



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March 2009 



## Upcoming Events

### March

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 8 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, CWB Lake Union

### April

- 2 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 5 Fun Float *Springer Event*  
Bellevue Park
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon

### May

- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Seattle Tug Boat Races  
12:00 pm, Seattle Waterfront
- 10 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 16-17 Anacortes Waterfront  
Festival 8:00am-4:00pm  
Cap Sante Boat Haven



## Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

February was an active month for our club. At the meeting in Mt. Vernon on the second and on the fifth at Galaxy, Ben explained the course that will be navigated at the Regatta on June six. Scale judging will

be simplified and more than one boat per customer will be permitted (for a price Ugarte, for a price). It's never too early to get a good start on our major event.

On Friday the sixth a lot of our members helped set up our booth (about ten minutes expended) at the now three day Northwest Model Hobby Expo. John Pineau of Nanaimo brought along a pond and the event was off and running (and floating and flying for that matter). On Saturday over four thousand souls passed through the gate including over twenty of our own. Venders may have been down but, overall, it was a great show and we're hoping to have a "maritime corner" next year. Sunday we left early to attend the festivities at South Lake Union (in addition to our scheduler float). Allan and Darlene had little HENRY FOSS out rubbing tires with big GRACE, DIXIE, BLUEBERRY, ELMORE, and ARTHUR FOSS. Over two hundred had "tugboat stew" catered by Soup Daddy Soups and then enjoyed the PowerPoint featuring photos from TUG-BOATS ON PUGET SOUND, the new book by club member Capt. Mark Freeman and potential member Chuck Fowler. They narrated the show for a total of around two hundred and fifty. It was a real waterfront reunion with many old friends present. Jim Elder, Jerry Jullian, and Vic Lanza were present and are also in the book. The books were delivered by the GRACE with Ron Burchett's help. A very appropriate way for a book about tugboats to arrive. At our table were the Flodquists (including my Mom), Wings, Bill and Elna

*(Continued on page 2)*

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Prothero, and ancient mariner and previous tug owner, Jim Huckins. Pleasant company and magnificent history. And out on the lake it was a lot of sailboat racing, seaplanes landing and taking off, and the ice cream boat FREMONT AVENUE. Chuck explained how the armory that we were dining in and enjoying will become the new home of the Museum of History and Industry and open for business in 2012. The Center for Wooden Boats, Northwest Seaport, and the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society will all be involved. So will we as our small vessels take to the protected shallow waters of the new model boat pond. Visitors will still enjoy INDEFATIGABLE as she steams around out on the deeper waters in front of South Lake Union Park.

## Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing

The meeting started with a larger than average attendance. The first announcement was that we have reserved and paid for the Martha Lake Community Center for our December Dinner meeting. We will sort out details on what kind of food we will have. It was announced that the **July fun float** at Bellevue Park will be on **July 12th** to avoid conflict with the July 4th weekend activities. We will have use of the pond for our fun floats from **10 am to 3 pm**. The normal starting time is noon but for those who wish to start early they have a chance to run. Ben showed a drawing of the regatta course. It is based on last years course. All boats will run exactly the same docking and channel. We will have Scott Baumann and Dave Feray as Navigation Judges. Static judging will be replaced this year by a vote of entrants. We discussed the desire of having another Springer event. We can have an event at one of several places. (*See Earl Anderson's article later in this publication so you too can build a Springer and compete.*)

We then had a short discussion on the need for a detailed budget for 2009. The club has higher fixed expenses this year. Last year, the club over spent. A budget will be presented at the next meeting for the review and approval of the members.

Show and Tell consisted of a 15th century sailing ship by Dr Ron. A Destroyer by Barrett. A Midwest fantail launch by Peter Hevens and a Springer by Doug Gunter. Norm showed his progress on his paddle wheeler from Blood Alley. Earl showed a Springer he had finished for Lief and it looked like it will be very competitive. Keith Schermerhorn showed a project he has been working on for 9 years, a 42 ft Tug. And finally, Pat Plueard demonstrated how he solders NIMH batteries for use in his race cars.

# Hobby Expo

Once again, our club attended the Northwest Hobby Expo at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds on February 6th, 7th and 8th. The Club had a booth where we could show some of our boats and hand out flyers. We also had access to a sailing pond so visitors to the Expo could see some of our boats in action.



**Pictures by Wayne Martin**

# Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

## By Keith Schermerhorn

February started off with a good size crowd for the Skagit club. We had 15 people including the presidential family ( Flodquist--not Obama) and a new members/guest Don Hill and his young son Donovan. Don is working on an old Dumas utility boat kit and came in search of advice and inspiration. Welcome to you both.

First topic was the upcoming Hobby Show in Monroe. Club was still looking for parties to help man the booth and run boats in the pond. Should be some good fun in the swap meet and fun folks to meet in the club booth. The next day on Sunday, there were couple of things to do. The hobby Show was still going on and then there was a book signing event down at the Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle. The book is on Tugboats of Puget Sound by Mark Freeman. Will also have tours of some of the classic workboats of the area open for viewing. Mentioned the next big event at BIMM will happen on March 28/29. Making it later in the month with hopes for warmer weather. Along the same lines was the new video documentary that was made of the Bellingham Shipyards by a local company. Suggested a possible viewing at the meeting (see later). Gordon also mentioned that with new management at the retirement park, there will be more opportunities to do fun floats with the pond as it was well received. This will happen more in the Spring and Summer. Randy and Ben went over some of the regatta/course information for the June event. Covered some of the changes in judging and navigating keeping some from creating an advantage with more precise instruction (I can't help it if there was a loop hole and I found it last year). Also seeking volunteers to help with various jobs before/during/after the event. Randy also showed off the large easy to read calendar to help track events for the year. If you have a boat-ing event, let him know in advance so it can be added to the calendar. Dusty gave a quick thanks to all those who have helped in one way or another with the recent puppy mill rescue. Also seeking possible newsletter articles to help make it a little more informative. If you have an idea, submit it or write one. Maybe a book review, special technique, or lessons learned. On a more serious note, we all wanted to wish captain Jack Spore a speedy recovery and better health as he was down for a bit. Just before we took a short break, Linda had a drawing for items donated to the club that they had won. Gordon won a Foss T-shirt and Dave a Western tug shirt. Thanks to the Flodquist for the raffle.

Show and tell had Larry Stiles showing the progress on his Soiling Class sail boat. Has the deck attached and mast made of fir. Dave Feray showed the progress on his Model Slipways kit "Loyal Tender", a British supply/support vessel. Hull is fiberglass, most structure parts are styrene, and a whole lot of fittings. Coming along nicely. Keith showed of the epoxy glassed plug that has been a long term project. Plug is wood framed with foam filling shaped and cut of a 42' tug built for Crowley in Mt.Vernon.

The special presentation was part 2 of Tom Stevens use of spray guns for painting. Tom had several size spray guns on hand to describe how they best fit the use of a modeler and even larger projects. Some of the more impressive points included: Getting the air flow going before the paint starts flowing, Checking the pressure gauge at the gun end, Keep paint thinned so that it will "flow" out the gun, Use a filter on the paint before you place it in the canister for spraying. Best practice is to test spray on some scrap or paper to make sure the spray pattern is what you want.

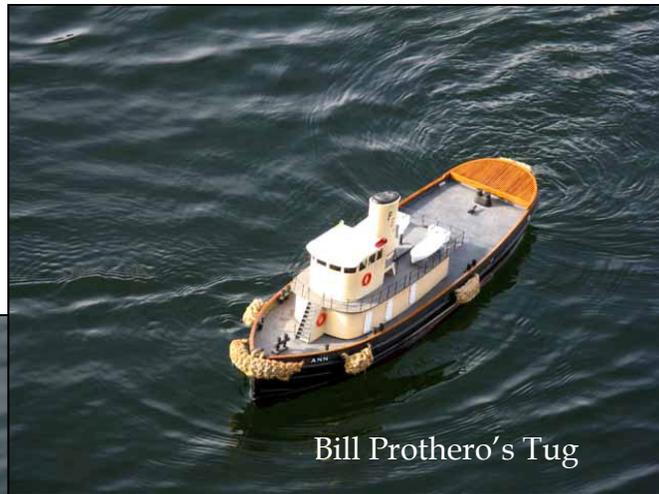
With the time running out for the use of the room, we all departed for our home ports until the next time.

**Special Note** for the **March** meeting: the **Skagit Club** will have a special screening of the new documentary film "**Shipyard**": Wooden ships & fiberglass boats from 1941-1963 by the creators, Todd Warger and David Lowrance. The film shows many interesting pictures/movie footage of the vessels that were built in the shipyards in Bellingham during the period listed. Will be a special night and we invite all that want to see this to come to the meeting. Will be starting at **7:00 pm** to accommodate and allow questions/answers. Copies will be available after the show for purchase. Hope to see you there!



## February Fun Float By Allan Wing

The Fun Float was held at the Center for Wooden Boats. At the same time, there was a Historical Society event that brought several old Tug Boats. This gave us a chance to run our boats with the big boys. There were 3 boats in the water. My Henry Foss, Bill Prothero's Tug, and Amy Eng's Springer that she brought up to run in the pond at Expo. The weather was nice and we stayed for the dinner to allow our boats to be displayed.



Bill Prothero's Tug



Amy Eng's Springer



Allan Wing's Henry Foss

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

# Springer/Polo Boat

## *It's All About Having More Fun!*

By Earl Anderson



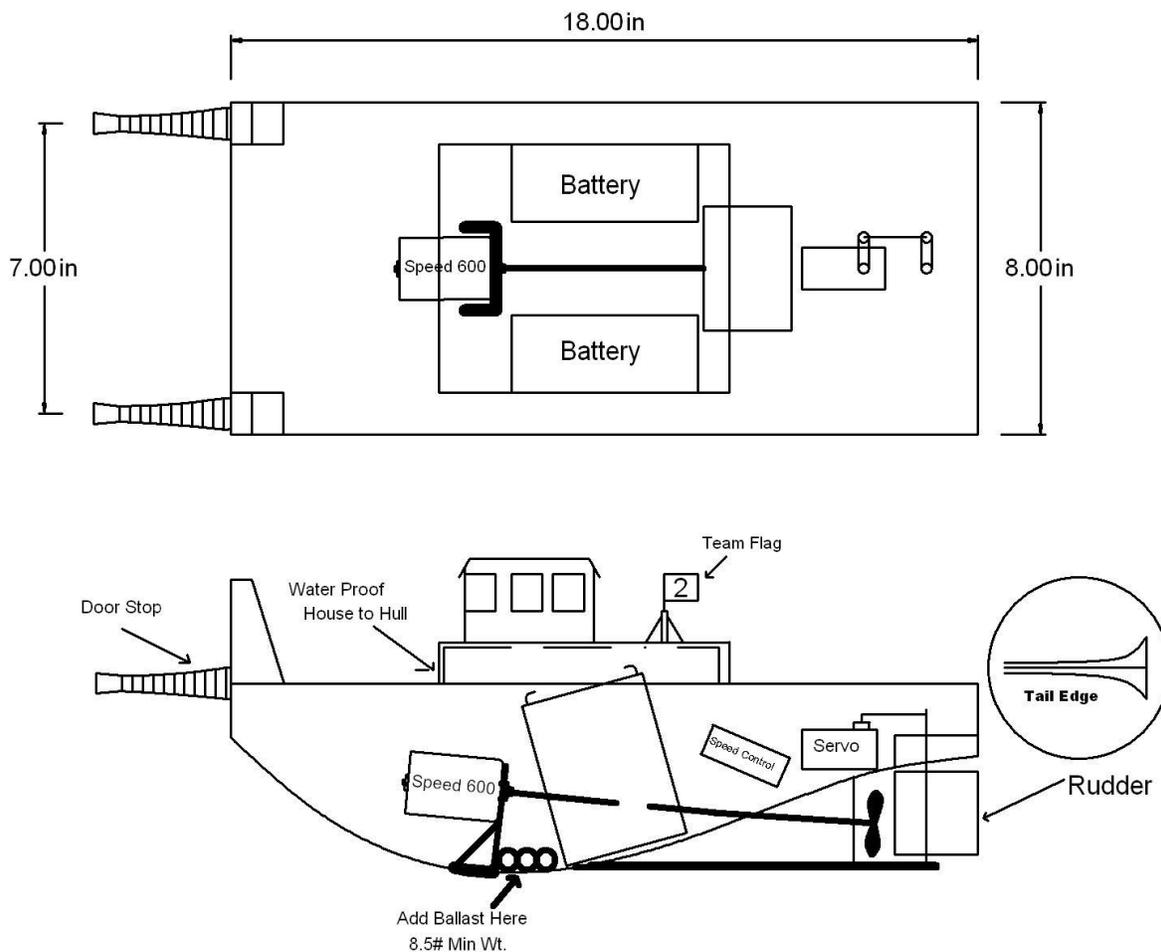
Building a new boat this year? Why not a new Springer/Polo boat?

Success with a Polo boat has three requirements: 1. Speed  
2. Maneuverability and 3. The captain plus frequent practice.

1. To get good speed you need a combination of motor, 1 1/2 inch diameter propeller and speed controller and battery.
2. For maneuverability the maximum 4 square inch rudder with a 1/4 inch radius flair on the outer edge.
3. For the captain, the more practice, the more fun.

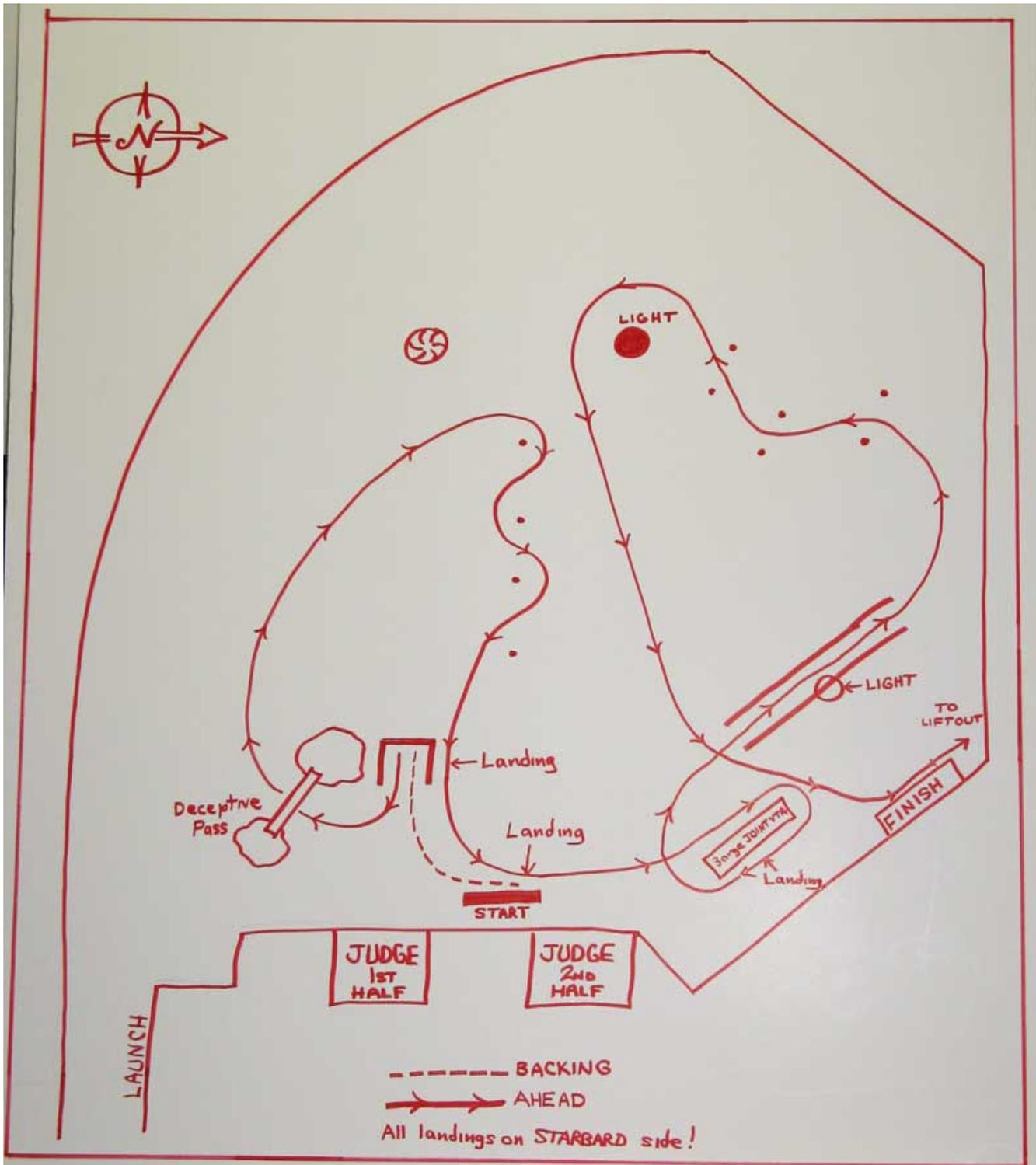
Following is my experience on building a competitive Polo boat;

1. Follow plans for Springer hull, but keep the weight low and build a strong boat.
2. Motor: 600 Graupner motor for direct drive
3. Propeller: Octura #0937 1.5 inch diameter, 3 blade beryllium, .125 diameter shaft
4. Batteries: Two UB645 6 volt 4.5 A.H. sealed lead acid batteries
5. Speed controller: ProBoat
6. Rudder: 4 square inch per plan including a flair at trailing edge
7. Radio: Spektrum
8. Weight: The boat must weigh 8.5 pounds minimum



# The Regatta Course

The Course will be much the same as last year with an initial backing segment and several landings. All landings will be on the starboard side. The biggest change this year is the initial docking in reverse and the trip through the channel will not have two options that depend on the size of the vessel. The Initial docking in reverse will require the skipper to tell the judge which side of the slip will be used for the docking.



# February Meeting

