

Model Ship World (MSW) Forum: A Navigation Guide

When you first look at the NRG's MSW forum website, there is a lot to see. The wide array of categories on the forum's home page only hints at how massive and useful it is.

This guide will show you how to sign up to become a member of MSW and give you a good, basic introduction on how to navigate around it. There is no charge to join MSW; it is totally FREE. However, donations are always welcome. Once your sign-up has been approved by MSW's administration, you will have access to all the forum's features. Please note that you can explore some portions of the site before your membership is approved.

MSW is a steadily growing collection of contributions from a world-wide community of model ship builders who have been uploading content since its launch in 2006. MSW has more than 42,000 members, over 22,000 topics and more than 732,000 posts. That's a deep pool of useful information – all about our ship modeling hobby.

Although MSW is considered "Social Media", you will never encounter the problems common to other sites. It is NRG policy that none of your personal information is shared with other members or companies. Moderators make sure that there are no trolls, no hacks, no spam, no politics and no abusive or offensive language.

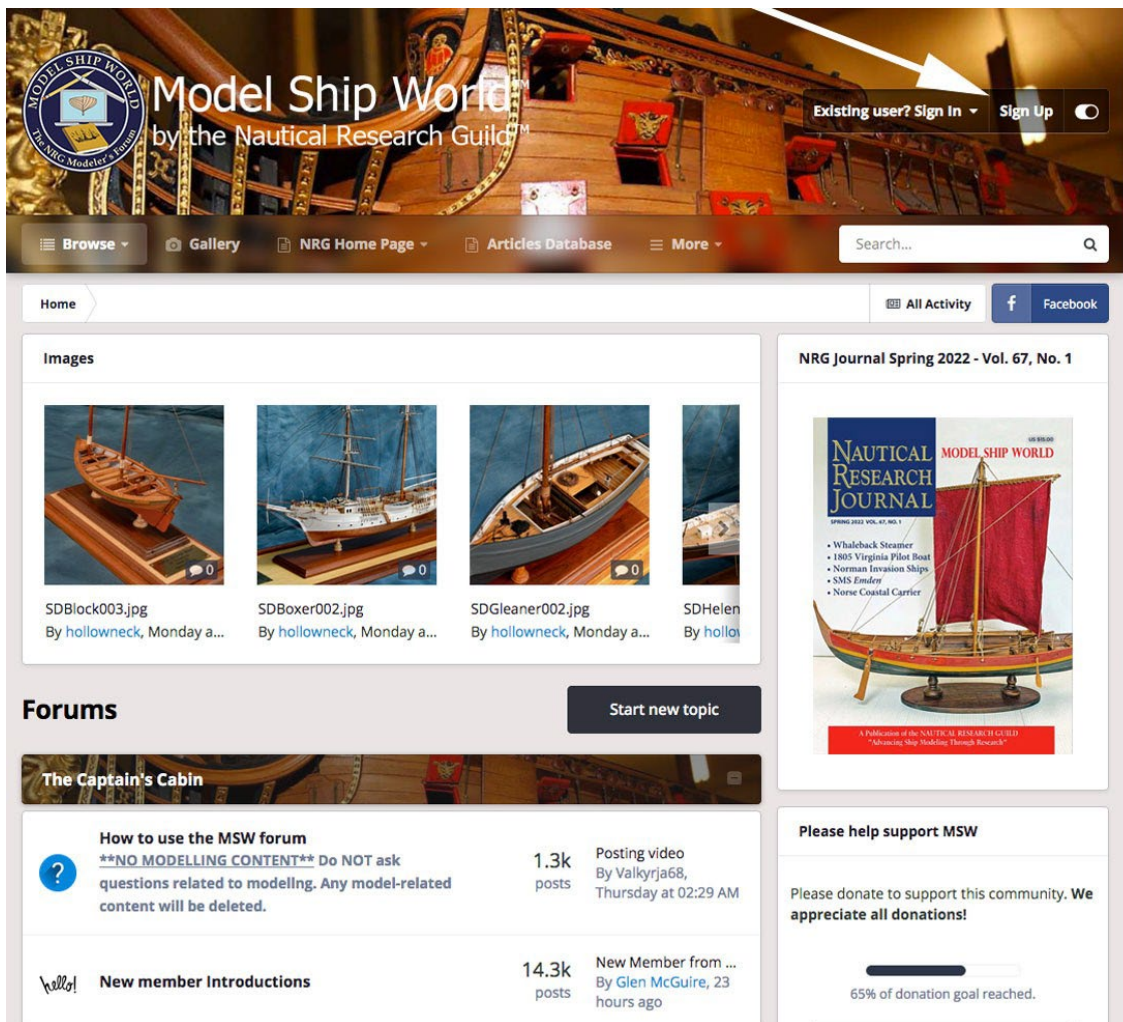
Here is a list of the main forum topics that you'll soon be able to navigate.

- Guidelines, The Rules
- The Galleries
- The Search Box & Tag Tips
- The Member's Build Logs
- Member Group Projects
- How To Use MSW & Member Introductions
- Shop Notes, Ship Modeling Tips & Techniques and Research
- Ship Modeling News & Reviews
- Nautical General Discussion; Shore Leave & Forum Stats
- Setting-up Your Profile Page: Your Profile Image & The Page Customizer

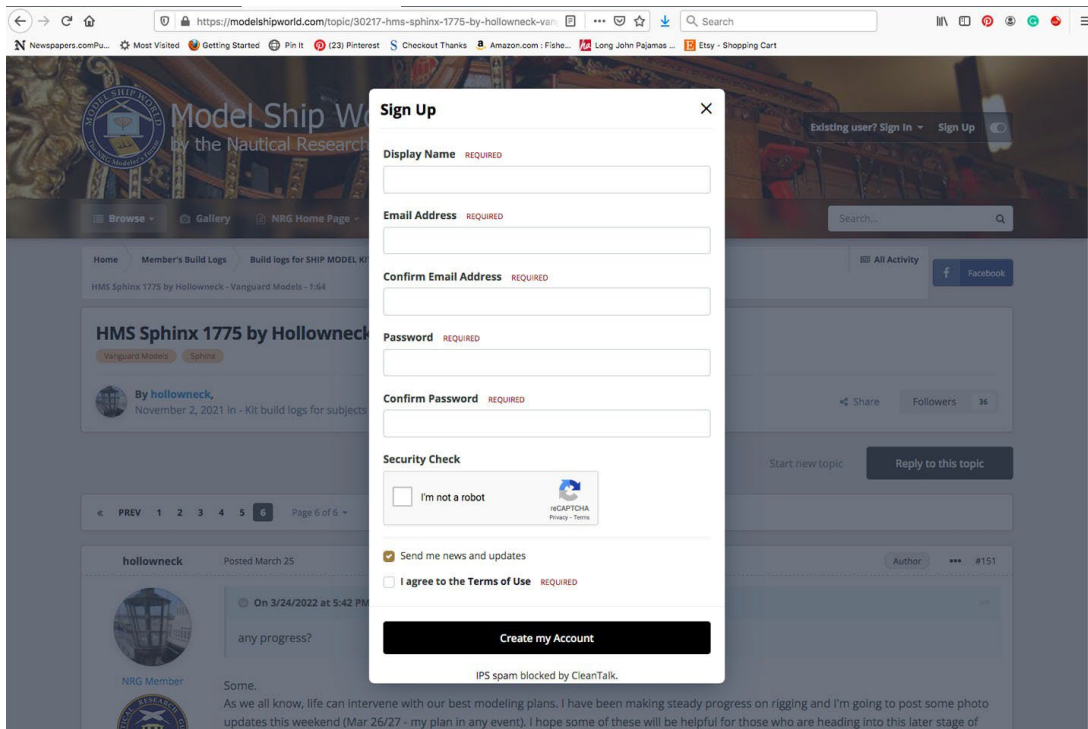
After reading the guide, download it to your computer and open it up, maybe even print it out. You will want to have it handy as you learn how to navigate the site.

When you're ready, go to your keyboard and enter the following URL, or simply click on the drop-down Forum link at the top of the NRG's Home Page:

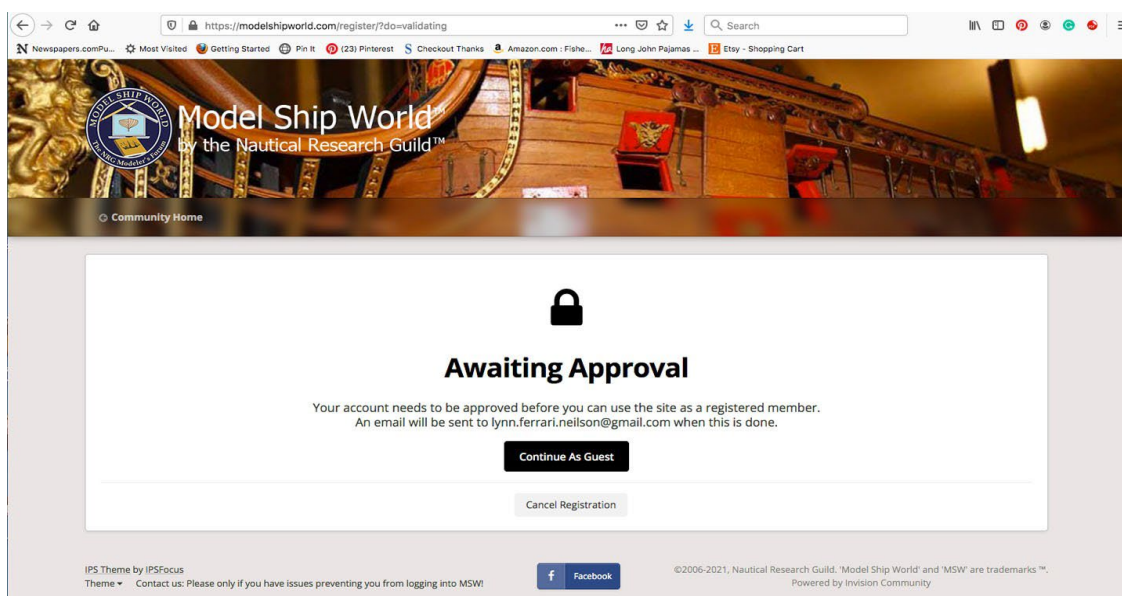
www.modelshipworld.com



This will take you to the MSW "Home Page." Move your cursor to the black box in the upper righthand corner and click the "Sign Up" button. This starts the registration process. You'll then see the following screen:

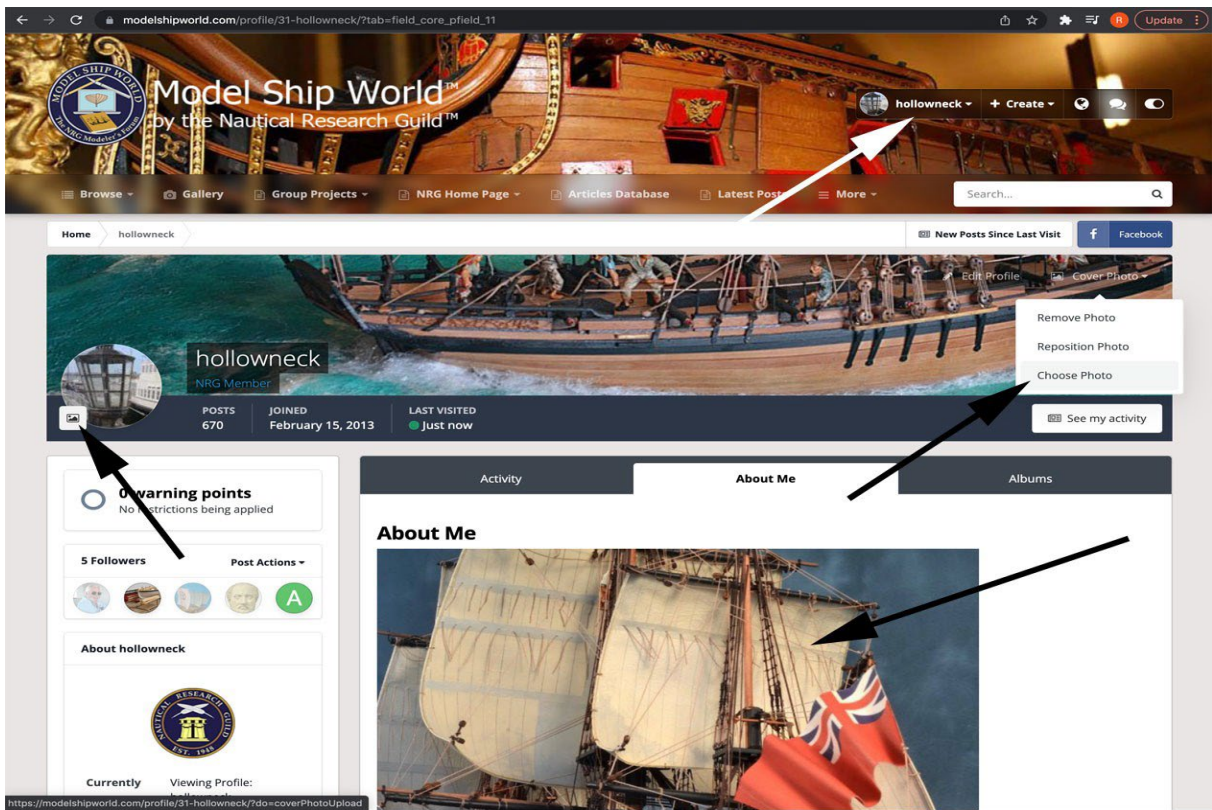


Fill in all the boxes, starting with a unique *Display Name* for yourself. Most members create a name other than their real one for privacy reasons. But if you want to use your real name, that's fine too. Next, type in your email address. Use the same address that is associated with your NRG membership. Like any other online activity, you will also need a password. Write down your Display Name and Password. **If you forget them, the office cannot retrieve them for you.** Submit your information and you will get a message that looks like this:



Approval of your membership approval will be sent to your email address within a day. Don't forget to check your junk email folder for the email from MSW. This email will also go over some background information about MSW.

Once your membership has been approved, you need to set up a user profile. Your screen name is located in the upper right corner of the Home Page (large white arrow). Left click on your screen name and a drop-down menu will appear., Clicking on the profile option will show you a screen where you can customize your profile look and enter optional information about yourself.



The black arrow on the right points to a drop-down box where you can select a photo to upload from your computer or delete one after you've inserted a photo. It will also allow you to re-position the placement of your uploaded photo to make it look better.

The black arrow on the left will open an entry box that asks you to upload a photo from your computer to represent you: in *computerese*, an "avatar."

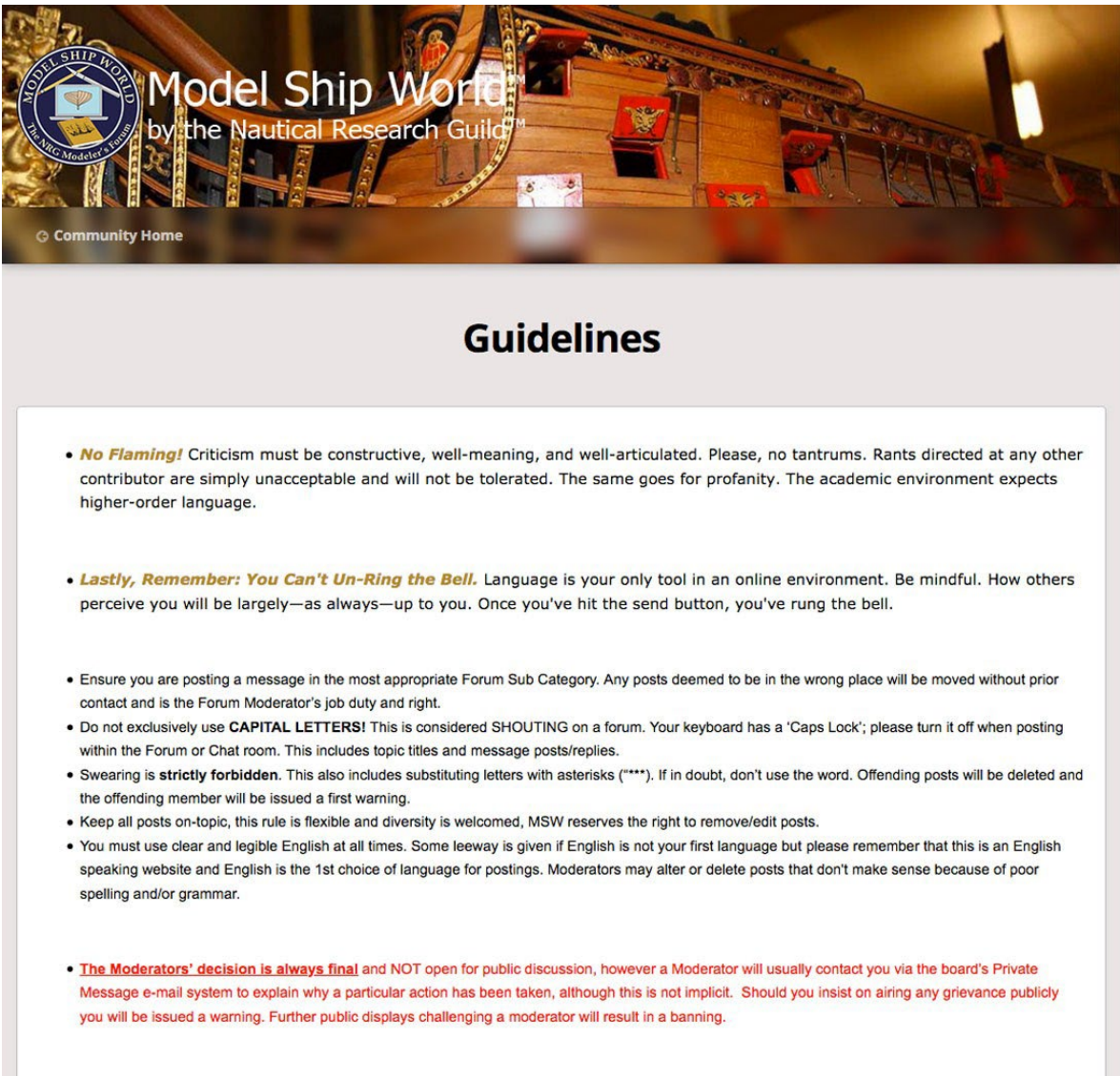
In the middle of this page, you will see “About Me” where you can enter another photo, or simply enter text about whatever you’d like to share about yourself. If you are a member of an MSW club, “About Me” will be replaced by “Clubs”.

Posts from MSW members who are also NRG members have the NRG logo under their name. If you do not see the logo, please contact the NRG office at info@thenauticalresearchguild.org with your username.

Look at the *Main Menu* that runs along the top of the Home Page, the horizontal area just below the MSW logo. Click on the *Browse* button.

The screenshot shows the Model Ship World website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Browse' button highlighted in a dropdown menu. Below the navigation bar, there is a main content area with a grid of model ship images. Each image has a caption and a 'By hollowneck, Monday a...' attribution. To the right of the main content area, there is a 'Forums' section with a 'Start new topic' button and a list of forum topics. The first topic is 'How to use the MSW forum' with 1.3k posts. The second topic is 'New member Introductions' with 14.3k posts. On the far right, there is a 'Please help support MSW' section with a progress bar showing 65% of the donation goal reached and a currency dropdown set to USD.

When the drop-down sub-menu appears, click *Guidelines*. You will now see this page:



Model Ship World
by the Nautical Research Guild™

Community Home

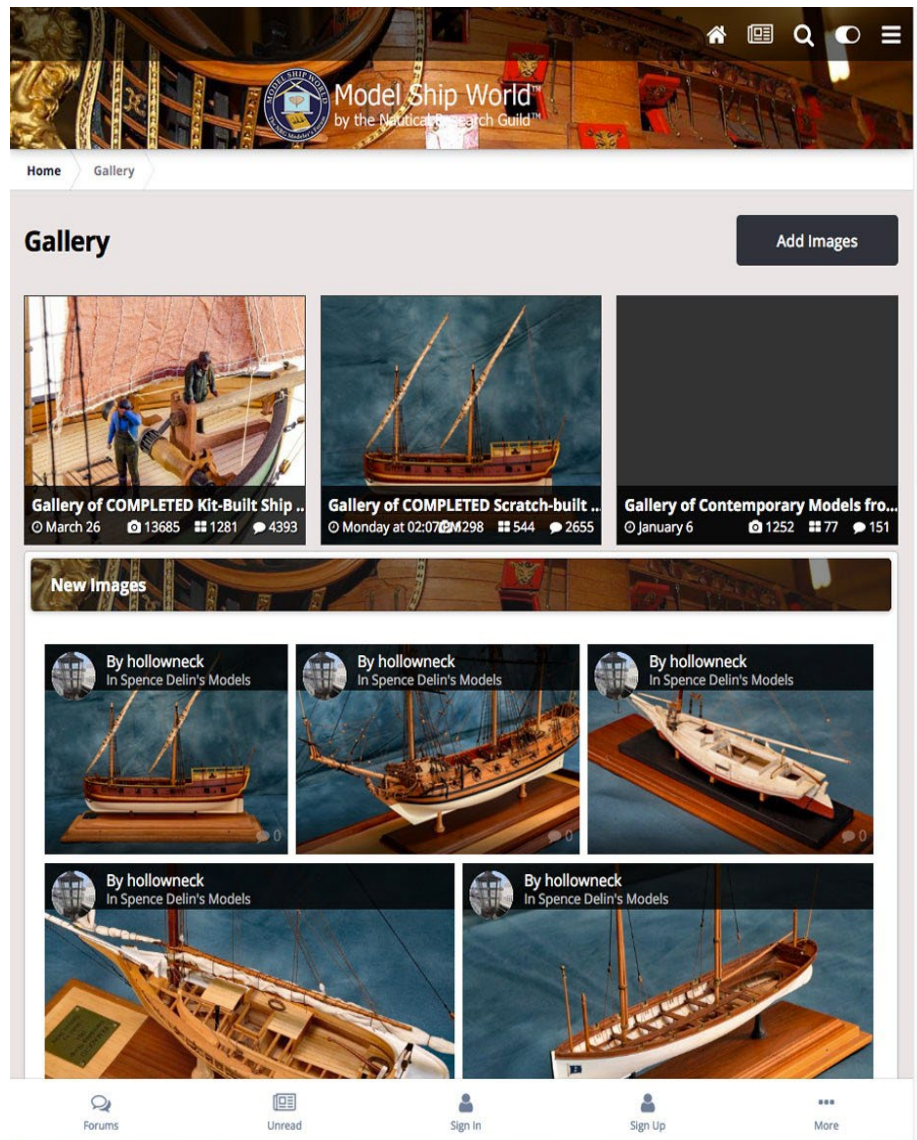
Guidelines

- **No Flaming!** Criticism must be constructive, well-meaning, and well-articulated. Please, no tantrums. Rants directed at any other contributor are simply unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The same goes for profanity. The academic environment expects higher-order language.
- **Lastly, Remember: You Can't Un-Ring the Bell.** Language is your only tool in an online environment. Be mindful. How others perceive you will be largely—as always—up to you. Once you've hit the send button, you've rung the bell.
- Ensure you are posting a message in the most appropriate Forum Sub Category. Any posts deemed to be in the wrong place will be moved without prior contact and is the Forum Moderator's job duty and right.
- Do not exclusively use **CAPITAL LETTERS!** This is considered SHOUTING on a forum. Your keyboard has a 'Caps Lock'; please turn it off when posting within the Forum or Chat room. This includes topic titles and message posts/replies.
- Swearing is **strictly forbidden**. This also includes substituting letters with asterisks ("****"). If in doubt, don't use the word. Offending posts will be deleted and the offending member will be issued a first warning.
- Keep all posts on-topic, this rule is flexible and diversity is welcomed, MSW reserves the right to remove/edit posts.
- You must use clear and legible English at all times. Some leeway is given if English is not your first language but please remember that this is an English speaking website and English is the 1st choice of language for postings. Moderators may alter or delete posts that don't make sense because of poor spelling and/or grammar.
- **The Moderators' decision is always final** and NOT open for public discussion, however a Moderator will usually contact you via the board's Private Message e-mail system to explain why a particular action has been taken, although this is not implicit. Should you insist on airing any grievance publicly you will be issued a warning. Further public displays challenging a moderator will result in a banning.

Read the Guidelines to familiarize yourself with all the Forum's rules, as well as the NRG policy regarding copyright and intellectual property rights. Adherence to the Guidelines is one reason MSW has become so popular. You can return to these guidelines anytime that's convenient.

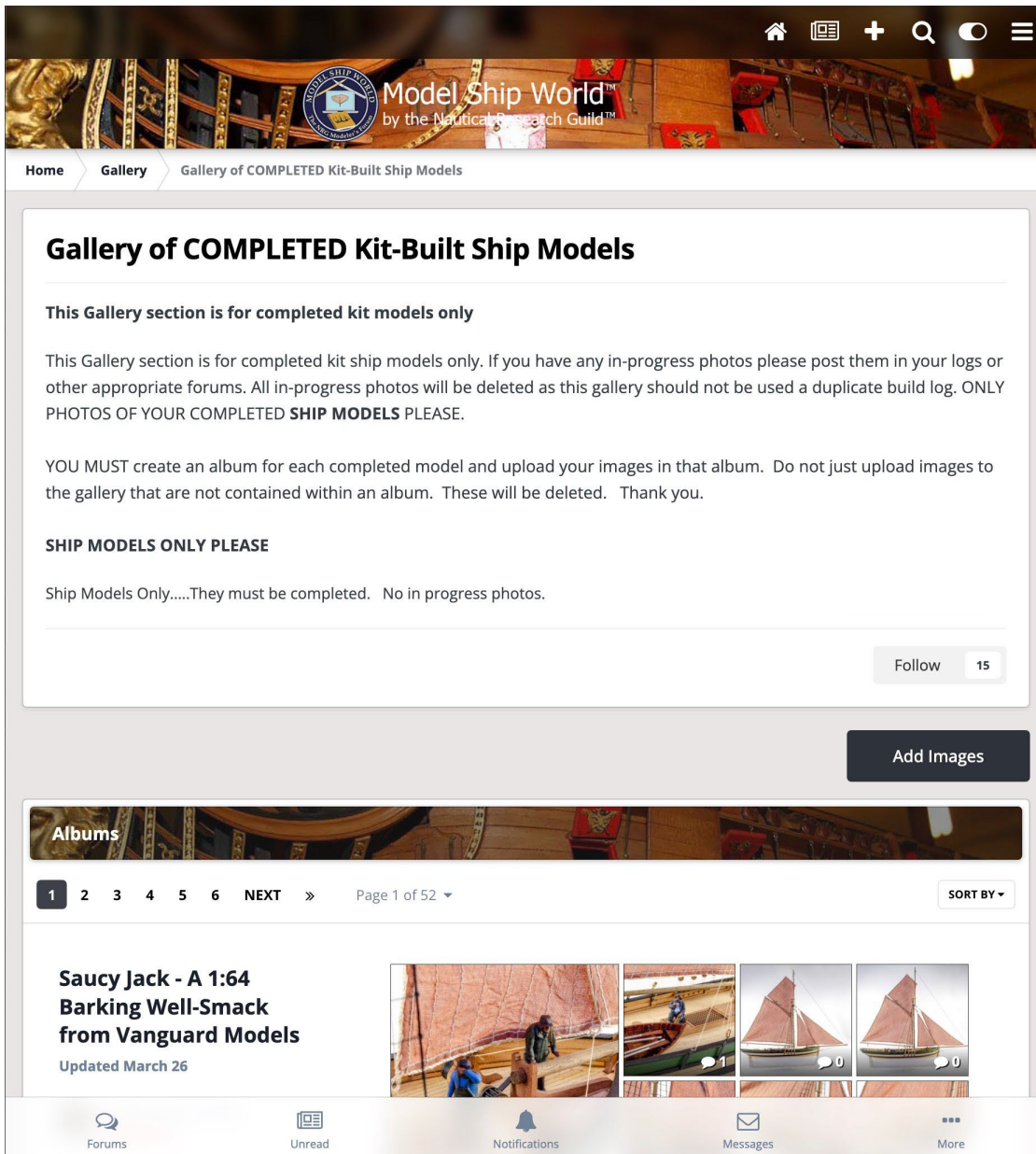
Clicking anywhere on the Model Ship World logo at the top of this page will return you to the Home Page.

Let's look at some of MSW's Content. Return to the Main Menu bar on the Home Page and click on *Gallery*, adjacent to the *Browse* button. You'll see a screen similar to the following one:



Galleries are photographic collections of completed models. There are three categories of galleries on MSW: *Kit-built models*, *Scratch-built models* and *Contemporary Models from Museums and Galleries*. By clicking on one of the top three images you will access all the images in that gallery.

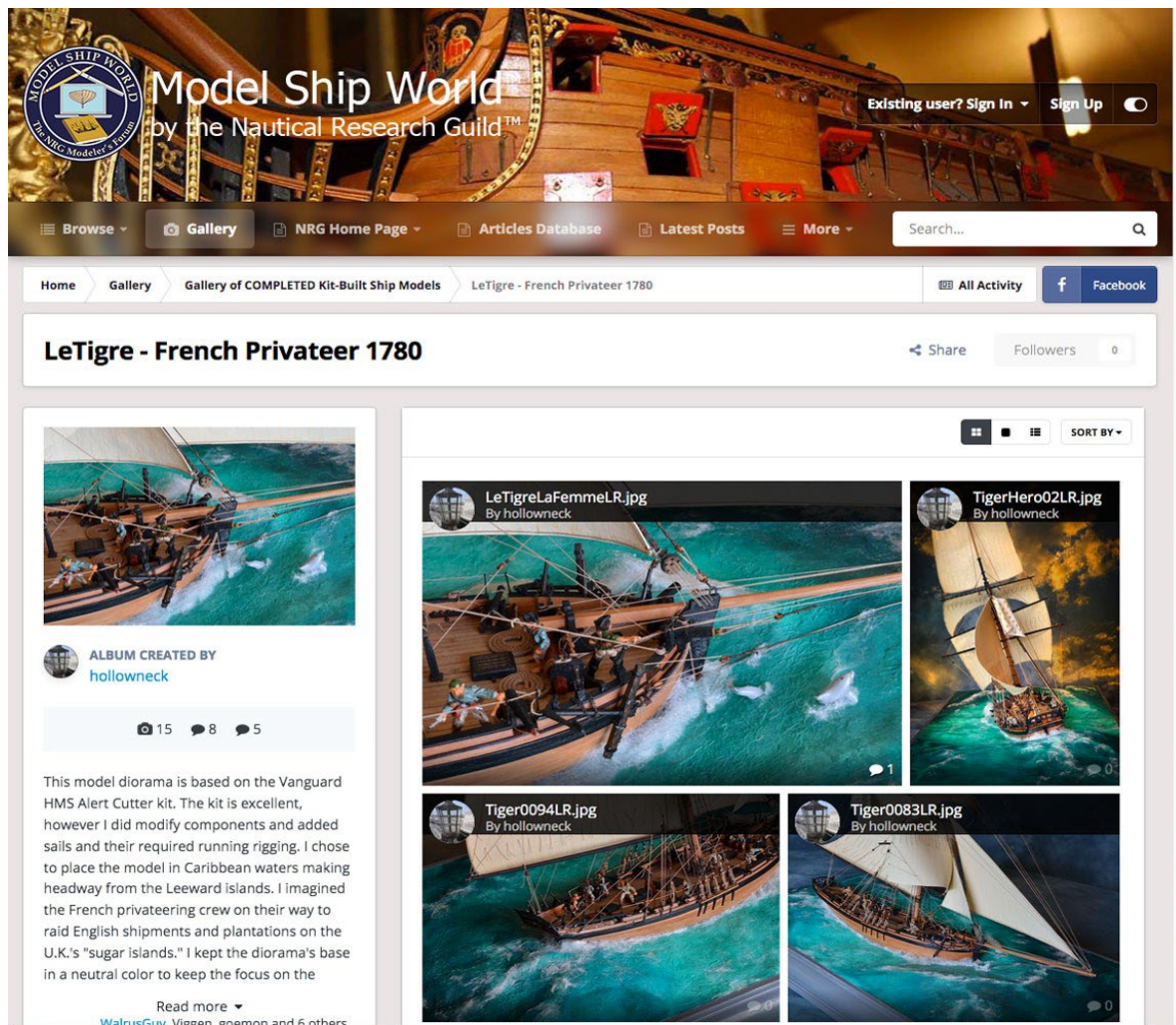
Let's check one out. Click on the first graphic, *Gallery of COMPLETED Kit-Built Ship Models*:



You will see a screen similar to this one. Please familiarize yourself with the gallery contents' description at the top of this page. Next, go down to the *Albums* bar. There are many pages, each page contains multiple albums with a variable number of model photos in each album. All these albums have been created by MSW members.

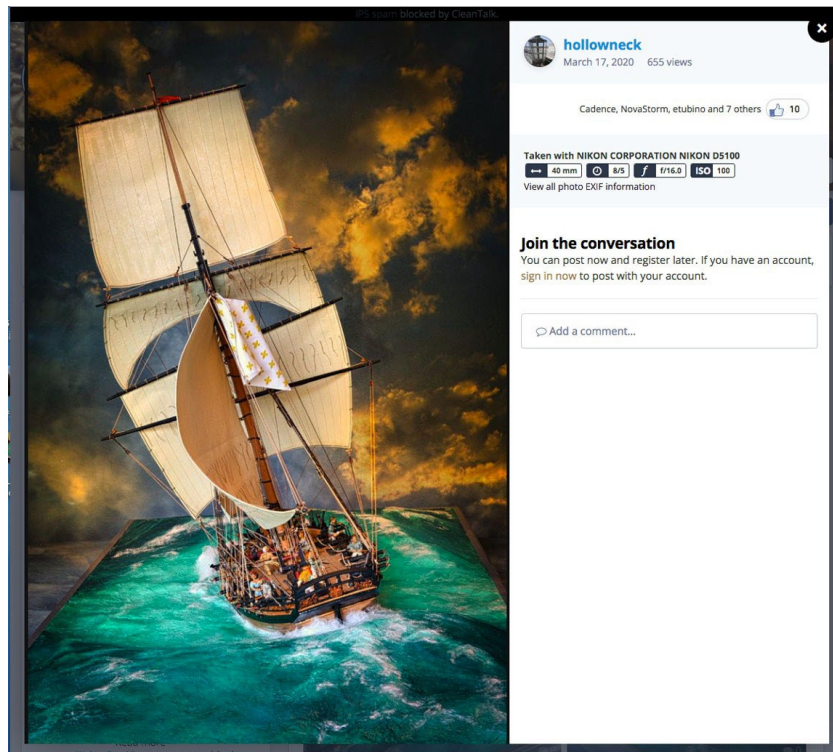
Each album shows the member's display name as well as an "Updated" date of their photo contribution. As a registered member, you will be able to create your own albums and upload photos of and post text describing your completed models.

There is no practical limit on the number of individual galleries a member can create. Scrolling through the listed pages, you can click on any album that attracts your interest and you will then see a page similar to the following:



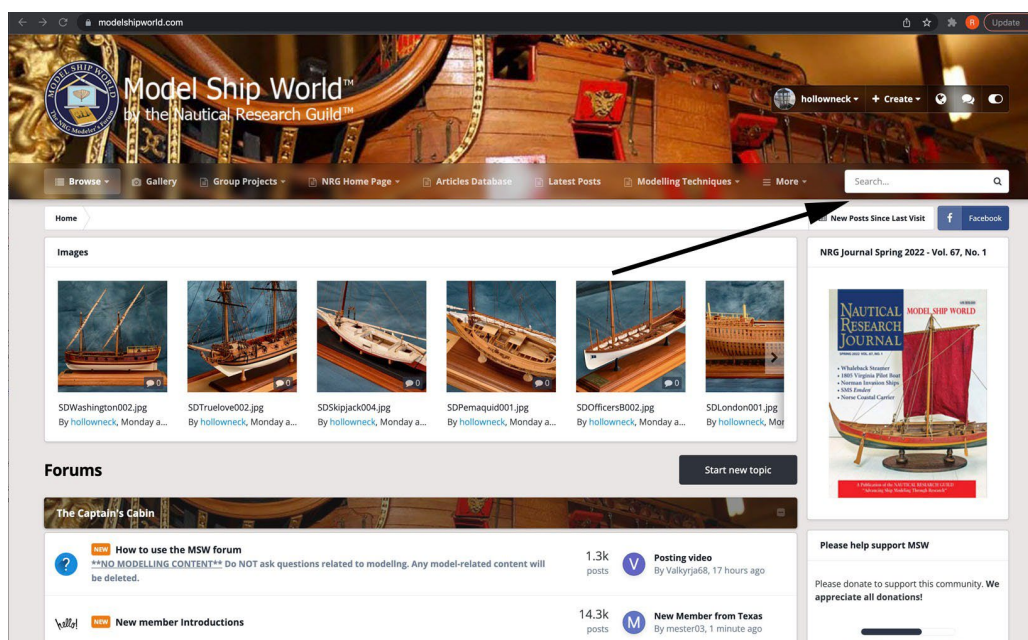
Most Gallery Photo Albums have a brief description of the model. There are viewing options (upper right corner). One of the best features of the forum is the ability to comment on the posts and photos of other members. You can add your comments here in the gallery as well as in other places in the forum, like model Build Logs.

Once you've clicked on a specific gallery album like this one, you can now get a closer look at an album's photos by clicking on any of the displayed images. You will then see an enlarged photo similar to this:



After closing the photo image (“X” in the upper right corner), you can leave a specific gallery by clicking on any number of active links on the gallery’s main page or any other main menu item.

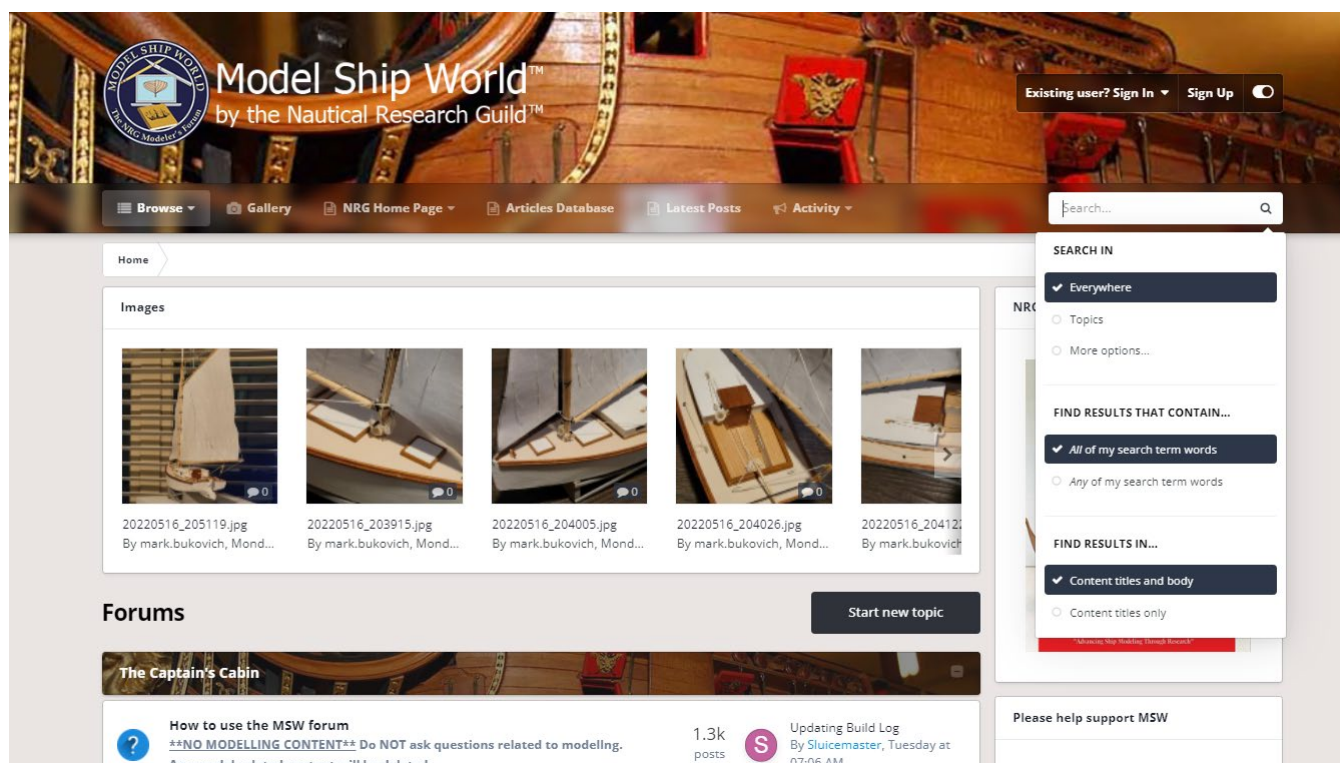
It’s now a good time to take a brief look at the “*Search box*” in the upper right corner of the Home Page (black arrow).



This Search feature is a powerful way to find content on the site. For example, if you know the name of a specific ship model, you can enter its name here and see the results returned on a new page. Be prepared though; if it's a popular model or subject, you'll likely see a page with perhaps hundreds – or even thousands of results!

Here's an example of a **key word search**: type "*HMS Victory*" in this box and it will return hundreds of pages, with dozens of entries per page. That's a lot of material to peruse. Search results will yield any mention of the search term within the entire forum, regardless the topic's title.

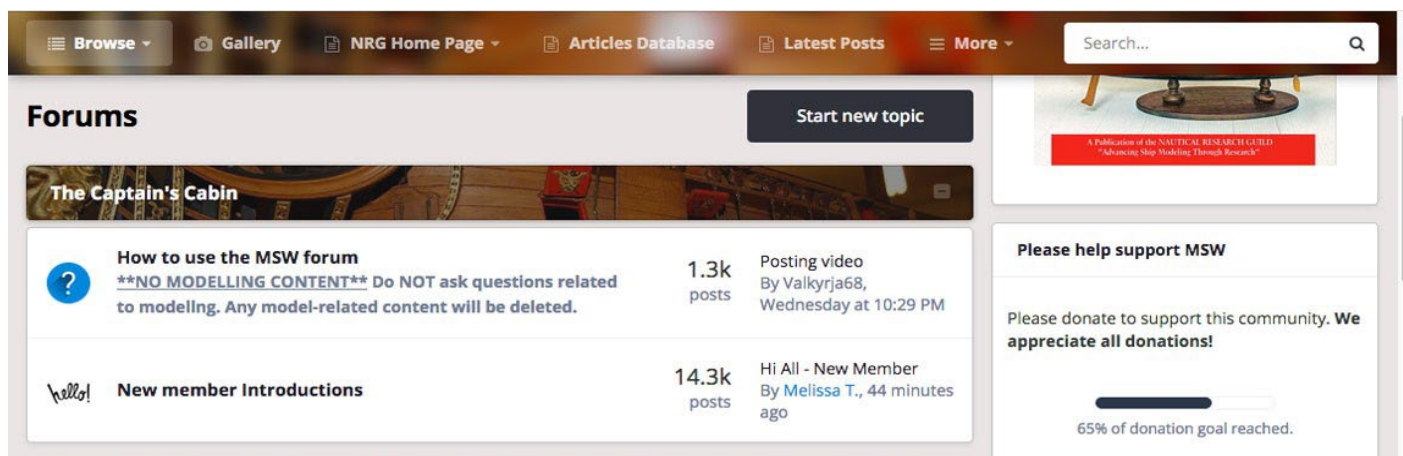
In order to make the Search produce a more manageable number of results, conditional options were added, allowing the results to be filtered. If you left-click in the Search box, you see the following drop-down menu.



Using the “*HMS Victory*” example, checking the “Topics” and “Content titles and body” boxes returns only 19 pages of results.

Getting the most out of any site’s search function is a process that is more manageable by knowing how “Tags” work. Unlike Key Words, Tags are added to the title of the topic by the author to make it easier for other users searching for a specific topic or "Tag". Tags and other tips about searching will be discussed under Advanced Topics.

Return to the home page and click on the forum *The Captain’s Cabin*. This brings up the sub-forums *How To Use the MSW forum* and *New Member Introductions*.



The *How To Use* category dramatically expands upon this simplified guide; many pages of detailed information have been posted here by the site’s moderators and members. If you have questions about using the forum, the answers are most likely right here.

New Member Introductions is straightforward. When your membership has been approved, post a “hello” here by clicking the Start new topic button on the top of the page. It won’t take very long until other member’s welcome you with their greetings.

On the upper right hand of the Home Page (where you clicked to sign up) you will now see your username and several icons.

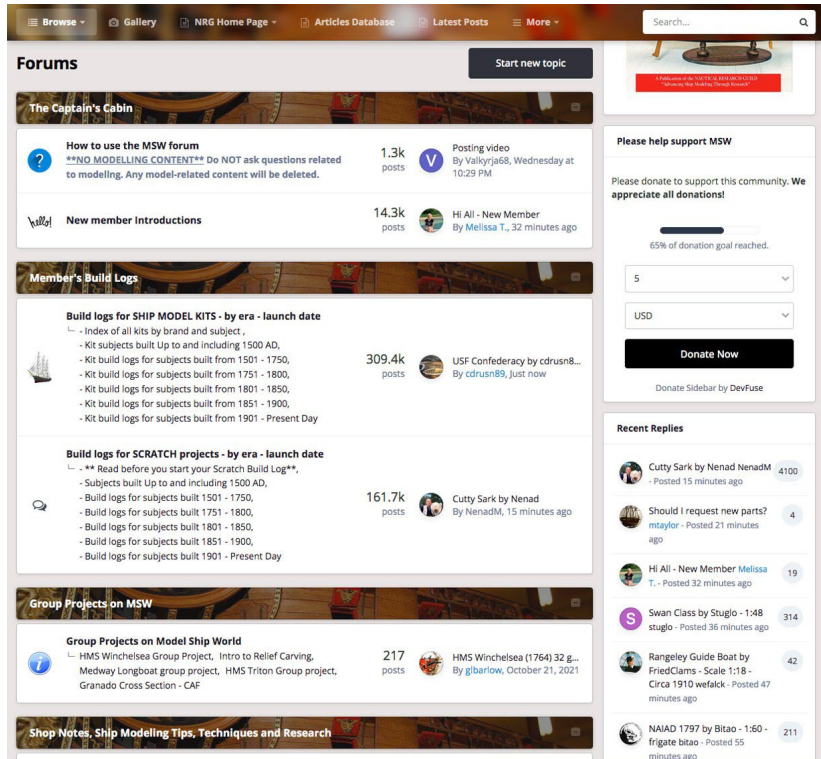


When your posts are responded to by other members you will get a notification red balloon that pops up above the small icon of the world indicating the number of responses. When you click on the icon, you will see a drop-down list of who responded to you.

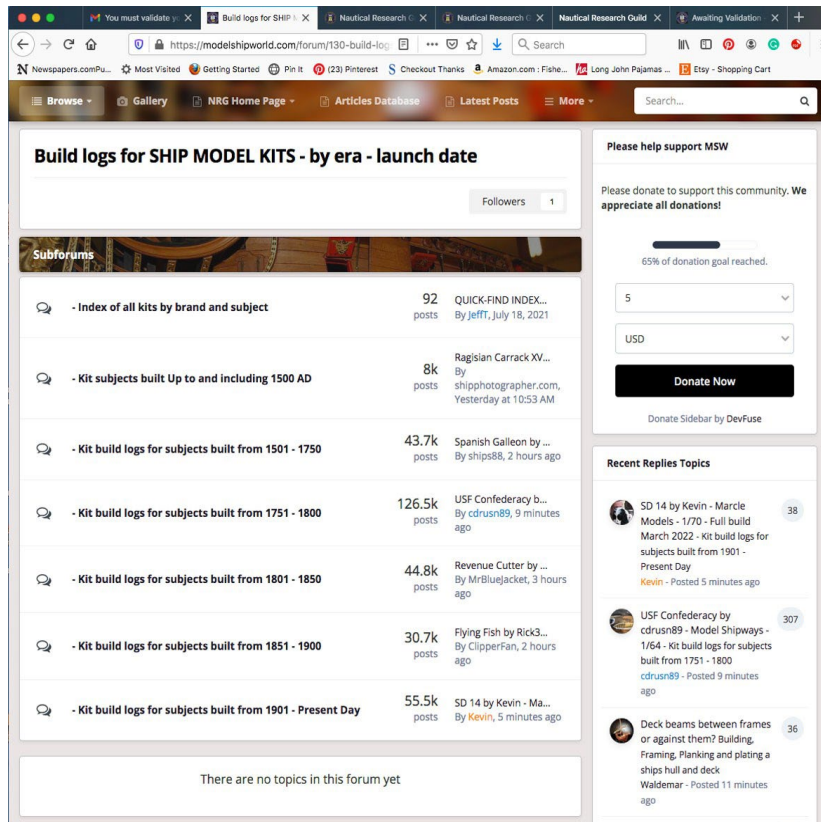
There is another messaging feature called “PM” or “private message.” This feature, simply labeled *Messages* is accessed by clicking on the adjacent overlapping *talk symbols* icon next to the *Notifications* icon.

Should you want to privately engage with another member of the forum, you do it here. The feature will retain all your messages in a common string, by date of entry and is a very convenient way to communicate with another member privately. The same Guidelines apply to PM’s as in the rest of MSW. Just because the conversation is private does not give anyone the right to engage in unreasonable criticism, throw a tantrum or use profanity.

Member’s Build Logs detail the day-to-day construction of ship models. They contain text and accompanying photos. Members can post comments and ask questions of the model builder. There are two broad, self-explanatory categories, each organized by era, *SHIP MODEL KITS* and *SCRATCH Projects*.



Let's look at the *KITS* category by clicking on it:



The build logs are organized by era. There is also a handy category search (at the top of the list), where you can search this database by manufacturer or subject (e.g. “Mayflower”).

Looking down the list, you’ll note that the largest category is ...*subjects built from 1571 to 1800*. By clicking on an era category, you’ll get a new screen that reveals hundreds of member build logs. Open one of these logs and spend some time reading the text and looking at the photos in the member’s “thread.” Some are only a few pages long, while there are many build logs with dozens of pages. Many are active in-progress build logs; some are completed. The completed ones will have “COMPLETED” in the title. Often, when a member completes his or her model, photos will get posted in the Gallery.

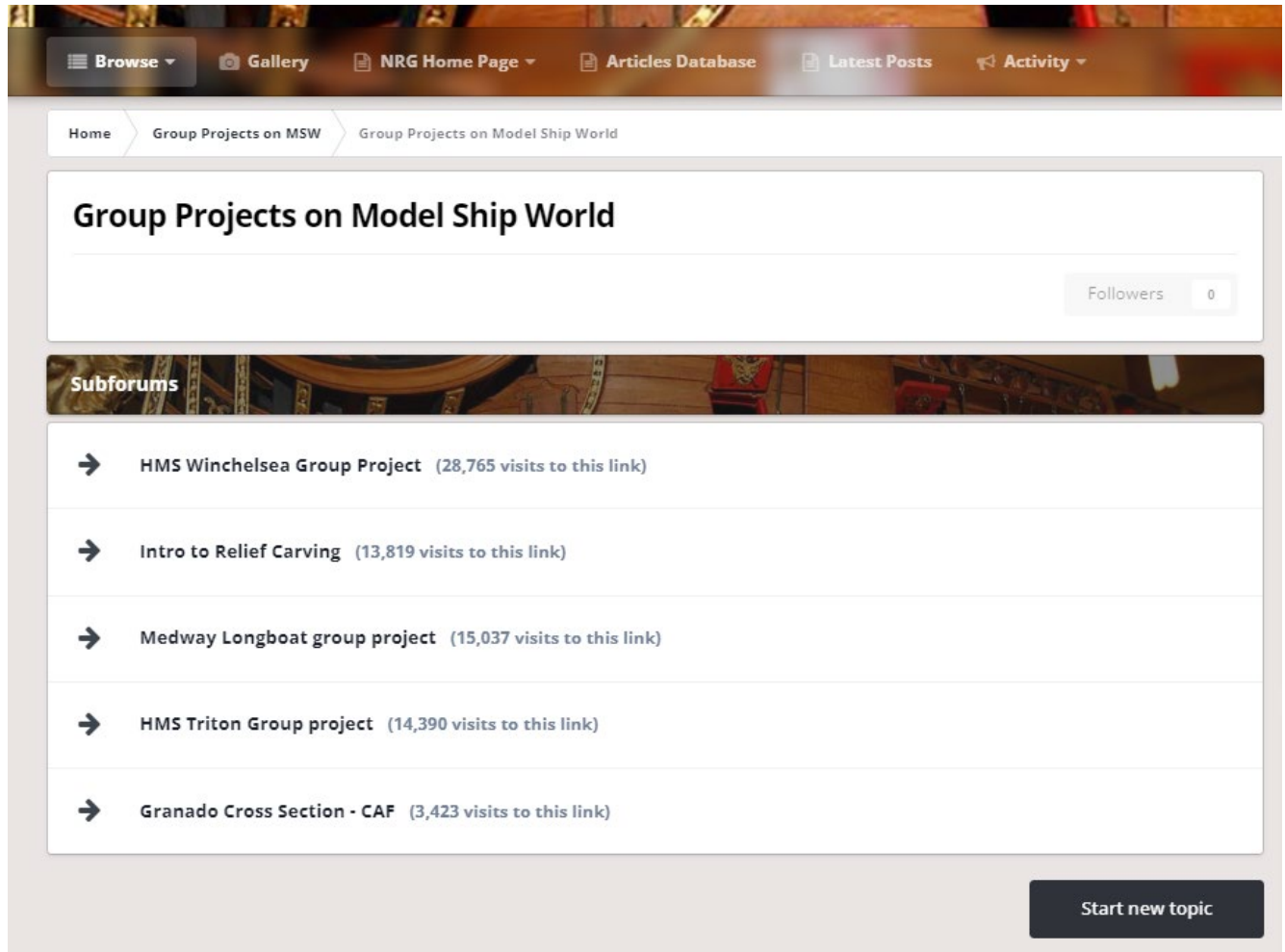
Build logs for SCRATCH projects are organized in the same way.

The screenshot shows a forum interface with the following elements:

- Navigation Bar:** Includes 'Browse', 'Gallery', 'NRG Home Page', 'Articles Database', 'Latest Posts', 'More', and a search bar.
- Main Title:** 'Build logs for SCRATCH projects - by era - launch date'.
- Subforums List:**

Topic	Posts	Author / Info
- ** Read before you start your Scratch Build Log**	90 posts	BEFORE YOU POST ... By ccoyle, August 18, 2021
- Subjects built Up to and including 1500 AD	8.3k posts	Trirème "Olympias"... By Richard Braithwaite, March 18
- Build logs for subjects built 1501 - 1750	21.6k posts	Saint Philippe 1693... By CRI-CRI, 6 hours ago
- Build logs for subjects built 1751 - 1800	45.5k posts	Swan Class by Stugl... By stuglo, 46 minutes ago
- Build logs for subjects built 1801 - 1850	15.1k posts	USS Independence ... By Keith Black, 2 hours ago
- Build logs for subjects built 1851 - 1900	34.4k posts	Cutty Sark by Nenad By NenadM, 25 minutes ago
- Build logs for subjects built 1901 - Present Day	36.9k posts	Rangeley Guide Bo... By wefalck, 57 minutes ago
- Right Sidebar:**
 - Donation Section:** 'Please help support MSW', 'Please donate to support this community. We appreciate all donations!', progress bar at 65%, dropdown for amount (5), dropdown for currency (USD), 'Donate Now' button.
 - Recent Replies Topics:** List of recent replies with topic titles and reply counts (e.g., 'SD 14 by Kevin - Marcle Models - 1/70 - Full build March 2022 - Kit build logs for subjects built from 1901 - Present Day' with 38 replies).

The forum also has a number of Group Projects on MSW where members can join, follow and post builds of the particular project. There are currently five project categories.



The screenshot shows the forum interface for 'Group Projects on Model Ship World'. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Browse', 'Gallery', 'NRG Home Page', 'Articles Database', 'Latest Posts', and 'Activity'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail shows 'Home > Group Projects on MSW > Group Projects on Model Ship World'. The main heading is 'Group Projects on Model Ship World' with a 'Followers 0' indicator. A 'Subforums' section lists five projects with their respective visit counts:

- HMS Winchelsea Group Project (28,765 visits to this link)
- Intro to Relief Carving (13,819 visits to this link)
- Medway Longboat group project (15,037 visits to this link)
- HMS Triton Group project (14,390 visits to this link)
- Granado Cross Section - CAF (3,423 visits to this link)

A 'Start new topic' button is located at the bottom right of the page.

Clicking on the subforum will take you an introduction to the project, as well as a listing of all the build logs. This is the introduction to the HMS Winchelsea group project.

HMS Winchelsea 1764
Public Club

Member Build logs for the HMS Winchelsea General project discussions on planking, fittings and monograph chapters

How to join this group project??? Overview Community Map

Member Build logs for the HMS Winchelsea

😊😊😊😊😊 This Group is now open!!!! 😊😊😊😊😊

Start you build logs for this project here. This forum area should not have any topics in it other than the properly named "Winchelsea" build logs. Should you want to ask a question or post something, make sure it is posted in either a build log or one of the general discussion topics on that particular subject. If for whatever reason you guys feel there is a need for a new tutorial topic because your discussion doesnt relate to the ones already there....just let me know and I will start another one for you. You know the drill....this basically works like all of the other group project areas.

Followers 26

Continuing the exploration of MSW, return to the menu bar and click on *Modeling Techniques*. You will be taken to the following screen. This section is devoted to planking and rope making.

Browse Gallery Group Projects NRG Home Page Articles Database Latest Posts Modelling Techniques Community Map Activity

Home Clubs

Club Directory

Our Featured Clubs

Planking Techniques
Public Club · Last active 18 hours ago

A collection of information on the topic of planking a ship model. Tutorials, articles and discussions.

All Clubs

Rope Making/Ropewalks
Public Club · Last active 18 hours ago

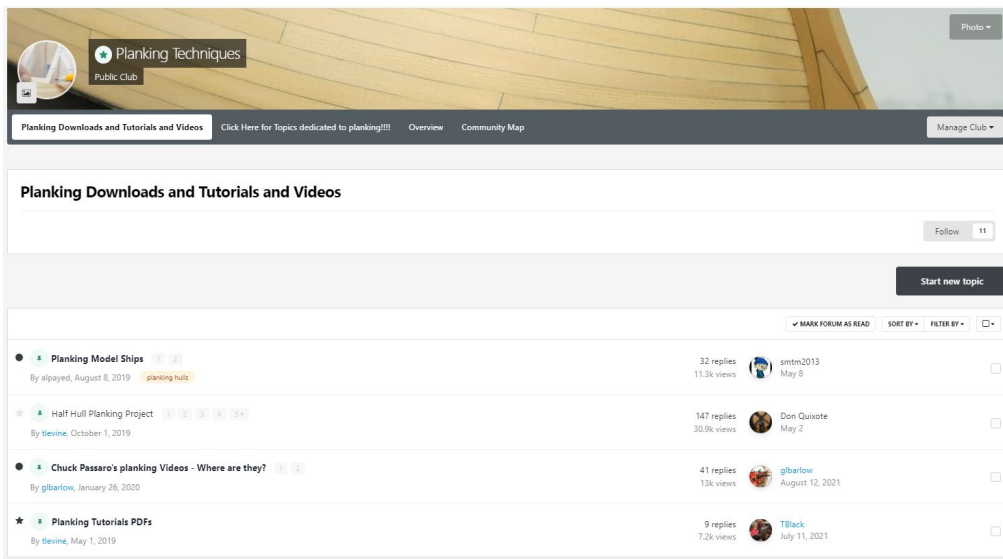
We have gathered up all of the topics, downloads and info we can find on Rope making and making a ropewalk. All of this content was...

Planking Techniques
Public Club · Last active 18 hours ago

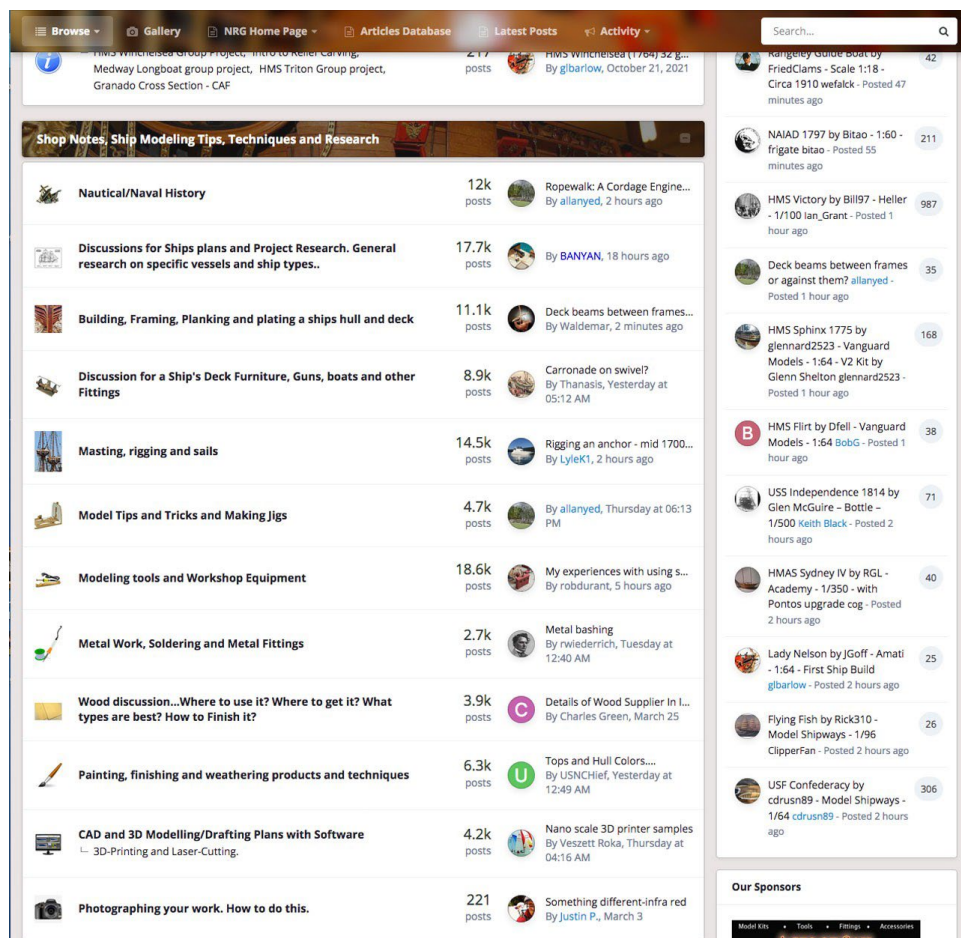
A collection of information on the topic of planking a ship model. Tutorials, articles and discussions.

SORT BY FILTER

Take a closer look at Planking Techniques by clicking on it. There is a wealth of information on the techniques of planking, including the NRG Half Hull Planking Project.

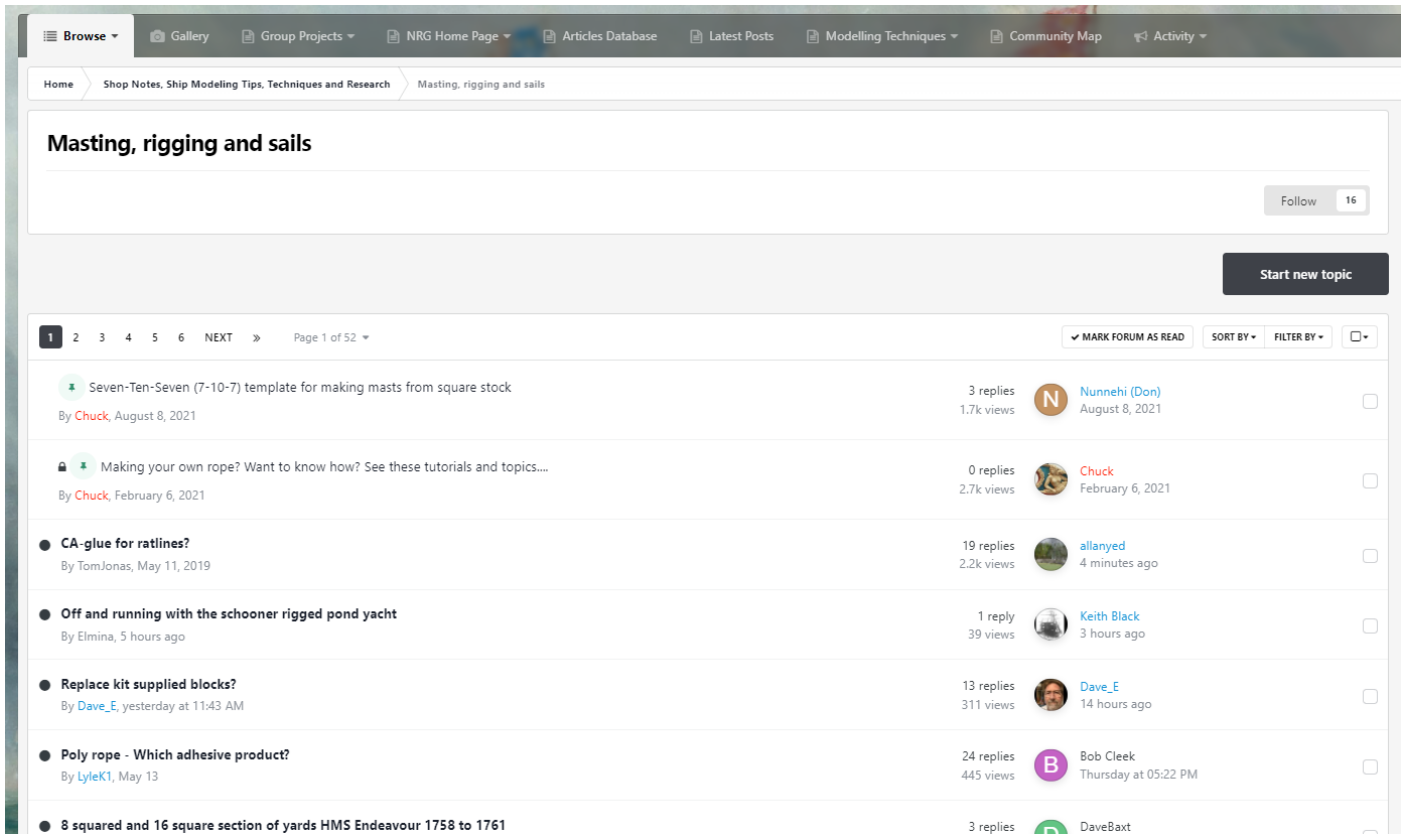


Let's examine another Forum: *Shop Notes, Ship Modeling Tips, Techniques and Research*.



There are a dozen topics here with a running tally of posts including the most recent contribution in that topic by the member who posted it. You can see that there are literally thousands of contributions on nearly every topic.

When you click on one of these topics, like *Masting, rigging and sails*, you'll see this screen:



This section has over 50 pages of sub-topics. Each of these has a smaller, manageable number of contributions, identified chronologically, by member and the total number of posts in the topic.

Let's look at just a couple more important features. Scroll down to the next section, *Ship Modeling News And Reviews. Traders and Dealers...Ship Model Clubs...*

You should see this following screen:

The screenshot displays a forum interface with a top navigation bar containing links for 'Browse', 'Gallery', 'NRG Home Page', 'Articles Database', 'Latest Posts', and 'Activity'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a header for 'Ship Modeling News And Reviews.....Traders and Dealers...Ship Model Clubs' and a list of forum threads. The threads include:

- General Ship Model Kit Discussions - NOT build logs**: 13.5k posts, by Imagna, 11 hours ago. Sub-topics: Wood ship model kits, Plastic model kits, Card and Paper Models, RC Kits & Scratch building.
- Reviews**: 898 posts, by Keith Black, 7 hours ago. Sub-topics: REVIEWS: Model kits, REVIEWS: Model Shipwrighting Tools, Parts and fittings.
- Book, Monograph and Magazine reviews and Downloads. Questions and Discussions for Books and Pubs**: 3.7k posts, by AnobiumPunctatum, 12 hours ago. Topic: SeaWatch Books is Open!
- Traders, Dealers, Buying or Selling anything? - Discuss New Products and Ship Model Goodies here as well!!**: 8.4k posts, by Chris Watton, 22 hours ago. Note: YOU MUST BE A MEMBER WITH 25 POSTS IN ORDER TO START A TOPIC OR POST IN THIS FORUM. If you are a commercial dealer or supplier of any hobby related products, and want to announce a new product or promotion, contact the admin for info about becoming a sponsor of the site. No commercial advertising is allowed without the permission from MSW site administrators.
- NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD - News & Information**: 625 posts, by kurtvd19, Sunday at 11:34 PM.
- Important Ship Model Club News, Links to ship modelling resources and museums**: 2.1k posts, by Jim Lad, March 22.

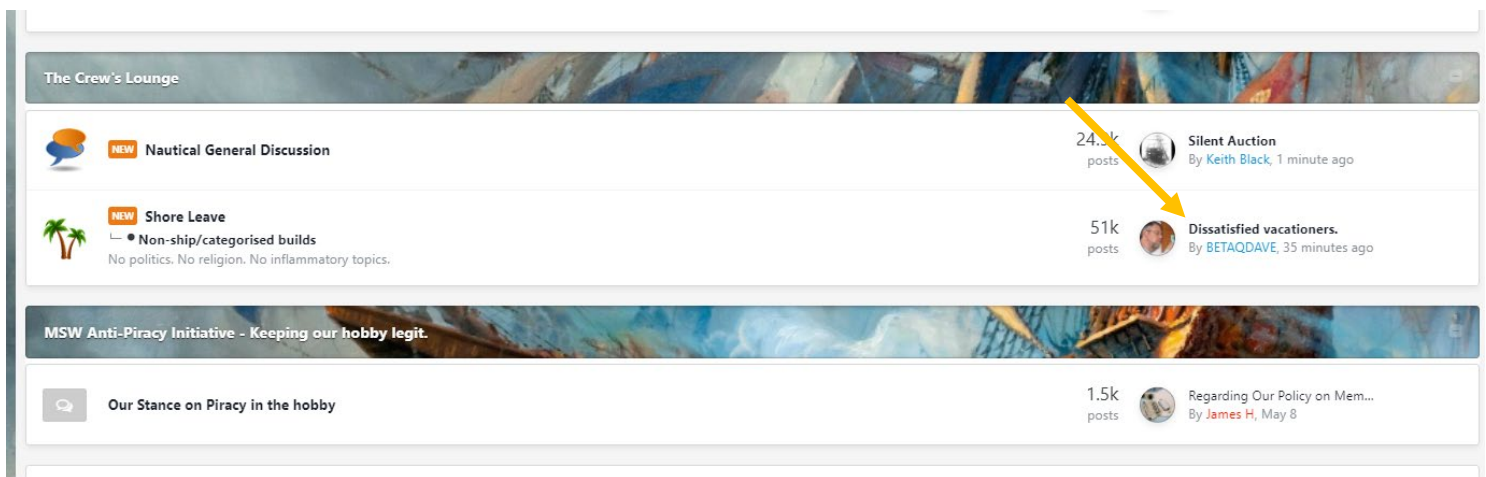
The right sidebar contains several advertisements:

- www.agesofsail.com 510-889-6000
- AMATI
- Artisanal Latins
- BLUEJACKET SHIP CRAFTERS
- Byrnes Model Machines
- www.byrnesmodelmachines.com TEL: 407 657 4663
- PRECISION ENGINEERED MACHINES FOR THE MODELER
- CAF cafmodel.com
- CRAFTY SAILOR Finest ship kits & fittings
- Ship modeling tools Model makers tools
- DOMANOFF WORKSHOP
- Jusek HIGH QUALITY 1:100-1:1000000000

The topics in this section are self-explanatory. One might call this the *General Information Big Meeting Room* – another vital part of the forum where members can:

- find out the latest news in their hobby
- buy or sell with other members
- read reviews of kits or tools
- read about and view books/magazines
- engage in general discussion of all things kit, including wood, plastic and card
- get news and information from the NRG
- get ship model club news and links to ship modeling resources and museums

After the *News and Reviews* section is the *The Crew's Lounge*.



The screenshot displays the 'The Crew's Lounge' forum section. It features a header banner with a nautical theme. Below the banner, there are several forum threads. The first thread is 'Nautical General Discussion' with a 'NEW' tag and 24.3k posts. The second thread is 'Shore Leave' with a 'NEW' tag, a sub-thread 'Non-ship/categorised builds', and a note 'No politics. No religion. No inflammatory topics.' with 51k posts. The third thread is 'MSW Anti-Piracy Initiative - Keeping our hobby legit.' with a sub-thread 'Our Stance on Piracy in the hobby' and 1.5k posts. A yellow arrow points from the 'Nautical General Discussion' thread to the 'Dissatisfied vacationers.' thread.

Thread Title	Post Count	Author	Time
Nautical General Discussion	24.3k posts	Keith Black	1 minute ago
Shore Leave ↳ Non-ship/categorised builds No politics. No religion. No inflammatory topics.	51k posts	BETAQDAVE	35 minutes ago
MSW Anti-Piracy Initiative - Keeping our hobby legit. ↳ Our Stance on Piracy in the hobby	1.5k posts	James H	May 8

In this forum there are two sub-forums, *Nautical General Discussion* and *Shore Leave*. This is the place to talk about anything nautical that does not fit in the other sub-forums, post non-ship build logs and just “hang out”. There are hundreds of interesting threads to examine.

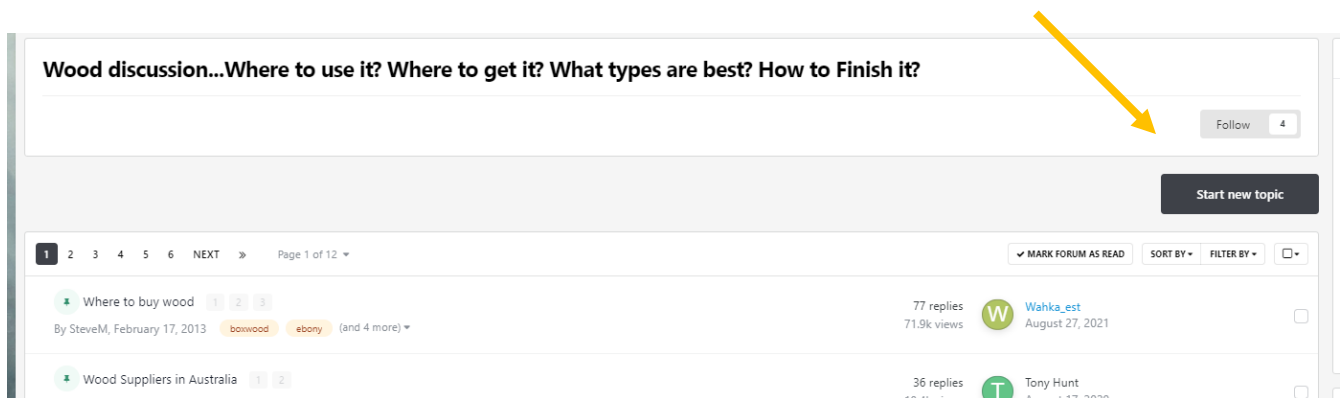
Although located at the bottom of the home page, the *MSW Anti-Piracy Initiative* details the NRG and MSW policy of anti-piracy. In this section is also a contemporary list of **Banned Kit Manufacturers** as well as discussion threads about this policy from moderators and members.

Just below the forum area you’ll see real-time Forum & Member statistics. On the right side of the page are the banner ads of forum sponsors. These are *active links* that will take you directly to their web sites.

Advanced Features

How to Start a New “Thread” or “Build Log”. You want to do more than read other member’s threads or build logs; you want to start your own. This section will show you how to do just that.

Here’s an example: You would like to ask about the bending characteristics beech wood. First, do a quick search to see if the question has already been answered. If it has not, go to the sub-forum that is most appropriate for the question, in this case Wood discussion... Click on the Start a New Topic Button (yellow arrow).



You will be taken to this screen. Fill in the Title, add Tags (optional), and add your question. Click on Submit Topic (yellow arrow). Done!

Create New Topic

Content | Poll

Title REQUIRED
Beech bending

Tags
Type tags separated by commas.

REQUIRED

Does beech bend easily?

Drag files here to attach, or [choose files...](#) Other Media ▾

Follow topic

Submit Topic

When you start a Build Log, you will be adding photos of your work. Looking at the screen shot above, you will see a red arrow. Clicking on choose files takes you to File Explorer (Windows) or Finder (Mac) on your computer. Select the photo(s) you want to upload.

After they show up in your post, click on the word “insert”, located in the lower right corner of the photo (red arrow below).

Create New Topic

Content Poll

Title REQUIRED
Beech bending


Tags
Type tags separated by commas.

REQUIRED

Does beech bend easily?

Drag files here to attach, or [choose files...](#) Other Media ▾

UPLOADED IMAGES




100-2041-1105310
811 kb · Done

A red arrow points from the thumbnail to the main image area above.


It will then be added to your post.

Does beech bend easily?

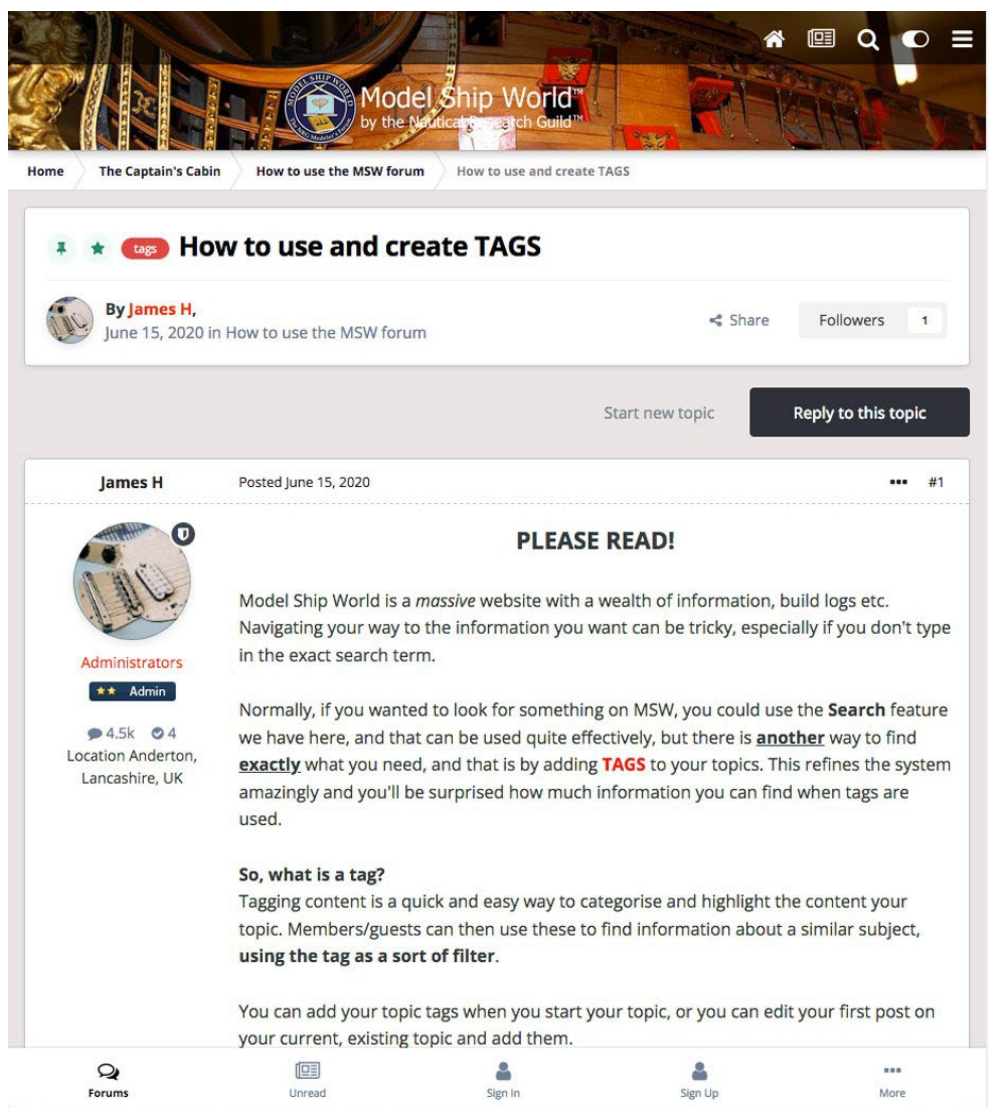


Drag files here to attach, or [choose files...](#) Other Media ▾

UPLOADED IMAGES



Improve Your Search Results With “Tags.” Think of tags as the bullet points of a topic. They are added by the topic author and used as a search filter. This page, written by one of MSW’s Administrators, provides straightforward information on how to create and use tags. <https://modelshipworld.com/topic/24640-how-to-use-and-create-tags/#comment-724574>



FINALLY, remember that MSW is a public forum and with the exception of the Private Messaging feature, everything you say and do is in the public arena for anyone to see and read.