



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

October, 2011

## A BUSY MONTH COMING

### DATES OF INTEREST

#### October

**6th** Club Meeting

**9th** Float cancelled

**16th** Float scheduled at Bellevue

#### November

**3th** Club Meeting

**6th** Float scheduled at Lake Union

**17th-19th** Pacific Marine Expo

Just as you thought we were finished with our activities for the year, very important ones rear their heads. Many of you may not think these activities are important, but they are. The election of the leaders of our club sets the tone of what and how things will be done in the ensuing year. We have been fortunate to have had some excellent leadership in the past and this needs to continue in order to keep our club alive and growing. I urge you to attend the November meeting and participate in the elections. We need your input.

The **Cliff Shaw Award** is an important way to recognize an individual who has added to the club's best interest. The criteria are listed elsewhere in this issue and give a very broad spectrum of what this individual should possess. The individual may not have all the criteria, but should meet as many of them as possible.

Our November Fun Float moves to the pond at Lake Union, as the Bellevue pond will be drained for the winter. Members, who have been using Lake Union regularly, say it really has much going for it. So give it a try before you give up on it.

### In this issue:

From the Quarterdeck	2
Giving Life to an Old Friend	4
October Minutes	6
Lake Bob Fun Float	9

## FROM THE QUARTER DECK



Our summer activities are complete and it looks like summer is gone with them. This past month we had the Fall Fisherman's Festival and Our Fall Fun Float at Lake Goodwin (AKA Lake Bob). We now look toward the remaining activities for the year.

The Fall Fisherman's Festival was very well attended and we had a very high level of interest from the people attending the Festival. There is an article later in this newsletter along with pictures. The people organizing the event were very helpful, when they saw we needed more tables they brought more so with Phil's canopy we had effectively a double size booth and about 6 tables. We had a good turnout and I am sure they will want to have us back next year.

Our September Fun Float was at Bob Jacobsen's place on Lake Goodwin. Again there is an article in this month's newsletter giving details. As usual Bob made hamburgers and we had the Fall Springer competition.

Coming up is the Pacific Marine Expo. This is a commercial event held at the CenturyLink Field Event Center (formerly Quest Field Event Center). The dates are November 17 – 19. There will be a pond available and we have been putting together a list of people who wish to attend so we can get passes. This is a chance to see what is going on in the real world of commercial boating and shipping. For more information visit [www.pacificmarineexpo.com](http://www.pacificmarineexpo.com).

We are finishing up our preparation for the December Dinner meeting. This year it will be at the Lucky Buffett in Everett. I will be sending out time and directions on how to get there. We have reserved one of their rooms that can seat up to 80 so come one, come all, and bring family or friends. We will have the normal presentations and pictures from this last year. We will award the Cliff Shaw award and Mike Shaw will present the award for the best new build of the year. It will be a good way to wrap up the year. If anyone has "special" pictures you want to have included in the yearly presentation, please send them to me.

We need nominations for the Cliff Shaw award. This is an award which is presented in memory of Cliff and is meant to honor someone who has benefited our hobby. The criteria are as follows: **"The winner of the award will be the person who 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."** Please send nominations to me by November 1st so the committee can make a selection.

One final note, our October Fun Float has been rescheduled from October 9th to October 16th. There was a conflict with scheduling of a major event at the pond. So be sure to come a week later than normal. We will be moving our Fun Floats to the pond at the south end of Lake Union in November.

## **New Member Profile by Dr. Ron**

### SAM STOUT

Sam was introduced to our club while working at the Pacific Marine Expo. His grandson, Sammy, was enthralled with our pond and model boats especially when he was allowed to run one of Al Kinsman's. He ran the boat for about an hour or so while Sam met with customers. The following Christmas season, he and his wife, Janet, and my wife Barbara and I, were invited to dinner at Cliff and Peggy's home. At this point Cliff and I encouraged him to attend our meetings. After attending several meetings learning of our activities, learning new technologies and enjoying the camaraderie he joined the club. At one of the meetings a nonmember indicated he had several models for sale. One was a Brooklyn tug. After I bought this model along with another from this fellow Sam indicated that he would like to purchase the Brooklyn, so I sold it to him.

Having an interest in model boats probably comes as no surprise as his father was a tugboat skipper for nearly 45 years, primarily on the Foss 18. He was the commander one year for the Seattle tug boat races. Sam dropped out of Ballard High School and started working as a deckhand on the Thea Foss one summer. He also worked as deck hand on the Lorna, Myrtle, Kathryn, and Henrietta Foss boats from 1959 -'60. In 1960 he joined the Air Force and began a career as an aircraft mechanic on single engine fighter planes. He spent time in Okinawa, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Korea. After 8 years 5 months and 22 days he returned to Seattle, working days for Piston Services as a counterman and driver, while attending night classes at Edison Technical School and later North Seattle Community College, studying electronics. He got his GED while in the Air Force and after 12 years of night classes he got his business degree from Columbia College in Edmonds. When delivering tires to the foreman of the generator shop at Instrument Laboratories he was encouraged to submit a job application. Several months later he got the job which launched his career in designing, building and repairing generator and control panels.

While working at Instrument Laboratories, Inc. he spent six out of eight weeks in Alaska supplying generators for the Alyeska pipeline project. He was responsible for generator startups, commissioning and repairs. He left ILI in 1984 to work for Emerson diesel in East Wenatchee as the branch manager for full truck repair and parts rebuild. After one year he was moved back to Seattle to manage the Emerson Power and Control branch and then promoted to manage the generator division. His level of expertise was noted by John Tate of John Tate, Inc. and was enticed to move to California for a three year contract to be the plant manufacturing manager. They built generators and control panels as well as selling or leasing equipment to rental companies. After the demise of John Tate, Inc. he moved back to Seattle to start his own business. He purchased a computer and cad design program to do contract electromechanical design work. One of his jobs was with Sound Ocean Systems, Inc. of Redmond. He designed and built high voltage supply systems for the ROVs and supervised their fiber optic cable operation. He designed, built and supervised the strain gauges and winches.

Another big job was to design the complete electrical system, supervise construction, purchase and install all the equipment for converting WW 2 YW ships to fishing vessels. After five years in the fishing industry he now does service work as GEN-TEK and as a manufacturer's representative selling generators and other products to industrial equipment manufacturers as OJM & ASSOCIATES.

On a personal note, he was born at Virginia Mason Hospital in 1941 and grew up in White Center, Crown Hill, the Green lake area and Ballard. He married Janet in 1963 and has one son, who is a computer guru, and one daughter, who is a project manager at Microsoft. He has one grandson, Sammy, and two granddaughters. Sam has been interested in sailing and bought his first sailboat, a Newport 30, ten years ago and now has his second, a Catalina 30. In his spare time he enjoys golfing and spending time in Hawaii.

Indeed, this is a portrait of a self-made man with incredible motivation and lust for life and challenges. He is a great role model for his grandson as well as for the rest of us. His Brooklyn is coming along nicely now, after a hiatus consumed by Jan's health problems. He ran it at the Lake Bob function and it really looks great on the water and handles well.



## GIVING NEW LIFE TO AN OLD FRIEND - Mel Suelzle

Many model boaters have chosen to switch to the Spektrum and other brands of the new 2.4 Ghz radio systems to gain freedom from frequency pins and immunity from noise generators inside and outside of our model boats. Consequently, many have turned their backs on perfectly good Nautical Commanders that have been the standard for model boaters for many years. The Ace radio is simple, reliable and tailored for twin screw boats with the twin throttle controls preferred by most.

Now, there is a solution that will allow those trusty old friends to be updated and brought back in service. There are at least two modification kits that are offered by Hobby King that allow the 75 Mhz output module of the Ace radio to be replaced with a 2.4 Ghz module. This procedure applies to the Assan brand only.

Recently I installed one of these modules in Phil Northrup's 5 Channel Nautical Commander. This article covers this modification, so others can upgrade their old friends and get them back in action.

The kit covered is the model "X8D 2.4GHz trainer port X8-hack module (PPM Only)" SKU X8D. and the 6 Channel receiver model X8R6 made by Assan. Including shipping, the entire cost of the module and receiver was approximately \$85.

Figure 1 Shows the kit contents needed for the modification.



Figure 1

Figure 2 shows the 5 channel Nautical Commander before and after the modification. Note: This is an earlier version with switches to reverse servos. Newer versions were reversed by a cable connector.

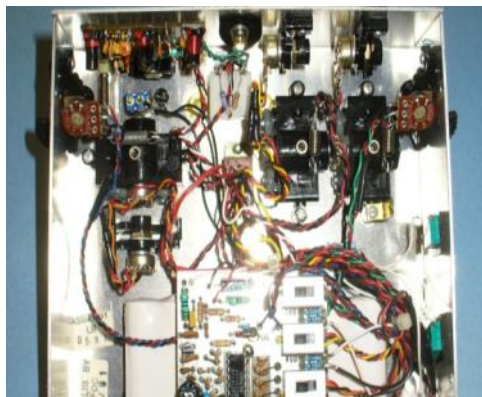


Figure 2

Procedure:

**Before**

**After**

1. Remove the antenna mounting screw and remove the antenna assembly.
2. Remove the two screws from the top of the case that hold the label and the R-F output assembly.
3. Cut or unsolder the 3 wires that connect to the R-F output assembly leaving as much wire length for connection to the new module.

4. Install a piece of Velcro to the back of the new module.
5. Select a location for the new module and install the other Velcro piece. It will fit in the location of the old R-F module ok. However, I chose another location to use the long antenna lead. Some battery packs may restrict installation as shown and the module will have to be installed in the original location. In this case, take care to route the antenna cable without any sharp bends or interference with the control sticks.
6. Connect the white/red/black wire from the radio to the orange/red/brown leads of the new Module. Use shrink tubing to insulate the soldered connections.
7. The new module has a power LED indicator. If desired, you may want to take the trouble of locating module so the led can be viewed through a hole in the case. (not worth the trouble in my opinion)
8. Reinstall the back cover and screw on the new 2.4 Ghz antenna.
9. The installation is complete and only testing remains.
10. Follow the binding instructions provided with the receiver.
11. Install the binding plug jumper as shown in the documentation depending on the model of receiver you use. Note: It is NOT the same as the Spektrum connection.
12. Turn on the transmitter and watch the LEDs in the receiver indicate a successful binding.
13. Plug in a servo to each of the channels and test for proper operation of all functions of the Nautical Commander.
14. Proceed to the pond and enjoy old memories with your new “old friend”.

Phil Northrup reports that his new “old friend” is working well and he is enjoying having a radio that he understands what all the levers and buttons do!

The procedure is basically identical for the 7 channel version Nautical Commander, except you will need to order the 8 channel Receiver, X8R7. Current price of this receiver is \$27.95

## Tips and Tricks

Tom Stevens has offered a solution for those stubborn paint bottle lids.

If you are like the rest of us – you use some paint from the glass jar and close the lid. Even if you wiped the top rim off, before closing, and if you waited a substantial period of time before opening the jar again, it was stuck! Yes a pair of pliers on the lid and the jar in a vice with a rag between the jaws and the jar may work, but not always. Here is a tip to safely open those jars of paint.

**FIRST! USE OF EYE PROTECTION and LEATHER GLOVES** is advisable when dealing with a tight glass jar lid. Simply heat the outer edge of the lid with a small torch. It doesn't have to be very hot. You should be able to rotate it with your fingers without burning them. A heat gun may work, but a small torch is preferable. The paint softens and the lid opens easily – even if they are stuck very tight. You can gently squeeze the lid with pliers – but this is usually not necessary, if well heated.

## October Meeting Minutes by Dr. Ron

Our president, Allan Wing, commenced the meeting promptly at 1900 hours. New members – Sam Babcock and Elliott Donahue were reintroduced, as they recently joined and haven't received their name badges yet.

Allan has reserved the center room at the Lucky Buffet, Everett, for our Christmas meeting. This room will seat 80, has a stage, sound system pull down screen and a projector. The cost of the buffet is \$11.95 plus 10% gratuity. Coupons are often available in the newspaper and on line.

Dave Feray e-mailed Allan to inform him that he has a friend who has tools and other items for sale. He will send further details and pictures of the available items.

Members should plan on bringing their new builds to the November meeting so Mike Shaw can judge them for the Best Build Award for the year. The award will be given at the December dinner. Keep in mind that election of officers will be held at the November meeting, so nominations will be needed at this time. Also nominations for the Cliff Shaw award are due by November first and can be e-mailed or snail mailed to Allan. The previous recipients are: Mel Suelzle, Keith Shermerhorn, Phil Northrup, Ron Bray and Allan Wing.

This Saturday, October 8th, there will be a polo match at Dennis Chinn's pool at 10 AM. Mel encouraged all to attend, even if one doesn't have a boat, to get the feel of the event and competition. Allan will e-mail the address and driving directions.

There will be no fun float this weekend as we were bumped for a cancer fund raising event. However, there will be a fun float on the 16th at noon.

Ed Maurer, our Treasurer, is getting along well but still has to get around on a walker so as not to put undue pressure on his knee and ankle repair. He plans to be back at the front by next month.

There are still a few hats for sale and jackets can be purchased at the outlet noted on our website. There are several styles available and they can be customized to one's liking.

After a short break it was time for show and tell. **Norm Hiatt** led off by showing pictures of his projects which he wished to sell. Next, **Phil Northrup** displayed plans for the Everett pig boat, the first steam powered ship to go around the world. It is called a pig boat because the bow looks like a pig snout. The plans were given to Norm Hiatt who is looking for a new project.. Another set of plans were for the HMS Dreadnaught, the first modern battleship with turbine drives and guns which were the same caliber. These plans were accepted by Elliott Donahue. Plans for the Betsy L. Foss were displayed and earlier copied by Dr. Ron. Phil also showed the 2,4 Ghz conversion of his Ace Nautical Commander with the module sold by Hobby King. The cost of the module and one receiver was \$85 and additional receivers are priced at \$26. Mel installed the mod and said that anyone can do it.

**Mike Jones** brought in his Preston build, noting all the fine detailed fittings he purchased along with his plans on how to build the hoops for the paddle wheel. He mentioned several options: chemical etching, laser cutting or using a special turn table which can be mounted on a lathe, allowing him to cut the hoops with a cutting tool or Dremel device. **Dr. Ron** demonstrated the crane operation and noisy radar motor on his Calypso build. The crane rotation is provided by a 2 rpm gear motor and O ring. Raising and lowering the crane will be provided by another gear motor and spindle.

The meeting concluded at 2005 and members slowly ambled out and headed for home.



## Fisherman's Fall Festival

Once again the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers were invited to participate in the annual Fisherman's Fall Festival at Fisherman's Wharf. This was the 23rd Annual Fishermen's Fall Festival sponsored by the Fishermen's Terminal Tenant's Association. All proceeds directly benefit the Seattle Fishermen's Memorial and their efforts to honor the local fishing community and their families. The festival organizers provided us with a tent and several tables. We had a large enough turnout that we used Phil Northrup's canopy to provide extra space. We had more than ten members in attendance, with most of them staying all day. We had excellent access to the water from a floating dock right below our display tent. This dock is normally used for visiting boats, but for the Festival it was reserved exclusively for our use. This provided a great place to show off our boats to the crowd. We had at least two or three boats running until late in the day. Once again the faster PT boats were the crowd's favorite. There was a large crowd at the festival particularly as the weather improved in the afternoon and it seemed like most of them stopped to look and ask questions about our boats.

KOMO news had a picture gallery on their news web site Sunday morning that featured at least 4 pictures of our boats and members. This event has always been fun and this year was no exception.





## September Fun Float

This year once again we had our September Fun Float at Bob Jacobsen's house on Lake Goodwin. This year it was a Fun Float, BBQ, Silent Auction and fall Springer event. We want to give a big thank you to Laurie and Bob Jacobsen for hosting this event. The Fun Float was super with a nice sheltered space between two docks. The weather was just a little bit wet to start but soon cleared up, so it worked out well. Bob cooked hamburgers and the rest of the food was pot luck, no one went away hungry.

Mike Jones tested his depth charges for the entertainment of all. He had several with different weights and he learned what will work best.

We had the Fall Springer event. The event was a team event with two Springers skippers picked at random. Their task was to push two barges, lashed together, twice around two buoys. The rules stated that one Springer was to push on the end of the barges while the other was restricted to the sides for one lap and then the two Springers switched positions. Once the run was started the Springers were restricted to their position and the Springer pushing on the end could not go to the side to straighten out the barges. The Springers were not tied to the barges so the barges tended to turn at will. It was a good event. We had six teams. It was nice to see so many Springers at an event. The Team of Scott Wilson and Darlene Wing came in first with a time of just over 6 minutes for the two laps. Dennis Chinn and Allan Wing came in second with a time of slightly over 8 minutes. This is the second time Scott has won the fall Springer event. Darlene originally did not want to compete but we needed another boat to make up the 6th team, she drives much better than she is willing to admit.

We finished up with a silent auction with several boat kits, some tools and parts that people had in surplus. As Bob put it, "this is a good way to trade stuff!"





**The Winners!**

## Word from the North

Welcome to Fall, as the Skagit group got together for it's October meeting on Sept. 26 ( schedule conflict pushed meeting ahead by 1 week). 10 people including a new guest, Mr. Jim Davis, a friend of Bert Maxwell, joined for the evening's conversations. Wayne did verify that the next 2 meetings will be back on regular schedule for the first Monday of each month (Nov. 7th and Dec. 5th). Discussions were had about the annual December pot-luck Pig-Out date for this , with the usual fun festivities of food, friendship, and review of the year in photo show. Details to be covered at the November meeting.

Had no reports from any of the other events that were held earlier in the month. Discussions included the upcoming Work Boat show in Seattle in November and anyone wanting to attend, without paying the admission fee, should contact Kevin Klocke to have name added to the list or re-register on the website.

Ben announced a "roll over party" to be held at the family home for the turning of his latest boat project. This the turning upside down to useable side up, as all the glass work will be done on the outside of the hull by then. This is a 20 foot wooden bartender that he has been working on for a while.

Larry gave a report on the sailing guys and the events that have happened since August. The first of August, he and another sailor traveled to San Rafael to sail with the sailors down there in a regatta. He reported "these guys are good and have fast boats". He was happy that they finished in the middle of the pack, all things considered. Then he was off to the Canadian Nationals that were held on Salt Spring Island on Vancouver Island, Canada the last weekend of September. It was a little wet and windy, but lots of fun and a lot of boats too. Next on the sailor's agenda is their 1st regatta that they will be hosting at Cranberry Lake in Deception Pass on October 15th/16th. The event is open to those that want to come watch, take photos or even race (Soilings and IOMs). There should be a lot of sailors there from all over the Northwest.

Show and tell was limited to what Keith had brought. This included the little log tug that has now been cleaned up and various items cut out and built into it. The only other s-n-t was the new hat from the crab boat, Time Bandit, that he got when meeting Mike Fourtnier. The boat is one of the featured vessels on the TV show " Deadliest Catch". This led to a small discussion on other TV shows that have been featuring boats/ ships recently.

We all packed up and got ready to head to our home ports at about 20:30 hour when one of our members announced we had to round-up the frogs that had invaded the inside of the building, while the door was open. Now, this got everyone's attention as we thought Kermit the frog was visiting and this was a joke. But as we got ready to leave the building we discovered that there really was an invasion of tree frogs all over the outside of the building, on the windows, doors, walls and ground! Several hundred of these little fellows apparently thought that the PUD building made for a great tree.

Just a reminder to all that everyone is welcomed to attend and please do bring along your current, old, or prospective projects to share --after all we are a scale model boat group and want to see, learn, end enjoy the fine work that you do!!



## Club Officers

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