



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

**June 2008**



## Upcoming Events

### June

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 7 **Northwest Regatta  
Bellevue Park**

### July

- 3 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm, PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 13 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 27 Tidewater Cup  
Spokane, WA

### August

- 3 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Crawdad Festival  
Tualatin, OR
- 16 Foss Cup  
Bellevue Park



## Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

It's REGATTA week!!! This Saturday , June 7, at the pond in Downtown Park, Bellevue, r/c boaters will have the opportunity to compete in navigation and scale. There is even a category for static models!

Be prepared to eat well and to receive personalized framed certificates if you win. If you lose (again) you can go home and sulk until the next meet. But then, you might win big time in the ever-popular raffle. We have a lovely Dean's kit of a WWII liberty ship. There is all kinds of stuff this year. If members donate more items we can get it up to where everybody probably ends up with some nifty item.

For those that come early, Linda and her helpers will be serving up breakfast wearing their aprons that match the tee shirts we've distributed. Bring your buckets to hold down your tents as stakes are out. Bring your \$5 bills for registration (one per vessel). A fiver will get ya six raffle tickets. Any left over tee-shirts will be available for two \$5 bills each. Bring your camera; it has been suggested we have a CD or DVD covering the event.

Practice backing up; the first twenty feet of the course is the most difficult because you'll be looking over the stern. If it gets windy the FIVE landings will separate the talented from those of us who rely on luck or foolishness. Good luck! May the best man, or woman, or kid win.

And now for something completely different: the tug races on May tenth were exciting and only one EMD got blown up. A tough few weeks for ITB. The soiree at our house was pleasant and none of the cats made it home with Ron although a few had to be removed from his truck.

This past weekend it was fun (and burns) in the sun at the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. I suspect you'll hear about it elsewhere in this issue. Many thanks to all who helped out.

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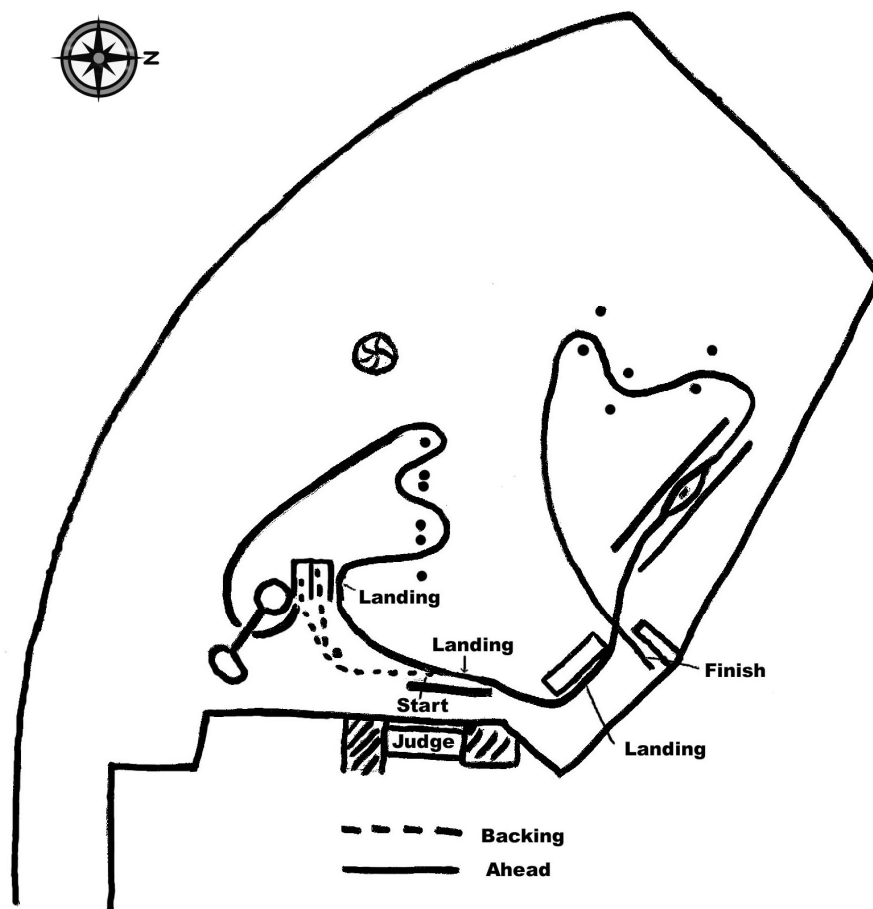
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## **The 27th Regatta Course**

This years Regatta will have a new design for the course. Ben Flodquist and Al Kinsman worked out the new course to provide a more challenging experience. The course will feature a harbor setting with a more confined space and will require the skippers to dock several times approaching the dock in both forward and reverse. The entire course is closer to the shore so it will provide better visibility for both judges and spectators. Since the course has many features in a smaller space, it looks like a good challenge to all of us. As in past years the course will be divided in two parts with two judges



Ben describing the course at the last meeting



## Ken Reilly Memorial Springer Regatta

By Dave Feray

Ginny, our kids Dennis and April, and I were at the SFMYC pond today for their Ken Reilly Memorial Springer Regatta. There were about 20 Springers there, with roughly half being super Springers (bigger props, rudders, etc.). It was a good day in spite of the morning San Francisco fog. They had two courses laid out, one for tugs only and a second for tugs with barges. The SFMYC people were all friendly and outgoing, and the NWRCSM motto was upheld very well.



## International Retired Tugboat Association

*We got an e-mail from Tracy Wang & Giles Sydnor who are members (and newsletter editors) of the International Retired Tugboat Association (IRTA). The following is from them:*

“The IRTA is a group of tugboat & workboat enthusiasts, mostly with older, retired tugs (some are still working and some are semi-retired). Our member boats include wood- and steel- hulled boats that had served as log tugs, river tugs, shiphandling tugs, Army and Navy tugs, Coast Guard boats, fishboats, etc. We are mostly located in Puget Sound & British Columbia, but we also have members across the rest of the US and Canada. We publish a few newsletters a year and thought you might be interested in reading our letter. If you think your membership might be interested in reading this, please feel free to pass it along.

Anyone interested in receiving our newsletter directly or joining our group can contact us at

[newsletter@retiredtugs.org](mailto:newsletter@retiredtugs.org) or visit our web site, [www.retiredtugs.org](http://www.retiredtugs.org) “

*This site is well done and should be of interest to many of our members. Our thanks to Tracy and Giles for sharing their site with us.*



# Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing

The meeting started promptly at 7:30 with 23 members in attendance. There were no guests or new members to welcome so we started right in covering old business.

The first item was a treasures report. The club is still solvent with enough money to cover expected expenses and has a good reserve.

The next order of business was to congratulate Mathew Plueard on his win at last month's Springer event. Now Mathew will have to define the competition for the next event in October. Mat you may find this harder than winning, good luck.

Randy then discussed the results of his investigations into insurance for the club. He had got a definition of the coverage that could be provided by the SSMA. Basically, it would cover the club and any members who were also members of SSMA. It would not cover other individual club members. It was decided to pursue a separate policy that would cover the club and members during participation in club sponsored events. Randy is expected to have the details at the next meeting. At that time, it will be decided if and when a dues increase would be necessary to cover the added expense of insurance.

Randy has frames and a basic design for the Regatta awards. Each award will have a place for the Judges signature, the name of the boat and points earned. It is felt that this will make the awards a bit more personal. Randy also had a meeting with the navigation judges to discuss judging philosophy.

Next on to new business. Randy told the club that the club is now a member of the Center for Wooden Boats. Randy is trying to get club participation in the Wooden Boat Festival.

It was noted that the **July fun float** will be on the **13th** and not the 6th as previously reported so everyone make a note on your calendars.

Randy expects to have the Regatta T-shirts in the next week or two so he asked anyone wanting a shirt to get their request in very soon. The shirts are \$10 each and feature the PONO, the winner of last year's Regatta.



John Nygaard was nominated to receive a bent prop award for the fire in his Fire Boat at the last fun float.

With that Randy reminded everyone that the Tug Boat races are on May 10th and the Anacortes festival will be the following weekend.

After the break, Ben showed a drawing of the Regatta course and explained how it should be run. Dr. Ron showed progress on his Grand Banks cabin cruiser. He described how he did the decking detail and replaced the 1 1/2 inch propellers with 2 inch propellers. Earl showed a new light house he built that will be part of the Regatta course and his new Springer style boat that is slightly larger than a standard Springer and has twin screws.

Finally, Tom Stevens talked about scale judging and some of the ideas that will go into the judging. He suggested that a single page description of the boat and construction technique would help the judges in their effort.





# SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By Keith Schermerhorn

Well as I arrived a little late, here is what was discussed at the Skagit R/C meeting on May5, 2008. Walking in on the already started meeting, I found that Dusty was well in charge of the evening keeping the 17 attendees involved. And when he invited me to take over I had to respond with "you're doing a fine job and I don't want to mess it up". The discussion at the time was about the upcoming NW R/C regatta. This will include divisions for static and r/c. Tom made the suggestion that all those entering a model(s) make up a page or 2 of pictures and listing of unique details on the model for the judges to review. After all, the judges can not be expected to everything about YOUR model, especially if it is not a real one! The t-shirts will be ready for the event and were looking pretty good as the Flodquist were taking orders.

We continued on with a brief chat about the upcoming tug races on Sat. May 10th. Model display at pier 66 for those that wanted to attend while Wayne was going to do his official unofficial photographer job for Crowley. Hope to see some good photos!

Conversation continued with the biggest upcoming event for this group in the Anacortes Waterfront Festival display. This 2 day display and water demo was going to have an addition with the r/c sailboat club doing a regatta on Sunday. Mentioned that they might be joining the scale display on Saturday to make the presence more impressive. Discussed the use of frequencies and possible conflicts but had a plan to make it all work for every one. Setup was to happen the Friday morning before with those helping meeting for breakfast.



A brief discussion on a possible fun float at the park were new member Gordon lives sometime in early July. This could be a great opportunity to entertain many in the private parks pond and gain new members.

A new club roster was passed around and information was updated since we have seen quite a few new members to this organization. We continue to grow since we now have a regular meeting place that is easily accessible.

After a short break, Dusty introduced Lon Bradshaw and his presentation on the steam boat "Miranda". The model was a scratch built steamer that was constructed by his brother from drawings that were purchased from Tuabman Plans service (now Loyalhannadockyard.com) . Unfortunately, his brother had passed away and was never able to finish the model. So Lon is out to finish it and add the r/c. The model will have a simulated working steam engine, but will be electric powered. Some of the other parts to the model and display were the small working steam engines that his brother ( a machinists) had created from scratch. Really neat looking pieces of working art. Keith was next with an update on the Wedell Foss tug that included all the rubber bumpers that were installed. The bumper material was cut from some shelf protection vinyl that can be found in home stores as a solid sheet. Tedious process but well worth the effort. Now to only get all those tires installed and windows on the pilot house.....

During the evening a card was passed around for our good friend and fellow club member Vic Childs. He had lost his older brother just a couple of days before and was having some health issues. We all send our condolences and wish him a speedy recovery so he can get back to the boat pond with his sail boats.

We called the meeting over with at 2030 hours and headed for our home ports until the next time we all gather together.

# May Fun Float

By Allan Wing

Good weather and a desire to get in some practice time before the regatta lead to a large turnout. Ben and Al set up major portions of the course that will be used for the Regatta so we could practice docking, navigation through a narrow channel and maneuvering through a set of buoys. It gave us all a chance to find out where we needed more practice. There were also several new boats enjoying the nice spring weather.

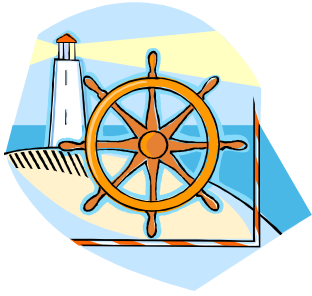


May 4, 2008

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

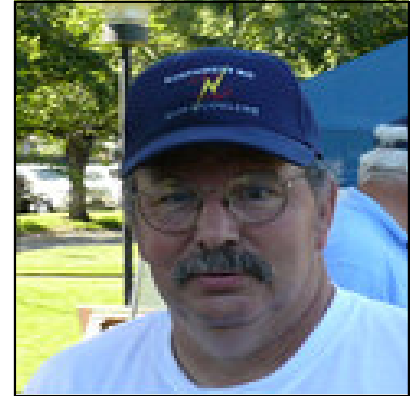
## **Member Spotlight**

**By Dr. Ron**



### **AL KINSMAN**

Like a number of members, Al has an extensive background in boating. He was born in 1953 and raised on Mercer Island on the water where he enjoyed many boating activities. He experienced speed boats, sail boats, hydroplanes and cruisers. He once owned a 38 foot Chris Craft Roamer. As a youth he didn't know about RC so he ran control line gas hydroplanes which occasionally got free and out of control.



As a youngster he would drive a boat across the lake and take the bus to Seabourne's marina where he held several jobs. After high school he joined the Marines and served 4 years on active duty. When he finished his stint in the Marines he started working on boat repairs at Seabourne's marina and then Marine Engines Northwest. He also worked with his brother on commercial fishing boats. Al started a mobile marine repair business with two boats which were destroyed when the marina roof collapsed under the weight of snow during the 1996 storm. During all these ventures he managed to drive a tow truck which he has done for 35 years even up to today. Recreationally he enjoys his 22 foot Reinel, 22 foot Raider, 11 foot Boston Whaler, 11 foot aluminum fishing boat and two inflatable boats. In addition to boating, he enjoys snow skiing and of course running his RC boats.

After trying RC aircraft he was introduced to RC boat modeling after reading an ad in the Journal American announcing an event at the Bellevue pond. He found that home base for the group was at Galaxy Hobbies so he scoped it out and then joined the club 6 years ago. He has gone so far as to change his work schedule so he can attend meetings and events. He really got hooked when he went to Tualatin and got to run Gordy's Springer. He purchased a Darby kit ( which is still under construction ), built a Springer, won Little Toot at a regatta, won a Crowley Nanook tug at the Foss Cup, bought a Western Titan from Ron Burchett and then bought Pono from John Witt. Several others are under construction.

Winning has been the norm for Al. In 2007 he was the grand overall winner at the June regatta, placed 2nd in navigation with Pono and won a 3rd in navigation with the Western Titan. In San Francisco he and Ben won 2nd place in the team event and he placed 2nd overall as skipper of the weekend. He then went on to be the grand champion at the Tidewater event in Spokane with Pono , placed 3rd with Western Titan and 1st with Little Toot. In Tualatin he placed 2nd in navigation with Krystal Sea. To top off a winning season he placed 1st overall with Little Toot at the Foss cup. Wow! What a year and what a challenge for the rest of us.

Living in a trailer, he has little room for projects so he motors over to Bill McGee's shop to do his constructing. He stores a lot of stuff at his shop on Whidbey Island but still prefers Bill's heated shop for projects despite the loss of part of his finger. Al rarely misses a meeting or an event and is always ready to lend a helping hand. He is a regular at the Thursday coffee and donut klatch at Galaxy. He hopes to have a better year on the water in '08. As for the club, he would encourage more varieties of events such as a separate scale event, separate Springer and polo events.



# Fun Float and Regatta Practice

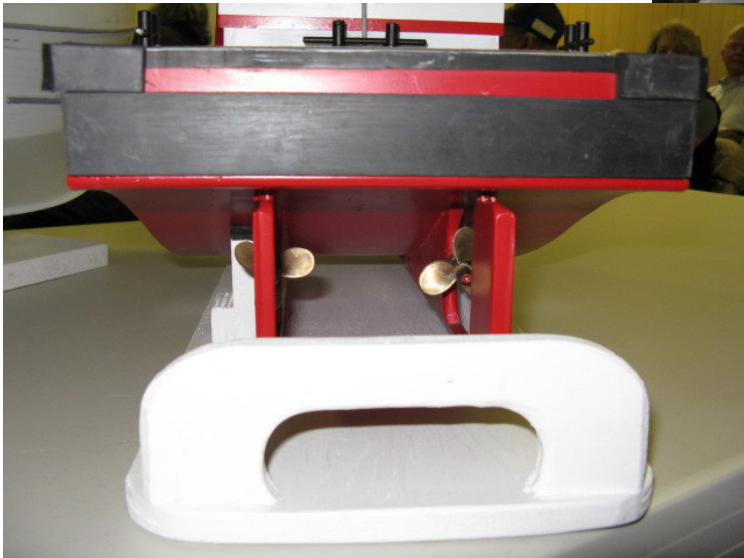
## May 4, 2008





# Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting May 1, 2008

**Ron Bray's Grand Banks  
cabin cruiser**



**Earl Anderson's  
"Super Springer"**