

THE FOGHORN

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

2012-- Our 22nd Year!!

April 2012

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Note: Use officers@marinemodelers.org to reach all the club officers as a group.

Visit our club Web Page at: www.marinemodelers.org

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, April 15, 10 am – 4 pm: 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”!!

Sunday, April 29, 10 am – 4 pm: On-the-water at Choate Pond in Medway. Our second on-the water event of the year.

Pond Report

Bob Okerholm checked up on the pond at Choate a few days ago. He reported that the pond beach looks cleaned up. The water level is low, but it looks clean for the next meet. So make sure your batteries are charged for April 15th!

From the Helm

I would like to thank my fellow officers for the work that they have done so far. I think we are off to a great start, just like the weather we have had so far.

For the members that were not at the indoor meetings, we have started discussions about a lot of issues. The officers need your help, in changing the on-the-water events so they are more interesting to our members. So please continue to give us your opinions, and most importantly, your involvement.

The “Icebreaker” will be at Choate pond in Medway. Future meets may change to Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA, if the weeds at Choate pond get too bad. If that happens, it will be posted on the website and newsletter.

Hope to see you all at the pond this year!

Bob Okerholm, Commander

Treasurer's Update

At the last meeting I announced that I had established an account with Sovereign Bank. The club was turned down due to having less than their minimum for a business account (\$5,000). I went to several smaller banks and finally found UniBank. UniBank has no minimum and we now have a no fee, Non-Interest bearing, free checking account. UniBank has 6 branches around the area and have been very good to deal with. I now have received our free checks and deposit slips, and we have money in the bank.

- Bob Jones, Treasurer

Reminder: Dues for 2012 are \$25. Please get your check to Bob Jones soon, if you haven't already.

March Meeting Report

Sunday, March 18th was another of those beautiful days that felt more like May than March. As a result, attendance was down a bit, probably because it was so nice outside! Still, we had a decent turnout, with 14 members present: Bob Okerholm, Mike Hale, Mike Fioretti, Bob Jones, Bill Michaels, Larry Milo, Stan Barnes, Ed Arini, Bob Prezioso, Willi Zankel, Don Murray, and Al Hubbard. We also welcomed two new members: Alan Beeber and Kevin Calley.

We covered a few items of business:

Regatta: We have decided not to hold a regatta this year. Instead, we will replace the regatta with another event— but we haven't decided what just yet. One option that seemed popular is some sort of "BBQ/Picnic with Buoys". (Make my buoy well done, please!)

Treasurer **Bob Jones** reported that he was looking to have our new bank account up and running in a couple of weeks. (That is now done—see the Treasurer's Report elsewhere in this issue.)

Commander **Bob Okerholm** reviewed the state of the ponds we're using. Normally, we can use Choate until the weeds take over in mid-June. Given how mild the winter has been, we fear that the weeds may get an early start. If that happens, we may be moving the June event to the lake in Sharon. We will make that determination when we get closer to the date.

Bill Michaels reported that he had met with a representative from the Charles River Radio Controllers (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.

Bob Jones brought along his model of a Chesapeake Bay Skipjack- a sailing Oyster Dredger. The model is being scratch built from plans he got from the Solomon Islands Model Club in Maryland. (They sell a package that consists of a set of plans and a lead keel.) The model is 46" with a 12" bowsprit going out another 8". It is Marconi rigged with a very long boom and low mast height. It is roughly to scale with changes to the rudder and keel to accommodate RC sailing.

These boats were originally designed to dredge for oysters. That accounts for all the sail area down low for power. There are still 2 or 3 of the originals that are licensed in MD to work the Chesapeake Bay. The original boats were around 50 feet long.



The picture didn't come out, so I can't show you the 1930's Cabin Cruiser model that **Al Hubbard** brought along. (There's a little bit of it in the background of the picture above.) You'll just have to trust me when I say the model was scratch built from plans, and looks very nice.



New member **Kevin Calley** brought along a Springer tug that he is re-doing. The model will be getting new running gear and RC equipment, and perhaps a new paint job. You can see the classic Springer hull shape in the picture....

New member **Alan Beeber** brought along a trio of projects. He's got a pair of Springer tugs and a small Vosper Motor Torpedo Boat. The circa 1941 1/32 scale Vosper MTB is based on the Glynn Guest plans from the June 2011 issue of Model Boats Magazine. It is a beginner's standoff-scale model. Motor will likely be a stock 500 with a scratch built stuffing tube and a single 25 mm prop. The model is primarily 1/4" balsa framing, skinned with 1/8" balsa. Alan hasn't decided if he will fiberglass the hull or use the tissue and dope method described in the article.

Alan's Vosper hull is on the left, while the two tug hulls are center and right.



The two tugs are "standard" springers. For those unfamiliar with the type, they are based on a full scale truckable 18 foot long pusher tug. Starting in the Pacific Northwest, Springers have become a very popular class of one-design tugs, and clubs all around the world are hosting all sorts of fun events. (Races, pushing/pulling contests, barge handing, and water polo are some of the more popular ones.)


The class rules for Springers are pretty simple: use the standard hull shape, which is 18 inches long and 8 inches wide. Power plant is limited to 6 volts, and a 35 mm diameter prop. Rudder can be no bigger than 4 square inches, no Kort nozzles. Topsides can be any size/shape, and people have gotten very creative. Do a web search, and you'll find tons of information about the boats, and lots of pictures of models from all over the world.

While I didn't bring it, your editor is starting on a Springer tug of his own, using an extra set of parts that Alan cut out for me when he did his own. I'm going to build mine as a rescue boat, and my goal is to have the boat ready by the May 19th Float fly event.

The meeting featured some special guests-- members of the **Charles River RCers**. They brought in a variety of planes to exhibit and gave an interesting presentation. In addition to doing show and tell on variety of models they brought, there were also a lot of informal discussions. Based on the amount of RC talk in the room, it was obvious that their visit was well-received, and they ended up staying late.



John Eppling brought models from both ends of the size spectrum. On the left, he is holding a featherweight indoor electric-powered RC airplane, one that can easily be flown in a room the size of the Church Hall. The aircraft on the right is a 1/4 scale model of a modern aerobatics plane- the "Slick 540". The plane is powered by a Hacker A50-12L electric motor (weight is about 18 oz, with a KV rating of 348 RPM/KV), and controlled by a Castle Creation 100 Amp ESC. It is powered by two 4S, 4000 MAh lipos in series (33.6 volts). At peak voltage, the motor puts out 2700-2800 watts at approximately 90 amps with an 18x8 prop. With this power plant, the plane has unlimited vertical climb. With the two 4000 Mah lipos in series, John can fly for 7 to 8 minutes while using up about 50% to 70% of capacity, depending on how he flies.

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Raj Bortcosh brought a couple of very impressive gas-powered RC helicopters. These models are fully equipped—with extras such as a gyro autopilot and an onboard generator to charge the batteries. One of the models has about 3000 (20 minute) flights on it, which is about 1,000 hours of flight time. How does he keep a model in one piece for that many flights? One thing he does is to follow a rigorous maintenance procedure—doing things like replacing the servos on a schedule, instead of waiting for them to wear out and fail.

CRRC president **Sky Andrew** brought along a couple of models from the other end of the cost spectrum. Sky's models were made from cheap blue insulation foam, with inexpensive brushless motors and RC gear. (Plans can be found on the internet.) These little brushless motors have the oomph to make these fairly simple models quite agile in the air. Sky is holding a delta-winged model that is fitted with strings of LED lights—these planes are popular for night flying.



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2012 Marine Modelers Club Meeting and Events Schedule

Date	Activity
Sunday, March 18	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall, Medfield, MA
Sunday April 15	Icebreaker: On-the-water at Choate Pond in Medway, MA
Sunday April 29	On-the-water: Choate Pond in 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: Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, 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	Not a Regatta— alternative event, TBA-- 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 2	Holiday dinner, location TBD

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

www.marinemodelers.org