



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

April 2008



Upcoming Events

April

- 3 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float /Springer Event
Bellevue Park
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon

May

- 1 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float
Bellevue Park
- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 10 Seattle Tug Boat Races
- 17-18 Anacortes Festival
Cap Sante Boat Haven

June

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Northwest Regatta



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

I started these columns with the idea of using the theme of following the buoys and keeping on course to return safely from a delightful voyage. We don't expect to not get home. I was driving into Edmonds on February 17 when on the radio I heard that a forty-two year old man from Skyway had died in a one vehicle motorcycle accident the night of the 14th. I thought to myself that I know a forty-two year old motorcyclist from Skyway who is a master modeler and a hell of a nice guy. So close to home. I hoped it wasn't true. It's always true. Sometimes you don't get home.

The Flodquist family got into the NWRCSM club around 1998 and found amongst the friendly members one Mike Haff, a thirty-something with a nice smile and a wry sense of humor. We soon learned that Mike worked at Alaska Copper and Brass and was a first class metal smith as well as an excellent woodworker. We lured him down to Northwest Seaport on the south end of Lake Union where he joined the "boat club" that volunteered on the WAWONA, RELIEF, ARTHUR FOSS, and eventually, the troller TWILIGHT. We became a band of fast friends who met almost every Saturday where following a morning of vigorous labor we shared a wonderful lunch. Birthdays were celebrated and whenever it was Ben's his "evil big brother Mike" would be sure to supply him with a slightly off color present. In 2000 ARTHUR FOSS made a ten day whistle stop tour of Puget Sound ports and late in September Mike joined us on another trip to Tacoma for their maritime festival. Ben and Mike took the long boat on a row about the industrial waterways and came back about two hours overdue which caused them to get the evil eye from Linda that even got Mike a little scared.

Following the events of September 11th ARTHUR's insurance went away. We progressed along on TWILIGHT but the funds dried up and our leader Bill
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Red Right Returning continued

moved to Lopez and the "boat club" was about gone. Mike and Tammy and I would enjoy the Fremont Solstice Parade and at Tualatin every August Mike, Ben, and I would have great fun whether it be running boats on the pond or watching the late night activity in the hotel parking lot. Mike served as editor of the BILGE PUMP for seven years and won the coveted Foss Cup in 2002. His skills took him to a position building cabinetry for REI. He traveled all over the west preparing new stores.

Always improving their home, following his divorce Mike worked even harder and also bought a motorcycle which, like his models and the mission style furniture he was building, he kept in pristine condition. Mike had reduced his club activities and handed off the editor job to Darlene. But as winter was looking to spring, he perked up, got high-speed internet and sent me a note saying we needed to come down and check out his shop and projects. And then it was over. And we feel the loss.

I miss those days of planking on the TWILIGHT and the fabulous lunches. I think of him every time I see a Miki tug or ride the bike he sold me. Tom and Ben are completing two of Mike's RC projects. We'll smile as they go by on the water. Mike's folks, Karen and Lou Haff will scatter his ashes near the tugs and on the waters he loved this spring.



It's April!!! **SPRINGER EVENT** at Bellevue site on the sixth at about one o'clock (1300). Ben says we'll all be on the water together and should be done in thirty minutes. Mother said there would be days like that.

See ya at the meeting on the third at 1930. If the chairs are filled at 1920, I shall feel free to start the proceedings.

Randy Flodquist



Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing



Randy called the meeting to order five minutes early because everyone was present and ready. There were no new members or guests to introduce so we went straight into the business items.

The first item was a discussion of the need for liability insurance for the club. Since the city of Seattle requires insurance for events at city parks and it was felt that Bellevue would soon add the requirement, it was decided to find out what insurance would be needed and what the cost would be. There was some concern as to whether the club really needed the insurance so the first question to be answered is insurance needed and to what limit.

The next item of business was a discussion of the club buying canopies for shelter during the regatta and other events. It was felt while one or two canopies and possibly a couple of tables may be a good idea, we typically have as many as needed that are brought to the events by the members. The club has an excess of money so there will probably be a few purchased.

We then discussed the plans for the December dinner meeting. After some discussion the members in attendance voted to keep the dinner much the same as last year. So it was decided to make plans to have the dinner at the dinner at the Martha Lake Community Center and to use the same caterer.

Finally, there was a lively discussion on what would be done about scale judging at the June Regatta. After several opinions were put forward and discussed, it was decided to keep the judging the same as past Regattas. Also for the Regatta, Linda was assigned to take care of food and Al Kinsman assigned to oversee the setup of the pond.

There was one final announcement that the Seattle Yacht Club had decided to not include us in their opening day week activities.

After a short break, we moved on to show and tell. Dennis Chinn showed us the progress he had made on his boat. Then Leif showed the hull he was building using plank on frame covered with fiber glass. Ron Bray showed us the progress he has made with his Grand Banks boat and also showed the Grand Banks hull he had made from the mold he made from the original. Finally, Tom Stevens showed a set of long small drill bits he got at Grizzly Tools. These are hard to find in the longer lengths, Tom also showed the progress he had made in fixing up a hull that he had got from Mike Haff's parents.

With that we stacked the chairs and called a night.



Dennis Chinn with new additions to his boat



Dr. Ron with his Grand Banks hull

SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By Keith Schermerhorn

The Skagit R/C ship Modelers new meeting place at the Skagit PUD building in Mt. Vernon is proving to be a big attraction for the modelers in the north end. The crowd of 15 people included a couple of new members that were looking for others to run boats with (missing notes so I do not remember names) as well as the usual cast of boaters. We started the night with remembering of our fallen modelers who are no longer with us, Sam Louter and Mike Haff.

Covered the previous model show in Monroe with commentary from those that attended. As we moved forward, we had some discussions on the next few events that will be coming in the following months. Keith briefed the BIMM show in March with the warning to dress warm. Regatta season around the corner means we all need to start to practice. Of particular discussion was the proposal for the meetings to be at the PUD on the first Monday of each month from here on out. A permanent meeting place will be of great value in helping newbie's find us for more information. We also discussed the use of one of the new members pond inside of a retirement community. This could become a regular fun float location along with any special occasions that we normally do.

Following a short break, Kevin gave a quick presentation on simple voltage regulator complete with a hand out. Show and tell featured Kevin and his new fire boat that he is already looking at modifying. Tom showed us the started fishing boat that he will finish that was started by the late Mike Haff. Will be another great little fisher with the work that Mike had started. Tom was also kind enough to give some details from the memorial at Mikes' families home. Larry showed the details on his new sailboat that included the unique way to handle the forward sail (not sure of the "technical" name). Keith showed the progress on the Wedell Foss tractor tug including the metal work for the fendering. Also showed a new offering from the Scale Shipyard, a 1/72nd scale Halifax Class Canadian destroyer hull. After a little more chatting about the models, all departed for their home ports by 2130 hours.

Update from Mike Jones

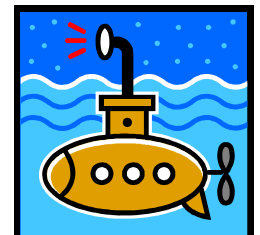
Mel got an interesting email from Mike Jones. Mike was an active member of the club for awhile and moved to Hawaii a couple of years ago. He is a very interesting guy with unique experiences that include his participation in the Space Program as a candidate for he Teacher in Space program. It sounds like he is continuing to follow his pattern of interesting accomplishments. Here is his email:

How's the club doing? I sure miss the fun floats, but I'm sort of on one myself. I'm piloting the sub kept aboard the private yacht I'm working on now. She's 414-feet long and set up for expedition work. We just left Bikini Atoll where we spent a week diving the sub on the test ships sunk during the Able and Baker A-Bomb tests here in July of 1946. The visibility was over 100 feet and the views of USS Saratoga spectacular. We also spent quite a bit of time exploring the Japanese battle-ship Nagato and several dive bombers and torpedo bombers sitting on the bottom. The USS Nevada, and Alabama are here too.

It is 12:39am Tuesday morning. We have a few parties going on as we are about to cross the equator in a few minutes. We also got to experience two Tuesdays as we came back across the International Date Line about an hour ago. Life is good aboard ship, good food, a full theater, gym, library and the aft helideck is great for basketball.

Gotta go for now. Give my best to the rest of the guys.

Mike Jones



Keith Lingscheid and the Parker D

Keith is a member of our club who lives in the San Francisco Bay area. He is building a new boat that he has named after his Grandson. The Boat is a Monterey Fishing Boat and since he can't attend our meetings and show his progress, he has sent us a couple of emails. We include his reports since he can't come to the meetings for show and tell. Keith is coming to Seattle area this summer to be at Tualatin and the Foss Cup.

His first report was last November when he had the basic hull done and was starting to work on the details.



He recently sent an update showing some of the detailed work. Keith keep up the good work.



January Fun Float

By Allan Wing

A break in the weather and the return of our Floats to Bellevue pond lead to a good turn out. Earl brought lots of buoys so we had a good practice area. Ron brought his new Tito for a maiden voyage. When he first tried it out, nothing much worked, so he had to perform some neurosurgery to get it working. Being the good doctor, he is he soon had it running. There was some polo activity and a dock to practice docking. I found that you should not take a sail boat through the whirlpool without a good strong wind. I got stuck and while the boat was not damaged or sucked in, I did feel somewhat foolish as I watched move around in circles backwards.

A special thanks to Jan Anderson for the great cookies and coffee.



Check out the web edition of the newsletter for additional pictures.



Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron

TOM STEVENS



Tom was born in 1945 in Ketchikan, Alaska as the son of an English shipwright, owner of a logging comp, commercial fisherman and a port engineer. This background most probably laid the keel for Tom's nautical career and interest in boats. The Stevens family lived on a 40 foot boat, during the summer fishing season, which his father built. At the age of 11 Tom would run a 28 foot trolling boat while his dad ran the 40 footer. It was necessary for Tom to stand on a box in order to see out of the wheelhouse. During the winter Tom would row his little rowboat outside the harbor they lived in and enjoyed finding a good log or other building materials. These items were usually in abundance following a storm along with other treasures. He enjoyed clam digging, visiting neighbors and playing canasta.

In 1957, the family moved to Friday Harbor where several old houses were purchased for the purpose of rebuilding which occupied considerable effort, leaving little for pleasures.

In the early 60s, Tom moved to Anacortes where he worked at service stations and did mechanical work. In 1968 he moved to Everett and worked as a mechanic in several shops, automotive dealerships and even started his own business. His wife suggested he work for GTE where *she* had worked since high school. Thirty years later he retired and Mel gave quite a humorous presentation at his retirement party.

At about the time he hired on at GTE, he became interested in flying RC airplanes. After crashing his plane through a stranger's roof, he went back to something he really understood – boats. At Hobby Expo in 1995 Tom purchased a model of the Carol Moran tug and proceeded to change the drive system and add a lot of refinements until it performed to his expectations. R/C boating was much less stressful - until he collided with Mel's Smit Rotterdam and sinking it at a fun float at Fred Carpenter's lake place, requiring the assistance of a diver to retrieve it. At the same time that he purchased this tug he joined the club and shortly thereafter, was talked into being president by Phil Northrup. After a year of the presidency, he took Keith Shermerhorn for a ride in his Tollycraft from Anacortes to Friday Harbor convincing him to take the helm of the club and that he would help by being vice president. Tom followed Cliff Shaw as head scale judge at Hobby Expo and had several great people assist him until Hobby Expo eventually dissolved. For the past few years he has been extensively involved in the Foss Cup event as well as being a fixture with his trailer full of goodies at many other club functions. The trailer has served as the command post for these venues.

Over the years Tom has obtained a ridiculous sum of models and related tools. In addition to the Carol Moran which he renamed the Teepee Creeper, he bought a purse seiner from Ron Burchett which he finished into a working display of ingenuity and craft. He bought Dave Springer's original Springer model and the two of them were instrumental in setting standards and plans for club members. Now this little boat has caught on all over the world and RCGroups.com is loaded with blogs, comments and helpful ideas. He built a replica of his own Tollycraft powered by a weed eater 4 stroke 1 1/2horse Honda engine. There is a storehouse of innovative technologies involved in this show stopping model. He bought the Claudia Foss from Phil and replaced the running gear. A model dear to his heart is the Jeanette, a troller, built by his dad which was willed to him. He has added a number of refinements making it a true work of art.

In addition to scale boats his other interests include miniature houses, scale looking heavy equipment, woodworking, playing guitar, running his Boston Whaler in the San Juans, vacationing yearly at a resort in Ketchikan, Alaska, welding projects, photography, wasting metal with his metal lathe or his mill, helping neighbors and best of all – clam digging. He plans to do some camping in his newly restored camper and use his Boston Whaler this summer. Tom has been and hopefully will continue to be an anchor for our club.

Club Meeting March 7, 2008



Leif Bentzen's plank on frame boat construction



Ron Bray and the Grand Banks cabin



Grand Banks cabin detail



Tom Stevens with boat from Mike Haff



Tom with long drill bits



Dennis's propeller detail



Dennis Chinn's new boat

Fun Float March 9, 2008

