



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

June 2017

3 Month Events Look Ahead

JULY

- 6 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 8 Fun Float 9am
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 22 Fun Float 9am
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond

AUGUST

- 3 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 5 **2017 Tug Regatta 9am-4pm**
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 12 **Model Boat Regatta 9am-4pm**
Tualatin, OR
- 19 **NW Tug Championship 9 am-4pm**
Derby Pond
- 31 Fun Float/Coffee 10am
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 9 Fun Float (Springer contest) 6pm
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 17 Jacobsen's Barbeque & Sisley
Donation Sale & Auction 10-3 pm
Lake Goodwin
- 21 Coffee Fun Float 10 am
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 23 Fishermen's Memorial 11-6 pm

Check for latest updates at
www.shipmodelers.com



From the Wheel House

Mel Suelzle

"We live in interesting times"

Last year we received the announcement of the plans to rework our favorite pond to run boats. We knew it would be somewhat disruptive to our fun floats and regatta. However, we were committed to work around the issue, find new run sites and radically change our regatta plan. We discovered the SYC, revisited Lake Ballinger and Hilton Lakes. Since the renovation was required to be completed for the annual July 4th event at the Bellevue Park, I felt safe in rescheduling our regatta for July 22nd. This would leave 2 or 3 weeks for schedule slippage. Optimistically, we scheduled a fun float for July 8th.

Recently, times got even more "interesting" when the Bellevue Park Department informed us that the July 8th date is out and we should even have a backup plan for our July 22nd regatta date. Losing the July 8th date was a minor setback and we have changed our location for this fun float to the Seattle Yacht Club. Thanks to **Steve Sunich** for a quick response in getting permission from the SYC.

The threat of losing the July 22nd date was definitely most "interesting". Unfortunately, we would not get confirmation of our schedule until July 10th. Less than 2 weeks before the regatta. Short notice for some who are making travel plans and summer activities. So, we have decided to eliminate most of the uncertainty by **CHANGING THE DATE OF OUR REGATTA TO AUGUST 5th**.

While this is a late change, it may be a positive one by having Bellevue, Tualatin & Bellingham regattas on consecutive weekends in August. However, we don't know what the issues are that are causing the delay. Our "inside man" **Dave Kentala** who works for the contractor, says the pond is cleaned and will be filled and ready

for our type of use by early July. Presently, **Dave Green**, has arranged for a meeting with Park Department officials on June 28th at the parks ribbon cutting ceremony. Hopefully the meeting will shed more light on the remaining issues. Should things develop sooner, we could schedule a fun float at the pond before the regatta date. **STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION**

The “interesting” news continued when our storage site informed us that our storage locker fees would double starting in July. While our unit is full, it has many items that have not been used in the last 5 years (or ever) and will not be used in the next 5 years (or ever). This equipment is almost exclusively used for our regattas. This year when we load up items for this year’s regatta, anything left in the locker will be candidates for the dump. However, while exploring other storage options and discussing a smaller unit, we were able to get a favorable reduction in our unit cost. While still higher, our cost with insurance will be just under \$160. This is a most competitive rate when compared with other storage options.

However, the “interesting” news was not all bad. I recently was contacted by Jim Sisley’s daughter Ann. Jim was a long time club member, a frequent visitor and photographer at our fun floats who passed away about 2 years ago. Ann and her sister have spent this time disposing of Jim’s inventory and estate items include a large supply of modeling material and equipment. Ann offered our club all these items for use to benefit our club.

On June 6th, **Robert Osmond**, **Allan Wing** and I visited the location of the items at a building in Kirkland. We started the extensive task of sorting and packaging the items. We have lots of opportunities to make these items available to our members. Our plan is to donate some items to the 3 upcoming regatta raffles, our meeting door prizes, big auction/sale at Lake Goodwin in September and possibly some EBay sales.

This is a huge quantity of items. Some very specialized, lots of electrical/electronic parts and modeling tools and materials. Our efforts to process these items will continue as we must vacate the building by June 19th. Hopefully we can find enough storage space to hold it all. **Bob Jacobsen** has offered to store a considerable amount which will save having to move it again in September.

Times are most interesting. I for one hope for a little pause in the stream of “interesting times” we are living in.....Mel

From the North End

Keith Schermerhorn

Skagit group had our first meeting since the festival in Anacortes and was happy to have a new person join our group from that. Speaking of the show, it was a good time for the handful of people that covered it for the 2 days that included **Wayne Martin**, **Randy Flodquist**, and **Keith**. Thanks to **Tom** and **Sandi** along with **Al Kinsman** for making a visit to the tent. Weather was a bit cool, but no rain. Saturday evening the Flodquist family hosted a dinner that was much appreciated by those in attendance. We had enough boats to get people’s attention and listen to stories by those that recognized them. Thanks to the festival for providing the tent and security/closing



crew so we didn’t have to button up the place Saturday evening.

The rest of our meeting was about upcoming events and fun floats.

Show and tell consisted of Keith’s up graded PBR model with new paint and weathering. Just obtained that day was the original molds for Uniflites models of the PBRs. These were owned by the factory manager who donated them to the museum when it was opened. The person who acquired them afterword’s decided he didn’t want to take them when he moved and so they were offered to Keith. A little bigger scale, but still usable will make for an interesting display along with the operational model. Lastly was the installation of the motors and rudder s into one of the big tugs under construction in the shipyard. Meeting was called to a close by 8 with no other business to discuss. July’s meeting will be a week later on the 10th due to the holiday the next day and availability of the room.

June 1st Meeting Minutes

Amos Aarsvold

Photos by Allan Wing

Our commodore, **Mel Suelzle**, called to order twenty-one of our fleet’s captains promptly at 1900 hours.

As our first order of business **Mel** enlightened us with a presentation on Model Boat Basic Electrical Systems complete with an informative hand out that will make an excellent addition to our NWRCSM technical library. He stressed the



importance of planning your electrical loads and circuits early on to ensure proper provisions exist for planned (and future) needs. Critical to a trouble-free electrical system is

ensuring proper grounds, utilizing fuses on main and sub-circuit(s), high quality connectors, consistent wire colors, and ideally, a single power source. Be sure to document your work in the event you need to perform troubleshooting or decide add additional features like lighting or a rotating radar. We also learned of the pitfalls of using high torque servos and why it is recommended to power them directly from the



battery should you choose to use them. I will certainly be adding his handout to my workbench reference binder.

Scott Bauman kicked off the

evening’s Show & Tell with his F-14 transmitter and lamented its missing antenna. Many of his fellow captains were quick to offer guidance on procuring a new one in the near future.



Next we were presented with a 42” YTB skeleton constructed by **Steve Sunich** using old plans coupled with a wealth of photos.

He’s currently searching for large motors to spin 4.5” propellers. The hull will be sheathed primarily using plywood.

Dane Webster brought in his 1/32 US Coast Guard lifeboat many of us would recognize from the recent film *The Finest Hour*.



This remarkably small vessel uses a 150ma 1S LiPo to power its servo motored prop. A cautionary tale was brought forth by **Bob Wickham** in the form of a Log Tug he is performing a rewire on for another captain. The large motors have received heat sinks to assist in cooling although a means of recycling air must now be devised. He

shared a peek at his 700 brushed jet drive he installed in his US Coast Guard boat.



Equal parts innovator and promoter, **Dennis Chin** showed us his latest innovations in Springer boats in the form of “El Toro.” Who needs moderated throttle when you can instantly switch from ahead flank to back emergency using a servo? He



encourages us all to join him in pushing the envelope at the next Springer Polo match. **Mel Suelzle's** showed us his Allan B

cape boat that won at last year's Regatta. A few of its features include a tow-line pin release, lighting, and scale chain found at House of Clocks for attaching the bumpers. Look for this fierce competitor at this year's regatta.

Robert Osmond shared his latest find for completing his PBR boat in the form of tiny bolts,



scale .50 bullets, and a resin machine gun. These have remarkable detail for their truly small scale.

After a brief break Mel gave us the latest updates regarding Bellevue Pond, Jim Sisley's estate, storage unit woes, and our region's upcoming events. Please read his From the Wheelhouse segment on page one for more information.

We hauled in our lines and headed for home ports at 2035.



Lake Hilton Fun Float – June 3rd

Mel Suelzle

Photos by Mel Suelzle

On June 3rd we returned to the Hilton Lake for our fun float. Only 8 members showed up at this beautiful lake in south Everett. Unlike last month, we set up on the north end of the lake. This is much closer to the street parking and there are fewer weeds along the shoreline. Still plenty of weeds to foul props and Kort nozzles. Not bothered by weeds, **Jeff Parker** showed off his new quadcopter. It is a high end unit with an HD camera. He got some great overhead shots of the lake. Local interference cut his run short, but this system will produce some nice promotional video at our regatta. **Allan Wing** had his pusher boat rigged up with a video camera that produced some water



level shots from his boats wheelhouse. **Robert Osmond** and **Jeff Parker** made high speed runs to see who could create the biggest bow wave. Robert had his Clyde Puffer and Jeff had his supercharged vintage tug. **Tom Stevens'** and **Al Kinsman's** boats ran well with Al's boat doing some salvage work. **Mel** was testing his new tug Maverick. After repairing a loose rudder link, the



boat ran well but needed some weight redistribution to lower the stern while raising the bow. Power and control was good, but later some issues popped up with the BEC failing to maintain lock of the receiver. As the boat circled out of control, everyone got a shot at trying to nudge it to the shore at a slow rate. Oh well that is what shakedown cruises are for...



Several youngsters from the neighborhood dropped by and tested their skills at running model boats. At about 11am the float ended so some could head north to the Anacortes Festival. Both our May and June fun floats were enjoyable and we hope to return in the future. We thank the residents of the Hilton HOA for allowing us to use this lake and dropping by to enjoy our floats.



June Polo Match

Mel Suelzle

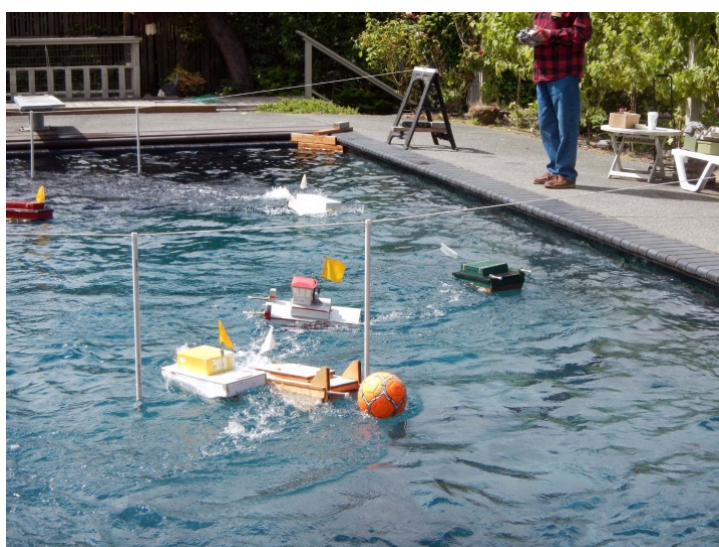
Photos by Mel Suelzle

On Saturday June 10th a group of 9 skippers gathered at the home of **Dennis Chinn** for another hotly contested polo match. It was a beautiful day and fun was had by all.



occurred except when **Robert Wickham** tested his boats inverted operating mode with a little help from Earl's Red Top boat skippered by Mel. Everything stayed in the hull and proceeded normally after being righted. Allan wing showed office his new paint job that, unlike the last one, actually stayed on the boat instead

decorating Dennis' pool. The Osmond fleet was on hand and expertly operated by Robert and son John. They were top contenders on the water after improvising a new battery holder system since they left one some items at home!



Dennis had his new boats on display all using his unique power system that uses only on-off control instead of the usual ESC. They performed well but tended to use more battery. No major incidents



As usual boats, batteries and skippers ran out energy around noon when Dennis brought out his scratch build Canadian Coast Guard boat that ran and looked beautiful on the water. Next he brought out the pizza for much needed nourishment by the group. Many thanks to Dennis for hosting this great event and making these polo matches possible. If you haven't played polo yet, you are missing out on this great model boating activity.



Bellevue Pond: *An unofficial report from Your Inside Man*

February 2017

David Kentala



Here is the latest view of our pond as viewed from the west side looking east. You can see some of the grass is left, but most of our set up area is concrete.



2017 Club Information



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2017

35th Annual

Northwest Model Boat Regatta

August 5th 2017 - 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bellevue Downtown Park – Bellevue, WA



Come join us to see or participate in one of the largest and longest running model boat events on the west coast. A large variety of radio controlled model boats on display and running on a challenging navigation course. See competing skippers dodge moving ferry boats, powered barges and a moving 9 foot freighter while navigating docks and other course obstacles.

Model boats and skippers will be there from all over the Pacific Northwest and Canada for a fun day of completion.



See their beautifully handcrafted boats up close. Talk to the builders about their craft. All types of boats will be on hand including steam, electric and even oar powered boats displayed and operated.

Awards for the best navigators will be made in several classes for the most successful skippers.

Many valuable prizes donated by vendors who support this regatta will be raffled off during the day.

For more information about our club or this event, visit www.shipmodelers.com



For more information contact Mel Suelzle
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