

TASK FORCE 144

The Official Newsletter of Model Warship Combat, Inc.

First Quarter—1999

CALENDAR OF MWC EVENTS



(A listing of MWC battles, meetings and events)

• April 17, Owasso, OK
Hosted by the
Southwest Attack Group.
Contact:
Kevin Bray
brayka@juno.com
918/645-5162

• July 12-15
OK NATS
Contact:
Robert Rucker
rarrucker@swbell.net
405/722-8686

The next issue of Task Force 144 will be mailed on June 12. Please have your battle announcements and other material to the editor by June 1.

Authors and officers may mail stories, articles or photos to:
Task Force 144
2613 Wheeler
Roseville, MN 55113

Editorial questions?
...call: 651/639-8329

E-mail your articles to:
barre010@tc.umn.edu

MWC is Online at:
www.mwci.org

Calling All Officers and Authors by Curly Barrett

With the start of our new boat-battling club comes the start of our new newsletter—*Task Force 144*. The goal of the newsletter is to inform and entertain the members of the club.

The officers and authors out there will be expected to submit articles and photos that inform, entertain and encourage the members of our hobby.

Articles may be mailed or e-mailed to me, and will be edited for space and/or content. All photos will stay with me unless prior arrangements are made.

Four quarterly issues are planned; March, June, September and December. These issues will be four or eight pages in length. If enough articles and battle reports come in, I will enlarge the number of pages to accommodate the supply of articles. In addition to the quarterly publications, I am planning a larger NATS issue that will deal specifically with the annual event.


As I start this newsletter, I'd like to pay tribute to the exceptional publishing staff of *Hullbusters*, the original newsletter of radio-controlled boat battling. That publication has been around for almost 20 years and is a labor of love for the editor and founding father of R/C warship combat, D.W. Fluegel.

Web Sites Available

by Brian Eliassen

The official Model Warship Combat, Inc. site went on-line on December 1st, 1998. Since it's the MWC's web site, members and local chapters are entitled to free space on the server.

If you're interested in having your own boating site on-line, send me e-mail.

For those of you who already have a link to the MWC on your web site, please be sure your link to the MWC web site utilizes the www.mwci.org domain. 

Please continue to support *Hullbusters*, both as subscribers and authors! The stories and articles within our two newsletters will be useful, yet different.

We're only as good as what you write, and there is a lot to write about.


By way of assignments, I'd like to suggest that you are all experts in many fields of our hobby and can write about those areas, including choosing a ship, doing a product review, explaining a modeling technique, proposing a rule or introducing a new format for battling.

And don't forget, during battles, captains usually only see what is happening

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what you write!**

withing 4' of their ship, so sharing what you saw during a sortie provides a valuable snapshot of the entire battle.

A big thanks to the authors who contributed in this first issue! Follow their lead and write...even if its just two paragraphs of text in an e-mail. Not all stories have to be feature-length article.

Type—Read—Enjoy! 



Editor gets critics' early reviews

MWC Officers and Board of Directors

President

Bart Purvis
1512 HWY 15 S.
Baxley, GA 31513
912/367-7306
purv@altamaha.net

Vice President

Wade Koehn
2301 Edenborn Apt. 1109
Metairie, LA 70001
504/828-0370
wwkoehn@juno.com

Secretary

Larry Dahl
1486 Oakdale Ave.
W. St. Paul, MN 55118
651/450-0275
lsd@mickey.tds-eagan.lmco.com

Treasurer

Rick Whitsell
9820 N. Highland Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64155
816/734-4757
pirate@planetkc.com

Steve Baker GA
fabb@juno.com

Don Cole FA
Ph.: 407/275-0012

Brian Eliassen CA
Ph.: 626/796-9155
brian@mwci.org

Tom Jass MI
Ph.: 616/889-6124
jjass@jackpine.com

Austin Keels GA
Ph.: 912/654-2560
keels@pineland.net

Steve Milholland MO
Ph.: 417/831-2309
swampy@ncsi.net

Robert Rucker OK
Ph.: 405/722-8686
rarrucker@swbell.net

Stan Watkins TN
Ph.: Not Available
e-mail: Not Available

Presidential Pearls

by Bart Purvis

A year of firsts for MWC. The first club year, the first issue of our newsletter, the first column by the first president...I am aware of the importance of the first few steps of any fledgling organization and I hope I can be of some help in guiding us through this year without either tripping over our own feet or, as we say in Georgia, without step'n in sumpin'.

A tip of my ragged straw hat to the Directors, Officers, Site Host and Task Force 144 editor for their many hours of behind the scenes labor and efforts to get us to this point in time. Much has been accomplished and, with their continued efforts, we will make it to Oklahoma City in fine style and have an absolutely magnificent week of bashing balsa, sinking ships and cementing friendships, both old and new.

I have no campaign promises to fulfill because there was no campaign. I became president simply because I have a weak bladder. At our organizational meeting in St. Louis, I returned from one of my frequent visits to the restroom and was congratulated on my landslide victory.

I have no experience at being presidential; I have no talent for leadership. What I do have is a knowledge that the large majority of us are in this hobby—and this club in particular—to have fun and to

**All will be winners—
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others!**

enjoy ourselves and others of like mind.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am experienced at having fun. I am experienced at enjoying this hobby. It is my sincere hope that these particular experiences, along with a large dose of enthusiasm, will see me through my term of office.

O.K. Let's get serious. An attitude that I would like to see in MWC goes along the line that there will be no losers at our battles. All will be winners, however some winners will be dryer than others. This is a



It's good to be president...

carry-over from my salad days when I did a tremendous amount of duck hunting. Every duck hunt I ever went on was a 100% unqualified success—occasionally, I was even able to shoot a duck.

Another thing I would like to see is that we keep our wonderful and witty verbal repartee and off-the-water interaction on a friendly level. Axis/Allied banter is just that...banter! It does not become serious. It does not become a win-at-all-costs attitude. It does not become mean-spirited.

Listen to some experts at this game: Fluegel, Curly Barrett, Steve Baker. These guys laugh at themselves more than they do at others and they never utter a belittling or derogatory word about anyone.

It has been impossible to write proper rules to cover all aspects of our fluid battles, particularly the ram rules. I hope that we will play within the spirit of the rules, rather than take them to the limit of the letter.

Let's not use the ram rules as an offensive or defensive weapon. Think about it...if you have to resort to some arcane maneuvering by using the ram rules to defeat me, are you really the better battler?

Don't expect a President's column in every issue of our newsletter, because it has limited space and I would like to see it used for really valuable articles on battle, construction, captains and other items of interest.

In closing I would like to say that I am really looking forward to seeing some of our Internet Keyboard Kommandos put their words into action at Nationals. They have typed the talk and now, if they can walk even a small part of the walk, Wednesday should be a marvelously ferocious individual-challenge day with balsa hunks, battered hulks and bruised egos littering the Oklahoma seas. ⚓

Mini-Receiver

by Wade Koehn

Here's a technological breakthrough that will make small ship builders sit up and take notice. Jamara, a German company (of course) has produced two really small, light, inexpensive, 4-channel receivers.

The first receiver is the model FM that weighs 20 grams, is as big as a quarter, has a range of 1,000 feet and is priced at a mere \$25.95!

The second receiver is the model CB4FM. It has a range of 750 feet, weighs 6 grams, is the size of a quarter and costs only \$29.95!

Both models are for 72 frequency (air), and have universal servo plugs. The Futaba J servo will plug right in, and both models are Futaba receiver crystal replaceable.

The company said that the servo plugs were universal, but I didn't ask about other types of crystals for other types of radios since I have all Futaba.

I saw this tiny technical treat on the Internet, read about it in *Flying Models* magazine (March '99) and finally called the company.

I ended up ordering a receiver at the end of March. The company said it had 173 back orders already, but they put in an order of 500 of each to try to cover demand. They plan to get them in April, but I haven't received mine yet.

You can get a mini-receiver from:

Multiplex
14751 Calvert St.
Van Nuys, CA 91411

Talk to Christie, at 818-785-2401, or 818-995-4156, or visit the Jamara Web site at <http://www.jamara.com> to see the specs and a picture.

For ships Class 4 and smaller—particularly destroyers, subs and convoy ships—these are an excellent size, weight and value.

These are also great receivers for secondary ships or backup receivers. You can buy two of these 4-channel receivers for the price of one normal 4-channel receiver.

Once I get mine I'll test it out and give you an update. I hope this helps out the battlers of small ships, secondary ships, convoy ships and those on a budget. ⚓

Secretary's State

by Lars Dahl

The Secretary's State is relief! The first ever MWC Rules packet is out, and it was only a bit behind schedule, as we were shooting for the end of January.

My biggest regret is that neither Rick Whitsell (treasurer) nor myself could find a decent computer/printer combo that would print it exactly the way I had it appearing on the PC. That's the penalty for not keeping pace with technology.

But to have that beastie finished and out the door is a real relief to me. Being a busy family man, with a wife, five kids and a dog, you can guess what I had to give up to get the rules packet out. Ship time!

As the battling deadlines approach, I can only wonder how close to done I'd be now if I hadn't lost those 6 weeks of construction time (at 1.5 to 2 hours a night 5 nights a week) to the rules packet.

I suppose soon I'll have to start thinking about collecting all those rule changes that have been flooding in since the rules packet went out. For those of you who want to submit an official rule proposal, send them to me at:

Lars Dahl
1486 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118

Hopefully the Secretary's state will soon be "in combat." I still have a number of scores to settle with Curly. See ya at the pond. ⚓



Lars taking his HMS Tiger for a walk

Notable Quotables:



"We Germans fear God and nothing else on earth; and it is the fear of God, and nothing else, that makes us love and desire peace."

Count Otto von Bismarck

"He who can modify his tactics in relation to his opponent, and thereby succeed in winning, may be called a heaven-born captain."

Sun Tzu

"In war, the only sure defense is offense, and the efficiency of offense depends on the warlike souls of those conducting it."

General George S. Patton

"The morale of the soldier is the greatest single factor in war!"

Field Marshal Montgomery

Suggested Frequency

According to Rick Whitsell, MWC already has over 90 paid members and suggested radio channels are filling up fast. To get your suggested channel, contact:

Rick Whitsell
9820 N. Highland Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64155
pirate@planetkc.com
Send Rick \$15 for your

MWC membership. Then e-mail Wade Koehn at wwkoehn@juno.com with your membership card number. Wade will suggest a frequency for you. The goal of this "suggested frequency" program is to avoid radio conflicts at the lakeside.

Task Force 144
2613 Wheeler
Roseville, MN 55113



[REDACTED ADDRESS]

MWC NATS ENTRY FORM

The MWC is accepting entry fees from its members who plan on attending the MWC Nationals in Oklahoma City, OK from Sunday, July 25 through Friday, July 30. The rate schedule is as follows:

If your entry fee is postmarked	the fee (per person) is:
On or before May 31	\$110
June 1 through July 16	\$125
After July 16.....	\$135

Members who pay an entry fee but do not attend will have their fee refunded after the event. MWC Membership and NAMBA membership must be obtained before the event; proof of NAMBA membership (ie. a membership card) is required at the event. **There will be NO granting of MWC membership 'at the door'.** Please include the following information with your entry fee.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY,STATE,ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

PRIMARY SHIP: _____

PRIMARY RADIO FREQUENCY: _____

SECONDARY FREQUENCIES: _____

Please make your checks out to: Model Warship Combat, Inc
Send your check and entry form to:
Rick Whitsell
9820 N. Highland Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64155

Axis Admiral's Grab Bag

by Wade Koehn

The Axis tradition known as the ADMIRAL'S GRAB BAG will be in full swing this year at NATS.

The Grab Bag works like this: On Saturday and Sunday (and through out the week), I will be accepting donations in my room and putting them in four different bags (try to bring four of an item—one for each day).

Then, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, the Axis will meet before the first sortie and the Axis admiral will draw a name for the day's winner.

Donations can be anything from building supplies, motors, pumps, guns, servos, paint, sandpaper, to unusual things like superstructure from an old ship, gag gifts or whatever floats your boat.

Please donate something that you would like to get. I plan to donate two or three good things for each day myself.

Let's fill the bags with stuff and the week with fun! 