



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

August, 2011

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

DATES OF INTEREST

August

4 Fun Float - Bellevue

7 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00PM, Galaxy Hobby

13 Crowdad Festival,
Tualatin, OR

20 Foss Cup - Bellevue

September

There needs to be more club input

To make a newsletter worthwhile

We have many members who could add

A great deal by sharing their knowledge

The editor

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FROM THE QUARTER DECK



We are now deep into summer and we have actually had a few warm days. This weekend a few of our members are making the trek to Spokane for the Tidewater Cup. It will be interesting to see how well they do. (See elsewhere in this newsletter)

Amiee Eng and Phil McKinney have made the preparations for the Crawdad Festival in Tualatin (August 13). We have over 20 members and family going to the event. There is a group dinner planned for Saturday night and I am sure there will be some interesting competitions Saturday. Amiee and Phil have made some improvements so it should be a good event.

Later on in the month we have the Foss Cup (August 20) at Bellevue Pond. We have one fun float before the event so I hope our members will be practicing. From everything we have heard the Foss cup will be much the same as last year. So it is our chance to take back the honor of winning from the Canadians.

We just returned from an exciting trip to Scandinavia. It was interesting to see the evolution of those seafaring nations from the Viking ships to the **Fram**, that explored both Arctic and Antarctic waters and finally to Denmark's Maersk container shipping lines (the largest in the world). If you want to see lots of boats and learn some boating history, Scandinavia is the place to go.

We now need to turn our attention to planning for the late year events. The December meeting and nominations for the Cliff Shaw award. We will be discussing where to have our December meeting. We have basically two choices. We can continue with what we did last year with a catered event or as has been suggested, find a room at a restaurant and order from their choices. We will discuss this at our meetings and see what the consensus is. We need to start thinking about nominations for the Cliff Shaw award. We need the names of people who you feel have made an outstanding contribution to Model Boating. Please send your nominations to me and I will make sure they get sent to the committee of recent winners.

2011 Tidewater Cup - Mel Suelzle

July 30th was the date of this year's Tidewater Cup in Spokane. Three members of our club attended this event, Al Kinsman, Bob Wickham and myself. For the first time, two members of the San Francisco Model Yacht club also were on hand, Lee Duval and Gary (?). Local skippers included about a dozen or so members from the Spokane Model Boat Club, which hosts this event each year with the sponsorship of Tidewater. This is one of the best model boat venues you'll find.

The event is held in a park-like location on the property of the local power company, Avista. This manmade pond has many large rocks and a fountain that contributes to a most interesting and challenging event. The Spokane Model Boat Club seems to outdo themselves each year in creating very complex and challenging courses that take maximum advantage of the large rocks nicely positioned in the pond.

The events consisted of 3 separate competitions. One event is for Springer class boats that require a skipper to take a barge through a very complex course, weaving in and around a couple dozen large and unforgiving boulders. The complexity demands you to have a navigator. This allows the skipper to navigate around and thorough rock lined passages, some with only an inch to spare on each side of the barge. This most challenging course is difficult to run without hitting at least one rock. It is timed as well to break any ties. This year's winner with a flawless run was our own member, Al Kinsman.

The featured Tidewater event is made up of two separate portions; a challenging barge navigation course and a salvage event. In the challenging navigation portion a tug & barge must go through a complex course that was expanded this year. The relatively low fountain level allowed a number of tight maneuvers. Once again, a successful skipper needs a navigator to successfully navigate the course properly. In the Salvage portion, a large derelict freighter is towed through a course including a rock lined channel with only a few inches clearance. The salvage concludes with the docking of the freighter and must be accomplished within a prescribed amount of time.

As usual, the skippers from our club did well in this event. Al Kinsman overcame his handicap of having me for a navigator and he took 1st place in the Medium class for navigation. I took 1st place in the salvage event and 2nd place in the small navigation class having missed 1st by 2 seconds! Combined scores of salvage and navigation resulted in yours truly winning the 2011 Tidewater Cup.

As in past years, the awards were followed by a nice meal in celebration of a most successful and entertaining day. If you have never attended the Tidewater event, you should seriously consider it in your future plans. It is normally held on the Saturday of the last weekend of July. This is a very fun model boat event in a park-like setting, nice weather and the best tug/barge navigation courses anywhere! All setup and nicely hosted by a great bunch of guys (and wives) from the Spokane Model Boat Club. Kudos to this small club for putting on this super event.

(Pictures Follow)



August Meeting Minutes

Allan began the meeting at 7:00 PM and after determining there were no guests launched into a discussion of the December Dinner meeting. There was no great outcry for a particular type of dinner so the matter was tabled for further discussion.

Allan then reviewed the activities for the weekend in Tualatin, Oregon, upcoming. There will be an impromptu dinner gathering on Friday night, possibly at the hotel on the patio or elsewhere. Saturday night the Portland crew has set up a no-host dinner in the hotel restaurant. You will be able to choose from a selected menu of items when you arrive in the dining room. There are various expenses which Aimee and Phil incur in putting on the float and since they do not have the backing of the Portland club, these expenses come out of their pockets. Your board suggests that each member donate to the float by “greasing” either Aimee’s or Phil’s hand. This way we will more likely to have another event next year.

Allan then had Mel Suelzle give a report on the Spokane trip to the Tidewater Cup (article appears in the newsletter). Mel just could not get the grin off his face. The course was fantastic! (A note to our course designers for our events?)

The Foss Cup was mentioned that it was going to occur on the 20th of August at the Bellevue Pond, but no other details have been received.

Our visit to Bob Jacobsen’s home is scheduled for September and it has been proposed we have a silent auction during the day, so plan to dig through all you stored “goodies” and use this a method of disposing of them.

Fishermen’s Festival will be on September 17th and we will have a booth and place to launch.

Mike Jones has finalized a source for club jackets. It is Clothtattoo.com, in Woodinville. The art work will be in their hands by the 18th of this month so all one has to do is go to the store, identify yourself as a club member, choose the jacket you wish to purchase and the art work you want applied. We should have a fine looking bunch of ruffians when we wear our jackets.

There was a discussion of a proposed West Coast Challenge which will include a number of the clubs, strangely enough, from the West Coast. Much of what is know is not solid so more research is to be done to find out particulars.

A short break was taken and then we had Show & Tell

Cliff showed us his fishing boat which he has done some modifications to to improve its appearance.

Phil Northrup provided an update to his “Mule” which has caused him a great deal of trouble as there is no photographic record of them.

Norm Haitt gave us some more info on the ***U.S.S. Contellation***.

And finally **Mike Jones** regaled with the progress he is making on the **Preston** snag boat. He surprised us with several layers of superstructure work he had completed, by bring in layer by layer. This a very impressive boat and will be a real whiz-bang when completed.



News From The North

A BIG thanks to Gordon and Alphild Johnson for the great day and fun float at the pond at Park Village. Four of the Southern members enjoyed a fun day and great hospitality. Al Kinsman, Dain Webster, Bob Wickham and Lee Stewart attended the day. There were some great models and the weather was pleasant.

**Meeting Date Changes: September Meeting will be August 29th (Monday)
October Meeting will be September 26th (Monday)**





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