



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.

September 2026

Never Forget

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 Sept. 19, 2026

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

August Presentation

To Be Determined

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 October 3, 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 Jelsema
Workshop Chair: Ralph Buckwalter
Librarians: Alice Sampson

Website

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>

Cargo Hold

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Skipper's Log

The October boat show is fast approaching, and we need everyone's help to make it as strong and well attended as possible. We will use the [website as a communication hub to collect registration documents](#) and share brochures and information sheets for you to distribute to everyone you know. Please submit your intended model information as soon as possible so the museum cards can be produced accurately. This year we will have a more formalized method for judging the "Modeler's Choice" and "People's Choice" awards. That should be a lot of fun and hopefully not taken too seriously.

I am hoping many of you will be able to participate in setting up the show, hosting, helping with the Shipwrights store, and doing cleanup. So, mark your calendars for October 15-18 for setting up, enjoying, and cleaning up the best show ever.

In the meantime, I am excited that Marv Olson has planned an interesting presentation "Island of Whales" for our September meeting.

Finally, I want to share with you how excited I am about the work that Dave has been doing putting together a professional level micro camera system for close-up video production. He collaborated with Ralph to produce a video of Ralph's fingers doing their magic while demonstrating his figure-eight block rigging technique. Dave tells me that he is ready to produce many of these videos, working with all of you shipwright artists. I am sure that he will show his work at the next meeting, so be sure to be there.

Fair winds and following seas.

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

Looking for Guest Writers and Future Scuttlebutt Topics

Have you ever wanted to share an idea with the club outside of (or in addition to) speaking at a meeting? Or do you have a topic that you would like to see covered in a future issue of the Scuttlebutt?

As editor, I would welcome (and encourage) both guest writers as well as ideas for potential articles.

Maybe you have an idea or maybe you don't like to write... No problem! Please reach out to Hugh at RockyMountainShipwrights1991@gmail.com and he will do the heavy lifting of the writing for you.



August 15, 2026 - Meeting

There were twenty-two in attendance, including 10 online members (z) for the meeting. They were Fred Bell, Ralph Buckwalter, Michael Caramia, Ross Clark (z), Ron Cole, Giuseppe (Joe) Presta (z), Tom Keitel (z), Steve Lofshult, Hugh Long (z), Dave Niss, Marv Olson, Will Pearson (z) Mark Persichetti, Mike Pervich (z), Jay Phillips, Jeff Potter (z), Bruce Ream, Bob Rushforth, Russell (z), Scott Shilling, Jon Sorenson (z), Martin Ters, Phil van der Heydt, James Webster, and John Worgan (z).

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



Online Attendees – Top: Hugh L, Jeff P, Jon S, Phil vdH & Martin T
Middle: Ross C, Tom K, John W, Mike P
Bottom: Russell, Giuseppe (Joe) P, Will P



Bob R, Ron C, James W, Mark P, Marv O, Bruce R, Michael C, Martin T, Scott S, and Steve L



Phil vdH, Ralph B, Scott S, Michael C, Fred B, Marv O, Bruce R, Bob R, and Ron C



Steve L, Marv O, Martin T, Scott S, and Ralph B



Mark P, Bruce R (hidden), Marv O, Fred B (hidden), Michael C, Ralph B, Steve L, Martin T, and David N



Bob R, Ron C, James W, Mark P, Bruce R, Marv O, Fred B, Michael C, and Ralph B



Scott S, Phil vdH, Fred B, and Steve L



Ron C, Mark P, Bob R, Fred B, Marv O, Bruce R, Michael C, Ralph B, Steve L, Scott S, Dave N, Martin T, and Phil vdH

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 access the full minutes [here](#). If you need the password, please reach out to rockymountainshipwrights1991@gmail.com.

2026 Model Boat Show Guidelines

The 2026 Model Boat Show is approaching fast as it will be held October 16th to the 18th. Thursday night and Friday morning are generally used for set up, followed by the show Friday through Sunday, with clean up and vote tabulation on Sunday afternoon. There will **not** be an October meeting. Along with the September Scuttlebutt, a copy of the flyer was attached to the email. While a small number of flyers may be available at the September meeting, please print your copy of the flyer and post it on every bulletin board or store window as possible. Please email it to friends and family as well. Get the word out.



Model Boat Show

October 16 12:00 pm - 5:00
October 17 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
October 18 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Rockler Woodworking & Hardware
2553 South Colorado Blvd, Suite 108, Denver, CO. 80222

The boat show presents static wooden model ships showcasing maritime history and shipwrights' skills. Visitors can view modeling equipment, explore model kits used by experts, and purchase finished models or starter kits.

Free admission!

Special invitation to all Scouts who visit:
Rocky Mountain Shipwrights will give you
your own Rain Gutter Regatta kit to build.



Friday October 16th - 12:00pm to 5:00pm
Saturday October 17th - 10:00am to 5:00pm
Sunday October 18th - 11:00am to 3:00pm

Here are the guidelines for the show. They will both be discussed and finalized during the September meeting.

There will be two awards; People's Choice and Modeler's Choice, and the same rules apply for both. People's Choice is for non-members while Modeler's Choice is for current members only. If your dues are not up to date, please contact Steve Lofshult as soon as possible.

Each ballot will allow the person to vote for three different models; first choice, second choice, and third choice. The voter cannot vote for the same model for all three choices.

Modelers CANNOT vote for their own models.

If a modeler has two (or more) models in the show, that modeler now has two (or more) chances of winning.

Regardless of how many models someone has in the show, each modeler (and attendee) will only receive a single ballot.

All models are eligible to win both awards this year, but moving forward, once a model wins an award, it will not be eligible to win that award in future shows.

Scoring:

- A first-choice vote will get 4 points
- A second-choice vote will get 2 points
- A third-choice vote will get 1 point

For example, let's say Martin Ters' Sovereign of the Seas gets 5 first choice votes, 2 second place votes, and 2 third place votes. The score for this ship is: 5X4 plus 2X2 plus 2X1 for a total of 26 points. Scott S will tally all ballots at the end of the show and the model with the highest score wins.

Again, the People's Choice award will follow the same procedure.

In case of a tie, the Modeler's Choice points and the People's Choice points will be combined to get a new total. Highest combined score wins. If there is still a tie, someone will be keelhaunched or have to walk the plank.

The winner of Modeler's Choice will be added to the club's recognition plaque, plus receive a ribbon or some other recognition that can be shown easily with the model in future shows and events. The winner of the People's Choice while not added to the plaque, will receive a similar (but different) recognition award.



What's On Your Bench

Phil van der Heydt

- Phil is working on the 7-masted Thomas W. Lawson, a repair/restoration that did not survive a recent shipping. The model is 52" and has a 30-pound solid hull. Has remade all the masts and mast caps and is working on the running rigging.
 - The ship has pot-metal blocks, but a previous restoration job added glue to the blocks, rendering them useless. He is searching for either replacement blocks of the correct size or a way to blacken the ones he recently purchased. Brass black does not work on pot-metal.
 - Martin T: Possibly use wood-leathering
 - Online attendee: If they need to be replaced, maybe purchase wooden or 3D printed ones.



Martin Ters

- Martin is working on the Royal Caroline.
 - Currently working on the rudder. Added fittings from a company in China that makes them from pear wood. Martin likes the gold and blue background colors. He is using a Prussian blue. The gold was made by sizing, which uses a specialized adhesive glue and then gold leaf. Everything is then covered in a spray on acrylic gloss varnish.
 - His obstacle is the instructions as they are very simple drawings with little to no text.



Martin T showed the group the [April 2026 issue of National Geographic magazine](#). There is an interesting story of a byzantine era wreck in 130 feet of water. Ship was going to Italy to sell jewelry.

Scott Shilling

- When Scott is in town, he is working on the San Felipe (Chinese model)
 - On his last trip home, he finished the cannons and rudder. He is now working on the lifeboats, but the ship is currently under plastic until his return in April.

Scott and Beth recently toured the Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis where the entire 2nd floor is dedicated to models. The two that stood out are a model built in the 1700s by 15 French prisoners that was made in bone and a model of the Sovereign of the Seas – he prefers Martin T's model.

The U.S. Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis houses one of the world's largest collections of intricate ship models carved from beef and pork bones by French prisoners of war during the Napoleonic Wars.



Prisoners carved leftover beef and soup bone rations, often using human hair or silk threads for the delicate rigging.

Incarcerated in harsh English prisons, the men built these detailed models—including famous ships like the HMS Victory—to pass the time and sell them at prison markets for food and basic necessities.

The collection is displayed on the upper deck of Preble Hall within the [Class of 1951 Gallery of Ships](#) at the [U.S. Naval Academy Museum](#).



Bruce Ream



- Bruce is currently working on the USRC Harriet Lane (Model Shipways), a 1865 square-rigged and steam-powered with paddlewheels on the side.
 - The kit has been a challenge for several reasons:
 - One of the bulkheads was incorrect.
 - The instructions call for 1/8" dowels but drawings show them to be 3/16".
 - Pot-metal ladders in the drawings and instructions are supposed to be 1/4" wide but the ladders are 3/8".

Bruce brought in his first build, (Pride of Baltimore II). It was a great learning experience. It is a Model Shipways kit. The actual ship sank in the war of 1812. In 1970, the city of Baltimore decided to build a full-size replica at a cost of \$500,000. It sank several years later in the Bahamas.

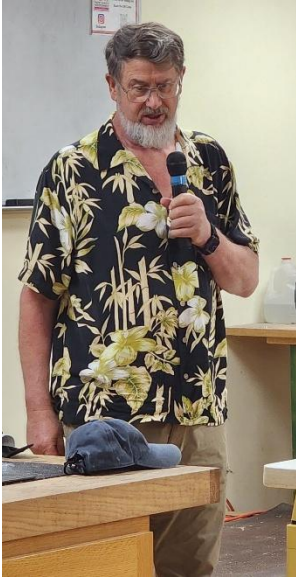
The city built another replica in 1990.

The kit is a model of the Pride of Baltimore II without cannons. The original Pride of Baltimore was a privateer and had cannons.



Michael Caramia

- USS Constitution Blue Jacket's Anniversary Edition
 - Michael is taking a sabbatical to spend more time with the family (especially the wife and grandkids). This is his first Bluejacket kit, and it has been intimidating, partially due to the scale.



Fred Bell

- Willie Bennett (Model Shipways)
 - Just finished working on the knighthead, now working on the bowsprit. Fred has really enjoyed the kit which he purchased at the club's auction.
 - His challenge is painting it as most finished models are a very "fancy", but he prefers to make it look like what it was, a working boat.



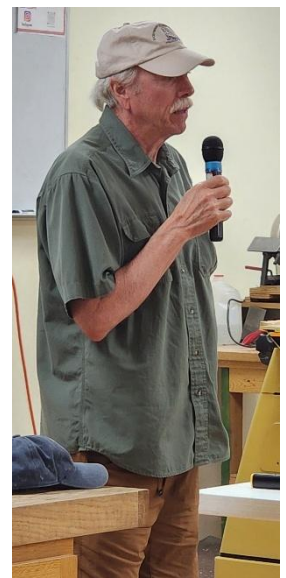
Ralph Buckwalter

- HMS Berbice (scratch-build)
 - Ralph is working on a 1820-ish Top-sail schooner, the Berbice. It was probably a US ship sold to the British that worked in the Caribbean.
 - He just finished all the belaying, but the scale of the scratch-built model has slowed him down. While cleaning up the rigging tails, he accidentally cut a line he shouldn't have and will need to go back and repair it.



Steve Lofshult

- Last year showed his restoration of a pond yacht.
 - Steve liked the lines of the pond yacht so much he made copies of the lines and is in the process of making one for himself. He found plans for it in [Woodenboat magazine](#).
 - He has the boom, mast, and sails (thanks Carol Phillips)
 - He still needs to make the rails, doghouse, bowsprit, rudder, and tiller.
 - Steve is also working on the Friendship sloop. He is working on the plans and hopes Woodenboat magazine will help with it as well.



Ron Cole (new member)

- He is working on 5 different models, 3 were started by his father when Ron was quite young, while the other 2 were his. His father was an accomplished modeler in California and had a model displayed on the RMS Queen Mary.
 - The ships started by his father in the 60s are
 - California, a 4-mast Barque (AJ Fisher)
 - Bluenose fishing schooner
 - POF (Plank On Frame) Norske Love
 - The ships he started are:
 - Solid hull USS Essex
 - La Couronne, a French frigate
- A recent obstacle was finding good but affordable turn buckles; right now, he is making his own plus using ones from AJ Fisher.



James Webster

- HMS Beagle
 - Since his last time bringing it in, James has done some additional top deck work and fittings. He has started making his own ropes using a DIY scale rope maker (traditionally called a ropewalk). He is getting close to working on the masts and rigging where he is planning on completing the rigging with homemade rope.
 - He recently purchased a 3D printer which he is already using for making parts, such as the carronade (complete with a place for a rope attachment), and the ship's wheel (complete with lettering – “Every man will do his duty for England”).
- HMS Hunter (Mamoli), a kit of his father.
 - This will be his first Mamoli kit.



Hugh Long

- Hugh is working on El Molino, aka OcCre's Buccaneer
 - He is wrapping up his first backstays of the standing rigging but has run into a snag with the standing rigging of the mizzenmast which has a lateen sail. The kit has been fun, but it is a beginner kit, so it lacks some details. The latest item it is lacking is the standing rigging on the mizzenmast. The kit's backstays just attach to the side of the ship when they should be running/flying backstays. Unless someone leads him in another direction, he plans on building something like the flying backstays that his Bluenose has. He has been using Google's AI (Gemini) to gather info.
 - See the article ["With great power there must also come great responsibility!"](#) in this month's Scuttlebutt for more information on his use of Gemini.



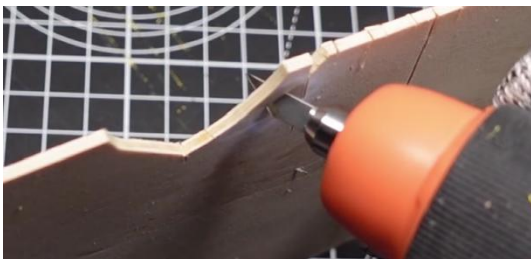
Hugh is looking for suggestions or guest writers for the newsletter. Please reach out to him at rockymountainshipwrights1991@gmail.com for more information.

Props to Ralph and his figure 8 strops which will be covered in a future issue of the Scuttlebutt.



Show and Tell

Phil van der Heydt



Phil brought in his ultra-sonic x-acto knife and members were invited to give it a try. Ultrasonic craft cutters function like a "powered X-Acto knife". They are cut by a blade that vibrates at an invisible, ultra-high frequency (usually 40,000 times per second or 40 kHz) to cut effortlessly through materials. They dramatically reduce cutting resistance, making them a favorite for 3D print support cleanup, scale modeling, and intricate craft work.

After the Skipper's and Purser's reports, any new member introductions, the new and old business items of the club were discussed. Until the website is back up, members can contact the [club](#) for the full minutes.

There was one new member at the meeting, Ron Cole.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32am

Skipper's Lunch next door at BoHeo Pho Kitchen

- Seven people took advantage of the lunch.

September 5, 2026 - Workshop

There were nine club members plus one guest at the September workshop. The attendees were Ralph Buckwalter, Ross Clark, Bob Fivehouse, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, David Niss, Carol (guest) & Jay Phillips, Martin Ters, and Phil van der Heydt.

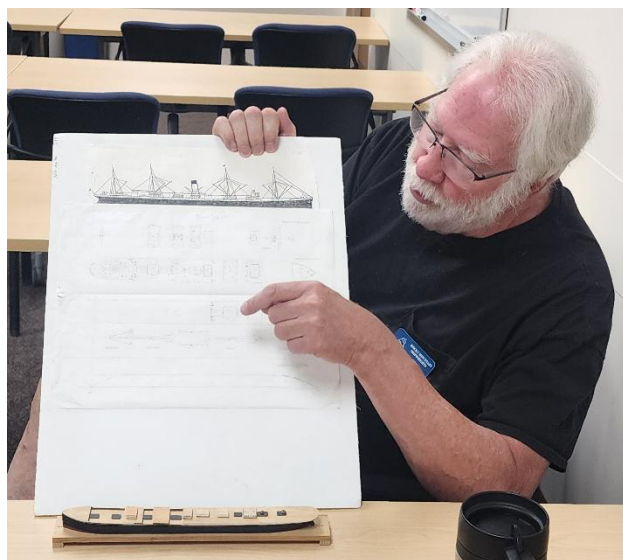
Here's what everyone is working on:

- Ralph Buckwalter: Berbice Baltimore Clipper
- Ross Clark: Endeavour II
- Bob Fivehouse: SS Suevic
- Martin Jelsema: Rattlesnake Frigate
- Steve Lofshult: Purser duties
- David Niss: NRG Half-hull Planking Model
- Jay Phillips: Research on early Mediterranean ships
- Martin Ters: Schooner America 1851
- Phil van der Heydt: SS Donuts



Bob F, Ralph B, Dave N, and Phil vdH

Bob F and his SS Suevic





Bob F's SS Suevic and Ralph B's Berbice
Baltimore Clipper



Ross C's Endeavour II



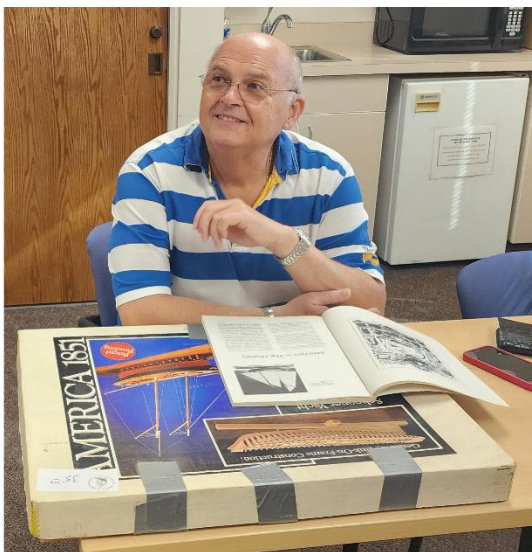
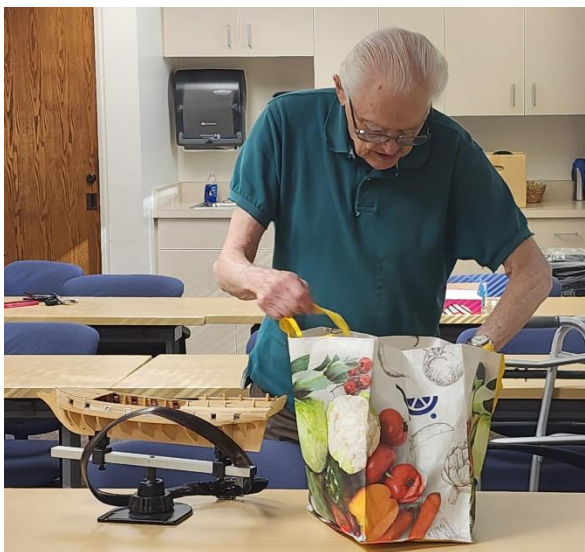
Ross C and Steve L



Ralph B, Dave N, Bob F, Martin T, Ross C, Martin J, Phil vdH, and Steve L



Carol P, Martin T, Ralph B, and Dave N



(L) Martin J and his Rattlesnake

(R) Martin T and his Schooner America 1851



Ross C, Martin J, Bob F, and Phil vdH

September 19, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Please join us on Saturday September 19th 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
- New Business
 - Planning for the Boat Show
- BREAK
- History & Mystery
 - Marv Olsen: The Island of Whales"
- Shipwright Technology
- Show and Tell
- Adjourn
- Skipper's lunch: Bo Heo Pho



With great power there must also come great responsibility!

Research. We all do it in some form or fashion and to some extent, but I recently started leaning on a new research tool. It's difficult to call myself a newbie, but given I still haven't completed a ship, I still need a lot of help. And while I enjoy my new home in Mexico, I have been cut off from one of my main sources of knowledge (that being the picking the brains of fellow Rocky Mountain Shipwrights at a meeting or workshop). To fill this gap, I've had to be open to alternative means and start looking for some local help. After all, I can only call or text Ralph so many times.

I do have a naval museum within walking distance plus the public library is only a short bus ride away, but I'd like more. I have searched for local modelers, but even with the offer of a free cerveza I have had cero (zero) takers.

Recently my need took me down a bit of a different avenue and I found Gemini. Gemini is Google's AI component. Tools like Gemini are most commonly called an AI chatbot, AI assistant, or even a generative AI tool. I've used Google for years, and even though I know Google uses the information from my searches for any number of things that I do not necessarily like, I've accepted it as a part of living in today's digital environment. If you're not comfortable with Google, there are any number of others out there, such as ChatGPT, Claude, and Microsoft Copilot.

I've been using Gemini for quite a while now, but generally in things unrelated to model making. But a few weeks ago, I was running into so many questions about the running rigging of my Molino that it was getting tough for me to simply lean on Ralph. Yes, he is amazing, but there were just too many questions, so I started mixing my questions between asking Ralph and asking Google. For those of you that were paying attention during the August 15, 2026, meeting you may have heard my plea for help on running or flying backstays as my "regular" Google searches were just not giving me the information I needed. Bottom line, I had learned that my Molino (a 17th century Spanish galleon turned into pirate ship) should be using flying backstays, but I couldn't find what they looked like.

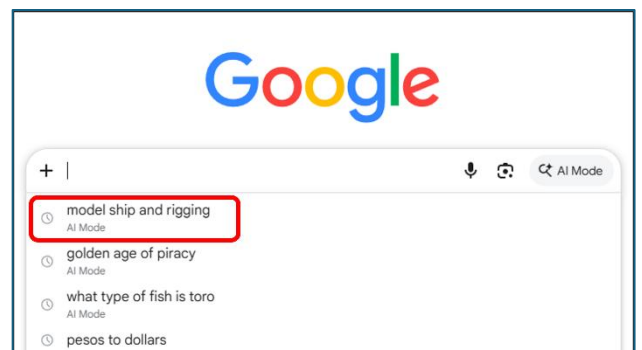
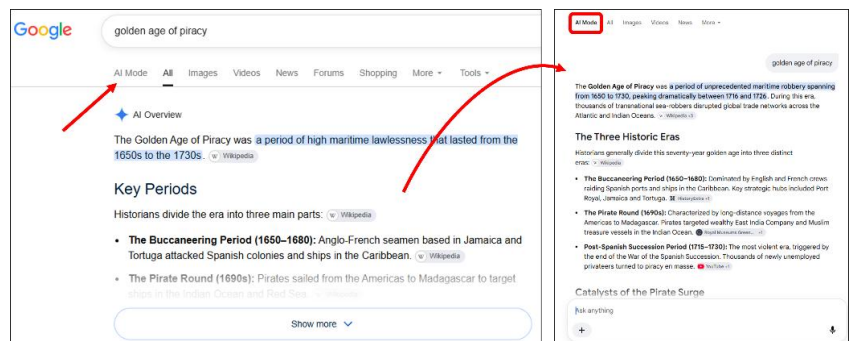
So, I took the leap from "regular" Google to Gemini searches. To get to Gemini, select AI Mode after you have entered your search criteria.

Your search results shift into a different gear. It will act much the same, but the "Ask anything" box allows you to ask questions or statements like you are talking to a person.

Gemini generally does not worry about your capitalization, punctuation or even spelling (much like how I speak to friends). Yes, it can be scary or intimidating, but for me in Mexico, it has helped.

It does take a bit of getting used to. You still must use your common sense and do your due diligence regarding research and push back against the answers you get, if you do not feel it is correct or appropriate. Maybe Gemini just went in a different direction than you had intended. Just give Gemini more info or some additional context and you'll be surprised at what it does. Once you feel comfortable, it is like texting a friend asking for help. And sure, I still do that, but dabbling with Gemini has been fun and educational. Heck, when I am done texting it, it basically says goodbye and have a good night... see you later.

And the full conversation is saved so you can go back and review (or get clarity) later. And with Gemini as long as I am logged into my Google account, I can pull up that conversation on any device. In this case, my search started with "model ship and rigging." If I open Google search and put my cursor in the search box, Google gives me my most recent searches. Lo and behold, there it is.



Another time I used it was when I was determining where to attach the spritsail to the bowsprit. I noticed that the location of the yard just did not seem right. It was dead even with the tip of the beakhead, meaning the sail would be wrapped around it.

A quick ask of my AI friend Gemini revealed that the spritsail location is a known flaw with this kit. The bowsprit is too short. Could Gemini have told me about the flaw earlier in our conversation? Yes, but chatbots don't necessarily do that. But when I gave Gemini more info, it let me know.

Gemini does the legwork, but you need to feed it the right questions. It was not until I pointed out that I felt there was a mistake and what I thought the problem was that it had enough information to scour the web and come back saying "you're right, there is a problem."

In this example, I was already thinking about all the things involved in replacing the bowsprit but in this case, without even asking (I had not yet scrolled to the bottom of the response), Gemini listed the two most common resolutions; I could remove and remake the bowsprit or I could modify the curve (billowing) of the sail.

I had not thought about changing the billow of the sail, but now with that as a possible solution, I began to think of its impact. The first thing that came to mind was that I didn't think the circular form I had used to make the billow for the fore topsail would give me the billow I needed. I fed that to Gemini, and they agreed and came back with something along the lines of "take a look around your condo for something that has an oval-like shape that is big enough to hold the sail." It even went further and gave me a couple of possibilities, such as a hair product container or a dish detergent bottle.

With this answer, I wondered how Gemini knew I lived in a condo. Then I remembered that during an earlier conversation, when Gemini gave me my next steps and asked how it was going, I replied that I needed a break and had left the condo to relax at the pool. To which I was told that I had earned a break (and gave me a recap of some of my recent "successes") and to enjoy the pool. Laugh all you want, but I have had some fun chatting with Gemini.

Later I searched the condo and found a couple of possibilities with the best choice being the travel case for my electric toothbrush. It was not an oval, but it gave me the shape I needed.

I told Gemini what I had found, and by its reply, I felt that it had researched the dimensions of the case and even recommended how to position the sail on the case. Later on, I found a way to tell if/when Gemini verified information; when [INDEX] appears in the chat, it meant that Gemini has searched and verified information. And while Gemini says seeing "this" is a code issue being worked on, I replied that I actually like seeing it as I know what and when Gemini verifies what it is telling me. Gemini let me know that once the issue is resolved, I'll keep seeing it... at least as long as I want to.

As I mentioned, you cannot just accept everything is correct. You have to have the confidence to push back. And just like when your friend tells you about the 70-yard field goal that was kicked last night in the snow to win the game. When you push back, your friend says, "No, not 70, I said 17." An example of that was when I was working on my spritsail, and Gemini told me about "water-holes." I had never heard of these "scuppers for the sail", but when I looked it up, there they were. But this one even needed further pushback as Gemini had told me to cut 6mm holes in the lower corners of the sail. When I said those just seemed too big, Gemini apologized and referenced the correct size (for a 1:100 model) was 2 to 3mm.



So once again, laugh all you want, but I'm hooked and will look for better and more efficient ways to us AI.

In closing, I want to go back to the title of this article as many of you may think I have the quoted Uncle Ben incorrectly but coming from a guy who until recently had over 13,000 comics – it is correct AND it wasn't even said by Uncle Ben. If you don't believe me, go ahead and ask Gemini.

Get Your Swag

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



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

[I.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

[Arsenal Modelist](#)

Olivier Bello's ship modeling site features forty-three short tutorials, closeups of his fine work and building logs.

[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.

[DeAgostini Model Space](#)

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

[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.

[Dry Dock Modeler](#)

Dry Dock Modeler is an international forum which aims to encompass all aspects of building model ships and boats.

[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."

[Model Ship Building Secrets](#)

This is an English blog with a directory, "50 of the Best Model Ship Building Sites".

[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.

[Nautical Research Guild](#)

Official website for this premier ship building organization. There are articles, links, and NRG news.

[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.

[Wooden Ship Modeling for Dummies](#) (aka Naval Model Making for Dummies)

The site contains illustrated photos (three thousand) and videos (two hundred). However, unless you pay to subscribe, you may only access a limited amount of this instructional material. Those unrestricted tutorials are certainly worth exploring.



THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD

"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"

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

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

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

