



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

**May 2008**



## Upcoming Events

### May

- 1 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float  
Bellevue Park
- 5 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 10 Seattle Tug Boat Races
- 17-18 Anacortes Festival  
Cap Sante Boat Haven

### June

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 5 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Northwest Regatta  
Bellevue Park

### July

- 3 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 6 Fun Float  
Bellevue Park
- 7 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 26-27 Tidewater Cup  
Spokane



## Red Right Returning

By Randy Flodquist

Only a little over a month to go until the Northwest Regatta on the pond in Bellevue on Saturday the seventh of May. The course is set (see elsewhere in this issue), the menu is set (breakfast at 0830 and lunch at 1230), the program is in the process, the prizes for the raffle are amassing; but we still need help in all areas. Please bring all the eight new light weight tables we purchased and distributed amongst members recently. Please remember to bring buckets and line to keep your tent secure. And we need ice chests with ice to keep the drinks cool on what will surely be a lovely sunny day.

By the time you are reading this the Opening Day activities on the Montlake Cut will be just a few days away (May3). The steamboats will be in the early part of the parade again. Worth attending.

Congratulations to Matthew Plueard who won the "musical chairs" Springer event on April 6. He'll have fun thinking up the next event set for September.

We've booked with Chef Bert and Martha Lake Community Center for December 4 for our annual DECEMBER DINNER. We'll change the menu a little, add a little, keep the price the same. We'll feature a new award for the Best New Launch of 2008 and also have a video presentation with, we hope, a dramatic opening.

If we don't get a tee-shirt order form in this issue just try to send me how many and what size you want. Ten bucks each and we need to collect at the May meeting.

I'll try to get back to my philosophical type of column in July. In June I'll be a cheerleader for the Regatta and may even think about running a ferryboat through the course. I'll need to review John Witt's piece on driving a boat which should be elsewhere in this issue.

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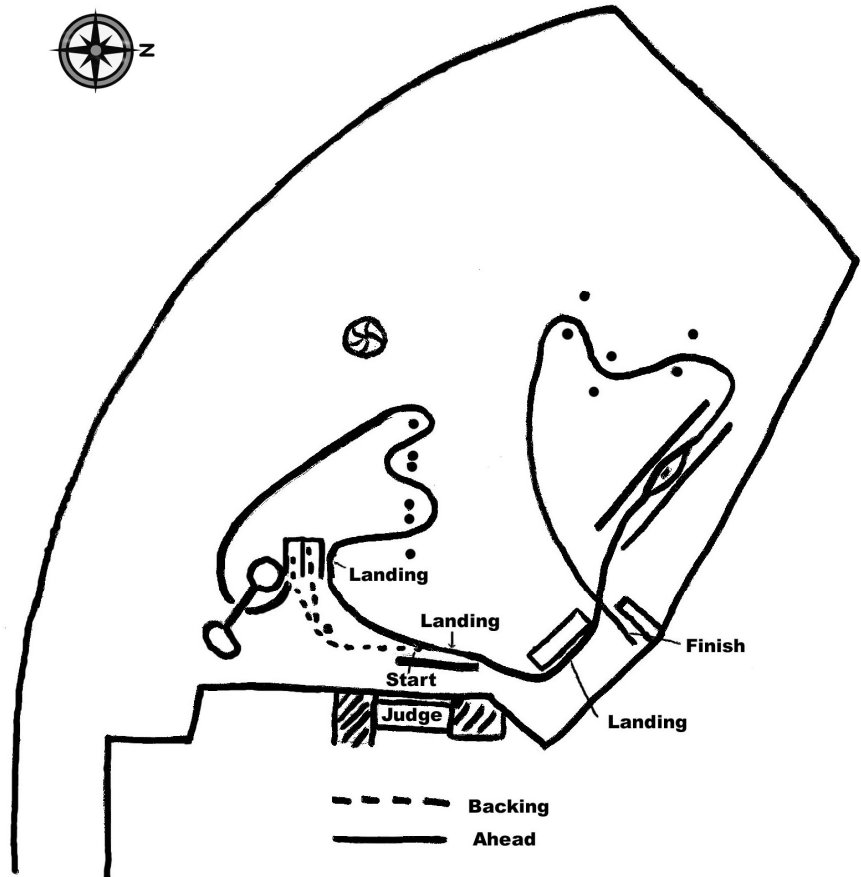
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## **The 27th Regatta Course**

This years Regatta will have a new design for the course. The course will feature a harbor setting with a more confined space and require the skippers to dock several times approaching the dock in both forward and reverse. It looks like a good challenge to all of us.



## **How to win the navigation contest**

So you've gone to some regattas and you're getting pretty good at shoving the soccer ball around and you've decided to enter the next big regatta and show 'em how it's done. But what really happens is that you finish somewhere way back in the pack. How do you get up in the front with those other old salts?

Now, understand, I'm writing this without a huge background myself, so you may find fault with some of the things I'm going to say. Certainly my way is not the only way, but here are some tips that I think will help.

First of all, make sure your boat operates reliably and is prepared for the event. Batteries charged, boat and transmitter. Don't leave the transmitter at home. Don't make mechanical changes just before the event. Go over all the screws and fasteners inside the hull and put a wrench or screwdriver on every one. A single

loose setscrew can blow your whole effort away. One of the recent competitors had dead batteries that lasted for about 10 feet into the course, and that was not the only DNF (did-not-finish) for mechanical reasons.

Operate the boat as much as you possibly can at every chance. Find out what it does well and what its weak points are. It's OK to play around, but spend part of the operating time practicing. Learning to make your boat go where you want it is fun too. If it is hard to back up, spend extra time doing that until you can do it consistently. Make big circles, medium circles and hard over circles, all at different speeds. Learn how much room it takes. Do it close in and way out in the middle of the pond. Being able to handle your boat and make it look like a real one under all circumstances is a point of pride and increases your enjoyment of the hobby.

A big portion of the maneuvering points is for docking the boat. Practice making the approach to the dock, and bringing the boat in to a perfect standstill  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch away from the dock. Real boats don't bang into the dock: it damages boats and docks. In the regatta just past, the differentiating points were for proper docking—many people had very good runs around the course. You don't need an actual dock; use a barge, the pond wall or any other fixed object to practice your maneuvering skills. Be very attentive to the wind as it affects our little models like a real gale.

When the regatta rolls around, make sure you're all set to go, so there is no panic when it's time to put your boat in the water. READ THE RULES and look at the judging sheet so you know what is expected at each point in the course. Get the course map in hand and visually take yourself through all the buoys. If possible walk around and look at the course from several angles to see how much space is available and where the potential hard spots are. Watch others ahead of you go through the course and follow along mentally. See if you can pick out their mistakes. Oh, and don't forget to READ THE RULES.

Here's what I looked for in judging the navigation:

1. All motions smooth and consistent with the type of boat. Applications of throttle are smooth; speed is prototypical. Even a planing hull boat will slow down when tight maneuvering is required.
2. Entry and exits into turns smooth with no fishtailing to find the proper heading
3. Course line straight as possible to the next turn. Course line is tangent to the turn. This means a minimum amount of wiggling around to get lined up for the next turn.
4. If a reversing maneuver was required to make a turn, was it done in a prototypical way in a minimum number of moves. (This can actually get you more points, because it illustrates a mastery of a difficult problem)
5. As nearly as possible centered between pairs of buoys. Real boats run in the middle of the channel when there's no other traffic.
6. Prompt response to changing winds, currents, traffic and other conditions. You have to pay attention.
7. Smooth approach to the dock with a gradual decrease in speed, consistent with the type of boat. Prototypical maneuvers during docking, with the captain adapting to wind/current/ changing situation. It's OK (or at least I thought so) to take a few tries at getting into the dock, as long as the maneuvers are correcting problems with wind, etc. That happens with real boats. Understand that docking a model and looking good at it is harder than doing the real thing. Don't forget to tell the judge when you consider yourself docked (If required by the RULES)

I hope this is of some help. Everyone's style is a little different. I find learning to do this well is harder than it looks, but that's what keeps me coming back.

# Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

## By Allan Wing



Randy called the meeting to order at 1930 with a slightly smaller group than normal. It seems like the price of gas may be limiting attendance for some of our members that live farther away. Gordy Caney was able to attend for the first time this year. We are all happy to see Gordy recovering.

Randy then started with his first order of business was to remind everyone about the Springer event to be held at the fun float. (details and results in the Fun Float section of this newsletter). Randy announced that the Martha Lake Community Center was undergoing remodeling but would it would be complete long before our December meeting. He also announced that he contacted the same caterer that we had last year.

He then talked about insurance for the club. He had checked into the insurance offered by the SSMANA. Their insurance would only cover the club and not individual members. He is talking to an insurance agent about a policy tailored to the club and our events that would also cover members when participating in an event.

Randy then talked about the Regatta. We have a flyer made up that is being passed out to advertise the event. He also showed a proposed framed certificate to be sued instead of trophies and an idea for a T-shirt that cold be sold at the Regatta. It was reported that we have one navigation judge committed and are looking for another one.

Being near April Fools day, Jim Sisley presented a proposal complete with newspaper article that brought us all a good laugh.

Show and Tell started with Berry Burton showing work he had done on his little tug and asking advice on how to reduce radio interference from the motor. He got several suggestions from shortening the leads on the capacitors to rerouting the antenna. He then showed his next project which is to rebuild a cabin cruiser a friend had given him. He received several helpful suggestions on how to proceed. Next I showed the progress on my new sail boat. The boat is a single mast version of the Emma C. Berry. It has some challenges like making the mast so it can be unstepped for transport. Mel Suelzle Talked about the new Spektrum DX6I that has longer range and more features than the DX6 many of are using now.

Phil Northrup announced that he brought some 1/2 inch cedar that he would share with any club members that wanted any.

With that we ended the meeting and stacked the chairs.





# SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

. . . . Dusty Graham

**Monday April 7, 2008 - 1900 hrs - PUD Mt. Vernon**

**Dusty** opened the meeting with the introduction of guests, thanking all the members of the **Northwest R/C Ship Modelers** for their continued support and attendance. **Keith** was unable to be at the meeting due to a last minute scheduling conflict.

**Vic Childs** reported on the Anacortes Waterfront Festival to be held Saturday, May 17th and Sunday May 18th. Setup is Friday, May 16th. Those who can help will meet at the bowling alley at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. If you can't make the breakfast, meet at the Marina parking lot at 9:45 a.m. **Vic** reported on the R/C Sailing Regatta that will be held on Sunday the 18th at Seafarers Memorial Park (Time unknown at time of this writing). This event is open to everyone.

**Randy Flodquist** reminded us that the **N/W Regatta** will be held June 7th at Bellevue Pond. A prototype logo for the Regatta tee shirts was shown and explained. After a short discussion a sign-up sheet was passed around for those that were interested in purchasing one. A discussion was held on replacing the costly trophies with framed certificates for the winners (Regatta only). The small participant plaques will continue. **Linda Flodquist** asked that members bring coolers to the event (ice optional). **Linda** and her team will be preparing a pancake breakfast and a steak sandwich lunch during the event....more on this elsewhere in the newsletter. **Linda** and **Randy** also showed the new fold-up tables purchased by the N/W Club. Some were given to our members to use at our events with the understanding that they were to be made available at all the N/W Club events.

After a short break **Larry Stiles** presented a program on "making plans before cutting material" using his sailboat as an example.

**Al Kinsman** and **Ben Flodquist** went over the proposed Regatta Course. More on this elsewhere in the newsletter.

Time for Show and Tell. **Jason Anderson** displayed his new Bristol. **Robert Maxwell** gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on building hulls. **Kevin Klocke** gave one of his shortest presentations ever on his American Enterprise. **Tom Stevens** gave a presentation on the Raven and a talk on seasoning a model. **Terry Horner** talked about sailboats (T-37) scratch and kit built.

After some further discussion all crews secured and headed for their home ports at 2100 hrs.

## Delinquent Members

Last year we changed the dues policy. It was decided that each member's dues would become due at the first of the year. During last years transition members with membership expiring during the year would pay a prorated amount to finish the year and then everyone would pay on a yearly basis. The following members are delinquent from the first of the year. Please pay Ed Maurer the \$20 for 2008.

Lonnie Butler  
Patrick Plueard  
Robert Vanweezendonk

Jack Dunn  
Larry Sarner  
John Witt

Aurel Kajlich  
Ingvar Sjong

Noel Larsen  
Larry Stiles

# April Fun Float

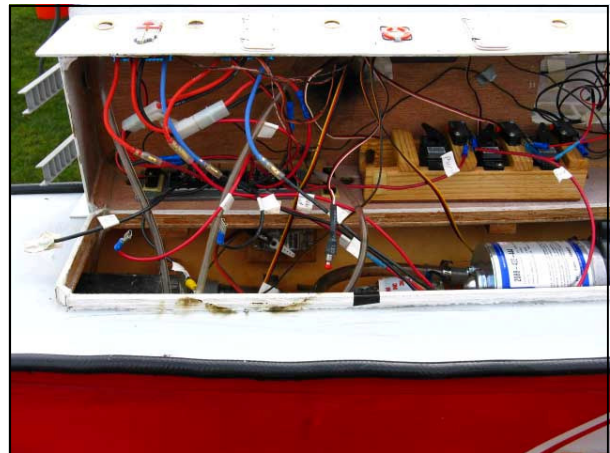
By Allan Wing

A spirited Springer event, a new Frigate and a fire in a fireboat, these were the highlights of our April fun float.

Ben Flodquist prepared the Springer event around musical chairs. The boats circled a dock with one less slip than the number of boats running. At a signal from Ben all the boats would attempt to dock either forward or back in. The boat that did not into the dock was eliminated. We started with 10 boats. A few were eliminated with mechanical problems. The rest fought hard. When the field had been reduced to two boats the winner had to be the first to enter the dock backwards. And the winner was Mathew Plueard. He out drove all the grown-ups.

We had a new Frigate on the water for her maiden run. The ship looked and performed great. Nice job.

Then with some irony the fireboat suffered a fire. A couple of wires overheated and burned causing a good bit of smoke and hopefully not too much damage.



Check out the web edition of the newsletter for additional pictures.



## **Member Spotlight**

**By Dr. Ron**

**Ben Flodquist**

At a very young age, Ben became facile in the use of knives and scissors and began building objects with Lego, progressing to plastic models. He became interested in RC after visiting Schaver's hobby shop in Victoria, BC and then seeing operating models at the Harrison pond. His first model boat was a Lindberg tug followed by Maggie in 1996. He won a Dumas kit of the Brooklyn and then built a Ron Burchett boom boat followed by completion of the Brooklyn which he named Louie. The Indefatiable ( Indy ) was started in '02 but delayed until he built a Gary King Tiger Sun Z-drive tug which he named Mongo. Indy became operational in '05. His most recent project is a Ron Burchett Banderra kit which is named Don. Since December, 2006 he began working on a full sized kayak.

Ben has won multiple scale and navigational awards at our regattas and Foss Cups, as well as the events at Burnaby, Victoria, and Seattle Marine Festival ( tug boat races ).

Being born in Seattle in 1985 he went on to graduate from Roosevelt High School and is currently in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year at North Seattle Community College where he is employed as an assistant technical stage director for the theater. He plans to attend the Seattle Maritime Academy in pursuit of certification to drive the "big boats".

Ben has progressed over the past several years from a somewhat shy gangly teenager to an outgoing, fun loving, hard working, expert model builder, a role model for the younger set to follow. His vision of the club's future is to keep it as is with comradeship and a happy going and fun atmosphere.





## April Fun Float 2008





## April Springer Event 2008



Picture provided by  
Dave Feray



Picture provided by  
Dave Feray



Picture provided by  
Dave Feray

