



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers
www.shipmodelers.com

February 2024

Look Ahead Events

MARCH

- 2-3 Miniature Show
- 7 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 9 Fun Float at SYC 9 am

APRIL

- 4 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am
- 11 Pond Setup at Hobby Expo 9 am
- 12 NW Hobby Expo Noon to 6
- 13 NW Model Hobby Expo 9 to 6
- 14 NW Model Hobby Expo 9 to 3

MAY

- 1 SYC Opening Day Fun Float 9 to 3 Wed.
- 2 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am
- 18 Twilight Float at Bellevue Pond Sunset
Only boats with lights can run after dark.

See the expanded calendar at end for more details.



[Read more about members' projects.](#)

2024 DUES ARE DUE



Annual dues are \$40. If you have not paid yet, please forward your dues payment to:

Bryan Morse (new address)
1630 NE 186th St,
Shoreline, WA 98155

Make checks payable to: NW R/C Ship Modelers

From the Bridge

Steve Sunich

As of the newsletter last month, we are continuing our planning for the coming year.

The first major event will be the Hobby Expo. We are still working on a pond design and hope to have one built by the Hobby Expo. The lack of a pond last year was a problem. So, this year we are planning to build a pond. This will require a little effort as it is a big job. It will also require some money. I will be asking for anyone that would like to donate to the pond project. At this point the plan is to assemble the pond on



Thursday April 11th. We will need a few volunteers, but the design will be made so that it should be a fairly easy assemble.

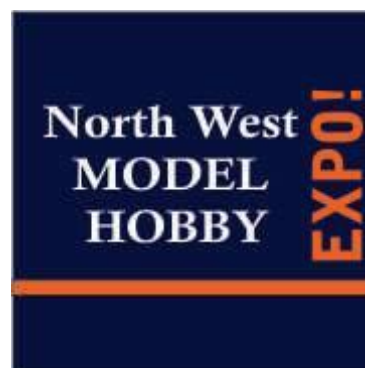
We continue getting great turnouts for show and tell. Keep building and keep sharing your knowledge and tricks of the trade. The building methods are limitless and I always learn something. Remember, there is a computer there that is capable of showing pictures of your projects along with any PowerPoint you would like to create.

We have increased our membership to SSMANA significantly, so that helps our national group and our insurance from that group.

Thanks to all of the contributors to the newsletter. Write ups about fun floats, meetings and projects are much appreciated and show what our club is doing for outsiders and other clubs around the United States.

Also, we are collecting dues for 2024. Please send in your \$40 for the year. That is a deal compared to other clubs. Plus, we will have some special expenses this year. This is important because dues are a huge part of our operating funds for the year.

2024 Northwest Model Hobby Expo 3 Days in April



April 12, 2024 – Friday	Noon to 6 pm
April 13, 2024 – Saturday	9 am to 6 pm
April 14, 2024 – Sunday	9 am to 4 pm

Evergreen State Fairgrounds located at
14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272, USA

For more information see EXPO's website www.nwmhe.com

Mark Your 2024 Calendars!

Meeting Minutes

By Chris Merrill and Steve Sunich

Photos by Steve Sunich & Paul Williams

President **Steve Sunich** kicked off the February 1st club meeting with 22 members in attendance at The Facility Makerspace at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, WA. There was some very brief business and summary of the last functions.



It was asked who would like to take over the treasurer duties for Dave White but there were no immediate takers.

Members were again reminded to join the SSMA (Scale Ship Modeler's Association of North America at www.ssmana.org). We need a minimum number of SSMA members to get insurance for NWRCSM events. As of this month we have over 15 members. This might be the most we have ever had. Great turnout this year! Thank you!

Steve passed out some new name tags. Please let us know if you need one.

A comment was made that members can't get a hold of other members. It has been a while since a club member's roster was put out. Steve said he will bring copies next month.

Steve asked for members to consider donating raffle items for the June Regatta.

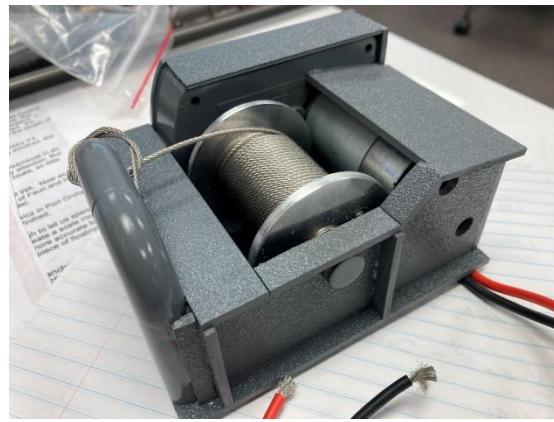
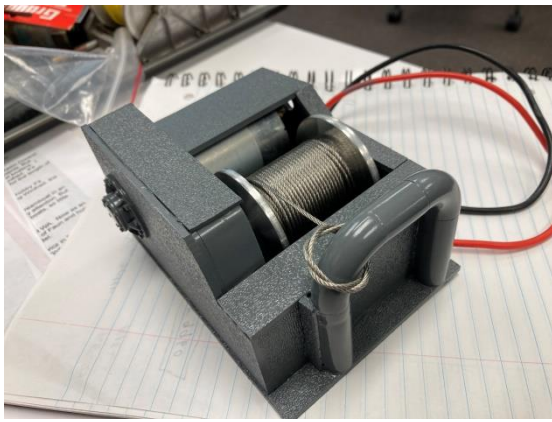
Any articles about projects are welcome for the club newsletter and should be sent to Paul Williams.

Dave Green reported tentative dates have been set for the Bellevue Downtown Park pond. When they are settled, they will be published formally.

Brian Morse, membership chair, said we have 52 members with 40 paid for 2024.

We then went on to **Show and Tell**.

David Zanzig showed us his new operating winches that he purchased from Ron Burchett (see For Sale section of January newsletter for more details).



He also had some give away items: selection of assorted motors, an old winch, and other model making parts.



Richard Lennington presented an airboat that he got that runs with one electric motor driving a fan. It has running and red and blue patrol lights.



Robert Osmond showed us pictures of the barge shelf in his garage that lifts above his cars. He mentioned the NW Marine Expo and maybe his participation there. He added a small tug boat that he is working on that is made to funnel water out and away from the inside. Robert also demonstrated how to attach bollards to make them stout on that small boat.



Robert Wickham brought a couple nice buoys, from Dain Webster, that were built as a result of a competition the club had a while back to build them. He also showed us a small tug he has.



Allan Wing, our club electronics expert, brought in a RC Quad Copter 6 channel radio that he could not get to work with his boats. Steve took it for donation as a raffle item. Allan also gave us a run down on the power testing he did at the last fun float with his Foss tug. Allan presented a curve and explained the differences in power draw with different speeds. He said he would provide a more detailed article for the newsletter.

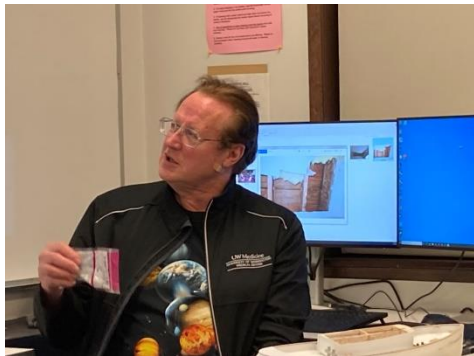
Steve Sunich brought his super yacht to show at least a little bit of progress. It has been repowered with Pittman motors with direct drives and runs much better. He now has railings, teak decking, teak trim, windows (43 each), davits, tenders and other details now completed.



Paul Williams used the computer projector to show pictures from an article that member **Ken Valk** sent for the newsletter, called "BUILDING THE LAKE UNION DREAM BOAT WINIFRED". The complete article and pictures are in this newsletter, after the fun float report.



The meeting ended and members then got a closer looks at displays, projects, and exchanged building ideas. More pictures from the meeting.



February 3rd Fun Float - SYC

By Chris Merrill

Photos Darlene Wing and Robert Osmond



The Northwest RC Ship Modelers held our second Fun Float of this year on Saturday February 3, 2024 at the Seattle Yacht Club, on the waters of Portage Bay, WA. The weather was great with clearing sunny skies and temperatures in the low 50'S. There were eight members participating, some with multiple models. We used the outer dock next to the NOAA's Research Vessel to have more room and launched more models. There also were a few yacht club visitors stopping by to see our activities. It was an early start with **Darlene and Allan Wing** joining me at 8:15 am.

Yes, we did a group photo mid-morning that got most but not everyone. I bought a box of donut holes to share along with thermos of hot water to make hot chocolate. Most of the donuts were enjoyed and gone with only a few as leftovers to enjoy for Sunday breakfast.

There was *The Genteman Pensioner*, a beautiful large (42") Chris Craft cabin cruiser model that **Bob Brown** ran around. He said it was going full throttle and looked below a good scale speed, so he may be looking to do some upgrading of this model purchased from auction.



The other cabin cruiser was **Bill Heath's *Grand Captain***, which also looked great and ran well.



Many members had their tugboats out on the water - **Allan Wing's *Henry Foss*** tug, **Robert Osmond's Pacific** and my *Horizon Harbor*. They all seemed to be running well and no adjustments or recoveries were needed.



Of course, some members brought their faster models to have a little fun. Robert Osmond was testing some modifications to his *Surfer* which did zip around well. I ran my *River Patrol* boat with 3 cell LiPo battery (11.3 V) to see if any overheating occurred, but the twin motors had good finned heatsinks and performed well as I, too, zipped around. I then tried my *PT* boat with 2 cell LiPo battery (7.3 V) which I had added a single finned heatsink over half of the motor and it too proved adequate in cooling, but I sure missed the extra speed when I put the 3 cell LiPo battery in last Fall and burned out that one motor.



Mike Gullikson came with a bunch of US Coast Guard Boats. This was the first time in a long while that these boats had been on the water, so he gave them each a careful shakedown cruise. Some fine tuning and they will be great to see at a future Fun Float. They were well detailed and make a very nice collection.



The water was calm and there was little wind to push any of the models around. **Richard Goodrich** tried to see if his sailboat would catch any wind twice over the 3 hours that we were there but had no luck. On the other hand, with no wind, I was able to get my DJI drone out and flew it at low altitude 40-50 feet for about 12 minutes before the one battery that holds a charge was getting low. I did take some video and I will put it on a thumb drive for next month's meeting.

Robert Osmond and Darlene Wing took most of the pictures. Thanks to both!

In summary, the weather was great for a winter's day and fun was had by all. Looking forward to the next event on the water.

Northwest R/C Ship Modelers www.shipmodelers.com





BUILDING THE LAKE UNION DREAM BOAT *WINIFRED*

By Ken Valk

It's quite likely you don't recognize my name. But I've been a member of the Northwest Radio Control Ship Modelers for several years. I live too far away to attend club meetings and events. But even from a distance enjoy helping support a group of skilled and dedicated model boaters. I was asked by a member for an article about the building of the scale model of *Winifred*. It's been a long and unexpected build and is still a work in progress. So, I apologize for the length of this article. But I hope it explains some of the highlights of this unique boat.

There's an old saying that "Sometimes it takes a village to raise a child". In our hobby it's "Sometimes it takes a team to build a model boat". That was the case in building *Winifred*, the Lake Union Dream boat.

The initial idea of a Dreamboat came in 2012 from a photo of the 1926 Faun Dreamboat in an old 2010 Wooden Boat Calendar. Faun's simple and graceful lines captured my attention. But the photo was soon buried deep in my "future builds" and forgotten. So many boats, so little time.

In 2018, I relocated from the San Francisco Bay area to Camas, in Southwest WA. Now as an official North Westerner, I had to have a northwest boat. I found an old photo of Faun and hung it on the wall in my workshop to resurrect the idea of a classic northwest model.

In 2019, knowing my interest in old era wooden boats, a friend, Joe Oczkewicz in Port Orchard, arranged a visit for me to meet Greg Gilbert, the current owner of the real *Winifred*.

Greg bought *Winifred* in 2000, and still lives aboard her. He was kind enough to let us spend an entire day on board, photographing and taking measurements to possibly create a scale model of his *Winifred*. Greg explained, "I'm not actually *Winifred's* real owner, it's more accurate to say she owns me! I never imagined I would own her. I'm just the caretaker of a piece of floating Northwest history!"

Below is a photo of the real *Winifred*. She was designed and built by NJ Blanchard of the Lake Union Drydock Company in 1926. *Winifred's* original cost in 1926 was \$5,125.00. Blanchard's concept was an affordable, safe, and no-frills yacht, for the mid-income working class. And today *Winifred* still resides on her home waters on Lake Union.

Shortly after my visit aboard *Winifred*, Greg called saying another fellow from New Mexico was also interested in creating a model of *Winifred*. He had also come aboard to take measurements and photos. He asked if it was ok to give him my phone number. That afternoon Ralph Perkins called, and we agreed to meet at my place later that month when he was visiting a relative in Portland, OR.



I learned Ralph had worked for Revell Products. In his later years he became their primary engineer, designing Revell's kits, boats, cars, and airplanes. As a retirement gift Ralph was given his old engineering design computers and software that he used to create model kits.

Ralph's idea was to design an exact replica of the real *Winifred*. That became the first obstacle to the build. The Lake Union Dry Dock Company was burned down in the 1940's. The original plans for *Winifred* and other Dreamboats were destroyed.

In our initial meeting I showed Ralph three sets of plans I collected for stepped-deck cabin cruisers built on the east coast as a starting point to begin the design and construct the model. His answer was, "trash all of them, they're not right, we'll build from scratch using our own design and make *Winifred* as a kit".

I'm a scratch builder and able to build one-of-a-kind models. But designing a kit? So, I immediately suspected I was in way over-my-head and the proverbial "old dog trying to learn new tricks".

We both agreed to build a scale radio controlled 47" *Winifred* in 1" to 1' scale. And Ralph became the second member of the building team.

In the 1970's, when hauled out for repairs and restoration, five feet was added to the stern of *Winifred* for aft seating. Most other Dreamboats were 42' with cabin roofs which extended to the stern. Thus, *Winifred* was selected for her unique, one-of-a-kind design with her longer and slenderer look.

Using our combined photos and measurements Ralph was able to create the lines of the upper hull and cabin on his computer. Then the next problem surfaced.

We had no idea of the bottom part of the hull. I suggested making it a hard chine hull. Ralph insisted, "No guessing! Ask Greg if he has any info on the bottom side of *Winifred*". Thankfully he agreed to go through his vast collection of hundreds of photos of *Winifred*.

It was an extensive search, but Greg located two shots of *Winifred* hanging in the air showing a semi- rounded bottom. And they showed the prop, rudder, and keel guard.

Now convinced that we had accurate lines Ralph drew *Winifred* to full size, 47'. Then reduced the drawings to 47" to assure accuracy. I designed the kit for radio control with a 900-size brushed electric motor turning approx. 4,000 rpm, single SLA battery, and 2" three bladed prop through a solid 3/16" drive shaft. Full access to the electronics, motor, drive line, and rudder assemblies were essential considerations for the model.



After a year of research and designing, Ralph's drawings were sent to Martin Rousseau, MR AeroDesign, in Canada for laser cutting.

The *Winifred* kit is referred to as a short kit. Birch ply is used for the hull, frames, laminated keel, and cabin. The keel is pre-notched for the correct prop angle. Windows for the cabin are pre-cut for precise accuracy.

The photos below are the first prototype of the model built by a good friend and talented builder, Blaine Russell, in northern California. Blaine was the third member of the building team. His input on correcting and improving any problems in the first prototype and future kits was invaluable.



His *Timeless* was completed in February 2022. Since then, *Timeless* has been exhibited in several model boat shows. It has received several awards in various events. And was featured in the September 2022 issue of the Scale Ship Modeling Association Journal.

Blaine's overall assessment of the kit: "It's not one for beginners! But the boat runs as well as it looks and is the best handling boat in my fleet!"

My own *Winifred* is still a work in progress but hoping to launch it early this summer. And just a couple of other final thoughts.

Another saying worth mentioning: "The devil is in the details!". *Winifred's* cabin is big with 15 large windows and double stern doors with window inserts. So, it provides a good opportunity to add a full detailed interior for viewing.

Winifred was primarily created in dollhouse scale 1" to 1' scale, because doll house furniture, lighting, and accessories are made in 1/12th scale. Unlike many other model boats, the interior becomes an important focal point of this model.



Some dollhouse furniture, although accurate in

scale, is fine in larger and deeper doll house rooms. But in a smaller and tighter boat cabin, some furniture can appear oversized. So, modifying or making furniture can be another challenge. 1/16-inch picture frame glass, not clear plastic, was used to make the windows for better viewing of the interior.



This is a close-up of the doll's face.

Above is a custom hand-crafted doll in 1/12th scale. It's a replica of Greg Gilbert, the owner. The doll was created by Lillie Smith, a professional dollmaker in Vancouver, WA. His attire was taken from the 2017 U-Tube video as he stood on the deck of *Winifred* as the first-place classic yacht on Opening of Gates ceremony in 2017. Next to Greg is Bogey, a replica of my Russell Terrier for a personal touch.

Best Regards and Happy Boating,
Ken Valk
E-Mail: kenvalk@pacbell.net

For those interested in seeing the "full write up" with more photos and info of the build in the SSMA Journal let me know and I'll e-mail you a copy of the article.

(Editor Note – Bryan Morse reported there is a Miniature Show scheduled for March 2nd and 3rd in our area. More information please see www.seattleminiatureshow.com)

2024 NWRCSM Events Calendar

Remaining ?? dates will be determined as the year progresses. (Update 2/17/2024)

JANUARY

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

FEBRUARY

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

MARCH

- 2-3 Miniature Show - www.seattleminiatureshow.com
- 7 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 9 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

APRIL

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park (?) 9 am
- 11 NW Hobby Expo - Pond Setup 9 am
- 12 NW Model Hobby Expo, Noon to 6 pm *(Please check next month for any time changes)*
- 13 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 6 pm
- 14 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 3 pm
- 18 Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Sunset Only boats with lights can run after dark.

MAY

- 1 Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day Fun Float 9 am to 3 pm, Wednesday
- 2 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

JUNE

- 1&2 Anacortes Waterfront Festival 2024 10 to 6
- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 **NWRCSM's Model Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm

JULY

- ?? *Meeting at The Facility Makerspace (not July 4th) 7 pm*
- 6 *Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am*

AUGUST

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 **NWRCSM's Tug Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm
- 14 Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Sunset Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- 18 BAMB Regatta. see www.bammrc.com for details.
- 30 Olympia Harbor Days (and Sep. 1)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 14 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- ?? Fishermen's Fall Festival 11 am

OCTOBER

- 3 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 5 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

NOVEMBER

- 7 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 9 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

DECEMBER

- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 PM
- 7 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

The Facility Makerspace

Our meeting location is in part of the Edmonds Community College buildings (Monroe Hall) located at:

6606 196th Street SW.
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

More information on this facility can be found at <https://facilitymade.com/>







2024 Club Officers		
	President: Steve Sunich	Webmaster: Allan Wing
	Vice President: Richard Lenington	Skagit R/C Meeting Contact: Keith Schermerhorn
	Treasurer: Dave White	YouTube & Meetup Master: Klaus Bellon
	Membership Database: Bryan Morse	Newsletter Editor: Paul Williams



Photo by Allan Wing

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