

THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2020-- Our 30th Year!!

April 2020

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

Upcoming Events

The April 26th Icebreaker Fun Float is canceled.

All upcoming events are currently on hold.

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....

MODEL BOATS Magazine on hold

The publisher of the UK magazine Model Boats sent this notice to subscribers recently:

“Due to the unfolding situation with Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the closure of most WH Smith stores, newsagents and other stores, we're writing to let you know that we are going to pause production of the magazine from the current edition. (The May 2020 issue – Ed.)

For many years, our mission has been to provide the best quality editorial to our valued readers – and rest assured, we are committed to try and get through this very difficult time for the country, and world at large.

You do not need do anything and we still be fulfilling entitlements in the future. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and communicate with you further as and when we're able to restore business as usual.”

Show and Tell (email version)

Greg Evers sent the following:

Here is a photo of a 1950's vintage Japanese ITO torpedo boat. These were made in post-war Japan and sold as toys with not much attention to scale. A pristine example especially with the original box can be very valuable. These boats also had working lights and bells to create sound. The boat was given to me and was missing the whole deckhouse and two of the torpedo tubes. I built a new deckhouse and torpedo tubes going by photos I found on the internet. This boat is 24 inches long and has two TMY horseshoe motors that still work. To run this a kid would basically set the rudder and let it run in a circle. I installed a radio, speed control, and built a new rudder that would accept a steering servo. I am almost ready for paint and reinstalling all the deck hardware. I included one of the photos I used as a reference guide.



From Harold Cohen:

Harold is working on the hull of a smaller plastic hulled sailboat. He had painted it with a can of Tamiya white spray paint, and was not happy with the semi-gloss finish he got. He was looking into possible gloss clear coat products, which was a little challenging given that the local hobby shops are closed.

Harold reports that he found a solution, that he tested on the painted rudder: "Today I bought a bottle of Turtle Wax "Clean Finish Polishing Compound". It's fantastic! It gave a mirror shine to the painted rudder. It's the consistency of heavy cream, and is not a wax. They recommend their liquid carnuba wax to go over it for greater shine."

Harold further cautioned that you need to be careful when using the polish-- if you aren't careful, you can polish right through the coat of paint!

Fireboat Remodel

By Mike Hale

The model is the Aquacraft Rescue 17 fireboat. I had wanted to get this boat 2 years ago but it was off the market. I finally got the boat last year and got to run it at the night run in October. The boat has a good sized fiberglass hull: 27.5 inches long and a beam of 10.5 inches. As sold, it is ready to run, and has plenty of space below deck and topside to add new additional equipment.



The boat comes with only one cannon on the bow. The pump for this ran off the ESC and had to be primed each time to get it to work, plus it's power came from the 11.4 volt main boat battery. I wanted to add three more water cannons, and fortunately the entire aft end of the main deck is clear, so there was enough room to do just that.

(Here you can see the boat's original water cannon, along with the two new ones I later added.)

You could say this is a major upgrade rather than a remodel. I am just adding a lot more to it as I went from 4 channels to 10 -12 channels for functional use. I am using 8 channels below deck and still working on whether my other receiver will be below deck or up in the removable upper super structure.

First off, I ordered the 3 main fire cannon kits and 2 modern fire cannon kits from Harbor Model. I assembled and tested them. Once they were sealed, I painted the units. I then removed the simple water pump and replaced it with a 12V self-priming water pump and then I added another 12V pump for the forward fire cannon after installing another water pickup and attaching tees and tubing.



I then mounted the 3 main fire cannons in the aft deck and added control arms and control bar. I then mounted a servo to the underside of the deck plate and mounted a contoured control bar from the outer cannon control arm to the servo arm. Then I added the tubing and tees to go to the aft water pump. I replaced the 4-channel receiver with FrySky 16 channel receiver. I added a Harbor Model fireboat sound system so the engine runs off the throttle and another channel activate the siren. I also had to replace the speed controller.

Further work to be done - I am adding control switches so each pump can be turned on separately and the fireboat lights added and can be turned on by remote. I will have to add mounting brackets to the upper structure along with all the lights and speakers. I have on order some scale figures for the boat and a metal prop. I will rename the boat – the Seattle*C2 as it is similar to the Seattle Chief Fireboat. I have my own pool to test run the boat but who knows when we can see it together at the lake.....

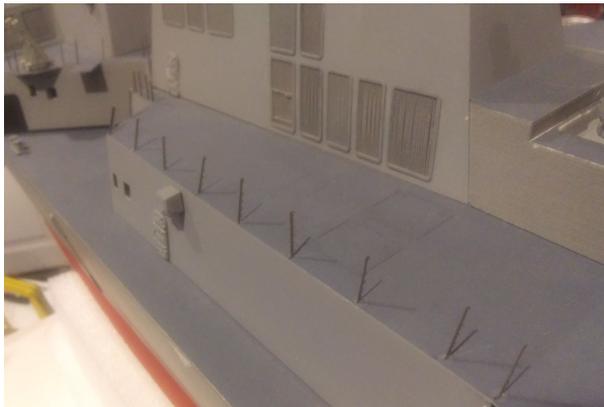
Alan Beeber reports that while his Vac-U-Tow hull is in the paint shop, he has started on the Revell 1/144 HMCS Snowberry Flower Class Corvette kit, with an eye to simple 2-channel RC conversion. (This is not the old Matchbox kit- this is a recent release, about 17” long, has one-eighth the displacement of the big 1/72 scale kit, and is a lot more detailed.)

Alan says So far, it has been pretty annoying. The hull required him to glue it inch by inch to get it to line up properly, and now it's got a twist along the length that has to be dealt with!

Alan said he has also taken his Dumas Subchaser off the shelf to see what needs to be done to get it in the water.



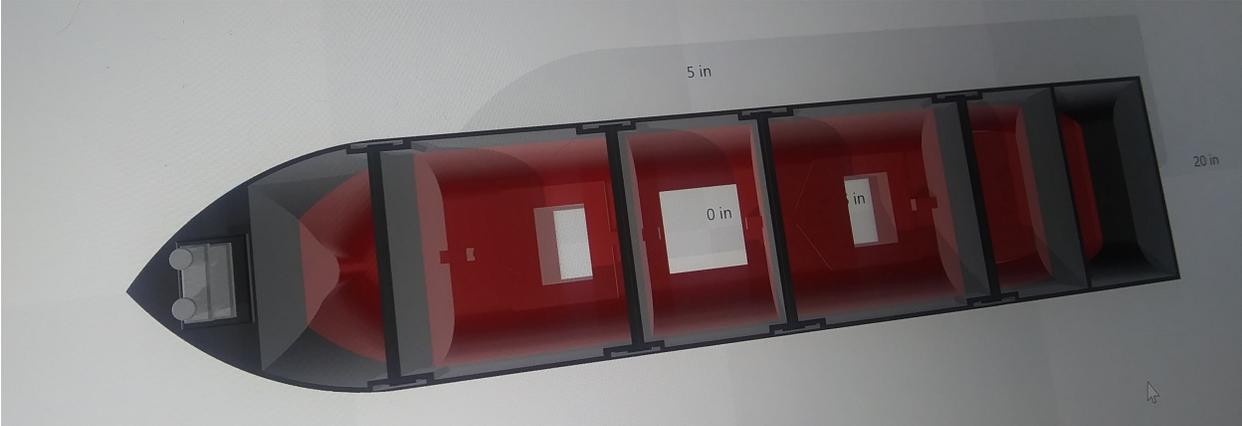
Shaun Kimball is working on a couple of projects:



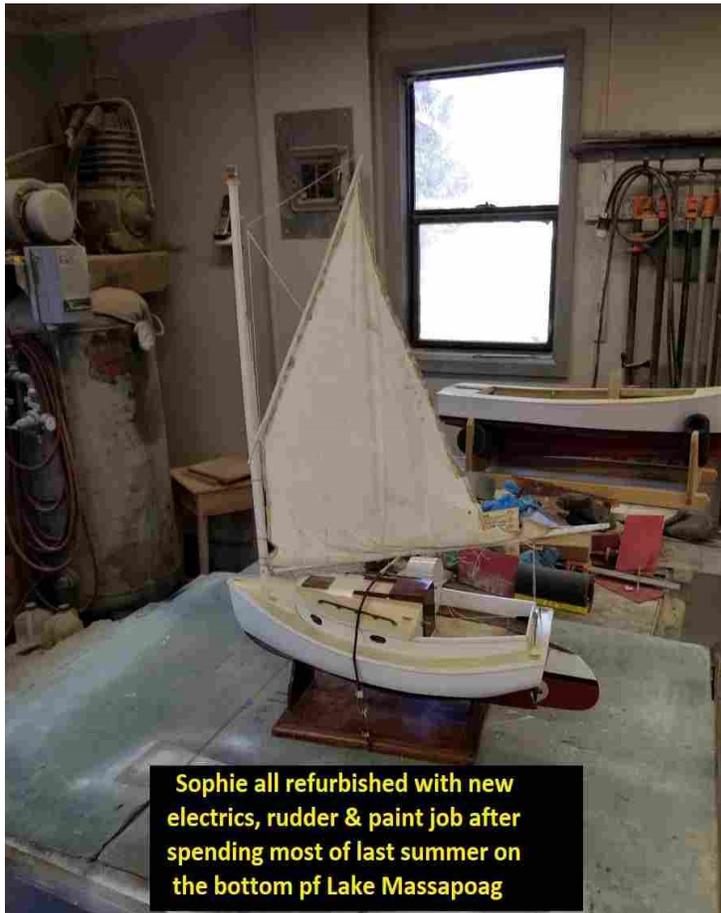
“Here's what I'm doing work on. I've been installing the stanchions for the rails on my Arleigh Burke class ship the U.S.S. James E. Williams DDG-95, (and let me tell you threading the stanchions, is NOT FUN! It's a real pain but will look great). There was also problem with the port ESC where it would run for less than 2 seconds then would stop. BUT it has been fixed so she's running perfectly fine now.”



“I also made a search barge (in the 3D program) to look for any model boat that sank, (like what happened to Charlie's sailing boat), or just to look at what maybe on the bottom of the lake for fun. The middle compartment will hold a camera to see down while the 2 compartments on either side will each hold a strong LED flashlight to help see. It'll be towed behind any model boat to look around.”



Charlie Tebbetts sent in the following photos of his current projects:



The first photo shows the catboat Sophie looking good as new!

The rest of the photos show the progress Charlie has made in making a fiberglass mold for the old Midwest 30" lobster boat. Based on the photos, it appears that Charlie build the the original wood hull, then used is as a plug to make his own mold for a fiberglass hull. (Given Charlie's fondness for Lobster boats, I am not surprised he figured it was worth the extra work to allow him to create multiple hulls!)





Midwest Boothbay Lobsterboat hull ready for releasing wax to create a fiberglass mold



Final layer of fiberglass twill cloth to create a fiberglass mold of the 30" Midwest Boothbay Lobsterboat hull



Two halves 30" Midwest Lobsterboat hull mold separated and ready for application of releasing wax

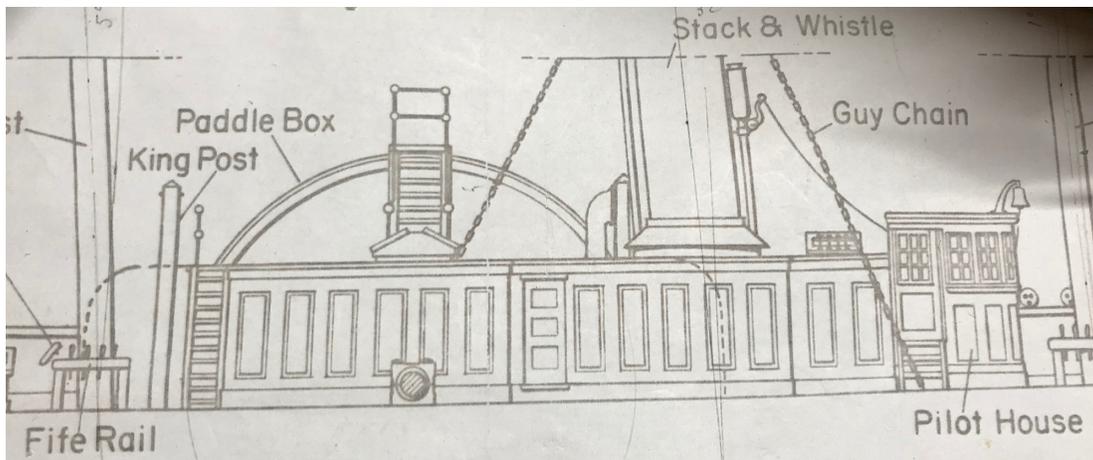
Your Editor is still working on a model of the 1858 US Revenue Cutter Harriet Lane. The Harriet Lane was a steam paddle cutter, a motor-sailer in effect-- she has side-wheel paddles and a barkentine sail rig. I am using the hull from the big Revell 1/96 scale Cutty Sark plastic model as the basis for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

In the last month or so, I have hit a couple of milestones:

First, I have sorted out the interior layout and the location of the hatches. The boat will need 4 channels for RC. Starting aft and going forward: Rudder servo, sail control servo for the mainmast, sail control servo for the foremast, brass tube mount for external keel, O-ring-pulley-gear motor, radio compartment.



Second, I have started working on the deckhouse. I have a Cameo 4 Cutting Machine that I am learning to use, and am using it to help with this project- this is my first use of the machine to make parts for a boat.



I wanted to simulate a panel-and-trim type of effect on the vertical surfaces. I am not copying the drawing exactly- rather, I am using it as inspiration and as a guide for the sort of effect I want. The plans I am using are just Model Shipways' best guess at how the cabin might have looked-- not much is known about the real ship's details, so I don't feel bound to follow them exactly!

I made the Basic box using .040 sheet styrene, and then overlays for each of the side pieces were cut on the Cameo4 using .010 sheet styrene. I drew the patterns in Inkscape - it is easier for me to set exact dimensions there, switching back and forth between inches and mm as needed. Inkscape files are saved in .svg format, which the cutter's Silhouette Studio software imports directly.



It isn't finished yet- I have to add doors and some other pieces of thin styrene strip to finish the trim. Then it is on to making the stack, skylights, and other bits....

I am really pleased with how this looks so far. I think it will really look nice once painted- much better than a simple flat-sided box!

Eric Bertelsen posted this on the club's FaceBook page:



This is Eric's latest project- a 1/96 scale model of the new USCG Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutter. The real ships are 154 feet long, which makes an 19 inch long model in 1/96 scale. The hull is from MTB Hulls in Gibraltar, and is powered by a couple of small brushless motors. There is a video online showing the boat underway- it really looks great at speed!

Piscataqua RiverFest Postponed

The Gundalow Company (organizers of the event) sent out the following notice to last year's attendees:

“This likely won't come as a surprise, but we've made the difficult decision to change the direction of the 2020 Piscataqua Riverfest originally scheduled for June 6, due to the uncertainty of the Coronavirus.

We are still planning to retain several aspects of the event, such as the Round Island Regatta boat race on the water with the picnic and awards, and the Gala dinner on the prior evening. We are targeting August 14/15th, pending approvals from the city.

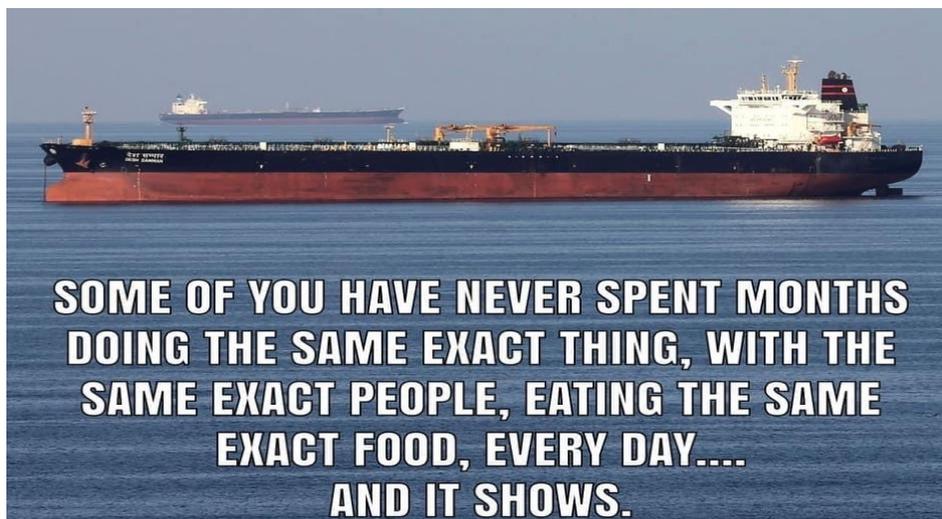
In the coming days we will reach out to all registrants individually to follow up. Thanks for your support through these difficult times, and please stay well!”

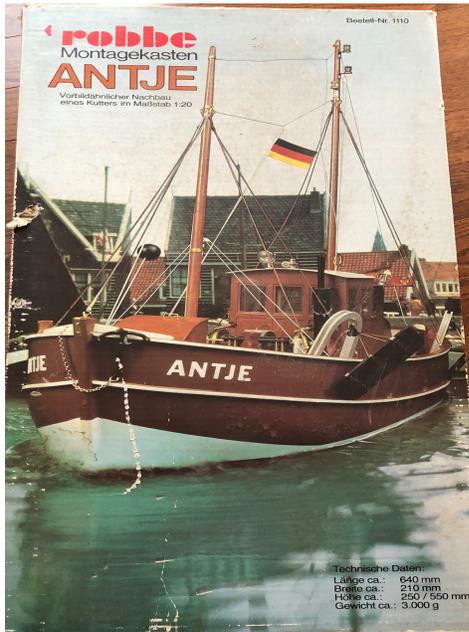
The Club Officers will continue to monitor the situation as it unfolds. At this point, given how busy our August calendar usually is, no commitments regarding our potential participation in a rescheduled event have been made.

Editor's Notes

I want to thank everyone who sent in material for the virtual Show and Tell! If you didn't get anything ready to send by the publishing date of this issue, do not despair-- there's always next month!

As a final note, I found this amusing.....





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.

Waterline Marking Tool

Eric Bertlesen is making these handy tools with engraved markings on the laser cutter. The one pictured was made using red acrylic (the protective paper hasn't been peeled off yet). Eric can make them from a variety of materials, too!

Contact Eric at HomePort Model Ships if you'd like to ask about materials and pricing options.



2020 Events Schedule

Here is the 2020 Club Schedule. Note that all of this is subject to change, depending on how the COVID-19 pandemic plays out. Cancellations and Updates will be posted on the club website, as well as sent via email.

(Revised 31 March 2020)

Date	Event
Saturday, March 28 th , 6-9 pm	Indoor Fun Float at the YMCA Pool in Foxboro, MA. Postponed- to be rescheduled in Winter of 2021.
Sunday, April 26 th , 10-2pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA Theme: Sailboat Day Canceled
Sunday, May 17 th , 11 – 3 pm	Fun Float at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA (at risk - decision is tbd)
Saturday, June 6th, 10am - 5pm	Piscataqua River Fest, Portsmouth, NH. Canceled. Organizers are working with the City of Portsmouth to hold a smaller version of the event in mid-August.
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, 19 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 29th, 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 15th, 12-4 pm	Indoor meeting, location tbd
Sunday, December 6 th , 12-4 pm	Annual Holiday Dinner at Prezo Bar and Grille, Milford, MA.