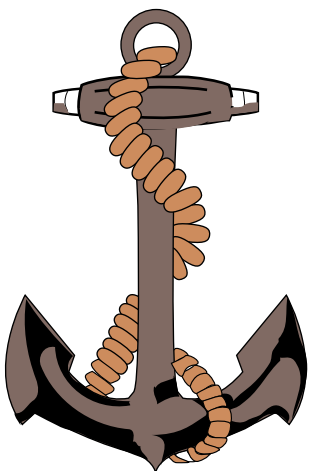


BOAT NEWS

The
occasional
newsletter
of the
Rideau
Nautical
Modellers

May, 2001



May 1 marked start of boating season

A warm summer evening on May 1 brought out many boaters and a large crowd of spectators to Andrew Hayden Park. The club will be at Andrew Hayden Park every Tuesday evening until it gets too cold to hold the transmitters. Plan to join us as often as possible! *(Photo courtesy Dorothy Clarke.)*



By Tony Mitchelson
President

As Ed Sullivan used to say "It was a really big shew!" I am referring of course to our display at Science and Tech. over the Easter week-end. I had 7 tables set up and then the models started rolling in so we added 5 more tables and finished up with a total of 57 models. The coordinator at the museum was aghast, expecting to see about half a dozen little boats. We have

SKIPPER'S SHORTS

an open invitation to return at any time.

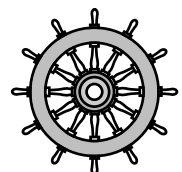
Although the water is low at Andy Hayden pond some members have been out for the past few weeks and the same ones seem to be getting into trouble. Maybe we should organize a mini boating course for these people. He knows who he is.

I would like to suggest that we call the personally owned tugs "FUN TUGS". It would be a more descriptive name and would avoid the current confusion between them and the "CLUB TUGS" which are the three that were built for the kids to operate. Just as a point of clarification the venue for June 17 and possibly

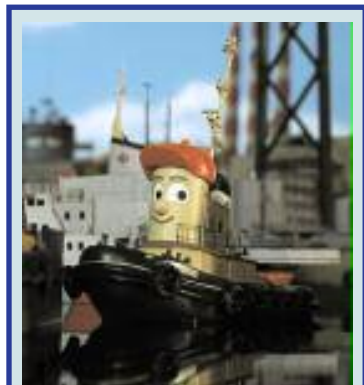
Aug 2-4 is actually the Children's Museum within the Museum of Civilization. The co-operation over there is fantastic, they will store the pool until needed, arrange for the filling and supply a tent to keep us out of the weather.

Inside, you will find reference to the members list on-line. Would you please ensure that all channels that you are using are listed.

See you at the pond.



Gear up for a busy summer!



Participation in the Theodore Tug Boat day at the Museum of Civilization on June 17 is just one of several new club activities for 2001.

While the official start of boating season is usually the Victoria Day weekend in May, 30°C temperatures at the end of April and beginning of May saw many boaters getting an early start at Andrew Hayden Park. Summer is definitely here, so charge those batteries and plan to join us at the pond!

The official start of the Rideau Nautical Modellers boating season is usually marked by a two-day run and demonstration at the Ottawa Tulip Festival. However, the club has decided not to participate in the Tulip Festival this year. A week before the event, the club executive was very concerned with the lack of coordination by Tulip Festival organizers. There were many details to arrange but the Tulip Festival staff had the Rideau Nautical Modellers very low on

their priority list. Many phone calls to organizers were not returned, so it was decided to abandon this event. However, it is still going to be a busy summer, commencing with the two-day event at Nepean Days, on June 16 and 17.

There are also several new events this summer. On June 17, several club members will be participating in a Theodore Tug Boat day at the Museum of Civilization. This Father's Day event will be using the club's portable pond and volunteers are required to help set up and take down the pond. (Call Tony if you can help.)

Sometime mid-summer, the club will be participating in a large company picnic for WebPlan, a large high-tech firm in Ottawa. The exact date has yet to be determined. The Museum of Civilization have asked the club to participate in an event during the long civic weekend at the beginning of August. (We'll use the full 16' x 32' portable pond for this event.) And the club will also be joining the Barrie Model Yacht Club for their annual regatta on August 25. It is hoped that many members will make the trek to Barrie for this event.

Regular Tuesday night runs at Andrew Hayden Park officially commence on May 22. However, a good number of club members have been taking advantage of some beautiful Tuesday evenings and have already been putting the pond at Andrew Hayden Park to good use.



Plan to join us for as many club activities as possible this summer. You are certain to see Wally sink his Noah's Ark at least a couple of times! It's a tradition, you know!

Your guide to 2001 events

June 16 & 17, 2001 - Nepean Days at Andrew Hayden Park. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. Limited free parking will be available with parking passes provided by the club. Plan to come early on the Sunday to enjoy a Father's Day pancake breakfast.

June 17, 2001 - Theodore Tug Boat day at the Museum of Civilization.

July 1, 2001 - Canada Day at Walter Baker Park in Kanata 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Parking is available just north of Walter Baker Park at the sports fields.

July 7 & 8, 2001 - Merrickville

Canalfest. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. Boats are run in the canal lock basin just below the bridge crossing the canal.

July 28 & 29, 2001 - Stewart Park Festival in Perth. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. Members run their boats at the corner of Wilson Street West and Herriott Street. A beautiful location!

August 4-6, 2001 - We're back to the Museum of Civilization. Details to come a bit later.

August 25, 2001 - Were in Barrie, Ontario for the Barrie Model Yacht Club's annual regatta.

FAST FACTS

22 calibre shells find many uses in boat building

Looking for the ideal thing to make portholes and bollards? Warren Thurston uses 22 calibre shells. The brass shell casings are just right for portholes and the firing rim on the shell makes for very realistic bits and bollards. He got his at a firing range in Pembroke - just picked them up by the handful off the floor!

Fishing trawler for sale

Former club member Robin Adair is selling a fishing trawler complete with a two channel Futaba "Attack" transmitter. The boat is complete and ready to run. It's a "best offer" sale, but something around \$250 would be about right. For further information, contact Ed Wilhelm at wilhelmej@hotmail.com.

Want to make twenty bucks?

Want to make a fast \$20? Pull the new club trailer to any event and the \$20 is yours!

To help compensate members who pull the trailer to events, the club is providing \$20 per event to

whoever might pull the trailer from its parking spot at the Museum of Science & Technology to the event.

HELP! How do you verify motor voltage?

"I've got a full box of motors but I have no idea what is the design voltage of many of the motors," says Richard Lee. "Is there any way to determine the voltage that a motor is designed for?" he asks.

Got the answer to this problem? Give Richard a call (829-0668) or fire off an e-mail: rlee@ochba.com. If there is a solution, we'll print it in our next newsletter.

Donna usa channels 70, 76 or 80 or we gonna breaka you face!

Let us tella you that we wanna keep three channels free for club boats. You betta no use channels 70, 76 or 80 or we get real mad ana call you a sonna ma bitch! So we tella you again, you betta stay clear of these channels or we breaka you face.

RNM members list is on-line

Need to contact another member? Want to see what channels are least used before buying a radio? Then check out the list of members which is the newest addition to the Rideau Nautical Modellers web site.



The membership section is password protected so only club members have access to this information. To access the page, click on the "Members Only" button. You'll be asked to enter your name (use your first name, and capitalize the first letter) and your password. (Contact Richard Lee if you don't know your password.)

By the way, we can make your name and password anything you want. If you'd like to change your log-in information, simply advise Richard Lee (rlee@ochba.com).

The members only section of the web site will likely grow in time as members come up with new features and benefits that can be included in this section.

Note as well that you can also view full colour copies of the Rideau Nautical Modellers newsletter on-line. At present, this issue and the December, 2000 issue may be downloaded from the club web site at www.ochba.com/r-cboatclub. All future newsletter issues will be added to the web site as well. We have also added an extensive "Links" section to the web site. You can now use the RNM web site as your best source of information for other R/C boat clubs in Canada, modelling tips and to find the web sites of our club members. Just click on the "Links" button and enjoy your explorations.

An affordable submarine from Dumas

Until now, getting started in submarines was a costly affair. You could plan on spending from \$500 to \$800 for a submarine kit. Now, Dumas Boats offers a complete submarine kit for only \$199. Available at Dynamic Hobbies off of Colonnade Road, beginners can have a quality, professional looking submarine without suffering from sticker shock.



The Dumas USS Bluefish submarine is a 33 inch long model of a Gato/Balao class submarine. It has a beam of 4 inches and weighs approximately five pounds ready to run. This dynamic diving sub has a maximum diving depth of four feet depending on water conditions.

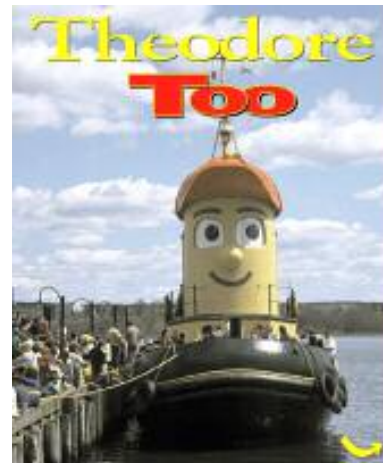
The kit contains vacuum formed parts including hull, deck, motor mounts and sails, two 4.8 volt electric motors and complete drive line hardware. All you'll need to be in the water is a 3 channel radio, speed control and battery pack.

To obtain further information on the Bluefish sub, visit Dynamic Hobbies at 21 Concourse Gate, Nepean or visit the Dumas Boats web site at www.dumasboats.com.

Did you know that TV's Theodore Tugboat is now a real tug?

Theodore Tugboat really is a boat and the 20 metre tug was launched in April 2000 at the historic shores of the LeHave River in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. The boat, Theodore Too, is a full-size replica of the star of the popular children's TV show, complete with smiling face, moving eyes and red baseball cap.

Theodore Too was built at Snyder's Shipyard near Lunenburg, N.S., where other famous wooden vessels, the Bluenose and the Bounty, were built. Philip Snyder and his team spent more than a year constructing the tug using shipbuilding methods that date back to 1876. It took 20,515 hours to carefully build Theodore's wooden hull, main deck and wheelhouse. Theodore's giant double measures 65 feet from bow to stern and 22 feet at the beam. Theodore Too is powered by a 400 horsepower engine. The wooden tugboat weighs 105 tonnes.



Theodore Too will be operated by Capt. Bill Stewart and a full-time crew of two. Throughout the summer, the tug will visit ports in Atlantic Canada and the U.S.. Theodore Too is now serving as the Canadian Coast Guard's official safe boating ambassador, teaching children about water safety in a way that is fun and exciting.

If you are in the Maritimes this summer, Theodore Too will be docked at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on the downtown Halifax waterfront from June 29 to July 8 and it will be in Georgetown, PEI from July 20 to 22.

Welcome to our newest members

Blake McIntosh from Nepean has been building model boats for a number of years. He has built the Billings model Zwarte Zee tug boat and has completed the West Wind, his version of the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker "Labrador." He is now building a Cadillac class destroyer.

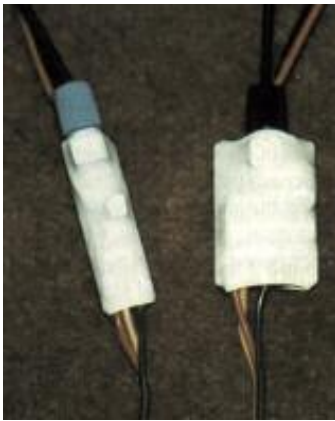
who hails from beautiful Gravenhurst. "We have plenty of water in Muskoka," Herb says, "but no modellers club." His daughter lives in Ottawa so he plans on joining us for club activities when visiting his family in town. Among his boats is a model of the tugboat Amsterdam, which is based in Rotterdam, Holland.

Also new to the club is **Harry MacDonald** from Carleton Place. Harry has joined the club to learn more about scratch building. He recently picked up plans for the Foundation Franklin steam tug from Vanguard Model Marine and will be calling on lots of club members for tips and advice.

Finally, we welcome back to the club **Jens-Uwe Steinborn**. Jens who hails from Oxford Station, was a club member a few years back. Anyone who saw his boats at the Science & Technology display in April knows he is a skilled craftsman indeed.

We also welcome **Herb Meyers**

Welcome to all our new members.



Fiber optic servo leads eliminate interference and glitches

Forgues of Aerografixs who made an excellent demonstration to club members attending the April meeting.

Mr. Forgues demonstrated his company's fiber optic servo leads. The system consists of an encoder plug that plugs into the receiver, a length of fiber optic cable and a decoder plug that goes just before the servo.

The complete installation is waterproof - good news for boaters like Wally Seddon who just can't

seem to keep his boats from going to the bottom!

Because this is a fiber optic system, there is no electrical connection between the radio and servos. Modelers will require a battery for the receiver and a separate battery for the servos.

This new fiber optic servo extension is available for \$50, which includes 48" of cable. For further information, visit the Aerografixs web site at www.aerografixs.com.

Boaters often experience interference and twitching servos, especially when longer servo leads are used. One solution to these problems came from Roger

Model Boat Show in Clayton

Each August, members travel to Clayton, New York to attend the annual Clayton Antique Boat Show. Coinciding with the boat show is a model boat show that members may wish to participate in. The 4th annual model boat show takes place at the Thousand Islands Museum of Clayton. From Friday August 3 to Sunday, August 5, a wide assortment of model boats from northeastern US and eastern Canada will be on display.

Set up for the show takes place on Thursday, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, although some set-up will be permitted Friday morning. If you have a model that is not yet finished, they'd love to have it for a show and tell display.

And the best part? There is no fee to participate in the model boat display and all exhibitors receive free admission to the museum all weekend long.

Of course, while in Clayton you'll want to take in the 37th annual Antique Boat Show. This is the United State's oldest annual Antique Boat Show.

Registration forms for the model boat show are available from Richard Lee (rlee@ochba.com) or Cody Lyster (codylyster@sympatico.ca).

X10 camera is ideal for boats

Members attending the April club meeting saw a demonstration of the XCam2, a wireless video camera that can transmit live colour video and crisp audio signals up to 100 feet. The XCam2 integrates a colour analog video camera, a microphone and 2.4GHz transmitter into a single device that is smaller than a golf ball, all for only \$90, plus \$10 shipping.

The camera is also available with a wide angle lense - the XCam2 WideEye. Whichever you choose, they come with a 12 month warranty and a 30-day money back guarantee. Included in the package is a 2.4GHz wireless camera, a receiver with coax and RCA cable output to connect to your TV or VCR and a power supply.

Members at the club meeting were very impressed with the picture quality, color, range ability and tiny size! They were also amazed that it cost so little. For more information, speak to Tony Mitchelson or visit the X10 web site at www.X10.com.



eBay - Another source of boats and supplies

At just about every club meeting over the winter, some member spoke about buying a hull or boat through the eBay on-line auction web site. Here's a short primer to help you understand how eBay works.

The best way to explore eBay is just to browse. A good place to begin is the categories list. If you know exactly what you're looking for, just enter a couple of words in the Search box located at the top of almost every page.

You can browse all you want, but if you want to bid, you'll need to register first. Registering is free and only takes a couple of minutes.

Once you are registered, you can bid on any item you like. Carefully look over what you're bidding on. Enter your maximum bid in the bid box at the bottom of the page. Then, click on the "Review Bid" button. eBay will bid on your behalf up to your maximum bid. You enter your User ID and password and then click the "Place Bid" button. That's it! You're done with bidding.

Many people are rightfully concerned about the safety of buying a used item sight unseen. eBay has a number of built-in safeguards every time you buy or sell.

Before you buy, you can instantly check the "reputation" or business practices of anyone at eBay. The Feedback Forum is a place where users leave comments about each other's buying and selling experiences at eBay.



Every eBay user is covered, at no additional cost, by the eBay Fraud Protection Program. If you paid for an item and never received it (or if you received the item, but it's less than what was described), eBay will reimburse buyers up to \$200, less a standard \$25 deductible.

An escrow service can give you added security whether you're a buyer or seller in transactions involving expensive items. EBay will hold your payment and send it off to the seller only after you've inspected your merchandise and given your approval.

If you want to bid or browse at eBay, it's free. You don't pay a penny in fees.

So why not browse the eBay site and look for bargains? The web site is at www.ebay.com.

