



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

## November 2007



### Upcoming Events

#### November

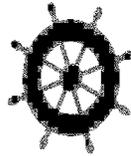
- 1 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 15-17 Pacific Marine Expo  
Quest Field

#### December

- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 6 Northend Pig Out  
Martha Lake CC
- 9 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union

#### January

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 3 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union

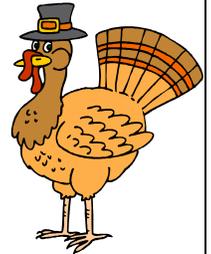


### From the Wheelhouse By Mel Suelzle.



2007 is fast drawing to a close. Halloween is just around the corner so it is not a good time for pumpkins and turkeys. We have some good boating left in the year as we move to the warm confines of the Center for Wooden

Boats for the next 4 months. Its also time to get our winter projects lined up and Galaxy Hobby is again holding their Secret Santa Sale so we can all buy our Christmas presents early while the selection is good.



Speaking of good boating events, congratulations are in order to **Ben Flodquist** for winning the Springer event at the Bellevue pond on October 7<sup>th</sup>. **Earl Anderson** provided a most challenging event and went to extremes to provide a real hurricane to make it even more realistic. Nice job Earl, but you can leave out the horizontal rain and winds next time. Ben can now start planning for a new and even more challenging event for next April.

For me, it is time to turn my attention to the thousands of photos that our camera bugs have sent me during the year.



This is my annual quest to seek out the well documented and obscure moments during the year that some would like to forget but not without a full disclosure during our December Pig-out. So here is your chance to get even. If you have some photo gems, send me a copy so we can all enjoy them.

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**It's Election time!** Al Kinsman from our nomination committee, nominated **Randy Flodquist** for the position of president. So far Randy is unopposed, so it may be a short campaign that he has to run to capture this prestigious position. We will be open to nominations at the November meeting for a brief moment and then it will be on to the ELECTION!

Many thanks to those officers willing to continue their roles in supporting our club. We all owe them a great deal of thanks for their efforts. Take a minute and express your appreciation for their work on behalf of the club.



**Cliff Shaw Award** – Time is drawing short to get your nomination in for candidates for the Cliff Shaw Award. Send your nominations to one of the committee members, **Mel Suelzle, Mike Shaw, Tom Stevens** and **Gordy Canney**. **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS NOVEMBER 1st.**

The award criteria is simple and will go to the member that has shown throughout the year the principles that Cliff Shaw embodied. Namely; Innovation in boat design, engineering design or workmanship, helpfulness to others in the club and the hobby in general and active in the sport. The winner will be someone who really enjoys what they are doing and loves figuring out new and fun ways to accomplish this. Helpfulness to others and participation in club events are also a must.



**IT'S PIGOUT TIME!** – Once again we will close out the year in style with our "Banquet fit for a PIG! Feedback from last years dinner was so positive that we decided to have an encore. We have reserved the facility at the Martha Lake Community Center and Chef Bertrand and his

crew will again cater the meal.

Our program will be special too! We will present the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cliff Shaw memorial award. As usual, we can enjoy Wayne Martin's album of this years "photos of the week" and I will be reviewing all the activities (highlights and lowlights) of the year and do my best to poke fun at more that a few people and situations during this process.

Our Pig-out will be held at the Martha Lake Community Center. This building is located in the northeast corner of the intersection if I-5 and 164<sup>th</sup> (exit #183). This location was selected to make it easy on/off the freeway and shorten the drive times for those traveling longer distances. More specific driving directions will be in the December newsletter.

The planning is done, but the rest is up to you. Cost of the dinner is \$30/person. **We need to finalize RSVPs AND payment not later than November 24<sup>th</sup>**. Members, spouse or significant others or friends are most welcome. The club is paying for the facility and all other associated costs to put on this affair. We will be serving wine and non-alcoholic daiquiri punch and hor d'ouves starting at 7PM. Dinner will be served at 7:30 and we expect to wrap up by 9:30. Our caterer will be serving everything, so there is no need to bring anything but your plan to have a good time. Do not miss out. Where else can you get a first class meal, top notch entertainment and NOT have to listen to a politician or sales pitch. All this for only 30 bucks. Space is limited so make your payment and RSVP early. RSVP to Ed Maurer, 22309 54<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

### *Don't Miss the Secret Santa Sale at Galaxy*

Again this year, Galaxy Hobby has invited all our club members to their special, sale on **SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>**. The store closes at 6PM and reopens from **7pm to 10PM**. They plan to have terrific discounts in every department, great refreshments, door prizes and more. Along with other local model clubs, we will have a display about our club and model boating. Mark your calendars and don't miss this great annual event at Galaxy's. This is the best time to do your Christmas shopping for your kids, grandkids and maybe throw in a few goodies for **YOURSELF!**



Consider spending a day to visit Pacific Marine Expo on **November 15, 16,17** at the Quest Field and Center. This has proven to be a great location with plenty of nearby parking at reasonable rates. Rumor has it that Ron Burchett will have his pond there and boats will be running all three days. No word from Ron yet on whether exhibitor badges will be offered to club members who bring boats. Separate registration is free and can be done online or at the site. Show times are 10AM to 5PM on Thursday and Friday and 10AM to 3PM on Saturday so you will have plenty of time to make it to the Secret Santa sale at Galaxy. For more information on the show, visit their web site at <http://www.pacificmarineexpo.com/>

Don't forget, starting in November, our fun floats will move to the Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union.



**Check out the Photo Page on the web edition of the newsletter**

## Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Randy Flodquist



Mel called twenty-four to order at 1931. Dave Zanzig from ITB was a guest. Under OLD BUSINESS Darlene got her Salty Dog for the Portland rescue in August. The silent auction netted the club around \$4000. Mel thought we should use the proceeds for something "meaningful" and facilitated a brain storming session. Suggestions included a trailer ( and maybe permission to park it at the pond for half a year and the CWB the other half, a canopy, storage unit, charity ( pay it forward concept ), maritime scholarship/s, tables, CWB membership. I suggested we make Doug and Sandy lifetime members and all that goes with that. All in favor. Bellingham Maritime Museum meet a three day affair 10/12-14/07. Mel brought up the election and nominations. A deathly quiet oozed over the room.

SALTY DOG to Doug and Sandy.

Mel mentioned how ALL are invitee to Thursday Coffee at Galaxy and Tuesday at Gordy's. Heavy Duty Diesel Show at the CWB on 10/20.

Pacific Marine Expo 11/15-17 is taking reservations on line. Ron isn't on the list. Yet. Al nominated me for President and we all broke for the break.

SHOW 'N TELL was led off with Robert Maxwell's new bread and butter WWII freighter ( like the one in "Mr. Roberts") and how he got the lines down, made station templates, etc.

Pat had the RENEGADE equipped with nice new quiet direct drive motors from DCMOTORS.com. He is working the superstructure into several pieces so the boat can be carried easily and safely in a smallish sedan. Kort nozzles are coming next.

Dr. Ron's fireboat saga continues. The cabin is all styrene which he loves. Ron B. came by to help but the radio gremlins still persist. But he always has the TITO NERI if he gets bored frustrated. Tom had his" third hand "made out of solder (not too stiff; just right).

Mel gave out some genuine Foss GREEN paint. Doug and Gehr won the door prizes. And with that we stacked the chairs and swept out the door at 2106.

## Modeling Tip of the Month

By Tom Stevens

Sometimes, you are by yourself and need to hold a couple of small wires, (like servo leads) so you can solder them together.

1-Simply, wrap some solder (large size - not electronics solder) around a Phillips head screwdriver blade, to make a few coils in the solder.

2- Crimp a clip to each end of the solder. You don't have to make the coils, but it works slightly better with the coils.

3- Clip one end to anything that has an edge, like a tin can, etc.

4- Bend the solder to the desired positions to hold the tiny object. They will not move and are easy to re-position, if needed.

Photo shows both coiled and straight methods.



## SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

. . . . **Dusty Graham**

Tuesday - 2 October 2007 – 1900 hrs. Lake Jack

Many of our regular crew were either in sick bay - **Capt. Jack** - or on other assignments.

Members present: **Len, Wayne, Dusty, Keith, Shawna, & Lon.**

**Keith** reported on the free tour of a NOAA ship in Bellingham the weekend of October 6-7th.

**Keith** also reported that **BIMM (Bellingham International Maritime Museum)** would be hosting it's first all radio controlled model event. The event was open to all R/C craft for display and demonstration and the included a R/C swap meet. (See separate article in this newsletter on the event)

The crew talked about the Springers and Monster Springers. **Dusty** was instructed on proper wiring of a monitor water pump for his recently acquired Shelly.

Now on to our **website**. First of all I want to thank **Gordy** for all the work and time he puts into our web site. We all go to the site for information, articles and updates. But here is another resource I hadn't thought of. I received this forward from **Allan**, and **Mel**: *My name is Jill Hallows, and I live in Cle Elum, WA. I found your contact information on your model boat club website where I learned that my cousin **Sam Lostutter** was in an accident in August. For the past week I have been trying to reach Sam at the Bellingham phone number that he gave me, but it has been disconnected, and the Sedro Woolley number rings but is never answered. Thanks to our web site Jill was reunited with **Sam**. So this is just another great thing that has come from our web site ... Thanks **Gordy!***

**Conclusion:** This will be my last article for awhile. **Keith** has agreed to take over the reporting activities for our club starting with the December article. I would like to thank everyone that has contributed to these articles, and to **Darlene** who has put up with my under-the-wire deadlines at times. As most of you know, I have given **Shawna** a hard time in some of the articles (we really are friends) so it seems my last article should include the picture (*see picture on the web edition of the newsletter*). **Wayne** took the picture of the group at our meeting just after **Shawna** found out **Keith** was taking on yet another job, that of reporter.

### **BIMM Event**

By Keith Schermerhorn

The first all r/c model event at the Bellingham International Maritime Museum was held on October 12-14. This event was to feature all forms of r/c craft especially boats. Many boats and a couple of cars are what showed up for this event. NW R/C Ship Modelers that attended included Mel and his grandson Zack, Al Kinsman, Wayne Martin, Len Bainter (with helicopter), Dusty and Nancy Grahm, Lon Bradshaw, Larry Stiles, and Keith with Shawna. The boat display comprised the bulk of the models that people came to see. Most were impressed at the display and amazed as to what can be done on a model boat. Some took the advantage to put their models in the 10' pool and demonstrate how the models work. Late in the day Saturday, Len Bainter treated all those there to an electric helicopter flight demo. Pretty impressive for an electric aircraft. Mike's R/C World was there with an impressive display of r/c models and toys for those looking for some fun.

Besides the models, most took the opportunity to check out the museums other displays. Those included the vessels under restoration (PBR, sail boat, and fiberglass sport boat) an pictorial history of NOAA, an anchor that has been recovered from a wreck, and other items of local maritime history.

Thanks to all those that came to support this event as we start to prepare for another one next year. If you're in the Bellingham area on a weekend, stop by and check out the museum at 800 Cornwall Avenue to see what is there and you will know where to come for the next show.

## USS New Jersey (BB-62)

By Bob McCaleb

This has been such a big project, I hardly know where to begin. I've been fascinated with boats all my life and probably my "first ship" was a board that I sailed in the neighbor's horse watering trough when I was about four years old.

When I was in the Navy, my job was Electronic Technician. After the Navy, I was employed at Tektronix, Inc. for 40 years, four months. (I retired in Oct. '06.) At Tek, my job was designing auto-

mated controls for unique manufacturing and test equipment. This exposure to robotic-type equipment gave me the desire to build a ship that would do a lot more than just sail in circles around the pond. I wanted a big ship which would have all kinds of features that could be automated and revive the memories of Navy Veterans. I selected an Iowa Class Battleship.

The first thing I built for it was a 16-inch gun. I got copies of WWII Ordinance Manuals and started building it as a working replica of the real thing which even included some of the same manufacturing techniques as the Navy used when making the real ones. Example: the barrel is made up of several concentric tubes that are heat shrunk, one inside the other, in a massive furnace. The tube I found to match my bore size turned out to be a smooth bore BB gun barrel; however, the outside diameter was not large enough. I got some larger tubing, heated it red hot, and shrunk it down on the BB gun barrel.

Next, I made a special tool with which I was able to form all 96 lands and grooves with a two-turn twist.

While in the Navy, I had some exposure to the machinery in both the engine room and fire room. I thought it would be a great idea to make this ship live steam using the same type machinery, in miniature, as was in use on the real ships. I started in this direction by building five D-type Naval Express Boilers. These boilers have all the functional elements as the full-sized boiler. They are so authentic that when a Naval Veteran Machinist Mate was recently shown a photo of one, he said, "Hey! That's the same boiler they used to teach us boiler operation at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center!"

I also designed and built a rotor for a Curtis Dual-Flow Reversible Turbine. This was a test of my ability to produce a miniature turbine. I clocked one at over 28,000 RPM while being driven with compressed air.

At this point I came to realize that age was catching up with me and one lifetime was not enough to complete my ship as originally planned. Consequently, I set the steam portion aside and switched to electric drive instead.

The Futaba-type controller cannot begin to handle the things I wanted to do so I designed a graphical interface using Windows on a PC. This allows me to do things the "Navy way" where the person in charge never touches the helm or the throttle. He issues orders for the helmsmen follow.

The main screen has four throttles that can be adjusted individually and buttons to click that will



## USS New Jersey *continued*

make all four engines function together. With my controls, the two rudders also can function either individually or together, just as the real ship.

A nuance that is part of every Sailor's life is the 1 MC and the Boson's pipe. You may love it or hate it, but you will never forget it. (1 MC is the Navy term for the ship's PA system and it sounds off regularly making routine announcements.) I have a 14-watt system in the ship, and, with it, I can make either live announcements or play back actual announcements, which I recorded while at sea on the USS New Jersey. I can use any sound bite that is available on tape or CD.

The ship has onboard computers that communicate back and forth with the PC using a 900 Mhz two-way data link. One of these computers is referred to as a single-board computer. It does time-keeping functions, giving time of day by ringing watch bells every half hour, and, once a minute, sending out a Morse code message blinking the actual time of day.

The ship also has a compass that feeds information back to the DRT (Dead Reckoning Tracer). The DRT uses trigonometry to convert course and speed to a plot that shows, on a miniature map, where the ship has recently been.

Other features of its navigational system include auto-pilot and pre-programmed maneuvers such as return to the point of origin, orbit back and forth along a designated track, or do a man overboard drill. Each engine has a tachometer for matching speeds between the four shafts and a display of the ship's battery voltage so that I don't get caught in the middle of a pond with dead batteries.

The ship's course has four methods of display which include a compass with a rotating needle, a digital readout, a trace in the DRT, and, anytime the rudder is moved to mid-ships, an on-screen flag hoist shows the course using international signal flags. My program has all the signal flags in its library. (I had to draw each one by hand using PC Paint.)

The other two screens are related to the weapons department. One is called Fire Control and the other is called Gun Plot. With Fire Control, I can select where the turrets are aimed either individually or collectively. Gun Plot is used to track an imaginary target. With it, I can position a spot on the plotting board which has a ship located in the middle. The program will do the necessary trigonometry to make each gun converge on the spot. If the spot moves, they will track it. It also has a feature called Deflection, which is used to move the guns right or left "X" number of feet to correct for error in the spot's position. (In real practice, a forward observer can see where the first shot fell and radio the error back to the ship so that corrections can be made.)

This project is like a home builder who never knows when to stop adding rooms. Every time we take the motor home out of town, the laptop goes along and I'm either adding more features to the program or making CAD drawings from which to build more hardware.

The photo shows four of my boilers on display at a Model Engineering Show. Nested between them is the turbine rotor that I clocked at over 28,000 RPM.



# Fisherman's Festival September 22, 2007



# Fun Float and Springer Event October 7, 2007



# Skagit Meeting



**Shawna** found out **Keith** was taking on yet another job, that of reporter.