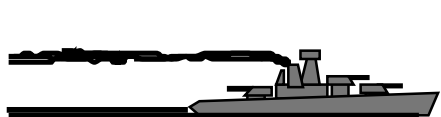


TASK FORCE 144



The Official Newsletter of Model Warship Combat, Inc.

www.mwci.org

Spring - 2003

CALENDAR OF MWC EVENTS

March 29-30, 2003

March Melee

Trotwood Park, Oviedo, Florida

Contact: Rick King 407-322-7750

April 26-27, 2003

Shootout at the Lions

Rolla, Missouri

\$10 to April 1, \$15 after and at lake,
CO2, sodas, ice provided
Sanctioned.

Contact: Kevin Hovis 573-783-8381.
Days Inn, \$42.50, 573-364-4000 or
EconoLodge, 573-341-3130

May 24-26, 2003

Fray at Bray's

Siloam Springs, AR

\$12, (\$15 after April 30) CO2, pop,
ice, and Trophies.

Sanctioned

Contact: Kevin Bray, 501-786-0659
Holiday Inn Express, 479-524-8080

July 13-18, 2003

MWC National Championship

Perry, Georgia

\$100, CO2, Ice, and Sodas provided,
1 T-shirt included, Banquet fee is
separate

Sanctioned

Contact: Joel Goodman,
678-355-5356

Quality Inn, Perry. \$49.95

478-987-1345, ask for Peggy

www.mwci.org/members/jgoodman



Another victory for the rules lawyers.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

Turkey Shoot at Trotwood November 30 & December 1, 2002

by Peter Kunisch



It was the last
battle of the year
in Region #3. We
had a safe season
and we are

grateful. It was a season filled with
fun and camaraderie, seeing old
friends again and meeting new but
above all we are most thankful that
Rick King was with us despite his
very serious by-pass operation. Rick
battled his Admiral Scheer and in
order to stick with Doctor's orders of
no lifting, everyone assisted in
moving his ship in and out of the
water and on to the bench. It was
truly a pleasure helping the man who
usually is busy preparing the battle
site and helping every one else.

Rick was familiar with and had
recommended a new dinner
establishment for the MWC group.
The owners of the "Lake Monroe
Inn" stopped by during lunch break.
We made our menu choices and they
took them to have our selections
ready at the restaurant shortly after
our arrival. The two brothers,
owners of the restaurant, are motor
cycle enthusiasts and left shortly
after with engines roaring. Later that
day it was a pleasure having dinner
at that restaurant with salad bar, a
large and very good sea-food
selection as well as many others.
Half of the establishment is a
cocktail bar with live music. The
decor was perfect for boaters. The
food was excellent and plentiful.
Later we were treated to a drink on
the house.

Saturday morning at Trotwood



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Mark Roe

Michigan,

Park; we arrived early and found Rick, Tony, Charley and Marc busy setting up signs, perimeter lines and display tables. Everyone assisted in the work. Ruth King was there making sure that none of the Captains would let Rick do too much and with Ruth watching, Captain King made sure he would toe the line. Don Cole, being the Gentleman he is, once again had graciously agreed to be Contest Director, Georgi Kunisch had the newly adapted score sheets for each Captain after each battle and Tim Krakowski with his laptop was prepared to tabulate the results. Thanks to all, it was a smooth operation, an excellent job and a battle to remember.

The following Captains and their Ships were prepared to battle one more time to prove supremacy of the high seas (Trotwood Pond) The Italian squadron was assigned to the Allied fleet to give the three US Ships a chance. Later that day and Sunday it was only two US and two Italian ships against the Axis six.

Bernie Romero	USS Houston
Charley Stephens	USS North Carolina
Don Cole	USS Alabama
Marc Morin	Andrea Doria
Pete Kunisch	Andrea Doria

Alan Oster	SMS Konig
Frank Falango	SMS Von Der Tann
Jeff Lipp	SMS Baden
Rick King	DKM Admiral Scheer
Tim Krakowski	IJN Fusu
Tony Stephens	IJN Musashi

Brian Koehler had expressed the desire but was unable to attend for

his son was ill. We missed you Brian, and we still need info on spurt guns. The weather was quite chilly and "Winter" rules were placed into effect. We all hoped that it would not be "my" ship sinking and if so then please be close to the beach. Sweats, socks and boots was the apparel of the hour - not exactly good for swimming. Georgi added a second sweatshirt and long pants to her outfit. On our little RV (the one stuck in the mud in Texas), curtains were placed on the windows, plenty



The Axis were sitting pretty, so the two Italians joined the Americans

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

of extra towels readied, all in preparation for anyone in need of a quick change after a swim and wet ship retrieval. The lower camper bed was also prepared with pillow and blankets should Rick need to rest.

No one, not Charley, Tony, Don nor anyone else, set up in the shade of the Old Oak Tree as usual. We all wanted to make sure we were in the sun and warmth. Most strange was seeing a USS North Carolina on Charley's table, not the battle tested Yamato :-)

He was also showing a new "plug" for the hull of an Italian destroyer to all the captains. Marc wore his Santa hat, nice touch. Later that day Georgi put her's on as well because of the chill and realized that Marc's hat was dual purpose, smart move, Marc. We had a number of visitors stop by to see what the hub-bub was all about but next time we

will make it a point to ask how and where they heard about the battle, the date and our group.

there, got rammed and sank!" How about it Charley :-). Still fine-tuning the rotating turret but it was working.

constitute treason if he is shooting at my ship? Nah, it's sharing, camaraderie and other Model Boat Clubs would never experience the same. Our Andrea Doria had the least damage at end of the first sortie but it was a short one for us and finally it was starting to warm up, the temperature and the action.

In the 2nd sortie the battle started calm and rapidly heated up. In quick succession (not necessarily in that order) Bernie's USS Houston, Frank's SMS Von Der Tann and Tony's IJN Musashi were sunk. The action was fierce and blistering. The savage pounding surely was a sign that the last gathering of the year would be a good one and long remembered.

A considerably breeze made for some coooooool conditions during lunch break but that did not slow the fun. Lots of food and goodies were passed around, Jeff brought Summer Sausage on crackers and Tim had brownie balls but they did not last long. Georgi passed around a tin of chocolates but Marc declined, he had a cavity and trying to keep from getting worse (how are your choppers, Marc). Most Captains are indisputably chocolate lovers and there was plenty for all. We also had a number of relatives visit and they too brought pastries and other



Marc Morin – Sensible warm hat, but aren't those cold feet?

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

Saturday AM, Battle 1 / 1st Sortie

Everyone was finished with those funny looking "beer bottles" from the cooler (Georgi's words) and 'ten minutes to battle' was called. All were on the water and finally the call for "War" for the first sortie. Bernie had to pull out early; his guns were firing without his consent. He suspected it is some kind of crystal problem. We were all set on the water with our Andrea Doria, rudder checked, motors running, guns tweaked and ga-boom, the CO2 hose popped. Fixed the problem, recharged and got back into the sortie late. Promptly the Andrea Doria got rammed twice and was in danger of sinking, barely made it to shore. What a nasty development that was. Will there ever be a T-Shirt for stuff like this? You know, like "Been

Our leftover Olympic Grade BB's went to Charley - enjoy. Bernie was negotiating for a valve for his boat, Tim was sharing our CO2 but battling on the Axis side. Does it



This Italian stallion is no push over.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

munchies. Lots of calories but who was counting at Thanksgiving.

Our scratch built Z-24 German Destroyer did a sortie run, just for show and tell. A show boat in about 144 scale with dual speed control. Forward on one prop and reverse on the other prop and the ship will turn on its own axis. It is also much faster than MWC allows and no working guns but it looks sharp on the water.

Charley opened his store for the much needed parts and supplies. Charley, do you have this? Charley, did you bring that? Guys were standing in line. He did bring my

new Scharnhorst hull, what a beauty she is and enormously big. The main deck, deck rim, molded turrets and so much more and the print was even translated into German, what more does one need for happiness and bliss. Oh yes, Life Boats and Captain's Launch for the Axis Navies. Now we are taking care of this. Charley suggested that we make the plugs, he might mold them. We now have plugs for three different lifeboats, the test parts are encouraging and perhaps we can talk Charley into molding them.

The new owners of the now prominent Ebay Lutzow, Dave Logan, (Robin Norell's brother) came with his nephew Trevor and the ship made its maiden voyage. They only need to get the bilge pump and guns working properly and then they are ready to battle. This ship is now in good hands and will now only be

known as DKM Lutzow. We hope that they will join MWC, enjoy the hobby as much as we do and wish them the best of luck.

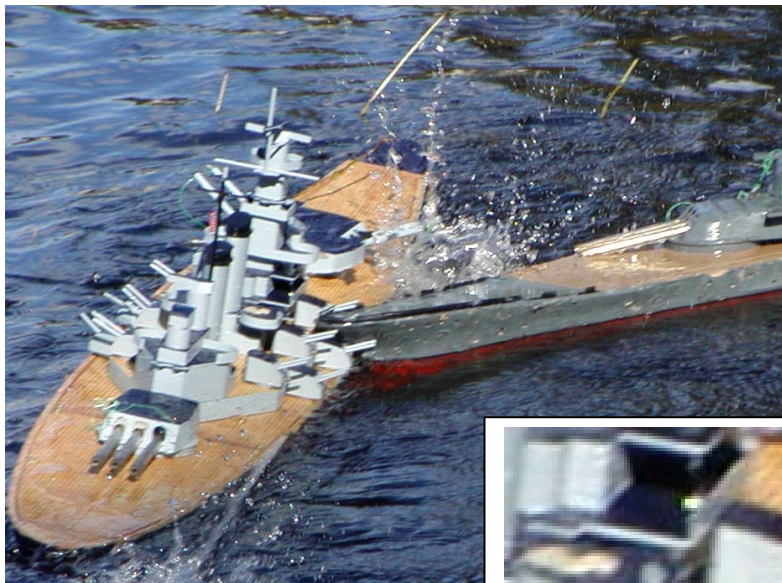
Saturday PM, Battle 2 / 1st Sortie

Rick's regulator blew on the way down to the lake and we had some Oh S___! stuff happening with the

over someone else's ship poking with pins and many other small diameter devices into holes and battle damage counting (as if the balsa is not thin enough). Slowly we all pitched in to clean and beak camp.

Back to the Motel, a shower for the Captain, repair time for the ship and on to the Lake Monroe Inn and

dinner. A lovely place with the salad bar shaped like a boat with nautical decorations everywhere. Dinner was great, Georgi had all the catfish she wanted and the owner bought every one a complimentary shot called a "Valium". (strange name for a drink or is there more to it. Uhhmm, must investigate this :-)



The Yamato comes in for an impressive strike on the NC...

Andrea Doria's bow gun. During this sortie we suffered two (2) more rams to our Doria. Jeff's SMS Baden was the one doing the big ram below the water line. The ship made it to shore before sinking and definitely needed some major patching.

Saturday PM, Battle 2 / 2nd Sortie

Tim sunk, Don had ram damage and our Andrea Doria's pump servo cam jammed. The Andrea Doria was in peril of sinking, was close to shore and beached. Nevertheless she was declared a sink. The battle was over, one more time the score sheets were handed out and Captains are huddled



But on closer inspection we can see that Yamato probably ended up with only a 7 – 10 split.

Photos by Georgi Kunisch

Sunday AM,

We were up early, packed and at the usual BK for breakfast. By 8:00 AM we were at the pond and setting up the RV. Tim had the score sheets from Saturday and did some tabulations and it worked quite well. Georgi had plenty of score sheets to record the Sunday battle. Heavy jackets and Santa Hats were the order of the day with the chills and breeze.

Sunday AM, Battle 1 / 1st Sortie

Oh wonders will never cease for we were on the water way ahead of everyone else. Rick and Jeff are having gun problems, the tank is leaking and the coils are jammed. Rick needed to change a servo and a regulator. Tim's power and pump seemed to quit and his ship sank. He had to swim for retrieval and he used our "changing room" to put on dry clothing.

One of the spectators, Paul, testing a new camera but forgot the disc and..., Oh well, no pictures. Paul felt the chill and borrowed our extra pair of sweat pants and was a happy camper or at least a warm onlooker. Jeff's family visited the battle site; his brother Greg, Greg's wife Shannon, Jeff's nephews Chris and Matt, Jeff's Mom Rosemary and his step-sister Stacy. Jeff's mom made some Cranberry bread complete with cream cheese or butter. What a wonderful treat, thank you Rosemary. After the first sortie it appeared to be getting a bit warmer and the breeze had calmed down a bit.

Sunday AM, Battle 1 / 2nd Sortie

Don's Alabama sank, Tim fished it out - but first he put his wet stuff back on for the retrieval, Oh what fortitude. And one more time back to the "changing room". Alan Oster's SMS Konig sent an SOS and sank again from the relentless attacks of the combined forces of the American and the magnificent, gallant and courageous Royal Italian Navy. Our guns were not working properly, something in the dry box. That "something" in the dry box incidentally was simply a drained receiver battery, run-down from

heavy use of the servo that rotates the bow gun. The battery was too weak to move the servo for the gun poppet valves.

While we worked on our ship Georgi played with her toy, a Burger King Simpson's watch.(she is a Grandmother, would you believe) and the



Santa's little helper.



Isn't that an illegal down angle, Santa?

an outstanding job. His Andrea Doria just refused to sink. At this last pursuit on Sunday he was even hit by "friendly" fire and finally went down. Great job Marc; I for one am glad you are a fellow Axis Captain. We took photos of the "Sink Marc Campaigns" and what a blast it was. At the very end Tony turned his pump off, Charley ran out of power and sank, at which point Marc retrieved the North Carolina, drained the water and held it to let Charley empty his stern guns. Talk about swindling, lifting the ship out of the water in order to "aim" and fire at Tony's

battle slowly came to an end.



Everything's finally settled.

Photos by Peter and/or Georgi Kunisch

There were 2 more fun sorties, just to sink Rookie Marc and finally he did sink, what a trooper. We must say that our Rookie Captain Marc did

mostly sunk IJN Musashi. Talk about aim and fire on your target but that was not enough. Charley turned on the water pump and Marc aimed

the water stream right into the holes of Tony's IJN Musashi. How many "rules" did we break that day? What chicanery, what sneakiness, but what a great ending to a glorious battle and a great year.

The final score was

Allies: 22,785

Axis: 17,435

2002 Ballot Questionnaire

1. How did you discover MWC and /or the hobby?

Internet – 9, Magazine-14, Friend/Relative-7, Other-4

2. What is the single biggest problem facing the MWC today?

Radio Frequencies was the most

Nats concerns lead the list. Have Nats Sunday inspections done by BOD, Nats in California, Minnesota, or Wisconsin (at least out of the south). Nats moved out of July. Nats eligibility based on past sportsmanship. Limit rain at Nats. Need more incentive for people to be BOD (two year terms?). Need better marketing, more members, more fun (fewer trophies). Fix casemate issue (perhaps pictures in addition to text?). Better speed testing. Better rules for campaign. Strict enforcement of rules. Need to generate more funds (thus reducing price of membership)

4. What is the best thing about the MWC?

"The people" was overwhelming response. 22 responses said this in one way or the other. Other responses: Axis signing bonus, Andy's Frozen Custard, and all the free cheese.

5. What kind of grade would you give the MWC BOD for their performance in the past year?

- A 18 responses (one wit said they did a good job of doing nothing)
- B 12 responses
- C 3 responses
- D 1 response.

6. What do you think of the new campaign rules? Do you have any changes or additions you would like see in campaign?

12 people liked them as is. Others wanted shore guns, more carrier opportunities, no mandatory convoy runs, ship rearming until targets are down (then cruisers only), find some way to cut down on the shoving matches. Then there were those (about 5-6) that didn't seem to like campaign at all. And one person wanted more bikini clad girls serving the cheese.

7. With more and more battlers coming to Nats each year and radio frequencies getting scarce,



Twisting, turning, ever yearning for a stern shot....

For when I have ammo, they're gone, when I'm out, they're not.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

And to end with Tim Krakowski's words; nothing says "Happy Thanksgiving" like BB's blasting balsa! The fleets were divided as Allies + Italians (aka Allies) VS the Axis. Each battle was hard fought, but in the end the Allies prevailed.

The guns are silent now and the sea is calm, the engines are quiet and the ships are in dry dock for the Holidays.



mentioned concern. Feelings of an 'elite' group. Problems with 'fun' (Axis banter vs Allied lack of banter). BOD members (not enough qualified in some regions, too many in others), Lifetime seat of committees. Retaining and adding to the membership. Club becoming mediocre. Overhead, Politics, Adults acting like children, cheaters. A very widespread response.

3. What would you like to see added to or changed in the MWC?

would you consider another Nats format besides Allied vs Axis? Or would you prefer having A, B, and C fleets?

One person was indifferent to the idea. Two people were open to other ideas. 32 folks were for staying Allied-Axis. 3-4 people pointed out that it's not the teams (or a freq issue), but the number of folks coming that will be the problem.

8. The gun velocity issue was pretty evenly split at the last survey, we'd like to see if feelings have changed from two years, so once again, do you consider continued testing of gun velocities and gun safety necessary? If yes, in what ways?

Seven responses said yes, to keep looking for a safe and easy standard for battlers to use. Three others thought we should be watching regulator pressure closer (like checking again on Wed. at Nats). Seventeen others that it was either not a big issue, or that no further testing was needed (but they seemed to agree to keep things as they currently are)

9. Do you have any comments or concerns about the following:

MWC's insurance policy

Most folks were pleased to have it, or had no concerns about it, but worried about the cost. Several folks suggested looking for a lower cost policy.

MWC's website

Nine people were happy (2 wanted captains page back). Four thought it could use work (more how-to, FAQ material), or that it was too expensive. Someone thought we should rotate the Editor.

MWC's email lists

Eight people liked them. Four people thought there was too much banter, chit chat, nonsense or ninnies on them.

10. Any other comment(s) concerning the MWC or the hobby in general you would like to add?

Mandatory regulator testing at all sanctioned events should be priority #1 with the BOD until it is passed. It's a basic safety issue.

We need to make more ship and ship classes a little more competitive instead of a handful of Bbs, like what was wrote on # 3 (Sidemounts for long CA's)

The use of air horns, bull horns, whistles be banned from the combat area, during battle.

Tell em Bart appreciated the Nats Get-Well card and will see them at Perry.

New Editor of TF144 is much better than the previous one. (Thanks Curly)

Thanks to the BOD for spending the time to take care of the administrative stuff.

Suggest adding "Fun, as long as the Axis have more" to the goals in the bylaws.

I have enjoyed it most of the time so far.

Watch out for the divisiveness of to old club.

I would like to see a casemate committee that reviews ships based on nationality, a group of 3 veterans per group should classify all ships for that country. We need about 6 groups. The goal is to set the standard for each hull.

At Nats, I think we should impose a penalty for inappropriate language. This would be similar to the safety violations, ie... 1st offense, 2nd offense, etc... This has not been a huge problem, but we need to continue to promote this as a 'family' hobby. The penalty should also be severe, 2000 points, 3000 points.

Safety penalty points should also be increased.

Unless it is a safety issue take small steps. Keep the hobby in the hands of its members overall and not small groups. When issues pop up look past the here & now to 5 & 10 years down the road. When this hobby forgets it's about kids from 8 to 80 having safe fun let's get the heck out & form a new one. God Bless. PS. How about a Life Time good sport award for Bart.

People have more fun, and not so caught up in winning. Fight the ships and not the people. In order of importance: 1. Have fun. 2. Fellowship. 3. Ship does well. 4. Fleet does well. 5. Win. 6. Win a trophy.



Jeff: I can't believe it, you're right. Baden's got a fever!

Tim: Just for your info, I don't use an oral thermometer on mv ships.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

We should remember that this is a hobby & it is about getting together and having fun.

Lobby my employer to consider this hobby as naval reserve duty so I can get more time off!

Ugh, the economy is killing us. Don't think we'll have to worry about C Fleet for a while.

Nats: Houston 2005! Missouri 2004!



Regulator Testing Equipment

by Kevin Hovis

(and the photos too!)



If you have looked at the 2003 rule packet, you may have noticed a new addition to the

bylaws. A new section was added to Bylaw Article XIV for Sanctioned Events stating that Contest Directors should have available gauges for checking CO2 pressure. The BOD added this so members will have more opportunities to check their CO2 regulators instead of only checking it at NATS. This will also help make regional meets safer. The key phrase in the Bylaw is “should”, the BOD is not mandating testing equipment be available. It does hope that gauges become more prevalent in the tool kits of MWC captains.

Just what is a suitable gauge? What the BOD has in mind is a standard round pressure gauge 2 1/2” to 4” dia. with a scale that reads at least from 0 to 200 psig. The markings on the gauge should show the pressure in at least 10-psi increments with 5-psi increments being better. At 10 psi between marks, you can eyeball the pressure to about 2 1/2 psi. The larger the diameter and more graduations, the better. The gauge then is connected to either 1/16” or 1/8” hose and has a 10-32 threaded connection for the port the CBS rules say we all should have for testing pressure. The connection to this port is most likely the standard Clippard barbs both Swampworks and Battler’s Connection sell with their gun kits.

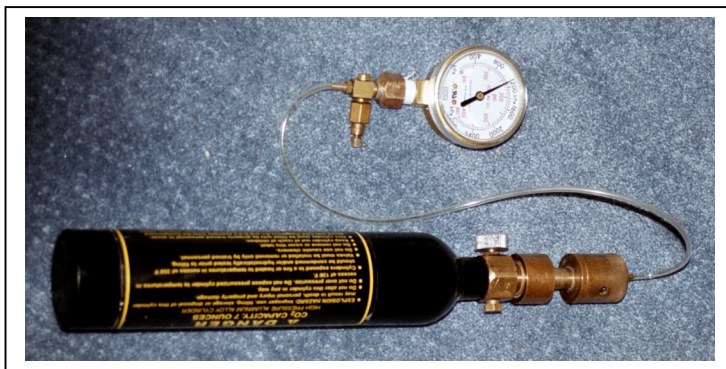
Where can I get the equipment? I searched the Internet and found several places to buy gauges and a complete test rig. Palmer’s Pursuit Shop, home of the lightweight adjustable regulator, has

a fine looking rig for \$57.

This includes a gauge, reading 0 to 300 psig, a manifold with a pressure relief push button valve, and hose to

connect a connection barb. The only thing extra you’d need is a 10-32 threaded Clippard barb. This probably is the ultimate test rig. See Palmer’s website at: <http://www.palmer-pursuit.com/CATALOG/CKRPRTS.HTM#Rock-O-Meter>. Look for the Rock-O-Meter. Another good site is <http://www.mcmaster.com/>

Can I build my own? Yes. I did another Internet search plugging in “air pressure gauges” into a search engine and found several places to get gauges alone. They range from \$7 for simple 0-300 dry gauges to \$50 for fancy 4” liquid filled jobs. The more expensive, the more accurate the gauge. I stopped by the local farm supply store and picked up a 0 – 400-psi acetylene tank gauge

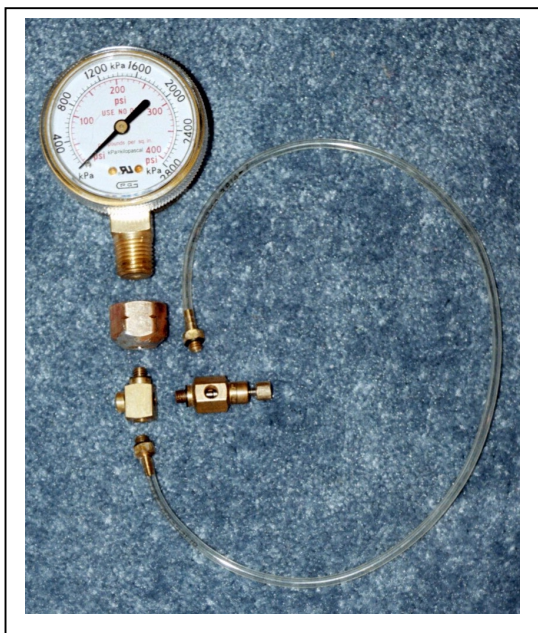


gauges will have a 1/4” NPT threaded nipple. You’ll have to get some kind of fitting so the hose you want to use can be connected. I picked a brass cap that fits the threads. Everything else can be bought from Battler’s Connection or Swampworks. Most captains probably have these fittings in their supply kits.

Here’s my assembly instructions: Take the brass cap and carefully drill a 1/8” hole in the center of the 1/4” cap. Tap 10-32UNF threads into this hole. Remove any burrs around the hole. Screw the cap to the gauge nipple using Teflon thread tape. Don’t tighten and strip the threads. Install a Clippard 10-32 barbed fitting (either 1/16” or 1/8”, your preference) into the hole in the cap with an o-ring. Cut a length of hose and connect to the barb. Connect another barbed fitting to the opposite end. Now your ready to test. I made mine a little fancier by adding a Clippard T fitting to the cap and screwing in a Clippard relief valve to one port and my hose barb to the other. I may get fancier by adding a quick disconnect to the hose. Total cost for the rig is about \$20.

There are a few drawbacks to the gauge I used. It reads both kilopascals and psi with the kPa scale on top. This makes the psi scale harder to read. Second, the psi scale has 10-psi graduations. With the size of the needle and the scale position, it’s harder to estimate a 2-psi difference.

So far, I’m having good results with my rig.



for \$13. Go by any hardware or welding equipment store with air compressor accessories. Most





A Historical Perspective

by Bob Hoernemann

When most people think about the war at sea in WWII they think of a carrier war. But, did you know that there were more Battleship vs Battleship (9) battles than there were Carrier vs Carrier (5) battles? Even though the Battleship "Died" at Pearl Harbor they were still an important part of every nation's strategy at sea. Most of the time they were protecting the Carriers from air attacks or bombarding shore targets not slugging it out with other battleships. While there was no Jutland type battles in WWII, like most of the Battleship Admirals would have liked, they still got to slug it out on a smaller scale a few times.

4/9/40: Gneisenau & Scharnhorst VS Renown off of the coast of Norway. Not much happened in the first Battleship action of WWII.

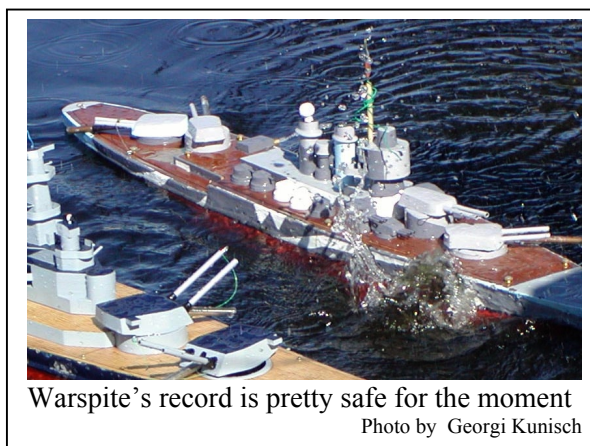
7/3/40: Resolution, Valiant & Hood VS Bretagne (Sunk), Provence (Heavy Damage), Dunkerque (Moderate Damage) & Strasbourg (No Damage). After trying to negotiate a peace with the French the British opened up on the French fleet anchored in port.

7/9/40: Giulio Cesare (Heavy Damage), Conte di Cavour VS Warspite, Royal Sovereign & Malaya off Calabria. In this battle the Warspite recorded the longest hit on the open sea, landing a shell on Giulio Cesare at 26,000 yards.

5/24/41: Bismarck VS Hood (Sunk) & POW (Moderate Damage). Even though the Germans are over matched they sink the Hood and

leave only three survivors. The POW (Still being finished by dock yard workers) is damaged before she breaks contact. The Bismarck is hit and starts its run for France.

5/27/41: Bismarck (Sunk) VS King George V & Rodney. After being hit by a torpedo from a lucky Swordfish the Bismarck is sunk/scuttled. Rodney & KGV came so close to the Bismarck that their shells may have skipped over her side. So desperate are the British to sink Bismarck that Rodney fires a spread of torpedoes and appears to make one hit, a battleship first and only event. After his expedition to the wreck, James Cameron claims that there are only a few penetrating



Warspite's record is pretty safe for the moment

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

shell hits and that her torpedo damage did not sink her.

11/8/42: Massachusetts VS Jean Bart (Moderate Damage) at Casablanca. During the Allied landing the partially complete Jean Bart opens up on the invasion fleet. Massachusetts easily knocks her out (What is it with the French always fighting at dockside?).

11/14/42: Washington & South Dakota (Moderate Damage) VS Kirshima (Sunk) off Guadalcanal. Even though the So Dak loses electrical power and is hit by many smaller shells the Washington's radar controlled fire pounds Kirshima to bits (9-16" & 40-5" hits). This battle has some US navy first in it, the first time meeting an enemy battleship at sea, the first and only time a US

battleship was hit by an enemy battleship (So Dak & Kirshima), the first and only time a US battleship sank an enemy battleship solo.

12/26/43: Duke of York VS Scharnhorst (Sunk) off of North Cape. The British use a Russian supply convoy to lure the Scharnhorst out of port then sink her with the Duke's radar controlled fire.

10/24/44: Mississippi, Maryland, West Virginia, Tennessee, California & Pennsylvania VS Fuso (Sunk) & Yamashiro (Sunk) of Leyte Gulf. Hoping to crush the US invasion fleet the Japs send out all the ships they have left. The US carriers go north to knock out the last of the Jap carriers and the

bombardment fleet of Admiral Oldendorf gets to participate in the last battleship fight ever. In this fight Oldendorf waits for the Japs and crossed their T (Pennsylvania never even fires) and both Jap ships sink under the weight of US shells. There could have been the "Best" battleship fight ever if Admiral Halsey had left TF34 guarding San Bernardino Strait. Yamato, Nagato, Kongo & Haruna VS Iowa,

New Jersey, Massachusetts, South Dakota, Washington & Alabama. But the US task force was too far north to intercept them. "Where is REPEAT Where is Task Force 34 the world wonders."

There were even two BB VS CV (Every carrier captain's nightmare) battles in WWII. The Scharnhorst & Gneisenau caught the HMS Glorious and sunk her off of Norway and of course, Taffy 3 was caught by the previously mentioned Jap battle fleet off of Leyte.

Final Score (Less Damage) Axis 900 to Allies 5300. Not too bad.

Credits for this article: Two Ocean War by Samuel Eliot Morison & Dirty Little Secrets of WWII by James F. Dunnigan & Albert A. Nofi (Both very good books).



"Summer Camp Nats 2002"

Once upon a time a little boy named Johnny wanted to go to camp. (Well, perhaps not so little but hey, don't mess up my story:-)

"Mommy, Mommy, can I go, all the other boys are going and we get to play with our ships."

Mommy thought about it long and hard....

"But Johnny, right now we don't have the money it takes to go there, but if you where to sell one of your ships....."

Johnny put up a sign "Ship for Sale" and sold his little ship. His precious toy was gone but he had money. He packed up his new, much bigger ship with many guns and happily ever after went to Summer Camp Nats. At the pond at Nats there were many boys playing with their big ships, small ships and all had a swell time. Johnny saw a new boy with a ship just like the one he sold. He stopped to say hello to Jimmy. Wonders and behold, it was His ship, the first ship he built and in less time than it takes others to build a dry box. It was his most precious toy and he told everyone that it was the ship He built.

Jimmy was at Camp Nats, overjoyed that now he too had a ship and could play with all the boys at the pond but that joy would not last.

Johnny was happy and had a swell time at Summer Camp Nats but he was saddened for he knew that the little ship, the ship He built would go home with that other boy never to be seen again. Johnny went home, gloomy for he no longer could play with the ship He built.

Time went by, the snow melted and Mommy sent Johnny to a Weekend Camp, a place with a nice little pond. Woe and behold, that other boy Jimmy was there too with the little ship. Johnny was so delighted to see his ship again that he told all and one that this was the ship He built.

Jimmy was distressed and very perturbed. He had no idea that Johnny missed his little ship so much, that Johnny was so proud of that ship that at every chance he would tell visitors and friends proudly that it was the ship He built.

Jimmy went home very discouraged with the little ship he bought. He had a little ship he could not be proud of for he did not build it. Now it was no fun learning how it worked and how to repair it for he did not build the little ship.

Mommy found him very upset...

"Jimmy, what is the matter, I thought you loved that little ship."

" Yes Mommy, I do but I did not build her and Johnny always tells everyone that it is his ship, the ship He built."

"Well Jimmy, you're a smart little boy. You just have to sit down, spend some of your savings and build your own little ship."

So Jimmy mournfully went to his room and quietly dismantled the little ship, never to be on the water again. He promised his Mommy he would build his very own proud little ship. It would take time, cost much and he knew it would be hard work and slow. He would ask the boys from Nats and the Weekend Camp for advice and help. He would tell everyone that this was His little ship, the ship that He built and be happy ever after.

by Karin Thunderbust

ps: the moral of the story ?

If you sell a ship, let go without

exception and don't boast!

If you buy a used ship, buy from a MWC battler and from far away! ⚓

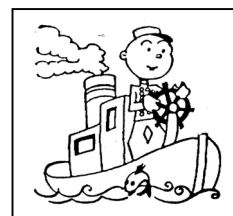


The SoDak seeks a parking spot

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

The President's Column:

by Lars



Well, there's plenty of good news and bad news to report. First we'll start with the easy

stuff. At Nats the BOD had passed a change to the bylaws that required Contest Directors to have a CO2 testing guage at sanctioned events. One problem with this is that not everyone has one. Kevin Hovis, elsewhere in this issue, has written a very nice article on how to construct one for a reasonable price.

Tim Beckett, BOD member from Region 2, moved to Texas at the turn of the year, and was forced to give up his position. Mark Roe has graciously agreed to serve out the last year of Tim's term.

Now we're moving into the harder stuff. Late last year on the members email list, a number of posts were made which were not in keeping with our policy of being good sportsmen. My predecessor as President stepped in and reminded people that such posts were against MWC policy.

This wasn't the end of the issue however. The question of should there be public apologies was discussed by the BOD. In the past for such events, we have encouraged members to offer apologies when such posts were made. A vote was taken.

Unfortunately, this issue, while not lost, was often put on the back

burner due to the holidays, and another issue (which I'll get to eventually). When I took office in January, we had a vote of 5 votes for an apology, and 2 votes against. It was now nearing two months since the incident, and at the turn of the year the Board lost three members and had three new ones. Forced to make a ruling, I ruled that due to the MWC Bylaws requirement that a quorum of 75% of the BOD members had not voted on the issue, it didn't pass.

However, I thought it important enough to talk about here. I also dug out of the archives a policy announced by the MWC BOD on May 20, 2000, concerning incidents that weren't considered serious enough to deserve expulsion, but deserved some sort of punishment. It was called the "**Three Strikes Policy.**"

For the first such incident within a year's time, the sanctions shall be loss of all non-battling privileges for a period of one year, those privileges include voting, rule proposals, running for or serving on the BOD or MWC committees.

For the second incident, the sanctions shall be loss of battling privileges at all regional sanctioned events immediately, and running until 60 days AFTER the first sanctioned regional within the offender's region, PLUS loss of battling privileges at the National Championship.

For the third incident within a year's time, the sanction shall be initiation of the process for the revocation of the offender's membership, for a period not less than one year, after which time the offender may reapply for membership. Multiple revocations may result in a permanent ouster from the MWC.

That statement also included: "It has also been suggested that unsportsman-like comments on the email list or other public forums result in removal from these forums. Such sanctions bring up the question of censorship, and therefore the BOD frowns on such actions other than short 'cooling off' periods, as the BOD believes that the membership should always be able to discuss issues and concerns. It is the

unsportsman-like discussions and ungentlemanly behavior we wish to eliminate."

That BOD wrapped things up by stating: "It shall remain the contention of this board that conflicts and criticism will be with us always, but that the debates should never need nor should be allowed to degenerate into insults and grudge-matches."

I think the same still applies today.

Lastly, the big item on the BOD's plate for the last three months has been the first expulsion hearing in the history of the MWC.

The accused was found to have been copying the works of another vender in the hobby, with the intent of selling it as his own. In addition, it was revealed (and confirmed by the testimony of others) that the accused had been warned against more than a year before by a previous MWC president.

With the holidays, incoming and outgoing BOD members, the procedure took longer than planned, but it worked (minor changes pending, however.)



2003 NAT ENTRY FORM

The 2003 NATS is in Perry, Georgia on July 13-19. Please complete this form, for each participating captain and for each ship (including convoy ships), and mail to: Ted Brogden, 1703 Quail Valley, Iowa Park, TX 76367

Captain: _____

Fleet (Circle): Axis Allied

Address: _____

Radio Channel: _____

Ship Name: _____

Ship Class (circle): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Additional captains or ships (plus radio channel):

_____ Entry Fee (# Captains X \$100 before June 1, X \$115 after June 1)

_____ Total Fee Enclosed (make checks payable to MWC, Inc)

Shirt Size (Circle): S M L XL XXL XXXL

Friday Night Banquet paid separately, see website for menu: www.mwci.org/members/jgoodman



In the 2000 Nats Bart Purvis played around with triple spurts. One of his shots was on the Bremen. I had my video camera with me and was

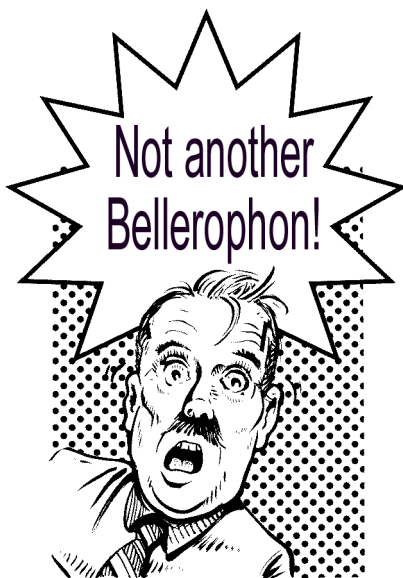
shooting the campaign at the time. Until this weekend I had no way of slowing this video down to see the effects of what the triple spurts did to this ship. By playing the scene through several time I was able to determine that many of the BB's had passed through the ship and were splashing on the opposite side of the Bremen. First blush one would think it was the NC that was shooting at the Bremen. On further review there

too many to be coming from the NC and the water was splashing in the opposite direction the NC's shot would have taken. After this Bart became ill and was not able to battle much after this. So enjoy the picture and ponder the up and coming Nats.

Robert Rucker
USS Des Moines



Task Force 144
1486 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118



"If your sword is too short, take a step forward." -Admiral Heihachiro, 1905