



THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2013-- Our 23rd Year!!

April 2013

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Note: Use officers@marinemodelers.org to reach all the club officers as a group.

Visit our club Web Page at: www.marinemodelers.org

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, April 21, 10am – 4 pm: Spring Icebreaker at the lake in Sharon, MA — our first on-the-water event of the season. We'll be at the main beach – Memorial Park, off of Beach St. Might be a good day for boots as opposed to sandals, if you're going to do any wading!

Reminder: Paul Germain will be attending, from 10am to 1pm to interview club members and film the boats in action for his Cable Access TV show. The show is normally about full scale boats, but he's visiting us because he is doing an episode on model boating.

Saturday, May 18, 10 am - 4 pm: Float Fly-in and Fun Float: Lake Cochituate, at the Town Swim Beach, Wayland, MA. Joint event with the Charles River RC Airplane club

Sunday, May 19, 9am – 4pm: Fun Float at Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA. We'll be at the Town Swim Beach, which is on Grove Street in Wilmington.

March Meeting Report

We had 18 members and two guests at the March meeting. Members present included: Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Ed and Linda Arini, Bill Michaels, Mike Hale, John Cooper, Alan Beeber, Eric Bertelsen, Arthur Perlmutter, Mike Fioretti, Shaun Kimball, Harold Cohen, Jack Dailey, Al Katz, Larry Milo, Bob Prezioso, and Don Murray.

Our guest speaker was our Commander's daughter Andrea Okerholm, who did a very interesting presentation on Autonomous Robotic boats. Andrea has Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering from one of the leading robotics universities in the country, Carnegie Mellon University. Currently she is a Principal Software Engineer for IRobot and has previously worked for Northrop Grumman programming an actual autonomous boat.

Andrea showed a short video and a slideshow presentation on the topic, and then took questions afterwards. A copy of Andrea's presentation has been posted on the club website. Look in the **Forms and Info** section of the website. The file was saved in a .pdf format, so everyone should be able to read it.



It is well within the reach of RC hobbyists to play around with autonomous models. The technology was originally designed for use by RC aircraft, and has since been adopted for use by boats and land vehicles.

How does it work? Basically, you can buy a small electronic unit (about \$180) called the ArduPilot/ArduRover (about the size of a deck of cards) that has a built in GPS receiver. You

connect it to the model's receiver (you need a 4channel unit in order to use it.) The first two channels are used for normal control functions -- rudder and ESC. The other two channels are used to control the Ardu unit.

The unit has three modes: off, learn, and automatic—the third channel is used to select between them. When the unit is “off” the model is a normal RC boat. When in “learn”, you sail the model around, and every time you get to a way point you want it to remember, you hit the fourth channel control on your transmitter. (For example, you could sail a large box-shaped course, and tell the unit to remember the corners.)

When you put the model in “automatic” mode, it will then automatically sail to the first waypoint. When it gets there, it will then head for the second, the third, and so on. You can also program the model using a laptop, and create waypoints and then download them into the model. This would allow you to do things like have the model sail to a specific location, and then activate some function on the boat— sound the horn, turn on a video camera, or whatever. The software is open source, which means it is free, and there is a large community of users and developers to get help from.

All in all, it looks like it could be a lot of fun to play around with.

TV Show Taping

Paul Jermain produces a public access cable program on all aspects of boating. He's working on an episode about scale RC boats, and is planning on attending our Fun Float at the lake in Sharon on this Sunday, April 21st. He's planning on being there from about 10 am to 1 pm.

Paul will be interviewing our spokesperson (Mike Hale), and is also going to be looking for other club members and their models to interview and film. Paul sent us an email with his plan:

“My thought is that Mike would be the main guest on the show. I would be running the camera and would interview him, and the others. When it came to the different boats, we'd include 5 other people showing their different boats. But, in general, Mike would be the guide throughout the show.

As discussed, events can be challenging to shoot at because many laypeople don't really understand the whole TV taping thing and walk in front of the camera, interrupt the conversation, etc. So, to have a space set aside, perhaps just a few feet off the main stream to have a good, informative conversation makes a real difference (as well as a “people guard” that keeps people from getting in the wrong place –similar to what you see at a golf tournament.) Perhaps you know someone that would like to help out in that way, and also help line up the different boat owners so that they're ready to talk at the appropriate time?”

This is great opportunity for the club to get some good publicity. Mike Hale will be looking for help from club members to help Paul get what he needs for his program. Please contact Mike if you'll be able to help out....

Wood Hole Model Boat Show

Your Editor is just home from spending the weekend in Woods Hole, at the Model Boat Show. This years' show was another success. There were a lot of models, some good presentations, and generally decent weather. The special exhibition theme this year was the US Coast Guard, and several of Gaspar LaColla's exquisite models were featured in the special display area.

The only dismal weather day was Friday—we endured downpours mixed with episodes of sleet on our drive down early Friday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday were pretty nice, with periods of sunshine and cloudiness during the day. The breeze co-operated, which made for some spirited sailing conditions on Eel Pond—the sailboats had great conditions both days.

The club's display area was in the MBL building, which is a nice, bright building across the street from the Candle House, where we were last year. We were also pleasantly surprised to find that we were next to Bill Partridge and his Piel Model Craftsmen vendor stand. Several of us took advantage of Bill's "Show Specials"!

Several members were in attendance, including: Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Ed and Linda Arini, Bill and Kaja Michaels, Arthur Perlmutter, Lou Hills, John Cooper, Leo McClure, and Gaspar LaColla.



Left: Our club display area. From left to right are Ed Arini, Bob Okerholm, and Arthur Perlmutter.

We had a lot of visitors over the course of the two days, and gave away quite a few club brochures and copies of our 2013 schedule.

Editor's Notes

Homeport Models New Location: Eric Bertelsen sent the following:

Paul and I are pleased to announce that Homeport Models has a new location:

HOMEPORT MODEL SHIPYARD
122 WESTERN AVE #523
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

This is a building shipyard/store front for displaying models, and selling some limited fittings from vendors such as Scale Shipyard, Loyalhanna, Sirmar, Sitek, and many other.

Mainly this is a modern warship shop where we are hoping to get more people interested in the hobby and help them find what they need. We will not be a hobby store and carry everything, but we can help people find what they need.

If you are in the New England area we would be happy to show you the shipyard and the models that we have currently built.

Thanks

Eric and Paul

The guys of Homeport Models.

www.homeportmodels.com

AJ Fisher Fittings are back: At the Woods Hole show, Bill Partridge of Piel Craftsmen had a collection of ship model fittings from the old AJ Fisher line, which he now owns. The pieces he had at the show looked great, and Bill told me that is because the original masters are in terrific shape. You can get a catalog from Bill at www.pielcraftsmen.com, or visit him in his shop in Newburyport.

1/200 scale Yorktown Class Aircraft Carrier: Last year, Trumpeter released a couple of big plastic models in 1/200 scale that were suitable for RC conversion. First, they did the USS ARIZONA, which scales out to over 36 inches long. They then followed that up with a model of the German Battleship Bismarck, which is 50 inches long.

For 2013, they have a model of the USS HORNET, the famous carrier of the Doolittle Raid of 1942. In 1/200 scale, the model will be 50 inches long. According to knowledgeable sources in the plastic model business, the kit will be released under the brand name of one of Trumpeter's US Distributors- "MERIT". This should make a fine subject for conversion to RC!

2013 Marine Modelers Club Meeting and Events Schedule

(Rev. April 1, 2013)

Date	Event
Sunday, February 17	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, March 17	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Saturday & Sunday, April 13 & 14	Woods Hole Historical Museum boat show
Sunday, April 21 10 am – 4 pm	Icebreaker: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Saturday, May 18 10 am – 4 pm	Float Fly-in and Fun Float: Lake Cochituate: town Swim Beach, Wayland, MA. Joint event with the Charles River RC Airplane club
Sunday, May 19 9 am- 4 pm	On-the-water at Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Sunday, June 9 10 am – 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, June 15 10 am – 4 pm	Static display and On-the-water: Town Common, Cohasset, MA. (If pond is available)
Sunday, June 30 10 am – 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Sunday, July 14 10 am – 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, August 3 8 am – 5 pm	Salem Maritime festival, Salem, MA
Sunday, August 18 10 am – 4pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Sunday September 8 9 am – 4 pm	On-the-water: Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Saturday September 15 10 am – 4 pm	Float Fly-in, Fun Float and cook-out: Lake Cochituate, town Swim Beach, Wayland, MA
Saturday, October 5 10 am – 4 pm	Day/Night run: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, October 20 10 am – 4 pm	On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, November 3 1 – 4 pm	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, December 1	Holiday dinner, location TBD

www.marinemodelers.org