

June Membership Meeting and Other News

June is an extra busy month! Five events if you include the membership meeting, so lots to cover this issue:

June 6th on a Thursday evening starts with Janet Clark and her Learning Exchange folks. They have been coming for several years now and there are many who come time after time to run the boats, plus they have other activities around the park but there is always a few that stay at the pond and take turns running the boats. Here is Gretchen, and though it looks like she is not enjoying the boats she just handed the radio back to me after Haunzi came up for attention. Prior to that she had two extended stints running the Atlantic tug. I think there were at least 6 people that took a good turn at piloting the boat about the center ponds. Others were there too to share their boat with Janet's people.



Next up was the Parade of Boats. A very different year, the impending rain never happened - there was very light almost-a-rain twice, but not the rain that had been in the long term forecast. The temperature went from cool to cold, and predictably the attendance was less than usual. Also affected by weather, and a lot of other personal situations, the number of boats was severely down. We actually had empty tables that were put away. But, we had great representation from the members. There are 27 people in the group photo, and Jim Pennoyer came from his MG club event in Wisconsin to join us after the photo was taken!!!



As you entered the Hughes Pavilion this year you were greeted by all 12 feet of Kevin Kavaney's 'J' boat, recently purchased from member Jose Medina in Iowa:



Captain Jack (entertainment) reported that the number of kids was way down but that he had a great day talking with the adults. Also, a big bonus for him was that for once he wasn't over dressed for the temperature this year.



Dick Walker spent a very full day talking to people as did I and most others that I spoke with.



Kirk Brust also came with his wonderful Nautilus and beautiful diorama:



Here is me being interviewed by Channel 5, though it appears that the interview ended up on the cutting room floor:



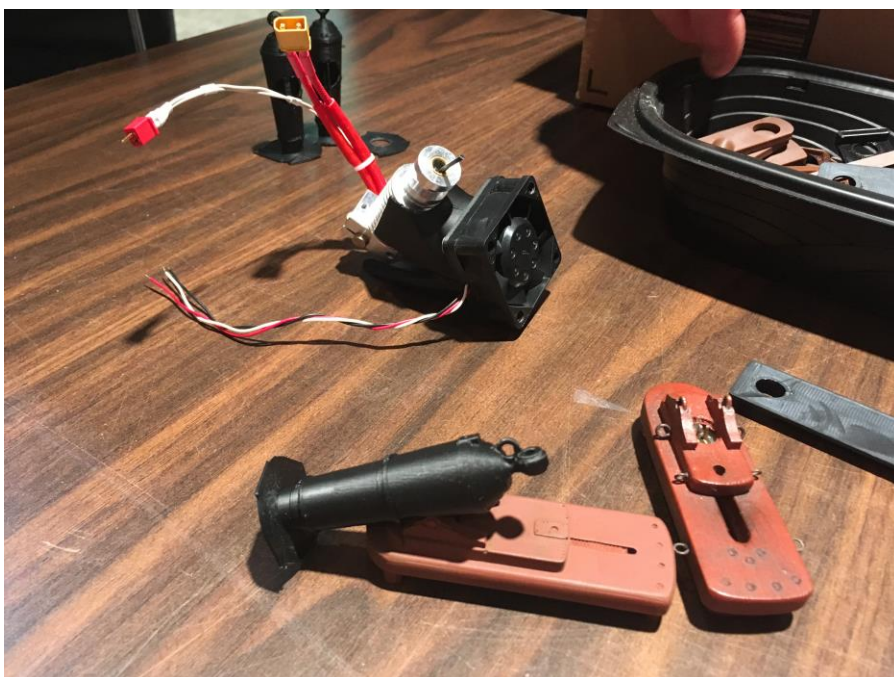
Our niece and her children were an unexpected visit plus I was adopted by a young girl and her brother that made the day the most fun Parade I have been to. A similar sentiment was expressed to me by everyone I spoke with. I will have to call this the Parade of Boats for adults and members this year.

Next on the agenda was the membership meeting. Brian and Jacob McCutcheon were renewing members from the Parade, and Dan Lewandowski paid us a visit. Summer is supposed to be light meetings but the June meeting was still full of surprises. Vern

Bollesen brought his latest paddle wheeler for inspection, proving yet again no one does paddle wheelers like Vern.



Dan had recently purchased a 3D printer and was busy printing new cannons for his pirate boat. Those that don't know Dan's boat need to know that the boat ripple fires black powder cannons that make for a spectacular show, if difficult and taking some time to reload for a repeat performance. The latest innovation is to utilize the smoke generator from an e-cigarette plumbed to the cannons to allow for repeated firing. Dan is the expert magician of electronics and we know this will be an amazing display when he gets it sorted out:



Paul Olsen and I were the last ones out of the meeting with Dan. Paul and I were in our vehicles driving away when we both simultaneously spotted Dan walking up to his Tesla Model S. Brakes were applied and ignitions turned off to go see Dan's Tesla. What ensued was an excellent showing of the car followed by a ride and both Paul and I drove the car. An absolutely amazing vehicle. If you are not aware this is an all electric luxury vehicle driven by battery power only to a motor on each axel, capable of 0 - 60 mph in 2.4 seconds. Dan was driving as he turned onto the cross town heading east and applied some throttle causing the skin on your cheeks (by your mouth, the other cheeks were puckered) to be pulled back from the acceleration. Big, big thanks to Dan for that thrill. (never sneak out of a meeting early, you never know what you are missing)

Event #4 was displaying our boats at the Carlson Towers tenant appreciation event. This one, unfortunately, was in no uncertain terms rained out. Several ODOM racers were there in hopes of trying out the new location along with other members but all were disappointed. The pond is part of a residential association and I have arranged with the site manager to include us in a future residents event.

The final event of June is the White Bear Lake Classic and Vintage Boat Show. One of the most fun events on the calendar the lake was actually high enough that David Petrich ran one of his boats a couple of times on the lake which had just enough wind to keep the rest of us off the water. Despite the ominous weather forecast it turned out to be the most pleasant day all summer and by far the most pleasant day at the show. Such a nice way to end all the events of June. I will do a slide presentation of the show at one of the membership meetings this fall, but as a teaser, an ice boat club had a display this year and here is one of their boats:



This ice boat is about 40 feet tall, and takes 6-8 people to set up. I spoke with the owner who said it is like piloting a locomotive across the ice. Built in White Bear Lake

exactly 90 years ago, it is remarkably well preserved. As usual there were a lot of interesting boats at the show.

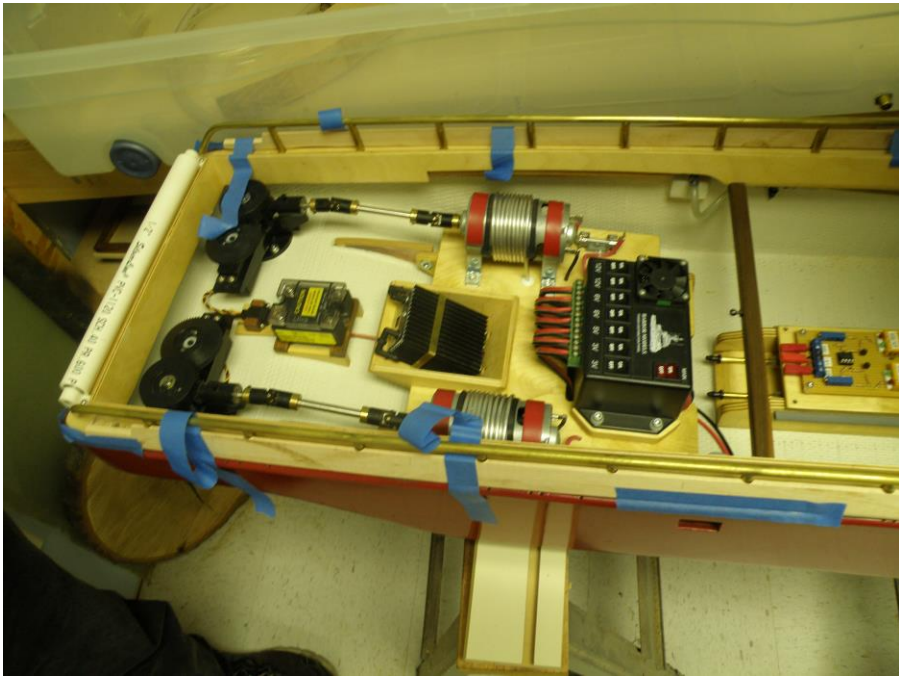
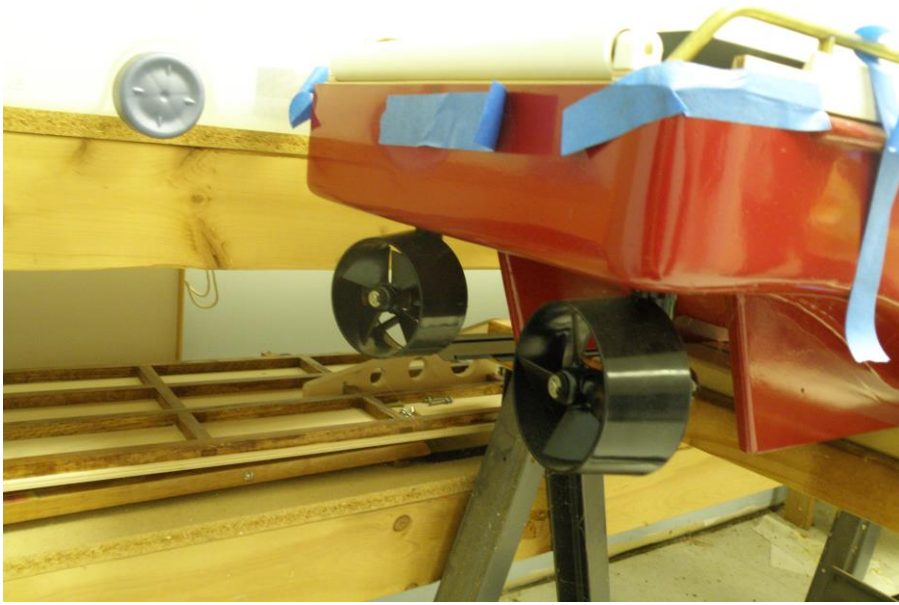
I was contacted by friends of Al Bickford to help with the sale of his boats. Al is currently at The Villa in St. Louis Park, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I spent some time at Al's house last week to see his boats, and spent time with Al last weekend and we had a great discussion about his boats and his immaculate and stunning shop at his house. Al really enjoyed talking about his boats and would welcome all for further conversation. I plan on returning soon. Al has four rc boats and one canoe that need new homes. The home tour started upstairs with an older ODOM (not sure what happened to that photo) in immaculate condition complete with sails and all electronics. Next to that was a very early sailboat of Al's called the Thor's Hammer, complete with Al's handmade sails and just below that on its own trailer is his tug that Al says has seen a lot of water time:





I was pretty happy with these boats, all in excellent condition and ready to run. Then we went into the basement and there is the tug of all tugs under construction. I looked at the tabulations and documentation Al has on this boat and instantly knew Al had been an engineer. The workmanship is absolutely top notch and this built-from-scratch boat is built to take on anything. Built to be rugged and take no guff from anything you might throw at it, or bump into, it is beautifully crafted including the 360 degree propellers (ala Bob Glass's boat) and including side thrusters, this boat is an electronic marvel.







A remarkable boat for someone equally remarkable to finish up. I have more photos and there is a 3 ring notebook containing information on this boat. I would be happy to put anyone in touch with Al to discuss the purchase and it would be very beneficial to talk with Al about the boat. This is a very rare opportunity.

The final boat is a Kevlar Canoe, a one person rig that rivals a kayak. A specialty type of craft for someone of special interest.



Oh, and to be almost completely unique, Al also has a Spectrum DX10t.

One final shot on the water is Burt Fisher testing out his new buoys on the center pond.



The buoys are fully tested and ready to be set up on either the center or south ponds for DF 95 racing or other uses. They are stored in the caged area next to the tri-hull boat. They are designed to be deployed from and picked up from the tri-hulled boat, with no lines to shore to become entangled with a paddle boat. I have been helping Burt with the on-site testing and with the new tri-hull setting and retreating the buoys is super easy. DF 95 racing can now be done on a regular basis and racing day, time and location is being coordinated through the DF 95 google group. Contact Burt (ebfisher3@gmail.com) to get in the group if you are interested in learning to race with the DF 95 (don't have a boat? No problem, Burt has an extra!)

Next up is the July 16th members meeting at 8:00 pm. Hope to see you at the ponds!!

John Bertelsen
Commodore

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