



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

February 2008



Upcoming Events

February

- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 9-10 Hobby Expo
Monroe Fairgrounds
- 17 Fun Float
CWB, Lake Union
- 24 Polar Bear Springer/Polo
Kilarney Circle, Bellevue

March

- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 6 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Fun Float
Bellevue Park

April

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 3 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float
Bellevue Park
- 30 Opening Day
Seattle Yacht Club



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Well, we got 2008 off to a reasonable start. I had wanted to arrive at my first meeting as president in a black Suburban and enter the room with Ben standing by the door in a suit (!), dark glasses, and a button in his ear and talking into his sleeve. But reality being what it is we had the usual suspects in the usual chairs. The most discussion was about the recent dinner and how very successful it was. I compared it to a RTR model and said as the hobby was changing maybe we are too. Both are successful ways to go and have a good time. I also brought up the fact that the last two dinners didn't raise any money for charity. "Why should we have to?" you might say. True enough. We don't have to but we should want to. I've said many times that the NWRCSM is a good and comfortable place to be. A few good works (like Keith and the northern crew do) and it helps those less fortunate to be a little more comfortable also. At any rate, we need to decide on the December Dinner by the March meeting so we don't have to be in a bind in October. After the fun float on January 6 a few of us were thawing out around the electric fire at the CWB and figured if we went for the catered meal again those who think it too expensive could save \$3 a month and have it paid for by December. Planning ahead makes things easier.

Speaking of planning ahead; Hobby Expo is at the Evergreen State Fair Grounds in Monroe on February 9 and 10. We'll set up Friday and have a decent sign-up list at the meeting on the seventh. We've got a double booth and have plenty of room to show off your models. We have some passes.

The following Sunday (17th) will be our rescheduled fun float at the CWB and on the 24th we'll have a Polar Bear Springer Float at Kilarney Circle in Bellevue. That makes for a pretty busy month maybe that's why the extra day. I'll try to have a calendar brochure ready to go for Expo.

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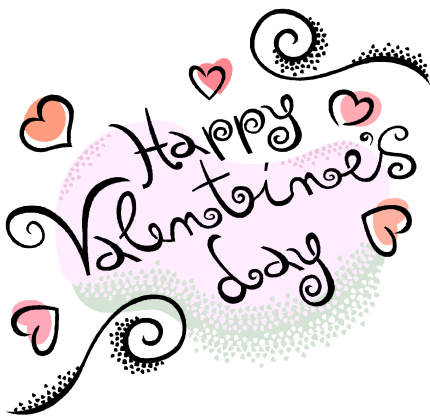


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Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes By Allan Wing

Randy Flodquist our new president opened the first meeting of 2008 with 24 members present. The first order of business was to welcome two new members, Dennis Chinn and his son, Bryan.

At this point a special award was made to Mel. It was a **Special *LOST* Prop** award. Normally it would be a Bent Prop award. At the December Fun Float, Mel left his transmitter behind when he went home. Fortunately Ben Flodquist and Al Kinsman found it. Mel's transmitter was returned along with the award and a nice plaque. I will bet that Mel makes sure that does not happen again.



The major of business was the calendar of events. Randy reviewed the calendar with club. The first item was the **Hobby Expo** at the Monroe Fair grounds on **February 9th and 10th**. Randy has reserved a double booth and he asked for a count of who would be available for each of the two days and on Friday the 8th to help set up. Since February 10th is our normal Fun Float date, Earl suggested we could try and have a polo event combined with a fun float at his community pool later in February. The pool is an excellent venue for a polo match so the members seemed to be in agreement that that would be a good idea.

Opening Day of yachting season is May 3 and the Seattle Yacht Club has invited us to be part of their preparation events again this year. Right now they have asked that we bring our boats **April 30 and May 1**. This was a fun event last year and they even provided lunch.

Other dates of interest

Expected date for the **Anacortes** event is **May 17 & 18**

The Club **Regatta** will be on Saturday **June 7**

Tidewater event in Spokane **July 26 & 27**

Tualatin Crowdad event **August 9**

August Fun Float moved to **August 3** to avoid conflict

Foss Cup August 16 at Bellevue pond

Most of the other events will occur on or near their normal dates and will be reported in the calendar and upcoming events as part of this newsletter.

Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes continued

There was a short discussion about the December meeting and plans for another dinner. Nothing was finalized but since December is a busy time for most places it was suggested that we finalize at least where and when in the next few months.

Randy talked about other possible outings or events that would be a possibility during the year.

We had a short break and then went on the show and tell. The first item was a report on Gordon Canney. He had had surgery to replace a vein in his leg. The good news is that he is recovering well but not yet up to full strength. We wish Gordy the very best.

Next Dr Ron showed his Grand Banks 42 hull that he has completed and will use as a form to make a mold so that he can make fiberglass hulls. He discussed the process of making the mold. He then showed the progress he has made in completing the Tito he bought at the club auction at lake Bob. He has it mostly complete and is adding several extra functions.



Mel having recovered from his earlier award showed the progress he has made on his Dolphin and showed the detail he has in the electronics deck.

He has all the major electronics mounted on a removal internal deck. This allows for a very neat set up and also allows it to be removed for any modification or repair.

The final show and tell was by our new member, Dennis Chinn. He showed his work on a 55 inch Navy Tug, the Powhatan. He adapting a method of attaching the planking that he has used on larger boats. He attaches the planks to the frame with wire then draws the wire tight. This allows the planks to be drawn up tight in places where it would normally be difficult to clamp, and allows the framing and planks to be shifted to insure everything is nice and straight before gluing. It looks like this technique will work very well.



With that we stacked the chairs and called a night just after 2100.



Modeling Tip of the Month

For this month's tips I once again have input from **Tom Stevens**. He sent several pictures of very good ideas. The first is a way to keep your paint cups or bottles from falling over. These light cups and bottles are always very easy to knock over. So if you have any old tires give it a try.



The second is a holder and organizer for bottles of CA glue and other small bottles. This one requires a bit more work or possibly you can find one for sale. It looks like it would help a lot .

If you have any modeling ideas, please send them in. We would love to hear about them.

This is a real neat site also submitted by Tom Stevens. Find the name of a vessel you are interested in and look at the bottom of the page. It will give you position, speed, length of tow, ETA etc.

Check out this site! <http://www.siitech.net/VTSLite/AView.aspx>



**Membership Dues are due now.
If you have not already paid,
please send your money to Ed Maurer.**

SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By, Keith Schermerhorn

Happy New Year everyone. The new year has gotten off to an interesting start for the members that meet with the Skagit R/C Ship Modelers group. The weather prompted the group to find a new meeting place as the road to the lodge at Captain Jacks place has suffered from all the cold and rain making his place inaccessible. So with a little scrambling and a few messages sent, the group meet on Saturday the 12th at the Bellingham International Maritime Museum for a field trip meeting. The time was moved up to 11:00am so that the museum and guest could get home before the big Seahawks game. In attendance were, Len B., Wayne, Dusty, Lon Bradshaw, Dave Feray, Keith, Al Kinsman, Lyle Jansma, and Mike Ganat (museum director). After everyone spent a little time checking out the new layout and displays (WW2 DUWK and stevedoring by the obsolete Bellingham Stevedoring company and the Long Shoremans Union), we gathered to take care of business.

Talk included the discussion of the up coming hobby show in Monroe (with several members carpooling), more model show and tells/ how to's, and the next show at the museum in March, and next meeting site. Lon brought along a nice pleasure vessel that had a nice smoke generator that is made by JJC electronics. The interesting thing was that this unit doesn't require a fancy fluid, only water, for producing the smoke. Keith had 1 of the 4 Springer's that he is currently working on. Al had his chassis for an r/c Tamia bid rig truck that he was testing out on the large open floor of the museum. Mike spent a little time to thank the groups involvement of the past model shows and talk about the next 2 for this year (March 7/8/9, and October 7/8/9 2008). The other big topic was the discussion for the new meeting place. Thanks to Kevin Klock for securing the PUD meeting room in Mt. Vernon for Monday night the 4th of February @ 7:00pm. Monday night was the only night available for this location. The PUD is located on the West side of I-5 in Mt. Vernon, next to the car dealership, with easy access and easy to find. If it works out well for all, might start meeting there more. After all the Skagit club has been meeting outside of Skagit County for a bit now and would be nice to get back to where we belong at, least by name sake. February will be looking forward to the hobby show and setting up the rest of the known schedule for the year.

Ken Reilly Memorial Springer Contest

Date: 12 May 2008

Time: 0930 am

Place: Spreckles Lake Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, Ca.

Two Classes Springer Classic and Super Springer

All classes will be a two part contest, Barge Handling and Bare Boat Steering. Classic will be using a 50 lb. barge and Super will have 250 lb barge moving them through a gated course using 40" gates and other obstacles.

Entry Fee \$3.00 per hull (after three entries the 4th and above will be free for each Skipper or Team)

Contact Lee Duvall at leeduvall@juno.com or (510)785-3195 Days for questions



January Fun Float

By Allan Wing

I started out a cool and snowy day but that did not keep a good crowd from attending. The snow had been confined to the higher hills north of Seattle and when people started to arrive it was just cold and windy. It did not take too long before it started to rain and we were all grateful for the new shelter at the Center for Wooden Boats. Along with the usual suspects we had a couple of visitors. One of the visitors was Tim Flanagan



and his daughter, Kiera. They had a ready to run tug. Kiera found a unique way to avoid the rain and still be close to the water to driver her boat, she crouched under an upturned skiff suspended on two saw horses. By the way she drives that boat rather well.

Earl was there with a smaller (30mm) prop on his Polo Springer Red Hat. He wanted to see if it would better on his direct drive setup that a larger prop that had been cut down. It seemed that while it performed well he did not have the speed he had with the larger prop. Earl and I did a little running with a polo ball until our fingers got too cold. Earl also had his dolphin.



Mel came with his grandson Zak and they tested Zak's new Springer. They are trying to find the best motor, gearbox, propeller combination.

Ben brought and tested a partially complete dual Z drive boat and was showing what it could do.

Randy was running his boat Suzy with a new and larger battery. By replacing the 4 amp-hour battery with a 7.5 amp-hour battery he gained much needed ballast and got very speedy performance.

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



Member Spotlight By Dr. Ron

BILL MCGEE

Born in Seattle and raised in Granite Falls, Bill moved to Cle Elum to get out of the rain and drizzle. He bought an old miner's house, refurbished it, put in a heat pump and built a new garage and workshop equipped with all sorts of neat tools, as Al Kinsman can attest to. In the winter he has a pellet stove to keep it cozy while building model boats.



Four years ago he was goaded into boat building by his grandkids after witnessing a club event in Arlington. His first boat was a Midwest Liberty Tug. He now has five Springers up to 28 inches, one with twin Globe motors, "a Springer on steroids". Bill has been very involved in club affairs, even making it across the pass in the dead of winter to attend meetings. He participates in nearly all of the club activities and events, though is currently not constructing a new boat, but plans for a 5 1/2 foot barge. Last spring he won the coveted Bent Prop award after slipping into a lake while conducting sea trials on one of his boats, resulting in some minor boat damage and a bum knee. This event was allegedly leaked to Mel by his wife who proudly displays his trophy in their living room. Prior to building model boats he fabricated fancy bird houses.

Bill retired from Boeing five years ago after 41 years as a lead mechanical electrical technician working on many cool projects such as the first 747, the Presidents 707 Air Force Ones (flanked by FBI agents), AWACS and 25 years of aerospace activity. His skills can certainly be appreciated in the clean detail of his modeling.

Having married a girl from Granite Falls they have a boy, 46 and a girl, 44. His son is an avid model railroader and after giving his daughter an RTR Harbor Tug, she has come on strong in RC boating unless, his 16 year old step grandson commandeers it. His daughter has the convenience of a pond behind her home on which to practice.

Bill would like to get those members on the edge to get more involved and sees the club as a facility to improve modeling skill by sharing knowledge, technology, techniques and information. He feels the club is a great avenue to help those who need help and to boost their confidence.



January Meeting



January Fun Float

