



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

December 2007



**Upcoming Events**

**December**

- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 6 Northend Pig Out  
Martha Lake CC
- 9 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union

**January**

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 3 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union

**February**

- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 7 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 10 Fun Float  
CWB Lake Union



## From the Wheelhouse

By Mel Suelzle.

As I write Chapter 60 of my monthly installment for the newsletter, I realize that the five years of my term of President has gone by fairly quickly and has been a great experience for me. I have learned a lot during this process as evidenced by comments in my initial article as a new President in January of 2003. An excerpt of this article is as follows:

***The mission of the NW R/C Model Shipbuilders is to advance and develop the model boat building craft through participation in educational activities that ENTERTAINS the club membership. (my learning experience even Includes learning the correct NAME of our club)***

*Note the emphasis on "Entertains". Above all, we should have fun and club membership should not be a burden to any single person or group. By keeping this "course" in mind and full participation of the membership we will have a most rewarding and entertaining 2003.*

Later I go on to conclude: *Let 's keep our "course" during 2003 and make sure we are all pulling and going in the same direction and above all HAVING FUN.*

Clearly this shows my **great naivety** in thinking that we should be pulling and going in the same direction. I am a quick learner and I soon realized my job was more analogous to "herding cats". Cats, being the great independent thinkers who are all "kind of" going in the same direction, but at their own pace and path! Amazingly, model boaters eventually get close to the same point and maximize their enjoyment of the trip by making it a journey that is unique and interesting at least to themselves if no one else.

During the last five years, the club has not changed a great deal in terms of size and function. But we have maintained

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our membership and even grown a little which is a credit to our organization. We do have a little more structure and formality but it has always been done with the intent to improve the organization and make us more interesting to newcomers and old salts alike. We have managed to celebrate 26 years of existence without have the need for by-laws. A fact that I am sure other clubs find astonishing.

While I wish **Randy Flodquist** the very best in taking over the helm, I will be available to offer any assistance that Randy may want in order to make the transition smooth and his tenure most successful.

I wish to express my gratitude to the other officers that have helped me survive during these past 5 years. Many thanks go to **Allan and Darlene Wing, Ed Maurer, Gordy Canney, Randy Flodquist, Mike Haff**. Also thanks to the members and past leaders for having been there for me as I certainly needed their help and support.

But enough of this reminiscing, I have to get busy preparing for my last official act as President by MCing our annual PigOut. I am rapidly searching the archives and photos to document those moments that some are hoping we all forget. It's my job to see that we all enjoy them to the max at this annual event. Everyone has a good time at this event so hopefully you have already made your reservation. At this writing, reservations are going fast as the deadline is November 25<sup>th</sup>.

We have about 35 members and guests booked so far and we max out at 50. If you didn't get a RSVP and would still like to attend, please call me at 425-486-1979 and we will try to accommodate you.



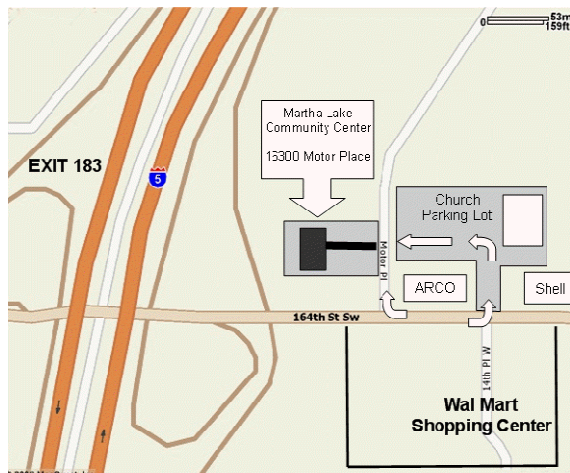
*For all NW RC  
Ship Modelers and  
their families, we  
wish you a Merry  
Christmas and hope  
your 2008 is filled with calm seas  
and fair winds.*



**December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006 7:00-9:30 pm**  
**Martha Lake Community Center**  
**16300 Motor Place**

**PIG OUT DRIVING DIRECTIONS**

We will have hors d'oeuvres and wine or punch starting at 7PM. A Dinner buffet will start at 7:45 with the program starting around 8:15 .



**Via I-5 or Eastbound 164<sup>th</sup>** - Take I-5 Exit 183 and head East on 164<sup>th</sup>. Stay in left lane. At the stop light at Wal-Mart entrance, turn left and proceed through church parking lot going left to Motor Place. Entrance to Martha Lake Community Center is almost directly across the street from the church parking lot.

**Via Westbound 164<sup>th</sup>** - Turn right on Motor Place. Go 1 block and turn left into Martha Lake Community Center.

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**Special Sale**

If the Galaxy Secret Santa Sale was not enough, we have another opportunity to pick up some great items from a special sale being offered by Bob Jacobsen and his friend Chris Christensen. They have purchased an estate and have a large quantity of model kits that includes a lot of old model airplane kits and boat/ship kits. Bob says they have about 50 model ships and boats that runs all the way from fancy sailing ship kits to r/c stuff. There are most of the Dumas Chris Craft kits, some plastic models (like the big Tamiya kits) several other types of runabouts and things like a Colin Archer and a Kyosho Fairwind. There are a few ARF type fast boats - even an old MRP Budweiser still new in the box. Yes there are even a few tug type kits - and some European type kits I have never seen before.

Before selling them at Model Expo, they are inviting members of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers and the Snohomish Radio Aero Club to a private sale on **December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00- 4:00**. The sale will be at Chris Christensen's home in Snohomish. There will be some drinks and snacks and Chris has an interesting shop with some cool airplanes under construction - so there will be lots to look at - even if you don't buy anything. The prices will be really good because we would rather sell these items to club members than on eBay or at the expo. All sales are final and CASH only.

**Directions:**

Chris Christensen  
19628 118th St SE  
Snohomish, WA 98290

Go into Monroe and turn left (North) at Fred Meyer - this is Kelsey Road. The road then becomes Chain Lake road. It is 3 miles from Fred Meyer to 118th. You turn right on 118th which is just past Chain Lake Elementary, it is the first house on the right (after about 1/4 mile).

## Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Randy Flodquist



Mel called twenty-two members to order at 1931. Under vintage business he suggested we get our \$30/head dinner reservations in by November twenty four. The dinner is on December six. The menu, wine, etc. will be like last year. The power point will be all new!!! There have been five or six nominations for the Cliff Shaw Award. Mel said he was disappointed that none came in from the northern group as there were several who deserved being nominated from that corner of the club. There is no hurry to spend the Taylor gift. An E-mail came in from a lady with lotsa stuff to get rid of. Maybe it'll happen some more.

The nominations were closed and by a show of hands Randy got railroaded ( make that barged ) in as the next president. Salty Dog to Anderson's for the treats. I suggested they get a Salty Dog card that we could punch every month or so..

CWB Sunday for our first off season float. Pacific Marine Expo on 15-17 November. Ron will be there. Secret Santa sale will be November 17 at Galaxy.

Following the BREAK it was Show 'n Tell which was Mel's Stimudents used as a vent ( Johnson & Johnson dental product ). Ben said the plastic ones would be easier to paint. Randy showed a picture of the tug ACTIVE from Mark Freeman's archives and gave a review of the Heavy Duty Diesel Show at South Lake Union. A very successful event. Door prizes to McGee and Green. With that we almost turned time back and flew out the door at 2030.

## Modeling Tip of the Month



Last month Tom Stevens has a great tip with using heavy solder for a third hand. It would be nice to have a tip of the month every month. To do this we need two things, either you submit a tip you have or submit a question for some of our experts to investigate and provide an answer. These could be anything from painting, propellers, building techniques or electronics. Inputs should at least half a page and contain a picture or two.

## SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

By, Keith Schermerhorn

It was a cold dark Tuesday evening when we all gathered at the Lake Jack meeting room. The people and boat talk kept the evening warm and entertaining with the likes of Jack, Lenard, Larry, Lon Bradshaw, Vic, Keith and the boat goddess of the group Shawna.

The discussions of the evening included the recent show at BIMM, Nichols Brothers closing, the forth coming work Boat show in Seattle, indoor flight at a local school on Friday nights, and sail boat racing. Larry showed the work that he was doing to a sailboat that Vic had gave him to work on. The work/discussion included the things liked/disliked and need improvement on the kit. Of special interest was the coaming around the cockpit. Keith brought along his non-boat item, a flying bug (justified it as it was R/C--what we talk about).

Much laughter was had by those at the expense of those not in attendance ( well only Dusty).

Before we all departed , Jack reminded us that December is the Skagit pig-out and year end festivities (mostly eating and chatting about the year).

On a sad note, the Skagit club lost member Mel Fenske, age 81, on Monday, November 5. Mel was a long time member that was primarily interested in steam engines and use in models.

All those in the Skagit R/C Ship Modelers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy safe New boating Year for 2008.

*Merry*  
  
*Christmas*  


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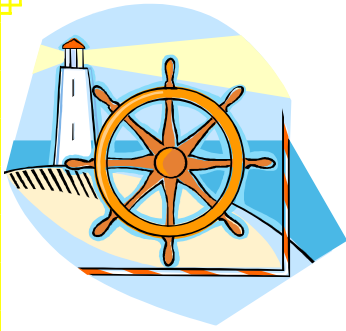


# November Fun Float

By Allan Wing

The first Fun Float of the season at the Center for Wooden Boats at Lake Union was well attended by the usual gang. The weather was nicer than expected and there have been some improvements and an additional place to get out of the weather but it was not needed. Al Kinsman provided pictures since I was unable to attend.





## **Member Spotlight** **By Dr. Ron**

MEL SUELZLE

El Presidente “Marvelous Mel” had been our fearless leader for the past five years after serving as vice president under the Northup regime and will now occupy a spectator seat to enjoy the programs and activities without arranging all the details and accepting the responsibilities of a well run organization. Mel has been full of ideas to improve our club including an upgraded Pig Out, jackets hats and badges for members, the Springer events and awards, the Cliff Shaw Award ( of which he was the first recipient ), creating our domain name on the web, instituting the member bio column for our newsletter, and super organizing our meetings and regattas. He has utilized his expertise to modify the DX6 radios to dual stick operation for a number of our members allowing us to better operate our twin motor boats. He has a natural leadership talent which has helped our club grow and prosper always emphasizing the doctrine of fun, fun, fun.



During the early 90's Mel wandered by a fun float at the Bellevue pond and was impressed with Ray Nelson's boats especially when Ray turned over the controls allowing him operate one of his pride and joys. Thus the hook was set. He had previously built a static kit of the Bluenose which adorns his mantle. He decided to go RC and build the Smit Rotterdam. He ran into Phil Northup at the Queen Anne Hobby Shop and was given advice and modeling tips which allowed him to complete a really nice detailed model. He attended early meetings at the Innis Arden club house but had to take a leave of absence due to work demands during the mid to late 90's. He returned with gusto after retiring in 2001 building the Mustang, the Let's Roll Springer, an unnamed polo boat, modifying a PT boat he bought from Bob Jacobson, and built a real nice schnellboat. Currently he is building a Dolphin class tug with Z-drives and plans to build a Springer with his grandson Zack.

In the past he has done some fine woodworking projects such as building cabinets, shelving and office furniture. He rebuilt a grandfather clock and obviously enjoys such challenging projects. He and his wife are heavy into genealogy and have traced their roots way back.

Mel was born and raised in Yakima, attended a tech school after high school learning electronics and instrumentation. After school he worked at Hanford until it was shut down. He came west and worked for Fluke where he became a corporate customer support manager which took him to many foreign countries. After 35 years he retired and has volunteered his many talents to our club. He met and married his wife Ginny in 1963. They have a son and two daughters who live nearby and 7 1/2 grandchildren. His oldest grandson Zack is new club member and often accompanies his grandfather at our events.

Mel has considerable enthusiasm and sees the club as a great place to go where persons from all walks of life can meet, share ideas and skills, and where differences melt away with common goals of working together. Even though Mel is stepping down as president, his influence will hopefully be around for some time to come.