



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

June 2009



Upcoming Events

June

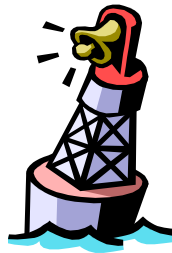
- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 4 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Northwest Regatta**
9:00am-5:00pm, Bellevue Park

July

- 2 NWRCSM Meeting
Fremont Tug and Barge
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 12 Fun Float
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 25 Tidewater Cup
Spokane (Avista Pond) 9-5pm

August

- 2 Fun Float
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 3 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 6 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 8 Crowdad Festival
Tualatin OR 9:00am-9:00pm
- 15 Foss Cup
9:00am, Bellevue Park
- 16 BMM Regatta
Central Park



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Here it is May 19, 2009; twenty-nine years ago we were still reeling from the eruption of Mt. St. Helens the day before. Today I'm up against the deadline to get the column to Darlene. And, I'm reeling, not

from volcanic remembrances, but from a nasty cold that showed up the day we were in Ketchikan last week. Linda and I took a seven day cruise on the MS WESTERDAM with ten of our friends. No rain!!! Tee-shirt weather in Glacier Bay. Twenty-three knots from a pair of 24,000HP azipods driving 2,000 passengers and 800 crew up and down the coast in an Italian built 935' liner is a great way to travel. In Ketchikan I took a picture of the 1901 tug BEE. As we were getting off Sunday morning we spotted SIDNEY FOSS and SHELLY FOSS taking a big section of the Hood Canal Bridge out of Elliot Bay.

The Seattle Tug Races were a success but have returned to racing north. Ben and I took pictures from the beach at the sculpture park.

And on Guemes Channel in July there will be more workboat racing on the north shore of Anacortes. Keep tuned for more information. Keith should have a report on the successful Anacortes Waterfront Festival elsewhere in this issue.

That leaves us with our annual Northwest REGATTA on June sixth, the 65th anniversary of D-Day! There is a "gray boat" section for scale judging, an excellent time to present your military models. And please bring any and all tables and stands as the club tables will be used mostly for the galley, registration, and raffle presentation.

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Northwest Regatta June 6th Bellevue Park



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I have no comment/prediction on the weather. I'm gonna bring an umbrella and sunscreen and will be there to set up at 0700. Linda will have breakfast for the helpers.

One last note: June 23 will have a minus 4.1 tide in our area late in the morning. That is low!! Have fun, go see.

Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing

The meeting started a few minutes late to accommodate some late arrivals. By 7:11 we were underway. Randy asked how it was working to have the newsletter only on line with no mailed copies and there were no complaints. This months newsletter will have slightly smaller pictures to see if it reduces the size so downloading will be quicker. Randy announced that the September fun float will be at Bob Jacobsen's place on Lake Goodwin (Lake Bob). To fit Bob's schedule, it will be held on September 20. It will be a bit later in the month but be sure and attend because this is always a fun time.

Randy asked for orders for this years Regatta T-shirt. He also announced the Anacortes Festival will be May 16 and 17. He then talked about the Regatta, it looks like the scale and navigation segments are ready to go. He said that Set up will be starting at 7 am with registration starting at 9 am. There will be sandwiches and a salad bar for lunch. A map of the course appears later in this newsletter.

The Tug boat races are scheduled for May 9 and there will be no pond so there will be no boats from our club.

The July meeting will be held at Freemont Tug and Barge.

We will be able to see their museum and see parts of the yard and a couple of the boats. This will take the place of our regular July meeting

There was a discussion of the plans for the December meeting, many people were in favor of some sort of a catered dinner the exact details have yet to be worked out.

Mel announced there would be another Polo event at Dennis Chinn's pool on May 21. The pool is a perfect place to have polo matches.

Tom Stevens presented Mel with a special handicapped parking pass to help remind him not to park in the handicapped parking spot at the Bellevue pond.

We had a short break and then started show and tell. Randy started off with some advertisements for full sized Springers.

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Some were as large as 25 by 12 ft with twin screws. Doug Gunter showed his progress on his Wyeforce tug. He has it mostly complete and showed off the painting, tires and lights. It is ready to run! Next Barrett Bertran showed a tug he had fixed up. He got in an antique shop and it had been set up to run R/C. He replaced the battery added a Spektrum radio and he is also ready to run. Earl showed his Dumas Chris Craft tri-cockpit runabout he is working on. I showed the model of the Wawona I am building from plans barrowed from Dr Ron. Tim Garton showed his model of the African Queen. He has it complete and has added special touches to make it look more realistic. The final show and tell was Bob Jacobsen showing a plastic model of a S-100 Schnellboot. This model represents the advancements that are available today in plastic models and hulls. With that we ended the meeting and stacked the chairs.



Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Keith Schermerhorn

Monday, May 4 found a good size crowd at the Skagit PUD building for the meeting of model skippers. The first thing for all was the issue of a GPS bracelet to each person (18 of us) who entered the building so that we could be tracked by the large digital counter at the door. This would help insure that none would be left behind at the end of the evening this month. Not really, but was one of the many ideas suggested to make sure Wayne does not get locked inside of the building.

We welcomed members of the Anacortes model sailing group that were here to see what was going on. These guys get to gather at least once a week for racing and informal sailing of the Soling class boats. Old business was quickly dispensed of since there was very little happening in April.

The one really big topic for the night was to cover the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. We will have a 30 foot area with 1 commercial tent provided for our protection from the elements and to be used for storage on Saturday night. Club tables will be brought in from the NW group and some of the old ones from Skagit group. Set up Friday morning for those that can help. On Saturday, advised those bringing vessels to show up early if you want to unload at the booth. New this year will be the addition of the model sailing group with us. This will be a bonus as it will help support both of our efforts to gain new members to enjoy our hobbies. It will also help make the model display look more impressive.

We moved on to the NW R/C regatta to be held on the 6th of June. Randy Flodquist covered the various aspects of the event and what to changes are happening this year. Looking for those good unused items for donations to the raffle seems to be one of the requests that have been made. Judging will be done by popular choice from the contestants this year. Lunch will be semi provided directly by the club (main course) and also by the club members supplying some food to help keep the cost down. This event is one of the largest events of the year and is always a good to attend to see what is new. Just a reminder that tents need to be held down with buckets and not staked down to prevent damage to the underground water system. The July meeting for NW R/C will be down at Freemont Tug and barge on the 2nd. Bring models to run in the lake. Be warned that parking is pay all around that area if you plan on attending. Tom gave us a sneak peak at a special award for Mel of the NW group for what was almost a disastrous day at the pond in April.

Show and tell had Randy talking about the new tug book and post cards with the classic tugs on them. These are available through Mark Freeman. Larry showed the 99.04 % progress to his Soling sailboat that included a stir stick and car toy combination wind vane at the top of the mast. Keith showed some of the progress to the railings on the Weddell Foss model. Len and Wayne covered the events that happened after the last meeting with several suggestions made to help keep track of each person there. A good laugh was had by all. Because of this incident, there have been some changes to the door policy in the building. We thanked Dave and Ginny for bringing cookies and Dusty for bringing donuts and beverages for a snack.



Reminder that the next meeting will be held on the 1st of June.



SIMULATED CAULKING

By Dr. Ron

To obtain some semblance of realism it is necessary to simulate caulking between the planks when constructing decks on certain models. This can be accomplished in several ways, depending on the scale of the model and the materials selected.

The easiest way is to merely draw lines on a one piece surface, such as plywood or veneer, with a pencil or fine point felt pen. If using ink on raw wood one has to be careful that it doesn't run, spread or create irregularities. Sealing the wood usually prevents this. However, when putting on the finish coat one has to be careful that the ink and finish coat are compatible and that the ink will stay put and not spread, run or smudge. It's a good idea to test this before with a sample project. To further obtain a more realistic effect the wood can be scribed with a sharp knife, awl, fabric cutting wheel or plastic cutting tool with a diamond shaped tip. Then use pencil or ink in the created grooves.

There are a number of ways to simulate calking when using individual planks. First of all there must be a firm, smooth underlayment of plywood, plastic or fiberglass. Various colors of thread, string, etc. of desired size can be placed between planks usually sticking to the glue squeezed out when the plank is pressed down and then held firm with the next plank. Strips of thin plastic, heavy colored paper or wood can be employed in a similar manner. The simplest method is to color the sides of the planks with crayon, ink or paint. However, the width of the caulk may be compromised and subject to running as described above.

The choices of glue are dependent on the shape and curvature of the deck underlayment as well as the materials. The best glue for wood to wood is medium ca applied to the plank or underlayment which can be placed and held momentarily to create an almost instant bond. For a more rapid bond glue can be applied either to the plank or underlayment and accelerator to the apposing surface. However, there is no wiggle room with this method. Ca glue as well as accelerator contain very irritating chemicals that can cause respiratory difficulties such as a runny and stuffy nose or worse yet, asthmatic conditions, usually occurring 6 to 12 hours after exposure and lasting 2 to 3 days. The major problem with ca glue is getting your fingers stuck together. Rubbing cold cream into your fingers and hands facilitates getting the glue off and preventing having your fingers sticking together.

My choice in bonding wood to wood is Titebond III which sets up fairly rapidly but does give some leeway in moving the planks, if needed, before becoming permanently fixed. If the planking material is thin enough a hot iron or plank bender can be used to accelerate the bonding process. Am-broid glues also work quite well despite the strong odor and tendency to get all over your fingers. The best method of attaching wood planks to plastic or fiberglass underlayments is to use a goo type glue such as Zap A-Dap A Goo II, best applied to the plank with a pallet knife. However these glues also have a strong odor and have a tendency to be stringy. If one has the patience, contact cement can also be used quite effectively.

After the planking and simulated caulking are secure the next step is to apply a waterproof finish. A two part penetrating epoxy, such as S -1, is my choice and can be followed by polyester or epoxy resins and can be reinforced with fiberglass cloth. Varnish or Varathane can also be used and should contain UV blockers to prevent sun damage. After several weeks a waterproofing material such as Rainex can be applied to help shed water droplets and prevent spotting.

This article was written not only to express some of my own biases but to stimulate comments and discussions on this topic. I'm sure there are other methods of planking, caulking and gluing that exist and this discussion may only scratch the surface, but is intended to be a primer.

May Fun Float

By Allan wing

There was good weather but conflicts with Mothers Day and fishing made for a small turnout. Randy and family were on a cruise to Alaska and I was fishing with my son. We did get some nice pictures from Lee Stewart. We thank him very much. It looks like Al and Earl set up some practice buoys and docks. From the pictures, it looks like Al and the Pono were practicing for the Regatta so he might have a leg up on the rest of the competitors.

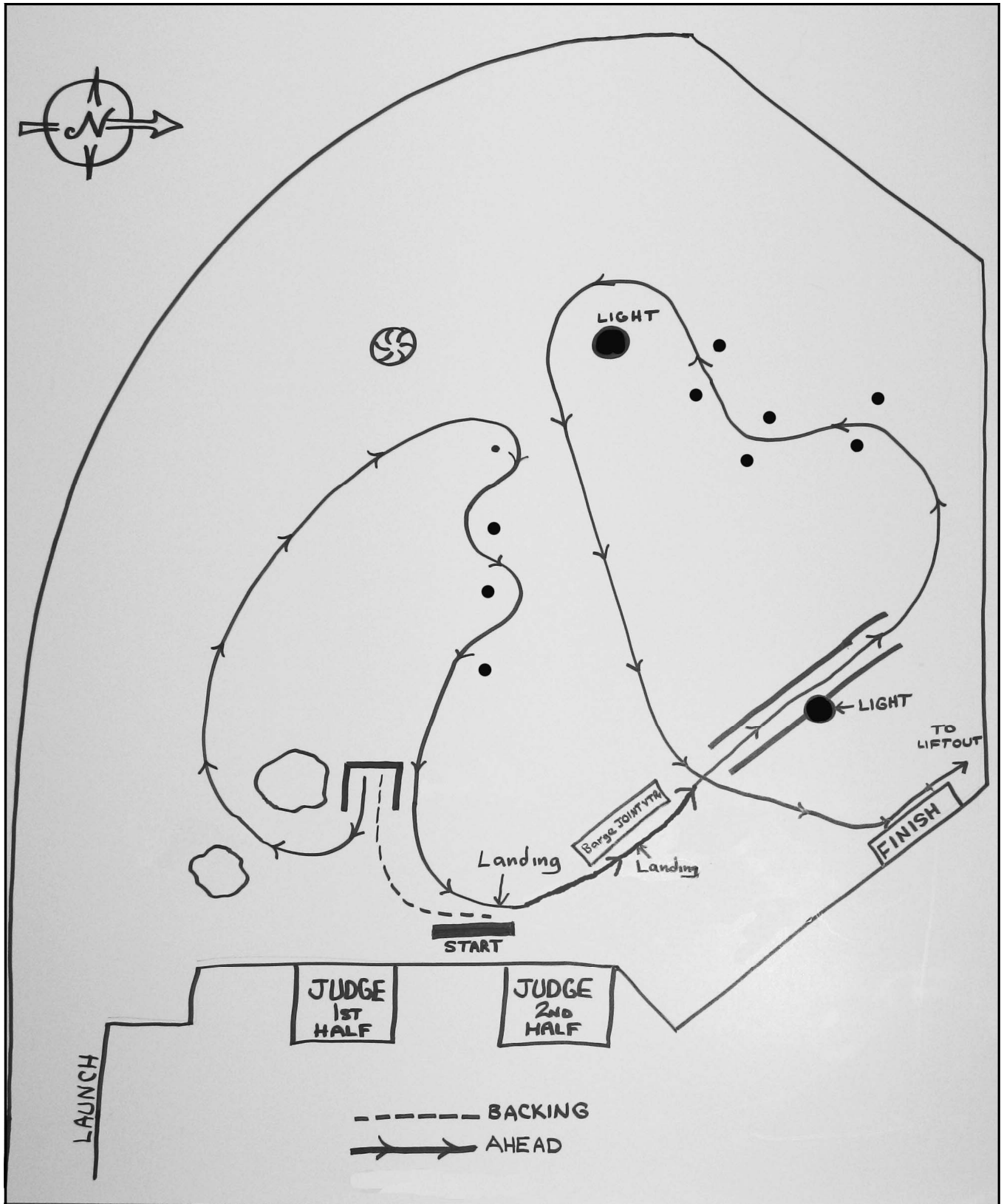


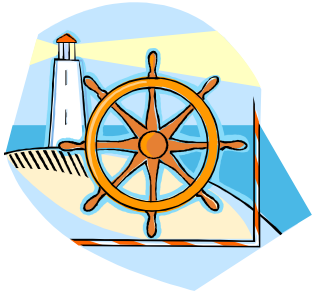
Regatta strategy discussion?



The Regatta Course

Here is a map of the final course. One landing has been removed from the preliminary shown a few months ago. Also the landing at the barge has been changed to insure we have both port and starboard side landings. Deception Pass has been replaced by a pair of islands. The rest of the course remains unchanged it should be a challenge to all.





Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron

DOUG GUNTER

Doug came into this world in Seattle in 1968 and moved to Lynnwood at the age of 9. Following high school he joined the Navy but was medically discharged after two weeks in boot camp because of a ruptured tendon. He then goofed off for a few years before getting married in 1991. They have two sons aged 17 and 9. His youngest son was born with spina bifida and requires around the clock nursing care. His greatest experience was through the Make a Wish Foundation with a trip to Chicago, meeting Dale Earnhart Jr and watching one of the races.



Doug constructed fences for about 5 years until his back gave out and then gravitated to driving trucks delivering parts for an auto company, recycling and roll off dumpsters for Pacific Top Soils. For the past 6 years he has driven trucks for Maltby Container and Recycle and is now their senior driver.

During his early years he experienced boating as his father had a 26 foot Tolycraft named Namu 2 which was berthed at Berg's marina. His father was a well known and experienced marine mechanic and was responsible for taking care of many celebrity boats including the Abracadabra which belonged to Steve Miller. Doug was able to go behind the scenes of the unlimited hydroplane races as his father was the official time keeper. He was able to meet many of the drivers and get close up views of all the action in the pits.

He entered the RC world in 1992 after a hand injury. He raced cars and helped run events at the Bear Creek Raceway before progressing to RC airplanes, but like the rest of us, got tired of picking up piles of sticks. He was introduced to RC model boats after witnessing hydroplane races at the Bellevue pond and built and ran models of the 1960 Miss Burien and 1982 Atlas Van Lines competing in the 2002 and 2004 racing competitions. He also tried rock crawlers but got tired of long drives only to be able to run for very short intervals because of battery exhaustion. Doug has also been involved with sail boat racing for the past six years but after joining RC Groups in 2001 found the Springer thread and decided to build one to retrieve errant sail boats. He joined our club this month and is our newest member. He attended our January meeting trying to sell his Smithy lathe in order to acquire funds to build a tug boat. He finally succeeded and is now in the process of building the Weyforce from Harbor Models. At the Hobby Expo he bought one of Ron Burchett's Bandit boat kits.

He has become tired of competitions and plans to just have fun building boats and enjoying club activities. Other interests include landscaping and growing flowers, and riding his father's Yamaha XS 400 motorbike. His enthusiasm and building skills will benefit many of our members and we will be looking forward to long standing participation.