



THE FOGHORN

*Newsletter of the Marine Modelers Club
of New England*

2024-- Our 34th Year!!

June 2024

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 18, 10am-3pm: Joint Fun Float in Scarborough Maine with the DownEast Ship Modelers. This is at the same site as last year. It is a beautiful pond, and just off I-95 exit 42 in Scarborough. The address is 39 Ingallside Drive, Scarborough, Maine. We'll be using the Northwest-most pond. Use the entrance for the Salt Pond Climbing Company, then take the dirt road to the right for a couple of hundred feet, until you see the parked cars.

I took a quick survey earlier this week, and it looks like we'll have a good turnout for this event!

Sunday, July 14, 1pm- 4pm. Warship Day at Redds Pond in Marblehead, MA.

Saturday, July 27, 10am - 2pm. Fun Float at Fellsmere Pond in Malden, MA. (Rain date is Sunday.) This is a new location for us-- more info will be in the next Foghorn.

Club Clothing

Get your Official Marine Modelers Club Clothing here: <http://www.cafepress.com/MMCNE>

Note: All photos by Bill Michaels, except where credited.

Tuscan Village Fun Float



(Linda Arini photo.)

Our May 11th Fun Float at the Tuscan Village Shopping Center was another big success! We were blessed with beautiful weather and a weed-free pond!



(Charlie Tebbetts photo.)

We had a lot of members (and some guests) turn out for this event, including: Harold Cohen, Steve Fifield, Bruce Murray, Stu and Ann Gralnik, Lou Hills and Hadley Fisk, Richard Jenkins, Bill and Kaja Michaels, with guest Brian Perkins, Eric Bertelsen and Barbara Wyse, Shaun Kimball and his father Bob (with pup Jill), Bob Prezioso, Bill Gibson III, Bill Gibson IV, Alan and Suzanne Beeber, Charlie and Bonnie Tebbetts, Jonathan Eno, Ed Balling, and probably others I missed.

The sailing conditions were nearly perfect, and there was a lot of action on the water the whole time. The wind was variable, coming from different directions every 10 minutes or so, but not too strong. We had a several docks set up, and the winds allowed skippers to get practice coming in to a dock with headwinds, stern winds, and everything in-between-- all using the same slip! Here are the docks during a calm moment....



Eric Bertelsen brought his big 1/96 scale Italian Navy Carrier “Montepulciano”. Eric describes it as a “What If” project showing what an older Garibaldi class carrier would look like if modernized today. (The Italian Navy is in the process of replacing/modernizing a good part of its fleet.) The model looked great underway on the pond!

Ed Balling is our from-furthest-away member, as he lives in Maryland, but is up in New England in the summer. He was in town for the Tuscan event, and brought along a beautiful model. In Ed's words:

The model is PCS 1376, a US Navy Patrol Craft, Sweeper its in 1/48 scale and is powered by two electric motors and a Hitec Speed controller (almost as old as the hull).

The hull for this came from Sirmar about twenty five years ago. Its been sitting in the attic of my garage since then. I didn't have any plans at first, but the Wisconsin Maritime Museum had plans so I purchased a set from them. The superstructure is built from polystyrene sheet plastic, and most of the deck fittings are from molds I created. The 40mm aft deck gun is from H&R Products as is the forward 3 inch 50. The model was built as a prototype for a 1/24 scale PCS that I am building now. The 1/24 hull is a Dynamic hull. (It seems I don't have anything new, just a large collection of old hulls!)





The Bill Gibson father-son team brought along several of their ever-growing fleet of plastic models converted to RC. Their latest projects are a trio of the old Lindberg US Navy 1/125 scale USN Minesweeper kit. The models all ran well on the water!



The Gibsons aren't the only ones converting plastic models to RC-- your Editor brought along a couple as well! The Trumpeter 1/35 scale LCM-3 is about 21 inches long. The twin-screw model is powered by a pair of disassembled large servos, and it is carrying an M3 Stuart Light Tank for the Operation Torch landings in North Africa in November 1942.

The Lightship is the old Pyro/Lindberg 1/95 scale kit. The model has the ability to sit at anchor with the masthead beacon flashing, then shut off the beacon, release the mooring line, energize the running and get underway.

Jonathan Eno made the drive down from Camden Maine with a couple of his fine 1/48 scale models-- the USN WW2 Salvage Tug and his Canadian Flower Class Corvette. (Eric Bertlesen had a short video on Facebook with Jonathan's Corvette evading a couple of Koi "U-boat fish"-- you can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/zLmyJBNVJSW96Zej/>)



The tug in the middle is Jonathan's modified Horizon Hobby Harbor Tug.

He added a smoke unit, sound system, and a working Harbor Models stern winch in place of the original winch.

He says "She tows really well and has around 30 ft of "wire" on the spool

which can be let out and taken in."

Bob Prezioso brought along a new model-- the NERINA. It is essentially a scratch-built copy of an old Sterling Models kit of the 1955 Chris Craft 42' Corvette. Bob reports the model is 48" long, with a beam of beam 13 7/8". Scale is 1/10.5 (1 1/8" =1 '). Bob replaced all of original kit's balsa with new basswood, and all of the kit's mahogany was changed to Honduras mahogany. All of the kit's lead fittings were made out of brass and chrome plated. Bob put about 1,000 hours into the model. Bob says the original Sterling kit is for sale, \$450.00 (The kit is complete, with no parts missing.)





(Charlie Tebbetts photo.)



Your editor's USS Guadalcanal WW2 Escort Carrier underway, under the temporary command of CAPT Brian Perkins, USCG (ret.). Brian is a classmate of mine, who spent the afternoon practicing mooring approaches for a single-screw ship to a pier in a windy conditions- just like we did back in our USCG Academy days!

Brian started out with my USCG 36 foot Motor Lifeboat 36500. He got the hang of using the radio to control the boat, and had soon master the responsive Lifeboat. He then was “promoted” to the carrier, which has a tremendous amount of “sail area”. Burt he's driven some large ships over his career, and was ready for the challenge!

Portable Pond (Ice Rink?) For Sale

The Club Officers have determined that it is time to get rid of the old Portable Pond – the one we used to take to the Salem Maritime Festival every year.

The “pond” is basically a backyard ice rink kit. The rink is made from pieces of 2x12 lumber on edge, connected with steel side and end brackets. A couple large tarps are then used to line it, to hold the water it is then filled with. We have the parts to build a rink that is 16 by 12 feet (or maybe 16x16?). All the sides and the brackets are per-drilled with holes, and we use a box of nuts and bolts to put it all together.

Before we offer it to the public on Craig's list, Facebook, etc., we would like to offer it up to the membership. Anyone want to make an offer?

Contact a club Officer if you are interested.

For Sale: Sterling American Scout

An old Sterling “American Scout” model. I think it was originally built by a former member (Steve Liberman, maybe?) who passed away about 20 years ago. I acquired the model from his estate. The model appears to be a built-from-the-box rendition of the old, old Sterling Models kit, with one key difference-- it was built using an aftermarket fiberglass hull instead of the Sterling Kit's balsa hull.

The model is about 50 inches long, and represents a WW2 C-2 Cargo Ship in post-war merchant service. The model is 1/110 scale.

I bought the model with the idea of converting it to a 1/96 scale model-- it turns out the hull is just about spot-on for a C-1 class hull in that scale. (A smaller version of the C-2 ships.) My plan was to convert it to a WW2 US Navy PT boat tender-- there were some built on C-1 hulls. (I have a couple of 1/96 scale PT boats to go with it.) But I never got around to it...

What I have: A banged up American Scout in need of some repair/restoration. The fiberglass hull is in very good shape, but I'd think anyone restoring this would replace a lot of the old balsa superstructure parts with more modern materials. I also have a pair of Revell Higgins 78 foot PT Boat plastic models. I also have the old kit box, with some metal fittings and the Sterling instruction/build manual.

Asking \$100. (plus PT boats are \$20 for the pair.) (The American Scout kits haven't been made since the early '70s, and are hard to find and very expensive. The Fiberglass hull alone is worth at least this much! Pictures available on request.

- Bill Michaels

2024 Events Schedule

Note: Here is our 2024 schedule as it stands today. A few of the items are Tentative, as we don't have final confirmation from the site owner(s) yet.....

Tuesday, June 18, 10am -3pm

Joint Sailing Session with the DownEast Ship Modelers in Scarborough, ME.
(Rain date is Wednesday the 19th.)

Sunday, July 14, 1pm – 4pm

Warships Day at Redds Pond in Marblehead, MA

Saturday, July 27, 10am – 2pm

Fun Float at Fellsmere Pond in Malden, MA
(Rain date is Sunday, July 28.)

Saturday, August 24, 11am -3pm

Club picnic and sailing session at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA. Theme is “Tugs and Work boats”. (Rain date is Sunday the 25th.)

Saturday, September 14, 10am-3pm:

Steering Competition at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
(Rain date is Sunday, September 15)

Sunday October 5, 10am-4pm??

Tentative date for Sharon Day.

Saturday, October 12, 3 -6pm:

Day/Night run at Memorial Park Beach in Sharon, MA.
(Rain date is Sunday, October 20)

Sunday, November 17 1pm – 4pm: Indoor Meeting at the Church Hall

Sunday, December 8th, 12-4pm: Holiday Dinner

REMINDER TO REGISTER FOR SUBEX24!

Coming in September: Subex24!

Mark your Calendar and register for the September 7-8 Subex24 RC submarine exercises event held at the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut (on the North Lake, 612 Shark Blvd).

Registration and questions can be sent to Ray Mason at rayrpm333@aol.com

Security clearance will be required SO IF INTERESTED YOU SHOULD REGISTER RIGHT AWAY. And yes you can bring surface ships.