

TF144

TASK FORCE 144

The Official Newsletter of Model
Warship Combat, Inc.

www.mwci.org
Volume 2014

SUMMER 2014
Issue 2



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Summer 2014

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This Quarter in History:

July 4, 1924: Supposed invention of Caesar salad by Caesar Cardini in Tijuana.

July 11, 1944: Baseball legend Babe Ruth makes his major league debut with the Red Sox.

July 17, 1944: The largest convoy of the war embarks from Halifax, Nova Scotia, under Royal Canadian Navy protection.

July 17, 1944: The SS E. A. Bryan, loaded with ammunition, explodes at the Port Chicago naval base; 320 are killed.

July 20, 1944: Adolf Hitler survives an assassination attempt by Claus von Stauffenberg.

July 28, 1914: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and its army bombards Belgrade. Tsar Nicholas II of Russia orders a partial mobilization against Austria-Hungary.

August 2, 1934: Adolf Hitler becomes Führer of Germany, or head of state combined with that of Chancellor following the death of President Paul von Hindenburg.

August 15, 1914: The Panama Canal is inaugurated with the passage of the SS Ancon.

August 25, 1944: General Dietrich von Choltitz surrenders Paris to the Allies in defiance of Hitler's orders to destroy it.

September 1, 1914: The last known passenger pigeon "Martha" dies in the Cincinnati Zoo.

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BATTLE REPORT: TAngLER BY JOHN STANGLE

Tangler Time!

The Tangler is one of my favorite events of the year and I have been in attendance pretty much since I joined the hobby. The pond is awesome, it is centrally located so it is a manageable trip from many parts of the country, and Kevin does a great job hosting and making sure everything is well run and organized.

Things were a bit different for me this year as it was the first time I would be battling an Allied boat at the event. I had gotten a bit burned out on building Axis boats (building Pagoda masts will do that to you) and actually battled a Warspite at Wade's I had been working on off and on for years. The Warspite battled great but just didn't seem to fit my battling style well (which for those of you who don't know me generally involves me throwing myself into the middle of the largest concentration of enemy boats I can find and firing with reckless abandon).

(continued on page 5)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

21 JULY - 25 JULY: NATS, Veteran's Lake, Elk River, MN
Contact: Tyler, hell0154@umn.edu
Sanctioned

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The MWC Treasurer will issue a refund for any current MWC member who requests a refund. If the captain has battled in 2014 at an event, their refund is reduced by 50%. A refund request must be received by the MWC Treasurer no later than July 15th and be either through electronic (e-mail) or standard postal (USPS) delivery. All refund requests are to be processed immediately after confirmation of their 2014 battling status. On July 16th, this refund provision will expire and be removed from the SOP.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWI, BY STEVEN COX

Since this quarter is the 100th Anniversary of WWI, it seemed appropriate to break out most of the historical events listing into their own article. Below are the timeline of events of the beginning of the Great War.

July 4, 1914: The Archduke's funeral takes place at Artstetten (50 miles west of Vienna), Austria-Hungary.

July 5, 1914: A council is held at Potsdam, powerful leaders within Austria-Hungary and Germany meet to discuss possibilities of war with Serbia, Russia, and France.

July 23, 1914: Austria-Hungary presents Serbia with an unconditional ultimatum.

July 25, 1914: Austria-Hungary severs diplomatic ties with Serbia and begins to mobilize its own forces.

July 28, 1914: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and its army bombards Belgrade. Tsar Nicholas II of Russia orders a partial mobilization against Austria-Hungary.

August 1, 1914: The German Empire declares war on the Russian Empire, following Russia's military mobilization in support of Serbia; Germany also begins mobilization.

August 3, 1914: Germany declares war on Russia's ally, France.

August 4, 1914: German troops invade Belgium at 8:02 am (local time). Declaration of war by the United Kingdom on Germany for this violation of Belgian neutrality. This effectively means a declaration of war by the whole British Empire against the German Empire. The United States declares neutrality.

August 5, 1914: The Kingdom of Montenegro declares war on Austria-Hungary. Germany declares war on Belgium.

August 5, 1914: SS Königin Luise (1913), taken over two days earlier by the Imperial German Navy as a minelayer, lays mines 40 miles (64 km) off the east coast of England. She is intercepted and sunk by the British Royal Navy light cruiser HMS Amphion (1911), the first German naval loss of the war. The following day, Amphion strikes mines laid by the Königin Luise and is sunk

100th ANNIVERSARY OF WWI

August 6, 1914: Austria-Hungary declares war on Russia.

August 9, 1914: World War I: British Royal Navy light cruiser HMS Birmingham (1913) rams and sinks German submarine U-15 off Fair Isle, the first U-boat lost in action.

August 15-24, 1914: Battle of Cer: Serbian troops defeat the Austro-Hungarian army, marking the first Entente victory of World War I.

August 23, 1914: Japan declares war on Germany.

September 5, 1914: London Agreement – No member of the Triple Entente (Britain, France, or Russia) may seek a separate peace with the Central Powers.

September 5, 1914: British Royal Navy scout cruiser HMS Pathfinder (1904) is sunk by German submarine U-21 in the Firth of Forth (Scotland), the first ship ever to be sunk by a locomotive torpedo fired from a submarine.

September 7, 1914: Turkey declares war on Belgium.

To find out more about the 100th Anniversary of World War I, go to the links below:

- <http://www.theworldwar.org/>
- <http://worldwar-1centennial.org/>
- <http://www.1914.org/>
- <http://www.centenarynews.com/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/images-world-war-devastation-overlaid-modern-photos-france/>



MY FAVORITE TOOLS BY PETER ELLISON

There is a tool philosophy buy the most expensive tool that you can afford. I'm not going to dispute that logic but it can be very limiting especially if you are first starting out. Personally I tend to migrate towards a "single use tool" or a "starter" tool approach. Buying a couple of cheap tools that will eventually either be replaced or given away if your interests wander. Here are my top three that help make boat building easier:

1. A large bench mounted vice, Mine is a 6" massive guy I got at Home Depot, I tried a smaller 4" one, spend a couple dollars more so you can crush anything. If you want to get all fancy get a set of "soft jaws" with it too.
2. A bench mounted sander (not bolted down). Mine is a Harbor Freight mini belt stander, 1" wide. If I was to do it again I'd get a 1" belt and small disk sander combo or maybe a just a 8"-10" disk sander. Also get a "abrasive cleaner" a little rubber block that gets grit out of the belt that will help reduce the cost of running the tool.
3. A scroll saw (mounted to a table). Mine is a really cheap Harbor Freight model, sitting on a cheap table also from Harbor Freight, it has a lower shelf that holds all of my cut off bits of plywood. Get better quality blades from a Home Center, they will be sharper and much thinner.

There are a lots of other tools in my shop, but the above three I go back to the most when scratch building hulls.



'Retreat? Hell, we just got here!' (US Marine Captain Lloyd W. Williams).

TANGLER



The ships in pit row.



John's new I-Boat.

So after Wade's I decided I needed a different boat to play with so I ordered, cut, and built a brand new I-Boat from scratch in approximately 10 weeks. To say it was untried and untested was an understatement, but I test fired the guns for the first time the night before the battle and everything seemed to work so full steam ahead!

The boats we had at the pond were an interesting mix and were all over the map. We had battlecruisers and battleships, cruisers and side mount sluggers, and, to quote Andy, nothing that battled well together... The battling sides would be interesting to say the least. Johnny had to pull out at the last moment so I jumped in and did CD duty and split the fleets...

Battle 1: Saturday AM

Battle 1 pitted the evil flag nation vs the virtuous no flag nation. The flag fleet was Bob (Goeben), Matt (SoDak), Kas (I-Boat), Kim (NC), Rick (Fiji) and Zach (The Bike). The No Flag fleet was John (I-Boat), Andy (NC), Kevin (Derflinger), Tom (Alaska) and Raaaaaandy (Some Froggy Cruiser). Battling was awesome. We went the first two sorties without a sink so we did a third! Bob sank due to a trim issue that had him roll over. Kim sank with a trim issue after Bob tipped him over getting his Goeben out of the water. Kas sank after forgetting to turn on his pump. Overall fantastic start to the weekend (save a little rain to get things started...) and a huge no-flag victory! I boat battled well but got lit up pretty repeatedly by triples (though not as bad as poor Kevin), and Kim did a lot of running as the only 24 second boat on the flag fleet. Go No Flag!



Bob and the Goeben.



John's I-Boat damage.

TANGLER



Battling.



The infamous 1 pound pork steak at Dexter's.

Battle 2: Saturday PM

The three sortie battle in the morning was so much fun we decided to do another one. Teams were the same with me and Kim being sunk this time around. A couple of the boats suffered some total twilight zone type problems that needed some serious exploratory surgery to diagnose and fix. My I-Boat went down hard after taking some heavy damage and sinking by the bow (my ballast had shifted forward). All in all another awesome battle.

Battle 2.5 – Dexter's Rib's and BBQ

So my favorite part of the Tangler is dinner on Saturday night. It has become a tradition (mostly due to Bob's fixation with BBQ Ribs) to go to out for BBQ after the first night of battling. Now we always go to the same place every year, but it has changed names three times, owners twice, and somehow migrated from an all you can eat BBQ buffet to an "order at the window and take it to you seat" rib joint, all without losing any of the great food. My favorite thing on the menu is the one pound BBQ pork steak. Peter Ellison turned me on to this monstrosity and I order it every year. It is worth the trip to Missouri alone. This year, the restaurant's name was "Dexter's" and I highly recommend it if you ever find yourself in Farmington.

Battle 3: Sunday Morning

So unlike my tradition in years past, since everything seemed to work on the I-Boat on Saturday, I did not touch a single thing on it Saturday night. It seems to me every time I touch something, something else seems to break, so solution is to leave it alone!

Teams were largely the same, with only Matt and Kevin switching sides to balance the 24 second boats. We ended up doing another three sortie battle. Only one sink occurred this time with Kas going down after getting a little low in the water from playing bumper boats with Andy and Tom. I-boat continued to battle great, though I did lose my receiver and had to swap it out pond-side (so much for not touching anything in the boat...).

Battle 4: Sunday Afternoon

We left the teams alone and went at it again. The heavy moss on the pond was beginning to take its toll and a number of captains had moss problems, with "30 second moss" became a more and more frequent call. I sunk early in the first sortie with a pump issue (as in I forgot to turn it on), and Kim sank with "I am full of BB and Ram Holes" issue late in the third. Bob burnt out a drive motor due to weeds but gamely took to the water with a single motor and invited us to sample his stern sidemounts, which me and Andy happily obliged. Another awesome battle!

'This war, like the next war, is a war to end war.' (David Lloyd George, 1916)

TANGLER



The furball.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend. We were able to do 6 sorties each day, with a combination of staying on task, cooking lunch pondside, and only counting and patching once contributing to all the extra battling. Best moments for the weekend...

1. Me jumping in the water to chase off a snake so people could recover a sunk boat, and then having to google it afterwards to figure out if it was poisonous or not (so generally these steps should be done in the opposite order...).
2. Miraculously having a spare low profile hi-torc rudder servo for Matt after he had lost his last one, and was in danger of missing the rest of the weekend. Exactly like Dave Au did for me 4 years earlier with the same exact servo when I lost my last one with the Westfalen (which is why I now carry 5 spares...). Thanks Dave! It is great to be able to pay things forward in this hobby!
3. Trying to troubleshoot Kevin's bow gun only to discover it was missing a piston, spring, and o-ring, because they were in use on the Baden he was working on...which of course was sitting on the bench 60 minutes away in his workshop.

Thanks again Kevin for a wonderful weekend and see y'all again next year! 

PRODUCT REVIEWS BY PETER ELLISON

T600 motors - I have been using them on and off for a number of years. The T600 are all the same specification so if you damage one you can drop another in there and get the same speed and power out of it.

<http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&I=LXJ765&P=7>

Both the SMS Kaiser and the DKM Scharnhorst had noticeable improvements in get up and go after installing them over the surplus motors I initially used. They retail for \$13, about 3 times the cost of the surplus motors so for a ship with a single prop they are worth it in my book. For a dual prop ship, like the USS Arizona I ran Ax-man special random surplus motors because there was not as much riding on a single motor.

When I switched to lots of NiMH packs charging was a pain in the neck, I wanted something so that I could charge all of my batteries at NATs without getting up and changing batteries in the middle of the night. My answer to this was the Hitec multi charger x4. There are four chargers all bundled up in one box, mine has an external power supply the new one has a built in AC supply a vast improvement.

<http://www3.towerhobbies.com/cgi-bin/wti0001p?&I=LXBKAK&P=ML>

'All blood runs red.' (Phrase painted on the side of the plane flown by Eugene Bullard in World War I)

PRODUCT REVIEWS

The one thing that I think is "neat" is that it tells you how much of a charge it put into the battery. I have no clue how accurate it is. When I was trying to decide between three packs or two packs I was able to "measure" the difference by checking this number. In the case of the SMS Kaiser I had two choices 30 amp/hour or 20 amp/hours and lead for added stability. When I ran two packs I was putting back in around 5 amps less than half of the capacity, well within the safe operating parameters of the batteries. I took the connectors it came with and cut the ends off so I could mount power poles that my batteries use for even less effort when charging at the end of the day.

In the category of trading time for money I have switched to the HiTec Water Proof servos. So far I have done a lot of sinking and they keep on working, it has been two years, going on three in the Kaiser. There are two down sides to them, one is the price at \$42 they coast about 4 times cheap servos. Second they are designed to run at 6 volts, I run mine a 4.8-5 (BEC from a speed controller) and they work just fine. They would travel faster if they ran at a higher voltage.

http://www.servocity.com/html/hs-646wp_servo.html

There is a 180 degree travel option, verses the 90 degree travel they come from the factory with. I have been running the 90 degree version with gears, the extra travel would be nice for a rotate turret or if you want a lot of rudder throw. Over all to not worry about servo boxes or **waterproofing them yourself the extra money is worth it for a rudder servo.**

One last review is for Permatex Sensor Safe Blue RTV Silicone gasket maker. I get mine at Walmart in the auto parts area. My boats have a water tight box that holds the radio receiver, the pump switch, and the firing boards. To hold on the lid I use this stuff. If you rough up the clear ABS for the lid with a little sand paper this still will stick hard enough that you can break the plastic popping off the lid. In the past I used silicone sealant for bathrooms, this stuff is better. If you tape the lid on the box you can get back to battling in a hour or so, or over night it is cured if you plan better Down sides, it is a little smelly and the blue dye they use stains any fabric. Overall a wonder product keep a tube in the tool box. 

'GERMAN GUNS' A POEM BY PRIVATE BALDRICK (WWI)

Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom,
Boom, Boom, Boom,
Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom,
Boom, Boom, Boom.



In memory of those who gave up their lives so that we may live in freedom. Lest we forget.

