



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

**JUNE 2015**

## Upcoming Events

### June

13 **NWRCSM REGATTA**  
Bellevue Pond 8:30 AM—4  
PM

18 Coffee/fun float at Bellevue  
Pond 10:00—Noon

27 Night Float—Bellevue Pond

### July

July 2 Monthly Meeting at  
Galaxy Hobby 7:00 PM

July 11 Fun Float Bellevue  
Pond 9:00 to 1:00

July 25 TIDEWATTER CUP  
CANCELLED

### August

Aug 6 Monthly Meeting at  
Galaxy Hobby 7:00 PM

Aug 8 Fun Float Bellevue  
Pond 9:00 to 1:00

Aug 8 TUALATIN REGATTA

Aug 15 TUG CHAMPION  
SHIPS Bellevue  
Pond 9AM—4 PM

**SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE  
SCHEDULE INFORMATION**

**OR**

**VISIT OUR ONLINE CALEN-  
DAR ON OUR WEBSITE.**



## **View From The Bridge, Scott Baumann**

June has finally arrived, and with it the busiest burst of activity pond-side (or lake-side, depending on just where we end up in future months). When you read this, we will have had a great running day at the Fun Float in Bellevue Downtown Park. We have also put in an appearance at the Anacortes Festival. Next up is the June Regatta on Saturday, the thirteenth. Come early in the morning with your sun canopies and sunscreen. If today is repeated, it will be a hot day by the pond...

But don't forget to charge your batteries afterward, because the Eighteenth is the third Thursday, where during the summer we celebrate with our normal coffee and doughnuts at 10:00 a.m. at the Bellevue Pond instead of at Galaxy Hobby. And then, to make as much use as we can of Downtown Park while we still have access to it, we will celebrate with a twilight float at 8 p.m., June 27<sup>th</sup> at the same park. After that, who knows? We will just have to play it by ear and use the park as much as the construction progress allows us to.

Club members were put on notice recently when Mel Suelzle announced that he was now actively building his first (AND LAST!) live steam launch. He is currently descending into the dark hell of the world of boilers, fuel selection, throttles, pressure valves, safety valves, pressure testing, certifying, oilers, pressure gauges, reversing valves, etc. none of which seem compatible with each other requiring multiple adapters to allow

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## Meeting June 4th - Dr Ron

Photos by Allan Wing

On a beautiful spring evening our commodore, **Scott Bauman**, started the meeting with show and tell first off so members could discuss the projects with the presenters during the break. Twenty five members were in attendance.



**Roger Lyons** displayed his newly constructed boat stand for his Coast Guard Cutter which is under construction. The stand is beautifully crafted out of basswood to reflect a functioning graving dock. He announced that his South Hampton Tug is for sale.

**Dave White** brought in a Mid West boiler and oscillating steam engine and discussed its shortfalls and how to correct them. He advocates extra piping and an alcohol burner. He discussed a special prop-rudder assembly enabling one to reverse the direction without reversing the engine rotation. (Kitschner assembly?) He also showed an oiler which will provide lubrication to the engine. Discussion regarding boiler testing was entertained noting that most of the boilers from the UK were tested before being shipped.



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**Robert Osmond** brought in flexible sandpaper which can be purchased at Lowes and can be used wet or dry (Sandblaster Pro). He showed a 50 amp automotive relay requiring 1/20<sup>th</sup> of an amp to activate. One must be careful to make sure that the wiring diagram is on the relay to ascertain correct connections. The rebuild modifications of an Atlantic RTR were demonstrated. Bulwarks were built up and scuppers added, an adjustable aluminum motor mount and universals from Harbor Models were displayed.

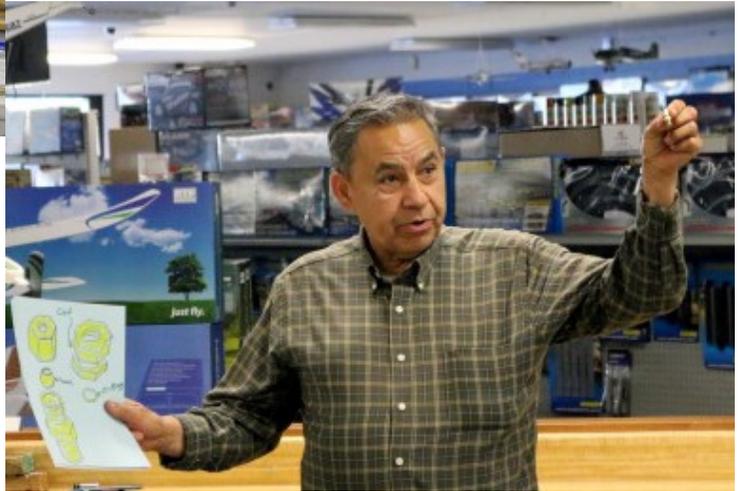
**Phil Northrup** showed progress he has made on the barge crane he is constructing.





**Bryan Morse** brought in his Dumas Dauntless model which is now sealed with shafts, struts and props attached. He plans to power it with twin speed 850s. Since he lives in an apartment he is contemplating a vertical stand to take up less room. **Dr Ron** showed the mold lifted from the plug he brought in last month which is now ready to lay up a hull having 7 coats of parting wax and an application of PVA.

**Tom Stevens** showed drawings of his rendition of rudder tubes and shaft logs much like what are on the large boats. He also discussed the advantages and physics of a fish tail rudder. He suggested making boat lifts from serpentine belts which can be obtained from automotive shops. He suggests using two





## WESTERN TOWBOAT TOUR - Mel Suelzle

On May 19th about a dozen members and wives attended the Western Towboat tour set up by Al Kinsman. While waiting for members to arrive our host Ric Shrewsberry showed off his beautiful Model A. Once we were fully formed, Ric took us through all the shops used to perform maintenance and manufacturing tasks for Western's growing fleet of tugs.

Everyone one was impressed by the extensive manufacturing and machining capabilities of the yard and the extensive spare parts inventory necessary to keep their fleet up and running. One warehouse area housed no fewer than 15 diesel tug engines I can only classify and big, bigger and biggest.



After the shop/warehouse touring, we ventured out to the docks and had a great tour of one of their larger and newer tugs. Everyone was high impressed with the near like new appearing of their tugs. Their boats are designed to work well, last a long time and their crews take great pride in keeping them in top notch condition. A dockside inspection by Bob Shrewsberry of returning tugs also helps the crews keep focus. Everyone enjoyed the tour very much. We appreciate Ric and Western's hospitality in mak-



**Ric explains the controls and features of the pilot house.**



## From the Bridge (cont)

Remember, Mel, what happened a month ago.? Four and a half hours to raise steam... Robert Osmond, Lee Stewart, and David Green, our resident live steam experts, chimed in and harmonized with, "You'll be SORRY!"

But like Ahab in his quest for the white whale, Mel seems to oblivious to constructive advice, and is determined to succeed, or go down trying. Good luck, Mel, and we'll keep the rescue tug ready...

Speaking of Mel, today we had the running of our third Springer or Polo event in as many months. This has been a particular project of Robert Osmond. These events have waned at our club get-togethers in recent years for unknown reasons. Robert has single-handedly spurred on a resurgence of these competitions. He has even constructed several polo boats for other club members to use. And Boy! Are the games ever fun. As one of the lesser-skilled participants, my head has been left spinning as I try to figure out: Where is the ball activity currently, where is my boat, where do I want my boat to be in the next three or five seconds, which way to I want to turn to get to there, Arrgh! I turned the wrong way and gave it throttle in the wrong direction, how do I recover? And just when I get the boat going in the right direction, it is usually to see Mel Suelzle sailing blithely through the goal posts pushing the soccer ball. How does he do it? It's like magic!

*EDITOR NOTE: There is no "magic". All the credit goes to the boat builder, the late Earl Anderson.. I just get to be the care taker . Both Dave White and myself were wise to place the winning bins when Earl's boats came up for auction. Surely Earl smiles each time one of his boats takes the ball through the goal. - Mel*

So, get your Regatta boats in perfect running condition. Strategize on the optimum operating plan, and prepare mentally for the course. Skippers will be expected to run at appropriate speeds and use the wind to make smooth dockings. Jerky speeds or wandering headings should be avoided, but appropriate speed and heading changes will be expected. Making most heading and speed changes very gradual will be rewarded. Smart skippering will win every time!

Remember the upcoming events. We have a whole summer ahead of us, Having Too Much Fun!

## GUESS WHO

**FROM THE ARCHIVES OF AN ANONYMOUS MEMBER WHO CONTRIBUTED THIS MYSTERY PHOTO OF ONE OF OUR MEMBERS.**

NOTE—WHILE THE PENGUIN SEEMS CONCERNED FOR THE MOTIVES OF HIS HANDLER, HAD HE KNOWN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EMBLEM ON HIS HAT, HIS FEARS MIGHT HAVE BEEN LESSONED.



# GET READY FOR THE REGATTA

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- ⇒ *Registration will open at 8:30 am.*
- ⇒ *Skippers will pick up registration sheets and record the boats they want to enter in the regatta. Fill in details on each boat size, propulsion details*
- ⇒ You may enter up to 4 boats as A,B, C or D priority. Remember all “A” boats will run first and the “B” boats will run second etc. So, BOAT A should be the boat you want to run first. B second and time permitting you will run your C & D boats.
- ⇒ *Returning to registration to pickup Navigation and/or Scale Judging sheets for each model being registered. Pay registration fee of \$5 for each boat.*
- ⇒ Complete the top sections of all judging forms (3 scale and 1 navigation) for each registered boat. Give forms to judges when requested. If you choose not to participate in scale judging, only the navigation form needs to be filled out.
- ⇒ Attend skipper meeting at 9:30
- ⇒ **Have a fantastic fun day at he pond**

## Regatta Schedule (times are approx)

**9:30 Skippers Meeting**

**10:00 Navigation course opens – Scale judging begins**

**12:00 Lunch for all skippers and guests**

**12:30 Navigation competition resumes**

**3:00 Navigation course closes**

**3:30 Raffle Prize Drawing**

**4:00 Awards Presentation**

**4:30 Regatta Concludes**

## 2015 REGATTA SPONSORS

Here is a listing of our main contributors to our 2015 Regatta Raffle Prizes. Proceeds from this raffle pay for the majority of our regatta expenses. Member are encouraged to patronize these companies and/or offer your thanks and support for their support of our club.

**WESTERN TOWBOAT Co.**



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## NORTHEND NOTES FROM KEITH SCHERMERHORN



Summer time weather makes the 2015 Anacortes Waterfront Festival a great place to be displaying models for the 2 day event. Many thanks to all that came out to support our efforts by bringing boats or even stopping in to visit. We had a great time talking with the many visitors that admired the balanced display of tugs, pleasure, work, and other vessels.



Ken Strickland brought his big freighter finished in mahogany along that gathered many a persons attention. Wayne Martin had his crew of classic work boats lined up and looking good. Randy filled in space with the Suzy and his little car ferry that captured the kids attention with the Chevron cars on board. Keith had a few tugs, yachts (includes a Redneck one), and the new purse seiner on hand.

Sunday, Mel and his grandson Tim came up with some tugs, a Chris Craft, and the new fish tender. Most had time to take in other activities at the festival ( boat rides, car show, vendors booths) but the most favorite as always---- enjoying the festival

food. We were happy with the long lines of people that would be in front looking at the models, but they were also waiting to spin the wheel at the casino booth next to us! Another advantage to this event was that it was at the harbor. One could take some time to walk the docks and possibly be inspired a new project since there were several different vessels in the harbor this weekend. If you wanted to see some full size vessels, you could head down to Dakota

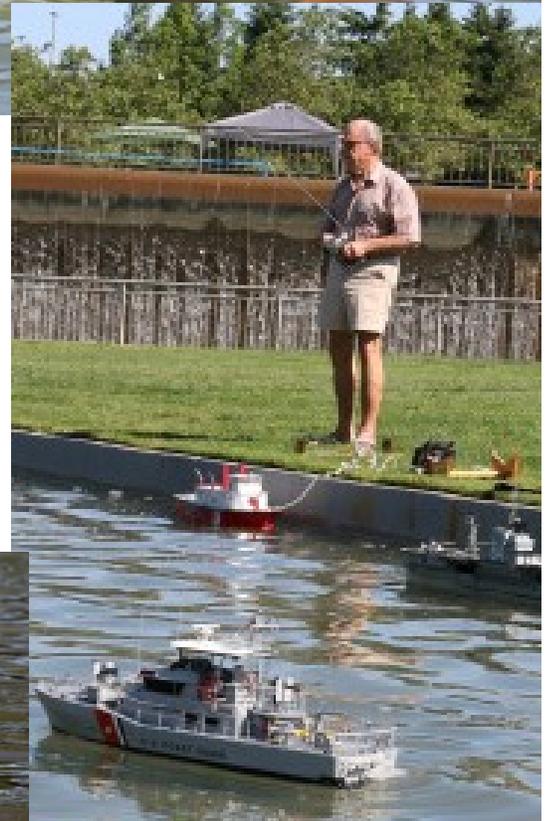


Creek Shipyards and see some unique boats being built or worked on and in the water. Over all, this was a good weekend to be in the North Sound enjoying some of the best of the Northwest.



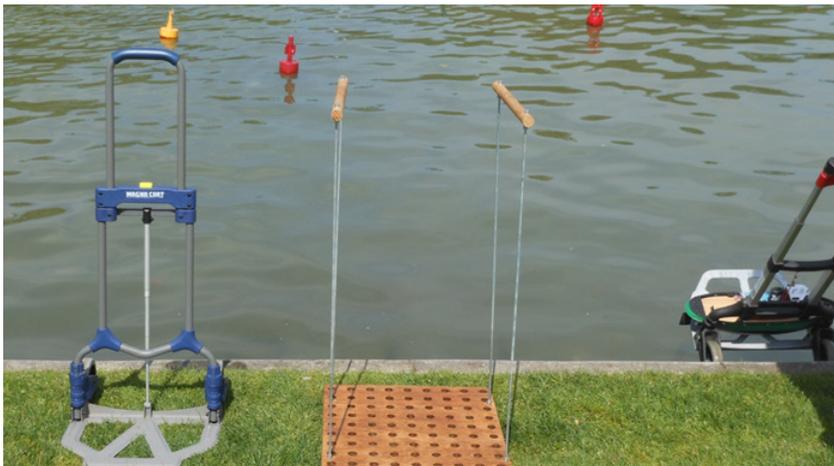
A good showing of members were out on Saturday June 6th for the fun float and polo match. Everyone practiced their navigation skills in preparation for the regatta next week end,. However not everyone was successful in this event. One skipper was a little inattentive while his boat ventured onto one of the islands. After the appropriate number of photos, some tugs were allowed to help get the beached boat back in deep water. On schedule Robert Osmond called the polo event to begin. 8 skippers and boats took to the course to satisfy their need for speed and destruction.

Several matches were held with flag drawings for either the red team or white time. It was definitely the day for those carrying the white flags. Lot of spectators watched the event and enjoyed the competition. Thanks to Robert for his work in rejuvenating this fun event.



**MORE PHOTOS next page**

## More Fun Float Photos



### HELP FOR “OLD MAN KNEES” - Scott Bauman

Now, many of you may share a common malady with me – knees that are not as young as they used to be. You, like me, may find it just a little bit challenging to lean over a pond with a ten-pound boat in hand and gently deposit it into the water without inadvertently and embarrassingly entering same yourself.

Now, some of you might have already devised alternative processes for yourself. They might include launching sticks and matching eyelets on your boats, or slings that fit around the hull and cradle it on its journey into wetness. Or, you could be Steve Sunich, who commissioned a custom aluminum-framed wheeled launching cart patterned after one seen in “Model Boat” magazine. Extreme, you think? Well, if you ever struggled to lower a 20+ kilo high technology tug model into the drink, you might not think so.

I digress. Do you see the two launchers above? They weren't my idea. In fact, I never produce great ideas. But when I see a great idea, I compliment the originator publicly, and copy it. Al Kinsman made the perforated grid and all-thread launcher first. And the folding dolly idea came from David Green, seen using one like it on the right. I will often bring these to on-the-pond functions. **THEY ARE NOT FOR MY USE ONLY.** If you see them, and want to give your knees a break, please make use of these to launch your craft. They are there for you. Be kind to Old Men's Knees!

## 2015 NW R/C Ship Modelers Schedule

June 13	NWRCSM REGATTA	Bellevue Pond	9AM—4 PM
June 18	Coffee/fun float at Bellevue Pond		10:00—Noon
June 27	Night Fun Float	at Bellevue Pond	time TBA
July 2	Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby		7:00 PM
July 11	Fun Float	Location TBD	9:00 to 1:00
July 25	TIDEWATTER CUP		CANCELLED
August 6	Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby		7:00 PM
August 8	Fun Float	Bellevue Pond	9:00 to 1:00
August 8	TUALATIN REGATTA		
August 15	TUG CHAMPIONSHIPS	Location TBD	9AM—4 PM
September 3	Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby		7:00 PM
September 5	Fun Float	Location Bellevue Pond	9:00 to 1:00
September 17	Coffee/fun float	Bellevue Pond	10:00—Noon
September	Fisherman's Memorial	Fisherman's Terminal	11—6PM
October 1	Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby		7:00 PM
October 3	Fun Float	Bellevue Pond	9:00 to 1:00
November 5	Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby		7:00 PM
November 7	Fun Float	Location TBD	9:00 to 1:00
December 3	Christmas Dinner—Spaghetti Factory—Lynnwood		

Dusty Graham of the Skagit group offers up this solution for those skippers that need a little help navigating these days.



## CLASSIFIED SECTION



Rog Lyons would like to sell his South Hampton this Ready to Run model has many enhancements including, a 2x12RC Sabertooth controller, two 540 motors, new shaft stuffing tubes & props. A 4 channel 2.4 receiver, that also runs a fan for cooling. Manual switch for a radar & 3 nav lights and a 7.4v LiPo battery. \$300 (no transmitter or charger included)

Those interested can contact Rog directly at [lyons44@gmail.com](mailto:lyons44@gmail.com) or 206-243-9771

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