



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

August 2010

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From the Quarterdeck

By Allan Wing



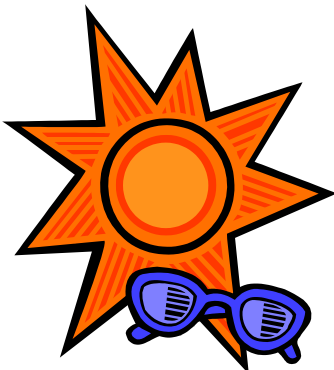
Since it after the 4th of July, it must be summer in the northwest. There are many people on vacation so things are a bit slow. Our plans for the December meeting are progressing. We are planning to have it at the Martha Lake Community Center with the same caterer as the last few years. We will be discussing menu items and cost as things come together.

The next event on the horizon is Tidewater Cup in Spokane. By the time you read this, it will have happened. I watched Mel practice with his barge so he will be ready for both the Tidewater and Foss Cup. Last year we got beat by a lady from Canada. Ron Burchett had many practice sessions so they came prepared. If we want our club to make a good showing, it would be a good time to start practicing. There will be a few barges at the August Fun Float. To be competitive, find/build a barge and get in some practice time. Since we do very little barge handling, we feel a bit awkward when it comes to Foss Cup.

Tualatin and the Crawdad Festival is coming up on August 14. Aimee Eng is planning a new event so it should be fun. It involves teams trying to line up a barge below a crane. The teams will be picked at random so I don't think this is one we can practice. She always works hard to make this a good event. It looks like will have a large turnout and a get together for dinner.

On July 10th I went to see an event featuring a different

(Continued on page 2)





Upcoming Events

August

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 8 Fun Float
12:00, Bellevue Park
- 14 Crawdad Festival
9am-9pm Tualatin, OR
- 21 Foss Cup
9am, Bellevue Park
- 22 Burnaby Regatta
9-4pm, Central Park

September

- 2 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 4&5 BIMM Fall Model Show
Bellingham Museum
- 5 Fun Float/Springer Event
12:00, Bellevue Park
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 18 Fall Fisherman's Festival
11:00am Fisherman's Terminal

October

- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 10 Fun Float/Springer Event
12:00, Bellevue Park



(Continued from page 1)

part of the world of R/C boats. I went to a 1/10 scale R/C Hydro event held at Bellevue Pond. This is class of boats that have emerged with the development of brushless motors. Many of the people used to race gas hydroplanes. The electric hydroplanes are reliable, quiet and safe enough to run on a pond like Bellevue. The boats go a maximum speed of near 35 miles per hour. They all run a 500 size brushless motor and LiPo batteries. It was an interesting event and at times they look much like the real hydroplanes of old.



As technology improves we keep looking for new things to try in our boats. One area that has been improving is LiPo batteries. The price has been going down and the capacity has been going up. Gordy sent me an email with a link to information on Lithium ion batteries but it would apply to LiPo as well. I include the link here <http://www.techatplay.com/?p=61>. The one big thing we would have to do is use speed controls that have a cutout when the battery gets low so that we would not overly discharge the battery. I have noticed that with a new drill I have that it does not run down like the old NICD batteries. It just stops when the internal monitor sees that the LiPo is getting low.

I hope to see you at the **Crawdad Festival** or the **Foss Cup**.



NW R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By, Dr. Ron

JULY MEETING MINUTES

Our commodore started the meeting promptly at 1900 hours with less than normal attendance, most probably due to the upcoming holiday weekend. A guest of Robert Wickham, Richard Dolph, was introduced. Allan thanked all the members who helped make the regatta a success and thought we should donate left over water and sodas to the Foss Cup event. Ed reported that the regatta nearly broke even and that we are still in a good financial condition. Because the 4th of July will be this weekend the fun float will the following weekend on the 11th. Of interest was the announcement that the 10th annual 20th scale hydro races will be held the day before from 8 AM to 5 PM. These fast boats are restricted to a specific brushless motor and batteries. The brushless motor consumes 600 watts of power, developing $\frac{3}{4}$ horsepower. Our Graupner 600 motors can consume up to 300 watts but usually run a little over 100 watts.

Dave White again announced the National Garden Railway convention will occur from August 1 . 8 and brought in a program to be passed around. In order to tour the garden displays one must first register at the Murano Hotel next to the convention center in Tacoma . One of the members, Glenn Shadduck, has invited our gang to his garden display and to run our boats from his dock at Lake Serene. Pictures of his facility were passed around and 4-5 members showed interest in attending.

The purchase of logo coffee cups was discussed and details will be in the newsletter a little later and will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8-10. **Dennis Chinn** expressed interest in hosting another polo match at his pool on the 24th of July, so get your boats ready to compete. It is possible that speedy Earl Anderson will be out cruising on his big boat so there may be an opportunity for others to get into the scoring mode. The Tidewater Cup has been rescheduled to the 31st of July and members were encouraged to participate. **Mel** said there will be some eats after the event and perhaps dinner the night before. The Tualatin event is on schedule for the 14th of August and is being orchestrated by Amie and her crew. A contribution of \$10-20 was suggested to help defray the expense of reserving the pond during the Crawdad Festival. The Century Hotel is booked but there is room at the Comfort Inn which is close by and a little less expensive. We will try to get a feeling for who is planning to attend and those who are interested in dinner Friday night. Some will be also getting together on Saturday night for dinner before the night float which is always very popular. The Foss Cup is on schedule for the 21st of August and will most likely be the same format as last year. Possibly a team event will be scheduled and pairings made by drawing names out of a hat. The December dinner was voted to be held at the Martha Lake Community center on the first Thursday of December (12/2) and to be catered by chef Bertran with the menu yet to be determined.

After the break, it was show and tell time led off by **Cliff Elowsen** showing his progress on his Billings White Star fishing boat and noting how changes in the battery configu-



(Continued from page 3)

ration would allow room for construction of the cabin and cockpits. He demonstrated the low speed characteristics of his new Mtronics Viper Marine 15 speed controller.



Dr. Ron expanded on this showing the low speed characteristics of his Mtronics Viper Marine 25 ESC and the speed at which one can go from fast forward to fast reverse. Allan stated that as much as 20 amps could pass the ESC with this maneuver. Mike is looking into acquiring this line of ESCs for us.



Norm Hiatt brought in his 170 oar trireme which is now fully operational and quite impressive. Because of space limitations he can not operate each side separately as in his Viking boat, but must rely on the rudders for directional control.

John Kelly brought the Fletcher class destroyer hull and plans that he won at the regatta raffle and offered them for sale. **Bob Wickham** offered to store it until some one expressed an interest. John also brought in a miniature pirate treasure chest which he constructed with jewel fragments donated by his roommate who is a jeweler.



Next, **Frank Smith** demonstrated how to rout out radial curves with a jig he built. He also showed how to bed planks with the jig he fabricated. He found that bending his basswood planks was the same whether he steamed them or merely put them in boiling water. He then showed remarkable progress on his model of the SS Beaver.

Sam Stout reported his frustration with the build of his Dumas Brooklyn tug requiring disassembly of the deck and a re-do of the deck supports in order to make the parts fit and avoid distortion. Dallas Evans showed pictures of his 1/14 scale harbor tug in the water. He found that the motor he is using really gets hot swinging a 5 inch prop and is on the lookout for a bigger motor. To get the model down to the water line he bought three Optima marine blue top batteries each weighing 35 pounds and connected in parallel. He also showed pictures of his 1/14scale Shelly Foss which will be 76 inches long. Discussion and pictures can be viewed on line at www.dallas2254 85 harbor tug at the RC Universe website.



Though the meeting concluded at 2025 and the chairs stacked, many lingered for further discussions before casting off for home ports.

Photos by Dave White

Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Keith Schermerhorn

If you lived in the Pacific NW long enough you know summer doesn't start until July 5th. This year was definitely true to the saying. As the meeting for the Skagit club was on the 5th, we had nice warm weather. Even with the warm sunny weather, we had 11 members attend the meeting for the night. It was good to see every one there with all their digits in place and hearing not impaired from the weekend festivities. There was not much in the way of old business so we marched right into the upcoming events. Fun float with Gordon at the home park he lives in was first. Looking to have several vessels in attendance to run boats in the pond from 1-4 pm. Parking was discussed and refreshments will be provided. This is a neat place to run with high banks for easy visibility and weed free!.

Next event will be a week later at the workboat races in Anacortes. Club has been invited to have a model display that features workboats (tugs, fishing, transport, crew, etc.) along with the other displays out on the pier in front of the Port office at the end of Commercial street. There will limited parking so one will want to be there early. We will set up around 2:30/3:00 pm so that we are ready to go. There are to be some historic tugs visiting along with the 25 vessels that have registered to race. Pirate contest, chowder cook-off, and music all part of the festivities planned. After the races, the Flodquist have invited every one up to their home for a potluck dinner. If planning on going, you wont be disappointed as the last one was really good with great food and company.

August will feature several events that will include: Drayton Harbor days in Blaine on the 7th, Tualatin on the 14/15th, Foss Cup on the 21st, and Burnaby on the 22nd. Possibility that we are going to try and have another fun float also(figure that out at the August meeting).



Show and tell had **Keith** showing off some universal epoxy glue called G-Flex, available at West Marine. This stuff is great for all general adhesive jobs including adhering wood, metal, and other items to ABS hulls. Usually, most adhesives just don't hold the bond.

This stuff is designed to adhere all sorts of stuff on full size boats. Used this to mount to an motor mount ABS hull. Once set, it was unbreakable! Keith also mentioned that long time model boat manufacturer Dumas will be launching a new series of beginner models known as "footies". These first 4 models will all be 12 inches long (hence the name footies) and of simple design. More to come later on these.

Larry gave a report on the IOM (International One Meter)sail boat races he attended up in Canada. Several boats with different hull designs that fall with in the parameters of the IOM regulations of hull weight and displacement. Some good racing, good fun, and lots of racing was had. While there he picked up a new IOM hull known as a Vector. Extremely light hull with all the internal fittings mounted on the centerboard and not to the hull as it is the only strong point. Radio is a Spectrum style and batteries are lithium ion. These batteries are much smaller and lighter than other batteries, but carry much more of a charge. Especially important when saving weight on this class of boat. Biggest challenge here is that the lithium ion batteries HAVE to be charged with a charger designed for them.



With s-n-t over, we gathered up our projects, put the chairs away, and headed for our home ports. Just like to remind every one that our meetings are open to all modelers and guest and encourage modelers to show your projects--no matter what condition they are in.

July Fun Float

We delayed the Fun Float for a week to avoid conflicts with the July 4th weekend. It was a good thing because the weather was much better. We had a cloudy morning with a sunny and very warm afternoon. We had a good turnout. **Norm** came with his tri-marine. He had some trouble in that the oars did not raise enough to clear the water on the return stroke so he is going to make some adjustments. **Truxtun Craven** came with his side-wheeler the Alida. He made this boat from a general idea so the size and some photographs. It looked rather impressive on the pond.



Dave White and **Mel Suelzle** were practicing barge handling. Dave had to stop after several minutes because one of his motors had stopped working. It smelled like it was overheated. A word of caution, don't touch a motor that smells strongly like it is hot because it really is. I did and my finger hurt for the rest of the afternoon. It is a good idea to practice.

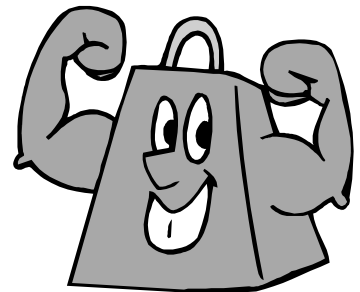
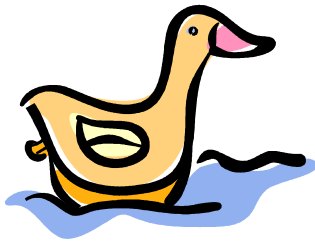


July Fun Float continued



I had my solar powered boat on the pond. It is mostly solar panel and goes rather slow. I think that while solar panels can power a boat it will not really get beyond the novelty phase.

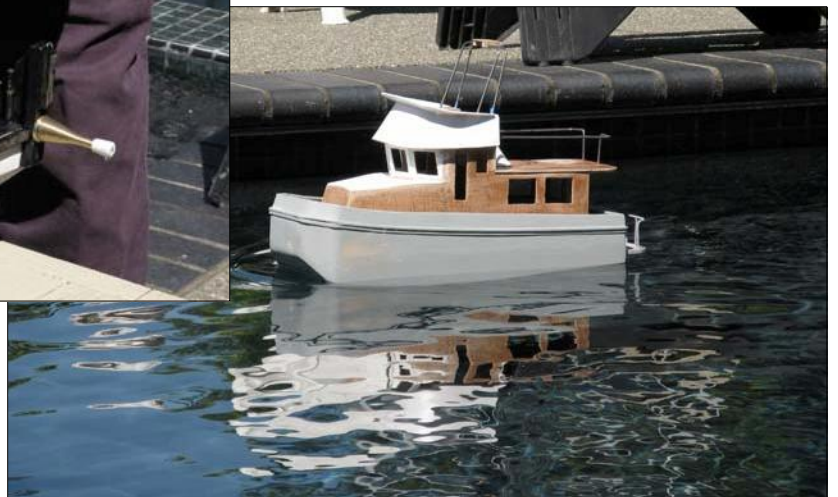
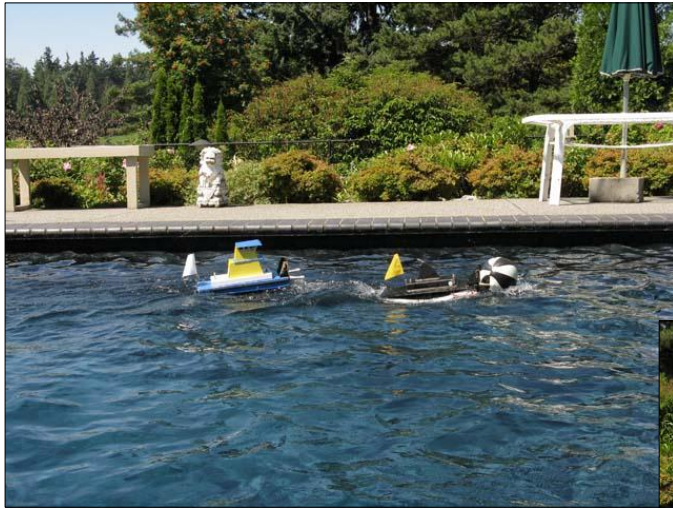
One Big Heavy Boat



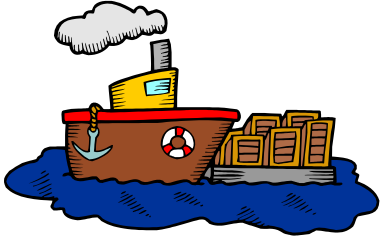
Polo Match

July 24, 2010

We had another spirited polo match at Dennis Chinn's pool. With many people on vacation or busy elsewhere, we had only 6 boats. We were able to keep them running most of the time. We had a few stoppages to repair various problems but we had lots of 3 on 3 action. It got rather warm by the time we finished.



Foss Cup



For all the tug skippers out there, it is that time of year again to see who has what it takes to win the **15th annual Foss Cup** model tug competition to be held on **Saturday, August 21st** at Downtown Park in Bellevue. This yearly event is one of the most challenging and fun events any where with competitors coming from all over the West Coast of the US and Canada and other points from beyond. This event is just for the tug boats and is an all skills contest to see how well one can maneuver a barge through a navigation course and successfully retrieve a derelict vessel with precision docking. The best combined score from the 2 disciplines will be crowned the Foss Cup Champion. All the vessels competing will be divided into 5 groups: small (under pounds), medium (15.01 to 30 pounds), large (everything over 30.01 lbs), vintage (open rudder/prop on long skinny hull), and the masters (past winners). Barges and derelict vessels are assigned based on classification of the tug. Awards will be given as follows:

- top 3 places in small, medium, large and vintage
- first only in masters
- Sponsors Award (best Foss boat)
- Judges Choice
- Foss Cup Champion
- Team Tow first only (2)

Now new this year will be the Team Tow competition. This is where all those that entered this event will be paired up with another skipper and have to take a large barge through a course together. Communication will paramount as you will not know who you will be paired with until the names are drawn from the "hat". This is to make it fair for all who want to try this and more interesting since you partner could be from anywhere and more than likely the two of you have not had a chance to practice.

As with any event, we can always use extra help before, during, and after the event. Help is especially needed in transporting some of the items from the storage unit to the pond and back (Deception Pass, tables, barrier lines with floats). If you would be interested in helping please contact me before the event or even that day.

Along with the event its' self, we will be having a raffle for items that have been donated from commercial tug companies, hobby vendors, and individuals who support this great event. A simple lunch will be provided for all the competitors, help, and immediate family members. We also have several employees who have work/retired in the tug and tow business that will be attending to enjoy the festivities of the day. Cost for competing is only \$5.00 (includes lunch) and is absolutely free for the public to watch. I would recommend that you make up some lines to attach to the barge with in the fashion you are most comfortable (i.e. on the hip, pushing, towing). Also make a tow line to attach to the salvage gear of choice (will be provided or create your own) to your tug.

So practice while you can with a barge, log, other vessel, so that you will be ready for the challenge as I hope to see you there!!

Keith

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