



# THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the  
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

November 2010

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## From the Quarterdeck

By Allan Wing



Well it is now November and it is really Fall. I am writing this at the end of September because if all goes a planned we will be in Germany and Bulgaria while our guest editor slaves over this publication. I figured with all the help Darlene gave me in April and May she deserves a vacation. We should be back by the time you read this but we would not get back before the deadline for inputting to the newsletter. Mel has gracelessly volunteered to fill in this month so thanks in advance.

## BEST NEW BOAT OF THE YEAR CONTEST

Are you especially proud of your new model boat that you completed during 2010? Well here is a chance to put it up against the best of the best. Again this year Galaxy Hobby will be recognizing the best new boat of the year. This award is made to the best new boat model that was completed during the past 12 months. (December 2009 thru November 2010. All entries are welcome, kits, enhanced RTR and scratch builds. Model must be operational and can only be entered once. (a partially completed boat cannot be entered at a later time when it is fully completed). Models will be judged by Mike Shaw, owner of Galaxy Hobby and must be brought to the meeting on November 4th. If members are unable to attend this meeting, they can arrange with Mike for another time for him to review and photograph the model. Mike Shaw will make an award to the winner at the December dinner meeting on December 2nd.





## Upcoming Events

### November

- 1 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon
- 4 NWRCSM Meeting  
7:00 pm, Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Fun Float  
12:00 CWB Lake Union
- 18-20 Pacific Marine Expo  
Quest Field

### December

- 2 **December Dinner Meeting**  
7:00 pm Martha Lake  
Community Center
- 5 Fun Float  
12:00 CWB, Lake Union
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers  
7:00 pm PUD, Mt. Vernon



**Time is running out!** The deadline for nominations for the 2010 Cliff Shaw Award is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Get your written nomination to one of the committee members, Ron Bray, Phil Northrup or Keith Schermerhorn before the deadline. The committee will make

the final selection and the 2010 recipient will be named at the December dinner.

The award criteria are simple and the winner will go to the member that throughout the year has followed the principles that Cliff Shaw embodied. Namely; Innovation in boat design, engineering design or workmanship, helpfulness to others in the club and the hobby and generally active in club events. The winner will be someone who really enjoys what they are doing and loves figuring out new and fun ways to enjoy model boating. The winning candidate must exhibit a positive attitude and be helpful to others.

## November Fun Float

November is the month that we change venues for our monthly fun float. Bellevue will be draining their pond soon which becomes a drag on even the most powerful boats and especially hard on props.

However, we have a brand new model boat pond available for our use at the newly completed South Lake Union Park. This is adjacent to the Center for Wooden Boats. This new pond is a 100' circle elevated from ground level about 24". This will be plenty of water for even the largest models. In our club. We have much to learn about this new site including the best places to park and unload. There are two parking lots nearby with the one on the west side seems to be the closest. A short walk over the bridge leads to the pond. Expect to pay for parking which should be readily available on a Sunday morning. We lobbied for this park in the early planning stages when other groups wanted to use the pond for other purposes so we should try to make good use of this new site.

## NW R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes - October Meeting

### By Dr. Ron

Our rear commodore, Lee Stewart, gathered us swabbies to order at 1900 hours in lieu of our commodore's absence while traveling in Europe. No guests were present but 22 old and new members filled the chairs.

Under old business the Foss Cup was recapped. The polo event at Dennis Chinn's was discussed noting a rather poor turnout probably because of adverse weather forecasts and the fun float the next day. Those that attended were rewarded with good weather and a fun free for all with Vern Ren again demonstrating how well the shark performs. In spite of heavy rain the following day we all headed for Lake Bob for the fun float, Springer contest and burger fest provided by Bob and Laurie Jacobson. As the winner of the Springer competition orchestrated by Randy Flodquist, Scott Wilson won the honor of hosting the next Springer event next spring. Despite a rainy start for the day we lucked out with a sunny break in the weather before it started to pour an hour after leaving for home ports.

Mel gave a report on the Fall Fisherman's' Festival bemoaning rather poor club participation in spite of great weather, a huge crowd, a premium location next to the ramp to the dock and the kids' bouncy pirate ship. More interest centered around the fast PT boats than tugs and fish boats. There were many questions and considerable interest in our demonstrations.

Under new business, Lee reminded us of our fun float Sunday at the Bellevue pond, probably our last event there until next spring. It was mentioned that nominations are needed for the Cliff Shaw award to be in by some time in November. Nominations should be in writing and given to Mike at Galaxy Hobbies or e-mailed to Dr Ron at : [r.bray@frontier.com](mailto:r.bray@frontier.com). Nominations for a new slate of officers is due by our November meeting at which time they will be announced and voted on. Mike has received the Viper Marine esc order and has already sold almost half his inventory. At our next meeting Mike Shaw will be judging models to qualify for the best new build of 2010. So, everyone completing a model is encouraged to bring it in so all can see and potentially be nominated for the best build award. The menu for the December dinner meeting was announced and will be held at the Martha Lake Community Center located at the northeast corner of I5 and 164<sup>th</sup>. As the Wings will not be available this month all news items should be sent to Mel as he will take on the job of editor in their absence.

Following a brief break it was show and tell time. Dr Ron led off with a demonstration of the steps necessary to produce a fiberglass hull. The first step is to create a plug then a jig to make a two part mold. Steps in fiberglassing were discussed with quite a few comments from the audience. Norm Hiatt showed his side paddlewheel tug indicating he had to lower the paddle wheels to improve performance. Phil Northrup brought in his new "box boat" with 20 amp Viper Marine escs, Mel motors (800s) with belt drives, steerable cort nozzles from ABS plastic pipe, and bits made from bronze toilet tank hold down bolts. His boat has space for two 7 amp/hr 12volt gel cell batteries. Mel showed off his elegant Typhoon which is now ready for christening this Sunday at the fun float. It has a 700 motor connected to a direct drive. After 15 coats of varnish he wet sanded it with 2500 wt paper, used rubbing compound and finally a polish to obtain a brilliant finish. Krylon paint was applied below the water line and then clear coated.

Bob Jacobson demonstrated the many cool features of the new Spektrum DX8 radio system. It can be programmed so that one stick can run both motors and initiate turning maneuvers such

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(October Meeting—continued)

that one motor will slow as the other one speeds up. In addition to down loading software via an SD card, it has telemetry functions for RPM, temperature and voltage which are displayed on a large screen on the transmitter. Al Kinsman displayed his recently fabricated fiberglass pseudo Dolphin hull which was created from Earl Anderson's mold. Ed Maurer showed a large picture of the recently completed pond at the Maritime Park at the south end of Lake Union. Bob Wickham brought in several Springer kits from wood and offered them to members for just \$5.

The meeting concluded at 2020 and we all departed for home ports.

**Polo Boat Fun** - Dennis Chinn has been hosting regular polo Springer boat events at home in Bellevue. His pool is the right size and Dennis has a nice setup for goals. The most recent events were held on October 13 where only 5 skippers showed up for this rough and tumble model boating event. The group had to get creative in managing team play with an odd number of boats, but much fun was had by all. This is a great way to take out your frustrations, test your engineer skill to build a boat for speed agility and ruggedness, with little attention to looks or detail. Even an overturned boat gets little attention and no sympathy, as play will continue until it is convenient for someone to help rescue the boat in distress. Join the fun and come over to the next event scheduled for November 13th.



**Vern Ren looks at his wounded shark that suffered a broken knee during heat of the battle!**



**After a hard day of battle on the pond, Dennis serves up some nourishment to the polo skippers.**

## NEW MODEL BOAT POND AT SOUTH LAKE UNION PARK

After several years of cussing, discussing and planning, the long awaited South Lake Union Park is a reality. While nearby roads are still under construction, the park, and most importantly, the model boat pond is ready for our use. Here is a recent photo of the boat pond just waiting for our boats

to be launched. Here are a couple of photos compliments of Ed Maurer.



### Make your reservations to the December Dinner meeting.

Don't miss a fun evening to celebrate 2010 model boating. Great Food and fun for all. Reserve your spot with a \$30/person check to Ed Maurer.

ALSO—January is just around the corner and membership dues are due from all in January. Send your check for \$25 to Ed Maurer today and avoid those irritating reminders!!



## Member Spotlight

By Dr. Ron

Vern Ren was introduced to our club by his son who frequented Galaxy Hobby purchasing airplane gear. When Vern visited Galaxy to buy boat stuff he met Mel who twisted his arm to be a part of our organization. So, he joined around 2001 and has been an active member ever since, despite recent health problems. He is known as the “shark” of polo combatants and has been very competitive in this venue.



Vern was born in 1929 on his maternal grandfather's homesteaded farm in Monroe and went on to attend school in Everett and Snohomish. He dropped out of high school after his junior year to work as an auto mechanic. After two years he went to work for Walton plywood. After seven years he went to work for Simpson-Lee plywood working there 17 years before spending another 17 years at Glassply boats. He left the last three employments because they were shut down. He retired from Jumbo Foods after five years.

He has had a life long interest in boats, purchasing his first row boat powered by a Champion three horsepower motor at the age of 12. While at Glassply he obtained a fiberglass hull and made a 17 footer. Later, he bought a 21 foot cuddy cabin Glassply boat after overseeing its construction. His initial job at Glassply was installing IO drives and ended up being in charge of the shop which built the 21-23 foot models. Eventually he water tested these boats prior to delivery making sure that everything functioned perfectly. He also piloted boats involved in photographing the various models for advertising purposes. Once a week he went to Anacortes to check the shaft alignment of the 28 foot boats.

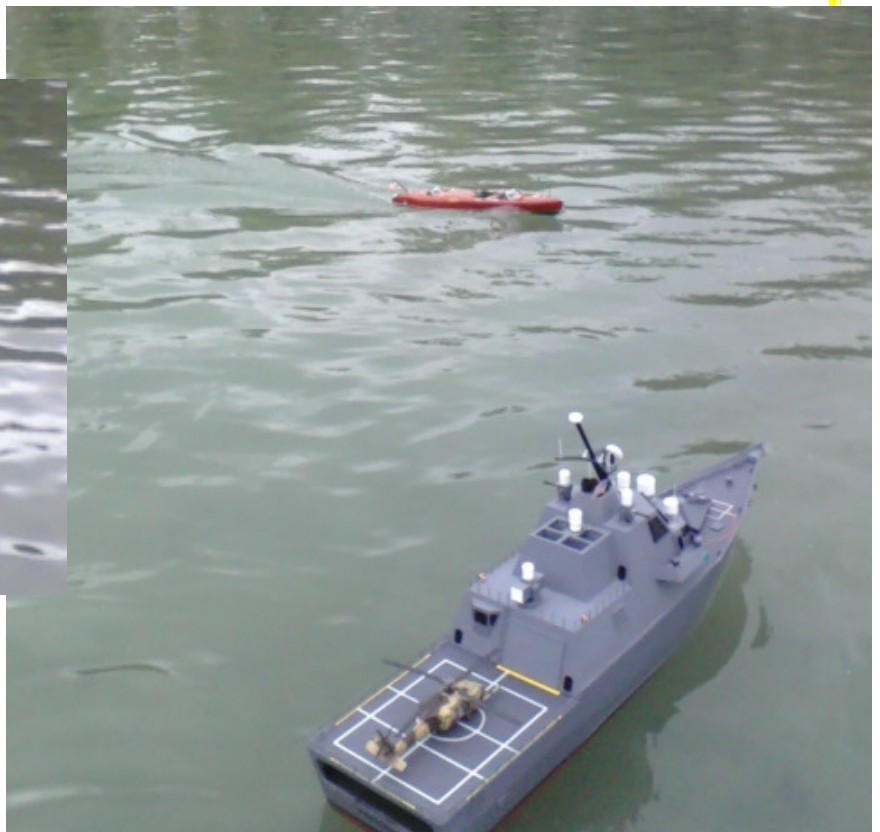
While building a plank on frame tug he was introduced to the “Springer”. He now has three Springers, the last one being the competitive polo shark. In addition to his tug and Springers, he has a 20 inch captain Roberts river push boat with twin 2:1 belt drives and five rudders. Since he was smitten by the Glassply boat design he made a 28 inch model of his own rendition and specifications.

Besides his interest in boats he has had many others including antique engines, wood working, fishing, motor cycle and auto racing and flying 1:1 scale airplanes. A highlight was flying the 757 simulator in Renton. Vern has really had a full and interesting life and has been a great asset to our club.

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## October Fun Float - Mel Suelzle

The fun float on October 9th was the last fun float of the season to be held at the Bellevue Downtown Park Pond. The drenching rains of Saturday and early Sunday morning caused most boaters to make other plans for the day. However, as promised by the forecasters, by mid-day the weather was quite pleasant and dry. Only a few boaters ventured out to the pond. Earl Anderson had his pointy bow Springer, Dave White was testing his new motor in his tug and Rod Bindon had the Freedom on the water testing out his new electrical system. Jim Sisley was on hand and Dennis and Sandy Chin stopped by to remind everyone of the upcoming Polo match. Rumors were that Bill McGee and Al Kinsman arrived early and left before this writer could confirm their attendance. The dry weather was most welcomed by yours truly as I wanted to see how the newly completed Typhoon ran for the first time. Everyone got their stick time in early the tests went very well. The Freedom worked well, and the Typhoon ran nicely with the intiall running gear. I am very happy with the performance and will make no changes. The Typhoon cut through the water with a nice scale speed producing a great bow wave that looks very realistic. The only downer of the day was no one brought a camera so very limited photos were taken of the fun float. Dave White got a couple of photos with his cell phone to at least document that the Typhoon does float has been on the water at least one time. Fortunately, the testing was completed before the rain clouds arrived and caused everyone to scramble and pack up and head home about 2 PM.



## SKAGIT R/C SHIPMODELERS MEETING MINUTES

By Keith Schermerhorn



The Skagit meetings had a bump in the road in September with scheduling that eventually had us cancel the meeting. So, with the start of October, we are all ready to get back on the regular schedule with the off set day ( week later due to schedule conflict, but we were aware of this one) when..... late on the scheduled day a phone call comes through mid way through the day informing us that.....there is another scheduling issue this month on this day. Making things short, some one at PUD had not processed the correct paperwork for us and double booked the room with the Skagit Tulip Supporters. Might have been an interesting combination of flower power and BS ( boat stuff ) with plenty of characters included. So once again there is a scramble to have a meeting, late in the day, and need to get the word out. Did Halloween come early and just trying to trick us? Well thanks to long time member Len Bainter, we were able to relocate the meeting to his home that is only about a mile away. Dusty and Wayne both went to the original meeting place to leave directions and help guide anyone that may not have got the notice. So we gathered for the treat at Len's home with about 15 of us in attendance.

For the record WE ARE NOW BACK ON REGULAR SCHEDULE--First Monday in each of the next 3 months. On the discussion was all that happened in August and September. Most had fun at one or more of the events that had taken place. Looking forward to the pig-out in December that will be a fun evening of food and festivities. More to come on that in November.

Larry gave a report on the sailing group and that they are growing at a good rate with about 20 members who are sailing at various times. Still main sailings are Tuesdays and Saturdays. Looking to have members from the Seattle Model Yacht Association and others join them on the Saturday floats that feature the Soiling 1 meter vessels. Possible to see as many as 20-25 boats on the water. Not much for show and tell with models.

The event of the evening was the slide/photo show by Wayne Martin featuring pictures from the recent fun float at Bob and Laurie Jacobson's home on Lake Goodwin. Many great photos of boats in action from the Springer event and boats just running on the water. There were a few other photos thrown in for good measure and were much appreciated by those there.



(Skagit Meeting Cont.)

With the show over, a few quick comments and discussions amongst those there, we called the meeting so that Len could get his home back to normal.

Reminder that the Skagit meetings are open to all that want to attend and we encourage those attending to bring along your projects to show.

If anyone has a special subject they would like to share or useful modeling practice to demonstrate to others, let us know as we would love to have it be a topic for the evening.



# October Meeting Photos

Photos by Dave White  
Comments by Anonymous



**OK guys, Throw away those DX6s, This is the end-all transmitter for only 450 bucks!**



Is it break time yet?



I kinda like having all this power! Maybe Allan will let me keep this job.



This is my latest addition to my vast collection of unfinished boats.



I think it will go better if the paddle wheels actually touch the water



I can't believe I put 15 coats of varnish on this thing.

