

April 2019 Membership Meeting and Other News

April is here!! I love the seasons in Minnesota and always find myself looking forward to the next season, or maybe more correctly wanting to say good bye to the previous. Either way, spring is here. The sailboat racers had their last winter luncheon at Shanty Town Grill on April 4th. Tom Weigel (or was it Bill Coppage?) had been out sailing for several hours that day already, and the following day, Friday April 5th sailing was begun in earnest:



Then came the snow, but only for an end-of-the-season last attempt to remind us of a season best to see behind us. On Tuesday the 16th racing buoys were set out for the season at Smith Park pond in Bloomington:



The April meeting brought a great variety of activities including questions on building, boats (or critters) on display, and builds in progress.

But before the meeting had started, Dick Walker brought three of the plastic speed boat craft to the meeting, looking for new homes. The boats had been donated by others in the complex where Dick lives, and all but one were adopted before the meeting began. First of the formal items on the meeting agenda was a continuance of the discussion on the replacement for the Pelican. I had contacted Tom Shirley at the parks and based on the understanding that the parks people occasionally use the Pelican, and thinking that they too would appreciate additional stability, I asked if the parks would donate some funds to help purchase the tri-hull boat. The response was that the park uses their own boat and never the club's boat so no interest in helping fund the new boat. So we are back to the question of should we fund the new boat? I am aware of two persons have already said that they would donate funds to help with the purchase of the tri-hull. At the meeting many others indicated they would contribute and others thought it appropriate to utilize some of the funds from the sale of boats donated to the club by Fred Ferris, so that it was very clear there was a consensus to proceed with the purchase (\$500.00 including ores, a discount of about \$150.00). I have since purchased the boat. Let me know if you would like to help off-load the new boat at Centennial Lakes and help get the motor switched over and with the maiden voyage on the ponds. Jim Pennoyer has offered to pick up and haul the boat from West Marine either in his F150 (if it fits) or on his car carrier/trailer - schedule being determined. After the meeting several people did make donations and I was also informed that one of the members thought they had someone that would be

interested in purchasing the Pelican. If that works out that would be great, if not it will go on Craigs List. If you would like to support the purchase of the new tri-hull any additional donations to the club would be appreciated. (we purchased the top boat in the photo below)



The feather banner update is that we have not obtained a price so final decision to purchase or not is delayed. I did talk to Tom Shirley again about the banner. Previously he had stated the banner would be fine at the center pond, and I further asked if we could leave it out all season long - which was not approved at this time. If we do purchase the banner, and I think we should, it would have to be put up when we are at the center pond, then taken down when we leave. If purchased, I would like to work with the parks to find a good spot to install it with the in-ground tube foundation, then maybe after we all get used to it being on display we can revisit the question of leaving it out to advertise the club. My opinion is that the banner would not be obtrusive to the overall appearance and enjoyment of the park, but would be a much more visible advertisement for the club than even a poster on display in the bulletin boards.

Long term members, Jose Medina and his wife Donna, currently live in Iowa. Jose contacted me and has offered up his J boat for sale:



Actually, this is the larger of the two J boats that Jose owned, the smaller of the two having been already sold. The J boat is the largest boat approved by the AMYA and this boat stands at about 12 feet tall. He is asking \$800 for the boat and it only needs a bit of repair at the top of the mast for the back stay. Jose reports it sails great and you can see it is beautiful. Let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch

with Jose. UPDATE!!! Kevin Kavaney purchased the boat and will be bringing it back with him to Minnesota - YEAAAAAAAA!!! What a display of larger boats this is going to make! Kevin being the master of all things RC big/huge has several other large boats, and along with others who have the large boat bug it is really going to be impressive when we get together! I have to believe that this J will make the center pond seem undersized, and that it would quickly master either the north or south ponds so that Harriet, Calhoun and others may see it more than our home waters.

Prior to the meeting several members were on the water with their boats. One of which was Todd's minion boat with the newly fabricated weed catcher by Bill Uhl. In the below photo illustrating the versatility of the weed catcher for rescuing boats as well. Svengoolie was very grateful! Todd reports that with the weed catcher in place the boat is a bit bow-heavy which lifts the prop too close to the water surface. It was offered up that Todd could try weighting the stern with one of the lead ingots in the caged storage area that was donated last year, or adapting a foam pipe insulation "noodle" for extra flotation at the bottom of the screen. Great ideas. All new accessories need a bit of fine tuning and this might just be the ticket.





Not to be outdone by the creativity of David Petrich (see the February Newsletter) and his tendency to create out-of-the-ordinary floating “craft”, Richard Dahlquist brought the beginning of his own terror on the water:



The photo is pretty dark but the “craft” is the above the water portion of a crocodiles head. There were actually two heads, the second just a bit smaller than the one shown. In addition Richard added that some of these “kits” include a middle and tail sections of the croc which can be towed behind the head section. From the group was offered up a report that someone in California narrowly avoided being arrested for disturbing the peace when they operated their croc on a local pond! Richard adds that he plans on illuminating the eyes and might even be able to squirt water from the nostrils when he has it all completed and operational.

Mike Corbett brought in a handy gadget for testing servos and motors. Available for about \$10 Mike had mounted the device to an Altoids tin box which housed AA batteries. Very handy to set up centering and check the throw on servos, or test motor function without having to install in an application and get out the radio/transmitter. Neat-0 device, and thanks to Mike for bringing in this humble tool after astounding us at the last meeting with his new Chris Craft.



Tim Crain brought in his lobster boat that he had shared in an earlier stage of construction in October of last year. Always the detailed model builder, Tim had the interior almost complete and some of the lighting in place. Nice touches include deviating from the kit to install clear windows in lieu of the less than scale blacked out windows. More deviations are planned including adding a sound system.



The meeting was capped off by Mike Ross with Tool Time Part 2, featuring miniature power tools. These were of surprisingly robust construction and even members with well equipped shops came up afterwards to take a look at the array of power tools. One of Mike's favorites was the pencil style sander with different shape attachments. That is Mike in the photo with the miniature belt sander, also a favorite of his.





Starting upper left and clockwise: Jig saw with accessory table mount, pencil sander, belt sander, jointer, oscillating sander, disc sander/grinder, voltage regulator.

The starting point of beginning your own collection of small power tools is the voltage regulator in the lower left. Just about all the tools connect to this device with a unique plug as Mike explained even with multiple speed settings on the tools they all invariably run too fast. Some tools were purchased at Sears, all available at Micromart, Jim Penoyer checked on his phone at the meeting and reported that the voltage regulator with 4 of the tools were available on the website for just over \$300. Not bad at all. Nice tools, and thanks to Mike for sharing his shop at a second meeting.

After the formal meeting the second get-together got underway:

- Gerry Jones was telling me about a new sailboat that is out and trying to gain popularity by selling prototype kits available only on ebay at the moment. An interesting boat styled after an America's Cup boat, and a bit larger than the ODOM and DF 95, it is the Columbia 42 (42 inches long). With a keel and rudder integral to the hull it reports to have an advantage to sailing in weedy ponds. Very attractive and priced at \$400 sans sails and ballast.
- There was discussion that several people have purchased and/or renovated fast electric boats and would like to get together with other club members to run them on the south pond, especially since we now have rescue boat access. David Petrich will be coordinating this event so contact David [REDACTED] if you are interested in participating. Dave and I briefly communicated on this and to get this organized let's think about running our boats on a specific day twice a month to get the conversation started. We can set up a google forum to coordinate the get-together. You don't need to have an actual "fast" electric (how fast would that need to be anyway), just a way to get the sportier boats all together so the more participants the better.

New item on the schedule: you may recall that we were invited to run our boats on the pond at the Carlson Towers at 494 and 392. The event was an appreciation day for those that work in the towers, but notice was short and the event did not come together for us. I have again been contacted with a request to run our boats on Thursday, June 20th, from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon. This is a really, really nice venue. Long boardwalk, good location to launch our sailboats from a sidewalk, beautiful setting. Hot dogs, popcorn and beverages will be provided. Let me know if you are interested, just so I have an idea of who might be attending and I can let the coordinator for the event know. Here is a photo of the location:



Weather looks great this Saturday, and only a bit cool on Sunday, so it looks like a great opportunity to get on the water for some first of the season boating. Yes, it is here, boating season! See you at the ponds!

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