



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers  
**March 2016**

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 3 Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 PM
- 5 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 10:00 to 2:00

**12 Polo Springer Match Dennis Chinn residence  
 10:00 to Noon**

### April

- 7 Monthly Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 PM
- 9 Fun Float/Springer Contest Location Bellevue Pond 9:00 to 1:00
- 23 Twilight Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 7 PM

### May

- 4 Seattle Yacht Club Fun Float 9 am – 3 pm
- 5 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7:00 PM
- 7 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Pond 9am
- 19 Coffee Float Bellevue Pond



## From the Bridge

Spring is sprouting! As is my seasonal hay fever! To paraphrase Winston Churchill, this is the end of the building season, and the start of the running season. We return to the Bellevue

Pond for the Fun Float on Saturday, and will be operating there unless construction stops us later this year. We can look forward to much fun running, but there is also a caution that has arisen that could affect us...

Get your models ready for fun and games this year. We have Fun Floats March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. We have Springer and polo events March 12<sup>th</sup> (at Dennis Chin's) and April 9<sup>th</sup> (Fun Float). April 23<sup>rd</sup> we have scheduled a Twilight Float, before the sunsets get so late that it becomes impractical. And the glorious month of May has us busy with the Seattle Yacht Club Opening Week float, the Fun Float, and the first Thursday Coffee Float. Not to mention warming up for the great June Regatta on the fourth. Lots of fun to be had. We are also listing the Portland clubs' Memorial Day float down in Tualatin in the 28<sup>th</sup>. We haven't participated in this event in the past, but that club is a good bunch of guys, and we are invited to join them.

A couple of our club members paid their 2016 dues during the meeting. I want to personally thank them for the gesture. Just as we drink out of the community coffee pot at our morning meetings at Galaxy Hobbies, putting our annual dues into the "pot" further brings us together in our common hobby. That leaves us only a half-dozen members that have yet to rejoin. Thank you, guys!

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## Monthly Meeting March 3rd - Mel Suelzle for Dr Ron

Captain Scott called the meeting to relative order at 7pm. A good crowd was on hand to make the meeting lively and interactive with all the demonstrations.

Show 'n tell kicked off the meeting starting with VP **Dave White**. Dave showed off his newly acquired steam plant he plans to power an African Queen model that came with the steam plant.

Following Dave was **Phil Northrup** who gave a report on a new "servo slow" module he acquired at Hobby Expo. The unit is manufactured by EMS and controls the speed of 3 servos. A single rate can be set for all three servos. One servo is reversed from the other two. The module performed nicely with a smooth rotation that will operate the 3 turrets on Phil's new war ship.



Next Robert Osmond took the stage with an array of model boat projects and demonstrations. Robert was testing his power system in a new freighter. Having a single screw and both bow and stern thrusters. Note the orientation of the motor shaft necessary to make room for the stern thruster.

This model also features a Becker rudder that Robert made from scratch. Robert circulated photo of some of the more unusual rudders being used on modern freighters.

Robert also addressed the modifications he has and will make to one of his model tugs



Robert presented a number of tips he uses on his modeling projects:

- ⇒ When cutting styrene, consider using a drywall/utility knife instead of a Xacto knife. Utility knife blades are sharp, inexpensive and less flexible when cutting a straight line.
- ⇒ Robert also showed a straight edge he uses that has a guard to prevent injuries when cutting plastic and wood with sharp blades.
- ⇒ Wooden clothes pins make good clamps and can be cut to fit places that conventional clamps won't.
- ⇒ Robert demonstrated a tool that scores plastic well and facilitates clean breaks in plastic.

Robert Wickham spoke about some of the issues he encountered while trying to use a single proportional channel to be used for rudder control OR rotating his search light. He has tried switching power to the servos with marginal success. Next he will try switching only the signal leads.

Tom Stevens took the floor and showed his wide array of miniature power tools he uses. These are European made, operate on 12VDC and are available from Micro-mart. Tom also showed a unique use of chop sticks. By attaching them to Robert's wooden clothes pins, he can make clamps that have a very loooooonng reach.



Mel suggested members with smart phones check out the Handyman Calculator App. This app has a couple of hundred calculators for every imaginable situation. Many are useful to models, e.g. Lots of electrical and LED calculations, conversions from metric to standard to fractions, tap and drill tables etc.etc, etc

Captain Scott concluded the meeting with a couple of business items. Mel reviewed the terms and coverage of our SSMA Insurance and reviewed the recently added site coverage for Lake Ballinger, Tualatin and Century Link venues.

Mel also pointed out the our recent reservation information from Bellevue specifically states that users of the park should not harass the ducks.

Captain Scott declared the meeting adjourned about 8:30 and all members departed for their home ports.



## February 20th Fun Float By Robert Osmond



The first unofficial Fun Float of 2016 at the newly filled Bellevue pond took place Feb. 20th at 6:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Six intrepid mariners attended. The pond was clean and water was clear and no "quackers" were present. The boats all ran well enough, though Al's Chris Craft type cruiser did decide to stay at speed and go in circles until Bill with his mighty Crowley tug herded it to shore. The weather was brisk but sunny.

I hope the ducks stay away. When we were using the pond in the 90's there were not any ducks which kept the water cleaner and boats and their props cleaner. I hope it is as nice this coming Saturday for our Fun Float in Bellevue.





The Skagit club is still having meetings on the first Monday of each month. Smaller crowd lately, but then the weather hasn't been good for those nights for some. Discussions on this month's gathering included a new member asking questions and getting information for his first build.

Welcome to the fun **Darrell Klineman**. His interest is in a tug, something like what his father worked on. Discussed some possible activities including a visit to Morrie's museum up in Sedro Wooley to see his collection of everything later this summer. Just have to work with his schedule and trying for a weekend/potluck gathering so those that have to travel can do it in the day light.

Waterfront festival is coming up in June, but we didn't have any information at this time. Show and tell consisted of Keith showing different windows installed in a couple of models. Also showed of the graphics for another fish boat. Callies Graphics does an amazing job replicating exactly what was needed from a photo and measurements. Besides the graphics, the deck staining to weather the deck was discussed. For this a simple solution of white vinegar and a SOS pad( no soap) was used. You place the SOS pad in the vinegar ( I used a large pill bottle half filled with vinegar) and let it soak over night so that it should dissolve the pad. Then, you just dab a sponge or other material into the solution and wipe the wood. I use a few coats to get the desired effect. For better results, I would recommend using Apple cider vinegar as the acidic content will really dissolve the steel wool better in the SOS pad and accelerate the darkening of the aging process.

Not much more to report on other than hope to see more people and projects under way at the next meeting.

## **CLASSIFIED SECTION**

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Have something you want to sell or buy? Send a brief summary of your ad to: **newsletter-editor@shipmodelers.com** . Include a photo if needed. Newsletter deadlines are the Sunday following the first Thursday of the month. Items received after this date will be published the following month. Be sure and include an email or phone number. Include a photo if needed. Newsletter deadlines are the Sunday following the first Thursday of the month. Items received after this date will be published the following month.

## POLO SPRINGER MATCH SCHEDULED



MARCH 12th is the date of the first Polo match of the year. Dennis Chinn has returned to model boating and has offered his swimming pool for the match. This was a popular venue a few years back as his pool is a perfect size and set up is minimal. We need as many boats on the water as possible. This is a rough and tumble event and breakdowns are common. So get your polo boat ready and plan to attend this match on March 12th 10:00 to Noon.

Directions to Dennis' house are **Dennis' home address is 9001 NE. 37TH PL, Bellevue.** This is generally located near the East shore of Lake Washington just north of 520. From 520, you take the 92<sup>nd</sup> street exit, head north on 92<sup>nd</sup>, turn left on 37<sup>th</sup> Place. The street ends in a cul-de-sac. And Dennis' house is on the left. The pool is in the rear of the house accessed from either side of the house. Carts best use the north path to avoid steps. Dennis will have coffee and after the usual crash and bash of the hotly contested polo match, pizza will be available.



### 32nd ANNUAL NANAIMO MODEL BOAT SHOW

Country Club Centre  
Nanaimo

April 7-10 2016

Show Runs During Mall Hours Thursday & Friday 9:30AM —9:00 PM  
Saturday 9:30—6pm

**FINAL NOTICE**  
**7 MEMBERS HAVE NOT**  
**PAID 2016 DUES!**  
**PAY TODAY AND AVOID**  
**MISSING CLUB**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**

Send \$25 to  
Mel Suelzle

### From the Bridge (cont.)

I mentioned a “caution.” It seems that it is against a Bellevue ordinance to “harass the ducks” in the pond. For our own protection, we should stay away from the waterfowl during our running there. One person’s harassment of ducks could get us thrown out of that venue, and we don’t want that. During times that we are permitted to run there, we are in charge of the pond and responsible for anyone running there. Even a non-club member running a boat among the ducks could result in our dismissal from the pond. Please, if you ever see someone doing this, politely explain to them that this is against the law. If they refuse to desist, and it occurs during our scheduled times when we are responsible for what happens on the pond, we will have to call the police to protect ourselves and avoid a citizen complaint to the authorities.

On a related subject, it is also explicitly against the law to fly a “drone” within the park. Now, I am not going to set myself up as a “drone policeman.” I think this topic has been blown all out of proportion to its actual hazards. Just the same, I hold one of the new FAA licenses to legally fly a drone. But if someone flies a drone over the pond when I am there, and they are flying in a safe manner, I probably won’t “see” it. I personally just may turn Admiral Horatio Nelson’s “blind eye” toward it. I mention it only to inform modeler’s minds on this issue.

Let’s finish our great winter projects and get on with our fun!     Scott

**Ralph Durham** is getting ready for the Regatta. He sends his photo of his new Brooklyn tug’s first sea trials. Working good and stable. Looks great too. Ralph plans to travel from Montana with his new tug for the



## CLUB INFORMATION

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## March 5th Fun Float— Bellevue Downtown Park By Robert Osmond



The March Fun Float was held on an ideal day, warm and sunny, eight skippers showed up and had a great time. I ran my modified Atlantic until the prop unscrewed itself. Fortunately the Robbe kort nozzle has a fixed rudder so the prop did not escape into the pond. That was the only incident during the float. **Allan Wing** sailed his sailing ship and even docked once. **Al Kinsman** ran several cabin cruisers. **Dave White** ran his small Canadian tug, which is the same type that has won so many trophies for various captains. **Robert Wickham** ran his polo boat which in reverse is the fastest Springer in the club, watch out he is

ready for the Polo Event next weekend. Billy McGee ran his tug and barge.

**Bill Heath** ran his large barge and Crowley tug. He has switched to iron for ballast with fabric that looks like gravel, which is much easier to unload and set up than the real gravel. Steve ran his Voith powered Foss tug in circles and forward and backward. This boat always seems to run, it is very dependable.



The park was full and we had 6 children, both boys and girls ran springers (at lower speed settings), some ran forward and some ran backwards. The car type radios are easiest for them to hold but their fingers are not long enough for the trigger some times.



The ducks were back unlike two weeks ago when there was not a sign of a duck. Everyone gave them a wide berth. Hope the weather is as good for the rest of he season.





## SILENT AUCTION NEXT MONTH!



**The April meeting will be special** A silent auction will be held to distribute the modeling tools and parts that belonged to John Benthine. John was an active modeler in our club and later joined the South End club when it was formed. John also wrote a book about the fleet of Miki tugs. This auction is made possible by Mike Moor. The proceeds will go to Mrs. Benthine.

**All members and guests at the meeting can bid on the items. This is a great way for new modelers to get some special tools at bargain prices.**

There will be about ~70 items for auction, most sold separately, some in small batches. Items for the auction block will go to the bidder with the best price.

Since time is limited, items will be on display at 6:30 and bids can be made up until the meeting begins at 7 PM. An extended break in the meeting will allow attendees to review and finalize their bids. Winners will cash out at the end of the meeting. **All sales are CASH ONLY**, so bring small bills to simplify the payment process.

### **A partial list of items to be auctioned:**

- One Fluke 73 III multi-meter
- One Dremel Moto-Tool
- Two Graupner 600 motor
- Assorted pack of LEDs and bulbs
- Graupner Bow Thruster Assembly
- 25 plastic clamps
- A tool box including: pliers, wrenches, a tack hammer and much more.....

