



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.

May 2024

Trying to fix all mistakes is a mistake. Toba Beta

Meeting Information

Shipwrights 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.

Next Meeting: 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.

Arvada Workshop

The workshop is held on the FIRST Saturday of every month beginning at 9:00 am at the Arvada City Hall, Police entrance. The address: 8101 Ralston Road.

Next workshop: June 1, 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

Ahoy Shipwrights:

Well, another exhibit at Rockler's has come and gone, and it was a little nerve-wracking. I was not sure we would have enough models on display, or enough members to man the deck. But a last-minute surge made the room more than presentable and the personnel up to snuff. Almost two hundred visitors climbed down the stairs, and three new members signed on. We also received about \$80 in donations and sold two model kits for \$300.

For future exhibits, Erik Collett, with some additions from me, has created a set of guidelines to help managers and volunteers make managing these events easier and even more successful.

Remember that we have committed to a month-long, glass-encased exhibit for July at the Louisville public library. Mark Perrichetti is our organizer and will be at the May meeting for those wishing to participate who have questions that are not answered in his writeup starting on page 6 of this Scuttlebutt issue.

I hope to see you at the May meeting – that is, if the wind stops gusting at near hurricane force.

Martin Jelsema, Skipper

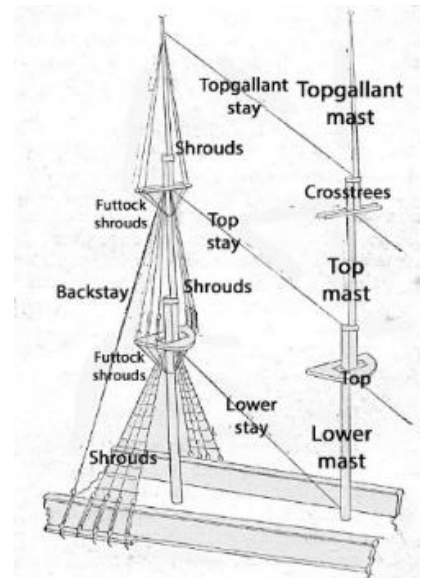
Get Your Gear

- 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.



May's Meeting Presentation

Join us at Rockler's on Saturday May 18th for a presentation led by Scott Schilling that will cover Standing Rigging. The presentation will include diagrams, naming of the stays, and a discussion on ladders.

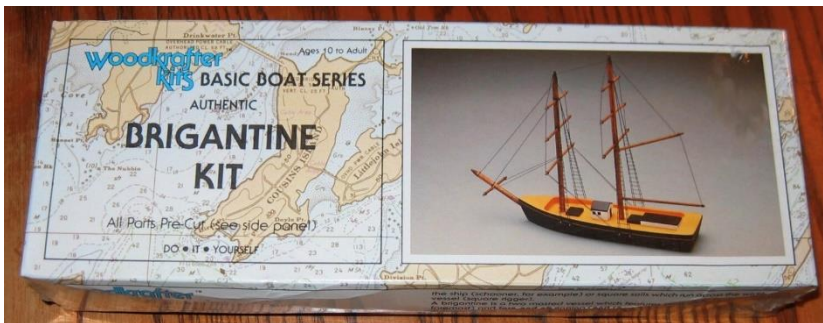


Member Profile – Brian Davies

Brian Davies

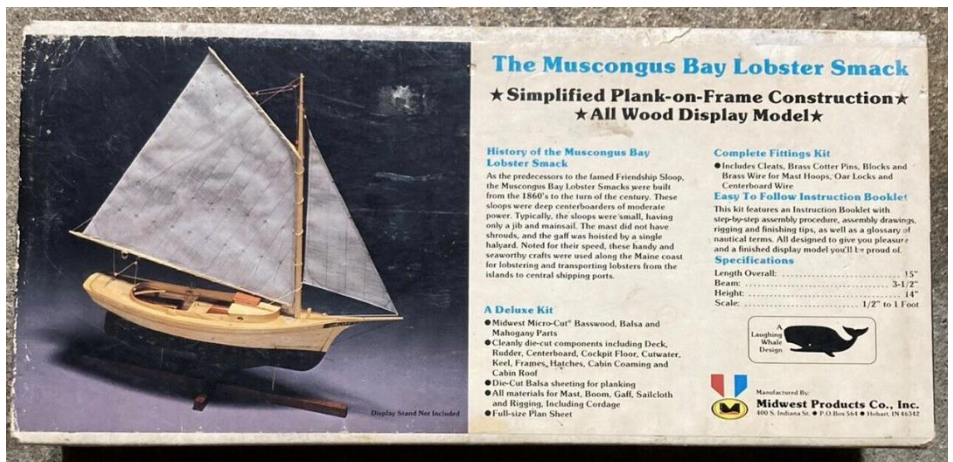
Brian was born in San Luis Obispo, CA and moved to San Diego in 1984. He has three sisters. His first memories of model ships came during one of his visits to the Maritime Museum of San Diego when he found the museum's model shop. It became his favorite part of the museum. He loved being able to watch the modelers work on the minute and amazing details of their ships.

He began his foray into the modeling world when he was around 10 years old and was given a Woodkrafter Brig model. He recalls attempting to rig it, but in his words, feels he was half accurate at best.



As an adult, his first ship model was Midwest's Muscongus Bay Lobster Smack. He enjoyed it so much that he purchased a second one to kit-bash with some scratch-built components.

He was a member of the San Diego Modelers Guild and in 2016 he moved to the Denver area. Before leaving San Diego, he found our club online and shortly after relocating here, he joined the Rocky Mountain Shipwrights. Brian currently works at Denver International Airport, where he is a supervisor on a team that provides wheelchair service for Delta Airlines. Other than his parents and still rooting for Padres during baseball season, he's broken most of his California connections.



Brian is active on [Model Ship World](#)

(bdgiantman2) and is currently working on model of Brig Eagle of 1814. Future projects include a scratch-build that he drew up and maybe returning to his model of the Yacht Mary. His 20-Gun Brig Eagle in 1:4 scale is his first scratch-build. Once completed it will be over 3 feet in length. Look at 2024's February issue of the Scuttlebutt for a little more info.

His tips for those just entering the hobby are to take it easy on yourself; your work does not have to be "perfect" (I really need to take this tip to heart). He also encourages new builders to dive into the research of your build. Knowing more about the ship you are building adds to the overall enjoyment of the hobby. And lastly, joining a club or organization; being able to talk to others in a non-formal setting cannot be beaten.

He loves rock music and will air guitar and drum with the best of them. Outside Rocky Mountain Shipwright events, you might run into him at one his favorite Denver area restaurants; Viva Burrito or Garbanzo (a Greek restaurant). I have

not tried Garbanzo, but after Brian said it's "great," I will have to give them a try. Being a Mexican food aficionado myself, I tried Viva Burrito a number of years ago when I lived in Aurora - I remember their burritos being tasty and their "hot" being "hot."

Someday Brian hopes to travel to the National Maritime Museum (NMM) in Greenwich, London, or the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vergennes, Vermont (maybe due to his research for the Brig Eagle), or the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut.

Model Exhibit - April 2024

Below are pictures of the ship models on display at our April exhibit. Please let me know if any are listed incorrectly, as some models were not accompanied by plaques or are not included. If you would like a file of the pic(s) of your ships, please let me know (hlong222@comcast.net) and I will get it to you. Our visitor attendance totals were:

- Friday: 43 visitors
- Saturday: 74 visitors
- Sunday: 56 visitors
- **Total: 173 visitors**





Jim Brooks
John Alden Sloop



Ralph Buckwalter
Fergus (top left)
Kate Cory II (bottom left)
USS Monitor (bottom right)



Erik Collett
Red Dragon
(bottom left)
Viking Ship
(Top & Bottom right)



Jim & Rob Cuscaden
HMS Vanguard



Rob Cuscaden
War Gaming Pieces



Bob Fivehouse
Adriac (top)
Miltiades (middle)
Campania (bottom right)
Lismore Castle (bottom left)



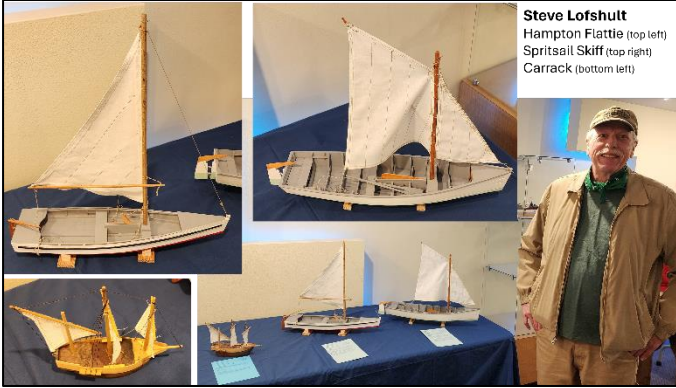
Martin Jelsema
CSS Alabama (top right)
Charles Morgan
(bottom right)
SMS Dresden
(bottom left)



Tom Keitel
US Brig Niagara



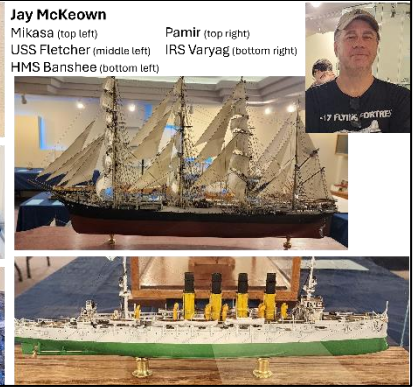
Jim Lattanzio
River Gunboat



Steve Lofshult
 Hampton Flattie (top left)
 Spritsail Skiff (top right)
 Carrack (bottom left)



Jay McKeown
 Mikasa (top left)
 USS Fletcher (middle left)
 HMS Banshee (bottom left)



Pamir (top right)
 IRS Varyag (bottom right)



Mark Persichetti
 Venetian Galleass (top & bottom left)
 Spanish Carrack (top & bottom right)



Jeffry Peterson
 Geo. W Washburn (top & bottom right)
 Lord Nelson Victory (top & bottom left)



Jay Phillips
 H.L. Hunley (top & bottom right)
 Bismarck (middle left)
 USS Independence LCS-2 (bottom left)
 Depot M Kemet (bottom middle)



Hugh Long
 Bluenose



Scott Schilling
 Montanes (top right & bottom left)
 San Felipe (bottom right)



Phil von der Heydt
 USS Kearsarge

Rocky Mountain Shipwrights' July display at the Louisville Public Library

As we had discussed at prior RMSW monthly meetings, the Louisville Public Library has invited our club to display our ship models in two glass display cases in the library as part of their continuing displays of public art.

The two glass display cases each have four shelves, 22"x 22" (30" length diagonally) x 15" height between them. If you have models that fit within those dimensions, we can use your models for our club's display! The cases have locking doors, so the exhibits are safe.

The conditions for exhibit are:

- The models must be installed within the first 3 days of the month and must remain on display until the last 3 days of the month. They do not want to have exhibitors bringing-in or removing displayed artwork at various times during their one-month exhibit time.

To make that easier for any of you who don't want to make two trips up to Louisville to deliver and retrieve your models, Mark Persichetti can pick-up your models at our June club meeting, put them in the display cases, and bring them back to you at our August club meeting.

- For each displayed item, the artist-owner is to provide a display card or title label indicating the name of the work, artist's name, medium, and price (if applicable). For RMSW members, the model-info sheets that Martin has been providing for club exhibits at Rockler the past several years will be suitable; just bring your description sheet with your model!



This display opportunity is great for those of us with smaller models. With the shelf size of 22" x 22", we can fit two or three smaller models side-by-side. A half-dozen (or even a dozen!) small ships-in-a-bottle can be displayed on one shelf! So, we will have a lot of room for your models, Daniel!

If you have a model that is no longer than 30" overall bow-to-stern, it can fit diagonally on one of the shelves. If you have a sailing-ship model with a mast taller than 15", the shelves' height are adjustable, so I can move a shelf up or down to accommodate a taller model.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING YOUR MODELS, displayed artwork can be noted as available for purchase! The only requirements by the Louisville Public Library are:

- Works of art may be offered for sale, with prices established by the artist.
- The Louisville Public Library is not in any way involved in the sale of items on display.
- The artist is responsible for conducting the sale of any work directly with the purchaser, not through Library staff.
- And artwork sold must remain on exhibit throughout the designated one-month period.

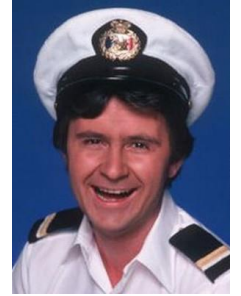
So, if you wish to offer any of your models for sale, make a separate info sheet that shows the price you want, along with your phone number and/or email address.

If you have any questions, see me at our club's May meeting. Or contact me by phone or email. Just be sure to let me know if your models will be available for our July display!

Mark Persichetti
Louisville
303-665-9424
onthemarkmodels@msn.com

Looking for a Purser

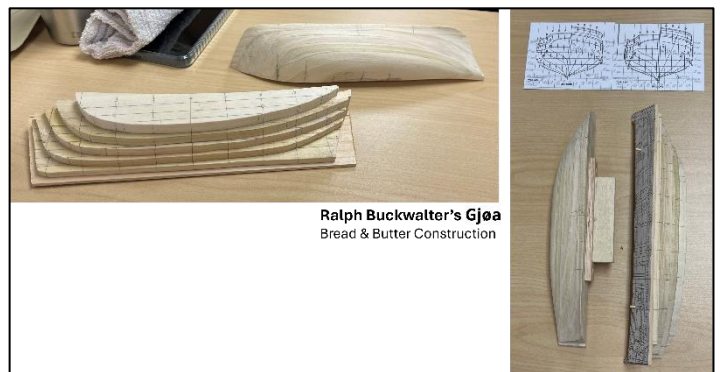
While those of us from a certain generation, we think of “Gopher” from the “Love Boat” when we hear the word “Purser,” but Merriam-Webster defines a Purser as an official on a ship responsible for papers and accounts as well as being responsible for the comfort and welfare of passengers. Our definition for the Shipwrights’ Purser is the treasurer, business manager, and membership chairperson. After hearing these definitions, it is 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.



Workshop – May 4, 2024

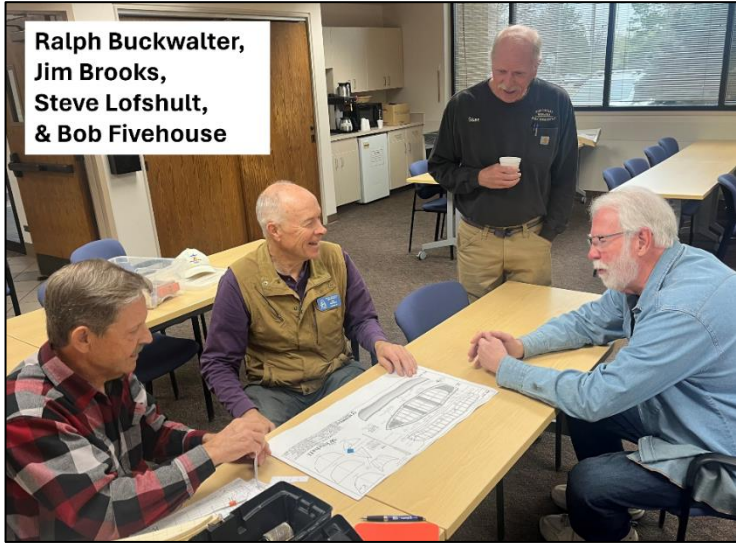
There were 8 members in attendance at the workshop. Attendees: Jim Brooks, Ralph Buckwalter, Martin Jelsema, Steve Lofshult, Bob Fivehouse, Phil von der Heydt, Alice Sampson, and Hugh Long.

Ralph and Jim discussing the “Bread & Butter” construction of the hull of Ralph’s Gjøa as well as Jim’s Boston Whitehall Tender.



Steve & Bob discussing scale conversion of Steve’s scratch-build of a 14-foot Cape Cod Oystering Sharpie (Flatiron Skiff). Steve is designing the plans for a 16-foot version.





**Ralph Buckwalter,
Jim Brooks,
Steve Lofshutt,
& Bob Fivehouse**

A meeting of the minds – one of the great parts of the workshops... trading ideas, learning tips, and learning more about everyone.

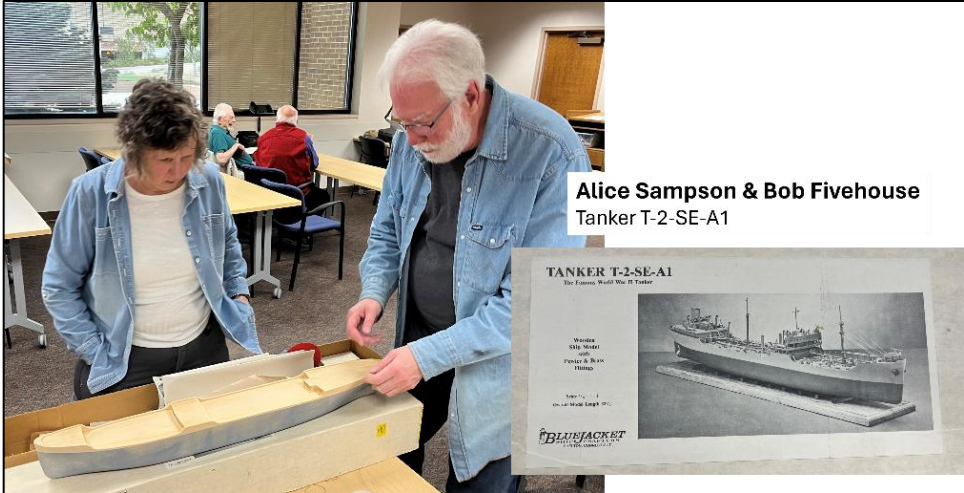


**Martin Jelsema
Rattlesnake**

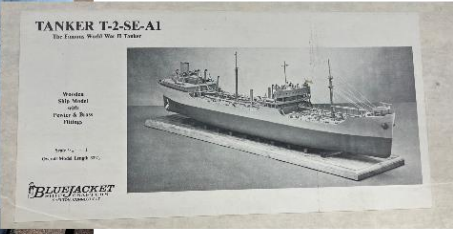


**Phil van der Heydt
& Martin Jelsema
Rattlesnake**

Martin & Phil comparing notes on a donated Rattlesnake that they plan to revive and complete.



**Alice Sampson & Bob Fivehouse
Tanker T-2-SE-A1**



Alice gets advice from Bob on an old Tanker T-2-SE-A1 model that she is mentoring a couple of teens through its build.

Alice Sampson – Wooden Boat Magazine

Our very own Alice Sampson and her company [Seaworthy Small Ships](#) had a nice write-up in the May/June issue of [Wooden Boat Magazine](#). Alice and her business partner Julius Spradley recently took the helm of the company and will continue the production of a wide range of wooden toy boat model kits. These high-quality kits allow new and younger modelers the ability to discover the joys of modeling plus their model can sail in about any body of water.

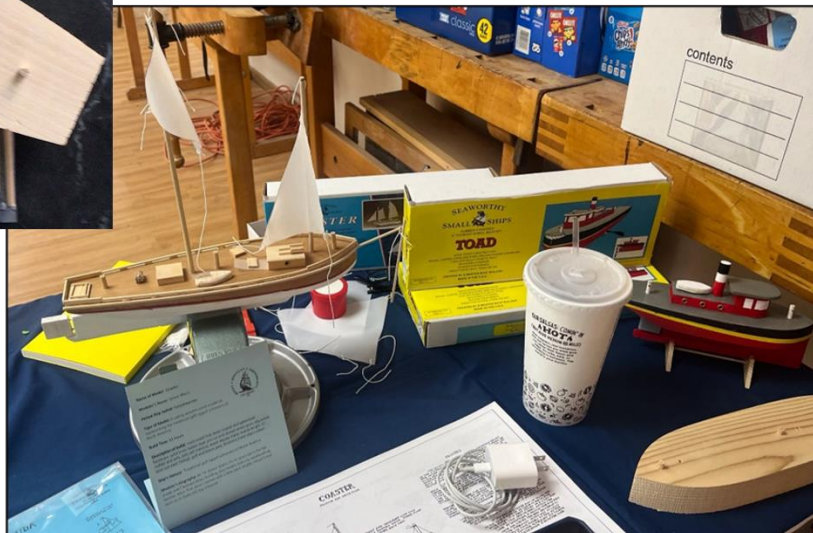
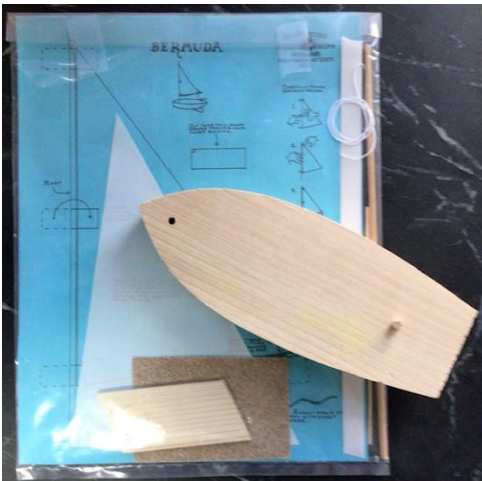
Congrats Alice!



Alice Sampson
Wooden Boat Magazine



Speaking of updates: An item in Currents (WB No. 231) informed readers of the retirement of Martha and George Sargent, who were at the helm of Seaworthy Small Ships for more than 30 years and were hoping someone else would take over. Well, someone else that she has partnered with to continue the company's creation of kits for sailing model boats, especially in mind, Alice tells us: science teacher and woodworker Julius Spradley. Alice is a retired Rocky Mountain Wood Boat School where Julius is also a board member. He is a graduate of The Apprentice School, founded in Maine, and the company he founded specializes in runabouts and sailboats of the Colorado lakes. We will continue to be available through The Wooden Boat Store. For more information, see www.seaworthy.com and www.woodenboatstore.com.



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 terrific way to find activities that you enjoy, from fishing to trivia to model ship building. Currently there are **12 meetup members**. Please note that being a meetup member is different than being a member of the club. Meetup allows you to see and RSVP for upcoming events.

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.

Just Wood & Glue

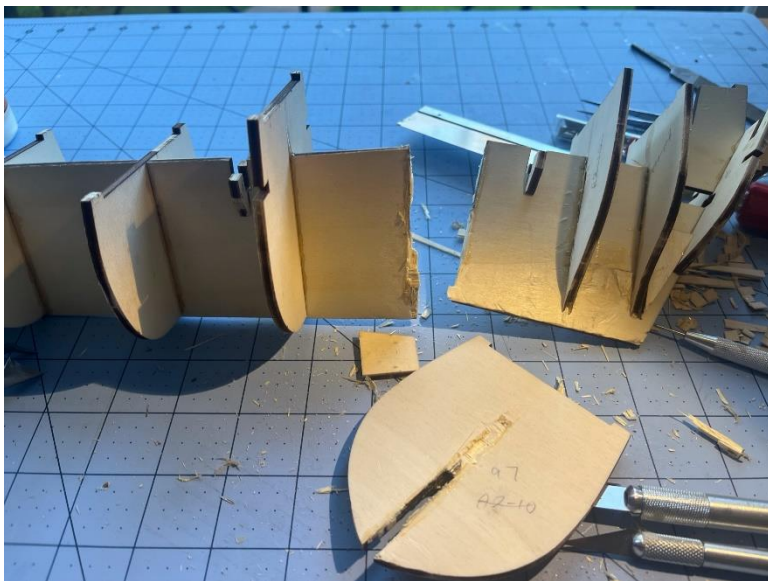
How many times have you been working on a model, and something just did not turn out as expected, or maybe something broke? It has happened a few times to me already and I have not even finished my first ship. Granted, most of these have been fairly small and either easily corrected or small enough that I justify leaving it as no one will notice. But what if it is not small?

For me this happened while working in the initial steps of my Molino. I generally do not work for extended periods of time, and I do not necessarily work on it every day. Let's be honest... even though I am at my second home, I'm still only a block away from the ocean in Mexico. A couple of days after I had glued together the keel and frames, I noticed that I had not pushed one of the frames all the way down. It was probably less than a 1/4" out of position, and in retrospect, I should have figured out another way to correct it than what I did or just left it as it was, but I couldn't. I jumped right into fix mode. Heck, I did not even check to see if anyone had done it before or simply ask for advice on what to do!?

If I had done either of those things, I would not have ended up where I was. And where was I?

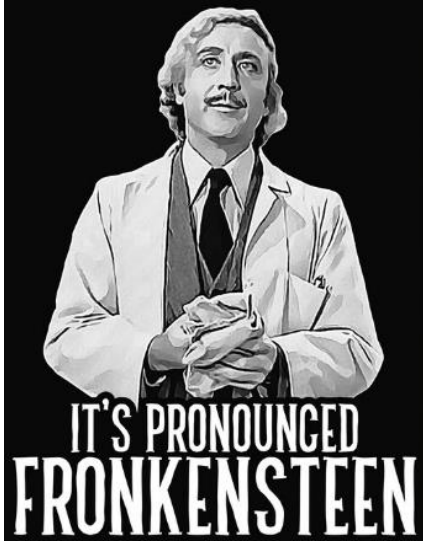
My fix was to carefully cut and scrape away the wood glue holding the frame in place. Simple right? After cutting and scraping for around 45 minutes, I ended up with the keel and frames in two pieces. In a split second, my ship did its best impersonation of the Titanic. I was mortified. I was a newbie. And I was in just the initial stages of building it.

But did I then turn to the various online forums I follow for advice? Heck no. Power on and figure it out has always worked for me in life (or at least I've survived to this point). I wiped away my tears (ok I'm being a bit dramatic) and inspected the damage. There was no way to hide the fact it was broken, but as I began to calm down (translated - I had a few beers), I realized that I had put it together once, so I could probably do it again - only this time, I'd make sure the frame was in the correct place.



I cleaned up the pieces as best as possible and figured out how I could glue them all together (it was now in 4 pieces as the frame had broken in half as well). It did not look pretty, but I thought I could probably make it work.

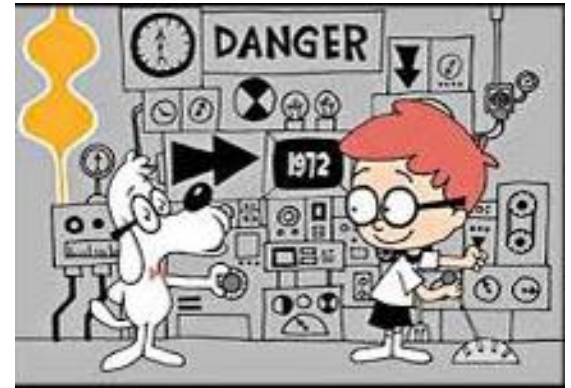
And work it did. It all went together as I had planned. After all, I am talking about wood and glue. Looking back, I probably cost myself a couple of hours of work, but I was close to being back on track.



And just a few steps later, it became difficult to see the damage. And now, I only have the memories and a few pictures as there is no way to see where I had become Dr. Frankenstein that faithful day.

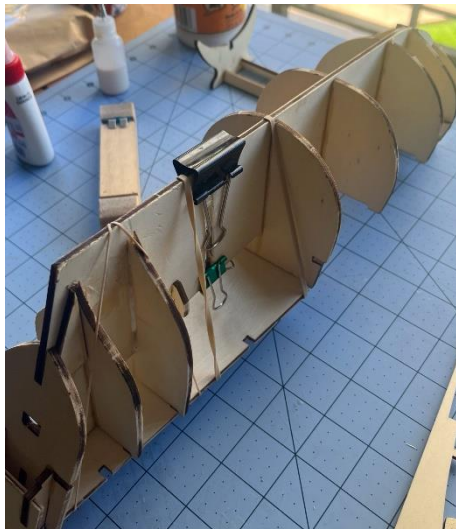
But let's jump into the way-back machine and do what I should have done in the first place... Ask For Help (which is a weakness of mine).

If I had asked for help, I know that someone would have suggested wetting the glue and gently scraping. And then wetting it more and gently scraping again.



And repeat until the frame was

free. How do I know for sure that someone would have suggested that I try this? Simple... after I posted my mistake and my fix in my build log (where I was actually a bit proud of my ability to resolve my problem), someone suggested it. And not in a "hey dummy" way, but in a kind and caring way, a mentoring way. That's what most online modelers do. Sure, there are some not so friendly people out there, but the ones I follow fit into the mentoring bucket. The rest I try to ignore or at least "pause before hitting send."



I bring all of this up so to show that we all can learn. I still consider myself a newbie, but I can help others who are even newer than I am by looking at their build logs and responding to their questions.

In addition to the various build logs I follow, there are 2 subreddits that I follow, [ModelShips](#) and [ShipModels](#) where it seems the majority of posters are even newer than I am, with many not just showcasing their work, but asking questions.

It is these posts that I enjoy and try to help. To come full circle, there's a [thread](#) on Ships Of Scale that is nothing but these types of mistakes. Some have direct answers as to what to do while others give condolences. Either way, it is a great read.



What did you learn from what you consider your "biggest" mistake?

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. **These lists can be thought of as incomplete.** If you use or have discovered others, please email them to hlong222@comcast.net and they will 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

[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, etc.

[Contenti Jewelry Supply](#)

Jewelry tools, fair 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 substantial 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
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
Good local hobby shops, some wood ship kits, lots of 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 Tom

[Meininger Art Supply](#)

499 Broadway, Denver
303-698-3838
Paints, brushes, tools, papers 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 lots more

[Rocky Mountain Train Supply](#)

6060A W 55th Ave, Arvada, CO
303-456-6702
Only train shop in Denver, broad selection of supplies, strip wood, details, scenic supplies.

[Rockler Woodworking and Hardware](#)

2553 S Colorado Blvd, Denver, CO
303-782-0588
Home base for wood, tools, and supplies

[Thinker Tinker Workshop](#)

3735 Ames St. Wheat Ridge, CO 80212
303-748-9180
A building and creative space for all ages

[Woodcraft of Colorado](#)

6770 S Peoria Street, Centennial
303-290-0007

Selected Informational Resources for Model Builders

[Model Ship Builder](#)

This website has a popular forum with over 1900 members and an extensive group of building logs. They also sponsor group builds and provide an opportunity for members to place articles. 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 is a major forum with build logs and plenty of responses to modeler's questions. Also access shop notes, tips, techniques, and research.

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

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

[Bottled Ship Builder](#)

This is a forum that is all about ships in bottles and miniature buildings. There is 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

