



Steer with Confidence



## Four Generations of Marine Woodworking

Wheel building, wooden boat building, and restoration and patternmaking have been in our family for four generations.

We treat every piece like an artwork, the way our fathers and grandfathers did, with specific, hands-on attention from our master craftsmen.

Bob Fuller, president of South Shore Boatworks, learned the art and science of

constructing ship wheels from his father and grandfather. Some of their work still travels the world, helping captains of all types of vessels to steer the seas with confidence. Now he teaches his daughter Christina the same techniques handed down to him.

You can also enjoy this level of sturdy, enduring craftsmanship with a South Shore wheel, refit or piece of nautical furniture.



Bob Fuller and apprentice Derek Sprague

## Traditional Wheels



A ship's wheel is the centerpiece of the cockpit. South Shore's, Bob Fuller is a master craftsman and has been building wheels in New England since 1977, apprenticing under his father and grandfather. He feels a sense of responsibility and the weight of history each time he takes on a custom wheel project for a boat builder or boat owner.

“Wheelbuilding is a balance of function and form. The wheel needs to stand up to rigorous conditions, but also serve as the centerpiece of the cockpit, aesthetically. And it also needs to feel good -- you're going to spend a lot of time steering with it,” he says.

Fuller has built wheels for everything from 20-foot skiffs to a Herreshoff Bounty class, the *Catriona*, built in Plymouth in the early 2000s, to an amphibious assault ship.

South Shore Boatworks is the only builder of traditional ship wheels in the USA, and Bob is sought out around the world for his expertise in applying ancient marine traditions handed down through generations of wood and metal workers.



*“I see every wheel as its own artwork,  
carefully balanced and built to be tough but  
beautiful.”* **Bob Fuller**





## Performance Plus Wheels

Grip with confidence: The “Performance Plus Advanced Control” wheel is designed to be easily gripped in all kinds of weather. Advanced finger grips on the back of the wheel give your hand more precision and positive control of your steering system.

The design also draws on our extensive knowledge of wooden materials and our history of producing functional, aesthetic wheels that look commanding and stand up to the elements. You get established tradition in a modern application.

Performance Plus Advanced Control is available with or without an additional steering knob. The wheel can be crafted in teak or other hardwoods, with ebony or holly accents and with a polished bronze or chrome plated hub. Hubs can be engraved with the vessel’s name or artwork, and hubs can be bored to fit any steering system.

All around, an outstanding choice for the discerning boat owner.

## Secure At All Speeds

The anti-slip grip and distinguished appearance could be your cockpit’s ideal match for form and function. Additional features like an optional steering knob give you even more to hold on to.

It’s vital that a wheel feel right to her captain, and that it provide the level of control you need to steer true. Our combination of time-tested techniques and modern innovations delivers a unique, attractive functional wheel that will stand the test of time for you.





Our South Shore team knows their materials. The process starts at the lumber yard, selecting wood of exactly the right color, grain and strength. We carefully combine those selections in the shop to create a unique, hand-crafted piece of woodworking, tied together with a custom metal hub and polished and finished to your specifications.

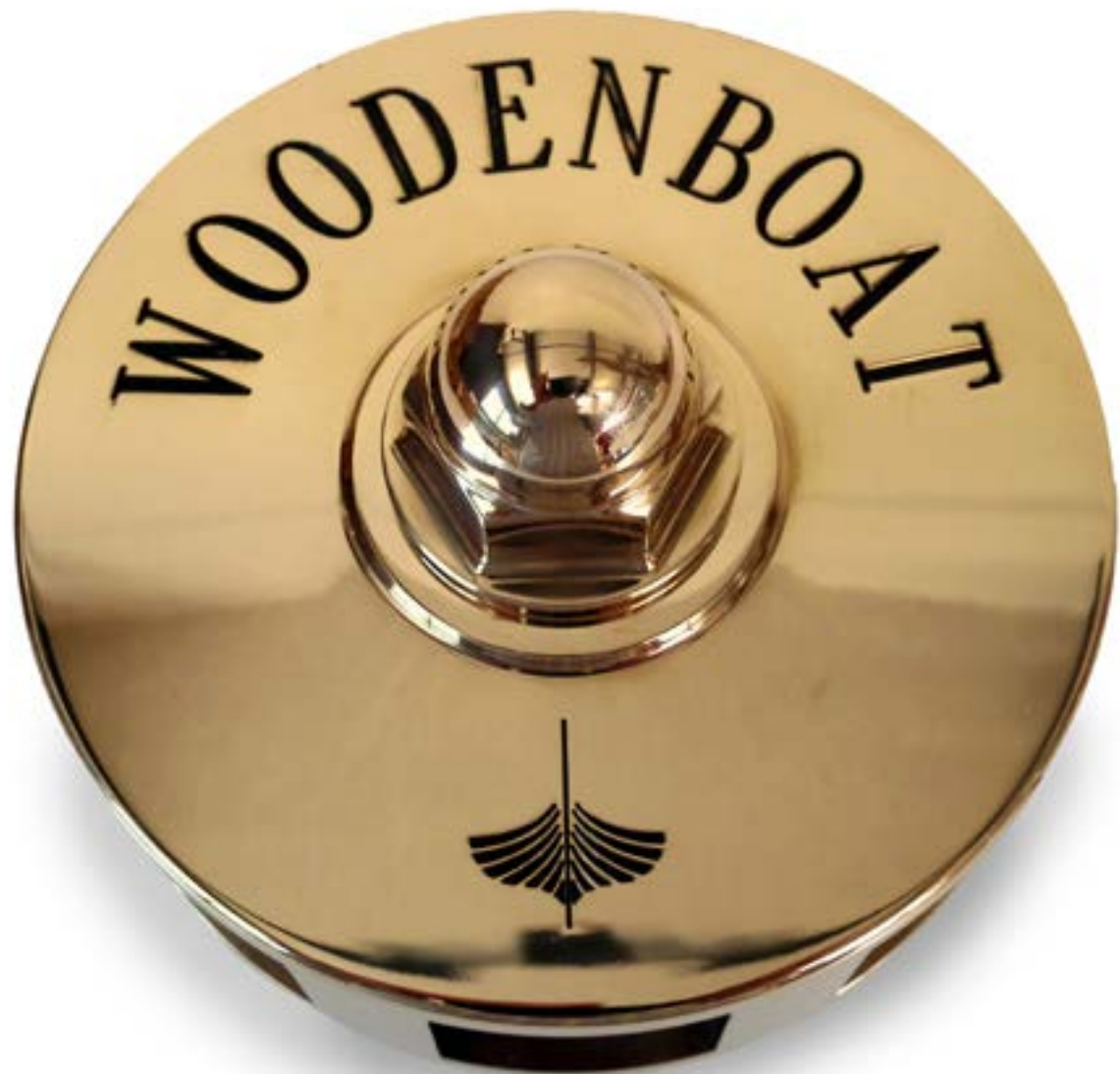
In the end, your Performance Plus provides advanced control and a one-of-a-kind look all your own, which can take you through any weather or steering situation.







Customize Hubs!



## Put Your Boat Front and Center



Every wheel is designed so that neither wood nor metal overpowers the end result. The hub isn't just the geographic center of the wheel – it's also the functional center. The machinist has to know and match the dimensions of the bore hole, whether the hole is straight or tapered and by how much, as well as the length of the bore, the keyway, and the threading of the nut that will be used to attach the hub to the wheel shaft.

## Your Final Mark of Distinction. Give Your Boat Her Personal Touch!

A custom hub can present your ship's name or logo at the center of the wheel, which is the center of the cockpit and the heart of the vessel. Hubs tie your wheel – and your cockpit – together

The hub is machined out of bronze. In keeping with the ship-building traditions of the Fuller family, Bob's brother, Charles Fuller, is a machinist and patternmaker with a specialization in machining wheel hubs. The brothers have collaborated since they were children to create an exquisite balance between metalworking and woodworking.





# Furniture Designed for the Marine Life

The same woodworking skills that have built our reputation for wheels and refits can be used to create other wooden furniture for your boat. We always craft our creations with precision and longevity in mind, and will find the design, wood color, grain and structure to fit your boat.

We especially enjoy the challenges of custom fitting and unusual pieces. We can design, or simply execute a design, and will always take the realities of weather and of life at sea into account in our planning phase.

We've created hundreds of custom fittings and furnishings over the years in many sizes and styles, including:

- Cockpit Tables
- Cup Holders
- Cutting Boards
- Serving Trays
- Benches and Seating
- Transoms
- Cleats





Bob Fuller is proud to continue the traditions of his family. He'd always been a part of it, and will occasionally see a wheel out in a harbor that he built 40 or more years ago. A fine wooden wheel is passed down from generation to generation, just like a well crafted boat.

Fuller worked with his father and grandfather, starting at age 14. "A teenager working around that machinery — you couldn't do that today. There's no place else I could have learned that except working with my family." He learned the art of patternmaking, of selecting just the right woods for a given project, and of working with wood for wheels and other marine applications. Restorations, refits

## Meet Bob

and the construction of small wooden craft are all in his wheelhouse.

In keeping with the family traditions, Fuller has established a world-wide reputation for precision and attention to detail. But while building on these traditions, he has also cultivated his craft as an art, unafraid to introduce new and exciting elements to established processes.

Fuller estimates he has constructed over 1,000 wheels – and refurbished hundreds more. He is an instructor at The Wooden Boat School in Brooklin, Maine, training students from around the world. He has given numerous presentations on the craft and history of woodworking and wheelbuilding for the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Park Service and the Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Bob is also an avid boater known for his love of the ocean.

"I can go to almost any harbor anywhere and see something my family has done. I can tell by the turnings whether my grandfather made it, or if I did it."

## For the Kids

### *PLYMOUTH ROCK'R*

Get the next generation into a boat -- before they can even walk -- with a Plymouth Rock'r.

It's a child's first boat! These sturdy, unique children's gifts create memories to last a lifetime.

For us, they also represent a handing down of tradition in our shop. At 24, Bob's daughter Christina represents a fourth generation of wheel-builders and woodworkers. She grew up helping her dad, working her way up to woodcarving, and gaining experience with power tools. Today, her training is funded by a grant from the NEA, awarded through the Massachusetts Cultural Council to promote traditional folk arts. She continues to refine her woodworking skills on wheels and refits, while captaining South Shore's production of Plymouth Rock'rs. Each Rock'r represents the passing down of boat-building traditions, while paying homage to all of New England's marine heritage.



Christina Fuller, 4th generation works on a custom cradle rocker

- Made of the finest materials, such as mahogany and teak.
- Customized with a child's name or the "boat" name, color schemes and finishes.
- Finished with safe, non-toxic paints and varnishes.



- Rock'r dimensions are 45" long by 21" wide.

A Wonderful Gift for a Future Boater!

Please note these are intended for use on land only.



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