



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.

October 2026

It's Showtime!

Monthly Meeting

Shipwrights normally 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

No October meeting due to the RMSW Boat Show

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

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 Nov. 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 Jelsema
Workshop Chair: Ralph Buckwalter
Librarians: Alice Sampson

Website

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>

Cargo Hold

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Skipper's Log

Greetings Shipwrights!

If you have not done so already, please submit your registration form for the boat(s) you are going to display at the upcoming show. If you are planning to bring the boat (or boats) that you showed last year, please let Alice know. If you have not shown a boat that you are bringing, please complete the [online registration form](#) by this weekend so that Alice has time to create the museum cards. It will be exceedingly difficult to create new museum cards at the last minute because Alice will be at a conference in Seattle for a boat builders' school conference. I look forward to hearing about the proceeding of that meeting at our November meeting.

Here is the show schedule:

Thursday afternoon, October 15, 3:00-5:00: Display area table set-up and boat drop-off. On hand will be Steve, Bob, and Phil. Hopefully those dropping off boats will also help with the set-up. I expect the conveyor ramp at the back of the shop to be available if needed. I expect it to be available on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon as well.

Friday morning, October 16, 9:00 to 12:00: Boat drop-off and final set-up of display area, museum cards, lighting, and Shipwright's store. On hand will be Steve, Scott, Phil, and any Shipwrights bringing their boats.

Friday afternoon, October 16, 12:00 to 5:00: The boat show begins; on hand to host at this time will be Steve, Dave, and Phil. We would enjoy having more folks volunteer to host so please contact me or just hang out. Steve could use some help with the Shipwrights Store, and our visitors would be pleased to meet each one of you. You can give mini tours of the show. Or just be your charming self. This is true for the entirety of the show.

Saturday morning, October 17, 9:00 to 12:30: The show continues; on hand will be Martin T, Phil, Dave, and Steve. Again, we are happy to have other hosts. Please let me know if you are available or just hang out.

Saturday afternoon, October 17, 12:30 to 5:00: The show continues and it is anticipated that this will be the busiest time. On hand will be Bruce, Steve, and Scott. Other hosts are welcome.

Sunday morning, on October 18. 11:00 to 3:00: The show continues. One hand will be Steve and Phil. Scott will be there to finish calculating the voting for Modelers' Choice and Peoples' Choice awards. Those announcements will be made at 3pm, after which please pick up your boats and help to clean up the display area.

I am excited about how excellent this year's show will be. If I have not heard from you and you are willing to host, please let me know. We will be glad to have any number of shipwrights present to help host the show. I understand that it is always a challenge to transport our ships to the show, but remember that if they get broken, we know how to fix them!

Please do your best to invite all your friends and hand out the flyers, this can be an awful lot of work but it is worthwhile when many people enjoy our shipwright art and maritime history in 3D!

Fair winds and following seas.

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

October Model Ship Exhibit

The October Exhibit is right around the corner as it is scheduled for October 16-18. In addition to looking for models, we are also looking for volunteers to work the show.

We will need help setting up on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, then during the show on Friday through Sunday, and then to help shut down around 3pm on Sunday after the show.

You can volunteer to work the show by replying to the [Scuttlebutt](#), or volunteer during the October workshop, or contact [Alice S](#) directly.

Work is split into 2-hour shifts, and we will need three volunteers on Friday, four on Saturday, and two on Sunday. It is okay to sign up for multiple shifts. So please attend the October 3rd workshop and sign up.

The show runs three days – Friday 10/16 from 12pm to 5pm, Saturday 10/17 from 10am to 5pm, and Sunday 10/18 from 11am to 3pm.



How to Register Your Models

1. Go to our website at <https://rockymountainshipwrights.org/>
2. Click on “Model Entry Form”
3. Fill out the form. Note: If the model was displayed at one of the last Rockler exhibits, you only need to fill in the model’s name and your name and anything that may have changed since you last displayed it.
4. Click the “Submit Form” button.
5. Note: You will NOT get an acknowledgment notice even though your form has been recorded.



You may enter more than one model – in fact, the more the merrier. Also, “Under Construction” models are encouraged because attendees find them interesting and informative.

Additionally, you can reach out to [Alice S](#) directly about registering a model.

If you are interested in selling your model, please include that info on your registration form.

Please distribute the flyer that was attached to the September Scuttlebutt wherever you feel it is appropriate!

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at RockyMountainShipwrights1991@gmail.com.

September 19, 2026 - Meeting

There were twenty-nine people in attendance, including 5 guests (g) and 10 online members (z) for the meeting. They were Ralph Buckwalter, Ross Clark (z), Ron Cole, Bob Fivehouse, Martin Jelsma (z), Lawrence Kuo (z), Steve Lofshult, Hugh Long (z), Dave Niss, Marv Olson, John Parks, Will Pearson (z), Jay Phillips, Jeff Potter (z), Giuseppe (Joe) Presta (z), Bruce Ream, Jeff Ross, Bob Rushforth, Alice Sampson, Tom Scheerer (z), Jon Sorenson (z), Martin Ters, Phil van der Heydt, and John Worgan (z). Guests of Marv Olson: Felcia (wife), Rhett (grandson), Ret's father, Dr Petersen & friend.

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, John W, Jon S
Middle: Phil vdH <meeting>, Ross C, Tom S, Giuseppe (Joe) P
Bottom: Will P, Lawrence K, Martin J



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.



Alice S, Martin T, Phil dvH, Bob F, Ralph B, John P, and Steve L



Martin T, Steve L, Jeff R, Bob F, John P, Ralph B, Bruce R, Alice S, Dave N, and Phil vdH



Dr Petersen (g), Alice S, Bob R, Ron C, Steve L, Bruce R, John P, Martin T, Jeff R, Ralph B, and Bob F



Dave N and Phil vdH



Martin T, Jeff R, Felcia (g) & Marv O, Rhett (Marv's grandson), Rhett's father, Ralph B, Dr Petersen & friend (g), Bob F, Ron C, John P, Bruce R, Alice S, and Bob R



Martin T, Jeff R, Marv & Felcia (wife) O, Rhett (Marv's grandson), Rhett's father, Dr Petersen & friend, and Ron C



Alice S



Steve L

The Schooner John Muir and the Island of Whales by Marv Olsen

Marv wanted to build a boat that could be used for a variety of purposes, including serving as a mobile dentist's office. The Muir was 62 feet on deck, with a waterline of 54 feet, and an 8-foot draw. It was fast, estimated at 8 knots, but was 10 knots or greater based upon the speed formula. The steel keel weighed 18,000 pounds (9 tons) and 11 species of wood were used to build the ship with Douglas Fir being used the most.

It was a forty-year project from 1976 to 2016.



Tools of the Build



Cutting Stanchions



Construction Frames



Republic Seabee



The lines of the Schooner



Sailing



Crosstrees



Floor Timbers



The Main Salon



Aligning the Bowsprit



Stepping the Mast



From 2012, found on the Internet.

Here is a link to a 1990 PBS documentary that was narrated by Gregory Peck and filmed on John Muir. The title is [Island of Whales](#).

The full documentary from 1991, [Swimming with Whales](#).

Show and Tell

Unfortunately, the remaining portions of the meeting, including the Show & Tells, were not recorded. The info included below is from the modelers.



Ralph Buckwalter – Video Figure Eight Strops

- Dave Niss and Ralph Buckwalter have been putting together an instruction video on making and using figure-eight strops – the Ralph B method.
 - Take it from me (Hugh L), they are worth learning how to do as they have too many uses to even being naming.



Bruce Ream – Marie Jean

- Period the ship sailed – Early 1900
- Type of Model – Plank on Bulkhead
- Build Time – 9 months
- Scale – 1:50



- This was Bruce's third build from an Artesania Latina kit. The directions are online and you could look at them on your computer but I printed them all out. It covered about 100 pages and it took a lot of ink. The build was not too difficult. I had never done a ship with sails. The sails came with the kit and were all pre-stitched. The directions called for the sails to be dyed using the acrylic paint that came with the kit to be diluted to different percentages. I made a big mistake and laid the sails on clean paper which stuck to the back of the sails when they dried. It took me four days to scrape the paper off the back of the sails. The numbers on the sail were rub-ons made by the same person who makes them for my airplanes. I hand painted the little figures on the ship.
- Ships History- I cannot find a lot of history on this ship. It was a wooden French Tuna Fishing boat from the early 1900.

Martin Ters – Royal Caroline

- Martin finished the gold ornaments and used dark varnish on rails, bits, window, and door frames. It looks more put together, like a painting with frame if you will.



Ron Cole - California

- Ron showed the group California, a 4-mast Barque (AJ Fisher) that was started by his father in the 60s.



Ralph Buckwalter – HMS Berbice

- Ralph showed us his completed scratch-built model of HMS Berbice.
- Next up: Charles Royal Yacht.



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 11:35am

Skipper's Lunch next door at BoHeo Pho Kitchen

September 5, 2026 - Workshop

There were ten club members plus three guests at the August workshop. The attendees were Ralph Buckwalter, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, David Niss, Carol <G> & Jay Phillips, Jeff Ross, Alice Sampson, Scott Shilling, Phil van der Heydt, Deb & Sam Walker <G>, and James Webster.

Here is what everyone is working on:

- Ralph Buckwalter: Charles Royal Yacht
- Martin Jelsema: Rattlesnake
- Steve Lofshult: Purser duties
- Dave Niss: Half-hull Planking Model
- Jay Phillips: WWII Casablanca Class Escort Carrier
- Jeff Ross: Flying Cloud
- Alice Sampson: Boat show prep
- Scott Shilling: San Felipe
- Martin Ters: Royal Caroline 1749
- Phil van der Heydt: SS Donuts
- James Webster: HMS Beagle

Debbie and Sam Walker attended the workshop as they had a model of the 1620 Nuestra Senora de la Atocha that has been in their family for quite a few years and was very dirty. Debbie felt bad and wanted to find a new home for it. They were given some advice on how to clean it and were encouraged to try it. The galleon will be included in a silent auction at the boat show. Sam took the galleon home to do some more cleaning.

The 1620 Nuestra Senora de la Atocha is the famous Spanish galleon sunk in a hurricane off the Florida Keys in 1622. It contained, per Google query, an estimated \$450M in gold that was found in 1985. Per Google AI, the figure depicts Our Lady of Atocha (a title of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child flanked by two angels).



Dave N, Ralph B, Debbie & Sam W, James W, and Phil vdH



James W, Deb W, Jeff R, Phil vdH, and Dave N



Ralph B, Phil vdH, Sam & Deb W, James W, Dave N, and Scott S



Deb W, Martin J, Phil vdH, Sam W, Ralph B, Scott S, and Steve L



James W & his HMS Beagle



Deb W, Scott S, Steve L, James W, Jeff R, Phil vdH, Sam W, Alice S, Dave N, Ralph B, and Martin J



Carol P, Deb W, James W, Jeff R, and Scott S



Phil vdH, Sam & Deb W, Carol P, and James W

Making Flags

As hopefully you have read in previous issues, I am always looking for ideas for articles. Recently I was asked for something about making flags, and it just so happens that I am at the point in my build that I am going to raise my colors. So, putting together something on making flags was a two-fer. I could learn about making flags, plus hopefully benefit other club members.

My original plan was to mix my firsthand experiences into the instructions, but as time moved on, it became apparent that my flag would not be completed before the issue had to go out. The last straw for me was that our printer ran out of ink and while I could run out and pay too much, I decided to wait until a more economical replacement could be delivered.

This month's article on flags will be mostly instruction, while next month will be about my first trials and tribulations of making a flag.

My Build; My Need

For a long time now, I have told myself that I will be replacing the standard "Jolly Roger" that came with the OcCre Buccaneer kit with a custom Kenny Chesney's "Skull & Crossbones" from his No Shoes Nation Tour. For those of you that are not Kenny fans, here is what the flag looks like, next to the one supplied with my kit. I would not call Kenny "country" (nothing wrong with that), but he often wears a cowboy hat.



That has been my plan for over two years... until the other night when I had an epiphany that a Kenny-flag would bring El Molino down a notch. And instead of switching back to a standard "Jolly Roger," I thought about having my own personal colors.

Recently while I was away from home and my workshop, I started a new AI chat that even had me using Claude AI. And after a long and drawn-out chat (over multiple days), here are the few designs I was leaning towards raising.



Either a blood red background with black images or a black background with blood red images – my final choice will be made by making a few samples and just seeing what I felt looked better. Another option I was entertaining was to have a "swallowtail" shape instead of a standard rectangle.

The image in these designs is a negative silhouette of a river mill, which is the logo of my condominium complex – Rivera Molino (River Mill) and two clashing cutlasses. I am still a Kenny fan, but I think any of these will do better justice to El Molino.

But now that I have my colors narrowed down, my mind started spinning on how do I make it come to fruition? A well-made flag will do more to bring a ship model to life than many other details, but unfortunately there are few other details that are more often botched. A stiff, thick, glossy flag ruins the illusion of scale even on an otherwise flawless build. Fortunately, there are several reliable ways to make convincing scale flags at home. Three

particularly useful materials are tissue or cigarette paper, very thin fabric, and household aluminum foil. And each has its own set of uses and advantages.

Tissue or cigarette paper is an excellent choice for printed flags at small scales, while thin fabric gives the most convincing representation of woven cloth, and foil is exceptionally useful when a flag with permanent folds and a little more structural strength is needed.

Method Comparison & Selection Matrix

To help decide which method best suits a given project, consult the following breakdown:

Material	Tissue / Cigarette Paper	Foil Core Sandwich	Stiffened Fine Fabric
Best Scales	1/300 to 1/48	1/72 to 1/35	1/35 to 1/6
Texture	Smooth, semi-translucent	Smooth, metallic opacity	Real woven textile grain
Adjustability	Fixed once dry	Fully re-shapeable anytime	Fixed once cured
Ease of Graphic Application	Direct Inkjet printing	Direct Inkjet printing	Hand-painted or decals
Best For...	Small naval ensigns, flags in high motion	Battle-damaged, torn, heavily creased flags	Large figure displays, static drooping banners

After quite a bit of research, I have decided to use the cigarette rolling paper method, and this article will walk through the process, and then next month I will follow it up with how my flag creation went.

Before I jump into tissue and cigarette paper, I want to share a cliff-notes version of making a flag the Bob Fivehouse recently shared.

Flags by Bob F:

1. Go online and download a color picture of the flag you want.
2. Re-size it to the needed size.
3. Make a mirror copy of the image that touches the original on the hoist edge as the printed copy is going to be folded over in half to make both sides of the flag.
4. Get some Glassine. Glassine is thin hard paper; it would be recognized as what collectable stamp envelopes are made of. It looks like wax paper. Sheets can be purchased online or at good art stores like Meininger's or Guiry's.
5. Paint the back of the glassine white.
6. Cut it to a size just less than a piece of printer paper.
7. Tape the glassine (paint side down) to a sheet of standard printer paper.
8. Print the flag. Before printing, determine which side of the paper the printer prints on... usually the paper should be loaded face down, but verify it with your printer. It is a good idea to print a copy on regular paper just to make sure that the position is correct.
 - a. Bob recommends printing several copies on the single sheet to save time and ink.
9. Let the printed copy fully dry.
10. Cut out the flag and fold it in half to get one two-sided flag.
11. Gently crumple it up and then straighten and smooth it out. This gives the flag a "real live" look.
12. Glue the flag to a line by opening the folded (and crumpled) flag and place a glue line in the center of the fold and attaching a line.
13. Add glue to the inner sides of the flag and fold them over to get one double sided flag.
14. When the glue is dry, tease it into the rippled effect that shows a flying flag.
15. If the flag is too shiny, paint it with Dullcote or some similar dulling finish.



I like the idea of glassine, but currently I only have cigarette paper so I will use it for my first flag.

Why Tissue and Cigarette Paper Work

The core problem with scale flags is thickness. Even the finest cloth is woven from threads that, at 1:96 or 1:48, would be laughably oversized for a flag. Tissue paper and cigarette papers solve this because they are thin enough to fold, wave, and drape convincingly while still holding paint or ink cleanly. Cigarette rolling papers are prized for their fine, even texture and near-invisible grain, while gift-wrap tissue is cheaper, comes in bulk, and is easy to source in white for painting or printing.

Research and Sizing

Before cutting anything, find out what the flag looked like. Contemporary paintings, ship's plans, and museum records will tell you the pattern, the colors, and the proportions, which varied more across periods and navies than most people expect. Many historical ensigns were large relative to the vessel, so do not assume a small, modest flag is automatically more accurate.

Once you know the real dimensions, convert them to your scale. A flag that was 6 feet by 12 feet in real life (72 by 144 inches) becomes 0.75 by 1.5 inches at 1:96, or roughly 19 by 38 mm. Double those figures for 1:48. Draw or size your artwork on a computer if possible or use AI like I did. Remember that many flags have a mirror-image on the reverse side, so a second, flipped copy for the back may be needed.

Preparing the Paper

Cigarette papers can usually be used as-is, straight from the packet, since they are already close to the ideal thinness. Gift-wrap tissue should be checked first: fold a test scrap and make sure it creases softly rather than tearing or leaving a hard crease line. Avoid tissue with a heavy printed pattern or a waxy finish. Even at 1:100 scale, a sheet of normal printer paper would be grossly oversized in thickness. Cigarette paper, by contrast, can give the impression of fabric without adding an obvious paper edge.

Because tissue and cigarette paper are too delicate to pass through printer rollers without jamming, they must be mounted to a carrier sheet. A carrier sheet can be a standard sheet of printer paper. The purpose of the carrier sheet is simply to give the printer something substantial enough to feed without jamming.

Printing Scale Flags Using the Carrier Sheet Method

Required Materials

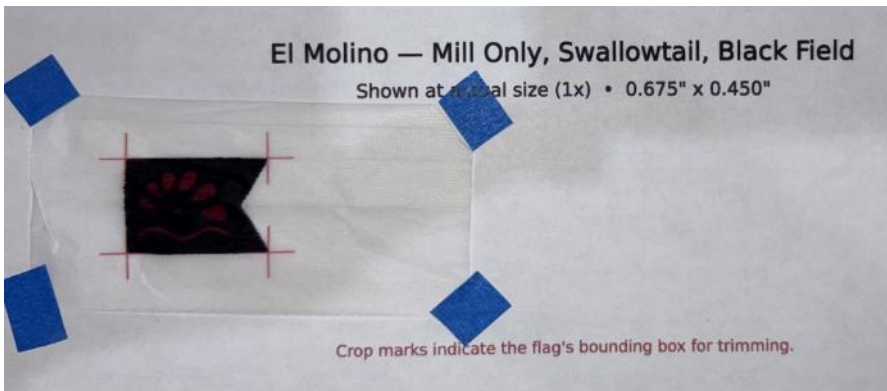
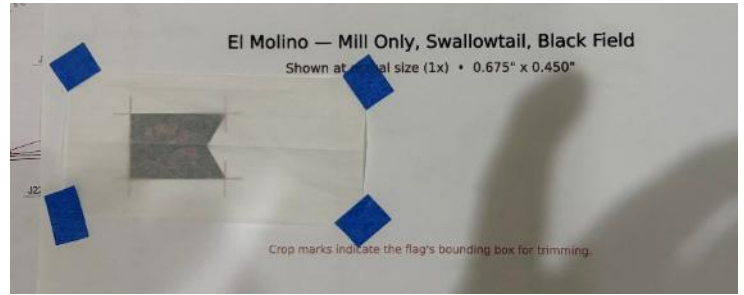
- Standard 20 lb. copy paper (carrier sheet)
- Rolling/Cigarette papers (1¼ or King Size work best)
- Low-tack painter's tape or removable drafting tape
- Digital graphic file (mirrored or two-sided layout)



Step-by-Step Process

1. Feed a blank sheet of 20 lb. copy paper into your printer.
2. Print a copy of your flag graphics (including the center fold line and mirrored images) in draft. This initial print serves as your exact placement grid on the carrier sheet.
3. Lay the printed carrier sheet flat on your workbench.
4. Place a sheet of cigarette paper directly over the printed target graphic.
5. Secure the cigarette paper by its corners or around its outer perimeter using small strips of low-tack painter's tape.

6. Ensure the tape sits completely outside the actual graphic boundaries to avoid printing over the tape edges.
 - Tip: Burnish the tape edges flat with a fingernail or wooden spreader to prevent printer pickup rollers from snagging the lead edge.
7. Load the prepared carrier sheet into your printer's manual feed or bypass tray, being sure to load it with the correct side "up."
8. Set print quality to High/Fine Detail and adjust media settings to Plain Paper.
9. Run the print job. The carrier sheet provides the necessary stiffness for the feed rollers while the graphics transfer directly onto the mounted cigarette paper.
10. Allow the ink to dry for 2–3 minutes (especially important for inkjet prints on non-porous paper).



Remember that colors printed on very thin, porous paper may appear different from the same colors printed on standard white paper. Adjustments may be necessary.

Carefully lift the low-tack tape away from the carrier sheet, pulling outward away from the artwork to prevent tearing the fragile paper.

11. Lock or seal the flag with a sealant, something like a matte varnish.

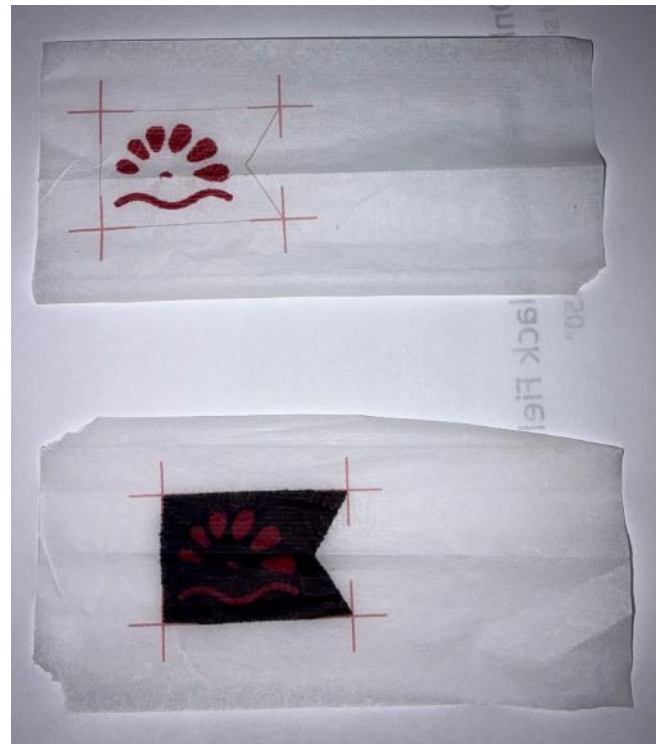
Locking the print will depend on a few factors, especially the type of printer being used. Inkjet printers use water-based ink, so most sealing agents will cause bleeding. To offset this, let the ink fully cure on the cigarette paper, not just dry to the touch. This could take 12 hours or longer.

12. Trim around the printed flag borders using a razor blade or sharp embroidery scissors.

If you would rather paint by hand, a thinned acrylic or gouache paint works well in a couple of light coats, applied with a brush that is just barely damp.

Building a Two-Layer Flag

For flags that have the same image on both sides of the flag, a test print will show if the ink bleeds through enough to look good on both sides. If the "backside" does not look good enough, print a mirror image of the design that will become the backside of the flag. This same process can be used if there are different images on the two sides.



A very convincing tissue or cigarette paper flag can be made from two layers of paper sandwiching a hoist thread between them. These two layers give the flag a touch more body, but not overly thick. Lay one printed layer face down, run a thin bead of diluted PVA glue (about 50:50 with water) along the hoist edge, and lay a fine thread into the glue. Press a second printed layer on top, face out, and press the two sides together. Use a barely damp brush to spread a very thin layer of the same diluted glue across the rest of the flag, working from the hoist toward the fly, to bond the two layers without soaking them. The result is a two-sided flag with a hidden mounting thread with more body than a single layer.

NOTE: Use as little of the glue mixture as possible as this solution can cause bleeding.

The result is a two-sided flag with a hidden mounting thread with more body than a single layer.

Shaping the Flag

A crucial step is giving the flag a natural shape. A perfectly flat rectangular flag often looks like a piece of paper rather than cloth. While the flag is still slightly damp, introduce a series of irregular folds. Do not make every fold parallel and perfectly regular. Real flags rarely hang like a series of identical waves. Drape it over a thin dowel, a knitting needle, or a folded strip of card to create gentle curves. For smaller flags, aluminum foil can be shaped and the damp flag can be draped over it to dry.

Let it dry in position, and once dry, the shape will hold.

Finishing Touches

Once dry, seal the flag with a coat of thinned matte medium or a light spray of matte varnish, which also helps disguise any papery sheen. An exceptionally light dry brush of a muted color across the raised folds adds shadow and depth, and a faint wash of off-white or grey over the whole flag takes the edge off overly saturated printer colors, since real flags fade and weather in a way that fresh ink does not.

Cigarette-paper pennants, cut long and tapering to a fine point, are especially effective, since the paper is thin enough to taper to almost nothing at the tip without tearing.

Mounting

Attach the hidden hoist thread to the halyard and, if the rigging plan calls for it, run it down to a belaying point just as real rigging would. Keep every flag on the model streaming in the same direction and make sure that direction agrees with how your sails are trimmed. If the flag does not match the direction of the sails, it will look wrong no matter how well the flag is made.

Tips for Next-Level Scale Flags

- **Weathering and Highlights:** Once your flag is shaped and dry, enhance its depth with dry brushing and washes. Apply a lighter shade of the flag's main colors along the peaks of the folds to catch light and apply a dark wash (or shade) in the deep recessed creases to simulate shadow.
- **Simulating Battle Damage:** For worn flags, use a heated needle or sharp hobby knife to poke fray marks along the trailing fly edge before wet shaping. Paper frays cleanly to mimic bullet holes and shrapnel tears.
- **Rope and Grommet Details:** Do not ignore the hoist attachment. Adding micro-scale thread as halyards, tiny brass wire loops for grommets, or leather-painted paper tabs at the pole attachment elevates a simple flag into an award-winning miniature detail.

With a little practice, the tissue/cigarette paper method can become one of the more satisfying finishing touches on a build, turning a small, fragile scrap of paper into something that looks like it is genuinely catching the wind.

It would be great to see examples of flags created by our members.

Boat Building is Everywhere

The other day a good friend WhatsApp'ed me saying I had to see what was in front of her house. Knowing Franca would not send me on a wild goose chase, I made the short trip.

And there, in front of her house was a beautiful Spanish galleon model, made of what looked like cut up magazine strips. While this was vastly different than the beautiful paper models made by our own Jay Phillips, it was still amazing. The ship is about 3 feet in length. When I asked for more information all that could be found was it was built by "the guy with the black dog who talks to himself on the malecón." I was told I could buy it for 200 pesos (about \$12 US), but by the time I personally ran into him, it had already been sold.

Regardless, it is a beautiful model, made by a guy who is probably homeless. I saw him again this morning, and he must be starting on another one as in one hand was a small bag of folded up strips of magazines.



What's Everyone Working On – Build Logs

Following up on the theme from a previous meeting, here is a list of what I know our members are working on, and if I am aware, if the member has their work documented in a Build Log. I know Build Logs are not for everyone as they take some work and time to create and manage, 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 other builders have done for me.

I know the list is incomplete and would love to hear from you about what you are working on. And pictures are ALWAYS welcomed.

The largest forums that I know of are Dry Dock Modeler, 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 there are many 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.

I recently started doing things a bit different in my logs by working with Google's AI Chatbot – Gemini, to help me. I give Gemini the basic info of what I have done, and I let Gemini write the 1st draft of my build log. I then edit, correct, and add to as needed before posting. I am hoping it is a time saver but only time will tell.

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

[Dry Dock Modeler](#)

[Model Ship World](#)

[Ships of Scale](#)

Fred Bell

- Current Build:
 - Willie Bennett Skipjack

Jim Brooks

- Current Build:
 - Yankee Tender

Ralph Buckwalter

- Current Build:
 - Charles Royal Yacht
- Completed Builds:
 - HMS Berbice Baltimore Clipper

Michael Caramia

- Current Build:
 - USS Constitution Blue Jacket's Anniversary Edition

Ross Clark

- Current Build:
 - Endeavour II

Ron Cole

- Current Builds:
 - California, a 4-mast Barque (AJ Fisher)

- Bluenose fishing schooner
- POF (Plank On Frame) Norske Love
- Solid hull USS Essex
- La Couronne, a French frigate

Brian Davies - [bdgiantman2](#)

- Current Build:
 - Brig Eagle 1814

Terry Duffin

- Current Builds:
 - Swift Pilot Boat
 - Scottish Maid
 - Pride of Baltimore II

Bob Fivehouse

- Current Build:
 - SS Suevic
- Completed Builds:
 - Britanna – 1896

Doug Graham – [Dgraham](#) (Ships of Scale) and [Doug Grahm](#) (Dry Dock Modeler)

- Current Build:
 - Santa Maria
 - Spirit of Mississippi Stern Wheeler

Dan Hart

- Current Build:
 - Cousteau's Calypso
- Completed Builds:
 - Titanic 1:400
 - Chinese Junk Restoration

Martin Jelsema – [Martinjel](#) (Ships of Scale)

- Current Build:
 - Rattlesnake - Mamoli
- In Dry Dock (waiting):
 - USS Essex (large solid Hull) - Model Shipways
 - Blockade Runner (plastic) – Lindberg
- Completed Builds:
 - Ranger Revenue Cutter - Corel
 - Charles W. Morgan - Scientific
 - CSS Alabama – Mamoli
 - Harvey - Artesania Latina
 - Dresden (plastic – Revell)

Charlie Krinsky

- Current Build
 - USS Nimitz (CVN-68)

Lawrence Kuo

- Current Build:
 - Pride of Baltimore II

Steve Lofshult

- Current Build:
 - Scaled down pond yacht

Hugh Long - [HughLo](#) (Ships of Scale), [VallartaHugh](#) (Dry Dock Modeler)

- 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)
- In Dry Dock (waiting):
 - Wasa (Corel)
 - Sovereign of the Seas (Model Shipways)

Jay McKeown - [CO Jaybird](#)

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

Del Milne

- Current Build:
 - Fair American
 - DD418

David Niss

- Current Builds:
 - NRG Half-hull Planking Model
 - Cutty Sark

Will Pearson - [niwotwill](#) (Ships of Scale), [Will P](#) (Dry Dock Modeler)

- Current Build:
 - [HM Cutter Cheerful 1806 by niwotwill - Syren Ship Model Company - scale 1:48](#) (last update on 4/1/26)
 - [HM Cheerful 1806 by Will P - Syren Ship Model Company - 1:48](#) (last update on 6/25/26)
- In Dry Dock (waiting):
 - 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 Builds:
 - [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

Jay Phillips

- Current Build:
 - WWII Casablanca Class Escort Carrier
 - Researching early Mediterranean ships

Jeff Potter - [Corsair](#)

- Current Build: [Corsair H.M.S. Enterprize Build Log](#) (last update on 3/27/26)

Bruce Ream

- Current Build:
 - USRC Harriet Lane (Model Shipways)
 - An 1865 square-rigged and steam-powered with paddlewheels on the side

Jeff Ross

- Current Build:
 - Flying Cloud

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](#)

- Current Build:
 - [San Felipe 1690 from ZHL](#) (last update on 11/18/24)

Daniel Siemens

- Current Build:
 - E. Armitage McCann Spanish Galeon

Martin Ters

- Current Builds:
 - Schooner America 1851
 - Royal Caroline

Bob Tucker

- Current Build:
 - PVAM

Phil van der Heydt

- Current Build:
 - The 7-masted Thomas W. Lawson, a repair/restoration

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

James Webster – [James](#) (Dry Dock Modeler)

- Current Builds:
 - [HMS Beagle 1820 by James - OcCre - 1:60](#) (last update on 8/17/26)

HMS Hunter (Mamoli), a kit of his father.

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

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.

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

