



THE FOGHORN

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

2014-- Our 25th Year!!

August 2014

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

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, August 17, 11am – 3pm. On the water at lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA. We'll be at the Community Center Beach, which is off Dubinsky Drive. This is the spot on the east side of the lake—we will not be at Memorial Beach at the north end.

Sunday, September 7, 11am – 3pm. On the water at Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.

Note: We're reducing the "Official Hours" for our regular Fun Floats to a 4 hour span, so that our attendance isn't spread out all over the day. Instead of having a few people present at any given time, hopefully we'll have more people all there together.

July Meeting Report

This has been a tough summer for your Editor—I missed another one. Ed Arini and Shawn Kimball sent me a couple of pictures, two of which are below....



Ed Arini reported that the following members were in attendance: Ed and Linda Arini, Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Chris Thiry, Mike Hale, Mike Fioretti, Shawn Kimball, and John Cooper.



Editor's Notes

SCH is shutting down: Steel, Chapman and Hutchinson (SCH) makers of big 1/24 scale RC Square Riggers recently posted this on their website:

Steel, Chapman & Hutchinson is going to stop producing working model sailing ships. We will compile the kits that we have all the major parts for already and those will be available, but we will be making no more after that. As of June the 12th, 2014, we have 7 [HMS Surprise](#) kits left and 4 each of the [Cruiser Class brig](#) and the [Prince de Neufchâtel](#).

I've always wanted one of these well-engineered kits, but their high cost has prevented me from getting one. It just wasn't realistic to think I'd be able to drop between \$2700 and \$4400 on an RC model! Still, I'm sorry to see them go....

RC Combat Models: AFAIK, there are no RC Warship combat clubs in the Northeast, so we don't get much exposure to the hobby. But there are products out there for this niche hobby that may appeal to more mainstream scale RC ship builders. A common scale for RC combat is 1/144 scale—and there are some very affordable wood semi-kits available for a wide variety of naval ships in this scale. While your typical RC combat ship isn't intended to be a fine scale model, the hull could serve as a good foundation for a scratch build project.

Not all of the combat models are wood, either-- I found a line of fiberglass hulls, where the builder has to cut out the sides and sheath it with balsa to make it "combat legal". These would be even easier to use as the foundation for a scale model! If you Google "1/144 scale RC combat", you'll find a lot of hulls and semi-kits available....

Age of Sail Combat? While searching for 1/144 scale hulls, I found that a few people are exploring the concept of RC combat using sailing ships. I found one guy who is selling a semi kit of the USS Constitution in 1/48 scale. Now the detail and rigging is missing or rather crude, but the kit does have some interesting possibilities—it would be a very cost-effective way to play around with model square rigger engineering before embarking on a more complicated scale sail project. (And I think there would be a pretty big "wow factor" for a standoff-scale model when it is out on the lake!)

Here's the link for those who might be interested: www.jenkse.us/rcengr/Kits.pdf

Dumas PT-212 kit: Dumas has a relatively new kit of a Higgins 78 foot PT boat. The kit is in 1/31 scale, which is a little odd, but close enough to 1/32 that you can use fittings and accessories in that scale. While not as famous as the Elco 80 footers (think PT-109), the 78' Higgins boats were also used a lot in WW2, especially in the Mediterranean.



3-D Printers: Harold Cohen sent me this. You-Do-It electronics in Needham has a 3-D printer kit for sale for about \$750. If you like to build electromechanical items, and want to get into 3-D printing at a lower cost, this might be the toy for you! The printer is from Velleman – you can find reviews and more information online. Or, you can visit You-Do-It, where they have an assembled unit on display, along with some examples of the things it can print, and see it there.

Our club mate **Eric Bertelsen** is doing some amazing work with 3-D printed parts for scale ship models. If you're at all interested in seeing what can be done with this technology, you really need to get up to Lowell and visit Homeport Model Shipyard!

Editorial (follow-up): Why don't more members attend our events?

Last month, I asked this question. Response was very light—maybe I should I run a survey this month entitled “Why don't more members respond to requests for input?” <wink>

While the response was light, a couple of good points did come back to me.

- Swim Beaches: A few members mentioned that they don't like going to swim beaches during warm weather—that having people in the water discourages them (and others) from running their boats. One member wondered, “So why drive all that way with a carload of boats if you aren't going to run, or maybe be the only one on the water? If I wanted to sail my boat by itself, I can do that much closer to home!”
- Time Spans: There were a few comments that we are blocking out too much time for a monthly fun float. A typical float is scheduled from 10am to 4 pm—this is spreading too few members over too much time. It is disappointing (at best) to arrive at 2pm for a Float that is scheduled to run until 4, and find only one or two members left, and they are leaving soon. And it certainly doesn't make a good impression on potential members, who see our schedule online, expect us to be there during the published hours, drive some distance to get there, and find nothing happening!

The Club Officers have informally discussed both of these items. Solving the first one is hard—it means finding a new place to hold our events. (If we had a better place, we'd already be using it!) But we should all be on the lookout for new places to run—there may be a better place out there, just waiting for us to find it!

The second item is easier to address, and it made sense to us that we do something about it. So, for the next couple of events, we decided to schedule them from 11 am to 3pm as the “Official” time. We'll see how that works out, and then revisit the topic during our winter planning session, when we're working on the 2015 schedule.

Marine Modelers Club of New England**2014 Events and Meeting Schedule**

(Rev. 7 August 2014)

Date	Event
Sunday, March 17 1 - 4pm	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, April 27 10 am - 4 pm	Icebreaker: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, May 18 9 am- 4 pm	Warship Day: On-the-water at Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Sunday, June 8 10 am - 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Sunday, July 13 10 am - 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, August 2	TBA
Sunday, August 17 11 am – 3 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Sunday September 7 11 am - 3 pm	On-the-water: Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Saturday Sept 21 11am - 3 pm	Float Fly-in, Fun Float and cook-out: Lake Scituate , town Swim Beach , Wayland , MA (Co-located with the Charles River RCers Floatplane Fly-In)
Saturday, October 4 3 pm - 7 pm	Day/Night run: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, October 19 11 am — 2 pm	On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, November 9 1 - 4 pm	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, December 7 12 – 3 pm	Holiday dinner, Holiday Inn Taunton.

Visit us at www.marinemodelers.org for updates to this schedule and for directions.