



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March 2008



Upcoming Events

March

- 3 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 6 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Fun Float
Bellevue Park
- 15/16 Model Show
BIMM

April

- 3 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 6 Fun Float
Bellevue Park
- 30 Opening Day
Seattle Yacht Club

May

- 1 Opening Day
Seattle Yacht Club
- 1 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float
Bellevue Park
- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 10 Seattle Tug Boat Races



Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Why do we do it; what does it all mean? Why do we build models? My heart is still in the sky. When you hand launch the Veco Dakota with the little Cub .049 churning away (no muffler please) it's magical as it goes up into the air and after a minute or two of climbing in circles the engine stops and it glides down circling the opposite direction. What a thrill!

Building a model boat, for me, is different. Most of us have had a real boat (tug, cruiser, rowboat, kayak, Sevylor 64, or whatever). Building a small representation of something you have (Tom's Tolly comes to mind) or have had is more like practicing a religion. We do it carefully or casually. It works for us or it doesn't. We keep at it until we're satisfied. Or not. We come back to it for comfort. It gives pleasure. For some the building to scale is very important while others just want a good appearance. For some it's just for fun; novelty craft, cartoon boats. Springers. RTR. Boats that go under water (on purpose), boats that go fast ("how fast and how much did it cost and can you get one at Radio Shack?") It's something to mess around with in the water. That's good.

So we build this model boat and we decide to enter it in a contest where we're judged on how well it looks (hmmm?) and how well we drive ("oh gawd! he hit Deceptive Pass going both ways ! ")

Maybe some of us should just be happy with the Fun Floats. But ya only go around once so maybe you should enter the big event and be judged. Navigate the course. Be brave. If Huckabee and Kuchinich can do it so can we. Geeee, my topic started as scale judging and the 'ol synapses popped and I'm in a presidential primary. But I'll follow the markers and get back on course.

At the Skagit meeting (2/5/08) and at the Galaxy meeting (2/7) I proposed we go to a type of scale judging where the

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Red Right Returning continued

contestants judge themselves. Big 1/24 and larger, medium 1/43 to 1/25 and little bitty 1/48 and smaller. Each registered contestant gets to vote for the best of each scale and best junior effort. Four colored tickets. The politics goes away. The hunt for judges goes away. The people who are involved directly stay and decide. At the May Meet in June (Regatta) the voting would take place in the first four hours and the galley crew could count and announce the results after lunch on the big tally-board. Navigation points would be added all day long. A jury of your peers decides. Model boat peers. Oh the pun we could have. The public visitors could get involved with a "people's choice" award.

The above was written on the sixth. By the end of Expo at Monroe I had talked to many modelers and some of them suggested dropping the scale judging all together at the Regatta. It was suggested we have a static event late in the year where the awards would go for the hard work you put into your boat. Or dock. Or barge. A good topic for the next meeting.

Mike Haff

It is with heavy heart that we report the death of Mike Haff. He died Thursday night February 14 in a motorcycle accident. Mike was a long time member of the club and had been the editor of this newsletter for five years. We plan to have a special article about Mike in the next edition of this newsletter. For now we can only say we miss you and wish you a fair wind and calm seas .



Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing

Randy brought the meeting to order right at 7:30 with some 23 attendees. We were missing several people because of snow in the passes and illness. We wish speedy recovery to Gordy, Burt and Ron's wife.

The first order of business was to introduce guests. This meeting we had several guests. Elmer Kurpgeweit was looking for information on a Great Lakes Tug. Also visiting were John Pineau and his grandson Darcy, Rob Carter, Berry Burton and Paul Peterson. They are all welcome to attend and we hope they become members.

Randy reported on the finances of the club. With the proceeds of the auction last fall at Lake Bob, there is a good amount in the bank. We did restate that anyone who has not renewed their membership for 2008 please send their dues to Ed.

Randy then asked for us to help setting up the booth for the Northwest Hobby Expo at Monroe. He had not heard if there was going to be any static judging like there was last year.

Randy attended the Skagit meeting and handed out club brochures. The meeting this month was on Monday.

Randy asked if anyone had any new ideas about the December dinner meeting. We need to decide where we want to have the dinner and if we want to keep the same catering service. While it is still early in the year, the decisions will have to be made soon to insure we get what we want.

We then discussed the regatta and what should be done with the static judging. There were several possibilities discussed. The main idea suggested was to have all the entrants vote on winners rather than having dedicated judges. There will be more on this in the next couple of meetings.

After a short break we continued the meeting with show and tell. First up was Ron Carter who showed his static model of the USS Cairo a Civil War gunboat. It was launched in December 1861 and was sunk in January 1862. Next Earl showed his Springer Red Top II and a new oversized Springer. Both boats are built of styrene and are very light and strong enough to withstand a polo match. The big advantage of using the styrene is the light weight and ease of assembly. Earl then talked about measurements he has been making in an attempt to find the optimum propeller and motor combination for a competitive Polo Springer. Earl has a tank and a setup where he can measure bollard pull and current draw. He as measured his boats along with two of mine and Mel's. His results to date show that his direct drive Red Tops have the most pull while boats with a reduction gear draw less motor current. We will get more actual data with on the water results during our Polo match February 24. Next I showed the new Polo Springer I have built for Darlene. It uses a speed 600 motor and a 2.5 to 1 reduction gear. It will be interesting to see how it performs against the others.

Paul Peterson showed his little harbor tug that he has outfitted with radio control. This is a rather small model and he faced several challenges to get everything to fit. We all look forward to seeing this boat run at one of our events real soon. Next Ron Bray showed his mold he had made of his trawler. He plans to make several hulls from this mold. Where was some discussion on how best to set up the mold and the best thickness for the new hulls.

With we that we stacked the chairs and called it a night.



SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By Keith Schermerhorn

The Skagit R/C Ship Modelers began the meeting in a new location and night for the winter at the Skagit PUD building. Easy access from the freeway in Mount Vernon helped to bring a larger than normal crowd together on this Monday night. The usual suspects of Wayne, Lenard, Larry, Jack, Keith, Kevin, Lon, and Vic were joined by Dave Feray, Al kinsman, the Flodquist family, Tom and Sandy Stevens, Morry Robinson, and Vic's girlfriend, Nancy.

The meeting got going around 7:00 with several discussions. The hobby show was talked about with a few members making arrangements to car pool to the event. Mentioned the plastic model show in Mt Vernon on February 24. Discussed the upcoming model show at BIMM on the weekend of March 15 & 16. The Heritage Flight Museum will also be open that day. The big event for this group will be the Waterfront festival in Anacortes on May 17 & 18. We will have the same location as before with 1 tent provided. New at this venue will be the "Quick and Dirty" boat building contest. Tom then gave a nice presentation on the differences of BEC, battery pack, and power choices for the receiver on the model. Also had a nice hand out for power specifications that can be used on the Springers for power and amperage use by Allan wing. Just before we took a quick break, Tom awarded Larry the coveted Moose (more like an elk) head award for a conversation from Hobby Expo a few years back.

After taking a short break to stretch (and watch Kevin demonstrate what happens when an r/c helicopter flies into the ceiling) we had NW R/C president Randy ask some questions to the group on several ideas that have been up for discussion. Keith then gave a short demo on some simple wiring solutions that he used on a recent project. main item was the use of a barrier strip for connecting wires. On display was the sail boat the Larry had redone for Vic so that it can be sailed. Keith had a sub, Springer, and a Springer on steroids project.

Meeting was called at around 9:00 with the next meeting being noted for the same time and place next month.

Sam Louter

The Skagit club lost a long standing member on Feb.13. Sam Louter was known for his fun model of the working shark fin that created a big stir at the Annacortes waterfront festival a few years back. Sam was also better known as Dusty's father in-law that got him started in the r/c boats. Sam was known for his love of the new LA fire boat , especially since he was a retired firefighter from the LA stationed at the airport.

Fair winds and following seas to you our friend



Northwest Model Hobby Expo

By Allan Wing

Once again the club participated in the North West Hobby Expo. This year we had a double size booth that allowed us to show more boats. The Expo was held in the remodeled arena that provided all the exhibits under one roof. This was a much better venue than last year. There was a good turnout and we had many boats.



There was static judging and the club had several boats entered. **Al Kinsman won 1st** with the **Pono** and **Pat Pulard won 2nd** with the **Renegade**. **Tom Stevens** also won a **2nd** with the **Jeannette** and **several ribbons** with his other boats.



BIMM Model Show

The next event at the Bellingham International Maritime Museum will be on March 15/16, 2008. This will be an all model show with boats, planes, cars, helicopters, and anything else that people would like to have on public display. Areas will be set up for those that wish to demonstrate their R/C skills flying, driving, and boating. There is no cost to those with models on display. A donation at the door is requested for all other visitors. For more information, check out the link below.

<http://www.bimm.us/Events.html>

January Fun Float

By Allan Wing

The Fun Float this month was delayed a week so the club could participate in the Hobby Expo. This worked well because the weather was bright and sunny. While I was unable to attend, Al Kinsman has provided pictures. Many of the usual crowd was there along with Pat Plueard. Pat was running the Renegade that he had purchased at the club auction last fall. He has done quite a bit of work making some modifications and it is good to see it running.



February Polar Bear Polo Match

By Allan Wing

Earl Anderson organized a winter Polo match at Kilarney Pool. His wife, Jan, provided cookies and hot coffee. We had good weather and a large turnout. There were lots of boats with 6 to 10 running at any one time. Even Tom Stevens had two boats running well. This was the first time we have had more than 6 boats. We decided to warm up while waiting for the final players to show up. The warm up quickly turned into everyone for them selves brawl. We continued this way until most of the boats had exhausted their battery supply. The play got so fierce that two springs were knocked off and had to be retrieved from the bottom of the pool. We all had a great time. A big thanks to Earl and Jan for a fun event!



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



Member Spotlight By Dr. Ron

ED MAURER

Following 22 years in sail planes, Ed experienced a hiatus in modeling after his wife passed and when he returned he found there wasn't quite the allure in sail planes that he once enjoyed. However, he did venture into boats in the 60's when he built a Monogram tug which he RCd with old technology. He also built a Sterling Chris Craft kit which he later sold. His interest in boats was probably born with his involvement with his neighbor's cruiser tug. Later his interest in RC boats was stimulated after witnessing RC boats operating on Scriber Lake. He bought a Carol Moran tug, a Graupner Parat tug with Voith-Schneider egg beaters, built a Springer and then bought Pono in which he subsequently lost interest. Last September he bought a river tow boat at the lake Bob auction and is planning to run it with a Robbe Navy 14 radio. He joined our club in 2000 and has been the club treasurer for the past three years following the demise of Duncan Lamb.

Ed was born in 1930, raised in Portland and spent nearly 4 years in the Army Signal Corps after high school. He spent 2 years on Okinawa, 6 months in Tokyo then finished at Fort Lawton. While in the service he became a movie projectionist, an avocation that he holds dear to this day. He was a movie operator in Seattle from '52-'55. Then he attended Edison Technical school where he studied TV and electronics. Next, he worked for Sherman and Clay repairing organs, TVs, hi-fis, and radios. Then he moved on to Mulholland-Burke and then to the Bon Marche where he had a long stint repairing organs. In 1962 he went to work for a firm repairing audio-visual equipment, specifically movie projectors. For the next 28 years he worked for the U of W in audio-visual engineering and was a regular projectionist at Kane Hall.

Retiring in 1995 didn't stop him as he became the sound operator for the Seattle Center where he still works part time thus leaving little time to pursue other avenues such as model boats. He has only one 16 year old grandson interested in models and his interest revolve around Corvette models. Ed's shop is his 5th wheel trailer next to his house.

As for the future of our club Ed would like to see more sharing of expertise, more demos and sharing of ideas.



North West Hobby Expo February 9-10 2008



Polar Bear Polo Event February 24, 2008

