



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March 2007



From the Wheelhouse By Mel Suelzle.

The cold weather and storms seem to be behind us and we are enjoying more normal moderate temperatures as we approach Spring. I am writing this after a full boating weekend of attending the 1st model boating event of the Bellingham International Maritime Museum. Weather was cool and dry and there was good participation and lots of boats on display. The next day a few brave souls ventured out to the Center for Wooden Boats fun float expecting the cold rainy day predicted by the weather "miss-the-forecasters". We were pleased to have a very pleasant day of sunshine and calm water to run our boats. The fun float was rather boring as both Tom and Randy left their boats at home and chose to stop by and play spectator. All in all, a nice boating weekend, especially for February.

After our disappointing start with the cancellation of Puyallup Hobby Expo, things are looking UP. A similar event is going to occur at the Monroe Fairgrounds and lots of clubs and



The Bellingham International Marine Museum Show

Upcoming Events

March

- 1 NWRCSM. Meeting, 7:30 PM, Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond.
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers, Lake Jack
- 24-25 NW Model Hobby Expo
Monroe Fairgrounds

April

- 3 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
Lake Jake
- 5 NWRCSM. Meeting, 7:30 PM, Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond
Springer Event

May

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
Lake Jack
- 3 NWRCSM. Meeting, 7:30 PM, Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond
- 12 Seattle Tug Boat Races
- 19-20 Anacortes Festival
9:00 am, Anacortes

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vendors are already booked for the Northwest Model Hobby Expo event on March 24th and 25th. We have a booth reserved for the club and we look forward to seeing this event get off to a flying start. We have a double booth reserved and the \$60 booth fee gets us 10 of the \$6 tickets. Those will go to the first to sign up for a 2 hour booth duty on either of the two days. More information can be found at their website

<http://www.nwmodelhobbyexpo.com/>. They have asked for our help in judging the boat entries, so we need "few good men" for this task. They want to distribute the awards by noon of Saturday so the judging will be done first thing on Saturday.

As our February fun float was the last fun float at the Center for Wooden Boats until fall, we look forward to the familiar waters of the Bellevue Pond starting on March 4th. It is time to get our Polo action going and we encourage all Polo boat skippers to be on hand as we plan to have a polo event from noon to 1PM at the start of each fun float. We will need the polo equipment to set up the pond and of course a bunch of polo boats. Our goal is to start having some organized team play and take this program to the next level.

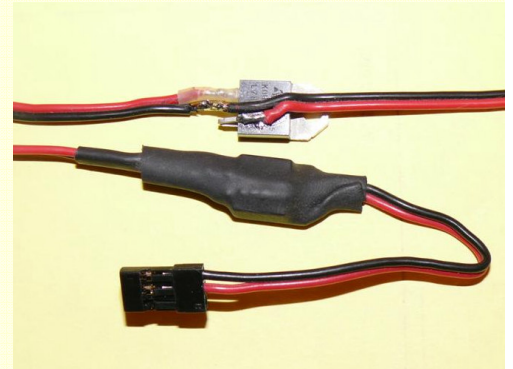
To properly organize this function, a **polo event coordinator is needed**. The person would help set up the program to have some organize play with record keeping and a more structured program. Unless someone steps up to this responsibility, the polo program will remain a crash and bash program and interest will diminish over time. I will do what I can, but my priorities are quickly shifting to the June Regatta.

Speaking of which, the Regatta planning has begun. The course has been revised and will definitely be a greater challenge for everyone. Bert Maxwell is building a new Puget Sound ferry to go with his really cool docks. He is planning to use a Spektrum system so channel conflict will not occur as last year. With Randy's "eye" talian ferry we can have lots of high priority traffic for the skippers to watch out for. Vendors are being contacted for raffle prizes and Allan and I plan to meet with the judges to collect their input on how we can improve things from their perspective.

VANTEC ESC PROGRAM A BIG HIT - We have received pre-paid orders for 43 Vantec speed controls. The order was placed with Vantec on February 16th and we hope to have at least some of the order available for distribution at the meeting on March 1st. The huge number of orders for these ESCs is a great indication of the vitality of our club. Members are obviously building or planning to build many new boats. This is a good sign and we look forward to all these new boats on the water soon.

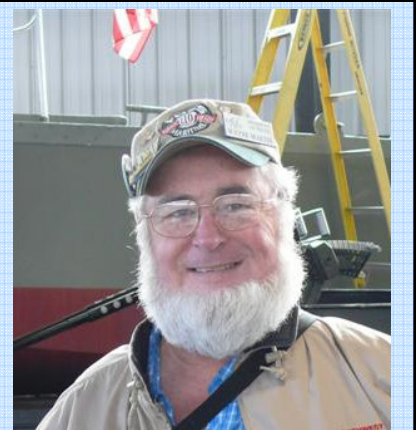
Battery Eliminator Circuits- If the Vantec ESCs have a shortcoming, it is the lack of a built in BEC to supply power to the radio receiver. This is a common feature of newer designs and eliminates the need for receiver batteries and associated charging/battery replacement.

At the February meeting I passed around a simple method of providing the 5 volts to the receiver using a 3 terminal regular type 7805 available from most electronic sources including Radio Shack (276-1770) for \$1.59 or from All Electronics for 75¢. The photo shows the method I use for simply putting the device in the power lead going to the receiver. The top version is before the heat shrink was applied to show the connections to the IC.



Note: This regulator is short circuit protected and provides a 5 volt output and a current of up to 1 amp with inputs from 6-35volts. Typically we use these on 12 volts systems and the heat generated with a single standard servo is not sufficient to require a heat sink. However, if larger servos, multiple servos or inputs higher than 12 volts, then a heat sink such as the Radio Shack 276-1363 or 1368 may be needed. Mel Suelzle

Meet Wayne - Wayne Martin has been a active member of our club since 1991 and remembers the early meetings at Cliff Shaw's home. Wayne was lured into modeling by a friend that asked him to help repair a model he was trying to restore. Since that time Wayne has produced some of the most detailed models you'll find and two fine examples are the Isabelle and Gary Foss. Each time you stare at the pilot houses in these models you will discover some new detail that Wayne spent hours getting just right. His model of the Preston is in the museum at LaConner. His model of the Puget salvage barge is becoming well aged as he is taking his own good time (15 years but whose counting) with this one just to get it perfect. Wayne was born in Mount Vernon and lived all of his 61 years in the Pacific Northwest. He and his wife Mikki currently live in Mount Vernon and enjoy their 4 grandchildren including one that currently lives with them. Wayne worked for Boeing for 5 years and retired in the late 90s from his career in the moving and storage business. In addition to his boat modeling skills Wayne is a skilled photographer. All of our major events are fully captured by his camera. Wayne has several of his photos published and his "Photos of the Week" are enjoyed by all his friends and a highlight of our December Pig Outs. Mel



Leif Bentzen - Leif is not really a new member having joined the club in November 2005 at the urging of his sidekick Ron Bray. Leif is new to model boating but not to the boating industry. Leif comes from a marine oriented family and has worked within the marine industry for 53 years. Leif is Danish born and he came to North America in 1959 where he and his brothers grew the Maple Bay boat yard from 6 to over 600 slips. One of his brothers, who currently lives in Friday Harbor, was a navigator on a PT boat that Denmark acquired from Germany after the war. Today, Leif and his wife Audree live in Edmonds and Leif continues to offer consulting services to the local marine industry. Leif has acquired a Midwest Lobster boat to get in some pond running time while he is building a new rescue boat (Danish, of course). With Leif's marine industry experience and Doctor Ron's modeling Expertise, it is sure to be a great addition to the club's fleet. Mel



NOTE: A few people have commented positively on these new feature articles on our members. I have done the first two months but if they are to continue, others need to help out in this area. It's a great way for everyone to get to know our fellow members better. If you would like to submit one for a newsletter feel free to send them directly to our Editor Darlene Wing. It always a good idea to get approval from the person being featured.

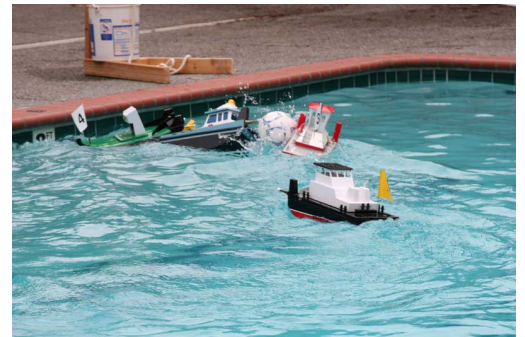
First Polo Match of the New Year January 21, 2007

By Allan Wing

After suffering a week's delay because of ice and cold weather the group showed up at Killarney Circle Pool. The setting was perfect. The pool provided good visibility and plenty space for all the skippers. Earl had done a fantastic job of setting up the pool with goal posts that would not be knocked over. His wife had made cookies and hot coffee. Everything was set except for a lack of boats. We had 5 boats and 4 skippers. We decided to play two on two and the carnage began. Despite the few number of boats, there was plenty of action. . We found it better to have one person guard the goal and the other go after the ball. This prevented too many break-aways. After a few scores Dr. Ron's boat started to experience a loss control. His boat would stop responding for a few seconds and then restart. Mel had the same problem about 20 minutes later After about 20 to 30 minutes we all started to run short of battery power. Mel and Earl kept playing because Earl had two boats and Mel was able to borrow a spare set of batteries from Ben.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon. We had lots of action with plenty of spills. Our special thanks to Earl and his wife for the use of the pool, cookies and coffee. We learned that spare batteries are very important. So for the next meet we need more boats. Three or four on a side would add much to the excitement. More batteries so we can play longer. And another plate of cookies!

We really need more boats so all of you who have started building a boats get them finished as soon as possible. For the rest of you, bring your completed boats or join the crowd and make a polo boat.



February Meeting

By Randy Flodquist

On Groundhog's Day eve Mel called a big crowd of twenty-seven to order at 1932. Dr. Keilich was a guest of Dr. Ron and another guest was Gunnars from Rauda Scale Models on Lake City Way. The new 2007 brochure/calendars are ready. Let the circus begin!

The Bellevue permits are in place with \$60 paid for two events (Foss Cup insurance) and \$30 for the fun floats. The VanTec order is presently at forty (twice what was expected) and Mel sees this as an omen that the club is doing well. Certainly it shows that our speed is well controlled.

NEW BUSINESS: REGATTA; The raffle needs work (procuring) and ticket sellers. Mel wants to simplify things. Maybe take a different approach on food---make it easier on people.

The NW EXPO at Monroe will happen on 24-25 March. Mel is going to a meeting and is going to say that we support it.

The Polo event at Kilarney Pool went well..Keith gave a pitch on the first annual Bellingham Maritime Museum Exhibit and Show scheduled for the tenth. It will include a swap meet. On Cornwell Street down by the old GP plant.

Earl and Jan Anderson got Salty Dogs for hosting and arranging the Kilarney Polo gig.

Tom reported that Vern is back in the hospital with a bilge pump for his infection. Slow progress. We all wished him well. Really well.

Following the break it was SHOW 'N TELL led off by Mel talking about how to build a BEC into a VanTec.

Gunnars had pictures of the fancy static models he builds.

Dr. Ron had his fancy cruiser with the water jet drives. Lots of discussion about what kind of batteries to use. Graupner kit of excellent quality with a FG hull and top.

Ed had his BARBARA K>. Kind of a big Springer but with nozzles and lots of power. Will be at Regatta.

Keith's WEDELL FOSS from a Gary King hull. Z-drive AND Voith-Schneider!!! F-14 radio. He also had his Wisconsin FG hull with push knees based on a Seattle tug. He gave a pitch on using RustOleum textured paint for to scale nonskid.

Following tales of Tomm's new camper it was raffle time with Leslie getting a saw and Ben getting the magnifier which will help the old man to see what he's doing wrong.

With that we stacked the chairs and saw ourselves out the door at 2100.



SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

. . . . Dusty Graham

Tuesday - 6 February 2007 - 1900 hrs - Lake Jack

Members on board **Leonard, Wayne, Dusty, Keith, Shawna, Jack** and a newly re-located guest, **Lon Bradshaw**.

To keep **Tom Stevens** off their backs, **Dusty & Wayne** arrived a little early to work on **Wayne's** laptop. Mission accomplished before time for the meeting to start.

Keith brought a large scale scratch built harbor tug kit that he has been working on for some people that bought it at a auction. The tug is double in size and **Keith** is reworking it to get it in running condition (see photo below).

Leonard talked about a book that **Larry** had brought to an earlier meeting to share. "***In the Heart of the Sea - The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex***" written by Nathaniel Philbrick. **Leonard** recommended the book for all to read....further stating it was so good that he took time to read it instead of flying his RC planes. (Must be some great reading)

Dusty reported that the yearly tour and meeting normally in May at **Morrie's** museum may be cancelled this year due to some construction delays on his new home. More on this in the next issue.

Keith reminded us the Hobby Expo. this year will be March 23 & 24 at the fairgrounds in Monroe. The Tug Boat race will be on May 12th in Seattle. The Anacortes Waterfront Festival is scheduled for May 19th & 20th.

Shawna was so interested in how the meeting was going that she started doing needlework -- *and this after MEL had advised her not to* -- (see photo) so we decided to secure the lines at 2057 hrs.



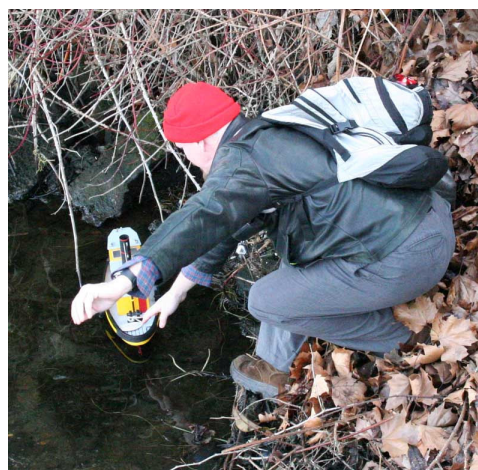
Observations from the Bellingham International Maritime Museum and RC boat display - Saturday Feb. 10, 2006 (Won't make this long as I'm sure there will be a separate article elsewhere in this publication).

It was good to see many of the club members attending this event. It was noted that **Keith** was inside the entrance talking to visitors and answering questions while some of the other members were quite interested in an informational training program photos provided by **Tom Stevens**



February 11th Fun Float
By Allan Wing

Fair weather and partly cloudy skies greeted the small group that showed up for the last fun float of the season at the Center for Wooden Boats. The fun float next month will be back at Bellevue Pond. The Float this month was delayed a week to avoid conflict and crowding from the boat show. Since the weather was so good we ran on the dock nearest the shore. This was fine since no one felt the need to get inside out of the weather. It did represent some hazards in that Bill got his boat grounded on the rocks. He was helped off the rocks by one of the crowd of onlookers. The rest of the float went well with Dave White running one of his steam boats which drew the biggest crowd. Mel and I tested some slight modifications to our polo boats and John Whitt showed for his first Fun Float for some time. We all had a good time and left with rain clouds gathering in the West.



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