

Rose City Model Sailing Club Newsletter

3/27/2015

**WORKING TOGETHER TO HAVE FUN AND BOOST OUR
COMPETENCE**

[Our motto provided by Tren]



Frostbite series on Tualatin Commons pond

From the Commodore

Greetings! My name is Steve Vess, and I am proud to have been selected as your new Commodore. It has been my experience that in all special interest (hobby) clubs, every member has an interest in the unifying activity. But each member has a different and ever changing interest level. Some may want to participate (sail) as often as possible, some occasionally and some seldom while others just like to read the newsletter and stay informed. These interests vary with each member from time to time based on factors such as weather, time of year, other commitments and even health status. The one constant is that they are all interested in keeping informed and in touch. Traditionally that has been accomplished with a printed newsletter. However, with our limited budget and better technology available, we intend to keep the membership involved and in the loop with regular email newsletters. We hope to send it out monthly if we receive enough relevant information.

A club is defined as "...a group of people who meet to participate in an activity (such as a sport or hobby)". RCMSC is not a club owned by the officers, it belongs to all of the members. We have merely been selected to assure that the policy decisions of the membership are carried out. Therefore as a member, each of you also has a responsibility to the other members. And we encourage your submissions and photos to the newsletter, to communicate your interests and concerns to your officers, and assist with the responsibilities in the operation of your club.

We will schedule a member meeting after a Sunday sail about every three months for your input and a little social interaction at the Lake Side Bistro, which is located on the water at Tualatin and owned by a club member Ron Overmyer.

It is our goal to make this both a Fun and a Social Club. We will also continue to include Racing in that formula. You will notice the number of Fun Sail days on the schedule as well as Race days. I am also designating Thursday afternoon/evenings as an informal time to drop by the Tualatin Pond and free sail with other members. I will usually be sailing there as well. It is just a day and time when you can expect others to be sailing there, nothing formal.

We would also like to have a family Summer Potluck Picnic/Sail afternoon if we can get one of you to volunteer to organize it. The officers will assist you but we need a "go to" person.

I am also trying to energize our interest in Footy's (Twelve inch long boats) that are at the root of our club. I am almost finished with mine. I have been sailing the other members boats and they are just plain fun; plus I can easily keep it in the trunk of my car all the time. You never know when opportunity will knock. I hope to develop some Footy Fun sail days, and I have been soliciting ideas for fun events, like tag or obstacle courses etc. If you have any ideas let me know.

We are also participating in a large June Regatta in Tualatin. More details will come next issue from Ted VanSyckel. Ted is one of our

founders and has been our Secretary Treasurer. He handed that position over to Stan McKay our former Commodore this year, but I am not letting him or our other founder Stanley Townsend gently fade away into that good night. We very much need their wisdom and experience. Thankfully, they are both staying active as Fleet Captains. Thanks guys. We are also looking for a Name for this newsletter. Submit your ideas to Stan McKay.

In summary your officers goal this year is to make this a fun club that you will all enjoy, and we will strive to have something of interest for every member.

SAIL ON!



Have you paid your dues?

Please mail your check to Stan McKay if you haven't paid your dues yet - \$15 adult, \$20 family, \$5 junior. Future newsletters will be sent to paid members only.

Meet Our Officers

Steve Vess, Commodore

I am a retired Oregon Attorney , and I firmly believe in the motto that "He who dies with the most toys wins!" I think that I am going to win.

My interests are first and foremost bicycling (I ride nearly everyday, and have written a bicycle book called Recreational Rides Around Portland), archery, airguns, fishing, boomerangs, touring kayaks and radio control. In the past I have been president of Portland Wheelmen Touring Club, a thousand member Bicycle Club, and Sylvan Archers, a very large archery club. I have been involved in radio control models since the early 70's. I have enjoyed airplanes helicopters sailplanes, cars and now sailboats. I got interested in sailboats because, since I retired last year, I have been looking for a relaxing new hobby. While vacationing in San Diego this year, I discovered a club sailing their models on Mission Bay. I stopped to watch and after some discussion, they told me that Portland also had a model sailboat club. I used my phone to do some research, found this club, and ordered a Dragonforce all within one hour. I have been really excited about our sport since that time. My sailing experience is full-size Lasers, Sunfish, Hobie Cats and sailboards. I have always loved sailing and my house is decorated with pictures and small models of vintage sailboats. I now own two Dragon Forces, just finished my first footy Micro Yacht, and I am getting ready to build Bill Hagerup's footy "Nipper aka/ Back Bay" I have been desperately trying to acquire a Micro Magic and am considering an offer on a used T37. Since I am the Commodore now, it might be nice to own one of each of the boats we support at this time. See you on the water, please stop by and say hello.

Tren Hazelton, Vice Commodore

I first sailed a wooden Sunfish at my uncle's on Sebec Lake in Maine. The water was cold enough that I tried to stay upright most of the time. The rest of my very limited experience has been on other peoples boats -- no racing. I live in Eastmoreland, about a mile from the Westmoreland Casting Pond. During the summers, I try to spend a lot of time on my road bike.

My only boat is a T37 that my wife gave me a few years ago. I'm very interested in racing. I like the competition and it gives me incentive to

learn the rules and tune my boat. I would like to see us work together to have fun and boost our competence.

Stan McKay, Secretary/Treasurer

I grew up in a sailing family living on the shore of Tawas Bay, off Lake Huron on the east side of Michigan. My sailing experience started at age 5 with Dad handing me the tiller of his 19' Lightning and telling me to head for the yacht club. My first boat, a wooden Sailfish, was followed by an Optimist Pram, slower, but a boat I could race with the local youth sailing fleet. From then on, small boat racing has been my passion. I sharpened my skills in intercollegiate sailing at U of Mich., and then went on to compete with a series of sailing dinghies, Finn, Sunfish, Rhodes Bantam, Laser, and Snipe. I have crewed on ocean racers, as well. When a neighbor loaned me his model Soling 1 Meter for a spin on the lake, I thought, "I've got to get one of these," and I did. After a move to the northwest late in 2013, I immediately joined RCMSC and built my first model boat kit, a Micro Magic. Along the way I have served as Snipe Fleet Captain, Gull Lake YC Secretary, and RCMYC Commodore. Model sailing competition is fun, and I love not having the sore muscles and bruised shins that I endured in my earlier days.

Gary Pietka, T37 Fleet Captain

I bought a couple T37's a few years ago for myself and a son inlaw. I really enjoyed building my boat as a departure from home building and repair. But one boat on a pond can leave you a little empty and feeling silly. So went to a skill building class on sailing T37's in Seattle and met Tren. At that time the only other T37 owner I knew of in the pdx area. Will Lesh the developer of the T37 provided the list of names of people who had purchased his kits, a few emails and phone calls later there seemed to be a lot of boats collecting dust. Saw an advertisement at Tammies Hobbies for the RCMSC looked up the website (very well done btw.) and decided to call Stanley Townsend to see if they would be interested in adding T37 to the list of classes supported in addition to the

footy's and micro's. He said yes after consulting with the rest of the membership and a day of sailing.

We still have a lot of T37's collecting dust, some built and some not. I'll have to start prodding some of these others along. The rest is history that is still being written. I have virtually no experience sailing large boats and so my skills and knowledge of the rules are poor at best. This is where being a member of this tolerant and welcoming group has proven to be a real blessing and to meet so many with a similar interest.

Stanley Townsend, Micro Magic Fleet Captain

I am one of the three founding members of RCMSC and served as the first Commodore. I am a retired Land Surveyor and Civil Engineer, living in Northwest Portland with my wife (Ronda) and my dog (Zoey). I got into sailing at 17 when my girlfriend and I rented a 10' boat on San Diego's Mission Bay. At least she had been in a sailboat before (though she'd never sailed) but somehow we survived it. I got the bug though and not long after bought a Sunfish which I sailed on Mission and San Diego Bays and even a little in the Pacific. After several decades away from the sport, I got the bug again and bought a Montgomery 15, a sweet pocket cruiser. Sailed her on Lake Mendocino, Clear Lake and San Francisco Bay. I sold the Montgomery when I moved to Portland 10 years ago.

I think it was 2009 when I went to the Tualatin Crawfish Festival to slurp some mud bugs. On the Commons pond there was a large contingent from a powered RC model boat club putting on a show. A smaller group from the Oregon Model Yacht Club was there as well with RC sailboats. One of the members handed me the controls of an IOM and guess what? I was hooked again. Ted Van Syckel was there with a Footy - we became fast friends. He convinced me that a Footy would be a good way to start. I built a wooden Kittiwake 2 from a kit. OMYC never warmed to the Footy as a class and so Ted and I joined another Footy skipper in forming RCMSC. I subsequently built 2 more Footys (a Razor 3 and a Pool Shark 3D). When Ted built a Micro Magic, I jumped

in and did so as well. When Ted built a Dragon Force 65 so did I. Is there a theme here?

My other interests include reading, walking with my dog, cooking and listening to music.

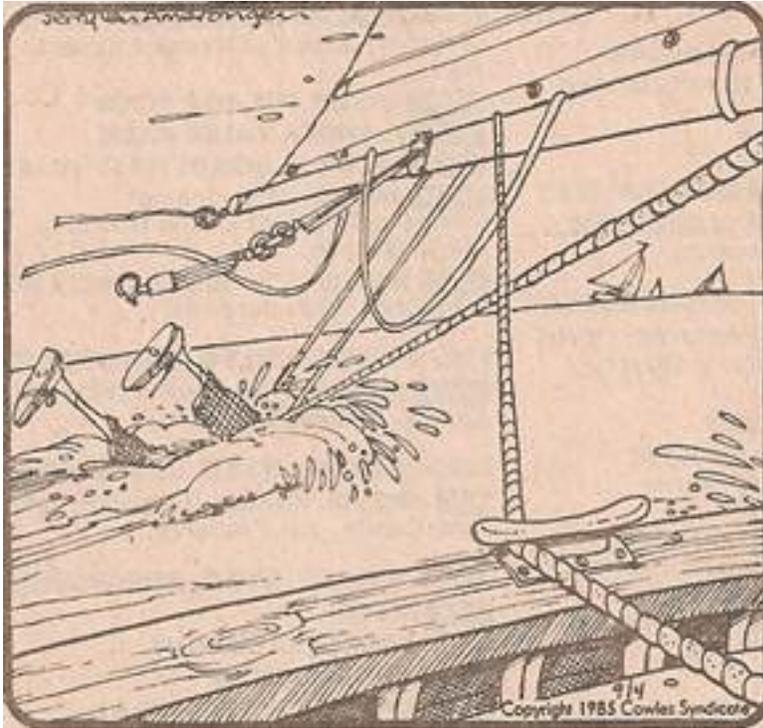
Ted Van Syckel, Dragon Force Fleet Captain

Born a mere 83 years ago off the stern of a Star Class sailboat. That's right, my father tossed me into the Delaware River just below Washington's Crossing and said swim or sink. Quite a start for a young sailor and as you can tell I swam not sank and have been sailing ever since. Up and down the Jersey Coast, the Chesapeake Bay, and the East Coast inland waterway. Took a little time off to attend Syracuse University along with Jimmy Brown then off to San Francisco Bay to graduate from SF State University. San Francisco found me sailing as much as I could on as many boats that I could find. An Islander 30, a Coronado 25, a Islander 32, a Catalina 30, a West Wrightpotter and a neat little Sunfish just to name a few. The Islander 32 served as home, for Susan and I and our little eighteen month old (wharf rat), daughter Rachael. They say if you can sail the San Francisco Bay you can sail any where in the world - tell that to this Dragon Force sailor who has trouble sailing on Tualatin Commons. RCMSC is my home away from home now, it gives me comfort and satisfaction to relax by the pond with friends and foes.

Wanted: Race Commander

This officer will establish race procedures and coordinate race activities with Fleet Captains. Let us know if you are interested.

Learning to sail?



Our experienced sailors will be happy to help you get started. Just ask!

Thoughts of a founder

When Stanley and I first thought about starting our own club, after the other guys tried to run us off the pond, I had many second thoughts. I wondered if we would ever grow beyond the two of us given that the odds of success for a start-up club were stacked against us. Stanley and I enjoyed each others companionship, grew to be pretty damn good friends and really liked the time we spent sailing together. Guess what, in spite of everything and everyone I think we have done a pretty good job, the Rose City Model Sailing Club has grown to eighteen paid members with several new potential members thinking it over.

RCMSC has been a social sailing club with club racing on the informal side which was just fine to begin with; but this appears to be changing to a more formalized racing format which I fully support. Racing by the rules will make better sailors of us all. Fun sailing has returned to our sailing schedule where we can just plain gunk hole around the pond, practice tuning our boats and just have fun on the water. We need to do

that too.

Good sailing guys and gals (?)

Ted Van Syckel

Our Boats



Listed below are the boats we race on scheduled race days. Our Footy sailors join the fun any old time. All RC sailors, club member or not, are welcome to join us whenever we are sailing our boats.

Dragon Force 65

This inexpensive boat comes almost ready to sail with everything you need, including a radio (batteries not included). The hull is 65 cm (25.6 in) long. The boat is manufactured in China by Joysway, and is available from several hobby dealers in the US. The Dragon Force is designed to meet the requirements of the RG65 international class. This is a great boat for a beginner!

Micro Magic

The 21” German designed Micro Magic RC model sailboat has been on the scene as a class in Europe since 2001. It took a while for it to catch on the US but, by 2012 when Ted Van Syckel introduced the boat to fellow RCMSC members, the US fleet had seen rapid growth. The little boat was embraced by our club and quite a few showed up in our local fleet, prompting the club to adopt the class for racing. While the Micro Magic is a bit more complex of a build than the (easy as pie) Dragon Force 65, it’s not a daunting one. It’s a really excellent sailing boat that oft times seems to sail itself. It particularly excels in light winds - it will often outperform both T37s and DF65s in such conditions.

Unfortunately, in 2014, the German designer and manufacturer of the Micro Magic (Graupner) filed for bankruptcy and sold their rights to a South Korean company. Since then, delays in bringing new Micro Magic kits or “ready to race” boats to market brought the growth of the local fleet as well as the worldwide fleet to a crawl. In late 2014, new Micro Magic kits were finally made available in Europe. Reviews of the new kit on Micro Magic International are far from flattering. Amongst the many problems noted, there are several dimensional differences that would appear to violate the class rules. There are rumors that the International class association is going to modify it’s rules to accommodate the variances. I’m still trying to get to the bottom of how the MM associations (US and International) are going to handle these problems. As we are still waiting for availability this side of the pond, we have some time to mull. I can’t say that I’m optimistic about the chances for a quick resolution, but I’ll do my best to keep you all informed.

Stanley Townsend

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T37

The T37 is a 37"long wooden boat built from a kit purchased from TIPPECANOE BOATS 4305 Nordum rd, Everson Wa. 98247-9213

The kit is very complete with everything to get you sailing except paint. The hull is 1/8 in marine plywood and is glued with the supplied epoxy stitch and glue fashion, min finished weight is 4lbs 8ozs and you have to

use factory sails. I built my first one literally in a month of sundays. The instructions are very accurate but require careful reading for thorough understanding. I built a couple of jigs for building that I think take some of the guess work out of the process. These are the largest boats sailed under the rcmsc banner they do like a little more wind than micro magics or dragon force 65s. Beyond weight limits and specified sails they become an expression of your creativity some photos on the internet show some real elaborate expressions. Come out for a test sail there is almost always an extra boat of one class or another at the pond on sailing days. Fair winds, Gary Pietka

Our online connections

As I'm sure most of you already know, very shortly after the formation of RCMSC, we attained an online presence through the creation of rcmsc.org. Susan Van Syckel, wife of one of our founding members, contributed many, many hours developing and maintaining the website using the Wordpress platform. Wordpress is designed for bloggers but is flexible enough to allow more general website development. With Susan still at the helm, the Wordpress theme (and thus the appearance and functionality) was changed fairly recently to allow improved interaction on mobile devices.

Susan deserves thanks from all of us for her years of voluntary service to our club, resulting in who knows how many people learning about who we are and what we do! She has expressed interest in winding down her webmaster role. Inspired by Susan's efforts, years ago I plunged into Wordpress myself and redeveloped my personal website (townsendpdx.com) on that platform. I admit that I eventually got frustrated with Wordpress and haven't updated my website in quite some time. Though I'm admittedly Wordpress rusty, at our recent annual meeting I volunteered to take over the maintenance of rcmsc.org. I know Susan will do her best to help me with this transition. You may see some rough edges for a while, but please bear with me.

Not long after rcmsc.org went online, founding members decided that a club Facebook page would be a great way to further spread the word.

Special thanks to Patrick Estenes for diligently posting his fine photos from our events on the Facebook page! We hope to have more content accessible there as we go forward.

Stanley Townsend

And I'll add my appreciation for Patrick's willingness to bench his boat while he takes pictures. Our Facebook site has over 100 photos. While some of the most recent photos appear on the opening page, you can view the rest by clicking the PHOTOS > bar. See lots of sailing action at many events. Great job, Patrick!

Stan McKay

Our venues

The Tualatin Commons Pond is available year round most years. It is drained occasionally for maintenance. The Westmoreland Pond (now full) is drained during the winter.



Footy chasing a Dragon Force in whitecaps on Tualatin pond

Memorable moments

Last week Stan McKay and I met at the commons for a little free sailing. We knew the weather forecast was dicey, but decided to give it a try. The wind, as it so often is, was very light and erratic. We were about to call it a day when the wind picked up and settled into a nice consistent breeze. We were really enjoying ourselves, when it started to

rain. I mean it really began to pour, but the wind stayed nice. I looked at Stan and he just smiled and said, "I've sailed in the rain before," and so we did! We must have made quite a sight, two grown men sitting on a bench hunched over to protect the transmitter from the rain. Laughing out loud while sailing our RC toy sailboats.

Steve Vess

Portland Model Power Boat Association Float

The Portland Model Power Boat Assn. would like to invite the Rose City Model Sailing Club to our 4th Annual Memorial Weekend Float.

This event will take place at Tualatin Commons Pond in Tualatin, Oregon on Saturday May 23rd at 10:00am- 3:00pm. There will be a club raffle with tickets at \$1 each (no Limit).

Lunch will be available to all participants. PMPBA members have paid for lunch thru their dues. For RCMSC members we ask for a \$ 5 donation for the lunch. RSVP by May 1st, would allow us to plan for the correct amount of lunches. We will provide more details of the event as they develop.

The Members of PMPBA have revised our float calendar in order to participate with RCMSC on Saturday June 20th at 10:00am at the Tualatin Commons Pond for a joint float event per your invitation. We are looking forward to sharing our model boat interest with your group.

RCMSC is also invited to join PMPBA for the Tualatin Xmas Tree Lighting float at Tualatin Commons Pond on Friday December 4th at 6:00pm. Decorate your yachts with xmas lights and join the fun.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Barrie Swain/ Commodore

About the newsletter

This newsletter was assembled by your Secretary//Treasurer from contributions by our members.

Attachments

A printable schedule is attached. The current schedule is also available at <http://rcmsc.org/sailing-schedule/>.

Well folks here is our club newsletter. I am sure that none of you can even imagine the amount of time effort and energy that your officers put into providing this email to you.

My lovely bride of 49 years taught me early on, a very valuable lesson. When others do something FOR me, I should never complain about how it was done, and always express my gratitude personally. Otherwise I will end up doing it all myself in the future! (You know....."That was a wonderful dinner honey, thank you."

So please next time you see one of your Volunteer Officers at the pond, walk over shake their hand and say a simple but sincere, thank you!

With this lesson in mind. I am so pleased and proud of each of our officers. I set an ambitious goal with an insane time table to prepare this huge newsletter. And everyone of them without complaint, stepped up and knocked it out of the park. They are a great bunch of guys and I am honored to call them my new friends, and be a member of this club.

Thank you, Thank you.

Steve Vess - Commodore