



# Ship's Log



August 2012

Volume 27, Issue 8



## FROM THE BRIDGE

*Gene Wisner*

The lull before the storm. The month of July was a normal month for the Indianapolis Admirals. Sailing regattas, scale Fun Runs, Minimono racing. See the website for this month's racing results. August promises to have all these plus a few extra very fun events.

First, the weekend of **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>** brings back the **SubCommittee SubRegatta**. This event will, once again, bring RC submarine modelers from all over the country to the Carmel Reflecting Pond. It is always fun to come and look in awe at all of the incredible submarines. Not only do these subs look incredible, the engineering that goes into them is something to behold. We need volunteers to come out to help with setup and takedown. This event will happen before the August meeting so look for an email reminder to come help us out.

The next special event for August is the **State Fair Fun Run**. The date this year will be Saturday **August 18<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 PM until 3:30 PM**. This is always a fun event for both Admirals members and all those kids that get a turn at running one of the club's Midwest tugboats. Come to the meeting to find out more about this event.

One note on sailing for this month (and possibly the rest of the year), I have been informed that Hourglass pond has been overrun with weeds. And not just along the shore, but out in the pond. So we are looking for another venue for sailing. Stay tuned for emails on where and when for this month's sailing regatta. If you have an idea for a good sailing pond please let me know.

And of course there are the "normal" schedule of Admiral's events; the Tug Wilson sailing regatta – **August 11<sup>th</sup>**, the Scale Fun Run – **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, and the IOM sailing regatta – **August 25<sup>th</sup>**. And of course this month's meeting is Thursday **August 9<sup>th</sup>**. Hope everyone can make one or more of these events.

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### Admirals Club Officers

- Commander ..... Gene Wisner
- First Officer.....Scott Black
- Scale Director.....Dave Hampton
- Sailing Director .....Lee Shroyer
- Purser .....Dave McCreary
- Newsletter.....John Louk
- Minimono Director..... .Ray White

*Gene*

# ADMIRALS CALENDAR

## August 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 SubRegatta	4 SubRegatta
5 SubRegatta	6	7	8	9 Club Meeting	10	11 Sailing
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 State Fair
19 Scale & Minimono	20	21	22	23	24	25 IOM
26	27	28	28	30	31	

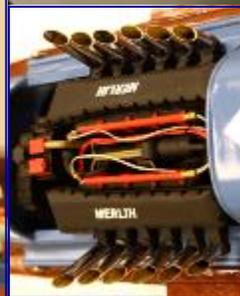
### Schedule of Events for August 2012

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Event &amp; time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Aug 3 - 5	Wknd	SubRegatta	Carmel Reflecting Pond
Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	Club Meeting – Clay Township Government Center (6:30 – 9 PM)	106th St and College Ave
Aug 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Tug Wilson One Meter & V-32 Series 10:30/1:00 PM	<b><u>To be determined</u></b>
Aug 18 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Indiana State Fair Fun Run: 2PM to 3:30 PM	State Fair Grounds
Aug 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Scale Fun Float / Fast Electric Racing – 2PM	Reflecting Pond, Carmel
Aug 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	IOM Sailing Regatta	<b><u>To be determined</u></b>

# July Meeting

**W**e had a slightly larger turnout for our July meeting with 23 members attending at the Government Center meeting room. We discussed our healthy bank account and determined that our annual Holiday Party would be held on a “normal” meeting night, December 13<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of having UL-1 races (fast electric) since there are a number of those boats in the club. There was mention of another “Wet Wednesday” event in Plainfield on August 22<sup>nd</sup> but your editor’s notes do not include the “go ahead” for such an event in light of the heavy August Admirals event calendar.

**Scott Black** brought his new GEICO race boat for all to see while **Dave Hampton** brought his recently finished **Miss Jazzy Blue** shovel nose hydro nicely finished WOOD boat with a better than nice scratch



built scale motor. **Mike Yount** had another Shovel nose in progress and **Gene Wisner** had his Minimono offered for sale. *(Continued, see Meeting, next page)*

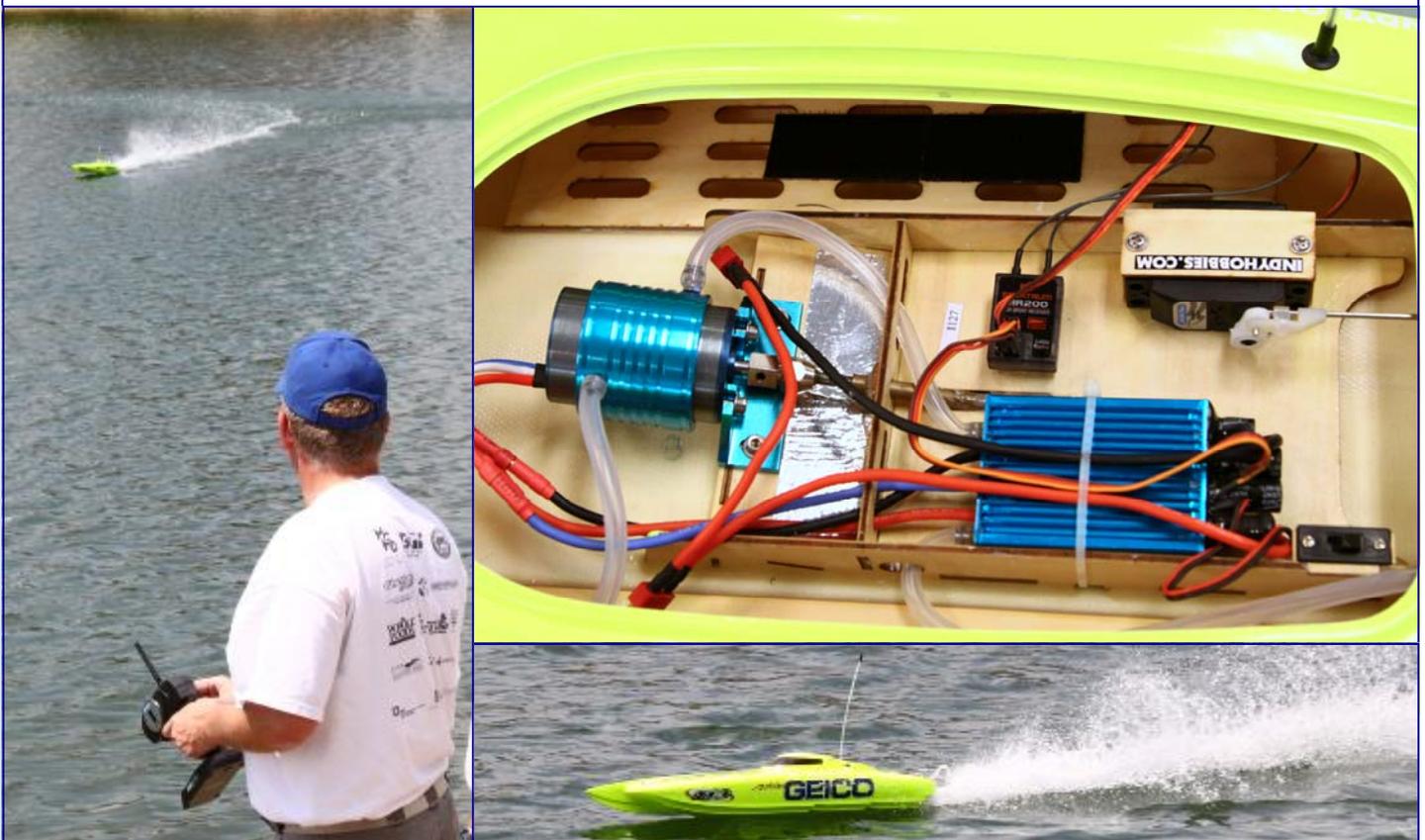


# Meeting (Continued from page 3)

**Ray White** brought his nicely refinished One Meter hull which we hope to see afloat soon (although the West Clay Hourglass pond is likely done for the year).



Below is an interior shot of **Scott Black's GEICO** racing cat showing the straight forward layout that characterizes today's RTR fast electric models. Also a couple of action shots from Shadeland pond.



# Sailing the Victoria Region 4 Championship

**Rich Fox**

**D**uring the weekend of July 22-23, I had the opportunity to participate in the Victoria class Mini-Mac Regatta in Fort Gratiot, Michigan located near Port Huron. A total of 16 Victoria class sailboats from Michigan, Indiana, Canada and Alabama participated in the Mini-Mac Regatta, which was also the Region 4 Championship Regatta for the Victoria class. The Regatta was organized and hosted by the Fort Gratiot RC Yacht Club.

To prepare for the regatta, I spent dozens and dozens of hours practicing my eye-thumb coordination, experimenting with different rig/sail tuning techniques, and doing a lot of match racing with a fellow Victoria sailor and utilizing the retention pond in my backyard in Westfield.

Despite the fact that I had a few great starts (including two over early penalties), and lead the fleet around the windward mark a few times, I finished 10th out of 16. After the regatta, it was very encouraging to receive some compliments for doing this well in my first Victoria class regatta.

The Fort Gratiot RC Yacht Club did a great job of organizing and running 21 races on Saturday and Sunday. They provided a catered lunch both days to help keep all the sailors energized. The FGRCYC facilities are excellent with a large pond built especially for radio controlled boating enthusiasts, including a shelter, picnic tables, and a launch area. The road trip to Fort Gratiot was 400 miles each way.

My next road trip is to the Victoria class "Heart of Dixie" Regatta hosted by the Rocket City Model Yacht Club in Huntsville, Alabama in late October.

There has already been interest expressed by several sailors in the Victoria class in coming to Indianapolis for a two-day regatta, including interest by the current Victoria class National Champion. I am not sure how many Indy Admiral members are Victoria sailors, but I would certainly like to hear from you with your interest in building this fleet within the Indy Admirals. My e-mail is rich\_fox@yahoo.com, or phone number 317-815-8599. *(It's also in our Roster...ed.)*

<https://sites.google.com/site/classvictoria1/>



**Victoria Class Information Center**  
*Home of the "Victoria One Design" Class*

# How to Melt Lead

Scott Black

**L**ead is an extremely dense material that is cheap and can be molded into many different shapes needed to ballast boats, make sailboat keel weights and other uses in car and airplanes.

Please know that melting lead is dangerous! It involves working over a hot surface or open flame and wearing burn protection and eye protection. You want to avoid breathing any lead fumes as they are said to be harmful. You also want to make sure not to ingest lead dust from your hands. So, wash your fingers thoroughly when you are done with this process and keep them out of your mouth (and nose) in the meantime!

There are many ways to melt lead. The guys that reload their own firearm rounds have crucible sets that you can buy at sporting goods stores. Since hobbyists don't need to melt lead often, we are usually more resourceful (cheap!) in our means of melting and pouring lead.

In my experience, the easiest source of lead is to stop by tire stores and just ask for old wheel weights. They usually will give you a bag or can full of them, free! Take a container that is strong. Wheel weights are an easy source, but the downside is they are usually dirty and have metal mounting clips that are not going to melt. The clips will have to be pulled out of the molten lead in your crucible before you pour. The dirt on the weights and other foreign materials will float to the surface of the molten lead usually. You can clean out most of it with a old spoon or needle nose pliers before you pour. And, if you pour carefully, most of the crud will stay in the container. Fishing weights and other sources of "clean" lead are often coated with something that will contaminate. No problem, just be aware.

I usually use an old coffee can or tuna can. I put a little more lead weights in the can than I need as some of the lead will stick in the can when you pour it. I use a propane torch to heat the underside of the can. It doesn't take long before the weights start to melt. As they do, you can grab the steel clips with needle nose pliers and remove them to safe location as they will likely be red hot.

Once you think all of the lead is molten, stir the lead slowly to get it mixed and the temperature even. When you pour, you will need to pour quickly after removing the lead from flame because it will set very fast. I use Vise-grip type pliers to grab the can along with a thick cooking glove. I don't want to take any chances on dropping it or getting some on my hand! Make sure the mold you are pouring into is level and close by. Pour quickly, but slow enough that you don't splash.

An adult should melt and pour the lead! Beware: A molten mass of lead that is accidentally dropped will splatter and you will get burned unless you just happen to be very lucky. Don't trust your luck. Take precautions.

You can just pound lead into shapes too rather than melt it. It is more difficult and time consuming to do, but depending on your needs, pounding lead is an option to melting it. It's amazing how malleable lead is. If necessary, you can pound lead into really thin strips that can be cut with tin snips or

wire cutters too. Scale builders can even use it to make one-of-a-kind parts.

Normally, lead poured into a cool mold will harden almost immediately. And, it will likely not stick to your mold if it is made of stone or plaster. You can remove it with a flat blade screw driver or similar tool. Remember, it will still be VERY hot even once it has hardened. It will probably take a good 10 minutes before you can touch it, maybe more.

Molds can be purchased from hobby dealers or made from scratch. Plaster of Paris works well, but you need to be absolutely sure it is completely dry and not full of moisture. If it's not dry, the mold can burst and you will have molten lead flowing all over your work surface. Do I need to say not to do this on your kitchen counter? Hope not!

Once the lead is cool, you can file it, drill it, saw it and polish it. Again, just remember that you don't want to get lead or lead dust inside your body. The finished lead piece can be primed and painted, or covered with epoxy. I suggest you coat it with something if possible.

One thing I did several years ago was to buy a few tiny clay pots. I put a penny in the bottom of each to block the drain hole and poured molten lead into them. What I wound up with was four really nice 3 pound building weights that I have used for many projects. I coated them with epoxy when complete. A circle of felt on the bottom would be a good idea too, but I've not done that yet.



# Scuttlebutt

1. "Wet Wednesday" at the Plainfield Aquatic Center; we demonstrated boats and unleashed our fleet of Liberty Tugs for kids to try! Your editor managed to try his mini-Swift boat, too....it worked!!



2. Now that West Clay is weed filled, we need a new venue for sailing. The last Tug Wilson sailing event was held August 14th. There were 5 One Meter entries in the morning session, including one that hasn't been seen this century (below)!!!



Excavation of a large pond near the baseball section of the Sports Campus.

A large pond in the southwest corner of the Sport Campus blanketed with straw.

3. Work continues to accelerate at the Grand Park ,Westfield (left).

4. Shadeland pond continues to offer a great go-fast place to run.....and shoot missiles? Nah, that can't be right.





**An AMYA and SSMA chartered club.**



**SSMA Affiliated Club**



**We're on the web!**

**[www.indyadmirals.org](http://www.indyadmirals.org)**

**[Facebook.com/indyadmirals](https://www.facebook.com/indyadmirals)**

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The ADMIRALS model ship and boat club of Indianapolis is a not for profit club open to all. Our members build and operate scale model boats and ships of the world, radio controlled competition sailing yachts, R/C combat ships, fast electric boats, and static scale models.

There is no limit to the satisfaction of building and operating your own model ship or boat. The fact is, there has never been a "bad" model built by anyone. Every model reflects the builder's creative ideas and as such is a unique and valuable expression of the builder.

We invite you to visit us at any of our meetings, usually on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM or at any of our events pond side. See our web site for the specific meeting dates, locations, and maps.

Please feel free to contact us at (317) 291-2781 for information. Or, look us up on the web or e-mail us at the addresses to the left. If you share our interest in nautical subjects we welcome you to join us.

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