



April 2022 Membership Meeting, News and Other Things

What a great membership meeting! Really too bad that we could not zoom this one because it was one of the great meetings of all time. Why? Because of all the people that were in attendance, especially the new members - there were four. Let's start with the introductions:

Randy McKinnis, comes to the club via friend Kevin Kavaney - no better recommendation to be had. Randy has an ODOM and is looking forward to getting into club events.

Jeff Brenhaug, actually a member from the earlier days of the club. Life shifts priorities and now it is time to get back into RC boats. When Jeff entered the meeting room he said "I don't think I have been in this room for 25 years!" Has it changed, well yes it has, somewhat, but still brings back memories of years ago. Jeff has a DF 95 and submarine (yeah!) and still has his Fairwind, though more in static display shape right now.

Ryan Butler, a friend of Dan Lewandowski, another recommendation that can't be topped. Jeff brought with him boat build No. 8, and he has an amazing shop that he is willing to share with club members. CNC and other capabilities. There is so much Jeff is willing to share that he has agreed to share his shop and capabilities in an up-coming newsletter. Oh, he also has a sub! You will be hearing and seeing more of Jeff soon.

Ken Berger, a late arrival to the meeting with his wife, and you have to give them both extra points for perseverance. You know finding the meeting room is not straight forward and many of us only found our way by following others through the loading dock. They found it all on their own so kudos to them both! Ken and his wife are from Duluth, yes, yet another member from Duluth! He is finishing up his DF 95 and is anxious to get it on the water and racing. He would love to come down to Centennial Lakes on a Sunday afternoon to do some racing. I think this will be the perfect catalyst to jump start the DF 95 regattas. We will get Ken on the DF 95 forum and let's look forward to some DF 95 racing this year!

After the introductions there was news of only a reminder that the first ever Spring Kick-off breakfast is coming up fast on Saturday, April 30th, from 10 am to noon. We have just over 30 people attending so it is really shaping up to be a great event. If you are not able to commit ahead of time, but it ends up you can attend the breakfast, please stop on by anyway to join in. We are hoping to run the 3-pond race right after the breakfast ends at noon providing the weather cooperates, however we have news that the paddle boats will be on the water for the first weekend of the season. With paddle boats on the water it is not advisable to have our boats in the channels at the same time. By nature, and just simply being a boat, the paddle boats are not very maneuverable when they are going slow in the channels, and neither is your RC boat if the wind is light, making for a potentially very bad situation that no one can help. We will monitor conditions during the breakfast but for now just plan on coming down, enjoy breakfast, seeing everyone again, and having fun on the center pond getting your favorite boat on the water for the first time this year. It will also be a good opportunity to obtain some help if you have questions about your boat.

Richard Dahlquist brought information on a show he has been attending at the State Fair Grounds: Vintage Toy, Train, Advertising and Pop Culture show. The show is held on Sunday, May 1st (the day after the breakfast) and as Richard explains you never know what will show up. He has purchased (people) figures and furniture/accessories for his boats, and even purchased a boat kit. There is an admission for the show but Richard has been going for years and always finds the show entertaining.

We had some great Show and Tell. First up was the return of the updated celebration boards. Rob Segal did an incredible job of updating the information on the boards to the “30th Year” anniversary of the club.

The “before” condition:

The “after” condition:



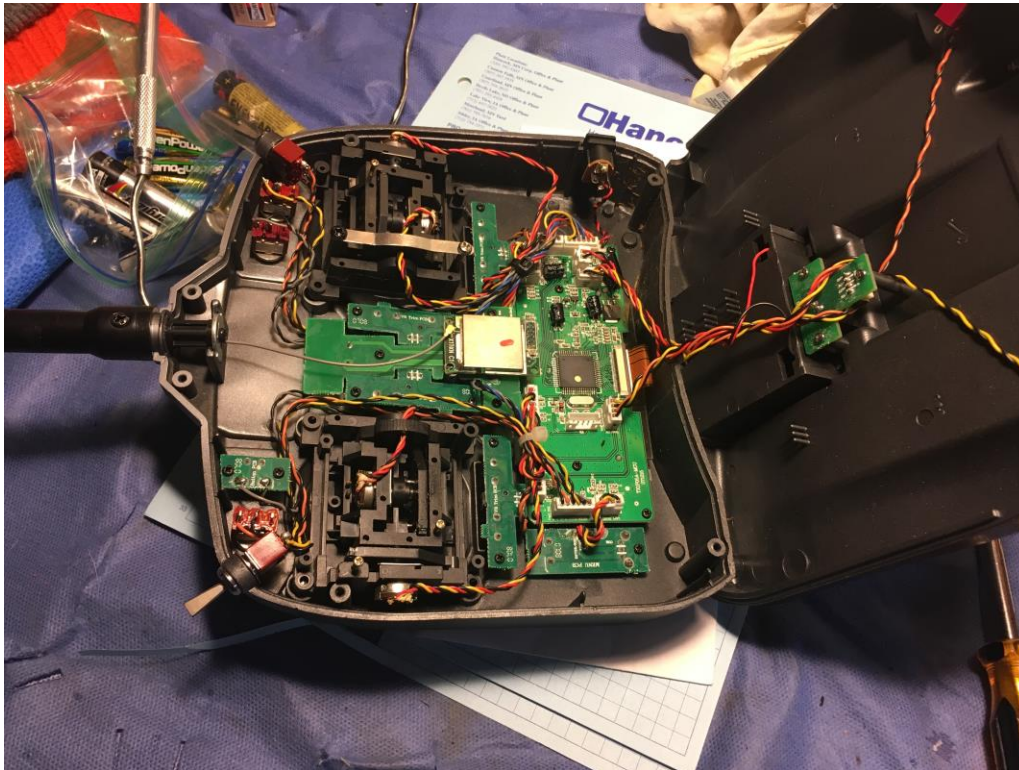
How sharp is that new board! A very nice update to the previous sign. Rob is able to do this through his company KidZibits, where they design and make family oriented experiences for museums. Rob says that it was simple to do and he is able to do similar things, including stencils for club members. Rob promises a demonstration at a future meeting so show exactly what he can do for the club.

Next up I told about how I was able to make a repair to my Spectrum DX 6i. The throttle control was very glitchy, verified by:

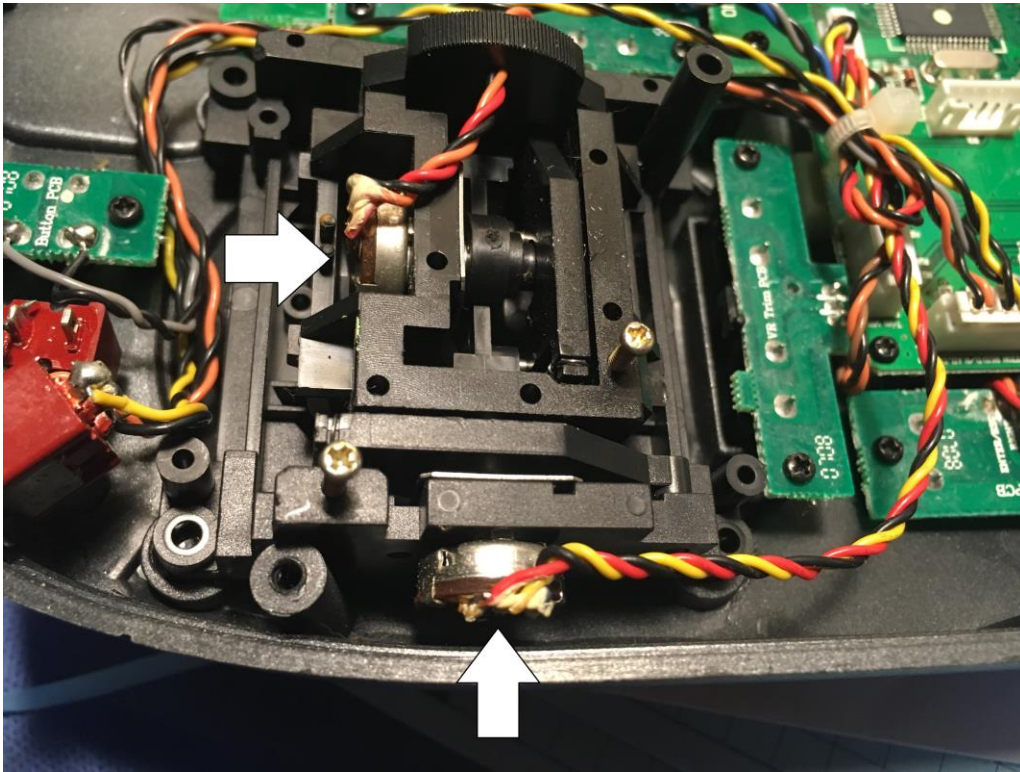
- 1) Slide the power switch to the right to “on”.
- 2) Press down once on the roller switch and scroll all the way down to the bottom of the list to “SETUP LIST”.
- 3) Press down once and scroll down to “MONITOR”.
- 4) Press down once and you will see horizontal straight lines across the screen for the various control functions. There is a single small arrow head on the top and bottom of the lines corresponding to each control functions.
- 5) The throttle is the top line and by moving the throttle stick up and down slowly you could see that the arrow head moved in a jerky fashion.

So what to do? Too nice a radio to throw it away, so off to YouTube to see if there is a fix. Sure enough I found exactly what is needed in a very nice 10 minute video. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOr8LAjvA0M>. What we are going to do, and as explained in the video, is clean up the contact surface of the potentiometer associated with the faulty control. The video does a great job of going through the process so I won't cover that here, but just to give you an idea of what is involved a couple of pictures.

Here is the radio with the back removed (6 screws):

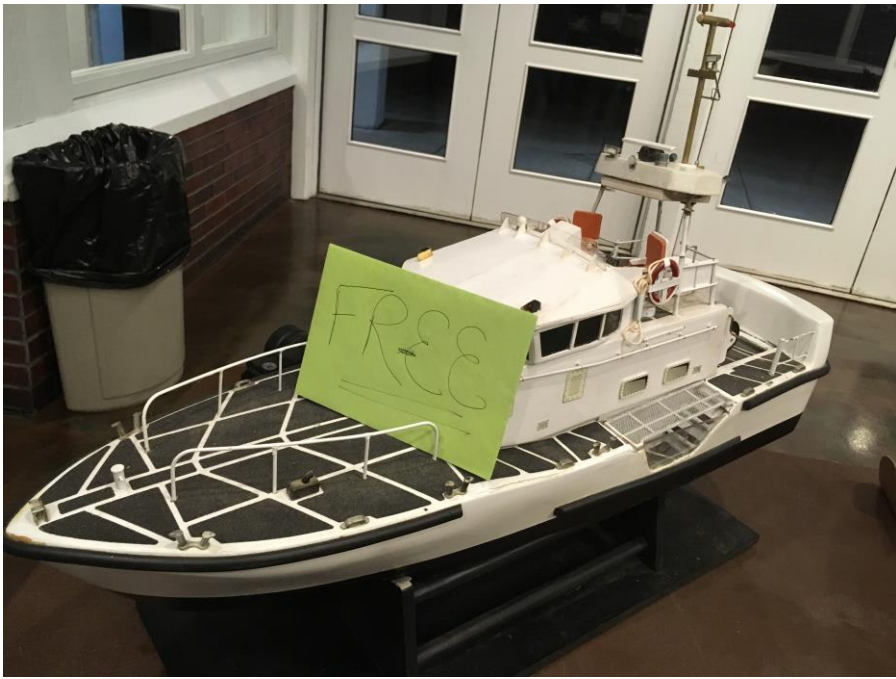


Below is the gimbal that is on the bottom of the above photo:



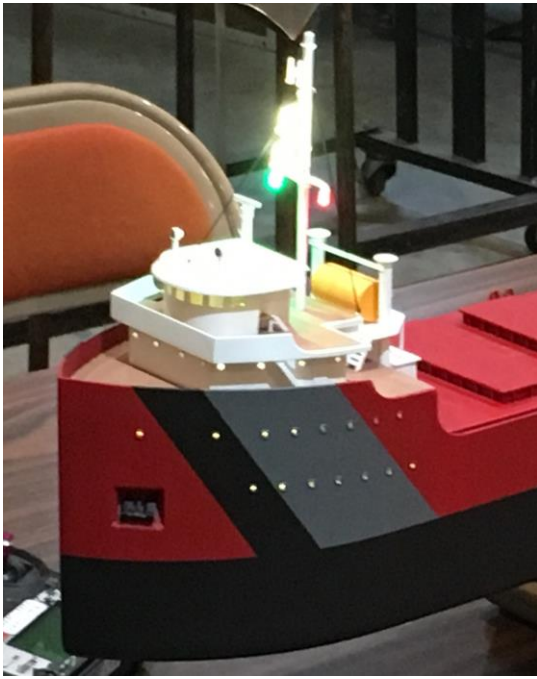
Note the two arrows pointing at the shiny silver potentiometers. These are what need attention. Only the one that is on the bottom of the photo is having a problem. Not difficult to do, no soldering or electronic work, just remove the potentiometer and separate the two halves by bending back three small tabs. Now clean the darker contact surface with a white (pencil) eraser. It completely fixed the issue, verified by steps 1 - 5 again. But wait! Just before the meeting I grabbed one of the DX 6i's on the work bench and removed the back so I could show the internals at the meeting. It didn't have the shiny metal potentiometers!!!!?? The potentiometers were all black plastic and I am not sure if they would come apart or not. Maybe they are an improved version and will not have the problem? If you are having a problem with one of the controls you might want to remove the back and see which potentiometer you have in the radio, and if you have the all plastic model then determine if it will be serviceable or not. BTW, both DX 6i's are available for purchase, and I also have two replacement antenna (they are destined to break at some point).

Next up was David Brinkman and his coastguard boat under renovation after obtaining it at last year's swap meet. David is the curator of his work shop for misfit boats, being unable to refuse a boat in need of renovation. For now the work was removing a lot of spray insulation foam that was used to attempt (unsuccessfully) to halt leaks in the hull. Here is a photo of the boat from the swap meet:



Last up was Ryan Butler and his ore boat, number 8 in his kit builds.





Twin 12 volt batteries provide just the right amount of ballast, and brushless motor makes for a sweet running boat, but needs to be throttled back significantly to maintain a scale speed. Very nicely done boat, very nice indeed. One of the interesting things Ryan learned is that when he brushed the paint on, it showed the brush marks prominently. But a coat of clear spray removed the brush marks completely!! Great tip!

While we are talking kits, the club was contacted through the “Info” button in the website by Duane Snippen who has a Dumas kit for sale of the Chris Craft 1938 Triple Cockpit Barrel-Back Mahogany Runabout. He is asking only \$200.



The kit is complete and ready to assemble. Here is Mike Corbett's completed build of this boat:



If interested let me know and I will put you in touch with Duane, who is local for easy pickup.

Dick Walker reports that he has 80 pounds of stainless steel rice shaped pieces that work great for ballast. Dick mixes them with epoxy or you can put them in a sock to move around. He would be more than happy to part with a pound or two so again let me know if you have an interest and I will put you in touch with Dick.

The season is officially beginning, the ODOM racers have the buoys set at Smith Pond in Bloomington, and here is a report from their tune-up sail on the south pond last Thursday 4/21:

From Terry Mackey -

For those that couldn't make it yesterday:

- 6 sailors/good to see everyone
- WNW winds were erratic 10-12 mph
- Good racing/close heats
- 2 boats lost power/drifted to shore
with help from others
- Temps better than tolerable
- Tavern 23 patio not open yet

All hoping we can get out again next week...noted that this time of year we should get out anytime conditions are favorable.

From Kevin Kavaney -

Yesterday at the very end of the day my NimH 1 year old battery went dead. I thought I had cycled it about a month ago and I know I charged it Wednesday night. Gary says that the recent NimH batteries have gone from bad to worse....Tony's boat earlier failed during a collision that disconnected his battery and several of us were able to wrangle it back to shore....later in the day, my boat had different ideas and continued to go this way and that...finally running aground in the North East corner of the South Pond...I already had my jacket off and was ready to take off my shoes when a big gust of wind heeled the boat over enough to lift the keel off the muddy bottom and while trying to slam the boat into the concrete I caught it just in time...I really was dreading wading out in 40 degree water up to my knees....

I suggest you guys slowly charge your batteries and then run a discharge and see if you are really getting a decent amount of discharge.

I know the LIFE batteries are so much better but the older analog servos some of us are running really don't like that higher voltage and some servos can burn out from a LIFE that is freshly charged as a LIFE battery can put out up to 7 volts when most of the older servos were designed to go up to 6 volts...not 7 volts...

Great reports! Check those NimH batteries and if you are running the LIFE batteries maybe see if you have the more current servo (I guess I have because I have been running LIFE batteries for a long time, great batteries, Lithium without the LIPO problems).

30 years ago..... There was not a newsletter for April and May in 1992. News of what was happening back in the day will resume in the June newsletter.

Not much time left to put off your yearly maintenance or make any upgrades. I am curious, at the beginning of the season which of your boats are you most anxious to get on the water first? Let's see what shows up at the breakfast next Saturday. I hope to see you there!!

John Bertelsen
Commodore
Edina Model Yacht Club



Vice Commodores: Gary Tschautscher, Tim Crain, Rob Segal
Treasurer and Membership: Julia Moen
Sailboats: Tony Johnson
Scale Modeling: Kevin Waldo
Fast Electrics and Website: David Petrich
Zoom Meetings, EMYC and ODOM Forums: Gary Tschautscher
Dry Dock Party: Terry Bertelsen
Face Book: Richard Dahlquist, Todd Moen