

# EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

## SAIL & SCALE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2008

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 4

### A CAMERA FOR ALL SEASONS



**By Tim Smalley**

One of the most common questions we model boaters get from pondside observers is "Does it have a video camera?" I've played around with my Pentax Optio W10 digital camera for the last few years, by mounting it on my Vac-U-Tug with pretty good results for still photos, but the video leaves some-

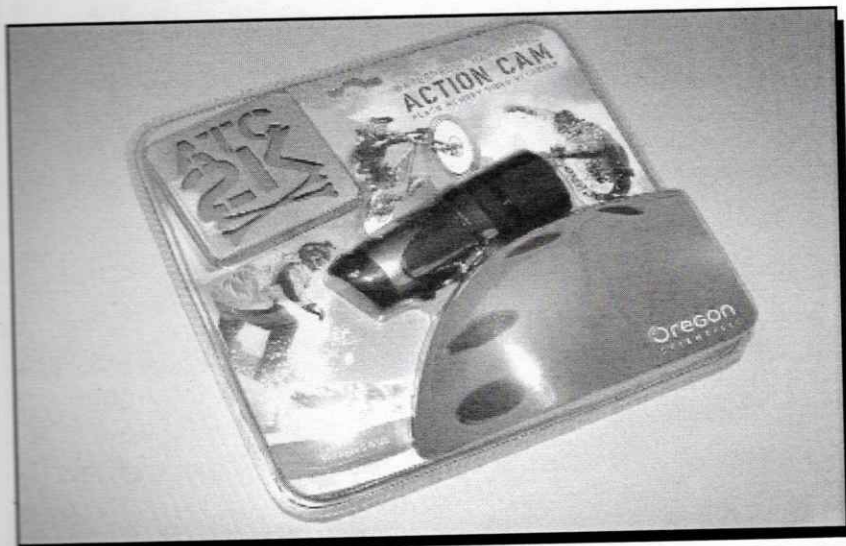
thing to be desired. That; plus the W10's size and shape doesn't allow it to be mounted very easily on a traditional scale boat - especially one of my subs.

I was therefore thrilled to find a new product from **Oregon Scientific**. They are a major supplier of amateur weather stations for the hobbyist, but their "**ATC2K Waterproof Hands-Free Action Cam**" is one of their first forays into photography. Their website

[www.oregonscientific.com](http://www.oregonscientific.com)

suggests the camera be used to record videos while skiing (water or snow), mountain climbing and windsurfing, but I saw no reason not to use it on my RC boats.

The camera arrived in an insufferably difficult to open plastic blister pack, so it takes a kitchen shears and a little patience to get at it. In the package you'll find: the camera, several mounting brackets for applications such as fastening it to a helmet and bicycle handlebars. There are also several straps, both velcro and silicone rubber, to allow the camera to be fastened to just about anything else you can think of. Also is a small container of silicone grease, used to keep the rubber O-rings lubricated to keep the camera watertight. Obliging printed right on



#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

April 20

Sunday Afternoon

Centennial Lakes - Spring Shakedown Day

April 26

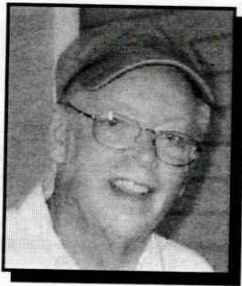
**Saturday** Morning

Centennial Lakes - Three Pond Race

May, Date TBD

Saturday and Sunday Morning . . . . Over 45-inch Sailboat Regatta and Enduro

## COMMODORE'S CORNER



By Al Bickford

**I**ce out!!! Well, not quite. I received a call from our intrepid "ice monitor" Wayne Snyder who reported that there was clear water on the Centennial Ponds - about 50 square feet under the bridge and occupied by two very possessive mallards! The rest of the place is still about 2" of hard water. Ahhh Spring! But have faith and keep building and checking those batteries. Don't forget that the Spring shakedown less than a month away on Sunday April 20th, followed by our annual (and hysterical) Three Pond Race on Saturday the 26th. As I've said before, I'm determined to pass on the "slow moving vehicle" sign to another worthy individual, so, "Gentle captains, charge your batteries!"

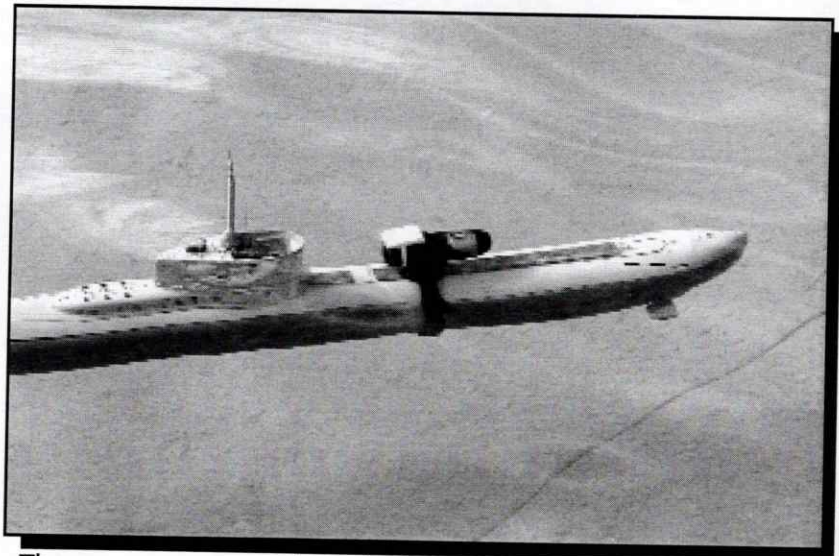
I have finally started a plug for the hull of my new tug. I'm making it from rigid foam insulation. I cut it into 2"x2"x8' pieces and will form it with a hot-wire cutter. I tried out the cutter yesterday and was surprised at how fast and cleanly it goes through the foam. After shaping the 2x2's I'll glue them together to form most of the hull plug. Forming a symmetric bow could end up being a real treat. I hope to get some progress pictures posted in next month's Sail and Scale.

Until then, see you at the meeting on the 15th, and remember to bring your new or unfinished boats and gizmos for show and tell.  
*Smooth sailing* - Al Bickford

## STILLS FROM TIM SMALLEY'S CAMERA FOR ALL SEASONS



Still frame taken from underwater video of a friend's U-boat resting on the bottom.



The camera mounted on the bow of my Type XXIII U-Boat. I used the included Velcro strap to mount it to the bow. A small piece of foam, rubber banded to the camera, offsets its weight while submerged.

(Editor's note:

Circuit City carries the ATC2K Waterproof Hands-Free Action Cam for about \$95. The lowest-cost internet site I found was Amazon.com, also at about \$95. I did not check E-Bay, Joe)

## A CAMERA FOR ALL SEASONS - CONTINUED

-he container is the warning label - "Do not eat - silicone grease."

The ATC2K is rated waterproof to ten feet and records video on a standard digital camera SD memory card (purchased separately or with the camera). At the highest quality video setting, it will record about 30 minutes of color video with sound with a 1.0 GB card. It takes two AA batteries that are tucked under the screw-off endcap. Also under the cap are two jacks for the supplied cables. One is to download via USB port to PC or Mac computers, and the other is to plug into the back of your TV or VCR. You can either download the videos using the cable, or remove the easy-out SD memory card and use the card reader for any other digital cameras you might have, as long as one of the slots will accept an SD card. Either way, it's a very simple process that is well explained in the instruction manual.

I purchased the camera in early October, just before the

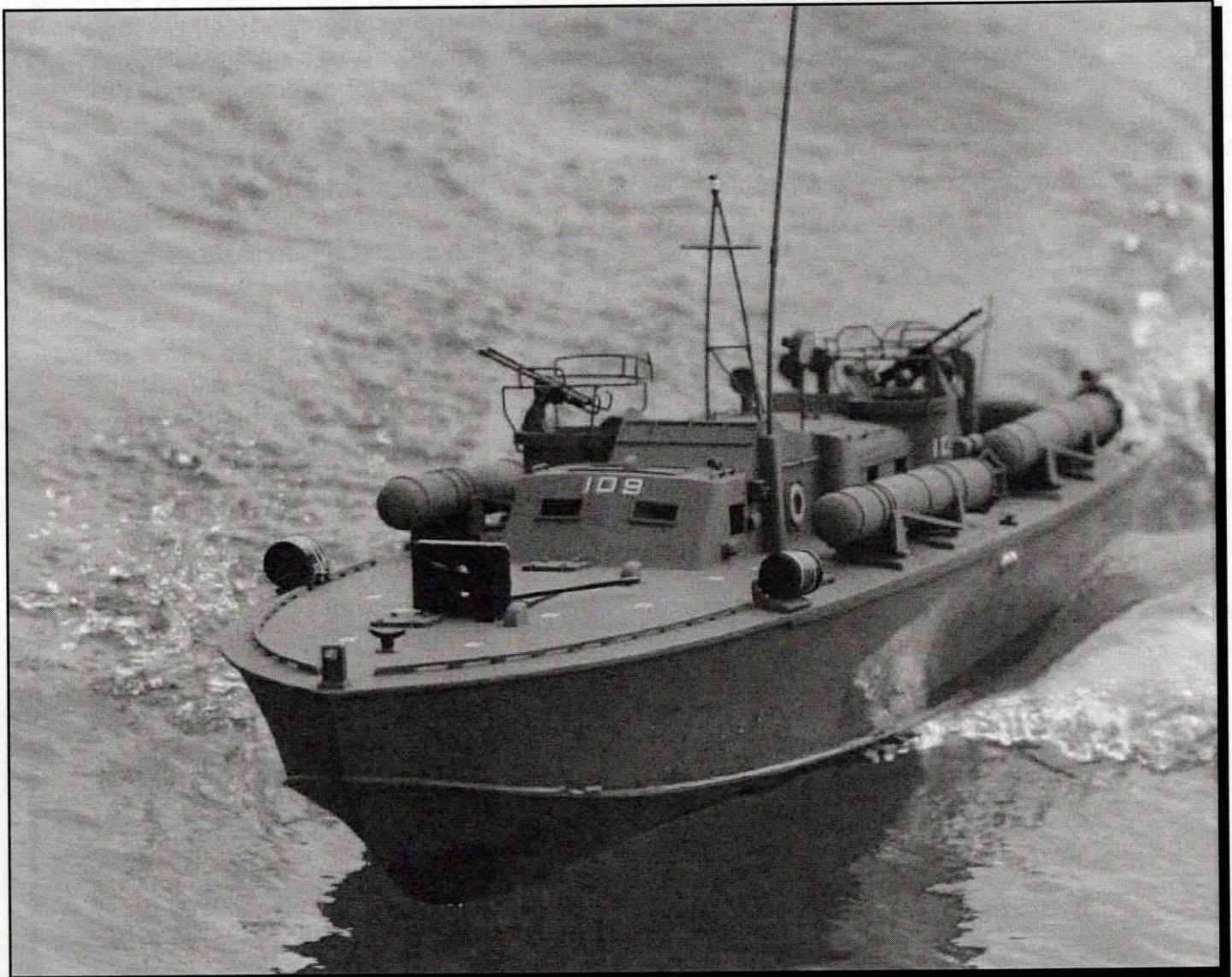
SubRon6 submarine fun run in Carmel, Indiana. The underwater photo accompanying this article is from that first experimentation with the camera mounted on my Type XXIII U-boat. I made the still frame using the simple video editing program that comes with most PCs purchased in the last few years that allows you to make stills from your video. You can use the same program to edit the videos you shoot. Since you start the camera and let it run the whole time your boat is on the water, you wind up with a lot of footage to edit down.

The only weakness I have found so far are the buttons used to set the camera. They are small and made from very hard rubber which makes them a little difficult to press. I wound up using a car key to press them down, while selecting my settings. Other than that, with a cost of less than \$100 if you do a little on-line shopping, plus the exceptional quality of the video it shoots, this little camera is quite a bargain and adds a whole new aspect to the hobby!

- Tim Smalley



# FOTO FEST: PRO BOAT PT-109



Ready-to-Run Pro Boat PT 109, 40" long, radio included. About \$399.

# MARCH MEETING MINUTES

By Don Westley, Secretary

**A**l Bickford opened the meeting, first welcoming guests. Andy brought his son, Sam, who is interested in sailboats. Mark Anderson and Andre are involved with mahogany speedboats and battleships. One of them has a large 5 foot model of the battleship, Yamato.

## Business issues:

Still looking for inexpensive storage cabinets, preferably metal.

Repair of the Zodiac still pending, an appropriate patch kit for the specific Zodiac material will be acquired.

Joe Steele stated that he knew of a source for a nice used German folding boat, very reasonably priced. Investigation initiated.

## Upcoming events noted:

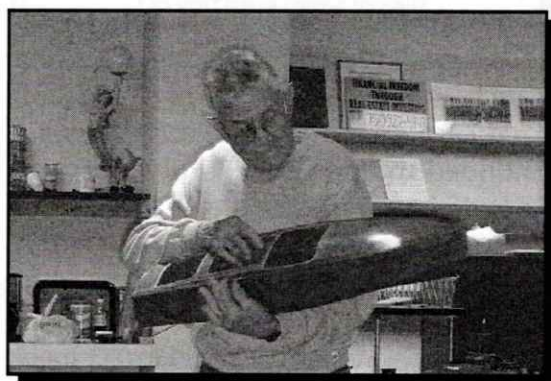
Sunday, April 20, the Spring Shakedown Day. The 3-Pond Race will probably be Saturday, April 26. Problems with the height of the handicap bridge might result in a 2-Pond Race.

Ray Meifert displayed his PT-134 boat by Dumas. It is a great looking PT boat with a very nice authentic "aged in battle" finish and excellent deck detailing.

Wayne Snyder showed his recently acquired ProBoat PT-109 ready-to-run model. A large, nice looking boat. Wayne discussed some minor issues, and had received good response from ProBoat for corrective actions. The boat was fully finished with two 500 motors, triple rudder, and working LED lights.

Don Sektnan displayed his double cockpit Chris Craft run-about project. He described some of his techniques, including a motor/drivetrain jig that he made to help determine appropriate alignment angles and clearances of drive components during hull construction.

Joe Steele exhibited and discussed his latest ebay acquisitions, including a mini Soling, a Classic Speedboats book, and an excellent Billings kit of the legendary raceboat, Slo-Mo-Shun.



- by Don Westley

## "END OF AN ERA" REVISITED

A FOLLOWUP TO DON WESTLEYS' ARTICLE ~ BY JIM SMITH

The "Era" Revisited: Don Westley's article on ocean liners in the March issue of *Sail & Scale* was a sad commentary on the passing of an era. Fortunately, there is still a way to enjoy the flavor of the old cruisers ... even if only in a (very) small way.

During World War I, the British Admiralty commissioned the renowned toy maker, Bassett-Lowke to build model ships to be used as training aids in identifying warships of several nations. These models were to a uniform scale of 1:1200 (1 inch = 100 feet) and were made of wood, card stock and wire. Bassett-Lowke continued the military line of ships and expanded it to include merchant vessels in the years between the wars. Meanwhile, German manufacturers such as Wiking got into the act and produced similar models to a scale of 1:1250 (1 inch = 104 feet). Cast, white metal became the modeling material of choice.

During the Second World War, The US Navy contracted with Comet, Framburg, Bessarbis and others to manufacture I.D. models to the British scale for use at training facilities and aboard ship. Complete, boxed sets of these models are highly sought after by collectors.

In recent years, the collecting of miniature ship models has boomed. There are now dozens of manufacturers of these ships. Most manufacturers are European and the models are almost exclusively to the 1:1250 scale. Quality has

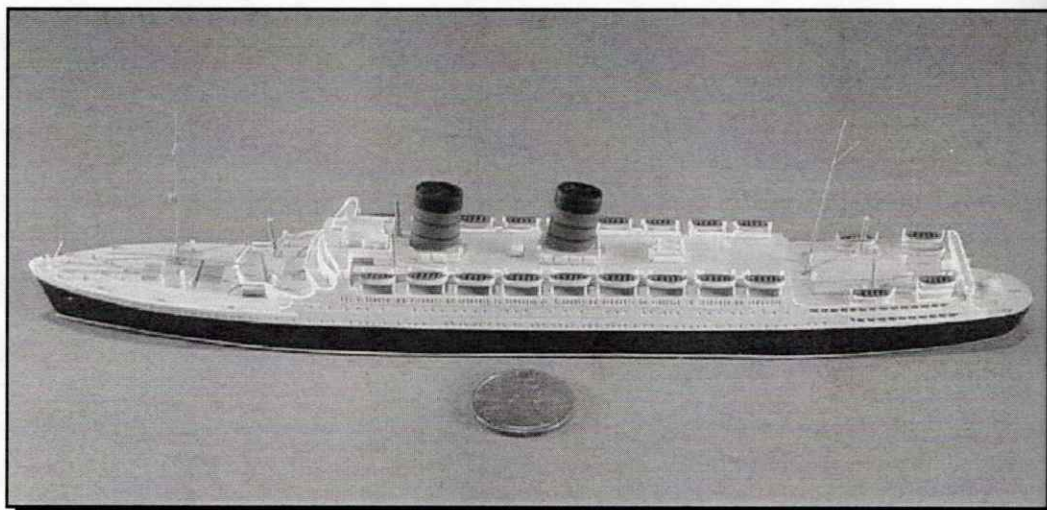
improved exponentially in comparison to the wartime models.

There are now several firms who specialize in civilian ships, from sailing vessels to freighters, container ships, Great Lakes "boats," cruise ships and, yes, even ocean liners. I looked through Don Westley's list of long gone liners and find that they are almost all available from one manufacturer or another and in varying levels of detail. While most are waterline models, some are available in mounted full hull versions at additional cost.

So, as Don mentioned, although you can no longer book passage on the Titanic, the Normandie, the Andrea Doria, or the early "Queens," you can have your own fleet of these grand ships on display in your own living room. And, just as price was a controlling factor in booking a stateroom on the originals, price, too, will dictate the size and quality of the liners in your fleet.

An excellent web site devoted to miniature ship collecting (and building) is [www.steelnavy.com/1250home.htm](http://www.steelnavy.com/1250home.htm). The site has links to several reputable dealers such as Morning Sunshine Models, 1250Ships.com, L.Wiedling and others. (1250Ships has an extensive gallery of photographs of miniature liners). And, while you are on the steel navy site, be sure to take a look at the "Message Board," and the several red bulletted articles.

- Jim Smith



The 1:1250 Mauretania by Wirral

## OTHER CLUB NEWS

### AMYA

### NAMBA

**St. Louis Admirals** - The Admirals are planning to sail on Monday, April 7, from 1-5PM. They have already had temperatures in the 70's!!!

**Nautical Model Shipbuilders Society - St. Paul**  
Meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 7PM, at the Merriam Library

## NAUTICAL KNOW-IT-ALL



Can you identify this monument? OK smartie, then can you identify its' precise location? If you are really a "Nautical Know-it-All", what country is it "officially" located in? Hint - You're really cooking if you know the answers.

Answers and story next month!

(The February picture of the figurehead of the Cutty Sark, the fastest tea clipper in the late age of sail, was correctly identified first by Alex Raupp and also by Wayne Snyder.

The March Know-It-All, a calculator problem (look at the answer upside-down), has had no response. C'mon folks...)

## SPECIAL THANKS

To all the members that contributed to this issue of the Sail & Scale. Another full issue, thanks to your contributions!

Al Bickford, Dale Johnson, Jim Smith, Dan Lewandowski, Alex Raupp, Wayne Snyder, Don Westley, Tim Smalley and Joe Steele.

### Place Your Ad Here!

Do you have items to sell?

Looking to buy?

Place a free ad here in Sail & Scale.

Contact Dan Lewandowski.

### For Sale:

#### Unused Futaba Transmitter.

Crystals, battery pack and two S3003 servos. Asking \$45.

John Dodson

## SAIL & SCALE CONTENT

This months' Sail & Scale represents the contributions of many members - more than in any previous issue this year. And that's even with counting past contributions by our "special" members Anne Korzaway, Billy Aingpin, Martin Gale and Bob Stay! My sincere thanks to all contributors. Please keep the content coming. YOU make the monthly issues interesting for all the members!

### CLUB SHIRTS HATS ETC.

#### Contact:

Douglas Person

### Cub Burgees and Stickers

#### Contact:

Mickey Kirihara



## EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

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## APRIL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2008 7:00 P.M.  
CENTENNIAL LAKES GARAGE BAND ROOM

### MEETING AGENDA:

Show'N'Tell  
Review Spring Events Schedule

Members  
Commodore Al

### Special Interest Contacts:

#### Membership:

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#### Sail Boating:

Tony Johnson [REDACTED] tjohnson@emyc.org

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## 2008 Board Members

**Commodore:** Al Bickford  
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**Vice Commodore:** Vern Grimes  
**Vice Commodore:** Paul Olsen  
**Vice Commodore:** Don Pearson  
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**Treasurer:** Mickey Kirihara

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Deadline for articles to be considered for the  
May publication will be Friday, May 2, 2008.