



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

March, 2011

## A CHAMPION RETIRES

### ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST:

#### April

**7** NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00PM, Galaxy Hobby

**10** Fun Float—at  
Bellevue Pond

#### May

**5** NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00PM, Galaxy Hobby

**7** Tug Boat Races

**8** Fun Float—at  
Bellevue Pond

**22** Anacortes Festival



Darlene Wing, we thank you!

A literary era has come to an end. Our stalwart newsletter editor has said she wants to enjoy life more, and play more frequently. According to a keeper of our history “Darlene became our editor in January of 2007. Therefore she has held the position four years.” That is a goodly amount of time for anyone to serve in a position which requires deadlines and fresh material each month. This scribe was not around to see the format of the newsletter when she took it over, but I can say that the current editions have been very professional and show a great deal of energy and effort.

Not only has Darlene produced the newsletter, but very often had to badger members to get material in on time, write stories herself and take a high proportion of the photographs used in the publication. Now don’t feel sorry for her for the latter as that has been a labor of love. The new found free time I trust will permit her to do more of another of her hobbies, care for her beloved horses.

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## NORTHWEST MODEL EXPO

### In this issue:

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A good gathering of club members arrived early to deliver boats for use on the pond which had been set up by John Pineau from Burnaby, B.C and Kevin Klocke. After the boats were safely in place on tables, everyone fanned out to try to find a “bargain” of a buy before the doors opened to the public. Many of our crew were lucky and they could be seen toting packages or boxes, large and small, out to their vehicles for safe keeping.

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## **Club Officers**

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**Newsletter Editor**

Lee Stewart

**Skagit R/C Meeting Contact**

Keith Schermerhorn

**Website:**

[www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)

**Email:**

[info@shipmodelers.com](mailto:info@shipmodelers.com)

## **UNPAID DUES**

As of Feb. 8th, 2011

**LEONARD BAINTER**

**DONALD BOWEN**

**PIERRE COTE**

**TRUXTUN CRAVEN**

**BEN FLODQUIST**

**RANDY FLODQUIST**

**ROGER FORLINES**

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**ROBERT MAXWELL**

**CARL MEURK**

**ZACK RIPPERGER**

**KEITH**

**SCHERMERHORN**

**MARVIN WALDEN**

**Member Expose** by Dr. Ron

## Bob Jacobsen

Bob started Galaxy Hobby, with Cliff Shaw's assistance, sixteen years ago after surveying the club members regarding their expectations and desires regarding such a store. Club meetings were then moved to the new location and are still held there on the first Thursday of each month. In addition a small group of members meets there each Thursday morning for coffee, donuts and conversation

directed to helping one another with specific projects and problem solving. Three years ago Bob sold the business to Mike Shaw, son of Cliff, and



went to work for Horizon Hobbies. Bob and his wife Laurie moved to Illinois for one year, until the pangs of missing the northwest, family, friends and better weather, forced a move back. Laurie still works for Horizon Hobbies, but is able to do so from home, and Bob does some consulting for them.

Since his interest shifted to RC boats Bob has built a number of models, with a very keen interest in submarines. He has authored several articles on submarine modeling in the **Scale Boat Modeler** magazine. At one point he received a call from the special effects supervisor for the MacGyver TV series, being filmed in Vancouver, B.C., asking him to produce a functioning model submarine in **four** days. He stayed up nights to finish it and when finished he and his ten year-old son made the

A Champion retires

continued

We hope that Darlene will continue to take photos as we need her artful eye. Her talent is too valuable to be put out to pasture yet. Darlene we, as a grateful club , thank you for all your hard work!



A Proud Husband !

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## NW Model Expo

continued

Al Kinsman probably scored one of the biggest “bargains” by purchasing a completed Sterling model of a 46Ft. Chris-Craft cruiser with transmitter and charged, on-board batteries. It was fun to see him enjoying it as he tried it out for the first time on the pond.

Our venue was somewhat different this year as we shared the pond with other groups. One of the groups was a sailboat group which brought their own wind in the form of three warehouse size fans. This provided a challenge in several ways. First, the wind made operating the RC models difficult if they had a high freeboard; second, dodging the free-running sailboats which were being pushed out from the sides by anyone who was so inclined and third, the RC sailboats that were being operated by anyone who would like the opportunity but did not necessarily have the talent. Those flying, “pointy” bows provided some danger to many of our club member’s RC models.

One of the events at Hobby Expo is a static model contest. Tom Stevens hauled out one of his inventory, a trawler, and walked away with a top prize. I don’t know which one as Tom could not remember, but a \$100.00 award went with the trophy. Not too bad for one in inventory Tom!

An additional benefit to the Expo is having lunch at The Sockeye over-looking Lake Tye . The atmosphere is very pleasant and the company outstanding, but the Rueben Sandwiches are to die for.....!



## Bob Jacobsen

continued

trip north to view the filming and meet the cast. The segment with the sub was the 100th episode called "**Deep Cover**". In addition to winning many awards and trophies at regattas and expos, he sold quite a few of his submarine models, some regrettably, and donated one to the Fleet Submarine Museum at Pearl Harbor. His build of the Oliver Hazard Perry fast frigate was sold to Boeing for radar tests. His most recent model boat, near completion, is a fishing boat. He is also completing a large model of the **R2D2** robot with all the bells and whistles being controlled by an Arduino open source computer.

In addition to his interest in model airplanes and boats Bob has had a keen interest in flying the real McCoy. He bought a Piper Tri-pacer while still in high school. Laurie was flown to San Francisco for a pizza date along with another couple in a Mooney. Together, he and Cliff built their own planes and flew them together.

Another phase has been buying, rebuilding and selling real airplanes. He has been very active in selling model items on E-Bay and plans to continue this line of work for his brother who sells marine parts throughout the country. Bob and Laurie met at a friend's wedding and were smitten by cupid's arrows. After a short stint at the U. of W. Bob went to the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. However, not fond of college work and missing Laurie, he came back, married her, worked twenty years in the marine business and raised a son and two daughters, all of whom are married and producing grand kids.

Bob and Laurie bought their lovely home on Lake Goodwin seven years ago and have hosted the September fun float for the past several years and have provided hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages and salads. They remodeled their downstairs to replicate a 1950's ice cream parlor. Deciding to get out of flying their own plane, they recently purchased a 32 foot Nordic tug trawler so they have a 1:1 scale with

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## from the Quarter Deck

It is now March and winter is supposed to be over. It is time to wrap up those winter projects and get them ready for the pond. It is also time to start thinking of practicing for the regatta. It is never too early to polish your piloting skills so that you don't use your time on course to make mistakes. All that said my new boat sits partially finished as I look out the window at snow. I guess it is easy to procrastinate.

I see we all survived the Northwest Hobby Expo. We had a good turnout. I want to thank Kevin Klocke for setting up the pond he purchased from Ron Burchett. It is a good place to display our boats. It did get a little crowded with the sailboats. The Expo went as usual with bargain hunters showing up early on Friday and a fairly big crowd on Saturday. By 1 or 2 pm Sunday it had really started to clear out.

We had got a request from a group running the Arlington air show in July to set up the pond and run our boats as part of the entertainment. We talked it over and decided we cannot support something like that. The Air Show is scheduled to run from July 6 to July 10. That is 5 days and we would need several people there every day. Also Kevin would need to take several days off work to set up and remove the pond. It seemed like a good idea but we would just come up short. We have informed the organizers that we cannot support it.

Ron Burchett has been talking about having the Foss Cup at the pond at the south end of Lake Union. There are several pros and cons to such an idea. Stay tuned for more information. We have a date reserved for the Foss cup at the Bellevue pond so there will be a Foss cup either at Lake Union or Bellevue.

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## Minutes of March 3, 2011

Allan started the meeting at 1900 hours with the announcement that our Fun Float would be held at the Bellevue Pond at Noon Sunday, March 6th, weather permitting.

We had a guest by the name of **Stan Babcott** who brought a Coast Guard frigate which he had recently purchased already made but devoid of power plant and radio control. He was looking for some input as to what he needed to make the model operative. The reason he purchased the model was that he had served on a similar ship, in his earlier life. Glad to have you visit, Stan and thanks for joining the club!

Allan then announced the change in the delivery time of the newsletter. The time has moved forward in the month in order for the included information to be timelier. We hope that this will prove beneficial.

Next on the agenda was a presentation to **Darlene Wing** of a wooden plaque in gratitude for her service of four years as ***The Bilge Pump*** editor. From the look on her face Alan had done a very good job of keeping this a secret. Again, Darlene we thank you for an excellent job!

Next, Allan discussed the planning for the June Regatta. The food will be basically the same as last year and will be chaired by **Bob Wickham**. **Dr. Ron Bray** will oversee the Static Model Judging and it will follow the formula of last year. It was noted that in order to win the overall Regatta, a skipper has to have the highest score of the combined events of Static and Navigation WITH THE SAME BOAT. The Harbor Master job will again be handled by **Dave White**, due to his excellent operation last year. There has been some talk of misappropriation of funds in his budget, but so far no proof has been found.

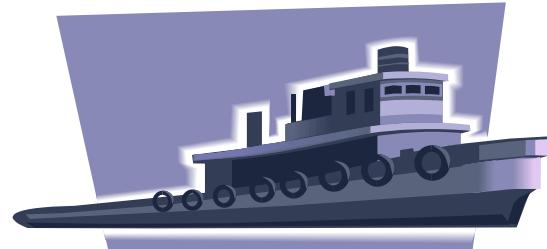
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## Bob Jacobsen

continued

which to play. With the onslaught of grandkids a 32 foot boat is just a start.

Bob has been a great role model, always cheerful, helpful and enthusiastic and a great asset to the modeling world. We can count on him to provide innovation and expertise for many more years, if we can pry him free of his newest toy.



## From the Quarter Deck

continued

We are starting to do more of the planning for the June Regatta. I don't think we will need anything different from last year but we will be discussing the Regatta at the meetings and posting more information in future newsletters.

Speaking of the newsletter our new editor had the idea to publish the newsletter a week after the monthly meeting so that people can read about events we discussed at the meetings before the event is passed. So this edition of the newsletter is being published to this new schedule. It means that contributors have to get their inputs to Lee by the 3rd Thursday of the month preceding a meeting. It should only affect us this first month. It is a good idea and I think it will help keep the members more informed.

I hope to see you at the meetings and Fun Floats as the weather turns more like spring.

Allan



## Minutes of February 3, 2011

by Dr. Ron Bray

Our Commodore Allan, called us to order at 1900 hours with 21 members present. There were no guests to introduce but there was a visitor, **Dan Schwithers**, who offered a Dumas barrel back speed boat with the first layer of planking done, for sale. **Bob Jacobsen** quickly purchased it and then found a speed controller and a battery was included. Dan also has a 3 x 6 foot folding oak drafting table for sale. He can be reached at (206) 852-4003.

Allan announced that the Bellevue Pond is no longer an ice rink and has been refilled with water. The members quickly voted to have the Sunday fun float at this location rather than at the South Lake Union oval. A special thanks was given to **Dave Green** for filing the papers and reserving the pond for our nautical activities. Only a Bellevue resident may file the papers.

The Hobby Expo at the Monroe Fairgrounds will be held Feb. 11-13th with setup at 10 o'clock on Friday. Everyone is expected to pay an entry admission each day. This event provides a great opportunity to pick up or swap for irresistible treasures. The schedule of events at the pond is on their website and will include a navigation course, fun runs, sailboat race, polo events and radio tosses. It was suggested that we bring a boat or two that the public can operate at specified times.

Allan asked for suggestions for solicitations to provide auction items for the June regatta. Several were mentioned and noted.

Requests for hats and jackets were expressed and Mel Suelzle will look into the availability and costs and report back.

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After five years of publishing our Bilge Pump, **Darlene Wing** has retired and is passing the baton to **Lee Stewart**. Many, many thanks to Darlene for an outstanding job. The newsletter has always been attractive, on time, very informative and well-illustrated. Allan put out a call for more people to submit material for articles to fill the newsletter as it is always a challenge to make it interesting. The new column Tips & Tricks, orchestrated by Mel Suelzle, is a great value to all in our hobby, so send any item or technique to him for publication. A suggestion was made that the newsletter layout be rearranged so that important items have a more prominent position.

Continuing with the plan to provide helpful, instructional info at the meetings, Mel presented an excellent discussion on how to wire LED lights for our boats. A handout was given to everyone present indicating the method of selecting the correct layout and resistors for each circuit. This sparked a lively discussion by the membership which produced a good flow of information. Our webmaster, **Mike Jones**, will place the handout in the technical section of the website for those not present and for anyone interested in lighting their boats.

After a brief break it was show and tell time. Mel led off with his New York Fireboat 343, a 1/48th scale build. Since no plans were available, he drew the lines from pictures and drawing found on the internet. He carved a half hull of foam and then cut it up to obtain the sections so that he could produce the frames. The finished hull has been epoxied, bathtub tested and appears to be quite stable, weighing in at 9 lbs. with batteries, motors, etc.

**Jim Sisley** brought in his wheeled model of the BB 56 battleship **USS Washington**, which he had run at Bellevue Pond last month while it was still an ice rink. He displayed a book and Navel History magazine detailing the history of this ship and then discussed his experiences with this ship. This ship was Admiral Lee's flagship for 33 months and survived the war without any battle damage. Indeed, this was a very interesting topic and enjoyed by all.

**Earl Anderson** described his new Springer project made with a thin fiberglass hull, water cooled motor and speed control, a brass keel and rudder and 1/16th styrene construction above the hull. Knee reinforcements were noted, added to minimize damage from pool sides during competition.

**Tom Stevens** brought in 1/24th scale figures which he purchased at the Stanwood Country store which he intends to modify for maritime use.

The meeting concluded at 2105, chairs were stacked and everyone headed back to their respective ports, having been satisfied with a very interesting and productive meeting. Thanks to all the participants for their efforts to keep us afloat.



## TIPS 'N TRICKS

A feature of our newsletter highlights member suggestions for making modeling easy and more fun.

From **Dave Feray** – You can make a good styrene glue by dissolving about a teaspoon of styrene chips in about 2oz of MEK (available at Lowes and other hardware stores) in a small (about 4 ounce) glass jar, with a tight-fitting lid (MEK evaporates very fast, and is very flammable). Make a small hole in the lid, to a size you can plug tight with something, and into which you can insert a small brush. Cap the hole and let it sit overnight. The styrene will dissolve and you will have glue you can brush onto styrene parts.

Dave makes up the joints with tape, getting them in perfect alignment, then brush a bit of the glue on the inside. It sets in seconds and is fully hard in a few minutes. You can use the glue to fill very small gaps, too.

Tired of cleaning up when your paint and glue bottles tip over. **Tom Stevens** suggests putting them in your spare tugboat tires. They provide a good broad base to help prevent spills.

If you are in for more custom solutions, Tom also suggests building custom holders for glues and brushes that will keep everything upright and handy when you need them. They are easy to build a good use of scrap materials.



Members are encouraged to share their tips and tricks for publication. Please keep your submissions brief and to the point. Include your name so members can contact you for more information. Please submit your information via email to [tips@shipmodelers.com](mailto:tips@shipmodelers.com)

## Minutes of March 3, 2011 continued

Allan is continuing to contact companies for donated prizes, anyone with a suggestion for or a prize to donate, please contact Allan.

**Hobby Expo** was a success and Allan thanked all who assisted.

For the education session this month we had two presentations. The first was by **Bob Wickham** about computing the displacement of a model. Bob gave us some interesting mathematical formulae, which will be posted on our website, and started a discussion among the members as to several other ways to calculate this magic number. Heck, I thought you just added weight until the thing looked good on the water!

The second talk was given by Allan on the various types of batteries available for our use and how to take care of them. He handed out a very informative paper to go with his comments. This too will be added to the website. Following these talks we took a short break and returned to "**SHOW & TELL**".

**Mike Jones** started it off with a through talk on the 1/32nd scale model he is building, from scratch, of the **W.T. Preston**. This was a stump pulling, snag boat and dredge which plied the Sound and Lake Washington in the early 20th Century. It was steam powered and Mike intends to replicate it fully.



**Bob Wickham** returned with his **Lois J** to demonstrate the extensive lighting system he installed, operated by recently installed Switch 8 module. Bob's detail and talent is very admirable. Too bad he does not share it with us more often.



**Phil Northrup** next showed us the start of a large Springer-like tug boat he is building on commission. Seems he met someone at Expo who had to have a boat by this illustrious builder. Pays to go to Expo!



**Dain Webster** hauled out what looked like a model which had been eaten by rats. However it turned out this was how it looked before it under went its annual refurbishing. Dain is a member of "Queen's Own", a group which does real battles with model warships. They fire real ammo and in order to show the hits on the ships they cover them like you would cover an airplane. By the end of a "season" the covering has to be removed and replaced. In its current condition you could see the method of firing the guns and the storage facilities for the ammo and the compressed air, which is used to fire them.

## Minutes of March 3, 2011 continued from page 10

The superstructure is very modular and the boat has various floatation devices to keep the sinking hull from fully disappearing to the bottom of the pond or lake. You think you have problems knowing which way your model is going at a distance from you, try firing on an "enemy" ship at that pace. .

**Barrett Bertrand** showed us a steam whistle which he had acquired to be put on a steam tractor which he is reconstructing for a local museum. He is looking for some addition help in this project. He also showed a picture of and gave us some stats on a steam tug , the Black Prince, which plied the Snohomish River and could make it up to Marblemount, the only boat of its size to be able to do so. Barry hopes to make a model of the Black Prince to put in the same museum.



Without further comments from the assemble masses, Allan closed the meeting at 2108 and after cleaning the room, we mosied out to our vehicles.



## **MARCH FUN FLOAT** by Al Kinsman

As the early group of three arrived it was cold, with a little wind.. By about 12:30 it was a little warmer and we had about a dozen people. A large showing of different boats, fast and slow , sailboats, which had plenty of wind; a PT boat with plenty of battery and a patrol gun boat from the Queen's Own Club. There were the normal boats brought by the likes of Dain Webster, Bill McGee, Jim Sisley, Bob Wickham, Darlene and Allan Wing, Mel Suelzle and Earl Anderson. Look out, Earl's new polo springer is out of dry dock and it looks like he has raised the level of competition again. In the end it was a fun, uneventful day for all.



# Membership and Renewal Form

Dues are \$25.00 per year

Make checks payable to:

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