



THE BILGE PUMP

The Official Log of the
Northwest R/C Ship Modelers

September 2007



Upcoming Events

September

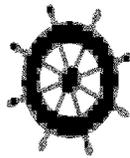
- 4 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 6 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 9 Galaxy Fun Float
Lake Bob
- 22 Fall Fisherman's Festival
Fisherman's Terminal

October

- 2 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 4 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 7 Fun Float, Bellevue Pond

November

- 1 NWRCSM Meeting
7:30 pm Galaxy Hobby
- 4 Fun Float
CWB Lake Union
- 6 Skagit R/C Ship Modelers
7:00 pm Lake Jack
- 15-17 Pacific Marine Expo
Quest Field



From the Wheelhouse By Mel Suelzle.

There has been so much going on in our boating world that I barely have time to sit down and cover all the activities just completed and coming up soon in order to meet the deadline set by our hard-nosed newsletter editor. Our busy part of our 2007 boating season is winding down and many of us are looking forward to taking a break for the action and spending some quite time repairing the old and building new model boats. Thanks to **Gordy Canney**, I managed not one, but TWO visits to Foss (Rainier and Seattle) to get fantastic information on the new Foss Dolphin I am building. But before I can spend too much time building boats, we have a few more events to deal with in our boating season. The next event will be our annual fun float at the Jacobsen's that includes a special "silent auction" of the items donated to the club by **Doug and Sandy Taylor**. **Allan and Darlene Wing** and myself traveled to their home in Dallas Oregon to pick up the items. What a great and generous donation this is. More details of this event are covered in this newsletter. We expect this sale to generate a large cash donation to the club. It is not too early to think about way we might use the money to do something special.

2007 Foss Cup Results

While a more detailed report on the August 18th Foss Cup will come from the Foss Committee. I wanted to be sure and congratulate **Al Kinsman** on his SWEEP of this year's events. Allan won the 2007 Foss Cup and he can add to his accomplishments of also winning this year's June Regatta AND the Tidewater Cup. He also placed well in his trip to the June San Francisco event I am sure Al is the first (and probably the last) person to win all three events in a single year. Congratulation to "triple crown" winner Al! I suppose we will have start giving Al a little respect now! (did someone say VERY little?) . Everyone had a good time at



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this year's Foss Cup. Well attended, good competition, dry weather and great food made it an enjoyable day.

TUALATIN CRAWDAD FESTIVAL – Our club is always well represented at this event, but this year we broke all records. We had 22 members and spouses attending from our club. This list is too numerous to mention but in addition to usual attendees, we were joined by 'first timers', **Allan & Darlene Wing, Dave & Ginny Feray, Keith & Barbara Lingscheid and Scott & Claudia Baumann.** The weather was very comfortable and a good turnout from the Portland clubs. The Sub Committee was on hand to run their subs. Thanks to everyone who came down from our club. The event featured the usual giant course with the challenge to navigate using the fewest commands. I was very happy that Keith Lingscheid attended this year as he broke my longstanding record for the HIGHEST number of commands. Keith, you won't believe how long some of these guys will remember your special accomplishment.

The Portland groups were very hospitable and put on a fun event. We thank them for their efforts to make our trip a memorable one. No "notable" events occurred to our group, but Sunday morning there was a diver trying to retrieve someone's sailboat from the lake bottom. I left him names of a couple of our club members that are quite experienced in retrieving sail boats and could give him some suggestions. (so Keith and Larry if you get a strange phone call you will know who to thank).

ELECTIONS ARE COMING AND I AM RETIRING - At our

October meeting we will ask for nominations for the position of club president. I have held this position for 5 years and it is time for someone else to get all the fame and glory that comes with the position. IF we had by-laws I am sure it would include a term limit of 5 years or less. In any case, someone else will preside over matters starting in 2008. I feel this important position warrants special attention. I have asked some senior members to serve as a nomination committee. If you are interested or feel you know of a capable and interested candidate please let me know and I will forward the information to the committee



Fall Fisherman's Festival – This year's festival is on Saturday September 22nd. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. This is always a fun and relaxed event with fresh water nearby to run in. The crowds are always as eager to talk about our boats as we are. We will be there around 9AM to setup. If you have never attended this event it is one of the highlight events of the year. This festival is at the Fisherman's Terminal in Ballard and is largely attended by those working in the marine industry. This is an all day event that begins at 11AM and will run to dusk.

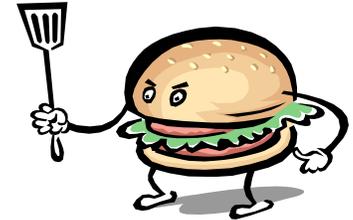


Lake Bob Barbeque and Fun Float

Sunday, September 9th is the date of the 5th 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.

Normally this would also be our 2nd Springer event of 2007. However since **Earl Anderson** won the Springer event and may not be able to attend, we will move the Springer contest to our October fun float in Bellevue. This will also give us more free time to participate in the silent auction that will also be going on.

This event is always fun and Chef Bob cooks a mean burger and the Jacobsen's are GREAT hosts too!



SILENT AUCTION

We will also be conducting our silent auction during this fun float. All of the items 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 half of the items closing at 2:00 and about half closing at 3:00.

All sales are cash or check. Members have first right of refusal to match a winning non-member bid.

Bring your checkbooks and wallets. There are many great items for sale. Items will be on display for viewing and bidding starting at 11AM.

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/176th ST NW

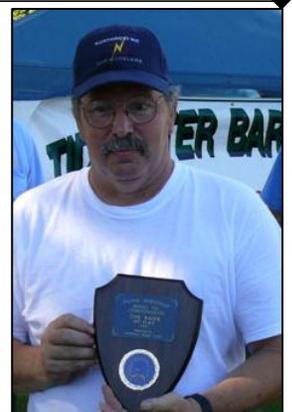
Go to E LAKE GOODWIN RD and turn left. (you will see a sign pointing left to Wenberg State Park)

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 5th house on your right.



Note: If all else fails, call 360-652-6677 for rescue, a personal escort and a **bent prop** nomination.

TIDEWATER CUP – The 2007 Tidewater Cup was held on July 28th in Spokane. **Al Kinsman** won the Tidewater Cup. As usual the West side group did very well in this event taking 12 of 16 awards. Awards also went to **Gordy Canney**, **Phil Northrup** and **Keith Schemerhorn**. **Mel Suelzle**, **Zack Ripperger** (Mel's Grandson). The Tidewater Cup was a fun event and well attended by our club members. It was a beautiful day (not too hot) for the event on a great model boat pond. We thank the Spokane Model Boat Club for hosting this event, providing good food and a fun day of model boating.



Northwest R/C Ship Modelers Meeting Minutes

By Randy Flodquist

Mel called a paltry twenty members to order at 1930 interrupting their discussions of river conditions in Minneapolis. Under OLD BUSINESS it was good news about Phil, Gordy, Keith, Mel, Zak, and Al who took twelve of Spokane's sixteen awards last weekend. Al took the Tidewater Cup with PONO. The "Taylor Gift" will be cataloged and a list going to members before some sort of auction in September.

NEW BUSINESS: Tualatin coming up the eleventh. The submarines will be there again.

FOSS CUP will be the eighteenth. Director Tom Stevens (filling in for Keith who was with Shawna at the ER ((she's fine))) had lotsa stuff about how it's coming along. LAKE BOB will be September 9. The Springer event may have to move to Bellevue in October. We'll know by the next meeting. Nominations for officers for next year should be in October with the balloting in November. The second annual CLIFF SHAW AWARD needs nominations too. In writing to the committee. No bent props or dogs and \$1890 in the kitty. Gotta think about the December Dinner.

Following the BREAK it was SHOW 'N TELL but that was preceded by a vote (musta been dinner on the brain during the break) to have the dinner catered at Martha Lake again.

Allan Wing had his FUTABA version of Spektrum. And a new Springer for Darlene; beefy for heavy hitting and a nice seal for going over. Earl had improved sealing for his rollover Springer and he explained how a high placed buoyant wheelhouse will get it back on its keel. Lotsa talk about reduction versus direct drive. Also talk about those fuses made out of brass pipe!!! Earl also had his highly modified DINKY rtr tug.

Norm had a side-wheeler made from material found in ALL HANDS. USNs first hospital ship. Looks a lot like the ROBERT E. LEE. Scaled up Lindbergh kit deal with the wheels operating independently.

Randy had his three car Balboa Island ferry on its way to completion.

Ron had a fifty year project; a Sterling forty-two foot Chris Craft.

Brad the flashlight collector had a dandy from FENIX-STORE.com. Darlene got the door prize and with that we stacked the chairs and flashed out the door at 2110.

August Fun Float

By Allan Wing



The started out cool and overcast but by noon the sky cleared to provide a warm and sunny afternoon. We had a good sized crowd with many skippers practicing for the Foss Cup. There were as many as 3 tug and barge combinations on the pond at the same time. The Blue Angles were flying overhead and there were other sights around the pond to keep everyone entertained.

We had a little polo practice and Tom Stevens had his polo boat with a new top. While we were running we made some current measurements On Earl Andersons' boat and my boat. Earl was drawing about 16 amps and I was drawing just under 5 amps. That shows the difference between Earl's direct drive and my 2.5 to 1 reduction. As you can see we are still looking for the "perfect" polo motor, gearbox and propeller combination.



SKAGIT R/C SHIP MODELERS

. . . . Dusty Graham

Tuesday - 7 August 2007 – 1900 hrs. Lake Jack

Crew & Guests present – **Jack, Dusty, Larry, Wayne, Lon, Leonard, Keith, Shawna, Ken Strickland,** and **Dave Feray.**

Most of the crew was present when the meeting started, but **Keith** and **Shawna** were missing. After about fifteen minutes they showed up. It seems **Keith** had been running several of his boats on Lake Jack to have them ready and fine tuned for the Foss Cup. **Keith** also tried out his hovercraft but the lift fan broke a blade so *no lift* for the evening anyway.

Ken Strickland brought his “**Ocean Rose**” to display at the meeting. Quite a sight to see and talk about. It has a very advanced sound system by JJC Electronics and a Harbor Models power distribution system. The lighting system was designed and installed by **Ken**.



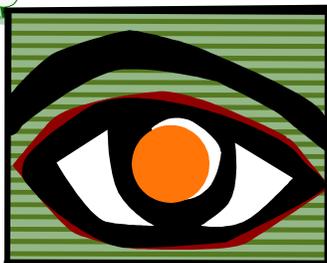
Keith reported that he took second place in the medium class at Spokane with his **Liberty**.

Leonard (remember him and boats? - well he IS still into R/C) reported while flying one of his R/C planes and using his Spectrum radio the display on the unit displayed everything upside-down and backward. Maybe that's a sign to get back to your boats.

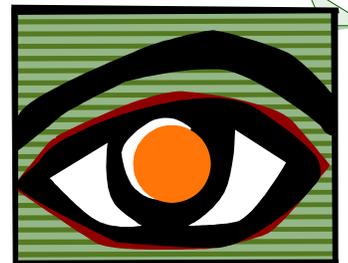
We had quite a discussion on brushless motors, gearing, batteries, and finishes for wooden boats.

In closing we want to mention **Sam Lostutter** (Dusty's father-in-law and a member of both clubs) was involved in a hit and run traffic accident on I-5 Wed. August 8th. **Sam** was traveling N/B on I-5, a female passed several cars on the right on an on-ramp continuing on the right shoulder striking **Sam** on the right and knocking him into a semi. **Sam's** truck was totaled but both he and his passenger are OK.

We secured the meeting at 2037 hrs.



Check out the Photo Page
on the web edition of this newsletter



How to Win the Navigation Contest

By John Witt

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**.

Continued on the next page

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.

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.

John Witt

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Tidewater Cup July 28, 2007





Fun Float August 5, 2007



Foss Rainer August 10, 2007



Crawdad Festival August 11, 2007

