

TASK FORCE 144

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SEPT 04-07, 2010

THROW DOWN IN MO

TOWN

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Richelieu goes down with a clogged pump while chasing the Invincible into the weeds. HMS Valiant takes the opportunity to attack!



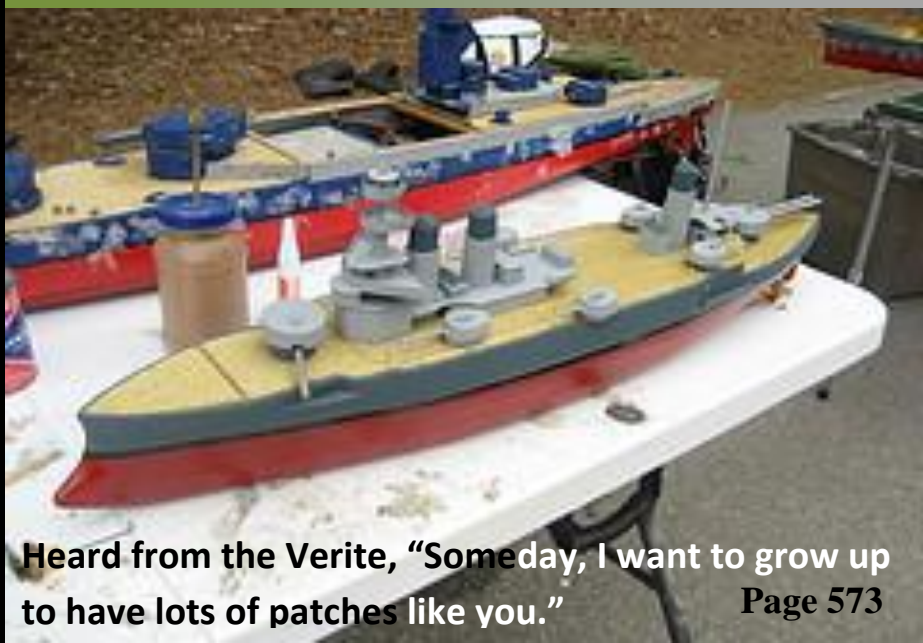
Region 3's Savanna BB Lovefest

February 27-28, 2010; Savanna, GA

By Mike Mangus



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Heard from the Verite, "Someday, I want to grow up to have lots of patches like you."

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BrouHaHa 2010

By Tyler Helland



Bob and Tyler left for the Brouhaha early on Thursday morning to get in at midnight instead of leaving Thursday afternoon like last year and arriving at 8 a.m. Friday. The Brays were a few hours ahead and were going to stay at the crappy motel but when they saw that it was so crappy that a spilled can of dope would actually make the carpet nicer and the room smell better they decided to head over to the nicer hotel. Over the phone Kevin said, "This place is a dump" and convinced Bob and Tyler to do the same. When we check in they of course messed up all of the rooms. We said we were with the MWC group and they thought we were part of some baseball team ... whatever, as long as we get the group rate. We probably screwed up all of the room reservations (you're welcome) but after 18 hours we didn't care; it was just nice to get some sleep before the Friday test and tweak.

Friday

Friday morning the three Brays, Bob and Tyler went to the WW2 museum in New Orleans. It was pretty cool. They had some surviving aircraft, tanks and landing craft in the lobby and the main exhibit was fairly well done. They focused on the landings in the Pacific and Normandy Beach; lots of good stuff but being history nerds we mostly sifted around looking for stuff we didn't know and checking out the uniforms, weapons and other trinkets of war. By afternoon a few of us had gathered at the pond to get ships speed tested and battle ready. As planned we hit the water with whoever wanted to test out that freshly sheeted hull. Fleets were Bob (Warspite), Brian B (SoDak), Jason B (Yavuz) verses Tom P (WeVee), Tyler (Derfflinger), Randy (Luigi). Bob and Tom squared off while Kevin coached his boys as they took on Tyler.

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Dual sidemounts hurt!

Savanna BB Lovefest -Continued-

Kicking off the 2010 battling season in the Southeast, Region 3 hosted the BB Lovefest on the last weekend of February in the beautiful city of Savanna, Georgia. The event host, Pete Demetri, checked the pond a week before the battle and reported it was in great shape. Given an average temperature of 64 degrees for the month of February, things were shaping up to be a nice weekend of casual battling. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't jiving with the averages. The only place not getting rain or snow on the East coast was Georgia and the Carolinas. The temperature was a chilly

40's to low 50's. Add in the brisk winds and it felt even colder.

Six Captains braved the weather for the opportunity to force one of the others into the cold waters to retrieve a ship.

Present and accounted for were:

Pete Demetri – MHS Valiant
 Brian Koehler – USS Chester
 Christopher Koehler – HMS Lion
 Stephan Minton – HMS Invincible
 Mike Mangus – Fn Richelieu
 Clark Ward

Missing in action was the Florida crew. Maybe they thought it was too cold in Savanna ... then again, it was only in the 50's down there too!

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Mentoring a new battler on the Koehler family!



Pump it UP!

By Bob Hoernemann

Way back at my first NATS in 2002 I was told that the Swampy pump was better than the Battler's Connection pump. At the same NATS I was told the BC pump was better. A few years later I was told the Pearce pump was the best. Did these guys really know what they were talking about? I had always wanted to test different pumps but never got around to it. I knew that the pumps I used put out about two gallons of water a minute but was there something better? I set out to do some testing and find out. First I needed a good test method. A lot of people test their pumps in a bucket of water. This is not a 'real life' test. Your pump might work fine in a bucket but the set up inside of your ship could be a problem. Too much or too little water channeling, your outlet hose installation and how much water can get to the pump all effect pump output. At several Regionals and NATS in 2009 I performed the following test of several captain's pumps. I took a one gallon milk jug, filled it full of water and poured it into a one gallon ice cream bucket and marked this line for one gallon.

I used the same marked bucket for all of the tests. I put the ship on level ground and put some water in it to prime the pump. When this water had pumped out I put one gallon of water in the ship. For smaller ships I slowly poured water into the hull so the motor was never underwater. Then I timed how fast the pump emptied the ship. The end of the gallon of water is judged by the timer. We're not in the Olympics; close is good enough for this test.

I did this testing for two reasons; one to satisfy my own curiosity and two to help some of the guys I saw sinking with low damage totals to improve their ships.

Several people wanted to know what new rule I was proposing or if I was looking for 'weak' ships to sink so I have removed the captain and ship names from the data.

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1 unit pump

Class	Pump	Motor	Voltage	Balanced	Outlet	Angle	Time
6	BC	Stinger	6	Y	Custom	up	29
6	BC	Stinger	6	N	BC Mod	up	29
6	Swampy	Titan	6	Y	Rainer	back	25
5	BC	Stinger	6	N	Rainer	up	29
5	BC	Stinger	6	N	Custom	back	28
5	BC	Stinger	6	N	BC	back	42
5	Swampy	Stinger	6	N	Swampy	up	29
5	Swampy	Stinger	6	N	Rainer	45	30
5	BC	Titan	7.2	Y	Rainer	back	25
5	BC	540	6	N	BC	back	31
5	BC	540	6	N	BC	side	33
4	BC	Stinger	6	Y	Rainer	up	26
4	Swampy	540	7.2	N	Custom	up	34
4	BC	540	6	N	BC	45	31
3	BC	390	6	N	Swampy	up	45.5

½ unit pumps

Class	Pump	Motor	Voltage	Balanced	Outlet	Angle	Time
2	BC SM	390	6	N	custom	up	72
2	BC SM	390	6	N	BC	up	99
2	Swampy	380	6	N	Swampy	up	111
2	BC SM	380	6	N	BC	45	120

Notes: The Rainer and other custom outlets are made so there is a taper at the entrance and exit of the 1/8" opening. The BC Mod outlet is also drilled with this type of taper. The Swampy outlets also have a taper. The BC outlet is where not tapered but BC has since changed to the tapered style.

Pump it UP!

-Continued-

The fastest pumps are putting out just over two gallons a minute. If your pump is close to 30 seconds then you should have no worries. If you have a battleship and are only pumping out in 35 seconds or more you should look at making some modifications. One of the ships tested had a sharp 90 turn in the pump hose.

This was restricting the water flow.

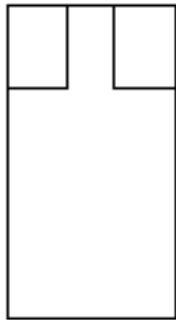
After turning the outlet to a 45 degree angle the time decreased to 33 seconds.

A couple of ships had a large fish filter under the pump that was restricting the intake of water. One ship had a lot of water channeling around the pump which actually restricted the water intake.

The different types of housings did not seem to make any difference in pump

times. Going from a 540 motor to a Stinger motor will reduce the time by close to five seconds. Going to a Titan motor will further reduce the time by a couple of seconds. The higher performance motors also draw more amps. It becomes a balance between power consumption and pump output.

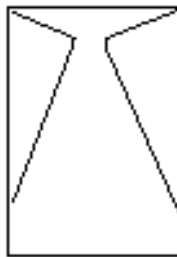
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This is an internal cut of the old styler BC pump outlet. The 1/8" opening is flat and about 1/4" deep. It is not the best way to move water. Typical pump out time for 1 gal of water with a stinger motor is 40-45sec.



You can take sveral drill bits and make a tapard outlet like this. It will cut your pump out time to the 30 sec mark. Around a 25% improvment.



You can custom make a pump outlet with either milling tools or multiple sections of brass tubing. This will get your pump output time to 26-28 sec.

Savanna BB Lovefest -Continued-

Although we didn't keep score we did have fun! Every ship sank at least once. Some highlights include:

-The Richelieu pumping an entire dual sidemount magazine into a stationary ship with predictable results: Big Holes!

-The Valiant coasting in over the Richelieu's sunken hull to give a little sidemount love to the I-Boat, which leads to ...

-The Valiant sinking less than 30 seconds later ... and the I-Boat pumping out with the help of some moss plugging the bb holes

-Kaitlen Koehler manning the Lion's guns while her Dad pilots.

She is directly responsible for at least one sink!

-Clark laughing while racing around in the Chester popping stern shots into every ship during the Saturday morning battle. It's great to see him on the water!

-Christopher and Stefan not only battling well but reliably maintaining their ships between sorties.

All in all, we managed to get in two 2 sortie battles on Saturday and one 3 sortie battle on Sunday. Although the battle started late in the morning on Saturday we still finished quickly. Someone commented that perhaps it was because the Florida folks weren't there to slow us down. Heh.

Chunks of balsa flew ... ships sank ... people got cold, wet feet ... yet everyone still had a great time!

Many thanks to Pete Demetri for putting together and hosting a successful battle.

See ya'll at the Brouhaha!



Pump it UP! -Continued-

Making sure you output hose is not too long or pinched will help your pump capacity. The detail that seems to make the biggest difference is the pump outlet. The outlets that taper down to 1/8" perform better than the outlets that don't. The degree of taper does not have as large effect as long as there is some kind of taper.

I have not collected enough data on cruiser pumps yet to find the good and bad capacities. If the set up of the pump and outlet are done the same as the bigger ships your capacity should be maxed out.

Take the time to test your pump in your ship. If your times are not around 30 seconds make changes until you get there.



Saturday
morning; getting
ready to battle!

BrouHaHa 2010

-Continued-

Randy did what he does and shot people when they were trying to do something else. Bob had his Warspite on the water for the first time in two and a half years with a major refit and was having pump priming problems. He sank twice with quite a bit of help from Tom who put a great haymaker pass on him. Later in the weekend he would autograph his work over the patch with a silver pen to serve as a reminder the Tom is getting awfully dangerous with that haymaker. Since it was a friendly battle he floated himself twice only to later lose his reverse throttle. Tyler also had boat problems and was chasing the Brays around when he lost his receiver battery power. I guess that's why you do these little test and tweak battles before big Regionals. Fleets were reorganized and we hit the water again. Tyler (Derfflinger), Jason (Yavuz) verses Tom (WeVee) and Brain (SoDak). I'm not sure whose fleet Randy was on; I think he was doing the Italian thing and flipping back and forth through the sortie



depending upon who was wining. Robert S, a friend of Johnny's took the Bike for the weekend and at some point threw it in to get some stick time. I'm not sure whose fleet he was on either. John Stangel was speed testing the Westfallen and came over to join in when he had himself set. "John, whose fleet are you on?" "I'm on whichever fleet gets to shoot Palmer." The Bray boys shot each other, John and Tyler shot Tom, Randy and Rob shot Tyler; in the end the WeVee went down and good fun was had by all. Towards the end of the sortie Randy declared,

"Luigi on five." Tyler fired back, "Mario on six." Not to be out done Randy said, "Pac-Man on seven." I'm not sure what video game we were playing. After some time a few more showed up and we thought we would do an Axis verses Allies sortie. Tyler (Derfflinger), Kevin K (Derfflinger), John (Westfallen), Randy (Luigi) verses Tom (WV), Dough H (NC), Brian (SoDak), Jason (Yavuz) and Rob (Bike). A little while into the sortie Randy declared, "Oh, the Axis are losing ... Italians are allied." The brand new NC

hitting the water for the first time was irresistible. That fresh sheeting was chewed up and she sank though she was having some intermittent pump and motor problems. Also, chalk up another standard Bike sink as the Rookie captain forgot to turn the pump on. Even a new deck with latches to create a watertight seal can't save your ship from human error.

Saturday – 1

Saturday morning saw the official opening ceremony of the second annual Brouhaha on the Bayou as we toasted the beginning of another sure to be great battling season and hit the water. It was looking to be a nice and sunny day but the wind never really settled down like the battlers thought it should and it never really got all that warm. Jeff gave Tyler his Kimono robe because he claims to have been cold but we all suspect he was actually trying to be more like his role model. The battling was intense as the Axis jumped on the Allies. Bob was trying a

new pump and was still working out the details when he sank in the first sortie with relatively light damage. The Axis tried to spread the love around, concentrating on various ships throughout the sortie. Since I don't remember what happened and the video is limited, it seems like Dave's ID and later Steve's Invincible received their fair share of the attention at one time or another. In the end all of the Allies except Don Cole were sunk. Axis crushed the Allies 14,920 to 6,415.

Saturday - 1

Axis	A	O	B
Mark R – VDT	23	3	23
Rick K – Scheer	17	2	3
Jeff L – Mutsu	60	8	28
Tyler H – Derf	26	4	3
Brian L – Kirishima	49	20	26 Sink
Johnny A – Baden	6	4	18 Sink
John S – Scharnhorst	18	3	14
Randy S – Luigi	3	1	1
Clark W – Scharnhorst	1	2	4
Kevin K – Derf	?		
Allies	A	O	B
Robert S – Bike	12	5	5 Sink x2
Tom P – Wee Vee	70	3	4 Sink
Doug H – Wee Vee	50	3	5 Sink
Brian K – Empress	11	9	2 Sink x2
Bob H – Warspite	101	15	14 Sink
David R – Benbow	47	17	56 Sink
Steve R – Invincible	122	10	28 Sink
Don C – Iron Duke	26	11	19
Pete D – Valiant	18	6	14 Sink
Brian B – Mass	?		
Jason Bray – Yavuz	?		

Saturday – 2

The battling was so fun we thought we'd do it again; Axis verses Allies. Fleets were similar except Dough H took out his new NC in place of the WeVee while the Axis picked up Mike's Richelieu and Paul's PE. Mike M. was anxious to use the dual bow sidemounts on his Richelieu and dove into the fray. Bob was equally anxious to empty his entire haymaker into a big French ship. Thirty seconds after the encounter Mike was pulling the big ship out from the depths. Meanwhile Jeff, Tyler and Brian L. were working Dave's ID until she could take no more and then helped Pete's QE to the bottom. Over on the other side of the island the Allies fared no better and Doug's NC was also sunk. Later in the sortie the Bike ended up out of control spinning in inexplicably tight little circles. Jeff and Paul saw this and instead of chasing the ship in circles Jeff said, "She's gotta come back around." The pursuers aligned themselves and a few seconds later as the ship spun into their path Paul and then Jeff laid into the helpless cruiser. Satisfied with the first round Jeff said,

“She’s gotta come back around again,” and completed the do-si-do with a second side-mount full of bbs. The sortie ended with the Axis fast ships with bbs chasing the 26 second Allies on five. The Allies were down a few ships from the first sortie so the Axis were fighting with each other to get shots in. As battle was called someone commented, “Um, I only see three Allied ships.” This was a little exaggeration but the action was basically a mass of Axis ships that followed around a much smaller mass of Allied ships. At the end of the sortie with no one left to sink, the Axis heavy hitters once again found themselves chasing the Bike. She was eventually beached next to shore and Jeff emptied the rest of his sidemounts. Next was Johnny’s new favorite video highlight as it was his turn to empty his haymaker into the stranded ship. In another classic Bike sink, Johnny ripped a huge hole in her port side and the bike

simply and eloquently tipped over. He’s getting pretty good with that haymaker. Axis once again ruled the waves; 21,395 to 13,890.

Saturday - 2

Axis	A	O	B
Mark R – VDT	15	2	24
Paul F – PE	5	0	1
Rick K – Scheer	5	0	1
Jeff L – Mutsu	13	4	13
Tyler H – Derf	13	3	3
Mike M – Richelieu	71	8	7 Sink
Brian L – Kirishima	14	4	15 Sink x2
Johnny A – Baden	9	6	9
John S – Scharnhorst	36	9	16
Randy S – Luigi	5	0	2
Clark W – Scharnhorst	6	0	2
Kevin K – Derf	?		
Allies	A	O	B
Robert S – Bike	65	15	26 Sink
Tom P – Wee Vee	83	3	14 Sink
Doug H – NC	26	8	18 Sink x2
Brian K – Empress	23	13	16
Bob H – Warspite	34	8	29
David R – Benbow	7	2	12
Steve R – Invincible	6	2	5 Sink
Don C – Iron Duke	26	7	3 Sink x2
Pete D – Valiant	?		
Brian B – Mass	62	4	10
Jason Bray – Yavuz	?		

Saturday – 3

For this battle people were up for something different. It has probably been talked about before but to the knowledge of the battlers present, this was the first time it was ever tried. It was a region 3 free for all! Region 3 verses Region 1 verses Region 4 (with leftovers thrown

in to balance the fleets). It was decided that we would play for 20 minutes and no one was allowed to call five. If we were still floating we would do a second sortie. The battle royal started slow but after a little taunting from Paul F. people started to mix it up. If there was any strategy involved it was to stay with your fleet; it quickly became apparent that this type of battle was too chaotic for any strategy to be involved. Some time into the sortie it was working out to be a couple of separate battles. Much of the action was Region 3 verses most of Region 4 plus Tom P. bouncing in between while the rest of Region 1 took on Jeff. Towards the end of the sortie Jeff decided to make a stand in the small channel where he could face the Region 1 pursuers on his own terms, one or two at a time. He encouraged confrontation saying, “Come on Northern boys, I’ve got some Southern Comfort for you.” Just as it was looking like Jeff was getting a little low in the water his second fire hose was finally able to prime and he pumped out, despite most of the other battlers yelling, “Anyone with bbs, get Jeff;

Saturday - 3

Region 1 (Orange)

Bob H – Warspite
Tyler H – Derfflinger
Kevin K – Derfflinger
Tom P – Wee Vee
Brian B – Mass
Jason B – Yavuz

Region 3 (Yellow)

Don C – Iron Duke
Pete D – Valiant
Dave R – Benbow
Brian K – Empress
Rick K – PE
Randy S – Luigi
Mark R – VDT
Mike M – Frog PDN

Region 4 (None)

Jeff L – Mutsu
Johnny A – Baden
John S – Westfallen
Steve R – I Boat
Robert S – Bike
Doug H – Wee Vee
Lou M – Kirishima
Wade K – Lutzow

put him down.” That close call in the first sortie was enough to get the attention of the ‘Sink Jeff’ camp. The second sortie was to be more of the same with Tom P. single handedly holding off the hordes of Region 3 while Jeff and most of Region 1 put in at the small channel under the bridge. It was now or never. Early on John S. drove his Westfallen in to cuddle with Bob’s Warspite. Bob announced, “John, if you aren’t here to shoot Jeff then get out of the way.” As the sidemounts were flying he answered, “Jeff these are bbs not coming to you.” What dedication to his fleet; he must be an Axis captain. Around the same time Kevin drove his Derfflinger into haymaker alley. As the splashes started to add up Kevin’s pump wasn’t coming on,

despite many of the onlookers him to do so. He was so excited he forgot to turn it on and it turns out it doesn’t take too many of those haymaker rounds to sink a ship without a pump. “Next.” Jeff was confident and ready for more. As Kevin was getting his ship out of the water Bob lost his forward throttle and drifted into never land. He would later be sunk by an ever persistent hoard of Region 3 ships. It was down to Tyler and Jeff.

Between sorties Tyler had commented how he noticed Jeff was looking low. Down a couple of teammates Jeff was wondering, “Where’s the talk?” Tyler tried to keep Jeff on his haymaker side while Jeff tried to stay away from the Derfflinger’s haymaker and on the side where he had more ammo left. This dance went on long enough for Randy’s CL to do his best to be a pest and for Pete D’s Valliant to sneak some shots in too. Finally Tyler and Jeff pulled up next to each other to slug it out. It must have been just enough as Jeff’s Mutsu finally slipped under the waves. Banzai’s all around! The Derfflinger was hurting bad and Pete was kind enough to finish the job and put her out of her misery. The moral of the story seems to be, “If you want to sink Jeff, you have to send several boats to do it and he will probably sink most of you.” It reminds me of that movie from the 80’s, *War Game*. The only way to win is to play. We

Such beautiful water! Perfect for a dip.



didn't score this but I couldn't help but count a couple of the ships later that night.

Bob: 60-18-34 sink

Tyler: 76-9-26 sink

Jeff: 65-19-66 sink

It turned out that 20 minutes was about the right amount of time for a sortie at Wade's pond as most everyone was out of ammo in 18 minutes. It was a fun way to battle. Since our scoring systems assumes a two fleet battle and doesn't really reward aggression in this type of scenario it was kind of a balance to be cautious and stay alive to keep your smaller group intact while still being aggressive enough to get some of the other ships out of the way. It was tough to really try to pick on someone because there was always an opposing teammate trying to do the same thing to you. Although we didn't count points Region 3 probably won because they kept most of their fleet afloat and struck opportunistically while Region 1 and 4 were beating up on each other. After a great day of battling we headed to dinner for some Po-Boys at Sal's on 90 where Wade had a room reserved. After some good food and better company it was back to the hotel for ship repairs.

Sunday – 1

Sunday was the first battle for Rookie Ralph Dollar. He had been working a Des Moines since Wade's battle the year before. He showed up on Saturday but still had some minor work that needed the touch of a veteran. By Sunday morning he was ready to go and with his virgin cruiser on the water he realized he had the motors wired identically instead of symmetrical.

Sunday – 1

Flag	A	O	B
Tom P – Wee Vee	70	6	21 Sink
Jason B – Yavuz	9	1	4
Mark R – VDT	45	13	39 Sink
Doug H – Wee Vee	6	3	1
Ralph D – Des Moines	34	3	12 Sink
Don C – ID	34	12	47 Sink
Mike M – Verite	18	4	10 Sink x2
Jeff L – Mutsu	43	10	21
Paul F – PE	57	3	19
Steve R – I Boat	34	2	17
Brian L – Kirishima	34	3	5
Wade K – Lutz	7	0	1
Brain B – Mass	?		

No Flag	A	O	B
Clark W – Scharny	5	3	7
Rober S – Bike	12	1	5
Johnny A – Baden	13	4	11
David R – Benbow	37	9	29 Sink
Brian K – Empress	5	4	1
Pete D – Valiant	63	2	34 Sink
Randy S – Mario	15	2	0
Rick K – Scheer	7	0	2
Tyler H – Derf	25	3	32 Sink
Bob H – Warspite	76	13	36 Sink
Kevin K – Derf	62	5	8
John S – Scharny	19	6	12

The ship didn't move well but with a quick fix was ready for his first of many battles to come. The battling was typical in its slow start but wound up being a blood bath. Tom's West Virginia was an early target of the No Flag Nation. On a few occasions the Flag Fleet was able to single out and isolate an enemy ship. Usually this doesn't work out well for the lone wolf but he was able to get back to the pack. At the end of the first sortie Jeff, Steve and Jason B. were able to put enough bbs into Tyler's Derfflinger to make her ride low in the water. The econd sortie started with a lot of ships pumping hard and it wasn't long until the Derfflinger, Valiant, Warspite, Baden and Benbow were sent to Davy Jones' Locker leaving the No Flag Fleet shorthanded. Right before the Warspite sank someone shot off one of the life boats. It hovered above the wreck picking up survivors until Bob retrieved it.

The battle ended with several Flag ships chasing Kevin K but they couldn't put the Derfflinger down. Also in that battle, to help make him feel like one of the guys, the Flag nation sank Ralph on his ship's maiden voyage. Pond side, with all of the No Flag Fleet sinks coming close together in the second sortie, it seemed like a Flag Fleet blowout. The No Flag's must have shot fairly well also because the score turned out to be very close. No one would have thought it, but according to the scores, No Flag beat Flag 17,860-17,340.

Sunday – 2

Since we thought it was a slaughter, Mark R moved over to the No Flag Fleet for the next battle. I think Bob

Sunday - 2

Flag	A	O	B
Tom P – Wee Vee	23	2	11
Jason B – Yavuz	15	1	8
Doug H – Wee Vee	32	1	6
Don C – ID	37	12	16
Mike M – Verite	14	1	12 Sink x2
Jeff L – Mutsu	43	13	16
Paul F – PE	35	2	6
Steve R – I Boat	32	9	27
Lou M – Kirishima	?		
Wade K – Lutz	7	2	11 Sink
Brain B – Mass	?		
No Flag	A	O	B
Clark W – Scharny	4	1	2
Rober S – Bike	13	1	2 Sink x2
Johnny A – Baden	7	3	2
David R – Benbow	42	14	36
Brian K – Empress	2	2	16
Pete D – Valiant	19	1	2
Randy S – Mario	2	1	4
Rick K – Scheer	10	1	2
Tyler H – Derf	26	4	14 Sink
Bob H – Warspite	46	5	21
Kevin K – Derf	30	7	20
John S – Scharny	38	0	17 Sink x2
Mark R – VDT	31	8	32 Sink

convinced him with his new rhyme (sung to the tune of Row Row Row Your Boat), “Roe, Roe, Roe, Mark Roe, in his VDT. Fill his ship full of holes, watch him sink, hehe.” Next time we will sing it in a round. Lots of shooting later, Kevin and Tyler's haymaking dream was finally realized as Tom Palmer's West Virginia felt the full effects of Derfflinger Furry! The sandwich ended when Tom hit reverse and the two Derfflingers collided. I'm not sure if the teammates shot each other coming out of the engagement but Tom would say they did. In the end we probably should have left the fleets the way they were. The Flag Fleet, under-gunned, pulled out the victory 14,800-10,935.

Sunday – 3

We had not quite had our fill yet so we decided to go for one more 'Bonus' sortie. It was intended to be a one sortie battle from the onset so people were fairly aggressive. Flag fleet was again outnumbered but won



The perfected 'Scharnhorst sink'.

7,015 – 6,455.

Some wanted to play more, but overall, the group of tired battlers had seafood on the brain. We headed to Zydeco's where Wade had a room reserved. The seafood buffet was \$25, a little too steep for most of us. The few that did get it made sure to eat their weight in crab legs. How can seafood be that expensive when you are below sea level?

Monday

Some had to head back to work or real life but a fair amount of battlers stuck around for a quick Monday morning battle. We once again mixed up the battlers into Flag and No Flag fleets. Just for fun Tyler and Bob switched ships. Tyler forgot to reload after tweaking and spent the first few minutes of the sortie reloading. The battling was very aggressive; I think people wanted to really mix it up before heading back. Jeff and Bob seemed to spend most of the time chasing John's Scharnhorst and Kevin K's Derfflinger. Kevin sank in the first sortie, John in the second. Ralph's Des Moines was not moving very well and attracted more



The chase is on.

than its share of attention. The Des Moines sank with plenty of holes. Dave's Benbow and Johnny's Baden also sank. At the end of the sortie Tyler and Lou were prop washing Mike's little PDN for at least 2 minutes. That little boat must have a great deck seal as it made it off five. At about the same time Jeff, Tom P and Bob were finishing off Steve's I Boat and she sank.

Before we got back on the road for a lovely 18 hour drive, Wade held a brief awards ceremony. Best of Class 1,2,3 – Rick King. Best of Class 4 – Tyler Helland. Best of Class 5 – Johnny Adams. Best of Class 6+ - Jeff Lide. Thanks to Wade for hosting another great event. I can't wait until next year.



Cruiser Pump Motor Review

By Bob Hoernemann

All ships have to balance their pump output verses the power consumption of the pump. Some of the bigger ships can put enough battery into the hull to make the power consumption of a 25 amp pump inconsequential. Smaller ships like a VDT or cruiser have to be mindful of the amps the pump is using. Last year I changed the Bikes power supply to NiMH batteries. I had been using the same motors for the pump as I had for the drive. Now that I had lots of battery power I thought I would try to use the extra capacity to run a better pump. I posted

questions on the members list and found a couple of motors at Tower Hobbies that should increase my pump output. One not before we get into the review. All of these tests are done with a BC large pump and the older 3 blade impellor.

Motor #1

We'll start with the motor I had been using, a Mabuchi FS-390. This is my favorite drive motor; lots of torque for smaller props and a low enough RPM to easily run direct drive. Too bad Mabuchi is no longer making it. In the past I always found them at surplus web stores for around \$4. If you see any let me know so I can buy some more. You have to drill new motor mount holes into the BC housing to get this one to fit. As a pump motor it drew 5 amps and would pump out a gallon of water in 46 seconds. These are Pretty good numbers for a cruiser. I thought I could do better.

Motor #2

The Dura Trax VR3 Ultra High RPM 380 Motor. I got this from Tower Hobbies for \$16, yikes! I could not have flushed my money down the



the toilet any better. Out of the box I could hear that it was a very high RPM motor. When I tested the current draw I knew it would not work as a pump motor, 17 amps is too much for a cruiser with 10 amp hours of NiMHs. The pump out test was impressive at 32 seconds for one gallon. I was very concerned about what I saw in the water performing the test; it was turning green. I assumed this was the brushes burning off the arms of the motor. This was confirmed on the 3rd test when

the motor burned out. Perhaps this motor will work well in a small or micro sized pump. The smaller impellor should lower the current level and not burn off the brushes. I'll never know now.

Motor #3

The Duratax Mini Quake was also purchased from Tower Hobbies for \$9. It sounded like it ran at a higher speed than the Mabuchi but lower than the VR3. It measured 12.5 amps of current draw, on the high side for my cruiser, but still acceptable. The pump output was very good at 35 seconds for one gallon.

Motor #4

The Mabuchi RS-380; this motor was something Tyler found hoping to replace the FS-390. We thought it sounded too fast for a cruiser's drive motor and he found some more FS-390s for sale online so they ended up in the bucket of




parts. It sounded just like the Mini Quake and had the exact same performance in amps and pump out time. I'm not sure what Tyler paid for them but looking online they can be had for \$4.

Motor #3 on the Small BC Pump

While at the Brouhaha I made a discovery about my new high powered pump motor. It started with Dave Rainer telling me that Rick King would lose radio control when his Lutzow started pumping hard. They found that the 10 amp hour NiHM are rated at 10C, basically they can put out 10 amps and then start to drop voltage. The voltage would drop too low for Rick's receiver to function. When the Bike was on sea trials before the battle I tested this out and had the same problem. I had a small BC pump and put the Duratax motor on it. It tested out at 8 amps with a pump out time of 42 seconds.

Oddly enough motors 2, 3 and 4 all have the exact same can size. I am confident motors 3 and 4 have identical internals. This can size requires different changes to the pump housing than the FS-390. I had to add a small ring to the housing to make up for the smaller diameter shaft and drill new

mounting holes. I also had to find some 2mm screws to mount the motor to the housing; the Mabuchi takes 4-40 screws.

At first I thought the testing turned out very well. I had found a motor that will push more water with a power consumption I could live with. With more testing I discovered 'the amps I could live with' would not work with the battery in the ship. Now I have a motor and a small pump housing that draw more amps, 8 verses 5, and pump out more water, 42 verses 46, than my previous setup. Overall it is an improvement but more testing is required. I just wish I hadn't blown my money on one motor that didn't work and one I could have gotten for half the price. That's the price to pay for scientific results. I'm interested to find out how the ultra high RPM motor will perform in a smaller housing. I'll let one of you buy the parts and write the next article. 

The PPB Curmudgeon's Report

By Lars

PPB April 11 Battle

The battle was billed as starting around 11 a.m., I got to the Lake Susan pond around 12:45 p.m. I left the new ship at home, as it was still without a balsa skin, leaving me free to torment those who were actually battling.

There were boats on the water as I came down the pathway. Zack (Bike), Bob (NC), Tyler (Warspite), Hudson (French Heavy Cruiser) and Tom (Scharnhorst) were trying to start a sortie. Tom was having issues and had to be pushed back to shore by Bob's NC. "Let's just start the battle without Tom," said an impatient Zack.

It was Bob and Zack against Tyler and Hudson. Hudson took a quick shot at Bob's NC. "That's it, just run away now and you've won," said Bob.

Zack positioned his ship. "That's right, Zack, now shoot him, SHOOT HIM! SHOOT HIM!" said Bob.

Zack replied with a frustrated yelp. "I got to remember to keep watch on my own boat," said Bob a few moments later. "Good shooting, Hudson," said Tyler.

"Just trying to remember all the things I learned from watching the video last night," said Hudson.

"You didn't learn that from the videos," said Tyler as Hudson took a few shots from the NC. There was a lot more coaching from Tyler and Bob for the young cruiser captains. Hudson caught a few too many shots and Tyler told him to go on five. A minute later the ship went down. "I was close too," said Hudson. The spring water was clear and it was easy to spot sunken ships from shore. In the meantime Zack was complaining that his CO2 was empty. Bob tried to resolve the problem without looking at the ship. In the meantime Tyler was mixing it up with the NC. "DAD!" said Zack. "What do you think you're doing?" Ron sidled up to me. "Hey are they actually shooting each other?"

"Yah, torpedoes and everything," I said.

"Yah, I know," said Bob. "You guys got planes? And submarines?"

"How come there's not an aircraft carrier out there?" asked Ron. "They were queens of the seas. And missiles, where are the missiles?"

"Hey, someone rammed me," said Hudson as he looked over his recovered ship. Tyler later said it might have been him. It was back to the pits. "I think it was your pump, Hudson," said Tyler. "Your pump is getting a little crusty." Peter Ellison had pulled in with the Arizona. He was pulling out big sheets of silkspan and starting to cover freshly attached balsa. "Pete, you only had all winter," said Tyler. "I can go home," said Peter. "It's only twenty minutes." "Would ya?" said Tyler in jest. When Bob joined in the jests Peter said, "I only want to say one thing, last night I ran out of daylight, and this morning I wanted to go to Tai Chi classes. I also wanted to do some gardening."

Jason Schafer had also shown up with his KGV. I was surprised to see him pull out a handful of 4 cannons and begin the process of mounting them. Later on I took a picture of him soldering up some control switches for firing the solenoids. When I left around 5 p.m. he was close to getting it

it on the water.

Jason asked if I was writing an article for TF144. "I don't know, I might write an article if you ask nice," I said.

"Would you please write an article," he asked, very nicely. As I passed by Peter again, he took great delight in 'Frankenstein', his electronic shot counter attached to his radio. "What we really need to know is how many times Bob has fired his guns," I said.

Steve Dickow had also show up, and had his American cruiser and the Bismarck. I asked him which one he was going to run. "Both," he said. "One in each hand?" asked Peter.

"Nope, same controller," said Steve.

"Well, you got two sticks," said Peter.

"Right," said Steve. "Who needs guns and pumps?" Bob called Ryan Butler from his cell phone and asked "WHERE ARE YOU? We're battling." I was then told that Ron had hired the young former Rookie of the Year. "He shows up fifteen minutes early every day," said Ron. Well, he didn't make it to the pond this day, at least while I was there. As I drifted down

the line and came to Ron's table, he started to whine. "Hey, Lars, someone put their finger through my boat." Turns out it was a transport issue. I caught a conversation between Zack and his father. "But you said I should reload bbs!" "I know," said Bob. "But we need to reload gas too." Then Ron took a shot in the finger. "It broke the fingernail," he said. Dr. Tyler asked if he wanted a band-aid. "That really hurts," he said a few minutes later. Then he asked me if I was writing an article. "Don't quote me on anything I say," he said. "The Allied Admiral had no comment throughout the whole battle." "He was whining like a little girl," I said. Ron laughed while he shook his wounded finger. "I guess you can say that." A few minutes later, Ron, the Allied Admiral, officially said, "No Comment," but in reality said, "I don't know if I can play right now. The pain!" When Bob inquired about the injured finger, Ron added, "Larry laughed at me." "I'm still laughin'," said Lars. Then Ron started talking about Houston. "I did get to see an armadillo there." Hudson

what an armadillo was. "It's a big armored rat," said Ron. "Just perfect for this hobby," said Lars. "Where are the casements on an armadillo?" asked Bob. "Mr. Bob Hoernemann, I'm ready to go in," announced Zack a couple of minutes later. For the second battle it was Andy (NC), Ron (NC), Bob (NC), Tyler (Warspite), Zack (Bike), Hudson (Fr CA), Tom (Scharny) and Steve (Brooklyn). It was Yellow Flag versus No Flag. Here in PPB it doesn't really matter who was on what side, there's always targets, some are just friendlier than others. "Are we battling yet?" asked Zack. "No, we're drag racing," said Ron who was running alongside someone else for a visual speed check. The air was full of the sound of empty pumps as ships were being loaded on the water by that doctor fella. Tyler was gracious enough to wear the waders all afternoon. The first shots of the battle caused Ron to whine, "Oh, my radio just got shot." The Bike wasn't firing for Zack, and the ship was brought to shore. It took a few minutes to determine the radio trim tab was the culprit. In the meantime,

someone sank, but I'm not sure who, might have been Bob's NC or it might have been a cruiser. Ron's NC rammed Andy's NC when Ron looked down for a glance at his radio. "Keep away from shore, Zack," warned Z's father. "Run, Zack! Good Job!" "Wow, you turn really sharp, Tyler," said Andy. "I want my pump back, Tyler," moaned Bob. The mass turning of the PPB fleet to the Allied side was causing problems that seemed almost incestuous to me, I was glad to have no part in it. Two ships sank at the same time, "Oh the HUMANITY" moaned someone in the crowd. I have pictures of two NCs (Bob and Andy) on the beach at the same time. Ron's NC was still afloat and people were expressing good things about his speed. "That's those new motors" he said. Then a few moments later he said, "Look how fast its pump is pushing it." His NC must've been doing about 28 second speed on pump power alone. Another ship sank, not sure who it was, Zack's bike sank several times and Bob just kept tossing it back.

Ron's NC sank next, as Ron giggled. "I must've took some damage," he said.

With the three NCs out of the fight, the fight was reduced mainly to chasing Steve's Brooklyn, the last remaining Yellow Flag. Tyler's Warspite was catching the cruiser, so Tyler asked if the cruiser was running at speed. Steve said that he was slow. "Then I shouldn't shoot you," said Tyler.

"No, go ahead," said Steve. There was coaching of Hudson on how to cut off the Brooklyn, but this was aborted when Tom announced, "I think all this chasing is going to cost me." He was correct, his Scharny went down.

The Scharny's sink didn't save Steve, his cruiser sank with only four seconds left on the timer. This had Hudson celebrating wildly.

"Ron, we're going to have to have a higher quality of battling out of you if you're going to be our Admiral," Peter was heard saying in the background.

"How come everyone sank?"

Tyler asked me when he finally came in from recovering ships. "Carnage."

"Holes," I said. "Must be hard water."

"Hey, did we sink everyone on

the other side," asked Hudson a little later.

"Yes, and everyone on your fleet sank except for those two guys on the white table," said Bob, indicating Hudson and Tyler.

"Hey Dad," said Zack. "I didn't get really shot up, but Dad, there's this HUGE hole right at the water line, RIGHT THERE."

"Is your radio off Zachary," asked Bob. When Zack said yes, Bob asked, "You sure?" Then Bob said, "Your Radio is not off, I just turned it off for you."

"It was off," said Zack.

"I think you should say, 'I'm sorry Dad, I'll remember next time,' I butted in.

"Yeah, right," laughed Bob.

"How many times did your own kids say that?"

Bob told folks to "Count and Patch" so it was another extended pit interval.

"I've actually got a turkey baster this time," said Ron. "I got it from the Dollar store, but it doesn't work. What a piece of crap."

"Yeah, you got to go at least to the Two Dollar Store," I told him.

Ron had no comment about the big hole in the side of his ship, even though I took a picture of it.

"Hey," said Bob. "Someone returned my orange needle nose."

"I forgot my camera and didn't take any pictures of my ship when it looked good," said Ron a bit later. "Now it looks like crap."

Bob found some blue impeller pieces in his pump outlet, which didn't make him happy.

"I would send it back to Battler's Connection and ask for a refund," said Ron. "Tell them to send you a check for the diver."

"Oh, someone shot my crane," whined Ron as he returned to patching. But the crane was still attached so a spot of glue and a bit of paint and all was right in Ron's world again.

A few minutes later he stopped and said, "Oh, were we supposed to count?"

"No just patch," I said.

"COUNT, PATCH, BATTLE," said Bob.

"Let's see, he put five patches on," I said, while Ron laughed. Then Andy asked about NC sink points and Ron said, "Oh, yeah, I sank too, didn't I?"

"I don't even remember being out there battling," Ron said after a few more moments. "I

should pull a Lide and say I wasn't even there."

"Oh yeah, you're still fighting all that pain," I said, as I'd seen him a few times during the battle, taking his wounded hand off his controls and shaking it. "I had to fight through the pain," he protested. "That's my excuse."

We then started laughing at the suggestion that he'd been fighting back tears throughout the battle, which quickly morphed into he was really crying over sinking rather than getting shot.

Later, Zack tipped over in his bright green canvas chair. "Timber!" he said when he hit the ground.

There was an unreportable conversation about Tyler's chosen profession and prostrate exams and other groddy medical stuff.

"Well, all I gotta do now is count, I'm ready for battle," said Ron.

A food run was made by Tyler and Hudson, who were the first to be ready to battle again.

"Ryan has my other regulator," said Ron.

"That jerk," said someone.

"Who would hire him?"

"I know," said Ron. "Funny thing is he never says bad things about you."

Peter's Arizona was ready for the next battle, and he was anxious to go. "Let's go play BANG-BANG," he said. He did a quick visual speed check against the Warspite, and came up a bit slow. And then he noticed that he didn't have his radio strap. There was another problem too. "I'm an Allied guy and I can't test my guns on Tyler's ship," he said. There was another discovery made just before battle. "My clock is set for six minutes," said Steve. "I would have made it," he said in reference to the Brooklyn's sinking in the previous sortie.

"No Axis cookies for you tonight," said Peter as we all laughed.

Tom, one of the later launchers, delayed the battle even more when he discovered that he hadn't put his CO2 bottle back in his ship. The delay also allowed Ron to refill one of his guns that had dumped about 40 bbs due to a radio glitch. "When I pulled the pin they all just rolled out," he said.

"I do have a wicked ram bow," said Peter during the wait. "So I'm looking for some big giant flat ships. Like a North Carolina."

Tyler was upset when our

volunteer video camera guy opted out. "What happens when I destroy Bob?"

As battle was called Bob was talking immediately. "Don't go there Zack!"

A steady stream of shots were heard along with a solitary, "Oh, crap!"

Andy and Bob's NCs teamed up against Ron's NC and Tom's Scharny, while Peter's Arizona and Tyler's Warspite tangled. A flagged NC was the first to go down next to shore. It was Bob.

About two to three minutes in Ron said, "Oh, there I go! Man in the water."

Tyler recovered both NCs. "A sea monster got you Bob," he said. Ron's boat was farther out, and Tyler needed directions, finally stumbling over the ship.

The Warspite took on several targets, among them the Arizona and the Bismarck. "It's pretty hard NOT to shoot the Bismarck," said someone. Bob's NC was back on the water and pumping pretty heavily, and soon went down again.

"WHO sank this time," said Zack.

"Me again," said Bob.

"DAD!" said Zack.

"Yeah, well, my pump

doesn't work," said Bob. With his boat on the shore Bob coached Zack some more. Tyler was encouraging Hudson. Peter called five; I wonder how his shot counter worked. Tyler called five, but didn't have a timer. Andy got some good shots in on Peter. "You're mean," cried Peter. "Stop prop washing me," Zack was hear to say. When Tyler's five finished, the other boats dumped ammo and came off the water. "Good time for me to head to the homestead," said Ron as we walked back to the pits. "Ron! said Tyler. "Must be

Chicken for supper tonight." "You're right," said Ron. "Every time we battle you have to get home for chicken. 'I don't miss chicken' you always say." "That's right," said Ron. "There's nothing wrong with a good chicken." "Nothing wrong with a good battle either," said Tyler, trying the soft well. "Larry, you going to have a boat next time?" asked Ron. "Plan on it," I said. "Good, otherwise we're going to have to start calling you a groupie."

I turned off my secret audio recording device at this point to save power for the next sortie, but hand recorded some more quotes the old fashioned way: Tyler: "Everything we do is smelly." Peter: "I'm so ready to kick, what is it, Flag or No-Flag butt!" Ron: "I've never really thought of myself as the most interesting man in the world." Ron (to Tyler): "You're pretty bossy, wearing rubber pants."



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"It is your attitude, and the suspicion that you are maturing the boldest designs against him, that imposes on your enemy." - Fredrick the Great