

THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2020-- Our 30th Year!!

July/August 2020

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

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 4th: Coast Guard Day! The US Coast Guard's 230th Birthday!

Saturday, August 29, 12-3pm. Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. Note that this was going to also be our annual cookout/picnic, but that part of the event has been canceled. Face masks and physical distancing will be in effect.

Sunday, September 13, 9am – 2pm. Navigation Course at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. This is a chance to test your boat handling skills on a course with buoys, docks, and other obstacles. This is a low-key competition, where the winner only collects bragging rights!

Revised Newsletter Schedule: Given our current situation, I am scaling back on the number of issues of the Foghorn. Looks for issues to come out every 6-8 weeks or so, instead of monthly...

Model Boats Magazine is back!

Good news for subscribers and readers of the only (English language) dedicated Model Boat magazine! The August issue was just released, and is in distribution. Digital subscribers have already gotten theirs, and the mailed copies are on the way. The publishers had suspended the magazine for a couple of months, in response to all the Covid-19 related store closings in the UK. As a result, existing subscriptions are being extended for two more issues to make up for the ones that weren't published. Also, a new editor is at the helm, and she's off to a great start!

Warship Day at Redds Pond

Sunday, July 12th was our first on the water event of the year. Charlie sent in this report:

We had a very decent turnout for our first club boating event on Redds Pond today. We had seven members in attendance, a few of Eric's warship buddies from the shop and the founding commander of the MMC.

Shaun, Bob Prezioso, Eric, Paul Phinney, Linda, Lou Hills, and myself were present on a very hot 92 degree day. Eric, Paul, and their friends supplied the warships – (about 5 or 6 I'm thinking) I'm sure that Eric can fill you in about what warships were present. Linda brought her sailboat, and Shaun brought his big trawler and his tug Goliath. Bob brought his Donzi Sport fisherman and a re-powered mini gentleman's runabout. I brought the 42" green lobster boat and the 30" Boothbay lobster boat. Linda introduced me to Ridge White, a former Club Commander.

It was a fine day for the little boats with a good breeze to keep the attending members and friends somewhat comfortable in the 92 degree temperatures.



Repair Help Needed

I am looking for someone who might be willing to work on my model. It is from a Laughing Whale kit for a bass boat. I bought the kit in 1986. And it was finally built by a friend just two years ago. The battery is original. I am fairly confident if I tried to fix it, the result would be messy. I offer adequate compensation for help on this. I wrote a short piece about this model for the last newsletter.

My email is rbboardman@gmail.com Phone: 781-235-7413

Please write or call if interested or if you know someone I might contact.

- Dick Boardman, Wellesley, MA.

Show and Tell (email version)

Several members sent in updates on what they've been working on.....

Mike Hale reports: "I am still working on my upgrade of Rescue 17 lifeboat but only once in awhile since - most of my time is in the pool or sunroom. The fire cannons have too big nozzle holes and water does not go out very far. They tested fine as singles but three per pump drops them too much. I am going to put smaller tubes on 5 of the 6 since the main cannon it came with still had good distance.

Charlie and I go to Lake Nip near me every other week and run boats."

Arthur Perlmutter sent this in: "I have not built anything new in boats but I did build a dollhouse for my granddaughter that I shipped to her in CA using U.S. Art Company in Randolph MA that Bob Okerholm recommended to me. I will send a couple of pictures to you. I also built a free library a while back and will send a photo of that, too."



Greg Evers checked in with an update: “I am still working on the 1950’s torpedo boat. Not a ton of progress. Needed to go over all the seams in the hull with epoxy to seal the water out. Also filling and sanding the outside. I stripped the red paint off the propellers and found that they are nice brass ones that should polish up nicely.”



My Update: Last issue, I wrote that I had resumed work on my 1/144 scale USS Guadalcanal WW2 Escort Carrier.



I keep thinking the ship is finished- but every time I look at it, I see another detail I forgot to add. I am keeping a punch list of tasks- I'm adding a new one for every two I complete, so the list is getting shorter....!

The one major task remaining is to finish the aircraft and figure out a good way to secure them to the flight deck.

I have several Avenger and Wildcat plastic models to assemble and

paint! I have ten of each, but I don't think I want that many on the flight deck-- so I will build until I am sick of them, and see if that's enough!



I am very pleased with how it turned out. The Air Search radar antenna and the forward flight elevator are both animated. The radar turns at a realistic-looking 12 rpm, while the elevator is goes up and down on command from the transmitter. I came up with a simple system where a servo pushes the elevator up, and gravity brings it back down. This allowed be to put the servo mechanism in the hull, and not require a connection to the removable flight deck. I used a “Servo slower” to limit the speed at which the elevator moves.

Here is a link to a short video (23 seconds) showing the elevator in operation:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4h34tad>

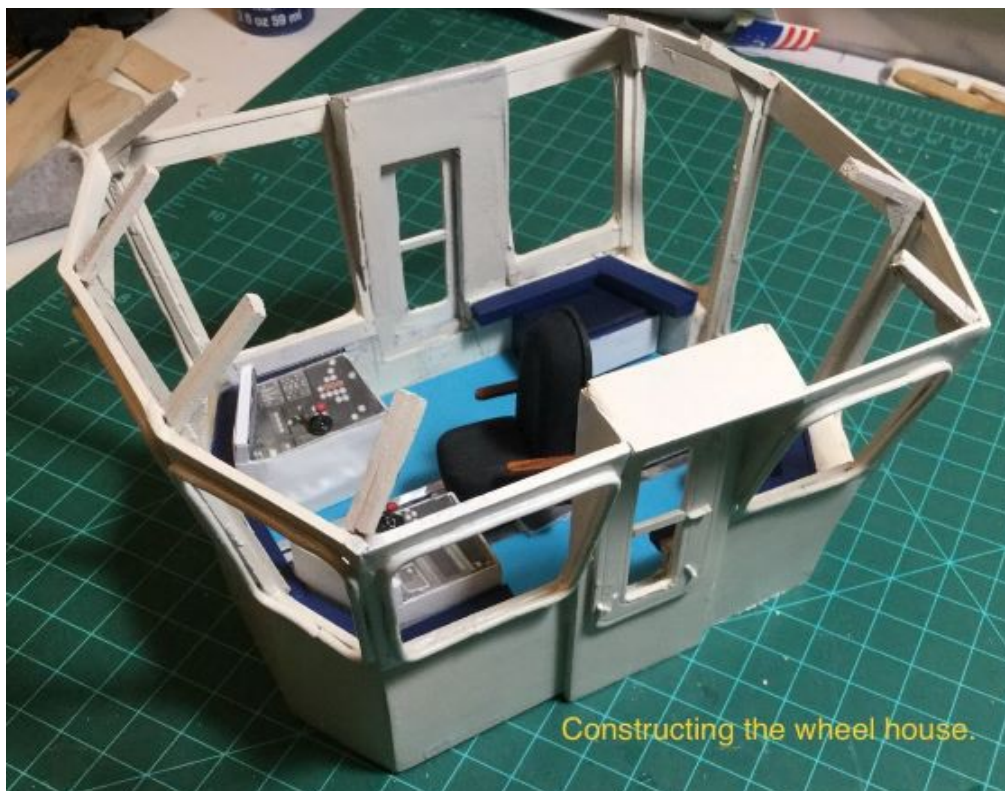
Bill McKeon: Build of the Svitzer FERRIBY

In 2017 my wife & I boarded a cruise in Southampton, England. This tug rendered undocking assistance when we departed. I was impressed with its power and lines so decided to build it in 1/12 scale. After an extensive search for a hull that resembled a Damen 2311 ASD tug, I settled on a Gary King (Vancouver) TIGER SUN hull. It required extensive modification of the bulwarks.



Above: The hull before (left) and after (right) modification....

During construction FERRIBY's Mate provided me with many photos and actual dimensions. I was also assisted by a member of the British Tug Forum who provided me with an extensive trove of photos. The rest of the construction was proportionally measured from the Damen GA drawing.





Frank Cook:

First, I have begun construction on my second RC boat! This is the Bluejacket Ship Crafters 1:12 scale model of a typical Maine Lobster Boat. The boat is 33-inches in length and about a foot wide. It features a one piece fiberglass hull and the cabin is also constructed of fiberglass. The deck and roof stringers, plus the cabin frames, are basswood, as are the cockpit coamings and most of the other features. 1/16-in. plywood composes the main and well deck sections. The kit came with all the running gear as well as a set of three lobster traps which have to be made.

As my wife's family was originally from the Penobscot Bay area of Maine, I've decided to name the boat "Sandie C" from Blue Hill, ME and will paint it to match her favorite colors!

Second, I've been experimenting with making boat fenders and am making progress. My basic building materials are ear plugs and white Twisted Mason Line. The ear plugs are round, 7/8-in. long, and vary along the length from 5/8 to 3/8 inches. I selected #18 Twisted Mason Line due to its rope-like appearance.

To begin, I cut a small hole and glued one end of the line into this flat portion of the ear plug. I made the line about 15 inches long ... and discovered that it immediately began to unravel. To solve this dilemma I ran the line through white glue (Elmer's) and at the trim end, used medium CA glue. This gave me a much more manageable line that quickly hardened as I made a 1-inch

loop at the top and then proceeded to wrap the plug. I used polyester black thread to further secure the top loop. To complete the process I used black shoe polish for a weathered look. That proved to be a bit messy so for the next one I'll either use paint or perhaps run the line through a wet teabag.

The glue-hardened line somewhat restricts the normally pliable ear plug, but I believe it will offer a higher level of protection to the hull when it comes into contact with another vessel or a pier.

Boating Basics

This month, I've got a weathering technique to share....

As I was painting my carrier last month, I wanted the look of a ship that had been at sea for months, not a brand new ship. I also wanted to break up the large areas of monotonous color-- the paint on real ships streaks, fades, etc, So I decided to try the "dot filter" approach I had read about on various plastic modeling sites. The technique is popular with armor modelers, looking to weather models of vehicles that are out in all sorts of weather.

The basic steps are:

- (1) Paint the model normally (I used a mix of Vallejo and Model Master water-based acrylics).
- (2) Apply a satin clear coat. (I airbrushed Vallejo clear satin. Let it dry thoroughly.
- (3) Apply little dots of artist's oil paint part of the model. I used a toothpick to apply Windsor&Newton Oils, tubes of which are found in the Art section of the craft store. I used a random selection of white, black, burnt sienna, blue, and yellow. Work on a small section-- I did about 8-10 inches of the hull at a time.
- (4) As soon as the dots are applied, take a wide flat paint brush (I used a ½ inch wide hobby brush, and dampen it with a mild enamel thinner. (I used odorless turpentine, from the art store-- you don't want a "hot" thinner that will attack the underlying acrylic paint.)
- (5) Start bushing down the hull, pulling the paint dots down into streaks. After every couple of strokes, with the paint off the brush, dampen it, and keep going.
- (6) At first the model will look awful, but as you keep pulling and wiping the excess away, you'll start to see the stark colors fading and mixing, creating streaks and subtle color variations. The more you work it, the more paint you remove. and the more subtle the effect.
- (7) Think about how water runs down the hull, and leave more pronounced effects there. You'll see more fading and streaking where water on deck passes through scuppers, for example. A ship in salt water will see a lot more weathering than a well-maintained fresh water pleasure boat!
- (8) Also think about where the salt water gets on a ship- places that are hard to maintain, that can't be gotten to underway. That's why the hulls are often more weather-beaten than superstructures. The upper works get more direct rain, and less salt spray.

Some Tips:

- Practice the technique on a testbed before committing it to your pride and joy.
- Make sure that the paints you are using are compatible. Using a water-based acrylic is the widely recommended clear coat, as it is generally impervious to oil paints. You don't want the the thinner you are using to attack and dissolve the base colors!
- Use a satin clear coat. A gloss will shed the oil quickly, making it easy to take all the oil paint off and be left with no change. Conversely, a flat clear will want to hold the colors, and force you to work fast so it doesn't stain.
- Burnt sienna is a great color for simulating running rust. White is great for salt stains.
- There are lots of videos on line demonstrating the technique-- just look for “dot filter weathering”.



Here is an example of Step 3: I was doing the light gray section of the hull. I have applied a random pattern of several colors of oil paint dots.

Here we are, early in Step 4. It doesn't look very good now! I could have done a better job of making the streaks vertical, but subsequent passes fixed that.



You can already see the colors starting to blend and mix. I carried the effect down to the curve of the bilge, to “grunge up” the bottom paint a little, too. I was only doing the hull beneath the flight deck overhangs here-- I went back later and did the gun tubs, etc. with a much lighter hand.

For the final effect, take a another look at the close up photo of my carrier on Page 5. It doesn't photograph all that well, but you can see subtle streaks of rust stains and other color variations in the bands of the camo paint.

For Sale

FOR SALE: model of a typical large steam yacht from the era (1890s - 1930s) when they were how the truly wealthy showed off. J.P. Morgan was asked by another wealthy man, "How much does it cost?" Morgan replied, "If you have to ask, you're not rich enough." This model, about 90% complete, is distinctive not only for what it represents, but also for some unusual features. Read on!

Scale: 1:48

Hull: fiberglass, not plastic, and tough, being several layers thick. 72" on deck. It is very fair, with no ripples or waves in it.

Power: installed inside are two Astro motors, the best you can buy, along with servos and wiring; bow thruster.

Functions: forward, neutral, reverse; rudder; bow thruster!

Propellers: 2 medium (scale) size, brass; 2 larger for extra speed and power.

Deck: single piece, removes entirely, cabins and all attached.

Fittings and accessories: Whitehall-type pulling boats molded; vintage auto (1:43 scale); steam launch; sailboat; davits; some stanchions, other fittings.

Display stand: has three drawers for parts, etc.

R/C gear: old Futaba transmitter and servos.

History: I carved the plug for this around 1980. The mold was created by Tony Silva of RI, an expert model-maker. Three hulls were produced: this one; one completely and fabulously finished belonging to a friend in Mattapoissett; and the last finished by the late Elio Oliva of the Cape. The plug is gone, so no others will be created. Originally I powered her with steam, a Saito boiler and burner and two Japanese steam turbines. It ran very well, but I wanted simpler operation and converted to electric drive, with two very fine and powerful Astro motors. They drive her at a far-above-scale speed! I know I will not finish the detailing since my interest these days is a full-size boat, which takes much of my time.

Price: I have almost \$1000 in this fine model, but if you convince me she's in good hands and will be completed, I will accept \$600. Please contact me for details: Ridge White 508-208-9938 ridgwhite44@gmail.com





2020 Events Schedule

Here is the 2020 Club Schedule. Note that all of this is subject to change, depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic plays out. Cancellations and Updates will be posted on the club website, as well as sent via email.

(Revised 31 March 2020)

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Saturday, March 28 th , 6-9 pm | Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA Pool in Foxboro, MA. Postponed- to be rescheduled in Winter of 2021. |
| Sunday, April 26 th , 10-2pm | Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA Theme: Sailboat Day Canceled |
| Sunday, May 17 th , 11 – 3 pm | Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA (Cancelled) |
| Saturday, June 6th, 10am - 5pm | Piscataqua River Fest, Portsmouth, NH. Canceled. Organizers are working with the City of Portsmouth to hold a smaller version of the event in mid-August. |
| Thursday, June 18 th , 10 am - 4pm | Joint Fun Float with the Mid-Coast Maine Ship Modelers, at Rogers Park Pond in Kennebunk, Maine. (Canceled) |
| Sunday, July 12 th , 1pm - 4pm | On-the-water event, Redds Pond, Marblehead, MA. Theme: Warship day. (tbd) |
| Saturday-Sunday August 1 st - 2 nd | Salem Maritime Festival. Canceled by the Park Service. |
| Saturday, August 29th, 12-3pm | Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach. Note: The club picnic part of this has been canceled- we will just hold a fun float. |
| Sunday, Sept 13 th , 9 am - 2pm | Steering Course Regatta at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. |
| Saturday, October 3 rd , 3- 7pm | Day/night run at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. |
| Sunday, November 15th, 12-4 pm | Indoor meeting, location tbd |
| Sunday, December 6 th , 12-4 pm | Annual Holiday Dinner at Prezo Bar and Grille, Milford, MA. |