

# ***THE FOGHORN***

***Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club  
of New England***

**2012-- Our 22nd Year!!**

**March 2012**

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Note: Use [officers@marinemodelers.org](mailto:officers@marinemodelers.org) to reach all the club officers as a group.

**Visit our club Web Page at: [www.marinemodelers.org](http://www.marinemodelers.org)**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1- 4pm.** Our second meeting of the year, held in the usual spot at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield. We will be finalizing our proposed 2012 schedule (see the back page for a copy). It looks like a good one, with a full and busy schedule which should keep everyone happy. And of course, we'll do Show and Tell - so bring along those winter projects!

**We will also have some guest speakers:** At **2pm**, members of the Charles River Radio Controllers airplane club will be there. They will be bringing along a variety of RC aircraft to show and talk about.

**Sunday, April 15:** Our first on-the water event of the year. Usually, we call this the "Icebreaker", but based on how this winter has gone so far, a better name might be "bug slapper"!!

## **2012 Club Dues**

Dues for 2012 are \$25. Bob Jones will be collecting at the February and March meetings.

## **February Meeting Report**

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> was another of those balmy days that we've seen so much of this winter. Sixteen members gathered at the Church Hall: Bob Okerholm, Mike Hale, John Cooper, Mike Fioretti, Don Murray, Larry Milo, Steve Levesque, Bill Richards, Willi Zankel, Ed Arini, Bob Prezioso, Al Hubbard, Bob Mayo, Harold Cohen, and Kevin Ryan. We covered a few items of business:

**Mike Fioretti** distributed a proposed events schedule. (A copy is attached to this Foghorn, and posted on the club website.) The big change from last year is that we're going to base a lot of our summer events at a new (to us) lake in Sharon, at the town swim beach. We're making the move because of the weed problem at Choate—once summer gets going, the boats can't get going! Bob Okerholm reported that the beach at Sharon is very wide, and the town is happy to have us there. The prevailing winds are onshore, which is a good thing, as it is a real lake, and not just a pond like the one in Medway.

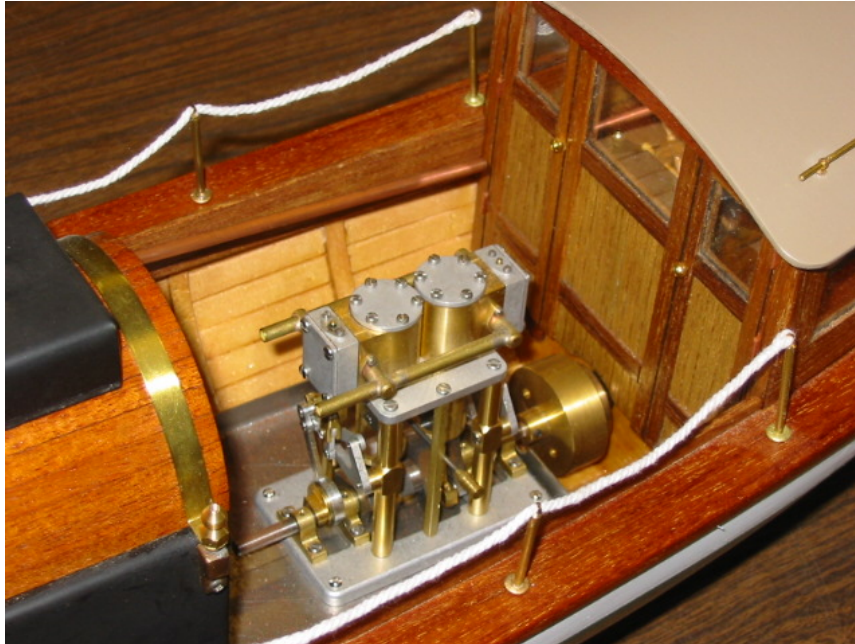
**Bill Michaels** reported that he had met with a representative from the Charles River Radio Controllors (CRRC) airplane club just before the meeting. They had met at the lake, and walked the site, to confirm that there would be adequate separation of boat and airplane areas. (There is.) The CRRC holds a couple of Float Fly-ins for glow and electric powered planes at the Wayland town swim beach on Lake Cochituate. There is a nice wide beach, with lots of shade close by. There are bathrooms available close by, but no power.

The airplane event is a two-day affair, running on Saturday and Sunday. Our members will be welcome to attend either day, but we're going to list Saturday as our "official" day, as we already have Silver Lake in Wilmington scheduled for that Sunday.

The issue of whether or not to hold a regatta this year was discussed for a bit. Two conclusions were reached: (1) We'll make a final decision at the March Meeting; and (2) that Bill M would send out a survey to the membership before the meeting. (The results of that survey are elsewhere in this edition of the Foghorn.)

**Ed Arini** reported that our Wes Tarlson's widow had passed in December. (Club member Wes had passed in 2010.) The family had contacted Ed, and given him the rest of Wes' model boat stuff, with the caveat that he distributes it to model boaters at no charge. Ed brought along a three tables worth of stuff—mostly tools, parts, and materials. I think everyone present found something to take home!

We then moved on to Show and Tell, though turnout was rather light. **Larry Milo** often brings along some interesting bits of his merchandise—and this time was no exception. Larry and a wide variety of geared electric motors— from some big ones with lots of power, all the way down to some the diameter of a pencil, suitable for driving a radar antenna or other small accessory.



Bob Mayo brought back his nice scratch built model (from Taubman plans) of a Thames Steam Launch. The model is 42 inches long, and is being built from scratch, including the steam plant. (Bob's son is milled the two cylinder steam engine.) Some of you may remember the model from a year ago, when only the boiler was installed. Bob now has the both the boiler and the steam engine installed, and is working on the plumbing.

The model is built from basswood and mahogany, primarily, and really looks nice. Bob said he added a lot of the fittings and details while his son finished the steam engine, but still has some work left to do. His goal is to get the boat on the water this summer— I sure hope we get to see it run soon!





Bob Jones had an interesting Pond Sailer that he had been given. The model was 36 inches long, and the hull had been carved from a single block of wood. (The interior had been all hollowed out by hand.) Bob is going to refurbish it and convert it to a gaff topsail rig.

### **Question(s) of the Month**

This month's QOTM was actually a small poll of the membership, on the topic of our annual regatta. Should we hold our annual regatta this year? Is it worth the cost and effort, given the low turnout over the last couple of years? If we don't have one, what could we do instead? If we do have one, what you change, if anything?

The results have been interesting. I've gotten replies from 17 people, which is great, and there are a lot of great comments. I've edited some of them slightly to fix typos and add what I think were obviously missing words. I'm pretty confident I left people's intent intact—but if I miscommunicated your intent, let me know, and I'll send out a retraction or correction. Without further ado, the words of the membership.....

**Arthur Perlmutter:** I do not think you should have it because it is not very well attended and not worth the work and expense. Also, it is hard to pick a date that works for everyone with summer vacations. Instead, I think you should have a meet that includes a family picnic.

**Mike Hale:** Yes, and it can be down sized to food only. (I assume he means "no awards" –Ed.) Set a minimum number for a "go ahead". Get an attendance count the Monday before the regatta date by email for food amount. If count is not over the minimum, then cancel the regatta and just make it a weekend meet with no extra expense. Is Sharon doable for a course?

**Stan Barnes:** In my opinion the annual Regatta should not be discontinued. Expense could be lessened by requesting small donations from participants, and this works well with our tractor club. Work involved should be shared by more than just a couple of people. In preparation for the Regatta members should be urged to accept specific tasks to be performed before and during the event. In our club, at the meeting prior to an event key duties are identified and members volunteer for them. Again, this works well for us.

On a personal note, since I live a good distance away I hesitate to drive to an event if bad weather or local conditions (such as weeds) could be a significant deterrent.

**Don Murray:** I would like to have a regatta scheduled along with a picnic. Those attending would bring things to share during the picnic.

**Bill Salter:** Its tradition what's a model boat club with out a regatta. One thing that could be done is to circulate flyers before the event. Also contact every boat club within 500 miles to bring on the trophy Hunters. You get out of an event what you put into it. (AMA member 4349 for 21 years and a contest director for 21 years. I know what it takes to turn around an event !)

**Ridge White:** I have long felt that the regatta should be every OTHER year. It's a lot of work, for the same people, with few participants, and it would be more special if held at greater intervals. In the "off" year there could be a new event, with no heavy lifting, like a beauty contest, or best new model, or "bring a kid to play day", or balloon popping, or something like that, with a cookout or Club picnic to make it an attractive social gathering.

**Bill Richards:** I vote for no Regatta this year. The recent level of participation does not justify the effort and expense. It should be the high point of our model boat season, but must have membership support. I would hope that by scheduling a Regatta every other year with a significant effort in publicity, it might be regarded as something of greater importance and draw better participation.

**Steve Levesque:** Since I have personally been responsible for setting-up 5 Regattas I feel my input is valid. What most of the members don't realize how much personal time is required to create, type, and copy all the forms required. This is after spending much noodle time thinking of a course. (To the members the course is never correct, it is either too hard to too easy! Never any help offered!) All this work and club money for 6 entries?? It is absurd!

My input is to do away with the regatta until the members really want one and volunteer take part in the work to set it up. At least skip this year!

**Mike Fioretti:** The level of participation does not warrant having a regatta, however publishing the results of a regatta in the SSMA newsletter could be the best way of attracting new members,



in the past we have had boaters come from afar just to enter the regatta, and some joined our club for a short time, the problem is that our club has not been interesting enough to keep those members happy enough to stay.

**Willi Zankel:** I am not crazy about a regatta. The reason: I think there is too much downtime for participants between runs of each event. If it is your turn in the event the others look on -- to me this is boring. You spent a whole afternoon for maybe 2 to 3 runs. I would rather see us set up a course and let every body play as they wish.

**Bill Michaels:** I would vote no for this year. Going to every other year might make sense. It should give us more time to do publicity. We could do it the same year as the Woods Hole show, and use that venue to help advertise. I also like the idea of a family picnic during the off year.

**Kevin Ryan:** I helped with the set up and participated in only one regatta two years ago when I first joined. I spent last summer in a wheel chair so I missed the last one.

I had a great time even though I only piloted a noodle boat after my own boat became a bathtub. The prep and set up at Choate the day before the regatta was attended by only three people.

Clearing the goose droppings and what seemed to be the equivalent of the Okefenokee Swamp worth of algae from the beach front before stringing and staking netting for the course was not the most fun activity in which I've ever participated.

At meetings I hear the reoccurring sentiment that the regatta is a lot of work for a few people and participation can be spotty.

The beauty of Democracy is that we can discuss things, vote to change them (permanently or temporarily) and vote to change them again if we don't like the outcome.

If only for the purposes of exploring an alternative that might attract more member participation, I think the suggestion that the club hold an outing based on a family picnic model has a lot of merit. We could still have some informal competition/games for bragging rights and perhaps a kid focused event. We always have delicious snacks, but ramping it up (without too much extra work) to a hotdog/hamburger etc...event with people committing to bring other food/drinks might result in more participation.

A predetermined and published schedule of the day's events with a specific time for set up, boat running, competition, lunch served, afternoon run and cleanup would help keep things tight and allow people to plan their day accordingly.

I'm still a newbie. I don't know if what I have described above has been tried before. These are just my thoughts. I'll go back to the goose poop and algae if that's what the club decides.

**John Cooper:** The Regatta requires a lot of work to set up and remove. Mostly by the same individuals every time. The Regatta has been a cost burden on the club for some time. If it weren't for the Salem event we would have been insolvent a long time ago. Taking these things into consideration, I am not in favor of having A regatta this season. By all means we should talk about Regatta some time in the future.


**Lou Hills:** Yes, to having an annual regatta. Plus, it is very important for the elected or acting PR Officer, to have it announced in all local Boston area newspapers, blogs, twitter, modeling magazines etc. Low attendance in the past has been directly related to the amount and quality of Public Relations. TV news coverage is also very important.

**Bob Jones:** I think we should skip the regatta this year due to costs and labor. I would consider a picnic as a beach that has a cooking permitted.

**Harold Cohen:** I think there should be a regatta in conjunction with at least one other club. The more clubs involved the merrier. The burden would be less, the attendance should be greater and a better time should be had by all. This might mean traveling a distance. If I remember correctly, when MMC regattas were successful, others traveled to us.

**Ed Arini:** Yes, I believe we should, however we should change the format to simplify things. The regatta has been an integral part of the club.

**FogHorn Editor:** My sincere thanks to all who took the time to respond to my little survey. There's some great food for thought here in all these responses! If you didn't get a chance to respond to the survey, please come to the March meeting and express your opinion there. If you can't make the meeting, you can always give a club officer a call....

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## **New Tools Project**

Ned Barnett, a regular on the one of the Internet Ship Modeling groups, posted the following recently:

Hi - I'd like to give you an update on the modeling tool project I'm involved in with two other partners, one a fellow ship modeler.

First, thanks to those who've offered us some ideas for your input on tools you might need. We are now looking at producing seven new and significantly better (than what's in the market) tools for the modeling marketplace. One is in the pre-production stage, two more are in the prototype stage, all designed to provide major improvements over what's already available.

Our production runs will be necessarily small, and made-in-the-USA, so we know we can't compete on price. What we will compete on is design-and-production quality. These will include:

- A ten-thousandths tolerance table saw with sophisticated XY controls
- A single punch set that will cover more ground than both Waldron punches put together (plus some other superior features)
- A new-design tools for bending PE
- A new-design tool for holding models while you work on them
- A new-design shop light designed to help modelers with over-40 eyes (created after what seemed to be a really great shop light had a material failure in its base and nearly crashed into a model project our chief designer had worked on for more than a year)
- And finally, a vacuum-forming tool that will have to be seen to be believed.

That's six, and I know we're working on seven (obviously, I'm overlooking one) - all will represent a major improvement over the best in the market, in terms of design, materials, workmanship, tolerances, etc. All designed for the serious modeler who wants the best and can afford to invest in his hobby.

If there are more products that you have in mind that fit this business/product model (i.e., no cheaper mass production designs, but only better-than-exists tools), please let us know.

Thanks,

- Ned

Disclaimer: I don't know Ned personally—I'm just passing the info along in case anyone is interested and wants to contact him.... [ned@barnettmarcom.com](mailto:ned@barnettmarcom.com)

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## **2012 Marine Modelers Club Meeting and Events Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Sunday, March 18	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall, Medfield, MA
Sunday April 15	Icebreaker: On-the-water at Choate Pond in Medway
Sunday April 29	On-the-water: Choate Pond, Medway, MA
Saturday, May 19	Float Fly-in and Fun Float: Lake Cochituate, Town Swim Beach, Wayland, MA Joint event with the Charles River RC Airplane club
Sunday, May 20	On-the-water: Silver Lake, Wilmington, MA
Sunday, June 10	On-the-water: Choate Pond, Medway, MA
Saturday, June 16	Static display and on-the-water: Town Common, Cohasset, MA
Sunday, July 8	On-the-water: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Sunday, July 22	On-the-water: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Saturday, August 4	Portable Pool and Noodle Tugs- Salem Maritime Festival, Salem, MA.
Sunday, August 12	On-the-water: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Sunday, August 26	On-the-water: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Saturday, Sept 8	Possible Regatta Date- Silver Lake, Wilmington. (rain date Sept 9.)
Saturday, October 13	Day/Night run: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA Sharon
Sunday, November 11	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall, Medfield, MA
Sunday, December 4	Holiday dinner, location TBD

Details on the times and locations for each of these events are posted on the club website:

**[www.marinemodelers.org](http://www.marinemodelers.org)**