



# The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

September 2017

## 2017 Events Look Ahead

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 Twilight Fun Float 6pm  
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 7 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 17 **Jacobsen's Barbeque & Sisley  
Donation Sale & Auction** 10-3 pm  
Lake Goodwin
- 21 **Coffee Fun Float** 10-Noon  
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond
- 23 **Fishermen's Memorial** 11-6 pm  
Ballard

### OCTOBER

- 5 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 7 Fun Float 9am  
Bellevue Downtown Park Pond

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Meeting at Galaxy Hobby 7pm
- 4 Fun Float 9am  
Seattle Yacht Club

### DECEMBER

- 7 **Christmas Dinner** 6:30 - 9pm  
Spaghetti Factory (Lynnwood)

Check for latest updates at  
[www.shipmodelers.com](http://www.shipmodelers.com)

## From the Wheel House

*Mel Suelzle*

The mornings are cool and the days are bright (and sometimes smoky) which tells me that it must be September and things are slowing down in our very busy 2017 summer boating season. The issues with the Bellevue Pond and the Tug and Tualatin regattas in August compressed much of our running events in a single month. At one point we had events on 5 consecutive weekends of boating events. While few made it to all five events, it kept me busy trying to manage our event schedule. Our keeper of the web calendar, **Dain Webster** was getting a little uptight with the many "final updates" that I kept sending him.

But the pace will slow down; we still have a couple of very important events in September. On September 17th we will have the 15th annual Barbeque and fun float at Lake Goodwin. This year's event also includes a huge sale. A week later, our club will participate at the Fisherman's festival. The details for these events are located elsewhere in this newsletter. These remaining events are very important to our club. Members should try and keep focus on these events before putting their boats in dry dock for the winter.

I reported on the Twilight fun float on September 2nd. This was a well-attended fun float that drew interest by new and new potential members and was a great opportunity for us to get maximum exposure of our club. This exposure goes a long way toward promoting our club and help sustain our club for the long term. A good example of this came when we had a special visitor to our Twilight fun float. **Mike Toole** from Pennsylvania who was



visiting his son in Bothell. Mike is the editor of the SSMA Journal made available to SSMA members. Mike spent a lot of time talking to **Richard Bizier** and taking notes, so I expect to see more about that discussion in an upcoming issue. Additionally, **Steve Sunich** has volunteered to submit an article about our recent regatta. Mike and Steve were able to discuss the plans for submitting and publishing our event. This national exposure to the modeling community can be very beneficial to promoting our club activities as well as the model boating hobby as a whole.

Our clubs success is only possible with member involvement and participation in our events. Events from our monthly meetings to annual regattas and festivals such as the Fisherman's Festival. We have been very marginal on getting sufficient participation in this event for the last few years. Lack of participation in an events of this type puts pressure on those who do attend and lessens the "fun" part of the event when no free time exists to enjoy other activities at the festival. We have minimal commitments for this year as some of the regulars are unable to attend. I was greatly disappointed in the lack of response on the sign-up sheet circulated at the meeting. Hopefully a few will be able to show up that were not at the meeting.

Also at this time of the year, it is time to consider our leadership for the coming year beginning in January. With one exception, all current officers are willing to continue in their current roles.

The exception I mentioned is me! Having served as President from 2002 to 2007 and again this year, I feel it is time to turn the reins over to someone new. I ask that each member consider stepping up to fill this role. We have much of the necessary functions in place and need only periodic updates and refinements to sustain our key functions. As our modeling industry changes our club also need to embrace and adapt to these changes. That is the primary role of leadership that will keep our club vibrant and growing with continued emphasis on continuing our goal of "Having Fun Since 1981"

## September 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

**Ron Bray**

**Photos by Allan Wing**

On a warm, humid, smoky evening our commodore, **Mel Suelzle**, called 26 members to order at 1900 hours. Show and tell began with doc showing what little progress he has made over the past half year. The model is close to being completed as all the small parts have been fabricated and will be installed as soon as the house is painted and joined to the hull. **Doug Wilson** brought his Dumas Trojan project in and explained modifications he has made. The project is just a hair away from completion. **Everett Evans'** scratch built USS Ajax is coming along fine. He recently fiber glassed the hull and constructed several guns and cranes to be mounted upon completion. His rudder is of solid aluminum and looks great. **Robert Osmond** brought in a part



storage bin he ordered from Harbor Models and is perfect for storing small parts. He suggested using rubber antiskid materials on display tables to prevent models from sliding off the tables by small hand incursion. He showed a commercial door peeper which can be purchased for about \$30.



Thin neoprene was attached to the underside of a hatch which provides security from water intrusion. Many dental tools were displayed and were up for grabs. **Paul Williams** had several nautical books for the taking.

were encouraged to participate, particularly at the fisherman's fall festival. By a show of hands, it was determined there was insufficient interest in staffing the kiddie float. After passing a signup sheet there was barely enough members to man the booth. So, if you can please let Mel know if you can help out. This is really a first class event with great food and displays, not to mention an opportunity to hob nob with the professional mariners.

**Bob Jacobsen** talked about the upcoming fun float



After the break Mel gave a report on the twilight night float which he deemed a huge success with as many as 20 skippers participating. Many thanks were given to **Roger Lyons** and **Dain Webster** for setting up buoys and providing a challenge in navigating in the dark. **Dave White** also gave a helping hand. Of interest, the SSMA editor, **Mike Toole**, was present and talked to number of our members and will undoubtedly mention our event in the next journal.

Upcoming events were discussed and members

and auction at his residence on Lake Goodwin on Sunday, the 17th of this month. He encouraged participation by wives and for everyone to bring a pot luck item. He will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers, water, and coke. In order to facilitate the auction, please bring small bills, bags, and a pen. There is a plethora of items from Jim Sisley's inventory to be unloaded from Bob's garage.



Mel gave a treasurer's report indicating that we are still solvent and mentioned that we will be needing to elect a new slate of officers at the next meeting. He also solicited comments regarding the regatta and the upcoming Christmas dinner.

Tickets were drawn for **Allan Wing, David Kentala, Erik Selby** and **Everett Evans**. The meeting concluded at 2030, chairs were stacked and we headed out into the smoke to return to home ports.



## Lake Goodwin Fun Float Barbeque and “Sale of the Century”



**Sunday, September 17th** is the date of the 15th annual fun float/barbeque at **Bob & Laurie Jacobsen's** home on Lake Goodwin. This is always a fun event and everyone should plan to attend. Chef Bob cooks a mean burger and the Jacobsen's are GREAT hosts too! Many spouses attend and are always welcome. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish or desert to share. So plan to attend for great food, a huge sale and boat running as well. Bob also will have his theater open to check in on the Seahawk game that promises to be better than the one at Green Bay last week!

### HOW TO GET THERE

Bob and Laurie's address is: 14609 W. Lake Goodwin Road.

Here's how you get there:

- ❑ From I-5 take exit 206 (Smokey Point) and head west.
- ❑ When you come to the stop sign (at the Y), stay straight to go into LAKEWOOD RD/176<sup>th</sup> ST NW
- ❑ Go to E LAKE GOODWIN RD and turn left. (you will see a sign pointing left to Wenberg State Park)
- ❑ Go 2.5 miles and you will pass a “Y” on your left. (the road becomes W. Lake Goodwin). The Jacobsen's are about the 5<sup>th</sup> house on your right.

Note: If all else fails, call 360-652-6677 for rescue or a personal escort.!

## SALE OF THE CENTURY

In June of this year we obtained a significant amount of tools, modeling material and general items from the family of Jim Sisley. Jim was a long time member of our club and frequently attended our events taking many photos. In support of his many interests, Jim acquired lots of building items for his projects. Jim passed away in 2015. The huge amount of items were donated to our club and we will use this popular event to dispose of the items with the proceeds going to support our club activities. Because of the large volume of items, we will sell these in two ways:

### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS



Higher value item will be sold individually by a silent auction. They will be on display and you can view and write down your bid on bid sheets available for each item. Of course you should check back periodically in case someone writes in a higher bid. We have about 80 items to be sold by this process. Silent Auction items are located near or in the house depending on the weather. Bidding will close at 3 pm. Minimum bid increment is \$1

### DIRECT SALE



- Lower value items will be grouped for immediate sale in Bob's garage.
- All prices will be in whole dollars. Bins will be labelled as to price.
- Some items will be priced as a quantity for \$1 - 2 for \$1 - 3 for \$1 etc.

Purchase records will be available to make it easy for you to spend your money. We will rely on your generosity and honesty to keep things simple.

All sales are cash or check. Bring your checkbooks and wallets and a BIG shopping bag. There are many great items for sale. Items will be on display for viewing and bidding starting at 10am.

## 2017 Pacific NW Tug Regatta - Keith Schermerhorn

The 2017 Pacific NW R/C Tug Regatta was held at the derby pond of Whatcom Falls Park. The weather was comfortable, the water clean and lowered, and modelers had fun. The turnout was lower than expected with 13 competitors this year representing 3 countries. That was good if you wanted to run multiple tugs. Once we got the boats on the water, the action was on and the runs quite good. And while the skippers were working, we had a steady crowd of onlookers checking things out.

Besides the usual running of models, we also had a raffle throughout the day for many of the great items donated by hobby vendors, modelers, and tug companies. We always appreciate these items as they help generate the funds to keep this event going and cost down (lots to win this year)! After all the runs were tabulated the winner for 2017 was Ray Malone of England. So for the first time in the history of this event, trophy is going over seas! Bill Heath won the judges choice award for his nice Crowley tug, and Robert Osmond won the Masters award now known as the Mark Freeman Memorial Award. Congratulations to all who placed and took home awards. Many thanks also to the following for their efforts during the day:

Dave White-- barge master  
Lauren ( from Canada)-- salvage chief  
Ron Burchett and Ben Flodquist—Team judging  
Randy Flodquist –score master  
Pam Deer – food ( and putting up with me that week)  
Shawna McClellan and crew – registration/raffle/trophy organizer  
Ray Malone and Ron B. –setting the course and loading the trailer  
Bellingham Parks and Rec. for supporting the event and access to the park  
All who visited and brought barges to the event!

Without the help of these people and ALL who pitched in before and after, this event would not be possible.

Many thanks to our supporters as well who donate goods/funds that make this event special:  
Freemont Boat, Western Towboat, Crowley, Foss, Profession Mariner  
RAM, Zip kits, Loyalhanna Dockyard, Harbor Models, Roboesch, Midtronics, Aimee Eng, Mel Suelzle, Tower Hobbies, Ron Burchett

Please remember the ones from the hobby when making a purchase to support them or at least mentioned that you saw their name/product at the event(s).

Thanks again to all who made it up this year as we look forward to 2018 event being bigger and better. (Will post a complete list of winners separately).

Keith

## September 2<sup>nd</sup> Twilight Fun Float

Mel Suelzle



*Photos by Allan Wing*

September 2<sup>nd</sup> was the date of our twilight fun float at the new Bellevue Pond configuration. A beautiful pleasant evening, lots of visitors to the park and a great turnout of skippers resulted in one the nicest events of our boating season.

**Rodger Lyons** and **Dain Webster** arrived early to set up a great course of buoys to give skippers a course to navigate. Some buoys were lighted and rumored

to be some information using sequences known only to 1 or 2 skippers and someone named Morse.

I estimate about 20 skippers and several spouses were in attendance. Boats of all type were on the water and most were well lit to make them more visible as the evening progressed. A few took videos from boat mounted cameras that have been posted on our Facebook page and other sites. **Everett Evans** entertained the crowd and terrorized some

skippers with this unlit, supper fast tug running

in the “dolphin mode”. **Noel Holly** brought his cool lighthouse and a pizza for dinner. On such a pleasant evening many from the



community were out and enjoyed our boats as well. The only negative part of this event was it had to end. Around 9 pm, **Dain**, **Rodger** and **Dave While** gathered up the buoys and everyone headed home

This was a good test of the parking capacity. Arriving at about 6:30, only a few spots were available in the upper lot which required me to take the longer route to the pond. I was glad I had my wagon and wife with



me to help get my gear to/from the pond. The route home was more challenging as the trip to the parking lot uphill. The turnover in the lot was sufficient for those arriving later to find parking in both lots. These evening events need to stay in our future running schedule. Originally we had twilight floats schedule in August and September; however the delays in pond completion prevented the date in August. Something to keep in mind for the 2018 schedule.

## Fisherman's Festival Coming Up Soon



**Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> is the date for the Fisherman's Memorial Festival** in Ballard. Traditionally our club has attended this event and displayed and operated our boats in the marina waters adjacent to our booth. This is a very popular event and the crowd is quite interested in our models as most are tied to the marine or fishing industry in some way. We will have a 20' canopy and several tables provided by the organizers, The Port of Seattle. In the past, we have offered opportunities for the youths to operate

our boats. However we are not able to do so this year as this can be very overwhelming and few skippers are willing to make a commitment to this participate in this activity.

This is a great way to cap off our running season with a festival that focuses on an industry and not food and vendors of trinkets common with other events. Events are limited to displays that feature fishing industry demonstrations and fun events for the kids. They do provide a fund raiser salmon dinner that is very popular. This is a great event to showcase our models and demonstrate them on the nearby freshwater ship canal. The event starts at 11am and concludes at 6pm. Members are encouraged to attend even if you can only help out for an hour or two. That will help manage the crowds and give other members a break to enjoy the festivities. Please come have a good time and help monitor our booth and if you can, bring a boat to display and/or run.

The location of the festival is at the Fisherman's Terminal, located on the south side of the ship canal, west of the Ballard Bridge. For your GPS, the address is 1900 West Nickerson Street, Seattle. For those arriving before 11am, parking is plentiful near the festival. After the event opens, it may be advisable to get as close to the docks and unload before parking in the main lot or across Nickerson Street. Hope to see you there!





## LATE BREAKING NEWS FROM ANACORTES

Labor Day weekend saw **Linda and Randy Flodquist** staying on a tugboat B&B in Port Alberni and attending the Antique Machinery and Truck Show. **SUZY** was the only Yank in the big pond. A great event even if it was 92 degrees (maybe more being next to a 1917 steam tractor). The Mars bombers were nearby on Sproat Lake



## 2017 Club Information



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