



# THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club  
of New England*

**2014-- Our 25th Year!!**

**April 2014**

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**In Memoriam:**

**Steve Levesque**

**1941 - 2014**

I want to thank everyone that attended the memorial for Steve. It meant a lot to Ann and his family to see such a great showing of MMC members there, and to hear the memories and comments that Ridge put forward from the membership.

Thanks from your commander, Mike Hale.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Sunday, April 27, 10am – 4pm.** Our first on-the-water event of the season. We'll be on Lake Massapoag, at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. We call the first lakeside event the "Icebreaker"—but there hopefully won't be any ice around this late in April!

**Sunday, May 18, 10am - 4pm.** On the-water at Silver Lake in Wilmington. Theme of the day is "Warship Day", hopefully we'll have a quite a fleet on display. Non-warships are also welcome, of course!

## Steve Levesque



June 2007, Steve with *Jammon*. (Bill Richards photo)

Steve Levesque passed away on March 20, 2014. Steve was a longtime member of the club, and had served in a variety of officer positions, including a few stints as Commander.

The funeral and services were private, but the family hosted a gathering on Saturday, 19 April, for family and friends to celebrate Steve's life. Ridge White got the word out via the club email list, and as a result, the club was well represented at the event, with 10 of us in attendance.

Ridge had assembled a collection of remembrances from the club members, and he read them at the gathering. They were very well received- the family really appreciated hearing what we had to say:

## Remembering Steve Levesque

I speak today for a number of Steve's good friends in the Marine Modelers Club of New England who have contributed their recollections to this tribute.

Steve is so easy to talk about, because he provided such good material! There was little about him that was ordinary. I think he said his ancestors were both Russian and French Canadian. That's quite a start. I can only imagine what his youth was like, but I'll bet he was a bit of an imp in school, clearly smart but also prone to boyish mischief. And there must have been toys for him as a teenager, maybe a go-kart or old motorcycle, and later, cars in great variety. There were adventures with boats, of course, and planes as well.

But what we do know about is from recent years, when he was active with our club at a pond, bringing several of his distinctive model boats. His boats tell so much about him. They were different – all very well made, all unusual in some way. His boats were distinctive because most of them made you smile. There were the “Footies,” with hulls only 12 inches long. One was a gaff-rigged scow schooner, of all things. They allowed Steve to design them any way he wanted. Then there was a pudgy tugboat, his elegant express cruiser the “Green Ripper,” a cat ketch, and the list goes on. His models caught everyone’s attention.

Words from his friends:

“When I think of Steve, I think first of his gregarious, welcoming personality. He was always there with a hearty greeting and big smile, especially to newcomers. I also think of his creativity and cleverness - his clever little "Footie" sailboats, little tugs, and Teddy Bear sailing dinghy. I loved the way he would happily share all his little tips and tricks. Finally, I remember him for his craftsmanship-- he built wooden boats that were simply beautiful to look at.”

“I was saddened to learn that Steve passed away. Years ago, when I showed up for my first meeting in Medway, he was the first one to greet me and welcome me. He shared my interest in model airplanes and was one of my mentors in R/C model boats and very kind and gracious to my daughter who once opined that he would be "The best grandpa ever!"

“He was my only smoking buddy in the club. He and I would have a cigarette together but he never had any of his own. He enjoyed my More menthols and I laugh about it because he was always saying he was going to buy me a pack but could never find my brand. Steve like to act like he was a tough guy sometimes, but was one of the friendliest, gentlest and most helpful people you could meet. He will be missed for all his ideas and what he added to our boat club.”

“Steve enjoyed using his automotive expertise and when he learned my youngest daughter was looking for a "commuter car," he knocked himself out to find her a good, used Honda Civic. It's still going strong seven years later. He was also very helpful when I bought my used Subaru Forester. It too is still in action. He was very generous with his time and knowledge.”

“He had an infectious sense of humor. Many times when I was having tough days his smile and caring words gave me the ability to cope.”

“He had the wonderful laugh of a young boy who was planning some mischief. We were taken in by the boyishness of this wonderful man.”

“Steve was indeed one of those guys that I related to on many fronts. He was ex-military, accomplished shooter, avid flyer, enjoyed all kinds of boats and loved creating something new and unique. He was great to work with through a new idea. Between us we always came out with something that first of all worked, and second was new and unique. Between us we came up with the belt drive sheet system on our schooners. The system worked well, and without

failure. Steve had a creative mind that stayed on track bringing the project to a usable completion. He always brought many engineering disciplines to bear on a project that interested him or that you were having trouble with.”

“Steve had the rare ability to explain a highly technical project and its solution in terms a layman understood. I know he gave talks to groups that did not necessarily understand his subject matter at the inception of the talk but had a grasp of the subject at the end. He was completely unselfish with his time and knowledge.”

“I feel privileged and honored to have known Steve. He was truly a friend who would help without hesitation. I'm glad I took the time to call him when he was really down! I hope it helped him to know that there was someone out there thinking about him and his family. I'm only sorry that I'm not able to be there now.”

Full of bluster with full sail  
A wry sense of humor and the heart of a whale  
Skilled hands on the water, track, or air  
Craft great and small, danced with the pair.  
A life well lived, every joy well sieved,  
Steve will stay with us as time wends  
A roughened cherub, a benevolent gale for his friends.

To the Levesque family, what I have read comes from many voices and hearts of those who knew your husband, father, and grandfather. He was a rare man who lived a colorful, vivid life, using his many talents to share with others. We were all lucky to have known him. We will long remember Steve, and the gift he was to us all.

- Ridge White, and many others



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### March Meeting Report

No report this month-- I was away on a business trip to the Philippines, and forgot to arrange to have someone else report on it for me. I'm sure a bunch of people attended, and I'm sure they had a good time. Fortunately, Mike Hale sent me some notes, and Ed Arini took some pictures.



Notes from the meeting:

- Please send or give the yearly membership dues to Ed Arini, our Treasurer.
- It was decided to keep the holiday party in December. (We had talked about maybe moving it to January, when there is less going on.) The place is still to be selected, but we have a few new sites to be checked out.
- We will be holding another cookout at the fly-fly in Wayland, on Saturday, September 21.



Left: Returning member Chris Trury is checking out Shawn Kimball's new tug.  
Right: Mike Fioretti and his new USCG 40 foot Utility Boat.



Left: Brent Dibner and Lou Hills with Lou's tug.  
Lou has made a lot of progress on this since the last time we saw it!

## Editor's Notes

**Looking for real stud link anchor chain?** Do a search on eBay for “MODEL SHIP STUD LINK ANCHOR CHAIN”, and you’ll likely find some listings. The chain is available in a variety of scales, and is meant to be used on models of larger ships. Pat Matthews makes the chain using a 3-D printer. Pat’s name may be familiar—he is an active member of some of the online RC scale boat forums, and is also the author of *Mahogany in Scale*, a book about building RC models of classic wooden speedboats.



Here’s an example of stud link chain-- in this photo, sailors on USS NIMITZ are washing the mud off the chain as it is taken in. Notice how each link of chain is sort of “B” shaped.... The links on most small chains available to modelers are usually “O” shaped. (Official US Navy photo.)

**Square Rigged Pond Sailers:** Here’s a link to a lengthy article on the US Vintage Model Yacht Group’s website. The article reprints a series of articles on the design, construction, and sailing of model square-rigged ships. The articles appeared in the British Journal *The Model Yachtsman and Marine Model Magazine* (later renamed

*Marine Models*) from November 1932 to April 1933.

<http://pages.swcp.com/usvmyg/squarerig/sq1.htm>

**1/144 scale Warships:** As reported here in previous issues, I am intermittently working on a 1/144 scale model of a Casablanca-class WW2 Escort Carrier. The model is a stand-off scale model from the Glynn Guest free plan that appeared in a 2003 issue of *Model Boats* magazine. I’ve been finding it difficult to find appropriate fittings and weapons to use on the model— for example, I don’t want to spend \$20 each for a highly detailed 40mm mount when I need so many of them, and I don’t want to get bogged down in scratch building them when this is supposed to be a simple, quick build.

The RC combat guys build in 1/144 scale-- but they generally don’t bother with a lot of detail that will probably get shot off. But I recently found a website for an outfit that provides some inexpensive parts, cast in a tough resin, that look like they may be suitable for a stand-off scale model. Strike Models is based in Washington State, and carries a variety of fiberglass hulls, semi kits, and some basic fittings for a wide variety of WW2 warships. Their webpage is [www.strikemodels.com](http://www.strikemodels.com)

**Marine Modelers Club of New England****2014 Events and Meeting Schedule**

(Rev. 3 March 2014)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sunday, March 17 1 - 4pm	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, April 27 10 am - 4 pm	Icebreaker: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, May 18 9 am- 4 pm	Warship Day: On-the-water at Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Sunday, June 8 10 am - 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, July 13 10 am - 4 pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Saturday, August 2 8 am - 5 pm	Salem Maritime festival, Salem , MA (tentative- to be confirmed once the Festival is announced)
Sunday, August 17 10 am - 4pm	On-the-water at Community Center Beach (Off Dubinsky Dr.), Lake Massapoag in Sharon, MA.
Sunday September 7 9 am - 4 pm	On-the-water: Silver Lake in Wilmington, MA.
Saturday Sept 21 10 am - 4 pm	Float Fly-in, Fun Float and cook-out: Lake Scituate , town Swim Beach , Wayland , MA (Co-located with the Charles River RCers Floatplane Fly-In)
Saturday, October 4 2 pm - 7 pm	Day/Night run: On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, October 19 10 am — 4 pm	On-the-water at Memorial Park Beach, Lake Massapoag at Beach Street, Sharon, MA.
Sunday, November 9 1 - 4 pm	Indoor meeting at UCC Church Hall Medfield, MA
Sunday, December 7	Holiday dinner, location TBD

**Visit us at [www.marinemodelers.org](http://www.marinemodelers.org) for updates to this schedule and for directions.**