

EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

SAIL & SCALE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2008

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ale Bickford



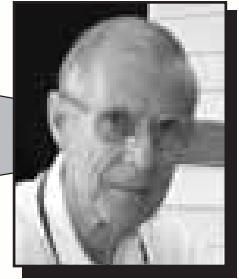
Ben Radenbaugh



Vern Grimes



Paul Olsen



Don Pearson

By Dan Lewandowski



The EMYC has a completely new board for 2008. Elected at the October meeting, they were introduced at the DryDock Party in November.

Our new Commodore is Al Bickford, who brings both a lot of modelling and electronics experience to the club. He's written a number of articles for the Sail & Scale newsletter and has an infectious enthusiasm for the hobby of R/C boating. Look forward to lively monthly meetings with Al at the helm!

Ben Radenbaugh was elected one of the four Vice-Commodores. Ben has a keen interest in R/C ship battling, and has presented some great battle video clips at a recent meeting. Ask Ben about the new 2.4GHz radio technology – he's a great technical reference.

Don Pearson, another new Vice-Commodore, is a member of the St. Paul Scale Model Ship Club. His specialty is building very small ships in bottles.

His displays of "bottled models" and all of his custom made tools are a highlight of the Parade of Boats.

Vern Grimes' scale models, especially his Fletcher class destroyer and Mount Vernon paddlewheeler, are outstanding. Lights, sound, historical accuracy and superior finish are the hallmarks of his models. He's another great addition to the board.

Paul Olsen is the fourth Vice-Commodore. Paul has a long history with the club and is a past Commodore and board member many times over. Paul brings the skills of a professional patternmaker to his scratch-building projects. He has a superior eye for ships' lines and produces masterpiece hulls.

Welcome to all the new Board Members, and from all the EMYC membership, thank you for your service to the club!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

January 15, Tues7:00-9:00 pmMembership Meeting
 January 19, Sat10:00 am-3:00 pmWoodbury Train Show
 January 23-27 Wed-SunSee page 2Minneapolis Boat Show

COMMODORE'S CORNER



By Al Bickford

A H a p p y New Year to all!

As is normal, I'll try to evade any of those pesky resolutions -

for me, most don't seem to last beyond the end of the month. I hope you're much better at it than I am.

I'd like to welcome our new board to the front table. We've already had a great first meeting to discuss some plans for the year. The board plans to meet at least one more time before our January meeting and that first one is coming up fast! Tuesday, January 15th at 7:00 will be our first meeting of the year. Oh, two more dates to put on your calendars now: Parade of Boats June 8th, and Lighthouse Night August 10th.

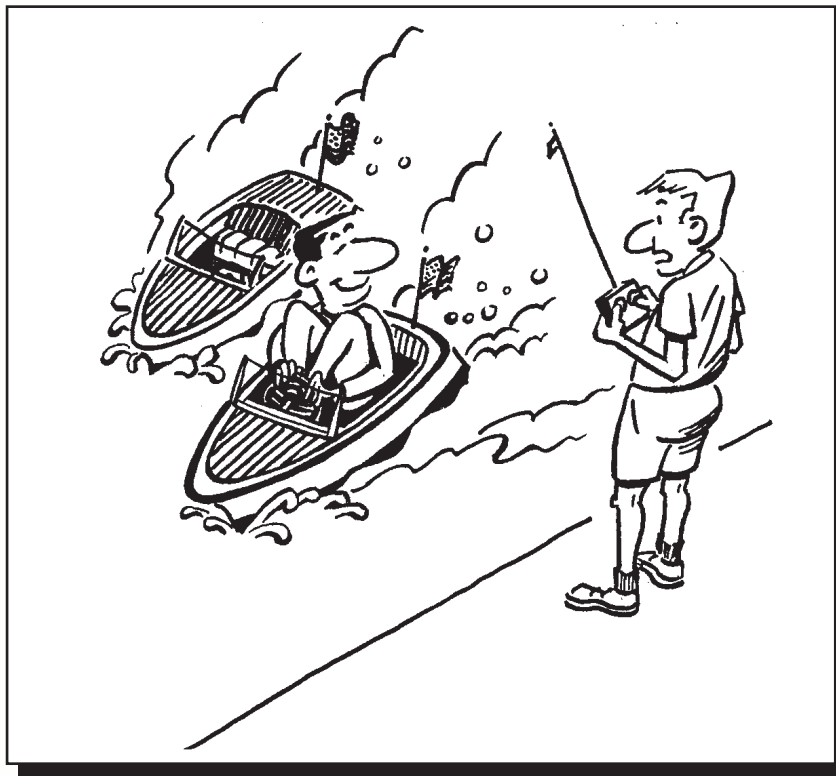
One resolution I have kept (so far) is to finally clear the decks and clean up my basement shop - even waxed the floor this time. Now maybe I'll be able to find some of those dropped parts. Oh, and I even cycled some of those trusty batteries. Seems they work better if they get a little attention now and then

If you've got a nifty gizmo or project going, why not bring it to the January meeting - taking a look at what others are doing sure helps to get us all looking forward to this next season!

See you at the next meeting and...

Smooth Sailing

— Al Bickford



Ray Johnson reprint from September Sale & Scale 2000.

MINNEAPOLIS BOAT SHOW

Show Details

Dates & Location:

Minneapolis Convention Center
1301 2nd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Show Hours:

Wed, Jan 23 5pm - 10pm
Thu, Jan 24 12pm - 10pm
Fri, Jan 25 12pm - 10pm
Sat, Jan 26 10am - 10pm
Sun, Jan 27 10am - 6pm

Admission:

Adults (16 and older): \$10.00
Senior Day, Thur, Jan 24 (62+) \$7.00
Juniors (13-15): \$5.00
Children (12 and under): FREE

2008 MEMBERSHIP – 122 members.

BUILDER'S CORNER

DESIGNED FOR SPEED — PT BOATS —



By Ray Meifert

Dead in the water, a PT Boat is squat and beamy. It was designed for speed, and in speed lays its beauty. As a PT gains momentum, its bow lifts clear of the water and it plans gracefully over the surface, throwing out a great wave from the chine

on either side and a rooster tail of white water astern." So wrote Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Robert J. Bulkley, USNR in his book about the exploits of PT's during World War II entitled "At Close Quarters."

For their size, PT's were the heaviest armed of any navy vessel during World War II. With torpedoes, usually four, 50 Caliber machine guns and 20MM canons the PT was a formidable weapon. However, crews experimented with armaments placing 75MM canons, 40MM canons, etc on individual boats. You name it and almost any type of armament was procured for these boats to the point that no two were truly alike.

As mentioned, PT's were built for speed (40+ knots at full war load) and were designed to primarily carry torpedoes. The size varied somewhat between 77 – 80 feet long and there were actually three primary designs. The main supplier was ELCO at

Bayonne, NJ that produced 59 boats that were 77 feet long and 326 of the 80 feet long models. Higgins Industries at New Orleans, LA produced 205 boats of their 78 feet long design. Carrying up the rear was Huckins Marine at Jacksonville, FL producing only 13 of their 77 feet long design. Surprisingly, only 4% of the total 595 boats produced were destroyed as a result of enemy action. The most notable boat destroyed was the PT 109, commanded by John F. Kennedy. That boat was accidentally run over by a Japanese destroyer "due to the incompetence of the commander" according to some military upper brass at the time. General MacArthur believed Kennedy should have been court marshaled!

Throughout the Second World War the PT boats would see many transformations enabling the original designs to be modified to fit the mission they would be



A Huckins '78 during maneuvers

called upon to perform. It appears most of the ELCO designed boats served in the Pacific theater, with a small number used



Model of an ELCO '77 at Centennial Lakes

in the English Channel and Mediterranean Sea. Approximately half of the Higgins designed boats served in the Mediterranean Sea and English Channel with the other half serving in the Pacific and Aleutians. Huckins designed boats were assigned to the training squadron, in Melville Rhode Island, the Panama Canal zone and Hawaii.

While many people believe that the PT's were build entirely of plywood, this was only partially true. Although much plywood was used in PT construction, the hull itself was not plywood, but two layers of mahogany planking laid over laminated wood frames. A layer of airplane fabric, impregnated with marine glue, was ironed on between the two layers of planking. The result was a light, strong hull, resilient enough to stand up in heavy seas.

his book. There are two companies that provide such scale kits:

Dumas Boats. The PT109 kit is a good base for a modeler to build an ELCO 80. However, the model is heavy based on the design used to build the deck and the torpedo tubes all built from solid wood. I have replaced the torpedo tubes with plastic tubing and suggest replacing the wood constructed deck with _ sheet plastic. Unfortunately, the Dumas 1:20 scale kit is currently not available as the com-

Continues on page 8



Model of Higgins '78

Building a model of one of these formidable beauties is enjoyable providing the opportunity to build a boat that can be unique on any pond and historically accurate. Limitation being only left up to the builder and the amount of research one might want to spend in building a PT.

I have found the scale that provides the most realistic experience to the actual boats is 1:20 as this size (models range from 46-48 inches in length) captures that same "planning gracefully over the surface, throwing out a great wave from the chine on either side and a rooster tail of white water astern" that Bulkley refers to in

AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2007

By Dan Lewandowski



Commodore Al Bickford presents the first Ensign Award to John Bishop



Commodore Al Bickford opened the doors to the garage at 7:00 PM. As you know this meeting is our annual swap meet and this year we were able to fit all the trading in the band room.

The meet was attended by 10 to 15 members.

Before the trading began we had a brief ceremony in which Commodore Al Bickford presented John Bishop with the first Ensign Award.

The award recognizes John's leadership and direction, over the past 17 years, John is a charter member of the Club

After the trading ended the remaining members took the opportunity to catch up with each other and discuss the coming years events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm



Just received a New Catalogue!



EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

Your contact for Yacht Club "Logo Gear" is

Doug Person (952) 926-4934

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!!



Dave Bros collects from Terry Mackey on a big sale. What to do with all that cash?

DRY DOCK PARTY 2007



By Doug Person

On Saturday, November 10, 2007, the Edina Model Yacht Club presented Edina native, John Bishop, the newly minted "Ensign Award" at its annual Dry Dock gala at the Centennial Lakes Centrum in Edina.

The award recognizes John's leadership and direction, for the past 17 years, of the annual production of the Club's marquee events, "Parade of Boats" and "Lighthouse Night".



2007 Dry Dock Party Crowd enjoys a Famous Daves dinner.

erally thousands of people who come each June and August to Edina's Centrum Building and Centennial Lakes Park to enjoy the model building skills and operation of the boats by its members.

Parade of Boats and Lighthouse Night attract people of all ages to the incredible model boating venue of Centennial Lakes Park. The events are covered extensively by media representatives from the major print and T.V. affiliates.

This year's Dry Dock Party, the social highlight of the Club's calendar, was attended by some 100 members and guests who enjoyed dinner catered by Famous Dave's. It was hosted by two-term Commodore Dan Lewandowski and his wife, Pam.

The evening included the introduction of Al Bickford, as the new Commodore for 2008, as well as the

Vice Commodores Vern Grimes, Paul Olsen, Don Pearson and Ben Radenbaugh.

Dry Dock 2007 concluded with spectacular video highlights of the boating season, which was once again produced by the multi-talented and much-appreciated Club member, Tim Smalley. Tim also almost immediately edited and produced a video of Dry Dock 2007 held at the Centrum and made it available on the internet.

—Doug Person



2008 Board members (left to right) Don Pearson, Vern Grimes, Paul Olsen and Ben Radenbaugh.

John is a charter member of the Club, having been organized in 1991, with some 11 or 12 others, as a club to promote and operate a scale model remote control yacht club at Centennial Lakes Park. The club's membership since then has grown to some 120 members who build scale, sail and fast electric model boats.

Under John's leadership, these events are much anticipated and attended by lit-

ABC'S of RC BOATS

For the beginner

SPEKTRUM 2.4 GHz RADIO SYSTEMS



By Dan Lewandowski

The 2.4GHz radio technology offers many advantages over the 75MHz radios most of us are using. The price is dropping on this technology and the most advanced features of the technology are being added to a new 6-channel radio, the Spektrum DX6i, just being introduced by Horizon Hobby/JR this month.

Some pioneering EMYC users of the older Spektrum DX6 radios have had some issues with the transmitter battery life, and there has been a problem or two with the antennas. Those are no longer issues in the new DX6i.

The key advantages of the 2.4GHz technology are the automatic selection of free channels, elimination of channel conflicts, elimination of electrical interference generated by motors, ESC's, etc, and advanced features allowing precision set-up and calibration of your servos. In addition, the receivers are extremely small and light weight and the antenna is very short.

Spektrum is one brand (based on JR radios), but JR, Futaba and others also offer 2.4GHz radios. The units I'm familiar with are the new Spektrum DX6i and the DX7.

The DX6i is a six-channel with advanced features and can be found for \$159 to \$179 for the radio and 6 channel receiver. The DX7 can be found for \$259. An advantage of

the Spektrum system over the Futaba is that a Spektrum 6 channel Rx is \$49, vs \$99 for the comparable Futaba receiver. You will need new receivers in your models for these radios. The good news is that servos, ESC's and other components are all compatible with the 2.4GHz radios.

After just minutes of programming a DX7 and then some in-model servo calibration, I was amazed at the simplicity of the set-up operation and the wider range of rotation and perfect re-centering I was able to get on my servos. All the servo chatter and servo-kick was gone.

These radios now offer far superior performance and features at a price that makes them a much better value than the 75MHz FM technology.

You can get more information through these links:

<http://www.spektrumrc.com/>

<http://www.spektrumrc.com/DSM/Technology.aspx>

http://thebarnfloor.com/catalog/product_info.

http://www.rcuniverse.com/forum/foramid_116/tt.htm

<http://www.horizonhobby.com/RC/>

—Dan Lewandowski



Spektrum DX7.

Continued from page 4

pany converts the current hull from fiberglass to ABS. A good decision in my view.

A 1:32 version of the PT109 kit is also available. This all wood construction provides a model that is easy to handle, but can provide some challenges due to instructions. www.dumasstore.com



Mosquito Boat Hobbies. Offers a variety of upgrade kits to the Dumas kit so that several versions of the ELCO 80 can be built from the early war to late war periods. In addition, Mosquito Boat Hobbies offers ELCO 77 and Higgins 78 foot kits all in 1:20 scale. Both the ELCO 77 and the Higgins 78 are made from ABS or urethane resin parts keeping the models light and your frustration level to a minimum. These kits can only be purchased on line by going to <http://www.geocities.com/mosquito-boat/swift.html>.

As PT's had a wide assortment of different weapons on board, (beyond those that may be included in the model) you can really use your imagination within limits. I suggest you go to:

HR Products. This company is a supplier and manufacturer of white metal castings in assorted scale for World War II

ship modelers, dioramas, and miniatures. Some of their molds are getting old and have extra flash in some areas, but their products beat using the Dumas "build your own guns" method. They can be reached by going to their website www.hrprod.com

The actual PT's were all powered by three 12 -cylinder Packard marine engines. For R/C I suggest using a dual prop set up. While it might not be accurate, the two props do a great job of powering the boat creating the realism you're looking for from your model. I've experimented with 18 turn high speed motors designed for cars with separate ESC's but have found that while they are fast, they don't work well in marine environments. So I suggest that two 550's using one ESC (i.e. Viper Marine 40) is more than enough power to provide the performance you're looking for. To-date I've used two battery packs in parallel. These seem to provide a good run of about 20+ minutes at the speeds that made the PT's the beauties they were.

Finally, in building a PT I've found that researching a boat that actually served in the war proves to be interesting and places a more personal touch to the whole modeling experience. To research a boat you can go to a number of sites to learn about paint schemes and camouflage. The best places for my money is to go to either PT Boat World www.ptboatworld.com or PT Boats, Inc www.ptboats.org where you'll find photos, drawings, chat rooms etc all devoted to PT Boats.

I hope to see more PT's on the water in the future.

—Ray Meifert



GREAT NEWS FROM IOWA!



By Dan Lewandowski

Two very dedicated EMYC members, Donna Bridges and José Medina, both from Des Moines, Iowa, called with news bigger than the Presidential Primaries. They are getting married!

Donna and José, Congratulations from all of us in the club, and our Best Wishes to you!

Donna and José travel to Edina each year for the Parade of Boats, bringing with them a trailer full of beautiful, large, sail and scale boats that are a highpoint of the Parade.

José confirmed that they will be attending this year's Parade on Sunday, June 8th, and that they will be bringing and sailing the refurbished and fully operational battleship Missouri. If you haven't seen this exceptionally detailed ten foot long model, you won't want to miss it at this year's parade. I haven't seen it on the water yet myself, but it should be a spectacular sight.

It's great to have members of the club from so far away as it's a great connection to boating activities outside of the Twin Cities. Some of us have been watching the DesMoines weather closely and checking open water conditions with Jose. If we get a 50 degree day in DesMoines and there is open sailing water, it will be a winter road trip for sure. Jose has graciously offered to be our local contact if we do get mobile.

Again, our Congratulations to Donna and Jose! We're looking forward to seeing you in June, and perhaps even sooner.



José and Donna with there Mighty MO.

SPECIAL THANKS

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

Dale Johnson, Ray Johnson, Dan Lewandowski, Ray Meifert, Doug Person, Alex Raupp.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE

We have made every effort to update all information on our wonderful website. We have also added many new pictures and articles.

It is now possible to down load past issues of the newsletter in PDF form.

If you have any suggestions or corrections concerning the website bring them to the next meeting and we will address them.

www.emyc.org

SAIL & SCALE STAFF

I am still looking for a writer to join the Sail & Scale staff. A person that can write a monthly column and deliver it as an electronic file (preferably over the internet) ready to publish, not meaning formatted, just a plain text file spelling and grammar checked. You must have a respect for deadlines.

If you are interested contact Dan Lewandowski at: 952-829-9227 or dplewandowski@comcast.net

CLUB SHIRTS HATS ETC.

Contact:

Douglas Person (952) 926-4934

Cub Burgees and Stickers

Contact:

Mickey Kirihara (952) 881-2866



EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

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

JANUARY MEETING

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

FIRST 2008 SEASON MEETING

At the January meeting we will introduce the new board, have membership sign-up and go over the Annual calendar

Special Interest Contacts:

Membership:

Ray Meifert (952) 938-3046 rameifert@comcast.net

Scale Boating:

Tim Smalley (651) 493-0863 tmsmalley@yahoo.com

Sail Boating:

Tony Johnson (952) 470-8818 tonyj@visi.com

Fast Electric:

Dan Proulx (763) 551-4953 danproulx@comcast.net

2008 Board Members

Commodore: Al Bickford (952) 472-4570
Vice Commodore: Ben Radenbaugh (763) 234-9226
Vice Commodore: Vern Grimes (952) 475-3983
Vice Commodore: Paul Olsen (952) 884-4833
Vice Commodore: Don Pearson (952) 475-2831
Secretary: Don Westley
Treasurer: Mickey Kirihara

The Edina Model Yacht Club Sail & Scale Newsletter is published monthly except for December.

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Bloomington, MN 55438

Please send articles by email to:
dplewandowski@comcast.net
Deadline for articles to be considered for the
February publication will be
Monday Jan. 28, 2008.