



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

December 2008



Upcoming Events

December

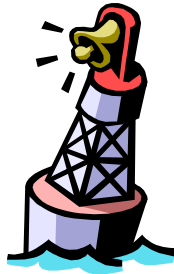
- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 4 December Dinner Meeting
7:30 Martha Lake CC
- 7 Fun Float
12:00 pm, CWB Lake Union

January

- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 8 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 11 Fun Float
12:00 pm, CWB Lake Union

February

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 6-8 Hobby Expo
Monroe Fairgrounds
- 8 Fun Float
12:00 pm, CWB Lake Union



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

This is being written while awaiting the interview with Barak and Michelle Obama on Sixty Minutes Sunday night. Linda and I worked sixteen hours at the polls on the fourth and I was caught up in the joyous and peaceful demonstration on its way to Broadway while taking our over 1600 ballots to the depot. It was quite a day. At the polls we saw lots of examples of young voters voting their first election and immigrants and recent citizens getting to participate in democracy. Several folks around my age said they'd miss going to the polls. Me too. I have high hopes that our nation will return to its place as the light of the world, our industry the example for others to follow, our imagination creating cures for what is bugging us and dragging us down. We seem to have lost our way but it looks like we're going to try to find our way back. A return to the safe channel and safe water that leads us back to a prosperous port. But, it won't be easy.

What the hell does all that have to do with model boating? Quite a lot I think. I ran for president two years ago because I wanted a friendlier more positive atmosphere. I lost on my first try. Second try and you voted me in (actually, the maybe twenty-five percent of the club that attends the meetings voted) to give me a try. A lot more work than I had imagined. In 2008 we've had entertaining floats, a turnout at NW Hobby Expo, polar bear float at Kilarney Pool, two exciting Springer events, running at and then watching the Elliot Bay Tug Races, a REGATTA with great food, cool tee-shirts and aprons, questionable weather, and budget minded personalized plaque-certificates that proved a mixed bag. We became insured and that is a good thing and opens more venues to us. We had a great presence at Tualatin with lots of

(Continued on page 2)

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Skagit R/C Meeting

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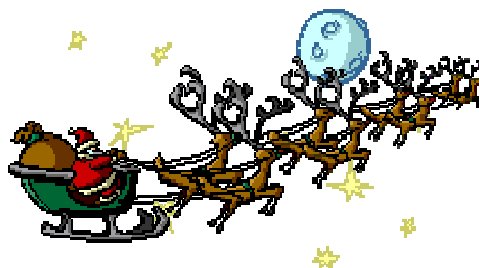
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(Continued from page 1)

couples that shows the social aspects of the club are important. The Thursday coffee klatches at Galaxy moved the third one each month to the Pond or Chinn's pool. More fun. More camaraderie. This years' FOSS CUP, while not an official club event, was a roaring success because of our participation and support. Lake Bob and Lake Jack have gone away but Fall Fisherman's continues rain or shine. Our off season floats at the Center For Wooden Boats continue to be well attended and many participate in the Pacific Marine Expo. Our third catered December Dinner will surely be an enjoyable event on the fourth. We've grown by several members and have lost some, some tragically. I think of Mike Haff almost every day and miss him fierce. Mike built one of the first Springers and now we can turn to You Tube and see them running on the lochs of Scotland.

And what of 2009. SUZY will be ten! I promise to get FREDDIE in the water. We need a committee to discuss what we want the REGATTA to be. I'd like to propose a few field trips. The BILGE PUMP could have an expanded presence on the web. The most interesting thing to me in 2008 was the people who came to the FOSS CUP to watch... and stayed all day!! That is something to exploit. We've got members from those folding-chair types and we can get more. Kiera who hasn't reached two digits in age but ran in the REGATTA is a great symbol for the future. We need to draw young people in. For the first time I'm old enough to be the US President's father! I'm OK with that but it is kinda weird. We need more members to keep us healthy and growing. We're already young at heart as can be seen by our lovely toys. But like your local Grange hall, we need the youth. Look what they did for Obama. So think about your new builds for 2009. Mine will be small and cartoonish but it will suit me. It won't win any awards but it'll be able to travel wherever we go and allow me to play in other people's water and strike up friendly conversations with new friends. It'll win for me if it can make it down the channel passing those red buoys on the right returning.





Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes By Allan Wing

The meeting was called to order a few minutes late because of poor weather and heavy traffic. (Randy was late). We had 18 members and a visitor. The visitor, John Kling, had a model of the Fish Hawk and some questions about speed controls.

The meetings got underway with an announcement by Randy that Dues are due for next year and have been increased to \$25 with another increase to \$30 for 2010. Ed was collecting money for the December dinner. The price of dinner is \$30. The dinner is at Martha Lake Community center at 7:30 pm.

Randy talked about recent and upcoming events. Mel won the fall Springer event that was held as part of our October Fun Float. Mel said the spring event would be a "blind con". The Pacific Marine Expo will be on October 20, 21 and 22. It was mentioned that the Center for Wooden Boats now charges for parking. That means that we will have to pay \$5 to park for the Fun Float.

The election of officers was discussed and it was moved that we keep the same officers for next year, that motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mel announced there were 3 nominations for the Cliff Shaw award and the presentation would be made at the December dinner meeting.

Al Kinsman asked about the Hobby Expo. Randy had not heard anything from the organizer and there is very little time to get a booth and get something planned.

There were 2 quick show and tells before Mike Shaw did the New Launch judging. I showed Darlene's Springer with its new brushless motor. This is an experiment to see if a brushless motor would be a good alternative. Berry showed his Lindburg Destroyer that he had completed.

We had a break and then Mike reviewed the new launches for this year. Mike also announced the Secret Santa Sale. The sale will be on November 22 between 7 and 10 PM.

The new launches were presented:

Mel Suelzle showed his new Dolphin, the Morgan Foss, that he had temporarily named Dental Foss.

Barry Bertran showed his little tug that he had equipped with a motor, speed control and receiver.

Norm Hiatt showed his sternwheeler, the Mongoose.

Dr. Ron Bray showed his Grand Banks and his LA Fireboat.

Leif Bentzen showed his boat the Arikat

Finally, I showed my new sail boat the Emma C. Berry.



Mike looked over all the boats carefully and took pictures. He will announce the winner at a later date.

With the end of the judging, we stacked the chairs and called it a night.



Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes By Keith Schermerhorn

The November meeting of the Skagit Club was more of a gathering of minds for a session in discussion. In other words there was not much model talk, but a lot of BS (Boat Stuff--what were you thinking). The gathering included Gordon, Wayne, Len, Lon, Larry, and Keith. As usual, we covered the up coming events between Fish Boat show, Pig Outs, to Hobby Expo in February. We concentrated on the events that seem to be the most *full -filling* in December. The Pig Outs covered a good majority of the fun stuff as we all agreed they are a great way to wrap up the year with food, fellowship, and pictures. If we have the projector, we will run photos through out the night. Every one is encourage bringing their favorite dish or goodies for all to enjoy. We also encourage those with projects *to bring them along* so that we have boats (in any stage) on display so we all know what is being built or updated. After all, we are a boat model club and need to see boats.

We also got updates about some of our friends who have been battling health issues. Wayne's wife had surgery to remove some potentially dangerous growths. The surgery went well and we are all wishing Mick a speedy recovery. Vic, the sailing maniac, is feeling better and getting around much better. Has even been out sailing the sailboats more and more.

The only model on display was the sailboat that Larry had just about finished. Once again, this one sold before he had a chance to finish it. Fortunately for Larry, the deal included another "Soling" sail boat kit to put together. It will be finished with more of the hand made fittings from some aluminum angle stock Larry had secured.

After some more lively conversation had been used up on favorite new show, we pushed the chairs back into their normal positions and headed back to our own home ports for the evening. The next meeting will be on December 1st with the fun Pig Out Night (and right after Thanksgiving). We hope to see you there.

REMINDER

ALL MEMBERSHIP DUES EXPIRE THE END OF DECEMBER AND MUST BE PAID BY THE END OF JANUARY! ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW \$25. Make your checks out to NWRCSM and give to Ed Maurer. If you prefer, mail to Ed at 22309 54th Ave. W, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Mark you calendar, the 2009 Northwest Model Expo is scheduled for Feb. 6,7 & 8th at the Evergreen Fairgrounds in Monroe.

November Fun Float

by Allan Wing

The weather had been wet and rainy so we figured this would be a wet fun float. We got a break. The rain stopped for most of the day and only started up about the time everyone was going home. We had a couple on new boats show up. Barry Bertran had invited a friend. His friend brought an aircraft carrier. Unlike the two aircraft carriers we had at Bellevue for one of our summer Floats this one was only a few inches long. It was small enough that a Springer could run over it. Jon Andriesen had his steam tug Brookland. He was adjusting the burner to get good consistent running. We had many of the familiar people and boats. Berry brought his Lindburg Destroyer that he showed at the August meeting. Darlene brought her Springer equipped with a new brushless motor. Her Springer worked very well and showed that it could go considerably faster than mine. This was the first Fun Float at the Center for Wooden Boats for this season and we got off to a good start.



Read All About It!

By, Scott Baumann



Many of you stay plugged into the tugboat scene by keeping abreast of the local tugboat underground, whether it is by word-of-mouth from the yards or by following internet links. Gordon Canney and the Flodquists come to mind.

For my part, I love to read history books. Over decades I have built up a library of countless volumes of naval history. Some books I can only obtain through the local library. One in particular I would check out religiously every second year until it was reprinted and I was able to purchase my own copy. By delving into these historical treasures one's enjoyment is extended and the subjects become much more personal. You are not only building a replica and running it around a pond, but you feel much more immersed in the subject on a more completely personal level. So here are some of my favorites:

Let's say that we are in the Fall of 1944, and the liberation of occupied Europe is faltering for lack of adequate supplies delivered to the troops ashore. Grand Allied plans fall through because of an inability to capture key ports intact. There is a desperate need for tugboats and rail car barges to ferry supplies across the English Channel. The American Army responds with an unconventional attempt to convoy barges (called car floats) and harbor tugs to Great Britain. The story of this ill-fated, storm-lashed body of ships and tugboats is breathtakingly told in: **The Ordeal of Convoy NY119**, by Charles Dana Gibson. It is available through the King County Library System, library number 940.5459.

Then again, it could be January, 1942. A B-17E flying four hundred miles west of the Hawaiian Islands sounds the alarm, having spotted a "Japanese convoy" headed toward Hawaii. Hickam Air Force Base is a scene of bedlam as they frantically attempt to load and arm every available bomber. After a couple of hours, things returned to normal. A Navy PBV which was searching an adjacent sector had ambled (did PBV's ever exceed an "ambling" pace?) over and reidentified the "enemy convoy" as three barges towed by one of the Foss company's finest! Find out which one, and also which Foss tug and crew paid the supreme sacrifice at Wake Island during the war in **Foss: Ninety Years of Tow Boating** by Michael Skalley (1981), library number 338.7623.

Battleship Sailor, by Theodore Mason (359.0092), tells the fascinating story of what it was like to be a new Navy radioman in 1941. It concludes with the story of the Pearl Harbor attack, as seen by RM3 Mason's battle station at the top of USS California's mainmast. This leads right into Mason's next book, **We Will Stand by You**, the story of Mason's WW II duty on USS Pawnee, a 205-foot-long Fleet Tug, capable of towing a battleship or aircraft carrier. They had adventures aplenty. What is the proper procedure for surviving an attempt to make fast to a large transport at the moment of its being blown out of the water? How about the proper procedures for towing a crippled cruiser while twenty Japanese aircraft are attacking it? These and other stories are recounted by Mason in this fascinating volume. King County Library number 940.545.



Happy reading!

Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron



BARRETT 'BARRY' BERTRAN

Seattle was the site of his birth in 1987 though he grew up in Snohomish, the son of an Olympian artist musician and grandson of a world war 2 submariner. Barry graduated from Stillaguamish Valley High School in Arlington in 2006 and Skagit Valley College in 2008 with a degree in diesel mechanics. During school breaks he has worked for the city of Snohomish and is currently clearing land for a water line from Granite Falls to the Snohomish reservoir.

Barry has been a member of the Everett Sea Scouts for the past 4-5 years giving him a nautical background. He became interested in model boats through Ken Strickland's son, also a member of the Sea Scouts. Ken gave him encouragement and a fiberglass hull and plans for the Bismark. He bought a RTR Harbor Tug and was introduced to our club at a fun float. He has brought several projects to show and tell, namely an RC'd Lindberg Harbor Tug and recently an RC'd Lindberg Fletcher Class destroyer. Currently he is building a Robert E Lee kit and plans to purchase an American Scout freighter from a hobby shop in Granite Falls. However, modeling is not a new venture since he has been interested since age 4 with trains, planes and boats. His greatest challenge is admittedly the electronic aspects of modeling an 11 foot Saratoga with a friend who lives in Arlington. They plan to increase the length to 20 feet in the format of the Hornet or Coral Sea.

Barry is one of our youngest and newest members who would like to see participation by younger folks and help from members in building projects and maneuvering barges. He has a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and was a great help in the salvage event of our recent Foss Cup.



New Launches of 2008



November Fun Float

