

## February 2017 Meeting, by John Bertelsen

The February meeting was a lot of just fun, no business items to speak of, just interesting boats - perfect! First was my finally completed Dragon Force 65 sailboat. It has taken me almost 2 years to get the boat painted and assembled. My thinking was that there were going to be a lot of these boats on the ponds and it would be hard to tell one from the other. So painting the hull was undertaken in the very limited time I had available. Not having painted anything for quite some time, it took more than one effort to get the painting to an acceptable level. The Dragon Force boat was developed by RC sailing racers in England to be an affordable entry level for new persons into RC sailing. The boat is extremely well designed with their input. Joysway is the manufacturer. Not a lot have shown up on the pond (the web site claims it to be the best selling rc sailboat around the world) but last fall Mike Ross was sailing someone else's Dragon Force boat that he was considering purchasing, and Mike got the tuning adjusted very well and was demonstrating just what a nice sailing boat it is. The Dragon Force is a very handsome boat and was originally sold in a black hull. The current offering is in white, and there is now a choice of three sail sizes. Joe Steele allowed me the use of his Dragon Force to help me see how the rigging is set up, and how he improved on the rigging in the (otherwise very good) instructions. There is actually very little that needs to be done to complete assembly of the boat as the hull and internals are already completed. On the left is Joe's stock black boat, and on the right is my red painted hull. Turned out pretty nice don't you think?



Next up Michael Corbett gave a great presentation on really inexpensive remote controls. The controller looks like a car remote, being in the 1 inch x 2 inch by 1/4 inch think size range. Michael and Richard Dahlquist seem to be similarly adept at the miniature electronics available to the scale modeler these days.



Finally the main event, and former member Ray Neifert took center stage with his amazing PT boats. There were 5 that Ray built, representing the 5 PT's the US produced for WW II. Todd Moen had just purchased one of Ray's boats and a second went to Iowa. That left three boats for sale, and Todd brought his so everyone could see 4 of the 5 that made up the complete set. Ray gave a short history of each boat and this included how each of the 5 models ran in the water. Historic accuracy to the Nth degree!! Here is Todd's boat:



The transportation dolly is curtesy of Bull Uhl. Here are the remaining three boats. On all of the boats isn't the weathering technique fantastic!?!?

I am a sailboat guy, but I assured myself that push comes to shove, Ray was going to get his desire and these boats were going to stay in the club if I had to purchase them myself. No worry, all three were summarily sold.





Finally, if you stayed for a while after the official club meeting John Bishop brought a less than \$20 coaxial micro helicopter that flew with amazing stability. This as an alternate to the \$35 drone I brought the previous meeting. I realize this is a boat club, but what is an RC person supposed to do in the too long winter months? You are used to the controls, a RC car, truck, drone, airplane, helicopter in the oh-so-nice micro size are all too available with flight stabilization as needed to operate indoors. A person has to have something to do RC-wise to occupy the time until ice out. See you at next month's meeting!

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