



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March 2007



## Upcoming Events

### April

- 3 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm, Lake Jake
- 5 NWRCSM. Meeting,  
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond  
Springer Event

### May

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm, Lake Jack
- 2 Pre-Opening Day Demo  
9-4, Seattle Yacht Club
- 3 NWRCSM. Meeting,  
7:30 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond
- 12 Seattle Tug Boat Races
- 19-20 Anacortes Festival  
9:00 am, Anacortes

### June

- 3 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond
- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 10 Northwest Regatta  
9-5, Bellevue Pond
- 16 Father's Day Fun Float &  
Pot Luck, 10:00 am Lake Jack



## From the Wheelhouse

By Mel Suelzle.

Our **March Fun Float** was our first of the year in the Bellevue pond. Our turnout was good and the weather was dry. Unfortunately the previous heavy snow and rain made for a muddy mess in the grass areas. We had hoped to have a full blown polo match, but due to a couple of breakdowns, forgotten transmitters and missing door springs, we managed only 6 boats that were ready for action. With only 3 boats/side there is little chance of a real match. We need to get more boats working to justify the work of hauling all the equipment to the pond. Unless we can have 10 boats committed for the April meet, we will not set up the full blown playing area. With the Springer event coming up, it may be a good idea to pass up this fun float for a regular polo match. We need some time to play with our boats in preparation for the competitive events like the Regatta and Foss Cup.

Speaking of the **April Springer** event, Tom Stevens will be in charge of this event and the design of the course. I am sure Tom will have a new and interesting challenge for us since he retired from Verizon at the end of March. Now he will have much more time available so he can be the first to arrive at our events rather than the last. Certainly he will have time to make sure he has loaded his transmitter before leaving for the fun float.

Things are also heating up in the local festival and celebrations. At the meeting we discussed our participation in the **pre-Opening Day activities at the Seattle Yacht Club**. This is a new event for us and it represents a good opportunity for us to get exposure to this local prestigious event. To test this venue, we will participate for a single day, on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-4PM. This is a Wednesday before opening day and there is a lot of activity around the Yacht Club as lots of boaters from many areas are arriving and looking for Opening Day info and docking arrangements. We will have a boat display and access to nearby dock and be able to run in some protected waters. They are excited to have us there and we should try to have our very best boats there to show off to these visiting mariners.

## CLUB OFFICERS

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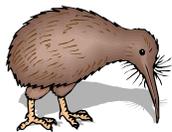
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I also have been contacted by the **Edmond Waterfront Festival** folks. They want us to participate in their festival June 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>. as we did in 2003 & 2004. While I have not made a commitment, they want us to consider a location near the harbor area to run in IF they can't get a pond. This is similar to the arrangement in Anacortes and while not ideal, it may be workable. I plan to visit the site and check it out before making any further plans.

**2007 Northwest Regatta** - Planning and preparation for our June 10<sup>th</sup> regatta is underway. Some of our longer lead planning items such as vendor prize solicitations have already been started. We are reviewing our regatta notes of last year and seeing if there are any changes or improvements that would make the 2007 event better. The course has a number of changes designed to be more of a challenge. I am looking to simplify some things like the food service. While the food has always been great, it is a huge effort of a few. This year we will try a different approach that will involve more folks in smaller ways. At our last meeting, we reviewed new rules that we want to follow in the regatta. There is nothing real new here, but they should be written down and better communicated, especially to the benefit of visitors. A copy of these rules is listed in this newsletter.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE IN APRIL**

Remember our plan to get everyone on a January dues payment schedule???

The following members dues will expire during April, May or June of 2007. Dues for the rest of 2007 are \$15 and are **DUE NOW!** Save a stamp and send \$35 and be paid up until January 2009!

<i>Earl Anderson</i>	<i>Kevin Klocke</i>	<i>Vern Ren</i>
<i>Rod Bindon</i>	<i>Sam Lostutter</i>	<i>Douglas Wilson</i>
<i>Kevin Cushing</i>	<i>Ed Maurer</i>	<i>Allan Wing</i>
<i>Jack Dunn</i>	<i>Wayne Martin</i>	<i>Darlene Wing</i>
<i>Michael Jones</i>	<i>Robert Maxwell q</i>	<i>Dave White</i>

We still have several members that have not paid their dues that were due in January, February or March. These were due in January and are now **90 DAYS LATE!!!**

<i>Ken Adams</i>	<i>Gary Irby</i>	<i>Bruce Smiley</i>
<i>Kit Clark</i>	<i>Gerald Julian</i>	<i>Keith Schermerhorn</i>
<i>David Green</i>	<i>Ed Rogala</i>	<i>John Witt</i>
<i>Mike Haff</i>	<i>Morrie Robinson</i>	

Please submit your payment promptly to Ed Maurer.– Thank you

## March Meeting Minutes

By Randy Flodquist

Mel called around twenty members to order at 1933 on the first day of March. The VanTec controllers ALMOST made it to the meeting. Fifty-eight in the order. Soon.

The Northwest Hobby Expo is coming right along. Lotsa vendors and clubs. Mel also signed us up for a gig at the Seattle Yacht Club (gig? Yacht? How do I write this stuff?) on Wednesday the second of May from 10 to 4. Should be fun. Stay posted.

Treasury has \$1451.

The newsletter got favorable toots. Bios liked. Color on the web nice.

There is an event in San Francisco on June 23-24.

Lots of discussion of the REGATTA RULES. They need to be written down. Mel has a list of nine elements and they'll get more discussion and refining between now and June. Idea is to have everything clear and no beefs.

Following the ever popular break-it was SHOW 'N TELL!!!

Dr. Ron had his FG Springer mold. That's gonna really be nice. He also had the Mel Marauder; a Buck Rogers Springer from Cliff's old Wylie Coyote.

I had PSMHS plans for the ACORN which Burt is building. You can get plans for just about any boat built on Puget Sound between 1914 and 1950 from PSMHS. See Paul Marlow.

Tom had a nice coolie hat for me. Thanks.

Leslie won the door prize drawing: a nice big servo!

And with that we geared up the chairs and ratcheted out the door at 2052.



**New Newsletter Contributor** - Ron Bray as offered to take over the responsibility to write up the member biographies that have been in our newsletter that the last couple of months. There have been popular and I appreciate Dr Ron stepping forward to help out with this new newsletter feature. Mel

## GORDY CANNEY

After bringing back pieces of crashed RC airplanes, Gordy was driving by Scriber lake where he witnessed a couple of RC boaters practicing for the 1985 May Regatta which he attended and bought his Shelly Foss. He joined the club, which regularly met at Bob Jacobson's home, and has been an active and involved member ever since. He has built Lindberg Coast Guard vessels and diesel tugs (one still resides on the bottom of Scriber lake), cracker box boats, a Russian ice breaking port tug, a Mississippi delivery boat (sort of like a Springer), the Eula B. Devall towboat, the Titan (a modified Midwest harbor tug and the Odin (Springer, polo boat).



Despite his battle with a slowly progressive muscular dystrophy his zest and passion has sparked his many involvements in the club. He was vice president under the Northrup regime, developed our web page in 1997 and has served as web master. He also has been the keeper of the club database and with the help of his wife Linda arranges to get the Bilge Pump printed and distributed each month. Gordy has been involved in almost all of the events the club has offered and has won the Foss Cup once and the Tidewater cup twice. In addition he is involved in the Pacific Marine Expo.

Gordy was born and raised in Seattle attended Roosevelt High School, Everett Junior College and the U.Of W. He spent the following 6 years in the Coast Guard aboard the ice-breaker Northwind. After 33 and 1/2 years at Boeing as a lead numerical control programmer, he retired in 1994. In addition to his many club activities he is involved in his neighborhood Christmas display program to raise funds for the Mountlake Terrace food bank generating around 10K from donations gathered from the folks cruising by and enjoying their award winning displays. Another passion is his Ham radio activities which he done since 1975 taking every opportunity to advertise our club functions to the boating community.

Our club has been very fortunate to have such a stellar member over the years and hopefully for many more to come.

Dr. Ron

## RELO KAJLICH

Although new to the club Relo, has had boating interests since arriving in Edmonds in 1974.



He purchased a 22 foot Santana sloop in 1975 and had the "best time of my life" with his new wife and young family. As the family grew he moved up to a roomier 33 foot Taiwanese double ended cutter. After selling this boat he had several others, including a 28 foot trawler, until his last boat which was a Danish 1955 28 foot sloop which he sold four years ago.

He joined the club to learn from the "experts" the ins and outs of model boat building. Because of physical limitations he has had to abandon further efforts in finishing a Chester yawl lap strake kit (which is for sale) and is in the process of finishing a room for his model building.

He looks forward to the challenge and quiet relaxation in hopes of creating models he can operate at his summer cabin on Lake Wenatchee

Relo was born in Bratislava, Slovakia and grew up in a small resort town 60 miles north. He attended the university in Prague earning a degree in medicine in 1966. After working for a year in the department of Psychiatry he and his brother escaped to Vienna. A year later he came to Cleveland, Ohio worked as an orderly and come to the Pacific Northwest in 1968 where he served his internship and residency in Anesthesia. After a year in Holland teaching anesthesia he returned for a third year of residency. After a year of work in Hawaii and enjoying sailing his Hobie Cat he came to Edmonds where he worked as an anesthesiologist at Stevens Hospital until health issues forced him to retire about ten years ago. Since then he has been involved in the Center for Wooden Boats and the Fine Arts Center of Edmonds.

His wife Patty is an R.N. and teaches her skills at Shoreline Community College. They have three children; Bianca, an actress appearing currently of the sitcom Rules of Engagement; Anya, studying veterinary medicine in London; and Andre, studying chemistry in Prague.

Welcome aboard!

Dr. Ron

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## *Regatta Rules*

*While we all seem to understand what is and is not allowed at our competitive events, it would be good to document these basic rules for new members and visiting model boaters. It is also helpful to remind ourselves as well and serve as a document that can be reviewed, discussed and revised as needed. Here are the basic rules that are to be followed for competitive events*

Only registered boats will be allowed on the course when authorized by the harbormaster for competitive runs. Non-registered boats are only allowed on the course after all competitive runs are completed and the harbormaster declares the course as being "OPEN FOR FREE RUNNING".

A boat can only be entered and run one time in an event.

**Designated skipper positions** – In the case where special areas are designated for piloting, no points will be awarded for activities when all or a portion of the activity was skippered from outside the designated areas. Alternately, at the judges sole discretion, a 5 point penalty can be assessed for minor violations.

**Course questions and discrepancies** - Skippers will be responsible to navigate the course as defined in the event handout material or verbal instructions. Any questions must be addressed during the skipper's meeting or in separate discussions with the course judges prior to starting the run.

**Restarts** - Once a boat has entered the course and any scored activity is started, a boat cannot restart for any reason unless a judge rules that the boat was interfered with through no fault of the skipper and a restart is appropriate.

**Breakdowns** - If a boat is unable to run due to a failure or battery condition, the boat will be considered DNF and only receive points for the portion of the course that was completed.

**Assists** - "Tug assist" is only allowed when a boat is unable to navigate the course due to size, design or other conditions as approved by the judges. The skipper can arrange for a "tug assist" and will be responsible for all actions of the competing boat and the assisting tug/skipper.

**Boat contact** - Once a competitive run has been started, the skipper is not allowed to physically touch the boat or anything attached to the boat including any lines or rigging. Doing so will disqualify the skipper and no further points will be awarded for the remainder of the course.

**Communication with Skippers** - Once a skipper has started a run, the only communication to/from the skipper is only allowed from the judges, a designated pilot or the skipper of an assist tug.

**Special Circumstances** - For situations that are not covered in these Event Rules, the judges have full authority to make a ruling with or without consulting with the Event Coordinator. This ruling will be followed for similar situations throughout the remainder of the event.

# SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

. . . . Dusty Graham

Tuesday -6 March 2007 – 1900 hrs. Lake Jack

Members present – **Jack, Wayne, Dusty, Leonard, Keith, and Shawna.**

## **Keith Reported:**

The yearly open house and tour at Paccar Technical Center (12479 Farm to Market Rd. Burlington) will be held Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and reminded us that the N/W Hobby Expo. at the Monroe Fairgrounds will be March 24 & 25.

**Dusty** commented on Pacific Battery Company's move from their location in Burlington to Mt. Vernon.

**Wayne** reminded all that May 19-20 are the dates for this years Waterfront Festival in Anacortes.

**Leonard** talked to the crew about the high risk in using lithium polymer batteries in R/C boats. They are widely used in R/C planes but could cause problems (fires, etc.) if used in boats.

**Keith** brought two boats (under construction) for show and tell. The **Coho** is a scratch built model. It is a model of a vintage circa 1920-30 log hauling boat that operated in Bellingham Bay. **Keith** is building the smaller boat (see photo) from his scrap box (said since **Shawna** started helping him with his models he has a lot of scrap). This will be a very interesting model when completed.



We talked about the hybrid tugboats. Foss Maritime is teaming with the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach (California) to build a hybrid tug. The tug will be an electric-diesel. Foss hybrid design is generally similar to the technology used in hybrid cars. These hybrids would still have diesel engines which would provide the horsepower needed to guide a massive container ship or pull a loaded barge, but when idling in a harbor or doing less strenuous tasks, the hybrid would rely on the electric batteries, supplemented by diesel generators.

Production could start on the first boat later this year and be delivered in 2008.