



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.

April 2024

Life is like the ocean; it goes up and down. Vanessa Paradis

No April Meeting – Model Ship Exhibit instead

There will not be a club meeting in April, instead we are having a Model Ship Exhibit. For more information, please see the article in this issue.

Meeting Information:

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

The Next Meeting Will Take Place on May 18, 2024

Scott Schilling will lead a discussion on Standing Rigging.

The presentation will include diagrams, naming of the stays, and a discussion on ladders.

And remember our Arvada workshop.

The workshop is held at the Arvada City Hall, Police entrance. The address: 8101 Ralston Road.

This workshop is scheduled for the FIRST Saturday of every month beginning at 9:00 am

Next workshop: May 4, 2024

Officers:

Commodore..... Bob Fivehouse
Skipper.....Martin Jelsema
First Mate.....Scott Shilling
Purser.....Steve Lofshult
Clerk.....Jay McKeown

Committees:

Events Chair: Erik Collett
Photographer: Jay Phillips
Historian: Roger Hanson
Scuttlebutt: Hugh Long
Webmaster: Rob Cuscaden
Workshop Chair: Ralph Buckwalter

Website

<http://rockymountainshipwrights.org>

Meet Up Group

<https://www.meetup.com/rocky-mountain-shipwrights/>

Skipper's Log

Hi gang:

As I write this, there are just 10 days until our April exhibit at Rockler begins (4/19 to 4/21). I should have begun urging you all to begin providing forms for entering models into the show a week ago. But despite having our website up, it was not running properly until yesterday.

So please go to our website (<https://rockymountainshipwrights.org>) to fill out a form for each model you will be displaying. Once on the site, click on the "Model Ship Form" on the black menu. Just complete the form and hit the "Submit" button. – I'll convert your info into the cards that accompany each model.

If you are entering a model that you have entered in previous exhibits, you do not need to completely fill out the form; just add your name and the name of the ship. I'll then use your info from your previous form.

Prior to the show, we'll send out an additional email with a schedule for signing up for hosting duties during the show. Please mark the times you will be there to help answer questions. And email your preferred time slot(s) back to me (martinjelsema@gmail.com).

Another subject: Our participation at the Rocky Mountain Train Show was extraordinary. Thanks to Alice Sampson for allowing us to share the small booth in which two mammoth builds (Scott Shilling), two mid-sized models (Phil Von Der Heydt), and two small ships (me) were displayed. There were lots of "ohs and ahs", but no new members – yet.

Oh, yes: we do need someone to be Purser.

May the wind be at your back,

Martin Jelsema, Skipper

Get Your Gear

- For polo shirts and vests, ask Steve Lofshult at the next meeting.
- For caps, ask John Lamb at the next meeting. (They are back in stock)
- For name badges, ask Rob Cuscaden at the next meeting.



Minutes of the March 16, 2024, Meeting

Our Skipper, Martin Jelsema called the meeting to order at 9:31am. Members stood at attention and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

- 23 in attendance, including 2 new members Doug and Marco.

Purser's Report – Steve Lofshult

- February's interest: \$0.22.
- RMS has \$7,800 between checking and savings.
- Follow-up from Jay McKeown on whether the club can earn extra money on interest. Club can earn up to 15% in non-business income and avoid having to file a tax return. Steve Lofshult will tally last year's revenues to establish the non-business revenue ceiling.



- Discussion on membership:
 - We have 31 new/renewed members since the October 2023 Rockler show.
 - We had 62 members as of year-end 2023.
- Steve Lofshult is moving out of state in July, and we are seeking a replacement Purser.

RMS Rockler Gift Certificate Drawing – Silas, our junior modeler

Announcements – None

Old Business

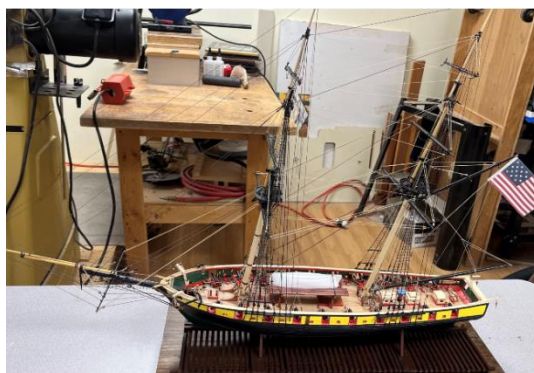
- Scott Schilling gave an update on community engagement
 - He went to the Hobby Town on 88th and Wadsworth and spoke to the owner.
 - He was very receptive to having an encased model ship at their store and we could put our fliers/cards there.
 - We will look at our inventory to see what ship would be appropriate.
- Martin Jelsema indicated that the website is still down.
 - General discussion on potential web hosts. Bob Fivehouse motioned, second by Rob Cuscaden, that up to \$350 annual expenditure be allowed for website host and maintenance. Rob Cuscaden and Scott Schilling will spearhead the search for a site host.
- Martin Jelsema brought up the April 4/19 to 4/21 Rockler show
 - We need ships and volunteers to staff the exhibit and handle publicity.

New Business

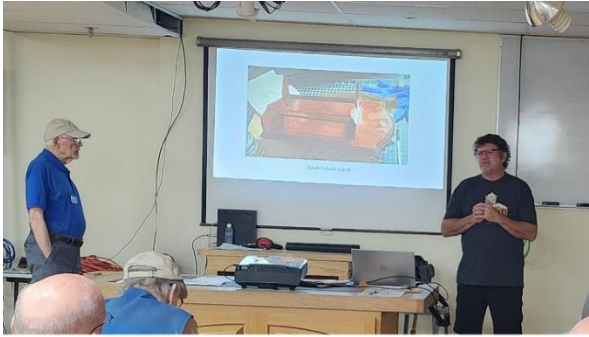
- Alice Sampson has a booth at the Rocky Mountain Train Exhibit at the Stock Show Coliseum that she cannot use. Rob Cuscaden, Scott Schilling and Martin Jelsema agreed to man the booth with some Rocky Mountain Shipwrights material and models.
- Hugh Long confirmed that the MeetUp site is up, and first-time visitor/new member Marco is evidence that our efforts are working.
- Rob Cuscaden is getting name tags for newer members as well as updating the “In Memorium” plaque.

Show and Tell

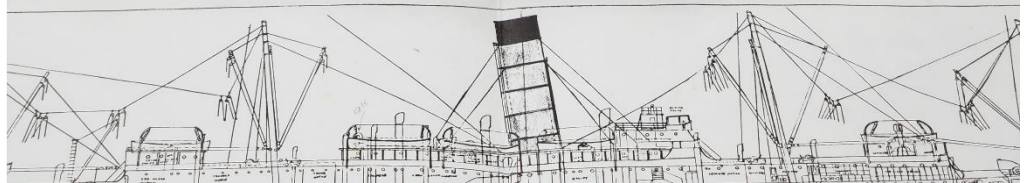
- Tom Kitel brought the brig U.S. Niagara from Model Shipways. 1,300 hours, plans and instructions were not that great, used YouTube and build logs to construct.



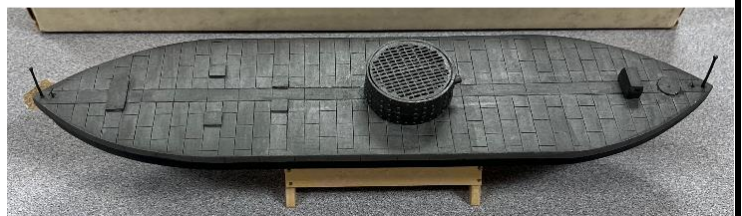
- Hugh Long gave an update on his Bluenose build.



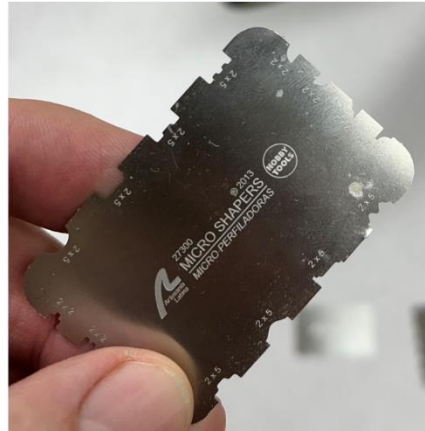
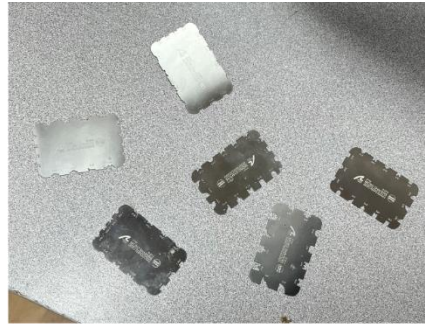
- Bob Fivehouse gave an update on his 1:600 Carpathia build and provided insight on gross tonnage vs displacement.



- Ralph Buckwalter gave updates on
 - Bluejacket Monitor build
 - A River Gunboat build for the club.
 - Plans to do a scratch build of the Gjøa.
 - Bread and butter vs plank on frame technique discussion.



- Jay McKeown showed a set of Artesania Latina's Micro Shapers he recently purchased. These shapers work like a router, but creates the desired shape by passing the shaper over the wooden or plastic strip several times until the desired shape is obtained.



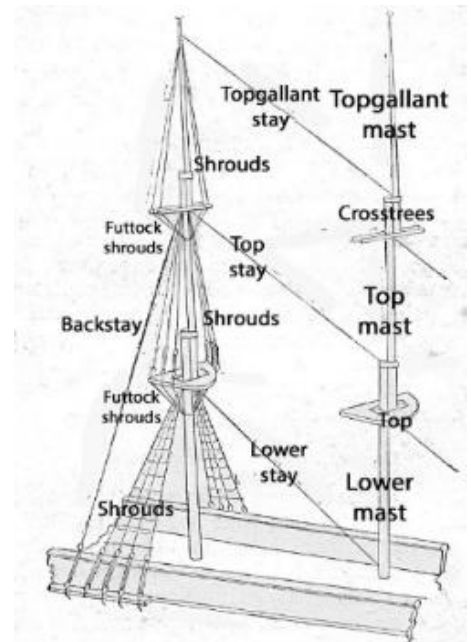
Presentations

- Due to the length of the Club business and Show and Tells, Scott Schilling's presentation on Standing Rigging was rescheduled for the next meeting on May 18th as there is no April meeting due to the exhibit.

May's Meeting Presentation

There will not be a club meeting in April due to our Model Ship Exhibit on 4/19 to 4/21, so there will not be a presentation until the May meeting on 5/18.

The presentation will be led by Scott Schilling and will cover Standing Rigging. The presentation will include diagrams, naming of the stays, and a discussion on ladders.



We Need More Models for the April Exhibit!!

As announced in January's Scuttlebutt, we are holding another exhibit, this one in April, from the 19th to the 21st.

Please register your models!

If you are planning to display one or more of your models - finished or under construction - please register them as soon as possible. To register, go to www.rockymountainshipwrights.org and click on "Model Entry Form" to access the form. Complete the necessary information and then click on "Submit".

If you are entering a model that you have entered in previous exhibits, you do not need to fill out every field on the form; just add your name and the name of the ship. We'll then use your info from your previous form.

Exhibit Background and Information

Members will need to identify their model(s) for display. There is no limit to the number of models a member can place in the show. "Under construction" models are encouraged as well as any completed models that have been on display at previous shows. The room will hold a total of 50 models. Please complete a separate form for each model you plan to display. Keep an eye out for an email from martinjelsema@gmail.com and return completed forms to our Skipper. He will then format them and have them printed prior to the show. The show will take place in the basement of Rockler. It will be open to the public from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon, April 19th through 21st.

At the March meeting and April workshop, flyers will be available for members to distribute to hobby shops, libraries, club houses in developments and apartment complexes. Rocky Mountain Shipwrights will contact various event directories on the Internet as well as the appropriate social media and local TV stations and news outlets. We still need a member to become the club's publicist.

Exhibit set up (setting up, arranging tables, and placing covers on them) takes place on Thursday afternoon. We will need four or five members to help with this from 4pm to 5pm.

During the exhibit at least two member volunteers are needed to be on hand to greet visitors, answer questions, and provide membership information. Additional greeters are welcome. There are three shifts on Friday and Saturday and two on Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon, Rockler closes at 4:00 pm, therefore, our exhibit will begin shutting down around 3:30. Members can begin to pick up their models at that point. Again, volunteers will be needed to remove the blue covers and fold up tables. It is OK for you to leave your model(s) overnight if a Sunday night removal is not possible. Once the clean-up is completed, the Modeler's Choice winners will be announced. Then we will retire to a to-be-announced pizza joint to celebrate another successful exhibit.

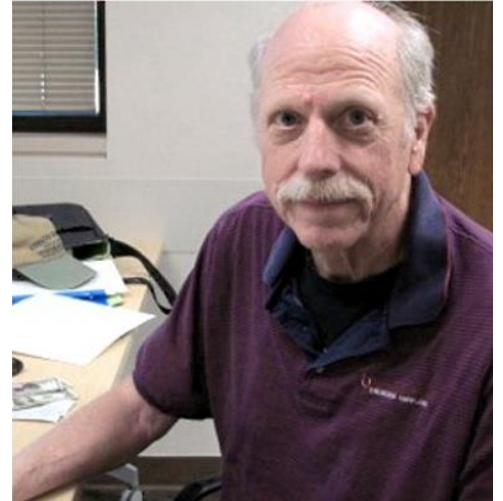
If you have a model that is difficult to transport to Rockler, contact the Skipper to arrange transport.

The image shows a screenshot of the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights website. The top navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Blog', and 'Model Entry Form', with the latter highlighted in red. A red arrow points from the 'Model Entry Form' link to the form itself. The form is titled 'Model Entry Form' and contains the following fields: 'Name of Model', 'Modeler's Name', 'Period Ship Sailed', 'Build Time', 'Scale', 'Description of Build', 'Ship's History', and 'Modeler's Bio'. A red box highlights the 'Submit Form' button at the bottom of the form. A red arrow also points from the 'Submit Form' button back to the 'Model Entry Form' link in the navigation bar.

Member Profile – Steve Lofshult

Steve Lofshult

Steve was born in Sioux City, Iowa and grew up near and around the Missouri River in Nebraska. He worked for the Sioux City Utility Company for 20 years during which with a friend, built a 16-foot mahogany canoe in Steve's basement (yes, in his basement). This was his first foray into ship building. Upon completion they somehow managed to get the canoe out of the basement (it was not a walk-out) and for years played with it on the Missouri River. Steve then took his work expertise (but not the canoe) on the road and became a Utility Contractor where he travelled the western half of the United States, from Iowa all the way up to Montana.



In 1997, he moved to Telluride, CO to be closer to two brothers who lived in the Denver area. While in Telluride, Steve developed and refined his love of skiing and fly fishing, which he still enjoys today. In 2001, he moved to Denver but often travelled back to Telluride to be closer to skiing and fishing.

While in Denver, Steve visited a couple of places that featured completed wooden ship models, the Del Mar Crab House on Broadway and the Simms Landing in Lakewood. While at a hobby store near Sheridan and Colfax that had a wide selection of wooden kits, his girlfriend suggested he build one. While interested, he felt a bit overwhelmed with the scale and amount of detailed work and shelved the idea.

On a trip to Telluride, somewhere around 2007, he picked up a magazine that featured wooden ship modelling. The article penned by Steven Rodgers detailed Chesapeake Bay Sprintsail Skiffs. These were working-class boats used in the shallow waters of Chesapeake Bay. The article gave Steve the final push he needed to start his first wooden model. Being an amateur wood worker, Steve decided not to purchase a kit, but rather jump into wooden ship modelling by scratch-building a 1:12 skiff. These skiffs, or skipjacks as they are commonly known, found a place in Steve's heart and he scratch-built at least 9 of them.

Around 2012, the Denver Post ran an article that mentioned the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights. The article gave enough info about the club to interest Steve, but life was still too busy.

In 2017, he fulfilled a goal that he had set for himself years earlier and purchased a house in Boseman, Montana; a place that caters to fly fishing. He was not yet ready to move to Bozeman, but this gave him the option he had dreamed of for years.

Then in late 2021 or early 2022, Steve remembered the Rocky Mountain Shipwright meetings on Saturday mornings, so he headed over to Rockler Woodworking. In February 2022 he joined the club and became a regular attendee at both the workshops and meetings. In 2023, he accepted the nomination to become the Club's Purser.



2nd model - 2004



Little Schooner



Flattie



Sprintsail Skiff

For Steve's tenth build, he decided to do something different, and he is currently wrapping up a 5:16 Schooner that is between seven and eight inches in length and features bread & butter construction. Steve plans to display this schooner in the April exhibit at Rockler.

Steve's most proud of his model of a Chesapeake Bay Spritz Sail Skiff, which came out of his reading of the Steven Rodgers article. His next build will be a Skipjack or an East Coast Racing Yacht. Ironically, he purchased kits of both at the last club auction. Whichever it is, expect it to include a lot of scratch-building, as he let another club member purchase the Skipjack kit and the Yacht included a plastic hull.

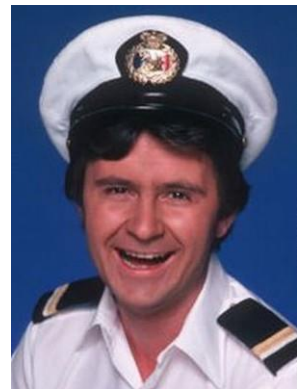
His advice to someone new to the hobby is to recognize and accept the time requirements of the hobby and exercise patience.

Later this year, Steve will make the move to Bozeman that has been years in the making, and unfortunately leave the club looking for a new Purser. He felt the most rewarding part of being the Purser is that he got to meet everyone. If you attend a meeting or workshop, search him out and hope that there are a lot of bent rods in his future.

Looking for a Purser

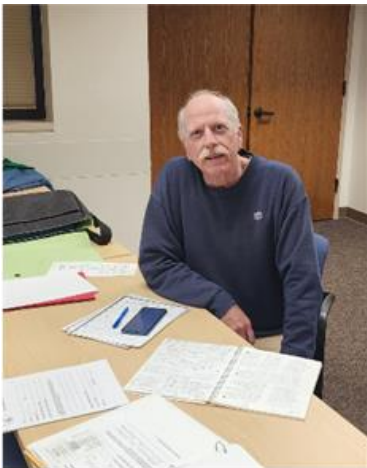
While those of us from a certain generation, we think of "Gopher" from the "Love Boat" when we hear the word "Purser", but Merriam-Webster defines a Purser as an official on a ship responsible for papers and accounts as well as being responsible for the comfort and welfare of passengers. Our definition for the Shipwrights' Purser is the treasurer, business manager, and membership chairman. After hearing these definitions, it's easy to see why Steve enjoyed being our Gopher. But as detailed previously, Steve will be leaving us and moving to Montana. That means we need a volunteer to step up and into the big shoes that Steve is leaving us.

Please see the attached summary of the Purser's duties.



Shipwright's Workshop and Rocky Mountain Train Show - April 6, 2024

RMSWs attended two events on 4/6. First, we held our regular workshop in Arvada, and then we helped to staff a booth at the Rocky Mountain Train Show at the National Western Complex.



Steve



Ralph, Will, Bob, & Jim



Rob & Del

There were 11 members in attendance at the workshop. Attendees: Jim Brooks, Ralph Buckwalter, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, Will Parks, Bob Fivehouse, Del Milne, Jim Cuscaden, Charlie Krinsky, Rob Cuscaden, and Jay Philips.



Jim, Ralph, Martin, Steve, Will, Bob, Del, Jim, Charlie, & Rob

As previously mentioned, our participation at the Rocky Mountain Train Show was extraordinary. Thanks again to Alice Sampson for allowing the club to share her booth.



Train Show Attendees, Scott Shilling, Martin Jelsema, and Phil Von Der Heydt

MeetUp.com

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights is on Meet Up. For those that do not know what Meet Up is, it is an online platform for hosting and organizing in-person or virtual activities, gatherings, and events based on interests, hobbies, and professions.

It is free to join, and a great way to find activities that you enjoy, from fishing to trivia to model ship building.

To find us, go to www.meetup.com, and search for Rocky Mountain Shipwrights or go to <https://www.meetup.com/rocky-mountain-shipwrights/>.

You will find links to our meetings, workshops, and even the Model Ship Exhibit. You will have the ability to RSVP to the events, and then download them to your calendar if you like.

The Ups and Downs of Modelling

One of the biggest frustrations I run into with modeling is the instructions. To understand a bit more of “why” this frustrates me so much, you should know that most of my career (I am retired now) was developing training and process material for a large cable company. My strength was in explaining/detailing difficult or complex topics into easy to read, understand, and follow processes. My saying was “trick” them into learning.

With that as my background, it is easy to understand that I am a very detailed person and I like things to be linear... step 1, step 2, step 3 and so on.

I love the hobby as it lets me work on unbelievably detailed things and create something beautiful, but I struggle with the order of things the instructions say things should be completed. I know I do not have a lot of experience, heck I have not even finished my first ship, but the linear part of me struggles. The instructions say steps 1, 2, and 3, but then later they reference that step 4 should have previously been done!?

I believe this is one of the reasons why there are a large number of people who start, but never finish a ship. Then add in the factor that building a ship is generally something that is not completed in a few days or even a few weeks, and the number of completed ships drops even more. I guess I’m lucky that I stumbled into the various online sites and videos as they give me additional info that “I” need. I’m surprised by the number of people that I run into that either do not know of these resources, or do not think they need them.

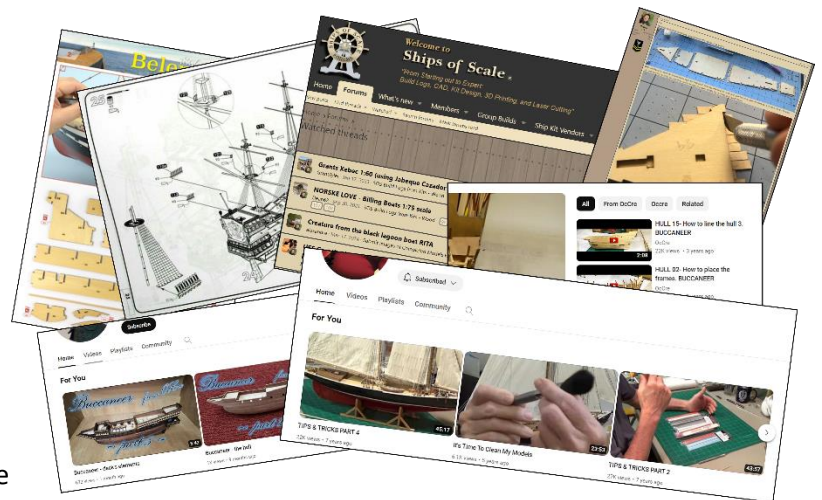
Soapbox time - If I look at the typical model ship builder, it’s older guys - guys that possibly never fully embraced the online world. I know I’m being stereotypical with this generalization, but it’s something I’d really like to see change. I’d love to see more women and younger men and women involved. They are out there (hello Alice), but they don’t make up the majority. Okay, time to step off the soapbox.

I’m currently working on two ships right now (one here in Colorado and a second in Mexico) plus have 2 more in the wings, so I’ve seen instructions for at least 4 different ships (from 3 different manufacturers). Each manufacturer has its pros and cons but one thing I’ve come to learn is there is not “one” correct way to build a given ship, not “one” step 1, step 2, and step 3. And since I’m a very linear person, this used to drive me batty (okay, still does), but I’m learning to step outside of my comfortable linear box and at least try to accept this.

At this early stage of my ship building lifecycle (I haven’t yet completed my 1st ship), I know my overall build progress is slower than it could be as I’m not just following one set of instructions but rather a sets of instructions from the manufacturer, numerous build logs, and multiple video logs of how other people have built the same ship. I take in the information from all of these sources and create my own path.

I then write my own build log and post it online. I know there are already other build logs out there, but I’m sure there are others out there looking for “more” information, so I hope I’m helping someone out there.

To wrap up my ranting on instructions, I heartily recommend you adopt a site and post a build log. The two sites I generally review are [Ships of Scale](#) and [Model Ship World](#). Model Ship World maintains a number of indexes of build logs from both of these sites. If you don’t know of these indexes, take a look, you won’t be disappointed.



Sources of Tools, Supplies & Services

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights is not affiliated with any of the companies in the lists below (other than the fact that we meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Rockler).

The first list is of selected on-line suppliers. The second list is of local suppliers of goods and services that could be of value to ship modelers. And the third list is of additional resources. **All of these lists can be thought of as incomplete.** If you use or have discovered others, please email them to hlong222@comcast.net and they'll be added to the lists. With your contributions, we can make these lists a more comprehensive and valuable resource.

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

[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, etc.

[Contenti Jewelry Supply](#)

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

[MicroMark](#)

Small tool specialist; lots of tools, some ship kits, and ship modelling supplies.

[UMM-USA](#)

Modeling tools for plastic and wood models

[Razor Blade Company](#)

Many types of cutting blades and handles

Materials

[Cards of Wood](#)

Thin veneer and plywood

[Constantines' Wood Center](#)

Wood veneers plus Rockler-like tools and supplies.

[National Balsa](#)

Wood supplier, airplane centric but good stock of dimensional strips, sheets, and large number of blocks in many types of wood, does 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, many parts for units ranging from complete ships to figureheads. Also does custom work.

Local Sources

ABC Imaging

77 Klamath St. Denver
303-573-5757

<https://www.abcimaging.com/denver>

Large & small format copying, B&W printing

Art Parts Creative Resource Center

3080 Valmont Road, Boulder
720-379-5328

<https://www.artpartsboulder.org/>

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

<https://austinhardwoods.com/>

Colpar/Hobbytown – two locations

1915 S Havana St, Aurora, CO
303-341-0414

<https://www.hobbytown.com/aurora-co/l45>

3355 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
303-988-5157

<https://www.hobbytown.com/lakewood-co/l44>

Good local hobby shops, some wood ship kits, lots of supplies and tools.

Guiry's

Multiple locations
303-412-6522

<https://www.guirys.com>

Art supplies and house paints

Hobby Lobby

Multiple locations

<https://www.hobbylobby.com/>

Arts and craft supplies

Laird Plastics

10004 E 45th Ave, Denver, CO
866-292-9090

<https://lairdplastics.com/denver/>

For plastic case covers ask for Tom

Meininger Art Supply

499 Broadway, Denver
303-698-3838

<https://www.meininger.com/denver-location/>

Paints, brushes, tools, papers and more

Michael's

Multiple locations

<https://www.michaels.com/>

Arts and crafts supplies

Plasticare

4211 S Natches Ct Suite K, Englewood, CO
303-781-1171

<https://www.plasticareinc.com/>

Plastic supplier/resin with customer shop. can do acrylic fabrication & laser engraving.

Reynolds Advanced Materials

3920 Grape Street, Denver
303-399-0202

<https://www.reynoldsam.com/denver/>

Clays, resins, silicone and lots more

Rocky Mountain Train Supply

6060A W 55th Ave, Arvada, CO
303-456-6702

<https://rockymountaintrainsupply.com/>

Only train shop in Denver, good selection of supplies, strip wood, details, scenic supplies.

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware

2553 S Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO
303-782-0588

<https://www.rockler.com/denver-store>

Home base for wood, tools and supplies

Woodcraft of Colorado

6770 S Peoria Street, Centennial
303-290-0007

<https://www.woodcraft.com/>

Selected Informational Resources for Model Builders

[Model Ship Builder](#)

This website has a popular forum with over 1900 members and an extensive group of building logs. They also sponsor group builds and provide an opportunity for members to place articles. In addition, archived issues of “Warships and Workboats” and “MSB Journal” can be accessed here.

[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 (whose intellectual properties were acquired by the Nautical Research Guild).

[Nautical Research Guild](#)

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

[Model Ship World](#)

This large, comprehensive site is now operated by the Nautical Research Guild. It’s a major forum w build logs and plenty of response to modeler’s questions. Also access shop notes, tips, techniques and research.

[John’s Nautical & Boatbuilding Page](#)

This site includes mostly life-size boat building material, but its self-proclaimed “Mother of All Maritime Links” can be helpful.

[Bottled Ship Builder](#)

This is a forum that is all about ships in bottles and miniature buildings. there's a lot of information on the site for anyone interested in ships in bottles and miniatures.

[Model Ship Building Secrets](#)

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

[DeAgostini Model Space](#)

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

[Arsenal Modelist](#)

Olivier Bello’s ship modeling site features 43 short tutorials, closeups of his fine work and building logs.

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

The site contains illustrated photos (3000) and videos (200). 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

