



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March 2017

3 Events Month Look Ahead

MARCH

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9am
- 25 Springer Polo Match – Dennis Chinn's Home

APRIL

- 6 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 9 Fun Float – Ctr Wooden Boats 9am
(Sunday)

MAY

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

Check for latest updates at
www.shipmodelers.com

Notice Board



All Members not in good standing by 3/31 will be removed from member roster and mailing list distribution.



From the Wheel House

Mel Suelzle

The longer days and higher temperatures signals the end of winter and the beginning of our time to get away from our benches and move to the shores and docks to enjoy the fruits of our winter labors. While the Seattle Yacht club was a fine winter venue, we are moving closer to the date when the waters of the Bellevue pond will become available. All reports suggest the project is on schedule and will be completed by the completion date of July 4th. Let's hope that also includes the all-important (at least to us) process of FILLING the POND. I visited the park a couple of weeks ago hoping to get a feel for the distance from the extended parking lot to the pond. Unfortunately, the traffic controllers had a different plan and access was blocked as the new parking lot is full of equipment and materials. It is clear that our fun float and regatta processes will be affected as the distance will be longer and carts and wagons will be widely used. I am really glad I already started to transition my fleet to smaller more easily handled sizes. You youngsters can keep right on building the 4-6 ft. models that look real nice on the water but not nice enough for me to pack them and all the gear to keep them running. Also affected is getting some of the regatta items to the pond which will be more difficult and likely will limit some of the more complex arrays that have been used in the past. I may be wrong here as this year's Pond Master, **Robert Osmond** is a very determined guy and is not easier deterred from his mission. One thing is sure; Robert will create a most



challenging course for our 35th Annual Regatta on July 22nd no matter what obstacles might popup along the way.

While we wait for the Bellevue pond to be available, we have plenty of activities planned for the Spring/Summer period. On March 25th we will have our first Springer Polo match at **Dennis Chin's** home. Our April fun float is planned for the Center for Wooden Boats which is still pending approval from the Center. May will bring us back to the Seattle Yacht Club and an all-day fun float as part of their festivities prior to Opening Day of boating. In June **Dain Webster** has arranged for us to have our fun float at the Hilton HOA pond. Also we plan to reinstate our polo competition with an event in the fall.

All of this activity leads up to the core of our events. Our regatta is soon followed by the Portland Regatta in Tualatin and the following week the Tug Championship in Bellingham. Then for the hard core skippers, a short hop across the border for the Burnaby Regatta the following day. July and August are full of fun activity for 2017.

And finally, one last word about dues. Since December our newsletter, meetings and emails have included reminders that 2017 dues are due in January. In spite of these frequent reminders, still 1/3 of our members have not paid dues for this year. Many members have been asking for a revised member list. We plan to publish this list for the April Meeting. It will contain only members that are current on their dues by the end of March.

POLO MATCH SCHEDULED

A Springer Polo Match is scheduled for March 25th at Dennis Chinn's home. Dennis' pool is a great size for our polo events and is enjoyed by everyone. If you haven't been to one of these events you are missing a fun filled feature of our boat club. This is a crash and bash type of event using Springer boats specially configured for the rough and tumble nature of this "anything goes" event. Fun to watch and even more fun to participate in.



Dennis' home address is 9001 NE. 37TH PL, Bellevue. This is generally located near the East shore of Lake Washington just north of 520. From 520, you take the 92nd Avenue exit, head north on 92nd, turn left on 37th Place. The street ends in a cul-de-sac. And Dennis' house is on the left. The pool is in the rear of the house accessed from the north side of the house. Dennis will have coffee and after the usual crash and bash of the hotly contested polo match, pizza will be available.

Springer Polo Boat Spec Refresher:

Hull - Hull profile to conform to original Springer profile. Beam is 8" ± .062 Length is 18" ± .125 .

(exclusive of .25" knee and/or rub rail protrusions)

Rudder - 4 in 2 maximum. Single piece construction (salmon tail allowed). All boats must be equipped with a rudder shoe that extends from the skeg or hull bottom to the rudder shaft. The shoe must be 1/16" or less from the rudder in order to prevent the rudder or prop from snagging a ¼" rope.

Drive - Single shaft, direct or reduced drive, open prop (no Kort nozzles, Z-drives)

Propeller - 3 blades, maximum diameter of 40 mm.

Motor Type - Builders option

Motor Battery - 6 volts maximum

Gearing - Builders option

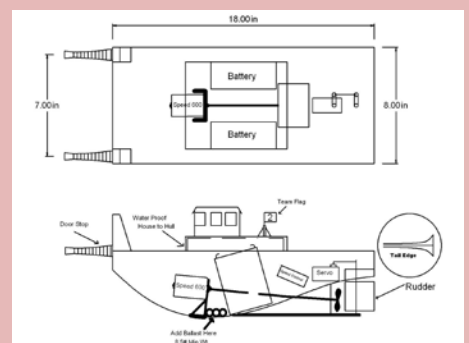
Flag Holder - 1" - 3/32" brass tube centered on stern approx ¼" in from edge.

Push knees - ¾" wide, minimum 2 ½" in height measured from deck, mounted on 7" centers

Door Stops - Removable spring type mounted on each knee at deck level or below

Weight - 8 ½ lbs minimum

For more information to build your own (you have time) check out our Technical Library:



<http://shipmodelers.com/technical-library.html>

From the North End

Keith Schermerhorn

Well, for the first time in 2017, the Skagit group was able to hold a meeting and not be hampered by the weather too much. Snow as it has tried, this time we made it. So the 6 intrepid people gathered to chat, share, and laugh all the while discussing boats. First was to recap the events as of this time. Mainly the NW Hobby Expo. Good, the not so good, and the interesting were covered. Happy that we still have an event like this in our area, but reminisce on the glory days when this was a MAJOR life like event every year. Boat pond was a big hit and the advent of letting the kiddos take control of a model boat even bigger hit with all. Discussed the waterfront festival and what might happen as we are not sure yet other than there has been another change of command. Hope to be there as it will not be in conflict with the NW R/C Regatta this year. Another possible festival will be the Bellingham Seafest festival in September with yet another display. More to come later on that. Other than the weather and hopes that snow will stop before July 5th, there wasn't much more to discuss.

Show and tell was done by Keith with the starting by showing the new voltage regulator offered by Harbor Models. What makes this one different than others on the market? For starters, it has an input range from 4-40 volt and adjustable output of 1.25-37 volts all adjustable by turning a screw adjustment. Another nice feature is the digital display that shows you what voltage is going out as you adjust it will be great for lights, sound, bow thruster, or any other items you



would like to operate at a lower voltage from a larger supply.



Next was the progress on 1 of the 2 1/16th scale Sea Imp style log tugs. Both are being built on Gary King hulls, but were purchased from 2 other parties in different stages of completion (or started). This particular hull was the bare hull. One of the hulls will be built as a river tug with the cages around the nozzles and the other will have no cages. Will be some other differences, but these are NOT being built as the Sea Imps so the look will be different. Added are the glass packed nozzles, shafts, blocks for stern rubber. A jig was made to align the shafts with the center of the nozzles so to make sure the prop sits in the middle with tight clearances. This also is used to align the shaft housing and set in place once the nozzles were attached. Once all the innards working parts are in place, the deck beams will get installed.

The last item (making up for 2 months were od s-n-t) was the newly delivered RTR PBR or Alpha Patrol Boat by Proboat and distributed by Horizon Hobbies. This is a 1/18th scale model of the famous Vietnam Conflict boats made famous by movies such as "Apocalypse Now". Built on an ABS body and parts, this model comes with a 2 channel radio, jet drives installed along with all the radio gear. All that is needed is the recommended batteries of choice. Fairly easy access is made through a couple removable hatches and con station. Some of the extras include working lights and a built in box to place a servo to control the forward gun turret (requires radio upgrade). Overall, this is a really cool model that is fairly accurate. Some of the misses include not having reversing buckets on the drives (although it is claimed



reverse does work), all the specialty details pre attached and not optional (can be removed carefully), and size being just a bit smaller as 1/12th would have been even cooler/bigger. Seeing how this is new and I didn't have the correct battery connector, Unable to comment on the performance of the model. But if looks are anything, it should be fun to take on a patrol! Besides being a good looking RTR, my other reason to get one of these is local history. All of these boats were built here in Bellingham at the old United Boat Works factory (later on Uniflight). Have had the pleasure to meet the designer of this version and others who served or even tested the real boats here in the bay.

So with all the discussion done for the evening, we set out for our own home ports looking forward to warmer weather and the next meeting on April 3rd. We encourage anyone with a passion for this hobby or just wanting to chat boats to come on over to one of our meetings. We would love to see what you are working on and share information and stories. Until next time.



March 2nd Meeting Minutes

Dr. Ron Bray

Photos by Allan Wing

Commodore, **Mel Suelzle**, called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. Twenty -four members attended and one guest, **Dave Hoffman**. **Dave** is restoring a cedar seiner model built by his father in law and is asking for help in getting the rigging back to its original condition. **Amy** e-mailed **Mel**

pictures of a new winch and power block that she now has in her inventory at really great prices. Pictures of the items were passed around for everyone to view.



Allan Wing gave a great report on lipo batteries and provided a handout summarizing salient points of his discussion.



This information will most likely be provided on our website. **Dave White** brought in a small tug he wishes to modify and seeks the previous owner so he can glean information about the construction. **Tom Stevens** discussed the reason he was losing props from his large tug boat. Apparently, the shaft was too small for the size of the prop, so he brought in elaborate modifications to the shaft and shaft housing. **Robert Osmond** showed his Leslie Lou tug he built in one night when he was in Dallas so his wife would have a boat to run. It is constructed out of balsa wood and styrene. The balsa was finished with sand and sealer and painted.

Sam Stout showed his progress he is making with his Hellen build. He cleverly made the flood lights operational with the aid of two servos under an extended cabin deck. Now he plans to finish and detail the inside of the wheelhouse. **Cliff** would be



proud as he started this model before he passed.

David Danzig was captivated by the tiny drone cameras he saw at Expo and under coaxing from his son, who is an avid drone competitor, bought a

couple of these tiny cameras and a visual monitor which he plans to install in his landing craft model.

After a break, **Mel** asked if anyone had any comments regarding the format of our new newsletter. Everyone agreed that is fantastic. **Amos Aarsvold**, our new editor, also asked that anyone with a suggestion on how to improve it to contact him. At the request of **Mel**, **Amos** is also working on new brochures which can be passed



out to prospective members, and those interested in our club, at our regattas and other events. **Mel**



stressed that all members should have our small business cards in their possession at these outings to provide them to interested individuals. **Dave Green** gave a brief report on the construction progress at the Bellevue pond which he feels should be ready for our July events. **Mel** is looking into procuring new name badges for new members



and anyone who has lost theirs or would desire a new one. Several members showed interest. **Mel** commented on **Paul Williams's** treasurer's report since he was unable to attend. We are solvent but our operation depends on dues. Only 2/3 of our members have paid their dues so far. Those not paid up will not be listed on our membership roster.

Robert Osmond announced he will contact **Dennis Chinn** regarding a polo event, hopefully on the 25th of March. After there was not much more to discuss the meeting closed at 2020.



Bellevue Pond: *An unofficial report from Your Inside Man* February 2017

David Kentala



The completion date remains subject to weather conditions. Poor weather has slowed concrete pours, added extra earthwork and even slowed the turf growth. The photo shows the concrete flatwork called the stage on the East side of the pond. It remains highly likely that the pond will be usable by the July Regatta. It may even be ready for the July Fun Float.

Fun Float – March 4th

Scott Baumann



Saturday, March 4th Seattle Times weather Forecast: Snow changing to rain; a mix of rain and snow in the morning will change to all rain in the afternoon. Highs to mid-forties...

At the Thursday club meeting, Commodore

Mel, while acknowledging the inauspicious weather forecast, urged club members to attend the Saturday fun float. So Friday night, certain stout-hearted men loaded their cars with tool boxes and favorite ship models, heavy coats and mufflers, and determined to show up, whatever weather challenges might occur...

When Saturday morning dawned, a half-dozen-plus group congregated at Seattle Yacht Club, staring with amazement at sunny skies and calm wind conditions! It wasn't exactly balmy, but with plenty of hot coffee and

donuts available, and our covered dockside gathering area, we were in no pain, and a nice time was had by all.

Al Kinsman, as usual, was the first to appear. He spent the whole time on his knees, experimenting with several new hulls in the water. At least he didn't have to waste his time rescuing **Scott's** tugboat, as he so valiantly did under the dock last month.

Hopefully he was able to discover all the potential leaks in his new hulls, so he can



proceed with further construction. **Scott** successfully ran his granddaughter **Camdyn's** Atlantic 2 tug "Emily," powered by a strong LiPo battery, without problem.

Commodore **Mel** tried to run his new Gary King "cake" tugboat, nicely put-together as ever. Unfortunately, he had electron difficulties, despite it "running perfectly the day before in the shop." No one shies away from running initial trials of new boats in public more than **Mel**, to avoid the inevitable razzing. But in respect for his competence and workmanship, his difficulties were met with only sympathetic comments this day.

Robert Osmond ran his new surfboard model very competently and dug circles around the rest of us. **Dave White** performed well with his White River and Richardson tugs. And **Steve Sunich** spent much time testing his new Invader tugboat. He is planning on campaigning both his advanced propulsion Foss tug and the classic Invader in competition this summer. By the way, his sixty-plus-pound tugs provide **Steve** a physical fitness regimen, as well as a hobby. Getting these babies into and out of the water is challenging!

With the help of generous amounts of modern pharmaceutical products, **Bob Wickham** was able to spend the morning with us, as did **Dave Williams** and **Marv Walden**. All of us had a pleasant time together with just the right amount of profane conversation.



For Sale: Scale Shipyard Bismarck

The kit contains all of the components shown on the attached cut sheet plus five rolls of assembly drawings and two books showing the Bismarck armament / deck detail. The total investment in the unassembled kit is \$2,045.00. I would sell the kit for less than 50% of the original cost, say about \$900.00. If interested, please contact Bruce Bray directly:



bbray@toledotel.com
360-864-4902

This kit is located in Toledo, WA



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