

# The Lynx

1929 - Washington Ship Model Society - 2019

Celebrating 90 Years of Maritime Research & Artistry

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## Newsletter of the Washington Ship Model Society

*For the Mutual Benefit in Model Ship Building; for the Exchange of Ideas; and to Preserve for Posterity Scale Models of Historic Vessels, we Associate Ourselves Together to Form This Washington Ship Model Society*

### **SKIPPERS CORNER**

#### WSMS Crew!

Well, 2023 begins a new year for the club! Unfortunately, as many of you have heard, we started off this year on a sad note, when we received news that our fellow modeler and club member, Doug Wilde, passed away in late December. Doug worked at the Smithsonian Institution, and was a dedicated member of the Washington Ship Model Society for many long years, serving in various officer roles, and contributing greatly to the club's success. Doug was just a great guy. He was always friendly and helpful, and his enthusiasm for nautical history and the hobby in general was contagious! We were very fortunate to know him, and he will be greatly missed by the WSMS crew. As we plan ahead for this coming year, we expect there will be new adventures on the horizon. We are planning to hold our annual auction again at some point in the future, and we expect that our usual modeling shows and expos will be in full swing. I anticipate many of those events will be full (Post-Covid) with many participants and spectators wanting to get back out there. So, I encourage all members that this may be a great year to get your new - or old - model ships, dioramas, and projects out and into the public eye! As usual, we will continue to send event updates and details when they become available. This may also be a good year to reinvigorate our "Focus Groups" at the homes of some club members. Anyone willing to host a focus group and show off particular projects, workshops, skills or topics of interest, please let the Bridge officers know so we can plan accordingly as we put together our schedule for the year. Special thanks to all members who keep our club running. We always have successful and interesting meetings due to everyone's participation. We have had many great presentations in the past, and we should make every effort to continue that practice this year. We have had some new attendees and members this past year, and (thanks to our pursuer who keeps and maintains our website) we continue to have plenty of hits and interest in the club. Keep modeling and we look forward to seeing everyone in the coming months

Larry Valett

WSMS Skipper

**WSMS Auction:** We have scheduled our annual auction for Saturday, March 18, at the Rhodeside Grill, 1836 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA, 22201. Bring Cash or Checks Payable to WSMS. Unload and set up your auction gear at 0900-1000 hrs. The actual Auction will be held 1000 – 1200 hrs. Food and Beverages available at Rhodeside Grill.

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## Editors Corner

This edition of “The Lynx” is being created on a new laptop purchased for the exclusive use of taking the meeting min. and putting together the newsletter.

I want to apologize for the lapse in time between newsletters, I have had some health challenges which included but not exclusively involved a broken back in four places.

This edition includes a fantastic series of articles by Bill Kay on his incredible scratch built Carolina Skiff’s. I say Skiff’s because he produced ten of them!

Speaking of projects, My Bismarck is coming along. I managed to put in sometime between trips to Florida and North Carolina with a trip to Philly thrown in there for good measure. The hull is comprised of two layers of planking and I am currently about halfway through the process of installing the second layer. You would think that would be straight forward, but, and there always is a but, there are numerous cut-outs for vents, intakes and a ledge thrown in for good measure.

I think I may stray from the online practicum when it comes to preparation of the hull for applying the primer coat and use the technique put out by Bob Smith in his practicums of sanding completely smooth, filling as needed and once happy with the result giving the hull two light coats of “Minwax” clear varnish. I used this method on my Bluenose and it gave a wonderful smooth finish to the paint.

I hope to include some pictures in the next edition of the model in progress.

Until then “*Fair winds and following sea’s*”

<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS:</b></p>
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<p>IPMS Richmond February 25th 2023</p>
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<p>WSMS Auction March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023</p>
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Next Meeting is Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 10:00 - 13:00

Emanuel Lutheran Church

7730 Bradley Blvd, Bethesda Maryland

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

### **KIT BUILDING**

Bill kay

Over the many years of my model boat activities, I have formed some opinions that I have, sometimes, found to be wrong. One of those was my negativity against building from "kits" and my pride in scratch-building. My latest project, however, reached a point where I perceived and gasped at the realization that I had now become, for all intents and purposes, a "kit builder!"

This project is one that my family said I should do and it is the *Point A*, my 17' Carolina Skiff with 50hp Yamaha engine. I designed it to 1/2" = 1'- 0" scale and envisioned there would be three major elements in the undertaking: doing the hull and its "stuff"; making the outboard engine; and fabricating plexiglass display covers.

The memories of going out on my Skiff, over many years, include those of my two daughters, my five grandkids (now all adults), my wife, and, of course, me! That makes nine models to get done in the project, and I included a tenth, "for whatever."

Things got very detailed quickly since the Skiff still exists and I have tons of photos to call upon. I began making the hulls and all its many fittings and equipment... yes, at least TEN of each... and I have been holding off the installation of those rather fragile things until I get the hull painting in final stages. So, as I made things, I set them aside over time and then, all of a sudden it hit me, I am putting together ten "kits" of my Carolina Skiff! No matter that I scratch-built everything, I feel I have now made myself a candidate for membership in the kit-build community!

Here's a photo of the ten hulls, two plastic containers of things to go on the hulls and engines, and the decal sheet for boats and engines:

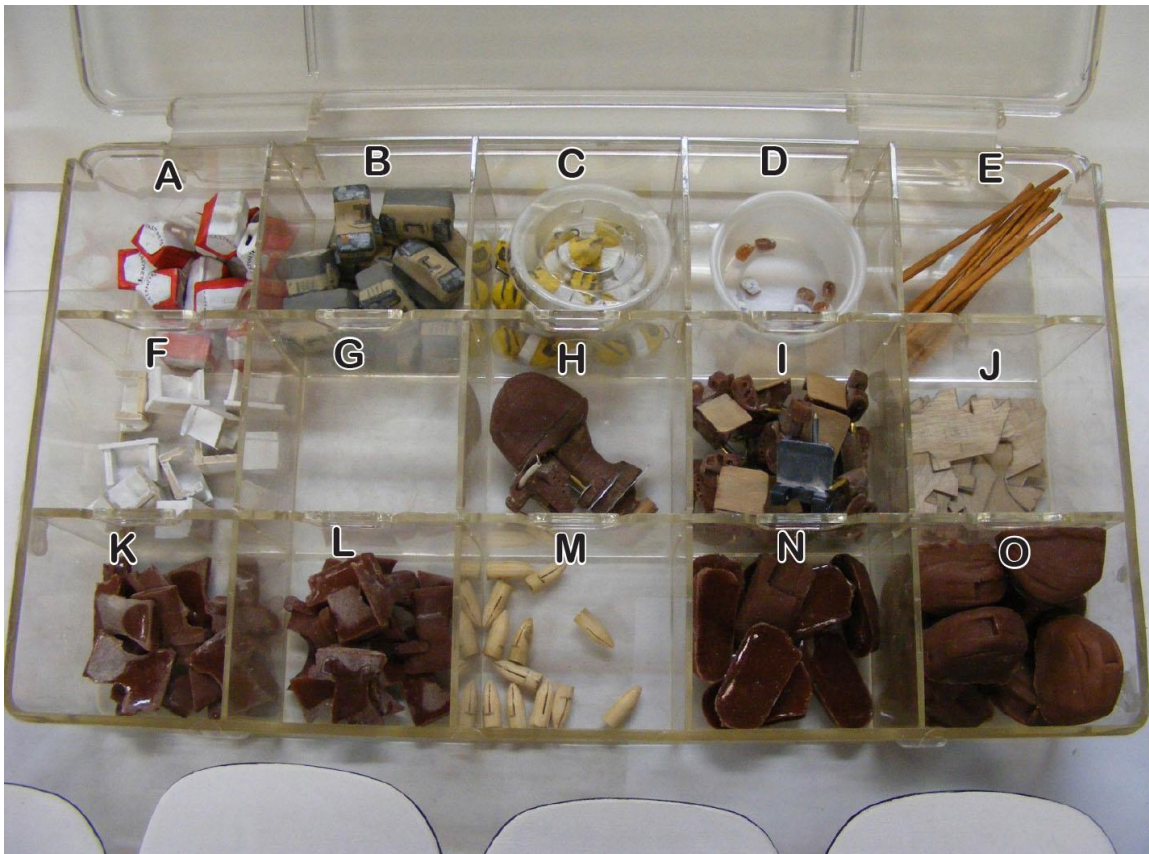


Close-up of the first plastic container:



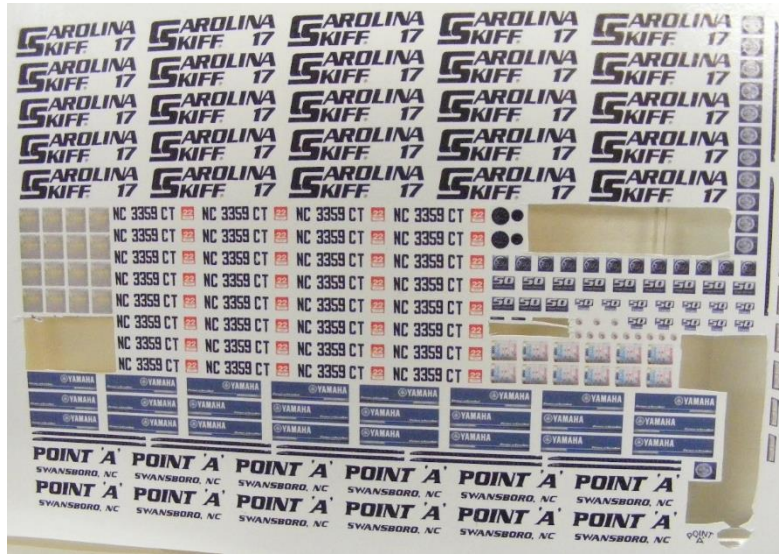
- 1-4. Helm seat (with a swinging backrest and cooler underneath)
5. The bow deck's full-width cushion
6. Metal cover plates for wiring, cables and hoses running from the console aft to the engine area
7. Wooden oar I carry on my Skiff (which also serves as a "depth finder" in shallow waters as I have painted white depth markings on it)
8. Black fishing rod holders (four go on each skiff, two along the sides and two at the transom)
9. White rod holders (two are mounted on the forward bulkhead)
10. Fuel filter (with its Sierra decal) and its related fuel line with the rubber squeeze bulb
11. Plastic devices I had made to hold the bow anchor in position
12. 8" cleats (four per Skiff)
13. Stainless steel steering wheel assembly
14. Throttle/gear shift mechanism
15. Safety device that comes off the throttle (it's a coiled orange engine shut-down cable that goes over your wrist when underway... should you fall overboard!)
16. Blue canvas bags that stick onto the windshield and hold bug spray, suntan lotion, etc.
17. Fire extinguishers

Close-up of the second plastic container:



- A. Drink coolers I've converted to hold my three cast nets
- B. Fishing tackle box
- C. Yellow-topped bait buckets (two to each skiff)
- D. Tiny bilge pumps (with decals on them)
- E. Wooden posts used for assistance stepping up to the bow area
- F. Step used to get to the bow area
- G. Currently empty and makes a break between hull items and the engine components
- H. Mock-up of the engine components assembled to test things out (the brown material is two-part epoxy, mixed with phenolic beads, and that is used in molds I made for the various components)
- I. Assembled components of the engine's mounting bracket
- J. Plywood central "core" for the spine of the lower part of the engine
- K. One side of the engine's lower section
- L. Other side of the engine's lower section
- M. Bullet-shaped housings for the lower unit where the prop will be attached
- N. Bottom section of the engine's upper section
- O. Top section of the engine

The decal page was printed from photos I had taken of each item, were reduced to their 1" = 1'-0" then put together on the decal (allowing a few extras for



from and those sizes and sheet whatever):

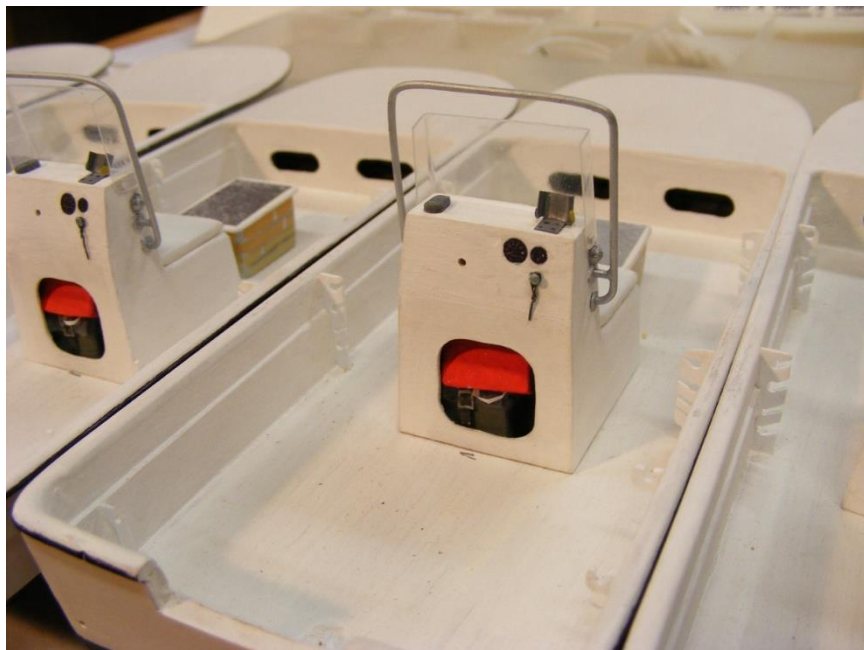
Here's a photo of the hull, the steering console, and a box holding life preservers (not attached permanently yet).

Along both inboard sides are rod holders and at the port is the holder for the oar.

In the access area of the console can be seen a red cushion, stowed there on my immediate access in time of and it sits atop the battery

On the slanted part of the console can be seen two gauges, a hole for the steering assembly, and the "thingy" hanging down under the is a wire that I use to clear

salt from the engine's cooling water exit port. On the top of the console is the gas cap to the left and a mounting bracket for a once-used electronic depth finder which I found near-useless in the shallows I frequent and, instead, I marked my oar to determine depths! The windshield was shaped using gentle heating over a wooden form and the metal grab rail is soldered wire. Just above the grab rail's two mounting points, on the right side of the console, can be seen the starboard running light fixture.



fishing quarter

throw Skiff for need, box.

engine wheel

gauges dried

And that's where this newly-anointed "kit-builder" stands at this moment on the *Point A* project.

BILL KAY

Check our website at [www.dcshipmodelsociety.org](http://www.dcshipmodelsociety.org). or visit us on  
Facebook!

