

# THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club  
of New England*

**2023-- Our 33rd Year!!**

**June 2023**

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Note: Use [officers@marinemodelers.org](mailto:officers@marinemodelers.org) to reach all the club officers as a group.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, July 9, 1-4pm:** Fun Float at Redds Pond in Marblehead, MA. Theme is “Warships”, so bring 'em if you got 'em!

**Saturday, August 26, 11am 3 pm:** Fun Float and Pot Luck picnic at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon.

**Note:** The way the calendar works out this year, we have a 7 week gap between events. The Officers are looking into adding one or more informal sailing sessions somewhere during the gap. Watch your email and our Facebook page for announcements!

**Editor's Note:** We had three events in a four weeks span, so this is the biggest Foghorn in a long time! I want to thanks all the folks who contributed notes and photos for this massive newsletter!

## Are you on Facebook?

If you are, you should definitely be following our club FB page. Tim Logan and Frank Cook have really stepped up our presence, and we have gained a lot of followers and “buzz” about our club events as a result.

## **Club Clothing is now available!**

Our club store on CafePress has been updated. We have created an MMC Storefront, uploaded our our logo, and listed a variety of items available for purchase. You may visit the site here:

**<https://www.cafepress.com/mmcne>**

How the process works: CafePress is a print-on-demand service. The items are printed and shipped by CafePress directly to the buyer when ordered. There are no minimum order requirements, and then club did not need to pay anything ahead of time.

Anyone can set up a dedicated storefront and sell items to the general public. Sellers are allowed to set whatever markup they'd like. We have priced our items at \$1 over actual cost– the profits will be used to help offset our annual web page costs.



**LOW STOCK ALERT:** CafePress is still having some supply chain issues this year. As a result, the items offered may go in an out of stock over the next several months. (If an item you'd like to buy is OOS, you can sign up for an email notification when it becomes available.

The CafePress site can give you the impression that everything is in stock until you put it in the shopping cart. Once you look at the shopping cart, it will give you the final verdict as to whether or not the specific item/size/color it is in stock.

(Left: The Navy blue Polo seems to be one that is hard for them to keep in stock!)

“Wearing items that identify you with the club makes it easy for visitors and prospective members easily identify you and helps create a sense of community. Please take a look!”

- Tim Logan  
Publicity Officer





## In Case of Rain ...

| by Frank B. Cook, Events Officer

Our first two on-the-water events of 2023 forced club members to turn a watchful eye to the skies and the local forecasts. Rain actually forced the postponement by one day of the May event, the first time in recent memory that had occurred!

For your planning purpose ... please note that early in the week of a scheduled float, the officers individually monitor the projected forecast. If inclement weather appears possible, the officers begin sharing this information with each another. As we all know, long range forecasts do not always materialize. However, by Friday afternoon/early evening, if stormy weather is still likely, the officers will make their “go/no go” recommendations. Based on this information, and the forecast, the club Commander, currently Mike Hale, then makes the final decision.

The decision to proceed with the planned event, or to postpone, is then posted on our Facebook account and web site. **If the weather looks lousy you should check these sources before hitting the road!**

If a postponement does occur, an email will be sent to all members. Therefore it is important that a change to your email account **MUST** be promptly communicated to our Treasurer/Membership Officer, Linda Arini.

### **What About Events Planned by Others?**

Our annual schedule also includes festivals, such as the Piscataqua Riverfest and the Annual Sharon Day, to which we have been invited. Usually we are providing a static display of our finely-crafted models, however our “Noodle Tug Flotilla” is sometimes included. Given the logistics involved in planning such events, often these events are held rain or shine. Any decision to delay or postpone the event is made by the organizers, not our club officers. However, our officers reserve the right to determine it is not in the best interest of the club to attend. If this was to occur members will be notified as stated above.

Thus far this season the weather has been less than cooperative with our schedule! Hopefully better weather lies ahead, but in case of rain this information should guide your response

## **Rain Delay Doesn't Thwart Sailboat Day**

By Frank B. Cook, Events Officer

“I must go down to the seas again,  
to the lonely sea and the sky,  
And all I ask is a tall ship  
and a star to steer her by.”  
(from Sea Fever by John Masfield)

Thus it was on Sunday, May 21, a magnificent day of sailing, particularly for sailboats! The stormy forecast for the prior day actually materialized, forcing the postponement of the scheduled “Sailboat Theme” scheduled for May’s on-the-water event. This was one of the few times in recent memory that the Club officers had to call a rain delay.

Powered by gentle breezes, and occasional gusts, “Sailboat Day” featured a variety of RTR and handmade sail craft taking to the calm waters of Lake Massapoag. The distinctive red, black, and white sail of Mike Hale’s ProBoat-design 1-meter vessel was among the first underway. He was joined by Steve Fifield’s scratch-built Gundalow that finally had the opportunity to try out her sails, but was later capsized by a strong wind gust. (Mark Sarofeen and his trusty waders were able to rescue Steve's boat- the only casualty was a drowned servo.)



The “tall ship” of the day was Mark Sarofeen’s “Flying Dutchman” that he built earlier this year with plans from BearoSpace. Their “Flyer” design is based on an a typical English Pilot Gaff-rigged Cutter that measures 52-inches from bowsprit to stern, with a 48-inch mast, complete with topsails. (www.bearospaceindustries.com sells plans for a variety semi-scale easy-to-build RC sailing model, and has a loyal following, with builders all over the world.)



Bill Michaels again demonstrated the capabilities of his “Magic” 36-inch Thunder Tiger “Victoria” sailboat. The boat’s nickname, “Magic,” refer to its uncanny knack of causing the wind to immediately die when the boat is placed in the water!



Also joining the sailboat flotilla was Linda Arini’s small, wooden Footie “Huffed 1” and Harold Cohen’s beautiful 1-meter Soling-class racing boat.

Harold's model sported a clever, yet simple color scheme- by using different colors at the bow and stern, it is easier to tell if the model is coming or going when at the far mark on a race course.

(Lou Hills photo)



The lake conditions were quite conducive for Stu Gralnik to demonstrate the towing capabilities of his tugs, “Eduardo Arini” and “Capt. Alan Lutz.” Stu brought along five custom-made barges, including one that held a Victorian house, which was based on a photograph he had seen! Later in the day, Stu tutored Frank Cook and his “ST-74” US Army WW2 tug in the finer points of tug-towing.



New boats making their MMCNE debut included Rich Magee’s impressive 50-inch scratch-built Vosper PT boat, plus a smaller fireboat, and Mark Sarofeen’s fiberglass, 36-inch Thompson Trawler, “Brianna E,” a discontinued Dumas kit.

Rich's Vosper was from uncertain origins, as he got the model from a widow who was about to toss it out. (It is either scratch or from a very old kit.) It took some work on Rich's part to get the model ready to sail again-- looks like did a great job!!



(Frank Cook photo.)





The superb craftsmanship of our veteran “Bobs” was again displayed and attracted a lot of attention from visitors and members alike. Bob Okerholm’s “Safe/Sea” rescue craft is a remarkable recreation of the actual vessel, right down to the Portuguese Water Dog standing in the bow.

(Frank Cook photo)

“Thunderstruck” is a 27-inch scratch built speedboat, typical of the 1950’s, magnificently crafted, including a highly polished finished, and operated by Bob Prezioso.



Also enjoying the fine Spring sailing day was “Queen Sofia,” an English river barge piloted by Arthur Perlmutter, “Goliath” skippered by Shaun Kimball, and “Atlantic,” a Happy Hunter tug captained by Jerry Trahan. Also in attendance were Lou Hills and his fried Haley, Bruce Murray, and Johanna Okerholm.

Bill Michaels and Mike Hale were able to get quality sailing time with their non-sailboats. On such a pleasant day, Bill’s classic “USCG 36500” lifeboat was free of the heavy seas its namesake often encountered. Mike’s “WaveShark” jet ski roared to life, while his life-like RC woodland duck attracted a real duck!

Perhaps introducing a trend for the future, Steve Fifield demonstrated a clever way to maintain a docked boat at the water's edge, while also protecting its hull from getting scraped. His solution: a rubber doormat, slightly submerged under the water, kept his shrimp boat "Rusty" safe while awaiting its return to the seas!



(Frank Cook photo.)

So ... for all who "went down to the seas again" on this fine Spring day, the hope of finding pleasant sailing conditions and an enthusiastic group of mariners with whom to sail was realized ... along with the promise of similar days in the warm months that lie ahead.

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Here are some more photos from the day.....



Bob Prezioso (L) and Bruce Murray.



Frank Cook (L) and Steve Fifield



Jerry Trahan's Atlantic:



Rich Magee's Fireboat:





Mark Sarofeen's Flying Dutchman:



One of Stu Gralnik's Tug and barge combos:





## **Piscataqua Riverfest**

The Piscataqua RiverFest was held on Saturday, June 3rd, at the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH. This was our third time we were exhibiting at this event. The weather wasn't great-- it started out cloudy and in the mid 50s, which later turned to rain in mid-afternoon.



(Tim Mayer photo)

(You can see some of the vendor tents in the background of the photo.) There were also some of the more traditional exhibitors, though they were fewer in number. There were some beautiful wooden small boats: canoes, kayaks, sailing dinghys, etc., from a a outfits that offered boat building classes or build-at-home kits. The Merrimac Valley Ship Modelers Club had a booth, and were displaying some of their fine static models, too.

The addition of the Craft Fair significantly increased the number of visitors, despite the cool weather. As a result the Noodle Tugs were in use pretty much the whole time. Overall, the fleet held up well- your editor's tug was the only one to be retired early, due to a flaky ESC.

We had a nice variety of models on display, brought by our members: Charlie and Bonnie Tebbetts, Linda Arini, Shaun Kimball, Bill Michaels, Steve Fifield, and Tim Mayer.

The organizers had provided a portable pool for the Noodle Tug fleet, sponsored by a local Pool and Spa company, and we were in a prime spot just inside the main entrance. The pool looked very nice, and was popular!

The event had a slightly different “vibe” this year. They had a craft fair as a big part of the event, with 20-30 booths that were selling a wide variety of items.



Steve Fifield's scratch built Gundałow was a popular model with the visitors, as you might expect. It was also a big hit with the show organizers-- the "Gundałow Company".

Their full scale replica was moored at the docks across the street from the show. In previous years, you could get a ride on it, but the bad weather precluded it this year, I think...

Steve smartly brought along the drawings he had gotten from Taubman Plans, so that people could see what he started with, and how to get their own copy if they wanted one. An even smarter idea of Steve's was bringing a large sheet of clear plastic, to cover them and protect them from rain (and grubby fingers)!

(Tim Mayer photos)





## **Tuscan Village Fun Float:**

**“What a difference a week makes!”**



Our Fun float at the Tuscan Village shopping center in Salem NH could not have had better weather-- it is a marked change from the conditions at the RiverFest the weekend before! Sunny skies, warm weather, and a gentle breeze all combined for a nice day pond-side. But we were sure glad we had our awnings!!!

We had a big turnout. Members attending included Bonnie and Charlie Tebbetts, Tim Logan, Shaun Kimball (and his trusty waders!), Alan and Suzanne Beeber, and Bill and Kaja Michaels and their friends from DownEast Photography, Tim and Rose Swearingen. Also attending were Bruce Murray with his daughter and great-grandson, Bob Prezioso, Mark Sarofeen, and Lou Hills and his friend Haley. Jonathan Eno made kit down from Union, Maine, and brought along his long time friends Ed and Sharon Balling, from Denton, Maryland.



Above: Ed Ballings big Richard F tug was an impressive sight on the water. Unfortunately, the model suffered an ESC (Electronic Spewed Control) failure early in the day, and spend the rest of the afternoon on static display.

Below: Tim Logan's RNLI Waveny Class lifeboat looked very realistic on the water.







Left: Bill Gibson brought a trio of plastic models that were converted to RC. Here you can see him at the FPV (First Person Video) screen, which was receiving video from a small camera he could mount on one of his models.

Bill is a new member-- he joined the club at the Tuscan event, and so did his son, Bill, who he introduced as "I'm Bill Gibson the Third, and my son is Bill the Fourth."

Welcome aboard, Bill and Bill!

Below, we have Bruce Murray's beautiful

Victorian-era Lake Windemere steamboat. The model is powered by a scratch built steam engine that Bruce built from plans. The model is 1/12 scale, and features a fully furnished interior!

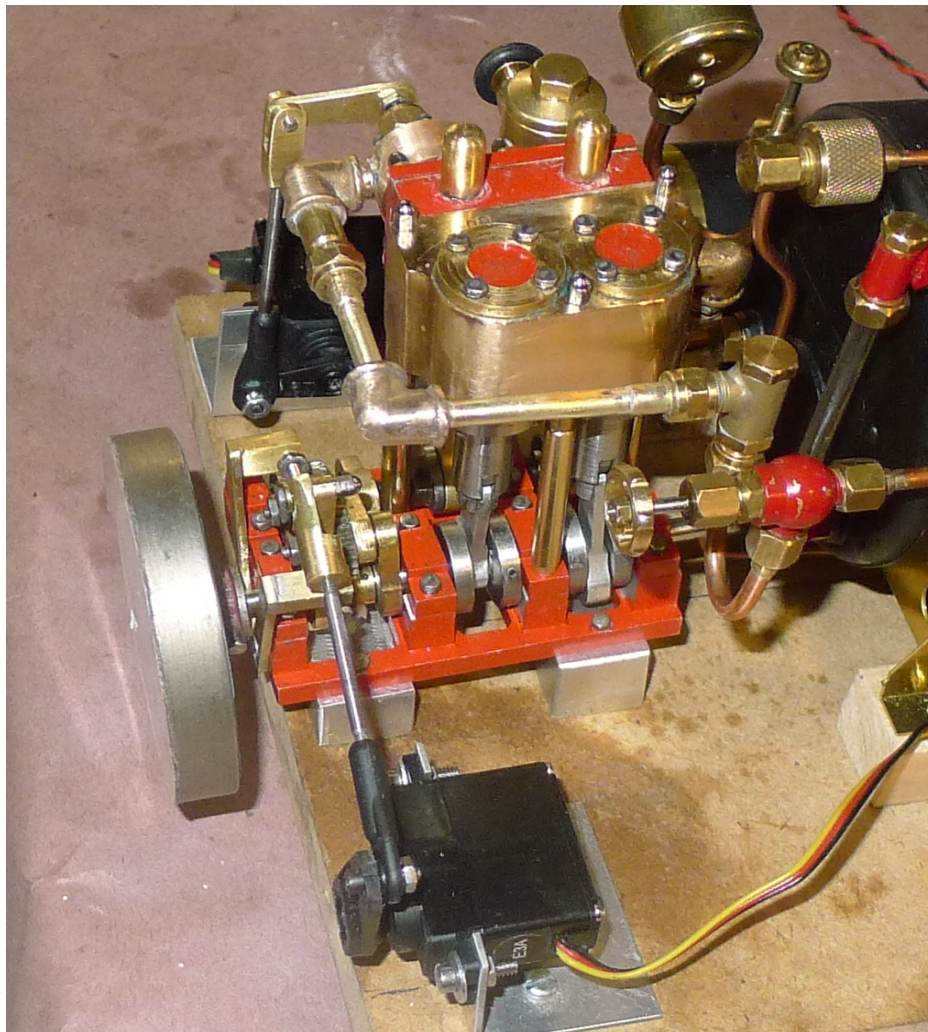




I asked Bruce to provide some more info about his model, and he did....

The boat is made from a very high quality kit by an English company named Martin, Howes and Bayless. It is called a TOPAZ and was in limited batch production that ended in around 2008. Unbuilt kits are a collector's item and are appropriately priced! It was supplied complete with all fittings made of brass - no white metal. The finished model is 45" long.

I found and bought an unbuilt kit in the US last year. It did not include a steam engine, but a special lightweight boiler was in the kit. The kit originally offered a choice of three steam engines, made by Anton of France. This company is out of business now, but it is possible to buy an (expensive) suitable engine made in England.



The (more affordable) steam engines coming from China and Japan are simply too tall to fit this model, so I decided to make my own.

I used a Solidworks CAD system to design my engine which is similar to ones made years ago by Cheddar Models in the UK.

It has certain improvements such as ball bearings on the shafts and a very efficient reversing gear. I made the engine in my home shop and having finished and tested it, installed it.

The engine can be seen running on my YouTube page: [youtube.com/@70xke](https://www.youtube.com/@70xke)

This link has some pictures showing the construction.

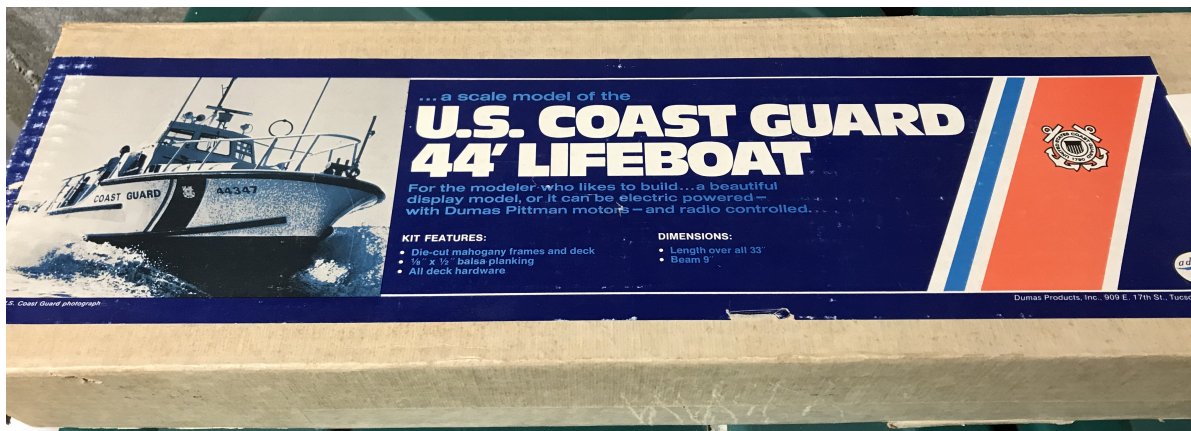
<http://www.wicksteedparkmbc.com/martenhowes-and-baylis-topaz.html>

Richard Jenkins also brought along a pair of Lindberg tugs, one of which is a steam-powered model! The little steam engine isn't reversible, but it puts out enough power to run the model for several minutes at a time. Very clever!



### For Sale

Dumas U.S. Coast Guard 44' Lifeboat kit. Kit is complete and un-started. It also includes an extra "Running Gear" package from James Bliss & Co. That set includes shafts, stuffing tubes, brass rudders, etc. This is clearly an older kit, as Bliss has been out of business for decades. The wood looks to be untouched, and of good quality. I picked it up a 3-4 years ago, and now I realize I'll never get around to building it. New kits are about \$200, and don't include the running gear-- I'll let this one go for \$130. - Bill Michaels



## **2023 Club Events Schedule** **(rev 2/10/23)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event/Theme</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sunday, 19 March	1pm - 4pm	Indoor Meeting Cameo4 Cutting Machine Demo	UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Saturday, 29 April	10am - 2pm	Icebreaker Fun Float	Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Saturday, 20 May	10am - 2pm	Fun Float/ Sailboats	Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Saturday, 3 June	9am - 5pm	Piscataqua RiverFest	Portsmouth, NH
Sunday, 11 June	10am - 2pm	Fun Float at Tuscan Village (LL Bean pond)	Salem, NH
Sunday, 9 July	1pm - 4pm	Fun Float/ Warships	Redds Pond, Marblehead, MA
Saturday, 26 August	11am - 3pm	Fun Float/Club picnic/ Tugs and other Workboats	Memorial Park Beach Sharon, MA
Wednesday, 20 Sept	10am - 4pm	Joint Fun Float with Maine Club (rain date 21 Sept)	Scarborough, ME
Sunday, 1 Oct	10am – 3:30pm	“Sharon Day” Exhibition	Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Saturday, 21 October	4pm - 7pm	Day/Night run	Memorial Park Beach, Sharon, MA
Sunday, 12 Nov.	12pm - 3pm	Indoor Meeting	UCC Church Hall, Medfield, MA
Sunday, 3 Dec.	12pm - 4pm	Holiday Dinner @ Prezzo Grille	Milford, MA

Note: Check the club website for address info/maps and any changes to the schedule. Most (but not all) Saturday events have a rain date of Sunday.