



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

July 2018

Upcoming Events Look Ahead

JULY

21 Twilight Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 7pm

AUGUST

2 Meeting @ Galaxy Hobby 7pm

4 Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 9am

11 Portland Regatta – Tualatin, OR 9am – 4pm

19 NW Tug Regatta – Bellingham 9am – 4pm

SEPTEMBER

6 Meeting @ Galaxy Hobby 7pm

8 Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 9am

15 Fishermen's Memorial– Ballard 11am – 6pm

OCTOBER

4 Meeting @ Galaxy Hobby 7pm

6 Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 9am

NOVEMBER

1 Meeting @ Galaxy Hobby 7pm

3 Fun Float @ Seattle Yacht Club 9am

DECEMBER

6 Christmas Dinner
Old Spaghetti Factory - Lynnwood 6:30 – 9pm

Check for latest updates at
www.shipmodelers.com



From the Wheel House

Mel Suelzle

With the regatta behind us and August approaching we are entering the busiest time of our schedule. The summer weather

and frequent boating events are times we put new boat building on hold and prepare for operating our boats and full participation in the regattas and fun floats. We are fortunate to live in a lively model boating community where we can attend several organized events from Portland to Vancouver BC. Many of our members attend most if not all of these events. One of the more popular regattas is coming up next is at Tualatin, Oregon. Tualatin is a suburb about 10 miles south of Portland. The Portland regatta is on August 11th on the Tualatin Commons area that holds a large pond that accommodates our boating events very well. Often we have 12-20 members and spouses attend this event from our area. It is a great weekend getaway location that spouses can enjoy local highlights and shopping areas when they get bored watching model boats. The regatta is a long day starting at 9am and ending with a night float around 10pm. We take a well needed break from about 6-9 pm for a nice dinner and award ceremony with the Portland clubs. The Century Hotel is our favorite place to stay. It is in the Commons area beside the pond where we run. If you haven't attended this event, give some consideration to do so this year. Aimee Eng of the Portland group is the lead organizer on this event. The Portland Club provides lunch. They have asked for a count of our members that plan to attend this year. Please give me a call or email if you plan to attend.

Equipment Storage - Over the years our club has looked for more economical and convenient ways to store our equipment most used only once a year to setup our regatta navigation course. Several years ago we got a great rental rate for a unit at a storage business in the Lynnwood/Edmonds area. In recent years rental rates have increased significantly. Our current rate of \$209/mo. equals an annual cost of about \$35 for each member. While our rate of \$209/month is still less than market rates, we felt it necessary to consider other less expensive storage options. The consensus was that an enclosed trailer would be a good option offering maximum portability and the purchase cost would be returned in less than one year. However, like most things, the devil is in the details. In order to register a vehicle, we must be a company or have a member willing to be the register owner without much control of who tows it. No such member could be found and the procedure to become a non-profit company was rejected like it was in years past.

Therefore, we have decided to take advantage of member Bill Heath's offer to use a facility on his property. Some refurbishment may be need, but nothing that would take excessive effort or cost. We will be working the details and have given the storage company notice of our intent to vacant our unit by the end of August.

New Membership Directory - We are in the process of preparing a membership directory for our members. This new directory will include full details on address, phone, email addresses and photos of all active members. Most of our photos are from club events and are casual head shots. This format of the distribution will be in hard copies at the meeting and extras available at our events. Mailed copies will be via email in pdf format. If you have a preference of the photo or **would like some or all of your information excluded, please contact me by email before July 25th**. Also in this directory, I have tried to list the various special offices members have held during their membership. While officers are important, I realize our club succeeds through the non-official positions as well as active member support at meetings, show 'n tells and special event services. However it is interesting to see how many members have not held office positions and are missing out on an opportunity to contribute in a more official manner. This brings me to my next subject.....

Opportunities - It is not too early to start considering being a candidate for stepping up your game in the area of serving the club as an officer and board member. After the August meeting there will only be two meetings to identify candidates for our officer elections at our November meeting. The current slate of officers have service for two years and in my case, I have been president for 7 years and I plan to retire from office position in December. I will continue to be an active member and most willing to help a new President or other officers in any capacity as needed.

Mel Suelzle.

July Meeting

Ron Bray

**Photos: Darlene Wing,
Robert Osmond**



Our commodore, **Mel Suelzle**, welcomed a full house of 29 members. our newest member **Fred Row** and guest **Jon McCool** all of whom came in out of a beautiful summer evening. Fred is a friend of **Richard Bizier** who introduced him to our club and is the owner of a South Hampton tug. **Jon**

moved to Marysville from Portland and the Portland group recommended him to us. Show and tell began with **Mel** presenting a slide show of the regatta from a few of the many pictures provided by **Darlene Wing**. **Bryan Morse** showed progress of a recently purchased Tugster kit. **Robert Wickham** professed that his recent build of a paper tug has kept him out of the bars. He plans to soak the paper in penetrating epoxy to make it water proof, hopefully. He has small drive parts for it and hopes to have it functional in a month or so. **Tom Stevens** brought in two chop



After the break the storage situation was discussed at length. With our storage cost going north it was suggested that we consider purchasing a trailer. However, the issue of insurance must be



saws which can be purchased from Micro Mark, one small and relatively inexpensive and the other a bit more robust and pricey. **Robert Osmond** brought in his first major build of a great lakes steam ore freighter which is gear driven and has a bow thruster. He claims this was his first foray into model boat building. **Paul Williams** showed us a real cool lamp he purchased from an antique store which has an old boatbuilder making



a model boat. **Mel** told the members to help themselves to mother lode of materials from **Cliff Shaw's** model building days. A very clever propeller jig was up for grabs.

evaluated. Which **Mel** said he would provide info at the next meeting. **Mel** announced that we would have a fun float this Saturday and that it would be a great opportunity to practice for the tug regatta. Because of the Twilight float being on the 21st it was suggested that the coffee float should be held on the 26th, a fourth Thursday instead of the usual third Thursday.

With **Jon** joining tonight he became the newest member, thus raising our membership to 70 members. Drawings were won by **Tom Stevens, Jerry Hartmann, John Legate and Doug Wilson**. The meeting concluded at 2027 and we headed out into a beautiful evening.



From the North End

Keith Schermerhorn

With summer's light we find that meetings are short and empty. 3 members made it to the July meeting to discuss—well anything we felt like.



Of note is that we will be changing our meetings' dates this fall/winter to make them a little easier to get to in the daylight. Show and tell was brief with Keith showing off the new little hull of a 45' ST tug from Loyalhanna Dockyard that he won at the Regatta. The other show-and-tell was a new little 1/18th boom tug kit picked up off the internet/Facebook that is kind of fun. Laser cut and CNC machined parts along with some printed parts makes this little boat fun to build. After about 45 minutes of chat, we headed home for our home ports. Note that there will be 2 meetings in August on the first and last Mondays due to the holiday in September. Have fun and see you at Tug Regatta.

Pacific NW R/C Tug Regatta

Hope all you captains of tugs are getting some practice in for the 2018 event to be on August 18th in Bellingham. There will be 5 classes as always with: small, medium, large, vintage, and masters (Mark Freeman memorial). This is a fun day with other modelers and we like to make sure all who come have fun. Raffle prizes will be done throughout the day with the top 10 being done at

the end. You will be able to drive down to the site to unload, but then need to park in the designated parking areas. Have a barge, bring it if you like for others to use as well. Note that the barge for your run must be at least 3-4 times bigger than your boat whenever possible. For those that want to get extra run time in, there will be the opportunity to help shift salvage vessels after each run back out to anchorage (you get to be pushy!) Here are some helpful tips:

- ❖ Practice towing/pushing/ dragging a barge or other objects helps get you ready for the challenges of the day.
- ❖ Practice tying on to these objects so that you are confident that you will stay connected in your favorite way. YOU are responsible for the connections to the barge and equipment for salvage even if someone else helps you.
- ❖ Speed is not the main goal—try maneuvering in tight places at slow speed.
- ❖ Practice using the elements as a tool in your efforts.
- ❖ If running more than 1 model, try to make sure it is in a different class as we like you to challenge yourself.
- ❖ And most importantly—make sure all your equipment is ready and batteries charged.
- ❖ HAVE FUN!!

July 7th Fun Float

Mel Suelzle

Photos: Darlene Wing, Robert Osmond



Our July fun float was very well attended. We didn't get a group photo as we were having too much fun running barges through **Robert Osmond's** course and sharpening our skills in preparation for the Tug Regatta on August 18th in Bellingham. I would estimate we had over 20



people including several member guests. The day was almost ideal weather-wise. Cloudy and cool and no need for protection from the sun. The spectators were plentiful and they enjoyed watching the tugs maneuver the barges through the

course. Most of Robert's gates survived the abuse they were often subjected to. Robert has perfected his gate design to hold a fixed size and able to survive most direct hits.

The wind was gusty and took a toll on a sailboat or two. The sun was well shielded, not so much that **Alan Wing** could not put his



solar power system on the water. Performance was a bit sluggish so Alan will have to hope for a bright sunny day to better demonstrate his eco-friendly tug.

Haslan Winslow left his "bulk container" (previously erroneously called a "container ship") ship at home, but brought a tug and huge barge. The barge was about 1" narrower than Robert's gates, but Harlan expertly guided his barge through the gate on the first attempt. Deciding to quit while he was ahead, he denied requests to try it a second time.

Rex Olsen brought out his new springer which ran very well. This is Rex's first springer. Good job Rex!

I ran my barge with the Maverick and Mustang. Poor planning on my part will prevent me from



attending the Tug Regatta, but it's always fun to use tugs in ways they are designed to do. Both the Maverick and Mustang handle best with a good barge load.

Many non-tugs were on the water as well. Norm Hiatt had his Viking ship rowing around and John Nygaard showed off his beautiful Typhon.



2018 Club Information



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