



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers  
[www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)  
email to [info@shipmodelers.com](mailto:info@shipmodelers.com)

June 2025

## Look Ahead Events

### JULY

- 3 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 16 Twilight Float at Bellevue pond Sunset  
*Only boats with lights can run after dark.*
- 31 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm

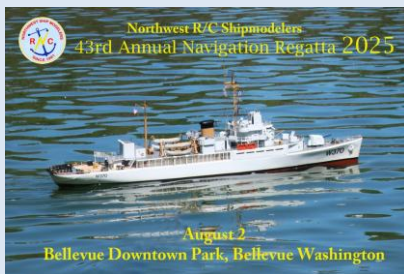
### AUGUST

- 2 NWRCSM's Navigation/Tug Boat Regatta  
8 am – 4 pm
- 17 BAMM Regatta
- 27 Twilight Float at Bellevue pond Sunset  
*Only boats with lights can run after dark.*
- 29-31 Olympia Harbor Days, see notice in newsletter.

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 13 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am
- 13 Fishermen's Fall Festival 11 am – 6 pm
- 27-28 Bellingham SeaFeast

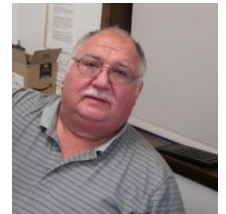
See more details in the expanded calendar section at the newsletter end.



Read more about members' projects.

## From the Bridge

Richard Lenington



We had very nice attendance at the meeting and fun float this month. There were 18 people at the meeting, and 15 Captains. Running boats of all types from a rowboat, sailboat, tugs, springers, pleasure craft, to great lakes oar boats. Very nice day with plenty of sun and a little wind.

I think we have all the positions filled for the regatta. Robert and Steve are working on the awards. Next month we will start to set the final needs. Also, we will need help to load the truck on Friday and unload the truck on Sunday.

Our Meeting is on July 3rd, and the only fun float is a Night float on the 16th . Those were the only dates we could get from the city.

## Some Club History Dates:

1981 - Northwest RC Ship Modelers Club started.  
(Having fun since 1981 motto).

1982 - Northwest RC Ship Modelers Navigation Regatta started. 2025 is the 43rd annual regatta.

2022 - Northwest RC Ship Modelers Tug Regatta started.  
2025 is our 4th annual TUG regatta

2021 - Foss Tug regatta ended.

## Meeting Minutes – June 5th, 2025

By Jon McCool

Photos by Robert Osmond & Paul Williams



Our skipper, **Richard Lennington**, got our June club meeting underway with a discussion of upcoming events and club business.

The club's regatta is coming soon and preparations are being made. Thank you to **Bryan Morse, Robert Newell, Robert Osman, Bob Spiger, Steve Sunich** and **Dave White** for accepting roles. More volunteers would be helpful to make this event fun for everyone.

On August 2nd, at Downtown Park in Bellevue, Washington, our big competition for the year will combine what once was two events:

The 43rd Annual Northwest RC Ship Modelers Navigation Regatta and  
The 4th Annual Northwest RC Ship Modelers Tugboat Regatta

The Navigation Regatta has been held every year (except for 2020) since 1982. Recently, the running of our navigation competition was held in June. The big change this year is that this event will be held in August, on the same day as the tugboat competition.

The Tugboat Regatta is similar to events held in the past. From 1996 to 2021, it was known as Pacific Northwest RC Tug Regatta. This competition was known in previous years as The Foss Cup. This year, the events will happen in the same place on the same day.

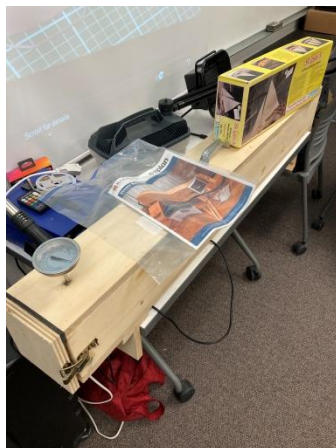
There will be awards for first, second, and third place in small, medium, and large classes for each competition. We will also include an award for overall top navigator!

Another upcoming event the club participates in is the Fishermen's Fall Festival in Seattle. It was brought to our attention that it was scheduled for the same day as the September fun float in Bellevue. A vote was held among attending club members. Some members wanted to go to Seattle and different members wanted to continue our regular Bellevue meetup. It was decided that there is enough interest for the club to go ahead with both. Saturday, September 13th will be a fun day. Make sure you attend one of these events!

Reminder: Sign up to attend events on the cell phone app, Meetup. The club is paying money for this account. Each member can sign up for free on the app with a cell phone. Once you have your own account, look for events hosted by Northwest Ship Modelers. Thank you **Klaus Bellon** for working on this.

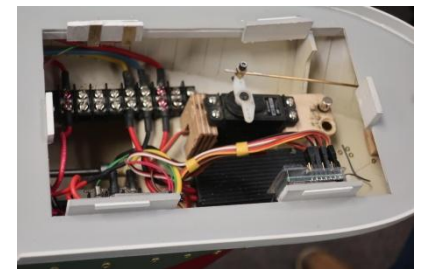
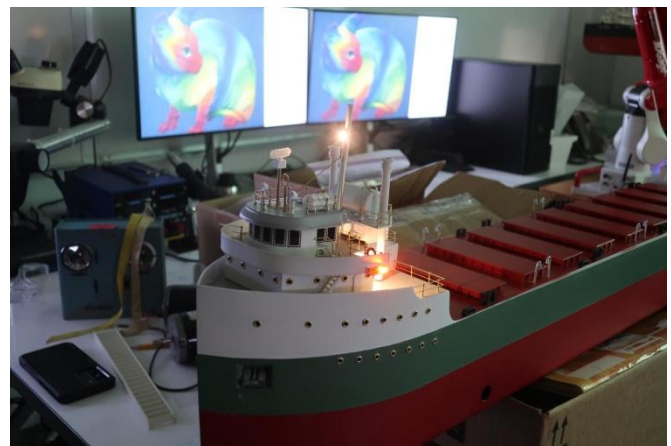
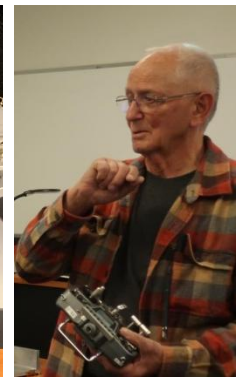
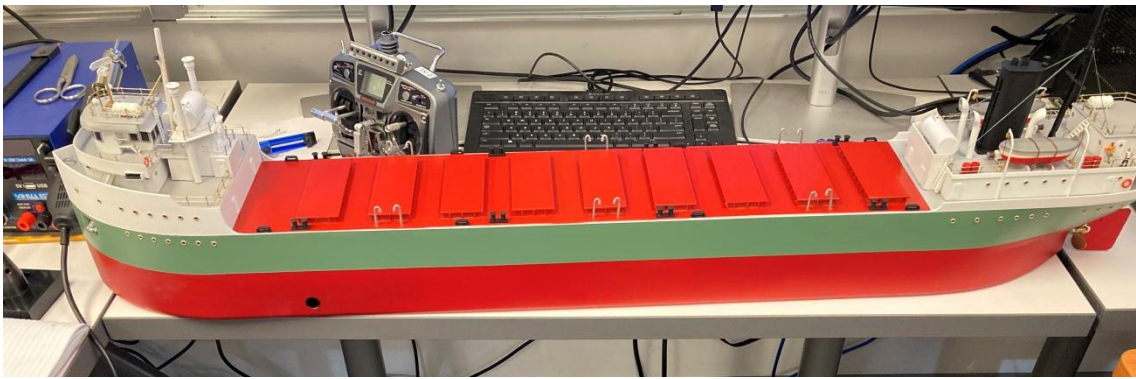
Announcement: Our long-time club newsletter editor, **Paul Williams**, will be resigning this position at the end of the year. Members interested in this job are encouraged to give it a try. Paul pitched the idea by telling us, "it's lots of fun!"

## Show and Tell



**Mike Gullikson** brought a hydroplane hull in progress and a new tool to help him put it together. To soften and put the bend into the basswood stringers, Mike built a steam box. The steam box is 50 inches long, 6 inches wide and 6 inches tall. It is assembled from the Rockler Steam Bending Kit. The hydroplane model is a kit from MLBoatworks.com. When it is all done the boat will be a scale model of the 1974 Valu-Mart ready for competition with another club, Puget Sound Fast Electrics.





Robert Wickham was showing a beautifully constructed Great Lakes freighter built from the Dumas kit. He added lights, a turning radar antenna, a bow thruster, and equipped the ship with switches from Turnigy. Also, he installed a Pittman motor that runs well and is "quite quiet" when compared to the Dumas motor. With all of the electronics, Robert warned us that RF interference is an issue and a common ground is important.



Robert Osman brought the Great Lakes freighter that he built from scratch. He built his *EM Ford* ship when he still lived in Texas. Robert brought three books to share that he used to research the topic of Great Lakes ore freighters.





**Steve Sunich** gave us an update on his work-of-art-in-progress, the tugboat/yacht *St. Eva*. The hull paint is now on. He showed us a very convincing chrome on the funnel that he achieved using Krylon spray paint and avoiding the messy and costly chroming process otherwise needed to get the right look.



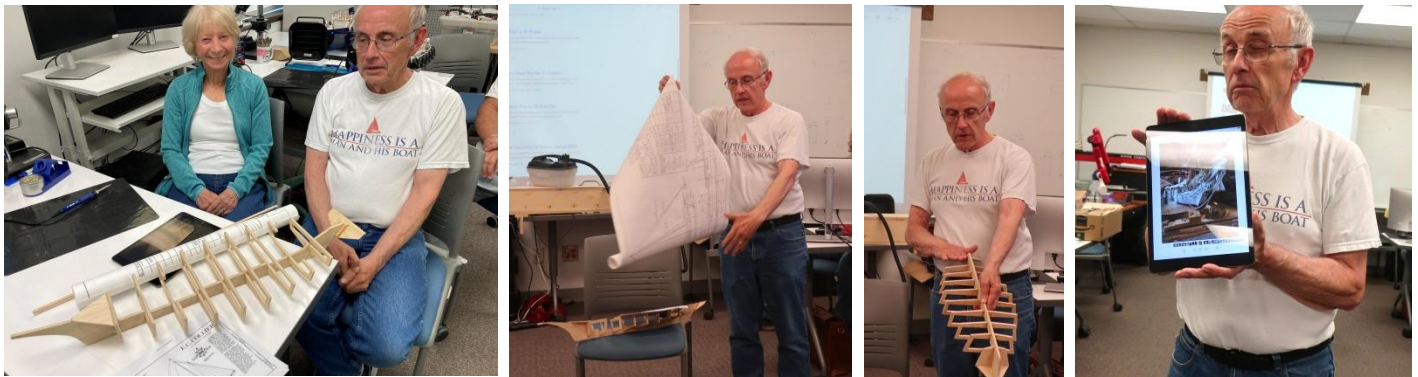
**Jon McCool** showed how he is overhauling his Springer tug, *Coolwind*. The tug has been using a nice brushless motor from Zippkits.com since 2022. Nice as it was, to compete in Springer polo in this club, a bigger motor was needed. He installed a brushed 500-size motor he got from Robert Osman, who also provided help and guidance with the project.



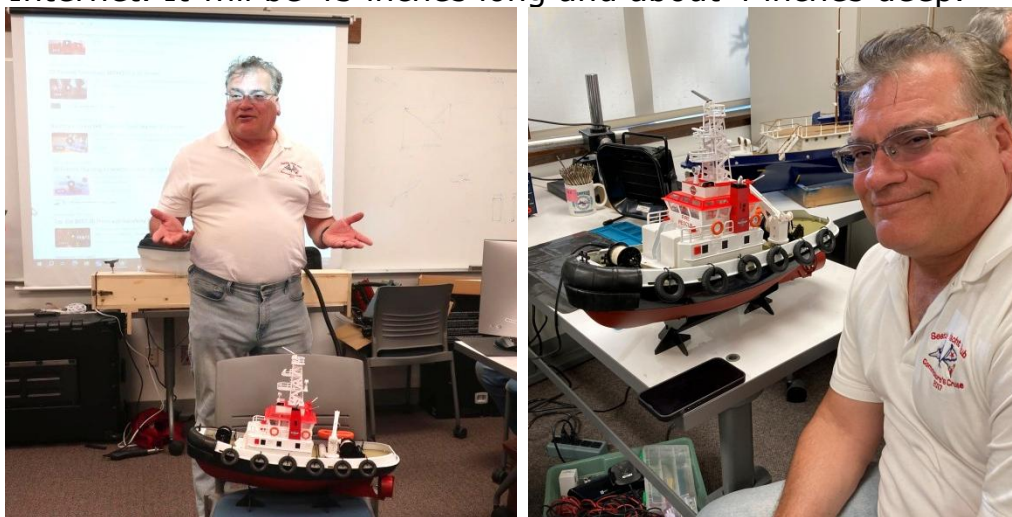
**Chris Merrill** revealed that he is also "known to be a drone person." The new addition to his squadron is an underwater drone called Chasing Dory. It is a camera drone that dives down to explore the deep- where the rest of us try to avoid. He also has acquired a small, manta-ray-shaped vessel that glides on the surface with a camera on the bottom of the hull.



Paul Williams talked about picking up a five foot long LED colored light strip with a remote control for \$3.00 at Dollar Tree store. It is fun to experiment with!



Allen Wing brought the completed frame of a Chesapeake Skipjack that he is building. He plans to skin the boat with 1/8 inch plywood. Allen is building the boat from plans found on the Internet. It will be 45 inches long and about 4 inches deep.



Bob Brown told us the story behind his new boat. He told us he has a new boat because, "like potato chips, you can't have just one."

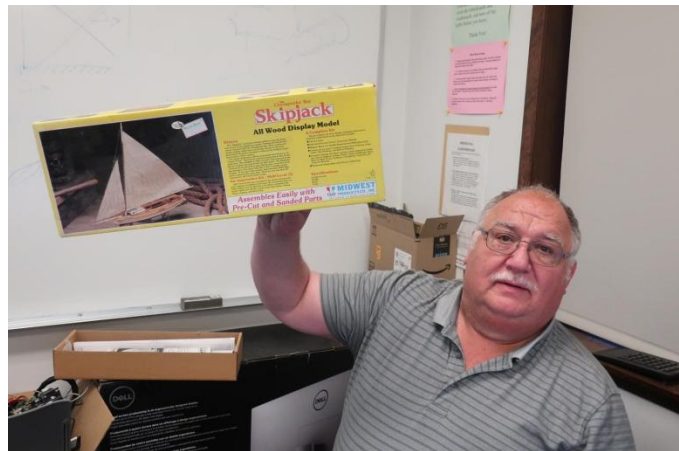
It started with a purchase of the Motion RC Heng Long Harbor Tug. He was unhappy with the radio and motor and looked into sending it back. He decided to customize instead and added a 500 size motor from Harbor Models, a Kort nozzle and then painted



it to match the colors used by the Seattle Fire Department. The name Four Heroes is in honor of the four firefighters who lost their lives fighting the Mary Pang fire in 1995.



Richard Goodrich, Robert Osman, and Patrick Plueard brought items to share with club members and Jon McCool walked away with the raffle prize: the Midwest Products Skipjack model kit.





## Fun Float June 7th, 2025

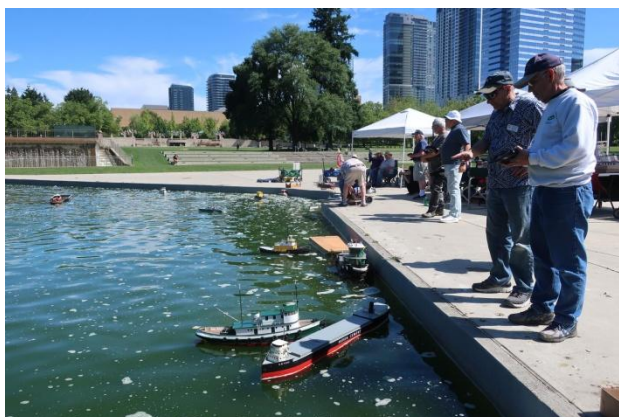
By Robert Osmond

Photos by: Robert Osmond



Fifteen intrepid skippers braved the warm temperature and glare of a large glowing ball of gas in the sky to make this the first Fun Float this year that was not cool. Oh well, summer must come sometime even if it is towards the end of the first week in JUNE.

It was astounding that when we arrived at 9:00 am on a sunny, warm summer day there were EIGHT empty parking places, which is unheard of at the Downtown Bellevue Park, it was a lot better than waiting for space as is typical. *We lucked out.*



Everyone was leisurely motoring around the pond except for a small orange jet drive boat and a couple of PT type boats that kept the green water stirred up for the ducks to have lunch on algae.





Allan Wing was running his stalwart vintage *Henery Foss*. I was running my *E. M. Ford* Great Lakes ore boat, and Pacific. The *Toe Boat* radio refused to stay bound, so it stayed on the side lines. Cedric Wong had his *Kormoran* buoy tender adding aids to navigation. Robert Newell had is *Soul* captained by Joe Gardner, trying to not make a wake, then flying off across the pond. Marge Newell was running *Steam Boat Willy*. Kevin Nolet had his non leaking *Sarah E* large tug waiting for call to ship assist. Chris Merrill had is small orange water jet boat and PT boats stirring up the water to try to get rid of the bubbles on the water surface. A thankless job but someone has to do it (also impossible with so many bubbles floating on the pond). David Zanzig had his just finished lovely 30's mahogany runabout *Betty M*, and his intrepid rower in his rowboat with a picnic basket in the bow ready to find a picturesque place to have lunch and his *Carol E* tug. Pat Plueard, I believe, was running one or two springers, not sure though. Richard Goodrich was running his well outfitted small salvage springer. Harlan Winslow from Port Angeles had his *Lakota Transport Co. barge* and tug trying to give the ducks a ride. Bryan Morse was running his cabin cruiser and *Lord Nelson* Victory Tug, his go to boat when he is not playing Polo. Bob Brown was running (Sorry I did not note his boat or get a photo). Richard Lenington was running his springer and sail boat (I did not see it much, I was working on my *Toe Boat* most of the time, with a binding error). It should be noted that he chose to come and be with our group even though his Fast Boat buddies were running in Snohomish. His dedication was appreciated.





We ran our boats till after 11:00 am enjoying the fellowship and captain's talk.

Members: John McCool, Chris Merrill, Pat Plueard with his blue and white Shelly Foss and red, yellow, blue springer? Also Richard Goodrich with his salvage tug, Kevin Nolet, Richard Lenington, Marge Newell, Robert Newell, Bob Brown, Cedric Wong, Brian Morse, David Zanzig, Allan Wing, Me, Harlan Winslow.

## May's Mystery Boat Photo By William K Schemerhorn

In the May edition of the newsletter on page four Robert Osmond provided a couple old club photos of a shallow draft push tug. Well, let it be known that that model is one of mine made in the early 1990's. The model is of the 74 foot tunnel hulled river tug "Bear" named after one of the lakes it would pass through on the way to the arctic. It is in 1/24th scale and completely scratch built from drawings obtained from the



Whatcom Museum of History and Art. Construction was mostly balsa wood then covered with Plastruct on the decks and house. The model was powered by a 12 volt motors with the 1-inch props located in tunnels. This was following the prototypes design that would allow it to operate in shallow rivers. As unique as this model was, it was under powered even though I did run it at a couple tug events (won an honorary award at the Seaspan cup in 1996). The model resides with me to this day in my office.

This is a photo is of a younger me prepping the boat for a run.

**Some history of the real vessel.**

The boat was designed in 1939 by Coolidge and Hansen of Seattle (latter became known as Elliot Bat Design) by Mr. Hansen. The construction for this, and one other like it was started in 1940 Saint Louis where the boats were built in halves. They were then barged up the Mississippi river to Michigan where they would join the two halves together. From there they would transit the great lakes to Canada where they would travel up Canada’s McKenzie River on their way to the Arctic to be used in transporting equipment for oil exploration. On the way up, there was a detour where the boats could not transit some rapids. So they loaded them onto trailers, trucked 70 mile around the rapids, before going back into the river where they would continue their journey. This journey would never be finished as they were as far as they could go in 1941 when winter set in. The trip was to continue the following spring. But the outbreak of war late in 1941 meant the end of the expedition for oil in the far north. I have little other information as to what happened with the boats after that time.



## Olympia Harbor Days

A poster for the Olympia Harbor Days event. At the top center is a circular logo for the Olympia Harbor Days Association, featuring a ship and the text "OLYMPIA HARBOR DAYS" and "EST. 1974". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links: HOME, TUGBOATS &amp; VESSELS, HISTORY EXHIBITS, VENDORS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORT &amp; SPONSORS, LODGING &amp; PARKING, CONTACT. The main text in the center reads "OLYMPIA HARBOR DAYS" in red, followed by the dates and times: "FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025 5:00 PM - 9:30 PM", "SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2025 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM", and "SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM". At the bottom, it lists awards: "A SOUTH SOUND MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION EVENT", "WINNER OF THE BEST SOUTH PUGET SOUND EVENT OF 2022 BY THE WASHINGTON FESTIVALS AND EVENTS ASSOCIATION", and "AND WINNER OF THE BEST FESTIVAL BY SOUTH SOUND MAGAZINE 2023 BEST OF AWARDS".

NWRCSM will have a table with Keith Schermerhorn’s float display. Vic Lanza’s family also sets up several tents with his boats displayed and a small pond for running their boats. For more information about our display area, please contact Keith.



## 2025 Northwest Radio Control Ship Modelers Events Calendar

*Remaining "???" dates and times will be listed as the year progresses. (Updated 6/25/25)*

### JANUARY

- 2 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

### MARCH

- 1-2 Miniature Show - [www.seattleminiatureshow.com](http://www.seattleminiatureshow.com)
- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

### APRIL

- 3 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 5 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 10 NW Hobby Expo - Pond Setup 9 or 10 am
- 11 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe Noon to 6 pm
- 12 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 6 pm
- 13 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 3 pm
- 30 Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day Fun Float 9 to 2 Wednesday

### MAY

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 14 **Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park** **Sunset** Only boats with lights can run after dark.

### JUNE

- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 7 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 7-8 Anacortes Waterfront Festival (See their website for times)

### JULY

- 3 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 16 **Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park** **Sunset** Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- 31 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm

### AUGUST

- 2 **NWRCSM's Navigation/Tug Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm
- 17 BAMM Regatta See [www.bammrc.com](http://www.bammrc.com) for details.
- 27 **Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park** **Sunset** Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- 29-31 Olympia Harbor Days -- See [www.harbordays.com](http://www.harbordays.com) for details.

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 13 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 13 Fishermen's Fall Festival 11 am – 6 pm
- 27-28 Bellingham SeaFeast (See their website for times)

### OCTOBER

- 2 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 4-5 Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show (See their website for times)

### NOVEMBER

- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

### DECEMBER

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 PM
- 6 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

You are welcome to contact us by email at [info@shipmodelers.com](mailto:info@shipmodelers.com) and attend one of our meeting or fun floats.

### The Facility Makerspace





Our meeting location is in part of the Edmonds Community College buildings (Monroe Hall) located at:

6606 196<sup>th</sup> Street SW.  
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

Meetings are the first Thursday of the Month. More information on this facility can be found at

<https://facilitymade.com/>



2025 Club Officers		
	<b>President:</b> Richard Lenington	<b>Webmaster:</b> Allan Wing
	<b>Vice President:</b> Jon McCool	<b>Skagit R/C Meeting Contact:</b> Keith Schermerhorn
	<b>Treasurer:</b> Dave White	<b>YouTube &amp; Meetup Master:</b> Klaus Bellon
	<b>Membership Database:</b> Bryan Morse	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b> Paul Williams

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Photo by Darlene Wing

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**The Facility Makerspace**  
6606 196<sup>th</sup> Street SW.  
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

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