



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

February Membership Meeting, News and Other Things

We held our second zoom meeting and it continues to be a learning experience. There were 15 people logged into the meeting and I know there were at least 3 more that wanted to but were unable to attend. That is pretty good attendance considering we are just getting started with zoom. There were several hiccups but it went off just fine. People should note that there were several people who just tuned in and did not have a microphone or video. You can just drop by to see and hear what is going on without having a webcam. Given our current situation of not meeting in person it was especially nice to see people in person. I hosted the meeting for the first time from my office where I always have two computers and several screens going - but previously I did not have a camera or microphone. I purchased a camera (webcam) with built in mic at Best Buy and after taping it to the top of one of the monitors (the clips to attach the camera to a screen on all the models I looked at are terrible!) and plugging it into a USB port, it automatically took care of the rest of the installation. I just logged into the zoom meeting using the link that was sent out in the invitation and I was in business. The webcam was \$60 but there are some that cost less and no need to buy anything more expensive unless you plan on something more elaborate than a zoom meeting.

Light meeting agenda as there were no show-and-tell presentations, but I did explore the use of the screen sharing feature to display photos to all and it worked really well. People indicated that they would have photos to share at the next meeting so you can see that the learning curve is moving ahead very nicely. Consider joining in at the March meeting even if you don't have a webcam and mic.

I did mention a couple of items for everyone's attention. As you know Julia Moen took over the treasurer and membership duties for the club during 2020. I also know that there were a few people who in 2020 pre-paid their dues for 2021. I made notes and sent it on to Julia, but as in any transition, we need to be certain that Julia can confirm that she has credited everyone who did pre-pay. So if you are one of these people please drop Julia an email to let her know that you pre-paid for 2021 at.... Thanks for helping Julia out.

Several new members are just getting started in RC boating and are looking for a power boat. There was discussion during the meeting as Dave Brinkman was in attendance and is one of the individuals looking for a power boat. Dick Walker and David Petrich both indicated they have boats they would like to sell and I have linked them all up via email. Do you have a boat you would consider selling? Let me know and we will get the word out.

This winter I have been finally getting around to replacing the sails on two of my boats. First was my Fairwind, or as I call it my '57 Chevy of a boat. Beautiful, classic, just doesn't run with the newer sailboats, but I don't care as it is such a nice boat. I am not alone in that feeling so if you have one of these boats in the closet please consider dusting it off and getting it on the water. It would be great to have a special get-together this year to show off these classic boats that started it all for the club. For

the Fairwind Tony Johnson made and installed a new suit of sails. So nice to replace the old tattered looking ones.

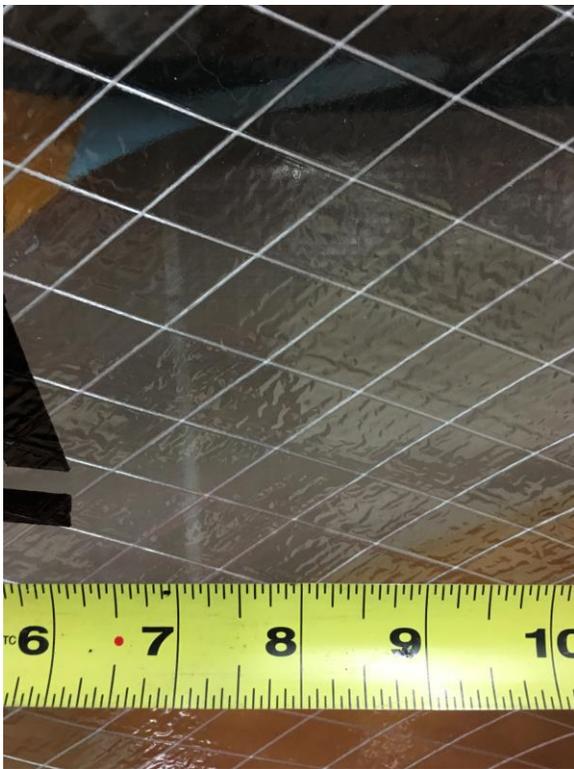


Aren't they beautiful!

Next were new sails for the Mighty Mary - International 'A' Class. I contacted the International 'A' group in San Diego and they highly recommended getting in touch with Rod Carr, which I did. I then measured up the existing sails and Rod made them up pronto. The only difference is in the sail material. The current sails are made from 1 oz. mylar material:



Which is no longer available. Based on the size of boat and that it is so much fun to sail in higher winds (25 mph is an absolute blast! Remember this boat weighs 55 pounds!) PX75 is the current material of choice/recommendation:



Quite a visual difference. Hummmm. Not so sure about it but will see when I get them on the boat.

Dick Walker put out that he is looking for a steam engine, and has been for some time, that is reasonably priced, i.e. less than \$3,000.00. Putting out the request on RCgroups website was suggested, Rob Segal is keeping an eye out, and Gary T. had a link to an engine to check out.

Last, and also in light of the previous discussions, I want to encourage everyone to join the EMYC google group which we have set up for all types of communications in the club. Networking is key to so many things that are going on. We have seen it used for getting together at the ponds and it is useful for any enquiry from looking for help to looking for a boat. Easy to join, just send Gary Tschautscher an email: and ask him to include you in the group.

One of the many fun things about being Commodore is that the “info” link on our website goes to my email. Some spam of course, but I get many enquires through the year for help with building, repairing or finding homes for boats. Some of these boats make it to the meetings and some get into the newsletter. Remember the November newsletter from last year in which I published this from an email received via the “info” link:

Whose boat was this?

I had a request from Aaron Richardson in the Queen City Scale Model Boaters Club in Cincinnati looking for the background on a boat he purchased from a person in Minnesota. The boat had Centennial Lakes as the home port and Aaron was looking for any information on the boat:



In the newsletter I requested that if you had information on this boat to let me know so I could pass it along to Aaron. In addition I also sent and/or showed these photos to people in the club but came up blank. Recently I was looking through previous newsletters for something else and came across these photos:



Mystery solved!! The boat was built by Al Bickford and sold by Al's estate to Aaron. I sent information about Al to Aaron who was very happy to learn about former Commodore Al Bickford. Aaron responded:

"That's great to finally have this information. I suspected someone with an electrical background based on how the lights and smoke generator are wired in this model. We

are going to retain the name. I'm starting a file for my daughter with info on where all our boats came from so these photos will go in the file. I'm so pleased that you found this info.”

Now if that isn't a happy ending I don't know what is. What do any of us want other than to know that the boats that we loved went to someone who will appreciate them. Happy ending indeed.

Do you have a project or other item of interest that you would like to share with the club? We would love to see it in the zoom meeting and/or include it in the newsletter. It only takes 1 - 2 - 3 photos and a brief description or narrative. A great way to help us all stay in touch until we can get back together again in person. Have a question? Same thing, bring it to the zoom meeting, or let me know to publish in the newsletter.

Again, it was great to see everyone at the zoom meeting! We are through the low point of winter and all thoughts change to the anticipation of ice out. Whatever happens now with the weather we have turned the corner and are headed to spring!

John Bertelsen
Commodore
Edina Model Yacht Club

