



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

February 2017

## 3 Events Month Look Ahead

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9am

### MARCH

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float - Seattle Yacht Club 9am

### APRIL

- 6 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 9 Fun Float - Ctr Wooden Boats 9am  
(Sunday)

Check for latest updates at  
[www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)



## From the Wheel House

*Mel Suelzle*

As usual, this time of the year is very busy as newly elected officers get a foothold, Hobby Expo and planning for the New Year schedule. Our schedule of activities often reflects new

ideas and plans. These plans usually include some changes that are intended to enhance club activities and hopefully bring about improvements.

We all have seen our club and club members change of over the years. Historically we often used to promote our focus on scale model ship builder and hold high esteem for those that produce "scratch builds" and highly detailed kits that take thousands of hours to perfect. We spent lots of time on schemes to judge and give awards to the most perfect. At the very bottom of the list was the "RTR or "Ready to run" boats that were shunned by the purists.



However our society has changed dramatically over the years as time pressures increase and only the unemployed or retired have time to build a highly detailed model. Ready to run boats have greatly improved and look and run very well. These offered a quick and reasonably priced alternative to building a scratch or even kit model boat. Members could get a boat in the water and enjoy the operational side of R/C boats.

*From the Wheelhouse continued...*

Recognizing and responding to this trend is important for the long term future of our club. Our plans and programs need to address the wider range of interests of our members if we want to grow or even survive in the long term. Our goal should be to address everyone's interest in model boating. We need to keep our interest and focus on scale modeling and performance enhancements that emulate the real world with ALL type of boats and boat modelers.



2017 should bring our attention to broadening our programs to meet broader range of members and embrace model boats from all sources. Youth programs like our Junior Floats at events are good attractions. Special membership rates to encourage youth membership and sponsor involvement are a good start. Creating a mini-tug class for South Hampton class boats is a great way to get members involved that cannot or do not want to build their own boat. These RTR boats offer a great entry level way to join the fun quickly with a modest investment.

These and other types of programs will significantly increase the appeal of our hobby to others and help build our membership and secure the growth and longevity of our club.

**GOT BADGE?***Mel Suelzle*

Our membership dues include a club badge. Badges are important to help new members communicate better and join the ranks more quickly. We want to encourage members to wear their badge at club events. If you did not

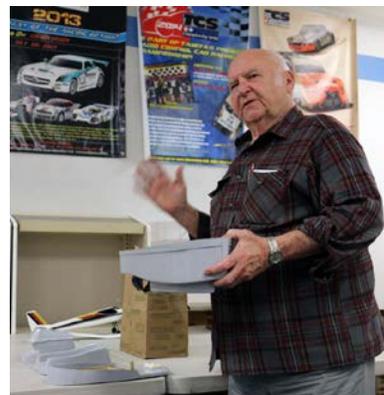


receive a badge when you signed up or have lost your badge and want a replacement, please email me at [Mel123@frontier.com](mailto:Mel123@frontier.com). Please specify the name or nickname you prefer on the badge. The cost of these badges is \$5. If you are replacing a lost badge, please mail or give our Treasurer \$5 when it is convenient. We are considering a new design so it may be a several weeks to get your replacement. Badges will be delivered at club events and will not be mailed.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes***Dr. Ron Bray**Photos by Robert Osmond & Allan Wing*

Our commodore, **Mel Suelzle**, called 20 of us to order at 1900 hours. **Mike** announced that **Ed Mauer** had won one of two \$50 gift certificates to purchase merchandise at Galaxy Hobby. **Mike** noted that a chance to win can be entered when one spends \$30 or more at the store. **Mel** announced that **Mark Freeman** had recently passed, which will be a great loss as he has been an ardent supporter of our regattas and an invaluable source of information for our members,

particularly those interested in building work boats. He has a long time legacy in the northwest maritime community. A card was passed so members could say a few words and wish the best to his family.



Before show and tell, **Allan Wing** gave a dissertation on the characteristics of NiCad and NiMH batteries and provided a handout with all the pertinent data.



**Mike King** started show and tell by offering some hulls for the taking and a few he wished to sell one of which is a Lee Upshaw tug kit. He also has a WW2 z 23 hull with plans. He is

looking for a home for a sailboat as well. **Tom Stevens** brought in a melted gel cell battery which was left charging for two days on a constant volt charger, demonstrating what can happen when these batteries are overcharged. **Mel** showed progress he is making on the **Gary King** log boom tug he won at the tug regatta. "no more big boats" **Bob Wickham** showed the group his 3rd and last small Lindberg highly modified mine sweeper tug, which performed admirably at Hobby Expo. **Robert Osmond** demonstrated progress he is making on his Warwick remodel and explained how he



supported the Kort nozzles with a Y-shaped skeg attached to the nozzles to prevent damage. His bigger project is also progressing well. He noted that his Prop Shop props were not the same diameter and needed to be honed down. The center of the props should be in line with the rudder shaft for maximum efficiency.

After the break, **Mel** made a pitch for everyone to get this year's dues in to **Paul Williams**, our new treasurer. When everyone has anted up, a new roster will be made available to members. He also suggested some of us keep up our membership in SSMA in order to be eligible for insurance coverage. **Dave Green** has been in touch with the Bellevue park department noting that they have not yet issued us a permit to use the pond for our regatta in July



**Mel** reported on our most recent event at Hobby Expo and suggested that the event should probably be a two- day event rather than a three day event since hardly anyone was around on Sunday. Both he and **Kevin** have discussed this with the sponsors. **Mel** has been in contact with the trophy shop regarding name badges and they suggested a new format. Several of our newer members have not received a badge yet. It was felt that wearing our badges would be a good idea as some of us older guys have trouble remembering the month after March. Discussion also revolved around purchasing jackets and hats with our club logo.

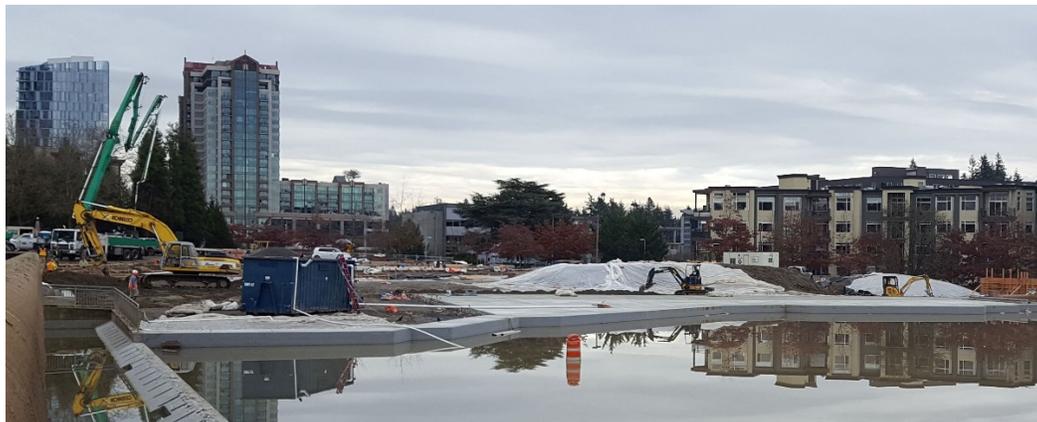
There being no further business or discussion, the meeting concluded at 2025 and we all headed for home ports.



## Bellevue Pond: An unofficial report from Your Inside Man January 2017

*David Kentala*

In spite of the wettest October and coldest December in recent history, the Bellevue Downtown Park project is moving ahead. The projected complete date still depends on weather conditions. The City expects the park to be functional in time for the Fourth of July celebrations.



Much of the concrete flatwork around the pond is done. It is highly likely that the pond will be usable by the July Regatta. It may even be ready for the July Fun Float. Those items still being completed should not hamper the usability of the park.

The original parking lot is gone. Parking is currently limited to the new West lot but the Southwest lot (playground area) will eventually be the closest to the pond.

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## MONROE HOBBY EXPO 2017

*Dr. Ron Bray*

*Photos by Marv Walden, Allan Wing, Amos Aarsvold*

On Thursday, a bunch of us made the trip up to the fairgrounds to help set up the pond which was provided by **Kevin Klocke**. **Mel** brought **Robert Osmond's** booth set up and had it up in no time. The next morning it was noted that more than an expected bowing of the sides had occurred overnight. So, the pond was drained and the antibowing straps were cinched up tighter and the



pond was then refilled. It was surmised that the new straps were not as strong as the originals, allowing them to stretch. Other than that, the pond was easily assembled and didn't leak. Yeah!

The turnout on Friday was marginal but so was the crowd. We had the whole day to sail our boats and practice various maneuvers. The swap room was loaded with airplane goodies, but very little in the way of useful boating items. There were a few vendors from whom we could purchase needed items, or what we thought were needed.



On Saturday, the crowds were much larger and participation by our members was ample and greatly appreciated. Several time slots were dedicated for kids to run our boats and they

had a great time. It was amazing how quickly they caught on to the skills necessary to drive the model boats. Other than the pond activities there were many other events such as airplane handling,



drone races, car races, miniature trains, and battle bots. Two food wagons were outside the front entrance, one selling hot dogs and the other Mexican food. There was a booth selling candied nuts inside the main building.

There was a sparse attendance by both club members and a much smaller crowd on Sunday but



we had ample opportunity to drain our batteries and have a lot of run time and fun. Modeling projects, mostly airplanes and boats, were placed on a judging table on Friday and Saturday and awards were presented at noon on Sunday. Our



club had the majority of boat entries and therefore had most of the awards. **Tom Stevens** won 2nd place in the workboat category with his Heidi and 3rd with his Norwester. **Mel** won 2nd place in the military class with his new model of the Kite gunboat. **Doc** won first place in the pleasure category with his model of the schooner Valdivia. **Doc** also won best of scale boats along with a \$25 check. The best of show was won by a member of the Shelton group, **Ron Bennington**, for his model galleon along with a 2nd place for his Chris Craft on a trailer. He also won 1st place for the truck towing the boat and trailer.



We started draining the pond at 2 PM and finished loading all the items into **Kevin's** trailer by 3:20PM. The turnout was a bit light at the end as this is the time where all the heavy duty work of rolling up the pond liners is needed. All in all, the show was great and every one had a great time. Kudos to **Mel** for his efforts in organizing the event and for four days of participation from the beginning to the end of each day.







## Fun Float – February 4<sup>th</sup>



### Mel Suelzle

The gathering at the Seattle Yacht Club was a small but lively group that tested the element and the waters again this month. The ice on water from last month was gone. The warmer temperatures brought periods of liquid sunshine throughout the event. Once again **Robert Osmond** terrorized the waters with his surf board and literally ran circles on the more sane skippers. **Scott Baumann** ran his Atlantic and late arriving yours truly, ran my South Hampton. **Al Kinsman** ran his strong tug and tested the running gear of a new pleasure boat he is

building. **Stan Babcock** supervised the activities and cheered everyone on. Few notable events this day except for the “rescue” of **Scott’s** Atlantic with exhausted batteries. Yours truly provided expert assistance to bring it nicely dockside. Unfortunately, the removal from the water did not go so well. **Scott’s** boat escaped and drifted under the docks and was quickly going out of sight. **Al Kinsman** came to the rescue and retrieved **Scott’s** boat before it could drift further into the unknown water UNDER the docks and require someone with diving gear. By 1100 most batteries were run down and all skippers headed for homeports.



It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of **Mark Freeman** on January 26th. Mark was a long time member and supporter of our club. Anyone visiting the offices of Freemont Tug would marvel at the huge expanse of model boats and other interesting marine documents that Mark gathered over his lifetime. Mark was a pillar of the marine community and like our club, many will miss him.



## 2017 Club Information



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