



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

May 2009



## Upcoming Events

### May

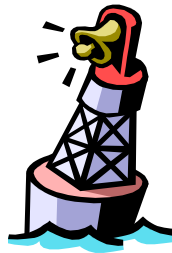
- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Seattle Tug Boat Races  
12:00 pm, Seattle Waterfront
- 10 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 16-17 Anacortes Waterfront  
Festival 8:00am-4:00pm  
Cap Sante Boat Haven

### June

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 4 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Northwest Regatta**  
9:00am-5:00pm, Bellevue Park

### July

- 2 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 12 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- 25 Tidewater Cup  
Spokane (Avista Pond) 9-5p



## Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

It's May Day (assuming this comes out on the first and isn't wildly early) and that has many meanings. For the yachting community it means Opening Day and the parade in the Montlake Cut tomorrow. Our little tugs and yachts will start appearing more, especially at the Elliot Bay Tug Races on the 9th, the Anacortes Waterfront Festival on the 16th and 17th and absolutely at the Northwest REGATTA in Downtown Park, Bellevue on June 6th, just over a month away! People are diligently working along preparing the awards, finalizing the course and scoring forms, arranging prizes for the raffle, printing the brochure and judging sheets, and thinking about food and sustenance.

A few pleas and reminders: Bring your tables, tents ( with buckets; no stakes ). and chairs to the REGATTA. We're traveling light tablewise. Volunteer fascinating items for the raffle and bring lots of dollars for tickets. **PRACTICE YOUR NAVIGATION SKILLS.**

A thought or two. The more things change the more they stay the same. Usually. Last year a mixture of spending being down from a few of our usual big spenders, bookkeeping differences and misunderstandings, and iffy weather added to all sorts of complaints and discomfort. A lot of cavitation. Capt. Queeg aside, I feel we can have the greatest REGATTA ever this year. Our club and its events are a microcosm of the economy and nation as a whole. Prudent management, optimistic leadership, thoughtful investment, and realistic expectations will have us doing well. We're all interconnected. I'm thinking of a tug/barge analogy but my lines aren't very tight. Or is it my synapses? At any rate, as Red says, "we're in this together".

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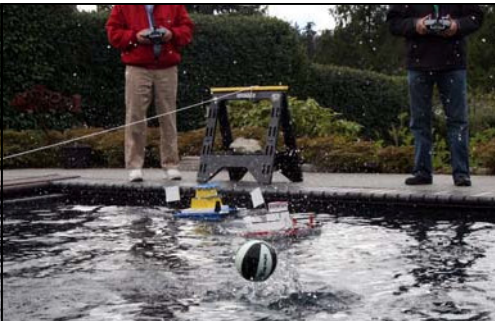
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**Another Exciting Polo Match  
See page 7**



**April  
Springer  
Event  
Who Won?  
See Page 6**

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The Cub Scout motto comes to mind. "Do Your Best." If we all do our best we can't not have fun and as Ron Bray says, be "the club that makes things go." I am continually delighted that I live where I can ride on a restored 1922 passenger steamer and glide silently by John Barrymore's yacht INFANTA (Thea Foss) and know a man who has made beautiful operating models of both. I love show 'n tell at the meetings at Galaxy and in Mt. Vernon. What will we see on the seventh? If you show up at the meeting we can be delighted together.

Do come to the meeting. And to the REGATTA. Our friends in Canada, Portland, Olympia, Tacoma, Everett, Los Angeles, and everywhere else are invited to come fo a relaxing ( unless you don't keep a grip) and fun day of camaraderie and competition. Fuel is cheap this year. After this Spring the weather has got to be better. Mark June 6 on your calendar.

## **Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes**

**By Allan Wing**

Randy opened the meeting with a discussion about the date of the May Fun float. The official date is May 10 which is mothers day. He had thought of changing the date but at this late date that is difficult. The club had already filed for use of the Bellevue park pond on that date. So the Fun Float will be May 10. Members can always go the pond on other days or even go the Center for Wooden Boats.

Next Mel talked about the Springer event. He planed for a "blind con" with the teams drawn out of a hat so no one would know who they were paired with. It will be a timed event with the fastest combined time from the two runs winning. Mel also announced that Dennis Chin is planning another polo event at his house on April 11 starting at 2 PM.

Dr. Ron explained how the scale judging will be run at the Regatta. Entrants will receive a ballot for each boat entered. They are to mark their choice for the boat they like the best in each category and place the ballot in the ballot box by 1 PM.

Gordy asked what progress was being made on how to get copies of the newsletter to those who do not have computer access. Randy has sent letters to the 12 or so members who have been identified as not having computer access. To date he has received only one response. This still a work in progress item. Next Randy said he had received a question from a guy asking about if any of the members had any information on a kit for the Schooner America. The consensus was that a company on Mercer Island used to make the kit years ago but has since gone out of business.

We took a short break and then returned for show and tell.

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First up was Terry Hufnagel who showed several fiberglass hulls he had built. He discussed how he made the hulls. Terry had all the hulls he showed for sale and a few were purchased. He also said he plans to make several of the 24 inch hulls in the near future. He is planning to set up a production line where he can make several hulls. Members are urged to contact Terry if they are interested in purchasing any of the hulls. Next Earl Anderson showed a Little Dickey model he had modified with new motors and a different speed control. He said it turned a model that was marginal on performance into a good running tug. Doug Gunther showed the progress on his White Horse model.

I showed plans I had purchased from the Solomon's Island Model Boat Club. It is a Skipjack sailboat. This is their club boat much like our Springer and they build the boats to these drawings and then have races. Much like our Springers, they define the hull, sail, keel and rudder with the cabin left up to the builder. Randy then showed his Lindberg Tug model that he had built as part of a class he and Ben ran at the Center for Wooden Boats. The class was to show how to take an inexpensive model and convert it quickly and inexpensively into R/C. This would represent a way for new people to build a boat and enjoy the world of R/C boating.

Show and tell finished with a presentation by Dave Feray on proper vessel lighting for various classes of boats, boats with a tow or push barge. More information can be found at [http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/rotr\\_online.htm](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/mwv/navrules/rotr_online.htm) under lights and shapes. When Dave was finished, we stacked the chairs and called it a night.





# Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

## By Keith Schermerhorn

The Skagit group gathered for another night of interesting boat stuff. With a lot to cover, we got the meeting going just after 7:00. First order of business was to thank Dave and Ginny Feray for providing the goodies for the night. Dave and Tom both covered the Fun float at Bellevue that was also a "Blind Conning" event for the Springers. There was a reported 30 boats in attendance. The Springer event was a gas to watch with the pairs working their way through the course and taking turns between conning and driving. Tom and Dave ended up being paired where Tom was asked to speak "Texan" to Dave to make the process easier, yall. They ended up 3rd over all. Congratulations!

Keith covered the recent BIMM show that could have again been called a "Polar Bear" float, even though it was indoor. Thanks to Al Kinsman for being there both days and teaching a bunch of new skippers how to run boats. Some thing new at this show was the awarding of a "Junior Skippers Certificate" to each youngster that successfully ran a model through the pond. This proved to be a success as each kid left with a memento for being there and the sense of accomplishment. One young fellow got his certificate and turned to his dad and said " Now I am just like you now that I have my license" as his dad has just received his commercial vessel license the day before. Another interesting thing at this show was the 1/96 scale model of the USS California from 1944 built by a local who served on the real ship in WW2. This was a static model that was beautifully done. The name boards for the model were made from a piece of teak decking from the full size ship before it was scrapped. There were no real problems except for 1 sinking when Al's log tug took a header to the bottom of the pool. A combination of Keith pushing with his tug and Al using a pole manage to get the boat salvaged. The only loss was a rudder servo. The next event at BIMM will be Labor Day weekend when the weather should be warmer ( couldn't be much colder). The winter/spring event next year there will also be moved to a later /warmer date.

Under new business, we looked forward to the start of the busy model season. The most notable item for this group will be the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. Once again we will be having a part in the festival with a display and water to demonstrate our craft in. Discussed was the possibility of a night float if the weather and modelers are up to it. Also have made sure to invite the local sailboat guys to join us in displaying their models along with the scale models. They will be racing their models on the other side of the dock from the scale boats ( and as well they can operate in the same place ). This should help to make for a large display of models and plenty of opportunities for both groups to attract more members. We touched on the June regatta a bit also, but will focus on it in May.

For show and tell, Keith showed the new Tug boat book by Mark Freeman. Lots of great photos and information inside. Then he showed the latest work on the Wedell Foss project. Was really "tired" of this latest accomplishment. That was the hanging of all the tires (49 of them) with chain and custom hangers made from brass to hang them with. For those that want to see the pics and tutorial on this process it can be found at [R/Cgroups.com/boats/scale/Wedell Foss build](http://R/Cgroups.com/boats/scale/Wedell%20Foss%20build).

Our presentation for the evening was Navigation lighting by Dave Feray. Dave used to be in the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Texas and used his knowledge and official documents to help us all understand the lighting of a vessel and the meanings. He passed out a 24 page handout with explanations and pictures to help make the process easier to understand. Dave had some visual aids provided by Tom that also made things easier to follow. The rules covered only affected

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vessels built after 1971. The main thing that was mentioned is that navigational aids are all about safety--yours and the others on the water. These same rules really do apply to us in the model form if practiced. Where this really applies is in the correct use of lights on your model. Using the correct lights does look more scale then having everything on all at once ( although all out lighting does look pretty to most on lookers). Also, the lights and rules for your model only need to follow what was standard for the era/time frame that you have chosen. Tom had a couple of more quick additions to the lighting topic with miniature lights and where to find them. Several places to get different lights be them grain of wheat or LEDs. You can get scale looking lanterns from a few suppliers or can make your own using several recycled items--like disposable camera reflectors for the flash. Tom also showed a new model of a fishing trawler that he is going to be finishing fore the original builders widow. The model was started 40 years ago and Tom wants to finish it as it has always been something that he had admired. He also showed off the mast light from the Claudia Foss that he recovered courteously of Western Towboat. This will go great with the cabinet he also has and the model of the same vessel in original colors. We all had a quick chuckle when Tom presented Keith with a to-shirt that he though just seems to sum up what has happen in the past couple of years to him. Basically it was a picture of a seagull "blessing" a face below with the words "life is crap".

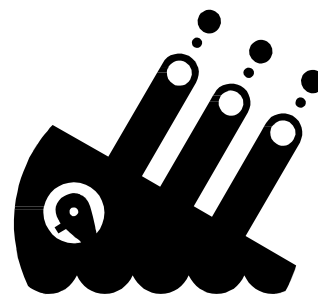
Seems fitting some days for all of us. We began to run over time, so we packed up and headed for our home ports--well most of us. Seems after the building was locked, and the key placed in the night box, it was discovered that Wayne had some how been left in side with no way out. Now normally this wouldn't be a problem as the cleaning crew would still be there. But, this night, they had gone home early. After a call to the 911, Len was able to get a hold of some one to come let Wayne out after 1 hour. Len reported to Larry and Keith ( there for the moral support) that the 911 operator couldn't believe what he was told and was still laughing about it as this is being written. While waiting for the party with the key to arrive, Wayne got a message from Vic asking if he was the one stuck in the building. Must of got the information from listening to a scanner. All in all, Wayne was let out, Len was relieved, and all had a good chuckle or two from the experience.



## Lost at Sea

Dr. Ron has reported that Dennis Chinn's new Springer has been lost at sea. This is the first reported deep water sinking of a Springer. Dr. Ron reported "It appears that he took it with him while fishing by the Evergreen Point bridge and had it deployed while he had his downriggers in

play. Somehow it lost lock and started going around in circles. Apparently, he had an aircraft receiver. In the process of trying to retrieve it, he started up his outboard kicker but wasn't able to put it in reverse. Dragging all his gear he probably ran over it causing it to tip over, take on water and sink. He also did not catch any fish."



## April Springer Event – Mel Suelzle

April 5<sup>th</sup> was the day of our first Springer event of 2009. This was the first event of the year at the Bellevue pond and the weather was appropriate (finally) for a spring day at the pond.

Since I was drawn the short straw last September and won the Fall Springer contest, I got the pleasure (?) of defining the contest for this event. Having been intrigued by stories of past BLIND-CON contests, I long ago decided if the planets ever aligned such that I should win the event, it would be a BLIND-CON contest.

The event was the first team event for a Springer contest. By random drawing, we had 9 teams of two team members that were challenged to run a rather simple course in the least amount of time. The trick was that only one team member could actually see the course and had to give verbal commands to the other team member with the transmitter and faced away from the pond. Time penalties were handed out by the ruthless judge (me) and added to the course runtime. After completing the course, the team swapped jobs and ran the course again.

It was a fun event. Being both entertaining and educational. The verbal commands were often hilarious as skippers learned that starboard and port are often interchangeable with left and right and vice versa.

Since even blind squirrels can find nuts now and again, even our blind skippers can turn in some impressive scores. The best performance of the day was turned in by the team of Ben Flodquist and Doug Gunther. They had the fastest penalty free run at 1 min 13 sec as well as the shortest combined time of 3 min 19 seconds. Runner up team was the team of Leif Bentzen and Lee Stewart with a time of 3 min 43 seconds.

For their winning performance, Ben and Doug have the privilege of running the September Springer event.

**Footnote:** A post event review of film, resulted in one team being disqualified for receiving illegal hand signals from the skipper's wife. Once again proving that crime doesn't pay as they managed to turn in the LONGEST time for the day even with Sandy's "help". (nice going Dennis and Doug)



Tom is really "Blind"



Ron having trouble with a buoy



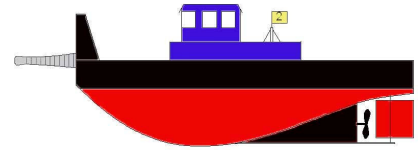
The Winners Doug and Ben



## Polo Event

By Allan Wing

On April 11 we had another exciting Polo event at Dennis Chinn's house. The weather was good and we had a large turnout. Earl Anderson brought his grandson who turned out to be quite a good skipper. The match had the regular amount of thrills and spills. Mel's boat got its cabin damaged right at the start. Bill's boat got several pieces knocked off and my boat got overturned several times. Earl and his grandson had several hard collisions and then Earl noticed his boat was leaking. It turned out that a seam across the front below the waterline had split. Earl makes his boats out of styrene to reduce weight but they are more susceptible to cracking and splitting. However a quick fix with some duct tape and Earl was back in the game. Dennis' wife Sandy served as official and later ran one of his boats. Sandy also provided cookies and pizza. A fun time was had by all. We encourage more members to get their polo Springers built so they can join the fun!





## **Member Spotlight**

**By Dr. Ron**

LEE STEWART

Lee is one of our newest members having learned about our club through the article about the Foss Cup in the last issue of RC Boat Models. Allan Wing returned his inquiry and he joined after attending the fun float at the Center for Wooden Boats. He has regularly attended the meetings and the Thursday coffee klatches at Galaxy Hobbies.

His interest in model boats began after seeing some of the fine RC model boats at Spreckel's Lake in San Francisco at the age of 11 or 12 during a visit with his aunt. When growing up he helped his god father build a destroyer from scratch, powered by an AC motor connected to the transformer by a line on the end of a fishing pole. Having obtained this model from his godfather's estate he now displays it proudly. Later he built a Dumas Shelly Foss and is currently working on a Dumas mahogany runabout.

Lee was born in Pampa, Texas in 1938 and was raised in Pasadena and Palos Verdes, California. Since his father was the manager of the Hollywood Turf Club, he grew up with horses, a love which still persists. After high school he went to Amherst College in Massachusetts for 3 months before going into the Air Force where he obtained training in electronics and drafting. He spent the last of his 4 year stint drawing missile parts. He then went to Cal Poly for 1 ½ years, got married to the girl next door, who he met at the age of 11, went to a junior college for 1 year and returned to Cal Poly graduating with a degree in industrial technology in 1966.



After college he ended up doing public relations for the Hollywood Turf Club until 1972 when he moved to Keystone, Colorado to manage a ski lodge. He also worked for a Scandinavian company, installing furniture and drove a bread delivery truck. In 1974 he went to Irvine, Cal. working in public relations for the Irvine Land Development Company. After 8 years he



performed a similar function for the Avco Community Development Company. Following this he tried executive recruiting but then went on to work with micro computers. He was hired as a PC guru for the residential arm of Coldwell Banker, ordering, installing and supporting PCs nationwide. After business downturns in 1988 he started his own consulting business for private and business clients, finally retiring in 2003

The Pacific Northwest beckoned

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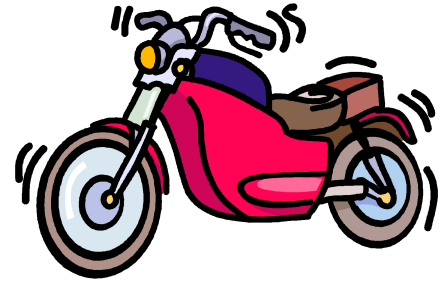


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and he moved to Edmonds in 2007 to be close to his children and grandchildren. He has a daughter and two grandsons in Idaho, a daughter who teaches English at Edmonds-Woodway High School, a son and granddaughter in Everett and a daughter in Portland.

Being a person of many interests, he has become an advocate of motorcycles for the past 6 years with a Honda Valkyrie and a camper which he tows. He is interested in woodworking and is in the process of creating a workshop attached to his garage. In the past, he has been a competitive swimmer, skier, bike rider, hiker, marathon runner and a soccer referee for 20 years (pee wees to internationals).

We are looking forward to knowing him better and sharing his many interests, enthusiasm in RC modeling and participating in club activities.



## April Fun Float

By Allan Wing

We had a warm day with lots of boats. We had most of the regulars along with more family members than usual. Part of the good turnout was no doubt due to the Springer event. This was the first float of the year at the Bellevue pond. I think we all feel safer in the shallow water that would make retrieving a lost boat easier. (See "Lost at Sea" on page 2),

