



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

January 2008

Upcoming Events

January

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 3 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float
CWB Lake Union

February

- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 10 Fun Float
CWB Lake Union

March

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



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

We're on course. A big thank you to Mel for his five years at the helm but also a big thank you to all the previous presidents, officers, members, and supporters; it's an all inclusive thing. The life blood of an organization is its members and we've got good members. The NWRCSM is a good place to be and the December Dinner shows that good homey feeling.

As I start my tenure (technically that would come after re-election I think) the first thing is to name the page one column. I like riding in the wheelhouse (on the lazy seat or at the wheel) but I also enjoy the engine room and it's always good to throw out a line as you're coming up to the dock. The stories told around the galley table bring laughter and are retold. So, I guess for me, it's a navigation thing. Keep in good water, observe the buoys, and like baseball, get home safe. Red right returning.

When I was VP under Keith and ran a meeting now and again they always seemed to be over quickly. If I talk too fast slow me down. It's your club and your meetings; get the most out of it. On the third bring in your dues and we'll discuss the calendar in detail. We'll have a float, a February Polar Bear Springer wingding, Expo at Monroe, and all kinds of stuff to fill the rainy season.

And for all of you who can't make the meeting or who just follow us in the BILGE PUMP or on line from Red Wing on the Mississippi, or Newburg-Beacon (used to have a cool orange ferry) or Los Gatos we're thinking of you too. Welcome to 2008; like all of them before , it's going to be interesting. Maybe we could get a dozen Springers and name them after presidential hopefuls and have a bash before the election and see who wins. That could get us on the news if we did it quickly.

Oh well, just my creative side running amuck. Let's pull together to make it a safe and happy new year. See ya soon.

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Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes By Allan Wing

The December meeting is our annual Pig-Out and this year it held at the Martha Lake Community Center. With good weather we had around 45 in attendance. The agenda this year included saying good buy to our president of five years welcome our new president and review the events of the past year.

Mel had his usual slide show with many pictures of the past year. After a great dinner of roast beef and salmon we started with the formal presentation. But first we had a presentation to thank Mel for his five years of presidency. Mel was presented with a plaque expressing thanks from the club for his firm hand is steering the club toward having fun.

Along with the plaque he was presented with two gift certificates. The first was to Anthony's restaurant for him and his wife, mostly to his wife for tolerating the many demands of the club on Mel' time. The second was to Home Depot so he can get more boat building supplies. Then Mike Shaw presented a gift from Galaxy Hobby in appreciation of Mel's work with the club.



Mel was then to present his formal slide show recapping the events of the year. He had pictures and comments about all the events the club participated in this past year. During the recap of the major events he noted that Al kinsman had won the all three major events (The club regatta, the Tide-water Cup in Spokane and the Foss Cup) this year. This a feat that has not been done before so Al was presented with a Triple Crown award. We will see if he or anyone else can repeat that again, congratulations AL.



Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes continued

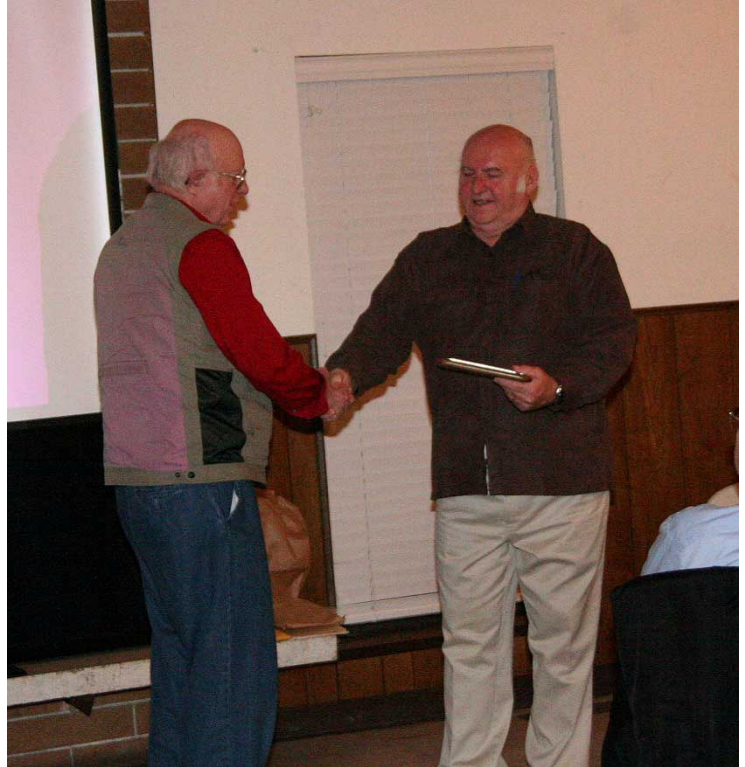
At the end of Mel's presentation he presented the Cliff Shaw award that the club started last year in memory of Cliff and his wife. The year the award went to Phil Northrup for his many contributions to the club and R/C boating, Congratulations Phil a well deserved honor.

After his presentation was completed Mel handed over the office of president to Randy Flodquist. Along with the office Randy received a bullhorn in hopes it would help him more than a gavel in getting the attention of the club members.

With the formal portion of the meeting over it was time for two more presentations. Tom Stevens had a short slide show reviewing Mel's tenure as president. Tom noted that while Mel was president he had managed to avoid getting a bent prop award even though he had many opportunities. So to make up to that glaring oversight Tom presented Mel with a special bent prop award.

The it was Ron Burchett's turn. Ron noted that he felt Mel needed some help competing in the events so he presented Mel with a cane with many aids to navigation. We are sure that this will help Mel in the future.

With that the meeting and meal broke up and we ended another successful year.

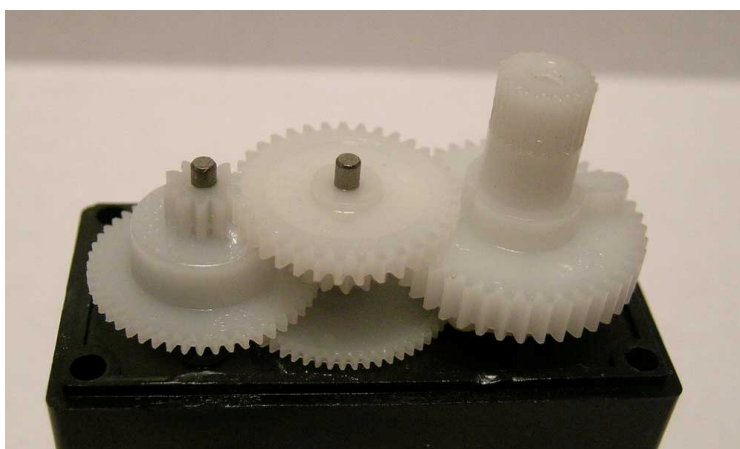
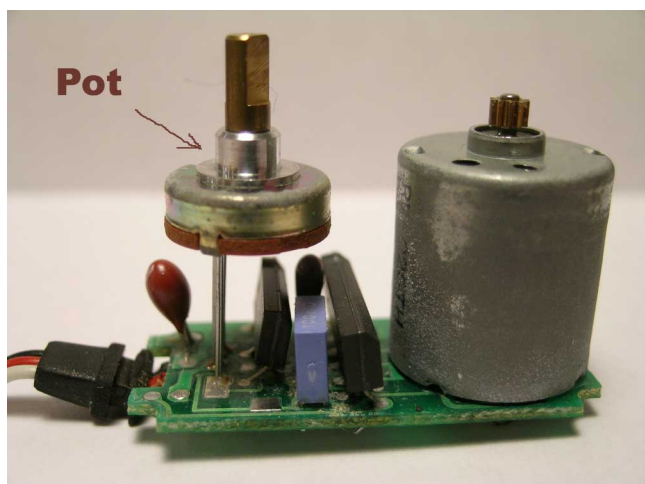


Modeling Tip of the Month

By Allan Wing

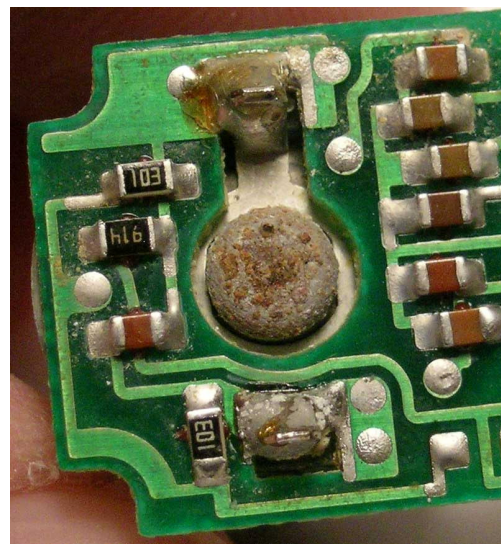
Bilge Water and Servos Don't Mix

Last month we asked for ideas for Tech Tips. We still need ideas but an idea for this month just fell into my hands. Gordy was having trouble with his new boat. The rudder servos appeared to work but when the boat was in the water and under way the servo's would not turn the rudder. He gave me one of the failing servos because I had just made a servo driver, it replaces the radio and receiver so you can test servos and speed controls on the bench. The initial test showed the servo appeared to work but when a load was applied it had very little torque. So I opened the servo and found that while it was dry now it had about half full of water for some time. The base of the motor showed some minor corrosion. It was apparent that the motor was failing to draw sufficient current to have any real power. After taking the pictures shown here I opened the motor and found the lower bearing corroded and some black buildup on the brushes. This looked to be the cause of the poor performance. The electronics were still working.



With the servo apart I thought it would be nice to show pictures of the inside of a servo and provide a little bit of explanation of how a servo works. The electronics consists of a pot (variable resistor controlled by the position of the servo arm) and an Integrated that uses the position of the pot to compare with the input from the receiver and create an error signal to the drive motor. The receiver sends the servo a signal that consists of a pulse that varies from 1 to 2 milliseconds in width. A 1.5 millisecond pulse corresponds to the pot being in the middle. If the pot is off to either side the electronics provides a signal the motor to turn the gears and the pot to center position. The electronics can drive the motor in either direction just like a speed control. The motor then drives the control arm through a series of gears. The total gear ration was about 260:1. Since the pot is on the same shaft as the control arm it moves to that new position. When the pot and control arm are very close to the desired position the electronics provide a small series of pulses so the motor slows down as stops at the desired position

Investigating Gordy's servo provided good insight to how they work. I also found the damage bilge water can do to a servo.



SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

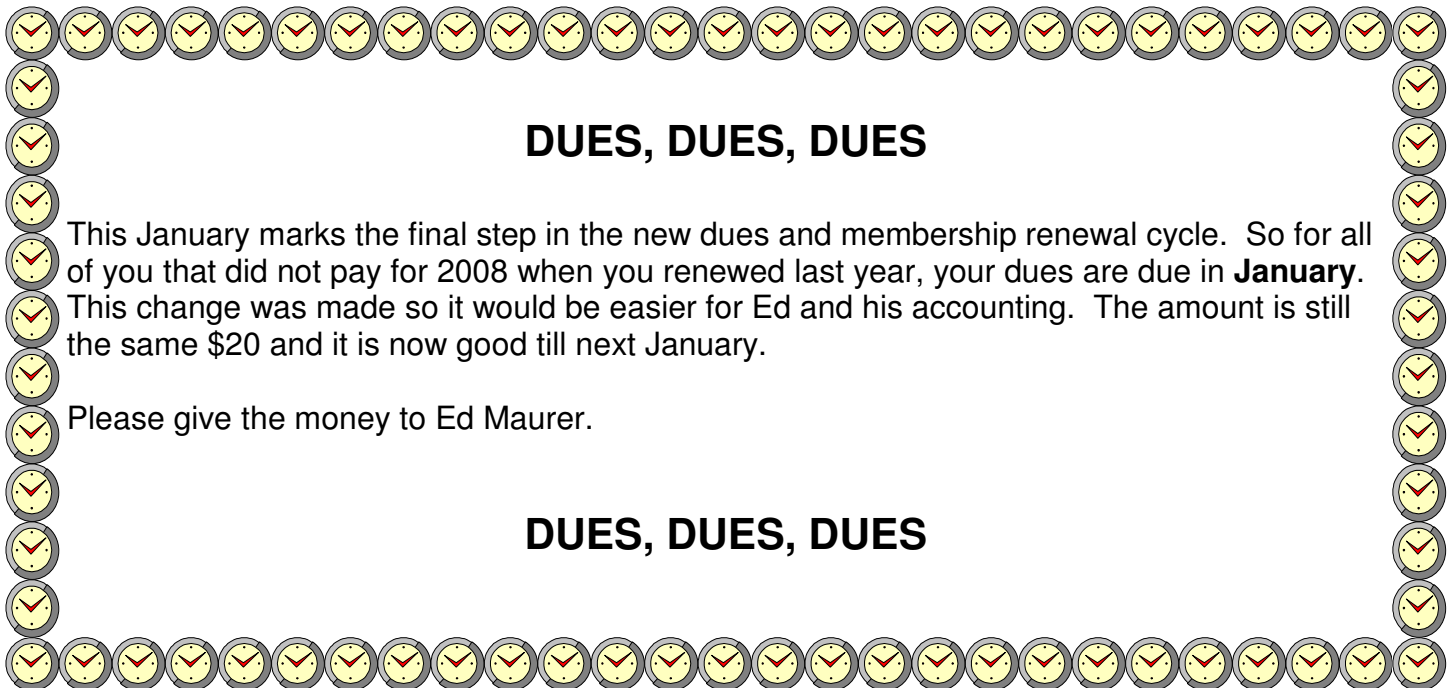
By, Keith Schermerhorn

Tuesday evening 4th of December was a night of good friends gathering to celebrate the boat year that was 2007. The usual cast of characters of Len (I can fly) Bainter, Larry (full of sails) Stiles, Wayne (Mr. Camera) Martin, Dusty (Wayne made me do it) Gram with his wife Nancy (it is my helicopter!), Capt. Jack (smiling) Spore, Keith (I seen another project) S. and Shawna (WAYNE--I'll get you for that!) Monroe.

The evening was full of laughter, good food and of course some boat talk. The lone model was one of the sailboats that Larry has been working on. Larry showed us the modifications that were made so the radio gear could be installed and operate efficiently. Keith had some of the literature that was gathered at the recent Workboat Show in Seattle. Len was handing out flyers for the indoor flight nights at a local school for those that have electric powered flying objects.

Part of the evenings discussions was dominated by the recent weather that found a lot of flooding in the southern part of the state noting that we were lucky in the North end this time. Some talk of models and of things that have happened this past year. Mostly, the evening was spent enjoying the food that every one had brought for the potluck.

A group photo was taken by Wayne to mark the festivities of the evening as we all looked forward to a fun, safe, and prosperous new year. We all hope to see you at one of the North end gatherings or any one of the other fun events for year!



DUES, DUES, DUES

This January marks the final step in the new dues and membership renewal cycle. So for all of you that did not pay for 2008 when you renewed last year, your dues are due in **January**. This change was made so it would be easier for Ed and his accounting. The amount is still the same \$20 and it is now good till next January.

Please give the money to Ed Maurer.

DUES, DUES, DUES

December Fun Float

By Allan Wing

The float was held at the Center for Wooden Boats which is the normal venue. The December fun float was marked by cold winter weather and some snow in the outlying areas. The weather during the float was good but cool and there was a good turnout of the hardy and faithful.

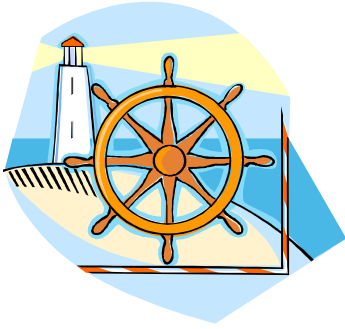
There was some excitement when Ben Flodquist had a mishap with the Indy. Apparently during some quick maneuvering a sharp turn shifted one of the Indy's batteries. With one of these batteries weighing more than the average tug the Indy listed some 30 degrees.

Randy made a quick run to the nearest dock while Ben ran to the rescue. Fortunately the Indy, the biggest and one of the best boats in the club, did not sink in the nearly 30 feet of chilly lake Union water. Unfortunately, everyone was so concerned about the safety of the Indy that there are no pictures.

Earl brought his Dolphin to test and get ideas on how to improve chandelling. Since Mel is building a Dolphin, he also drove the boat. They exchanged ideas on possible dual rate and logarithmic settings on the radio to provide easier handling especially at faster speeds.

The hardest stayed late and a good time was had by all with even a bit of excitement thrown in.





Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron

RANDY FLODQUIST

Randy has been riding ferry boats since he was a young child in arms during visits to his grandparents home in Bremerton, a fascination which persists to this day. After his grandmother gave him a subscription to Model Airplane News and hearing the sounds of model airplane motors in a nearby park, he became hooked. His interests progressed from airplanes to trains and finally to boats from the age of 10. After airplane propeller boats in the 50's he built his first model of the passenger ferry Imperial in 1995 and then the Carlisle in 1996. After his son, Ben, bought a radio set he was smitten with RC and converted his pond boats to RC. He became a member of our club in 1997.

Randy was born in Seattle in 1944, attended Roosevelt High School, (graduating in 1963), the U of W (graduating in 1967), and then spent 40 years teaching history at Arlington High School. The family lived in Arlington for 7 years before returning to Seattle and car pooling to work.

He bought a 41 foot tug boat in 1968 which he owned for 12 years, visiting many interesting sites. As a shirt tail relative of the Freemans (Doc Freeman) he became a boat enthusiast by osmosis. The family has been on numerous boating trips, big and small. They have been on the Delta Queen, the QE1 on her last voyage, the Alexander Hamilton from New York to Poukipsie, Hoover craft across the English Channel, and the Rotterdam 5 on her last voyage North. He was able to inspect this ship from stem to stern (before 911) which was an experience of a lifetime.

Besides his membership in our club he has been a member of the Northwest Steam Society, the Pacific Northwest Maritime Historical Society and has been a docent for the PNWMHS exhibit on Lake Union since 1955. He has been involved with the Paulsbo open launch group from 1984 – 2000. One of the highlights of his boating experience has been as a crewman with his family on the last whistle stop tour of the Arthur Foss tugboat.

He, Linda and Ben have been regular attendees of most of the club functions and have given an extreme amount of effort toward the success of our club functions and hopefully the candle will stay lit.



More Pig Out



More Fun Float

