



THE FOGHORN

***Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England***

2019-- Our 29th Year!!

March 2019

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 16, 1 – 4 pm: Indoor meeting at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield, MA. We'll have a little bit of club business (2019 schedule updates, if any, etc.) and then Bill Michaels and Alan Beeber will do a presentation on using LEDs for lighting. We'll have plenty of time for talking about boats, so bring along whatever you have been working on! Also, we are encouraging new members, old members, prospective members, to bring their projects in!

Saturday, March 23, 6 – 9 pm: INDOOR FUN FLOAT at the Foxboro YMCA pool. We will have exclusive use of the pool for a three hour period. Get some run time and testing done on that new project before the season! Note- we are asking for a \$10 donation per skipper to help cover the cost of renting the pool.

Friday-Saturday-Sunday, April 12-14, 2019: The WOODS HOLE MODEL BOAT SHOW. We have been notified by the Show organizers that the 2019 show will happen on Patriot's Day weekend. Several of us are planning on making a weekend of it, and have already booked rooms for Friday and Saturday nights. Be sure to send in your registration forms!

Indoor Fun Float: Saturday, March 23, 6-9 pm

We are trying something new this month-- an indoor Fun Float. We'll be holding it at the Foxboro MA, YMCA pool. We have exclusive use of the pool for a three hour window, from 6-9pm. We are asking skippers to kick in \$10 to help cover the cost of renting the facility for the evening.

The address is 67 Mechanic Street, Foxboro, MA.



Here is some information on the logistics of the event:

- We will park in the main lot, and enter the lobby through the main door. You also have the option to park by the door, unload your stuff into the lobby, and then move your car to the main lot.
- If you are bringing a large or heavy model that needs a cart, please note that it will have to fit through doors that are 36" wide.
- From the lobby, we will move out boats through the pool locker room to the pool deck.
- The pool locker room is between the main hall and the pool, with a door leading into it from the hall, and a door leading out of it onto the pool deck.
- The pool locker room has private men's and woman's change rooms and bathrooms inside its space and is not part of the main woman's or men's locker rooms.
- The pool locker room will be occupied only by our club, as it is part of our pool rental. Coats, hats, boots, etc. can be left inside the pool locker room while we operate our boats.

If members are uncomfortable with leaving their gear in the locker room, then they most likely can put it someplace out on the pool deck.

- Bare feet are also acceptable for the pool, but might be slippery while launching or retrieving boats. It would probably be best if members wear sneakers they don't mind getting wet. There are wide and flat masonry steps leading down into the pool, from which members can launch their boats without fear of losing balance and falling head first into the pool! The Y does maintain a very high pool level with no freeboard and the surface water laps onto the pool deck.
- Even though we aren't planning on going swimming, there will be a lifeguard on duty.
- You can pay your \$10 at the event, or, even better-- pay ahead of time using the same PayPal link you used for your 2019 dues payment!

2019 Membership Dues

It is that time of year-- time to pay your 2019 dues! The membership form is attached to this issue of the Foghorn, and is also available on the club website. You can pay Linda Arini in person at the next meeting, mail her 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 always find it on the club website.

Important: Linda had to open a new club checking account, and she had to put her name on it.

If you are mailing a check for your dues, please be sure to make it out to **Linda Arini**.

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Are you Ready for the 2019 Sailing Season?

The 2019 RC boating season is just around the corner-- our first club on the water event will be on Saturday, April 27. That date will be here before you know it! And don't forget-- this year, we have an indoor Fun Float coming up on March 23rd!

If you are one of those guys who put the boats away after our last fall sailing session, it might be a good idea to go ahead and give them a pre-season inspection now. Here are some ideas on things you can check:

- Did you leave alkaline batteries in any of your transmitters or other equipment? Check them to make sure they aren't leaking. Even better, next fall, think about removing them from the gear before putting it away for the season. (A few years ago, I instituted a policy of removing batteries from anything that is going into storage for months-- you can guess why!)
- Go over your model with a critical eye. Look for things that you meant to fix last fall, but forgot about. Now's the time to fix those loose parts, flaky electrical connectors, etc.
- Charge your batteries. If you are using nicads, NiMH, or sealed lead acid (SLA, or "gel-cells"), it isn't good for them to spend long amounts of time in a discharged state.
- If you are using LiPO batteries, you need to be more careful. Many LiPOS are better off if they are given a "storage charge", which is a partial charge. LiPOs can be tricky and even dangerous, so consult the documentation that came with them and the charger you are using.
- Depending on the model and the layout of the drive train, it may be a good idea to pull the prop shafts, and inspect/renew the grease in the stuffing tube. No one wants a surprise leak!
- Check all the grub screws in your universal couplers and rudder controls. Doing that now can save you LOTS of aggravation on the lake this spring!
- Did you do upgrades or renovations on the boat over the winter? Maybe installed a new radio, ESC, or servo? Now would be a good time to really check the installation-- make sure that the servo and prop really goes the right way when the stick is moved. (You can't assume that the servo rotation settings will be the same on a new radio compared to last year's rig!)
- While you're checking the controls with the transmitter, maybe this is a good time to replace or add labels to your transmitters so you know which one goes with which boat? If you are in the hobby long enough, sooner or later you will show up at the lake with "Boat A" and "Transmitter B"-- we've all done it. Labeling the transmitters now may be a good idea. And while you're at it-- it isn't a bad idea to take some of those hundreds of return address labels we all get from charities and put one on the back of your radio. That way, if you leave it behind at the pond some day, we'll know whose it is.
- Is last year's cardboard box boat box a bit ragged? Maybe now is a good time to make a better, more robust stand- or replace the box that held your batteries, tools, transmitter, etc. with a nice plastic bin. If nothing else, maybe just replace last year's cardboard box with a new one!

February Meeting Report

I was laid up with a back injury, and couldn't make the drive to the meeting in February. Fortunately, Charlie took some notes:

The following members were present at the February indoor meeting: Mike Hale, Frank Cook, Linda Arini, Charlie Tebbets, Bob and Johanna Okerholm, Lou Hills, and Harold Cohen.

There was a short business meeting to go over this year's 2019 event schedule that included two new club events:

- the indoor pool fun float on March 23rd at the Foxboro YMCA
- the Piscataqua Riverfest on June 1st at Prescott Park / Strawberry Banke - Museum at Portsmouth, NH.

Linda brought us up to date on our finances that included the costs for indoor fun float at the Y and the added SSMA insurance premium to hold the indoor float event.

The 2019 Schedule was discussed. It was brought to the attention of the attending members that Sunday's would be the club rain date should a Saturday event be canceled. It was also explained that a weather cancellation notice would go out to membership via blast email and a blast text message. It was urged that all members who wished to receive a blast text message, to provide their cell phone numbers to Bill Michaels to be included in the blast text list. It was also explained there would be no individual phone call notices made to any of the members.

The attending membership felt that many of our members are not fully aware that 2019's scheduled events that are now being held on Saturdays. It was a consensus opinion - that a separate email be sent to the membership (including an events schedule) informing everyone that all 2019 events were to be held on Saturdays with the exception of the June 20th joint meeting with the Mid-Coast Maine Modelers Group (Thursday) and the December 8th Holiday Dinner (Sunday).

After the business meeting there was a "show & tell" period where Mike talked about his 46" long Krick Düsseldorf Fire-Fighting Boat Kit, Bob talked about battery operated hobbyist portable tool set, and Charlie talked about his Blue Jacket Cape Cod Catboat, programmable Dimension Engineering DeLite LED controllers, and Taranis Open TX radio / receivers. Several members were quite impressed with the totally programmable Taranis radio that can operate up to 16 receiver channels on any combination of sticks, switches, pots and sliders for a total cost of \$105!

-Charlie Tebbets, Events Officer

Editor's Notes

First off, I want to thank Charlie for providing such great notes on the February meeting!

New Article Ideas: Frank Cook sent me a great idea a few weeks ago-- he pointed out that we have some new members, and that it might be a good idea to run a few short articles on topics that may be of interest to people who are new to the hobby and the club. I know a good idea when I steal it, so the result is this month's "Are you Ready" feature. I'm hoping members will send in ideas/requests for additional article topics. Even better would be short article contributions!

AMA EXPO East may be no more? I read online that the AMA has announced that there will not be an AMA Expo East at the Meadowlands in 2020. It is unclear if they are giving up on the show completely, or just the location.

This is the show that was known as the "WRAM Show" for decades. Organized by the Westchester (NY) Radio Aero Modelers, it was a big RC modeling show, held on the last weekend in February. A three years ago, the WRAM club gave or sold the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) control/ownership of the Show.

I have attended the 2019 show with club members Eric Bertelsen and Paul Phinney. The show was held again at the Meadowlands Convention Center in Secacus NJ, which is just across the GW bridge from New York City. This was the third year in a row that I have attended. My sense is that each year, while the boat content didn't really change, the overall show wasn't quite as good when compared to the year before. This year's show seemed smaller, with fewer vendors, and more empty space in the hall. There were also Replacement Window dealers, travel agents, massage chairs, and other non-hobby related booths. To me, it felt like the show was in a death spiral.....

On the way home, Eric, Paul, and I all felt that it was unlikely we'd make the 4 hour drive to go in 2020. Then a week later, the news came out about the end of the show, at least at that location. I am sorry to see it go, though.....

Reminder: Meeting Cancellation Notices

If you would like to get notifications that a scheduled event has been delayed, postponed, or canceled, we need your text number. Please send me your cell number, and I'll add it to the list to share with the other officers.

The best way to get your number to us would be send an email to the officers@marinemodelers.org list. You can also text me directly (978-760-0343), and I'll add you to the list. (Please be sure to identify yourself in your message- otherwise I won't know who 781-555-1234 is!) I will compile the master list and then give it to Charlie, our Events Officer, who will likely be the one sending out a notice if needed.

2019 Events Schedule

Here is the 2019 Club Schedule. Note that this is subject to change, and that updates will be posted on the club website, as well as sent via email.

Date (Saturday, unless otherwise specified)	Event
March 16 th 1-4 pm	Indoor Meeting at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield, MA.
March 23 rd , 6-9 pm	Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA Pool in Foxboro, MA. (\$10 co-pay)
Saturday-Sunday, April 13 th - 14 th	Woods Hole Model Boat Show
April 27 th , 11-3pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA
May 18 th , 11 – 3 pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA
June 1 st , 9am - 5pm	Piscataqua River Fest, Portsmouth, NH.
Thursday, June 20 th , 10 am - 4pm	Joint Fun Float with the Mid-Coast Maine Ship Modelers, at Rogers Park Pond in Kennebec, Maine.
July 20 th , 12:30 - 4pm	On-the-water event, Redds Pond, Marblehead, MA.
Saturday-Sunday August 3rd-4th	Salem Maritime Festival
August 24 th , 12-3pm	Fun Float and Club Picnic at Memorial Park Beach.
September 21 st , 9 am - 2pm	Steering Course Regatta at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
October 5 th , 3- 7pm	Day/night run at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
November 16 th , 12-4 pm	Club Trip to Herreshoff Museum Tour, Bristol, RI.
Sunday, December 8 th , 12-4 pm	Annual Holiday Dinner at Prezo Bar and Grille, Milford, MA.