

# EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

## SAIL & SCALE

## NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2004

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 8

# 2004 Lighthouse Night

By Dale Johnson

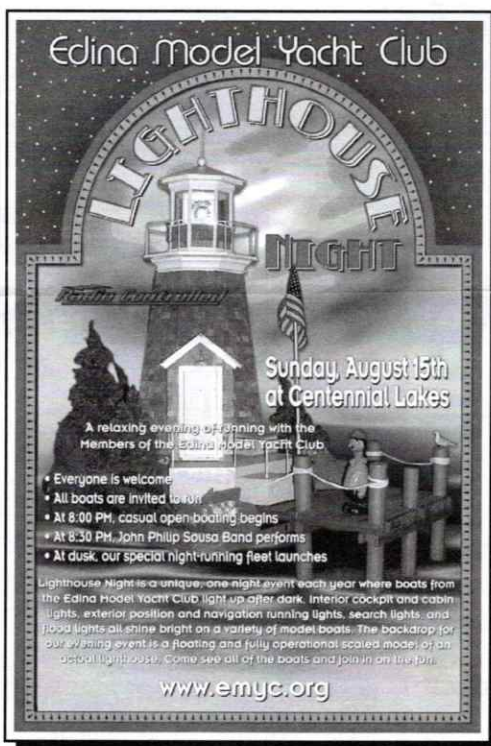
Once again as the summer sailing season begins to wind down it is time for one the funest events of the year.

Lighthouse Night is designed as a unique, one night event that combines three of the parks unique assets, the Edina Model Yacht Club, the John Phillip Sousa Band and the beautiful Centennial Lakes Park.

Our part of the show will consist of filling the lake with boats of all types outfitted with running lights, search lights and flood lights. We will have a floating and fully operational scaled model of an actual lighthouse to act as a center piece for our fleet.

It is truly a beautiful sight to see all the boats with their lights on as the sun goes down and the lake turns dark.

After the sun goes down the band begins their



concert which usually is outstanding, they really are one of the best bands around.

For the new members and as a reminder to the older members I would like to point out that historically this is a very popular event that is well attended by the club members and the public alike. You should try to be at the park early (6:00 to 6:30p.m.) because parking will be at a premium. Lakeside space will be reserved for club members wishing to participate. We will be using the frequency clips so make sure you have one before turning your radio on. As always we will be sharing when it comes to frequencies, please do not domi-

nate any one frequency.

In this issue I am republishing an article on boat lighting in the Builders Corner section on page 5.

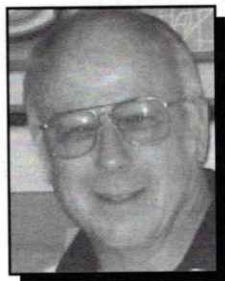
I hope to see all of you at this years event.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

– Open Boating every Tuesday and Thursday 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. and every Sunday 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.

August 4, Wednesday	9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Jordan Creek, Des Moines, Iowa
August 15, Sunday	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Lighthouse Night
August 17, Tues	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting

## COMMODORE'S CORNER



By Paul Olsen

This month I am planning to make the trip down to Des Moines to take part in José's boating event. I'll let you know how it went next month.

I would like to see a good turnout at the Lighthouse Night on the 15th of August. Remember to get there early so you can find a parking spot.

This month at the meeting Tim Smalley and I will discuss the building of his latest RC Submarine project. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

—Paul Olsen



## STRANGE SIGHTING

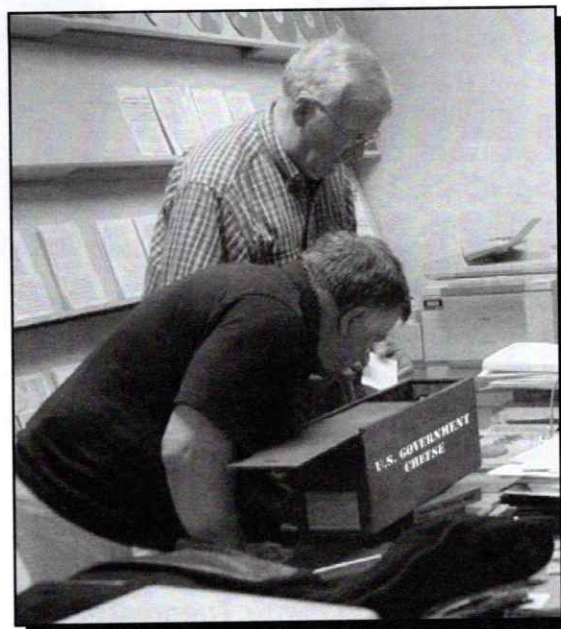
THE POTATO HAS EYES

By The Potato

At a recent meeting I spotted Mr. Smith showing Mr. Johnson a box of petrified government cheese he found in his attic. No telling how long it might have been there, possibly dating back to the great airline strike of the sixties.

**The potato often sees things others miss or over look.**

—The Potato



Jim Smith and Ray Johnson. Johnson says "I think I can smell something."

## MEMBERSHIP

• Our Total Membership:  
147 paid members.

## EMYC New Members

Armondo Beiro,  
Nitro Nub Kopisca

Correction from last month: Jonathan Wesley is really Jonathan Wesley Schulz

— Welcome to the Club —

# SUPER MODEL

— Minnesota man's miniature tribute to Lowcountry shrimp trawlers turns heads —

By David Lauderdale

**T**hanks to Ron Bongard of Minnesota for sharing his love of Lowcountry shrimp boats. Ron and his wife, Marie, spend a lot of time at his brother-in-law's home in Sea Pines each winter, and it has resulted in an unusual entry in the Edina Model Yacht Club on Centennial Lakes Park back home.

Ron has built a radio-controlled model shrimp trawler, naming it the Miss Shem Creek for a boat that veteran shrimpers say the late Capt. Bruce Fulger of Savannah operated for some 20 seasons from Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks on Skull Creek before selling it.

Ron, a 73-year-old retired Lutheran minister, made the model with hand tools in their home in Eagan, Minnesota, near St Paul.

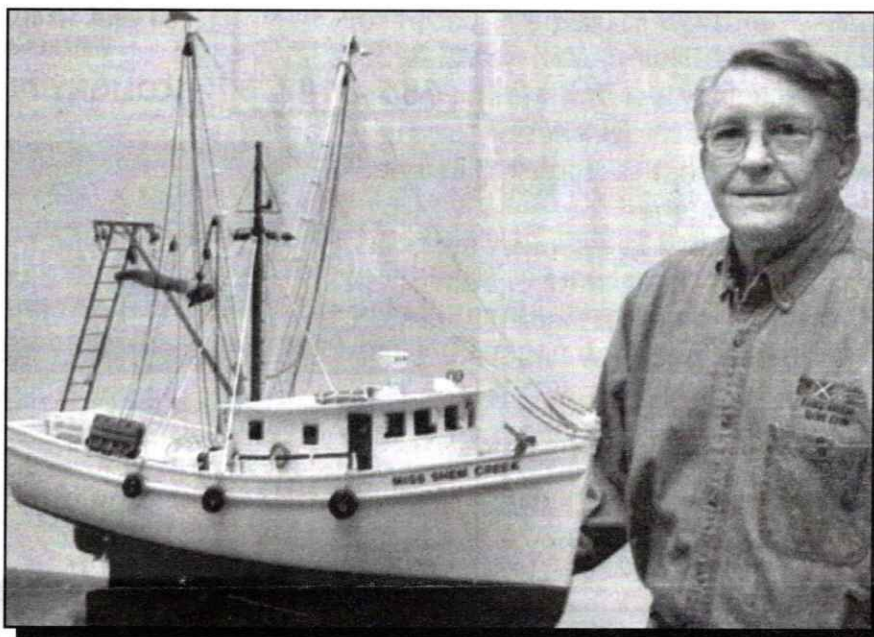
He works at a card table and a TV tray. Sometimes Marie lets him use the dining room table, he joked.

His model's anchor is brass. The keel is spruce, the frame and deck are made of plywood and the hull is balsa wood covered with fiberglass. You can lower the outriggers and doors but Ron's still looking for a good net material. The boat is 33 inches long on the scale of a half inch to a foot. It is powered by a 12-volt motor and two gel cell batteries that weigh 5 1/2 pounds.

But Ron says the boat is really powered by an odd mix of influences, from a Greek candymaker to a Beaufort shrimper.

When Ron was a teenager, he worked one summer for a Greek candymaker at an amusement park in Excelsior, Minn. "He made the best caramel corn I ever ate," Ron said.

Years later, while stationed at McDill Air Force Base in Florida, Ron would use a weekend pass to visit the candymaker



**Ron Bongard of Minnesota displays his 33-inch-long model of a shrimp boat that plied the waters around Hilton Head Island for more than 20 years. Bongard built the radio-controlled model himself at his Eagan, Minnesota, home.**

at Fort Myers Beach, then almost desolate. He had a little cottage and a fishing boat. Fifty yards away were shrimp docks.

"I thought the shrimp trawlers were extremely interesting," Ron says. He was fascinated by the rigging. He thought they reflected a sturdy grace.

Life intervened, with 34 years in traditional Missouri Synod Lutheran churches in Midwest farming communities.

Lowcountry shrimpers remind him of Midwestern farmers. They're hard workers in a tough line of work, battered by a wide array of influences beyond their control. Ron said he has great respect for shrimpers.

"We got our first taste of the Lowcountry about six years ago, and we really like it," Ron says. "It's an interesting area. We like the history. We really enjoy the local people. They're very friendly. Something about it kind of gets in your blood."

And with his retirement hobby of model boat-building, something about the Lowcountry also got into his hands. He built a boat like the ones he sees here, and the ones that captured his imagination as a young man.

For two years, Ron studied the boats. He took pictures of trawlers from Shem Creek in Mount Pleasant near Charleston, south to Brunswick, Ga.

Then he met shrimper Gordon Gray of Beaufort. Gordon builds and sells model shrimp boats, but they are for display. They don't run. Gordon gave Ron the keel and rib structure, and sketched out a rough plan for him. He also educated the pastor on every detail of a shrimp boat and its rigging. Then Ron was on his own.

He had built a model sailboat, modern-day German water patrol boat, ocean tug boat and a British motor torpedo from the World War II era. He's currently working on a fantail Northeastern utility boat. Most of them were from kits, but the shrimp boat and the utility boat are made from scratch.

Ron sees the model Miss Shem Creek as more than an odd addition to the summer shows that draw big crowds when the 120-member model yacht club puts on demonstrations.

He sees it as more than a piece of his love of the Lowcountry.

He said he sees the boat as a memorial.

For several years, Ron has seen the real Miss Shem Creek disintegrating in the water, not far down Skull Creek from

where she used to bring in large baskets full of sweet white shrimp to women waiting to head them. He went out there last week and could see nothing of its wooden hull.

"That poor thing," Ron said. "To me, my model is a tribute to the boat. It's kind of a memorial. In this way, Miss Shem Creek lives on."

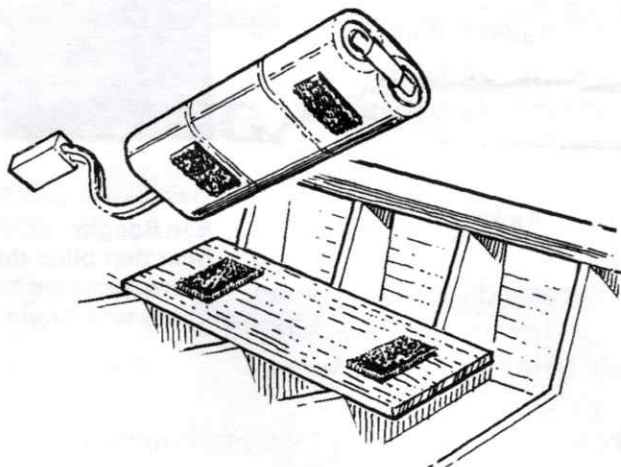
—*The Island Packet.*



## No-Bounce Battery

By Jim Bessler, Bolingbrook IL

To prevent your battery packs from bouncing around in the boat, stick hook-and-loop fastener patches to their bottoms and to the battery platform. (Our Fast Electric guys have been doing this for years and it works!)




—*From the February 2001 Radio Control Boat Modeler*

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**2004 ODOM National Championship**  
 September 18th & 19th  
 Centennial Lakes - North Pond

  
 Hosted by The Edina Model Yacht Club  
 Edina, Minnesota

For Notice of Race / Information & Registration Contact:  
 Judd Morgan  
 161 Lakeview Road East  
 Chanhassen, Minnesota 55317  
 952.975.9354  
 juddmorgan@yahoo.com

D

# BUILDER'S CORNER

## BOAT LIGHTING

by John Bishop

It's still not too late to add lights to your favorite boat for summer running and our August 15th "Lighthouse Night" event. The following information will show you how.

First of all, we'll start things off simple and offer you the following option. If you want a completely painless installation, RAM sells a navigation light kit (RAM15) for about \$14.00. It requires only a 9 volt battery, a few well-drilled holes, and about one hour of your time. Provided you haven't drilled too deep, you'll be up and running in no time at all. Contact your local hobby shop for this product.

For those of you that want to try another approach, i.e. a custom wiring project, the accompanying diagram can serve as a rough sketch on where to start. It shows a basic boat hull with an electrical overlay diagram for a four bulb system. A battery pack serves as a power source for the light bulbs. It can be either a separate battery pack dedicated to run only the lights or an existing battery pack that runs other items within the boat. A simple on-off switch is located just down line from the

positive terminal from the battery pack. It acts as an electrical device to open and close the circuit. From there, a wire continues and serves as a common distribution source for power to the bulbs. Since each bulb has two wire leads, one wire from each bulb must be connected to this common distribution wire. The other wire from each of the other four bulbs is now connected to a common wire secured to the negative terminal of the battery pack. Note that the wire leads from direct current (DC) bulbs do not have any specific electrical orientation and can be wired in either direction. The diagram displays the four bulbs being wired in a "parallel" configuration. This produces an arrangement where each bulb receives the full voltage from the battery pack and if one bulb burns out, the others will continue to illuminate, making a repair much easier. To simplify

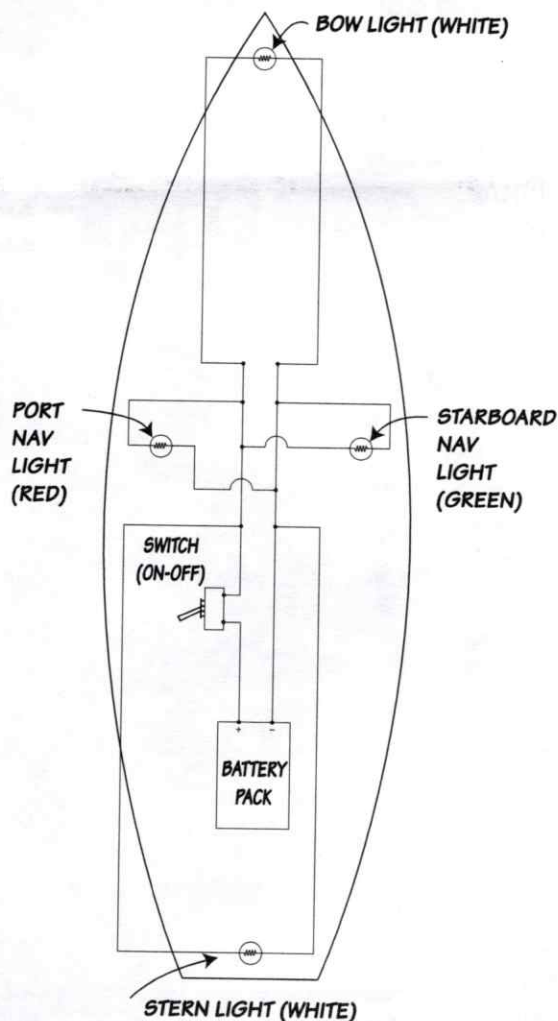
the wiring process, select bulbs and battery packs that are compatible, i.e. 12 volt bulbs connected to a 12 volt battery pack.

Although this may seem somewhat complex, the diagram should help in simplifying things. We're dealing with low voltage and low current components here, so even if you do something incorrect, there won't be any explosions.

Where can I get help? Call: John Bishop at 952-922-1745 and I'll try to answer your questions.

Where can these items be purchased? Battery packs; Local Hobby Shops, Axman Stores, ABC Electronics, ACME Electronics, Batteries Plus. Bulbs; Local Hobby Shops, Radio Shack Stores, Scale Model Supplies, ACME Electronics, ABC Electronics.

—From *Sail & Scale* Aug 96 & 97



MODELBOAT WIRING DIAGRAM

# AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**JULY 20, 2004**

**By Jim Smith**

Commodore, Paul Olsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Commodore asked new members and visitors to introduce themselves. Three members and one guest did so.

New business; Commodore related problems concerning the rental boats. Major frequency conflicts. e.g. Rental fleet operator demanded eight frequencies for a private event that occurred during open boating hours. A new member who desired to run his boat during non-club designated

time was treated poorly by a rental employee for merely asking which frequencies the rental boats were using. The club board has discussed the problem alone and with park manager, Tom Shirley. After discussion the rental owner will not rent boats after 5 pm on Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday – club open boating designated times. He will continue to rent during other hours, every day except Tuesday. It is expected that rental employees will share frequency information with anyone, club member or not, who wishes to operate a boat when rentals are taking place.

Similarly, Fred Ferris mentioned that an occasional rental boat has roamed to the north pond during race time...which does not coincide with open boating hours.

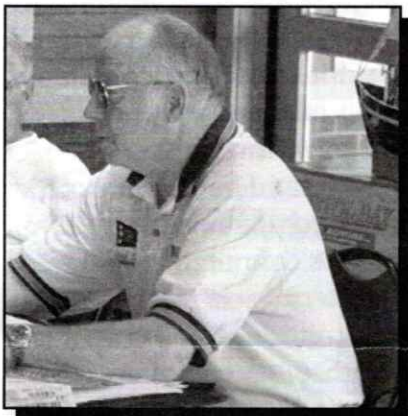
Commodore reported that the club currently has \$4126 in the bank.

Commodore thanked those who came out to share their boats with the handicapped on July 15th.

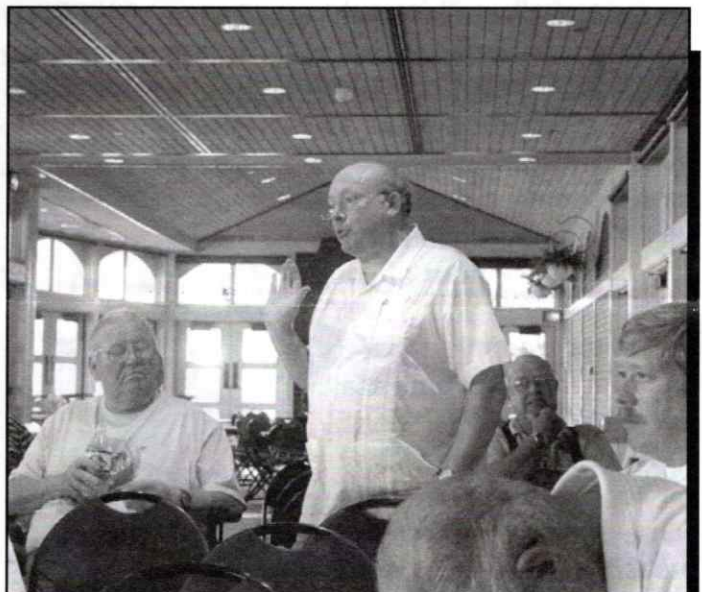
Dale Johnson mentioned that he had up-to-date membership lists available. 145 paid members.

The club now has a sailboat "buyer's guide" available for those contemplating a sailboat purchase.

Alex Raupp reminded the members of our invitation to the opening of the new mall in Des Moines, IA on Aug. 4th.



**Paul Olsen.**

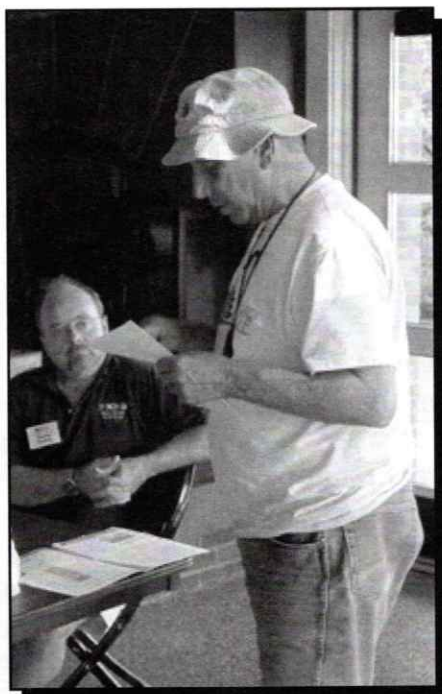


**July 20, 2004. In the Centrum Bldg. 34 members in attendance.**

Fred Ferris gave a short review of frequency usage during our Parade.

Fred and Tim Smalley related their recent experience with model boats as luggage during air travel. Tim... okay, both ways. Fred... okay going, trashed on the return. Fred's looking for a replacement Laser sailboat as a result.

Doug Person mentioned that several embroidered shirts were available for pick-up. He said that turn around from Team Mates has been excellent.



**Tim Smalley and Fred Ferris.**



**Hors d'oeuvre's were donated by the previous group to have the room.**

Joel Hanson mentioned that another of our buoys had fallen victim to a paddle boat. The city does advise renters to steer clear of the buoys...but they are an attractive target. Not much that we can do except remove them after each operating session.

Commodore announced that he had several door prize items remaining from the Parade of Boats. Members present who worked at the Parade entered a drawing for these left-over items. Winners were: Gary Anderson, Dick Edge, Lee Simonson, Tim Smalley and Keith Kaletta.

Terry Spletstoeszer showed his recently purchased, ready-to-run, Hobbico Bristol Bay fishing trawler. It comes complete with a house brand (actually a Futaba) radio. Terry liked the boat and finish. He was disappointed in the installed speed controller because it appeared to cause rudder and motor glitching. He replaced it with a "Rooster" speed control. Another member related that a friend had exactly the same problem with this boat / speed control combination.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 PM**



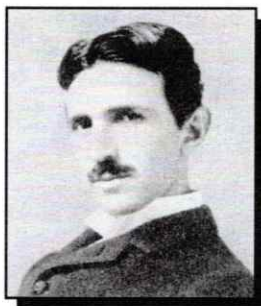
**Terry Spletstoeszer and his Bristol Bay Fishing Boat.**

# NICOLA TESLA

## — The Father of RC Boating —

by Tim Smalley

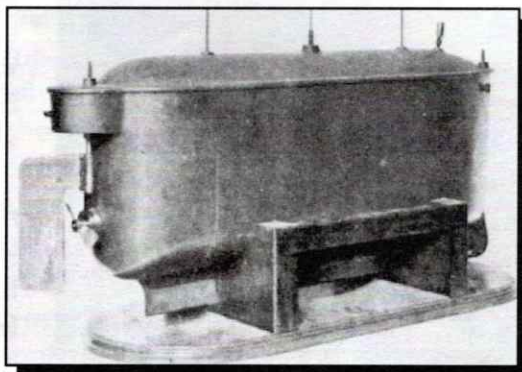
The 6 foot propeller-driven radio controlled boat shown in the photo was built by Serbian born Nikola Tesla (1856 - 1943) and is the original prototype of all modern-day remotely operated devices including RC boats and every man's favorite toy, the TV remote. When skeptics voiced doubts about his ability to control a device from a distance without wires, Tesla proved his claims before a packed house in New York in 1898. Tesla wanted an extraordinary way to demonstrate the potential of his system for wireless transmission of energy (radio). In the recently completed Madison Square Garden, he made a demonstration of the world's first radio-controlled vessel. Everyone expected surprises from Tesla, but few were prepared for the sight of a small, odd-looking, iron-hulled boat scooting across an indoor pond specially built for the display. The boat was equipped with, as Tesla described, "a borrowed mind."



Tesla's device was literally the birth of robotics, though he is seldom recognized for this accomplishment. The inventor was trained in electrical and mechanical engineering, and these skills merged beautifully in this radio controlled boat. Unfortunately, the invention was so far ahead of its time that most who observed it could not imagine its practical applications. However, when a New York Times writer suggested that Tesla could make the boat submerge and carry dynamite as a weapon of war, the inventor himself exploded. Tesla quickly corrected the reporter: "You do not see there a wireless torpedo, you see there the first of a race of robots, mechanical men which will do the laborious work of the human race." Tesla changed his pacifist views somewhat after he saw the result of Chamberlain's appeasement policies before WWII and put some effort into designing weapons. His unbelievable and outrageous statements about radio waves making it possible to communicate with other planets and of a

powerful "death weapon" that could "split the earth like an apple" made him a favorite of news reporters of the day.

"When first shown... it created a sensation such as no other invention of mine has ever produced," wrote Tesla. As happened fairly often with his inventions, many of those present were unsure how to react, whether to laugh or take flight. He had cleverly devised a means of putting the audience at ease, encouraging onlookers to ask questions of the boat. For instance, in response to the question "What is the cube root of 64?" lights on the boat flashed four times. In an era when only a handful of people knew about radio waves, some thought that Tesla was controlling the small ship with his mind. In actuality, he was sending signals to the mechanism using a small box with control levers on the side.

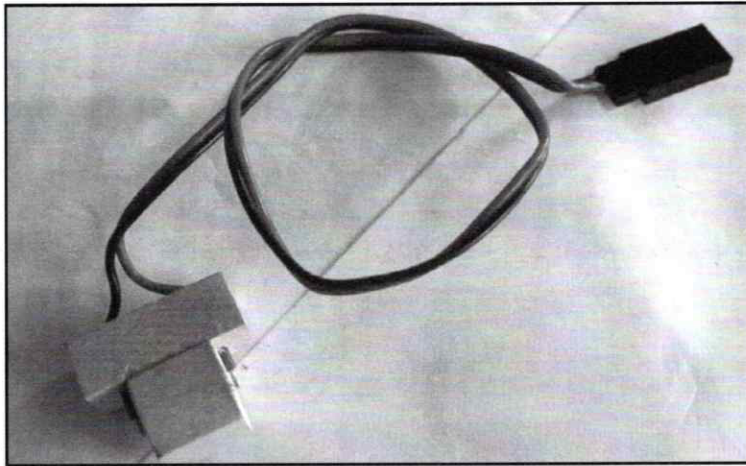


Nikola Tesla was one of the greatest inventors of the 20th century, with over 700 worldwide patents to his name. He was a visionary genius whose radical ideas created the technology that connects the world with power and information. One of history's most controversial and misunderstood people, Tesla's most famous invention is his system of AC power generation and transmission that is used universally today. He also invented the Tesla coil to create high-frequency electricity. This led to the creation of neon and fluorescent lighting, radio transmission, remote control, and hundreds of other devices that are now an essential part of our everyday lives.

— Submitted by Tim Smalley



## DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?



If you know what this found item is or what it back. Contact Dale Johnson at [REDACTED]

## SPECIAL THANKS

To all the members that contributed to this issue of the Sail & Scale. Without you this publication would be nothing.

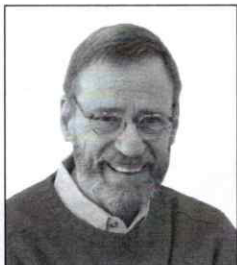
Jim Bessler, John Bishop, Ron Bongard, Ray Johnson, David Lauderdale, Paul Olsen, Doug Person, Alex Raupp, Tim Smalley, Jim Smith.

## - NOTICE -

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

During this time of year it is very difficult to tell exactly where the monthly meetings will be held. We will try to hold them in the Centrum Building but often times the building is not available, in that case the meeting will be switched to the Band Room in the Garage, as in the winter.

- Please check both locations. -



### EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

Your contact for Yacht Club "Logo Gear" is

Doug Person [REDACTED]

I have three fantastic catalogues filled with clothing choices you can select to have embroidered by Team Mates, Egan.

Some clothing examples include: Polo and Chambrarty Denim shirts... Sweatshirts, Jackets, Caps, Vests, or your own shirt or jacket, etc. Embroidery options include our club logo and/or burgee with your name, boat name, number, etc.

Typical costs range from about \$28.00 to \$33.00 (of course, price will depend upon the garment choice and amount of embroidery you choose)

***Fly your colors...EMYC!!***

## THE 16TH ANNUAL ST. LOUIS RC MODEL BOAT REGATTA

Union Station, St. Louis, Missouri  
September 18th and 19th

Sponsored by the St. Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club.

*One of the largest RC Model Boat Shows in the Midwest.*

For more information contact:

**Tom O'Dell, Admiral**  
[REDACTED]

### CLUB SHIRTS HATS ETC.

#### Contact:

Douglas Person [REDACTED]

#### Cub Burgees and Stickers

#### Contact:

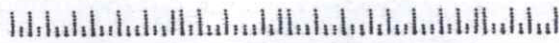
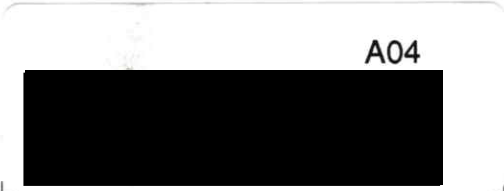
Tom Weigel [REDACTED]



**EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB**

Centennial Lakes Centrum  
7499 France Avenue South  
Edina, Minnesota 55435  
www.emyc.org

Edina Recycles



## AUGUST MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2004 7:00 P.M.  
CENTENNIAL LAKES CENTRUM BUILDING

### Presentation on: USS Alligator

At the August meeting. Tim Smalley will discuss building his latest RC Submarine the USS Alligator

### Special Interest Contacts:

**Membership:**

Dale Johnson [Redacted]

**Scale Boating:**

Tim Smalley [Redacted]

**Sail Boating:**

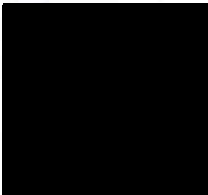
Tony Johnson [Redacted]

**Fast Electric:**

Andy Valentine [Redacted]

## 2004 Board Members

- Commodore:** Paul Olsen
- Vice Commodore:** Tim Smalley
- Vice Commodore:** Dave Bros
- Vice Commodore:** Dale Johnson
- Vice Commodore:** Keith Kaletta



**Newsletter Editors:** Dale Johnson & Alex Raupp



Please send articles by email to:



Deadline for articles to be considered for the August publication will be Monday Aug 30, 2004.