



# The Bilge Pump

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

December 2024

## Look Ahead Events

2025

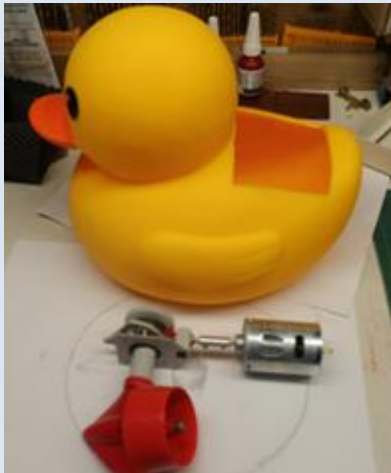
### JANUARY

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 2 Meeting at The Facility | 7 pm |
| 4 Fun Float at SYC        | 9 am |

### FEBRUARY

- |                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| 6 Meeting at The Facility | 7 pm |
| 8 Fun Float at SYC        | 9 am |

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



Read more about members' projects.

## 2025 DUES ARE DUE



Annual dues are \$50. If you have not paid yet, please forward your dues payment to:

**Bryan Morse**  
1630 NE 186th St,  
Shoreline, WA 98155

Make checks payable to: NW R/C Ship Modelers

## From the Bridge

Steve Sunich

Another year has passed. Wow, did that go fast! We are now looking at the 2025 R/C boating season. Planning has started and some dates have been set. Many dates are still up in the air but will be sorted out soon. Please monitor the calendar in this newsletter as things may change and will be updated. For now, the dates shown are a result of the best information we have for now.



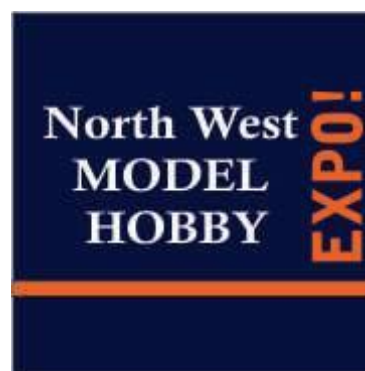
We are fortunate to be starting the new year with a new President. I have done a two-year stint and now Richard Lenington has graciously stepped up as President. He has been a member since 2021 and has been vice-president during my two years. We have already worked on getting him up to speed and I will help in any way I can. He has some new ideas and it will be great having some new perspective on our club operations. So, please introduce yourself to Richard if you have not met him already. I am sure he will be asking for volunteers for the multiple tasks that we have available to keep everything running smoothly.

The next couple months might be a little slow, but that is just winter. We will continue our winter fun floats before ramping up our activity come spring. Spring will be kicked off with the first fun float at the Bellevue Pond and then Opening Day of Boating Season at Seattle Yacht Club.

Hopefully, you will have a nice holiday and happy new year!



## 2025 Northwest Model Hobby Expo 3 Days in April



April 11, 2025 – Friday	Noon to 6 pm
April 12, 2025 – Saturday	9 am to 6 pm
April 13, 2025 – Sunday	9 am to 4 pm

Evergreen State Fairgrounds located at  
14405 179th Ave SE, Monroe, WA 98272, USA

For more information see EXPO's website [www.nwmhe.com](http://www.nwmhe.com)

***Mark Your 2025 Calendars!***

# Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2024

By Chris Merrill and Steve Sunich

Photos by Robert Osmond, Paul Williams and Steve Sunich



On December 5, **Steve Sunich** started the meeting at 1900 hours with 20 members present at The Facility Makerspace in Lynnwood, WA.

We discussed the actual operating costs for 2024 and voted on a dues increase. Since our dues are very reasonable and the budget requires a little more revenue, we voted on and approved a dues increase to \$50 per year. What a deal! Steve pushed for donations to the club as there were some great donations of materials, cash and raffle items that really helped the operations of the club.

**Dave Green** will be working with the City of Bellevue to obtain our permits for usage of the Pond for next year. We will get the dates of our events sometime in February.

Steve read an e-mail from **Phil Northrup's** wife, Marilyn, about his health condition. He is recovering and misses everyone at the club.

**Chris Merrill** is working on an additional introductory 3D printing class and work space tour with the Edmonds College Makers Space.

**Richard Lenington** was introduced as our next President for 2025. Steve will help as much as possible.

## Show and Tell

**Robert Osmond** kicked off Show and Tell with a number of items. So many that he provided a separate article posted later in this newsletter.

Removing a stuck shaft tube from an old model boat.



An interesting ship that is designed to service offshore wind turbines (OWTs).



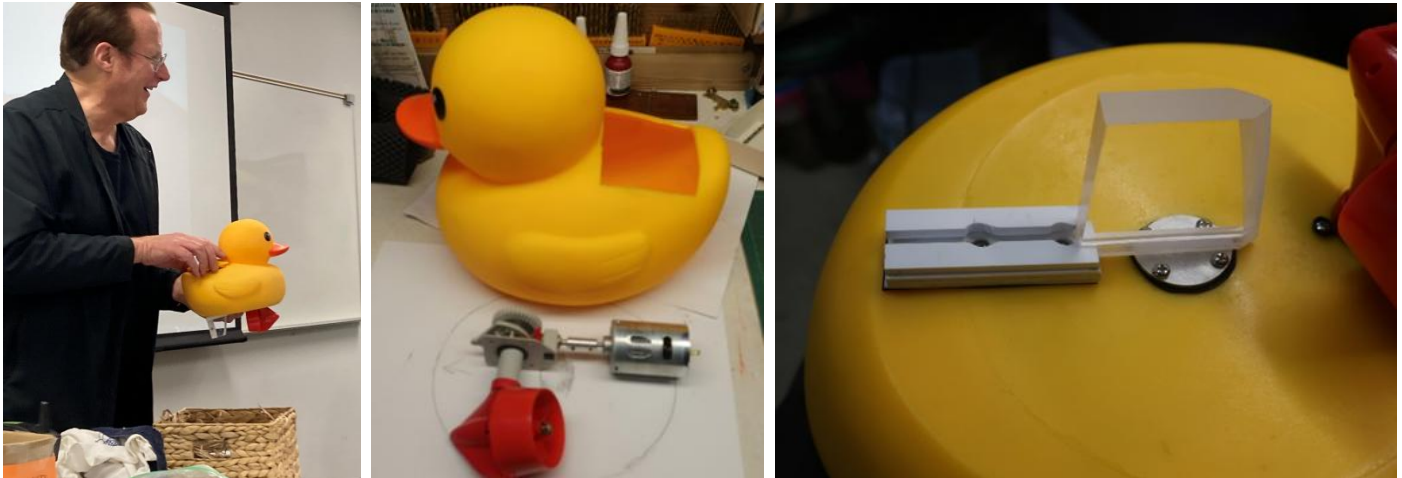
Robert had some information about Parametric rolling (PRM) with ships. It is a violent, rare phenomenon that causes ships to roll suddenly and severely from side to side.



Next was an interesting presentation about the evolution of speed controls since the early 80's.



Another interesting project is making an R/C model duck work.



Mike Gullickson was next with a DIY crimped loop that you can make with a crimping tool.



Steve Sunich brought in his tugboat, converted to a yacht, model of which he has been diligently working. It is another Dennis Washington yacht, a 1930's tugboat used to tow torpedoed ships from the English Channel to safety during WWII. It went through a couple of owners and was the English America's Cup entry support vessel.





The model has progressed a bit with the pilot house done in teak. The model will have teak decks and a ton of other teak appurtenances, like bar and hot tub. He is not sure of what is under water so all of that is a guess. However, there are a good many photos available on line at MarineTraffic.com.

**Robert Wickham** jumped in with a report on the repairs of the club's salvage vessels that the club owns which he has graciously spent time on. He showed us the new bottoms and rebuilt cabin of the smaller vessel. The bottoms now have small blocks that will help keep them off of the ground while in storage so they don't rot. He has the small and medium size vessels complete and will be working on the large vessel. They look beautiful. Thank you so much for doing this.



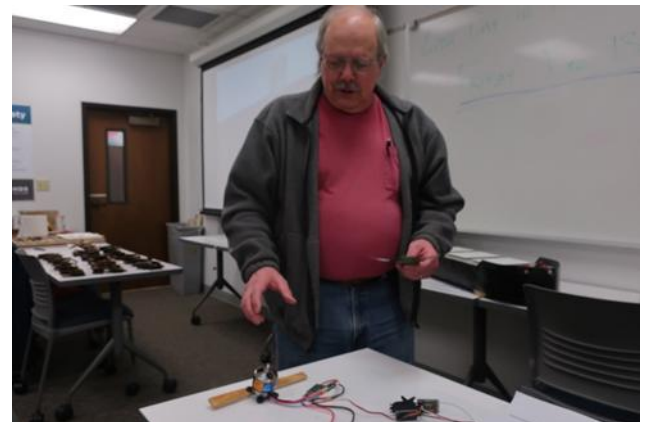
Richard Lenington showed his springer tug with two different supper structures.



Brand new member **Paul Lowe** initiated himself to the Show and Tell with a catamaran sailboat model. The main issue with it, is that it will not stay upright in the water. I think we can see why.

**Paul Williams** brought in a cute little humidifier with a LED light and that is cheap (Dollar Tree store \$1.25). Might be able to be used for model smoke?

**Chris Merrill** was next, showing us his springer that has a large brushless motor. He is running it with a Phoenix 60 amp brushless speed controller.



The meeting ended and members had time closely inspect and talk more about the presented projects.

## Fun Float December 7, 2024

By: Chris Merrill

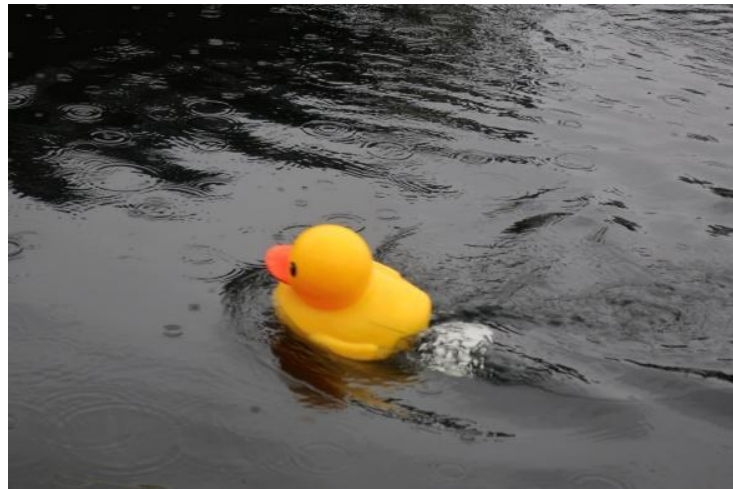
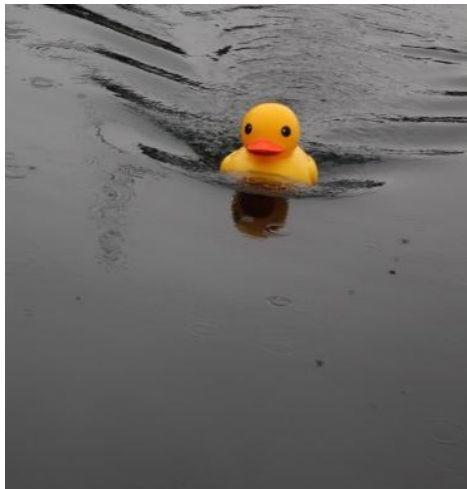
Photos by: Robert Osmond



About half dozen members from the Northwest RC Ship Modelers club braved the wet weather to have another fun float at the Seattle Yacht Club on December 7, 2024. This was not difficult as the yacht club running area has a shelter from which to run boats. **Chris Merrill** ran his Japanese PT boat and **Robert Osmond** gave his yellow duck its maiden voyage. **Robert Newell** ran his run about but the prop got jammed or something and it broke the transom. Fortunately, it was pushed back to safety by Robert Osmond's springer. Even though it rained pretty well everyone (including **Robert Lenington** and **Steve Sunich**) ran for a couple hours before retiring.







Well, Steve lost his record for the most winter fun floats in a row with no rain. This one was different.

## Robert Osmond's Show and Tell -- Expanded

Hello, here is the information on what I talked about at the meeting.

### Wind Service Ships



I started by showing a couple of examples of dedicated wind service ships. These are ships designed to service offshore wind turbines (**OWTs**). When OWTs were first being installed they were serviced by modified oil field platform supply ships, but as time has gone on and there are more OWTs they are now making dedicated ships to do this work. As you can tell by looking at these photos, they have a large crew area (area with port holes in the hull) and a tower with a large arm attached. These ships sail out to the OWT, then use their station keeping azimuth drives and thrusters to keep close to the OWT, then the crew will go up in the elevator in the tower on the ship and walk through the large arm to access the OWT and do their maintenance. This tower and arm stay perfectly level and close to the OWT by the specialized machinery built into the tower. This is called "walk to work" being able to come from their quarters up the tower and through the arm without ever being out in the weather. This greatly speeds up the service calls at OWTs.

### Parametric Roll

Parametric roll in ship  
Parametric Rolling Motion (**PRM**) is a violent, rare phenomenon that causes ships to roll suddenly and severely from side to side. It can happen when the time between waves matches a ship's natural roll frequency, and it's more likely to occur in bad weather.

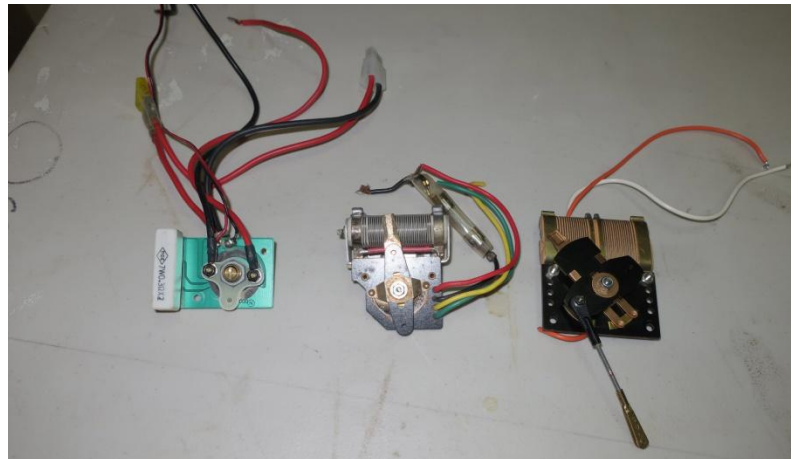


PRM can cause ships to roll at angles of up to 40 degrees or more, which can lead to the ship capsizing. It can also damage cargo and equipment, collapse container stacks, and cause containers to fall overboard. The World Shipping Council estimates that PRM is responsible for the loss of around 1,000 containers each year.

PRM is most likely to affect modern container ships and car carriers, which have flared decks. However, it can also occur with other types of vessels in quarter seas.

### Evolution of RC Boat Speed Controllers

I showed how RC boat Speed controllers have changed since I started with the hobby in 1981. The speed controls as they evolved from left to right. The first one was moved by a servo arm, it was 100% forward in one direction and at the center no speed then in the other direction 100% in reverse. This did not give much control and was hard to maneuver with. The next one was a ceramic core with hard heat coil type wire wrapped around it and the speed



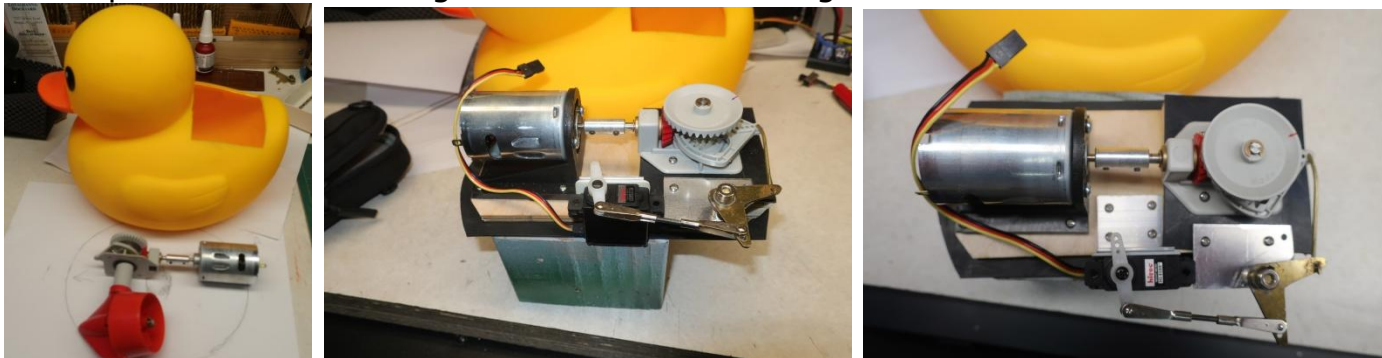
was controlled by the servo arm moving the wiper along the top of the coil, this had the benefit of giving you true speed control forward and backward. The disadvantage of using a coil like this was that at any speed you were using as much power as you would have at full speed, because the coil was using full power and the wiper arm was only taking as much power as where it was touching coil along its length. These speed controllers had a place where the wiper, when dead center in the length of the coil, was not making contact to send power to the boat's motor. It was not making a circuit for the battery power. The third type was an improvement over the second type in that it had a better center place (not power) and better wiper mechanism, with more contact area. We have come a long way with our speed controllers.

### Rubber Duck Build

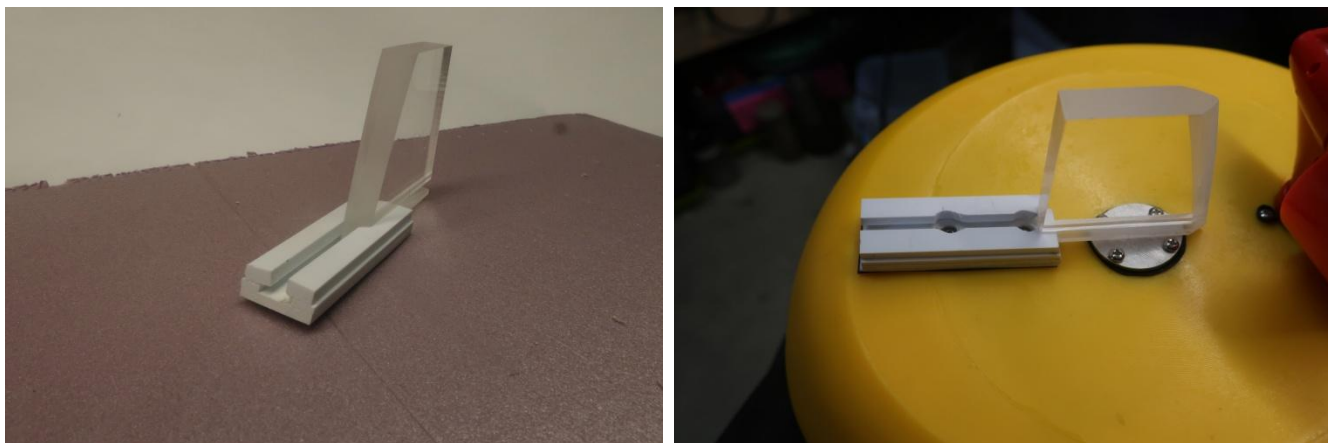


I purchased a large Rubber Duck (actually vinyl duck), on Amazon. When it arrived I carefully cut a hatch in the top rear of the body. I then found that superglue, epoxy,

double sided tape, styrene glue would not attach to the material, so I figured I would have to clamp everything to the duct by using screws through the material and using my thin neoprene material as a gasket to make water tight seals.



Because of this I did not dare cut any hole that could let water inside, I had to mount the Z drive and motor to a piece of thin plywood which had to fit through the hatch on its back. This was a tight fit, because the Z drive shaft had to be sticking out when I put the base plate inside and then had to be a tight fit through the bottom of the duck. For batteries I used three 2800MA AA batteries each in two packs which mount on each side of the base plate with the motor and drive attached.



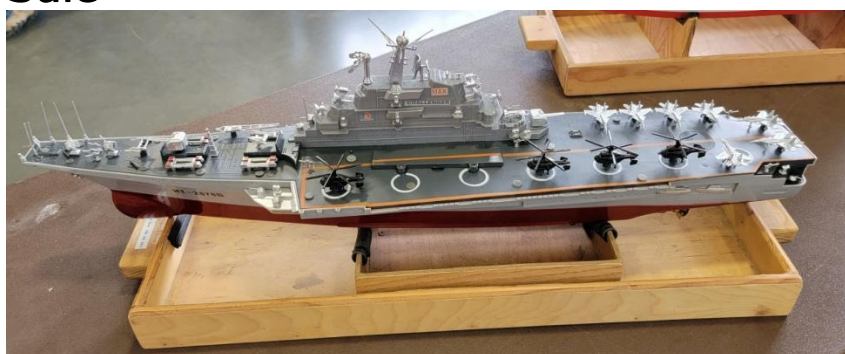
A Z drive without a Skeg would not be controllable. I Tested it in the kitchen sink and then at Bellevue park in the small ponds in stair steps around the edges. I made a skeg when worked but the duck would not go straight very well and was squatting at the

stern which put the hole in its back dangerously close to letting water inside. I then made a rudder extension with a trim tab at the back edge which solved both of these problems. Now it works very well and sits in its nest when not running.



By Robert Osmond

## RC Boats for Sale



RC Aircraft Carrier – has radio control and wood carrier \$50



RC & wind driven Sailboat \$20 with stand (started to refinish it but not completed) A Project for you! Please **contact:** Fred Row, 206-369-0657

## 2025 Northwest Remote Control Ship Modelers Events Calendar

*Remaining "???" dates and times will be listed as the year progresses. (Updated 12/2/2024)*

### 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 3 Wednesday

### MAY

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

### JUNE

- ?? Anacortes Waterfront Festival 10 to 6
- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 7 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

### JULY

- 3 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

### AUGUST

- 7 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- ??? **NWRCSM's Navigation/Tug Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm
- ??? Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Sunset Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- ??? BAMB Regatta. see [www.bammrc.com](http://www.bammrc.com) for details.
- 29-31 Olympia Harbor Days

### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- 27??? 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
- ??? Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show (See their website for times)

### NOVEMBER

- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 or 9? 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

### 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/>







2024 Club Officers		
	President: Steve Sunich	Webmaster: Allan Wing
	Vice President: TBD	Skagit R/C Meeting Contact: Keith Schermerhorn
	Treasurer: Dave White	YouTube & Meetup Master: Klaus Bellon
	Membership Database: Bryan Morse	Newsletter Editor: Paul Williams



Photo by Darlene Wing

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 Lynnwood, WA. 98036

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