



THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2015-- Our 26th Year!!

December 2015

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

Upcoming Meetings

Sunday, December 6, 12pm -3pm: Our annual Holiday Dinner, at Prezo Grille and Bar in Milford, MA.

January, 2016: Sometime mid-month, we will hold our Officers-Only meeting to plan the rest of the year. Our next club general membership meeting will be in mid-February.

December Holiday Dinner

Our annual Holiday Dinner will be on Sunday, December 6th, at Prezo Grille and Bar in Milford, MA. The address is 229 ½ Main Street (Route 16), Milford, MA. The menu will consist of:
Choice of Marsala steak tips, Scallops Butta, or Chicken Parmesan
Garden salad, bread and butter, coffee or tea and ice cream for desert
Everyone to pay for their own mixed drinks

The cost is \$25 per person, to be paid to Ed Arini by **Monday, Nov. 30**, so we can give them a head count.

November Meeting Report

With the closing of Hobbyland in Stow, we had to cancel our planned meeting there and move to the Church Hall in Medfield. As is often the case when a long standing venue is changed, attendance suffers as a result. Turnout was light at the Medfield meeting: Ed and Linda Arini, Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Mike Hale, Bill Michaels, Gaspar and JoAnne LaCalla, Shaun Kimball, Charlie Tebbetts, and Dan Makocevich. With only 7 members present, we did not have a quorum, so we could not hold the election for the 2016 club officers. The incumbents will continue to serve until we can organize an election.

Following up on the concept of elections, rather than wait until February, we decided we would hold the election with email ballots. In order to do that, we need a volunteer to collect and collate the ballots. Because all the incumbents have offered to serve another year, we need someone who is not a candidate to fill this role.

Because turnout was light, we didn't really cover any business. We mostly spent time talking about the possibility of exhibiting at the Providence Boat Show in February. See the separate article for more detail.

We also discussed the need to improve intra-club communications. We had a couple of incidents over the summer where we had to make last minute changes to the event schedule, and sent out emails to alert the membership. But not everyone read the email in time, which caused a couple of people to show up at events that had been canceled. We decided to add text messaging to our notification plans.

Providence Boat Show 2016

MMC Commander Mike Hale was contacted by the VP of Special Events at the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association, to inquire if we'd be available/interested in exhibiting at the Providence Boat Show. (The show is held Thursday thru Sunday, Feb 4-7, 2016, at the Rhode Island Convention Center.) Initial conversation included the use of our pool, as they were looking for action, and not just a static display.

The attendees at the November club meeting discussed this topic at length. Some conclusions:

- we would NOT supply our portable pool. It is not designed to be set up indoors, and if we provide the pool, we are responsible for making and keeping it safe, and for any damage a leak may cause. Plus, we'd be obligated to man it whenever the show was open.

- we would tell them they would need to provide a pool in order for us to run the models. We would be users of their facility, with the idea that we wouldn't necessarily be the only user of the pool, and perhaps only doing our "demos" at certain times of day. We agreed that Mike would contact them and let them know that we didn't have a pool.

Based on the reply, it appears they may be able to get one. So what we really want to know is, how many people/boats would be available to attend the show? Assume we'd be bringing models to display and run in a pool of some sort. Also, how many days over the run of the show would you be available to participate?

It would help if you can reply with an idea of which days you might be able to attend, and what boats you could bring..... please send your responses to officers@marinemodelers.org.

For example, I could probably do Fri- Sat_Sun, and would bring my Nantucket Lightship and Springer tug.

Editor's Notes

Communications: As mentioned in the November Meeting Report, we had some issues getting the word out this past summer. I'm sure that my extended absence from my duties contributed to this, but we also discussed ideas for ways to improve the process.

Ed Arini is working on updating the club membership list. One of the things he'll be adding to it is mobile phone/texting numbers-- please consider adding your number to the list so we can text you if an event is canceled or changed.

Important: If you are not online, don't have a reliable email account that you check regularly, or don't have a phone to receive text messages, then you need to take ownership of the communication problem. Don't just sit back and assume that club officers will call you. Instead, ask a friend who is "in the loop" to let you know if something changes, or be proactive and call an officer before setting out on a drive to the lake.

Once the membership list is complete, it will be announced that it is available. Any club member in good standing will be able to request a copy.

Marine Modelers Club Election

Watch your email for the official election notice in the next week or so. Once we have a volunteer, the official ballot will be sent to all club members. (If you don't have email, contact a club officer to get one mailed to you.)

Currently, four of the five existing officers have volunteered to serve for another term. But additional candidates and write-ins are encouraged! We do still have a couple of vacant positions- our Publicity Officer, and our Events Officer.