

# THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club  
of New England*

**2018-- Our 29th Year!!**

**March 2018**

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Note: Use [officers@marinemodelers.org](mailto:officers@marinemodelers.org) to reach all the club officers as a group.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, March 11, 1-4 pm:** Indoor meeting at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield, MA. Meeting. We'll handle some club business (2018 schedule, etc.) and then Eric Bertelsen is going to do a presentation on 3-D printing and using a laser cutter for making parts for model boats.

**Sunday, April 29: 11am – 3pm: Icebreaker Fun Float in Sharon, MA.** This is our first on-the-water event of the season. We'll be at the Memorial Park Beach on Lake Massapoag.

## 2018 Membership Dues

It is that time of year-- time to pay your 2018 dues! The membership form is attached to this issue of the Foghorn, and is also available on the club website. You can pay Ed Arini in person at the next meeting, mail him a check, or use PayPal. (Use the PayPal button on the main page of the club website.)

Dues are \$25 per year. If you need the form, you can find it on the club website.

## Providence Boat Show



Once again, the club was invited to exhibit at the annual Providence Boat Show, which is held on Super Bowl weekend (Feb 2-4) in the Rhode Island Convention Center in downtown Providence, Rhode Island. Members attending included: Shaun Kimball, Frank Cook, Mike and Jean Hale, Charlie and Bonnie Tebbetts, Bill and Kaja Michaels, and Willi Zankel.



We had a large booth with plenty of display space. We were sharing a big 2 x25 foot booth with the folks from Mystic Knotworks. They were very nice neighbors, and it worked out well. I'd like to think that we helped bring traffic into the booth for them as well as ourselves, and I know we helped with sales-- I know at least a couple of club members purchased something from them during the show!

The pool was smaller this year than last, because we were the only ones using it-- the stand-up paddle board dealers from the last two years weren't there, and so they didn't sponsor a pool. The show organizers had to scramble a bit to find a replacement, smaller pool, but they came through with a pool that was a bit larger than the pool we take to Salem. The pool was prominently deployed in the front corner of the booth, with a row of chairs along one side.

Because we had the pool to ourselves, we ran the models (especially the Noodle Tugs) almost continuously. We didn't keep track of the numbers, but I'm sure we had well over a thousand visitors over the course of the weekend. We ran the Noodles so long that we almost ran out of batteries for them! The tugs were quite reliable-- a testimony to the overhauls that Willi gave them last year. We had only one failure all weekend-- a broken motor wire. By closing time on Sunday we still had 8 of the 9 boats in service! (That is probably a new record, especially given how much run time they all had!



Above: Every time we put one of our boats in the water, we attracted a swarm of Tugs to “assist”. One of the great things about the Noodle Tugs is that they can't harm the larger, heavier boats. Here, Willi's Fishing Boat has plenty of help.....

One of the fun things about the boat show is getting to meet some interesting people. As you'd expect the attendees at the Boat Show are a very “boat-friendly” crowd, and really appreciate the

models. We met a number of former Tug and commercial sailors, as well as former Navy and Coast Guard people, as well as a number of model builders.

The Providence Journal did an article on the show for Saturday's paper, and included a photo of our boats. They also had a video on their website that featured Shaun and Charlie running their tugs. I don't have the link to that video, but here's a link to a video shot by the owners of Mystic Knotworks: <https://instagram.com/p/Bes5vQWnJ5F/>

Here are some photos from the weekend:



Willi Zankel (left) and Charlie Tebbetts with Willi's Ton Fishing Boat, and his Creole Queen sternwheeler. Willi's tug spent a fair amount of time in the water, but the pool was way too small for the turning radius the Queen needs!

The riverboat, with its deck full of passengers, was a big hit with the spectators!  
(Frank Cook photo.)

Below: Mike Hale with three of his boats.

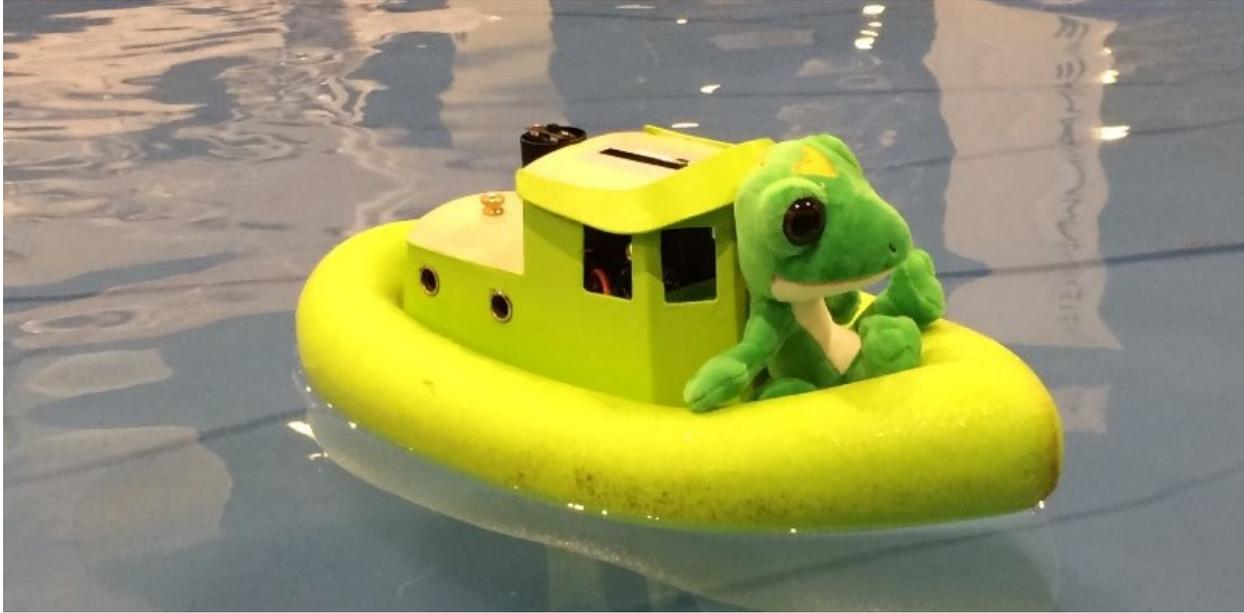




Left: A couple of focused Noodle Tug skippers.

Below: Super Bowl weekend brought out a lot of fans (or maybe Tom Brady's distant relatives?)





At the PBS, our booth was close to the Geico Insurance booth, which had the full scale “Miss Geico” racing boat on display. The Geico folks were giving away a variety of promo items, including little stuffed geckos. They gave us enough to man all the Noodle Tugs, which was a big hit with the kids.

A few days after the show, Mike Hale got the following email:

Hello Mike and the members of the Marine Modelers Club of New England,

I would like to THANK YOU for your tremendous efforts to help make the 2018 Providence Boat Show a success.

Your clubs professionalism and enthusiasm to help the children enjoy the R/C boats really made the show family friendly.

The models you brought for display were beautiful and showcased your members passion for what they love to do. Every time I walked by I saw so many people in your space admiring your talents. Your exhibit is a great addition to the show.

Thank you again for joining us this year,

Tricia

Tricia Yeoman  
VP Special Events  
Providence Boat Show Liaison  
Rhode Island Marine Trades Association

## **Editor's Notes**

### **AMA Expo East (WRAM) Show Report**

I made the a long day trip to the AMA Expo East model show with club members Eric Bertelsen and Paul Phinney. The four-hour drive each way makes for a long day, but it is doable! Now that the AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) has taken over the show from the WRAM club, the show is every bit as aircraft-oriented as it ever was. But they still have the big pool for the boaters, and the usual Model Boating booths were there.

This show pales in comparison to the UK's International Model Boat Show, but it was still a worthwhile trip. For me, the highlight was spending time with the Boating people, and shopping the RC vendors. I didn't buy anything big, but did pick up a bag full of smaller items. (Servos, cables, fittings, tools, etc.)

I spent time with Don from Loyalhanna Dockyard, and Heinz from the SSMA. I found a number of little goodies in Don's offerings for my boats-- I find it easier to buy fittings when I can see them in person, as opposed to just a photo online. I also had a great time visiting with the guys from the Empire State Model Boat club, who were running models in the pool.

### **Modeling Tips:**

I have a little space left to fill on this page, so here's a couple of modeling tips from my shop....

I am working on a Noodle Tug of my own. One of the things I am doing is sealing all the wood hull parts (deck, keel, cabin coaming) with a coat of epoxy resin, to thoroughly waterproof them. I'm using "20 minute" epoxy resin from the local hobby shop, mixing up small batches and applying it with a disposable rosin brush-- the kind used by plumbers to apply rosin to pipes they will be soldering.

Those brushes have coarse nylon bristles, are super cheap, and great for brushing on epoxy. But they have a real shortcoming-- they shed bristles like crazy. My tip is a fix for his issue-- before I use the brush, I hold it upside down and give a shot of superglue to the base. The glue soaks into the bristles in the ferule, and stops them from falling out so readily.

My second tip is for mixing the epoxy. With epoxy resin, it is important to get the 50-50 mix of the components right. I used to go with the "try to squirt out two equal sized puddles" approach. Then I realized that my anti-cavity mouthwash came with this nice little plastic measuring cup. I went to the major drugstores- none of them had them in stock, though they all knew what I was looking for. So I searched online. I found a package of the little cups, marked in 2.5 and 5 ml increments. Best of all, I got 100 of them for \$3.20, with free shipping included!

Google "disposable medicine cups" and you'll find lots of options.

Hey- I filled the page! I'm done for this month!