



IRCWCC

the year with some good battling and fellowship.

Presidents

Column

Well, as the battling season comes to a close, we can look back on another successful year. We had a good Nationals with the sides close and the battling fierce. We have almost completed the Ballot process with only a few new rules. The clubs are healthy and growing. The ships are better and more reliable.

One more battle is on the horizon as I write this, a return to Greenbriar State Park in Hagerstown, MD. Hopefully, we will have the 25+ battlers at this one and finish

I am talking with the Big Gun clubs (some of which use the NAMBA insurance) and NAMBA about modifying the NAMBA rules once more to include a section on R/C combat. This should put to rest all concerns about the insurance coverage once and for all.

Next years Nationals site has been chosen as Boston, Mass and the plans are well underway for the site. It looks like another great Nationals and all should plan to attend! The sponsors for this Nationals will be NEDF in Massachusetts and we are told that some of our Canadian battlers will be able to attend.

and try to protect their lead? Or will they try to battle and sink the few that hadn't been sunk?

It would be Allied A fleet against Axis B fleet first. The Allies A were Chris Au-Wisconsin, Tim Beckett-N. Carolina, Ted Brogden-Valiant, Paul "Doc," Broring-, Larry "Stevie Ray Vaughn," "Lars," Dahl-Belleyache-Bellerophon, Chris Stoeson-Michigan, Adam Thibault-Invincible, Matt Thibault-Witchita, Ron Thibault-Witchita, Stan Watkins-Washington, John Whitsell-Invincible, and Rick Whitsell-N. Carolina. Verses Axis "Run Away," B-fleet Rick King-

FUN FILLED FRIDAY OR THE LAST DAY

OF GNATS AT NATS

Friday at NATS. Always a bitter-sweet day. Bitter- the last day of battling with your friends, eating, spending time with them, and packing to go home. Sweet- no more heat, gnats in your face, no more patching, picking out who you're going to try to sink on the other side, and the Awards banquet.

The Axis had about a 12,000-15,000 point lead. Will they run

Will the Allies go for broke and do or die, or will they think that a 12,000+ lead be too much to overcome and just try to go out and settle some week long scores? Only time will tell.

The two Texas rookies show their grounding maneuver.



Admiral Sheer, Wade "We're running as fast/much as we can, Kinda Gross Sub Vice-Admiral" Koehn-Lutzow, Dave Au- Von der Tann, Bryan Finster-Yamato, George Goff-Tre Kroner, Louis Meszaros-Vittorio Vinetto "V2", and Steve Reichenbach-Scharnhorst.

The Axis B-fleet were tired of running. The Yamato, V2, and the Scharnhorst decided that they would pick on a cruiser, and try to sink one. The Von der Tann planned to surround about 3 Allied ships by himself.

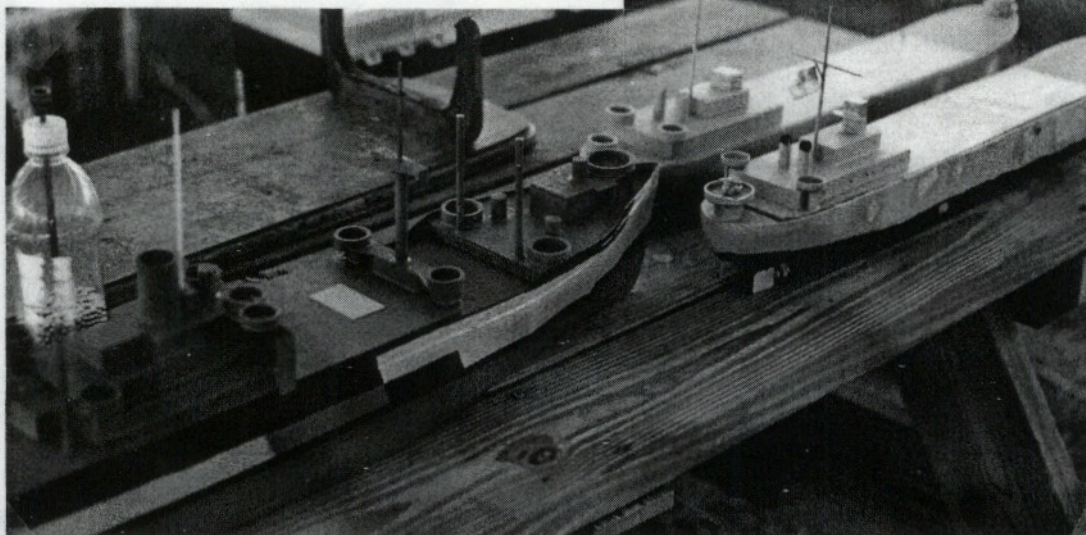
The Lutzow-Admiral-Kroner would attack the ships that were attacking the ships that were attacking our big ships attacking their cruisers. Got it?

It appeared that the Allied A was out to get one of the Axis B big ships. The 2 N.C.'s, Washington, and Wisconsin were chasing the Yamato, V2, and Scharnhorst. Yamato, V2, and Scharnhorst were trying to pound the two Witchita's, and got a grip on the Chris S. Michigan and put her under. Doc's Michigan, John's Invincible, and Bellerophon were all non 24 second ships that would get passing shots on the Axis as they ran back and forth around them. Kroner went down with control problems. The Sheer and Lutzow attacked the attackers of the Axis bigger ships. The Lutzow pulled away to see how many big fast ships she would take with her. The two N.C.'s, and the Wisconsin followed. The Lutzow decided to be first cow in the pirhana filled river and take the heat off of the three big Axis ships. The rest of the Axis went one way while the Lutzow took three Allies the other. With a 12,000 + lead a



Allied		FLEET # 5								
Captain	Ship	Above	On	Below	S1?	S2?	Pen	Damage	Points	Average
AU, CHRIS	WISCONSIN	24	0	2				340	1229	614.6
BECKETT, TIM	NORTH CAROLINA	17	5	13				945	1229	614.6
BROGDEN, TED	VALIANT	18	0	2				280	1106	553.2
BRORING, PAUL	MICHIGAN	25	0	1				300	983.4	491.7
COLE, DON	IOWA	180	5	16				2725	952.7	476.3
DAHL, LARRY	BELLEROPHON	11	1	6				435	983.4	491.7
EAKIN, BOB	IOWA	87	8	28				2470	952.7	476.3
JASS, TOM	SUMATRA	2	0	0				20	571.6	285.8
KEELS, AUSTIN	INVINCIBLE	66	6	10		Y		2110	762.1	381.1
PURVIS, MATT	NORTH CAROLINA	106	2	14		Y		2810	952.7	476.3
RUCKER, ROBERT	NORTH CAROLINA	14	4	7				590	952.7	476.3
STOESON, CHRIS	MICHIGAN	0	0	1	Y			850	491.7	245.9
THIBAUT, ADAM	INVINCIBLE	11	5	6				535	983.4	491.7
THIBAUT, MATT	WHICITA	10	2	2				250	860.5	430.3
THIBAUT, RON	WHICITA	10	3	1				225	860.5	430.3
WATKINS, STAN	WASHINGTON	29	6	11				990	1229	614.6
WHITSELL, JOHN	INVINCIBLE	1	0	1				60	983.4	491.7
WHITSELL, RICK	NORTH CAROLINA	14	0	1				190	1229	614.6
FOSTER, JAMES	DR. VICTORIA	0	0	1	D			1100	333.4	166.7
GRAHAM, DANA	INVINCIBLE	34	3	22		Y		2315	762.1	381.1
Totals		659	50	145				0	19,540	18,410
Axis										
Captain	Ship	Above	On	Below	S1?	S2?	Pen	Damage	Points	Average
ASMAN, DAVID	NASSAU	4	0	4				240	1676	837.9
AU, DAVE	VON DER TANN	22	2	5				520	855.4	427.7
BRAY, KEVIN	MOLTKE	12	5	4				445	1676	837.9
FINSTER, BRYAN	YAMATO	55	6	29			200	2150	869.3	434.7
FLUEGEL, D.W.	BADEN	24	0	6				540	1885	942.7
GOFF, GEORGE	TRE KRONER	5	0	1	Y			700	320.8	160.4
GOODSON, LIEF	BADEN	30	2	11				900	1885	942.7
KING, RICK	ADMIRAL SCHEER	6	0	2				160	748.5	374.3
KOEHN, WADE	LUTZOW	12	3	11	Y			1445	374.3	187.1
MESZAROS, LOUIS	VITTORIO VINETTO	36	2	2				510	1069	534.7
PATE, JIM	SCHARNHORST	8	6	3				380	1885	942.7
PEARCE, CHRIS	NAGATO	42	2	0				470	2095	1047
RAY, ANDY	NAGATO	8	0	3				230	2095	1047
REICHENBACH, STEV	SCHARNHORST	176	33	64		Y	900	6685	62.38	31.19
STEVENS, CHARLEY	FUSO	71	15	21	Y			3035	942.7	471.3
Totals		511	76	166			###	18,410	19,540	

The Allies were better prepared (?) with this splendid convoy line up. They like the small ships.



sunk to slow down a ship. Giving up his ship for the fleet's greater good.

Sortie 2 Allied B-fleet, Axis A-fleet with three Allied ships in trouble from previous attention in the first sortie. Dana's beautiful, and Austin's I-boat both saw Davie Jones's locker, after a Valiant-(Dan Hamilton-ish) fight. Leroy, who was the scuba diver who retrieved sunken ships all week, was busy for the third time getting Matt's N.C. Leroy was a great asset/luxury all week. Constantly I heard him say, "There's glory at the bottom." He likes water so much he sleeps IN his wa-

sunk/damaged Lutzow is less points than a class 5,6, or 8 ship. It worked! Lutzow ran 3 big ships for 5 minutes while the rest of the Axis fleet was running the other way the rest of the Allied fleet in pursuit. Dave Au surrounded the 3 slower Allied ships by himself and gave as much as he got. The sortie ended. One class 4 Allied ship down, a class 2 and 3 Axis ship down.

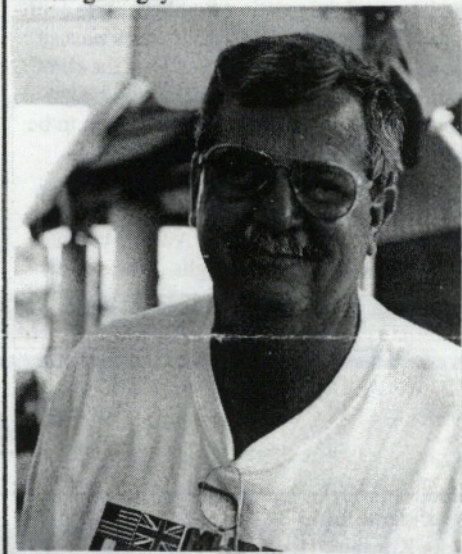
Next was the Axis A-fleet verses the Allied B-fleet. Axis A-fleet was Admiral Jim Pate-Scharnhorst, Chris Pearce-Nagato, Fluegel-Baden, Kevin Bray-Moltke, Andy Ray-Nagato, Charley Stevens-Fuso, David Asman-Nassau, and Lief Goodson-Baden. The Allied B-fleet was Don Cole-Iowa, Bob Eakin-Iowa, Tom Jass-Sumatra, Austin Keels-Invincible, Robert Rucker-N.C., Matt Purvis-N.C., James Foster-Dr. Victoria, and Dana Graham-Invincible.

The sortie began with the Dr. Victoria running into the near shore and instead of taking a pounding declaring her sunk. Sumatra stayed free and clear. The two N.C.'s, and the two Iowa's were running in a pack, and mixing it up the two Nagato's, Scharnhorst, and the Fuso. The two Baden's were working together with the Moltke/Nassua clan and were starting to put the hurt on the two I-boats. The Fuso had some mechanical trouble, that lead to too many holes, that lead to her demise.

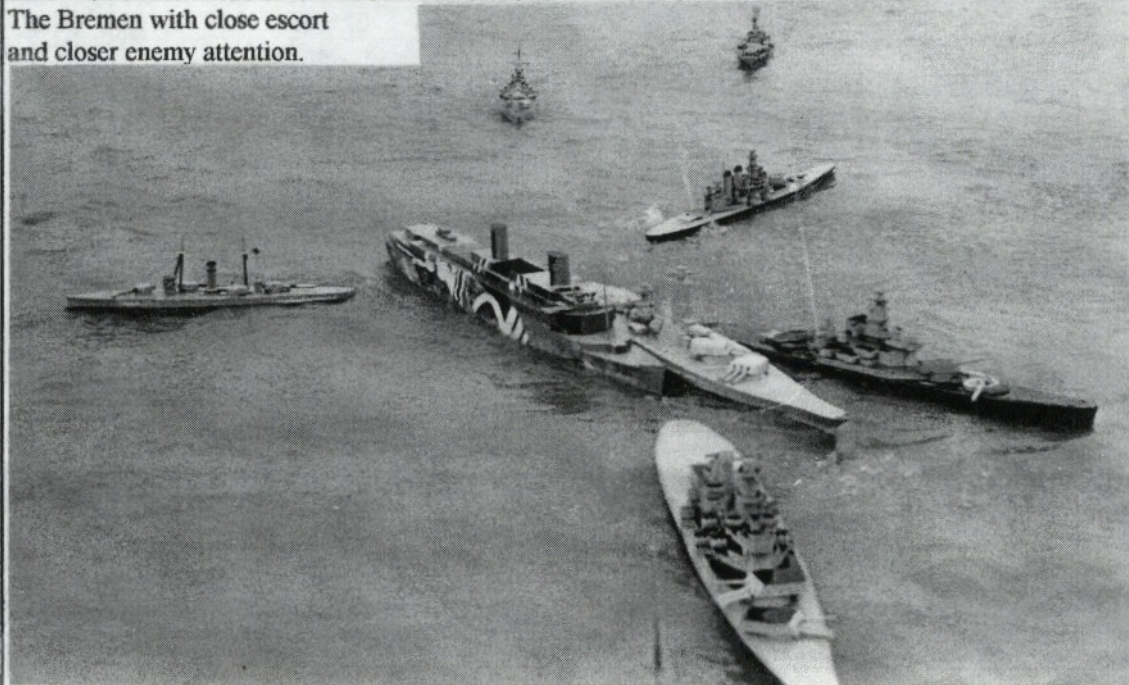
The second Allied-A, Axis-B sortie began minus

two Axis, and one Allied ship(s). With the Allies already being numerically superior, now 11 ships, before the loss of two Axis ships they could really concentrate all of their fire power on the remaining 5 Axis ships. The Axis B-fleet after finally going on the attack for the first time all week in Friday's first sortie would have to run for lives. The Allies would run the Axis like a pack of wolves looking for a weak-stray to fall out and kill. They did. The Scharnhorst fell out. She was killed. During the chase the Scharnhorst had a ram sink penalty trying to avoid the 'pack'. The Yamato had a ram penalty too. When you're running and out numbered you don't always stop or see the ships trying to cut off your escape. Sometimes the ram penalty is better than being sunk because if you stop you're dead. Most captains will try to miss, or announce "Get out of the way, I'm not stopping." Lars was an Allied hero getting ram

Allied Admial Don Cole, one of the hobbies all around good guys.



The Bremen with close escort and closer enemy attention.



terbed.

The Axis fleets squeaked out a mere 30 point victory over the Allies after totally all the points including the ram penalties. The Axis had taken the day, and the week at NATS after a very hard fought battle with the Allies. More importantly everyone had fun and had a story to go home with of victory, conquest, and friendship.

We were blessed with the presence of Steve Baker that afternoon at lakeside. Steve is a good guy that no one has a bad word about. Let us all hope he'll soon return to the hobby so we can all enjoy him.

Friday night is always the Awards Banquet. We ate at an Italian restaurant walking distance beside the hotel. Bart did a wonderful job in locating a great moss free lake with excellent amenities. The hotel was very nice, and close to everything. Big rooms, cheap, close to the lake, and the prettiest Southern style courtyard I've seen at any NATS. It was a pleasure to walk through it. Thank you Bart for all of your hard work. Let's hope Bart will be gracious enough in the future to once again be Site Host here. Good job Bart!

We all ordered our food and drinks in a room dedicated to us for the Awards banquet. After the food, fun, and laughs. The awards

were given out "From the least to most important," said Brian Eliassen.

Best Dressed went to D.W. Fluegel. Class 2 went to Tom "The Best CD," Jass. Class 3 was won by Rick King. Kevin Bray won Class 4. D.W. Fluegel, "I owe it to sortie averaging," obtained Class 5. Class six went to Chris Pearce. The back breaking Class 7-8 award was won by Chris Au. The one-on-one trophy was won by Doc Broring. Best of Scale Warship honors went to Dana Graham's beautiful Prince of Wales. Best of Scale Convoy went to Wade Koehn's Bremen. Rookie of the Year was won by Bryan Finster. The Founders Award for most overall points was won by Chris Au. The Surrender Trophy/Sword was handed from Don Cole to Jim Pate. Both of these guys are class act Admirals and people. They both fight hard, but clean and have fun, and never forget these are just toy boats. Most feared Axis was Jim Pate. Jim said the award meant a lot to him because it was voted on by his peers. Most feared Allied was won by Chris Au. The Sportsman Cup was won by Andy Ray. This is probably the highest praise of recognition that you can get from your fellow battlers as a good person.

After all of the awards were handed out we had an extra treat. John "Curly," Barrett had written over 150 letters to vendors of hobby goods and attained over 65 gifts to be given away as door prizes. Curly was trying to win the

Sportsman Cup in abstentia. He over 65 great prizes for us. Thanks Curly! The prizes are too many to list but ranged from 65% off any Airtronics merchandise up to \$500.00 to plan sets, pumps, turrets, plastic models, props, gift certificates, magazines, props, shirts, and hats! WOW!! What a deal! Everyone won at least two prizes, and most won three before all of the goodies were gone. Thanks again Curly!

Let us also thank the vendors for supplying all of the prizes. They are: Craft House, Hobby Lobby, Evergreen Models, Gougen Brothers, Floatin Drydock, Taubman Plans, Airtronics, R/C modeler Magazine, Radio Controlled Models, AVEOX, Plastruct, e hobbies, Dremel, Billing Boats, Battlers Connection, and Swampworks. Thank you very much vendors for the prizes and your support!

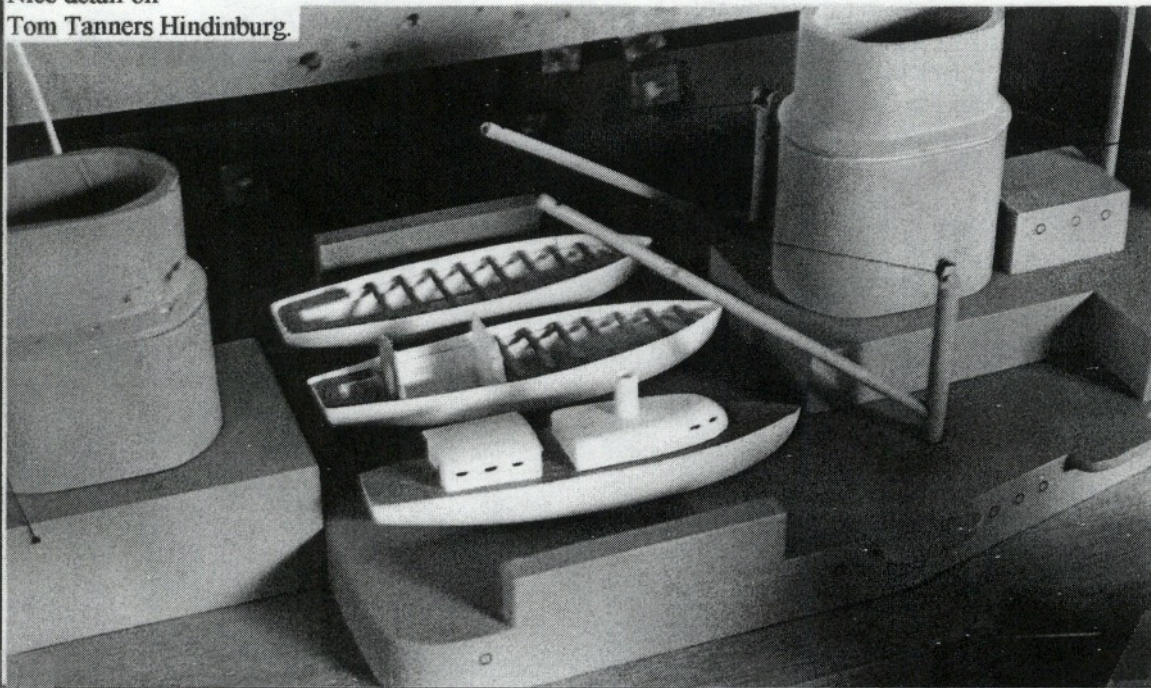
The Axis Imperial Admiral was elected pool side after the meal as is Andy Ray for 2001 battling season. The Vice-Gross Admiral is D.W. Fluegel. I'm sorry I don't know the Allies Admiral(s).

Thanks for a great NATS! It's all the great people that make a NATS. I NEVER have the time to spend with all the people I want. Let's all do this again next year at either Missouri, or Houston.

Bye! Wade

Monday at IRCWCC Nats.

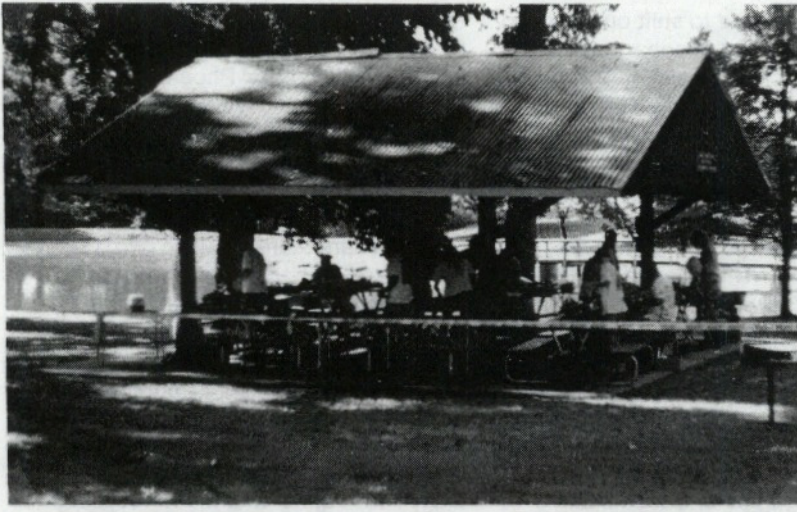
Nice detail on Tom Tanners Hindinburg.



Bad Steve volunteered to report Monday's story, but he did not seem to do so. In lieu of that report, I will make a few comments.

On Sunday, a picnic in the host's back yard was the kick off of NATS. About 20 captains participated. The Allies were woefully outnumbered! Something like 15 Axis to 5 Allies. I would have liked to spank the Allies for one battle than accept their unconditional surrender, but lacked the political clout to reveal my strong nationalistic tendencies.

The Austrian - Hungary W.W.I navy was



leader, Don Fisher.

After battling for a hard hot week (MWC NATS) last week, it was difficult not to compare the clubs premier events. This IRCWCC Nats was crowded under a relatively small metal park

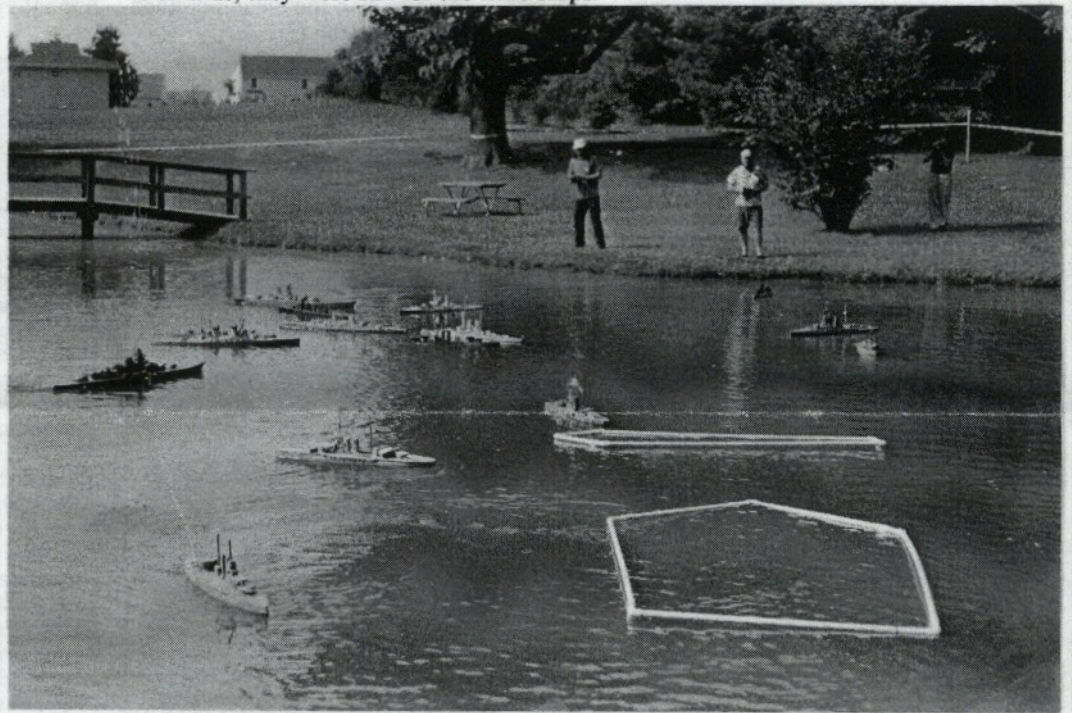
structure. The MWC's Nats was conducted under a large, circus type tent. The people at the old club were old friends, and at the new club, there were both old friends and new people that I looked at as new friends. The battles on the water felt the same. Due to the limited number of radio frequencies in the MWC club, it Divides its participants into Two Axes and two Allied teams. The old club uses all the RC frequencies, so the probability of radio conflict is reduced, a single Axes team battles a single allied team. On the water, both Nats felt the same, fun!

annexed to the Allied side.

This was a powerful fleet of Will Montgomery (often most feared Axes representative), Frank Patalli, Bad Steve (Steve Andrews, President of the Club, and horrid dresser). All these captains used very small Verbis Unites type ships, 28 seconds, turn on a dime ships. Will used a triple bow mount, the rest spread their three guns in more conventional means.

The loss of these ships left the Axis as underdogs, and viewed the possibility of loosing five NATS in a row! Perhaps it was a no lose scenario, both teams were Axes! Some participants resented the allied title and referred to themselves as the "united fleet". Nathan Blattu was the Imperial admiral with myself as the vice admiral. The Allies were lead by the brilliant

Note the PVC islands, they were fun for the little ships.



The lake was pretty but to deep.



Tuesday IRCWCC NATS 2000

by
Matt Moury
Jeff's Club Member #6

Tuesday morning broke with new hopes for the axis. We had licked our wounds from the day before and we were ready to restore our honor. We had a good dinner at the Cracker Barrel the night before where we watched in awe as Marty "the Legend" Hayes consumed huge quantities of biscuits with blackberry jam while blabbering incoherently in a biscuit induced ecstasy. The axis were hoping it would dull his reflexes the next

day.

The Unified Fleet, also called the mutant fleet, was up by 3,420 points after the first day, but many of their points had come from untimely axis sinks due to reliability problems. We vowed today would be different; we weren't going to sink ourselves. The mutants added Steve Pavloski and his Maryland to their team making the day even with 11 captains on each side and the axis holding a 1.5 unit advantage. However, the mutants clearly had the more experience captains.

The day started off great when I won the grab bag with lots of great goodies, including a model of the USS Forrestal - good axis target material. I was optimistic it was going to be a great axis day. The Maryland looked like a great target for the axis when Pav started performing major boat surgery before the first sortie, spilling ship guts out onto the table. Unfortunately he didn't make it out for the start of the battle so our plan was

for naught and we had to shift our focus to the allied admiral. Ed Sheppard and his Lutzow got a quick 100 point safety penalty when his guns glitched and he shot Admiral Fisher in the buttocks as he was bent over tending his ship. Somehow Fisher took a picture of his war wound after the day's battle (we didn't ask how) and he proudly displayed the picture of the three red dots pool-side that evening. They were definitely Ed's finest shots of the week.

The battling was fast and furious. Stan and the Washington and Orrill in his Tirpitz played games out in the lake after Will and his triple bow guns convinced Orrill it was dangerous to be in close with the little boys. Ed Sheppard's Lutzow wandered too close to shore and a gaggle of Bacon Makers quickly converged but he managed to get off his five. Flugel went five out of control with drive problems and the allied pounded him pretty hard during the first sortie. He fixed his problem and restored the axis honor during the second sortie. I spent the battle teaming with Dave Tuttle and the

Baden he had borrowed from Chris Decker. We managed to put some damage into Dave Lewis' Phoenix and Don Fisher's Valiant. The Baden was plagued with reliability problems the first day so getting through both sorties was important for Dave.

The battle was coming to a close with Nate Graham started yelling "No, No," as he realized he had forgotten to turn on his pump and his beautiful Invincible sunk majestically in the deepest part of the lake. Nate searched for a while and then Cameron Moury swam out and dove down and retrieved it from a depth well over his head. Even his dad was impressed. Although I didn't see the battling, Tom Tanner and his Hindenberg and the Axis Admiral Nathan Blattau took some major damage. I can only hope they were giving like they were taking.

At the end of the battle, although it pains me to admit, the allied battled better than the axis doubling their "belows" and despite the withdrawal of the Maryland and the I-boat sink, won the battle 11,880 to 8,200.

Afternoon campaign had several highlights. Dave Lawrence in his Bacon Maker foolishly took on a group of axis including Nathan Blattau and his Yamato. Dave was on the verge of sinking when some mystical force came down and backed the Yamato into Dave's boat, ram sinking it to the bottom of the lake! Curt Lewis forgot to put the armor back into his convoy and Will Montgomery shot his triples through both sides of the convoy into Ken Kelly's Derfflinger. Talk about two birds with one stone! Meanwhile John Boyer in his Von der Tann was displaying un- rookie like accuracy shooting down eight targets. Cam Moury in his Nassau added another five but in the end Stan and his other allied target shooters shot down one more target. Both sides had two successful convoy runs and two convoy sinks, but with the ram sink once again the allied won the battle.

Regardless of the outcome, it was a great day. And although the axis were behind I knew we would come back starting with the Wednesday night battle since the axis always rule the night.

"Borrowed ships are often big points, for the other team.!" Flugel



Thursday at the IR/CWCC Nationals

Boat Wars: The Return of the Axis
by Tom Tanner
Axis Press

BEL AIR, Jul. 20 — Loyal Axis forces, building on their success in Wednesday's Night Battle, continued their march on the road to victory Thursday, encouraged by rumors of Allied dissension requiring desperate measures by the Allied Admiralty to retain con-

trol of the traitorous Austrian-Hungarian (AH) forces.

Early reports of mutiny in the so-called "United Fleet" began to be heard early Thursday morning when it was learned Dave Lawrence, Site Host and captain of a AH VERIBIS UNITIS-class (VU) battleship, began to openly challenge Admiral Fisher, sending representative to the Allied flagship, HMS VALIANT, late Wednesday night requesting permission to return to the Axis Fleet, claiming "my heart is with the Axis cause."

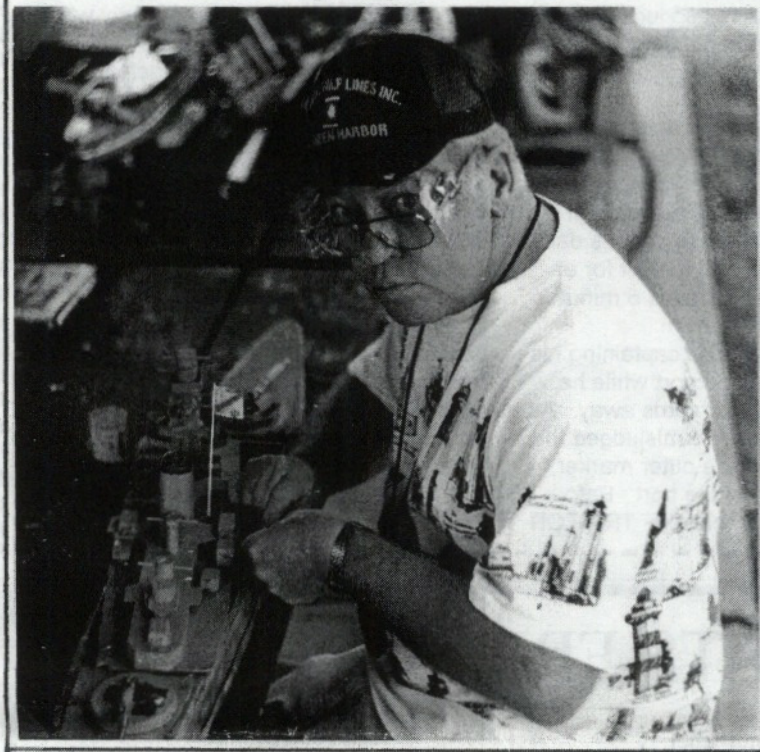
Confronted with open mutiny Admiral Fisher responded with stunning and calculated swiftness, evidence of which could still be seen today. Most of the AH fleet found that their pay and mail had

been released by the Admiral, as well as leave being granted for the captains. The result was AH captains running wild at the pond, with Capt. Frank Pittelli using his leave time to relive his childhood swinging in the lakeside swingset. However, Capt. Lawrence learned that his mail had been "accidentally redirected to the Japanese Fleet." In addition, Capt. Lawrence's representative to the Admiralty was found dead aboard the flagship, report-

draws demanded coffee and a danish each morning as well. Adm. Fisher was reportedly "considering the request."

In contrast with the discord in the United Fleet, which saw Capt. Lawrence launch his opening salvo into Adm. Fisher's flagship as a protest against the treatment of his emissary, the Axis Fleet entered the battle in high spirits. With the "Monday Curse" far behind them and their boats working reliably, they looked forward to meeting their foes. In the first sortie, SMS DERFFLINGER (Capt. Ken Kelly) and SMS HINDENBURG (Capt. Tom Tanner) chased and damaged Capt. Dave Lewis's USS PHEONIX, then went on to harass Capt. Stan Watkins' USS WASHINGTON. At the beginning of the second sortie Capt. Lewis sailed over into the channel behind the island to hide, but was followed by the SMS DERFFLINGER. Unfortunately for Capt. Lewis, he thought it was the SMS HINDENBURG, and seeing Capt. Tanner on the far shore with his view blocked by land, thought he was safe. He was surprised to see the "HINDENBURG" pull up beside him and begin to pound his ship! Capt. Kelly of the SMS DERFFLINGER had taken station on the opposite side of the channel and had the pleasure of watching USS PHEONIX (48-10-8 - sink) slip beneath the waves.

Rookie Ed, he really is a Capt. shepard.



During Capt. Lewis' fight for survival, HINDENBURG had returned to fight the Washington, who was now being supported by Capt. Will Montgomery's VU BACON MAKER #2 (17-2-8). Operating close inside, SMS HINDENBURG suffered considerable topside damage from the combination of WASHINGTON's triple sterns and BM2's triple bow guns, but managed to inflict a considerable number of belows (3/4 of his total number of belows for the week) on the WASHINGTON (26-5-12) in the process.

Meanwhile, Capt. Nathan Blattau's IJN YAMATO damaged Capt. Dave Voghtman's USS NORTH CAROLINA (83-11-33) to such an extent the NC declared 5 immediately upon returning for Sortie #2, protected by the AH fleet in the "cradle of love."

edly having bled to death after unspecified wounds incurred during Night Battle, but the fact his body was still lying on deck Thursday morning suggests he may have been murdered and left as an example to the rest of the AH Fleet to "toe the line." It didn't work though, as AH Captain Steve "give me coffee" An-

Capt. Matt Moury in the SMS VON DER TANN (22-7-13) went after the now abandoned VU of Capt. Lawrence, inflicting massive topside damage (83-3-4). As a result of his damage, Capt. Lawrence hid among the bridge pylons the second sortie, calling "ram" whenever the VDT came close, even if he couldn't see his boat. The irony here is that Capt. Lawrence had proposed rules to outlaw "weenie rams" just a week before, but now thinks they may be ok in "certain situations," for example, when he's in trouble.

Most loved, and Most feared Axes, "Matt, the Masher, Moury."



While operating in the furball close to shore, Captain Ed "I really am a Captain" Shepard's DKM LUTZOW backed into a VU, losing control of his ship for a short time and taking his pump out, resulting in the LUTZOW's loss (11-1-2 - sink) when she beached herself and sank in the 1st sortie.

Axis cries of victory rang out when it was determined that they had outscored the United Fleet by 3000 points, 11180 to 8180. With that, and a good meal in their stomachs, the Axis Fleet prepared for Convoy Battle #2.

To eliminate some of the inequities of Convoy Battle #1, a modification to regular campaign rules was agreed to by both Admirals and the CD. Instead of the normal feeding frenzy centered around the convoy ship, only one attacker and one defender was to be

allowed within ten feet of the convoy ship. This would

require good coordination between ships to protect/harass the target the entire way, complicated by the need for the convoy ship to circle the island during its transit from port to port. As before, targets were set up on opposite sides of the island.

With the United Fleet operating two decent convoy ships (Don Fisher's LST and Marty Hayes' TRAITOR 1) and the Axis weak in this area, the Axis strategy was to hold the line using three teams: 1) Defensive to protect Axis convoy ships; 2) Offensive to attack the enemy convoy; and 3) a group to defend/attack targets and fight where needed. Team 1 consisted of the two DERFFLINGERS, with the SMS DERFFLINGER escorting the convoy ship from port to a point halfway to the island, at which point the SMS HINDENBURG would take over to escort the convoy ship around the island and on it's way to port, along the way being relieved by DERFFLINGER. The first Axis convoy ship to attempt this, Cameron Moury's Italian light aircraft carrier, lost power and was sunk near the bridge, but Kurt Lewis' larger Japanese

Maru successfully made a later run.

The Axis offensive team consisted of D.W. Fluegel's SMS BADEN attacking United ships as they exited/entered port, Capt. Cam Moury's SMS NASSAU attacking them while in open water between shore and the island, and Capt. Matt Moury's VDT taking them on around the island. Marty Hayes' TRAITOR 1 easily made the first run, but Don Fisher's LST was not so lucky, Fluegel reporting that it had taken a below from the BADEN early in it's voyage.

By far the most exciting battle involved the second trip of the TRAITOR 1 which occurred with only minutes to go in the battle. After being harassed by AXIS ships all around the island and taking serious damage, Marty thought he had to wait for another 10-15 seconds before his 5 minutes was up and he could return to port. In addition, he was captaining his ship back to the mainland port while he stood on the island 20-25 yards away. As he approached the port, he misjudged the angle and bounces off the outer marker, away from the mouth of the port. Before he could recover from his mistake, TRAITOR 1

listed over, raised her bow, and sank beneath the waves to joyous Axis shouts.

Some of the other action occurred near the targets, where Capt. Orrill Ferguson with the DKM TIRPITZ, Capt. Shepard's LUTZOW, and Capt. Blattau's YAMATO defended the Axis beachhead, losing only 7 of the 20 targets. Capt. Watkins spent some time over there attacking, especially when the LUTZOW went out of control (but survived the battle), then went to defend his own targets for a short time. We don't know who knocked down what, but 10 United Fleet targets went down during the battle, a far cry from Tuesday's near "clean-sweep." In the end, the score ended up being a tie, each side getting 2500 points.

With two wins and a tie in the last three battles and one Fleet Battle to go, the Axis had gained 3000 points and were within 4000 points of victory. Everyone was very excited at the turn the war had taken, and greatly anticipated Fleet Battle #5 coming up on Friday morning.

IRCWCC NATS FRIDAY

By Don Fisher.

NATS on Friday is always more exciting when the final outcome is still in question. The day started with seeing what "Evil" Steve would look like in a few years and what DW looked like younger. Fluegel was self-conscious about the change in cloths and thought that people were staring at him when he went to get coffee. Back to the final battle. At this year's NATS, the Allied-United(A-U)fleet was still ahead by 4300 points, but after winning the first three fleet battles and campaign on Tuesday the tide had turned. The Axis had won night battle mostly by beating up on the A-U flagship. They won again on Thursday morning even after the Austro-Hungary fleet received their mail, pay and were granted leave. Campaign with some new test rules was even on Thursday afternoon and the

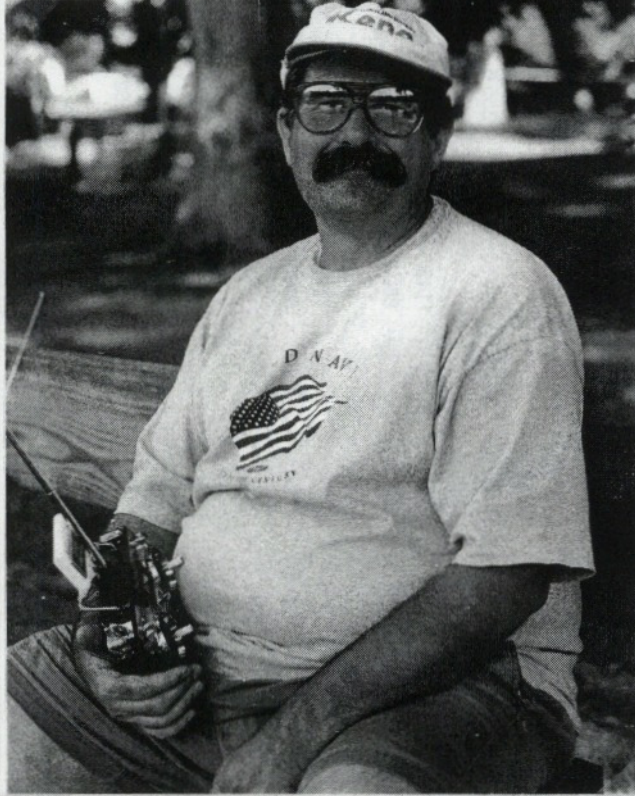
The bridge.



Left, "Young" Fluegel, right "old" Steve. The clothes do make the man.

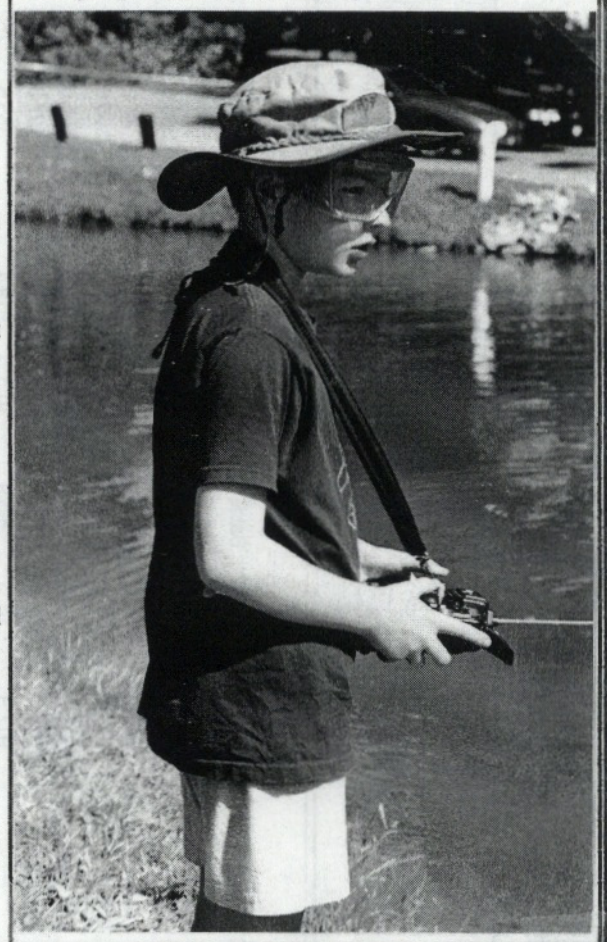


Rookie of the year, "Vogtman". -send me a rookie of the year article....please.



Axis action was to sink Dave "Rookie of the year" Vogtman's North Carolina with 69-7-39. Things were looking good for the Axis when they ram sank Frank's VU-1. Fluegel took the blame but as he said " The axis Admiral's big Musahi was real close" and more likely to turn the VU over then his little 28 second ship. The Axis decided to let it all hang out in the second sortee and try to sink Will Montgomery. The final sortee of NATS 2000 be-

Young capt.....well, a young capt.



Axis were hopeful of a major victory on friday. The first sortee was about to begin with the Allied- United(A-H) fleet around the bridge, when my Flagship HMS Valiant lost rudder servo and had to come out. While I changed rudder servo, the battle went on with Orrill's Tirpitz taking alot from the triple bow guns of Will's "Most Feared Allied-United" VU. Dave Lawrence's VU sank with minimal damage but pump outlet problems but the big

gan with the Valiant and the two sunk VU rejoining the action. Orrill put his hurting Tirpitz in the far corner of the lake and went on 5 immediately. I tried to get to him but the Valiant could not over come his speed advantage. Frank drove Cam " King of the one-on-ones" Moury's Nassau into shallow water and it was pounded into sinking. Meanwhile Fluegel's Baden, which was voted "Best looking

Combat Ship", was mixing it up with Will's triple bows. Will took more damage 38-6-25 but Fluegel had pump problems and only one rudder working and sank. All of Bel Air could hear Will's lion roar, "FLUEGEL SANK". Fluegel in his first attempt to recover the boat in deep water lost his glasses. The next action involved young Brandon Graham. His I-boat was once again targetted and he sank in shallow water by the island. The battle ended with the Allied- United Fleet holding onto a 2000 point victory (53,470 to 51,235). The first order of business was recovery of Fluegel's glasses and boat. The glasses were quickly recovered but the boat took alittle more time. It was finally located by the trained ears of Sonarman First Class T. Tanner. The battling ended with more one-on-ones.

Frank hurries to put his ship in the water before we see that he forgot to paint his ship bellow the water line.



The awards banquet followed at 7 PM. Besides the awards already mentioned in this report, the winners were....Marty Hayes for " best looking convoy ship" and the "Life Line award". The " Most feared Axis" and the "Axis Spirit Award" went to

Matt Moury and his Von Der Tann. Brandon Graham took the award for most damage without sinking. The best in class awards were as follows..

Class 2 - Mike Blatteau - Scharnhorst

Class 3 - Dave Lewis - Pheonix

Class 4 - Tie Frank Pittelli & Steve Andrews both with VU

Class 5 - Don Fisher - Valiant

Class 6 - Stan Watkins - Washington

and Nathan Blatteau took home the "Von Fluegel Award".

The "Best Dressed" for the third year in a row but this year in an Admiral's Uniform was yours turlly Don Fisher. There were a couple of new awards. The residue award

from Dave Lewis went to Dave Vogtman for leaving his transmitter behind and a weenie-ram award went to our able site host Dave Lawrence. I was also awarded the "Brian Spychalski Memorial Award". Tom Tanner did a great job as CD. Thank you all for a great time and hope to see you again real soon. Don Fisher

AXIS ADMIRAL GRAB BAG WINNERS

Through the gracious support of Axis captains the Axis grab bag was another success. Items donated were utility knives, measuring tapes, poppet valves, metal clips to hold your radio to your belt loop while you carry your ship, shrink tubing, decals of sinking ships to mark your total of ships sunk, CA glue, a pair of Fluegel's old pants, stir sticks, many motors, air line tubing, quick disconnect clippard/parker fittings, batteries, electrical wiring, electrical tape, timers, popsicle sticks, props, paint, and I'm sure I left something out. Thank you very

much to the donors.

The winners were Monday- Dave Au, Tuesday-Fluegel, Wednesday-Rick King, Thursday -Ted Krakowski, Friday-Louis Meszaros. Congradulations to all winners. May they enjoy their boote. Better luck next year to the other Axis captains, and we'll see you next year.

Thanks! Wade

Letter from a model warship's surrogate mother

by Steve Reichenbach

Being a nice guy can get you into strange situations. This year, I found myself the surrogate mother of a model warship.

It takes a lot of hard work to birth a ship. For me, it's over a thousand hours of my life. I wonder what people would be willing to pay, for an extra thousand hours. That's almost a month and a half of life, spent building a ship, instead of doing other things.

We put a lot of time into our ships. I'm one of the few guys that has been willing to do this for somebody else.

On one hand, it's a lot of fun building ships I couldn't otherwise afford to build. They pay for the parts and supplies, and I have fun building it. There is a sense of pride, when you see your baby out on the water, looking good, and hopefully being reliable and deadly.

On the other hand, parting is tough. I'm sure a lot of surrogate mothers experience this separation anxiety, when you are separated from your baby.

A lot of folks ask me to build them a ship. Having learned a few lessons recently, take my advice. There should be a rule that **EVERY MEMBER SHOULD BUILD THEIR OWN SHIP.** It is a true labor of love, that tests each person's worth as a member of the hobby. It's like an entrance exam, that you must pass to meet our minimum qualifications.

The new guys will say this is harsh, so let me explain the problems, as they occur, from the perspective of a guy who has built a few ships for other people.

1) At first, the buyer never seems to understand how their ship works. This means a lot of hand holding at lake side, trying to teach something to someone who may not be able to understand.

2) Next, the new owner wants to rework things, make changes, usually because they don't understand why the builder did certain things. The changes usually make the ship less effective, and overweight. It also hurts the builder's feelings, to see his hard work (all that time) discarded.

3) Finally, the builder gets a bad reputation. The "reworks" that hurt the ship, also (unfairly) reflect on the skills of the original builder. People remember it as "his" boat, no matter who the owner is.

I'm hoping that this article helps to explain why rookies should build their own ships, and why nice guys need to understand that the kindest thing they can do to help the new guys along, is to let the new guys struggle with their own work. It's a good thing to force rookies to build their own ship, even if it means a lot of unfinished ships are out there. At least the ones that are built will not cause any grief for the new, and the more experienced, members of the hobby.

Even if your ship is not very reliable, at least you will know your ship, and will have a sense of pride in your own work. Nobody else's reputation is involved but yours.

I hear that the ship I built this spring has already been sold to someone else. To whoever owns the ship that I built this spring, I hope you treat it well, and enjoy it. It's the last ship I plan to build for anyone else.

To those of you who have ships, use them for 5 or more years. They take so long to build, enjoy them for a while. Don't be too eager to put them on a shelf, or sell them to anybody except the closest brother.

Thanks to the Authors! Marty, Wade, Steve A. Moury, Tanner, Fisher, Reichenbach, Lief and the logo by Jeff. THANKS!

YOU DON'T SEE IT OFTEN

by Lief Goodson

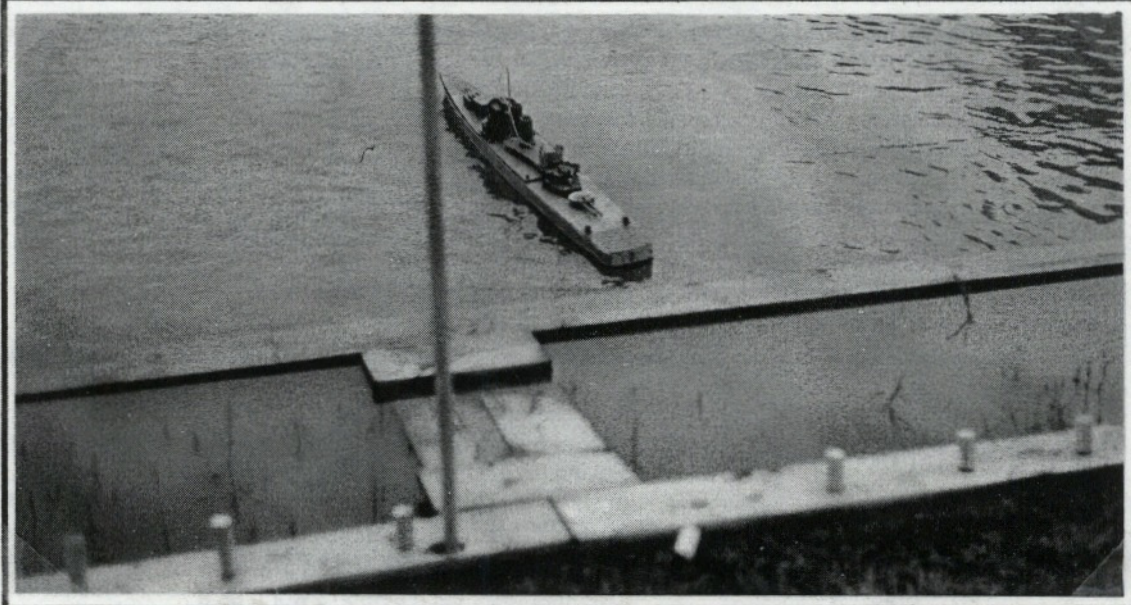
This year at the MWC Nat's, I was treated to a sight that all of us dreamed about when we were rookies and didn't know that much about "the magnificent obsession". This year, I witnessed PRECISION naval gunnery. I've participated in every Nat's since 1989 and have hundreds of battling hours to my credit. Like most, I have learned that R/C Warship Combat is more of a "dogfight" than a naval battle. That notwithstanding, I saw an amazing feat of precision that only few captains have achieved (like James Foster). Due to numerous frequency conflicts, the Allied and Axis fleets had to be divided into subfleets at Nat's 2000. Although this deprived everyone of the "Grand Battle" comprised of all forty plus ships simultaneously on the water, it did allow captains many opportunities to watch and study their fellow battlers. This was the case during the Tuesday campaign battle. I was able to watch Jim Pate shoot targets. I did not anticipate that it would be exciting, but I was wrong!

Jim had raised the elevation of the triple stern guns on his DKM Scharnhorst specifically to shoot targets. Since the Allied tar-

gets (representing troops and supplies at their forward base) were undefended, Jim was able to take his time. There was a slight breeze on the lake, so Jim maneuvered his ship slightly up-wind of the targets and let the current carry his ship. When his stern guns were aligned with a target, Jim fired a single volley. I was surprised that his first volley knocked down a target. I was more surprised at the sequence that followed. The current rate was such that approximately 3 seconds passed between the time that the Scharnhorst's guns were

rect hit. He continued his drift and shot several more targets in rapid succession. After only a couple minutes, Jim had cleared all of the Allied targets (about 17 had been standing when Jim began his attack). More remarkable, Jim had only spend about half of his magazines to accomplish his mission.

It made me proud to be an Axis. It was a demonstration of efficiency and accuracy upon which the German Navy has always prided itself. As most of us know, 95% of

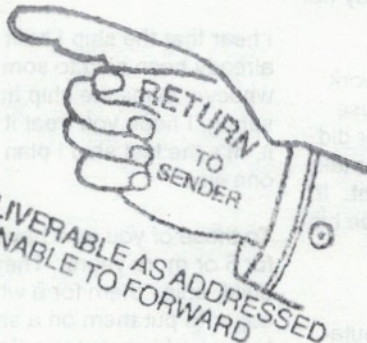


aligned with each target. Jim held his fire and then released a single volley. In this way, Jim hit eight targets in a row! He missed the ninth, but after two seconds of throttle maneuvering he fired a second salvo at that same target and scored a di-

rect hit. the BB's shot in R/C combat never find their intended target. I was witness to an anomaly. It was so impressive that jokingly encouraged Jim to go shoot the Axis targets just so I could watch!

HULL BUSTERS, VERY LIMITED!

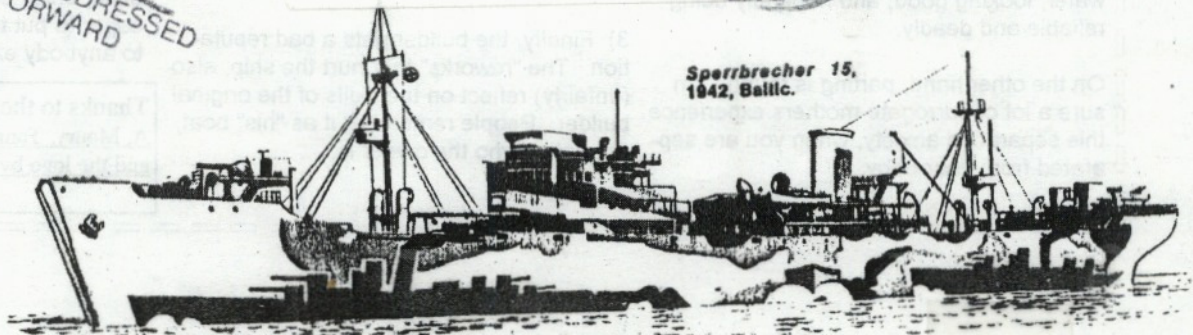
917 Hudson
Garland Texas
75043
USA



Glenn Goetzinger
P.O. Box 18177
Baltimore Md
21222



Sperrbrecher 15,
1942, Baltic.



Fluegel7@juno.com
All photos By Fluegel
Next Dead line 11 25 2000

75043/5333

