



The Bilge Pump

The Official Log of the Northwest R/C Ship Modelers
www.shipmodelers.com

April 2024

Look Ahead Events

MAY

- 1 SYC Opening Day Fun Float 9 to 3 Wed.
- 2 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am

JUNE

- 1&2 Anacortes Waterfront Festival 10 to 6
- 6 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 8 NWRCSM's Model Boat Regatta 8 to 4

JULY

- 11 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
(-- Instead of July 4th --)
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Pond 9 am

AUGUST

- 1 Meeting at The Facility 7 pm
- 3 NWRCSM's Tug Boat Regatta 8 - 4
- 14 Twilight Float Bellevue Pond Sunset
Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- 18 BMM Regatta. see www.bammrc.com
- 30 Olympia Harbor Days (and Sep. 1)

See more details in the expanded calendar section at the newsletter end.



Read more about members' projects.

From the Bridge Steve Sunich

I have now realized why this club is the best in the country. I was amazed at the help that was provided at setting up the boat pond at the Northwest Hobby Expo. It was outstanding.



Thanks to everyone so much. We set up the pond with much success. About a dozen R/C modelers showed up for the Thursday setup and Sunday tear down. The pond worked great at 24' by 32'. We will have some design tweaks for next year but it did not leak one drop! I would like to thank the members that stepped up and made it an easy team effort.

I think there were about 20 boats in attendance at the three days of Hobby Expo and many people were happy to have the pond back this year. We had our club booth there, thanks to Robert Osmond for bringing it, and our promo video produced by Klaus Bellon. Anyway, see the Hobby Expo article herein for pictures and details.

We also had a fun float on April 6 and a night float April 18. Also see the articles herein.

The Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day fun float is May 1, on a Wednesday, for those of you that can attend during the

day. That is a fun event with a large audience and a chance to run on nice water all day long. So, charge those batteries. SYC will have tables, shade tent, and chairs for us. Lunch and drinks are available in the SYC's Marine Room.

We will then push on to our June Model Boat Regatta. Make sure and sign up for a job so that event will go off easily. You can sign up at the next meeting or give me a call and I will let you know what is available. Also, please donate your good condition parts, pieces, boats, hulls, books, photos, swag, etc. to the raffle. You can contact me about that also.

Meeting Minutes April 4th, 2024

By Steve Sunich

Photos by Steve Sunich & Paul Williams



Another meeting is in the books. We gathered again for our April 4th meeting at the The Facility Makerspace at Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, WA with sixteen in attendance.

Steve Sunich did not have much new business. **Dave White** gave us a current bank balance. We asked for pond assembly and take down volunteers and volunteers for the June regatta. A signup list was sent around and a few jobs were taken so far. This is important because that is how our regattas are able to run. We need to fill all of the jobs.

Dues are close to being all collected, with a couple stragglers.

We briefly discussed getting hats and finding the graphics needed for that.

There will be a springer polo event at the April 8 fun float. See **Robert Osmond** if interested.

Steve will meet with the pond assembly and take down volunteers after the meeting.

We quickly went on to **Show and Tell**.

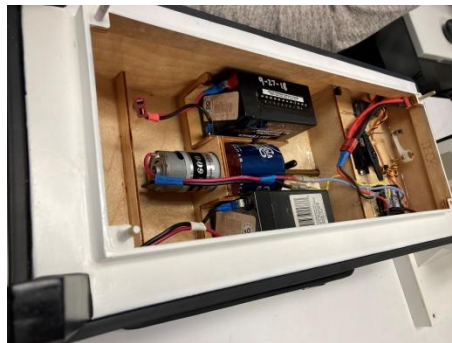
Robert Wickham started off the show telling us about his Springer that is water cooled with a cooler (blue color square) at the bottom of the boat near the prop. He showed us how stout this boat is and how well the running gear is installed.



David Zanzig brought lighted buoys that can be used for the night floats. They are built with PVC pipe, ballasted with buck shot and powered by small batteries and a "555" timing chip device that makes them blink at a certain frequency depending on the resistors installed. He also had USCG's "9XLWR" buoy blueprints (not really blue).



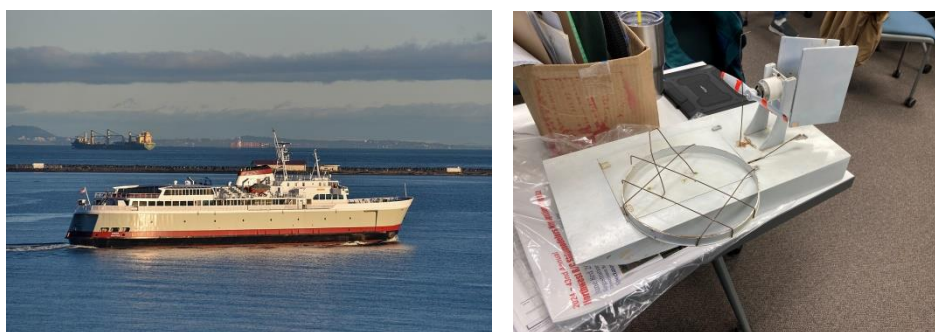
Brian Morse was happy to show us his springer with a nice cabin.



Chris Merrill showed us his PT boat that he has been working on. See his article herein. It has burnt out 4 motors but he is getting those upgraded for the Hobby Expo. He is working on a paint job and giving it the finishing touches.



Robert Osmond, our resident historian, gave us a photo presentation of his visit to the Coast Guard Museum on Alaskan Way in Seattle with **Dave Green**. He had pictures of some beautiful models that are displayed there. He also talked about taking a trip on *Coho*, the ferry that runs from Port Angeles to Canada and an airboat he built some years before.



The meeting ended and members had a closer look at the projects.



Steve met with the “pond assembly and take down volunteers” after the meeting.



Fun Float – April 6, 2024

By Steve Sunich

Photos by Darlene Wing

The Northwest RC Ship Modelers held our third Fun Float of this year on Saturday April 6, 2024 at our “summer” pond, the Bellevue Downtown Park’s pond, for the first float of the year there. We had fifteen participants including one from the Column Battleship Club. Our resident photographer, **Darlene Wing** took some great shots for us.



Robert Osmond hosted a great Springer’s polo event. **Dave Green** ran up an impressive number of goals.



Harland Winslow came from Port Angeles with his huge freighter that meandered around all morning.



Mike Gullikson displayed and ran his impressive collection of Coast Guard vessels and even brought doughnuts for the crowd. Robert is changing batteries between matches.



Bryan Morse ran his small tug that is work in progress. **Steve Sunich** ran his superyacht that is 99.9% finished. It is just missing decals that were lost in the mail.



Chris's PT Boat

By Chris Merrill

Here is more information about the PT boat I showed at this month club meeting's Show and Tell section.



This 32 inch wooden kit boat was won by me at a Regatta in 2020. It was an older build with a few patches on the inside and only painted a solid blue color. It had no electronics and an old 550 or 600 motor. With some advice, parts and help from Robert Osmond, I got it running using a Spectrum 40A SMART ESC and receiver using a LiPo 2S 4000mAh 7.4V battery. It was a nice simple setup that also allowed me to learn a little transmitter programming using a Spectrum DX5C. This setup has telemetry capabilities, so I can monitor battery charge, current, and receiver and transmitter battery voltage.



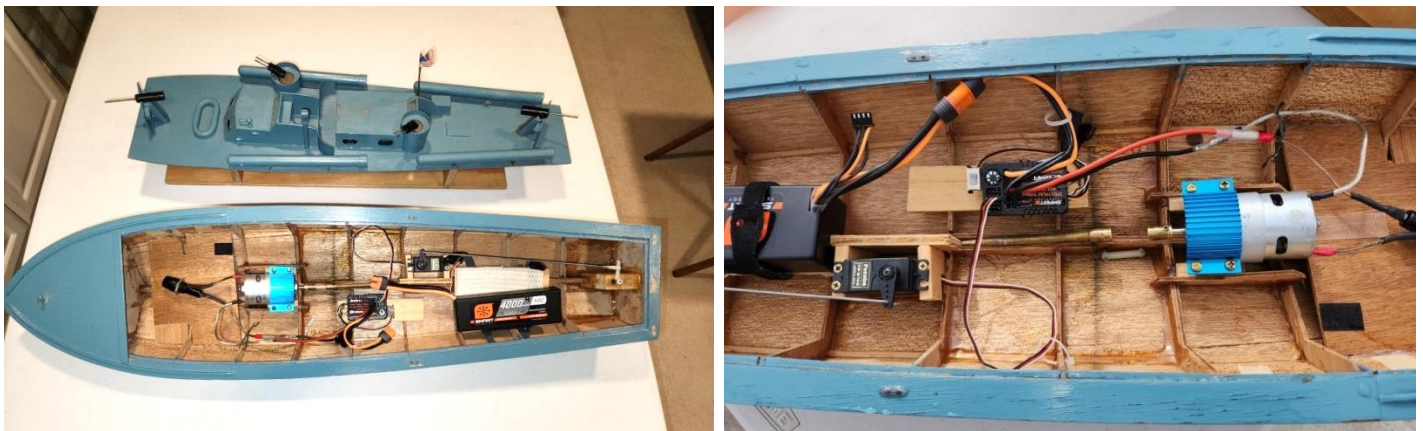
I have run this setup and had fun "hot rodding" at Fun Floats and Regattas and reported in previous stories when I have pushed my luck to gain more speed by installing a 3S 5000mAh 11.1V battery. That had resulted in at least 3 burnt motors that were all about

the same. One had a nylon brush housing which melted and deformed. The others either literally burned the motor windings or scored commutator that would not clean up enough with contact cleaner. Robert inspected that last one and concluded that it was toast.

I was fortunate enough to have taken a few motors when offered at club meetings over the past year. There was some advice by club members the last time I reported burning up a motor to at least add a fuse on the motor circuit. This time around I decided to try a slightly larger motor that looked like it was rated for 12V. Using some of the spare parts I also got as a donation, I was able to continue using the old dog bone coupling by putting on a larger diameter u couple and motor fit into same place and held with heatsink finned bracket.

My trial run at the local lake (Lake Desire in Renton, WA) went well with a 20 Amp fuse for both the 7.3 V and 11.1 V battery. I did not run it out far as I did not want to have to retrieve it using my kayak (still in the back of the van). I was not so lucky at this month's Fun Float at Bellevue Pond. The boat ran fine on the 7.3V battery and looked like good scale plane and speed with no heat felt on the motor. I then put in the 11.1V battery to see how it performed. It had plenty of speed and was fun for a few cross pond runs, but went dead in the water near the water fall. Kevin Nolet was able to navigate his tugboat in the wind to push my PT boat to shore, so waders were not needed.

Upon inspection, it was just a blown 20 Amp fuse, but I did not have anything larger to try. When I got back to my garage workshop I put in a 30 Amp fuse, so she is ready for another trial run. I will do a controlled speed run in our new pond at the Hobby Expo next weekend. I also did a little painting to dress the boat up with black paint on the 4 guns and 6 cabin windows. See pictures.



That's my story so far! I am having so much fun with this PT boat, that I have not worked on the scratch build of the hollowed-out cedar log boat, it will be a Chris Craft speed boat. More to be reported as it develops.

2024 North West Hobby EXPO Report

By Steve Sunich

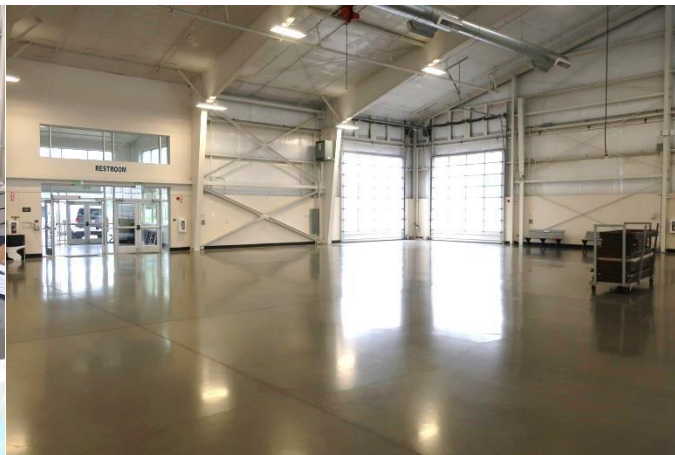
Photos by Robert Osmond and Paul Williams

Again, the three days Northwest Hobby Expo was held at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, Washington April 12 to 14. This year was a little different for our club because in addition to having a booth to promote our club and showing our R/C model boats, we also design, set up, and took down our club's new 24 feet by 32 feet indoor pond.

Step 1 – Pond Set Up:

Great volunteers showed up the day before to assemble our new pond. **Robert Osmond** and **Steve Sunich** gathered all of the parts and pieces over the last couple weeks so it was ready for assembly. We had a great crew setting it up. What I thought was going to take all day, but from start to water filled was done in about 3 hours. It will take half the time next time. It will take a couple of design tweaks for next year, but it worked and the Hobby Expo management was very happy to have it back this year.

Pond Assembly Crew.



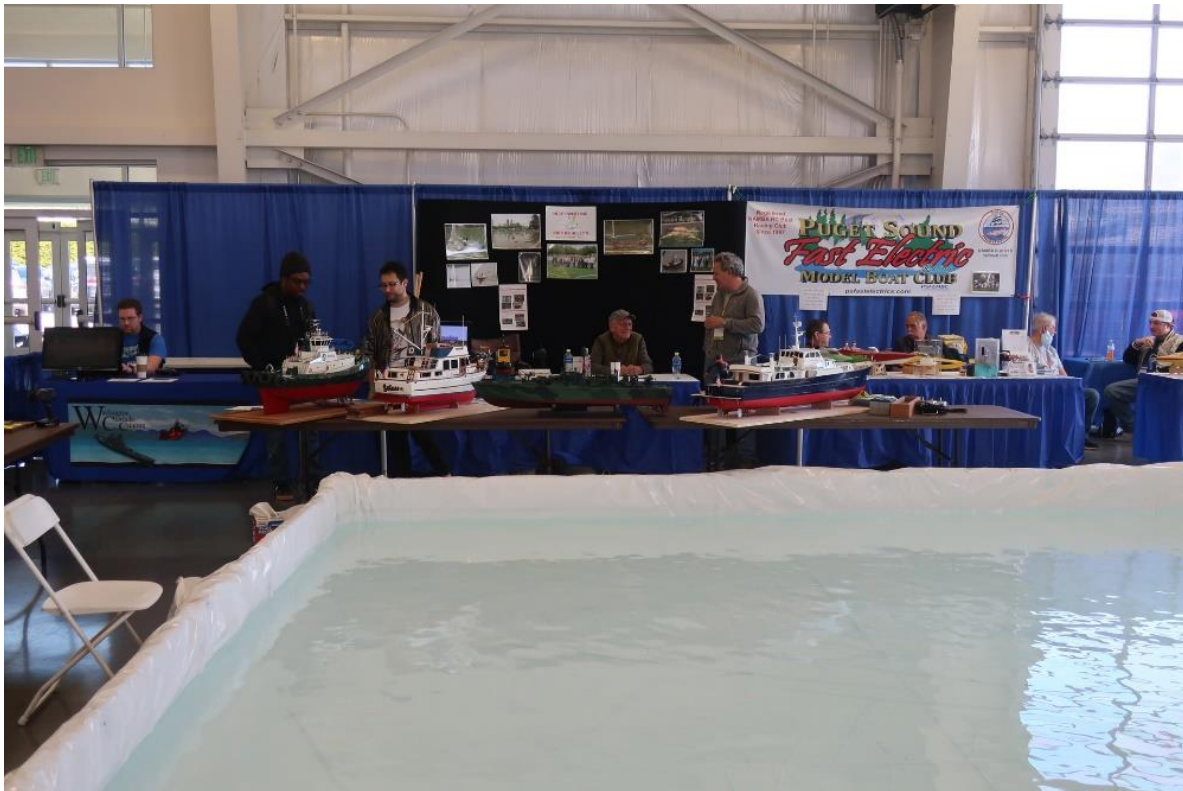


Step 2 – Club Booth & R/C Models

VP Richard Lennington manned the booth quite a bit, talking to passersby.



Robert Newell brought an array of boats.



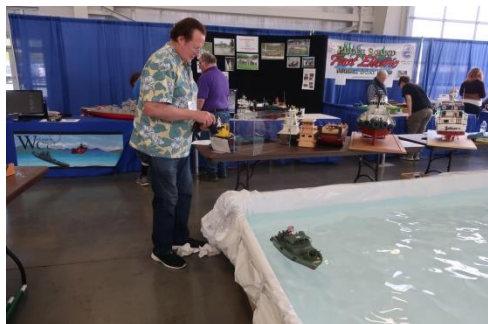




Chris Merrill displayed his Japanese PT boat that someone gave to him. All he had to do to get it running was add a battery and bind the receiver.



The battleship club joined us on the pond briefly and almost shot down a drone that ventured too close to their shooting water. It looked like Chris Merrill was having way too much fun keeping the kids running noodle boats. See his article about that herein. I had one person run my two yachts for over an hour. He was hooked.





Step 3 – Drain and Remove Pond:

Here is the pond tear down crew. It only took about 1-1/2 hours to pump out the water and load the up parts into Mike Gullikson's trailer.

Pond Disassembly Crew:





Also, a big thanks goes out to **Mike Gullikson**. He took the pond parts to his house and is storing it for us inside a dry shop. Thanks Mike!

Fun at the EXPO!

By Chris Merrill

The NW RC Ship Modelers club booth displayed many models and shared a large section with 3 other boat clubs. See the related article about how the 24 ft by 32 foot indoor pond was designed, built, erected, and disassembled by a great crew. My article will focus on the fun with Noodle boats and my own boats.

My thanks to the Wings for passing the storage box of 2 Noodle boats. I had 2 small car battery chargers that I thought would do the trick as they had same connector plugs and voltage of 9.2 when I charged them overnight Thursday. Unfortunately the batteries did not hold enough power for the Friday morning kids at the Expo. However I did get over to the swap meeting and found an identical and new field charger to the one I asked for help on at a previous club meeting. I was able to borrow a 12V lead acid battery from Steve Sunich and tested the new unit. It worked fine. Robert Osmond had his AC powered charger and helped out too.

The busiest day was Saturday and the kids ran the Noodle boats so much that the motors got too hot and we had to make them wait for turns, but that also gave me time to keep the second set of batteries charging with my portable field charger right there at the pond. The kids had a great time and I got to explain more about the various parts of the boat. On Sunday one of the motor shaft got too hot and would not stay connected even with some super glue.

The other great thing happened when **Kevin Hobbs** donated a PT boat to me. I will have to write more on that for next month.



Free -- Sailboat!

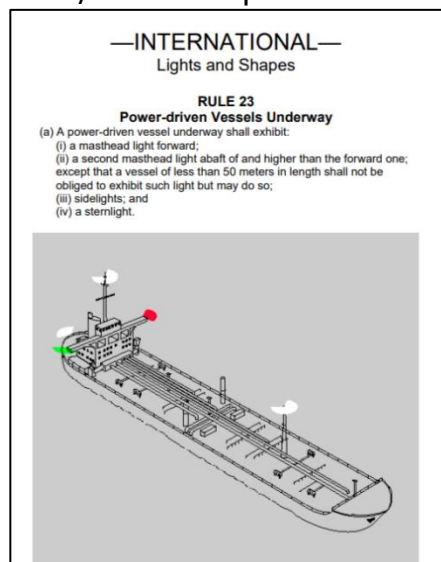
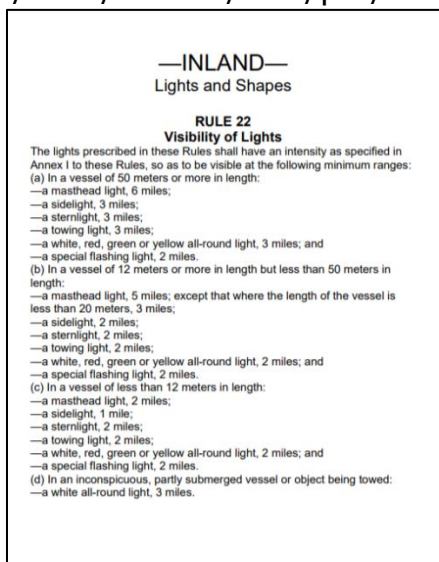
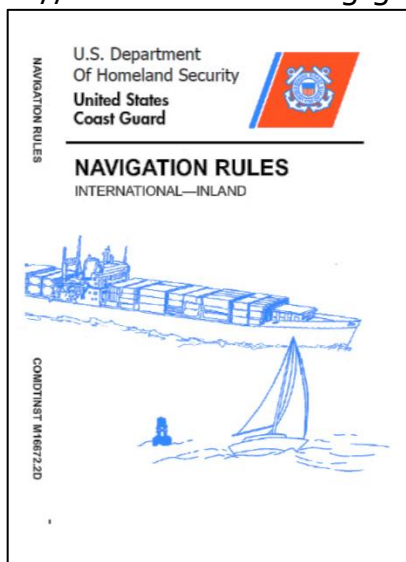
Richard Bizier said his 36 inches long sailboat needs a new home. It sails great, has no radio, has a stand, and the colors are red, white and blue. If interested please email him at bizier@email.com.



Free -- U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules Manual -- Lights

Robert Osmond passed on this information where you can have your own free copy of the U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Rules that includes navigation light regulations and drawings for international and inland ships. With it you can be sure your R/C model ships navigation lights are in the correct placement.

Your 226 page free PDF copy is just a click a way at this website address:
<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/navRules/navrules.pdf>



2024 NWRCSM Events Calendar

Remaining "??" dates and times will be listed as the year progresses. (Update 3/16/2024)

JANUARY

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

FEBRUARY

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

MARCH

- 2-3 Miniature Show - www.seattleminiatureshow.com
- 7 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 9 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

APRIL

- 4 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park (?) 9 am
- 11 NW Hobby Expo - Pond Setup 9 or 10 am
- 12 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe Noon to 6 pm
- 13 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 6 pm
- 14 NW Model Hobby Expo, Monroe 9 am to 3 pm
- 18 Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Sunset Only boats with lights can run after dark.

MAY

- 1 Seattle Yacht Club Opening Day Fun Float 9 to 3 Wednesday
- 2 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 4 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

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- 1-2 Anacortes Waterfront Festival 2024 10 to 6
- 6 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 8 **NWRCSM's Model Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm

JULY

- 11 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm *(Instead of July 4th)*
- 6 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

AUGUST

- 1 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 3 **NWRCSM's Tug Boat Regatta** 8 am – 4 pm
- 14 Twilight Float at Bellevue Downtown Park Sunset Only boats with lights can run after dark.
- 18 BMM Regatta. see www.bammrc.com for details.
- 30 Olympia Harbor Days (and Sep. 1)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 14 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am
- ?? Fishermen's Fall Festival 11 am

OCTOBER

- 3 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 5-6 Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show ?? (See their website for times)
- 5-6 Bellingham SeaFeast ?? (See their website for times)
- 5 Fun Float at Bellevue Downtown Park 9 am

NOVEMBER

- 7 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 pm
- 9 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

DECEMBER

- 5 Meeting at The Facility Makerspace 7 PM
- 7 Fun Float at Seattle Yacht Club 9 am

The Facility Makerspace

Our meeting location is in part of the Edmonds Community College buildings (Monroe Hall) located at:

6606 196th Street SW.
Lynnwood, WA. 98036

More information on this facility can be found at <https://facilitymade.com/>







2024 Club Officers		
	President: Steve Sunich	Webmaster: Allan Wing
	Vice President: Richard Lenington	Skagit R/C Meeting Contact: Keith Schermerhorn
	Treasurer: Dave White	YouTube & Meetup Master: Klaus Bellon
	Membership Database: Bryan Morse	Newsletter Editor: Paul Williams



Photo by Allan Wing

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