



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

January 2017

3 Events Month Look Ahead

JANUARY

- 5 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 7 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9 am
- 27-29 NW Hobby Expo - Monroe WA
10-6 Friday
9-6pm Saturday
9-3pm Sunday

FEBRUARY

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9am

MARCH

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9am

Check for latest updates at
www.shipmodelers.com

2017 Dues are due this month!

Please make checks payable to
NW R/C Ship Modelers and
send to:

Paul Williams
645 Manaco Beach Road
Camano Island, WA 98282



From the Wheel House

Mel Suelzle

While our national election, promises lots of change that will keep us all guessing, your new club administration promises to be a little more predictable for the new year. However, that is not to say we will be the without some changes as we have new talent in key positions. **Bryan Morse, Paul Williams** and **Amos Aarsvold** promise to bring a fresh perspective to our club. However, the tiller is still in the hands of a tried and "well tested" retread. While it has been 10 years since my first term, it seems like it was a lot more recent.

I don't expect to make a lot of changes to our club. The longevity of our membership and level of activity has proven successful and major changes are not in my plan. However I feel that the modeling industry has made changes to adjust to changes in our work/play culture. Our club also needs to be sensitive to these changes and make adjustments as appropriate. One can only see the effects with the lower level of scratch model building. Members and potential members are less inclined and able to spend significant effort on building highly detailed models. Increasingly, more members are inclined to build models from more simplified kits or ready to run models that are gaining in popularity, quality and performance. Our club needs to recognize this trend and be responsive to a wider variety of members or potential members.

My focus will be to adapt our activities accordingly. I would like to foster programs and policies that increase the level of member participation in club meetings, fun floats and all other activities as well. One of these initiatives began at our January meeting where **Marv Walden** gave a brief presentation on gel cell batteries which we often use in our boats. We have a schedule of special topics by members for each of our meetings through September. October and November dates are still open and will be filled for special presentations. These topics are intended to be 15 minutes including questions so the level of detail will be limited. However

From the Wheelhouse continued...

everyone will be able to address special needs after the presentation. These presentations will help educate members, identify experts for later questions and if properly promoted increase meeting attendance.

These presentations are selected to be most interesting to our members. If you have an area you would like to see addressed, please let me know. In order to keep it focused on member interest, I would like to first identify a topic and THEN identify an expert to make the presentation.

Also members are encouraged to bring ideas forward that might help to increase our club participation or membership levels.

From the North End

Keith Schermerhorn



Happy New Year from the North end. Our first meeting of the year was on the 2nd and was a short meeting with 3 intrepid people making it out in the frigid winter air. Unfortunately, there was a problem with the lock on the building so business and show and tell was done outside in just minutes before we all headed home for the evening. We did have our Pig out in December that was attended by a smaller group than normal, but a good group that enjoyed good food and camaraderie. As we look forward to 2017, there will be the same fun events and maybe more. Up first, Hobby Expo at the end of January. Always a good time to get a way for some hobby fun for a day or more. Anacortes Water Front Festival more than likely in the mix once we get to warmer weather. There will be our monthly meetings to discuss these and other events. We hope to see more show and tells along with a few more (and hopefully) new members to keep this group alive. All are welcomed to join in at any time. That also includes any displays that we do during public events. Our meetings are the first Monday of each month at the PUD building right next to I-5 with a couple exceptions where either holidays or more influential parties need the room. So happy 2017 boating/modeling to all and hope to see you up in the north end or other events this season.



Mel Suelzle

The new year has started with a new leader and a new policy. You've probably heard about TEDTalks. Well, we now have MELTalks. These will be monthly discussions on relevant modeling topics. The first such talk was delivered by **Marv Walden**, and covered Gelcells (Sealed Lead Acid, or SLA batteries). Marv told us that they should be recharged monthly, and only by "intelligent" chargers that are designed for that purpose. They are often damaged by unsophisticated, constant current chargers. Their capacity depends upon the current discharge rate. Rated capacity (C) is only obtained at a discharge rate of C/20. Any greater rate will result in a lesser capacity. For instance, discharging at 1 C will result in delivered amperage-hours of less than one half the rated total.



Recommended charge rate is C/10. Using a “dumb” charger will bring about out-gassing, reducing battery life and causing the battery to bulge. The usual cause of battery failure is sulfation of the cells. Marv recommends charging the batteries once a month to prolong life. He also recommends that you check the batteries before purchasing. A 12-volt battery should register at least 12.6 volts. Marv said he mistakenly left an SLA powering only an indicator light (led?), and in six weeks the battery was toast! Don't do this!



January 5th Meeting Minutes

Mel Suelzle

Photos by Robert Osmond & Allan Wing

The first demonstrator was **Robert Osmond**. He showed us a 14-inch battleship toy called the Missouri which sported four triple turrets and four wheels. I guess it was an amphibious battleship! Of more recent origin (Christmas gift) was a 2.4 GHz surfrider. We hope to see it operating under realistic



surfing conditions! He also showed us great PE metal gratings from Tetra Model Works.



Tom Stevens showed us a couple of 4 ¾ -inch dinghies he expertly and very symmetrically carved from basswood. He made them for an ill friend who was building a tug model. He recommends using a lighter wood for the subject.

Then **Scott Baumann** showed his favorite reference book, a paperback *The Oxford Companion to Ships and the Sea*, a 971-page dictionary that covers everything having to do with the subject. Then he discussed the origin of the term “bridge.” The dictionary described the word’s development, but provided no time frame. A search of his attic produced an old (1960’s) Revell model of C.S.S. Alabama, a confederate raider built in 1862 in Great Britain. There, before his amazed eyes, was a





genuine bridgework, extending from bulwark to bulwark. Mystery solved!

Mel Suelzle showed us his magnificent HMS Kite, a steam-driven 19th-century gunboat with one massive weapon. The sound system is really impressive, and so is the accompanying boat. It is almost ready for display at Hobby Expo.



Amos Aarsvold showed his current build, something called the 16' Painted Racer, a pretty pleasure boat. We are forming the 2017 calendar. It will include running at the Center for Wooden Boats and at the Hilton Home



But what was even more fascinating was his boat stand and miniature tool bench. It is a kit from Tower Hobbies from the Latina brand, and he has modified it, adding storage and variable arms to hold his tools and boat-in-progress. The stand was a kit in itself, and very practical.



Mel finished up the meeting with administrative details, starting with a treasury report and announcement of the slight increase in annual dues. He spoke of the sad passing of **Gerhard Erickson**, one of the club founders. We made a donation to Gerhard's favorite charity in his name.



Owners' Association pond. The June Regatta is scheduled for late July at the Bellevue Pond. We are going to add a couple of Springer events this year.

The most immediate scheduled event is the Monroe Hobby Expo. The pond will be there, with a lot of on-the-water running time available. So everyone is encouraged to bring their boats and run them for the avid audience!

Northwest R/C Ship Modelers 2017 Calendar

JANUARY

- 5 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 pm
- 7 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9:00 am
- 27 NW Hobby Expo - Monroe WA 10-6pm
- 28 NW Hobby Expo - Monroe WA 9-6pm
- 29 NW Hobby Expo - Monroe WA 9-12pm

FEBRUARY

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9:00 am

MARCH

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9:00 am

APRIL

- 6 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 pm
- 9 Fun Float – Center for Wooden Boats (SUNDAY) 9:00 am

MAY

- 3 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9-3 pm
- 4 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 6 Fun Float - Hilton HOA 9:00am
(Springer contest)

JUNE

- 1 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 3 Fun Float Location Hilton HOA 9:00am

JULY

- 6 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 8 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park 9:00am
- 22 **2017 Regatta** – Bellevue Downtown Park* 9 - 3pm

AUGUST

- 3 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 5 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park* 6:00pm
- 12 Portland Model Boat Regatta, Tualatin, OR 9am - 4pm
- 19 NW Tug Championship Derby Pond 9am - 4pm
- 31 Fun Float/Coffee Bellevue Park 10:00am

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 9 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park 6:00pm
- TBD Lake Goodwin - Jacobsen's BBQ (Springer contest) 10 - 3 pm
- TBD Fishermen's Memorial – Ballard 11am – 6 pm
- 21 Coffee Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 10:00am

OCTOBER

- 5 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 7 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Pond 9:00am

NOVEMBER

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00pm
- 4 Fun Float (venue TBD) 9:00am

DECEMBER

- 7 Christmas Dinner 6:30 - 9pm

*Subject to Bellevue Pond availability



January 7th Fun Float @ Seattle Yacht Club

Mel Suelzle

Photos by Alan Wing



As I left for the “Fun” Float, the temperature was 25 degrees and I questioned my sanity for loading my boats and heading south for the first Fun Float of the new year. However as I drove south, I found the time and distance made quite an improvement in the temperature as it was nearly 35 degrees. My attitude improved and continued further improves as I arrived at the Seattle Yacht Club. Expecting to be out on the dock area we usually use in May, I was pleased to find we had access to dock areas that was covered and had tables to setup on and even a nearby HEATED room for the occasional visit to thaw out. It was as good a venue as you could ask for in January in the Pacific Northwest. While the crowd was kept small due to the dire forecasts

of rain or snow, those that did venture out enjoyed a nice winter setting fun float.

Al Kinsman ventured out and broke up some the ice formations in the dock area. Those with smaller boats approach the ice with caution. It was thick enough to support my South Hampton and my ice breaking attempts only resulted in my bow going on top the ice. Needless to say, I stayed away least I get stranded on TOP of the ice and provide a great





photo shoot for many fellow boaters ready to record the event.

Darlene Wing was on hand to take photos, **Robert Osmond** got a chance to test his Christmas present, a powered surfboard. It ran great and easily ran circles around the tugs that **Allan Wing, Al Kinsman** and **Dave White** and **Steve Sunich** brought out for the day. **Stan Babcock** dropped by the see is anyone was actually foolish enough to venture outside on this day.

After about 2 hours, in spite the cold, it turned out to be a nice fun float. It was well sheltered and very comfortable. Our fun floats in February and March should have better weather and the SYC accommodations were excellent. Hopefully the more central location will encourage more attendance by our members in the central and southern areas. Many thanks to **Steve Sunich** for arranging these fun floats with the Seattle Yacht Club.



Hobby Expo Monroe Fairgrounds January 27th – 29th

The dates for Hobby Expo are fast approaching. Again this year we plan to have Kevin Klocke's pond to demonstrate our models. We will have a nearby booth and hope to have lots of models on and off the water for Expo attendees to enjoy.

The hours of the event are shorter this year. The hours of the show are:

Friday January 27 th	10 am to 6pm
Saturday January 28 th	9 am to 6pm
Sunday January 29 th	9am to 3pm

We plan to have junior skipper boat running on Saturday, scheduled for 30 minutes every 2 hours. Be sure and bring some of your slower and less pretty boats to share with them.

OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE IS THAT WE HAVE LOTS OF MEMBERS ON HAND TO RUN BOATS, INTERFACE WITH THE SPECTATORS AND WATCH OUR DISPLAYED BOATS.

WITH A GOOD MEMBER TURNOUT, WE ALL CAN TAKE A BREAK AWAY TO HAVE LUNCH AND ENJOY THE OTHER VENDORS, DISPLAYS AND OF COURSE THE SWAP MEET.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BOAT, YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE BY MANING THE BOOTH OR OVERSEEING THE POND ACTIVITY.

Entrance fees are \$10 for day passes for Friday & Saturday, \$7 on Sunday, \$5 for Military
Passes good for all 3 days are \$20

Scale competition is open to our members. Entry fee is \$5/boat and INCLUDES a \$10 day pass for Friday.
Classes for boats are: Military, Work, Pleasure and Racing. Cash prizes for the winners.

For more information visit <http://www.nwmhe.com/>

2017 Club Information



President Mel Suelzle

president@shipmodelers.com



Vice President Bryan Morse

vice-president@shipmodelers.com



Treasurer Paul Williams

treasurer@shipmodelers.com



Wellness Committee Tom Stevens

totemtug@comcast.net



Webmaster Allan Wing

webmaster@shipmodlers.com



Membership Database Paul Williams

membership@shipmodelers.com



Newsletter Editor Amos Aarsvold

newsletter-editor@shipmodelers.com



Skagit R/C Meeting Contact Keith Schermerhorn