

THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2021-- Our 31st Year!!

January/February 2021

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 21, 1-3 pm. Online club meeting, at your house. The ZOOM video conference links will be send to members via email when we get closer to the date.

Sunday, March 21, 1-3pm: Zoom Club Meeting. .

Sunday, April 25, 10am – 2pm: Icebreaker Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.

Club Business Notes

Earlier this month, the club officers had a brief meeting to discuss our plans for the next few months. Our consensus:

2021 Dues: Because our expenses were way down in 2020, we agreed that we should reduce our dues for 2021. So, **dues for 2021 will be \$10.** We expect this will be a one-year change, but a lot will depend on how the year 2021 goes. (Thanks to Howard Cohen for raising the issue.) An updated membership form has been posted on the website. Renewals can also be made using PayPal-- clubdues@marinemodelers.org. (If you mark it as Friends and Family, we won't be charged a service fee.)

February and March meetings: The church hall is still closed, so we'll be holding virtual meetings using ZOOM.

Members Projects

Greg Evers sent in an update on a couple of projects:

He has started building a 1/10 scale Legend Models 25' 1963 Lyman Soft Top Sleeper model. The model is 32" long. The hull is built in the lapstrake style just like the real boat. He said he will be adding the lights and sound packages available from MACK Models.



Link to the MACK Products Model Marine page for the Lyman 25:
<http://mackproductsrc.com/lyman%20soft%20-%20e.htm>

Greg also reported that he has completed the restoration of the 1950s-vintage Japanese ITO torpedo boat. (I'd say it really came out nice! -Ed.)



Bruce Murray is making great progress on his 1/200 scale model of the WW2 German Battleship Bismarck- he is converting the Trumpeter plastic model to RC. He has a build thread going on the RCGroups.com Scale Boats forum-- here is the link:

<https://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?3728075-A-Trumpeter-Bismarck-1-200#post45612231>

There is some fascinating stuff there-- it is well worth checking out. Here's an excerpt, describing the way he is animating the main gun turrets and syncing them to the directors, using stepper motors and an Arduino Uno:

TURRET AIMING SYSTEM

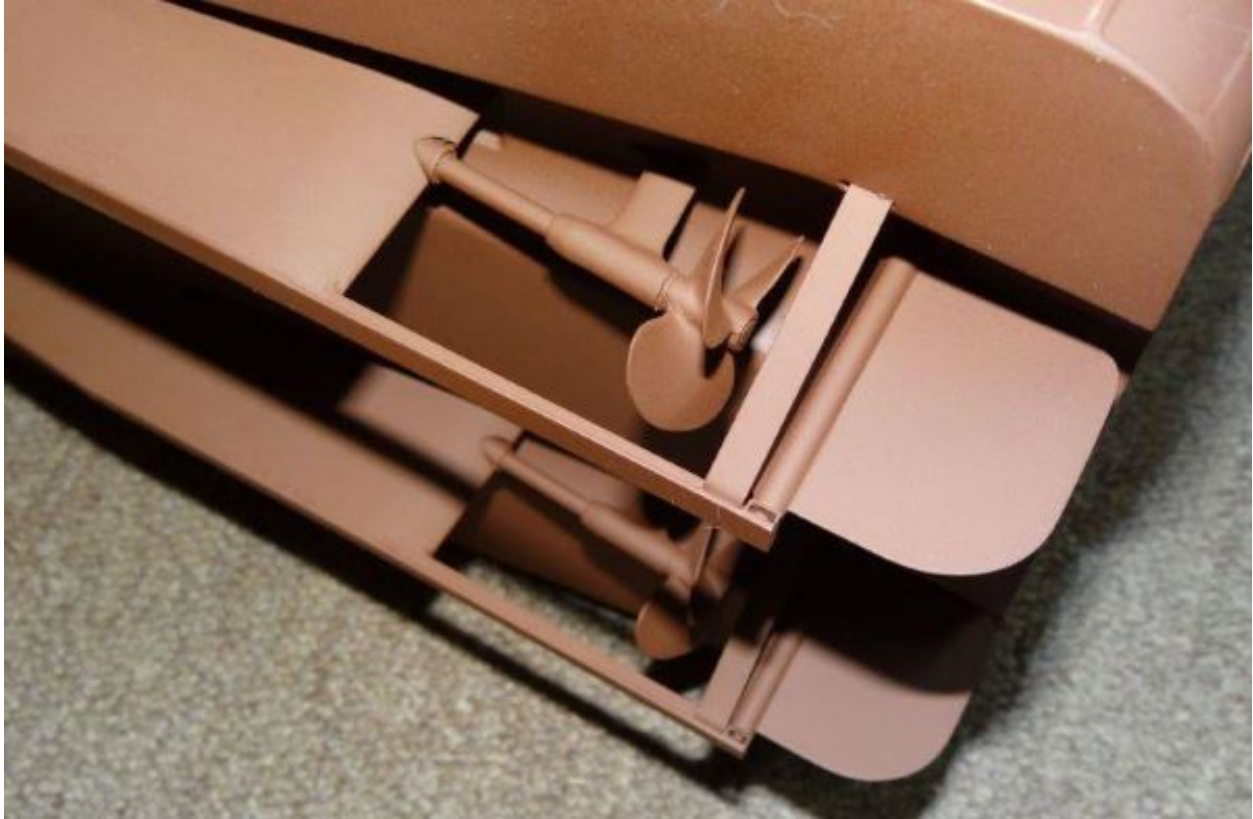
This is based on Joe Cain's work and functions similarly although my code is based on AccelStepper.h. It seems to be functioning OK. One nice feature of AccelStepper is that it allows accelerations as well as steady speed rotations. I also liked its easy position control.

The basic operation is as follows:-

- 1) Turn on and reset Arduino
- 2) All steppers will then home to their neutral positions.
- 3) The director will be commanded (via RC) to an angle with reference to the ship axis, this command being the difference between the desired target heading and the ship compass. The desired heading command comes from the R/C receiver thus allowing vectoring as desired. As the ship turns the target bearing is maintained.
- 4) The director angle is then copied by the turret pairs in turn, except for the 90 degree arc which would cause structural interference.

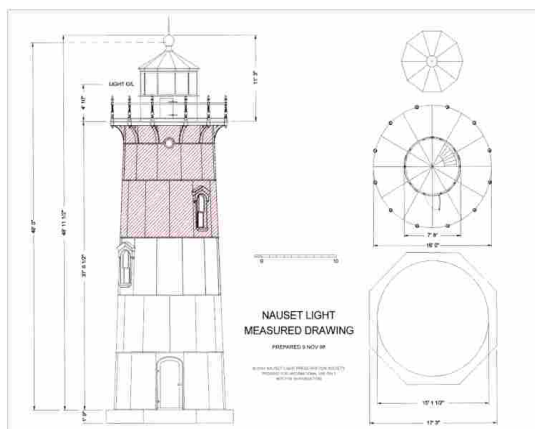
I can't wait to see Bruce's system in person!

Glen Senkowski reports: “Here is the progress on my second 1/16 LCM-3. This is being built working off WWII photographs because all of the commercial kits have been produced from either a shortened LCM(6) or from real boats that are still in service and have been modified umpteen times.”

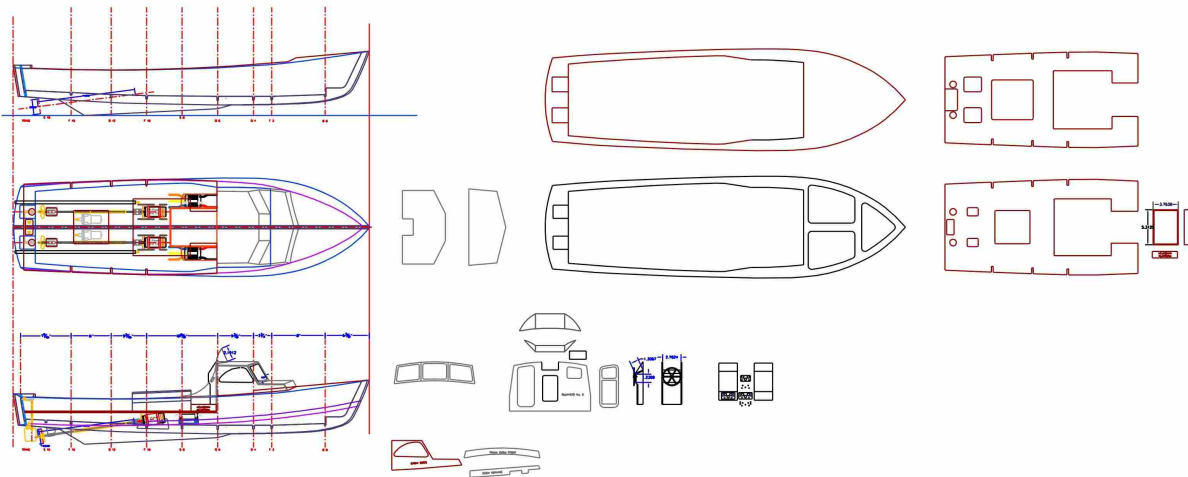
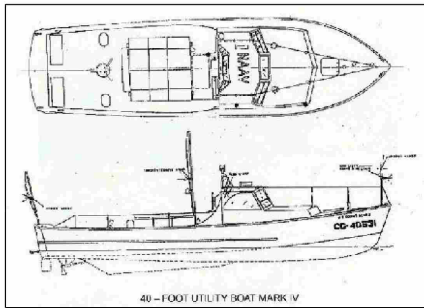


Charlie Tebbetts' Update:

I've been busy creating CAD drawings for my next winter model projects – a 1:9 scale model of the USCG UTB-40 and a 1:12 scale model of Nauset Lighthouse. I've been working with contacts through the Mid Maine Models Group, Tim Mayer and Charlie Eaton to get firsthand knowledge and information about the steel hulled UTB-40. Tim also was responsible for locating the original shipyard blueprint of the 40 that has found its way onto the internet. The 40 had a long life – from the late 1940's until the early 1980s.



The lighthouse information was also available online including the dimensional drawing. The model lighthouse will have alternating 10 second flashing red/white LED's as the currently operating lighthouse. All of this CAD work is the starting point to get these model parts cut on a laser cutter. I've located a commercial laser cutting facility in nearby Providence, RI that can cut parts from a 5' x 5' sheet of Baltic birch plywood. Of course, I might be completely blown away by the cutter's charges, but for now everything is in the thinking & planning stages.



Bill Michaels: In the last Foghorn, I reported that my 1/144 scale WW2 Escort Carrier USS Guadalcanal was complete, but my first Sea Trials were cut short by strong winds. Since then, I have had the model out on Redds Pond a couple of times, and I am very happy with how it came out.



Shaun Kimball: These are my projects I'm aiming for this year. The first is a super tug that will be 25in long that I'm naming after my girlfriend Noula, the 2nd is a hospital small ship that will be about 48in long that I'm naming after Noula's (late) mother Athanasia, and the 3rd is a light hospital carrier that will be 64in long and I haven't decided on a name just yet, (I'm thinking the "Hopeful" but haven't decided yet).

I've got most of everything I need to build them, (hulls, superstructures, parts, fittings etc), I'm just doing some refinements before I begin construction on them. The tug, the (Kimball Industries) K.I. Noula, will first to be worked on. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the water when the winter is over.

I've done some MAJOR redesign of my super tug the K.I. Noula, (95% of it was with the hull), and this is the (NEAR) final design. I've also made a built-in propulsion system so everything is exact and ready to have everything put into place to make her run.



I did make the hull in 5 parts and the superstructure in 3 parts on my 3D printer but now that I have good paying job I'm gonna have Shapeways print up everything so it'll be stronger and loo better, (basically each hull section doesn't bubble out like you saw before at a meet at the church we usually go to).

Here is the details on this tug:

Name: K.I. Noula

Builder: Kimball Industries

Scale: 1:96

LOA: 25in

WOA: 5in

Overall Height: 10in (from keel to master tip)

Propulsion: 2 engines and 2 propellers

Steering: 2 rudders

Anchor: 2 Anchors

Weight and Top Speed: (TBD)

Other Notes: The plan is to have the anchors to be able to lower and raise and to give it strong motors and the right props for some strength for actual towing, (a light system is unlikely to happen but not out of the question).

Thinking about Boats in the Middle of Winter

Whether you are working on a new model or not, don't forget or ignore your current models! Hopefully, you have already taken care of your models, but if you haven't, it isn't too late. A little maintenance now will still help ensure a trouble-free season-opening-run this spring! Some tips:

Battery Care:

- Remove dry batteries from transmitters and other electronics- you don't want the batteries leaking over the winter!
- NiMh batteries should ideally be stored at 40-60% charge for best long term performance. But storing them at other states of charge doesn't really do any harm over the course of the winter months. I charge mine to 60% or so in December and then don't worry about them.
- Lead Acid Batteries (i.e. gel cells) are best charged to at least 70% for storage.
- LiPos are generally expensive, and require the most care. If you only get around to prepping some of your batteries for storage, put a storage charge on your lipos. That is often around 50%, but check the documentation for the specific cells you are using.

(Source: https://batteryuniversity.com/learn/article/how_to_store_batteries)

Other Tips:

- I give my models a good airing out before putting them away for the winter. I don't want any residual moisture causing corrosion in the engine room! I put a them in a closed (not airtight) box or bin, to keep dust and dirt off, and to protect them from damage.
- Make some time this winter to fix those little bits you never got a chance to tend to over the summer. Do it before putting the boat away, so you aren't playing the “whatever happened to that missing cleat?” game come spring!
- Some people pull the prop shafts annually, to clean and oil them. I'll admit I've done that more like once every half-decade. Your mileage may vary, based on the materials used in your model, and where and how often you run.

SSMA Journal: Last issue. I reported that the SSMA has a new editor for the SSMA Journal. The new issue is out-- so members should be seeing it soon.