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model-boats.com/50060

Model Boats Website!

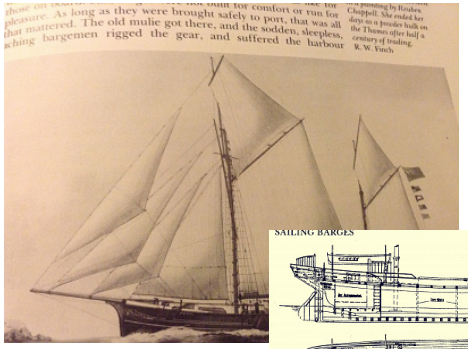
Ketch Barge "Pearl of Ipswich"

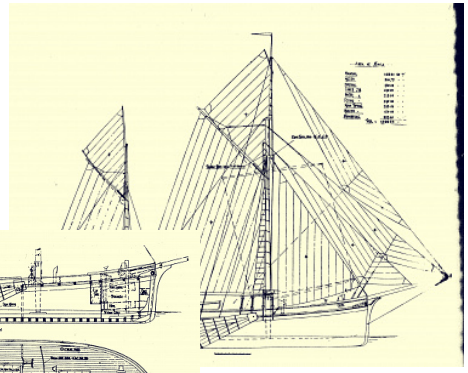
by Joe727

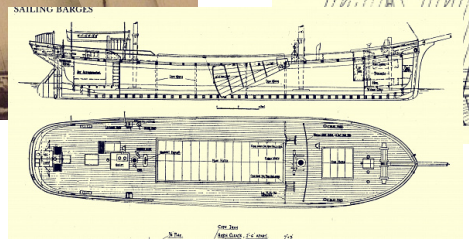
31st Jan 2019

Ketch Barge "Pearl of Ipswich"

Hello, As I have mentioned before, I like the workboats from the age of sailing. The sailing barges caught my interest some time ago on one of my stays in the UK and I recently purchased a number of books on them. interesting history, more to it than I realized. Finally decided to build a Ketch Barge that is categorized as a Boomie as well. Several reasons; I wanted to model one of the larger ones, this one is 85', and I like gaff rigged boats with booms. Topsails a must as well and I like ketches. This one fits the bill and who could resist the chance to set 7 to 8 sails! Frank Carr's book tells the story of the barge Pearl and included plan, elevation, lines and sail plans. Nice bit of information, I can build with that. See attached photos. This will probably be a lengthy build, my Falmouth Gaff-rigged Cutter took me two years. I built that one while on assignment in Grand Cayman using only my small kit OD hand tools. More to come, hope to start this week. Cheers, Joe







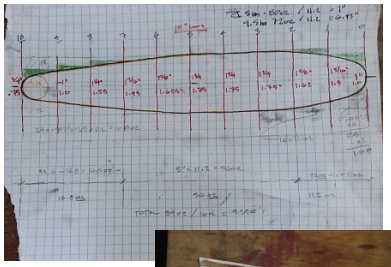
Model Boats Website!

model-boats.com

31st Oct 2020

Steel Bulb not lead experiment

Right now I don't really have the setup to cast lead bulbs so I thought I would try something different. Since this is sailing barge and not a racing yacht I thought I could get away with a larger size and less sleek bulb, one made out of steel rather than lead. I sketched up a design based on the density of steel that would give me about 5 lbs. See sketch. I picked up a 1 3/4" x 12" steel bar from the local metal supply house. Intent was to turn it on my mini lathe which I did but was a lot of work. I had to freehand the curved shape so it's not perfect but will do the job for a barge. End result weighs in at 5.2 lbs! I will drill a single hull for attachment to the keel and supplement with epoxy. Shown with the still rough shaped keel in photo. Plywood keel will be shaped today with hand planes and sanding. Rough rudder show as well. More to come..... Joe ?

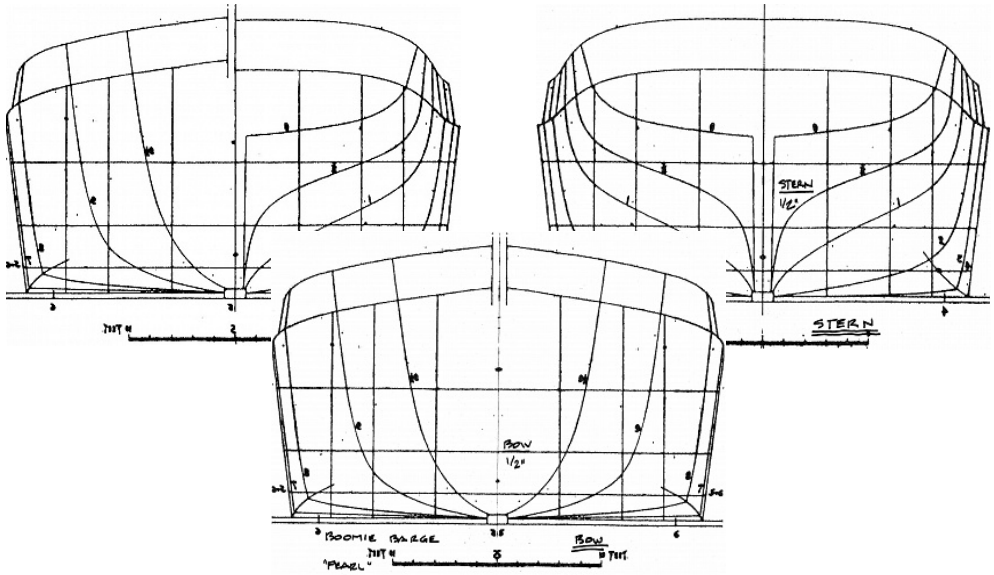


Model Boats Website!

1st Feb 2019

Determine Scale / Ribs / HELP with building board ideas?

To clarify this build, it will be a RC Sailing Boat with full functioning rudder and sails. I say this as I am using the PEARL for its design overall, but as to detailed historical details it will have some, but be simplified. Boat's Dimnsions were shown in Imperial, 21' width x 85'-6" length. The bowsprit adds about another 25% in length. To determine what scale I wanted to build in I thought most about storage, weight to lift and how to transport to the pond. I like to keep things simple, I prefer to rig it and transport while assembled, with the topsail mast dropping and the bowsprit retracted. Have done this before and it has worked well for me. Looking at potential scales and finished sizes. * 3/4" or 1/18 scale would be 16" x 64" * 1/2" or 1/24 scale equals 10.5" x 42.75" * 3/8" equals 8" x 32" I prefer a larger bout in length as it is easier to get to sail correctly, at least in my experience. Anything under 32" get tricky. I like the 64" size, but with bowsprit will be about 88" LOA. This will be a little too large for my vehicle. I decided to go with 1/2" scale as it will still be a good length hull. Ribs - I took the hull line drawings from the book, which were very small, just about an inch wide. I scanned the image and using the app "paint" on my laptop. I cropped it close around the hull rib drawing, I then enlarged it to 1/2" scale. Then I printed on standard letter sized paper, then mirrored the image cut them in two, pasted up as seen in the photos to show the completed rib sections. Next I will put together a building board / hull jig. I want to build bottom up for planking. DO any of you have any good ideas for the best one to build? I have never done this except for tiny boats. Ideas, Help would be appreciated. Joe



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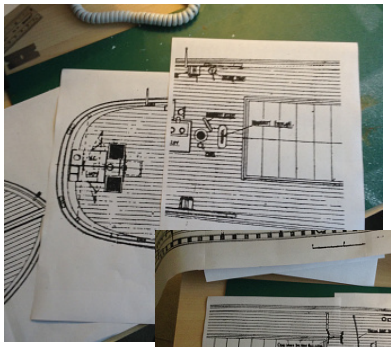
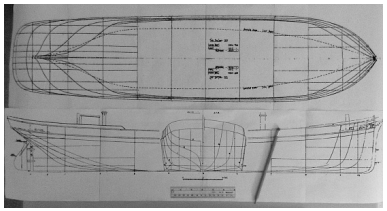
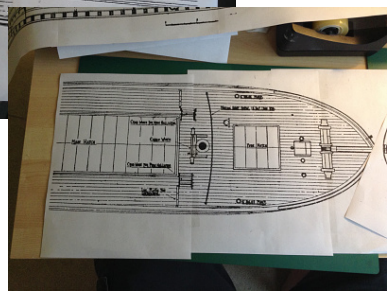
3rd Feb 2019

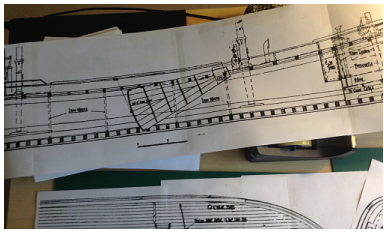
Planning Ahead

Spent the last two days studying the barge design and planning the build. First I scanned the small book-page size images, then with my laptop I cropped them into separate smaller images to my chosen scale. I cut, align and tape them, assemble an image that is to the size of the build. in the past I would use the local print shop and just enlarged on their large roll printer. it added up to a lot of money as they are about $7 a shot, with mistakes made it cost too much. Now that I am retired I pinch those pennies much tighter. This was more time consuming but is very accurate. Next I sketched out the keel board shape, colored up as seen in the photos. Sketch out an idea to accommodate the bulb keel that I intend to add. This one is to sail on Sunday's at the pond, so I will do my best to engineer to sail well. Cheers Joe









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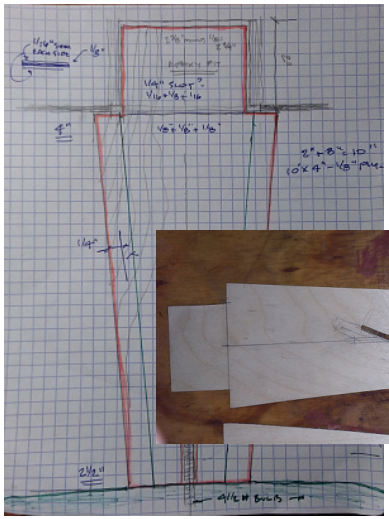
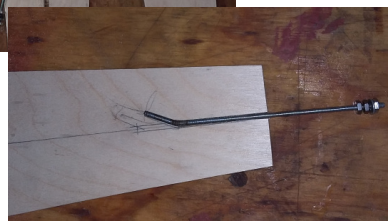
30th Oct 2020

Keel build

Designed first. Sketched out the keel design for the barge. Three layers of 1/8" plywood will be laminated together and shaped with a wood plane. Threaded rod will be inserted to allow for the metal bulb attachment. Keel will insert into the boats trunk that is already installed. Now to let the glue dry for first side lamination. Joe ?





19th Oct 2020

Barge Ketch....back at it!

I started this barge build in early 2019, was not happy with the planking, so it went on the shelf for a year. I did some more work on the hull and continued the build in early 2020. Then back on the shelf while I was building two sailing yachts. Pulled it back out last week and did some hand painting of the deck, etc. Varnished it today and will continue this build till she's ready to launch. Yes, I have three sailboats going at once ??? Joe ?

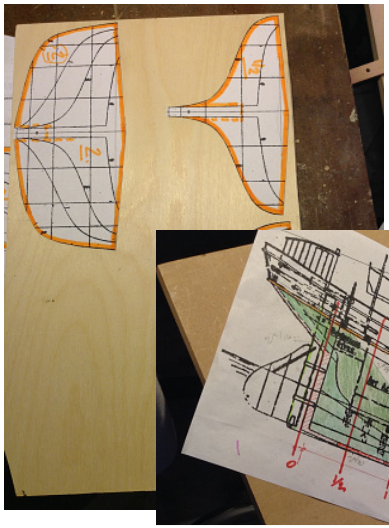
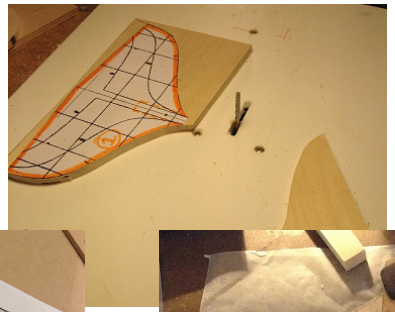
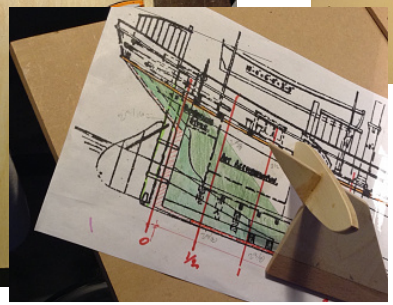



Model Boats Website!

4th Feb 2019

Keel

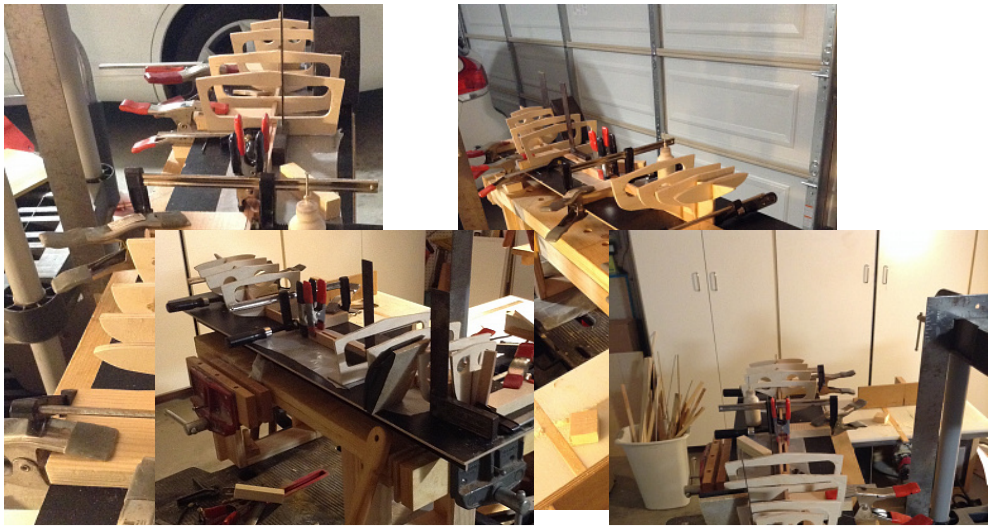
Printed out the frames /ribs drawings and outlined each in orange so I could easily see the correct lines. Cut those out and pasted to some plywood. The plywood is Baltic Birch 1/4" -5 ply, very nice quality that I get from a local woodworking supply store. it's a bit nicer than from the local warehouse hardware lumber yard, but that would work also. Used some spray rubber cement, sprayed only the paper back and stuck on the plywood. Spraying just one surface allows quick removal of the paper once cut. I don't have a bandsaw of scroll saw, so I use a sabresaw/hand jigsaw mounted upside down on a surface that secures to my drill press. Works pretty good. My shop is so tiny that I just don't have a space for larger tools. Maybe someday. Keel board was glued up, will show more tomorrow on that. Joe


8th Feb 2019

Clamp Chaos

Hello, it's been a slow week as I started out having some teeth pulled, put me off track so I missed getting some photos. I will get some better shots of what the keel board looks like once I get some clamps out of the way. I will photo how I do the last four ribs as well. Photos show my makeshift board with clamps everywhere. Joe



Model Boats Website!

11th Mar 2020

Sail Servo, power switch type

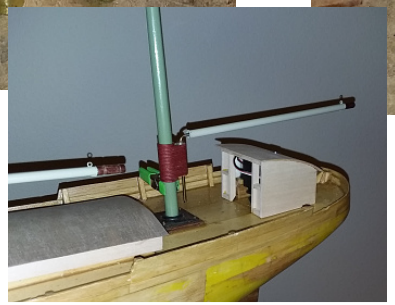
The location of the sail servo was determined by mocking up all sail sheeting and through deck opening locations. Servo is a Futaba S3802, I have used this Servo type on many boats including my US1Meter racing yacht and some sailing fishing trawlers. Very powerful. The servo arm is scratch built out of carbon fiber sheet and I use fishing pole eyelets in the openings for smooth sliding of the sheets. While wood glue is drying on the servo mount blocks, I am prepping the power switch. See photo for Dubro switch type that I use on all of my boats. You must buy a small slide switch to mount on this. I modify these by threading a longer metal rod to replace the short one in the kit. This enables me to mount these through the boats deck and keep it above the deck somewhat to keep water sloshing on the deck from getting in the boat. Examples of the end result are shown in two photos, one from my brooklyn tug and one from my rescue pusher tug. More to come. Joe

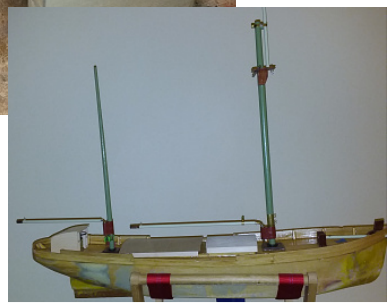
model-boats.com

7th Mar 2020

Wheelhouse, Masts, Booms, fittings

The Wheelhouse was designed to cover the rudder servo. Just mocked up right now, built with basswood, more detail will be added. Hole in roof is for the Mizzen Sail sheeting. Made two sheeting tubes out of brass which I am about to locate and epoxy through the decking. Masts are made from birch and are hand tapered with a small wood plane. All booms are made from discarded carbon fiber arrow shafts. I have been using these for years on all of my boats including my 1 meter racing yachts. Fittings are made from bits of wood and brass. I use hand tools to cut and form the brass and wood items. I spent two years on a work assignment on Grand Cayman Island and I built a Falmouth Gaff rigged cutter to occupy my spare time. All I had was some hand tools I brought with me, I learned to stay away from power tools and got back to the way I learned from my father and grandfather in the 50's. Now, I first try to build most things with hand tools only, it's very satisfying. More to come, thanks for the interest. Joe



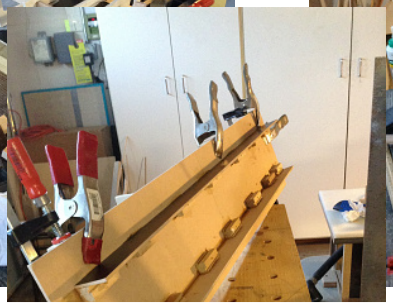


Model Boats Website!

9th Feb 2019

Simple Building board

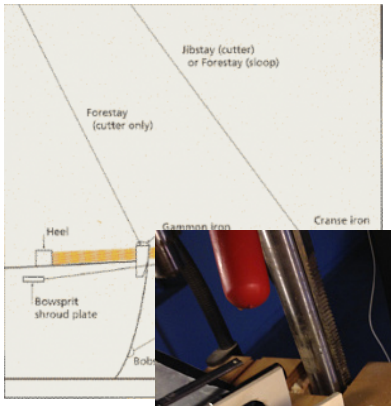
Hello, Photos attached show my quick inexpensive building board. All I needed was a lightweight, movable board that I could clamp to. I had a scrap of tempered hardboard about 35" x 16, so I cut two strips from it at about 2" wide from it and used them as legs to keep the thin top flat and straight. Then took some scrap wood pieces as a method to glue and secure. Result was a little table that I could clamp to. Hope this makes sense, but point is work with what you have, I considered a trip to the lumber company for wood, glad I didn't. Joe

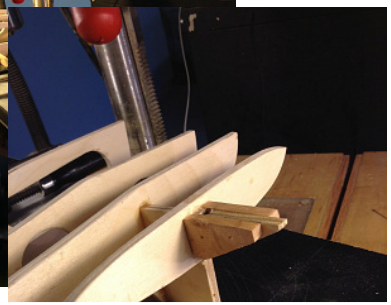


9th Feb 2019

Rudder location, blocking, fabrication

Looking at the proper rudder location, I added some 1/4 triangular hardwood blocking to both sides of the centerboard. Needed blocking to drill through. Was able to pickup the work board and all fit under my drill press to keep the hole plumb. Rudder post will be a 1/4 brass rod with brass tube as a bushing. See photo, brass tube in hull. Next, I built a rudder substructure assembly which will be covered later with a wood or styrene full size rudder to fit the era. Took some very thin brass and formed it around the post, some brass plate and soldered as seen in photos. Brass heats up and solders well using my soldering station.





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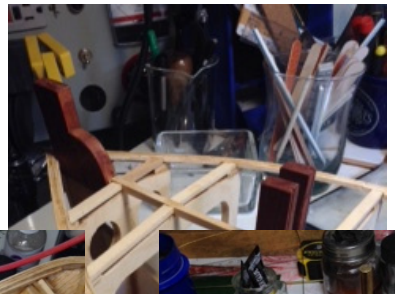
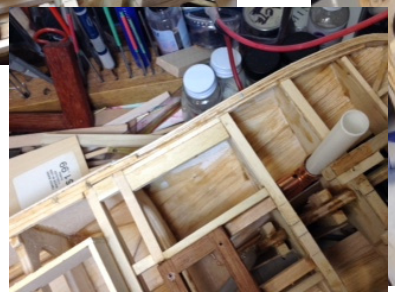
6th Mar 2020

substructure photos

I found some photos I had prior to decking that I thought might be of use.





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4th Mar 2020

Deck & Hatches

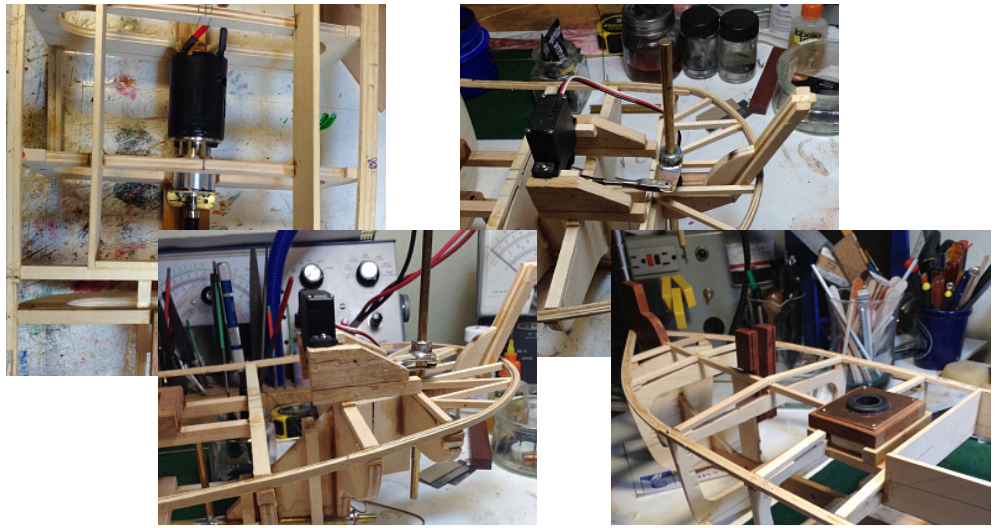
Sub-Deck installed and I will have to decide on planking later. Hatches framed out, hatch covers made from basswood side and very thin plywood roofs. Used neo magnets to secure covers in place, these are very strong magnet! Slot through hull, barely visible, is for the keel. Modifying an old US1Meter keel and lead bulb as needed for sailing at the pond. Bowsprit bits shown and opening through bow for sprit which will be retractable for transport and storage. Working on masts and booms to accommodate gaff rigging, etc. Wheelhouse and rudder being designed now. My focus is on making a RC Sailing boat, so I am not replicating fine details of the original barge, but making everything workable. My background previously has been on racing boats, like the US1Meter class. More to come shortly, working on this full time (retired), started again last night. Thank you for your support. Joe

Model Boats Website!

2nd Mar 2019

Auxiliary motor, rudder servo, bowsprit bitts

Back to posting again....I decided to added an auxiliary motor since I had several laying around and it will come in handy when I am tweaking the sailing setup in case I get stuck in the middle of the pond. Made a stuffing tube just like I did on my rescue tug build. Made a shaft from some 3/16" steel rod, threaded it and polished it up, works great. Photo of the aft section shows continued hull framing and upside down mount of the rudder servo. I will enclose the servo with the small pilot house as is typical on the barge. This will make maintenance and adjustment access easy. Yes, the build is wandering away from the true "Pearl" which I used the hull plans from. it will maintain the same sail plan, but I will modify some items for ease of RC use. Bowsprit will be retractable, bitts are shown in progress. The bowsprit will be made from a carbon fiber "arrow shaft". Mast will be wood and I am shaping out of maple that I have. Staring to plank the hull as well. More to come shortly, Joe



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18th Mar 2019

Update

Hello, I have not posted recently as this is my first planking and I am not proud of the results. As I have progressed in modeling I will redo things if I am not happy with the results... Now debating whether to start over or continue. I always want to be proud of my results and craftsmanship, so the dilemma?????. My tendency is to start over, comments? Joe

Model Boats Website!

4th Mar 2020

Sailing Barge- Build Blog resuming.....

Hello, Pulling this Sailing Barge Build out of storage after being out of action for a year. Now if I can just find all of the parts that I was making.... Will continue this blog, thanks for your interest. Joe