



THE FOGHORN

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

2025: Our 35th Year!!

April 2025

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 26, 1 - 3pm: "Icebreaker" at Lake Massapoag, Sharon, 10 - 2pm (Rain date is Sunday the 27th.)

Saturday, May 10, 10am -2 pm: Fun Float at Tuscan Village, Salem, NH. (No rain date.)

Saturday, May 17, 10am -2pm: Fun Float at Lake Massapoag, (Rain date is Sunday the 18th.)

Club Clothing

Get your Official Marine Modelers Club Clothing here: <http://www.cafepress.com/MMCNE>

Indoor Sailing Event Marks Return to the Waterways of New England!

By Frank Cook, MMC Events Officer

A beautiful, pre-Spring Saturday officially ushered in the start of the 2025 sailing season on March 8th. As in the previous year, Linden Ponds in Hingham again made their Aquatic Center available to the Marine Modelers Club of New England for a delightful afternoon of sailing.

Following the success of the 2024 event, resident Arthur Perlmutter, and Events Officer Frank Cook, worked with the facility Fitness Manager, Ian Richardson, to make the return a reality. Once again the club was well received by the many residents who dropped by to witness scale ship models actually sailing on their salt water pool. Some even brought their visiting grandchildren to enjoy the spectacle!



(Above: Rich Magee.)

The residents who attended witnessed, among the many club boats, a small tug piloted by Stu Gralnik pushing a large barge, even larger boats being driven by Mark Sarofeen and Rich Magee, and a host of static-to-RC models skippered by the Gibsons. A crowd favorite was Bruce Murray's rowboat and, although it remained on land, Shaun Kimball's six-foot Titanic.

Teamwork was also on display when Bill Gibson IV's minesweeper accidentally collided with the side of the pool while docking and quickly sank. Fortunately many members were on hand to assist and, with the aid of a long-handled pool skimmer, the stricken ship was retrieved without anyone needing to venture into the water. The rapid sinking of the minesweeper led to speculation that perhaps it had struck a submerged mine!



Member turnout exceeded last year's participation and included Linda Arini, Harold Cohen, Frank Cook, Ted Correia, Bill Gibson III, Bill Gibson IV, Stu Gralnik, Shaun Kimball, Rich Magee, Bruce Murray, Sebastian Mulhern, Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Arthur and Irene Perlmutter, Bob Prezioso, Mark Sarofeen, Charlie and Bonnie Tebbetts, and Jerry Trahan. There were also a few friends of club members who dropped by and one, Larry Smith, along with his son, were added to the club membership rolls.

Noodle Tug Day

To demonstrate appreciation for the kindness Linden Ponds extended to our club, the officers proposed a sailing opportunity for the residents. Ian was grateful for the opportunity and again worked with Arthur and Frank to arrange the event. Accordingly, just three days after our sailing event, on March 11th some club members returned to provide RC sailing instruction. Arthur reported between 40 and 45 residents turned out for the inaugural "Noodle Tug Day" and the originally planned sailing time was extended an additional half-hour. Prior to the event, Ian had done yeoman's work advertising the event, posting advertisements for the event in the facility and alerting residents of the opportunity.

In addition to the club's Noodle Tug collection, members brought along some of their own boats for the resident's enjoyment. Providing boats and instruction were Arthur Perlmutter, Charlie Tebbetts, Rich Magee, Jerry Trahan, and William Gibson III.



Following both events, Frank sent a thank you note to Ian as follows:

On behalf of the Marine Modelers Club of New England I want to thank you for once again allowing us to sail at your beautiful facility. We had more members turnout this year and everyone had an enjoyable time. So many of the residents also seemed to enjoy seeing the boats and ships underway.

Although illness prevented me from attending "Noodle Tug Day" on March 11, I understand from Arthur and our members who provided the boats and sailing instructions, that the residents had an enjoyable experience. The Club is very appreciative of you and your facility and providing scale model radio controlled ships for the residents to sail is our way of saying "thank you!" Hopefully the positive relationship formed between Linden Ponds and the Marine Modelers will continue into the future.

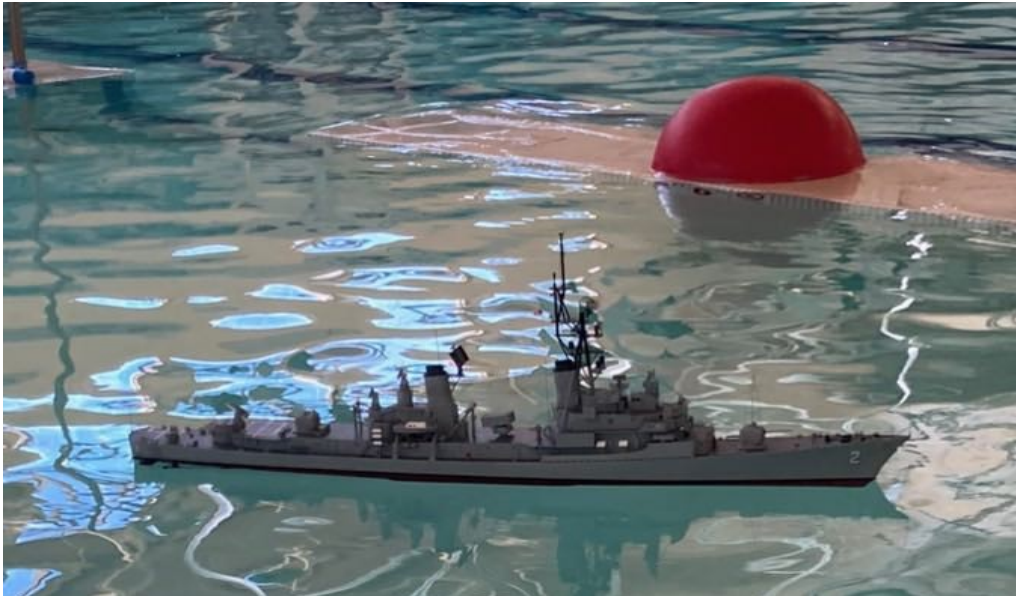
In response, Ian wrote:

"Thank you so much for your email. Linden Ponds had a great time. Please thank your members for everything."

With the aim of hopefully encouraging other clubs across the nation to provide similar sailing opportunities, a future edition of the SSMA Journal will have a story about our "giving back" event.

Always Nice Weather at an Indoor Fun Float!

A total of 14 members and seven guests can confirm this was the case when we gathered at the Foxboro, MA YMCA on Saturday evening for an indoor sailing session on March 22nd. The club had rented the use of the big pool for a 3 hour sailing session. The Foxboro “Y” is a great place for an indoor session, it is more than just a rectangle!



The pool also has a separate shallow area, which had what was essentially a breakwater with an access passage- which made for a great model boat harbor! Here, you can see Shaun Kimball's USS Adams, with the breakwater and the entrance to the “harbor area” on the upper left. Members in attendance included: Linda Arini, Frank Cook, Bill Gibson III, Bill Gibson IV, Lou Hills, Shaun Kimball, Richard Magee, Bill Michaels, Sebastian Mulhern, Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Mark Sarofeen, Charlie Tebbetts, and Jerry Trahan. Mark Sarofeen almost certainly set a record for the longest trip to attend an event-- he was in Florida the week leading up to the event, and on Friday drove from there to Virginia. Then, on Saturday morning, he drove from Virginia to his home, picked up his boats and came directly to Foxboro!

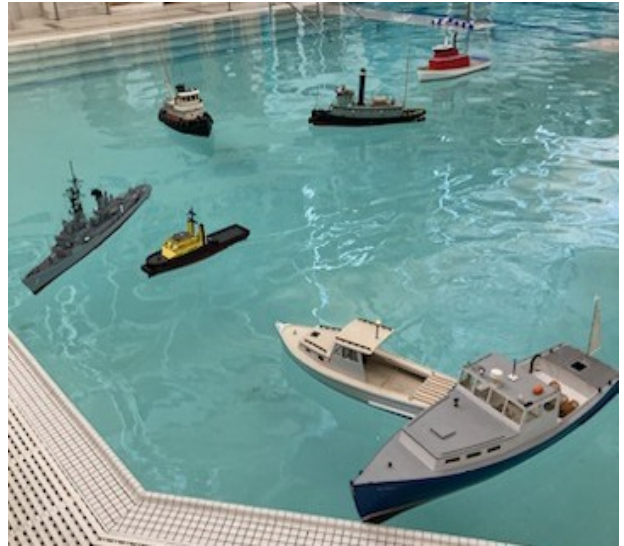


(Above: Mark Sarofeen's new tug-- his latest project.)

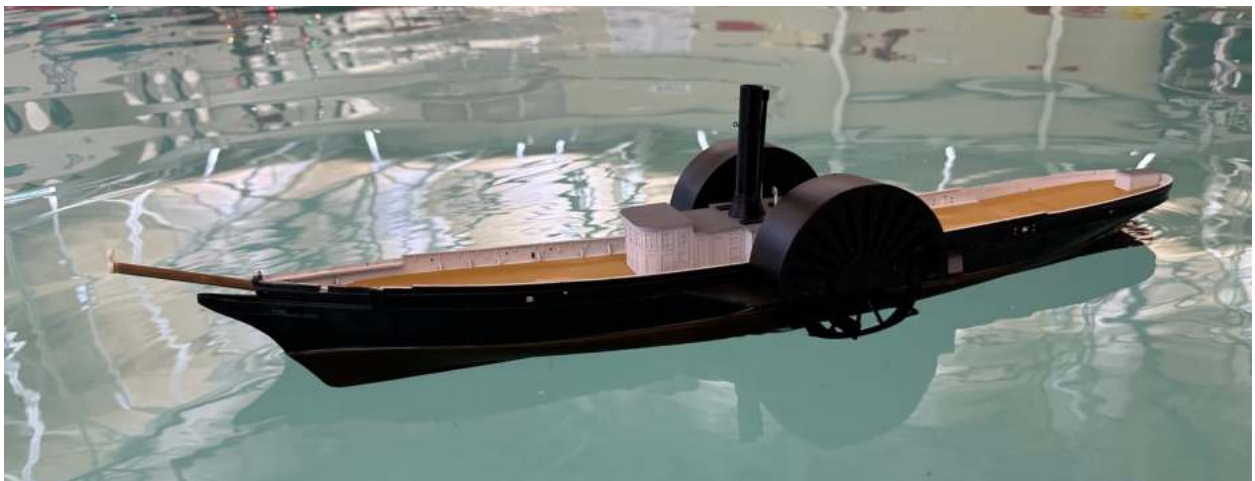


Left: Shaun Kimball. The float was the maiden voyage of his new 1/96 scale USS Adams. The model is a good sailer!

Below: The harbor area was a popular place- a good safe spot to let a model just sit at rest out of the way.



Your editor brought along a newer model as well. The US Revenue Cutter Harriet Lane was a bark-rigged side-wheeler from 1858. The 1/96 scale model is based on a Revell Clipper ship Cutty Sark plastic hull, the rest to be scratch built. I was only able to run the model for a few minutes, as I forgot to bring an extra battery pack for the transmitter!



Here's a nice Frank Cook photo of a fine looking SUNOCO tug, belonging to Sebastian Mulhern.



Bill Gibson's Sound Module

At the Foxboro Event, Bill (Senior) brought along a nifty little sound module which is based on an inexpensive Sound Board and Amplifier he found on Amazon. He has it playing various tug-appropriate sounds such as horns/whistles and crying seagulls. I asked Bill to share the details for the Foghorn.....

“Construction of this unit is very simple starting with the sound board-- replace the simple switch with two wires to the RC open contact of the relay. The battery input is wired to the regulator transistor or the regulated power supply making sure that the output is not greater than 4 volts or you will release the factory installed magic smoke!

The speaker on the sound unit is very weak, but with care you can solder the output to the corresponding input of the audio amplifier's input ...the 1/8" jack. (This is very important as this can be a source of static or no audio problems.) The amplifier will require a 12 v input, but I am sure that an audio amplifier with other input voltages are available with a search if required.

It is then a simple case of hooking in a suitable speaker the one listed below was searched for waterproof and size and wattage capacity.

Bill provided a full list of parts:

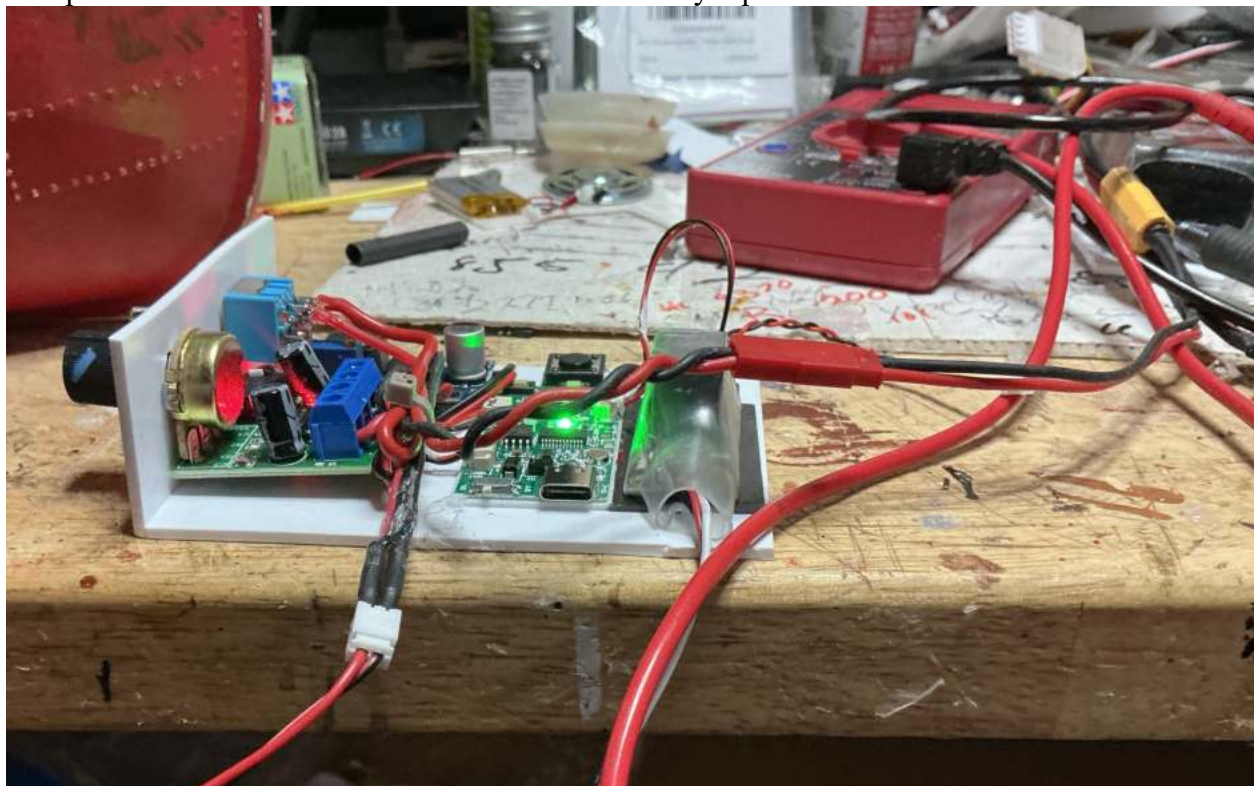
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<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07T5X5LSH>
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B081YQRDWM>
<https://www.parts-express.com/2-Mylar-Cone-Full-Range-Speaker-D0050008NM14BAR-289-204>
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DHzRJCHV>
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B071XN7C43/>
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07V56N33J>
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0B2DBTVJC>

I have included the wire connectors that I have used but this can be assembled with soldered connections if cost is an issue and just for one or two projects the above list can be simplified with a bit of searching to build just one unit or expanded as needed.

The voltage regulator below is an alternative to the power supply above but will require resistors and there are several YouTube videos of how to construct the circuit for a given output voltage with a given input voltage:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07VNNHWF9?ref=ppx_yo2ov_dt_b_fed_asin_title

This shows the simple layout with the RC relay on the right followed by the sound board and the audio amplifier and next to it and behind is the regulated power supply . The white connector is the speaker and the Red Just connector the 12V battery input .



2025 Calendar

Since mid-January the club officers have been planning events and lining up sailing venues. There are some exciting sailing days ahead, and even some new offerings! Efforts are still in progress to coordinate dates to ensure sailing opportunities from March through October. Some events have been confirmed and a few are still tentative, still others are in the planning stage.

For your planning purposes, here is the current calendar of confirmed and tentative events.

Confirmed Events

February 23 (Sunday): “Show and Tell” club meeting via Zoom, 1 – 3pm.

March 8 (Saturday): Fun Float at Linden Ponds, Hingham, 1 – 4pm.

NEW! March 22 (Saturday): Fun Float at YMCA, Foxboro, 5 – 8pm.

April 6 (Sunday): Club Meeting at Eric’s Homeport Model Ships, Peabody, 11 – 4pm.

April 26 (Saturday): “Icebreaker” at Lake Massapoag, Sharon, 10 - 2pm (Rain date the following day at the same times).

May 10 (Saturday): Fun Float at Tuscan Village, Salem N.H., 10 – 2pm.

May 17 (Saturday): Fun Float at Lake Massapoag, 10 - 2pm. (Rain date the following day at the same times).

June 14 (Saturday): Fun Float at Lake Massapoag, 10 - 2pm (NO RAIN DATE as the following day is Father’s Day).

July 12 (Saturday): Fun Float at Reed’s Pond, Marblehead, 1 – 4pm. Theme: “Warships”.

August 23 (Saturday): Club Picnic and “Tugboats & Workboats” at Lake Massapoag 11 - 3pm (Rain date the following day at the same times).

September 13 (Saturday): Fun Float at Lake Massapoag, 10 - 2pm (Rain date the following day at the same times). Theme: “Sailboats”.

October 18 (Saturday): “Day/Night Run” at Lake Massapoag, 3 - 6pm (Rain date the following day at the same times).

Tentative Events- NOT confirmed yet

We also have several events that are still in the planning stages, most are awaiting confirmation from the site owners or Event Organizers:

Week of June 16, Fun Float with the Mid-Maine Modelers Club, Scarborough, ME. (We are looking at Tuesday or Wednesday, 17-18 June)

August 1 - 3 (Weekend): Static Boat Display at Salem Maritime Festival, Salem.

October 5 (Sunday): “Sharon Day” at Lake Massapoag, 11 – 3pm.

November 16 (Sunday): Club Meeting at United Church of Christ, Medfield, 1 – 4pm.

December 7 (Sunday): Holiday/Christmas Luncheon at Prezios, Milford, 12 – 4pm.

Work is earnestly continuing to confirm the tentative events! When confirmation is received they will promptly be added to the club calendar. Both the Salem Maritime Festival and Sharon Day are directed by other entities and we are invited to participate. They will be confirming dates after solidifying their plans.



“It's fun to sail at Y - M - C - A!”