



The Bilge Pump

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

May 2024

Look Ahead Events

JUNE

1&2 Anacortes Waterfront Festival 10 to 6
6 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
8 NWRCSM's Model Boat Regatta 8 to 4

JULY

11 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
(-- Instead of July 4th --)
6 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am

AUGUST

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

See more details in the expanded calendar section at the newsletter end.



Read more about members' projects.

From the Bridge

Steve Sunich

We are now well into our R/C season. This month kicked off with our all-day fun float at Seattle Yacht Club. What a turnout. Within a couple days later we had our monthly meeting and another fun float at the Bellevue Pond. So, we had a busy week. The pictures that are shared tell how much fun everyone had that week.



We are now getting ready for the Model Boat Regatta on June 8. Volunteers are getting signed up and the course is being set. If anyone is looking for a job, please let me know because there is always something to do.

Volunteers make the regattas happen. I know that this club can make things happen.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the regatta.

Just a point of reminder. We have received some mild complaints of faster boats cruising fast through the slower boats. We need to keep the faster boats more outside of the running area and be considerate of wakes and proximity to boats in the closer running areas. For all

boats at the Bellevue Pond, because of the spectators, we also need to be considerate of the ducks, as some have implied that we are chasing them, which I know is not the case. I don't want to be the bad guy, but it is my job. Thanks for your cooperation.



Meeting Minutes -- May 2nd, 2024

By Steve Sunich

Photos by Pat Plueard and Robert Osmond

The Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers meeting again broke the 20 member mark.



Steve Sunich opened the meeting with a little business.

New member **Ken Shapiro** was introduced. Ken came from the San Francisco club and agreed to do a future presentation about that club. He has a wealth of knowledge.

Steve passed the volunteer signup sheet around hoping to get it filled for the June regatta. He also presented a simple yearly cash flow statement showing the revenues and expenses of the club.

The raffle items are accumulating so there should be enough for the regatta. Anyone can donate goods to the raffle as that is what sells tickets. **Dave White**, our treasurer and harbor master, stated that this year there will be a minimum 6 ticket raffle toll to enter the course. Nothing like a little extortion to raise some funds! There will be an unload at the pond at about 6 am the day of the regatta and an unload the next day at the Bill Heath storage shed.

Steve will also put out another membership roster for the next meeting.

The **Show and Tell** was again great. It is getting better and better every meeting. The knowledge this club brings to the hobby is incredible.

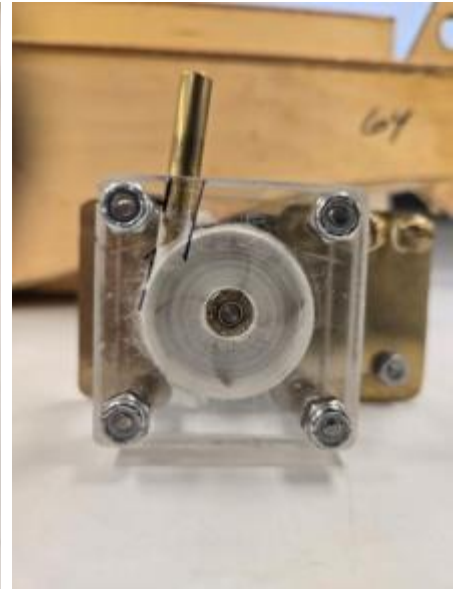
Richard Goodrich kicked off with an explanation of replacing batteries in a transmitter that had a bad switch and a way to install a new switch.



Mike Gullikson talked about a 48" Dumas PT boat he was building that was going to drop torpedoes. It will be interesting to see how that works. Hopefully, we'll see that soon. He showed us a twin springer he salvaged from the Hobby Expo swap meet.



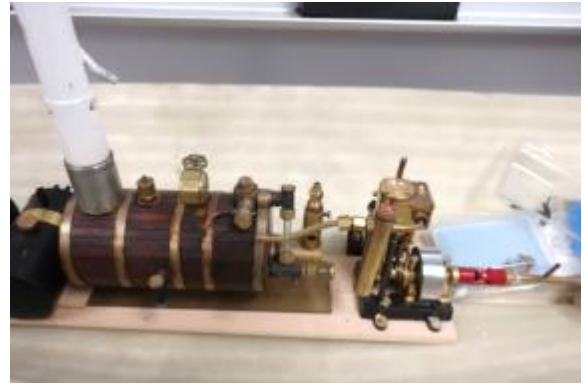
Robert Wickam brought two bilge pumps that are scratch built and explained how they are put together with speed 550 motors. He offered help to anyone that would like to build one. He has written multiple articles for the SSMANA and NWRCSM newsletters on these.



David Zanzig is building a USCG boat from a fiberglass hull and showed us some light activated superglue that he uses.



New member **Ken Shapiro** brought a really cool steam launch. He explained the use of lighter steam oil. It is one cylinder with both forward and reverse. These boats are typically built by the English with pear wood. Nobody was sure where that wood comes from or how it can be obtained. He hopes to show us a finished boat in about 6 months.



Jon McCool brought two “blasts from the past”. As kids we remember building wood hydroplanes and towing them with our bikes down the street. You were not raised in the northwest if you did not do this.



These little gems are 10” long with build templates and graphics you can obtain from the model hydro website H1unlimited.com.



Robert Osmond, a frequent show and teller, gave us a tip to use bottle caps for mixing glue. He was also offering up speed controllers for anyone that needs one. He talked

with Loyalhanna Shipyard and received a generous donation of model kits for our regatta raffles.



Robert also brought a 40" fiberglass hull of an Army Miki-Miki tug he is building. It will be built as a single screw with Kort Nozzle steering. He had full size plans.



Chris Merrill showed off the Japanese PT boat that someone donated to him at the Hobby Expo. All it took to get running was a battery and bind with his radio. What a deal! (See separate article later in newsletter.)



Twilight Fun Float – April 18, 2024

By Robert Osmond

Photos by Robert Osmond

At the Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers night float Thursday April 18th in the Bellevue Downtown Park's pond there was a cool breeze, This gave **Bryan Morse's** Sailboat great conditions, which had the gunwales under the water most of the time.



David Kentala was running his dependable *Richardson* tugboat, on a sunset cruise, while **Dave Green** was running his 95' Coast Guard patrol boat and his small tugboat.



Richard Lennington was zooming around with his Vietnam War era fast Swift Boat, guns blazing at imaginary foes.

Robert and Marge Newell were having a good time running *Soul*, converted Lobster boat, Balboa car ferry.



Steve Sunich was running his just finished large blue yacht, which cuts a fine wake on the pond and turns on a dime.



David and Carol Zanzig had their Tug and Barge, carrying mixed freight.



Robert Osmond had his Surfer looking for a good wave, the Toe Boat with lights ablaze with the radar looking for "bananas", and Pacific with the forward mast light missing after making contact with some immovable object.



Ahmid Shibly arrived late and ran his always fun to see lighted converted fishing boat, now Tour Sailboat.



Everyone had a good time and we left at about 9:30 PM as the temperature was cooling the fervor for running boat after dark was waning.

Yacht Club Opening Day Float, May 1st, 2024

By Steve Sunich

Photos by Darlene Wing and Robert Osmond



Each year the Seattle Yacht Club puts on a week-long celebration of the opening day of boating season. There is really no official opening day as we boat all year long in the Northwest. But they celebrate the



first Saturday in May. SYC has always invited Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers club to display and demonstrate our boats during Opening Day week. So, on May 1, we filled a ton of tables with over 20 boats and ran until dinner time. Club members gathered mid-morning and got their boats together. The weather could not have been better. Model boats were on the water most of the day. The group had a nice lunch in the club house and then ran some more. There were a couple of on lookers that ran our boats so that was great.



Dave Green brought his beautiful Coast Guard ship and buoy tender that he ran for quite a while. Both are great boats to see on the water.



Allan Wing and his *Henry Foss* tug are staples at fun floats.







Fun Float – May 4th, 2024

By Chris Merrill

Photos by Allan Wing and Robert Osmond

The Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers held our fifth Fun Float of this year on Saturday May 4, 2024 at the Bellevue Downtown Park's Pond. The weather was cloudy with clearing skies. There was a little rain early, at setup, so it was good to have four pop canopies just in case it came back. The temperatures in the low 50'S. There was some hot coffee and donuts to keep the energy up. Thanks! The group photo showed at least 13 or 14 members participating, most of us came with multiple models of all types.



Robert Osmond came ready in case it rained and had his step stool and waders for water level shots and rescues.



There were a few interested visitors stopping by to see our activities. The two noodle boats (blue and green) were active for a few runs, but **Allan Wing** reported that the new motor connections did not hold up and he will work on further fixes before our next event. The orange noodle boat seemed to hold up well and handled some of the kid's interest.

New member **Ken Shapiro** brought his steam powered launch that he did a show and tell about at our monthly meeting. It was a real beauty with smooth running and nice details.



This Jet Ski zipped around the pond well. I guess I am not the only one to hot rod a bit. I had my blue WWII PT boat out on the water after a quick installation of anti-slip foam pad under the motor to solve the issue experienced at the Seattle Yacht Club opening day where the motor loosened up in its motor mount to drop the dog bone, so it was dead in the water there. Problem resolved. Since I had two boats under repair and not sure if issues would be resolved during testing, I brought my Harbor Tug and put on the recovery arms. That setup was not needed, but it was fun trying it out on a few boats others that let me.



Robert Newell had a new scratch built boat *Crabby Jack's* that he converted from a lobster boat hull. It ran fast and maneuvered well but he did manage to get some water inside to bail out.



Many members had their tugboats out on the water, they all seemed to be running well and no adjustments or recoveries were needed. See photos:



There was little wind to push any of the models around. **Richard Goodrich** tried to see if his sailboat would catch any wind twice but had no luck.



In summary, the weather was fair for a spring day and fun was had by all. Looking forward to the next event on the water.

Coast Guard Museum Visit

By Robert Osmond

I invited Dave Green to go with me to the Coast Guard Museum on Alaskan Way in Seattle to a luncheon sponsored by Puget Sound Maritime Society of which I am a member.

Lunch was followed by a presentation about the USCG Cutter Bear by the Museum Curator Captain Gene Davis USCG,RET.

The Bear was a sail, with steam power, ship. Originally constructed as a sealer, it was commissioned as a Revenue Service Cutter in 1874 followed by US Coast Guard service up to the conclusion of World War Two. It was very famous for its many escapades in Alaska including the rescue of whalers stranded in ice choked waters.

The Museum is a very interesting facility at Pier 36 and is open to the public.



Currently decommissioned vessels Polar Sea W11 and a 378 ft High Endurance Cutter are moored there. They were of special interest to Dave as he had been head inspector for both during construction and trials.

The 378 class vessels were delivered in late '60s and significantly were diesel powered up to 18kn and gas turbine powered up to 29kn. The Polar Class were built in the 70s. The Polar Star W10 remains in service having introduced Gas Turbine propulsion (75,000 hp) and controlable pitch propellers to polar icebreaking .

These vessels are not a part of the museum but their models are included in the museum displays.

Photos include: Dave and his ships; Dave and I at Polar Class model; souvenir given to each of my staff; Model 1322 (replaced 95 WPB);



Model 87333 (replace 82 WPBs)

Placque when David Green was at the Keel Laying Ceremony of the Polar Icebreaker ship USGC WAGB-10 in 1972.





Japanese PT Boat -- Show and Tell

By Chris Merrill

May 2, 2024

Here is the story I shared at this month Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers Show and Tell with pictures. It also stretches into the Fun Float for this boat too.

This article is about a 1980's plastic Robbe model – a Japanese PT boat vintage WWII. It was offered by member **Kevin Hobbs** when he asked if someone would like a PT on Saturday of the NW Hobby Expo. One of our members working at our info booth next to the pond suggested he ask me, and I gladly said yes sight unseen. Kevin brought it the next day, Sunday, and said it was almost ready to run, just needing a battery and my own transmitter to connect to the existing receiver.

I was able to borrow some alligator jumpers and hooked it up to one of my 2 cell LiPo 7.4V batteries. My transmitter - a Spectrum DX5C had plenty of unused model profiles so I just programmed a new one and then attempted to bind the boat to my transmitter. I thought I was not doing it correctly from memory as it took 3 or 4 attempts before connection.

After a bench test, it was ready for a test float in our Expo Pond. This boat is very light with a length of 36 inches and beam of 9.5 inches with single prop and dual rudders. It proved to be very fast in the 24 ft by 32 ft pond. It has very nice detailing, working running lights, and 2 guns, one forward and aft. They are currently free turning but set up with a long shaft for servos to be added to rotate them down the road. The rudders did not provide enough turning capability and linkage adjustment seemed needed. I did not have the correct Allen wrench but was able to borrow one from my table sharing member, **Robert Newell**, to take the linkage apart. The hole size on the arm was too small to insert the link so I just called it a great start and it was time to start pumping out the pond.

Back at my shop in my garage it was not difficult to drill the needed size and then reassemble the linkage and align for center. Thursday afternoon I got a call from Robert Osmond asking if I could bring this boat for show and tell. I said yes even though I had not made a permanent battery plug connection. I send a picture of the female plug that I needed and he was able to provide it to me at the monthly meeting that night. I was a little hurried to get everything ready and showered and put on a change of clothes. I carpooled up to Lynnwood with **Dave Kentala** and discovered when the dinner bill came at Red Lobster that my wallet was "missing". Dave thought I had put it on the roof of his car when we got there, but I thought that he saw my eyeglasses case. After asking my wife to look around at home, I panicked and asked both restaurants if a wallet had been turned in. No luck there, but my wife called and found it in my office. Thanks to Robert for loaning me the cash to pay my bill and not have to wash dishes that night.

I was able to fabricate and solder the battery connector on Friday evening. However, I spent a lot of time searching through my spare parts boxes for the Allen wrench that fit on the linkage collar. I finally found one but it was too late to work on it. I just staged the boat, wrench, and extra collars to take to the Fun Float the next morning.

I was able to power up, center the steering servo and slide the collar to hold the 2 linkage arms together. The boat turned better in the Bellevue pond but could use some more fine tuning to have more turning capability. That will have to be done back at the shop as it was past 11:30 am and I was again the last member on the pond and needed to pack it in. It was very thoughtful of Kevin to pass this boat on to me and I will enjoy it in my small navy of model boats.

See pictures.



More to be reported as it develops.

Final Completion of Steve Sunich's model of a superyacht

By Steve Sunich

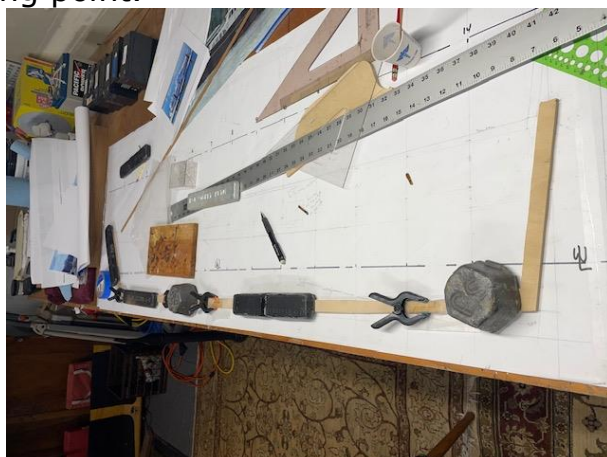
After finishing the model of my 1:1 trawler (see a previous April 2022 SSMA Journal article), I was looking for a new project. Well, it just kind of happened. I was taking my boat into Seattle Yacht Club and a large yacht caught my eye on Dock 4. I loved the naval architecture and just snapped a picture, not thinking it would turn into a project at all. Below is that picture in about July 2021.



This is one of Dennis Washington's boats named Tess. I believe he is known for restoring yachts of older architecture, which impresses me. He has a couple of boats that I really enjoy seeing. This one is named Tess and was originally built in 1966.

I went to the dock and took multiple pictures so I could get an idea of detail. A quick search on Marinetraffic.com got me some more pictures from which to refer.

Of course, I had no idea of what was under water. I started by just laying out a broadside drawing and scaling from the pictures as I could. I then imagined how the hull might look under water, making some creative assumptions and taking some poetic license. I figured that she had to be twin screw so I started there. I messed with the scale in my mind for a while. At 120 feet and a 1:32 scale the model would measure 45". Well, I like the look of a little bigger boat and bigger models ride on the water much more realistically. So, I thought it might be a little small. However, at 1:24 scale she would come in at 60"! That seemed a little big. But, me, not being shy of bigger scales decided that a 5 foot model would be just what I needed. With that decided, I started drawings so I could lay a keel as seen below. This was in January 2022, so that marks a starting point.



After some distractions, like family things, work, fly fishing trips and boat trips, I started making some progress.



She took some fiberglass work but, I got the hull and cabin the way I wanted. Painting was another challenge. It was not the physical painting part, but finding the correct color. All of our typical model paint brands did not have the right color. But, one day in the hardware store I ran across the Krylon paint. Behold, a perfect blue showed up. Now, I know, lots of modelers said not to use that paint because it is hard to apply and runs, etc. Well, I had no choice. I prepped the hull really well, turned her upside down and figured I would experiment a little. I needed no experimenting. The paint job you see is the first trial application and I was very happy with it. I had no problems with runs and it went on beautifully. The thing about the paint that was nice is that you can re-apply after one minute. So, by the time I got around the model to the other end I could repeat and keep going around until I was happy. It basically took me 5 minutes and only a ½ can of paint! I was so impressed that I did the cabin in white Krylon with the same results.

A unique feature, if you want to call it that, is that to get good access to inside the hull the cabin is built in two removable parts. There is a forward piece and an aft piece. Getting those to seamlessly fit was definitely a challenge.

After this, I started getting motors and gear installed. After a sea trial with the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers, I put in the smaller Pittman motors with direct drives. With 1-3/4 inch props, these were perfect. Her early sea trials yielded a perfect scale speed and bow wave.

Now that I knew she was going to run great, I started on the "ginger bread" detail. I started with the decking. For this boat I chose teak. My previous yacht (see another SSMA article), was done in cedar. Cedar worked great, but I thought I would try teak. I had some nice blocks of teak that had been stowed on my full-size boat for 45 years. I just started cutting them up with my small band saw. The decks were done in a similar manner as my last model. I laid the teak and then hand caulked each joint with the real caulk used on the full-size boats' decks.



For me, the decks were the most agonizing. I spent a couple months on those. But when I got to the finer detail, I was much happier and could see that I was nearing the end. Well, the remaining work taking a year, but relatively close to the end. The nice thing about yacht models is that the detail is not quite as fine as a ship or tugboat. The details are cleaner and a little easier to manage and build. I kept going with railings, doors, tenders, seats, windows, anchors and lights, etc. The last step was to get the decals on her. The name on her side is actually raised with light behind it. I was able to get my vinyl letters (I have a wonderful graphics source) and individually cut them and install them proud from the side by a quarter of an inch and set a light behind it.



95% of this model is scratch built as I built almost every piece on my own, purchasing only lights, electrical gear and mechanical gear. So, I just finished her in April 2024, basically 2-1/2 years. At the last hobby show, a friend ran her for quite a while and said she is a "Cadillac". I would agree. Even though I installed a bow thruster, it does not need it. The twin screws turn her around beautifully. The bow thruster has been disconnected.

Here are some pictures of her completed.



Free -- Sailboat!

Richard Bizier said his 36 inches long sailboat needs a new home. It sails great, has no radio, has a stand, and the colors are red, white and blue. If interested please email him at bizier@email.com.



2024 Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers Events Calendar

Remaining "??" dates and times will be listed as the year progresses. (Update 3/16/2024)

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 or 10 am |
| 12 | NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe | Noon to 6 pm |
| 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 to 3 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

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|
| 11 | Meeting at The Facility Makerspace | 7 pm (Instead of July 4 th) |
| 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 | BAMM 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 |
| 5-6 | Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show | ?? (See their website for times) |
| 5-6 | Bellingham SeaFeast | ?? (See their website for times) |
| 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

Our club meeting location is in part of
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