

THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2020-- Our 30th Year!!

March 2020

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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 15, 1- 4 pm: Indoor meeting at the UCC Church Hall at 496 Main Street, Medway, MA.

The March club meeting will have a small business meeting to go over the revised bylaws and have the membership take an approval vote. The amended document was sent out by Charlie last week.

After the business meeting we will have a show and tell period for new projects. Please bring in what you've been working on! Also, we'll do a flea market, so members are encouraged to clean out their shops and bring whatever vessels, hulls, kits, equipment they wish to sell. (So you can buy some of the stuff other members have brought in!)

Saturday, March 28, 6-9pm: Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA pool at 67 Mechanic Street, Foxboro, MA. This is the same facility we used last year-- it is very nice venue. Once again, we'll have exclusive use of the pool area for the full three hours.

2020 Preliminary Events Schedule: A draft schedule for our 2020 events is included with this issue of the Foghorn. The schedule is also posted on the Club Website....

February Club Meeting

Our February club meeting was held at the church hall in Medway. Members attending included: Charlie Tebbetts, Mike Hale, Linda Arini, Bill Michaels, Frank Cook, Sean Kimball, Bob Prezioso, and Alan Beeber.

Before the meeting, we had circulated an updated version of the club Constitution and By-Laws, with the goal of having the membership vote on it. But we got some good feedback and ideas for a couple of additional changes from a couple of members who were present, plus some good ideas via email from Harold Cohen. After some discussion, the members present accepted all the suggested changes, and we agreed that an updated version should be sent out to the entire membership, and then hold the final vote in March. (The updated version was emailed by Charlie to the club on March 1st.)

We only had a couple of items for Show and Tell. Frank Cook brought in his almost complete Dumas US Army tug. This is Frank's first RC boat, and he has done a great job on it. He's planning on bringing the tug to our Indoor Float on March 28th.



Your editor (Bill Michaels) brought a home made styrene rack. Inspired by a test tube rack, this was something I made to solve the problem of not being able to find the right piece, as all the various Evergreen packages were stuffed in a desk drawer. I found a packaging company that sold inexpensive plastic tubes, and used a laser cutter at the Nashua MakeIt Lab to make the parts for the base. I'll admit this might be a bit of overkill, but it so handy to finally have the strip stock organized so I can find it, and it was fun using the lab's laser cutter to make something for the workbench! All told, I think I spent about \$25 on materials....

Arthur Perlmutter had given us a tug to give away at the meeting. Shaun Kimball is the proud new owner.



Editor's Notes

Just a couple of random thoughts this month....

- The SSMA (Scale Ship Modelers Association of North America) is still looking for a new Editor for the Journal. Details are in the last couple issues of the Journal.
- How are your batteries? Did you put your Lipos on a "Storage Charge" last fall? Have you checked your SLAs and NiMH batteries? Did you remember to take the AA alkalines out of your radios that use dry batteries?
- Now is a good time to take a critical look at your model(s) from last year, and fix those niggling issues from last fall- that loose part, slipping coupling, broken wire, etc.
- Working on a new model? Keep in mind we have an indoor float coming up on March 28th-- that will be a good place to get an early "Sea Trial" in....
- I know some of you are working on models at home, and they may not make it to a meeting for Show and Tell. So I am going to start a section of the newsletter called "Show and Tell (email version)". If you are working on a project, send me a photo and a short description-- and I'll put it in the newsletter.

USSCSMG Award Winner!

Congratulations to Bob Prezioso for winning a Gold Medal in the Masters Division at the USS Constitution Ship Modelers Guild annual model show. Bob was awarded a gold for his model of the Motor Yacht A.



Above: Bob's Award-Winning model. (Tim Murphy photo.)



USS Constitution Museum's Collections Manager Harrie Slootbeek (R) presented Bob with his award. (Henry Rodriguez photo.)

Thanks to Dave Morton, USSCSMG Broadside Editor, for sending me the photos!

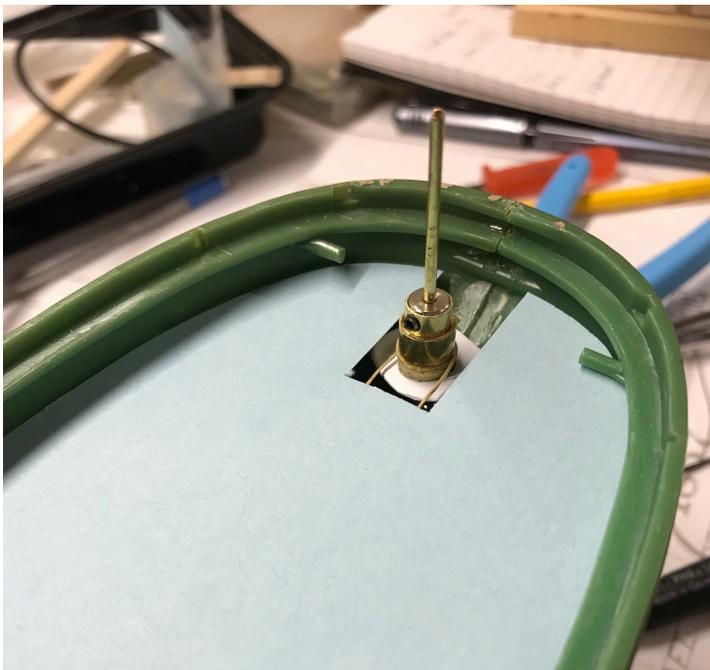
Model Boat Basics

This month, I'm going to use this space to describe a problem I ran into setting up the rudder servo on my current build, and my solution.

I am building a model of the 1858 US Revenue Cutter Harriet Lane. The Harriet Lane was a steam paddle cutter, a motor-sailer in effect-- she has side-wheel paddles and a barkentine sail rig. I am using the hull from the big Revell 1/96 scale Cutty Sark as the basis for my conversion.

The problem was that there is no room for a standard tiller, because the hull is very shallow that far aft. The Cutty Sark had a raised poop deck, but Harriet Lane was flush-decked, and dropping the aft deck section to meet the main deck took away all the available space. Plus, I wanted a setup that would make it easy to swap out rudders later, in case I later needed to make a new one that was larger. So I needed easy access to a space too small to accommodate the typical servo-pushrod-tiller set up we all normally use.

When I did some initial drivetrain tests, I had made a standard tiller out of a brass arm soldered to a wheel collar, with the servo, pushrod and tiller mounted high above the deck. That worked for the trials, but the only way the tiller would fit once the decks were installed would be to have it pointing forward, like one on a full scale sailboat. This would have required some sort of complicated linkage to connect it to the servo, which would take up too much space.

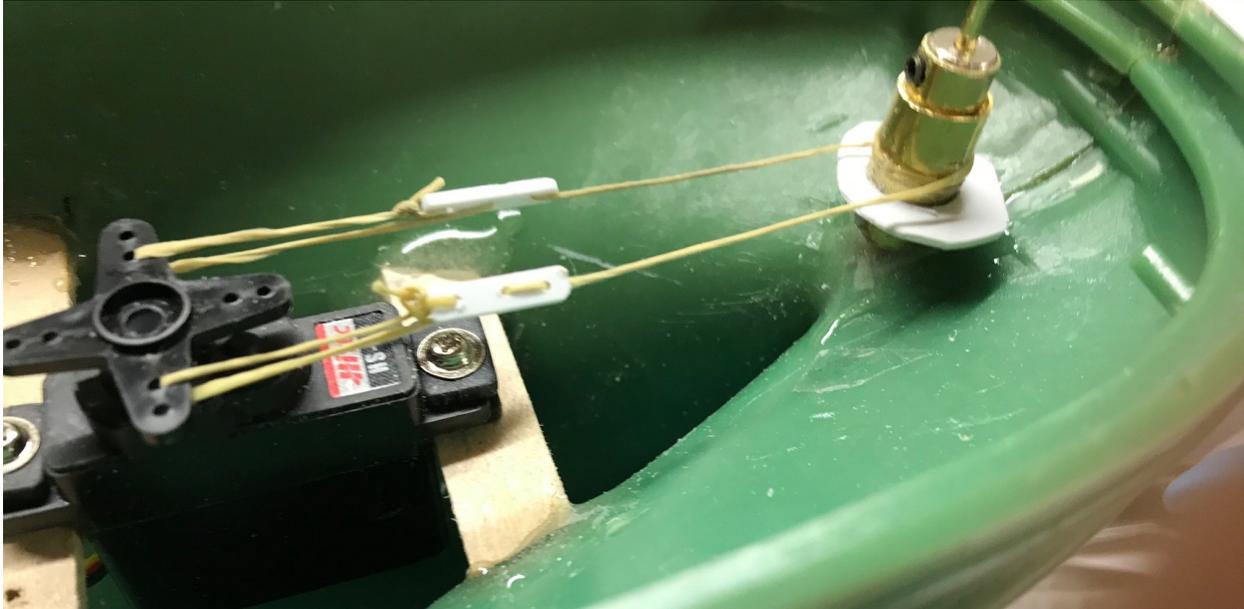


After thinking about the problem for a couple of days, I came up with an alternative solution.....

I ended up using a drum and cable arrangement, to take advantage of the fact that the real ship had a steering gear box above deck over the rudder. I am using 1/16" brass rod for the rudder shaft, with a section of matching tubing as a stuffing tube. The tube extends above the plane of the main deck, to give it enough height to avoid leaks. In the photo, a piece of cardstock is used as a template for the new deck that will be installed.

(The ledge on the hull is the support for the Cutty Sark's raised Poop Deck, and was later cut away.)

To connect the servo to the rudder shaft, I made a drum that is shaped like a stove-pipe top hat. The top of the “hat” is a wheel collar. It was soldered into a matching piece of brass tube, with two more telescoping pieces of tube soldered over that, to increase the outside diameter. A small brim of styrene was glued to the bottom, to keep the rudder lines from falling down. The hat fits over the rudder’s stuffing tube, and the wheel collar’s set screw is at the top, where it is easy to get to.



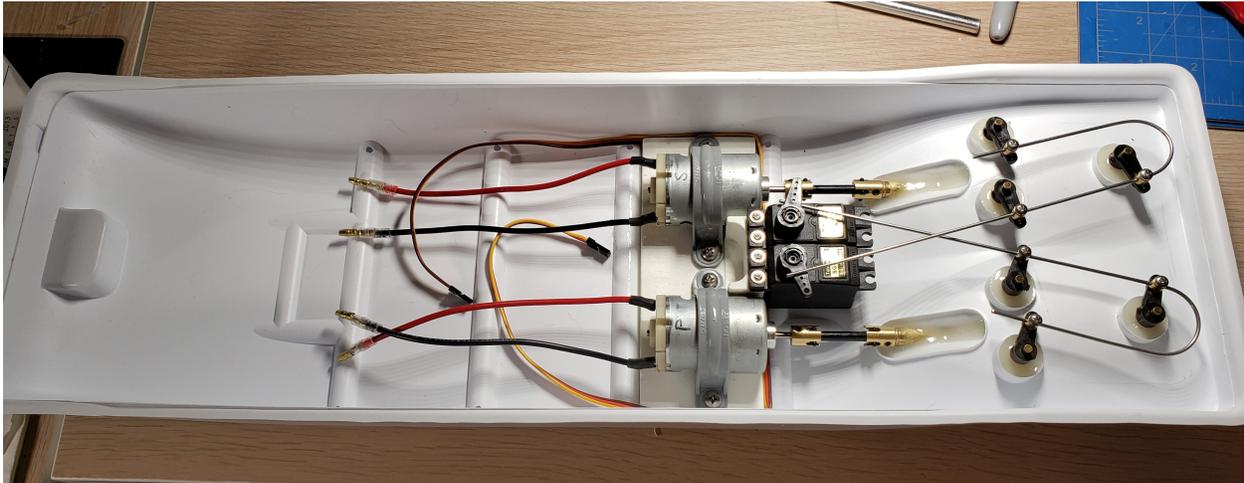
I used some Kevlar thread I had in the scrap box for the rudder line. It was tied around the drum, with a couple of turns to increase friction, then soaked with CA. When that dried, an additional turn of line was wrapped around the drum and then connected to the servo arm using a bowsie to make it adjustable.

On the bench, it works great, and I expect it will do so in the water, too. I figure the rudder on this model will not be under a lot of stress or load. This is a small, relatively slow model, with no prop wash on the rudder, after all! The rudder moves with authority, yet precisely enough. I plan to test it at the pool on March 28th!

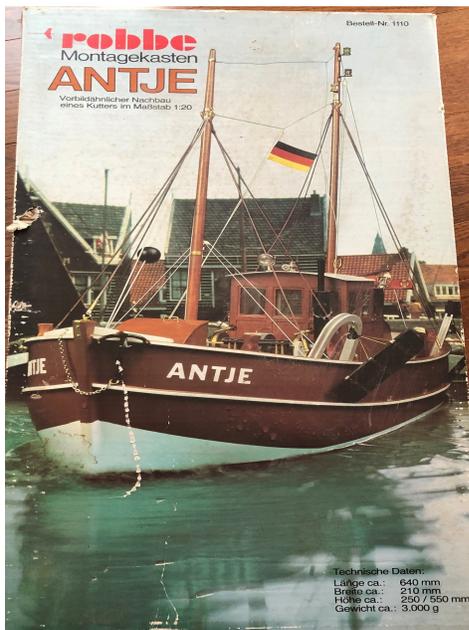
My reason for sharing this is to show that there are alternatives to the traditional rudder servo set up. I was inspired by the way real sailing ships used a drum between the wheels with tiller ropes to control their rudders. I just moved the drum to the rudder shaft!

Show and Tell (eMail version)

Alan Beeber sent along a note on his current project-- a "Vac-U-Tow 2" twin screw pusher boat. This is a 1/48 scale model of a River Tow Boat (AKA a "Push boat".) It is 21.5 inches long and has a 6.5 inch beam. Alan sent a shot showing the linkage used to control the six(!) rudders....



This boat should be a lot of fun on the water!



For Sale

Robbe kit of the Fishing Vessel ANTJE. The kit is around 30 years old, but is complete and unstarted. (Robbe kits were known for their high quality-- this has been OOP for decades.) The kit includes a Robbe geared motor that was purchased at the same time for use in this model.

Asking \$225 or best offer. Contact Arthur Perlmutter at 774-279-2186.

2020 Events Schedule

Here is the 2020 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.

(Revised 10 March 2020)

| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Sunday, March 15 th 1-4 pm | Indoor Meeting at the UCC Church Hall in Medfield, MA. |
| Saturday, March 28 th , 6-9 pm | Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA Pool in Foxboro, MA. (\$10 co-pay) |
| Sunday, April 26 th , 10-2pm | Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA Theme: Sailboat Day |
| Sunday, May 17 th , 11 – 3 pm | Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA |
| Saturday, June 6 th , 10am - 5pm | Piscatagua River Fest, Portsmouth, NH. |
| Thursday, June 18 th , 10 am - 4pm | Joint Fun Float with the Mid-Coast Maine Ship Modelers, at Rogers Park Pond in Kennebunk, Maine. (Rain date is Friday, 21 June) |
| Sunday, July 12 th , 1pm - 4pm | On-the-water event, Redds Pond, Marblehead, MA. Theme: Warship day. |
| Saturday-Sunday August 1 st - 2 nd | Salem Maritime Festival. We'll have the usual static display, along with the portable pond and the Noodle Tugs. |
| Saturday, August 29 th , 12-3pm | Fun Float and Club Picnic at Memorial Park Beach. |
| Sunday, Sept 13 th , 9 am - 2pm | Steering Course Regatta at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. |
| Saturday, October 3 rd , 3- 7pm | Day/night run at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. |
| Sunday, November 15 th , 12-4 pm | Indoor meeting, location tbd |
| Sunday, December 6 th , 12-4 pm | Annual Holiday Dinner at Prezo Bar and Grille, Milford, MA. |