Book - Vice Admiral Lockwood's Sink 'em All (1951)
- Journal - Naval History and Heritage Command (2024)
- Blogger - Drachinifel Naval Historiographer (2020 Mark 14 2025 US Torpedo)
- Technical Report – The Mk-XIV Torpedo: Lessons for Today (1992)
- Movie - Operation Pacific with John Wayne (1951)

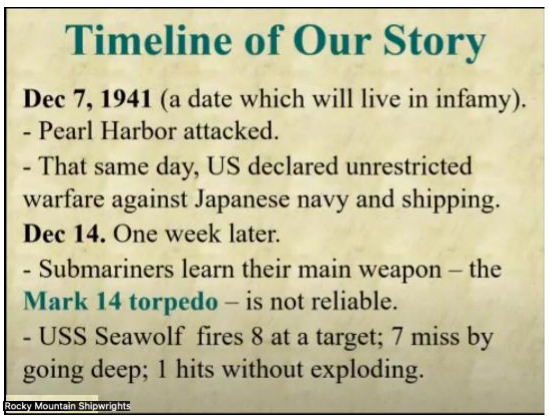


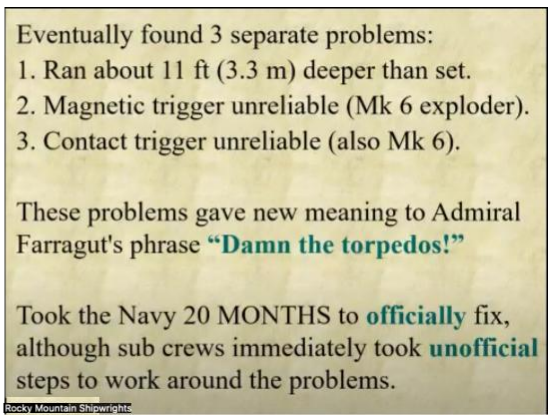


At the beginning of the US involvement of WW II (post Pearl Harbor), the only weapon US Navy submarines had were torpedoes and they did not work as hoped or designed for.

Issues:

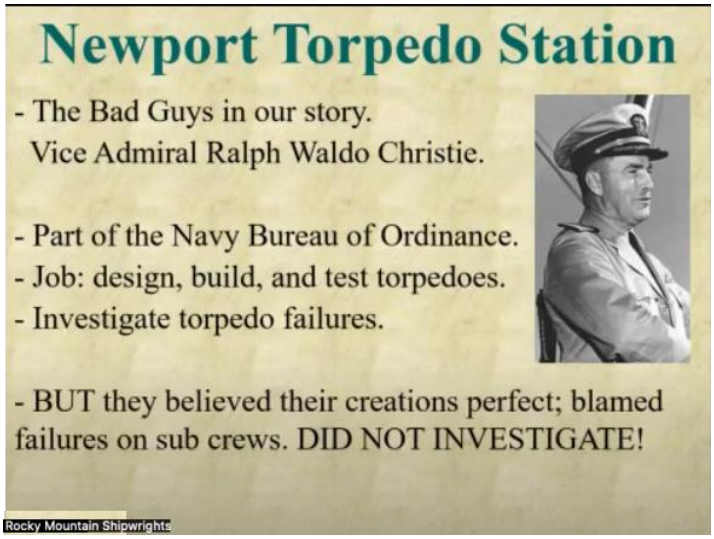
- Ran 11 feet deeper
- Magnetic trigger unreliable
- Contact trigger unreliable



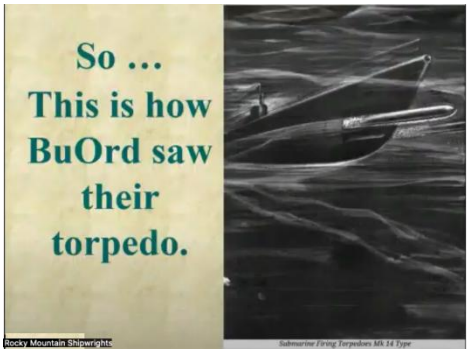


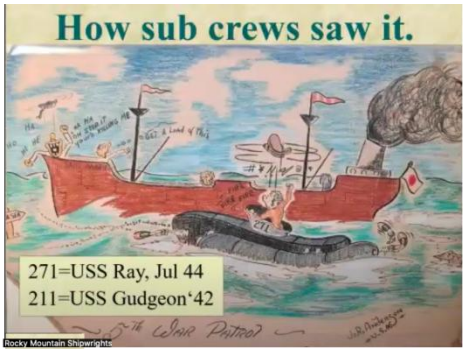
Newport Torpedo Station - test facility

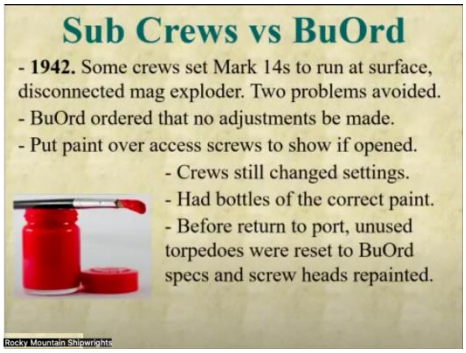
- Bad guys – Vice Admiral Ralph Waldo Christie and BuOrd (Bureau Of Ordinance) claimed it was the crew's fault.
    - Did Not Investigate



Sub Crews vs. BuOrd

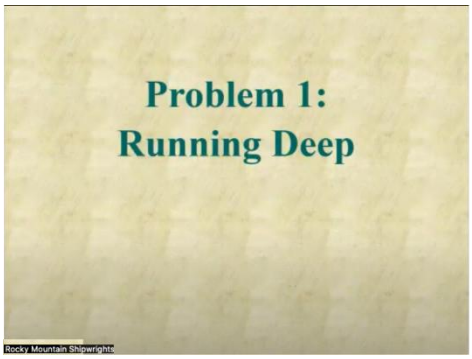


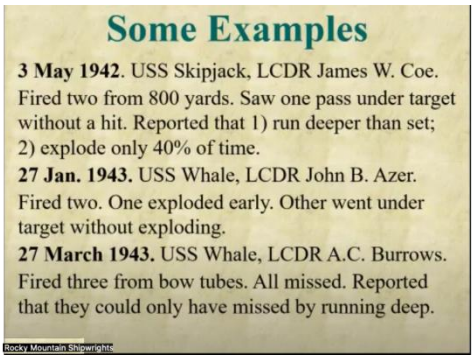


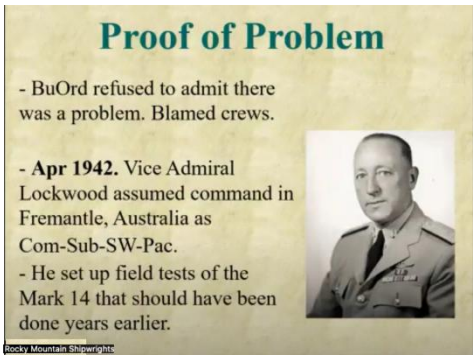


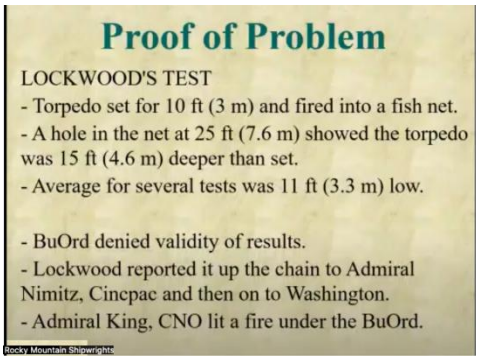
Good Guys – Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood assumed command of Com-Sub-SW-Pac (Fremantle, Australia

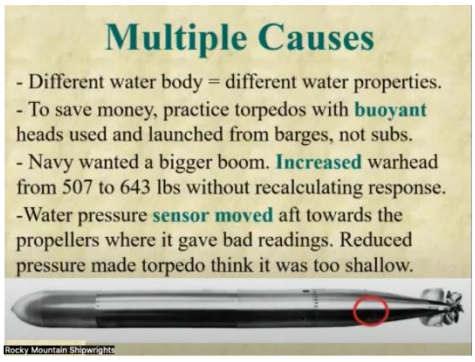
- Problem 1: Running Deep
    - Proof of Problem
    - Multiple Causes
    - Fix: Rebalance and move hydrostatic pressure sensor

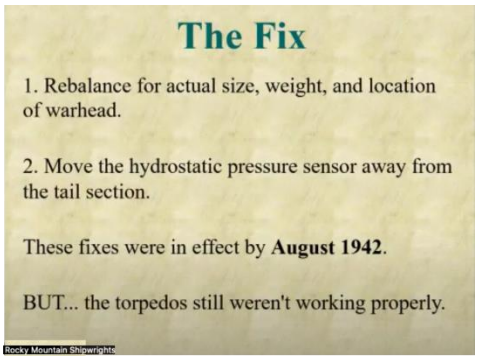






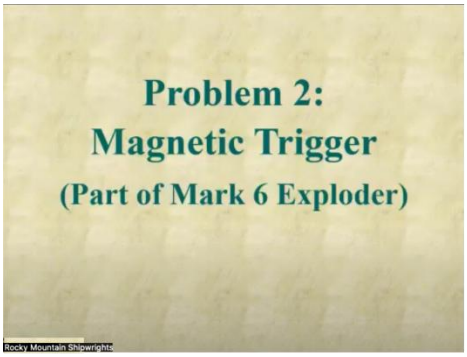


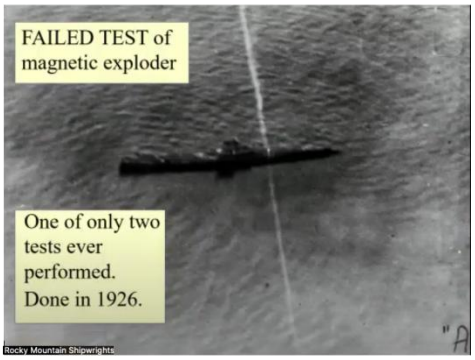


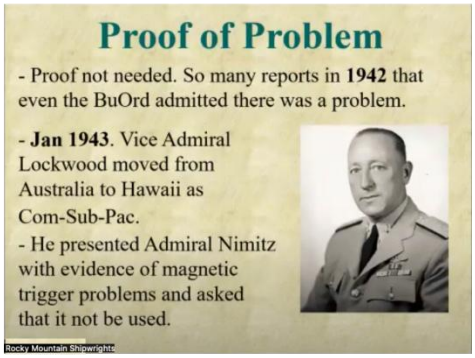


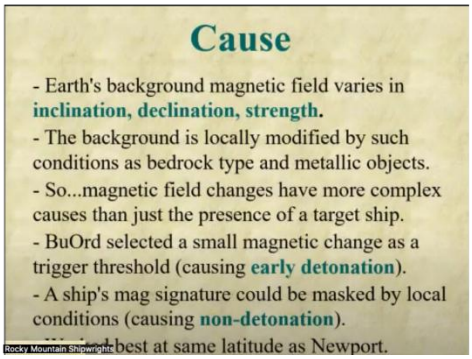
Problem 2: Magnetic Trigger

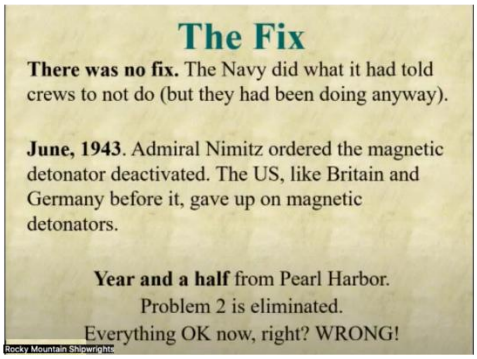
- Proof of Problem
- Cause; Inclination, Declination, and Strength
- No fix other than to deactivate the magnetic detonators





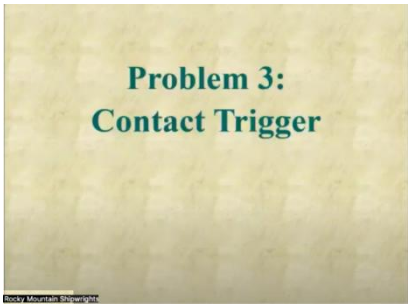


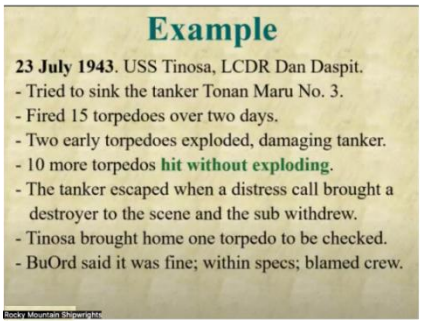


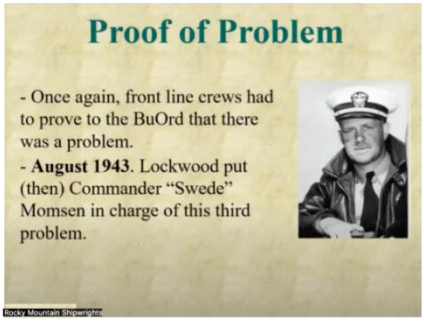


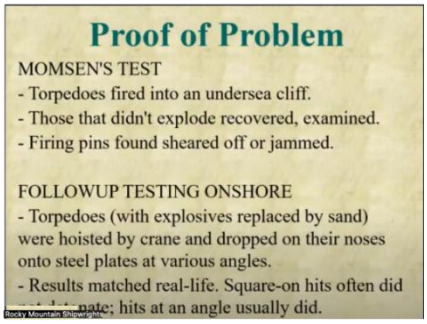
Problem 3: Contact Trigger

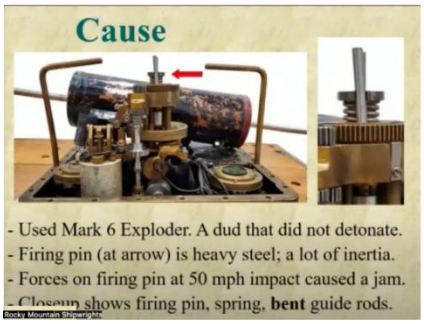
- Proof of Problem
- Cause: Heavy firing pin
  - Albert Einstein told BuOrd the firing pin design was bad.
- Fix: Use aluminum instead of heavier metal

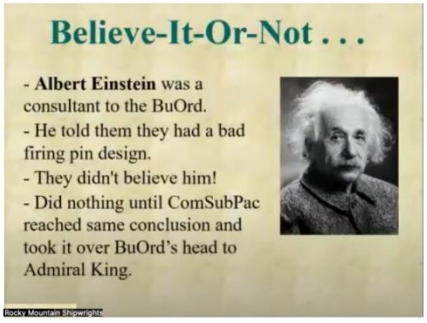


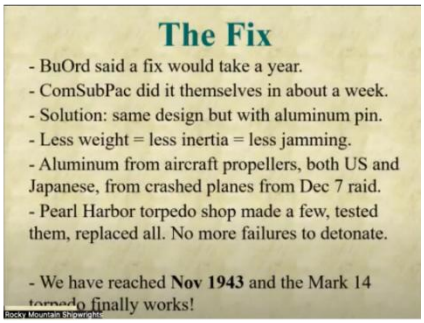






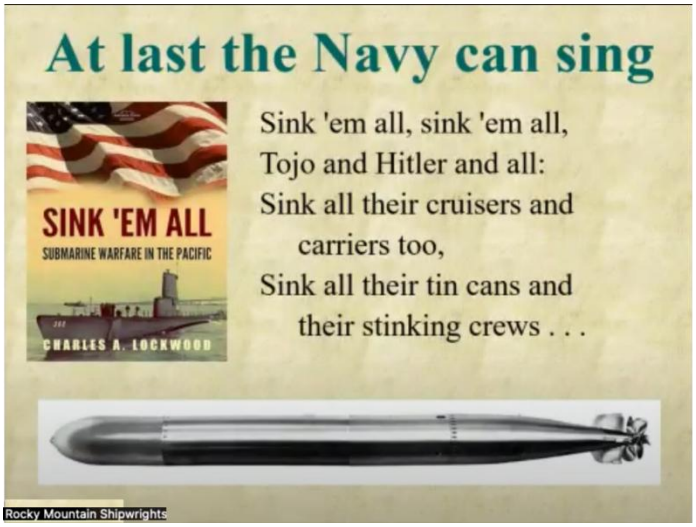


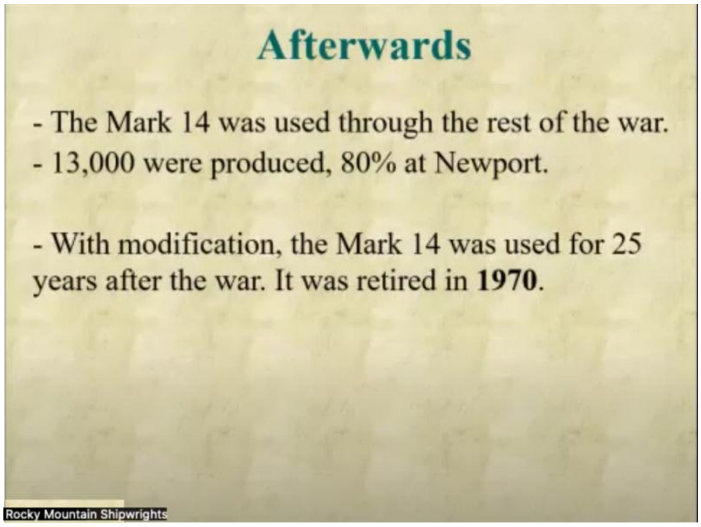




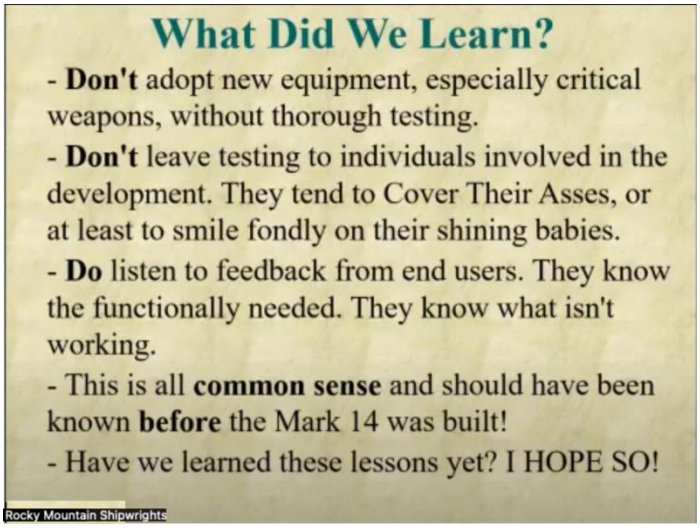
At last, in November of 1943, the Navy had a working torpedo.

- Mark 14 torpedoes were used until they were retired (within the US Navy) in 1970
- Side note - Mark 18 torpedo was based on a captured German electric torpedo.





Learnings



Show and Tell

Bob Fivehouse showed his progress on the Insulinde.

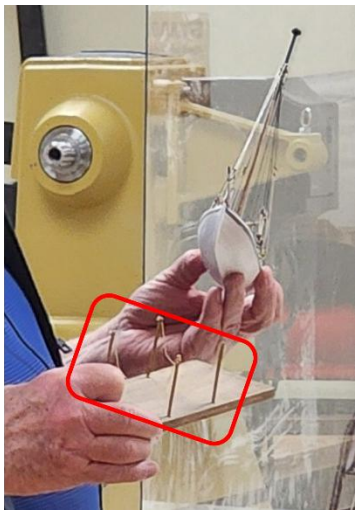
- Built in 1914 – Rotterdam Lloyd Line
- Rotterdam to Batavia (Jacara), Indonesia
- White Boot topping; paint between the load and light waterline (cargo full vs cargo empty)
    - Red was usually used as it was lead-based and killed just about everything.
- 1:600 scale 1" = 50 feet
- Hull was carved out of basswood.
- Deck is holly that is scribed to look like planking.
- Steel plating (paper)
- Recently added 3 ladders and drilled the holes for another two.
- Bob does not track the time he spends working on the ship.

Tom Scheerer showed us his completed Essex and the White Whale

- 1:60 scale
- The ship from Moby Dick
- It took about 6 months to complete.
- He made a harpoon with a toothpick and a fishing hook.
- Made the whale and a sextant using a 3D printer.
- Ship has 150 hanks.
- 1,100 knots for the ratlines
- Used Ralph's suggestion of using "Stiffen" and a blow dryer to create the billowing sails.
    - Be careful and hold the ship and it may tip over once the blow dryer is turned on.
- Added wooldings: Tightly wound turns of rope (historically about 13 turns) nailed to the mast to strengthen it or join sections.
- Better to tie the sails on the yards before adding the yards to the masts
- Did not use the recommended white paint as he prefers a more natural color.
- Used aluminum foil to help make the flag look like it is blowing in the wind.
    - Tom is on Ships Of Scale – look for Tommy S, currently working on the Flying Dutchman
    - Looking for flickering LEDs (not blinking)

Phil vdH - sailing dingy with rope sling mount.

- Phil completed the dingy after the original builder passed away.
- The base is made with his rope/chain slings.
    - Two posts with a rope or chain hung between the posts.
    - Holds the ship level and allows the ship to be removed as needed.



The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am

Skipper's Lunch next door at BoHeo Pho Kitchen

- Around 7 people took advantage of the lunch.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47am.

Members can find the full minutes here.

April 4, 2026 Workshop

There were ten club members plus three guests at the April workshop. The attendees were Ralph Buckwalter, Brian Davies, Terry Duffin, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, David Niss, Jay Phillips, Alice Sampson, Daniel Siemens, and Phil van der Heydt. The guests were Carol Phillips, and Jerry and Mary Ann Mastenbrook

Here's what everyone is working on:

- Ralph Buckwalter: Berbice Baltimore Clipper
- Brian Davies: Brig Eagle 1814
- Terry Duffin: Scottish Maid
- Martin Jelsema: Rattlesnake Frigate
- Steve Lofshult: Purser duties
- David Niss: NRG Half-hull Planking Model
- Jay Phillips: WWII Baby Flat Top Casablanca Class
- Alice Sampson
- Daniel Siemens: Ship in Bottle
- Phil van der Heydt: Harvey

Phil vdH and Martin J with their jointly built Harvey

A small ship for a small bottle by Dan S

Terry D, Ralph B, Jerry M, Dan S, Steve L, Phil vdH, and Martin J

Martin J, Dave N, Phil vdH, and Steve L

Martin J and his Rattlesnake

Alice S, Terry D, Martin J, Dave N, and Phil vdH

Brian D, Ralph B, Jerry M, Dan S, Mary Ann M, Alice S, and Terry D

Dave N, Ralph B, Brian D, Dan S, Jerry M, Mary Ann M, Phil vdH, Terry D, Alice S, Carol Phillips, and Martin J

Dave N, Dan S, Brian D, Martin J, and Phil vdH

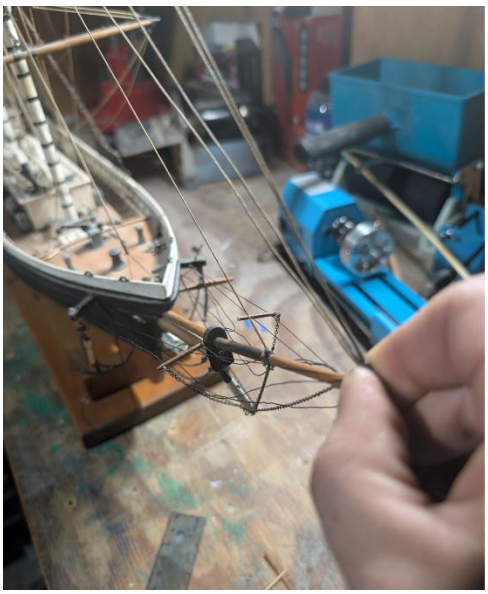
Flying Cloud Restoration

Jerry and Mary Ann Mastenbrook attended the workshop after hearing that the club might be able to help them get their Flying Cloud repaired. Dan Siemens, who usually dabbles in ships in bottles, decided to take on the project. As a side note, Dan will be presenting the unique challenges of working in bottles at the April 18th meeting.

Ralph B, Dan S, Jerry M and Mary Ann M
Dan and Jerry are discussing the restoration of the Flying Cloud

Jerry M, Dan S, Terry D, and Ralph B
Dan looking over the Flying Cloud

Dan has already begun the necessary repairs on the broken bowspirit.



April 18, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Please join us on Saturday April 18th 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
- Old Business
    - Great Western Train Show
    - Rockler's display cases.
- New Business
- BREAK
- Presentation
    - Dan Siemens presents The Unconventional Building Methods of Ships in Bottles.
- Show and Tell
- Adjourn
- Skipper's lunch: Bo Heo Pho

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights Meetings are Streaming

Within the next few months, we will be switching Zoom accounts to the Club's Zoom own account, which will change the link and log in information. There is nothing to do right now, just know that it is coming. As we get closer to the change, more information will be sent out.

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

As mentioned in the Skipper's Notes, our website is currently down. We are working towards getting the site up and working again.

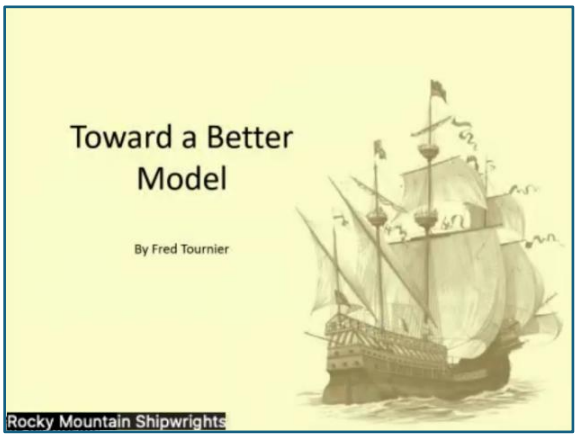
In addition to the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights website, we also have a YouTube channel.

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.

Towards a Better Model

By Fred Tournier



About ten years ago Fred Tournier, a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights, put together a series of articles for the Scuttlebutt. These articles were originally in the 2015 January, February, and March issues. They explored how to look at your models and how to improve a kit. He wanted members to be able to take their models from "good" to "better." And it started with just "doing it right."

In last month's Scuttlebutt, improving the rigging of a ship was detailed. This month, improving cannons will be covered.

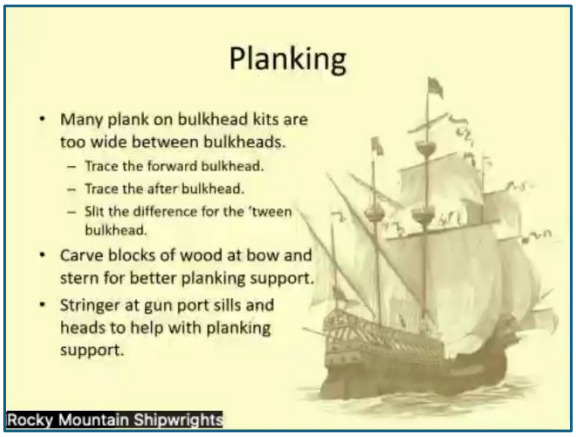
Planking

There are three variations of the planked hull: the plank on frame, the plank on bulkhead, and the plank on block (solid hull).

The plank on frame method is an open frame, built up of several pieces like actual practice. Imported kit models use the second method (a solid bulkhead frame) which is fitted on a central keel with the bow and stern profile included on this central section. This type of "egg crate" construction is notched to fit together with plywood sub decking and one or more layers of planking installed over it. The third method is plank over block, which is gaining favor in museums and among collectors. This third type is less prone to distortion and damage.

The true plank on frame is often used to show the construction and interior layout of a new ship. This type of construction is often referred to as an "Admiralty Model." The imported kits using the plank on bulkhead method often have too wide a space between these frames and the important bow and stern areas are often poorly designed. If these frames are widely spaced, I add a frame between them; here is how I do it:

Admiralty Model of Schooner Ingomar by Patrick Taylor on Facebook
Les fous du modélisme naval et des modèles réduits



Lay a piece of stiff paper against one side of a frame and draw its profile on it. Then place this paper on the next frame with the drawn side against the frame and draw the outline on it. If there is a difference between the two lines, I split the difference and now you have a pattern for a third profile, which can be used for the frame between these two frames.

OcCre's Buccaneer by Hugh Long

The use of a carved block in the bow area fitted from the stem to the first frame gives a better seat for the planking. This is sometimes useful in the stern area on certain types of hulls due to the sharply bent planks often found under the counter.

The bulkheads should be carefully lined up at right angles to the center section (keel) and seated down on them, making sure they are all at the correct depth. If one of these (bulkhead) frames is too high or too low, it will throw off the entire hull structure. Dry fit all these frames and check them carefully for alignment. It is a clever idea to lay a plank along the frames at this time, as it will show any high or low frames. If one frame is out of alignment, check the opposite side to see if it is also. This will indicate if the frame is not centered, for example, if one side is wider, or higher than the other one.

A few years ago, I found one of the most popular kits designed especially for the inexperienced modeler had the side pieces to the hull stamped wrong. They had marked the stern area as the bow. I had many complaints from my customers, but when these pieces were switched end for end, they fit perfectly.

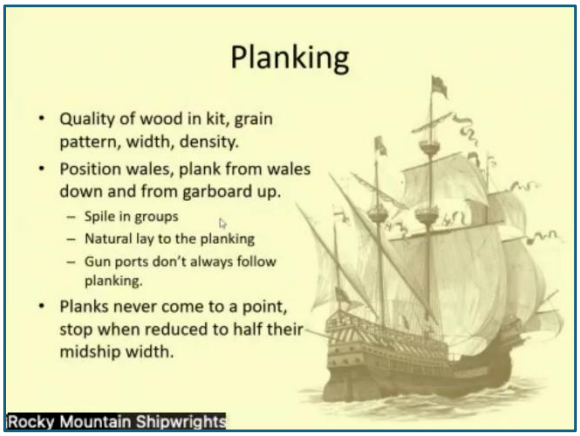
Another modification I add to kits with gun ports is a stringer the length of the hull at the proper distance above the deck for the lower gun port sill, and one more for the upper (top) edge of the gun port. It is a simple matter to add the vertical framing of the port. I make a pattern out of a block of wood to the exact dimensions of the gun port and glue the verticals to either side of it and between the upper and lower sills. This ensures the gun ports are all identical in size. Note: Often the planking and wales does not follow the sheer of the deck and gun ports, but cuts through them. For instance, the main whale on the Victory is swept up at the end and part of the gun port is notched into it, while at the middle of the hull it runs below it.

It is an innovative idea to reinforce certain areas of the hull such as where the mast goes through the decks. I built up an area between the two frames with wood. This gives a more secure footing for the pin rails and eye bolts found around the masts. I also reinforce the area on the sides of the hull where the chain plates are fastened as there is a lot of pull on them. At this time, the framework of the hull should be checked for any misalignment. Test fit the lower mast or a dowel of equal diameter. Do the masts have a step on which they stand? Is there a set for the bowsprit? Sight down the sides of the framework. . . is there any frame that appears to be out of alignment? Are the sub decks or deck beams in place?

The decks can be planked at this time and the frames beveled at bow and stern, so the planking lies flush across the width of the frame. To do this I sand across three frames at a time with a block wrapped with garnet sandpaper or a handheld vibrating electric sander. This does an excellent job and will find any low spots quickly. in half the time! The time spent on this phase of construction is important and will pay off later on. For more information on Faring, see Scuttlebutt from January 2026.

The framework of the hull should now be ready for planking. The planking should be sorted out and the most flexible ones set aside for the areas which require the sharper bending of the planks, such as at the bow and stern areas. The strips of planking found in most kits have the grain running in many directions and not necessarily along its length. I plank my hulls in three parts, (1) from the deck sheer down to the main whale strakes, (2) from the garboard strake along the keel up to the main whale, and (3) the top side planking from the deck sheer to the main rail. The hull is then sanded smooth and the various moldings and whale strakes added. This way makes for a smoother and neater job.

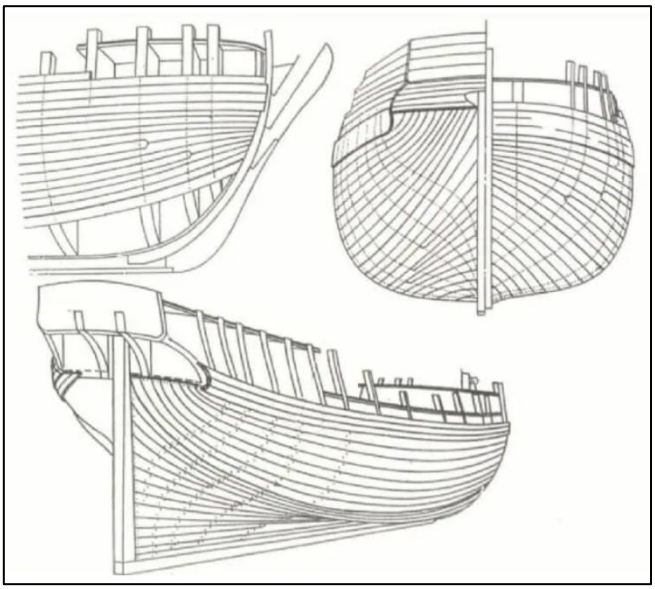
I find basswood good for planking, as it can be purchased in various thickness and widths at most hobby stores. If you are careful to wipe off any excess glue before it soaks in and dries. This wood can be stained any shade with ©Minwax. If the wood furnished in a kit is of inferior quality, then replace it. It is a lot easier to replace it then to try to fill and sand some of the wood found in some imported kits.



The strakes of planking should be allowed to lie naturally along the frames and should not be forced to lie in a straight line to find the taper of a strake of planking. Lay it alongside the last plank laid down and let it lay along the frames and this plank. At some point, it will try to overlap the last strake installed. Let it. Mark this overlap and trim it off the plank. I cut this overlap on the plank that had been laid down, but it can be trimmed off either one.

When laying down a plank, often a bit of dried glue from the previous plank will prevent the new plank from lying close to the last one. Also, when planking a hull that has a round bottom, bevel a little of the corner along the length of it and the plank will lay much closer to the one next to it.

The planking naturally turns up at the ends; this can be controlled to some extent with the tapering of a strake of planking. The last plank put on a hull is often referred to as the "smile" and usually is near or below the main whale. This plank most often does not go to the bow or stern but stops short of both! To fit this closing plank, I like to shape one end of a plank to fit snugly in one end, then I shape a second plank to fit the other end leaving them long enough to overlap in the middle. Draw a line where they overlap in the middle and trim them off. Be sure to have these ends meet on a frame.



Planking Tips For Building a Model Ship by Modelers Central

The planking in the bottom and sides of the hull often must be tapered towards the bow due to their being more area to be covered in the middle. The reverse is true at the stern. A short length of tapered planking is added between two planks which spread out at the stern. This plank is called a "stealer." Planking should not come to a point but should be snapped off when it reaches one half of its width. On some models these pointed ends are covered over with plating or the tallow covering of the lower hull.

As the run of planking nears the bow it becomes narrow and sometimes two strakes of planking stop at a frame some distance from the bow. These two strakes are about one half of their width at midship. A single plank equal to their combined width is used from this frame to the bow. Thus, a ship would have more strakes of planking in the middle than at the bow. The placement of stealers varied with the different nations. The Dutch used one way, while the English used another, but the basic idea was the same.

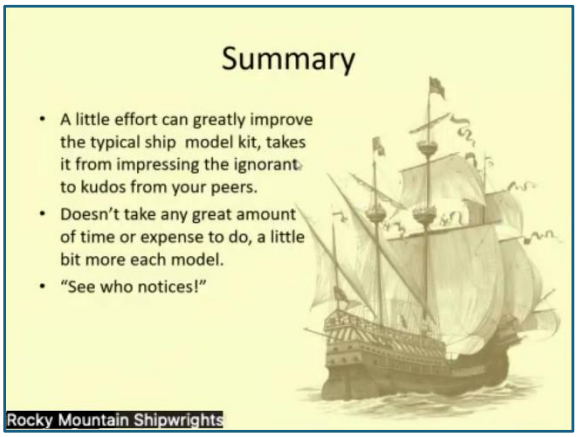
Channels (chain wales), carvings, and moldings can be glued over stained basswood, and if they are of a different color, they can be painted or stained before gluing to the hull. By avoiding the pitfalls of uneven frames and strakes forced to lie unnaturally, the planking should be a pleasant and easy part of building your masterpiece.

Summary

In summary, a little effort will greatly improve the typical model ship and take it from being able to impress the ignorant to receiving kudos from your peers.

This way of thinking does not take a great amount of time or expense to begin incorporating today into your model building. And then each subsequent bit, you can do a bit more.

You will be pleasantly surprised by who notices.



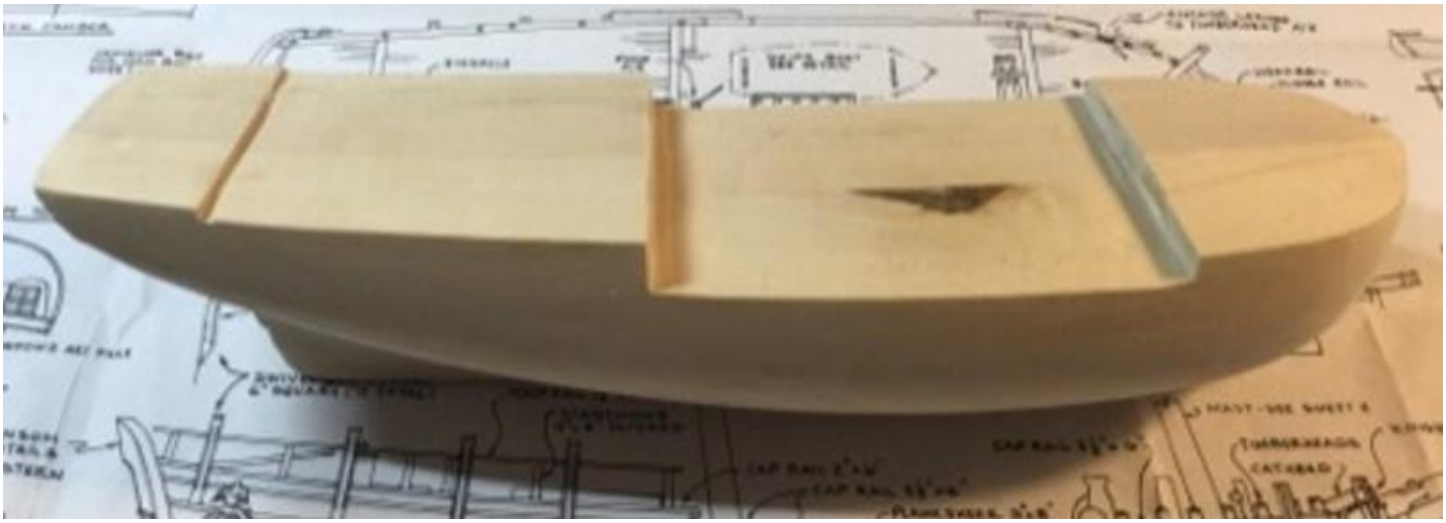
Hull Construction Methods

Model ship planking has transitioned from early carving to modern techniques that replicate full-scale maritime construction. While early models were often carved from solid wood, the evolution of the hobby led to plank on bulkhead and plank on frame. The latter two methods may even use double planking to achieve greater realism.

Historically, modelers used a variety of methods to represent a ship's hull, depending on the available technology and intended use. The more common construction techniques are:

Solid Carved Hulls

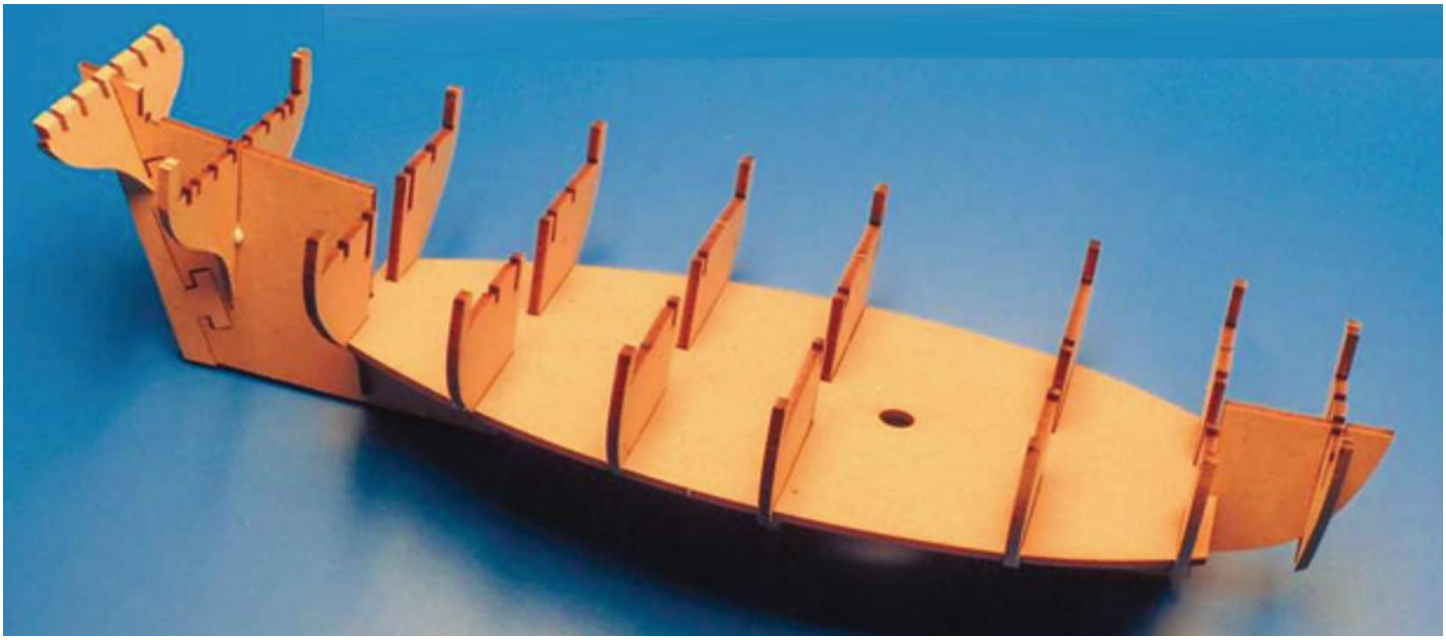
Over 100 years ago, mass-produced ship model kits featured machine-carved solid wooden hulls. Modelers would shape these "billets" of machine-shaped wood to the final hull form and then manually carved and sanded to its final dimensions using templates. Sometimes thin veneers of ivory or decorative wood would be added to simulate planking. This method is the fastest and most beginner friendly.



Sultana by Overworked724 (Patrick) by Model Shipways on Model Ship World

Plank-on-Bulkhead (POB)

This uses a series of silhouette-shaped bulkheads slotted into a central keel. It creates a sturdy "ladder-like" skeleton that is then covered with planks. Because the interior is a "false" structure of widely spaced ribs, the hull must be fully closed and planked.

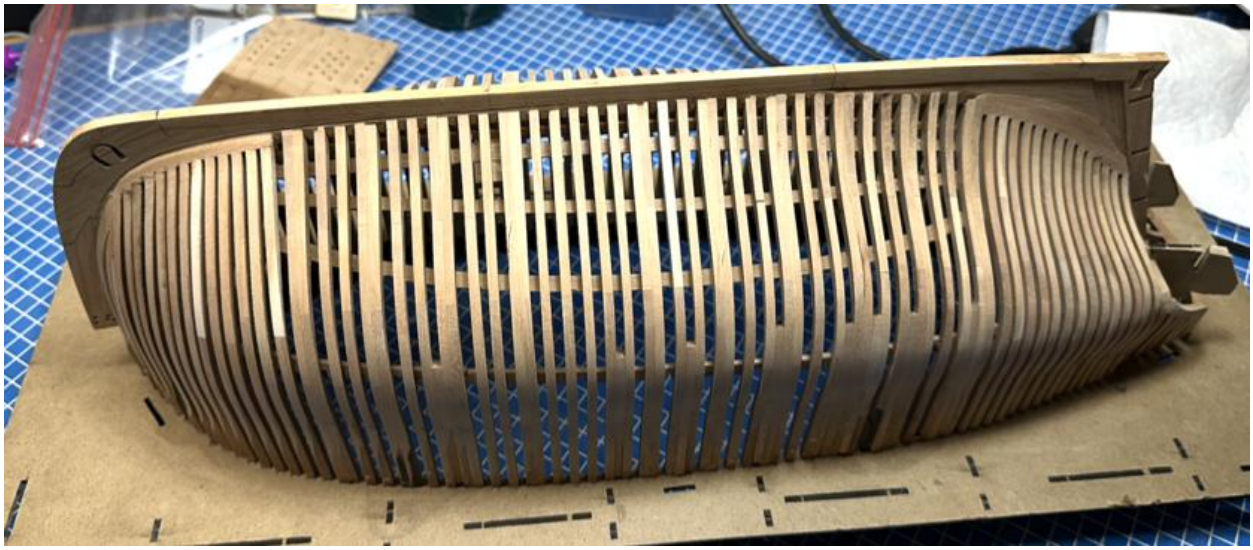


HMS Alert – Vanguard Models from Instruction Manual

Plank-on-Frame (POF)

This method is like POB, but mirrors traditional full-scale shipbuilding by attaching individual planks to a skeleton of frames that replicates the actual rib structure of a ship. It is considered the most authentic way to build a model, often used in scratch-building where every detail is handmade without pre-cut molds.

POF involves building dozens or even hundreds of individual frames, often made of multiple pieces called futtocks. This advanced method allows builders to leave sections unplanked to reveal highly detailed internal decks and architecture.



HMS Alert 1777 by Glennb17 by Trident Models on Ships Of Scale

Comparison of Hull Construction Methods

The choice between Solid Hull, Plank-on-Bulkhead (POB), and Plank-on-Frame (POF) determines the core construction process and the final level of internal detail.

Feature	Solid Hull	Plank-on-Bulkhead (POB)	Plank-on-Frame (POF)

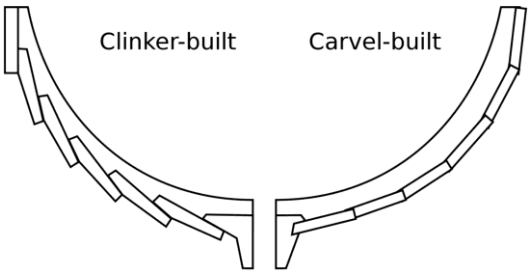
Basic Structure	A single block of wood or layered "bread-and-butter" planks.	A central keel with laser-cut "ribs" (bulkheads) slotted in.	Replicates the actual ship's skeleton with individual frames and futtocks.
Difficulty	**Beginner**: Focused on carving and sanding to templates.	**Intermediate**: Requires precise bulkhead alignment and hull "fairing".	**Advanced**: "Hardcore" method mirroring true shipwright techniques.
Internal Detail	None; the hull is a solid mass.	"False" interior; must be fully planked and closed.	Authentic interior; often left partially unplanked to show internal decks.
Time to Build	Fast for basic shapes, but sanding/shaping can be tedious.	Moderate; much faster than POF as the bulkheads provide a quick form.	Slowest; "consumers of wood and time" due to hundreds of parts.
Common Use	Vintage kits or small-scale models that do not require planking.	Most modern model ship kits.	High-end kits or advanced scratch-building for "Admiralty" style models.

Other Historical Construction Methods

There are any number of full-scale techniques that modeler's replicate in their builds, but two of the more common historical planking techniques are Clinker and Carvel.

Clinker (Lapstrake)

Originating in Northern Europe (c. 310-320 AD), this method involves overlapping the edges of longitudinal planks. The Vikings and Anglo-Saxons famously used it. In clinker (lapstrake) construction, the hull is not sanded smooth into a single flush surface. Instead, the individual planks are sanded to be smooth to the touch, but the distinctive "stepped" ridges created by the overlapping edges are intentionally preserved.



Clinker vs Carvel by ECOClipper.org

Carvel

A Mediterranean-style technique where hull planks are laid edge-to-edge over a robust frame to create a smooth surface. In carvel shipbuilding, planks are attached to the frames using a combination of wooden pegs, metal fasteners, and specialized joinery. Because carvel is a "frame-first" method, the internal skeleton is built first, and the planks are then fixed to it to create the hull's shape.

Carvel hulls are sanded smooth to create a completely flush, streamlined surface.

Final Appearance

Once fully planked and stained or painted, it is often impossible to tell the difference between these construction types from the outside.

Build Logs

We've probably all heard of them, and more than likely we have read or watched a number of them, but to create and manage one does take some work and time. Writing one is not for everyone, but for those of us that do write them, there is a certain amount of pride and accomplishment in them.

For me it is a chance to help others as builders have done for me.

The two largest forums that I know of are Model Ship World and Ships of Scale, but there are also tons of video build logs on YouTube. Some are posted by "everyday" builders, while others are created by kit manufacturer like OcCre, but they may be others.

I am comfortable with the written logs, but there is no way I could do a video log – But I am glad that others enjoy creating in that medium.

I am not aware of any club member that posts a video log, but please let us know if you do. Here is a list of club members and links to their respective builds. If you have a build log and would like to add it to this list, please send me your information. I plan to make this section an on-going topic every few months or so. If you or your build log is not shown, I apologize. Please send me your information and I will include it next time.

In the meantime, click on the links below and give these members their due props!

Model Ship World
Ships of Scale

Brian Davies - bdgiantman2

Doug Graham – Dgraham

Martin Jelsema – MartinJel

- Models built:
  - Ranger Revenue Cutter - Corel
  - Charles W. Morgan - Scientific
  - CSS Alabama – Mamoli
  - Harvey - Artesania Latina
  - Dresden (plastic – Revell)
- Models on Process:
  - Rattlesnake - Mamoli
- Model on the shelf
  - USS Essex (large solid Hull) - Model Shipways
  - Blockade Runner (plastic) - Lindberg

Hugh Long - HughLo

- Current builds:
  - Bluenose 1:64 by Model Shipways - Build log - Colorado workshop (last update on 1/24/26)
  - Buccaneer 1:100 by Occre - Build log - Vallarta workshop (last update on 3/28/26)
- Waiting in the wings:
  - Wasa (Corel)
  - Sovereign of the Seas (Model Shipways)

Jay McKeown - CO Jaybird

- USS Constellation - 1797 (last update on 1/3/26)
- Current build
  - ZHL Le Soleil Royal
- Completed
  - ZHL Black Pearl Golden Edition 2016

Will Pearson - niwotwill

- Current Build:
  - HM Cutter Cheerful 1806 by niwotwill - Syren Ship Model Company - scale 1:48 (last update on 4/1/26)
- On Hold:
  - Syren by pearwill Model Shipways 1:64 scale
  - Washington 1776 by niwotwill - scale 1:48 - Row Galley - NRG plans #121 (last update on 3/21/21)
- Completed Build:
  - Erycina 1882 by niwotwill - FINISHED - Vanguard Models - scale 1/64 - Plymouth Fishing Trawler
  - Charles W. Morgan by Artesania Latina circa 1988
  - Lowell Grand Banks Dory 1:24 scale by Model Shipways
  - Norwegian.Sailing Pram 1:12 scale by Model Shipways
  - Muscongus Bay Lobster Smack 1:24 scale by Model Shipways

Jeff Potter - Cosair

- Corsair H.M.S. Enterprize Build Log (last update on 3/27/26)

Thom Scheerer - Tommy S

- Current Build:
  - Flying Dutchman by Tommy S (last update on 4/3/26)
- Completed Build:
  - Essex by Tommy S

Scott Shilling - Scott Shilling

- San Felipe 1690 from ZHL (last update on 11/18/24)

Brad Voigt - BradNSW

- Current Build
  - Bomb Ketch Salamandre 1:48 (last update on 4/1/26)
- Built and shown in a log:
  - Bonhomme Richard - Pear Cross section kit (with scratch duplicate using alder) Unicorn Model
  - HMS Serapis - Scratch Build [COMPLETED BUILD]
  - Shortest and Cheapest Build Log Ever? semi customized lifeboat from Model Shipways
- Artesania Latina Kits built in the 1980s (no construction log):
  - 1987 - USS Constellation 1:85
  - 1986 - King of the Mississippi River Boat 1:80
  - 1986 - Scottish Maid 1:50

49th Midwestern Model Ship Contest - Registration Open

Registration for the 49th Midwestern Model Ship Contest (known around these parts as the Ralph Buckwalter Annual Recognition Contest as he has won at least one award for the last 10 to 15 years) is now open. Click here for more details. A PDF with all the contest information can be found here. The schedule of events is still being finalized, but it will be posted on the contest's page in the next few weeks.

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 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's**).

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

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 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

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
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

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

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.