



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

May, 2013

## Dates of interest

### May

- 1st Seattle Yacht Club
- 2nd Club Meeting
- 5th Springer Event /Fun Float
- 6th Skagit Meeting

### June

- 1st Anacortes Waterfront Festival
- 3rd Skagit Meeting
- 6th Club Meeting
- 8th Club Regatta

## ARE YOU READY?

The Northwest R/C Ship Modelers' Regatta is only a month away. Plans have been under way for some time. A new course has been devised, raffle prizes solicited, committees established and volunteers requested. Help is always welcome! President Bob and his trusty side-kick, Robert Osmond, have been spending a great deal of time to make sure everything will be ready and of top quality. Rules, course layout and applications will be available on the web as soon as they have been finalized.

So now it is up to you skippers to prepare yourselves and your vessels for the day. Yes it is a competition, but more importantly, it is a day of fun and socializing. Come early to get a good parking spot and location on the lawn.

Speaking of the web, by the time you receive this newsletter, our rebuilt website will be functioning. It had to be redesigned from an Apple to a PC format, so it is still a work in progress. It will give our members the info they need, beautification will come as the new webmaster becomes more qualified.

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## View From The Bridge – Bob Jacobsen



**NO WORD FROM OUR LEADER THIS MONTH!**



## May 2013 Meeting Minutes by [The Olde Scribe](#)

**President Bob** started the meeting at 7:02 P.M. with about 15 rugged members in attendance. A guest, **Konstantin Rickford**, corralled by **Bob White** in the store, joined us. He was in a suit and tie, so he really stood out in our motley crowd!

Getting right into business, a report was given by **Lee Stewart** on the club's new website. It is now functioning and will be routinely enhanced as Lee gains more knowledge in programming a website.

**Scott Baumann** reported on the previous day's outing to the Seattle Yacht Club. There were about ten attendees and they were treated to great weather and very congenial hosts. There were NO accidents reported. (The skippers must be getting better) One wayward ship, however, had to be returned to the sailing venue.

**Robert Osmond** reported on SOME of the activities of this Sunday's Springer Event. The course has been designed; there will be NO fruit involved and *South Hampton* tugs are invited for some special activities.

President Bob then went over the club calendar, which is featured on the website. By clicking an event, additional information about the event pops up with addresses, a map and in some cases weather information for the day.

A new item has been added to the calendar on May 11<sup>th</sup>, The Seattle Family Fun Festival (known as the tugboat races) will be held on pier 66 beginning at 9:00 A.M. The pond will be there, so bring any type boat for fun and frolic!

Another function added to our calendar is the Anacortes Waterfront Festival on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a fun event for the whole family and will run all day, each day. Take a boat to sail, but be advised that you will be sailing in saltwater. With a clean-up afterwards, your boats should not be harmed. It is only when you leave the salt residue on the boats that a problem can occur.

The **Spokane Tidewater Cup** is definitely on for this year and will be held July 27<sup>th</sup>. Several of our members are planning to attend and they rave about the venue. More info will follow on the calendar and in the newsletter.

**Show & Tell** started next.

**Randy Flodquist** brought in a model of a casino boat, which was anchored in the waters off Los Angeles during the "Roaring Twenties" and years after. It was anchored beyond the three mile limit, but was still hassled by the Feds. Randy also showed

pictures of the progress Ben, his son, was making on his full-sized, scratch-built bar tender boat. Ben's progress has been hampered by "outside" work.

**Bob Wickham** reviewed the progress he was making with the "powerful" Springer he has been working on for several months. After having installed a propulsion system, which featured a 3-1 gear reduction, pulley system, he found that it was too slow. He has removed the previous system and gone to direct-drive. He is much happier with it, but now has to hold back on the throttle or he is soon piloting a submarine. This is one of three Springers Bob is building at the current time.

**Mel Suelzle** showed his progress on a Dumas 1/12 scale Commander. It is a plank on frame and he has just about finished the planking. As many of you know, Mel lost his Mother a few weeks ago and it has taken a great deal of time to handle all the arrangements. He thanked the members for all the support during these hard times. Let us not forget to give him continued support!

Robert Osmond brought in another of his "small" fleet, this time a river towboat. It is servo powered. He also had some cool tools which he has collected to work on his models. He suggested that there are all sorts of items, in many types of stores, which can be adapted to our use.

**Noel Holley** demonstrated a new caliper which he had purchased from Vet-Co Electronics. Besides its ability to measure, it is able to convert the measurement to most of the different scales we might be using, decimal, fractional and millimeters, to name a few. A very handy item, even when not actually used for measuring.

After a fifteen minute break, President Bob began a very interesting talk and demo on the use of Epoxy and Fiberglass. It was obvious that he had done a great deal of work with these materials, as he had a number of fantastic hints for their use and handling. The first rule he gave us was to "Throw everything away". In other words, use disposable items to mix the materials, cover your hands with disposable gloves (food servers type found at Costco) and mix only enough material to do the job at hand.

He introduced us to Peel-Ply, a nylon material to which epoxy will not adhere at any time. It can be used for any number of situations, but Bob showed us how a surface can be made smoother with its use; how to use it to make special shapes; in steps, using Peel-Ply to leave a surface on one part, to which a new layer of Epoxy will stick firmly. Peel-Ply is left on the work, until the Epoxy is dry and then torn off. It can be used to cover over-lapping pieces of Fiberglass to help cover the seam which would normally form.

Bob also demonstrated the use of flock, shredded cotton, to strengthen a 90 degree corner. The process included the use of Peel Ply to permit a second coat of Fiberglass to adhere to the first. By removing some of the original material and then replacing it with a mixture of Fiberglass and flock, a hard, sandible corner is produced.

Bob then showed the use of micro-balloons, added to Fiberglass to bulk-out the Fiberglass, for the filling of voids of medium sizes and then easily sanded. Micro-balloons are an artificial material and as such should not be breathed. Wear a mask when using this product, as it is very fine. The addition of micro-balloons will in addition to bulking out the Fiberglass, make it lighter and a little weaker. This is not a problem in our use on model boats, and could be a weight benefit in some cases.

Bob recommended the use of automotive surface primer to fill small pock marks found on larger surfaces. Fill in rather than sand down.

With all this new information crammed into our heads, we adjourned at 8:45 P.M. and staggered out the door.



Randy Flodquist's Casino Boat



Bob W. Talks of Power



Mel Tells About "Easier" Models



Robert D. Proposes a Club T-Shirt



Noel Holley Shows a Neat Caliper



Pres. Bob Tells Us About Peel-Ply



## Hardy Fun Floaters Were At It Again

There are several members of our club who put their actions to the test at an early hour on fun float days. They do this because they are early risers, want to do something else with their day and generally enjoy the jogging scenery, which also shares the park at that hour. The nucleus of this group are three gentlemen who have done this for several years, during warm weather and cold, Bellevue or the Seattle pond. Al Kinsman and Bob Wickman are joined by Bill McGee, all the way from Cle Elum and other individuals, occasionally, who are of the same mind. On April 26th, those in attendance included our VP, Robert Osmond, Noel Holley and the regular three. Dave Green was a late arrival. These sessions are often used to display a new build, test a partial build or test a new acquisition. Thus on this day several new models were in the water. Robert had a new, red tug; Noel, a partial freighter hull; Bob, his new sailboat with keel adapted to depth of the pond. Al and Bill had a couple of their regulars to test after some modifications.

Our skippers also bring docks and buoys to practice their docking and maneuvering. Great fun is had by all and the donuts and coffee are an added bonus.



**Al Doesn't Notice The Cold**



**Robert Osmond's New Tug**



**The Three Amigos**



**Noel's Freighter Hull Undergoing Tests**

## Seattle Yacht Club Outing

Again, for the opening day of the Seattle boating season, we were invited to the Seattle Yacht Club to display our smaller sized creations. The day was bright and sunny but with a slight nip in the air as the early arrivers showed up. The location was the same as last year, close to the clubhouse, the parking lot and many of the club members coming and going to their boats. Approximately ten people attended from our club and brought with them a good variety of craft both small and large. Tim Justice



brought one of the largest tugs in the club and it was a great hit with the observers, especially when it got away and had to be retrieved with a real "tug". A large contingent of model U.S. Coast Guard craft were also present to keep an eye on the rowdy boaters. Another great day for fun and to present our hobby to an appreciative crowd.

One of Tim Justice's Large Tugs

A Collection of Some of the Day's Flotilla



The Central Location of Our Venue



## **Cinco De Mayo Fun Float and Springer Event**

May's Fun Float and Springer Event was held on a perfect, sunny, Spring day. There was a slight bit of wind but that kept the activities interesting. There was a good crowd of modelers and even more spectators, enjoying the lovely day in Bellevue. The day brought out many of the regulars and some of the folks who don't make it all that often, for various reasons. John Nygaard had a few of his speed boats on the pond; Dave and Ginny Feray, from way up North, were enjoying catching up on good friendships and the ole East Wenatchee fireman, Phil Northrup, was also in attendance. That is twice in one week we have seen him! (Is he planning a move to the West?)

Robert Osmond filled in for Ron Bray in hosting the Springer Event, as Ron was using up some of his Time Share days down in Southern California. Robert devised a course which tested many of the capabilities of each skipper. First the boat had to pick up a foam "barge" from a pier and take it in a figure "8" course, returning it to the pier. The wind caused the barge to be a little difficult to maneuver, unless you had enough horsepower. After leaving the barge at the pier, the skipper had to take his craft through a long parallel "straight", which had rubber outcroppings along the side. Some speed help in this maneuver. The third function, to complete, was the pushing of a derelict boat silhouette around a center post to which it was tethered. The skipper then had to return to the starting "gate" to stop the timing clock.

Tom Stevens was the winner, as many of our top skippers vied for second place.



**A Spectacular Day for Skippers and Spectators Alike!**





Mel Suelzle Tries His Hand



Phil Northrup and Allan Wing Tend to Gordy Caney's Tug



Gordy Fights the Sun and The wind on His Run



John Nyguard enjoys His Chris Craft's Speed



A Family of Spectators each Enjoying Something Different



This Young Man Spent Much of the Afternoon in Rapt Awe



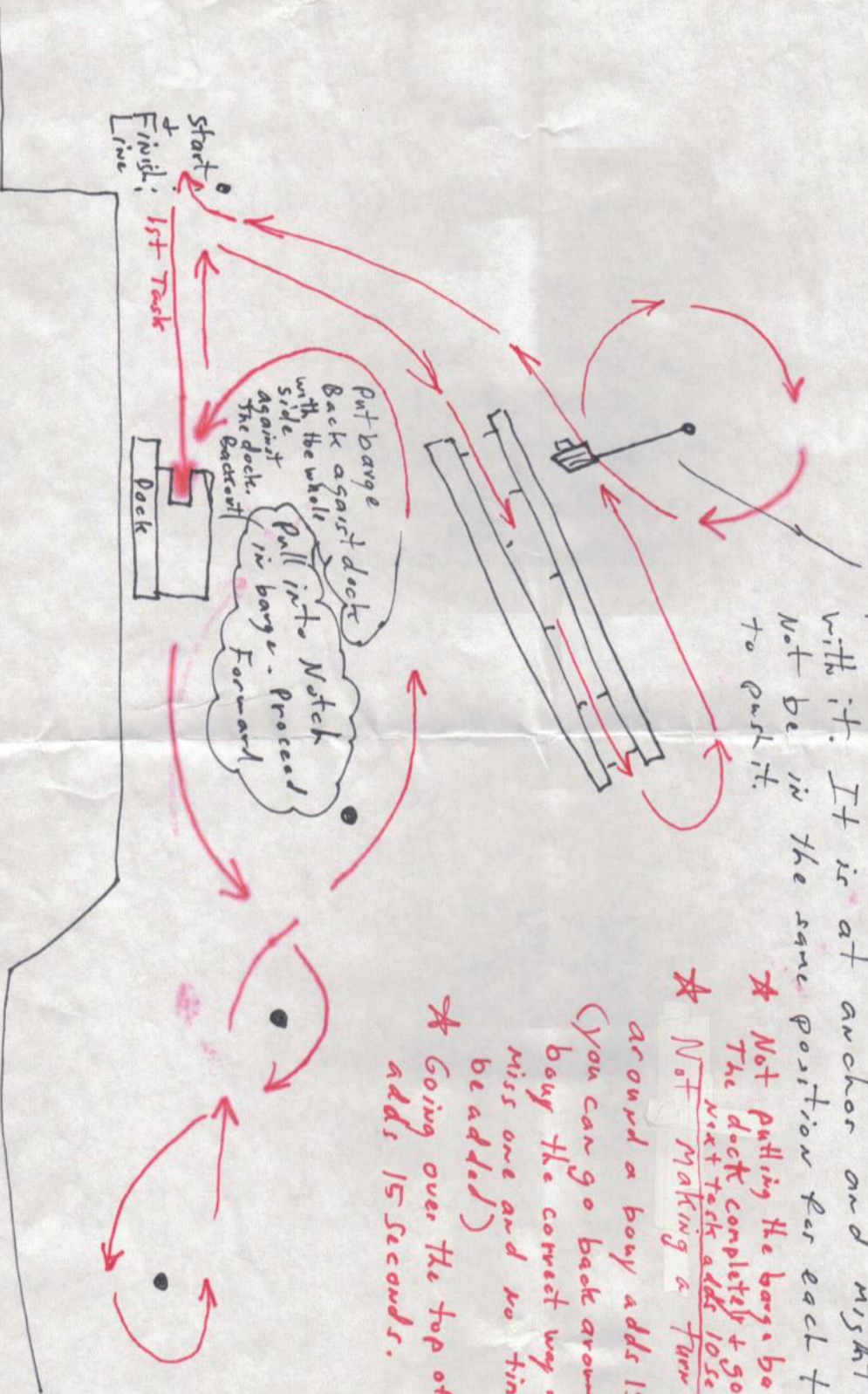
Spring

Springer Event 2013 NW R/C Modelers 5-5-13

Push the Stern of the freighter 360° from where ever you make contact with it. It is at anchor and might not be in the same position for each tug to push it.

\* Not putting the barge back against the dock completely + going to the next task adds 10 seconds

\* Not Making a turn around a buoy adds 15 seconds (You can go back around the buoy the correct way if you miss one and no time will be added)  
\* Going over the top of a buoy adds 15 seconds.



## News From Our Northern Brotherhood

Happy Spring to everyone, from the Skagit R/C Ship Modelers. It has been a while since I remembered to get a blurb in and with all our activities coming up; I better get it done now before I get keelhauled. First, I would like to remind folks that our meetings are the first Monday of the month at the PUD building in Mt.Vernon, at 7pm. It is loose knit fun with show and tell, informative sessions and open floor conversations. We are finished no later than 9pm. So come on in, bring a project and join in the fun. Now here are some of the fun opportunities coming our way and we would like to invite you along to participate. BIMM (Bellingham International Maritime Museum) model boat day will be on Saturday, May 25th for 1 day only. Model pond will be up and operational, so bring along the models and have fun running boats indoors for the day. This is a fun, no stress day of playing, with several other activities in town that weekend as well. Go to <http://www.bellinghammaritimemuseum.org/> for directions and more information. Anacortes Waterfront festival will be held on June 1 & 2 at Cap Sante Marina. We have a model display that is always a crowd pleaser and favorite attraction of spectators attending. We welcome all models of water craft to put on display for one, or both days, while you can enjoy the other festivities happening, or explore the town of Anacortes. We will have a section of water in the harbor available for those that would like to put their models in for a little more practice time before the club regatta in a couple weeks. This is a salt water venue, so running in the harbor is an option. Festival hours are 10-6 on Saturday and 10-5 on Sunday. If you plan on attending and want to unload at the booth, you can drive in up to 1 hour before it opens.

One of the favorite traditions with this event is the pot luck dinner hosted by the Flodquist family at their home on Saturday evening. They ask that anyone attending to please bring a dish to share and they usually provide some other good eats (if you have been there--you know what I am talking about) Some of the other festivities at the festival include: car shows, a quick n dirty boat building contest/race, milk carton boat race, educational displays, boat rides, food, music, and more.

On July 21, we will once again be running boats at Gordon's in Mt.Vernon, at their community park pond, for the annual Boats a Float party from 1-4. This is a fun day of running our boats at their community pond with refreshments provided by the local community. Good relaxing time is usually had as we just put the boats through their paces to the delight of the spectators who live there. We will send directions and a reminder out to anyone wishing to attend. BIMM will be having a 2 day event at the end



of summer on Labor Day weekend for those looking to get away and play for a couple days at the indoor pond. Low key fun is usually had by all, with easy parking, plenty of water, and fun for those that want to play, same as the May event, just two days of opportunities instead of one. Contact Keith for more information.

Hope everyone has a great summer of fun, running models, and hope to see you at one of our events here in the North Sound. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Keith  
wscherm@fidalgo.net





## Club Officers

### **President**

Bob Jacobsen

### **Vice President**

Robert Osmond

### **Treasurer**

Ed Maurer

### **Membership Data Base**

Gordon Canney

### **Newsletter Editor & Webmaster**

Lee Stewart

### **Skagit R/C Meeting Contact**

Keith Schermerhorn

### **Website:**

[www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)

### **Email:**

[info@shipmodelers.com](mailto:info@shipmodelers.com)



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# Membership and Renewal Form

Dues are \$25.00 per year

Make checks payable to:

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Mail to: Ed Maurer, 22309 54th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

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