



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

June 2018

Upcoming Events Look Ahead

JUNE

21 Coffee/Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 11am

JULY

5 Meeting @ Galaxy Hobby 7pm

7 Fun Float @ Bellevue Pond 9am

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

Behind the Scenes

Our big event of the year in fully detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. But like all events of this type, there are a lot of activities that are critical but taken for granted and often overlooked in excitement of the actual event.

There several members that routinely spend a good portion of three days to insure the success of our regatta. **Robert Osmond** is busy well ahead of the actual event building props for the course. His effort setting and resetting the pond is very visible the entire day of the event. But there are a number of other efforts that also deserve recognitions.

Bill Heath and **Jim Johnson** start extra early the Friday, Saturday and Sunday following the event to bring the truck to and from the pond and storage unit. On those days several members showed up to help unload the truck. At the risk of forgetting someone, we appreciate the help of members, **Robert Osmond, Al Kinsman, Ron Bray, Dave White, Bob Wickham, Richard Bizier, and Rich Goodrich**. All were there one and two days to help load Bill's truck. This year we took extra time to identify items we can consider getting rid of and organizing that which we need each year.

With the new park layout and park department procedures, **Dave Green** has been busy taking care of this important liaison with the Bellevue park department. Policies are still very fluid and we appreciate Dave's help in keep us in compliance with the changes.

We all like to share our boating events with others. Photos are the best way to show of our models and events. We are fortunate to have several photo contributors but none more dedicated and consistent as **Darlene Wing**. She can be counted on to capture all the important occasions that enable us all to enjoy our events, create interesting newsletters and relive the most interesting at our December dinner. We appreciate her efforts and we should share our appreciation with her often. Thanks Darlene

As usual events often can benefit with changes. It is a good practice to document what went well and what could stand some improvement. In the coming weeks we need to document those areas for the benefit of those planning and coordinating next year's event. We will cover those areas at upcoming meetings. We encourage everyone's input at these meetings. An email with your thoughts would also work.

Our regatta is only the first of four major events of our model boating season. While July is void of any major events, we can use our regular fun float on July 8th to prepare for the upcoming events at Tualatin Oregon and the Tug Regatta at Bellingham. We will make sure barges are available at the fun float to brush up on your barge handling and derelict recovery techniques typical of the Tug Regatta in Bellingham on August 18th. Also the Tualatin event on August 11th often has barge handling and towing events as well.

Speaking of Tualatin, for those not familiar with this event, this is an all-day event starting around 9am and finishing about 10pm with a break for a dinner banquet. It is very fun day on a great pond. Aimee Eng always comes up with challenging events. This is event that many bring spouses and stay on the pond side hotel and make a long weekend out of the event. Early hotel reservations are recommended. *Mel Suelzle*

May Meeting

Ron Bray

*Photos: Darlene Wing,
Robert Osmond*



A full house of our members drifted in for the monthly meeting orchestrated by our commodore, Mel Suelzle. There were no guests this month.



Show and tell started with Mel asking anyone interested in finishing a 90% completed small



steam launch started by Cliff Shaw. Mike Shaw would really appreciate having this model for display. Allan Wing gave a detailed treatise on alternative motors, namely out runner brushless motors, which are more efficient and capable of very high rpms at fairly low amperage draw. He added that KV is related to revolutions per volt as many of these motors are defined in KV terms.

Doug Wilson spoke about difficulties he was having in painting his new model of the snow goose. He said that the Bondo® like putty, Evercoat®, is superior to plain Bondo® and is of commercial grade available only at specialty marine or auto body supply stores. Dave White brought in a bag

of serpentine belts to be used in launching boats. Tom Stevens passed around his detailed bar b-q with a salmon on the grill.

Following the break Mel gave the treasurers report and announced that we now have 67 active members. Mel discussed storage issues and the need to clear out our unused items. Les Cade has a large river boat he would like to sell as he can no longer handle large boats. Anyone interested can call him at: 503 349 1679. Les is known for his quality craftsmanship.

The upcoming regatta was discussed and it is apparent that the park will not permit us to drive the truck up the ramp to unload because we don't have the required insurance. Details and responsibilities were discussed and it seems all is in order to consummate the event. We can only hope that the weatherman is wrong with his prediction of foul weather.



The meeting closed at 2015 after Allan Wing, Richard Bizier and Paul Williams had the winning tickets for the drawing. After the break, **Mel** recapped our very successful fun float at the Seattle Yacht club. The weather was great and brought out many participants and onlookers. We owe many thanks to **Steve Sunich**

for orchestrating this event and arranging for tables on which to place our models. A model of the Virginia V was displayed by one of the Seattle Yacht Club members along with pamphlets



describing events surrounding this vessel. It was suggested that we might have a display of our models on this vessel at times when it is not actively engaged in tours and outings. We now have 62 active members with a few hold outs regarding dues. It was moved and passed that active duty service members should have their dues waived since they are often away for long term deployments.

Considerable discussion revolved around the upcoming spring regatta. The course is set and jobs volunteered by many of our members. However, a plea was made for help transferring items from the storage facility and returning them on Sunday after the event. **Tom Stevens** has several items he would like to sell if anyone is interested. He mentioned a table saw, mill, and lathe items.

Raffle prizes were won by **Tom Stevens, Noel Holley** and **Dave White**. The meeting concluded at 2010 as we stacked the chairs and headed out into a warm spring evening.

From the North End

Keith Schermerhorn

June was off to a busy start for this group as only 2 days in and we had the Waterfront Festival in Anacortes. Set up went quickly as **Randy, Wayne, and Keith** made quick work of setting tables and their boats. Then the rest of the day was filled with onlookers and admirers of the models on hand. Even with just 3 people, we managed to cover the event with plenty of models. The weather for Saturday was sunny and comfortable! Sunday however, the weather was less favorable as by late morning the liquid sunshine began to fall putting a big damper on the festival. By 3 pm, we were packing up and heading home. We did manage to hand out several flyers for Zippkits© Tugs and hope fully that will help bring more people to the hobby.



Discussion on the festival was brief as most of the crowd was there all weekend. We talked about the big regatta that was coming up on the 9th and hope that others will have a chance to go. More talk ensued on places to run again and what other options we can look to. Reports from the sailing and racing parties indicates they are having fun and still doing those activities. Show and tell consisted of my build of a ZippKits© Tugster and the parts used to make it from the kit. I also showed a new 1/96th scale X-bow tug that is different from what most see in the ocean going tugs/supply vessels. Newly retired Paccar employee **Ralph** showed of the 3D printed recognition award they created for him. All the parts were created and printed with multiple colors into each piece. This showed what some of those machines can really do (at the upper end). Impressive as the tires and mud flaps were printed as well. After a few more light hearted conversations that included the visiting aircraft of the Collins Foundation to the Skagit Regional Airport on June 20-22, we closed the building up and headed for our own home ports.



The first Monday had a crowd of 7 meeting to chat about the usual boat stuff and the Waterfront Festival. 1 new member came along to see what we do and get more information. He also showed off a couple of his static models that were built.



June 9th Regatta

Mel Suelzle

Photos: Darlene Wing, Robert Osmond



The 38th Annual Regatta is history and goes down as a SUCCESS!

The 38th Annual Regatta held on June 9th turned out to be a most successful event. Those skippers that ignored the dire weather forecasts enjoyed a very pleasant day at the Bellevue Pond. This is our second regatta in the new configuration which continues to be a welcome change from the soggy irregular grass area of the past. The setup crew arrived early and had the course set up and ready to go just in time for the skippers meeting. The course was setup and ready for registrations just in time for the 18 skippers and 36 boats registered for the event. Undoubtedly the bad weather forecast kept some at home or finding more indoor activities, however we still have the same number of boats as last year and only one less skipper. We were pleased to see representatives from Canada, Sue and Ron Burchett as well as regular attendee, Aimee Eng from Portland. After the skipper’s meeting the skippers were urged to sign up for a running position. **Dave White** served as the Harbor Master and kept things moving well throughout the day. Dave wanted to thank the skippers for being ready when their turn came up.

Scott Bauman and **Alan Wing** again served as our course judges. As usual, they did a great job in judging fairly and consistently for all 36 boats that tried the course. We appreciate their doing the intense job that offers little chance for a break.

At the end of the day the navigation results were in and the awards presented to the most successful of each of the three classes. The top Navigator Award went to **Ron Burchett** who turned in the top score of the day. Congratulations to Ron on his most successful run with his Alan B small class tug. He also took a 3rd Place Award in the medium class. Below are the top three finishers for each of the three classes. Awards were given to each of these skippers.

	Small Class	Medium Class	Large Class
1st Place	Ron Burchett - Allan B	Mel Suelzle - Red Bull	Keith Schermerhorn – Misty Moon
2nd Place	Al Kinsman Chris Craft	Keith Schermerhorn	Robert Osmond - Invader
3rd Place	Dave Green - Carol Moran	Ron Burchett	Tom Stevens - Teepee Creeper

Robert’s course was very challenging this year as well. His rotating barges were a challenge and often allowed only brief openings to shoot through and avoid a collision. **Bob Wickham’s** ferry ran flawlessly and got the attention of every skipper. Unfortunately, I for one didn’t pay enough attention with the HMS Kite and accounted for one of the two ferry collisions of the day. The condensed course brought even greater challenges for those running boats of the large class. The challenge was furthered by icebergs shifting positions and the rotation of Deception Pass. These areas are opportunities to improve for next year’s event.

Registration opened on time and got everyone signed up before the skippers meeting. Thanks to Ron Bray and Dave Green. Mid-day the sun came out and jackets and foul weather gear disappeared. Just in time, **Chef Bob Spiger** had lunch ready for the hungry skippers which were well satisfied and nourished for the afternoon.

The competition was intense on the pond, but not as great as in the air! Just as we started the Skipper’s meeting, our attention turned skyward to watch a pair of eagles battle with an osprey over the osprey’s fish. The eagles tag teamed and wore out the osprey that eventually yielded the fish over to the eagles.





The raffle prizes were extensive this year. We had great support for many sponsors who donated prizes. Thanks again goes to everyone that opened up their wallets and help turn these great raffle prizes in to cash to pay for this event. No small measure of thanks is due to **Richard Bizier** for his tenacious effort to twist a few arms necessary to get over \$600 of raffle ticket sales. Raffle prize awarding started mid- day and ended with the top prizes given just prior to the awards presentation. Those successful at this drawing had an extra reason to enjoy the regatta as we had many great prizes donated by members and vendors who supported our event. This year's sponsors or contributors are listed below.

M-troniks
Harbor Models
Loyalhanna Dockyard
Galaxy Hobby
Zippkits
Pacific Power Batteries
Western Towboat
Aimee Eng – Baby Boat Bumpers
Dimension Engineering
Margie Freeman

Many thanks to members that also donated to the raffle, **Marv Walden, Scott Bauman & Paul Williams**. Special thanks to **Margie Freeman** who again contributed \$500 in memory of her husband Mark to help with the regatta expenses.

The weather fears never materialize thanks to the Robert Osmond's Hawaiian Rain God.



Robert kept him well submerged in water the entire day which kept our day absent of any moisture until the very end when he produced a very brief light sprinkle to remind us what might have been.

As the our event wrapped up, we faced the task of packing not only our own equipment and boats to the parking lots, but the significant material and props we need to set up the regatta including the many items that made the navigation course a most interesting one. Again this year, it was a very positive result for this year's event that most if not **all participants** responded and helped load the truck.

Events of this type require a lot of effort before during and after the event. Every effort is much needed and appreciated.



FOR SALE

Les Cade, our club member in the Portland area is having to sell on of his large riverboat tugs. This tug is over 5 feet long and is nicely scratch built by Les. Les estimates he has over \$4,000 in building this tug.

If you are interested give Les a call at 503 349-1679



2018 Club Information



President Mel Suelzle
president@shipmodelers.com



Webmaster Allan Wing
webmaster@shipmodlers.com



Vice President Bryan Morse
vice-president@shipmodelers.com



Membership Database Paul Williams
membership@shipmodelers.com



Treasurer Paul Williams
treasurer@shipmodelers.com



Newsletter Editor Amos Aarsvold
newsletter-editor@shipmodelers.com



Wellness Committee Tom Stevens
totemtug@comcast.net



Skagit R/C Meeting Contact Keith Schermerhorn
wscherm@fidalgo.net