

EDINA MODEL YACHT CLUB

SAIL & SCALE

NEWSLETTER

March 2024 Membership Meeting, News and Other Things

March is the month that teases us every year with expectations for spring. After the mild to almost non-existent winter this year it is particularly cruel to get the typical snow storms that are expected during the High School tournaments and the NCAA March madness tournament. Mark Nickells was at the March meeting with his air boat and, along with a few others, has already been on the water this year a couple of times. But we know there is no long term teeth in a storm at the end of winter so it is time to make spring and summer plans - more on this later.

The club also had a nice interview for an article in the Sun Newspapers. I sent along some photos and most made it into the article. It came out very nicely:



Members of the Model Yacht Club place their scaled miniatures into the Centennial Lakes Center Pond in Edina for Lighthouse Night.

Model Yacht Club eager to get boats into the water

By **RE WILBER**
Gombrink/Star

Minnesota's big lakes and bodies of water aren't the only ones being watched for official "Ice Out" designations as spring approaches. Members of the Edina Model Yacht Club have trained their sights on the ponds at Centennial Lakes Park, 4999 France Ave. S., eager to get their boats in those waters. The club's 50 members meet monthly and target Sunday afternoons for their regular pond times. The group's annual Pa-

rade of boats this year is set for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 9. "That's a pretty big show; it's quite a day," said John Bertelsen, commander of the club for the last 10 years. "Last year we had TV coverage, and the Strb came by." Members' sailboats and power boats are all radio-controlled, Bertelsen said. The boats are all sizes, including some 10- to 12-inch boats, and others up to 5 to 6 feet. Some are 2-foot sailboats that weigh 3 pounds, Bertelsen said. "I have one boat that's 5 feet and weighs 5 pounds,

and that's not the biggest one. It's hard to have just one boat." For one annual Parade of Boats, Bertelsen remembered making four trips in his car or a rented truck to transport his 10 boats to the site. "Some members are dedicated to building their own models from scratch; kits are available," Bertelsen said. "Some of the boats are pre-made. Every one of the 10 boats I own was purchased from someone else."

Other members are just interested in racing boats, either on the south pond at Centennial Lakes, or Smith Pond in Bloomington, depending on the direction of the wind, Bertelsen said. "There are a lot of social aspects to the group," Bertelsen said. "It's not just the boats. People love to come to the ponds and visit. It's one of the few hobbies that can include your wife and dogs. It's something virtually the whole family can enjoy. It's like having a puppy. People immediately feel comfortable sitting and watching or asking questions. It's part of the atmosphere of Centennial

Lakes." The Model Yacht Club attracts a wide variety of people, Bertelsen said. "We have two airline pilots, a human resources person, and some engineers," he said. "There are all kinds of people from different backgrounds. We have one man in his 90s who is an active model builder. It's pretty amazing." Some women are involved, too, including a 95-year-old woman who got interested in the club through its website three years ago. "She's also heavily involved in the

Northern Lights Charter group that has sailboats around the world," Bertelsen said. The Edina club, organized in 1992, attracts members from all over, including members from White Bear Lake, St. Cloud, Iowa, Brainerd, and even one member from Aberdeen, South Dakota. The Edina club is the only such local group, according to Bertelsen. Others are located in Milwaukee and Tomah, Wisconsin, he said.

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I have formatted the first page down to fit in the newsletter but it is also an attachment to the email so just open the attached PDF file and the full two pages will appear and can be easily read.

Last month it was reported that the club installed a display at the Wayzata Library, and earlier this month the display was removed. Last month's newsletter also included some nice press the display received, and as we were taking the display down one of the librarians told us they had people coming into the library asking where the display was. It proved to be very popular. Putting up the display was a nice winter diversion, and the club has no shortage of boats to display, so I think I will offer up that we would be willing to do a display next winter too.

At the Meeting

Maybe you have never been to a meeting, or maybe it has just been a while since you were able to attend, or maybe you just aren't able to attend right now, so here is what it is like to be at a typical membership meeting:





You can see that the room is full of the equipment and paraphernalia for the Sousa Band and it actually makes for a very pleasant atmosphere for our once-a-month visits to their practice room. Plus you get to make a quick trip through the (usually smelly) truck dock area, then into the maintenance garage for the park with a quick look into the heart of the garage with all the always interesting things they have going on, and past our storage cage and into the meeting room where you never know what will be on display for show and tell at the meeting. You feel like you are in a special area for members only, and it is true. Our own man and woman cave for our boats! Try to make it down some time and I am sure you will be happy you did! Thanks to Richard Dahlquist for the photos.

Rob Segal will recycle one of the previous yearly posters he has done for the club and will change out the photos. So if you have a photo or two that you would like considered please send them to Rob at. Thinking of the poster I mentioned that Chris, the Captain Jack Sparrow impersonator, can't make the Parade this year, conflicts in schedule apparently. Also, I was wondering if we could somehow advertise that at the Parade and at the Swap Meet that people from the public could bring boats to sell. The sale of our boats at the Parade has been very successful as well as, of course, at the Swap Meet and perhaps we could open this up to boats from the public. This needs some more investigation and I throw it out just as an idea for input.

The investigation for club shirts is underway. Rob Segal and I are looking at the options but would appreciate input from others. The original thinking is that with so many off-site events it would be nice to have the club members identified with a common shirt, and this would also be useful at the on-site events too. Initial investigations indicate that we could select a vendor, provide some graphics and the chosen shirt, and people would do their own ordering and payment. Dave Brinkman has just seen this done with his Miata club and an online store was created for them through their vendor for a variety of items. The one company I stopped at immediately offered up the same kind of arrangement for an online store. Stay tuned for more information.

Tim Kowalik mentioned that he has already secured his camping reservations for the boat show at Gull Lake this year. Remember this is going to be a national show so that the attendance will be much larger than the typical boat show. The Brainerd area is already challenged for accommodations (I have been told that this is why the Brainerd race track can't get more nationally known events than the NHRA) so if you are planning on attending for both days, or just staying over for a single night, you will probably want to get your reservations made now rather than nearer the event.

At show and tell Tim Kowalik brought his Chris Craft back to show the progress, and problems, in the on-going build.



Work to install the instruments in the dash board were very successful! Tim purchased narrow diameter stainless steel rods and bent them to make rings around each gauge, and filled each ring with a drop of epoxy to create the lens. A drop of blue die in the epoxy will keep it from having a yellow hue. Nicely done! Not as successful was his first attempt at applying the fiber glass mat to the hull. The quantity, or viscosity of the epoxy was not sufficient to mask the texture of the glass mat so that Tim says he is facing sanding it all off and trying again. We will hope for a happier report next meeting.

Blair Harrington had his Dragonfly back with ongoing finishing touches, and was looking for some input from the group. First was on the placement of the front navigation light, which the group unanimously said the light could go in any of the suggested locations due to the impressive character of the boat. Blair also indicated that he had tried colored LED bulbs in the light but that they just were not very bright, so he went

with clear bulbs and added green coloring to the epoxy. See the pattern here? Next was some technical advice for modifications to the rudder, which may or may not include making the rudder shorter. I did not catch a conclusion to this discussion. The final question was the placement of the laser cut boat name “Dragonfly”, and for that there were very distinct opinions on where the name should be installed. Next time we see the boat I would predict these three items will have been resolved.



You will recall from a past newsletter that Dave Brinkman was helping an estate to place quite a few model boats, some set up for RC and some not, and he brought the final boat that was for sale to show the group:



This boat represents collaboration number 1 between Dave Petrich and Dave Brinkman presented at the meeting. The hydroplane is an older boat in excellent condition and runs a nitro fuel powered motor. Dave Petrich belongs to the Twin City Model Boat Club that is exclusively for fast RC boats and operates on a pond near the Black Dog power plant next to the Minnesota River between the Cedar Avenue and I 35W bridges. Dave gave a nice explanation of living with and running nitro powered boats. This boat is still looking for a new home.

This photo shows the very nice contrast in design of the hydroplane and the Dragonfly boats that greeted the members as they came into the meeting room.



Next was collaboration #2 between Dave and our other member Dave, to put the Vac-u-tugs together. Dave Petrich reports that while the price of the raw boat ready for assembly and painting is pretty cheap, by the time ballast and electronics are purchased the boats come out to costing \$300 - \$350.



Regardless, they are the epitome of a kid's boat and I think will prove to be wildly popular. What is needed now are names for each boat, something kids can relate to quickly would be great. Many suggestions so far but the search is on-going. Let me know if you have suggestions.

The meeting wrapped up with a nice how-to basics on soldering by Dave Petrich. One of those things that most of us all have done, but could use some help and advice, and there were many items in the discussion that I am sure will help out many in attendance.



Also going on

Have you caught any of the Sail GP races on cable? I have found them fascinating and I am not sure you need to be into sailboat racing to enjoy them. If you are a fan of competition these might be for you. It appears that they may be moving around on cable channels so use your remote to do a voice search for "Sail GP" to see what channel they are on in your area. Alternately, they are on YouTube also. The format is ten boats representing 10 countries, but it is not the Olympics so that the crews are not necessarily from the country the boat represents. Two days of racing, the first day sees three races with all ten boats, and the same the second day for 2 races. Points are given for each place 1 - 10, and the third race on the second day is with the top three point boats to determine the final placement of positions 1 - 3. The course moves around the world and are pretty short. The boats are the smaller version of the Americas cup boats with the hydrofoils and the action is very intense and exciting. Graphics to follow the racing are excellent and will rival anything you see in other racing and sport formats. The races were on cable last weekend and my cable recorder set itself to also record this Saturday, March 30th, at 1:00 pm on WCCO. Check it out!

For Sale

Through the website the club got a contact from Bob Timmerman in Pella Iowa, and Bob is looking to sell his EC-12. Here is Bob's information on the boat and some photos:

I live near Pella, IA and have an EC-12 that I need to part with. Briefly, I bought and sailed it in Clearwater FL throughout the 90s. I ended up in Iowa, which has no club that sails these boats. Obviously it's been many years since it's been sailed, but I've displayed the hull and have stored the rigging, box of sails, and radio in my home, so everything is in good condition. The cradle was made specifically for the EC-12 so it can be carried easily. I had the hull refurbished in 1995. The last time it was sailed was

approximately 2010. For what it's worth, it was a competitive boat in its day. The hull, sails and rigging are in very good shape but since it's been so long since it's been sailed, I know it will need electronics work. I'd ask \$500 obo. I could bring it up to you. The twin cities are only about 4 hr from where I live.



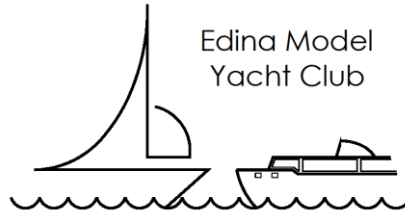
Interested? Let me know and I will put you in touch with Bob.

Coming up

Next membership meeting is April 16th, 7:00 pm.

Coffee and rolls is on Sunday, May 5th, starting at 10:00 am.

John Bertelsen
Commodore
Edina Model Yacht Club



Vice Commodores: Gary Tschautscher, Rob Segal, David Brinkman

Treasurer and Membership: David Brinkman

Sailboats: Tony Johnson

Scale Modeling: Kevin Waldo

Website: David Petrich

EMYC, DF 95 and ODOM Forums: Gary Tschautscher

Dry Dock Party, Spring Breakfast: Terry Bertelsen, Julia Moen

Face Book: Richard Dahlquist, Todd Moen

Off site events: Rob Segal