



THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2019-- Our 29th Year!!

June 2019

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 20, 2019, 9am – 4pm: Joint Fun Float with the Down East Ship Modelers Club at Rogers Park Pond in Kennebunk, Maine. (Rain date is Friday.) This is a great event-- well worth the trip! Kennebunk is about halfway between Boston and Bath, Maine; about 1.5 to 2 hours up I-95.

Saturday, July 20, 1 - 4pm: Fun Float at Redds Pond in Marblehead, MA.

Saturday-Sunday, August 3-4, 9am – 5pm: Salem (Mass) Maritime Festival. We will have our usual booth and will set up the portable pond for the kids to run the Noodle Tugs.

Reminder: Meeting Cancellation Notices

If you would like to get notifications that a scheduled event has been delayed, postponed, or canceled, we need your text number. Please send me your cell number, and I'll add it to the list to share with the other officers.

The best way to get your number to us would be send an email to the Officers' group email address: officers@marinemodelers.org

May 18th Fun Float Report

I wasn't able to attend, but Linda and Shaun sent some photos. By all reports, the day alternated between “mild and nice” and “windy and cool”. The theme of the event was “Sailboats” and I understand that at times boats were nearly becalmed and at other times they had all the breeze they could handle.

The day ended on a sad note-- Charlie's catboat “Sophie” sank and could not be found. The boat got caught out on the lake by the gusty winds, and despite the boat's auxiliary motor, Charlie couldn't get it back close to shore. The boat suffered several knockdowns, which made the model's barn-door rudder ineffective and pushed the boat back out. Eventually water got in, the motor died, and the boat sank. Charlie, Shaun, and Frank looked for it, but couldn't find it.



Charlie hasn't given up-- he is planning on returning to the lake to look for it. He has a general idea of where it went down, and hopes to find it soon, now that the weather is a little warmer.

Above: Charlie (in the kayak), Frank Cook, and Shaun looking for the lost Sophie.
(Linda Arini photo.)



Left: Commander Mike Hale brought a variety of models.
(Shaun Kimball photo.)

Piscatagua RiverFest

The Festival to celebrate Portsmouth and the River was held at the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth NH, on Saturday, June 1st. This was the first year for this event, and we were contacted by the organizers and asked to participate. This was a display-only event-- we did not want to commit to bringing the portable pool for the Noodle Tugs.

We had a good turnout, with a good selection of models on display. Members participating included Bob Prezioso, Mike and Jean Hale, Bill Michaels, Linda Arini, Charlie and Bonnie Tebbetts, and Shaun Kimball.



Above: Part of our club display. Manning the tables, from left to right: Bonnie Tebbetts, Bill Michaels, Linda Arini, and Shaun Kimball.

Joint Fun Float with the Maine Club

The Mid Coast RC Boat Modelers (otherwise known as the DownEast Radio Control Shipmodelers) and The Marine Modelers Club of New England have organized another RC Scale Fun Float at Roger's Pond in Kennebunk, ME, from 10am to 5pm on **Thursday, June 20th**. Rain date is Friday, 21 June. The pond is Town owned, features a pavilion and Porta-Potties. Gas grills are allowed, but not charcoal grills. Being a Town owned facility, no alcohol is allowed. The pond is a great place for running scale models, with access all around, and a shallower area for setting up the model docks.



We went looking for a pond that was roughly equidistant between Bath and Boston-- we found a great one just about at the midpoint! For us, the pond is about a 2 hour drive from Sharon, right up I-95.

The pond is clean water, stocked with fish. Entry into the water is allowed, and water shoes are a good idea. The Pond is approx 6 ft deep in the center. The water near the

area we used last year is shallow enough to set docks-- there were quite a few set up last year. The pond is surrounded by trees set back a bit. The park offers parking close to the water, and you can even drive up to the edge of the water to unload. (Photos from the 2018 event.)



This is a BYO event. Bring chairs, tables, food and beverage. There is a large shaded pavilion about 50 feet from the water, with lots of picnic tables.

Friday the 21st is the rain date. If the weather looks bad. We will use email and the text numbers we have to get the word out. The location is easy to get to- just google Rogers Pond Park in Kennebunk.

We picked a weekday, as most of their membership, (and a lot of ours!) is retired, and could likely attend. Last year, we pretty much had the park and pond to ourselves, and the weather was absolutely beautiful! The park will be less busy, and traffic to/from Maine should be good. We're hoping that with the advance notice that others may be able to take a day off work to join in. (I know I will – Editor.)

The Maine guys are reserving the pavilion for the whole day. I told them that most of us attending from the MMC would likely drive up in late morning, to arrive before noon. It should make a nice day trip-- and there is plenty around the Ogunquit-Wells-Kennebunk area for the wife/family to do if they don't want to hang out at the pond.... (Kaja and I are planning on spending the afternoon at the park, then heading down to the Wells/Ogunquit area for dinner, and a walk on the beach!)

Last year was a terrific event-- there was a big turnout from both clubs. Between the two clubs there were 30-40 great models. Last years event was so great, everyone attending immediately wanted to do it again. This is a great chance to meet some new boaters and see new models in action. If you are going to attend, please send Bill Michaels and Charlie Tebbetts a note so we can let our hosts know how many to expect!

Boating Basics

Hooking up your electric powerplant:

This month I thought I'd cover a few tips for installing the running gear in a typical model. For the purposes of this article, I'll assume we're installing a stuffing tube with prop shaft, with a threaded prop at one end, and a universal joint to connect the prop shaft to the motor's shaft.

Some kits have the angle of the propshaft fixed, while others leave it up the builder to sort out. In either case, before any glue is used, you want to check several things:

- Make sure that the outboard end of the stuffing tube is far enough away from the bottom of the hull to leave clearance for the model's prop. If possible, leave a little extra space, especially if you're not sure what size prop to use. You don't want to make it a tight fit for a 35mm prop, and later discover that the ideal 40mm prop won't clear the hull bottom!
- On a similar note, make sure there is enough space to get your prop between the propshaft and the rudder. Some props have large hubs-- will it fit? Will you be able to get it off later?
- On the inboard end, make sure the end of the shaft is high enough off the model's bottom to meet the motor's shaft. Don't forget to leave space for the motor mount, too!
- Keep in mind that if the inboard end of the stuffing tube isn't above the waterline, it is a prime candidate for letting water in. You'll need to use a good waterproof grease here!
- Where's the thrust bearing? The prop is generating the thrust that pushes the model through the water. If you push forward on the prop, what does it push against to move the hull? You don't want that load transferred to the motor shaft's bearings-- they generally aren't designed to take that sort of load. Better to have the prop transferring the force to the end of the prop shaft (maybe with a thin nylon washer here), or to a dedicated thrust bearing at the inboard end. And don't forget what happens when going astern-- put a set-screw wheel collar on the inboard end so that the prop isn't pulling the shaft out of the boat when backing down!
- Speaking of backing down, is the prop well secured to the shaft?
- The closer you can align the motor shaft to the propshaft, the less power you'll waste. Yes, you have a universal, which looks like it will tolerate a lot of misalignment, but at the cost of some wasted power, which means a shorter run time from a given battery.

- An ammeter is a handy tool to help align your motor to the propshaft, after the stuffing tube is firmly installed.
- Connect the drivetrain to the motor with the universal but leave the motor mount unattached. Connect one of the motor wires to a test battery. Connect the other one to one of the leads to the ammeter.
- Hold the motor in the approximate location with one hand, and touch the ammeter's other probe to the battery briefly. The motor will start spinning, and the ammeter will show a current. If the value is negative, swap the connections to the leads on the meter.
- Still holding the motor, complete the circuit again. As the motor runs, you will see the amount of current the motor is drawing on the meter. As you move the motor about a little, you'll see the current drawn go up or down. The idea is to figure out the spot where the motor is drawing the least amount of current-- that is the point where it is properly aligned. The current draw is less because there is less friction, compared to a mis-aligned motor.

If you don't have an ammeter, and if the diameters of the motor shaft and prop shaft are pretty close, another good option is to use a piece of brass tubing as a temporary alignment tool. Remove the universal joint from the drivetrain and use the brass tube as a stand-in. Using a piece of tubing pretty well guarantees the motor shaft and propshaft will be aligned with each other! Just be sure to use a piece of tubing that is the same length as the universal joint, so that you get the fore-and-aft spacing correct.

2019 Membership Dues

It is that time of year-- time to pay your 2019 dues! The membership form is attached to this issue of the Foghorn, and is also available on the club website. You can pay Linda Arini in person at the next meeting, mail her a check, or use PayPal. (Use the PayPal button on the main page of the club website.)

Dues are \$25 per year. If you need the form, you can always find it on the club website.

Important: Linda had to open a new club checking account, and she had to put her name on it. If you are mailing a check for your dues, please be sure to make it out to **Linda Arini**.

2019 Events Schedule

Here is the 2019 Club Schedule. Note that this is subject to change, and that updates will be posted on the club website, as well as sent via email.

Date (Saturday, unless otherwise specified)	Event
March 16 th 1-4 pm	Indoor Meeting at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield, MA.
March 23 rd , 6-9 pm	Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA Pool in Foxboro, MA. (\$10 co-pay)
Saturday-Sunday, April 13 th - 14 th	Woods Hole Model Boat Show
April 27 th , 11-3pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA Theme: Sailboat Day
May 18 th , 11 – 3 pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA
June 1 st , 9am - 5pm	Piscataqua River Fest, Portsmouth, NH.
Thursday, June 20 th , 10 am - 4pm	Joint Fun Float with the Mid-Coast Maine Ship Modelers, at Rogers Park Pond in Kennebunk, Maine. (Rain date is Friday, 21 June)
Saturday, July 20 th , 1pm - 4pm	On-the-water event, Redds Pond, Marblehead, MA.
Saturday-Sunday August 3rd-4th	Salem Maritime Festival. We'll have the usual static display, along with the portable pond and the Noodle Tugs.
Saturday, August 24 th , 12-3pm	Fun Float and Club Picnic at Memorial Park Beach.
Saturday, September 14 th , 9 am - 2pm	Steering Course Regatta at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, October 5 th , 3- 7pm	Day/night run at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, November 16 th , 12-4 pm	Club Trip to Herreshoff Museum Tour, Bristol, RI.
Saturday, December 7 th , 12-4 pm	Annual Holiday Dinner at Prezo Bar and Grille, Milford, MA.