



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

September, 2011

## A BUSY AUGUST

### DATES OF INTEREST

#### September

**17th** Fisherman's Festival at Fisherman's Wharf—Seattle

**18th** Float and Silent Auction at Lake Bob

**26th** Skagit October Meeting  
Skagit PUD #1

#### October

**6th** Club Meeting

**9th** Float cancelled

**16th** Float scheduled at Bellevue



August 20th found more than just the weather heating up in Bellevue as the annual tug championship known as the **Foss Cup** took place with some hot completion on the pond at Downtown Park. Twenty-one skippers, from as far as away as Portland and Northern B.C, Canada, came for the fun and excitement to see who had what it takes to win this event, bringing about 50 models with them for work and display. Competitors had their vessel placed into a weighted size category--not length based--- to make things even. Not all the vessels competing were tugs, but also vessels that have towing capacity in the real world

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( US Coast Guard). Our judges were retired Foss skippers Mr. Jim Martin and Mr. Andy Andrew on the barge course, with modeler Mr. Mike Moore over on salvage. Most vessels got through the course and attempted salvage. A few others didn't quite finish due to mechanical or other issues. Not as many used their underwater winches this year (must be a learning curve going on). Scores were pretty good and a couple of classes were decided by just a couple of points. Well done skippers!

The team tow event was back with 5 teams being made, by random selection, of those that wanted to participate. This separate event, within The Foss Cup, is a challenge in communications and moving a vessel out and around a small course and docking it. Not as easy as it looks at times. We did have one small tug get caught up in irons and sink during this event. Still, it was fun to watch and watch each team's strategies before attempting their run. So at the end of the day when all scores were tallied, the 2011 Foss Cup winner was Phil Northrup. Congratulations Phil on a job well done.

As with any event, the success can only be accomplished with the help of all the volunteers who lend a hand for the day. Thanks to Dave White for being Pond Master, Linda Flodquist and the Monroe ladies for their work in the galley, Hanna at registration and score keeping, every one that help sell raffle tickets or move barges and salvage back into place. But a very special thanks to Tom Stevens who stepped in at the last minute when Ron Burchett was hospitalized and we needed help getting a bunch of stuff brought to and from the pond including: all the salvage gear, tables, buoys, docks, and so much more. Without his help, this event would not have been nearly as well set and been lacking a lot of the items needed to make this happen! Thanks Tom!!

Here are the results from the event.

Small Class: 1 Scott Wilson 2 Aimee Eng 3 Phil McKinney

Medium Class: 1 Phil Northrup 2 Mel Suelzle 3 Al Kinsman

Large Class: 1 Ron Bray 2 Ben Flodquist 3 Les Cade

Vintage Class: 1 Jessica Monroe 2 Norm Hiatt

Masters Class: Sue Newmeyer

Team Tow: Aimee Eng and Al Kinsman

Judges Choice: Morgan Foss by Mel Suelzle

Sponsors Award: Lindsey Foss by Ulrich

Foss Cup Winner 2011: **Phil Northrup**

## FROM THE QUARTER DECK



Summer is just about over and we are now looking forward to some fall events. But first congratulations to Phil Northrup and his tug John J. D. for winning the Foss cup. I don't have any other results. They had a nice sunny day and a good turnout.

September has two events of note. First is the fall Fisherman's Festival. This year it is on Saturday September 17th at Fisherman's Terminal in Seattle. We have attended this event for many years and they always give us a good set up. This year they will provide us with a tent, table and chairs. So you don't have to bring any of that stuff. Just bring your boat and be prepared to run and put on a show for the public. We will be located near the west end of the tents with good access to the water. There are several places to eat so you can have a light lunch or a complete sit down meal. We typically get lots of people asking questions and showing interest in our boats. The actual event starts at 9 AM so get there before 9 and you will be able to find parking and get your boats to the tent with no problem.

Second are our BBQ and Fun Float at Bob Jacobsen's place on Lake Goodwin. For the past many years Bob and Laurie have hosted a BBQ and Fun Float. Please bring chips, salad or desert to go along with the burgers. This is also our fall Springer, this time designed by Al Kinsman. He has hinted that it might be a team event with two Springers maneuvering a barge or not. It should be a test of both coordination and patience. This is always a really fun event and our thanks to Bob and Laurie for sharing their house and beach with us.

Our October Fun Float at Bellevue Pond has been rescheduled. Bellevue parks contacted us and told us that they had overlooked a major event when we applied for our original schedule. Our original schedule was for the Fun Float to be on October 9th, however they have an event that is expected to draw up to 3,000 participants with tents and extra toilets. They gave us a choice of changing the date to October 2 or 16. I choose the 16th. Our October Fun Float will be on October 16th.

We have couple of items of business that are of interest to the members. At the September meeting we will decide where to have our December dinner meeting. The two choices are to continue with the dinner at the Martha Lake Community center or try and go to a restaurant that has a room and a buffet. There have been strong arguments for both alternatives and the decision will be made by the time you read this. The second item is the nomination of officers for next year. This will be discussed at the September meeting with the final vote in November. I have enjoyed my time as president but after two years of vice president under Randy and two years as president I am ready to pass the tiller on to someone new. The final item is nominations for the Cliff Shaw award. Nominations for the award need to be sent to me by November 1st.

A sad note to pass on to our members is the loss of Sandi Chinn, Dennis's wife. She passed away August 26. I first met Sandi when she hosted a polo event at their pool. She was a hostess, referee, and sometime driver. We will all miss her and wish the best to Dennis and his family. I hope Sandi is resting peacefully on a calm sea.

## **2011 Crawfish Festival**

This year's event was graced by pleasant weather, no rain, no wind and no excessive hot weather – ideal sailing conditions. Al Kinsman and Robert Wickham arrived Thursday the 11th of August and met with the hosts, Aimee, Phil and the Portland group. The rest of us checked into the hotel on Friday and organized a dinner at the Italian restaurant across the pond. Unfortunately Mel was unable to attend because of a nonfunctioning fuel pump. Because of the traffic he decided to cancel his reservations and was heading for home when after a lot coaxing, he got over his pout and headed for the hotel arriving at 10pm. Before dinner, a few skippers were running a limited number of boats. A couple from the Portland group were running their fast boats when one lost a prop and the other turtled, Springers came to the rescue. The festival was in full swing with numerous booths selling food and trinkets along with several local bands playing loud music until 10 o'clock.

Set up on Saturday morning began around 6:30. There was a lot of activity on the lake with warships, tugs, pushers, fishing boats, fast boats. Steam boats, pleasure craft, submarines and of course Springers. This year there were no sail boats. Lee Stewart got his steam powered whaling boat running after considerable effort, but it was very classy with excellent performance. During the day there was a parade and marathon run as part of the Crawfish Festival. The water fountain was turned on around noon to the delight of the many children present, who enjoyed a frolic through the timed water spouts.

The first competition started around 10 am. The skippers with the least stick movements were the winners of the rather complex navigation course. First place went to Dain Webster skippering his coast guard boat, second went to Keith Lingscheid with his Emily M., and third place went to Mel Suelzle with his Let's Roll. During the day's activities, Aimee provided a Springer for the kids to run and went through three sets of batteries, hoping to spark some interest in our hobby. Following the first competition a great lunch was provided by the Portland group with fried chicken, sandwiches, cookies and beverages. Following lunch the raffle commenced. Lots of donations were received for the raffle thanks to efforts by Aimee and Phil. Shaver Transportation provided a number of items, Mtronics donated seven esc's, Tammie's Hobbies a 6 channel Spektrum receiver, Horizon Hobbies two three channel marine escs, t-shirts and water bottles. Furano – six hats and \$100 off toward the purchase of a radar unit, Hobbytown - \$5 discounts for everyone, Rubber Baby Tugboat Bumpers provided an assortment of fenders and fittings and a wooden Springer hull: and Dr Ron – a fiberglass Springer hull.

Following the raffle the second phase of the competition began. This was a team event with skipper's vessels tied to each end of a barge. Starting from a docked position, one needed to proceed through a tight channel, swing a 360 turn and bring the barge back bow first and turn it so that the stern and bow were as originally docked. First place went to Phil Northrup and Phil McKinney, second to Keith Lingscheid and Dr. Ron, and third to Mel Suelzle and Gordy Canney. The third competition which was to be the crane event was cancelled due to the late hour. Most of us proceeded to Hayden's restaurant for a sumptuous dinner and camaraderie with the Portland group. This was a great opportunity to meet the Portland group and their wives and to partake in the rest of the raffle. Bob Wickham and Gregg Moore, from the Portland group, stood guard while



the rest of us enjoyed our meal, not having to worry about our equipment. After dinner an excellent night float commenced, lasting until 10 o'clock. Aimee set up a great course with lighted pylons through which we could navigate. This was a most enjoyable experience. A great time was had by all and many thanks are due to Aimee and Phil and the Portland group for making this a great success. Many of us are already booked for next year's event.



## New Member Profile      by Dr Ron

### Dave Green

At both the August fun float and Foss , Dave Green demonstrated his model buoy tender **CGC MALLOW**, following finishing touches completed this year. The model features a functional forward boom which can launch and recover a model sea buoy as well as lots of other detail. The boom operation was videoed at Foss Cup by Aimee Eng and can be viewed on RC Groups.

**MALLOW** is scratch built, originally started over 55 years ago when Dave was A Cadet at the Coast Guard Academy. Hull lines were developed by re-fairing expanded off-sets from a body plan in a magazine. At that time, the radio control was prospectively tuned reeds and escapements, all home made of course. Following graduation the unfinished hull traveled wherever he was assigned until restoration (reclamation?) was initiated about 8 years ago. Interest in our club was generated from discussions with Cliff at a Puyallup Model Expo.

Other current interests and activities include R/C airplanes and sailboats, volunteer math and science mentor at Tyee Middle School and Newport High School in Bellevue, engineering mentor for Kent-Meridian High School Robotics Club in Kent and until this past spring had been Technical Advisor and ship stability instructor for the North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association Safety Program.

Dave grew up in Northeast Ohio, prior to Coast Guard Academy entry. Following several years service he acquired a Masters degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at University of Michigan. He retired from the Coast Guard with 24 years active duty.

In the ensuing 30 years-plus, second careers have included production management with Marine Industries Northwest Inc. in Tacoma, design engineer with Marine Power and Equipment Co and engineering and management of Jensen Maritime Consultants Inc.

Dave and his wife Barbara were married in 1960 and have 4 children and 10 grand children, the later also part of his current activity.





## September Meeting Minutes by Dr. Ron

The meeting convened sharply at 1900 hours under the baton of our commander Allan Wing. New members introduced themselves: **Jim Davidson** owner of a 1 to 1 scale boat and interested in a smaller scale ; **Bob Spiger** in the process of building a Springer ; **Harve Mclemore** sailing his Amsterdam at the fun floats and in the process of ordering the Model Slipway Vielstroom, a buoy tender from the Netherlands. Allan announced the passing of **Sandy Chin**, wife of Dennis, and hostess of our many polo events at their pool.

**Ron Burchett** is in a Vancouver hospital with a nonfunctioning GI system thought to be related to pancreatitis. Cards were passed for sympathy and well wished comments. Lee mentioned that **Ed Maurer** is recovering in Overlake Hospital after an ankle fusion and that he will be in rehab for at least two weeks. He is not expected to be back in action until sometime in November.

Schedules of upcoming events were noted. The first event is the Fisherman's Festival on the 17th of September at the fisherman's terminal south and west of the Ballard bridge. They will have tents and tables set up for us located on the west end of the dock, close to parking and easy access. **Bob Jacobson** promoted his Lake Bob venue on Sunday the 18th with good eats, a silent auction of surplus and unwanted items, and a Springer contest run by Allan Kinsman. Bob will supply the burgers and beverages and the participants are asked to bring salads, deserts and snacks. The October fun float had to be rescheduled at the request of the Bellevue Park Department in order to facilitate a huge cancer fund raiser. The float will be the following Sunday on the 16th.

Other items of business included the announcement that election of officers needs to be held in November with nominations due by our next meeting in October. Allan said he will be retiring and Lee mentioned his interest in becoming President. Bob Wickman was nominated and seconded to be Vice President. Participants are needed for the best build award of the year and those entering the judging will have to bring their boats to the November meeting so Mike can judge them. Nominations for the Cliff Shaw award should be turned in to Phil Northrup, Ron Bray or Allan Wing by the November meeting. Criteria for this award will be mentioned in another section of this newsletter.

The December dinner meeting was brought up for discussion and **Tom Stevens** presented many points for having it at the Lucky Buffet near the Everett Mall, There is a great selection of menu items, a private room with a stage, screen and PA system, easy accessibility from the north and south, plenty of parking and a good price for food items and a free room, which is a great saving for the club and members. In the past those who paid in advance for the dinner and not able to attend were unable to get a refund. Some who can't make up their minds until the last minute will be able to merely show up, pay and enjoy, negating the worry of having enough members to satisfy the caterer. The suggestion was put to a vote and passed almost unanimously. Allan and Tom will make arrangements and give details at our next meeting.

**Dave White** brought in some brass 332 G scale rails to sell to members who wish to make cleats from them. He also announced that the **Shadducks** will be hosting another Garden Railway event and again are extending an invitation to us to run our boats on Lake Serene from noon to four. Those who attended last year had a great time. Contact Dave for directions and other particulars..

Allan gave Tom Stevens great accolades for rearranging the storage locker and for saving the day at Foss Cup. When Ron Burchett ended up in the hospital, Tom stepped in at the last minute to gather

up all the navigation props, tables, etc. and then helped set up the course along with Keith. He then hauled them back to the storage locker and he and Keith put them away. Thanks a ton Tom! Tom also suggested that we should occasionally meet at a member's workshop and perhaps consider some sort of bar B Q, buffet or pot luck.

Following the break the winning raffle tickets were announced with **Phil Northrup** winning a set of files, **Norm Hiatt** a knife and **Sam Stout** a T-shirt. **Ron Bray** led off the show and tell with his Calypso build, noting some of the shortcomings of Billings kits, notably the ABS hulls are of poor quality and subject to warping with any of the solvent glues, poor quality of the woods, but the fittings and laser cut parts are top notch. **Cliff Elowson** gave a detailed discussion of his Lindsey build with particular attention to the construction of the cage and wing. **Don Bowen** showed the progress of his Robbe fishing trawler build, which he purchased from the estate sale recently. He has visited several fishing boat wheel houses in order to garner specific details pertinent to his project. **Bob Wickham** brought in his super Springer build made from Russian Baltic birch. He installed twin belt drives located near the hull sides thereby leaving room in the middle for batteries, etc.. The brass triple rudders are a work of art and perform superbly. Wow, talk about a floating brick outhouse!

Tom Stevens said he didn't have a bent prop trophy but the award should go to Sam Stout and Ron Bray who sliced their fingers with some of the X-Acto blades Mel distributed earlier. Sam wrapped his cut with a towel and covered it with the finger of a rubber glove before going to the emergency room the next morning to have seven stitches placed.

The meeting concluded at 2040, but a few lingered for further discussions before heading into the dark towards home port.





# Views of Foss Cup 2011





# Additional Photos From the Month





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Allan Wing

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Dues are \$25.00 per year

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