



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

August 2008



Upcoming Events

August

- 3 Fun Float
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Crawdad Festival
Tualatin, OR
- 16 Foss Cup
Bellevue Park

September

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 4 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Fun Float
12:00 pm, TBA
- 20 Fall Fisherman's Festival

October

- 2 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 5 Fun Float
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Welcome to August; our most active month. The FUN FLOAT will be BEFORE the meeting because following the meeting (within twenty four hours) about twenty of us will be heading for Tualatin Commons and the most relaxed event of the year. It's relaxed because we're guests and don't have to do anything but play. The float on the third at Bellevue will have the Blue Angels overhead!

The following week, the sixteenth, will be the FOSS-CUP. Nothing but skill. I'm torn whether to try. I had a lot of fun getting a few points on the board at the Regatta and I should have my little French tugboat operating by then.

There have been a few heavy swells and fierce waves in our little club lately but they'll pass and we'll be on calm waters again. I don't want any more voodoo nights at the club. I do want meetings with increased attendance. Sure, it's Summer and gas is over \$4 a gallon (I smile to think of how Cliff would have made his Diesel VW pickup even more efficient to beat the \$5 per gallon fuel cost) but we need twenty six or twenty seven present to make meetings really successful. Car pooling works (the Flodquists picked up Burt and had a good time at the last Skagit meeting).

I encourage people to volunteer to give a little presentation. Ben gave one on mini-boats at the Skagit meeting. I'm hoping he'll give one on how to convert a servo to a speed control/powerplant. I'll need several of those for a Lindberg tug class I'll be leading at the Discovery Modelers at the Armory in November.

Speaking of presentations, I've asked Allan to have a live demonstration of his article on how to keep your fireboat from burning up. All the fireworks will remain on the table.

**Warning Parts of I-405 Closed Foss Cup Weekend
check DOT Web Site:**

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/DF5944A-22A7-406C-85D5-E7C30A452D62/0/WilburtonDetour_061108.pdf

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Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes By Allan Wing

The meeting was started right on time. There were only 18 members present and no guests or visitors.

The first order of business was Ed's treasurer report that for the first time in several years we lost money on the Regatta. Some of the larger expenses were discussed. It was decided by a broad consensus that for next year that major elements of the Regatta be discussed at meetings and voted by the membership as a whole. The concern was that the club would have difficulty maintaining the level of expense that we had this year. Some of the other problems were discussed and we agreed to work out more of the details prior to the Regatta next year.

Next Randy handed out Regatta award plaques to those who were in attendance. There was concern that the Tidewater Cup in Spokane might not be held. We have since heard from the Spokane club and we are happy to report that the **Tidewater Cup** will be held **July 26** as scheduled. Randy Reported that the 20th Fall Fisherman's Festival will be held at Fisherman's Warf on September 20th. A large group of club members will attend the **Crawdad Festival** in Tualatin on **August 9**. The **Foss Cup** will be held **August 16** at Bellevue pond. All these events will make for a busy but exciting month.

After a short break we had the show and tell. First up was Ed who showed pictures of boat parts that Aimee Eng makes. She made the molded LED lights that Mel has on his new Dolphin. She also makes a wide variety of other model boat parts. She can make custom parts for a special application. Sometimes these custom parts will become part of her product line. So if you have a special need for a part contact Aimee. Her WEB site is http://groups.msn.com/modelsandminiatures/_homepage.

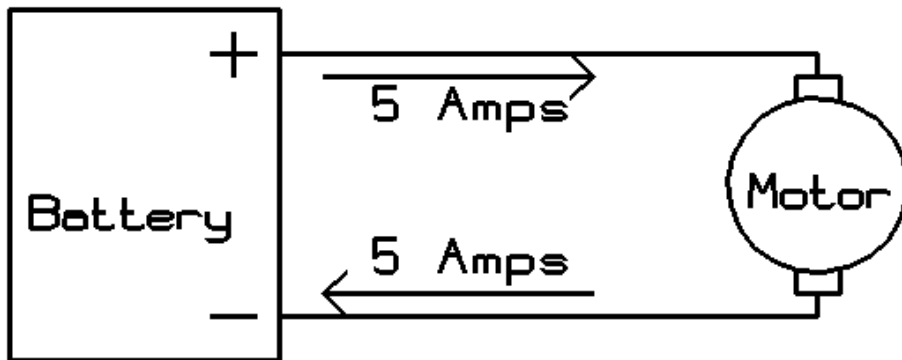
Next Tom showed a picture on an eagle he took on his recent to Alaska. The eagles were so tame that you could get really close and get a very nice picture. Tom also demonstrated his garage sale r/c golf cart. Dr. Ron showed his new Springer. He talked about the fiberglass hull and the problems he had getting a smooth surface. He also described how he was going to seal the deck to the hull. The S 1 sealer for wood is from Industrial Formulators in Auburn, WA at 888 277 8050 or 253 333 9839. Finally, Mel talked about a problem Doug Wilson was having with his Spektrum radio and receiver. It turns out that he was using a high-power servo and the servo drew enough current that the receiver battery voltage would drop low enough that the receiver would break lock with the transmitter and stop working for several seconds. This problem seems to be worse with a specific brand of servo. Mel said the solution was to supply power to the servo with a separate battery. There will be detailed explanation of how to wire the additional battery next month. There is a tip this month on how to avoid problems with multiple ground paths on page 3 and 4 of this newsletter.



Multiple Ground Paths and How to Wire a Separate Servo Battery

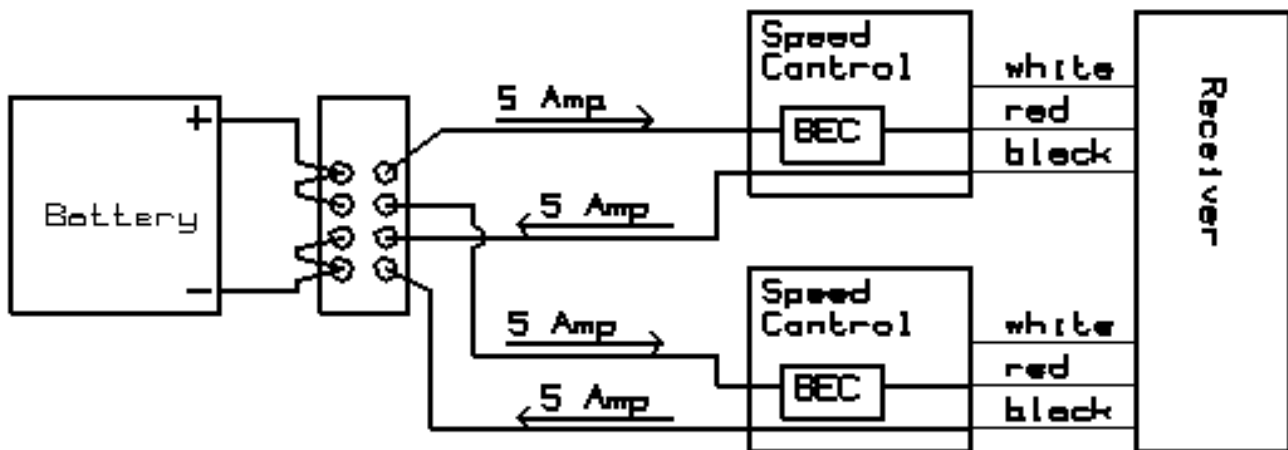
By Allan Wing

A few Fun Floats ago, John Nygaard's Fireboat suffered a fire and earned him a bent prop award. When we look at how it happened, we see that it is something that could happen to any of us. My model of the Tidewater is wired the same as the Fireboat. After doing the research for this article, I will change the wiring.



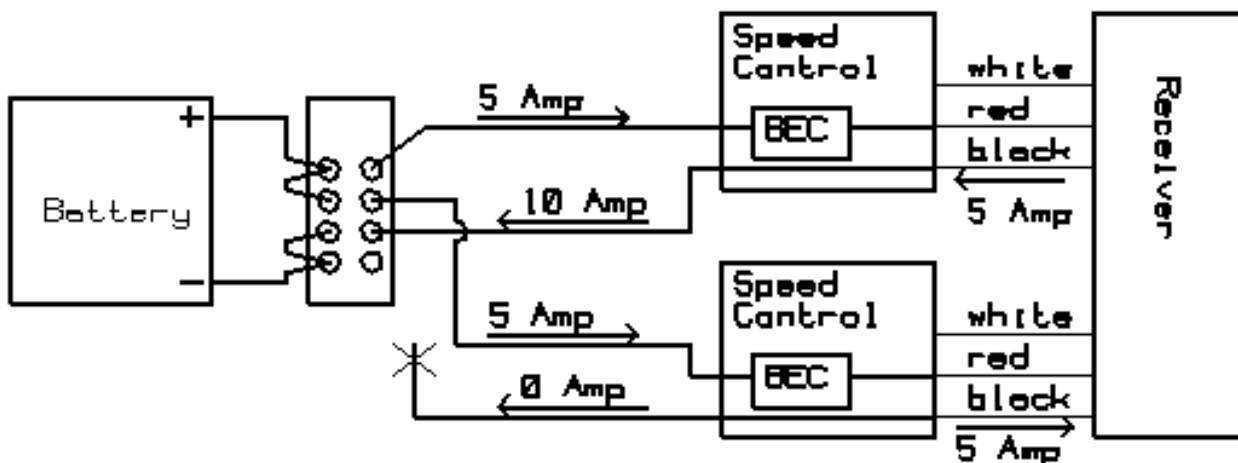
First lets look at a basic battery and motor to see how the current flows away from the battery through the load and back to the battery. This shows that the 5 amps used by the motor flows through both the positive wire and the negative ground wire. If we provide multiple paths for either wire, they can become the main path if something bad happens.

Above is a typical two motor set up with two speed controls.

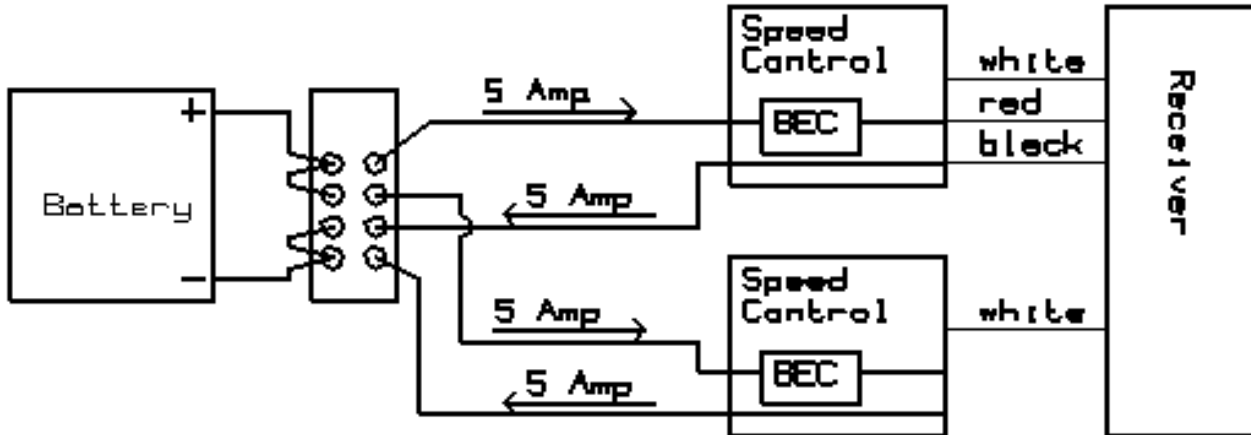


As can be seen each speed control is drawing 5 amps. There is very little current flowing between the speed control and the receiver. The current is typically less than 1/10 amps so these wires are very small. The wires to the receiver are usually 24 or 30 gauge. The wires between the battery and the speed control are usually 16 gauge or larger, this larger wire can carry 8 to 10 times more current. Now in the case of the fireboat, one of the ground wires came loose from the terminal strip. John used a terminal strip to provide neater wiring and a good way to work on the boat. The problem here is that if you take stranded wire, twist it and put under the screw to attach it to the terminal strip, it is prone to come loose. I use crimp spade or loop connectors. Mel goes even one step farther and uses the crimp connectors but he also solders the wire to the connector to further lessen the chance of anything coming loose.

Continued next page



When the ground wire came loose the current normally carried by that wire found a return path through the tiny ground wires connected to the receiver. The 5 amps was enough to cause those wires to heat up enough to burn the insulation.



The way to avoid this from happening is to wire up two speed controls differently to eliminate the alternate ground path. This is done by eliminating the ground (black) wire between one of the speed controls and the receiver. With the ground wire removed, you should also remove the red wire as well. For this example the other speed control wiring is unchanged. At least one ground wire must remain between the speed controls and the receiver to provide a reference for the signal. If you are using Vantec speed controls you don't have to worry because their wires to the receiver are completely isolated from either side of the battery.

Since I have run out of space, I will cover how to wire a separate battery to power a high torque servo next month. To Be Continued in the next month's newsletter

July Fun Float

By Allan Wing

A warm day and a good breeze made for good sailing by all. Earl brought his lighthouse and buoys. He set up a channel so we could practice our navigation skills. I had my new sailboat and Dr. Ron had his Tito for its first extended run at a fun float. We had a good crowd. The only distraction was a large piece of artwork in the north side of the pond. There were 4 or 5 Polo boats so there was some chasing of the ball. As the day progressed, it got warmer and the wind became stronger. We all finished the day well cooked.



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

Saying Thanks to Our Troops

There was a young lady at our Regatta doing a video to send to some of our troops overseas. Here is a picture of one of the scenes. The Regatta participants gave a big cheer of thanks to our brave young men and women serving in the armed forces



Al Robinson

From the Spokane Model Boat Club Newsletter:

"Al Robinson passed away around 9:30 PM July 11, 2008. The Club will miss him. He joined the Club in 1993. He has been Commodore several times & did a great job. He was voted Commodore this year. All our condolences to his wife & family. We shall miss him very much.

Ron Hinton will assume Commodore now."



SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By Keith Schermerhorn

So summer has arrived, but that didn't detour the 15 members that came to the North end meeting. Once we were all settled in the meeting started with comments and discussions on the past regatta in Bellevue. To keep things positive, the comments had to be followed with a solution to the issues to help improve the event. Of the things that were liked: T-shirts, holding the event on Saturday, navigation course, food, were the most popular. President Randy asked for comments for ideas on having separate scale and navigation events at different times. One of the most notable comments was that this is an r/c club and that is where we should be focusing our efforts on.

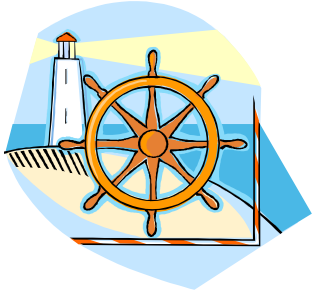
Vic was present and wanted to thank all for their help at the Waterfront Festival in Anacortes back in May. Vic had been a little ill and this was his first meeting back from surgery. we were all glad to see him there. We then turned our attention to the future. With so many boating opportunities in August and September, there should be lots of stories to share and stuff to show. Gordon confirmed our fun float on July 20th at the park he lives at. Most are looking forward to going to play. Directions were handed out to those that were there. Randy and Linda asked for a show of hands to see who was going to Tualatin, Oregon for their event. Highly recommended and there was still room at the hotel for those that want to go. Keith talked briefly on Foss Cup. He also gave a brief presentation on a special event that he was going to be part of on the following Sat with the boat/ barge. It involved delivering wedding rings via tug barge to the ceremony DURING the wedding. Pictures and story to follow. Larry informed all that want join in the Monday evening sailings in Anacortes out by the seafarers Memorial to come on out and participate with the sailboats. Just before the break we acknowledge Captain Jack Spore who was celebrating his 79th birthday!

After a short break, Ben Flodquist gave a presentation on building micro boats for r/c. He uses various items from commercially available micro models that he modifies, to scratch building these micro boats and using stripped down servos. Of the more notable innovations was the use of a micro servo disguised as an outboard motor that is used to be the boats rudder. Most of the small boats that he had demonstrated came of his larger vessel the tug "Indefatigable". A large r/c tug with multiple micro r/c vessels on board. that is one way to bring 4 or 5 boats to play with and only have to pack the main one!

Tom gave a demo of his new toy-- an r/c golf caddy. Ran well, but had no reverse. New toy was found at a garage sale for only \$10.00. Keith showed a couple Scale Shipyard hulls/kits. 1 was a tug kit of the "Edmond J Moran" and the other was of the 1/96th scale USS Arizona battleship. Larry showed the final configuration of one of the sailboats he had been working on. That was all the time we had as it was now 22:00 hour and time to head home to our own harbors till the next meeting.

A Further Note from Keith

For those that didn't realize it is **August**, and that means it is time for the annual tug competition known as **Foss Cup** on **Saturday the 16th** at Downtown Park in Bellevue. This is one of the events of the year on the West coast and it happens in our own back yard. Come test you skills and knowledge on tug works with the barge course and the salvage of a derelict vessel. There will be prizes and award in several categories, a raffle, lunch, and many great models and modelers. As with any event, this is a friendly, fun, completion with several people from around the west coast and beyond in attendance. We do have a need for any one that would like to volunteer their help through out the day with various activities. From raffle tickets sales, registration, help at the dockside tying up barges, score runners and tabulators, and other duties. If you can help, please let myself or Tom Stevens know. In the mean time, practice moving anything that can be a barge and get those tugs ready for a fun day.



Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron

GERHARD ERIKSON

Gerhard entered this world in 1933 at Swedish Hospital and grew up in the Everett area graduating from Everett High School. While in high school, he joined the Naval Reserve so after only one year in junior college he was drafted into the Navy serving on the USS Bradford DD545 for two years. After his tour of duty, he went to work for Boeing in the tooling departments at Renton and Everett plants making jigs for flat pattern tooling. When he retired in 1964, he then spent the next 33 years as a custodian for the North Shore School District, and retired permanently in 1995. He was married to his wife Ruth in 1959 and has a daughter and a son.



His first introduction to models was in the late 30's when he observed his neighbor constructing paper covered airplanes. He began making models of airplanes, boats and other vehicles during the war years. Later he viewed an article about tug boats in a model airplane magazine, sent for the plans and scratch built a single screw Mickey tug which he named the Ruth Ann. He had the plans enlarged and built another tug which he later sold to Dusty. His interest was sharpened at a model meet at the coast guard station in the 70's His interest really peaked when he witnessed a fun float at Scriber lake in 1978 with such dignitaries as Cliff Shaw and Gordy Canny performing their skills running R/C boats. In fact, he became a charter member of the NWRC ship modelers along with Bob Jacobson, Cliff Shaw, Lou Monobasco, and others that have passed on. His builds have included two fishing boats, a Springer and an East coast scallop boat with the aid of a jig, a technique he learned from one of the early members - Ray Nelson. This boat resides with his son.

Gerh has been a staunch advocate for the club and has been a regular at the meetings and events. You can always find Gerh at the registration table at the regattas and Foss Cups and also has been a judge for scale and navigation at these events. His wife Ruth also has become involved in the culinary aspects of our events and has also been a strong supporter of the club.

His other interests are model trains and walking the two mile trek around Lake Tye in Monroe. He has a huge train layout in his hobby room at home.

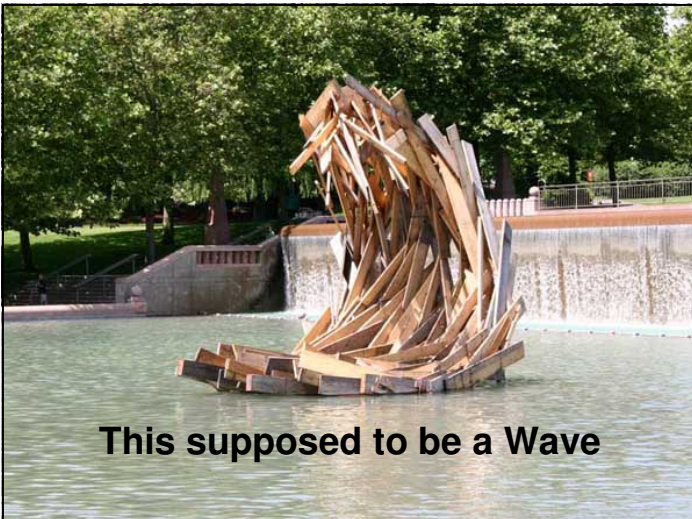
As for the future of our club, he feels that meetings should be shorter with more time devoted to socializing, viewing projects, asking questions, learning the skills of model building and teaching new techniques. He would like to see a more relaxed atmosphere much like the Northern group's meetings. He feels that our club isn't getting the notice it should in order to attract new members who may not even know who to contact. Obviously new members need to be encouraged and helped as much as possible to maintain their interest.

Gerh and Ruth are longtime participants in our events and strong proponents of RC boating and will be seen frequently around the pond and at the meetings always with a smile and encouragement.

Fun Float July 13, 2008 Pictures



Norm Hiatt, Proud Skipper, and his new Boat



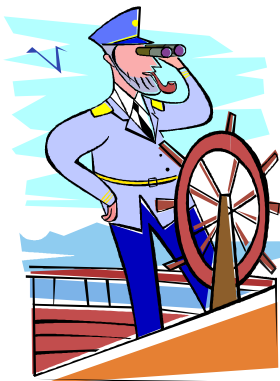
This supposed to be a Wave



Fun Float July 13, 2008 Pictures

Earl gives us all a demonstration of the proper way to launch a Polo Springer. This method of launching assures the boat is ready for the rigors of a hard fought game. His boats all have the cabin firmly attached and sealed which keeps everything inside dry. This is a good thing because this is how he launches his Springers.

The question of the Month is how many of you would feel comfortable launching your boat like this?



More Fun Float Pictures



Darlene that is buoy not the ball.

Springers in *Action*

If you wonder why Earl uses his special launch technique to test his boat look closely below.



Earl's Red Top moving the ball.

