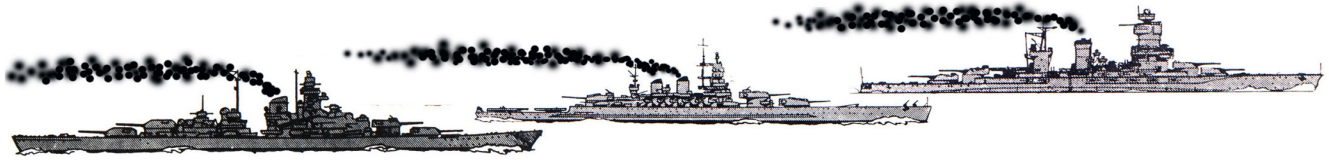


TASK FORCE 144



The Official Newsletter of Model Warship Combat, Inc.

www.mwci.org

Spring – 2009



CALENDAR OF MWC EVENTS

May 23-25, 2009

Tangler at Engler

Thomas Lake, Engler Park,
Farmington, MO

Contact: Kevin Kaminski

kevin@ernesttees.com Sanctioned.

Motel: Days Inn Farmington,
573-756-8951

June 13-14, 2009

South Texas June Battle

Bomber Field Houston, TX

Contact: Doug Hunt

dhunt81@comcast.net Sanctioned.

Fee: \$20 at pond site.

July 19-24, 2009

Nats Colorado

North of Denver, CO

Contact: Randy Stiponovich

sinkazuki@ymail.com

Motel: Affordable Inns, 10300 S. I-70
Frontage Road, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033
866-940-9499. Call for rates.

Sanctioned

August 21-23, 2009

Ice Breaker

Lake Susan Park, Chanhassen, MN

Contact: Bob Hoernemann

(See BOD page for contact info)

Sanctioned.

Fee: \$10. CO2 provided, Trophies!

Sept 5-7, 2009

Throw Down in MO Town

Ritter Springs Park, Springfield, MO

Contact: Kevin Kaminski

kevin@ernesttees.com Sanctioned.

Sanctioned.

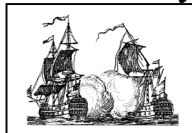


The powder, the smoke, a disappearing shell in the distance, what an opening. (If only this was a scratch and sniff photo we'd have the whole effect.)

Photo supplied by Peter Kunisch

Brouhaha on the Bayou

by Peter Kunisch



Well, to say the least it was an adventure. We started out with an e-mail to Rick who suggested we contact Lief Goodson, who was delighted that we were willing to transport his ship and tools. Thereby he was able to fly with his son to New Orleans and

participate. During the week prior he dropped off his stuff and we talked Jeff Lipp into coming with us. Jeff Lipp, a just recently retired US Navy sailor needed a vacation and finally consented to come with us.

We made arrangements with Wade to camp on the grounds and also made the suggestion that an event like this requires, almost demands an opening speech, a toast to the new battle pond and our host. An opening shot with a real gun was the signal. On and off through the fall and Christmas season I worked on a one pound British mortar from



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the revolutionary time that I had acquired many decades ago and now was the right time to built it. It seemed a good idea to have it siting in front of our fire place. Isn't it proper for every fire place to have a canon? Well in our case it is a real bronze mortar. At the test firing, we used a 27 gram black powder charge, a two and one quarter inch diameter wood ball painted black and a fuse. We built a stylish wooden box for bottles of pre-measured powder, fuses, and six balls in addition to the five mounted balls on the gun bed.

All this was loaded into our van along with a canvas mosquito screen, our ship, the SMS Derfflinger, sleeping bags, cooking supplies and utensils that we only used once (eating out was the norm). Then Jeff comes with two more ships that his buddy Lee wanted to help him fix. We packed tables, chairs and my wife could not believe that it all fit but we managed.

The day before we started a friendly driver on the road beeped his horn, rolled his window down and told us the brake lights didn't work and that was repaired quickly for it is a good task to complete before rather than during a trip. The driving was

interesting but long. We stopped to eat, got gas and then late afternoon Jeff took the wheel till about mid-night, when we stopped at a rest area, dropped the seats down as best as possible and took a long snooze.

In the morning we started out again getting closer and closer until we got to Boutte, found Wade's house and crossed that little bridge that Rick got stuck at a couple of days later due to rain and soft ground. We found a good spot on the field by the water and while Georgi was setting up the mosquito tent Jeff and I inspected and really admired Wade's skill in developing such a fine battling pond complete with island, bridge and working light house. Nobody was home as it was early in the day. Now we discovered that our extension cable was too short. Jeff and I drove to the nearby Wal-Mart and purchased a hundred foot extension so we had power for our big cooler. It was getting mid afternoon and people started to trickle in, park their cars, unload ships and tools, set up canopies and reintroduced themselves to each other after not having seen each other for months and or years. It was a pleasure seeing people from all over



John Stangle discovers that combat can be a draining experience.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

the US again. Many ships were put on the water, we did some testing, some adjusting and I reminded everyone that it would not be called battling until after the opening shot with the mortar.

Evening came, we bedded down for the night and people left for the hotels. After a somewhat restless night morning light came and the big day was on hand. By about nine o'clock approximately twenty captains were invited to assemble and our CD called for a captain's meeting. We gathered around a table where Wade and Georgi had set up dozens of wine glasses and we had a choice of champagne or sparkling grape juice. Wade had invited a local WWII marine veteran who gave a speech and Wade and the assembled captains drank a toast to all the fallen soldiers protecting our nation. We then drank a toast to Wade, the fabulous battling pond, and the very first battle to be known as Brouhaha on the Bayou. Our marine veteran cut the ribbon and I had loaded the mortar and invited Wade to light the fuse. The gun went off with a terrific boom, Wade even mentioned that you could feel the percussion and the call to battle was on.

Ships battled and Lief Goodson's

SMS Van Der Tann was the first ship to sink. Now mind you this was the first official sink of this battle and Lief was officially the first "man in the water". Many others like Frank Falango and Herr Fluegel were among the many that followed.

The battling went on, it was terrific to be able to go around the island or pick a spot and stay in one place as I did with the SMS Derfflinger guarding a somewhat narrow passage. It seems as if every fifteen minutes an Axis or Allied captain saw his ship sinking and the call "man in the water" came more frequent. Eventually the first sortie was over and I believe it was an Axis win but not by much. Axis ships were superior in number whereas the Allies had larger ships and more experienced captains.

On that basis, it was finally decided that we would continue to battle Axis versus Allies. Saturday was an all around beautiful battling day and a little bit of rain did not spoil it. The battling was over about mid afternoon and we retired to clean up and meet again at a prearranged nearby restaurant with a private dinning room. By six o'clock all captains had arrived including a guest couple. Wade and his wife Irina sat at the center of the U-

shaped table arrangement and while our ordered were being prepared, Jeff Lipp presented a trophy to our host Wade on behalf of all members of MWCI present and many who wanted to be. The trophy is a dark stained block of Red Oak, the same material as the mortar bed. On that block are mounted a pair of naval cannons pointing at a 30 degree angle toward the center that consisted of a slice of deck planking from the WWII air craft carrier USS Yorktown and on top of that a cannon ball from the mortar. Wade was surprised and delighted with the trophy and the presentation.

We left Sunday early due to some health problems and the fact that we no longer had a ship. One of our members heard me mention that the ship was too heavy for me and that I would sell it and a deal was struck on the spot. Kevin Kaminski is now the proud owner of the SMS Derfflinger and we are working furiously building a new R.N. Andrea Doria, a world war two battleship of the Italian Navy but smaller and lighter than Derfflinger.

The Brouhaha on the Bayou in our opinion was a total and absolute success and Wade earned our gratitude and a round of applause from all of us.



BROUHAHA IN THE BOUTTE

by Bob Hoernemann and
Tyler Helland



Last year
Wade fulfilled
every captain's

fantasy by building a pond in his back yard. All of us have this fantasy but few of us get to do it. He hosted the first battle in this fantasy pond March 14-16, 2009. Captains started to show up Friday afternoon and get ships speed tested and tweaked out. Tyler and I decided to drive down from the freezing north for some warm weather battling. We pulled into Wade's place around 11am after driving straight down from Minnesota. Tom Palmer and Rick Whitsell had been following us on the road and arrived about an hour after we did. After we were tested Tom and Tyler did a 1 on 1. Tom lost his guns at the start of the battle and Tyler chased him around for 5 minutes getting in a few good passes with his sidemounts. Tom did not count but the score would have been a lot of holes to zero. By Friday night most of the people were in town and had been to the pond. Battle would start **Saturday morning**, early.

Tyler and I got up and were out at the pond before the sun was all the way up, wondering where all the other guys were. Soon others started to arrive and set up. We had an opening ceremony with Jim Walton a WWII veteran Wade met at the WWII Museum in New Orleans. Jim was in the Second Marine Division and landed at Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Tinian. He was wounded on Tinian and has the rifle that shot him. Today he is still rides bike 40 miles a day and has been married to his sweetheart for 53 years. While Jim was cutting the ribbon for the opening of the pond Peter Kunish fired off his cannon, it

was like a shot gun blast. This must happen a lot around Wade's neighborhood; the cops never came by to find out what exploded at 9am. With a couple captains changing to Allied ships and some of the swing countries going on the Allied side the numbers were even enough to have an Axis/Allied battle. The first battle would have the fleets set up like this:

Allies:

Bob Hoernemann	USS Washington
Brian Koehler	HMS Vanguard
David Ranier	KUK Prinz Eugen
Frank Falango	USSR Profintern
Jeff Lipp	The Bike
Pete Demetri	HMS Invincible
Randy Stiponovich	FNS Marseilles
Rick King	USS Maryland
Rick Whitsell	USS Salt Lake City
Tom Palmer	USS West Virginia

Axis:

Dallas Fluegel	IJN Kirishima
Dirty Dave Haynes	IJN Kongo
D.W. Fluegel	SMS VDT
Jeff Lide	IJN Mutsu
John Stangle	DKM Scharnhorst
Kevin Kaminski	DKM Graf Spee
Leif Goodson	SMS VDT
Nathaniel Goodson	DKM Adm. Scheer
Peter Kunisch	SMS Derfflinger

Tyler Helland
Jonny Adams

SMS Derfflinger
DKM Bismarck.

Wade's pond is a rectangle about 150' by 60' with a 30' round island in the middle. There is a small 5' channel on one side with a bridge out to the island. The other side of the island has a 30' channel. The tents were set up of the left side by the easiest launching point; this is the side where most of the battling took place. **The first battle** started with the Allies on the left and the Axis on the right. Jeff took his new Mutsu right into the Allied fleet after Bob's Washington. After the battle he said he wanted to test his ship out. He chased the Washington around the pond taking stern gun sidemount rounds. Leif brought his VDT onto the starboard side of Vanguard and started to fire. Tyler pulled in between the two ships to let several haymaker shots fly. The exchange on shore was even better than on the water.

Leif: "Tyler I'm shoot'n him."

Tyler: "Me too"

Leif: "He's got two sides!"

Tyler: "So take the other one



Jim Walton, World War II vet, does the ribbon cutting honors on Wade's new pond.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

then.”

The Axis continued to concentrate on the Washington. VDT(L) took several triple salvos and later sank with a clogged pump. The Mutsu passed her test by finishing off the Washington just to the right of the large channel. The sinkers were allowed to patch and come back into the battle.

The second sortie started off with two battles both on the left side of the pond, one on the near shore and one on the far shore. The two VDTs, I-boat and Washington were playing on the far side. Fluegel and Pete were trading sidemounts to see who would sink first. DW won this battle as the I-boat dove for the shallow bottom. Maryland followed shortly after as Rick’s pump was not putting out a very strong stream leading to a lightly damaged sink. Washington and Kirishima tangled near the slot (Sounds like a historical battle). Dallas took several good stern shots then traded sidemounts with the American ship. Dallas started to run, Marseilles helped corner the Jap ship and soon she was sunk in the far corner of the pond. Jonny’s Bismarck also found bottom with a broken pump. Nathaniel’s Adm. Sheer also lost her pump and was prop washed under by the Washington.

Scores for the battle were:

Allies:

Bob H.	Sunk 78-15-61
Brian K.	Sunk 60-3-8
David R.	19-6-7
Frank F.	4-0-0
Jeff Lipp	10-5-6
Pete D.	Sunk 43-12-18
Randy S.	2-0-0
Rick K.	Sunk 56-5-9
Rick W.	5-0-0
Tom P.	Sunk 49-10-10

Axis:

Dallas F.	Sunk 79-5-15
Dirty Dave	9-1-1
D.W. F.	50-4-4
Jeff Lide	90-10-18
John S.	5-0-0

Kevin K.	Sunk 37-6-2
Leif G.	Sunk 46-3-5
Nathanial	Sunk 30-3-3
Peter K.	6-1-0
Tyler H.	22-4-11
Jonny A.	Sunk 8-0-2

Since the Axis won the morning battle, the Allies lost Rick King (He took out Adm. Sheer) and the Axis gained Wade’s Bismarck. Jeff Lide decided to flip fleets. He was not asked, no one begged him to do it. He went to the CD and asked to play with the Allies. This might mean that Jeff, like Lord Vader, still has some good in his heart...or it was part of his plan to sink every ship on the water during the weekend. Wade, John and Jeff all came out for this battle in pro wrestling masks. It was funny and a little scary at the same time. Not scary that they could hurt you but scary that you hang out with guys who would do something like that.

Washington and Mutsu hit the water set to sink all the Axis heavy ships in **the afternoon battle**. Mutsu went right after VDT(L),

Jeff’s theory being “I’ve got two pumps. Let’s play sidemounts, you’re going to sink first.” Pete’s I-boat was the first ship lost in this battle, again with a nonfunctioning pump, a problem Pete fought all weekend. The battle was most of the Axis fleet surrounding the Washington and Mutsu who were spinning around taking shots at everyone. Washington emptied A turret into the Scharny. Mutsu emptied sidemounts into VDT(L). Washington had sterns for VDT(D). Fluegel got target lock on the Washington and forgot to turn on his pump and sank as he was firing sterns. He gave a startled “Oh!” as the ship went down. In most battles I drive over the sunken ship to mark the spot for the captain. Since Wade’s pond is so shallow this is not necessary, but I did it anyhow and the pretty masts of the VDT(D) got caught in my props. Fluegel pulled them out and picked up his ship. Our cameraman Lou called for some razzle dazzle from Jeff. How about some more stern sidemounts into the



Fluegel clears the sunken VDT’s mast from the NC’s props.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

VDT(L) and a VDT(L) sink. As soon as Leif sank Jeff was off to the next victim sidemounting the Scharny. John's damage control has improved greatly since I last saw him at Ritter Springs. His stern guns were rocking this weekend too. More then once we saw John rip into a ship with his triples. As we chased John around the pond we stopped at a small point by a tree on the far side. John and I were running after the ships on the water. He took off and stepped right off the shore into the water. Like a veteran he is becoming he held the transmitter high and kept it out of the water. I helped him out of the water, checked for broken limbs and found only a little blood so battle was back on. I caught him against the shore and put most of B turret into his starboard side, then turned to fire with the rest of my triples. Vanguard joined the chase but neither of us had bbs left to fire. The sortie ended with John still on top of the water.

Sortie two saw some friendly fire at the start of the sortie. Jeff

Lipp has recently got back into ships after being gone for some time. He had The Bike out and thought that any Jap ship was a good target. His sterns were on target, but his target was Jeff. DW Fluegel came back into this battle and Jeff wanted to make sure he would sink right way. They traded sidemounts and had each emptied a gun in seconds. The Bike made up for its first mistake by tossing most of her sterns into the VDT(D). It started to rain and I saw Jeff pull out of the furball. I looked over at the island and Jeff was getting his towel set up over his radio, when he was done he dove right back into the fight. He found Tyler's Derfflinger, but was on the haymaker side. Most of the time you don't want to be there. But Jeff has two pumps so he does not care. He traded shot for shot and moved onto the other side. After they again traded shot for shot and Tyler sank. Jeff started out after Peter's Derfflinger but when he got into position to fire found his two port guns empty. No problem, just move

to the other side, but those were empty too. So I pulled up to help out with my sidemounts.

We had time and went out for a third sortie. Sinkers were allowed to patch and come back in. Frank's little Russian CL sank; again I think it was a pump problem. He went into the water to get it as we were waiting for John's Scharny to finally go down. But she pumped out, for now. Vanguard, who had been trying to sink Scharny went out of control, beached and sank. Washington and Mutsu found Scharny in the near left corner and started the chase again. John called 5 as we started and soon was in a sandwich. He backed up with Jeff and was soon on the bottom. We chased Peter's Derfflinger on the left side of the pond until he was off five. Dallas was the only Axis with guns left on the water. I had a few bbs left and talked him into coming over to play. I had run and pumped so much that I getting low on power and should have kept my mouth shut. Dallas came over and we traded



Wades Pond. Island is in the center, bridge is in upper left.

Photo supplied by Jonny Adams

sidemounts until I sank in the channel.

Scores for the battle were:

Allies:

Bob H.	Sunk 58-10-48
Brian K.	Sunk 47-6-11
David R.	10-2-12
Frank F.	Sunk 17-0-6
Pete D.	Sunk 45-5-5
Randy S.	6-5-4
Jeff Lide	64-16-27
Rick W.	25-4-2
Tom P.	42-6-16

Axis:

Dallas F.	12-2-3
D.W. F.	Sunk 85-4-38
Rick K.	13-2-0
John S.	Sunk 62-7-35
Kevin K.	Sunk 29-3-2
Leif G.	Sunk 66-8-18
Nathaniel G.	6-1-0
Peter K.	20-7-10
Wade K.	?-?-?
Tyler H.	Sunk 44-10-16

Wade had reserved a room at a restaurant for us at 6pm or we would have done another battle. We all meet and had a great meal. Tyler and I ordered Poo-Boy sandwiches and were amazed to find out that Poo-Boy translated into Minnesotan means giant 12" sandwich on thick French bread. I was looking for a small meal and maybe some ice cream, this was way more than I wanted. Wade was presented with a little cannon trophy for the pond, and then we all headed back to the hotel to work on ships. Brian Lamb



The Big Guys play bump and gun.

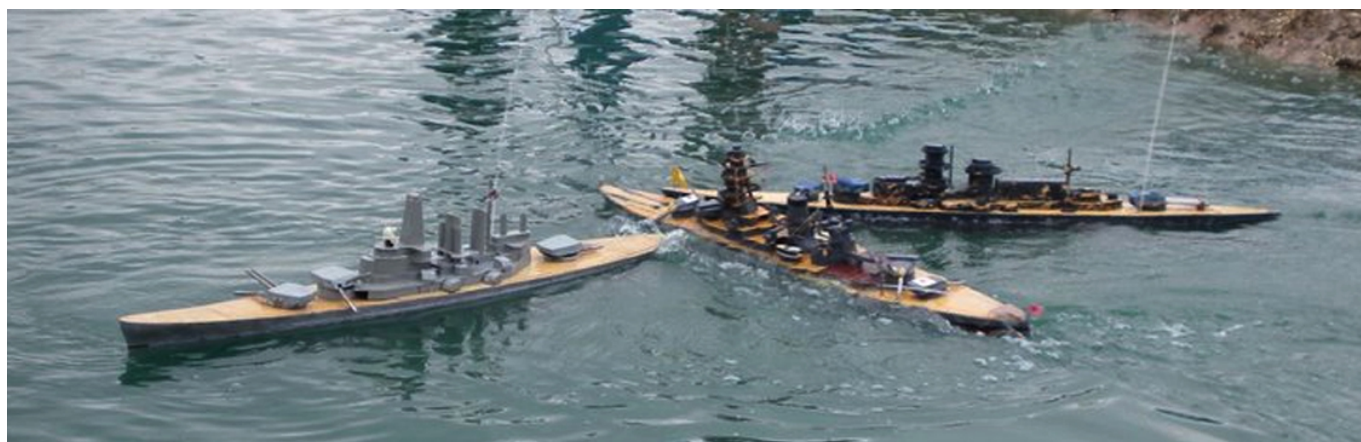
Photo supplied by Jonny Adams

helped Jonny Adams work on his guns and got them all firing. Jeff was having ESC issues and worked on them during the night and into the next day. He would miss the first battle but found the problem with Dave Renier's help. Jeff had replaced the motors in the ship but did not put caps on them. The radio interference was cutting signal to the ESC and would take a moment to regain signal.

We had the fleets split up into Flag and No Flag but since Jeff didn't make it, we decided to do one more battle with Axis versus Allies. Brian Lamb took the controls of Brian Koehler's Chester. Wade put

the Bismarck away and brought out the Lutzow. Nathaniel was not feeling good and stayed out of the battle. Dave flipped sides to the Axis fleet.

The battle started off slow until Fluegel rammed Tyler and he had to come out and patch. The Washington caught Adm Sheer napping in the channel and was able to get in six nice sidemounts in a perfect line before the cruiser pulled away. VDT(D) and Kirishima played with the Washington for a while then the Washington left to go play with the PE in the corner of the pond. PE got caught near shore while the Washington dumped the



Watch for merging targets.

Photo supplied by Jonny Adams

rest of B and some of A turret into her hull. VDT(D) and Kirishima followed and chased Washington off. But the damage had been done and the PE sank. VDT(L) and Derfflinger(T) found the Vanguard and put him in a sandwich. It was a nice block and shot by Tyler to help his slower teammate keep on target and also put himself in a spot to get a shot in. After a trip around the pond Kirishima came in to help Derfflinger(T). Tyler was in a perfect spot to use his haymaker but it had been dinged and a bb had jammed in it. He still blocked and pushed while Dallas lined up some shots. Tyler got lined up and dumped his sterns into the big ships middle. Brian made it off his 5 and the battle came to a close. He was lucky Tyler had a bad barrel or the damage would have been a lot worse.

In the second sortie Dave brought the PE back in and it was sunk again early on. Pete sank at almost the same time in the same place. The VDTs, Kongo and Kirishima all came after Washington

and Wee Vee. Kongo caught a few sidemounts from Washington then got into the 'Circle of Death.' 150 or so bbs and a full 360 degrees later found Bob bidding farewell to Dirty. The Axis fleet wasn't far behind and soon came screaming in to avenge the loss of the Kongo. Later in the sortie the Derfflinger(T) and Kirishima were looking for someone to play with. The Vanguard still had a few bbs and was up to the challenge, however the haymakers of the two battlecruisers proved to be too much for the Vanguard. Unfortunately just the tail end is captured on video. Bob was just sitting off to the side on his five so he was able to see the whole thing develop. He knew it was going to be a good one so he screamed across the pond as if he was the one about to engage in intense fighting: "Nathaniel, You're missing the action! Right Here!" Brian is obviously an experienced Vanguard captain since he drove the 40 pound ship to the shore right before he sank. As Brian went in to the water to get

his boat Tyler met up with Dallas for a much deserved high five. Scores for the battle were:

Allies:

Bob H.	47-10-16
Brian K.	Sunk 105-4-10
Frank F.	5-1-5
Brian L.	28-1-0
Pete D.	Sunk 60-7-21
Randy S.	1-0-1
Rick W.	1-0-0
Tom P.	51-6-8

Axis:

Dirty Dave	Sunk 85-8-23
Dallas F.	15-0-4
D.W. F.	39-2-1
Kevin K.	2-0-0
Leif G.	74-4-9
Peter K.	0-0-0
Tyler H.	42-3-2
Jonny A.	45-3-4
David R.	Sunk 19-3-14
Wade K.	?-?-?
Rick K.	6-1-2

After a break for lunch and patch we decided it would be fun to mix up the fleets a bit. Since we typically



The Brand New Shoreline Band work the remotes.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

see guys from distant regions only at NATS some of us thought it would be fun to battle with the guys we usually battle against. Fleets were:

No Flag Fleet

Bob Hoernemann	USS Washington
Tyler Helland	SMS Derfflinger
D.W. Fluegel	SMS von der Tann
John Stangel	DKM Scharnhorst
Jonny Adams	DKM Tirpitz
Randy Stiponovich	FNS Marseilles
Rick King	DKM Admiral Scheer
Pete Demetri	HMS Invincible
Frank Falango	USSR Profintern

Flag Fleet

Dallas Fluegel	IJN Kirishima
Tom Palmer	USS West Virginia
Jeff Lide	IJN Mutsu
David Ranier	KUK Prinz Eugen
Brian Koehler	HMS Vanguard
Rick Whitsell	USS Salt Lake City
Dirty Dave Haynes	IJN Kongo
Kevin Kaminski	DKM Graf Spee
Wade Koehn	DKM Lutzow

The battle started like many of the others with the sidemount ships all stern to stern towards the wide channel and the cruisers in the open water. Early in the battle, Derfflinger broke off from the battleship action to try to trap a cruiser not paying attention. Little did he know the cruisers were out to trap him. After taking several sterns he decided to make a break back to sidemount territory and rammed Lutzow on the way. Right as Lutzow turned to come in to check the ram, Salt Lake City was backing in at full speed for some more stern shots. There was a loud crack, an 'ooh' from the crowd, and a very fast ram sink. That's what Wade gets for building a pond and hosting a three day event. Battle resumed as Bob and Tyler continued our plan: to hang back and wait for Jeff to use all of his bbs on our teammates. Lucky for them, Jeff's plan was to have target lock on Fluegel. Even luckier for them, Fluegel's plan was to have target lock on Jeff. Just as Derfflinger and Mutsu were about to play sidemounts, VDT flew between

the two ships to absorb some more damage. Vanguard joined the fun to form a VDT sandwich with Mutsu. Washington not wanting to be left out also joined in on the starboard side of Vanguard to form a double sandwich. As the those two ships backed up side by side to break up the quadruple sandwich Derfflinger came flying in with haymaker blazing to form another sandwich. It was a delicious three course lunch of a Whopper, a Dagwood, and a Big Mac served with a side of bbs. It may have even rivaled the Poo-Boy.

Meanwhile the rest of the fleet was serving up a nasty little lunch of their own and Dirty was left with the check. Kongo was the first combat sink of the battle. A few skirmishes later, Invincible found its way to the bottom. Except for those last few friendly fire salvos from Washington she earned it. Jeff soon called five and the chase began. Derfflinger, Washington, Scharnhorst, VDT, and Marseilles split up into two groups to chase Mutsu and Kirishima around the island and try to trap her in one of the channels. To everyone's disappointment, the Mutsu was never pinned down. The master plan would have to be extended into the second sortie.

Though they were encouraged to repair and come back in, Kongo and Invincible would sit **the second sortie** out due to ship systems failures. As the sortie started battle lines were again formed in the wide channel. A few exchanges later found VDT pumping hard and retreating for her last stand in the slot. And what a last stand it was. Once in position VDT went sidemount for sidemount with Mutsu. After much haymaking VDT went down and Washington came in just a little too late to sway that battle. Though Fluegel was a little disappointed to be 'that guy' he claimed to have done his part for this battle by sucking up most of Jeff's bbs.

The time had come for the final showdown. Of course it started with a bit of taunting. Then Mutsu ate several consecutive triple stern shots from Washington. Just as the two ships came together the Derfflinger swooped in with its haymaker to make a Mutsu sandwich. Derfflinger emptied her full 75 round haymaker, Washington nearly emptied B-turret, and two Mutsu pump streams lit off. There was some more side mounts exchanged until Washington became hung up near shore and Mutsu



Die-hard duelers don't demobilize during downpours

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

limped away with significant damage. In retrospect, this was Tyler's all time favorite 60 seconds of battling ever. Had it been anyone besides Jeff in the middle it might not have been so fun. The battle ended when Jeff went on five and everyone else was too shot up to chase him very hard.

Some of the remaining ships ended up trying to join in the one on one that had been going on in a distant corner of the pond between Dallas and Johnny.

No Flag Fleet

<i>Jeff Lide</i>	<i>100-18-37</i>
<i>Brian K.</i>	<i>Sunk 22-8-19</i>
<i>Dallas F.</i>	<i>23-8-18</i>
<i>Kevin K.</i>	<i>31-6-11</i>
<i>Rick W.</i>	<i>18-0-1</i>
<i>Tom P.</i>	<i>19-2-1</i>
<i>David R.</i>	<i>?-?-?</i>
<i>Dirty D.</i>	<i>Sunk ?-?-?</i>
<i>Wade K.</i>	<i>?-?-?</i>

Flag Fleet

Tyler H.	23-4-9
Bob H.	11-3-17
Frank F.	2-0-0
D.W. F.	Sunk 48-10-27
Jonny A.	56-4-7
John S.	110-14-32
Pete D.	Sunk 12-3-16
Randy S.	1-1-1
Rick K.	11-0-0

Since it was early enough in the day, **we decided we could fit in a third battle**, same Flag/No Flag fleets as before. When battle was called Tom Palmer's WV was lined up right on the Washington. He gave him a few good ones before Bob realized he had called battle without looking at his ship and scooted out of range. Bob's only comment was: "Just like a Royal's fan." Lines would form and quickly break down as one of the battleships came flying in. It was quickly becoming a melee. Scharny made a run in and ended up with two Jap boats looking to get some sidemounts on target. The Mutsu and Kirishima got some licks in but the Scharny got away. Next the two Japs came for Derfflinger and were able to briefly trap her next to shore. After a few holes the Derfflinger was able to wiggle out and head to open water. Washington, Derfflinger and Scharny all tag teamed Mutsu for the rest of the battle. Jeff bounced between all of them taking shots from each. John and Bob poured many salvoes of triples into his hull to go with the sidemounts each was trading. After all this you would think the Mutsu would be pumping harder but he was not.

After Jeff and Bob got done

tossing sidemounts at each other Jeff called 5 and started another run around the island. Tyler and Bob decided to put the rest of their bbs into the Wee Vee, since it was slower. Too bad he only had 17 seconds left on his 5 and made it off without further damage. So it was back to the Japs in the far right corner.

It's not really possible to sneak up on someone in this pond but Jeff and Dallas stayed in the corner until we got there. The Washington and Derfflinger converged on Kirishima, Bob got 2 B turret bbs off before Dallas backed away. Tyler got the last 10 haymakers into the other side. John was also on the scene tossing shots at Jeff. With the last of the bbs spent everyone pulled their ships to get ready for the next sortie.

The sixth sortie of the day started with Mutsu jumping back on the Scharny for a good stern sidemount pass. Rick W. and Kevin worked over Jonny's Bismarck with their cruisers in several early passes. Dallas and Jeff came by to help them out until John's Scharny lost propulsion on a 5 out of control. The Washington and Derfflinger were there to attack the attackers but Dallas did a nice job of keeping them off of Jeff while he worked over



Peter Kunisch's Derfflinger finds itself on the receiving end of a triple delivery.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch

Scharny. Tom brought the Wee Vee in for some tasty eats too. In the mean time Jonny's Bismarck also lost control. Dallas was making hay as fast as he could. He left a quarter sized hole right above the waterline making for a perfect camera shot.

Jonny Adams you just got You-Tubed! Dallas needs to work on making that hole below the waterline, so the ships sink faster.

The Bismarck floated down the shore with Derfflinger and Washington as cover. Kirishima got in a bad spot and took most of Tyler's A turret. If the video was a little better we could say Dallas you just got You-Tubed! The cameraman was too busy getting the sink to follow the shots. We need more cameras.

After Jonny got his big ship out of the water Jeff chased Tyler along the shore and took a nice batch of stern sidemounts. Bob came along the other side and put some more holes into his hull. Tyler's poor hull skin had him in no shape to chase Jeff. Bob pulled back to help out his northern brother when he picked up two cruisers and a Wee Vee trying to finish him off when it looked like he might also go down. Tyler pumped out and started to fight back. Wee Vee took a few more holes and Bob hit Rick W's SLC from a distance to keep him off the big ships.

The Washington started a chase across the pond and then swung around in circles putting a few more holes into the Wee Vee at each turn. The French even came to help as a blocker/speed bump. Tyler limped over and stopped Tom in a perfect spot for some triples and sides from the Washington. The Wee Vee was pumping hard, Mutsu and Lutzow tried to keep the Washington away but the damage was too much and the Wee Vee slipped under the waves.

Scores:

No Flag Fleet

Jeff Lide 58-22-26
Brian K. 0-0-2



Combat Captain Diversity, but note all the smiles.. Photo supplied by Jonny Adams

Dallas F.	21-8-14
Kevin K.	13-2-0
Rick W.	21-0-0
Tom P.	Sunk 71-8-18

Flag Fleet

Tyler H.	30-7-3
Bob H.	53-15-16
Jonny A.	Sunk 91-3-19
John S.	Sunk 60-7-23
Randy S.	2-2-2
Rick K.	0-0-0

We had planned to meet at a Chinese Buffet down the street from the hotel. Tyler and I arrived to find that it was closed. So was the Mexican place next door. We called Tom and headed over to their hotel. The group was starting to gather, but there was no sign of Wade. He was up in the Fluegel room watching the last scene from the movie 'Saving Private Ryan'. When I told him about the closed restaurants he said he knew of another one. We piled into 4 cars and headed out. The first place we went to was also closed, so was the second one. Does no one in this town eat out on Sunday night? Wade stumbled upon a place that was open and all 14 of us went inside. The food was very good. Wade got some local specialties for appetizers we were able to try. Only Dallas did not get his fill, but he found some leftovers from a couple

not so hungry captains to make him happy, "Hey you going to eat that?" Since we were a party larger then six they would only give us one bill. We tried to get several people to pay for it all, but had to spend 10 minuets adding it all up.

Monday morning saw a few more captains leave to head home or drop out with ship problems. We made up some new fleets, kind of like the old ones but this time Jeff wanted to battle with Tyler since he did not get too this weekend; except in the first two Saturday battles. Makes you wonder if anyone really battles with Jeff or just battles around him. Fleets were:

No Flag

Bob Hoernemann	USS Washington
David Ranier	KUK Prinz Eugen
Frank Falango	USSR Profintern
Randy Stiponovich	FNS Marseilles
Dallas Fluegel	IJN Kirishima
D.W. Fluegel	SMS von der Tann
John Stangle	DKM Scharnhorst

Flag Fleet

Tom Palmer	USS West Virginia
Jeff Lide	IJN Mutsu
Rick Whitsell	USS Salt Lake City
Kevin Kaminski	SMS Derfflinger
Rick King	DKM Admiral Scheer
Tyler Helland	SMS Derfflinger
Jonny Adams	DKM Bismarck

The first sortie started out with Dallas versus Tyler and Bob versus

Jeff. After a little of this Bob broke off to play with Kevin's new toy. On Saturday he bought Peter's pretty Derfflinger and was taking it out for his first battle with sidemounts, well one sidemount. Washington made two long sidemount passes and moved back into the Jeff zone. She swung her sterns around and made some shots then traded bow sidemounts with Derfflinger, just like at home, but 19 hours farther south. After that Bob went on 5 and Tyler traded Haymakers with Dallas, but ran out of those too. Kevin's new Derfflinger was not pumping out a lot of water and he sank. Not too much later Jeff tossed a few more shots into a hurting VDT and Fluegel soon found the bottom again.

Right before **the last sortie** Tyler was standing next to Jeff discussing who the target should be.

Tyler: "I was thinking that since Dallas was coming for me before he probably will do it again. I think I will stay and fight it out with him."

Jeff: "Here's how I look at it. You are going to have a long ride in the car with Bob all the way back to Minnesota. Why don't you come and sink Bob with me? Wouldn't it be nice to remind him the whole way home how we sank him?"

They had to go look for Bob. He was busy testing out the Bismarck's pump. The two big ships spun around the left side of the pond trading shots. The Derfflinger with it's poor hull skin could hardly move without sinking herself. The Washington came in and put some prop wash into the turrets and it started to look bad. The Bismarck rolled over and sank just before the Derfflinger. Jeff was still set on sinking the Washington again and chased Bob until he was out of triples. Jeff even asked as he was getting shot. "How many more of those have you got left?" Not too many it turned out. Since it was the last battle it was time to play

sidemounts. Jeff got the Washington next to shore and poured a full magazine into the bow, leaving a large hole. Bob sank soon after.


Scores were:

Flag Fleet

Jeff Lide	87-4-1
Rick King	6-0-0
Tyler Helland	Sunk 47-8-10
Kevin Kaminski	Sunk 30-4-9
Rick Whitsell	0-0-0
Jonny Adams	Sunk 64-7-18
Tom Palmer	51-4-3

No Flag

Bob Hoernemann	Sunk 70-19-60
D.W. Fluegel	Sunk 33-7-15
John Stangle	23-7-15
Randy Stiponovich	5-1-4
David Ranier	Sunk 11-2-10
Frank Falango	8-0-3
Dallas Fluegel	15-12-20

It was a great end to a fun filled weekend. Wade awarded the Kaiser Cup to the Axis Admiral DW Fluegel while his right hand man got the bubbly ready. We can't wait until next year. 



VDT goes vertical.

Photo by Georgi Kunisch



Presidents Column:

Per the below from the by-laws the BOD can issue rule interpretations as requested by the members.

"Article XVI. Section 2. The Board of Directors shall not have the authority to change existing rules or make new rules concerning battling or construction during the year, except to correct or clarify a safety problem."

Any interpretation of non-safety rules prior to a sanctioned battle must be approved by the majority of the Board of Directors. All interpretations will be officially announced in the MWC Newsletter, and will be recorded by the MWC Secretary."

Recently some members thought another member was using turning motors, but not in the typical way turning motors have been used in the past. After a long discussion the BOD has issued the below rule interpretation.

Per II.C.1 turning motors and turning systems are illegal. Some members have asked what turning motors are defined as.

Turning motors can be defined as:

Turning off/on motors only when the ship is turning.

Turning motors at different RPMs only when the ship is turning.

Running any drive motor(s) in reverse when the other drive motor(s) are running forward.

Running any drive motor(s) with significant RPM differences between them.

Side of ship thrusters are turning systems.

Using a pump stream to turn the ship is a turning system.

The idea that was implemented was not a new one. It has been talked about before. Like of lot of us who have thought how we can get an

edge it was talked about and someone finally figured out a way to do it. The BOD is not out there trying to crush new technology. We're not here to keep everything the way it has always been. So why did the BOD issue this interpretation to ban the new idea? The BOD wants to keep the playing field level. We do not want to see something new pop up that makes one or a small group of ships so good that everyone else's ships are now junk and need to be rebuilt or retired.

The hobby is going to go through a tough time the next year or two as people spend their money on necessities and not on the extra stuff in life. We don't want to see members lost because they have to rework their ships to be at the same level as others.

Everyone has thought of something weird to put into their ship. A lot of stuff has been tried and banned. If you look through the rules you'll see the idea and the banning rule, like: silicone on the back of hull skins, timed and feed back throttles... Even limits on bbs in a gun had to be created when someone came up with a reliable way to make and fire guns. Think of the hobby today if we did not limit the bbs a gun can carry. Everyone would sink in every sortie.

The next time you're thinking about the next big leap and come up with a great idea talk to your local group about it see if they think it is legal or pushing the rules too far. Also talk to your local BOD rep and some old timers in the hobby to get their ideas. If the general thought is that your idea is a good one but not good for the hobby, leave the idea just an idea. Don't be upset that you can't do it; be proud you came up with something that got banned. You're not the first guy to think of something that got banned, you won't be the last.

Bob Hoernemann
MWC President



THOUGHTS ON SCORING

by Tim Krakowski

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I am definitely a warship nerd. And a MWC nerd. When not battling or building, chances are, I'm thinking about battling or building. Like now. Sitting in the Philly airport. Waiting for my flight that's been delayed 3+ hours. Finished my book. More rain coming. Good times.

So sitting in an airport, late on a Friday gets me thinking about facts that are completely useless. And what I discovered after pouring over NATS 2008 scoring data is Admiral Bob is right about NATS 2008 sinks. Several ships sank during this NATS with VERY light damage. And that got me asking questions some pretty useless questions. What was the effect on scores? Does our scoring system reward easy sinks?

SHOULD IT?

Let's take a look at the data by class:

This was the year of easy cruiser sinks. For class 2, ships sank with 2-0-0, 0-1-0, 7-0-0, and 12-0-0. When scored, these ships cost their fleets 420, 425, 470, and 520 points respectively. In class 2, there was 1 standout. 77-9-15 without sinking. Are you kidding me! Outstanding damage control. But it cost 1745 points.

Looking at Class 3, we see a similar story. Some sinks with light damage include 6-7-0 for 835 points, and 5-3-2 for 825 points. Meanwhile, other class 3 ships absorbed 62-2-4 for 870 points, and 30-5-11 for 975 points.

Class 4 light damage sinks: 7-0-1 for 920 points and 7-0-2 for 970 points. While on the other end of the spectrum, we saw the following heavy damage without sinks: 52-13-26 for 2145 points and 48-4-16 for 1380 points.

Class 5 fared a bit better. The lightest sink I could find was 32-1-7 for 1695 points. However, there were some class 5 ships with good damage control that sustained copious amounts of damage and yet did not sink: 92-9-15 for 1895 and 71-8-19 for 1860.

Class 6 light sinks: 5-0-1 for 1300 and 44-10-15 for 2640. There were also some very tough class 6 ships that sustained serious damage but did not sink: 46-7-49 for 3085 and 77-18-49 for 3670.

Granted, I picked the best damage control and easiest sinks available in the scores. But they illustrate the point I'm trying to make. Our scoring system rewards (or should I say penalizes less) ships that sink with light damage as opposed to ships that can take a pounding and keep fighting. Is it better to sink or survive? I suspect that the ships that went down easy, went down with many unfired BBs. While I imagine those that sustained a great deal of damage fired most of theirs.

Also, it's a huge psychological blow to lose a ship. Conversely, a ship that survives its 5 when heavily damaged feels like victory. The problem is – our scoring system does not reflect these sentiments at all. From a pure scoring perspective, you can see that the easy sinks were less of a scoring burden to their fleet simply because they didn't stay afloat long enough to take more damage! What I'd like to see is a system that emphasizes the importance of sinking or conversely, staying afloat. The way to do this is to adjust the relative scores for sinks and/or scoring hits.

So I decided to test a few alternate scoring systems. The first would be to double the sink points. The second is to drastically reduce the value of each individual hit while keeping the sink bonus as is: Above = 2, On = 4, Below = 10 (as opposed to Above = 10, On = 25, Below = 50).

In the interest of simplicity, here's a table comparing the current system versus the alternate system for all the scoring examples listed above:

is penalties. Easy enough. If we scale back penalty points 5X (the scale of reducing hit points) we'll be able to keep the penalties in line with the rest of the scores. This would

prevent a ram penalty from being worth too much relative to the hits scored.

In playing with the numbers even more; inflating the sink points by 4X or 5X should also give the result I want. However, I'm a guy from Georgia and a product of the Florida public school system. Big numbers scare me. I'd prefer to keep the scores lower as this would make each point worth more – kind of like US dollars versus Pounds Sterling. Would you rather have a quid or a buck?

In order to wrap this up, do you want to know how the alternate final NATS 2008 scores would stack up against our current system? I thought so...

NATS 2008 Scores calculated by the current system:

Axis: 145,200 – Allies: 83,625

NATS 2008 Scores calculated by the reduced hit weight system:

Axis: 68,408 – Allies: 40,612

So the Axis win again (Dang!) but this time by almost 28,000 points. That's 14,000 more aboves or 2800 more belows! Score it anyway you want, the Axis dominated NATS 2008.



Damage	Current Score	Double Sink Points	2 Above, 4 On, 10 Below
Class 2			
2-0-0-sink	420	820	404
0-1-0-sink	425	825	404
7-0-0-sink	470	870	412
12-0-0-sink	520	920	424
77-9-15	1745	1745	340
Class 3			
6-7-0-sink	835	1635	640
5-3-2-sink	825	1625	642
62-2-4	870	870	172
30-5-11	975	975	190
Class 4			
7-0-1-sink	920	1720	824
7-0-2-sink	970	1770	834
52-13-26	2145	2145	416
48-4-16	1380	1380	272
Class 5			
32-1-7-sink	1695	2695	1138
92-9-15	1895	1895	370
71-8-19	1860	1860	364
Class 6			
5-0-1-sink	1300	2500	1220
44-10-15-sink	2640	3840	1478
46-7-49	3085	3085	610
77-18-49	3670	3670	716

Scoring System Table Alpha

Based on the table above, the drastic reduction in hit values (2 for above, 4 for on, 10 for below) gives the result I want. Sinks – even light sinks - are worth many more points than heavily damaged ships that do not sink. Of course, heavily damaged ships that do sink would continue to be worth the most points.

One thing I haven't addressed yet



Jeff Lide goes ga-ga over Tim's new scoring proposal.

Photo by Bob Hoernemann

EVEN IKE COULD NOT STOP THE FRAY SEPT. 13-14, 2008

by John Stangel



With much trepidation I packed the car and headed out for the Fray at the crack of dawn on Friday morning. Things were not stacking up for a good weekend of battling, but with the hotel room already reserved, vacation leave from work scheduled, and the blessings of my wife, I headed out into the unknown.

Weather predictions had been dire for most of the week. Heavy rains were expected all weekend in Springfield, and to make matters worse, Hurricane Ike was scheduled to pass right over us on Saturday night. I figured we would be lucky if we got in more than 3 sorties all weekend, and was more or less expecting us to be totally rained out on Sunday. Of course even if we got no battling in whatsoever, a weekend of hanging out and talking boats still beats yard work any day.

I got into town late on Friday afternoon, and rapidly located the rest of the battlers. We had lost a large number of captains due to weather concerns and the hurricane, but it was looking like we would still have a pretty good turnout. We had a number of boats that needed some major work on Friday night, so pizza was quickly ordered and everyone pitched in to get people's boats ready.

The boat that needed the most work done was Tyler's new Derfflinger. The hull was done, the wiring mostly done, and the decks were attached. That was about it. Between Tyler, Tom, Steve, and Bob they got the guns mounted, interior armor attached, servos installed, and the hull sheeted all before midnight. Of course the ship was held together with duct tape and bailing wire and fought all weekend without its

superstructure, but battle it did none the less. Trent also got some timely help from Bob with the guns on his PE. It is amazing to me the amount of work that can be done in the pits the night before a battle.

After a fitful night of sleep I rolled out of bed and headed off to the pond. I had spent all night being serenaded by the revving engines of muscle cars that were in town for a car show and slept terribly. Bob had us scheduled to be at the pond at 7:00 a.m. but I was unable to get there until nearly 8:00 because I couldn't

figure out how to get through the gate. I made some desperate calls on my cell phone to anyone I could reach (thanks again Kevin and Jeff...) and eventually figured out how to find the pond. Once there I rapidly unpacked the car and went about getting the Scharny ready for action.

While I was desperately trying to get ready for the first sortie I was introduced to our magazine crew from Forbes magazine. Forbes had a crew of three on site for the battle to do a story on Model Warship



Tyler's Derfflinger sails sans superstructure.



Combat. The magazine guys were very friendly and were great to have around. They asked a lot of questions about our ships and how we got into the hobby. They stuck around all day on Saturday, taking pictures and notes about the battle. Bob was even gracious enough to let the lead writer take the Minneapolis for a spin in the afternoon battle. Needless to say he had a great time.

Testing and tweaking went remarkably smoothly. Tyler's Derfflinger, believe it or not, actually floated pretty level on it's first test cruise. This was convenient since it had no internal space left to reposition the batteries (let alone anything else) to adjust the balance. Tyler's novel approach to mounting his guns and securing his deck (Duct Tape) also worked amazingly well, though he did seem to go through half a roll of tape over the course of the weekend.

The first battle on Saturday was Axis versus Allies and got underway at 9:00. On the Axis side we had myself in the Scharny, Stephen Dickow in the Bismark. Brian Finster in the Nagato, Tyler Heland in a Derfflinger, and Kevin Kaminski in the Graf Spee. On the Allied side we



Steve's Bismarck chases Finster's Nagato.

had Bob Hoernemann and Jay Edwards in North Carolinas, Randy Stiponovich in the Tiger, Tom Palmer in the West Virginia, Darren Mathews in the Bike, and James Foster in the Andrea Doria (who switched allegiances to balance the sides). The battling got off to a hot and heavy start with the Nagato and Bismarck taking heavy damage, they

both would eventually sink in the second sortie. We had a lot of trouble trying to figure out what side the Andrea Doria was on and I am concerned she probably got shot up by both sides before we figured it out. The Scharny performed well and I got in some good shots in before being put down in the third sortie by a tag team of Bob and Jay. The Andrea Doria was also shot up and sunk in a somewhat horrific fashion by the Nagato and Bismarck, who had re-entered the battle after some quick patching between sorties.

The first battle had run three sorties and we had a bunch of patching to do. The Scharny was pretty well shot up and soon the pit area was smelling of dope and sigment. By some miracle we had been almost entirely rain free all morning. it had poured pretty solid from 8:00 to 9:00 or so, but once battle was called the rain suddenly stopped and we had dry battling all morning. Definitely a good start to the Fray.

Allied hit totals:

Washington	40-12-39
Andrea Doria	Sink 86-0-15
NC	49-6-4



General Hull Carnage.

Wee Vee	89-8-7
Tiger	43-4-7
The Bike	7-1-3

Axis hit totals:

Derfflinger	103-18-10
Bismarck	Sink 150-12-68
Nagato	Sink 110-20-17
Scharnhorst	Sink 49-8-13
Lutzow	18-2-4

Allies 14,800 Axis 5065

After a fabulous lunch of whoppers and fries, we headed back to the water. The afternoon battle was flag versus no flag. The flag fleet was comprised of myself in the Scharny, Bob in his NC, Tyler in the Derfflinger, Steve in the Bismarck,



The North Carolina and the Bismarck are both pumping hard.



Ditto.

sortie 4 were a close run thing, as I ended up being alone on the water with Kevin, Bob, and Randy at the end. Luckily Kevin and Randy were almost completely out of ammo, and Bob's side mounts were low as well. After Bob rammed half of his team trying to get to me, I was able to sneak off of 5 while pumping pretty heavily.

Tom in the West Virginia, Darren in the Bike, and our friend from Forbes in the Minneapolis. The no-flag fleet was comprised of Brian in the Nagato, Randy in the Tiger, Jay in the NC, James in the Andrea Doria, Kevin in the Graf Spee, and Trent in the PE.

The afternoon battle went a ridiculous 4 sorties. The initial fighting favored the flag team, but swung in the no-flags favor when Bob switched sides after Jay and James had to pull due to low batteries. Sortie 3 and 4 ended up being quite bloody with Tyler, Tom

and Steven sinking. Tyler got shot up pretty badly, and then was more or less rolled over by Brian in the Nagato when the two ran into each other coming in for a ram check. Tyler made it back on the water only to be sunk again in sortie 4. Tom's WV also sank after some sort of nefarious pump issue. It did one of those "now you see me now you don't" acts, where it inexplicably sank for no apparent reason while Tyler was recovering his boat.

The Scharny actually survived the afternoon battle without sinking, which was amazing considering my track record. The final gasps of

Flag hit totals:

Washington	51-12-31
Derfflinger	Sink 79-12-39
Bismarck	Sink 153-18-11
Scharny	55-4-9
Wee Vee	Sink 25-4-6
The Bike	8-0-0
Mpls	?-?-?

No Flag hit totals:

Nagato	98-6-28
Andrea Doria	84-11-18
NC	17-3-10
Tiger	34-10-8
Prinz Eugen	?-?-?

After we got all packed up and back to the hotel the skies opened up

and it started pouring. The weather that had been so accommodating up to this point took a severe turn for the worse and it ended up raining all night as the last gasps of Ike passed overhead. We quickly got to work, and soon the hotel reeked of dope and sigment once again. We had a fabulous barbeque dinner to cap off the seven sortie day and hit the sack prepared to go at it again on Sunday.

Sunday morning came and the world had changed quite a bit. There was water everywhere and quite a bit of flooding as it had rained continuously all night. I missed the caravan to the pond by about 5 minutes and set off on my own to try and catch up. The road had a lot of water on it and there were tree limbs down everywhere. Much to my surprise I was the first one to reach the pond. I couldn't figure out where everyone went until it dawned on me that it must have been my fellow battlers that were turning around in front of the washed out road I blissfully plowed through. Steven was later to remark "This is what the road looks like when we pull the dead people out down stream". The rest of them thought I had surely died crossing the river and went the long

way around to reach the pond from the other side.

When we finally set up camp for the Sunday morning battle we were greeted with yet another challenge. The pond had risen a full 3 feet overnight and went from being relatively shallow to extremely deep. Bob was kind enough to take over boat recovery duties all morning as he had brought his waders. This worked great until they flooded recovering Tyler's boat and filled up with water up to his arm pits. The morning battle would end up going three sorties, with Randy and Kevin doing a one on one cruiser battle even after that. The sun came out and we actually had beautiful weather for the battle, capping off what turned into a more or less completely rain free weekend, at least for when we were at the pond.

The morning battle was flag versus no flag, with myself, Bob, Brian, and Kevin comprising the flag team, and Tyler, Steve, Tom, Jay, and Randy comprising the no-flags. This battle also turned bloody with Tyler, Bob, Brian, and myself all sinking. Tom also sank after being accidentally nudged, 4 or 5 times, by Bob's knee when he was recovering


Tyler's Derfflinger. The poor Scharny was shot up again and sank trying to make it back to shore after getting pummeled in deep water.

Flag hit totals:

Washington	Sink 56-6-51
Nagato	Sink 27-15-16
Scharny	Sink 42-5-14
Lutzow	8-2-2
Prinz Eugen	?-?-?

No Flag hit totals:

Derfflinger	Sink 54-19-26
Bismarck	35-6-6
NC	81-8-3
Wee Vee	96-6-15
Tiger	44-5-20
Mpls	66-4-5

After we finished packing up I got back in the car and started the long drive home. All in all we had a fabulous weekend. We got in 10 sorties over two days when I was expecting to get in around 3 all weekend. The weather was great, hurricane and all, and we had a grand total of about 15 minutes of soggy battling before it cleared up. Bob was awarded most feared, and also took most damaged if my memory serves me correctly. I had an amazing time and will certainly be back next year. 



The Hiding Places: Hoernemann's NC is cloaked by its own pump spray, and Bob's bedroom back home after asking his wife if he can drive to yet another model warship combat meet more than 12 hours away.

MODEL WARSHIP COMBAT, INC

2009 NATS Entry Form

Each person attending the MWC Nationals MUST be a current member in good standing of the MWC. Applications received after June 15 will be assessed a \$20 'late fee'. The membership application is available on-line for downloading.

No Nats applications can be accepted after July 1.

In the space provided below, please list any alternative channels you could move to in order to ease frequency usage. Additional t-shirts and banquet dinner plates are also available. Please contact the treasurer for more information

For radio channels, please remember that Allies use even numbered channels and Axis are to use odd.

Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fleet (circle): Allied Axis Shirt Size (circle): S M L XL XXL XXXL

Primary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Secondary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Radio Channel: _____ Alternative Channels(s): _____

Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fleet (circle): Allied Axis Shirt Size (circle): S M L XL XXL XXXL

Primary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Secondary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Radio Channel: _____ Alternative Channels(s): _____

Captain: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Fleet (circle): Allied Axis Shirt Size (circle): S M L XL XXL XXXL

Primary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Secondary Ship Name: _____ Ship Class: _____

Radio Channel: _____ Alternative Channels(s): _____

Primary Entry Fees*: \$ _____ (# Primary Captains x \$130 * (\$150 after June 15)

Under 18 Entry Fees*: \$ _____ (# Junior Captains x \$100 * (\$120 after June 15)

Extra T-shirts: \$ _____ (# shirts x \$15) List Sizes: _____

Additional Banquets: \$ _____ (\$16 each additional guest)

Total Fee Enclosed: \$ _____

* includes Friday Dinner Banquet and one T-shirt
Don't forget to also sign-up on the MWCI webpage!
(www.modelwarshipcombat.org/eventlist.shtml)

Please make checks payable to:
Model Warship Combat, Inc.
Mail check and payment to:

Chris Pearce, MWCI Treasurer
10540 North Haven
Benbrook, TX 76126

Best of Five times Three.

By Mark Roe

Thursday campaign battle at Nats 2008, I launched my VDT at the start of campaign. I quickly discovered this wasn't going to work out well. Radio interference in the center of the lake began shooting off my BB's for me. I came back closer to shore and had full control of my ship. This meant I was only able to shoot at Allies while they were relatively close to their ports.

Campaign was spent running back and forth along the shore trying to get to a base while an Allied was within range. Toward the end of campaign I caught up with Tim Krakowski's freighter all too close to his destination. First some stern guns from a reasonable range. Second a pass with a side mount.

Third another side mount pass.

Fourth the dreaded 'push' call while firing as fast as I could. "AAHHH, he's going to make it to the base," I said. I began my 30 second penalty as he sailed easily into his base. I thought to myself, OK that attack makes for a good best of five.

About 20 minutes later Tim K walked by. He said, "You know I sailed 4 plus minutes without anyone noticing. I was 100 feet from the forward base when you showed up. You plastered my convoy so bad I had to leave it at the forward base." That comment made my whole day. An even better best of five.

Fast forward to February, and a three week spell where the temperature never rose above 20 degrees. That's below average for Detroit. Reading Tim K's article in the winter 2009 edition of TF144 (Ode to Mark Roe) brought a really big smile to my face. Thanks Tim. The best of five times three.



EARLY Bird Winner:



At the BrouHaHa our WWII Vet pulled the early bird winner from the hat. The winner gets a \$100 gift card to Battler's Connection. To cries of "Pick me, pick me!" and "Must be present to win!" our Vet pulled out the name:

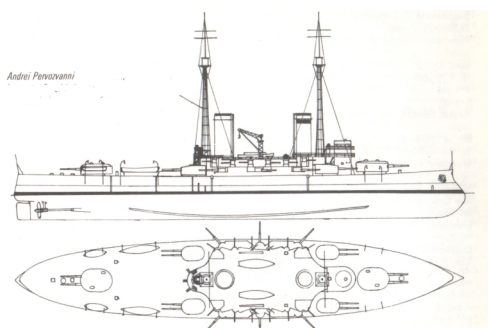
**Craig
Matsuura.**

Congrats to you, Craig! Just get in touch with the BC crew for your next order to claim your prize.



TASK FORCE 144

1486 Oakdale Ave.
West St. Paul, MN 55118



Fuel stands first in importance of the resources of the fleet. Without ammunition, a ship may run away, hoping to fight another day but without fuel she can neither run, nor reach her station, nor remain on it, if remote, or fight.

— Admiral Alfred Thayer Mahan