



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

October 2009

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## Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Just got back from the Anacortes Oyster Run. Twenty thousand motorcycles in town and then they're gone. Wow. We had several hundred on the ferry with us going home as we'd drifted down the island (and past Nichols Bros.) on our way home. What an event and to think I hadn't heard of it before (or hadn't paid attention). There was a big kite festival at Fort Casey. So it was an active week: we toured the QUAIL with her 200 Atlas, we toured the MERILYN ( IVER FOSS ) with her 400 Enterprise, we dried out BIX which got flipped at Lake Bob, and we had INDY tow us the last quarter mile into the Terminal yesterday. The warm fall weather has helped us do all the above in shirt-sleeves. Our October meeting will be on the first and the fun float at Downtown Park will be our last there till Spring as we switch to the Center For Wooden Boats for the off season.

You may be reading this after the float as the BILGE PUMP is a little late this month as the editor/publishers are off traveling.

Off traveling, a good segue to get to my topic for the day. On my shifts as leader of this outfit I've tried to push participation and cooperation in "things maritime." I'm not a very good model builder and also get bored driving my models around the pond. But, I get immense pleasure trying to think up things to build, and schmoozing with people at the events, chasing down historic vessels, visiting ports, riding ferries, and generally being on or near the water. And it's those people on and near the water that make it special. Over the years I've had the pleasure of meeting many owners, skippers, engineers, writers, photographers, and modelers who

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## Upcoming Events

### October

- 1 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float  
12:00 pm, Bellevue Park
- \*6 *Skagit R/C Ship Modelers*  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon

### November

- 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 CWB Lake Union
- 12-14 Pacific Marine Expo  
Quest Field, Seattle

### December

- 3 December Dinner Meeting  
7:00pm Martha Lake  
Community Center
- 6 Fun Float  
12:00 CWB, Lake Union
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon

\*indicates a change in schedule



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are all addicted to being involved with the water just as I am. But there are also the "car people" (anyone want to buy my rusty Fiat 500, rusty Simca; another addiction), "cycle people" (motor, pedal, electric, naked or dressed), RV folks (vintage ones are fascinating), horse people, foodies (go see JULIE and JULIA), etc., etc., etc. So much to do and so little time. In thirty days you will be electing a new leader for the Northwest R/C Ship modelers who will keep the club on a healthy course. Be sure that you help out; kinda "what you can do for your club". Attending meetings and events is probably the easiest if you are near by. I was going to contribute book reviews to the newsletter and actually will now that I'll have more time. I was going to try to organize field trips but that is difficult with so many people doing so many different things. Maybe I can start a column called Things To Do. You can always go to THE MOTHER OF ALL MARITIME LINKS. Carpe Diem. You don't need to worry about "red right returning" if you haven't gone out in the first place. It is later than you know.

## Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Allan Wing

The meeting started at the appointed 7 PM time with slightly fewer members than normal. We still have a few on vacation. Ron Burchett was visiting our meeting and said he needed the names of all who were interested on attending the Pacific Marine Expo so he could arrange for badges and entry. He also discussed the times for the event and where he would set up. Ron also said he went to the Burnaby Regatta after the Foss Cup. It was their 50th anniversary and a good event. Ron later talked about The Tug and Salvage convention coming to Vancouver in May 2010. He will have his pool set up and it would be a great way to show our boats to some of the big names in the real world of Tugs and Salvage.

We had one visitor, Cliff Elowson.

Randy then talked about the Springer event at Lake Bob (see Mel's article later in this issue). Then Randy talked about the Fisherman's Festival (see Randy's article in this issue).

Earl mentioned that we have access to Bellevue Pond September 6th and could have a additional fun float if anyone was interested. It rained on the 6th and with the bigger event coming at Lake Bob no one showed up. Earl also said since we have one more date at the Bellevue pond on

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Oct 3 we should have one last polo match before we head to the deep waters of the Center for Wooden Boats.

We then discussed the newsletter and found that some people still like a printed version. There were some advantages to the printed copy in that there is an emotional attachment and it is possible to give a copy to an interested person rather than direct them to the club web site. There will be more discussion and we may agree to put out a printed version 2 or more times a year.



We then had Show and Tell.

I was first up with a new Springer I am building that has a different method of attaching the keel and skeg as well as plans to allow the testing of several different motors and propellers.

Next up was Dr. Ron. He showed his progress on his LA Fireboat. He discussed the problems he faced with the first hull from his mold and what techniques he will use in the future. He also showed his motor and belt assembly he will use to allow the motors to be mounted in such a way they will allow room for the water pump.

Earl showed his Chris Craft runabout that he is building from an old kit. He had some questions about how to finish the wood and Ron told him to use penetrating epoxy followed by 3 coats of spar varnish.

Bob Wickham showed his Coast Guard Boat PT Brown. He showed two modifications he had made in the last month. The first was to modify the water pickup on the rudders to add a larger inlet to provide more water for cooling and the second was the addition of a different kind of radar motor. Mel had found some very small flat geared motors on line at All Electronics. Bob had used one of them to drive the radar and it worked very well. The small motor fit inside a false roof on the cabin and was totally invisible.

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



*Pictures by  
Dave White*

# Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

## By Keith Schermerhorn

The Skagit meeting was the second one for the month of August since we had a schedule conflict with the first couple of Mondays in September. Had a small crowd to discuss the past events from August (and we were still in that month). Discussions included Tualatin where it was reported that everyone that attended had fun. Reported by those who went that this is a great event to go to and one should make plans for attending next year.

Next on the agenda was coverage of Foss Cup and Burnaby. Many thanks to all those that helped out, attended, and participated in the event. It is always with great participation that makes the event great and positively memorable. Discussed the possibility of a change in the event and ideas for improving Foss Cup. Keith reported that we had 3 members of this group attend Burnaby the day after Foss Cup. All had a good time with Dave Feray winning an award for small boat navigation. Attention then turned to the upcoming events for the busy month of September. First would be the BIMM event on Labor Day weekend in Bellingham. Should be warm and fun for those that come to the museum for one day or both. Fun float at Bob Jacobson's place on Lake Goodwin should be a blast with all the boating fun to be had and seeing the many unique things that Bob has at his home.

The following weekend is to be the Fall Fisherman's Festival in Seattle. Model boats on display and many activities will make this a fun day. Those that have been there before look forward to the bbq dinner they serve and seeing all the activities for the day.

One of the topics for the evening and one that will be brought up at the October meeting are suggestions for meeting subjects. Looking for more how to classes, picture shows from past events, work parties on a project, special guest speakers, and more. Want to invite others from down South and up North if it is something really special. Bring your ideas and let's see what we can come up with for ideas.

Show and tell was thin with Ben Flodquist bringing in a sailboat hull and mold that he acquired a while back from an antique store that had a lot of "Titanic" stuff from the movie set. Looking at making the hulls available for those that may be interested.

With not much more from the group, we put the place back together and headed for our home ports by 1930 hours until the next time. **Reminder that the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 6th of October at 7:00pm.** Pushed a day out as meeting room was already booked for official county business. Don't forget to bring your projects that you are working on for show and tell and that this meeting is open to all that want to come.



## Lake Bob Fun Float and Barbeque – Mel Suelzle

On September 20<sup>th</sup> over 40 boaters and friends gathered at the Jacobsen's on Lake Goodwin for a fun day of burgers, dogs and model boating. The day was filled with lots of action as the mixture of swift water and fast boats resulted in some close calls and collision or two. The most notable collision was with Scott's PT and Mike Gullikson's Coast Guard boat. Fortunately no serious damage resulted and both boats returned to the water after a little TLC in dry dock.



The Springer event was a figure 8 race that started with a LeMans start. The wind and waves posed a real challenge to get all 8-10 boats on the line at once, but the race got underway and soon the action resulted in more than a few collisions and one rollover of Randy's boat the Bix. Since it was a pure race, and Earl Anderson was a contestant, it was a race for second place for everyone else. Doug Gunther was second, Ron Bray was third and Mel Suelzle was fourth. No boats were lost to the bottom, but it was a good idea that this race was held close to the shore and in relatively shallow water. For his success in winning this event, Earl Anderson gets to design and run our April Springer contest. To be sure, Earl will come up with a great event that will test our imaginations as to what boat attributes will be most successful. (can anyone spell GO FAST?)



Kudos to the Jacobsen's for once again hosting a great barbeque for us. They picked a day with great weather (much better than the airplane guys had the day before). A new twist on the food service was Chef Bob's innovative scheduling of his cooking process whereby he staged the food deliveries to the serving line in order to make sure no one ate too much too soon. This innovative

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approach was made possible by the chef failing to check his gas supply and avoid running out mid-way of the cooking process. However, quick action by Prez Flodquist replenished the gas supply just in time to make sure everyone got their fill. Fortunately Bob's float plane was electric powered and not subject to similar fueling problems as it performed nicely with an equal number of takeoffs and landings. (Can a chef qualify for a Bent Prop award??)

Some of the airplane guys returned to enjoy the nice flying weather. They provided a nice change of pace with some interesting float plane demonstrations. All in all it was a fabulous day of good food, gracious hosts and fun boating and airplane shows at one of the most beautiful settings that was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Bob and Laurie

*Thank You*



*Pictures by  
Wayne Martin*

With this kind of speed from Earl's boat, everyone else is running for second.

# Fall Fishman's Festival

By Randy Flodquist

The weather was a lovely autumn day; the Shifty Sailors were in great voice, the crowd good sized, and the starting time a very civilized 1100 hours. Yet our club was only represented by Bill, Mel, Scott, Burt, Ben, and me. Scott brought his daughter, Al dropped by to check up on us and to say he had a good time at the big fun float in St. Louis, Linda visited awhile, and Tom came for the salmon.

INDY towing us in our 15'2" Poulsbo launch THUNDERINA pleased those watching from shore, Burt's crane was a little "rocky" in its operation, Mel did a great job schmoozing the crowd and snagged us a new member. It was a great day for those attending.





## **Member Spotlight**

**By Dr. Ron**

**MIKE GULLIKSON** *New Member*

Mike arrived into this world in November of 1959, lived in Seattle till the age of 7. His family moved to Olympia in 1967. Mike has a brother in Spokane and a sister in Dallas.

He graduated from Timberline High School in 1978 and went in to the Coast Guard three days later where he spent 8 years. He has been stationed on a 180' Buoy Tender (IRIS) out of Astoria OR, on a shore unit at the Ballard locks where he traveled up and down the Oregon and Washington coast working on all the Coast Guard life boats, and then on the 410' Polar Icebreaker POLAR SEA. Hence the interest in Coast Guard model boats. Following his stint in the Coast Guard, he ended up working for the US Post Office as a City Carrier for the last 23 years.



His first RC model was Dumas 44' Coast Guard model at the age of 10 and later sold the boat for more RC stuff. He went on into 1/2A .049 airplanes and cars. In 1992 he moved up to .25 - .90 sized airplanes flying mostly 25 size combat planes which lead to a lot of building and rebuilding,

This last August a flying friend of his was going to the Foss Cup with Bob Jacobson and let him know about it and he showed up and was hooked back into model boats when he saw a model of the sister ship he was stationed on in the Coast Guard that 180' Buoy Tender that some one had there. He went home and ordered the CG 44' life boat right then, and since has received the CG 41' life boat and plans from the CG Museum at pier 36 in Seattle for that Buoy Tender and also a Ice Breaker, he is also building a Springer.

Other than his post office job he has a side business of screen printing t-shirts, sweat shirts, hats, Pad printing golf balls and coffee mugs, and making rubber stamps,

He rides a 1998 Gold Wing for his commute to and from work and most every were else.

In the past Mike has been involved in Unlimited Air Racing in Reno from 1995 - 2002 as what he calls the Logistics and Ground equipment part of the team, (hanger rat or go-for). He was involved with the airplanes Miss Ashley-2 a highly modified P-51 Mustang, and Furias a modified Hawker Sea Fury,

Mike has a daughter 22 who enjoys watching him operate his RC toys

Welcome to the club. We will benefit from your enthusiasm and considerable knowledge in the RC world.