



SAIL & SCALE

NEWSLETTER OF THE EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

March 2000

Volume 9, Number 3

Commodore's Corner: Can you believe we have had our first open boating Sunday? You have to admit the weather this year is incredible. Usually about this time of year we start a countdown till open water. No need this year, because the season has begun.

We once again have an operational website. Andy Valentine has done a great job getting the site up and running.

The weather was against us at the February meeting and we had a smaller turnout than usual. I want to thank Dave Bros for talking on the subject of soldering at the February meeting, he always does a fine job.

In March the meeting may be held in the Centrum Building, so keep that in mind.

I would like to welcome back all the renewing members and remind the others that it is time to send in dues. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. Dale

Where's The Meeting?: If all proceeds as currently planned, the meeting will be held in the Centrum building....it's no longer a warming house!

What's The Meeting?: This month, we'll have a presentation by an expert scale builder, Bob Steinbrunn. Bob has been working on a static model of the USS Kidd (DD-661), a late WW II destroyer, for several years. He will discuss some of his scale building techniques with us.

Iceboating: It has been said that iceboating is 75% building the boat, 10% talking about it, 10% waiting for the right conditions and 5% actually sailing. This season has been a pretty good one as the ice has been fairly clean.

Iceboating is not easy at first. Like real sailing, it takes certain skills, the most important is concentration. Things happen so fast that by the time you finish blinking, you have to extricate your boat from an impending collision. With an hour or so of practice, though, these things can be mastered both through the user's skills as well as the boat's tune.

Our iceboating event in January introduced these models to some club members who actually got some time running them. Late in the season, we started visiting a nice area in Plymouth on Sundays, and next year, this will be a weekly event. This area, Parker

Lake, has better conditions than the Centennial area due to the large flat approaches to the cleaned ice. Of course, we will have to improve our skills so we take out fewer ice skaters.

The proliferation of iceboats in the area is great. With Tony and my company providing nice kits and parts, the doors are open for folks who would rather not scratch build. Our club is certainly well on it's way to becoming an international leader in R/C iceboat technology and skills.

Alex

PeKaBe: Those great German sailboat fittings are available domestically from: Jim Mayne, PeKaBe sales, 31045 Meadowbrook Ave., Hayward, CA 94544, [REDACTED]

Contact Jim for a reasonably priced catalog...FREE! I'll have a couple at the meeting.

(Thanks to *Waterlines*, the newsletter of the Seattle MYC)

Sunk: The Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society meeting on April 15th, will take place from Noon until 5:00PM at the Roseville Area High School. Entry fee is \$7... at the door. Contact George Merrill for additional information [REDACTED]

Reading Material: Victor M. Baca announced the imminent publication of *Model Ship Journal*, a new magazine aimed at the "serious scale ship modeler". The publication will feature powered vessels only....no sail, unless the ship is from the transition to steam era. Collector's issue number "zero" (only 1,000 to be printed) will be mailed to subscribers on June 15th. A one year subscription of 4 issues (#0,1,2,3 or #1,2,3,4) is priced at \$30. [REDACTED]

Fun Float: As a result of a "bulk" e-mail message by our Commodore, several phone calls by your editor, and a record high temperature of 72°, seventeen members showed up at the Central Pond for impromptu open boating on Sunday afternoon, March 5th. At one point there were at ten boats operating simultaneously. If this is any indication of the enthusiasm we can expect in the new year...we're in for a great season! - - - Welcome back to the pond!

???: Since I received so much material from members this month, I had no room for a cartoon. Sorry!!

Membership Meeting, 2/15/00: Commodore called meeting to order at 7:15PM. 23 members in attendance. Commodore announced little new business...mid-winter doldrums. Garage clean-up date TBA. Will be on a Saturday. Park clean-up on 4/15. 'Round the World Poker Run will take place on 4/29. It is hoped that will pre-date the installation of the floating bridge to the band shell. J.McCabe announced that a lighthouse oriented magazine out east has expressed an interest in publicizing our Lighthouse Night. Commodore announced that member, Ed Rogala of Midwest Products has expressed an interest in supporting our Parade of Boats. Possibly a door prize. Marketing announced that we have been dropped from our free web site as a result of our having moved their advertising to a less conspicuous place on the site. Club is investigating a paid

site. Board has approved \$120 as our main advertising budget expense for the year. Board is interested in setting up some sort of program to assist new members in building, etc. A.Raupp announced a continuing ice boating event at Parker Lake or Hwy 6, west of Int.494...every Sunday at 1:00PM until ice-out. Indoor sailing event in February fell through. It seems that the full scale group forgot to reserve the pool! D.Campbell announced that the Fast Electric group will attempt to run several classes, stock Viper, or similar boats, and a couple of more customized boat classes, at least one of which will be an IMPBA class boat. D.Bros showed several modeling books from Traplet (England) Publications. He then gave a one hour presentation on soldering, and distributed several publications on the art and craft of soldering.

Jim Smith

Schedule Of Upcoming Events

	Every Sunday	Open Boating	4:30PM - 9:00PM
	Every Tuesday	Open Boating	5:30PM - 9:00PM
	Every Thursday	Open Boating	5:30PM - 9:00PM
Mar.	21st (Tue)	Membership Meeting	Centennial Lakes Centrum 7:00PM - 9:00PM
Apr.	7th, 8th, 9th	Toledo R/C Expo (46 th Annual)	Toledo, OH (401 Jefferson Av) 9:00AM - 6:00PM
	15th (Sat.)	Park Clean-Up & Buoy Set	Centennial Lakes 9:00AM - 2:00PM
	15th (Sat.)	Great Lakes Shipwreck Soc.	Roseville Area High School Noon - 5:00PM
	18th (Tue.)	Membership Meeting	Centennial Lakes Centrum 7:00PM - 9:00PM
	22nd (Sat.)	Toy and Model Boats Show	Hopkins House Hotel 8:00AM - 2:30PM
	29th (Sat.)	'Round the World Poker Run	All Three Ponds TBA
May	16th (Tue.)	Membership Meeting	Centennial Lakes Centrum 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Radios: I have tracked down a 4 and two 6 channel radios in addition to the Ace Nautical Commander: Skip Asay of Sub Tech has Airtronics VG 400 (4 ch) and VG 600A (6 ch) radios available on 75 MHz frequencies. Both come with a BEC (battery eliminator circuit) receiver, transmitter nicads, charger and 2 mini servos for \$139 and \$189 respectively. In addition, Model VG 600B (6 ch) has a receiver battery and 2 standard size servos for \$169. (std. are more suitable for an average size boat. Ed)

Be mindful that these Airtronics transmitters are not configured with two throttle sticks, as are the Ace and Robbe (see below), but have two gimbaled sticks which function similarly to those on an aircraft radio.

Sub Tech [redacted]...or contact our own Gary Phillips who is an authorized Sub Tech dealer.

I contacted Al Matava of Ships 'n Things in New Jersey regarding the Robbe F-14, and was told that prices and availability should be announced by the time that you receive this newsletter. Check with me at the meeting for an update.

Tim Smalley

Why?: Pete Waters of KMI R/C Service notes that if you have difficulty obtaining full throttle from your

electronic speed control when using a four or more channel radio, compare the throw of the throttle stick with that of the right side stick. Futaba, for one, builds a mechanical stop into the throttle stick assembly that precludes full travel. The stop can be removed (carefully!). It usually consists of two flat pieces held in place by sheet metal screws. Some assemblies also include a small arc shaped piece that must also be removed. Pete, who has been in the R/C radio repair business for a quarter century, states that he has no idea why these stops are incorporated.

Futaba: Hobbico (Great Planes) is now the sole distributor of Futaba radio systems in the USA. Their service center is now up and running in Illinois: Futaba Service Center, 1610 Interstate Drive, Champaign, IL 61822.

Product support line: (217) 398-0007.

Web site: www.hobbies.net/futaba.

Hitec: All Hitec products purchased after January 1, 2000 will qualify to be repaired or replaced by the manufacturer for a period of two years from the date of purchase. A full two year warranty! I really like Hitec equipment...now there's an additional reason.

EMYC Source List: I have been thinking about what to do with the EMYC Source List. I received very little input from the members while I was creating it (I believe only 6 members sent me some information). Once the list was distributed, I got no feedback, good or bad, except for a couple people, so I am thinking it was not a valuable enough piece of information for most of you.

Because of that I have decided not to spend the club's money in distributing it as a paper copy but still pass the information through the newsletter. Thinking about it, it probably will be better that way as all members will get the information vs. the ones that attend the meetings being the ones only to get the paper copy. You might also learn about someplace, somewhere that has what you need now (well, monthly anyway), not every six months as originally planned. And heck, we will save some trees in the effort.

I will also pass the information to Andy so he can add it to the links area of our web site. And, since I use it frequently, I will also still keep up the list, so copies of it can be passed to the new members of the club. I think they will find it helpful and it will give them an idea of where to start looking for materials. If some of you still want the list in paper copy, I can make a few copies for you. Just let me know.

So now let's move on to a few new sources:

VANTEC, Manufacturers of Radio Control Systems: Vantec is a company that makes remote control systems for robots such as the ones used by the police bomb squads. They also have some RC hobby products since it is in the same line. Of special interest is their marine electronic speed controller RET411P listed at \$75.00 (or \$67.00 for 4 or I have heard they are very good products. Look them up at:

<http://www.vantec.com>

Coast Guard Models: Mr. Allen Mergens is the owner of this one-man home based operation. He is a retired Coast Guard captain that has just about anything Coast Guard related you could imagine. He has over a dozen fiberglass hulls, some with fiberglass superstructure. Flags, signs, shield emblems, lettering in the correct USCG font, even the cocaine snowflake and marijuana leaf "victory" symbols painted on the side of the actual ships reflecting drug busts and more. I have been told his plans are better than Taubman's. Currently his only connection is through regular mail or phone. His address is: *110 Essex Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007*

He seems a very nice fellow over the phone and he is working in having an Internet presence by the summer. His catalog is \$3.00

ACTION, Kit Electronics for Model Boats

This UK based company makes all sorts of kit electronics for you to build or you can buy them already built and ready to go. They have a nice range of ESCs, marine motor mixer (2 or 3 motors), all kinds of sound systems (horn, diesel, machine guns, bells, etc), motors, smoke generators, fail-safes and more. I found their prices competitive compared with what we would pay for Robbe or RAM systems. On their web site, they have some downloadable sound files for you to hear some of their sound systems. I

have talked to some British modelers and they consider ACTION's sounds systems to be very good. Who will be the next EMYC member to give them a try? ACTION can be found at:

<http://members.aol.com/actionkit> They have an on-line catalog and some of their products can be purchased in the US through Red Ensign Enterprises **Red Ensign Enterprises.** Canadian Internet mail order store that imports British-made ship-modeling related items. They carry The Model Slipway, Dean's Marine, Scale Link (etched brass sets), Arrow Graphics decals, ACTION Electronic kits (see above), Hunter Systems accessories, Electronize Design speed controls. Hunter Systems is a similar company to ACTION, but they have a smaller inventory. Electronize is a company that makes electronic kits for model boats. They are sold assembled or in kit form. Red Ensign Enterprises can be found at:

<http://members.aol.com/rross73136/index.html>

I would also like to throw in a "buyer's beware" on The Modeler's Boatyard, mentioned in the previous listing at: <http://www.modelersboatard.com>

I had some problems getting an order I placed before Christmas. I finally got the order filled 2 months after I placed it and after sending several e-mails inquiring on the status of it. Tony, the owner, sent me also a bunch of freebie items to make up for the delays, which was appreciated. I know of several modelers that have had problems with orders being delivered really late or not getting them at all. You are not loosing any money as a phone call to the credit card company would stop the charges from being made, but it is a major inconvenience. On the other hand I also heard from other modelers that say they have had no problems at all. Tony runs a one-man shop that has LOTS of products and I presumed my problem was Christmas rush related, but I keep hearing about delivery problems even now. I have communicated with Tony several times before and consider him a nice guy that may be is a bit over his head running his company without help. My advice to you; if you place an order and you don't get it in a timely manner, cancel it and go somewhere else rather than getting frustrated trying to get the items delivered to your doorstep. *Diego*

"Scale Model Warships": Is a new book by Tim Morgan, a regular contributor to Marine Modeling International. Topics covered include selection and suitability of subject, plans and research, specialist suppliers, hulls and decks, working in plastic and brass, construction of fittings and superstructures, finishing, painting and more.

The emphasis within the book is on modern ships and the up-to-date modeling methods used to recreate them. It is laden with photos and diagrams of both full size and model warships, many of them published for the first time. Retail at about \$22.00. *Diego*

Woof!: Tom Watkins' dog, "Fitz" is concerned about the economy because Alpo is up to 99¢ a can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money.

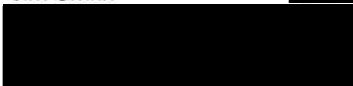
March Meeting Notice:

(Third Tuesday of the Month)

**Tuesday, March 21st
7:00 P.M.**

**(Board Members Available at 6:30)
Centennial Lakes
Centrum**

Commodore:	Dale Johnson
Vice Commodore	Doug Campbell
Vice Commodore	Diego Gaston
Vice Commodore	Alex Raupp
Vice Commodore	Tim Smalley
Vice Commodore	Terry Spletstoeszer
Treasurer	Gary Phillips
Newsletter Editor	Jim Smith



Web Site: www.emyc.org

EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB
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First Class