



Ship's Log



FROM THE BRIDGE

Gene Wisner

The weather is starting to change, but our club members are a hardy group. Eight members showed up in the rain this past Sunday for the club's monthly Scale Fun Run. I must admit I was not one of those members, so kudos for those supporting all of our club activities.

The weekend of September 17th and 18th was the 3rd Annual Hoosier Outdoor Expo. The Admirals had a display setup for Saturday of the Expo. I want to thank **Larry Dorsett, Dave McCreary, Kenny Kiger, Scott Black, Don Fields** and **Robert Kaltenbach** for showing up and helping put on what was a very long day, but a very enjoyable day. We had 5 of the Midwest Tugboats setup for kids to run. This year we tried something slightly different and had the radios taped to a couple tables that were facing the water. We put a number at each radio "station", and a corresponding number on each boat. The kids would walk up to a "station" and we could tell them which numbered boat they were running. This setup worked great and we had boats moving forward more than in reverse, because it was easier, specially for the smaller kids, to handle the controls. The Expo opened at 9 AM, and we had some kids off and on, starting that early. But things really started picking up by 11 AM and we had a constant line from 11 AM until the Expo closed at 6 PM. I calculated we probably had from 450 to 500 kids operate our boats during the entire day. For the most part the Midwest tugboats performed admirably. The only real problem occurred when some of the people testing out the kayaks wandered into our area. One superstructure got knocked off by a wayward paddle. Luckily John had filled his superstructure with foam, so it was easy to retrieve. Dave McCreary's Midwest tug (fireboat actually) ran the longest on one battery charge. Dave did not need to change the battery in his boat until about 3 PM. So I believe his boat ran for 6 hours on one battery charge.

Our next big event is the Kiwanis Duck Splash down in Columbus, IN on Saturday Oct 8th. This event is held at Mill Race Park and is a wonderful place to run. We are scheduled to put on a demonstration from 1:30 PM to 2:00 PM and then to retrieve the "winning" ducks for their charity fundraiser. BUT, since this is such a wonderful place to run our boats, we plan on getting there early to have a Fun Run away from our regular Reflecting pond location. If you want to join us (besides those that already signed up at the meeting) please send me an Email or give me a call. This is a very enjoyable event.

For anyone interested, the St Louis Admirals Regatta is being held the weekend of Oct 1st and 2nd. This year they have changed locations and it is at The Boat House in Forest Park. This is also a fun event where you can see many very nice R/C boats. Summer is winding down, but it is NOT TOO LATE to get out to the nearest pond and enjoy some model boating. So get out there and have some fun! Remember our next meeting is Thursday Oct 13th.

Gene

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Admirals Club Officers

<i>Commander</i>	Gene Wisner
<i>First Officer</i>	Scott Black
<i>Scale Director</i>	Dave Hampton
<i>Sailing Director</i>	Lee Shroyer
<i>Purser</i>	Dave McCreary
<i>Newsletter</i>	John Louk

ADMIRALS CALENDAR

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1st Louis Admirals
2 St Louis Admirals	3	4	5	6	7	8 Duck Splash
9	10	11	12	13 Club Meeting	14	15 Sailing Regatta
16	17	18	19	20 Internat	21 Hobby	22 Expo
23 Scale & Mini Rio	24	25	26	27	29	30

Schedule of Events for October 2011

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Event & time</i>	<i>Location</i>
Oct 1-2	Wkend	St Louis Admirals Regatta	The Boat House in Forest Park St Louis, MO
Oct 8	Sat	Kiwanis Duck Splash, Columbus, IN	Columbus, IN
Oct 13	Thurs	Club Meeting – Carmel Lutheran Church (6:30 – 9 PM)	Carmel
Oct 15	Sat	Tug Wilson One Meter & V-32 Series 10:30/1:00 PM	Village of West Clay
Oct 20 -23	Wkend	International Hobby Expo	Stevens Convention Center
Oct 23	Sun	Scale Fun Float / MINI RIO Racing – 2PM	Reflecting Pond, Carmel
Oct 31	Mon	Halloween	

Meeting Pictures



Twenty-three attended the meeting including two guests, one of whom (**Greg Vollmer**) has re-joined the club with his family. Greg dates back to the late 1980's in his previous membership. There were lots of boats brought, too. (Clockwise from upper left) **Dave Richey's CSS Virginia**,



**D a v e
M c C r e a r y ' s
n e w r i g g e r ,
B o b K a l t e n -
b a c h ' s
V o l a r e ,**



**Scott Black's
Impulse 26**
brushed motor v-hull from Proboat, and an older weed-whacker™ type motor-powered custom speedboat!



We are always gratified to see all the boats brought to meetings and to the ponds. There's always something new to see and learn. **Mike Yount** once again brought a variety of fast electrics in various stages of assembly/reassembly. This club of ours is FUN!!

Editorial: Fast Electric Racing?

John Louk

The Indianapolis Admirals RC model boat and ship club continues to evolve, thanks to imaginative and hard working members who make things happen.

Two years ago, Scott Black introduced us to the Aquacraft Mini Rio™ RTR fun boat designed for generating interest in competition racing boats. It had everything going for it: neat looks, low price, a complete package including boat, radio, battery, charger. Just add 8 AA batteries for the transmitter, some water to float it and have fun. It caught on quickly. In fact, many boats were purchased and informal racing quickly started.... a natural occurrence when two or more guys with virtually identical boats get together at the same time at a pond. A set of "rules" was quickly established to keep things equal as possible, essentially mandating only stock boats with stock motors, props, and batteries could race in the new class of racing. The only unfortunate fact was that not more than 4 Mini Rio boats could race simultaneously because they only came with 4 different radio frequencies.

After thoughtful consideration of that issue and others, the rules have evolved to eliminate the failure-prone on/off switch, allow Deans Ultra Plug ESC/battery connectors, permit the substitution of 2.4 GHz radios and separate ESCs to eliminate frequency conflicts, and eliminate the port rudder and linkage.. *But the motor had to remain stock along with the prop, battery, and hull shape and the total boat weight with battery installed must be not less than 16.5 ounces (the average weight of the completely stock boat when purchased).* Thanks to super-volunteer Ray White, the rules are codified, a competition course approved, designed and placed by Ray at each race, and Ray also officiates as race director/scorekeeper/boat retriever/course setup and takedown person, and official who adjudicates complaints and challenges. It works! Without Ray, it would not.

This year marks the second year of organized competition. The numbers of competitors has dwindled to the point where it is difficult to get three of four boats/skippers to come out on the scheduled racing dates. Why all this long-winded history? Because this club is at a crossroads.

We have half a dozen members interested in operating fast boats. They have purchased expensive, remarkably fast electric v-hull, picklefork hull, rigger, and hydro boats capable of speeds up to 50 mph and beyond using brushless motors and lithium polymer technology. These are not beginner's toys. A pond suitable for operating these boats is available to us at 75th Street at Shadeland Avenue. Kenny Kiger, Dave McCreary and Dave Hampton all combined their efforts to make it happen. So how's the racing? Non-existent. Most of the go-fast skippers want to scream around the pond with these two dimensional missiles tempting fate. Racing? Not yet although Mike Yount has done a ton of work to design a race course and boat specification to permit course setup in the reflecting pond and modification of missiles such as the Supervee 27R to race on 6 cell NiMh batteries safely in that environment while still permitting exciting speeds to be retained. Here's the rub. I have heard that some skippers don't want to hazard their boats by racing them! They are content to skim across the water solo. A few want to race. And, we need a breakout class of racing for Mini Rio skippers to graduate to, if they desire. It would be nice if these boats remained

affordable. Oh we can have an “Unlimited” class where your high-dollar package can run but it could be lonely there. Just you and the guys from HobbyTown USA.

But, and this is big....

1. How many of you out there want to race?
2. How many of you will actually commit to a series?
3. How much are you willing to spend on a competitive setup?
4. What existing boat in today's market is recommended?
5. What would be the class specifications in the likely event that the boat model selected lasts but a year or so before it's pulled from the market? What do you do then?
6. Is an effort to organize racing worth it?
7. Is there sufficient actual support, much less interest? I think we really need to look closely as winter draws down on us and plan effectively so we can start the new RC boating season ready to “play”.
8. What do you think?

We've got ponds available for our use and we've already seen spectator interest at Shadeland. So with the facilities we have and some dedicated effort by Mike Yount, Ray White and others in the competition area, we could do a lot. But we need club input on direction we want to pursue to move forward if we intend to do so.

Please email me your answers to questions 1 through 8 above. I will tabulate the results and present them at the October 13th club meeting as a starting point for a discussion. If you choose not to respond, that is an answer, too. All emails to me on the subject remain confidential.

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Hoosier Outdoor Experience

Photos: Scott Black



Gene Wisner reported on this event on page 1. Here are the photos to illustrate the article. **Larry Dorsette** (L) is the spark plug running this event again this year. Kayaks and RC boats



did mix together on the pond and Dave McCreary's goose was popular with the spectators as well.



Radio transmitters taped to the table made control of the club's tugs and fireboat easier for younger skippers. A great turnout!



Duck Splash!



Last year's Kiwanis Duck Splash event at Mill Race Pond in Columbus, IN was a rousing great time! A couple of the pages from last year's November Ship's Log (above) illustrated our first-ever participation which we're doing again on Saturday, October 8th. As Gene mentioned on page 1, you can be a part of this fun event too but you need to let him know you want to join us because Gene is cooking out at the Mill Race Park venue again this year!

H L Hunley Update

I was privileged to be given the opportunity to interview Senior Archeologist **Maria Jacobsen** of the HL Hunley conservation team at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in Charleston, SC last week. The following is a brief summary of recent activity and ongoing study in the process of preserving the Confederate submarine and determining the reason the submarine was lost after her successful mission in 1864.



As you may recall, the H L Hunley was an eight man-powered submarine built by the Confederacy and used to attack blockading Union ships off Charleston, SC on the night of February 17, 1864. She successfully sank the Union ship *USS Housatonic*, thus becoming the first successful combat submarine in history. She did not return from her mission. After more than a century underwater lost to all, she was located and brought intact from the ocean floor to the conservation center for study and preservation in 2000. After ten years, the reason for her loss at sea remains a mystery for new information is slow to emerge as the submarine is studied and it is preserved for future generations in a new museum to be built.

I have attended press conferences there and maintain credentials with Friends of the Hunley (501 C3 organization) at the center as work continues. During the interview, I spotted this 3D model of the Hunley as she appeared when lifted from the ocean in 2000. It was made using data from a



multi-billion point data cloud created with a precision laser scanning the real sub and then printing that data with a 3 dimensional printer. The model is about one foot long and shows to exact detail



© Friends of the Hunley 2011

the marine growth and damage to her hull. In the image above, the sub is in the process of being raised to a fully upright position from a 45° list to starboard inside the lab a month ago, allowing more of her exterior hull to be viewed. The red laser is used to detect any distortion of the hull during the two day process. The hole in the forward hatch port area is under intense study to determine if it occurred before or after the sub was sunk in 1864. A National Geographic special program which included ballistic testing of similar material was broadcast two weeks ago. No conclusions are yet possible.

I am preparing an article based upon information from my interview with additional unpublished photographs provided by the center to be published before year's end this year. If you're interested, I'll let you know when it is delivered for publication.

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We're on the web!

www.indyadmirals.org

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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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