

March and April Membership Meeting and Newsletter

Welcome to the first ever On-Line (sort of) membership meeting. With our inability to get together in a group situation this newsletter will be our membership meeting. The first meeting where all the members are in attendance! And the best part is that just like at the meetings I am going to let the members tell about their own boats in the show and tell segment!

First off the announcements:

- The status of the park remains the same. We are welcome to come down to the ponds to run our boats anytime. The bathrooms inside and outside the building remain closed. New restrictions from assistant park manager Laura Fulton relate to our access to the storage area in the maintenance shop building. We are requested to do so only after the park staff has left the building, which is usually after 5:00 pm, and then we are requested to have no more than 3 persons in the garage at a time. I am not aware of any access that we need, but if you do want to get into the storage area for any reason bear the new restrictions in mind.
- The status of the May membership meeting along with the June activities are to be determined. There is nothing we can do at this point to predict if we will be having the Parade of Boats this year or not. Since we can put that event together quickly it is a decision that we may have the option of making up to the last minute, but putting a poster announcement together and getting a notice in the Star Tribune events section does require some lead time so by the May meeting date of the 19th we should make a decision as to whether we proceed with the event as scheduled, reschedule, or cancel it for this year.

Next, what is going on right now:

In trying times there are usually some changes that are needed to be made and/or we need to look to new ways to accomplish activities in a different way. Sometimes this creates new opportunities that have a positive effect for the future. The ODOM racers are a case in point. Sure, the ice has not been out that long and the temperatures have allowed for the occasional trip to the ponds (either Centennial Lakes Ponds or Smith Pond), but with social distancing providing its own challenges at Smith in particular, the sailors have come up with virtual sailing together on-line using Sail Simulator 5. Not only will this help get through the current situation, winter racing will also be possible. See! Every cloud as they say. Great on-line racing together and great graphics is the word on the ODOM forum. I was going to include a screen shot of the graphics but it really would not do the program justice. Go on-line to sailsimulator.com and you can see video, which is much better than a screen shot.

Still, eager to get on the water, the buoys at Smith have been out for some time now, and just yesterday some of the racers were at Smith for some early season racing. Here Kevin Kavaney reports from Smith Pond on the ODOM forum:

I suspect a number of you guys sailed E sailboats today but six of us showed up at Smith and by placing some people on the North Railing and the next on the South railing...in a double W if you would...we could do social distancing fairly well.

We raced for over 3 hours...it was just like old times:

Not to mention any names, someone's sail ripped with a wind burst but someone else had tape on hand so that we were able to affect a repair to keep them going.

Another had a total rig failure but it happened close to the dock so we were able to retrieve the boat with no canoe rescue needed. Another got hung up on the buoys TWICE... Someone had a battery go bad, another slipping Sheets that robbed them of power. Multiple times the winds would shift 90 degrees and several times 180 degrees... in the last race, the last half lap was like watching paint dry...the wind just totally died...I realize I must like Drama like this. ???

It was a total blast to be actually racing in real time. I am NOT dissing the computer racing...it is probably way more competitive, but then I am NOT that talented at racing...but maybe better at adapting to forever changing conditions!!!!

Ha...I realize half the fun for me is seeing the cooperation amongst everyone to keep everyone else going on the water, not just for themselves to win.

At the end of the day, Stu put his canoe in to rescue the dock bench that had once again been thrown into the water and was drowning on the east bank. It took a lot of effort on Stu's part to free it from the goo and get it over to the dock where the three of us got it up and over the railing...it was in the water long enough that it probably weighted twice what it did BEFORE it went in the water.

I think Bill took maybe better pictures than I got..there were some really nice starts with 5 boats going over the line nicely. Adam Koller showed up with his Black DF-95 and whooped our butts frequently coming in 1st and second against the rest of us with FASTER boats.... Ha...It's NOT the GUN...it is the shooter: Adam (is an excellent skipper)...

Kevin



Photo by Bill Coppage

GREAT report by Kevin. Note the DF 95 leading the fleet in the photo. This is a wonderful group of guys to go sailing with. There is a complete range of skills and everyone is willing to help each other out in rigging and learning to sail competitively. You should not feel intimidated to join and sail with this group. Also, as a reminder, the DF 95 group is also active and which group to join is largely a function of when you would like to sail. The ODOM racers are usually racing during the day and the DF 95 racers are in the evening. Boats are available on a loaner basis and for purchase. I can put you in touch with either group.

Show and Tell:

My request for photos and a description of what the membership is up to with boat builds got a great response! First response was from Jeff McCabe:

Jeff McCabe

My project update, custom built from stuff available in the house....



The beginning with just a small copy image...



Fiberglass hull under construction....



Plug removed and display stand built....



Superstructure started....



Just a little more progress, still hovering/trapped at home, progress happens.

Jeff

Sure, just some stuff I happened to have lying around the house doing nothing, and a few simple hand tools. Thanks Jeff!

Next was yet another update from Vern who has been battling the impossible task with his static model conversion into a RC runner. A very impressive project and shared with all of us with pure candor of the trials and tribulations in this project that just goes against nature:

Vernon Bollesen

My Mississippi paddlewheel boat is ready to go. I have just run it for 1/2 an hour in the bathtub to make sure that the battery has enough capacity. The kit was designed for display but I was determined to make it float.

Big mistake was made in building this boat. Hey, wood floats. After completing some of the assemblies I notice that they seemed heavy. I took the assemblies to FedEx and weighed them and then calculated the displacement. I realized I was in big trouble. The walls of the cabin were 3/32 of an inch thick plywood. That's equivalent to 9 inches thick on the real boat. Another problem was that it was very top heavy. On my other paddlewheel boat the walls are 1/16th inch balsa.

There were two solutions. I could start over and reduce the weight of the boat. I believe I could at least cut out half of the weight. The other solution was to add a keel and enough buoyancy to support the boat and the keel, and this is what I did.

The next problem to get solved is to get it in and out of the water without falling in. Because of the keel I could not use the luggage rack that I use on my other boats. The picture shows the rack that I will use to put the boat in and out of the water.

Vernon



The picture does not do justice to the small scale of this boat which makes the task all the more daunting and impressive. You need to see this boat in person. Vernon is a remarkable craftsman and many a member seeing the boat at a club meeting shook their head at the task Vernon put onto himself in completing this model, much less making this boat water worthy.

Ken Goewey has taken on the task of completing Al Bickford's electronic marvel tug boat. He also has other projects going and here is his report:

Ken Goewey

Got the last details done on the Brooklyn Tug.
Just have to get the ballast right.



Have spent hours and hours digging thru the Big Tug, and reading Mr. Bickfords notes.

The electrical is a major job, but coming along well.

I ended up diagraming it all.

6 water pumps

Bow thruster

Lighting

Radar

2 motors with speed controller

Fog horn

Ships whistle

Circuit boards for the horn and an air pump for the whistle.

There is a story behind this boat, well documented with the included paper work!



GO AWAY COVID 19, AND LET SUMMER COME!!

Ken Goewey

Well said Ken!! We all look forward to the completion of this magnificent boat!

And finally, prolific modeler Tim Crain is busy as always with a variety of projects:

Tim Crain

Here is an update on the Whaleboat that I have been working on. I believe the last time I showed the model to the assembled group was at the February meeting.

Since then, I have
painted the inside of the boat
installed the floorboards (the kit calls them the "ceilings")
installed the seats
installed the "cuddies" at the bow and stern.

See first photo.

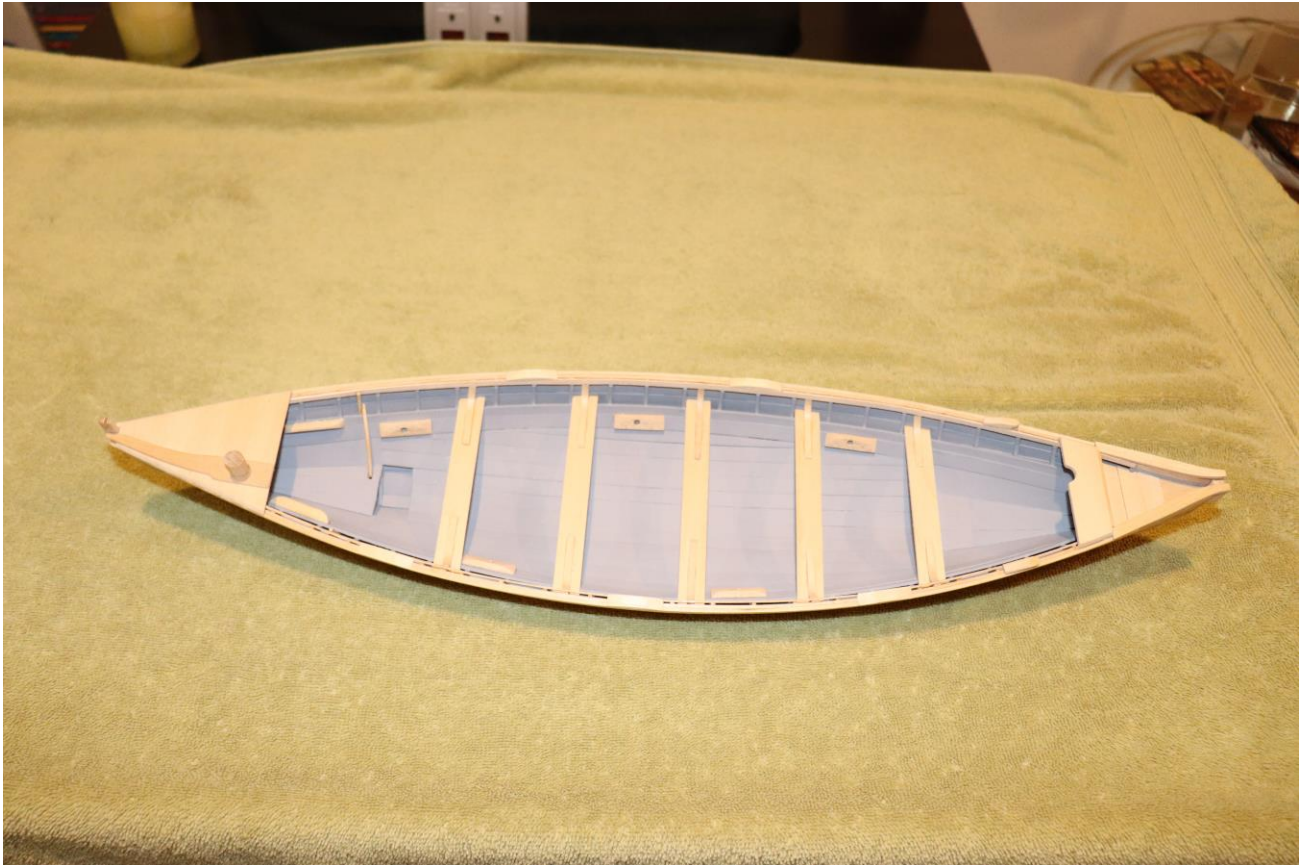
I am at a stopping point where the next step is to paint the exterior of the hull.

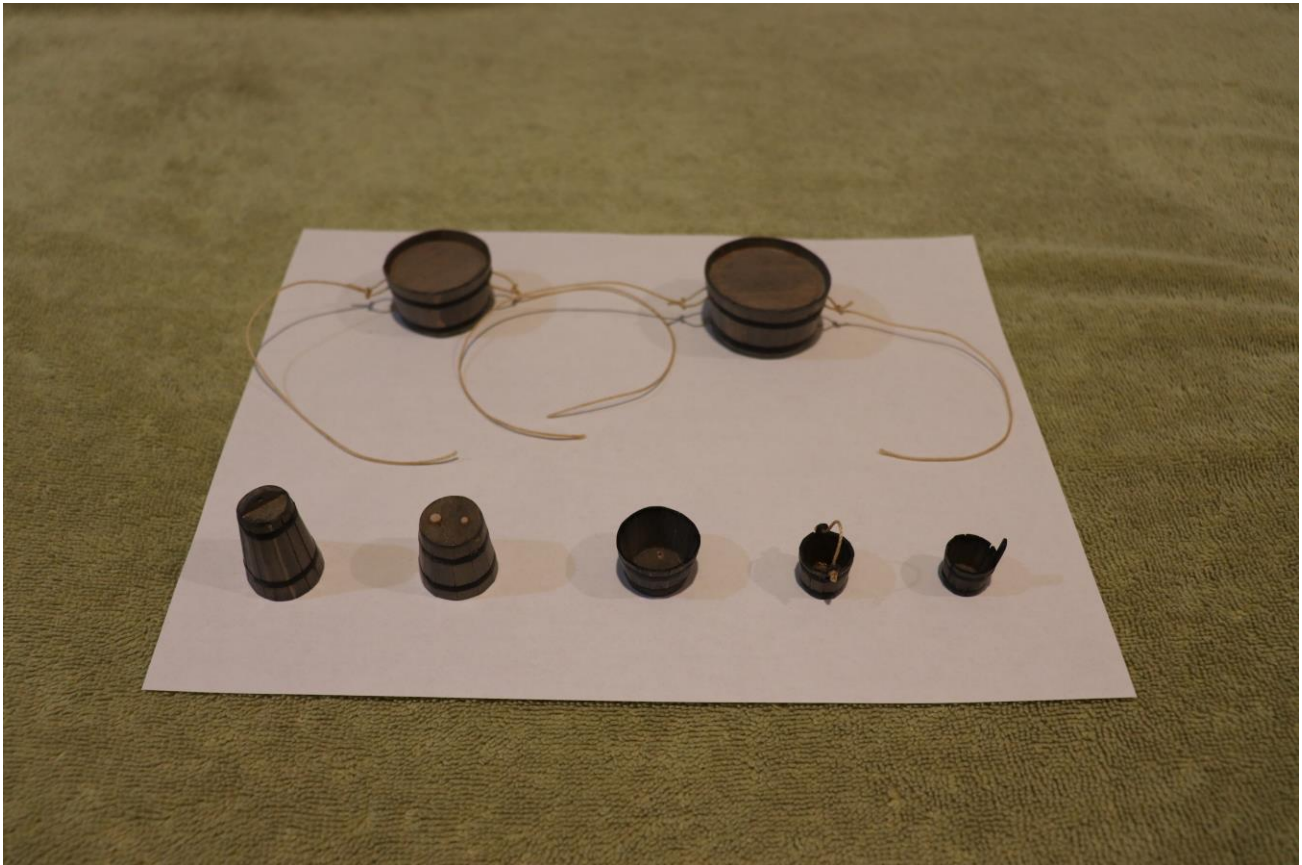
But, I have been working on some of the accessories:

- the steering oar and the five rowing oars

- the tubs and buckets and drogue that are necessary equipment in each boat

See second photo.





So many of Tim's projects have great accessories. These add so much to the build when it is all done.

A huge "Thank You!!" to everyone that contributed to this newsletter/meeting.

A final item, Larry Covin has a Fairwind that is in good shape but just needs someone to give it a little TLC. It is complete except for missing the top hatch, which Larry has a replacement. He is willing to pay for services to get it in shape to be back on the water. Fairwinds have had a resurgence lately with several being renovated to get on the water, and it would be very nice if someone would help Larry with his boat. Get in touch with me and I can provide Larry's contact information.

I hope everyone is doing well. Important to do what is right for your own situation, and if possible get outside for some recreation especially since the weather is finally truly turning to spring! My wife Terry, along with dog #3 Haunzi (chronologically speaking since they are all #1 dogs), just spent a lovely morning With Jeanette Ross walking around the ponds, so don't be afraid to come down and enjoy the park! I will keep everyone informed of any change in the situation at Centennial Lakes!



I hope to see everyone soon!

John Bertelsen
Commodore
Edina Model Yacht Club

www.emyc.org

