



**7499 FRANCE AVENUE SOUTH
EDINA, MN 55435**

July Membership Meeting and Other News

Isn't summer busy? And doesn't full time employment get in the way of other more fun things? Well, all of the above and more, so here goes with the late July newsletter.

The July meeting was again more interesting than it should be as we don't plan any presentations. The theory is that we are all running boats that we build the rest of the year and bring to membership meetings to share the build with others. But former member Doug stopped by to promote his website and products. The website is ClassicHydros.com, and the products are complete classic hydroplane kits and driver figures. Boats and figures were on display:



Sorry I did not get a picture of the boats, but you can go to the website and see the complete offerings.

At the meeting I once again reminded people that I was looking for a boat for the young son (Oskar) of a woman (Amy) who had stopped by our display at the Maker Faire. Amy and Oskar have been to the ponds with a boat they purchased at Hub, and it wasn't working out very well. Some of the members had looked at and worked on the boat and were not able to get it running reliably. Shortly after the meeting Kevin Waldo contacted me that he had purchased a boat from a woman who, per Kevin, was kind of a - sort of a - former club member. Anyway, regardless of the status, Kevin was really excited about the boat: only run a couple of times, came with a (big honking!) 8.4 volt NiMH battery, charger, upgraded boat stand, and radio. Kevin made sure it was running and tossed the radio substituting one of his older style radios. Amy and Oskar met us at the pond on Sunday July 29th. Here is Kevin and Oskar and the boat:



A handsome craft all in plastic, easy to maintain, not very heavy to transport, looked to be durable for the long term. A couple of items that needed to be addressed were that it had no reverse and the bar on top for the radar and lights was broken, so I volunteered to install a new speed controller and make repairs. Unfortunately Oskar went home empty handed while the boat went to the Bertelsen garage for upgrade. Now there is no shortage of projects at the Bertelsen garage with one motorcycle and one car in the midst of several repairs and upgrades, and work top space was limited. Never the less, I just could not restrain myself from some other tweaks. Fortunately the speed controller had just gone out on my Atlantic tug and I was extremely pleased at the improvement in performance with the replacement controller purchased at Hub, so another was purchased and installed in Oskar's boat. Next I donated a new Flysky radio and receiver from my DragonFlite 95 purchase (I was going to use my Spectrum

anyway) and the antenna on the boat was eliminated. By the way, that Flysky is really a nice radio, and includes a readout for battery charge on the boat and the radio. When Oskar was running the boat he asked me “what is that beeping when I move the throttle control?”. Of course it was warning about low battery! Nice radio!!!

Ok, back to the story. So, new speed controller, new radio and receiver, and it just looked like it was missing something to dress the boat up. After quite a bit of pondering and two trips to Hub for inspiration, I added some stripes, and here is the almost (see below) finished boat:



Sweet!!! Back with Amy and Oskar and at the ponds for visit #2 on Sunday, August 5th and the upgraded boat. The ponds were loaded with those hair like weeds everywhere so that running a power boat, or a sailboat with a hanging down keel, was next to impossible. I could not get reverse to work, and the radar/light bar broke again - which was no surprise. Once again Oskar left empty handed so that I could remove the radar/light bar (it will look better without it), and to figure out the reverse. Curt Peterson straightened me out on how to properly turn on the radio and receiver to set up reverse, the bar will be removed, and the good news is I will add some lights on deck for Oskar to run with us on Light House Night!

Back at the ponds, the weeds were bad news for most of us, but Paul Olsen, Don Westley and Larry Wheeler all brought their Paul Olsen Marblehead boats which were completely unaffected by the weeds:



Beautiful watching them sail together, and Paul loaned me the controls for his boat which is a pleasure to sail - so graceful.

Next up is Light House Night #1 this Sunday, August 12th, dusk to after dark. Get there early to secure a spot in the skipper area, which is usually full of skippers so that space has become short if you arrive later.

Next meeting is August 21st, the last of the 8:00 start for summer hours.

I hope you can make Light House Night, really my favorite event of the year!

John Bertelsen
Commodore
Edina Model Yacht Club
763-274-4405 (cell/office)
952-922-6698 (home)
www.emyc.org
johnb@cesminn.com

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