



# The Bilge Pump

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

November 2020

## Events Look Ahead

### DECEMBER

3 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm  
~~3 Holiday Dinner—Lynnwood CANCELLED~~

### JANUARY

7 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm

### FEBRUARY

7 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm

More events information and updates on calendar page latter in newsletter and, **Check our website for latest updates at [www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)**



Read about other member's projects below.

## From the Wheelhouse

Mel Suelzle



We had another successful meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> with a good turnout but less than the 20+ members last month. I hope the new version of Zoom offering unlimited meeting time was not causing issues for some to sign on. The new account has new credentials. I plan to keep



them the same for all the meetings.

At the October meeting we voted to waive member dues for 2021. While a worthy intent, further evaluation revealed that some fixed cost (storage/bank fees) would continue and if any events did materialize mid-year, we would be broke!! So...the November meeting passed a motion to collect 2021 dues normally. That means that members are reminded that 2021 dues are due in January. Dues are sent to Bryan Morse so he can update member records and deposit funds. Dues will remain at current levels, \$30 and \$5 for youth members, age 12 and under.

## ELECTIONS

Unlike some elections, our club has no issues with contested elections. That is the ONLY advantage of our inability to get even one nomination much less TWO! As disappointing as that may be, we have a savior! One that puts a priority on the longevity and survival of our club and is willing to make a commitment to the benefit of all. Once again **Robert Osmond** has stepped forward by running for President and expand his significant club activities and commitment to the highest level. Few have

Robert's enthusiasm and active participation to model boating. We are fortunate to have Robert in our club. I plan to remain active in the club and willing to assist Robert as needed.

### COVID NEWS

While recent statistics are disconcerting, the news of an effective vaccine offers some brighter light at the end of this loooonng tunnel. It offers hope that perhaps we might experience some relief and hope that our events may be able to occur mid-2021. Recent reports that NW Hobby Expo has been moved from the unlikely date of late January to May 22 & 23. These revised show dates seem more possible. It gives us hope that we might have some real events this summer as well.



With the near non-existent float running season, we approach the holiday times with scaled down celebrations. However, the upside is having more time to build boats. Keep us informed on your projects with submissions to the newsletter. Content is lighter this month and we need you to get started on projects and let everyone know what you are doing by sending in reports to Paul for the newsletter. The build logs and floats are great for our newsletters that would be very sparse and boring without your submissions. Also tighten our ranks with Scuttlebutt notes about major events in our lives of interest to our members.

Stay Safe

*Mel Snelzle*

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## ***Boat Building News from Members:***

*Below are articles covering project updates, news, and lake adventures that members are sharing.*



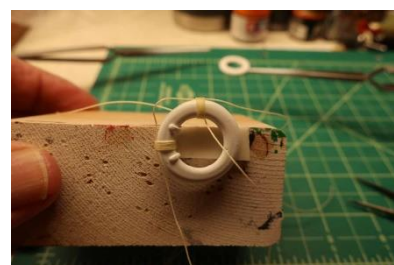
## Life Buoy For The Puffer

By Robert Osmond

Real old “Life Buoys” used to be made of cork with canvas covers before plastics and a length of line coiled behind them or below them to pull them back after they are thrown to a person in the water.

The model boat life buoys I had were cast resin with lots of flaws that I had to fill and file to make them into the correct shape. After fixing the shape, I painted them with Tamiya fine white primer. Next I used heavy sewing thread for the rope hand line which runs around the life buoy with four places where it bows out to grab hold of. It is a little tricky to hold the hand line in place with slack to make the parts that bow out while wrapping the thread around the buoy, to hold the line in place. Fly tiers should be able to do this with ease but I only had two hands. To do this I used double sided tape to hold the life buoy to a piece of wood, then used two of the long tweezers, see attached photo, to hold the line taut along the outer edge of the buoy and one tweezer to hold the wrapping line taut away from me around the buoy, while I did the wraps around the buoy to hold the hand line in place. I used a dab of thin superglue to hold the first few wraps in place, then added the rest of the wraps and then used the thin superglue again on the back side to keep it in place. Cut off the ends of the thread against the backside of the buoy, took the buoy loose from the double sided tape, rotated it 90 degrees, and started on the next wrapping location, being careful to leave the hand line loose enough to bow out and look proper. To attach the life buoy to the boat, you can make a simple two leg stand to hang in on railing or glue it on the superstructure. To do this you might need to glue on a thin piece of plastic between the wraps or over the wraps as you prefer. Voila. It is done.

The long tweezers are available from Seattle Findings Just East of Alderwood Mall. The link to these tweezers is [https://www.seattlefindings.com/Third-Hand-Round-Base-with-Cross-Locking-Tweezer\\_p\\_1293.html](https://www.seattlefindings.com/Third-Hand-Round-Base-with-Cross-Locking-Tweezer_p_1293.html). They cost \$7.15 which is cheaper than EBay and Amazon. They will ship them to you if you want. They also have the tiny rings to use for attaching lines for rigging on masts, booms, flag lines etc.





## ZOOM MEETING

By Robert Osmond



Zoom Meetings are the current way for groups to communicate, which is what our club needs now that we are not getting together.

How the zoom meetings work is:

1. You have to have a WEB camera with a microphone attached to join a Zoom meeting. Most laptops, notebooks, tablet computers and smart phones have them built in. Most desktop computers do not have them. If you do not have one, they are available on Amazon, from Best Buy and websites for about \$30 for a camera with microphone built in. They either clip onto computer screen top, tripod, or use duct tape if you do not have the other ways of mounting it. Plug it into a computer's USB port.
2. The club sends out an email to the members with log in information ahead of Zoom meeting.
3. Once you have your computer set up trying logging in to Zoom and test if your camera and microphone is working. There is no need to install Zoom software unless you are going to host a meeting with other people.

I am sure any member whose photo you see on the screen shots in this article could help you if you have any questions or problems. If still unsure, ask you grandkids for help.



### The Meeting Notes ...

The meeting began a little before Six Bells. There were a total of 14 hard sea faring men attending the Zoom meeting shown in the two attached photos. **Mel Suelzle** brought the meeting to order and we said hello to each other with some members still adjusting their camera positions or microphone.

#### Show and Tell.

**Richard Goodrich** showed a springer he has been working on. He has made three different superstructures, one small cabin version, one Zip kit version and one three deck river tow boat configuration which was adapted from a tow boat he has seen on the slough near Everett.

**Randy Floudquist** showed a \$35.00 camera he can use on his boats or in an underwater camera case to see the boats from the bottom in water.

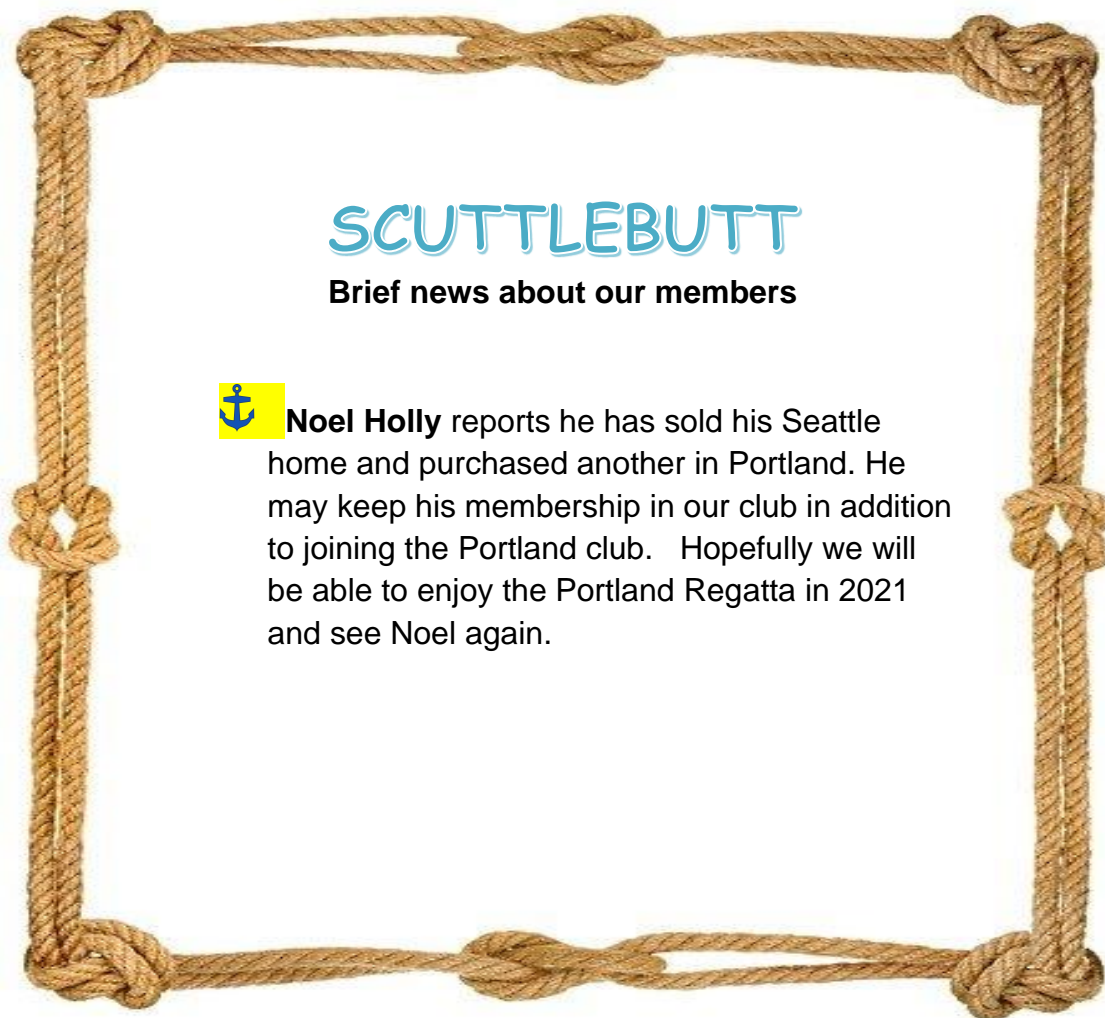
**Keith Shemerhorn** showed his 44" Western Towboat "Titan" tug he is building with two azimuth drives, and a World War II aircraft carrier he is adding details to, the Navy had it built at a yard in Rainier Oregon. The whole class was named after bays in Alaska.

I (Robert) showed his completely repaired and with details added Clyde Puffer, Brigadoon.

Mel promised to show us his tuna clipper next month.

Three cats made their on air debuts by walking into the scene during the meeting, these cats belonged to Randy, Richard and David Zanzig, obviously cats with a future in TV.

We hope more of you will attend the future Zoom meetings, it is a nice way to keep in touch with our club members.



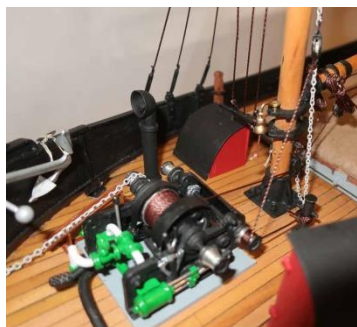
## Clyde Puffer -- Article #3 Finished

By Robert Osmond

I started remodeling my Clyde Puffer last fall. The first photo shows how it looked last time it was out.

Over the years it has sunk in Lake Washington, been run into and over several times having various pieces knocked or broken off.

I built it in 1984 and I decided to rebuild now. I wrote up my progress in the July and September 2020 newsletter. Now it is finished. It has many new electronic features (previous articles available on club website), and now has many new details. I added many details to the dingy which was mounted upside down originally, making oars, flooring, benches and life lines.



The boat rigging is now accurate. I spent a lot of time looking at old photos and figuring out how things would have worked. For instance the steam wench was used to haul the anchor and lift the bucket or cargo with the boom, but the winch only had a brake and one lever, it would have had to have a shifting lever at the front to take the power off the chain gypsy and put it onto the boom winch. Also there was no anchor chain guide to the gypsy and into the chain locker, so I made one. The steam whistle on the stack was modeled with the valve on the top, not the bottom, of the whistle, so I remade that and the new lever with flattened wire and a thin brass rod to act as cable to pull in the pilot house. I put lashing cleats for the anchor and anchor crane that were not shown on the plans. I installed new railing with new stanchions. Installed new glass windows in the pilot house, made a rungs and handrails to get on the room of the engine room. Tied a monkey fist in the line to the bell on the mast and many other little details. Now all I have to do



is not knock all the delicate rigging and pieces off when I take it to the pond. I have broken or knocked off many pieces on masts on my tug boats. It was a lot of fun, but my least favorite model boat activity is rebuilding a boat,

I would much prefer to design and build new pieces for a new boat. This was the first time I ever just worked on one boat at a time. I usually have 4 or 5 boats I am working on, of course they do not all get finished, but it is fun. This was more like a job.





## SCALE FLAG MAKER From Germany

By Robert Osmond

There is a fellow in Germany that makes scale flags for models. They are on very fine cloth that meant to not fray. They have a leach that folds over so you can make the flag rope go through the leach. In the attached photo of the Union Jack you can see where on the backside the flag doubles over a little to help make the sleeve for the flags rope, the other flag is the Scotch flag.

He has many flags and is willing to make flags he does not have. I needed some US Flags for my Battleship Texas (#1) that had 38 stars and ship pendants with 38 stars on a blue field that goes on the highest mast and the bow. He had not made this flag before. He said he could make them whatever size I wanted.

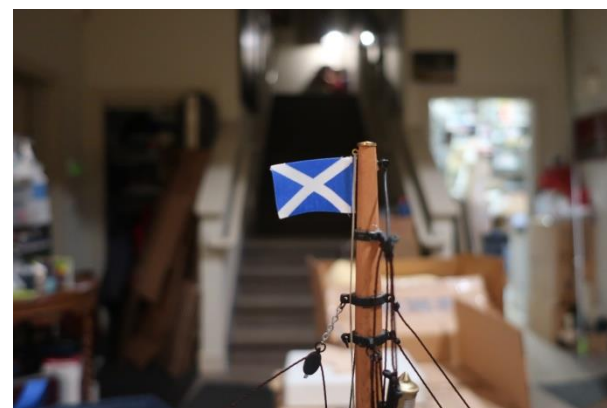
I also had him make some Union Jacks and Scottish Flags for my Clyde Puffer, which are now on the boat, see the attached photo.

On my Puffer, the Union Jack is at the stern where the country flag belongs and the Scottish flag for the top of the mast where ensigns or jacks or house flags are displayed.

The rule that the highest flown flag takes precedence does not apply on board a ship like it does on land: a flag flown at the stern is always in a superior position to a flag flown elsewhere on the ship, even if the latter is higher up. FYI “Vexillology” is a term used for a scholarly study of flags in general

The gentleman’s name is Hans-Jurgen Blissengach. It appears that he belongs to several nautical historical organizations in Germany

His Business Website is: <http://www.schiffsmodellflaggen.de/english/Contact/contact.html>



## Making Good Use of COVID Induced Spare Time

By David Green

Things have slowed a bit on my companion projects of a lake excursion steamer kit build and restoration of an old Chris-Craft cruiser as I have worked on some household projects.

The attached photos of the steamer include the hull which has been glassed, sanded and primed ready for final paint which I am deferring until all the topside is finished.



A second photo generally illustrates how everything will "stack up" when it is finished. Laying on decks are all the railing caps (ready for paint) and the 50 some stanchions that will thread through the three deck levels and their corresponding railing caps. I'm not looking forward to that step and have to be sure every detail inboard of the stanchion line as then they will be "in jail". When finished the entire main deck and above will lift off which will be very convenient for easy access to radios, motors, and etc..



For now I have set the Chris-Craft restoration aside. I have repaired the hull (the transom was loose) and repaired hull cracks formed by shrinkage of planking. The removable cabin assembly however literally fell apart as the glue was very brittle (after about 70 years). Thus it's a clean-up and re-assemble project yet to be completed.

Dave



## OPPORTUNITIES -- "SHELLY FOSS" FOR SALE

We have been contacted by a person offering a Shelly Foss built from a Dumas kit around 1980. The model seems to be well constructed but with colors of a local tug in the Southern California area. From the photo it seems seaworthy and suffers only from rather ancient running gear and electronics. The model located in the Port Townsend area and is being offered for about \$300. If you are interested, contact Jim Bowman, Port Townsend. Phone 510 606-0188



**2020 NWRCSM Events Calendar** (10/15/2020)**JANUARY**

2 Meeting at The Facility\* 7 pm  
 4 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am  
 25/26 NW Hobby Expo Monroe 9am-6pm

**FEBRUARY**

6 Meeting at The Facility\* 7 pm  
 8 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

**MARCH**

5 Meeting at The Facility\* 7 pm  
 7 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

**APRIL**

~~2 Meeting at The Facility\* CANCELLED~~  
~~4 Fun Float - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~Springer Model Event CANCELLED~~  
~~29 Seattle Yacht Club Fun Float CANCELLED~~

**MAY**

~~7 Meeting at The Facility\* CANCELLED~~  
~~16 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park CANCELLED~~  
~~21 Coffee Fun Float - Bellevue Park CANCELLED~~

**JUNE**

~~4 Meeting at The Facility\* CANCELLED~~  
~~6 NW RC Regatta - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~6 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park CANCELLED~~  
~~18 Coffee Fun Float - Bellevue Park CANCELLED~~

**JULY**

~~9 Meeting at The Facility\* CANCELLED~~  
~~11 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park CANCELLED~~  
~~16 Coffee Fun Float - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~31 Twilight Fun Float - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~

**AUGUST**

~~6 Meeting at The Facility CANCELLED~~  
~~8 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~8 Portland Regatta - Tualatin, OR CANCELLED~~  
~~15 Northwest Tug Regatta - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~16 BMM Regatta - Burnaby B.C. CANCELLED~~

**SEPTEMBER**

3 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm  
~~5 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park CANCELLED~~  
~~12 NW RC Regatta - Bellevue Pond CANCELLED~~  
~~26 Fishermen's Memorial - Ballard CANCELLED~~

**OCTOBER**

1 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm  
~~3 Fun Float - Bellevue Downtown Park CANCELLED~~

**NOVEMBER**

5 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm  
~~7 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club CANCELLED~~

**DECEMBER**

3 Meeting by Zoom 7 pm  
~~3 Holiday Dinner - Lynnwood CANCELLED~~





**The Facility**

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

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

More information on this facility can be found at <https://facilitymade.com/>



<b>2020 Club Officers</b>		
	<b>President: Mel Suelzle</b>	<b>Webmaster: Allan Wing</b>
	<b>Vice President: Ron Bray</b>	<b>Skagit R/C Meeting Contact: Keith Schermerhorn</b>
	<b>Treasurer: Dave White</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor: Paul Williams</b>
	<b>Membership Database: Bryan Morse</b>	

## ***Club Meeting Location***

The Facility – Makerspace

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