

Storing Gel Cell Batteries

by John Osborne

While working at "We 'B' Toys"

I learned that gel cells not being used regularly need to be charged every six months. Give the cells a full overnight charging, then check the voltage. Seems the cell's gel will start shrinking if not kept in a charged state, breaking the connections within the cell. Many times I had to replace the cells in electric ride-on cars due to the batteries being left uncharged and unchecked for months! Unlike that toy store, we modelers don't get replacement batteries for free when the old ones break. I wasn't able to determine if storage temperature was a factor in battery failure, but I would guess that cooler is better.

As an aside, that toy store also sells gel cells of the 6 volt type separately, sometimes in two or three sizes to fit different vehicles.

>A Note from the President

> Welcome aboard for the next year in the largest and most >active Model Warship Combat Club, The IR/CWCC. Nationals was again a recordbreaker with 41 ships on the pond in the largest battle. The Allies won for their third time in a row but not with the landslide victory of last year. The Score was approximately 113,000 points for the Allies and 99,000 for the Axis. But you will be getting the details from the individual days reporters here in Hull Busters. On the last night at Nationals the new Executive Board was elected and will take over its duties immediately.

> I feel a little strange saying it because I am also the president of the hosting club, but I think everyone who attended felt that Maryland Attack Group did a fine job hosting the Nationals again. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of the members of that local club for the hard work that they put in to host, set up, service and tear down the nationals site.

> Your new E board :

>Marty Hayes	President	410-757-5593	mhayes@clark.net
>Brian Eliassen	Vice-President	626-683-2233	brian@coresw.com
>Ronny Hunt	Secretary		JCH72@prodigy.net
>D.W. Fluegel	Treasurer		Fluegel7@juno.com
>James Foster	Contest Director		jfosters@mocom.net
>TDB	Site Host		

> Your E board is mainly here to serve you by providing the services you require throughout the year. They are not in place as a convenient target for disgruntled combatants. The obvious duties of the E board members are as follows:

>President - runs the rules meeting at Nationals, runs the E Board through the year.

>Vice-President - handles the frequency allocation (frequency czar)

>Treasurer - Receives membership requests, collects dues, signs membership cards, and mails out the rules packet.

>Secretary - Records and compiles the rule proposals from the National Rules meeting and sends out the Rules Ballot to all Qualified combatants.

>Contest Director - is in charge of the officiating of the National Championships

>Site Host - is in charge of preparing the site for the National Championships. Sets up required equipment, hotel arrangements, food arrangements (if available), lake insurance and permission for use.

>All form the National Executive board which can be brought together to meet on any problems the organization faces throughout the year.

>Setting the course for the new year, and requesting 2/3 ahead;

>>Marty Hayes

NATS

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By Curley Barrett Sunday:

The Gathering Captains arrive at the hotel with a greeting for friends, both old and new. The ships are displayed and visually inspected by a host of curious captains while the competent CD and his helpers set about testing the ships and regulators for compliance. Most of the ships tested well, but a few regulators and a hard ship or two would require extra attention before battling. The group sallied forth to the beautiful Green Briar State Park where speed trials commenced. Two sticks marked the start and finish line, and I can't begin to tell you the humor we experienced watching a hardy captain or two steer headlong into a tiny stick bringing his ship to a sudden stop. Captains examine the layout of the lake and plan for battle.

The group relocates to the hotel for a captain's meeting—including a humiliating scene of groveling as Paul Barrett (Curly's little brother) crawls across the floor to the feet of Marty "The Legend" Hayes and grants Marty full use of the Minnesota Attack Group's claim to the name MAG. It is something to behold. The fleets then separate for an evening of plotting and planning. It should be noted that the Axis, who had the foresight to procure chalk for plotting purposes, were gracious enough to lend a large piece of chalk to a begging Allied captain who claimed they "could plan nothing without a bit of chalk!"

The Allies must not have been planning anything to important, because they allowed an Axis captain to sit in on their entire meeting (Axis spy!). That captain then came and reported everything to the Axis fleet. After that, we adjourn to our rooms for rest and preparation, or head to the pool to lounge and laughing.

Monday:

Opening Maneuvers

Dawn breaks like the wind on Monday morning in Hagerstown Maryland as the 1998 NATS (the 20th Anniversary of the hobby) gets into full swing. Tundra Teddy, my polar bear mascot, is secure in the

rigging of the SMS Scharnhorst which has been graciously lent to me (complete with free radio installation) by Mike Blattau and the MAG group. My little brother Paul drools over his MAG-rented Bacon Maker.

in fear. We have heard reports that the Allies have been given standing orders to avoid the Bacon Makers at all costs, "You can't do anything to them anyway, so it's in your own best interest to ignore them!"

Axies Groos admiral Steve Andrew, with the Axies Priminister of Propoganda, Curley Barrett.



The hallway of the hotel is filled with captains, boats and boxes, all heading to the lake. Some are jovial, such as Brian Eliasson, who quotes an appropriate line from a movie, "Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor?!?" Some are more intense, like Chris Au, who has a lot on his mind as he packs his huge Wisconsin battleship and its supplies. All will be battling within two hours. Battle plans are soon laid out for all.

The Wail Away strategy of the Axis fleet is to sink the opposing admiral (Steve Milholland). Since we are certain he will be leading his troops into battle from their rear-most position, we decide to send the small 28-second fleet driving through the Allied front line and securing the area behind the large Allied boats, sending the protected few behind to flee.

Admiral Steve Andrews suggests we cluster in squadron formations and patrol together. My assignment involves grouping with Frank Pittelli and my brother Paul in a death squadron that will own the shoreline. We concede the far side of the lake to the Allies, and dub it Swamp-land.

Our scouts have determined that Mike Torda's Bismarck and Tom Tanner's Hindenburg have been targeted. We shake

...which, to me, sounds like a vote for most-feared squadron.

The lake is clear and the hillside where the three tents are set up give a grand view of the battle area. The small amounts of moss hanging in the clear water will soon become mini kelp forests to the many model sailors whose boats will get shot out from under them. The "Buoys of Death" mark the edge of the useable area. Segregation sets in and we quickly have an Axis Tent, an Allied Tent and a Founders' Tent. The clock strikes 8 a.m. and people begin tweaking and loading their boats.

Predictions for the coming fray:
Nathan Blatteau: "Wait and see, it's Monday."

Dr. Paul Broring: "Axis in Seven!"
Stan "Founder" Watkins: "Lots of BBs will be expended and much fun will be had by all...and some will get to swim."
Lief Goodson: "There will be many sinks today."

Joe Kutz: "I got my Allied battle grade lowered after the last regional and I want to earn the grade back."

Jeff "Founder" Poindexter: "I will either meet Fluegel on the bottom...or he will meet me!"

Herr "Fonder Founder" Fluegel: "I will be aggressive, very aggressive. People will

(Continued on page)

wear my shirts, sing my songs, dance my dance and buy the Fluegel souvenirs up at the concession stand."

The Allies are excited to test their new technology, which includes voice-activated radios "TR7-510 model" which use an ear piece as the microphone and make the Allies look suspiciously like secret service men.

Under the tents, old battles are relived and stories are told; laughter and smiles mix with tension and mechanical problems. Mike Torda sprays some Dura-Trax Power Shot Electric Motor Cleaner Spray in his Futaba radio and melts the plastic! Ozone-safe...futaba unfriendly! His transmitter is reduced to a gooey, dripping plastic mass...the cry goes out for a new radio and everyone tries to help. A committee of helpers set about to correct the problem. By 9:05, Torda has a borrowed radio to install in his Bismarck.

At the Axis captains' meeting, we observe a silent moment for the Axis captains not here, particularly for Dirty Dave Haynes and Wade

Axis Grab Bag (a tradition where all Axis captains donate door prizes for four drawings—one each battling day).

At the lakeside, the Axis suffer another loss as Will gets water sprayed in the Musashi's transmitter and he loses radio control; he will miss the first sortie. Will retires to the tent where he and Mike Torda work feverishly to get ready. Last minute surrenders are offered to each side, but both sides decline.

Sortie One:

The first sortie begins with a flurry of gunfire as 42 boats (18 Axis boats, 88.5 units; 24 Allied boats, 126.5 units) engage each other on the water. The Axis boats hurry to their assignments as the Allies press their attack as well. The Musashis and the North Carolinas churn the water with powerful gunfire that warns the timid away. The slower Axis boats own the shore, however, the Allied plan must have foreseen that tactic as they send their more battle-shy battlers to hide in the weeds on the far side of the lake.

First ever Grab bag winner and part time calendar model, The Pav



Koehn. Fluegel gives us the word of the day—Discipline—and Steve Pavlovsky wins the

Still, there are plenty of Allied captains to go around, and they set upon Tom Tanner's Hindenburg, pounding it as it lay dead in the water. Steve Pavlovsky's Nagato also seems to be a favorite target of the North Carolinas. The Invincibles, for the most part, seem to be hanging back waiting for something; perhaps for Axis ships to call Five.

SteveMilholland's Invincible is seen exchanging blows with a few of the Axis veterans, most noticeably with a Baden. Bob Amend's Andria Doria turns to avoid a collision with Don Fisher and winds up behind the triple stern guns of Tim Beckett—Ouch! The Washington of Jon Messere is taking a considerable pounding as is Jeff Poindexter's Texas. With no guns left the Barrett

brothers come off the water within 5 seconds of each other. There are still no

sinks!

The battle grinds to a halt as we wait for a bass boat to troll through to the docks. I chat with Admiral Milholland to get a few words on my tape recorder for my article, and while he is chatting with me and others on the banks—his boat goes under! The old "veteran-forgetting-to-turn-the-pump-on" trick. A huge cheer goes up from the Axis camp! "Admiral in the water!" more chants echo across the lake as a soggy Swampy sheepishly wades out to his boat, "Wail Away! Wail Away!" Then, as the sortie winds down, safety violations begin to get called. It's almost a second game, and earns points while helping raise the awareness of our goal for safety. On Dr. Pittelli's recommendation, we have agreed beforehand to eliminate the scoring between sorties, so there is no scoring and counting holes (huge smile and sigh of relief). Only one sink in the entire sortie.

Post-Battle Quotes:

Bob Eakin: "Everything came together...I had had lots of problems, but it all worked."

Brian Eliasson: "We should rename Wail Away to Run Away!"

Herr Fluegel: "It was.....reasonable!"

Paul Barrett: "I can't believe I didn't sink those guys!"

In a magnanimous gesture, the Axis Admiral offers to let the Allied Admiral go back in for the second sortie. Steve thanks Steve and all captains load their guns.

Sortie Two:

Will Montgomery's Musashi will be joining us this sortie. As the sortie gets underway, the lace work of pump sprays in the air hints at the vast amount of damage from the first sortie. An unforgiving spray of BBs skips across the water as triple sterns are unloaded in all directions. The carnage that was missing from the first sortie shows up early in the second sortie as Jon Messere's Washington, painfully positioned between Dr. Paul Broring's Viribus Unitis and Will's Musashi, slides beneath the waves just off shore.

What happens next was almost surrealistic. Time seems to slow down as Jon goes in to get his boat. While we watch, a cry goes out, and heads turn to watch the green Nagato of Steve Pavlovsky lose a pumping battle. Seconds later, Tom Tanner's Hindenburg sputters and slips into the deep. As Tom steps into the water, the candy-stripped Italian Andrea Doria of Bob Amend transfers it's title from "a boat afloat" to "sunk junk." Jeff Poindexter's Texas comes in toward shore and sinks as it beaches itself. This is

all within about three minutes!

Battle scarcely resumes when Kurt Lewis' Phoenix goes down amidst a hail of gunfire. Almost in answer to that, Paul Barrett's Bacon Maker goes under thanks to a huge ram hole from "an Allied stealth ship" whose name and captain Paul isn't able to call out, and eventually slips away. This is just one of several controversial issues the CD has to sort out with Solomon-like wisdom, and it is credited as a combat sink (800 points) instead of a ram sink (-1200) which equates to a 2000-point decision from the CD, whom we all agreed with.

The much-halted battle barely renews when Lief Goodson's Baden goes down near our feet. He is quickly joined my Marty "The Legend" Hayes, whose Prinz Eugen rolls majestically into the now

Lief sings to his ship?.



muddy waters. The Axis watch six of their ships sink within seven minutes of each other. The Allies only loose two in that time.

In an act of Texas sportsmanship, Jim "Boy Scout" Pate shreds the Baden of fellow Texan Herr Fluegel during a Man-In-the-Water break. We quickly point out it is Founder's Day, and Jim eases up on the trigger. The sun is approaching high noon as Mike Deskin rolls into

camp. His French cruiser will have to wait until after lunch to see action. Frank Pittelli's Viribus Unitus is rammed hard enough to send the Bacon Maker's superstructure into the drink. The battle winds down with many Allied ships looking for a few Axistargets.

Fleet Battle One:

Axis-26,095 Allies-23,410

Fleet Battle One, High-Damage Individuals:

Axis....Steve Pavlovsky, 108 above, 12 on and 18 below (sunk) 3280 points

Allied....Jon Messere, 68 above, 7 on and 39 below (sunk) 3805 points

Fleet Battle One, Low-Damage Individuals:

Axis....Orril Ferguson, 1 above, 0 on and 0 below 10 points

Allied....Stan Watkins, 1 above, 0 on and 0 below 10 points

Post Battle Quotes:

Jeff Poindexter: "There was a time that the Texas was sandwiched between Will and Nathan...that was not good."

Brian Eliasson: "Our stern guns will win."

Joe Kutz: "I didn't even see an Allied ship sink, but there was a time there where the Axis boats were sinking at a rate of one per minute..."

Frank Pittelli: "Where was Rucker? His own teammate rammed him to prevent him from battling the Bacon-maker?"

Fleet Battle #1 - Axis

Captain	Ship	Class	On			Sink or Penitly		
			Above	Below	Given	Earned		
Nathan Blattau	Musashi	8.0	143	12	21	2780	1561	
Mike Blattau	Musashi	8.0	64	3	5	965	1561	
Will Montgomery	Musashi	8.0	30	0	11	850	1561	
Mike Torda	Bismarck	7.0	53	2	3	100	730	1461
Steve Pavlosky	Nagato	6.0	108	12	18	1000	3280	1561
Fluegel	Baden	5.5	108	8	22		2380	1405
Lief Goodson	Bayern	5.5	79	8	17	900	2740	1405
Frank Pittelli	Bacon Maker	4.0	45	2	8	350	900	899
Marty Hayes	Prinz Eugen	4.0	21	1	3	800	1185	1249
Ron Hunt	Cheese Grater	4.0	100	14	12		1950	1249
Paul Broring	Viribus Uniti	4.0	20	3	5		525	1249
Paul Barrett	BM3	4.0	5	4	4	800	1150	1249
Tom Tanner	Hindenberg	4.0	56	3	8	800	1835	1249
Steve Andrews	VonDerTann	4.0	21	2	12		860	1249
Bob Amend	Andrea Doria	4.5	78	8	15	800	2530	1249
David Lawrence	Kongo	4.0	56	8	9		1210	1249
Curly Barrett	Scharnhorst	2.5	14	1	1	200	215	736
Orrill Ferguson	Okinoshima	1.5	1	0	0	200	10	424

Above 1002 On 91 Below 174 Sink pts 5100
 Penalty pts 500 Given pts26095 Earned pts 22560
 Captains 18 Total Unit 88.5

Fleet Battle #1 - Allied

Captain	Ship	Class	On			Sink Penilty			
			Above	Below	Given	Earned			
Don Cole	Missouri	8.0	42	0	2	520	1231		
Chris Au	Wisconsin	8.0	73	4	5	1080	1231		
Tim Beckett	NC	6.0	33	10	24	1000	2780	1231	
Jim Pate	Washington	6.0	26	10	10	500P	1010	731	
David Ricci	NC	6.0	11	0	0	100P	110	1131	
Stan Watkins	Washington	6.0	1	0	0		10	1231	
Bob Eakin	Washington	6.0	11	1	5	100P	385	1131	
Don Fisher	Washington	6.0	4	0	0	100P	40	1131	
Ali Zinat	NC	6.0	8	0	2		180	1231	
Chris Pearce	Washington	6.0	47	5	25		1845	1231	
Brian Eliassen	South Dakota	6.0	13	1	0		155	1231	
David Au	Revenge	5.5	55	4	8		1050	1108	
Cameron Moury	California	5.5	87	4	3		1120	1108	
Andy Ray	Maryland	5.5	38	1	5		655	1108	
Jeff Poindexter	Texas	5.5	58	6	12	900	200	2230	908
Pete Demetri	Inflexible	4.0	26	3	5		585	985	
Cameron Hunt	Invincible	4.0	17	3	3	200	395	785	
Jeff Cutler	Invincible	4.0	2	0	0		20	985	
Joe Kutz	Invincible	4.0	11	2	3		310	985	
Robert Rucker	Chicago	3.0	25	0	0		250	862	
Kurt Lewis	Phoenix	3.0	73	0	7	700	1780	862	
Jon Messere	Washington	6.0	68	7	39	1000	200	3805	1031
Joe Messere	Frog Cruiser	2.5	11	2	5		410	739	
Milholland	Invincible	4.0	51	9	23	800	2685	492	

Above 791 on 72 Below 186
 Sink 4400 Penitly 1400 Given 23410 Earned 24695
 Captains 24 Total Unit 126.5

Lunch:

We all enjoy the fine dining and offer a "well done" salute to the Maryland folks who put on a great NATS and a fine lunch table! The food is eaten, the boats are patched and batteries recharged. Stan

barely finishes his patching in time to eat. During this time, a group of loyal Axis activists (Andrews, Pittelli and the Barrett brothers) crank the CD player and begin the "Hail Fuegel" dance/video including more prancing and dancing than any NATS has ever seen. The horrific dance is given a token safety-violation penalty!

The Axis strategy for the second battle is to stay on our half of the lake and wait for them to come here. Mike Deskin's Suffron sortie. The wait is agonizingly long, but a smiling Lief hurries back to his boat, adding, "He said I can come in!"

Sortie Four:

The fourth sortie begins with a few ships immediately going on Five. And it isn't long before Orril Ferguson's little Okinoshima slides under. But unlike most sinks, Orril and a posse of helpers can't find the Jap boat. Just as Orril and the search party clear the water, Tom Tanner's Hindenburg goes down on far side of lake.

On the far left side of the lake, my Scharnhorst lines up with Robert Rucker's Chicago. A few exchanges are made before the Chicago suddenly starts steaming towards the Bouys of Death, out of control. Robert, fearing disqualification (the penalty for going past the bouys) declares his ship sunk and slashes in after it. Steve Andrews is engaging Joe Kutz in a humorous one-one one that takes full advantage of Joe's faulty ship identification and the perils of having six Invincibles on the water at the same time. In a scene that repeats itself over and over, Steve pulls the Von der Tann next to Joe's Invincible. Joe, thinking its a friendly boat responds, "Whose Invincible is this?" Steve answers with his sidemounts and steams away.

Herr Fluegel, on Five, finds himself being chased by a horde of Allied bullies who wouldn't stand and fight when he had guns moments ago. Fluegel negotiates between the Missouri of Don Cole and the Wisconsin of Chris Au, and heads to the far side of the pond. There is a footrace to the far side of the pond to attack a mossed up Fluegel, who fails to utilize the Moss Rule to regain his maneuverability. The younger Tim Beckett and Andy Ray have no trouble beating Fluegel (an A.A.R.P. member since 1972) in a footrace around to the far side of the pond.

Dave Au and Tim Beckett unload on the hobby's Founder as he lies motionless. With just two seconds left to go, Fluegel dives out to touch his ship. The Baden begins a significant list to port and is touched as it reaches the 30-degree mark. But it was clearly going to go down. The controversy begins as the sortie ends. A discussion rages on shore. "Its decks weren't awash!" "It got caught in the wind and rolled it a bit." "It had a significant list with momentum." But it was clear to all that the boat was going to go down, and while many discounted the sink, Fluegel insisted he be given credit for a sink.

The second search-and-rescue team eventually locates the little Jap cruiser! A huge cheer goes up as the boat is carried ashore. Only a tablespoon of water in the watertight box after 40 minutes underwater! While the Fluegel debate subsides, the Rucker debate rages on. Pittelli insists that Rucker's declared sink doesn't count, as Rucker was unaware that he COULD cross the bouys, if out-of-control. The head scorer gets his way, and Rucker's "declared sunk" is nullified.

Post-Battle Quotes:

Marty Hayes: "I didn't get any holes the first sortie. Monday has been good...it started out a little rough, but we held our own. Traditionally, the Axis lose Monday, and I believe we may have upheld the tradition."

Fleet Battle #2 - Axis

Captain	Ship	On Sinks				Above	Below	Given	Earned
		Above	Below	Given	Earned				
Nathan Blattau	Musashi	8.0	83	5	9	1405	1040		
Mike Blattau	Musashi	8.0	107	3	30	2645	1040		
Will Montgomery	Musashi	8.0	41	7	3	735	1040		
Mike Torda	Bismarck	7.0	37	0	6	670	1040		
Steve Pavlosky	Nagato	6.0	89	9	11	1665	1040		
Fluegel	Baden	5.5	104	8	24	200	2440	736	
Lief Goodson	Bayern	5.5	27	5	5	645	936		
Frank Pittelli	Bacon Maker	4.0	7	3	3	295	832		
Marty Hayes	Prinz Eugen	4.0	8	1	0	105	832		
Ron Hunt	Cheese Grater	4.0	26	0	6	560	832		
Paul Broring	Viribis Uniti	4.0	28	2	4	530	832		
Paul Barrett	BM3	4.0	16	16	12	1160	832		
Tom Tanner	Hindenberg	4.0	64	6	8	800	1990	832	
Steve Andrews	VonDerTann	4.0	66	8	14	800	2360	832	
David Lawrence	Kongo	4.0	51	3	1	800	1435	832	
Mike Deskin	Suffron	3.0	39	4	7	700	1540	728	
Curly Barrett	Scharnhorst	2.5	17	1	2	295	624		
Orrill Ferguson	Okinoshima	1.5	20	1	1	400	675	416	

Above 830 On 82 Below 146 Sink Pts 3500
Penilty Pts 200 (fluegel) Given 21150 Earned Pts 15290
Captains 18 Total Unit 87.0

Fleet Battle #2 - Allied

Captain	Ship	Class	On				Above	Below	Pen	Given	Earned
			Above	Below	Pen	Given					
Don Cole	Missouri	8.0	70	2	13	1400	1096				
Chris Au	Wisconsin	8.0	58	9	20	1805	1096				
Tim Beckett	NC	6.0	10	5	2	325	1096				
Jim Pate	Washington	6.0	66	9	16	1685	1096				
David Ricci	NC	6.0	14	1	4	200	365	896			
Stan Watkins	Washington	6.0	6	0	4	260	1096				
Bob Eakin	Washington	6.0	13	1	4	355	1096				
Don Fisher	Washington	6.0	25	1	4	475	1096				
Ali Zinat	NC	6.0	43	1	6	755	1096				
Chris Pearce	Washington	6.0	37	5	13	1145	1096				
Brian Eliassen	South Dakota	6.0	30	3	5	625	1096				
David Au	Revenge	5.5	63	13	14	200	1655	786			
Cameron Moury	California	5.5	26	3	4	200	535	786			
Andy Ray	Maryland	5.5	77	2	6	200	1120	786			
Pete Demetri	Inflexible	4.0	3	1	5	100	305	777			
Cameron Hunt	Invincible	4.0	73	6	6	1180	877				
Jeff Cutler	Invincible	4.0	1	0	0	10	877				
Joe Kutz	Invincible	4.0	11	2	1	210	877				
Robert Rucker	Chicago	3.0	2	0	1	70	767				
Kurt Lewis	Phoenix	3.0	31	1	2	435	767				
Joe Messere	Frog Cruiser	3.5	3	0	3	180	658				
Milholland	Invincible	4.0	17	1	8	595	438				

Above 679 On 66 Below 141 Sink Pts 0
Penilty Pts 900 Given 15490 Earned 20250

Captains 22
Total Unit 115.0

Paul "Doc" Broring: "Axis in seven!"

Stan Watkins: "First day was great...I had a blast! Will and I had a little exchange out there....I'm gonna have to patch tonight (6 above, 4 below).

Tim Beckett: "The first battle was harsh, I got behind Ronny's triples

1500

and sank because of it. The second battle, I sank Fluegel by a second! That was quite amusing!"

Bob Eakin: "I fulfilled my mission!"

Fleet Battle Two, High-Damage Individuals:
Axis....Mike Blatteua, 107 above, 3 on and 30 below 2645 points

Allied....Chris Au, 58 above, 9 on and 20 below 1805 points

Fleet Battle Two, Low-Damage Individuals:
Axis....Marty Hayes, 8 above, 1 on and 0

below 105 points
Allied....Jeff Cutler, 1 above, 0 on and 0 below 10 points

Most of the captains spend some time examining each others damage. The Axis patch at the lakeside, while the Allies pack up and head home to patch in the comfort of the air-conditioned hotel room. One lone Allied battler is left to patch in the Axis tent. We compliment him on hanging around with us, saying that it's fun to be Axis. He gives us this sullen look and says, "It's depressing

being an Allied." We whoop and holler, knowing that we have achieved a great victory at sea today. The "All Hail Fluegel" chants echo across the lake once more.

At length, we pack up the boats and gear and head back for a pizza party by the pool, which consumes the evening until 2 a.m. Another great NATS is underway.

Monday Totals:
Axis—47,245 Allies—38,900S

MO Notes:

by Steve Milholland



Hi Captains. It is time to prepare for the 1998 Fall BB Fest, to be held here in Springfield MO on the weekend of Sept. 12 & 13, 1998.

It looks like this event could have even more contestants than the 27 we had in the Spring. All of our die-hard regulars will be here. There will be several new rookies attending their first battle here too. These are guys that were just not quite ready for the May event, but are now ready to get their feet wet. Let's make them all feel welcome.

In addition, D.W. Fluegel, "Dirty Dave" Haynes, Wade Koehn, Jeff Poindexter, Austin Keels, and Doug Torda & Family all say that they will be here for the festivities. Fluegel, Jeff, Austin, and the Torda's have never been to a MO BB Fest before, so they are in for a big surprise with regard to the comradery and vicious battling that typifies our events.

I look forward to seeing you all on the water.

SANCTIONING. This is a sanctioned event. All participants **MUST** have current IR/CWCC and NAMBA membership. Cards will be checked.

ENTRY FEE. \$12.00 per person in advance. Entries must be

postmarked before Sept. 1 and include your CHANNEL NUMBER, not frequency. Late entries and at lakeside will be \$18.00 per person. We need paid entries ASAP so that we can work out any frequency conflicts and notify the concerned Captains. No-shows who send entry fees will be refunded 75% after the event.

Send entries to: Steve Milholland, 1810 Farm Rd. 197 North, Springfield, MO 65802. Ph: (417) 831-2309.

**** A note about frequencies **** Channels 00-09 in the 50 & 53 mhz bands are reserved for use only by persons holding the appropriate FCC Amateur License. A valid FCC Amateur license must be shown by any Captain operating a licensable frequency at this event.

For your refreshment needs, the hosts will be providing Co2, soft drinks and ice at lakeside.

ACCOMODATIONS. BB Fest HQ is Motel 6 North, at 3114 N. Kentwood, just off Exit 80 on the North side of I-44, PH: (417) 833-0880 for reservations.

THE LAKE. Ritter Springs Park. Just Northwest of the city out in the country. To find it, just follow the convoy from the Motel 6 on Saturday morning.

Shade has always been limited in the pit here and table space non-existent. Bring your own work table, chairs, and shade source if you think you need it. Don't plan to work out of a mini-van or pickup tailgate. The vehicles will have to be parked some distance from the pit area and all ships and battlers must be in the marked pit.

Here's looking forward to a Great Battle.

See ya' there,
Steve Milholland,

N.E. Regionals is tentively planned (pending permission to use lake) for >Sept. 26-27 at Greenbriar lake near Hagerstown, Md. (Site of '97 - '98 Nationals). We hope to get the same rate at the hotel (Days Inn) for >that weekend.

>Normal schedule of events is:

>Saturday:

> 1st. battle -- 10:00 am

> 2nd. battle -- 2:00 pm

>Sunday:

> 1st battle -- 10:00 am

> 2nd. battle or extended fleet battle as soon as possible after scoring and patching to enable those who come from far away to get on the road as soon as possible. Please let me know if you plan to attend and your frequency to avoid conflicts. There is no charge for this

battle, ALL qualified combatants of the IR/CWCC are invited, and the battle will be sanctioned unless a reason not to appears before battle.

>Contact Person: Martin A. Hayes (410-757-5593) Mhayes@clark.net)

>The Hotel: Days Inn, phone number is 301-739-9050.

There will be an unsactioned **battle in Houston** Texas on October 10th and 11th on a lake by 1488 in North Houston. Contact Paul Block at (W) 281-497-8990, or (H) 281-498-3620 or E-mail Paul is working on getting on getting a hotel and prices close to the lake as this is bring written 8/1. Please contact Paul's for these places and prices. Thank you and we look foreward to seeing you.
Wade Koehn

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Jeff Poindexter

422 E. Bonita

Amarillo, Texas 79108-5222

The Second Day

of the 1998 IR/CWCC Nationals, Tuesday July 14, 1998

Fleet Battle #3, by Jeff Poindexter

The Axis camp was tense as the new day dawned and chances of victory danced through their heads, much like the thoughts of a child that dreams of a bike or a puppy at Christmas. As the hour of battle grew closer one could feel the 'drama' that would soon be R/C Warship Combat. Captains, on both sides, were taking their time to make sure all systems were working.

1501
that I remembered of past Combatants who had served as 'CD'. (Note: Ronny received the honor of being selected as the 'Most Feared Axis Captain' three days later at the Awards Banquet.) Steve Pavlosky, who was this year's 'Brian Spycalski Award' recipient, said he was "...going after some Southern Boys with my Nagato, some of the North Carolinas, and some Missouri types." As the clock moved nearer to 10:00 A.M. you could feel the intensity of the coming battle. Some captains were starting to move at a quicker pace as the CD announced "2 minutes." Some captains were starting to run between their work stations and ships and back again as almost

everybody made last minute adjustments, checked and double checked for problems, remembered to turn on forgotten systems or just pulling safety pins. Almost every ship was being launched or on the water as the CD yelled "1 minute." Then when he Announced, "Commence battle", there were 23 Allied and 18 Axis ships on the water engaging in the 'Magnificent Obsession.' This was one less than the record number of 42 ships launched 24 hours earlier on Monday. (Note: Terry Darby, a combatant of years gone bye, had this e-mail comment about 42 ships on the water at the same time..."you got to be kidding...42 ships in the water at the same time...were some just floating? It's hard to believe that 42 ships were all working at the time. My how things have changed. Were the good old days all that good...the friendship certainly was. Got to run but I think of my boat buddies all the time. Terry." How was that for a blast from the past? Terry was with us in the early days when only 4 or 5 combatants out of 7 or 8 could get their ships all operating at the same time for a sortie to begin.) During the Allied Captains' meeting our Commander ordered all ships launched on the left-hand side of the 'Bush' to wait for a signal to take our battle to the Axis. This signal was a long whistle blast, three minutes into battle. We were then to head for the right-hand side of the 'Bush' and acquire targets if not otherwise engaged in battle or in trouble. I don't remember exactly which ships were assigned to specific duties but I'll do the best I can. Five of the fast ships were to take position about 40 feet out and proceed at full speed to out flank the Axis and sink whatever ships were being protected deep behind the battle lines. These ships were Don Cole's Missouri, Chris

Stan Jeff and Fluegel at 3rd Nats



Long before the battle had begun this reporter was in the Axis tent doing interviews with various captains. Early on I noticed a sign that indicated their intended, or so I thought at that time, targets. However, looking at the 'Battle Damage Reports', one might conclude that this was a list of Allied Captains that the Axis were planning to stay away from, due to the small amount of damage these ships ended up with after the first sortie. The list was Cris Pearce, Brian Elissen, and Au, (either David or Chris I assumed at that time.) When asking different Axis Captains what their battle strategy would be for the day, most just looked at me and said "HAIL FLUEGEL." Bob Amends comment was "...not to get wet." (He got wet!) Cameron Hunt, an Allied Captain, whose T boat was in the Axis tent just wanted to stay afloat and he did. Ronny 'the Contest Director' Hunt's comment was "Kill...just kill everything." As I slowly backed away from his table I recognized this as the same attitude

(Continued on page 8)

Fat Fluegel, Bald Stan, Toothless Jeff, at 20th Nats



(Continued from page 149)

Au's Wisconsin, Brian Eliassen's South Dakota, and the Washingtons belonging to Chris Pearce and Jim Pate. The next set of ships were to engage the more experienced Axis Captains as they encountered them. These were the Washingtons of Stan Watkins, Bob Eakin, Don Fisher, David Au's Revenge, the North Carolinas of Tim Beckett, David Ricci, Ali Zinat and Andy Ray's Maryland. The rest of the Allied Fleet consisted of My Texas, the 'Invincible' class boats of Steve Milholland, Pete Demetri, Cameron Hunt, Jeff Cutler, and Joe

that first sortie and Fluegel credited Stan Watkins' Washington's stern triple guns. Stan said that this was the high point for him that Tuesday at this Nats. (If one looks closely, they would see that 'Nats' is Stan spelled backwards. Did he plan this many long years ago or did the Almighty have something to do with it? Me thinks my head hurts too much just thinking about it.)

The period of time between the sorties was about 30 minutes and I could not get that wrong prop off. It was determined that I should go back into battle and declare out-of-control five as soon as battle was

The Mag group was well prepared, lots of CO2, lots of heart, you could tell they cared!

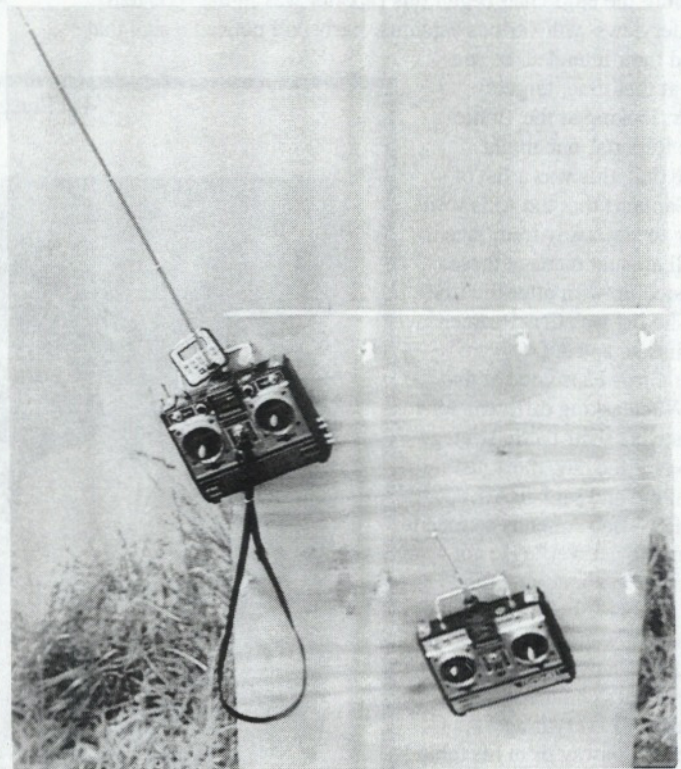


declared. I had counted the below the waterline hits on the Texas from the first sortie and had 32 of them. When the next sortie started I did as I was told and headed for the other side of the lake. However four evil Axis Captains decided to play with the Texas. These were Der Evil Fluegel, Der Evil Goodson, Der Evil "Doc" Broring's with his Virbis Unitis and the Der Evil Marty Hayes with his Prinz Eugen. They were relentless in their 'nipping at your heels' tactics. Then the water stream from the Texas' pump quit. I thought maybe a little dispute between the Union of Water Nanonites and Management had happened but quickly realized that this was not a lost episode of Star Trek, but a real life play-war experience. This was going to be my first, out in the middle of a lake, sinking in over a decade. I was being truly reborn into the hobby. The Texas sank slowly and on even keel as the lake water filled the insides of

Kutz, Cameron Moury's California, Larry Ricci's Gangut, Kurt Lewis' Cruiser Phoenix and Robert Rucker's Cruiser Chicago. We were to protect any ships in trouble and to assist in sinking any Axis ships as best we could. None of us were to engage any of the 'Bacon Makers'. If we were targeted by any 'Bacon's' we were ordered to immediately head for open sea and wait for help. I had no clue what the Axis plan of battle was other than trying to show us they were having a better time than we were. This was my first Nationals since 1988 and there was no way anybody was having more fun than I was.

The Texas was pounced upon almost immediately by at least five ships that I can remember. These were Fluegel's Baden, Lief Goodson's Bryern, Nathan Blattau's Musashi and at least 2 Bacon Makers. I don't remember whose Bacon's these were in this sortie. I was having a bit of control problem with the Texas the first time I tried to use reverse. The five Axis ships mentioned were using my Texas for a BB depository and I thought I could just back out of the fray. When reverse was engaged the Texas went faster in forward with reverse than she was going when in forward. (The Texas was so slow at the speed trials Fluegel called it illegally slow!) The day before when the Texas sank in shallow water she lost her starboard left-hand prop. That night in the motel room I had replaced it with a right-hand prop by mistake. As you can guess that lack of using any good brain cells caused me to lose even more forward speed. I can not, however, explain the fast forward in reverse. This was not a good thing so I called out-of-control five and did manage to survive the sortie. This was accomplished with help of a Musashi side-swipe that knocked my superstructure loose. I admit that it was a 'weenie ram call' but I called it anyway. After putting the superstructure back where it was suppose to be I only had about 30 seconds to the end of my five minutes. I was not paying very good attention to the rest of the sortie during this time

Would you hold my transmitter? Good idea!



Fleet Battle #3 - **Axis**

Captain	Ship	Class	Ons		Penilts		Given	Earned
			Above	Below	Sinks	Given		
Nathan Blattau	Musashi	8.0	108	7	15	2005	1168	
Mike Blattau	Musashi	8.0	35	4	7	800	1168	
Will Montgomery	Musashi	8.0	130	8	21	2550	1168	
Mike Torda	Bismarck	7.0	15	0	1	200	1168	
Steve Pavlosky	Nagato	6.0	80	3	8	200	1275 968	
Fluegel	Baden	5.5	63	12	14	1630	1051	
Lief Goodson	Bayern	5.5	95	8	18	2050	1051	
Frank Pittelli	Bacon Maker	4.0	30	1	7	600	675 334	
Marty Hayes	Prinz Eugen	4.0	13	2	2	280	934	
Ron Hunt	Cheese Grater	4.0	38	4	10	100	980 834	
Paul Broring	Viribus Uniti	4.0	13	3	4	405	934	
Tom Tanner	Hindenberg	4.0	56	4	8	200	1060 734	
Steve Andrews	VonDerTann	4.0	21	2	2	360	934	
Bob Amend	Andrea Doria	4.5	55	5	8	800	1875 934	
David Lawrence	Kongo	4.0	14	0	3	800	1090 934	
Curly Barrett	Scharnhorst	2.5	13	1	2	200	255 501	
Orrill Ferguson	Okinoshima	1.5	2	0	0	20	467	
Ken Kelly	Derrflinger	4.0	25	4	14	800	1850 934	

Aboves 806 Ons 68 Belows 144
 Sinks 2400 Penilts 1300 Given 19360 Earned 16220
 Captains 18 Total Unit 88.5

the old girl. But the guns were still firing as she went under and an interesting note was I still had only 32 Below the waterline hits when the holes were counted.

An act so despicable happened sometime just before or just after this sinking that the name of Paul Barrett will live in infamy and will surely be put on the O.S.S. 10 most wanted list. I am sicken by the memories of it, because about 30 elementally school aged children were forced to shout "Hail Fluegel" on more than one occasion. Stan Watkins in attempt to salvage some of those frail minds had them shouting, "Go USA." But Paul definitely had scored first blood. Three other ships sank during the battle, but I have no information as to what ships were sunk in the first or second sortie. The other two Axis ships sunk were Bob Amend's Andrea Doria and David Lawrence's Kongo. The other ship sunk was Larry Ricci's Gangut. The other Axis ships not already mentioned were Mike Blattau's Musashi, Will Montgomery's Musashi, Mike Torda's Bismarck, Tom Tanner's Hindenberg, Steve Andrews' Von Der Tann, Curly Barrett's Scharnhorst, Orrill Ferguson's Okinoshima, and the ships of Frank Pittelli and Ron Hunt were listed as Bacon Maker and Cheese Grater. I don't know what the names of these ships were as that is what is listed on the Score sheet. I also don't know how the Axis assigned targets to their captains. The Axis scored a total 657 above, 80 on and 145 below the waterline hits, sank two of our ships and were assessed 1350 penalty points. The Allies scored a total of 806 above, 68 on and 144 below the waterline hits, sank three of their ships and were assessed 1300 penalty points. Final Fleet scores were Axis 16220 and Allies won with 18010. That was only a difference of 1790 points. In the 'Old Days' that would have been a tie as you needed 2000 points more than your enemy to score a victory. Individual captains earned the following points. These scores already have the penalties deducted. Allied Captains: Don Cole 931; Chris Au 931; Tim Beckett 931; Jim Pate 931; David Ricci 831; Stan Watkins 831; Bob Eakin 431; Don Fisher 931; Ali Zinat 931; Chris Pearce 931; Brain Eliassen 931; David Au 438; Cameron Moury 838; Andy Ray 838; Jeff Poindexter 838; Pete Demetri 745; Cameron Hunt 745; Larry Ricci 745; Jeff Cutler 745; Joe Kutz 745; Robert Rucker 652; Kurt Lewis 452; and Steve Milholland with 695.

Axis Captains: Nathan Blattau 1168; Mike Blattau 1168; Will Montgomery 1168; Mike Torda 1168; Steve Pavlosky 968; D.W. Fluegel 1051; Lief Goodson 1051; Frank Pittelli 334; Marty Hayes 934; Ron Hunt 834; Paul Broring 934; Tom Tanner 734; Steve

Fleet Battle #3 - **Allied**

1503

Captain	Ship	Class	On		Sinks		Given	Earned
			Above	Below	Pen	Given		
Don Cole	Missouri	8.0	22	1	0	245	931	
Chris Au	Wisconsin	8.0	26	2	9	760	931	
Tim Beckett	NC	6.0	33	3	5	655	931	
Jim Pate	Washington	6.0	58	1	4	805	931	
David Ricci	NC	6.0	45	2	1	100	550 831	
Stan Watkins	Washington	6.0	3	3	5	100	355 831	
Bob Eakin	Washington	6.0	13	1	2	500	255 431	
Don Fisher	Washington	6.0	38	10	7	980	931	
Ali Zinat	NC	6.0	13	0	0	130	931	
Chris Pearce	Washington	6.0	31	4	21	1460	931	
Brian Eliassen	South Dakota	6.0	14	2	3	340	931	
David Au	Revenge	5.5	16	1	2	400	285 438	
Cameron Moury	California	5.5	29	4	3	540	838	
Andy Ray	Maryland	5.0	46	7	9	1085	838	
Jeff Poindexter	Texas	5.5	78	10	32	900	3530 838	
Pete Demetri	Inflexible	4.0	15	1	5	425	745	
Cameron Hunt	Invincible	4.0	59	4	8	1090	745	
Larry Ricci	Gangut	4.0	43	8	12	800	2030 745	
Jeff Cutler	Invincible	4.0	0	0	0	0	745	
Joe Kutz	Invincible	4.0	18	6	8	730	745	
Robert Rucker	Chicago	3.0	19	4	0	290	652	
Kurt Lewis	Phoenix	3.0	20	3	4	200	475 452	
Milholland	Invincible	4.0	18	3	5	50	505 695	

Aboves 657 Ons 80 Belows 145
 Sinks 1700 Penilts 1350 Given 17520 Earned 18010 Captains 23
 Total Unit 122.0

Andrews 934; Bob Amend 934; David Lawrence 934; Curly Barrett 501; Orrill Ferguson 467; and Ken Kelly with 934. So ended the Third Fleet Battle of the 1998 IR/CWCC Nationals. May God keep all of us and our families safe as we shoot holes in each others toys.

Campaign #1, by Jeff Poindexter

As I was repairing the hull damage I had received during the earlier fleet battle. I looked up as Robert Rucker set his back-up 'Chris Pearce built' bilge pump on my table and said, "Use it...give it back Friday." I thanked him as he headed back to his tent. I installed it in the Texas that night in the motel. I never came close to sinking the rest of Nats even though I had more holes in the hull at other times. Thanks again Robert.

There were three tents this year at Nats. Two for most of the combatants there and one for the 'Founding Fathers'. I fit in that category only because of events that happened about 27 years ago. My wife and I met a couple who started going to the church that we attend. Their names were Stan and Sherry Watkins. We got together for lunch one Sunday afternoon after morning services. A few months later we introduced them to my sister and brother-in-law, Katherine and D.W. (Sunshine) Fluegel. The rest of that story is covered on the inside page of this years rule set. So here I am over 20 years later and a decade from my last Nationals having the time of my life. I was treated with a 'whole lot more respect' than anyone deserves.

I do wish to thank MAG (Maryland Attack Group) for doing such a great job in hosting this years nationals and making it so much fun. I also want to thank Mike and Nathan Blattau for keeping me stocked with Dr. Pepper and allowing my Texas to play with both their Musashis at one time or another. And I also want to thank Steve Pavlosky for showing Stan Watkins and myself around Annapolis and Washington DC on Wednesday when he could have battled in some one-on-ones. Frank Pittelli, Marty Hayes, Wii Montgomery, Ronny and Cameron Hunt and the rest of the people involved really made this a special Nats for me. Well enough of this mushy stuff.

As I was getting the Texas ready for Campaign I heard a lot of 'ouing' and 'awing' coming from the front of Fluegel's

OFFICEAL 1999 Proposed Rule Changes:

1. Add section D to article V in constitution:
"The annual championship shall be conducted in the Axis versus Allied format unless a 2/3 majority vote of participating captains states otherwise."

2. Add a second listing to the shiplist for the German Dreadnought Baden with the length over all changed to 623'.

3. Add monitors to Great Britain's shiplist.
Add to II.H.1 (under class 2, 2 unit section): "Monitors \geq 7000 tons".
Add to II.H.1 (under class 1, 1 unit section): "Monitors $<$ 7000 tons".
Add to II.I.1 (speed section): "Monitors — 30 sec/100"

Copy of shiplist addition:

Name	#Ships	LOA	Beam	Std.Dis	Ful.Dis	Weight	Armor	#Guns	Dia	Built	Class	Speed
Erebus 2	405	88	8000	8450	6.339	4	2	15.0	1916	2	30	
Roberts(L) 1	373	90	7973	9150	6.864	5	2	15.0	1941	2	30	
Abercrombie(L) 1	373	90	8536	9717	7.289	5	2	15.0	1943	2	30	
Glatton 2	310	74	5700	5746	4.311	7	2	9.2	1913-18	1	30	
Marshal Cl. 2	356	90	6670	6900	5.176	4	2	15.0	1915	1	30	
Abercrombie 4	335	90	6150	6150	4.614	4	2	14.0	1914-15	1	30	
Lord Clive 8	336	87	5683	5900	4.426	6	2	12.0	1915	1	30	

8. Randomly check magazine loads to determine compliance.
Add section III.C.4.g:

"The Contest Director at his discretion may test randomly for magazine loads. Just prior to battle the Contest Director may test one or more ships on each fleet. One cannon on each ship will be tested. If more than 55 bbs (28 for a half unit and 82 for a one and a half unit) are in the magazine, there will be a 1000 point penalty and the battler will sit out the rest of the battle."

9. Increase penalty for declared sunk from one and a half to double sink points.

Change III.C.6.a to read:

"A ships captain may declare his ship scuttled at any time during a battle. The opposing fleet or captain shall be awarded points equal to twice the sink points of the scuttled ship."

10. Allow for tweaking of multiple guns at once.

Delete from rule I.A

"During the tweaking process only one barrel shall be unpinned at one time."

4. Increase units for large Armored cruisers. Armored Cruisers over 13,500 standard displacement are class 3 with 3 units.
Change II.H. to reflect this. Ships affected are: (All affected move upwards, all other armored cruisers remain class 2 with 2.5 units)

France: Rosseau, Renan

Germany: Blucher

Great Britain: Warrior, Minotaur

Russia: Rurik

USA: Pennsylvania, Tennessee.

5. Specify below the waterline hull color.

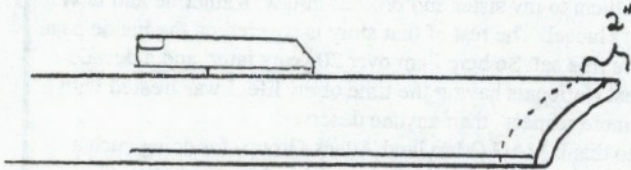
Add section II.B.3.a

"Below the waterline, warship hulls must be painted either red, brown, or a documented scale color for that class of ship."

6. Clarify and correct bow hard area.

Change section II.A.2.d to read:

"Solid material in the bow may extend no more than 2" aft following the contour of the bow."



7. Increase the number of sinks by reducing pump outlet size by 1/64".

Change section II.G.2 to read:

"A 1 unit pump shall have one round 7/64" inside diameter discharge port; a 1/2 unit pump shall have one round 5/64" inside diameter discharge port. The port diameter must be measurable from the outside of the ship. A one unit pump may not be subdivided into two half unit pumps."

NATS 99 SURVEY

This is a paraphrased by Doug Torda for Mike Torda, his PC and therefore email has been down for a week and he doesn't know when it will be fixed.

#1 How much would the entry fee be?

Approximately \$120.00 with the same level of services (Tents, gas and CO2) and similar attendance level as NATS 98.

#2 How much cost for lodging?

\$16.00 per person per night with three people per room. Other lodging is available at somewhat higher rates. This includes houses that groups or families could rent.

#3 How far away is the lake?

120 Yards, literally a 2 minute walk.

#4 Parking is closer than Hagerstown, MD.

#5 How deep is the lake?

On average 3 to 4.5 feet deep. There is an eight foot deep channel, which will be marked, a 1/4 of a mile out.

#7 Is the lake clear?

No, the lake is murky but clean with one inch of muck and then #8 a hard bottom.

#9 Is there moss? No.

#10 What is the shoreline like?

Grassy shoreline.

#17 The worst things about the site:

There is a slight possibility of a large number of local spectators.

#18 The best things about the site:

On site police, regional hospital is a few miles away, shopping and restaurants are nearby. This site is less than a mile from Maggie Valley resort area. Many national parks are a short trip away including, The Great Smokey Mountains National Park, Sliding Rock, The Cradle of Forestry. Cherokee, NC is also a short trip away.

#20 What is the typical weather like?

Mild days and cools nights.

Information on the lake:

Go to <http://themountaineer.com/nats99>

Gentleman, this is a HB article to help voters make an educated Nats site selection. Your answers are not binding and it is understood that things do change, and you made a good faith best answers when you gave your answers. #1 Approximately how much will the entry fees be? \$110-\$125 Depending on the menu, and how many people show up.

#2 How much will a week of lodging cost? ~~In '96 it was about \$30 per night for two beds, double occupancy. I'll be calling the manager Monday 8/3 when he, Tim, gets back from vacation to ask him about group prices.~~ ^{\$41⁰⁰}

#3 How many minutes form the lodging to the lake? One to two.
Lake issues

#4 How big is it, can you compare it to a previous Nats lake size? Continuous boat running at 24 sec. will take about 4.5 min from one end to the other. I haven't been to Springfield lately, or Maryland's new site. I couldn't properly compare. Ask the battlers that have been to both.

#5 How many feet deep is the deepest part that our ships may sink in? 3 to 3-1/2 feet.

#6 What is the most interesting battling feature your lake provides? Multiple ponds all tied together of various sizes and shapes with one small island.

#7 Can you see the bottom of the lake-clear water? No, because the chemical they put in the water that keeps the moss out is a blue-green color. It makes the water really look like the sea. Sunk ships are very easy to find because of very shallow, very flat bottom.

#8 Is the lake bottom sandy, muddy, firm, mossy, what? Firm.

#9 What is the moss outlook? Virtually none.
Describe the shore line features

#10 grass Well manicured, short grass and sides. Extremely easy to launch and battle anywhere.

#11 shade None around the lake, but plenty dockside, and overhead ceiling fans.

#12 tables Many, many, many, long and wide.

#13 electricity Almost every other trable has electricity

#14 parking Plenty. Pull up to your table, unload, and park. Some parking in the shade.

#15 Is there a location at the lodging were we can hold captain meetings?

#16 Briefly describe the lake side lunch menus.
In less than 25 words; Free soft drinks, water, tea, and ice all day. Fajitas, roast beef, various meat sandwiches, cole sale, salads, brownies, cake, beans, rice, vegetables, bread, pie, jello, and other deserts.

#17 What is the worst thing about this site? A long way for the people in the Northeast to travel, and slightly higher than normal NATS fees, \$10-\$25 more.

#18 What is the best thing about this site? A covered, cement floor docksite that is close to the water. It has plenty of tables, plenty of electricity, fans, easy load, unload, bathrooms with running water and showers. On private property with almost no spectators to worry about or get in the way. Close and easy to everything, including a hobby shop, 24 food, very close to airport. the battleship Texas is about 30 miutes away. Astroworld and shopping for females (mom), and the kids.

#20(?) What is the approxamate average high temp for that week. 85-95F

Thanks again for your hard work, I would have no way to know how to vote without this information. Please be very brief with you answeres, and du date is the same for you as the rest 8/8. AM would be helpful as I have dedicated that week end to doning HB. Feel free to talk to each other.

Wade wwkoehn@juno.com
Storda@primeline.com
Thanks, Fluegel

OFFICEAL 1999 BALLOT

(Write YES or NO in the blank. Check marks, Cross marks, etc. will not be counted.)

Constitution modification:

1. Annual championship is Axis/Allied unless 2/3 majority votes otherwise.

Shipist modifications:

2. Add second listing of the Baden with length increased to 623.

3. Add monitors to shipist.

4. Armored cruisers over 13,500 tons are class 3 with 3 units.

Construction modifications:

5. Red, Brown, or scale color under the waterline.

6. 2" hard area follows contour of the bow.

7. Reduces pump outlet size to 7/64" for 1 unit pump, 5/64" for 1/2 unit pump.

Battling modifications:

8. Randomly test magazine leads.

9. "Declared sink" worth double sink points.

Safety modification:

10. Allow multiple guns to be unplugged during tweaking.
Annual Championship Site and Site Host: (Chose one of the two)

North Carolina (Mountains), Mike Torda hosting.
Texas (Houston), Wade Koehn hosting.

Annual Championship Date: (Chose one of the three)

June 21-25

July 11-16

July 19-23

Only current club members who have participated in a Sanctioned battle in the last two years are eligible to vote. Members who participated in either one of the last two Nationals are eligible to vote twice.

I receive _____ vote(s) because I have participated in a sanctioned battle at:

Central Regional (Springfield)

Northeast Regional (Maryland)

Southeast regional (Savannah)

Nationals (Maryland)

Other (List Site _____) sometime after Nats in 1996.

Signed: _____

Email ballot to: jch72@prodigy.net -or- Mail ballot to:

Ron Hunt
2611 Stratford Dr.

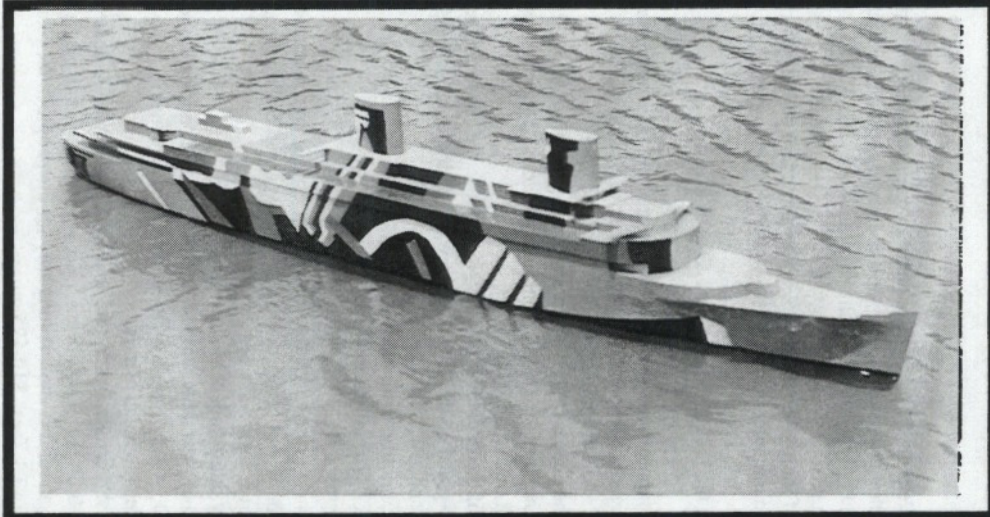
Greensboro, NC 27408

Ballots must be postmarked no later than September 10th.

table. At first I thought that this was just another secession of 'Fluegeling' that had been going on for the past few days. Upon investigation I found that they had opened the large boat box that Fluegel had brought with us from Dallas, Texas. I had assumed that it contained two cargo ships. I thought this mainly because that is what Fluegel said was in it when I saw the box on top of his van the preceding Thursday. However, what was in the box, had been a under raps for about three years. It was a model of the German ocean liner 'Bremmen' that had been use as a troop transport during the war. It was about seven feet long and weighed about 35 or 40 pounds. Dirty Dave Haynes had built this weapon for his team but could not come to Nats this year. His team immediately presented him with the Axis High Spirit Award of the day. It was the Axis hope that this large ship would be too expensive, in Allied BBs to sink it. If we fell for their plan, they would then send their other cargo ships in what Fluegel called the 'Interstate Highway of Points' and would get a massive amount of points because all our guns would be empty. Little did they know that we had assigned only 3 or 4 ships to 'Bremmen' duty. We set aside ships to go into battle at 15 minutes intervals so we would always have a showing on the water. We also assigned heavy escorts to our cargo ships. We learned later that the Axis had not assigned escorts and were hoping the Bremmen would distract us. Jim Pate, Brian Elissen and Stan Watkins were all assigned = to the Bremmen. Something happened to Pate's ship before Campaign ever started and he worked on it for about 45 minutes. The Bremmen made its first trip and survived. Fluegel was told to take it on a return trip which he set out to do. However it was lunched was very noticeable that it was low by the bow. After about one and a half minutes into the trip the bow went under and looked for awhile like the pictures we see of the Titanic sinking. Fluegel thinks it took so long to sink because

there were not enough air holes to let air out.=20

The Bremmen spent the next 15 or so minutes under water because other cargo ships were on the water. According to the rules no one can retrieve ships if there is cargo run going on. During this time several cargo ships, from both sides, completed runs to their forward bases. When the Bremmen was finally brought to shore, members of the Axis started their prearranged duties such as the Barrett brothers and Fluegel repairing the hull damage with pre-cut silkspan. They also had people



assigned to moss duty on both sides of the lake. The Bremmen made another successful run about 45 minutes into the fun. The Axis decided not to learn anything from history and attempted another return run. Jim Pate had finally got his ship to work, (he had found that his ship's water-tight rudder servo box was full of water), about the time the Bremmen went back in the water. Fluegel said Jim fired and fired and just ripped the large ship apart. It sank again in almost a repeat of the sink before. The Axis won that Campaign by only 400 points. The final score was Axis 4250 and Allied 3850.

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