

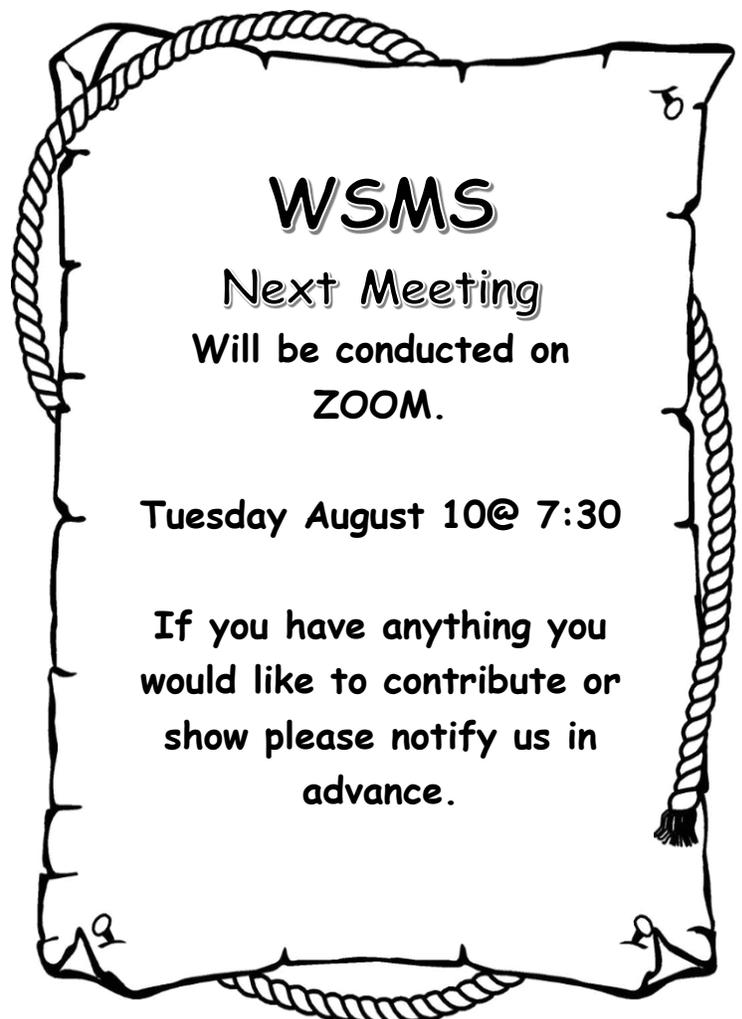
## Newsletter of the Washington Ship Model Society

*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

Like every other crew member, I am looking forward to meeting in person soon! While we have been successful with our ZOOM meetings, I do miss the donuts and coffee.....and maybe the camaraderie too! We will let everyone know as soon as we have confirmation from our usual Virginia and Maryland meeting locations that we can come back as a group. In the meantime, we will continue with our usual Tuesday night Zoom Meetings held every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Now that our new WSMS Website is up and running, meeting updates and details can be included therein when available. Since things are starting to open up again, we give special thanks to Bill Kay, Peter Gutterman, and John Williams for offering to host a few Focus Groups at their homes this year! Bill Kay will host on July 24. Peter Gutterman will host on August 28. And John Williams has offered to host in late September or October, (To Be Determined). Club email announcements and reminders will be made prior to each date, accordingly. Their expertise is appreciated, and their projects and workshops are always astounding and fascinating to explore! Also, as a reminder, our brothers at the Philadelphia Model Ship Club are continuing to host the MODELCON Annual Event this year in Philadelphia on Saturday, August 7, from 10am-3pm aboard the Battleship New Jersey! If you can make it and help represent our club, please RSVP and connect with them at [MODELSHIP@Yahoo.com](mailto:MODELSHIP@Yahoo.com). We have lots to discuss in our upcoming meetings over the next couple of months, so please be sure to attend

when you can! We hope to get the WSMS Crew together for another annual auction soon, and club members have expressed some interest in ways to begin off-loading some workshop tools and items to other club modelers in need. Your ideas and input are always welcome and much



appreciated! Great thanks, crew! Enjoy this edition of the Lynx Newsletter, continue to send your photographs, ideas, and articles to Michael

Phillips for inclusion in the newsletter, and we hope to see everyone together soon!

---

---

## **EDITOR'S CORNER**

As we find ourselves amid the Summer Doldrums, we should avail ourselves to the opportunity to stay inside and enjoy the air conditioning and work on our models. I find myself working on the Bluenose that I have been working on for over a year now in anticipation of the Philadelphia Model Boat Show coming up the first weekend in August. I am looking forward to getting out to a model show and talk with other modelers. It has been quite a while since we have been able to do that, and I hope it's a sign of things to come.

We now have a powerful new tool to share our works of art with other modelers, our new website. I am currently assembling pictures and will be launching my own page within the new site. After going through the steps, I have found that it is extremely easy and I look forward to seeing everyone's works of art on the site. If you haven't been to the new site, I highly recommend it, it will be worth your time.

Speaking of shows, please reach out to myself about any shows you may hear of and I will include them in a schedule to be printed in the newsletter. Any shows I attend, I will be taking some pictures and adding a few to the newsletter.

I also need to apologize for a mistake I have been making in regard to the newsletter. I have not been updating the volume number. I will make the appropriate correction to the next newsletter and keep on top of it from now on.

## **Meeting Location Information.**

WSMS Auction - We have scheduled the auction with Rhodeside Grill in Arlington for September 11, from 1000 to 1330

VA Meeting sites - Hollin Hall is only partially open undergoing renovation and therefore the earliest date (no guarantee would be in October) However our old venue, Sherwood Library at 2501 Sherwood Hall Ln Alexandria, VA, is open and available now. WSMS will meet in the Conference Room October 9, from 1000 to 1200. We can continue there until such time as Hollin Hall becomes available.

## **Upcoming events**

- ✓ National Capital Model Soldier Show is hosting 60<sup>th</sup> Washington Show at the Springfield VA Hilton on September 25
- ✓ October cocktail Show at the Army-Navy Club, Downtown Washington DC, Friday Evening, Date TBD
- ✓ Downrigging Weekend, Chestertown, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am-4pm. Limited space at the boatshop of the Sultana Building. Let Skipper know if you can attend so WSMS can respond and plan accordingly for space and tables!
- ✓ 8th Annual Model Boat Show Oxford Community Center, Saturday November 13, 2021. All day event! Always a great time!

## **June Meeting Minutes**

WSMS Crew,

Thanks for the great meeting last week! Below are some important updates and information to review:

1. **3D Printing.** Special Thanks to Gary Bulmer for his presentation on 3D printing last week! For those of you interested in additional information, plans, or assistance with 3D printing ideas, please contact Gary Bulmer at [gpbulmer@gmail.com](mailto:gpbulmer@gmail.com), and cc'd above. (My oldest son, Kurt, got involved in 3D printing last year and would find this information helpful.....so I cc'd Kurt as well!)
2. **Dues.** The club voted to reinstate annual dues, payable in July. Please make payment to WSMS, \$20, and mail to Carl Erickson at 508 Russell Ave, Gaithersburg, MD, 20877.
3. **Vote.** Officer nominations are: Larry Valett, President. Roger Frye, First Mate. Carl Erickson, Purser. and Michael Phillips, Secretary. We will plan to hold elections at our next meeting in July.
4. **July Meeting.** I will post our next meeting reminder when I get back from travel around July 1. I will keep everyone informed. Most likely our meeting will be ZOOM.

5. **Focus Group.** If any crew member would like to host a focus group at their home this year, please volunteer to do so, and let the bridge know in advance so we can plan accordingly and let the crew know.
6. **Nautical Books.** Roger Frye has volunteered to be the keeper of the WSMS plans library and will pick them up from Vince McCollough. However, Vince still has an extensive book collection he is looking to distribute to WSMS members who can take some, or all. He is willing to split up the library to willing members. Contact Vince directly at email above for information.
7. **Newsletter.** Send any articles, photos, build reports, or other information you would like for the Newsletter to Michael Phillips, cc'd email above.
8. **Club Event.** Please attend and represent if you can! We are invited to the next model event at the 3rd ModelCon, August 7, 2021, hosted by our brothers at the Philadelphia Model Ship Club. See attached flyer seeing participants and presenters. Feel free to reach out to Joshua Fischmann of the Philly Club, cc'd above, for more details.

Fair Weather to All!

Larry Valett  
WSMS Skipper

## **July Meeting Minutes**

1. ELECTIONS DONE: WSMS Officers elected were: Larry Valett, Skipper; Roger Frye First Mate; Carl Erickson, Purser; Michael Phillips, Secretary. (Thank you past secretary Greg Stitz for your service!)
2. DUES ARE DUE: Pay Dues. \$20. Make check payable to Washington Ship Model Society and mail your check to purser: Carl Erickson, 580 Russell Ave, Gaithersburg, MD. 20877. Contact Carl above if any questions.
3. AUCTION THIS FALL: Lou Husser will pursue an auction venue and time/date in early October if possible. Let's jettison tools and kits! Standby for details.
4. WSMS MEETINGS: Our meetings will continue on Zoom until our regular venues become available. We will most likely be unable to resume normal Saturday monthly meetings until October. Standby for details.
5. FOCUS GROUP NEXT WEEK: Bill Kay is hosting our next Focus Group, Saturday July 24, 10AM-Noon.
6. AUGUST MODEL SHOW: Philadelphia MODELCON, August 7, 10am-3pm. Philadelphia USS New Jersey. Contact Joshua Fischmann at email above, or email: [modelship@yahoo.com](mailto:modelship@yahoo.com). See attached flyer.
7. AUGUST FOCUS GROUP: Peter Gutterman will be hosting our August 28th focus group. Standby for details.

8. SEPTEMBER MODEL SHOW: National Capital Model Soldier Show is hosting 60<sup>th</sup> Washington Show at the Springfield VA Hilton on September 25<sup>th</sup>. See information, <https://www.ncmssclub.org/> See attached flyer. **Let me know if you can attend so WSMS can respond and plan accordingly for space and tables!**

9. OCTOBER CLUB SHOW: Lou Husser is planning the October cocktail Show at the Army-Navy Club, Downtown Washington DC, Friday Evening, Date TBD. Standby for details.

10. OCTOBER DOWNRIGGING SHOW: Downrigging Weekend, Chestertown, October 30th, 10am-4pm. Limited space at the boatshop of the Sultana Building. **Let me know if you can attend so WSMS can respond and plan accordingly for space and tables!**

11. NOVEMBER MODEL SHOW: Oxford Community Center 8th Annual Model Boat Show, Saturday November 13, 2021. All day event! Always a great time! **Let me know if you can attend so WSMS can respond and plan accordingly for space and tables! See Attached notice**

SPECIAL NOTE: Chesapeake Bay Ship Club Request: Ed Theiler just asked whether he could receive the email addresses of the WSMS membership--he says he only has a few addresses from those who have attended the Oxford event in the past. If you would like to be included on Chesapeake Bay Ship Club email info, please RSVP Directly to Ed Theiler above!

SPECIAL TIP: Peter Gutterman reported Drydock Models and Parts from Canada equivalent to Syren in quality and variety: rope, blocks and deadeyes, in box, ebony and pear woods. rope available in many sizes, only three colors. I got samples which he (Zoltan) will supply free of charge upon request. Very nice quality, prices reasonable. Good personal service. Zoltan, the owner very approachable via email and eager to chat online. Rope available in cotton or synthetic.

## MEMBER CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES

Gentlemen,

After the Focus Meeting, I put together the words below as something that might go into The Lynx, or wherever else appropriate. Not sure whom I should be working with on this, but if someone can get back to me with guiding instructions on what else you need, I'd be pleased to work with you on it.

And let me know what photos you see appropriate ... I have some to offer up.

Bill

"There are three types of folks who engage in creating miniatures of boats", and that is how Bill Kay started off the Focus Meeting in his basement workshop. He went on to explain, "The vast majority of modelers work on just one model, be it from a kit or scratch-built, and they make it to either to keep or to pass on to someone else. The level of detail involved in their boat model can range from very simple

to amazingly complex. The second type of model boat builder is, however, in it for the money. That builder typically has to give up intricate details in favor of mass-producing a final product that can be sold at a profit-making price. And then there is a third type of craftsman that is the rarest of all, for he is involved in producing near-exact miniatures, of a specific boat, for someone directly-related to that boat and I am of that type. I am not a "boat model" builder, in the public's understanding of that, as I do not do this for the money nor for anyone I wasn't personally close to. This "Portrait" concept is something that others might pick up on in their community, as it something that is truly meaningful and rewarding in a way more important than mere money."

Bill had the group over to his workshop for the July 24 Focus Meeting. He explained how he became involved in what he calls his "Portrait" models. He has made over forty "Portraits" of a dozen different vessels that represent, to surviving family members, the captains, mates and boatwrights of vessels that he knew as a teenager in the small seaport town of Swansboro, NC. He feels that this different approach to models might spark an interest in others who might find similar "Portrait" opportunities in their boating communities. When scratch-building a "real" boat, he finds that to be more satisfying than when he'd done a kit that had no such personal connections.

In gathering information, producing construction drawings, and in the building of over forty "Portraits". he has come up with a number of "Axioms" for those interested in pursuing this aspect of our hobby:

Axiom #1 says that it is absolutely essential that the builder know the shape and graphics of the transom for that, to Bill, is like the person's face on a portrait painting;

Axiom #2 conveys that a key element in creating the "Portrait" is to learn from the requestor what specific things they remember of the vessel. This Axiom cautions the builder to beware that the requestor's memory of things, from many years ago, may not be "perfect" and to use discretion in handling something you might know to be "different" than the requestor's memory;

#3 cautions that the requestor may know of another vessel, or even a model, "That is just like the [subject vessel]". Bill is convinced that, in the era of these wooden vessels, no two were exactly alike and one must be aware of putting something on the "Portrait" model that didn't really exist ... that will jump out immediately when the requestor sees it and could ruin the whole image;

#4 says that these "Portraits" will become extremely detailed, consume vast amounts of your time, you will get very "attached" to them, and sad is the day that you have to let one go. Axiom #4 is to make one for yourself, and you'll appreciate that in days to come;

#5 conveys that there can arise a situation where you, yourself, will have a connection to the "Portrait" boat. And it alerts you to the possibility that you could want MORE than the one for yourself, in order to share that with others. Such has happened in three of the "Portraits" done to date;

#6 cautions the builder to be alert to the actual colors of the hull and topside elements as those could change over the life of the vessel, and even be different on the same vessel if more than one "Portrait" individual is involved. Bill described one situation where three different parties wanted "Portraits" of the same vessel and the differing timeframes those also had three different color schemes;

#7 recognizes that you must determine, at the onset, how many models you will be building. Sometimes you may have reasons to add one or more to cover some unknown, and those can often be very surprising outcomes.

These "Axioms" reflect a lot of common-sense and, in his experiences, Bill also found a lot of humor, strange happenings, pleasant surprises, and impressive rewards in creating his fleet of "Portraits".

He never made less than two of these very-detailed "Portraits" and most were 4, 5 or 6 identical reproductions. This gave Bill a broad perspective on how to "mass-produce" components, which could be useful knowledge to the in-it-for-profit model boat builder.

He also noted that his models were entered into "Ships-In-Scale" contests of 2008, 2010, 2017, and each took a first-place. Those recognitions were wonderful feedbacks on his long hours building the models. Even that series of honors was eclipsed for Bill when the North Carolina Maritime Museum purchased TWO of the same "Portrait", those being models in which the cabin tops were removable to expose the fully-detailed interiors of that vessel.

At the Focus Meeting Bill also talked about a number of very practical tools and methods that he uses which are not usually found in the typical model boat builder workshop.

### **Bill Kay's Painting Technique.**

Editors note: after seeing Bills finished product, He was asked several questions about his method of painting. Here are Bills comments.

I am blessed to have some exposure to multiple hobbies and how those cross-over to become useful in model boating. Such is my dabbling in "artist" type of painting, and the various things used there.

In addressing the painting of model boats I see two distinct phases: prepping the item for paint; and painting the item.

PREPPING relates, usually, to two types of materials: wood; and something else. In putting on a primer, for other than wood items, I have found "Krylon" products to be very satisfactory and their grey and white primers go on nicely and form a good base for the next phase. One product line, however, that has not worked well for me is "Rustoleum" as the final surface was too grainy. Going back to my "artist" background, I am aware that a thing called "gesso" has been used for millennia to prepare various surfaces for the final paint coatings. So, for wood items, I will use acrylic "Artist's Gesso", and that is obtainable at art supply shops. I use the acrylic type as that is compatible with the paints I use. In applying the gesso I typically put it on full-strength by brush for the first coat and sand off brush marks that I find undesirable. I usually apply several gesso coatings to large items, like hulls, and gradually add water to help thin the coating so the "brush marks" are less-pronounced, sanding between coats.

PAINTING involves, for me, craft type acrylic paints gotten at hobby places like Michaels, Hobby Lobby, etc. For me, those acrylic paints have several nice features: they come in small containers so are not wasteful; they are very inexpensive; they are a form of plastic that is touted to have very long life; they come in a zillion colors; they can be readily thinned for application by brush (I am not into sprayer painting so I have no experience in how acrylics work that way).

In applying the acrylics by brush one can easily thin the paint with water, or even better, when getting to the final coatings, one can use another artist's product designed for thinning acrylics that is called "Liquitex". I use that sparingly on all the final coats, and I guess one could use it on all coats to lessen fine-sanding.

Back to my artist background. I often find that the acrylic craft paint has a gloss or high sheen that I do not want on my model and I can "kill" that down to a beautiful "eggshell" satin finish by mixing in a bit of gesso with the basic paint. Good to test the amount needed, as it is not very much, probably one-tenth gesso by volume works well.

The colors I use on my models have yet another "artist" touch and that relates to the "intensity" of colors right out of the container, usually they are too "bright" to look "real". I typically imagine how the real boat colors would appear if viewed by, say, two hundred yards away. To achieve that "toned-down" effect I have used small amounts of blues or grays added to the color or, again, that useful gesso does that too.

Another very useful application of gesso is to mix it into store-bought "gold" acrylic paint to then turn it into very realistic "brass"!

My "finale" in bringing my models to "life" (Well, for me anyway) is to use thinned appropriate colors to represent "rust", "dirt", and just good old "wear and tear".

## **Member Projects**

**Editors note: for some reason I was unable to open several member project articles, please resubmit and I will print them in the September / October issue. Please submit the articles in Windows Document file or Windows, plain text format.**

**Pete G's Young America.**





*Newsletter Ad Policy*

*Members may submit as many ads as they choose for printing in the Lynx. They may be either want or for sale ads and should normally be limited to a 100 or less words. Non-members may also submit one ad to a monthly newsletter*

=====

*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*

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

