



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

June 2010

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From the Quarterdeck

By Allan Wing



First of all, I would like to thank all the wonderful people who helped me and sent me good wishes this last month. The surgery is behind me and I am recovering fast. I will be at the Regatta.

The work on the Regatta is progressing well. We have a course, maps and food all set up. The judges are in place. Registration and Scoring are in place. We have many donations for the Raffle. Several people have stepped up and put in a lot of effort to make the Regatta a success. What we need now is good weather and a good turnout of boats. We will be discussing any last minute items at the meeting.

We will have a method to combine the results of the static voting and navigation scores so that we can have an overall winner. That boat will be a combination of a good looking boat that was piloted well.

The Anacortes Festival was last weekend and we hope to get a report on how it went. By the time you read this the International Tug and Salvage convention will be over and we hope for a report on that event also.

We now look forward to the Foss Cup, Crawdad Festival and Tidewater Cup as the major events after our Regatta. We will be discussing these events in our next few meetings.

I have been told work is progressing on the boat pond at the south end of Lake Union. I don't know how this

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Upcoming Events

June

- 3 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 5 Northwest Regatta
9:00am, Bellevue Park**
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon

July

- 1 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 11 Fun Float,
12:00, Bellevue Park
- 24 Tidewater Cup
9-5pm Spokane, Avista Pond

August

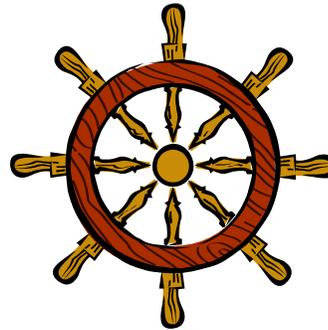
- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 8 Fun Float
12:00, Bellevue Park
- 14 Crawdad Festival
9am-9pm Tualatin, OR
- 21 Foss Cup
9am, Bellevue Park



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pond will fit into our plans but that should be something we will discuss in upcoming meetings. There will certainly be questions about parking and the how will the pond be managed during the winter when Bellevue is not available to us.

Mel discussed the possibility of moving the Fun Floats to Saturday at the last meeting. This is something we should consider and there is an article in this edition of the newsletter that addresses this topic. We certainly want our Fun Floats to be scheduled so the maximum number of members can attend.



Membership Form

Dues are \$25.00/ year
Make checks payable to:
N.W.R/C Ship Modelers

C/O Ed Maurer, 22309 54th AVE. W., Mountlake Terrace,
WA. 98043

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NW R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By, Dr. Ron

MEETING May 6th

Our past commodore, Mel Suelzle, called the meeting to order at 1900 as Allan is recuperating from major surgery and was unable to be present. Guests were introduced. Tom Walco, who was a member 10 years ago, and Brian Roberts, who joined at the break. Get well cards were signed by the members and sent to commodore, Allan Wing and to Vern Ren, both recovering from recent hospitalizations. Name tags were distributed to new members in attendance. Mel stated that three of our members attended BIMM and gave a brief report.

Mel reported on the June regatta and called for raffle donations as there has been limited response from vendors. There will be 1st place plaques for scale and navigation and certificates for 2nd and 3rd places. The best of show award will given to the skipper who has the most combined votes in scale and points for navigation. Earl and Al have defined the navigation course and prepared the paper work. Breakfast will be coffee and donuts and deli sandwiches and beverages will be available for lunch. Al and Earl will serve as pond masters and Dave White will again be the harbor master. Registration will be manned by Mel and Phil, and data entry will be accomplished by Ed and another person yet to volunteer. Raffle ticket sales will be handled by Leif and Ron. The event is shaping up and should be a fun time for all.

Other upcoming events were announced and discussed. There will be a fun float at the pond on Sunday (Mothersqday) . The waterfront tug boat races will be on the following Saturday but there will be no pond for the modelers. Ron Burchett will host the model tug boat function at the International Tug and Barge Salvage Convention to be held the 17 . 19th of May at the Westin Bay Shore Hotel in Vancouver, BC. This will be a great opportunity to meet worldwide shipyard owners, navel architects and related personnel as well as the possibility to try ones hand at skippering the BRATT, a 26 foot Z-tug simulator used to train prospective skippers. Further events were mentioned such as the Anacortes festival, the Tide water event in Spokane, the fun float at Tualitan and the Foss Cup on the 21st of August.

Mel brought up the subject of having future fun floats on Saturday rather than on Sunday to avoid conflicts with Easter and Mothersqday weekends and allowing members more latitude to attend church and spend time with families. There seemed to be a positive tone for this proposal. It was suggested that the event start at 10 AM to avoid traffic snarls and to procure parking places as the park is always very busy. Feelings and comments regarding this issue should be relayed to Allan or Mel so they can get an idea on whether or not to pursue this issue.

After the break, there was an extensive show and tell. **Tim Justice** brought his YTB 366 tug hull which he plans to launch at the Anacortes fes-



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tival. At six feet in length it should weigh in at around 200 pounds. **Dallas Evans** brought in a six foot 14:1 scale model of an 85 foot harbor tug similar to the Martha Foss. He obtained laser cut parts from a source in Canada and has nearly completed the build in 2 ½ months. The hull is planked with ¼ x 3/8 inch balsa strips with a fiberglass overlay. Propulsion will be provided with an 800 motor and belt drive. Norm Hiatt demonstrated the operation of his 170 oar Greek trireme which is coming along nicely. Tom Walco announced that he has several kits and hulls for sale and left flyers on the front table. Bob Jacobson unearthed a hull which he is transforming into a fishing trawler that will be simple to maneuver and more competitive in running the navigation course. He also displayed the latest Horizon Hobby release . an Arliegh Burke class destroyer which is RTR at a cost of around \$450. Tom Stevens demonstrated how his converted hot tub Springer was designed to grab a Styrofoam barge with a rat trap modification. Some how it failed to perform at the Springer event.

Mike Shaw presented plaques for best model builds of the year to Mel and Ron and their names will be etched on a ship's wheel which will be permanently displayed at Galaxy Hobby.



Picture by Dave White



Picture by Ron Bray



Picture by Dave White

Mel brought his Typhoon with more progress in planking noted. Barry Bertram showed the progress on his Shelly Foss with motors installed, new paint scheme and stanchions. Ron demonstrated progress on the Seattle fireboat and discussed some of his frustrations in the build. Al Kinsman brought a Hull mold so he could get advice on what kind of hull it would create. Consensus was that it was not a tug hull but more likely some sort of fish boat or processor hull. Phil brought in a box of model magazines for the taking.

Oars were stowed and the meeting was adjourned at 830 (1030) PM.



Skagit R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Keith Schermerhorn

The May monthly meeting of the Skagit group was filled with lots of excitement as this month there was actual business to conduct. The group of 10 started with a recap of the BIMM show from Keith. Many thanks to all those that attended either with their boats or in persons. Good fun was had by all that attended with several members getting a chance to get rid of those "dumb thumbs" before the real regatta season begins.

Next topic of discussion was, of course, the upcoming Anacortes Waterfront Festival. Set up of our location was to happen on Friday morning with a quick gathering for breakfast at the local bowling alley. The plan for the rest of the weekend was for lots of models to be on display both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday would be the big day for the scale models to play in the harbor while Sunday would be for the sail to have races (scale models would be on the water too). Wanted to have all kinds of models on display regardless of type to impress the public and hopefully entice some more to join. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and the tides won't stop people from running boats.

We chatted a bit more about the regatta coming up on June 5th as this is the last meeting before that. Wayne will be going with camera in hand to capture the fun for those who can't make it. Looking forward to the big event.

Reminder to all that we will be doing a fun float again at Gordon's home parks pond on July 11th from 1-4:00 pm. This is a neat park to play at and Gordon informed us that there is a new easy access to the water with a ramp at one end. Should be fun with lots of spectators to watch.



Sailboaters in this group still meeting twice a week for sailing out at Cranberry Lake at 1:00 for sailing fun. Others are welcomed to join them. If you do not have a sail boat, they usually have an extra one available for you to sail.

Show and tell featured the following:

Keith showed progress on the new yacht. Wood decking partially done with the house fitting quite well over the hull. Larry brought along his Hoga and little ST tugs to help inspire more to build scale models and bring them to the Waterfront Festival.

Tom showed of his mouse trap contraption that was to be used at the latest Springer event. This device was quite ingenious in the way that it was used to help "hold" a Styrofoam barge along the front of the boat. Most agreed that it was a good thing that Tom made a safety for this thing as a hand could really get damaged. Unfortunately, the device didn't work as well since the wood on the device swelled up and prevented the device from working.

With show and tell over, was time to head home to our home ports until the next time we gathered.



May Fun Float

By, Allan Wing

Pictures by Jim Sisley



I was unable to make the May Fun Float. But Jim Sisley and several others were there. The weather was warm and sunny and Earl had buoys and channels set up so that those that came could get plenty of practice. Jim took several pictures with his film camera and got them put on a disk so we could use them in the newsletter. **Thank you Jim.**



Mother's Day crowd of spectators



Norm's Viking Ship Practicing



Earl showing he can launch a boat in a more conventional way



Anacortes Waterfront Festival

By Keith Schermerhorn

May in the Pacific Northwest is always a special time as the weather begins to get nice and many outdoor festivals begin to happen. One such festival is the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. This festival celebrates all that is good around the water in the Anacortes area and Puget Sound. The weather was nice and sunny for both days this year with just a slight breeze. As with the past, the Skagit Scale R/C Shipmodelers were invited to participate with the model boat display and water demos of the models. Saturday saw the largest display of models from several members of the club and a couple from possible new members. About 20 plus models were on display that featured mostly tugs and sailboats. Of the models displayed was the newest one by Tim Justice, a 6 foot ST tug built in 1/16th scale. This big boat was a smaller model compared to his first one-- the 8 foot Dominion (built in the same scale). This impressive vessel is scratch built and still a work in progress. It also made its successful maiden voyage in the harbor on Saturday. As it is a large model, it made for a realistic site on the water as it glided by the crowd of on lookers from the rails along the walkway. Several of the sailboaters were also on the water at this time, so rules of the road almost applied.



Late in the day, the Quick and Dirty boat building contestants and their craft made a parade (more like a New Orleans funeral procession) through the festival. As the musicians playing the droning sounds of a funeral processions past the models display, the members of the boat club removed their hats and universally broke into a melodic humming of the death march (dumm dumm de dumm, dumm de dumm dee dumm dee dumm). Most of the contestants seeing this and hearing this spooky sound broke into laughter as they understood the joke (or maybe realized their fate ahead). After they had all past, we made the decision that for next years parade of contestants, we need to get a recording of the "Pirates Song" from the beginning of Pirates of the Caribbean 3 to play as they pass by. As the events wound down for Saturday at the festival, several went up to the new home for the Flodquist family to enjoy a nice barbeque potluck. There we enjoyed the view of the harbor, scenery, good company, and good food. Sunday had fewer models on display, but

the people that came by to see them were still very impressed and appreciated the display. Tim's tug and the sailboaters made up most of the time on the water this day. There was a boat rescue by Keith's tug "Liberty" after a sailboat skippered by Larry managed to get a little too close to shore where the keel found the underwater boat grabbers (rocks). Tug assist was called. The tug was able to push the sailboat back to deeper water with no damage to either vessel after salvage fees were negotiated (believe this was redemption for a sailboat disaster that happened 5 years ago at the same venue....). When all was over for the, we had a successful display that was visited by a LOT of people who appreciated the miniature marine vessels and hope fully have some new members in the future.

If you missed this year's festival, come by in 2011 as this is always a good time to display boats and have time to socialize.



International Tug and Salvage Conference

By, Dr. Ron

The International Tug and Salvage conference was held at the Westin Bay shore Hotel in Vancouver, B.C. from the 17th of May through the 21st. Several model boat clubs were invited to display and run their model boats and to attend the conference. Ron Malone and his friend Ken brought boats from the U.K. The RC model boat demonstration was orchestrated by Ron Burchet. There was a parade of boats at the inaugural cocktail reception and we were very lucky not to get rained on as the next few days were cold and wet. For the next three days we ran our boats in Ron's pond just outside the main entrance, thankfully under cover. Many of the conference attendees were quite impressed and several were thrilled to get a chance to navigate the models. A room with tables was provided for us to display and work on models and to charge batteries.



There were 125 exhibition booths for the vendors some of whom had fantastic display models. Keith Schermerhorn took several pictures and uploaded them to the RC Groups forum. In addition to the vendor booths there were three days of lectures by speakers from all over the world. There was much interest in going green on a commercial basis with the development of new lithium-nickel-cobalt batteries which will be installed in one of the new training tugs developed by Ron Burchet and Robert Allan . the BRAtt. The prototype, Just finished in time for the show, was christened in a dockside ceremony with all the dignitaries present and a large crowd of onlookers. This fortunately happened during a brief respite from the cold and wet weather. During the lecture series one of the speakers described a project to build a prototype hydrogen powered hybrid electric tug.



This conference brought together numerous buyers, builders and sellers with opportunities to describe and demonstrate the latest worldwide innovations and designs. All in all, given our diminutive status, it was a fun and informative event.

International Tug and Salvage Conference continued

