

# “Repairing” The Florida Sharpie Schooner of 1899

Yes I did say repairing not restoring!!!!

# Florida Sharpie of 1899

- Dictionary Definition

- *Restore* is to reestablish, or bring back into existence in the original state while *Repair* is to return to good working order, fix, or improve damaged condition; to mend; to remedy
- The former implies:
  - Do no harm
  - Use of same or compatible materials (Imagine; Van Gough is said to have used animal dung, vinegar & pigments in some cases)
  - Apply same techniques (such as the same brush strokes)
  - May imply “reading into what the originator had intended” (Nelli’s Last Supper restoration was reimagined to be more brilliant in colors)
- I felt I should proceed with the project with a sense of restoration!

# Florida Sharpie of 1899

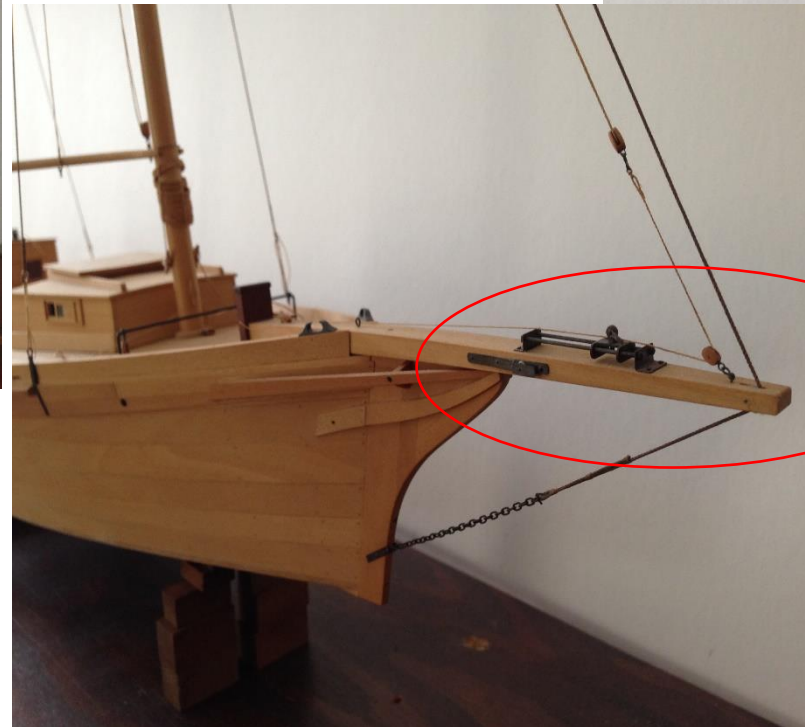
- Backing up a little
  - Model originally owned by Lacy Smith a deceased member (2020) of Model Shipwrights of Western NY
  - First seen by some of our group in 2016
    - Was found in an antique shop
    - Modeler unknown
    - Model type unknown at the time
    - An exquisitely executed model and Lacy expressed some concern about its restoration
    - As a consequence it was found to be pretty much unchanged when I purchased it
  - Purchased from his estate. I thought “no problem, I can do it”!!

# Florida Sharpie of 1899



Early photos of  
acquired model

Missing cabin  
doors



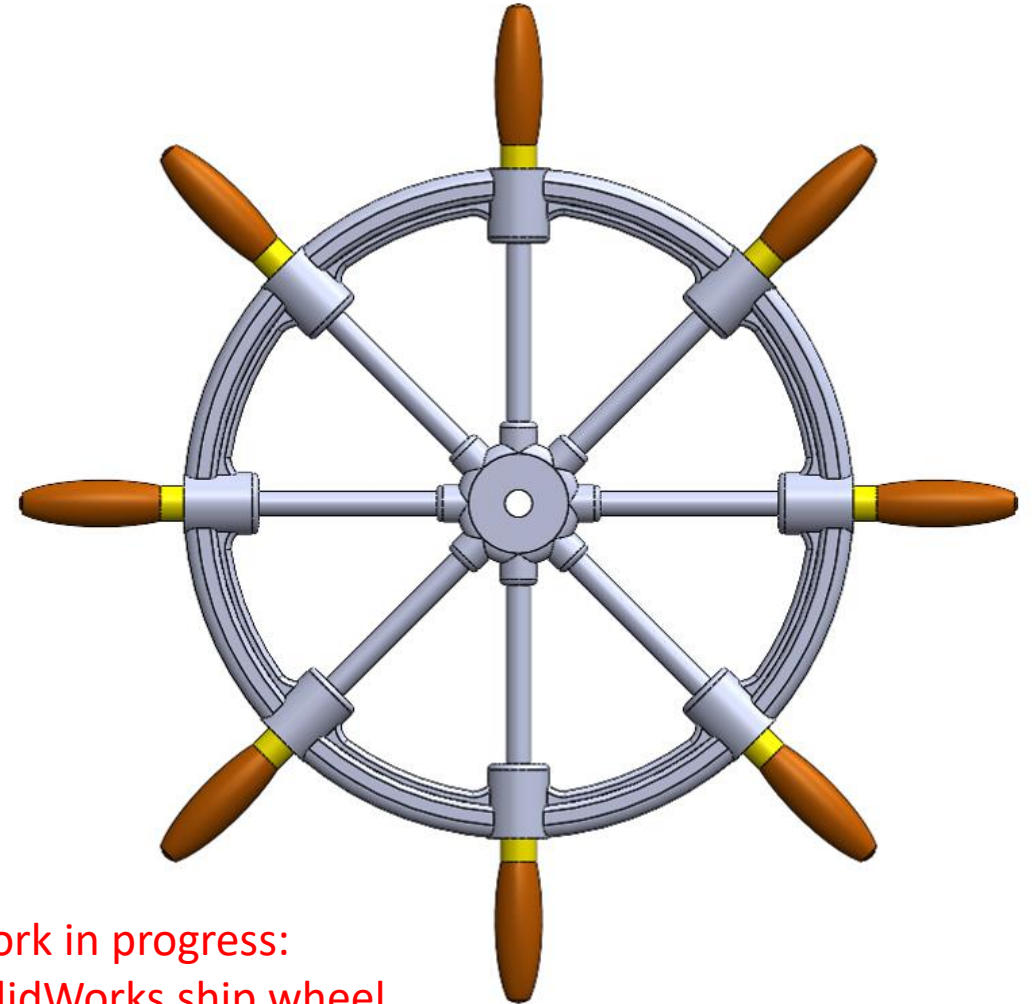
We will speak to  
this area later on

# Florida Sharpie of 1899

- Fast forward to 2021
  - Critical boost with its identity
  - Ultimately identified as a *Florida Sharpie Fishing Schooner of 1899* thanks to Ryland Craze and David Chemlow of the Hampton Roads group
    - Found in the National Watercraft Collection created by Howard Chapelle
    - Chapelle took the lines off in 1927
    - Acquired a working drawing from the Smithsonian in early 2021
    - Profile and deck views only
    - Model of 1:24 scale faithfully built to the drawing!!!!

# Florida Sharpie of 1899

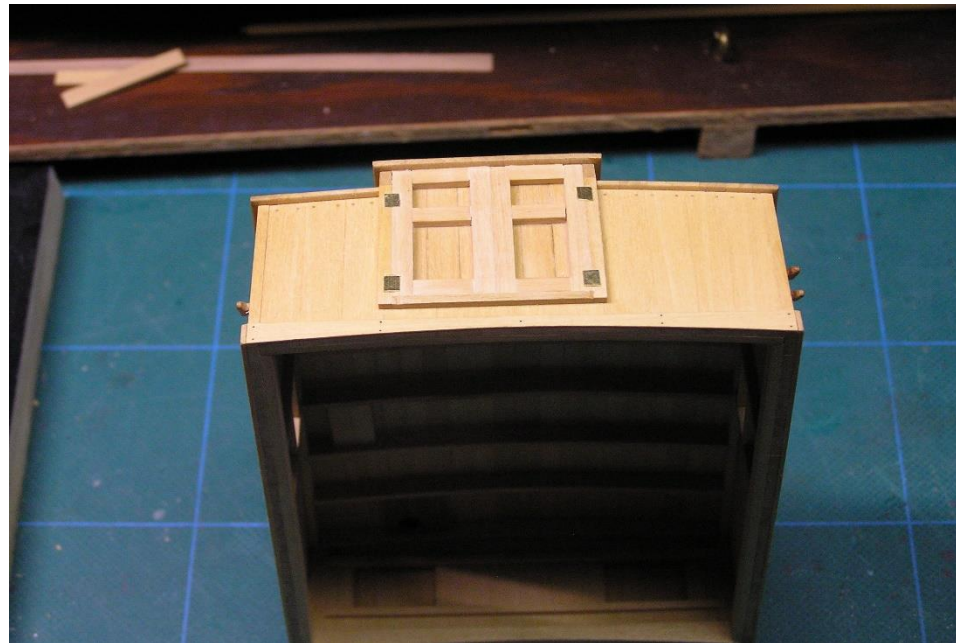
- Model work initiated Fall of 2021
  - No serious model damage other than rigging
  - Missing parts (ships wheel, cabin doors, hatch, kedge anchor, fittings)
  - From the start model presented challenges
    - Original modeler was a “master”
    - Material mix (woods, metals)
    - Fragile state of model
    - Incomplete rigging
    - Estimated age between 60 and 80 years; consequently environmental changes evident
- Starting to think like Lacy did!



Work in progress:  
SolidWorks ship wheel

# Florida Sharpie of 1899

- Preservation of detail
  - Quarter sawn wood. A mix of basswood and boxwood
  - Luckily only one hatch and cabin doors missing; both reproduced in Alaskan Yellow Cedar (closest patina match)
  - Missing *mortised* hinges added





# Florida Sharpie of 1899

- Fragile subject (examples)
  - Hatch coaming and hatch covers separated/repared, refashioned multiple missing and minute eye hooks
  - Nails of minute scale came unfastened during repair
  - Mast bands broke during rigging
  - Broken chain plates, bow sprit “car” and club boom fitting
  - Pinned cleats came loose during rigging

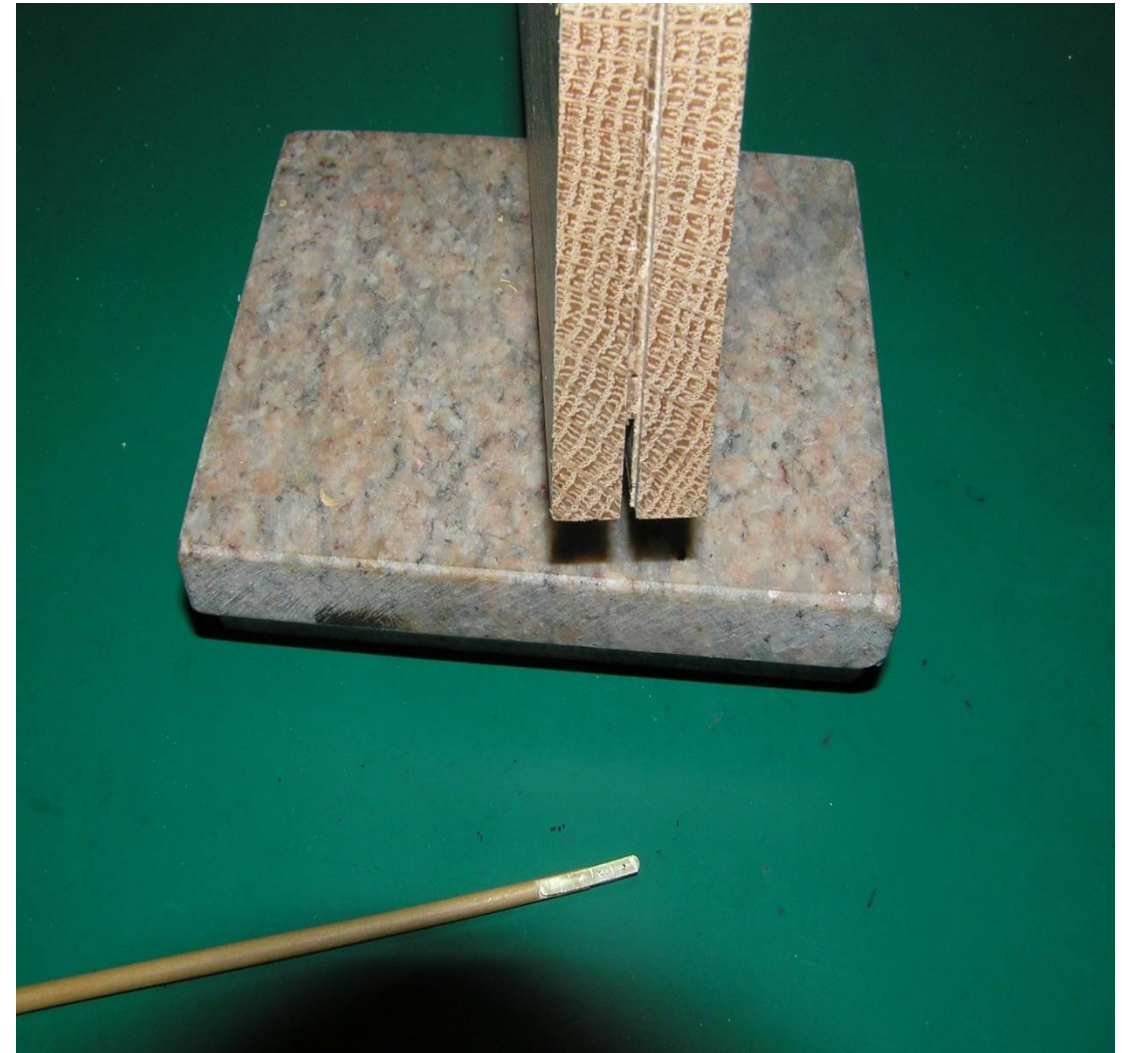




# Florida Sharpie of 1899

- Incomplete rigging
  - Booms not attached, club foot boom remade along with “car” fitting
  - Remade several gaff and boom metal bands, lifts
  - Added missing reef lines, missing blocks
  - Added fore stay, bob stay
  - Suspect rigging was interrupted by original modeler
  - Lazy jacks, gaff down hauls and other missing rigging not planned as no obvious way to belay rigging

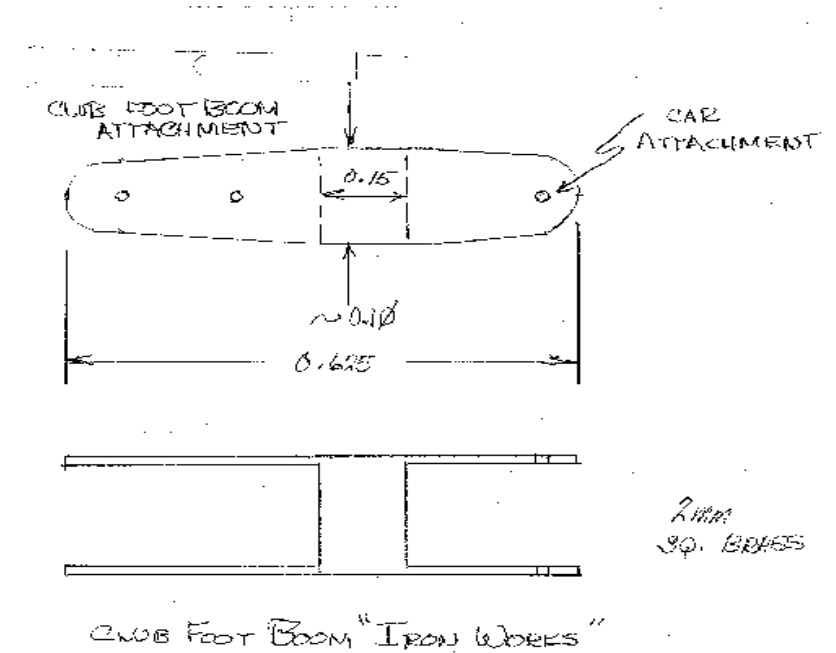
Following page describes  
fabrication of club foot “iron  
works”



# Florida Sharpie of 1899

## Club foot boom iron works

- First attempt using round tubing failed
- 2mm square stock worked
- Made simple jig for Byrnes saw (previous page)
- Slit square stock/rotated 180 degrees slit again
- Filed ends to shape
- Simulated boom end bolt attachment on mill
- Through holes drilled in "Car" end
- Glued to remade club foot



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## What is left to do:

- Fabricate in 3D resin, ships wheel after some design modifications
- Make or buy a kedge anchor
- Coil all rigging lines
- Complete base board
- Develop nameplate
- Purchase acrylic enclosure

## Research Credits:

- Howard Chapelle, drawings, edoc; Migration of the Sharpie
- David Bennett; North Carolina Maritime Museum
- Reuel Parker; Author, Boat Builder
- Professional Boat Builder; Editor (p/o Wooden Boat publications)