

# TASK FORCE 144



The Official Newsletter of Model Warship Combat, Inc.

[www.mwci.org](http://www.mwci.org)

Fall – 2009

## CALENDAR OF MWC EVENTS



**Nov 14-15, 2009**

### **South Texas Turkey Shoot**

Bomber Field, Houston

Contact: Doug Hunt

[dhunt81@comcast.net](mailto:dhunt81@comcast.net)

\$20 fee at pond. Sanctioned

**Nov 21-22, 2009**

### **Turkey Shoot**

Sanford Port Authority Pond,  
Sanford FL

Contact: Rick King

[rking157@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rking157@cfl.rr.com)

Sanctioned Saturday only.

**Dec 5, 2009**

### **SCRAP December Battle**

Prado Lake, Chino, CA

Contact: Ty Supanic email: (HMS

Warspite at G Mail doc Com)

Sanctioned.

**July 18-23, 2010**

### **Nats Houston**

H & H Ranch, Houston, TX

Contact: Johnny Adams

[jadfer@hotmail.com](mailto:jadfer@hotmail.com)

Sanctioned



John Bruder follows the progress of his Barham as the Baden closes.

## **Nats 2009: Monday**

by **Bob Hoernemann  
and Tyler Helland**



The first day of battling people were at the pond early and the tables were filled up. Excitement was in the air for NATS to start. The Allies started on the left near the ropeline. Early in the battle Leif's Derfflinger lost rudder control and he was shot up pretty bad by Bob and

Andy's NCs. Chris K got his VDT sidemounts into the Barham. Jeff and Tyler drove around creating havoc. They hit Chris' NC and the Warspite pretty hard. John's Kronprinz Wilhelm was out of control and made it off his five. Dave and Don took their ships in to try and finish off Leif but he made it off his five and they got shot up by the VDTs. Dallas' Baden sank near the right side campaign ports, Steve Dickow's Bismarck went down and Lou M's Agano were the Axis sinks. John Bruder's Barham joined them on the bottom for the Allies. The sortie wound down and captains got



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ready for sortie two.

The second sortie started with the same set up, Allies on the left, Axis on the right. Jeff and Tyler came along the far side of the pond to hit the Allies from the left side. Their main target was the Iowa. She had four NCs in the area to help keep her on top of the water. Dirty's Kongo got into some trouble as Tim's South Carolina and Tom's Wee Vee blasted away at her. Dirty got away from the furball. Ron's NC was not so lucky and got too close to the Jeff and Tyler team. He rolled over and sank. Just as the drivers got the NC out of the water Tim's South Carolina went to the bottom. Tim had some pretty big holes in his ship.

Turns out he had forgot to put silk span on the back side of the balsa wood. Shortly after battle started again DW's VDT sank. He had turned off his pump during the man in the water and had not turned it back on. The Wee Vee got tangled up with the other two VDTs and took a pounding. Paul's Kongo came in to help the VDTs finish off the Wee Vee. Tiger and Warspite tried to cover the US battleship but could not keep the sharks away and Tom sank. On the right side of the pond TMGBC had been grounded and was getting shot up by three NCs and an Iowa. Andy's NC got close in and he ripped half the blades off of each prop. Good thing Jeff and Tyler's



Ron Horbul takes the handoff after Leroy recovers his NC.



guns were close to empty. Peter took a huge beating and sank when he was pushed off the beach with his five over. A little time later the Iowa sank, Brian reported some gunk in his pump. Paul ran his Kongo across the pond to help get Andy and almost sank himself when he got there. He had to sit and pump before he could try and put Andy down. Then he found out he was out of bbs too. Bob managed to push the grounded NC off the shore just in case some other Axis came by. Ty finished the sortie by chasing Paul around trying to get him to run himself under, but Paul made it off his five. The battle seemed to be going the Allies way but the Axis pulled out a victory with the second sortie damage and sinks they handed out.

**Allies damage** 579-126-220 25,740

**Axis damage** 557- 73-202 22,695

**Campaign battle** also started well for the Allies. Tim Beckett was running his Gloire, painted light gray. Bob also had a light Grey cruiser of the same class. Tim kept telling Rick that he was an Axis cruiser as they were shooting targets together. Rick saw Bob's cruiser by the targets and let it line up and unload on his Admiral Sheer. There were a couple very large holes that led to Rick's sink a short time later.

The Allies had launched two CVLs and two LSTs to start their convoy runs. The CVLs made the forward run, one was too damaged to continue and the other made a return run. She just made it into port with a little freeboard left. John P also lost his Kronprinz Wilhelm in the first half of the battle. The Axis launched two convoys, Peter's Red Freighter and DW's White Freighter. Peter's convoy ship was sunk but DW made a forward run. The LSTs were running back and forth, as they would for the entire hour.

Over at the Axis targets a few VDTs and Dirty's Kongo were on guard duty. A couple Allied cruisers put some sterns into the Kongo. Andy brought his Baltimore's triple sterns to the target board and dumped them into him. This desheeted about 3 sections of his bow just above the waterline. Steve's freighter was sunk on a forward run and Nathaniel's Prinz Eugen was lost. Things were going well for the Allies so far.

The Axis launched their heavy hitters at the halfway point. Derfflinger (Tyler), Mutsu (Jeff) and Bismarck (Tim) all hit the water. What they found was an Iowa and a NC sinking TMGBC. They took down the Iowa and had the taste of blood to feed their sinking frenzy. Next on the menu was Bob's

Washington. Andy and Bob had put their NC's in and started to dump sidemounts into Dirty. But he made it off his five and limped into port. Bob had taken a couple of uncalled rams from a VDT and sank when he started to run from the Axis heavy hitters. Andy's NC was next on the menu. Without his wingman Andy was another tasty meal.

Meanwhile the Axis sank a small Allied tanker and Ron's freighter. Ron's St Louis, Ty's Fylgia and Chris' Fiji were also lost. The Allies were running short on warships. The only ship on the water was Bob's Montcalm. It was losing battery power and could not get away from the Axis heavies. Bob was calling for any Allied cruiser to get back on the water or the Axis would get a 5,000 point strategic victory. Don and Tim put their cruisers out and took the pressure off. Tim's Atlanta was pretty shot up and sank.

The Axis took this shortage of warships to their advantage, as they called an extension, and ran three more convoy ships. After the extended campaign ended everyone thought the Allies had been crushed. But when the scores were totaled the Allies had won by 700 points. The victory was won by the number of convoy runs completed. The Allies even had one target left standing, the



When playing "Follow the Leader" isn't it the leader that's supposed to sink first?

board was sticking out of the water making the target hard to hit.

The **REAL** excitement started later back at the hotel. Around 9-10pm a storm blew in that took some of the roof off the hotel. Several guys on first floor had water leaking in. It was pouring out of Dirty and Gerald's smoke detector. I wonder what the second floor looked like. We also had enough hail to cover the ground with a couple inches. It looked like snow. Several trees blew down around the lot. Power was out from then until about 4am. Turns out it was the first tornado in the area in 40 years. When Ron drove out to the pond to check on the tents that night he hit and ran over some roofing with nails sticking out of them and had to get 4 new tires.

## Tuesday:

Battle was delayed today because of the power outage. We did

not get started until 11am. The wind had picked up and made enough waves to push our ships around.

When we finally did hit the water the Allies found themselves ahead in ships and units, mostly due to Dirty and Gerald not being at the pond. In the first sortie the Axis lost Steve's Bismark, Peter's TMGBC and Leif's Derfflinger while the Allies only lost Tom's Wee Vee. Much like Monday the Allies were winning after the first sortie. Today they would see if they could keep up in the second sortie.

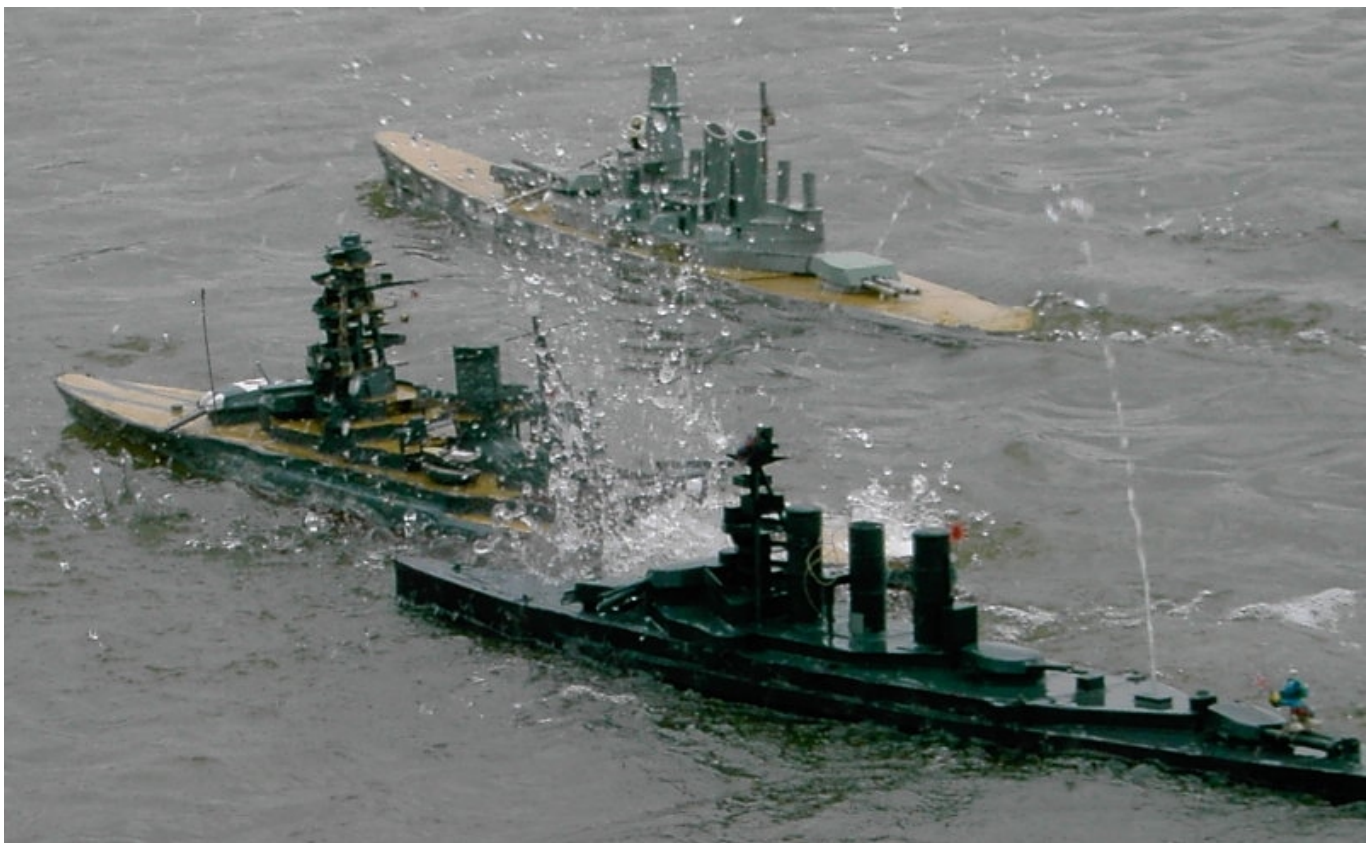
**The second sortie** saw more good news for the Allies. Fluegel had a pump motor burn out very early in the sortie and sank. Peter's Andrea Doria and John's Kronprinz Wilhelm also sank. Paul's Kirishima and Don's NC went down too. Near the end of the battle the Allied NC and Iowa fleet was chasing Jeff to the far side of the pond. Jeff was able to get away but Tyler had been hiding on his five down there. Bob broke off from the group following

Jeff and started after Tyler. He got a good angle on him and ran him into the campaign port. Tyler took a few sidemounts until the rest of the fleet arrived and finished him off. As Tyler was getting sunk Bob saw his pump not putting out any water and slowly sank next to shore. His wingman Andy came over to shoot Tyler and instead shot the Washington. How can your wingman with the same ship as yours misidentify a ship and shoot it?

The class 4 for a class 6 sink was not a good trade but putting Tyler down at the end of the battle made the Allies feel good. This battle was a big win for the Allies, 10,000 points, it got them back into NATS quickly.

**Allied damage:** 497-54-124: 15,920  
**Axis damage:** 505-82-214: 26,000

**The afternoon battle** evened up with the two missing Japs getting out to the pond. The sun was starting to get lower and made a really bad reflection on the water. It was hard to look across the pond at your ship.



The action was stormy both day and night.



Battling with silhouettes was the way to go. Very early in the battle Eric Grossaint's cruiser sunk. He did have two holes in the ship, from some long range shooting by Lou. Chris' VDT went out of control and drifted down the shore. The other Axis slow ships surrounded it and he took very little damage, for a ship that could not move. Palmer tried to bring the West Virginia in a couple of times and was sunk for his efforts. Steve's pump motor died leading to the Bismarck's lightly damaged sink. During Steve's man in the water Leif turned off his pump, and forgot to turn it back on, this was a common thing to do during the week. When he remembered, just in time, Bob brought the Washington in for a few

shots while the Derfflinger pumped out. Bob emptied one sidemount and spun around for the other side. Just as that one was emptied the Cavalry arrived in the form of Jeff, Tyler and Paul. They started chasing Bob down the shore. He used TMGBC as a blocker and escaped. The Cavalry next found Chris' NC chewing on TMGBC and sank it.

**In the second sortie** the Cavalry found Dave's Iron Duke all alone by the campaign ports and put tons of sidemounts in his hull. Dave got away momentarily with a man in the water call. He would be tracked down and sank with a staggering 96-14-61. The waves finally got to Leif and his first sortie damage took him down. Just as the diver got Leif's

ship out of the water Dave's ship sank. Foster got caught in the campaign targets and ports with The Bike. He managed to make an impressive spin and get out of the trap but not before he took enough damage to put the cruiser down. Admiral Tim's South Carolina also found the bottom. At the very end of the sortie the Axis were chasing Ron's NC. Trying to get into position to fire the last of their bbs Tyler ram sank the big ship. Despite this the Axis came back from the big defeat in the morning to win the afternoon battle by over 5,000 points.  
**Allied damage** 389-55-185: 19,515  
**Axis damage** 326-70-109: 14,460



Mile High Mayhem and those who actively partake. The 2009 Nats Captains, support crews, pond and ships.



# Clash of the Titans! Wednesday Cruiser battle

by Ryan Butler

## Axis versus Allied fleets

Axis started off with an already large advantage because the Allies had the giant Baltimore with its large size making it a big target. While it's good for shooting up convoy ships in campaign the Baltimore is not much for a cruiser battle.

First sortie Tom's Nashville was the first to get shot up by Bob and Tyler. Steve Dickow's ship went out of control shortly into battle and was circling around at the far end of shore. Peter was the first to sink with a pump that was not working, followed by the Atlanta with a failed pump as well.

Second sortie Peter went back out with still no pump. He sat close to shore and called 5 made it pretty far in but sank before it was up. Palmer seemed to be the main target as his pump stream was working pretty hard from the first sortie, finally sinking half way in with 70-4-3. Tyler was shooting up Andy for the last half of the sortie.

Third sortie starts off with Bob

unloading on the Atlanta right as it loses rudder control. Bob and Tyler then chase after Tim, the Atlanta shortly takes too much damage and sinks with 58-0-2. Ty seemed to be the next target lots of shots being unloaded but Ty had a final score of 30-0-3 no sink. Towards the end everyone ran out of BB's so it became a ram battle. Ty was trying to ram with his pointy bow but his ship did not have enough mass to do much damage so everyone rammed him back. Finally Randy drove right over the top of Ty and sent him under. It was a pretty hilarious YouTube moment

## *1 on 1's*

### Ty versus Tyler class 1

We were going to have a huge class one battle, as huge as a class 1 battle can be. There should have been Dave's Sri Aythia (Siamese coastal defense ship), which was not working, Peter's destroyer, did not get finished, and Bob's CVL. But he plugged his solenoids in backwards moving the radio from his Montcalm to his CVL and fried the TD switch. So that left only Tyler as a class 1 ship, but Ty being a small class 2

ship pinned one of his guns and it became the mighty Clash of the Titans. The battle was horribly boring though they just pecked shots at each other not causing much damage at all, final scores were Tyler 4-0-1 and Ty 3-1-0 in 2 sorties.

### Tyler versus Ryan

They both went at it pretty fast and hard exchanging a lot of shots battle only lasted about 4 minutes and Tyler sank the VDT scores of Tyler 19-5-11 and Ryan 10-3-22.

### Fuso versus South Carolina

The battle started with the two ships trading a few haymaker shots. Tyler encouraged this hoping to see more carnage. There was not a lot of carnage. Final score Tim 18-1-7 Brandon 10-3-12.

### The Second Annual Much Discussed (Ty versus Kessler)

This battle started out with a hiss. Kessler must have forgot to load his stern gun as it was blowing air. Ty heard this and said "Great now if you'll just go dead in the water." Ty let Chris come in and fix his gun. The kind gesture was for naught as Chris was not able to get it working.



Stern guns reign in the annual cruiser battle. Here 'backing down' is a good thing.



Later in the battle Ty found that his bow sidemount would not work. After Chris emptied his two guns Ty chased him around the pond. Scores were: Ty 60-2-9 Chris 30-2-9

### Harry Potter Sucks (Randy versus Tyler)

This battle was to see if Harry Potter sucks or not. Fighting for Harry was Randy and the Tiger. Fight against Harry was Tyler and the Derfflinger. The two fast battlercruisers moved around the pond more then most Ionls. Randy was trying to get Tyler to chase his stern guns. Tyler did so carefully looking for an opening for his deadly haymaker. Tyler found his spot and used the shore to catch Randy. Tyler chased and ate all of Randy's stern guns but got his bow sidemount on target. Randy was pumping hard and called 5. Randy started to back up and Tyler chased him, Randy backed too far and could not recover. Harry Potter does suck. Scores were: Tyler 28-2-0 Randy 11-2-21.

### Night Battle

Allied Admiral Tim's main goal for NATS was to win night battle. His fleet started battle with a 10-7 disadvantage in ships and a 46-37 disadvantage in units. Early in the battle some of the Axis captains were talking about a ship that was out of control. Andy and Bob went to go find it, then sink it. They found Paul's Kongo sitting alone down by the shore. Just as we closed in he started shooting us and running. Turns out it was part of a trap, pretty good work. Since Leif's Derfflinger is painted white it was easy to see. The Allies dumped a large amount of stern guns into it and Leif sank. The rest of night battle was dark without the big white ship reflecting our lights. No one really knows what happened after that. The End. Leif 100-12-15. Allies Own The Night!!!



# Nats Thursday: Maintaining the lead

by the Omniscient All Seeing,  
All Knowing Ediot - Lars



Thursday morning was bright and clear, without a hint of wind ripples on the water as the warriors waited for Fluegel's countdown. The sides were arrayed with the Allies on the left near the buoys, and the Axis pressing them from the middle. The Bike looked like a cheap date who was still wearing her gaudy bright red lipstick from the night before, but now it was sporting smudges and gaps. It was really bright red tape sealing her stern deck.

There was no loud war cry when the count-down ended. Instead an unidentified battler was heard to

utter, "We have a plan?"

The Axis slow boats faced off with their opposite numbers, while two gray NC's backed in from the side to try to catch the slow boats in a flanking move, but Andy T's NC instead got flanked herself by Jeff Lide's demon boat. "Bonzai!" yelled Jeff with glee, then, remembering his manners, said, "Thank you, Andy."

Fluegel was fairly vocal, cheering on the Baden, making me think he was still conning the boat, but no, he was in a VDT. Some guy from Dallas was driving the bigger boat. This confused other folks as well, "Is that the Baden?" someone asked, but pronounced it more like the Vice President's name. "We shoot that, right?" they asked.

Finally the VDT's over extended themselves and got surrounded by Allied ships, slow boats and NC's alike. "Oh Crap!" someone cried over the incessant sound of gunfire. Kessler's VDT seems to have gone dead in the water and for a minute or two there is silence from her captain. The Barham peels off from the frenzy sporting a solid pump stream.



Dave Ranier's Iron Duke and Jeff Lide's Nagato exchange pleasantries.

Leif can be heard calling a ram and then directing traffic away from his wounded battlecruiser. During the confusion Pearce's NC squirts through the pack like a wet watermelon seed, no doubt on a mission to seek out easy pickings in the Axis rear.

"That's a Barham, isn't it," Peter Ellison exclaims. Apparently the slow Allied boat hadn't crossed the path of The Mighty German Battle Cruiser before during this Nats.

I'm not sure if the storm around Kessler's VDT cleared or if it got worse, but he finally summoned the courage to ask Fluegel for tugboat aid. Someone else was interested in Fluegel however, asking, "Fluegel, where ya going?"

"I was just inquiring about you," said Fluegel.

"I was just trying to back through you," said the unknown battler.

"I didn't know what team you were on for a moment," said Fluegel.

All the boats on the pond seemed to slide into siesta mode, catching their breath and assessing pump streams, while the Iowa loudly comes in on a ram check. As battle resumes, Leif hollers, "Jim, get him!...er, Jeff!" He must've come out of that ram-check a bit groggy.

Kessler announces with relief that his VDT has survived its five. Meanwhile a younger voice, I'm guessing it belonged to Nathaniel Goodson, says, "That ship was laughing."

Brandon hollers "Fuso FIVE!.... sort of." When Nathaniel questions his call of 'sort of' he explains, "Well, I only have reverse intermittently."

As the bb gas guzzlers clear the



Axis cruisers baiting the British (Tiger and Barham).

pond, the bb spendthrifts find more room to maneuver. Ty Supanic's Warspite finds himself entertaining three Axis dance partners, the two remaining VDTs and Leif's Hindenburg. Peter Ellison describes the scene thus, "There seems to be a horde chasing him around."

Out in deeper waters, the Iowa (Tim Beckett) and Pearce's NC both have their own set of closely escorting Axis hordes. At one point Tyler's Derfflinger deftly blocks the Iowa without getting fully rolled in exchange, as Beckett himself seems to coach Tyler through the maneuver.

At last the Warspite (60-1-12) went down, while Pearce and Beckett's ships survived the hot pursuit. At one point Pearce was accused of calling a weeny ram but Fluegel quickly came to his defense as both pointed out the pointy quality of Japanese battleship sterns.

**Sortie two:** Thirty seconds after he'd loudly announced the commencement of battle, Fluegel asked, "I did say we could battle, didn't I?"

Finally the armistice ends as the Tiger rakes Ryan Butler's VDT. But



The greyhounds break from the gate.....



then the Allies slowly drop back towards the buoy line as the Axis slow ships press forward. Once again Bob and Andy's NCs swing around and back in from the flank as elements of Axis extend themselves. One NC gets a good set of triples into a Jap boat.

"Bonzai!" is heard, followed by the diver bringing up an Allied cruiser. When battle resumes the Axis continue to push the Allies closer to the buoys. The VDT's are working hard on the West Virginia, which is listing and pumping hard.

Battle is suspended again as the diver recovers the stationary but still floating Baden, which has survived its five. Before battle is resumed the other diver goes in to bring up Andy T's North Carolina (9-1-15). Just as the diver reaches shore the West Virginia's five minutes expires. "Good job, Tom!" said Leif.

Pearce and Beckett have their ships working out in the open again, and team up briefly to work on a pursuing Nagato.

"Are we still allowed to check gas?" a voice is heard.

Two more ships go down off camera. The diver comes up with the Kronprinz Wilhelm (28-6-11) on the second one. At some point John Bruder's Barham (70-9-7) and Tim K's. South Carolina (6-2-4) went down.

**Allied damage** 359-63-155: 18,015  
**Axis damage** 463-57-114: 12,955

**Campaign:** The Allies ran their LSTs from the beginning up until they maxed out on runs. Tim Beckett and Chris Pearce each took one out at the beginning, Eric and Chris Grossaint ran several runs later. The Axis pretty much ignored them. The Allies also launched a small freighter at the beginning.

For the Axis, Fluegel and Steve Dickow launched at the beginning, but Steve's was



Chris Kessler's von der Tann gets nuzzled by John Bruder's Barham

really a Q-ship. Steve's ship gets low in the stern rather quickly. Foster, running the Bike, got several stern shots into the Q-ship.

About ten minutes in, a battler is heard crowing, "I shot your hard area!"

The Axis freighter (or the Q-ship) goes decks awash but sails like that for several seconds before moving off-camera.

For a laudable example of aiding the enemy, I believe I saw Nathaniel Goodson recover Dave Ranier's Iron



Convoy ships usually have a hard road to travel.

Duke after it came into port.

Overheard: "Gerald, did you just sink?"

"No," said Gerald, followed by a mumbled explanation.

"I think you did," said the original voice. It was later determined that his ship did not sink.

Andy T's Baltimore was working over the targets but got sunk by the defending VDTs.

In the middle of the battle, a Jap freighter and Peter's freighter launched and then sat unmoving and undisturbed for 2-3 minutes before they ventured toward the furball around their forward base.

An Allied freighter, probably captained by Steve M., got stuck on the near shore and was declared sunk due to resting on the bottom.

Meanwhile the Bike went down two feet outside the Allied home port, and her rear superstructure was a hazard to navigation for the rest of the battle.

An Allied CVL run by John Bruder made her first of two complete runs, very closely escorted by the Iowa and two NC's while a third NC ran wider interference, the Axis didn't have a chance to get more than a occasional long distance shot into the carrier.

Ron launched his large tanker, which caused the Axis to holler, "We got some BIG Allied convoys!" The CVL also started its first return run with its original escort.

The Axis weren't done either, launching a Jap freighter and their version of the LST. The landing ship was sunk off camera. At one point there is a camera shot of the Allied CVL and an NC floating calmly waiting for their time to expire, while an Axis freighter also waits calmly about ten feet away.

Near the Allied home base Steve Dickow's Bismarck loitered and harassed convoys as they arrived or left. At one point an Allied LST playfully touched the big ship and called 'push'. This 'offensive push' was ignored as the Bismarck had



The Axis freighter heels over from a rare gust.

been completely stationary at the time of the offense.

Ron's tanker took off on another run. Ty's Warspite was to be an escort but did a complete circle out of control before her rudder was persuaded to behave.

Meanwhile, out near the buoys, the Iowa was pumping hard and moving slowly. Tyler's Derfflinger and a Jap (Jeff Lide?) were doing their best to put the big ship down, while Pearce's NC ran cover for its mate. About this time the Axis called for a five minute extension.

With the Axis attention elsewhere, the CVL made its second run with only the West Virginia as an escort, while Ron's tanker took off again, this time running along the near shore.

The Iowa made it off the water safely, but Tyler's Derfflinger was now the ship that was moving slowly and pumping hard, pursued by

Pearce's NC while protected by an increasing number of big Axis ships. At one point the Allies were yelling for other ships with sidemounts to help out, Andy T's NC was one to respond, but Tyler's crippled battlecruiser limped safely into port.

Due to the extension, Ron's tanker and Fluegel's freighter each made one more run safely.

Steve Dickow's Bismarck went dead in the water, but only Ty's CL Fylgia was there to punish her. The diminutive CL had no visible effect on the stationary behemoth. Ryan Butler's VDT was there to frustrate the CL and later perform tugboat duties for the bigger ship.

Somewhere off camera Leif and Nathaniel's ships were sunk, along with Jeff Lide's CL, while the Allies lost the South Carolina and the Tiger.

**Allied points: 16500**

**Axis points: 10700**



Hiding in plain sight



# Wats Friday:

**Allies mop up,  
Axis seek vengeance**

by that Ediot Lars



The day was once again bright and sunny with little to no wind.

Unlike Thursday's battles the opening lineup was more centered and not as compact. It's suggested that the Axis knew that victory was likely out of reach for them on this day, and thus sought vengeance on a personal level. As a result they did not fight with their normal discipline.

Not long after battle started a call went out that a "Hipper is out of control". This may have been a ploy as not long afterwards another call came, "Juicy Allied Targets over here!"

Rookie John Pardus' Kronprinz



There's a point to this picture. I just don't know what it is. -Ediot

Wilhelm was sunk (19-7-7) in the first sortie, somewhere off camera. The ship tangled with the Barham, and later Ron Horbul's NC, Andy T's NC, and the Bike gave her some

attention.

Tim Krakowski called out, "South Carolina on five" about a minute into the fray, but then corrected his call to "30 second



"Juicy Allied Targets over here!"

moss!”

There was a brief shot of Steve Dickow’s Bismarck beached on the near shore with her pump going full blast and her stern under water. She’s listed with a score of 122-13-77 but not being sunk. Things like scoring and discipline usually get a bit sloppy on Friday. Post battle video footage showed massive holes in her side.

Another disconcerting bit concerning discipline was the video footage, which panned and zoomed in sickening fashion. For this reporter who often has problems with motion sickness (but never before when sitting in a chair watching TV) this was difficult to stomach. The multiple shots wandering into the wild blue yonder had me wondering if the cameraman was as sick as I was becoming.

There was an Axis Bonzai cheer as the West Virginia (58-5-22) started to slide under, chased by Ryan Butler’s VDT, which had dropped it’s Chicago Bears paint trim and gone back to it’s 1997 Moo Cow paint scheme.

“It’s not under yet, it’s still moving!” hollered an Allied in response to the Axis cheer.

“Deck’s awash!” replied the Axis about the quickly disappearing US dreadnought.

Dirty Dave’s Kongo is listed as being sunk with a score of 13-1-7, but it was not on camera.

Chris Pearce’s NC was enjoying taking leisurely potshots at Peter’s TMGBC which was beached on shore, when Beckett yelled, “Lookout PEARCE!”

He gave Chris some mighty big lead time, it seemed like 10 seconds before Jeff Lide’s Nagato and a Jap cohort showed up. They spent the rest of the sortie chasing Mr. Pearce. At times their pursuit bordered on rudeness, not towards Chris, but towards other Axis, as calls of “Gerald, get out of the way, unless you have a haymaker” and “Fuso, get out of the way!” were heard.

Still, when the sortie ended, it was Axis ships still on the water with ammo left.

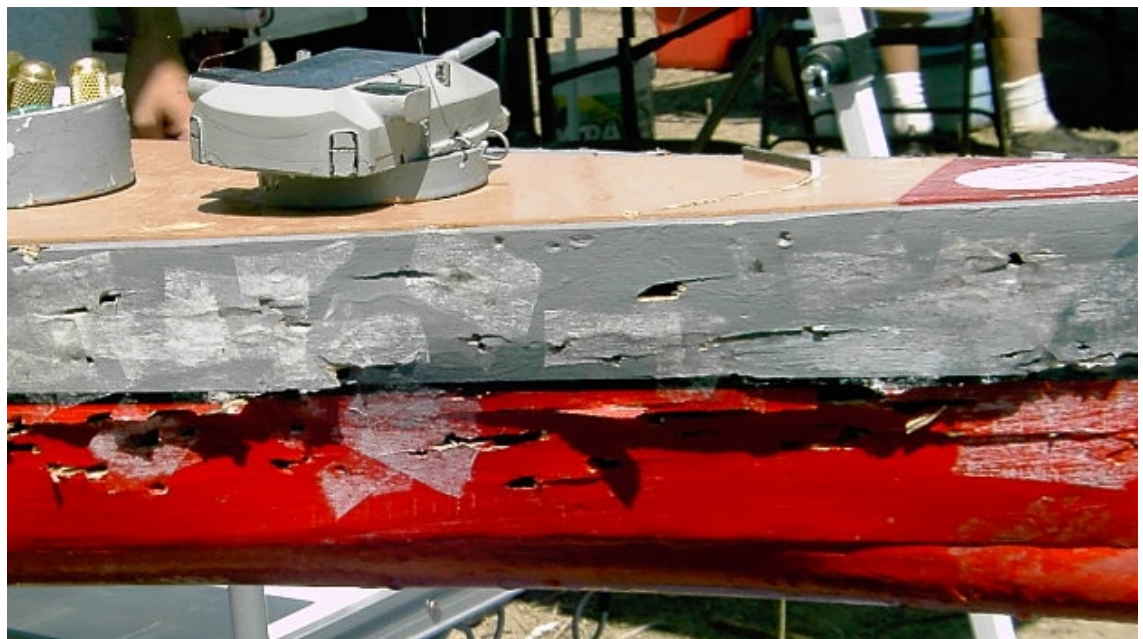
#### **Sortie two:**

Warspite calls five immediately upon the commencement of battle.

Peter Ellison’s Scharnhorst, last seen stuck on the mudbank, is

Brandon Smith’s Fuso is listing and showing plenty of red on her starboard side. She’s moving slowly and her pump stream is intermittent and weak. One would suspect that her batteries are not currently up to the task.

In leisurely pursuit is the Tiger. Pirate Smurf has moved from his usual position on the quarterdeck and is now standing astride the Tiger’s middle funnel (no doubt suffering from hotfoot). But Tiger is muscled aside by Ron Horbul’s NC. Chris Grossaint’s CL joins the chase as the Fuso slinks up the shoreline, together they eventually sink the old dreadnought (44-6-26) next to shore, Brandon doesn’t even get his feet wet during the recovery.



Shadows of DeSheet

cruising slowly as first the Bike, then a French CL take pot shots on him. “Sorry, Peter,” says some unknown captain. Next it’s the South Carolina expending some ammo into the German hull, followed by an NC.

“Sorry!” is heard again. As the Scharnhorst (45-16-54) slowly settles beneath the waves, she fires off several salvos as a final salute to her tormenters.

Later in the battle, John Bruder is heard, “There she goes!” about some unknown ship.

Not long after this, Peter can be heard chanting, “Put Bob down! Put Bob down!”

At one point there is a gasp from the crowd, and the Iron Duke comes on frame, pumping hard. Initially it was to be a ram check, but spectators on the shoreline explained that the WWI flagship had gotten rolled up on his side, and if given time to pump out, was likely to be okay. This time was graciously granted.

Andy T’s NC was fighting near shore when Tim Beckett called out,



“Sit still Andy! Your pump stream is full.”

An Axis sympathizer called out in response, “Let Jeff back down on you Andy!” as Jeff moved in for several sidemount shots.

Personal note about the second sortie, it was much less nauseous inducing, but was irritating in its own way. I’m guessing the cameraman tightened some of the fittings on the tripod, but it was too tight and moved in jerks. Included was an irritating noise of balky gears slipping.

As the Allied ships became scarce due to withdrawal, Jeff’s NC took off after Ron H’s NC. Tim’s Iowa gave the NC some help as opportunities presented themselves. For some reason Ryan Butler’s VDT was often getting into Ron’s path and forcing the big ship to halt. Finally Jeff got his Nagato alongside the NC in open water, where it looked like he could hound the Allied ship for a good long time, but as the ship opened fire only the sound of CO2 squirting from empty guns could be heard. “OOOHHH!” went the crowd as the Nagato drifted to a halt in frustration.

The NC had hit reverse to try to shake the pursuit, but a second “OOOHHH!” came from the crowd a second or two later as the NC’s stern went under and her bow rose into the air. Ron could be heard laughing as the diver went in after his ship (18-8-21).

According to the score sheet, Chris Kessler’s VDT (37-4-13), Paul Fluegel’s Kirishima (91-3-19) and Fluegel’s VDT (15-8-10) also found the bottom. Fluegel later explained that he was sunk trying to help Leif. Leif was tied for the most sinks for the week with Tim Krakowski, and Fluegel had gone after the Yank ship, and had been put down himself as a result.

Once again, Axis ships roamed the seas at the end of the sortie.

**Allied damage** 424-64-171: 16,390  
**Axis damage** 573-74-267: 27,830

## Axis News Source:

by Peter Ellison

After a bit of a hike we arrived on site Saturday late morning time to set up the tents.

The Port Polar Bear battle fleets totaled 22 ships including warship ships from a Destroyer, Light Cruisers, Battle Cruisers, up to Battleships and convoy ships from class two to eight.

We decided that we might as well start testing since both Axis and Allies representatives had time.

Early on we had our first sink of NATS, a cruiser’s pump failed to turn on when instructed, luckily it went down close in to shore. So NATS started with a good sign for the Axis.

At the end of the day we all piled into the car and headed off to the hotel.

We noticed at dinner the flag seemed to be flying straight out and it was starting to rain. Then the call came in, all of the tents were in the pond!

So after settling the bill we darted over to the pond where every tent was either blown off of its feet or upside down in the pond behind the battle pond.

Ty and I hopped into the water to start pulling the tents apart and handing pieces of them to those on shore who laid them out to see what was missing. Steve D. got suited up in dive gear and headed in to help with the twenty by twenty that was in deep water. After a lot of swimming and treading water most of the parts and pieces had been collected we headed back to the hotel for grog to warm up and some rest.

### Sunday testing day.

By the time I arrived all of the tents were back up and people were testing like mad to get everything

ready. Most of the Polar Bear ships were about two seconds slower than at our low land pond; that seemed to be true for others also.

Sunday saw one more pump failure, but it was not on a speed test so it was determined that it did not count as an un-seaworthy sink.

It would be a long day of thwacking drop testers, regulator testing and walking back and forth. Eventually everyone had their ships on speed and tested with the sheets filled out and handed off to the CD.

There where a couple of new things that the CD wished to have tested this year.

On the list was checking:

- 1) Capacity of the gun magazines.
- 2) Making sure the turrets sat flat on the barrettes.
- 3) Validating that the barrettes had not been modified to get more down angle.

A couple of captains were surprised that their magazines were not as expected, a few carried some additional BBs while others were less than 50. If you did not go to NATS you might want to count out BBs and put them into an empty magazine to validate that your magazines are what you expected.

Before heading off to a Chinese restaurant for dinner we dropped the tents down, as it would turn out that was not the last weather issue we would have.



Shucks!

# **A Rookies Road to Nats 2009 and Beyond.**

by John Pardus

In 2006 I met a few friends who were into Model Warship Combat. It was not the first time I had heard about this Magnificent Obsession, but it was late in 2006 that I was able to see one of the ships up close. The ship in question was an HMS Nelson and despite the fact it was not the best ship I have seen over the last few years it was enough to convince me to make my first purchase, the USS Des Moines. I also made a trip to Sanford Florida and got to operate a loaned Cruiser from Tim Krakowski. I ran the ship the entire weekend only asking for help when new batteries were needed. During that weekend my Des Moines was with me and bits of work was done to it the entire time in the evening when not out having dinner and a good time with all the guys I had met in Region three.

Well a few months slipped by and the Des Moines was ready for its first outing in Sanford Florida thanks to some help from David Rainer. Needless to say that first outing was not as good as one would have hoped for. The ship did not sink the whole weekend till Sunday when I was off five and the battle was over. I encouraged Don and Frank to both sink the ship very close to shore as a way to test out my water tight box. I must say that was a success. The guns on the other hand were a bit of a problem for me. I just could not tweak them at all and it took the help of many others through the weekend to get them to fire for an entire sortie without spurting.

April 2007 I went down to Savannah for a Region 3 Regional with the Des Moines and my Dad in tow. This would actually be the Battle that made up my mind on the shift in what I wanted for a boat.

The Des Moines performed well and got a lot of good shots off against others like John Stangle who was at his second battle as well. The two of us shared in some great moments squaring off, but it was this that made me hate stern guns as I just could not get the shots I wanted.

By the end of the first day I had made up my mind it was time to build a boat that would get me into the furball so to speak. It was by the end of that weekend that I had decided on a Konig and upon returning home I had placed my order with the Battlers Connection guys for a Konig Class ship. Thanks to work and money crunches my ship was built slowly and it took me until two months before NATs 2009 to actually finish her off to a point I could weigh in the ship. Oh my! I was almost a pound too heavy. So I quickly put the ship on a diet and lost a lot of the things that made it nice inside and nice outside. A lot of the details I had planned for the exterior were not put on the ship and I hollowed out some of the super structure to bring down the weight. I got it to just under max scale weight, but I was concerned she would not weigh the same out at NATS. Oh was I ever wrong. It turns out my scale at home was not very accurate and I was almost a pound light.

Well here we are out in Denver Colorado Saturday morning. My first time outside Region 3 and really the first time past Emporia Kansas since 2004. I first find the hotel and then made my way to the pond since I was not able to check in till 1:30 PM. Out at the pond I met Randy for the first time and of course the guys I knew from Region 3 that had already made it out. I helped with a few setup things that could be done and just enjoyed the company of those present. Then Port Polar Bear showed up and the Real Fun began. I was well on my way to getting quiet and just listening as I helped with even more tent setup. Finally I decided it was time to return to the

hotel and get checked in. I was also able to pick up my things I shipped out like my ship from Randy wife. Once checked in I got all unpacked in the room and went about getting the SMS Kronprinz Wilhelm ready. Some of the superstructure parts had come off and a gun needed to be replaced thanks to my own tinkering with it too much.

Sunday Morning arrives and I catch a breakfast. At first I planned on being on my own, but once at the restaurant it become a Region 3 gathering as I got invited over to eat with the rest of the region when they spotted me. After breakfast I drove Tim over to the pond and proceeded to begin the speed testing and work on my ship. You know it hurts when you actually sink during speed trials because yourself and the skipper of a much bigger Allied ship both made mistakes. Yes I got the Kronprinz run over by an Iowa Class. I must say I was really surprised what it took to put her under after that. A big thanks to both divers for the whole week, but it felt good to see my ship come back to the surface. I was not finding it on my own and actually was worried I had lost it before the real fun had even begun.

Well final repairs done that night included lots of tinkering on the guns to try and get them to shoot reliably. Monday arrives and the first battle happens. Would ya guess what my bow guns spurted and only one of my side mount stern guns would shoot at all. I survived the first sortie and was able to get the guns to work better second sortie only to go down while on my five.

The Second battle was Campaign and what can I say, I was not prepared well at all for this. I was on guard duty and did my best to keep the shore targets up. Well that meant putting my ship between Don Coles stern triples and the targets. I was damned surprised at how long she stayed afloat before she went down. Once down however, the sunken ship



made it hard for the Allies to come in from one side to the targets.

So once my ship was retrieved I had the duty and fun to take Jeff Lide's Axis Tanker convoy for its run. Well needless to say it was not the best run I made and it got shot up pretty bad, but at least it made its forward run (A word to Axis guys we need a bunch of fast LST type Convoy ships next year).

Tuesday arrives and I was again looking forward to the day's battles. Despite the problems I had with a pump and locking a servo the day before I will be happy to say the Kronprinz put in a much better showing. I held my own and actually survived the first battle of the day without a sink. I think it was more due to my hesitance to wade into the first sortie. The Second battle was not to be sinkless. I went down during the second sortie no thanks to beaching the ship and some NC's taking side mount practice on me. Both guys were very kind and did not use their triple sterns on me as I was a rookie, I hear.

Well, I hope the gloves come off next year in that regard. I had deserved to be pummeled for getting beached. It was this beaching that cost me a prop. I bought a spare set in case the back up had problems.

I then showed up Wednesday night for the night battle where I learned I could be more aggressive. My eyesight was good and I could actually identify some of the ships even if they were painted black. Unfortunately I had an big Iowa class ship chase me for a bit and I suddenly started wondering why he was not catching me as I had not made any radio changes. Then Tim said to me very nicely that I was fast. I agreed and proceeded to back off the throttle to be fair and made up my mind to speed test the next day. I hate feeling like I was cheating and was anxious to get the ship back on speed. The next morning I discovered she was a 26 second ship when she should be 28.

After yet another great night of meals with the guys it was time for the next Campaign and battle. In the morning battle I got tangled up with a Frenchy Cruiser that did a nice number on my ship and had me pumping decently, but I survived the sortie and then got set for round two.


After tangling with David's Benbow for a bit I decided that it was time to find a target that did not know me so well and that is when that fun little Froggy Cruiser suddenly came running up on me and turned hard to port in front of my bow. As he turned he rolled hard, exposing his below waterline area as I brought my bow in line and emptied all of my rounds in both front bow guns into his exposed side. It was a fun sight for me to see my first kill settle and try to take a shot only to heel fast to port and go down very quickly. I thank that skipper for giving me my first sink of another ship I could claim. My great feeling of claiming a sink of another ship was short lived as previous damage from same French Cruiser overwhelmed my ship and I went down less than 3 minutes after he sank.

Well I went about patching and rearming the ship and was ready for the Campaign. Yes this second campaign was fun and much better. I got into a tangle with the big Allied ships and helped out as I could with my bow guns. Once those were emptied on the big ships and the convoys I played some with side mounts before I called my five and got off the water. Since I was off earlier than expected I then ran a convoy ship since we needed to get more convoy runs. The forward run went well and the ship was held at the forward base, to try a return run later if needed. I then made a forward run with Jeff's tanker and got

it forward and then back again this time. That felt good. The other ship then was called in for an attempted return run, but it was not to be. She sank as she was moving into port.

Finally Friday came and the last battle was to be had. It looked like the Axis was not going to win this year. I decided that I was going to end NATs for myself with a bang. I got my chance to tangle with both David and Tim since we were all in slow ships it was a lot of fun and I held my own, but in the end I just was not good enough and sank in the first sortie. I got the ship ashore and dried out.

Once the battle was over it was time to pack up everything and then look forward to the Dinner Banquet. I knew about the Rookie of the Year award and knew I stood a good chance at it as there was but one other rookie there beside me this year. I must say Steve with Strike Models was a great guy to meet and I wish he could have got his own ship out there, but I am pretty sure he enjoyed the week too.

The Dinner was great and all the guys I met were great as well. I know that this NATs has only left me itching for more and I want to make a return to NATs for 2010, but we shall see how my funding goes. For now it is repair time for the Kronprinz and also a few minor refits. I will end this quoting D.W. Fluegel "You get into this hobby for the ships, but you stay in it for the friends." I am happy to say I whole heartedly agree and look forward to my next outing, whether its a Regional or at NATs. Either way I must say I am here to stay. 



The author's Kronprinz Wilhelm

## A True Loss

by Brian Eliassen

As many of you are probably already aware, Robert Rucker passed away on June 14th. Robert joined the hobby 12 years ago and helped to solve one of the MWC's primary problems during our formation. We had a new organization but lacked a place to host our 1999 Nats event. Robert belonged to a private hunting country club near Oklahoma City, OK and as a member of their board, volunteered their facility. To help expedite this effort, it was decided that Robert should be a member of the MWC Board of Directors. This was the original "founding fathers" group and he became member #14 as membership numbers were assigned based on longevity on the hobby. He was the only one who was in the hobby less time than myself so I didn't end up being the "baby" on the founding BOD.

If you were fortunate enough to know Robert, you knew he was a very nice fellow. He enjoyed

hunting, fishing and battling warships. But, like a lot of us, he did have a few problems. Now normally I'd refrain from mentioning any sort of negatives in what amounts to an obituary but due to the historic nature of this, I feel it is relevant. You see, Robert was a fire station captain during the Oklahoma City Bombing incident. Unfortunately, in the aftermath of this event, Robert suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and was forced to go on disability due to emotional issues. Robert and I talked about this and I'll spare you the details but please understand that the bombing site was tantamount to a war scene.

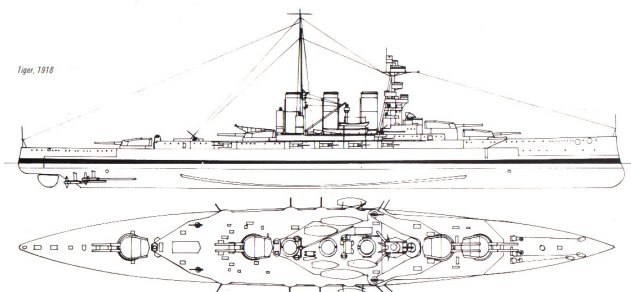
I'm apologize if this depresses anyone but I think it's important to make note of it due to the fact that,

as far as I know, Robert is the first MWC member to pass away. A lot of our members are not young so be sure to treasure the time you have with them and everyone else at lakeside. This is the "Magnificent Obsession" but the people in the hobby are the ones that make it so.



## TASK FORCE 144

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*First gain the victory, and then make the best use of it you can. – Admiral Horatio Nelson*