

November 2026

Show Your True Colors!

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

Next Meeting November 21, 2026

Click here to stream the Rocky Mountain Shipwright meeting

November Presentations

Bob Fivehouse's presentations: "The Big Four" and "How do you measure?"

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 December 5, 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

Cargo Hold 1
Skipper's Log 2
2026 Model Boat Show 2
September 5, 2026 - Workshop 14
How I Made My First Flags: Moving Beyond the Jolly Roger 16
November 21, 2026, Meeting Agenda 19
Rocky Mountain Shipwrights Meetings are Streaming 20
Rocky Mountain Shipwright Online Presence 20

Get Your Swag 20
Sources of Tools, Supplies & Services 21
Useful Websites 21
Online Suppliers 22
Local Sources 23
Selected Informational Resources for Model Builders 24

Skipper's Log

Congratulations to everyone on a spectacular boat show! About 20 Shipwrights brought almost 60 boats to the show. We had well over 200 visitors who were hosted by a parade of charming Shipwrights. The Shipwrights' store managed by Steve was remarkably successful and we were able to find new homes for three constructed models and a wide variety of plastic model kits.

I am extremely excited about the amount of technology that was involved in the show, starting with James's effort to advertise on Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram. Subsequently Jay and Dave made a huge effort to photograph each of the boats in the show and those pictures are now in a boat show video put together by Hugh.

As you know, our meetings are available online and we are having more folks participate every month. In addition, I am looking forward to instituting AI generated minutes starting in the first of the year. This will make the job of clerk a simple ask of minor editing and posting of the minutes every month.

Right now, we have almost 100 listed members on our roster, and I worry about those folks that we have not seen or heard from in a long time. Only 40 folks paid their dues last year, so we do not know whether they are no longer interested or just did not have an easy way to pay their dues. So, this year we are going to make every effort to make it possible to pay your dues online…. Another technology to be utilized!

We have an exciting program planned for the November meeting, and some planning to do for the new year. Make sure that you come to the meeting or connect online to hear Bob Fivehouse's presentations: "The Big Four" and "How do you measure?"

Fair winds and following seas.

Phil

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

2026 Model Boat Show

The Rocky Mountain Shipwright Model Boat Show was held from Friday October 16th through Sunday October 18th at Rockler Woodworking.

A total of 331 attendees perused the 55 models on display. A hearty "THANK YOU" to those of you that either attended or displayed a model.



Here is a quick view of each ship. The award winners are listed below the pictures. For a video displaying all the models, please go to The Rocky Mountain Shipwrights 2026 Model Boat Show.

Oseberg Viking Ship *by Jeffrey Ross*



Period Ship Sailed: Approximately 800 AD

Type of model: Wood

Build Time: Approximately 100 hours

Scale: 1/25

Description of Build: Constructed from Billing Boats kit #518. Internal bulwarks and hull planking from laser pre-cut wood. Bow and stern keel carvings from molded plastic.

Ship's History: The Oseberg ship (Norwegian: Osebergskipet) is a well-preserved longship (probably a karve) discovered in a large burial mound at the Oseberg farm near Tønsberg in Vestfold county, Norway. This ship is commonly acknowledged to be among the finest artifacts to have survived from the Viking Age. The ship and some of its contents are displayed at the Viking Ship Museum at Bygdøy on the western side of Oslo, Norway (Wikipedia).

Modeler's Bio: Jeff Ross is a retired geophysicist who constructed his first model ship in the mid 1980s with the building of the Danish topsail schooner Lilla Dan. Since then, time was taken making a family and multiple international moves that left little time for modelling. After having retired in 2023, he began modelling again with the construction of the Billing Boats version of the Oseberg Viking ship and restarted the construction of the spectacular Extreme Clipper Flying Cloud.

USS Kearsarge *by Phil von der Heydt*

Period Ship Sailed: 1861 - 1884

Type of model: Wooden kit

Build Time: 3 years on the bench – 2,500 hours

Scale: 1/8" = 1'

Description of Build: Plank on Bulkhead construction. Britannia metal fittings, cast resin parts, over 400 photo-etched brass details. Kit from BlueJacket Ship Crafters. Sails were not included with the kit.

Ship's History: The Kearsarge was launched 11 September 1861 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard, New Hampshire. The most recognized history of the USS Kearsarge is as victory over the Confederate raider, CSS Alabama in the famous Battle of Cherbourg. On 14 June 1864, Kearsarge arrived ay Cherbourg, to find the Alabama in port. Kearsarge challenged Alabama to leave the harbor , which Alabama did on 19 June.



Alabama was the first to open fire, while Kearsarge held her reply until she had closed to less than 1,000 yards. One hour after she fired her first salvo, Alabama was reduced to a sinking wreck by Kearsarge's more accurate gunnery and its powerful 11" Dahlgren smoothbore pivot cannons. In addition, Kearsarge had armor-clad, chain cable inced in tiers along her port and starboard midsections (can be seen in open segment on starboard midsection). This armor protection gave the Union warship a definitive advantage over the Confederate raider.

The Kearsarge was decommissioned and recommissioned five times before it was wrecked off the coast of Central America in 1884.

Modeler's Bio: First models were Cutty Sark 1971 and Robert E. Lee, 1973. After retiring in 2012 began modeling again. The Kearsarge was the fourth of the five models completed since. On the bench now is the S.S. Portland, a side wheeler kit.

CSS Alabama *by Martin Jelsema*



Period Ship Sailed: Civil War

Type of model: Plank On Bulkhead; Mamoli Kit

Build Time: 700 hours

Scale: 1:120

Description of Build: Mamoli kit modified. Both deck configuration and rigging deviated from Mamoli plans to follow the details illustrated on the book by Andrew Bowcock, Anatomy of a Confederate Raider. Hull is double planked in basswood and walnut. The "hammocks" on the rails are Q-tips. Completed with wood, cord, and metal fittings.

Ship's History: The CSS Alabama was a Confederate Raider whose mission was to interrupt Union merchant trade during the Civil War. During its two years of raiding, it captured 63 American merchant ships and one warship. It was in port at Cherbourg, France when "called out" by the USS Kearsarge. It was sunk by the Kearsarge. It was discovered by divers and is being raised little by little by the French.

Modeler's Bio: This is Martin's third build since retiring as a market consultant. As a teenager, Martin built a model of the schooner Bluenose. He has collected tools for 50 years in anticipation of renewing the hobby.

Ranger *by Martin Jelsema*



Period Ship Sailed: Pre Civil War

Type of model: Modified kit

Build Time: ~ 300 hours

Scale: 14" = 1 foot

Description of Build:

Ship's History: This was not a model of a real ship. Rather it depicts a "typical" revenue cutter from the early to mid 1800's. This type of ship was manned by the U.S. Revenue Service, a predecessor to the U.S. Coast Guard. Its main purpose was to stop smugglers and others who violated U.S. customs taxes. For their size, they carried a lot of sail. They were built for speed and armed with a single pivot gun.

Modeler's Bio: This was Martin's first build since "retiring" as a market consultant some years ago. As a teenager he built the wooden schooner model of the Bluenose. He collected tools for the next 50 years in anticipation of renewing the hobby. Martin lives in Littleton with his wife Gus. He's been a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights for 8 years.

Venetian Galleass *by Mark Persichetti*

Period Ship Sailed: 1530 - 1600

Type of model: 40-yr-old injection-molded plastic kit produced by the Imai Company in Japan.

Build Time: A few years



Description of Build: All the kit's smooth-plastic surfaces were sanded with coarse-grit sandpaper to give them a wood-grain appearance. I added strips of plastic to the inboard sides of each bulwark, to depict planking and belaying rails. I added beam details inside the lower forecastle. I also added eyebolts for securing the large guns, and cleats for securing rigging lines. I added some smaller swivel guns to the side ports and top rail of the forecastle.

I replaced the kit's coarse-weave & coarse- printed cloth sails with vacuum-formed thin plastic sails from another kit. I sanded those thin plastic sails with fine-grit sandpaper in perpendicular directions, to give then a woven-fabric appearance. I also added perimeter bolt-ropes to each sail and tied the sails to their diagonal "lateen" yards. For all the rigging, I used squarish Mediterranean-style blocks (pulleys), instead of the simplified kit's parts. Paper flags and pennants from another kit were added.

Ship's History: This model depicts a Galleass from the city-state of Venice, circa 1530 – 1600. The Galleass type was an expansion of the typical Mediterranean rowed galley, which were long and narrow, propelled by oars in poor wind conditions, and by triangular-shaped "lateen" sails in good winds. At the Battle of Lepanto in October 1571, the combined Christian fleets under the command of Don Juan of Austria fought around pairs of large Galleass, with the smaller war galleys following close behind. The Galleass penetrated the massed Turkish war galleys, which were too small to effectively interfere with the larger vessels. By the end of the day's battle, the Turkish fleet had been defeated.

Modeler's Bio: I've been making models since the 1950's. My first sailing-ship model was a smaller-scale Old Ironsides kit by Revell. Ships have been my favorite modeling subject since then – through plastic aircraft and armor kits are easier to build! I've been a member of Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2006, and I've thoroughly enjoyed being a member of this club!

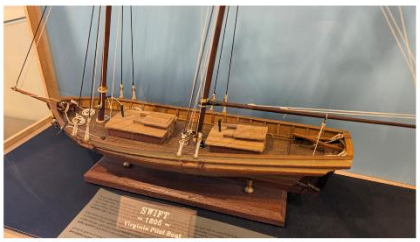
Swift – Virginia Pilot Boat *by Terry Duffin*

Period Ship Sailed: 1805

Type of model: Artesania Latina Kit

Build Time: 1.5 years

Scale: 1:50



Description of Build: This kit is considered a "beginners" kit and is a double-planked hull on bulkhead frames. It taught me a lot, and these kits can still be found on eBay or at thrift stores or garage sales.

Ship's History: Pilot boats in the United States during this period were fast, nimble sailing vessels that carried harbor pilots to and from incoming and outgoing ships. Pilots had local knowledge of harbor entrances, currents, shoals, and tides – making their role essential to safe navigation, especially in busy or hazardous ports. Napoleonic Wars – Pilot boats were often pressed into service for naval intelligence, dispatch running, or coastal reconnaissance due to their speed and low profile. Pilots were crucial in helping warships and merchant convoys navigate safely.

Modeler's Bio: When I was young, I built plastic models by the dozens, mostly airplanes and tanks, but I also built the Constitution, Cutty Sark, and HMS Victory plastic ship models since I have always liked sailing ships. After I graduated from college, I wanted to try building wood ship models and bought this kit in 1984. I did not get far though and put it away until last fall. I joined the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights Club and received lots of help and encouragement. I am now working on a second kit – Scottish Maid – which is a Clipper Ship and am making good progress. Now I have several more kits on the shelf waiting to be started.





HMS Beagle *by James Webster*

Period Ship Sailed: 1831

Type of model: Wood

Build Time: 230 hours

Scale: 1:60

Description of Build: This is an in-progress build of the HMS Beagle. It is a double planked, plank-on-bulkhead model by OcCre. There have been many alterations to the kit in order to more closely match the depiction of the HMS Beagle in Karl Marquardt's book, "Anatomy of the Ship: HMS Beagle". Changes include coppering the hull, raising the bulwarks to be flush with the forecastle, changing the deck planking pattern, and more. While the hull and deck furnishing is complete, there is still much more to do before the model is finished.

Ship's History: The Beagle was a ten-gun brig launched at Woolwich in 1820, one among a hundred like her - until she was converted into a survey ship. On her second voyage (1831-1836), under Robert FitzRoy, she sailed round the world with a 22-year-old naturalist aboard: Charles Darwin. Out of what he saw and collected in those five years, from the Galápagos to Patagonia, came "On the Origin of Species"

Modeler's Bio: James is a 28-year-old living in Denver, Colorado. He started modeling to follow in his father's footsteps. He likes departing from the kit instructions to scratch build bits and pieces of the ship and hopes to scratch build a whole ship model one day. James posts content of his builds on YouTube, Tik Tok, and Instagram as @james.builds.boats



Albatross *by James Webster*

Period Ship Sailed: 1880s

Type of model:

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:100

Description of Build: Plank on frame

Ship's History: Built in 1882. It had an iron hull and was 200 feet long and 28 feet wide. She had two compound steam engines.

Modeler's Bio: James is a 28-year-old living in Denver, Colorado. He started modeling to follow in his father's footsteps. He likes departing from the kit instructions to scratch build bits and pieces of the ship and hopes to scratch build a whole ship model one day. James posts content of his builds on YouTube, Tik Tok, and Instagram as @james.builds.boats





Scottish Maid *by Terry Duffin*

Period Ship Sailed: 1839 - 1888

Type of model: Wood - Plank on Bulkhead - Artesania Latina kit

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:50

Description of Build: Wood - Plank on Bulkhead - Artesania Latina kit completed earlier this year. Great beginner model!

Ship's History: The first "true" clipper ship - designed and built in Aberdeen, Scotland. Designed for speed - it was the predecessor of the famous "extreme" Tea Clippers like the Cutty Sark, Thermopylae, and Flying Cloud

Modeler's Bio: Retired Tooling Engineer for a medical device manufacturer- always liked plastic model kits as a kid and a wood working as an adult. Wrapped those together to make wooden ship models which has been very challenging and fun! Thanks to my wife for her enormous patience for me disappearing into the shop for hours at a time.



San Felipe *by Scott Shilling*

Period Ship Sailed: Late 1600s

Type of model: Ship of the line

Build Time: 600 to date

Scale: 1:50

Description of Build: This is from a company called ZHL, a Chinese company. So, the kit components have been sketchy at best. I've replaced all the planking with Cherry Wood and Mahogany. The first phase, building the boat itself is complete. I'll be starting the second phase, the masts and rigging, this December and hoping to finish by end of 2070.

Ship's History: The 1690 "San Felipe" Warship (Legend vs. Reality)

- **Popular Myth**: Widely sold as a famous 96-cannon Spanish flagship launched in 1690 that fought a heroic battle against 35 British ships in 1705 and sank with gold.
- **Historical Reality**: According to model-making and naval historians on platforms like Facebook Groups, there is no official historical record of a Spanish ship of the line named San Felipe launched in 1690 with those exact specs. Instead, it is an interpretive composite or popular myth likely blended with the real history of the Real Felipe

Modeler's Bio: Scott Shilling is just now retired and spending a lot of time sailing the east coast and Bermuda.





Flying Cloud *by Jeffrey Ross*



Period Ship Sailed: 1851 - 1874

Type of model: Wood plank on bulkhead

Build Time: Not yet complete

Scale: 1:96

Description of Build: This model is from a Mamoli kit purchased nearly 40 years ago. At its current state of construction, you can see the first layer of hull laths made of limewood to fill out the shape of the hull. This will be covered by a final layer of mahogany laths and copper below the waterline. The deck works are also still under construction.

Ship's History: The Flying Cloud was constructed in Boston in 1851 specifically to ply trade between the US Eastern Seaboard and California around the Magellan Strait of South America. The Flying Cloud held the record for the quickest transit of this route established in 1853 at 89 days, 8 hours, a record held until 1989 when it was bested by the fiberglass racing sloop Thursday's Child. Her later years were spent traveling between Newcastle upon Tyne in England and St. John, New Brunswick, Canada where she was driven aground and wrecked in a storm in 1874. She was ultimately burned for her copper and iron fastenings.

Modeler's Bio: Jeff Ross is a retired geophysicist who constructed his first model ship in the mid 1980s with the building of the Danish topsail schooner Lilla Dan. Since then, time was taken making a family and multiple international moves that left little time for modeling. After having retired in 2023, he began modeling again with the construction of the Billing Boats version of the Oseberg Viking ship and restarted the construction of the spectacular Extreme Clipper Flying Cloud.

2026 Modeler's Choice 3rd Place Award

Armed Virginia Sloop *by Bruce Ream*

Period Ship Sailed: 1768 - 1812

Type of model: Plank of bulkheads

Build Time: Jan. 2025 to Sept. 2025

Scale: 1:48

Description of Build: This was the third ship I built. It is built from a Model Shipways kit. It was chosen because it is listed as a beginner's kit. It is an accurate model of an eighteenth-century Virginia Sloop with laser cut parts and has very good instructions and plans. The kit is plank on bulkheads with two layers of planking. The kit comes with attractive launching ways which I stained and used instead of the standard display stand.

Ship's History: The Virginia Sloop is a single-masted privateer or smuggler, an evolutionary development in the line of fast sailing ships linking to the Bermuda sloop of c. 1740. It is a small well-designed ship with graceful sheer and low freeboard. Often the private sector was more innovative as the quest for quick profits spurred the production and refinement of fast sailing ships.

Modeler's Bio: I am an 89-year-old retired architect who spent many years building and flying model airplanes. I always liked old sailing ships but like airplanes more. As I grew older the model airplane became too big for me to build and get to the flying field so about four year ago, I started to build models of sailing ships. This has been a great learning experience for me. I'm learning a whole new vocabulary.





Pride of Baltimore II *by Bruce Ream*

Period Ship Sailed: War of 1812

Type of model: Plank on bulkhead

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:72

Description of Build: This was my first wooded ship build. The story of the Pride of Baltimore was what led me to buy the kit. This is a Model Shipways kit with laser cut parts and small casting for many of the parts. The kit includes all the deadeyes, blocks and rigging materials. The kit also includes very detail drawings. I also purchased a set of CD's showing step by step how to build this model. Without the CD's I'm not sure I would have made it. I purchase some small painted figures for the model. They are not the right scale but close.

Ship's History: The original Pride of Baltimore was sailed in the War of 1812 as a privateer where it became most famous. After the war many of these ships were sold to South American owners and by 1860 the Baltimore Clipper was gone. These types of boats were built in the Chesapeake Bay area and were called the Baltimore Flyer. In 1974 the city of Baltimore wanted to re-create a Baltimore Clipper to attract tourist to the Inner Harbor. The built in the harbor so the people of Baltimore could watch its construction. It had an overall length of 90 feet and a beam of 23 feet adding up to 140 tons. It was completed in 1976. In 1986 after sailing all over the world in was caught in a hurricane and lost at sea along with four crew members. The Pride of Baltimore II was completed in 1988 and was larger at 108 feet long, 26-foot beam and 197 tons. It was commission by the Coast Guard for carrying passengers. Its permanent home is the Inner Harbor of Baltimore, Maryland.

Modeler's Bio: I am an 89-year-old retired architect who spent many years building and flying model airplanes. I always liked old sailing ships but like airplanes more. As I grew older the model airplane became too big for me to build and get to the flying field so about four year ago, I started to build mode [cut off] sailing ships. This has been a great learning experience for me. I'm learning a whole new vocabulary.



HMS Terror *by Phil von der Heydt*

Period Ship Sailed: 1813 - 1845

Type of model: Single plank on frame – OcCre kit

Build Time: 1,200 hours

Scale: 1:75

Description of Build:

Ship's History: Built in 1813 as one of five ships equipped with heavy duty decks and hulls to handle firing mortars. HMS Terror along with its partner-ship HMS Erebus were converted to explore Antarctica and eventually to attempt to find the Northwest Passage through North America. Neither ship succeeded in finding the passage and both were trapped in ice and abandoned near Beechy Island in 1845.

Modeler's Bio: Phil began building wooden ship models in 1972. He built the Cutty Sark and the Robert E Lee in the early 1970s A er re ring and moving to Colorado in 2012 he restarted the hobby of making wooden ship models.







Spanish Carrack *by Mark Persichetti*

Period Ship Sailed: 1480s

Type of model: 40-year-old kit from Imai Company in Japan

Build Time: A few years

Scale: 1:64

Description of Build: I modified several if the kit's original molded features and added quite a few details. All those are described in my notebook and builder's notes, next to the model.

I made its display base from Red Oak.

Ship's History: This model depicts a Carrack from the Spanish-Catholic provinces of Aragon (red & yellow-striped shields) and Sicilia (same motif with dragons), circa 1480s. Christopher Columbus' flagship, the Santa Maria, would have been very similar to this model. In fact, this model is based on plans of a reconstruction of the Santa Maria, done by Julio F Guillen in the 1920s, which were used to construct a replica Santa Maria for the City of Barcelona, completed in 1927.

Modeler's Bio: I've been making models since the 1950s. My first sailing-ship model was a smaller-scale Old Ironsides kit by Revell. Ships have been my favorite modeling subject since then -- though plastic aircraft and armor kits are easier to build! I've been a member of Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2006, and I've thoroughly enjoyed being a member of this club!



Sanson *by Phil von der Heydt*

Period Ship Sailed: 1930s

Type of model: Double plank on frame – Artesania Latina kit

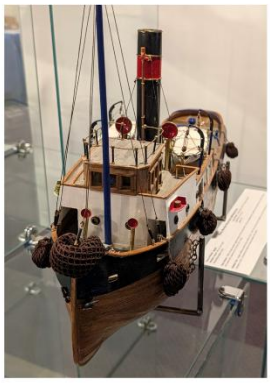
Build Time: 150 hours

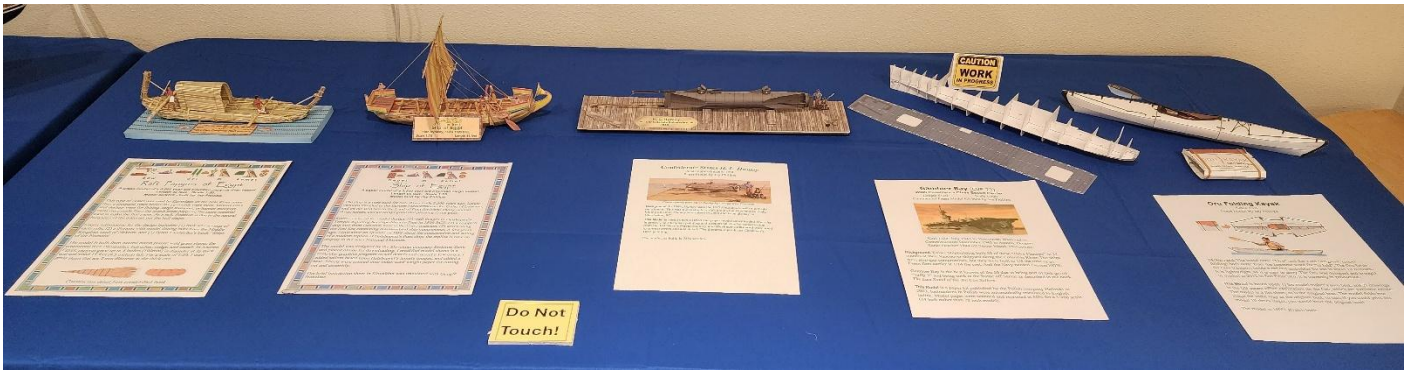
Scale: 1/50

Description of Build:

Ship's History: 1930s vintage wooden tugboat typical of East coast harbors. She was equipped with a powerful steam engine boiler of 2,000 Cv of power and could reach speeds up to 14 knots (16.11 mph).

Modeler's Bio: I began building wooden ship models in 1972. I built the Cutty Sark and the Robert E Lee in the early 1970s After retiring and moving to Colorado in 2012 I restarted the hobby of making wooden ship models.





Charles W. Morgan *by Martin Jelsema*

Period Ship Sailed: 1845 - 1920

Type of model: Modified kit

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:120

Description of Build: This began as a vintage Scientific Model kit, but aside from the hull and deck furnishings, the model was fashioned from the plans of the Model Shipways version of the Morgan. That meant modeling a 1:120 model using plans for a 1:60 scale model - meaning all the masting and rigging had to be scaled at half-size.

Ship's History: Whaler built in 1843. It was active, mostly in the Pacific, with many hunts of more than two years long. The Morgan still exists! It is berthed at Mys c Seaport Museum in Connecticut and was recently restored a second me.

Modeler's Bio: Aside from building a wooden hulled Bluenose schooner as a teen, Martin did not take up ship modeling un l 2009. Martin has spent a career in marketing communications, working for ad agencies, IBM and Coors Ceramics.



Longboat *by Phil von der Heydt*

Period Ship Sailed: 18th Century

Type of model: Plank on Frame

Build Time: 20 hours

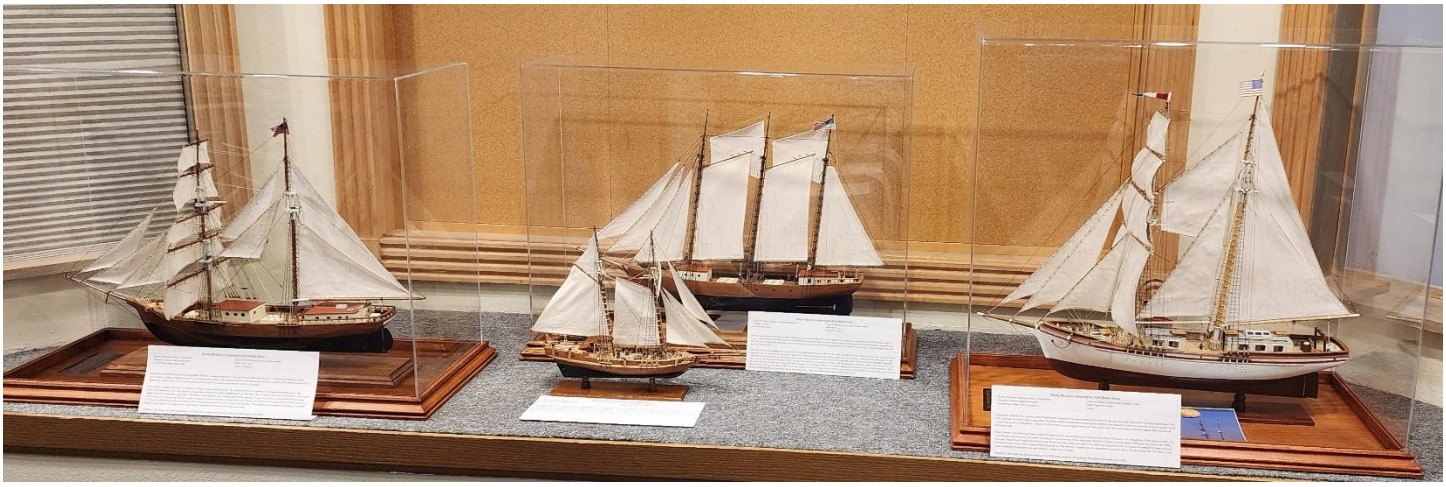
Scale: 1:48

Description of Build:

Ship's History: Longboats typically served as a ship's largest lifeboat and served as transport of supplies and personnel from ship to shore.

Modeler's Bio: I began building wooden ship models in 1972. I built the Cutty Sark and the Robert E Lee in the early 1970s After retiring and moving to Colorado in 2012 I restarted the hobby of making wooden ship models.





Sovereign of the Seas *by Martin Ters*

Period Ship Sailed: 17th Century

Type of model: Mantura/Segal kit – plank on bulkhead

Build Time: 3 years

Scale: 1/78

Description of Build: Heavily modified rigging, sails, figurines.

Ship's History: King Edwards I of England flagship. First ship on the seas with over 100 canons. Was in service for over 80 years. The Dutch called it the Golden Devil.

Modeler's Bio: Dentist by trade. I have been building models for 25 years. Previous experience with RC airplanes, ships and boats. Also building and repairing and playing classical guitars.

2026 Modeler's Choice Award Winner

2026 People's Choice Award Winner



Montañés *by Scott Shilling*

Period Ship Sailed: Early 19th Century

Type of model: Kit

Build Time: 1 year 6 months (~900 hours)

Scale: 1:70

Description of Build: Stayed with the kit materials. Did not paint portions of the outside hull.

Ship's History: Montañés was a 74-gun third-rate Spanish ship of the line. She was built in the Ferrol shipyards and paid for by the people of Cantabria. She was launched in May 1794 and entered service the following year. She was much faster than other ships of the same era, reaching 14 (rather than the average 10) knots downwind.

In 1795 she fought a French force of 8 ships of the single-handed in the bay of Sant Feliu de Guixols - thanks to her superior speed, the Montañés managed to force the French to break off the chase.

In June 1805 she was part of the French/Spanish fleet beaten by the British at the Ba le of Trafalgar. The ship lost only 20 dead and 29 wounded and was able to recapture the Santa Ana and Neptuno a er their capture by the British.

In July 1808 the Montañés took part in the capture of the Rosily Squadron at Cadiz. She also made several voyages to the Canary Islands, Balearics and Havana before being lost in a heavy storm on 10 March 1810.

Modeler's Bio: Scott Shilling is currently the CEO of WorkWeb.io and running for city council in Westminster. He is an avid modeler and is currently working on a San Felipe model from ZHL





Wappen Von Hamburg *by Martin Ters*

Period Ship Sailed: 1776 – 1860

Type of model: Corel plank on bulkhead – modified kit

Build Time: 2 years

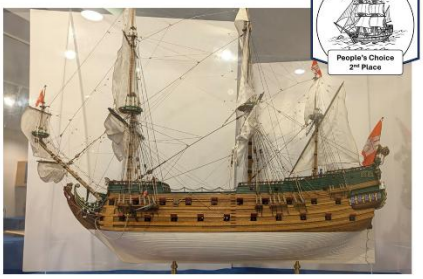
Scale: 1:40

Description of Build: Corel plank on bulkhead, walnut plank, all wood, pewter castings, hand printed. Sails sewn from of dress shirt - all cotton. Model won Modelers Choice and Peoples Choice Award at 2000 Rocky Mountain Shipwrights Show

Ship's History: Wappen was working for the Hanseatic League of Hamburg (Germany) to provide protection for merchant ships in the Baltic Sea.

Modeler's Bio: Started building ship models and airplanes as a boy scout, still actively building and making guitars - classical, working as a dentist helps with attention to detail. This model was my second build after Endeavour model.

2026 People's Choice 2nd Place Award



Pen Duick *by Bruce Ream*

Period Ship Sailed: 1898 - 1974

Type of model: Wood on plank on bulkhead

Build Time: Sept. 2024 – Dec. 2024

Scale: 1:48

Description of Build: This model was built from an Artesania Latina kit. This was my fourth build, and all of the instructions were on You Tube. I had to keep going back and forth to my computer as I was building this yacht. The picture on the box was also a good source of how to build. The kit parts are laser cut and very good fits when gluing it together. The small brass parts were very accurate and added a lot to the finished boat.

Ship's History: The name is best known for a series of racing yachts sailed by a French yachtsman named Eric Tabarly. He learned to sail when he was seven years old, being taught by his father. The yacht was designed by William Fife III and built in 1898 by Gridiron Marine Motor Works at Carrigaloe in Cork Harbor, Ireland. After WW II it was put up for sale but with no takers Eric convinced his father to give it to him. Finding the hull rotten and full of mold, Eric used the hull as a mold for a new fiberglass hull. He sailed the yacht in many races but in 1998 Eric fell overboard and was lost in the Irish Sea. The original boat is being restored.

Modeler's Bio: I am an 89-year-old retired architect who spent many years building and flying model airplanes. I always liked old sailing ships but like sailing ships. This has been a great learning experience for me. I'm learning a whole new vocabulary







Santisima Trinidad Cross Section *by Michael Caramia*

Period Ship Sailed: 1769 - 1805

Type of model: Cutaway of main mast section

Build Time: 15 months (01/12/24 - 04/01/25)

Scale: 1/90

Description of Build: Sectional, OcCre model - Plank on Frame. Goal was to incorporate natural wood tones, grains & colors; some wool stain, overall clear/natural finishes. Rated "High Intermediate"; approximately 1660 named/numbered parts.

Ship's History: Built in Cuba, launched March 1769. Not the "BISMARCK" (fast sailer) of the 18th century - requiring near calm seas, so as not to swamp lower gun deck, to fully deliver her formidable broadside. Top heavy as well. Targeted early on during Battle of Trafalgar, demasted, then exploded when fires reached powder storage; sank not long after. Crew approx. 1200.

Modeler's Bio: Desired a different challenge from "plank on bulkhead" work (ALBATROS, ENDEAVOUR, VICTORY, & CONSTELLATION.

Current project: working through the tiny parts of Bluejacket's "Bicentennial Edition" CONSTITUTION.

2026 People's Choice 3rd Place Award



Timbuktu *by Steve Lofshult*

Period Ship Sailed:

Type of model: Scratch build

Build Time: 60 hours / approximately 50% complete

Scale: 1" = 1'

Description of Build: The technique used in building of the model is known as "bread & butter". Here 1" boards (pine) are glued together in lift known as water lines. The various waterlines are cut to shape to help give it a rough shape of the hull. From a set of lines taken from the ships blueprints templates are made to establish the shape of the hull once completed. The hewing or cutting of the hull is done using a hand plane, chisel and rasp until a rough smoothness is gained then finished by sanding. The model is of the likeness of the racing yacht "Dorade" which is a boat design by Olin Stephens in the 1930's that proved to be a fast and competitive racer.

Modeler's Bio: I've been interested in wooden boats and boat building technics for many years. My interest initially was to build a small rowboat or canoe but now having changed my interest more to the modeling side of things. I started building models in 1997 having since built approximately 12 models of various types.









Lilla Dan *by Jeffrey Ross*

Period Ship Sailed: 1951 to present

Type of model: Modified wood on plank on bulkhead

Build Time: unknown

Scale: 1:50

Description of Build: This model is from a Billings Boats kit with wooden bulkhead and plank hull construction. Most of the small accessory parts supplied in the kit were plastic, and these were replaced with wood parts wherever possible. The printing of the JL logo on the sail was done by carving a lino-print of the logo to replace the sail material supplied in the kit. Sails were constructed by my wife.

Ship's History: The Lilla Dan is a beautiful throwback to a bygone era; a 35-meter topsail schooner built in 1951 by J. Lauritzen as a training ship, she has been with the company ever since. Taken out of service as a training vessel in 1996, the Lilla Dan was completely renovated and put to work as a charter ship that is still in service. One of the most remarkable features of the Lilla Dan is its ability to navigate through icy waters. This was a crucial aspect for a ship that was primarily used for trading and transportation in the North Atlan c region. The Lilla Dan's reinforced hull and powerful engine allowed it to break through thick layers of ice, making it a reliable and essential vessel for trade in the region.

Modeler's Bio: Jeff Ross is a retired geophysicist who constructed his first model ship in the mid 1980s with the building of the Danish topsail schooner Lilla Dan. Since then, time was taken making a family and multiple international moves that left little time for modeling. After having retired in 2023, he began modeling again with the construction of the Billing Boats version of the Oseberg Viking ship and restarted the construction of the spectacular Extreme Clipper Flying Cloud.



Bluenose Schooner *by Ron Cole*

Period Ship Sailed: 1921 - 1946

Type of model: Wood

Build Time: Originally started in the early 1960's by my father (Ron Cole, Sr.) but never finished. I will resume building her soon.

Scale: 1:64

Description of Build: Solid Hull - Scratch Built.

Ship's History: Built in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada in 1921 as a racing ship and fishing vessel. She won the International Fisherman's Cup numerous times in her lifetime as the fastest schooner that worked in the North Atlantic deep-sea fishing industry. She was named the Queen of the North Atlantic. She was 143 feet long, 26 feet 11 inches at the beam and 15 feet 11 inches in draft. She had a crew of 20. She was wrecked beyond repair when she struck a reef off of Haiti in 1946

Modeler's Bio: Started building a couple of wooden ship models (solid hull and plank on frame) about 1974 when I was 18-19 years old but didn't finish them. I will resume building them soon





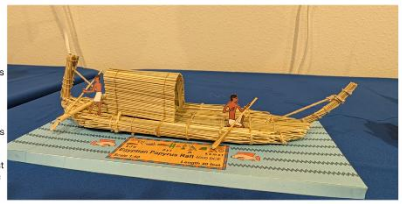
š d w d y t m k e m e t; Raft Papyrus of Egypt *by Jay Phillips*

Period Ship Sailed: 4,000 BCE

Type of model: A grass model of a 6,000-year-old Egyptian papyrus river vessel.

Scale: Length 40 feet. Scale 1:50.

Description of Build: The model is built from natural marsh plants: wild grass stems, the ornamental reed Phragmites, bulrushes, sedge, and cattail. In Ancient Egypt, papyrus grew up to 4 inches (100mm) in diameter at its thick end and stood 15 feet (4.5 meters) tall. For a scale of 1:50, I used grass stems that are 2 mm diameter at the thick end.



Construction detail from Bjorn Landström's book

Ship's History: This type of vessel was used by Egyptians on the Nile River more than a thousand years before the pyramids were built. Various sizes and designs were for fishing, cargo transport, or human transport. Rafts were made from the marsh plant papyrus, the same material used to make the first paper. As a raft, flotation is due to the natural buoyancy of the material, not the hull shape.

Source information for the design includes: (1) rock art carvings of early rafts, (2) a diorama with model fishing rafts from the Middle Kingdom tomb of Meketre, and (3) Björn Landström's book "Ships of the Pharaohs".

Depet m Kemet; Ship of Egypt *by Jay Phillips*

Period Ship Sailed: 1470s BCE

Type of model: A paper model of a 3,500-year-old Egyptian cargo vessel.

Scale: Length 66 feet. Scale 1:75.



Description of Build: Source material for model design: (1) wall images in Hatshepsut's Temple depicting her expedition to Punt in 1500 BCE. (2) a complete ship hull from Dahshur, now in the Cairo museum. (3) caves along the Red Sea containing disassembled ship components. A few years ago, Nova aired an episode on PBS about the construction and sailing of a modern replica of Hatshepsut's Punt ship; the replica is now on display in the Suez National Museum.

The model was designed by the Slovakian company Elektron-Zenit and placed online for downloading. I modified model sheets in a computer graphics program to add details and correct a few errors. I added sailors based upon Hatshepsut's temple images and added a base. Sheets were printed onto index-card-weight paper for cutting out and assembly.

The brief instruction sheet in Slovakian was translated with *Google Translate*.

Ship's History: The ship is a type used for Nile River trade 3,500 years ago. Larger versions traveled to the Eastern Mediterranean for Cedar of Lebanon, and on the Red Sea to the Land of Punt for ivory, ebony, animal skins, spices, and all things good and pleasing to the gods.



Confederate States H. L. Hunley *by Jay Phillips*

Period Ship Sailed: 1864

Type of model: Paper

Scale: approximately 1:50

Description of Build: This Model is based upon a Brian Tan paper model downloaded from the internet. The Chapman painting and a report on Hunley conservation from the US Navy's Naval History and Heritage Command were used to correct errors and add detail. The diorama reproduces Chapman's 1862 painting.

The model, as built, is 75% scratch.

Ship's History: In 1864, Hunley sank the USS Housatonic with a torpedo on a boom. This was the first sub to sink a ship, but Hunley also sank, killing all crew. Hunley was raised in 2000 and is on display in Charleston, SC.

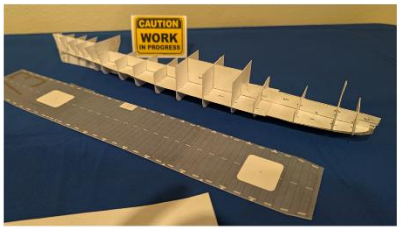


Gambier Bay (CVE-73) *by Jay Phillips*

Period Ship Sailed: 1943 - 1944

Type of model: Commercial Paper Model Kit

Scale: Length 512 ft Scale 1:400



Description of Build: This Model is a paper kit published by the Polish company Halinski in 2003. Instructions in Polish were automatically translated to English online. Model pages were scanned and reprinted at 50% for a 1:400 scale (14 inch rather than 28-inch model).

Ship's History: WWII Casablanca Class Escort Carrier

Keel Laid: July 1943 in Vancouver, Washington.

Commissioned: December 1943 in Astoria, Oregon.

Sunk: October 1944 off Samar Island, Philippines.

Background. Kaiser Shipbuilding built 50 of these "Baby Flattops" in 21 months at their Vancouver shipyard along the Columbia River. The ships were stop-gap compromises, but they were built in 1/6 the time of an Essex fleet carrier at 1/14 the cost. And the Navy needed carriers NOW.

Gambier Bay is the best known of the 50 due to being part of task group "Taffy 3" and being sunk at the Battle off Samar as described in the book The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors.





Oru Folding Kayak *by Jay Phillips*

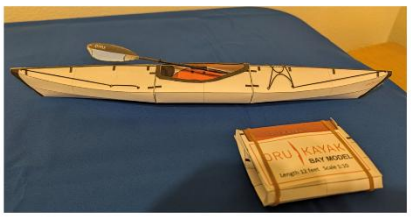
Period Ship Sailed: Paper

Type of model: The model is 100% scratch-built.

Scale: 1:10

Description of Build: This Model is based upon 1) the model maker's own boat, and 2) drawings in the US patent office application for the Oru, which are available online. The model is a flat sheet, as is the original boat. The model folds into shape the same way as the original boat. In fact, if you could print this model 10 times larger, you would have the original boat!

Ship's History: The brand name "Oru" and the word "origami" (paper folding) both come from the Japanese word for "to fold". The Oru folds for easy transport inside a car and assembles for use in about 10 minutes. It is lightweight, so it is easy to carry. The Oru was designed and brought to market in 2012 in San Francisco. It is currently in production.



Galilee – A Brigantine *by Ralph Buckwalter*

Period Ship Sailed: 1896 - 1909

Type of model: Scratch built wooden model

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1/8" per foot

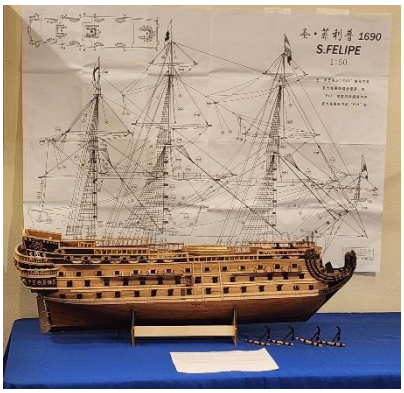
Description of Build: The model is scratch built. The hull is based on plans form the San Francisco Maritime museum. The hull is a bread-and-butter construction, multiple individual water line sections glued together and shaped based on hull cross sections to form a replica of the original vessel. The rigging and sail plan is based on historic photos of the ship in the Galilee yacht harbor's office in Sausalito.

Ship's History: Galilee was built in a Matthew Turner's shipyard in Benica CA. This shipyard turned out more than 154 wooden hulled ships in the 1800's. The galilee was originally rigged as a brigantine, sometimes called a morphydite brig. The fore mast has yards with square sails, and the main mast is rigged with fore and aft triangular sails. The Galilee sailed between San Francisco and Tahiti, making 121 trips from her launching until 1896 averaging 28 1/2 days each way per trip. On her maiden voyage she set two records, outward from San Francisco to Tahiti in 19 days and return to San Francisco in 22 ½ days. in 1909 she was wrecked outside the Golde Gate and was sold to the Union Fish company. They rebuilt and rerigged the vessel to a 3 masted schooner and sent her to Alaska in the Cod fishing trade which Matthew Turner had developed.

Modeler's Bio: Ralph has been modeling since 1999 and a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2001







Berbice *by Ralph Buckwalter*

Period Ship Sailed: 1780 - 1790

Type of model: Scratch build

Build Time: Approximately 1 year

Scale: 1/8" per foot

Description of Build: This is a scratch build wooden model. The hull is made up of multiple horizontal sections, lifts. These lifts are cut out at varying waterlines of the vessel. They are glued together and shaped using vertical sections of the vessel as a guide. This replicates the actual shape of the hull.

Ship's History: Berbice was a heavily armed Baltimore Clipper, a topsail schooner. She was Captured or sold to the Royal Navy in the 1780's. She was built by the Royal Navy in West Indies. A replica of a sister ship "Lynx" was launched in 2001 and was part of this year's tall ship parade in New York.

Modeler's Bio: Ralph has been modeling since 1999 and a Rocky Mountain Shipwright since 2001.



Galilee – 3 masted schooner *by Ralph Buckwalter*

Period Ship Sailed: 1890 - 1930

Type of model: Scratch built wooden model

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1/8" = 1 foot

Description of Build: This model is scratch built based on plans from the San Francisco Maritime museum. It was built after I had finished the original Galilee , a brig. Since both hulls are of the same ship that construction was the same. However the sail configuration was changed from a Brigantine rig, the fore mast having yards and square sails and the main mast had fore and aft triangular sails, to a Schooner rig which had 3 masts all rigged with fore and aft triangular sails.

Ship's History: The ship Galilee was converted to a Schooner rig shortly after 1909. She was sent to Alaska to fish for Cod until 1927. Then she was sent to Cape San Lucas for the tuna fishing until the early 1930's. She ended up in the port of her origin, San Francisco Bay. Captain John Quinn bought her and converted her to a houseboat in Sausalito. Captain Quinn and his wife lived on the boat until he sold the Galilee to a Sausalito photographer and family who lived on the ship/houseboat until 1962. The city of Sausalito condemned the vessel as unfit for habitation, along with several other house boats at this time. A trustee of the San Francisco Maritime Museum purchased her with the intention of making her a landmark. This did not happen, but a 16ft section of the bow was cut off and sent to a maritime park in Benica, the origin of the Galilee. A stern section of the Galilee was cut off and sent to the San Francisco Maritime Museum where it can be seen today. That makes the Galilee the longest Schooner ever built!

Modeler's Bio: Ralph has been modeling since 1999 and a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2001.





Matthew Turner – a Brigantine *by Ralph Buckwalter*

Period Ship Sailed: 2018 to present

Type of model: Scratch build wooden model

Build Time: 13 months

Description of Build: The model is scratch built based on plans for the vessel built in San Francisco for the nonprofit Educational Tall ship organization. The hull is a bread-and-butter type construction. Multiple individual waterline sections glued together and shaped on hull cross sections to form a replica of the vessel. The vessel is a Brigantine , 2 masts the fore mast is square rigged with yards and square sails. The main mast is schooner rigged with fore and aft triangular sails.

Ship's History: The Matthew Turner is the first large wooden vessel built in San Francisco bay area in 100 years. It is a brigantine, 100ft along the deck, has a 25 ft beam and draws 12 ft of water. The design is based on one of the shipbuilder Matthew Turner's vessels Galilee built in the bay area in the 1800's. The ship is built from Douglas fir that the same forest that the Galilee was built from, requiring a special permit. To reduce the number of trees required for the Mathew Turner she is made of laminated planks. The laminated planks are also estimated to give the ship a 100-year useful life. The ship is using environmentally friendly materials and will be a carbon neutral vessel.

Modeler's Bio: Ralph has been modeling since 1999 and a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2001.

2026 Modeler's Choice 2nd Place Award



Minneapolis *by Bob Fivehouse*

Period Ship Sailed: 1900 - 1916

Type of model: Full Hull carved

Scale: 1/16 " = 1 foot

Description of Build: Hull is carved from sugar pine. The propellor shafts are brass tubing. The plans came from the builder, Harland & Wolff of Belfast, Northern Ireland. I drew my own lines plan using these plans as the basis

Ship's History: The Minneapolis was one of three near-sisters built for the Atlantic Transport Line. The other two were the Minnehaha and the Minnetonka. Builders = Harland & Wolff, Belfast, N. Ireland600.7' B.P. (Between Perpendiculars) 616' OA (Over All) 65.5' Breadth 13,401 Gross Reg. Tons 14,400 D.W. (Dead Weight) Twin screws, Quadruple Expansion Engines = about 10,000 HP total. 16 Knots service speed. 250 First Class passengers (only) She was completed in May 1900 and started her maiden voyage on May 10, 1900, from London to New York. In 1915 she became a troop transport during WW1. On March 23, 1916, she was torpedoed and sunk by U35 with the loss of 12 lives. Both her sisters and another later slightly larger version, the Minnewaska, were also lost during the First World War.

Modeler's Bio: Mr. Fivehouse was a middle school teacher in New Jersey from 1971 to 2007. He and his wife moved to Colorado in 2015 since their children had moved here. Mr. Fivehouse has been a professional ship model builder since 1990 when he built the ship models for the dioramas at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. He has built models for the restoration of Montauk Point Lighthouse and Columbia University. His models are in many private collections. He specializes in large steamships, particularly old ocean liners from 1890 to 1914.





California *by Ron Cole*

Period Ship Sailed: 1882 - 1914

Type of model: Wood

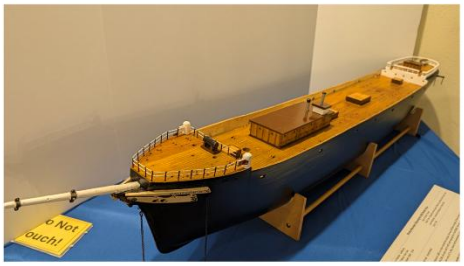
Build Time: Originally started about 1960 by my father (Ron Cole, Sr.) but never finished. I resumed building her in May 2026

Scale: 1:96

Description of Build: Solid Hull - Scratch Built.

Ship's History: Built in Belfast, Ireland in 1882 as a four-masted iron barque, She was 318 feet in length, 42 feet 6 inches at the beam and 25 feet in draft. Originally named the WALTER H. WILSON, she was sold in 1901 and renamed the CALIFORNIA. She was a cargo ship that transported general cargo and was destroyed when she drifted onto the rocks of St. Mary Island, Northumberland, England in January 1913.

Modeler's Bio: Started building a couple of wooden ship models (solid hull and plank on frame) about 1974 when I was 18-19 years old but didn't finish them. I will resume building them soon.



Santa Maria *by Martin Ters*

Period Ship Sailed: 1492

Type of model: Kit – Amati Vintage

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:65

Description of Build: I modified the kit, period figurines added, wood polychromy.

Ship's History: Christopher Columbus flag ship, has not returned from first voyage to discover New Land-American continent.

Modeler's Bio: Den st by trade. I have been building models for 25 years. Previous experience with RC airplanes, ships and boats. Also building and repairing and playing classical guitars.





Bluenose *by Martin Ters*

Period Ship Sailed: 1920s

Type of model: Scherling kit

Build Time: 3 months+

Scale: 1:64

Description of Build: Followed kit instructions.

Ship's History: Built in 1920, Canadian fishing schooner

Modeler's Bio: Started building ship models and airplanes as a boy scout, still actively building and making guitars - classical, working as a dentist helps with attention to detail.



Sultana Schooner *by Martin Ters*

Period Ship Sailed: 1767

Type of model: Solid hull entry level model kit - wood

Build Time: 1 year

Scale: 1:64

Description of Build:

Ship's History: Colonial Schooner built in Boston later sold to British Navy. Later returned to United States and patrolled the East Coast between Boston

and the Chesapeake Bay. It was involved in many incidents with colonial smugglers.

Modeler's Bio: Started building ship models and airplanes as a boy scout, still actively building and making guitars - classical, working as a dentist helps with attention to detail.





The Black Prince *by Ralph Buckwalter*

Period Ship Sailed: Revolutionary War

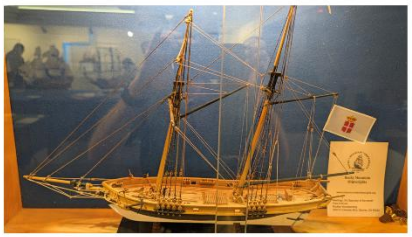
Type of model: Plank on frame

Scale: 1:60

Description of Build: Plank on Frame

Ship's History: One of three privateers authorized by Ben Franklin during the Revolutionary War.

Modeler's Bio: Ralph has been modeling since 1999 and a member of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights since 2001.



Fly Cutter *by Daniel Siemens*



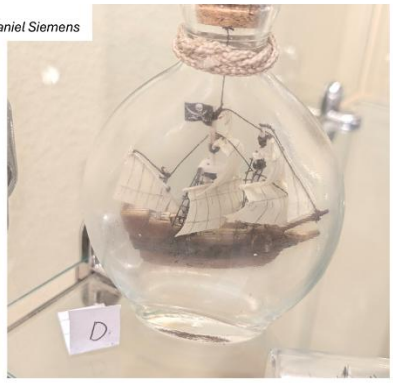
War Games Ships (Golden Age of Piracy) *by Daniel Siemens*



HMS Bounty *by Daniel Siemens*



Pirate Ship *by Daniel Siemens*



Queen Anne's Revenge *by Daniel Siemens*



Lake Champlain Sloop *by Daniel Siemens*



E – Queen Anne's Revenge
F – Lake Champlain Sloop
G – Mariquita Yacht
by Daniel Siemens



America *by Daniel Siemens*



Fishing Schooner *by Daniel Siemens*



Felucca *by Daniel Siemens*



There were two awards: People's Choice and Modeler's Choice. Modeler's Choice is for current members only, while People's Choice is for non-members. Each ballot allowed 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, and modelers could not vote for their own models.

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.

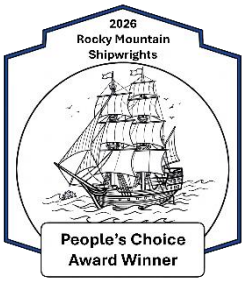


Modeler's Choice:

Sovereign of the Seas by Martin Ters (20 points)

Matthew Turner by Ralph Buckwalter (8 points)

Flying Cloud by Jeffrey Ross (7 points)



People's Choice:

Sovereign of the Seas by Martin Ters (87 points)

Wappen Von Hanberg by Martin Ters (27 points)

Santisima Trinadad by Michael Caramia (21 points)



September 5, 2026 - Workshop

There were ten club members at the November workshop. The attendees were Jim Brooks, Terry Duffin, Bob Fivehouse, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, David Niss, Jay Phillips, Martin Ters, Phil van der Heydt, and James Webster.

Here is what everyone is working on:

- Jim Brooks: Oars
- Terry Duffin: Swift II 1805
- Bob Fivehouse: Suevic
- Martin Jelsema: Rattlesnake
- Steve Lofshult: Purser duties
- Dave Niss: Half-hull Planking Model
- Jay Phillips: WWII Casablanca Class Escort Carrier
- Martin Ters: Royal Caroline 1749
- Phil van der Heydt: SS Donuts
- James Webster: HMS Beagle



Dave N, Terry D, Martin T, and Jim B



James W, Terry D, Phil vdH, Dave N, Martin T, and Steve L



Martin T and Phil vdH



Martin J and Bob F



Martin J, James W, and Bob F



Phil vdH, Dave N, Martin J, James W, Bob F, and Martin T



Jay P



Jim B and Phil vdH

How I Made My First Flags: Moving Beyond the Jolly Roger

Last month I detailed how to design and make custom flags, but I ran into some obstacles and could not make them until after publication. With those cleared, here is how I created the flag and pennant for El Molino.

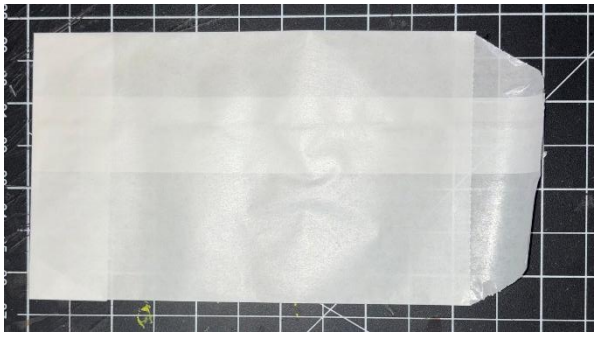
Standard kit-supplied flags often feel oversized and generic on a 17th-century galleon. Taking advantage of artistic license, I decided to fabricate custom scale colors from scratch, giving El Molino a distinct identity while developing a repeatable technique for realistic model flags.

Designing & Proportioning Scale Heraldry

Collaborating with Claude AI, I lofted a personalized design: a vibrant red water mill wheel (from our condo's logo) over a wavy water line against a solid black swallowtail field. To ensure the artwork folded cleanly around the halyard without clipping the tail's V-notch, the mill icon was centered specifically on the rectangular body of the flag.



The kit-supplied Jolly Roger (1.23” x 1.9”) scaled up to an absurd 10x15 feet (absurd for this size of galleon). My initial tests at 0.66” x 1.0” felt slightly undersized, so I settled on 0.72” x 1.07” (6x9 feet at 1:100 scale) - offering a clear visual presence without overpowering the rest of the ship. I paired this with a matching 2.5” x 0.22” (21x2 feet at 1:100 scale) commissioning pennant for the main topmast.



The Carrier-Sheet Printing Technique

Following a tip from Bob Fivehouse, I evaluated glassine paper - a smooth, translucent paper made from wood pulp - alongside cigarette paper.

Printing directly onto such delicate media jams printer rollers, so I used the Carrier-Sheet Method which was detailed last month.

1. **Carrier Draft:** Print a draft black-and-white copy of your flag layout on standard copy paper as a guide.
2. **Mount Media:** Place the flag material directly over the target, securing edges with low-tack painter's tape (painted side down).
3. **Color Pass:** Re-feed the carrier sheet into the printer per your printer's tray orientation instructions.
4. **Mirrored Layout:** Print a double-sided mirrored layout (two copies joined at the hoist with a 0.5 mm center gap) for clean folding.



Bench Trials

I assessed five combinations of paper, backings, and sealants.

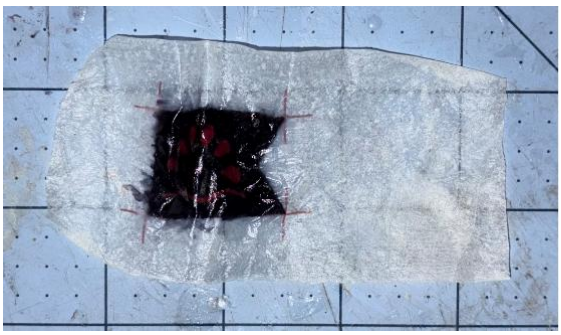
They were:

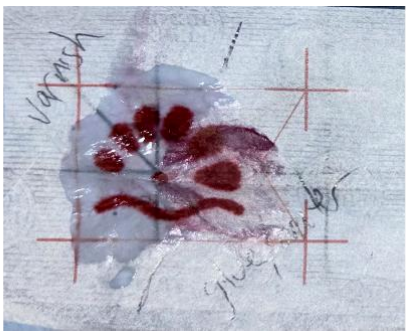
1. Cigarette paper (no white back, satin varnish)
2. Glassine (white back, satin varnish)
3. Glassine (white back, no varnish)
4. Cigarette paper (white back, satin varnish)
5. Cigarette paper (white back, no varnish)



The results were clear:

- **Sealants:** Water-based satin varnish caused severe ink smearing. Beacon Stiffen Stuff fabric spray stiffened the paper without bleeding the dye (though adding slight gloss). Skipping sealant entirely worked fine.
- **Substrates:** Painting the reverse side of both glassine and cigarette paper white significantly boosted color saturation and opacity.

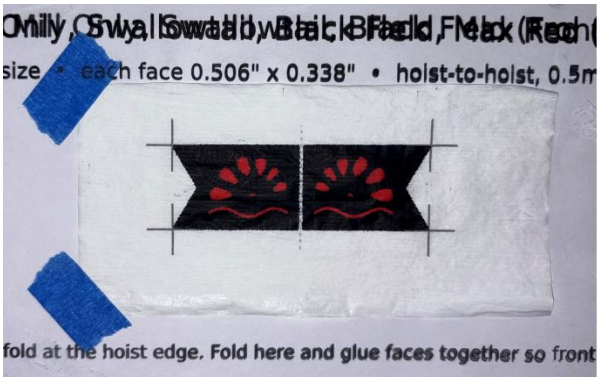


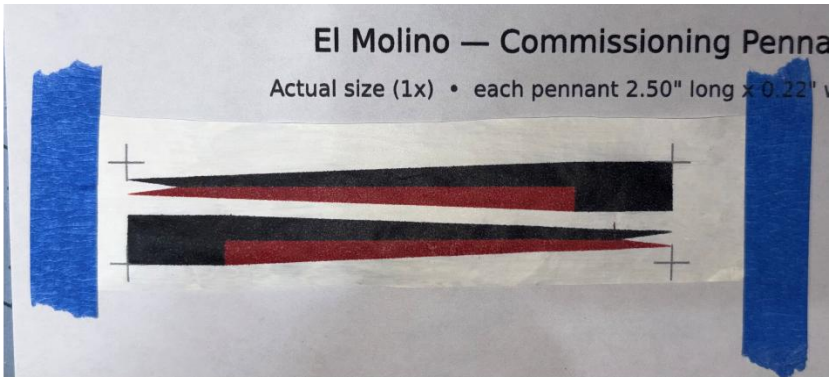




Verdict

I selected white-backed unvarnished cigarette paper for the main stern ensign due to its realistic thin drape and for the long, narrow mainmast pennant, I used the slightly stiffer white-backed glassine.



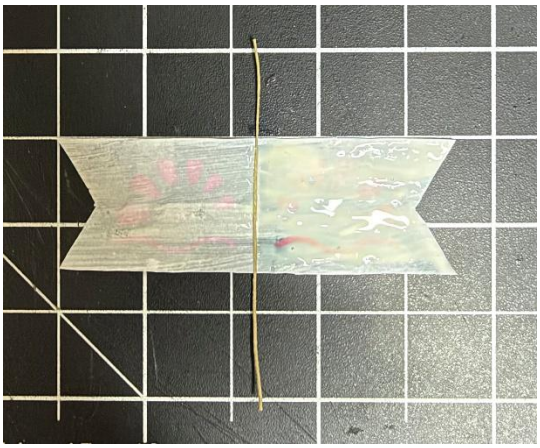


Fabrication, Rigging & Wind-Billow Shaping

Final assembly brought the flags to life:

- I fabricated four 2.0 mm hoist rings by reshaping oval chain links around an awl.





• I brushed PVA white glue on interior faces, laid a 0.15 mm tan line along the hoist fold, and aligned the halves. (Tip: leave generous line tails for easier ring tying!).



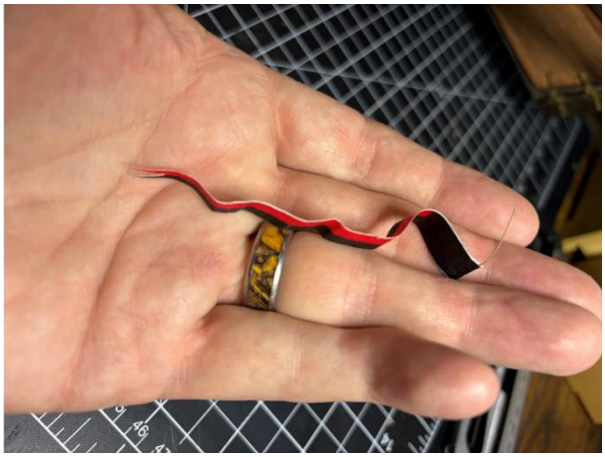
- While the PVA was damp, I contoured the flags over items found on my bench to lock in natural wind-driven billows.

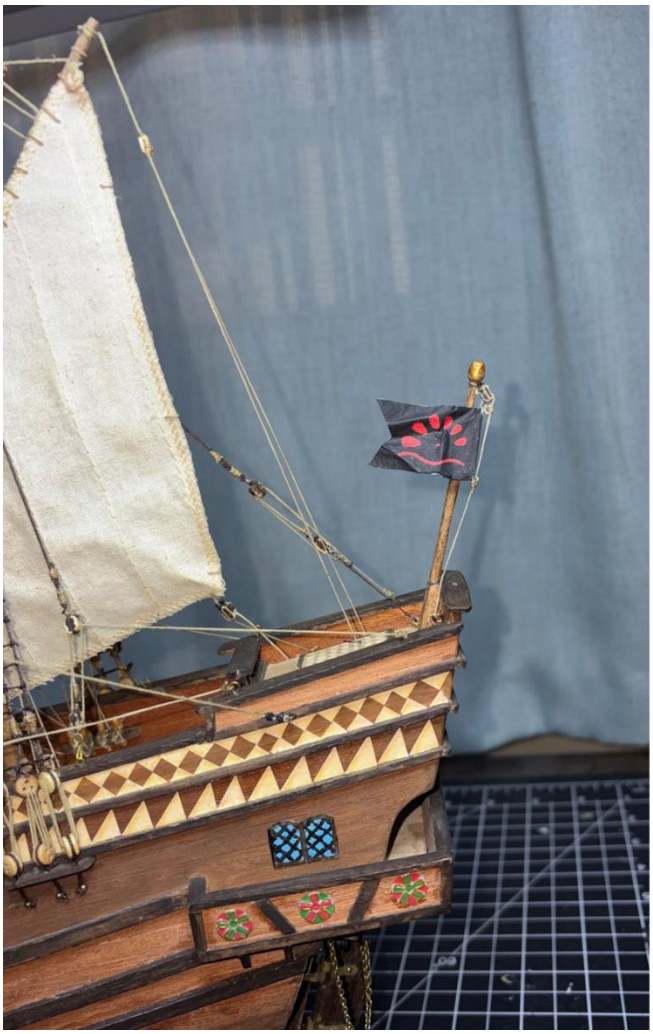
- Once dry, I touched up the exposed white paper edges using fine-point art markers that matched the color of the flag.

Flying the Colors

After mounting a 20° aft-raked stern staff on the poop deck taffrail (with a gold-painted parrel-bead truck and figure-eight block), halyards were threaded through the hoist rings and secured to deck anchors. A strategic drop of CA glue locked the flags in line with the sails' starboard brace.









El Molino's colors are officially raised - proving a workbench detour can yield both custom character and a handy technique for the builder's notebook!

November 21, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Please join us on Saturday November 21st 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
  - The Holiday Party; a new team?
- BREAK
- History & Mystery
  - Bob Fivehouse – "The Big Four"
- Shipwright Technology
  - Bob Fivehouse - "How Do You Measure?"
- 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

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

Muncle Mikes
A collector-run hobby shop built around diecast cars, hands-on projects, and useful collector information.

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

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

