



**49th Annual Midwestern Model Ships
& Boats Contest & Display**
A Nautical Research Guild Associated Contest
May 15-17, 2026



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM DUE at the MUSEUM by MAY 1, 2026

1. Modelers may enter at the level they feel matches their skills; see line 3 for exception.
2. Modelers who have won silver awards in this contest in the Novice or Intermediate levels may stay at those levels.
3. Modelers who have won gold awards in Novice or Intermediate levels in this contest shall advance to the next higher level.
4. Judges may upgrade an entry at their discretion.

First Model — Check One:

- Display** —will not be judged
- Junior**—younger than 21 years old
- Novice** - open to modelers who have not won a gold award at this competition.
- Intermediate** - open to modelers who have won a Novice gold award at this competition.
- Advanced** - open to modelers who have won an Intermediate gold award at this competition.

Category—Check One:

- Category I: Scratch-Built Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category II: Kit Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category III: Paper Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category IV: Operational Model _____
- Category V: Diorama _____
- Category VI: Nautical Craft _____

Name of Model _____

Description _____

Scale _____ Model's Dimensions _____ Case Dimensions _____

- Model is eligible for the Great Lakes Award.**

Additional Model — Check One

- Display
- Junior
- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Category—Check One

- Category I: Scratch-Built Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category II: Kit Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category III: Paper Model _____ Class A _____ Class B
- Category IV: Operational Model _____
- Category V: Diorama _____
- Category VI: Nautical Craft _____

Name of Model _____

Description _____

Scale _____ Model's Dimensions _____ Case Dimensions _____

- Model is eligible for the Great Lakes Award.**



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Name
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code
Email
Phone number

The Wisconsin Maritime Museum may share my contact information with fellow modelers.

Waiver: I have read, understand, and agree to the rules and conditions of entry. It is agreed that the Wisconsin Maritime Museum is not liable for damage to models that are entered in the contest. Entries are not covered by the museum's insurance. However, each model will be cared for and handled as a fine arts item. I also understand that removing my model from the museum without prior approval before 2:30 p.m. on Sunday will jeopardize my participation in future contests.

Signed _____

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total \$
First model <u>contest</u> entry includes admission to the museum, symposium, and Sunday mash-up	\$35 (\$25 for museum, NRG & IPMS members)		
Additional <u>contest</u> entry	\$20		
First model <u>display</u> entry includes admission to the museum, symposium, and Sunday mash-up	\$25 (\$15 for museum, NRG & IPMS members)		
Weekend admission to the museum without model entry including family members older than age 12	\$15 per person if not a museum member		
Rahr West Art Museum	\$5 per person		
Saturday Evening Dinner & Program	\$35 per person		
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE			\$

Yes, I/we plan on eating with friends FRIDAY night at the Harborside. # _____ in party. (You pay that night.)

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Maritime Museum and mail to:

Wisconsin Maritime Museum Model Contest
75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc, WI 54220



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Categories

Category I: Scratch-Built Models

Models that did not originate from a kit. Kit and commercial parts may be used on the model, but more than half of the model, including the hull, must be fabricated by the modeler. All media.

- Class A: Vessels at 3/32" = 1 foot scale or smaller
- Class B: Vessels larger than 3/32" = 1 foot

Category II: Kit Models

Models based on commercial kits or hulls with or without the addition of scratch-built parts. This includes kit models that have been modified from the original instructions and models with half the materials composed of commercial fittings.

- Class A: Wood, ivory, bone, and metal.
- Class B: Plastic, resins, and fiberglass.

Category III: Paper Models

● Class A: Scratch-Built Models - Models that did not originate from a kit. Kit parts may be used in the model, but more than half of the model, including the hull, must be fabricated by the modeler.

● Class B: Kit Models - Models based on published kits, either printed or downloadable, with or without the addition of scratch-built parts. This includes kit models that have been modified from the original publications including recoloring or rescaling and models with half of the materials composed of commercial fittings.

Category IV: Operational Models

Entries are judged on workmanship and modeling standards. The quality of operational installations will be considered.

Category V: Dioramas/Vignettes

Diorama entries shall have a discernible storyline and may contain any of the following characteristics: Interaction between maritime vessels. Identifiable human activity. A shoreline or dockside scenario. Depict a historic or imagined event.

Vignettes are models displaying a "photographic" moment in time with no obvious drama or storyline. Ship-in-the-bottle models should enter this category.

This category does not differentiate between dioramas and vignettes.

Category VI: Nautical Crafts

Models of maritime items such as cannon, anchors, figureheads, ship decorations, maritime carvings (fish, mythological sea serpents, marine animals, waterfowl) or crafts made from nautical materials. Models that do not fit Categories I through IV may be included in this group.



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Awards

The judges invited by the Wisconsin Maritime Museum are recognized ship model and art authorities. Judging criteria includes overall impression of the model, historical accuracy, and research and construction papers. Models are judged on established standards, not against each other. The judges' decisions are final. Qualifying entries receive gold, silver, or bronze awards in each category and class. Special awards are given at the judges' discretion. This criterion includes the following special awards:



F.K. Bemis Best in Show Award

Sponsored by the Bemis Family



Roger Jaekel Great Lakes Award.

Sponsored by Midwest Model Shipwrights



Dana McCalip Best Miniature Award for models at 3/32" = 1 foot scale or smaller.

Sponsored by Nautical Research & Model Ship Society of Chicago



Steve Wheeler Best Novice Builder Award

Sponsored by North Shore Deadeyes



People's Choice Award selected by museum visitors.

Sponsored by Wisconsin Scale Boating Association



Modelers' Choice Award based on ballots.

Sponsored by Rocky Mountain Shipwrights



Gordon Stiller Best Maritime Carving Award

Sponsored by Scottie Dayton



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Please read the following carefully before mailing the entry form.

Entry Rules and Conditions

1. The contest and display are open to all ship modelers regardless of age or expertise. Contestants may enter more than one model. Each model must be the sole work of the entrant. Models may not be entered in multiple categories. Models winning any previous award in this contest are only eligible for display.
2. Models must be accompanied by an official entry form along with payment. Entries are due at the museum by May 1, 2026.
3. Competition entries must include a historical account of the actual ship or vessel type represented by the model. Type the information on an 8 1/2- by 11-inch sheet of paper. Although newspaper clippings, magazine articles, photographs, or other written documentation may accompany the model, the judges will not consider this material.
4. Competition entries must include an account of the model's construction. Special materials, tools, and techniques should be highlighted. Follow the format for the historical account.
5. The museum suggests placing the models in cases. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum is not liable for damage to them while on the premises nor are they covered by the museum's insurance.
6. Models must be on the tables no later than noon on Saturday, May 16, 2026. The museum will accept models by mail only if prior arrangements have been made with Alexandria Bolle. The contest winners will be announced on Sunday morning, May 18. The People's Choice Award and special awards will be presented at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.
Winners must be present for group photographs. Attendees may not leave until the contest concludes at 2:30 p.m. Early departure without prior approval from a Model Contest Committee member may result in disqualification and jeopardize participation in future contests.
7. The Wisconsin Maritime Museum and the Nautical Research Guild reserve the right to describe and photograph entries and to use them appropriately.



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Judging

Models in the Wisconsin Maritime Museum's Model Ships and Boats Contest are judged according to areas of inspection that include a historical account, a construction account, historical accuracy, workmanship, and overall appeal. Models are judged independently based on a point system developed by the Contest Committee and not against other entries. The judges' decisions, although based on these standards, are subjective. Gold, silver, and bronze awards and special awards are presented only if entries achieve the required point totals. The judges' decisions are final, and they are not obligated to discuss them. Address judging questions or comments to the contest committee.

Areas of Inspection

Historical Paper: See Entry Rules and Conditions.

Construction Paper: This paper should include building materials, the use of special tools, jigs or fixtures, total build time, original construction techniques, kit modifications, and after-market parts. If applicable, include special circumstances about the model. See Entry Rules and Conditions.

Historical Accuracy: Points are deducted for anachronisms. Flags, mast and spar fittings, deck furniture, and livery must match the model's time period. Unusual details must be explained in the historical account. If the judges find the explanation valid and can find no evidence to the contrary, no points will be deducted.

Construction Value: Craftsmanship has the greatest point value. Judges evaluate:

- Symmetry and scale
- Joinery
- Cleanliness of metalwork or other materials
- Paintwork and weathering
- Assembly (glue spots, paint smears, tied lines)
- Fittings that should move appear functional
- Display mounting (horizontal waterline) and case (spotless)

Operational Models: They must meet the same criteria as static models, but judges consider that hatches and deck sections must open for access.

Nautical Crafts: Although items may be more of an artistic piece, they must be well constructed.

Overall Appeal: This includes visual appeal and the display's effectiveness.