



# The St. Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club

<http://stlouisadmirals.com>



## BROADSIDE

February 2008

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Editor – Jane Rivers-Chapman

### NOTICE:

**The next meeting will be held on February 4, 2008 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
33 N. Clay Ave, Ferguson, MO 63135**

## NOW HEAR THIS

**Note: I wrote the following prior to the passing of former Commodore Tom O'Dell. See Norm Kalaskie's comments following. I will provide some comments next month.**

### FROM THE BRIDGE

All Ahead Full on four engines. That's how I think the Club is underway for 2008. At our January Club meeting, I outlined some of my plans for this next year. This will mark the 20th Regatta to be held at Union Station, and we are moving forward to make this one of our most memorable and fun. Ray Sepanski already has a start on obtaining the material for the award trophies, which will have the St. Louis arch and a small resin model of the *Admiral* under it.

Later this week and by the time that you read this, we will have had a meeting with the people at Union Station to work out the details and to resolve any issues that we might have for our Regatta in September. I will also be able to firm up the dates so that you can begin your planning, marking your calendar to avoid conflicts, and building or dry docking your boats to get them ready for an exciting and fun weekend.

We are making progress on updating the Admirals website, generously provided to the Club by member Jerome Simon. We have a new

Webmaster, Carrie Odum, who will be working on the site to add some features. We will need your help to provide some updated information on your boats and to give us some recent photos of boats in operation at our recent outings. The website is our window to the outside world, as well as being a resource for our membership. For those that have a computer and have acquired some basic skills, I think that you will find this to be a useful tool.

And speaking of useful tools, at the January meeting, I passed out a Club Budget for 2008. I wanted to do this to both see what financial resources we would have during the year, and to provide the members with some insight as to where monies come from and where they go. Basically I think we will be able to afford a very nice year of boating, a great Regatta, and still have some money left at the end of the year to enable us to have a good start on 2009. And if you think that I might have something of a professional background in planning activities, you are correct. Each of us in the Club has some skills, and we need to utilize those skills for the benefit of the Club. So be prepared to be asked for help.....

So enough of this Club business already. Let's talk about our boats. The day of our January meeting, the crazy weather registered a temp of 74 degrees. I took a spin by Ferdinand Park just to see if anyone was out boating. It was quite windy, and my search resulted in finding no one there. But it was windy, just after the holidays, and probably most of us still have work to do to get our boats ready for another season of sailing. But at least I was thinking of sailing.

My next effort on the big submarine is going to be adding a new combination pitch and depth controller. This new gizmo is supposed to control the fore and aft pitch of the boat and also take it down and maintain it at periscope depth, with only the top of the scope showing above the surface. Please note that there is a lot of faith in "supposed

to." I suspect that it will take some tweaking before said gizmo does what it's supposed to do. One of the things that's very important to our Club is "Show and Tell." I ask that each of you bring your favorite boat or newest project to one of our meetings. A significant benefit of being a Club member is the sharing of how we did something, or asking a question as to how others would tackle a problem. So let's see some boats.

As I write this, the weather has gone back to cold January temps, and there were snow flurries in the air this morning. But I can think of warmer sailing weather. Let's get our boats ready.....

Commodore Jim

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**February 4, 2008** sail at St. Ferdinand Lake 1:00-5:00PM (weather permitting) 5:00 PM Dinner at Applebee's, 2309 N Highway 67, Florissant, MO 63033, and 7:00 PM meeting at St. Stephens Church.

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Our club founder, Past Commodore, fellow member and friend, Tom O'Dell, lost his battle with cancer on January 15, 2008, our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Frank Berchek is doing ok; he still does a lot of rehabilitation. If you like to visit him, please call (314) 831-1429, and his e-mail is [fhberchek@charter.net](mailto:fhberchek@charter.net), the new address is 1048 Trifecta Dr, Florissant, MO 63034

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**NOTE: DAVE ST CLAIR is now the membership chairman. 2008 dues are to be sent to him but the checks are to be made out to "The St. Louis Admirals". He will accept all renewals beginning now.**

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Tom O'Dell

We're here today to remember Tom O'Dell, husband, father and friend.

\*I first met Tom in the mid 50's when we worked for Owens Illinois glass Company.

\*We found out that we both played chess so we started playing during our lunch breaks.

\*Tom was a better player than I was. I just could not win that often. However I improved over time. I noticed that Tom depended on his queen and was a weaker player without it. By exchanging queens it put me on a more even standing. Tom would lecture me that this wasn't the way to play chess but this was my only way to go as I could finally match his expertise at chess.

\*From this beginning a long friendship developed that has lasted to this day. Who would have thought then that this friendship would last for over half a century. Tom was an avid modeler. So was I. This gave us another item we were both interested in. We began working on many projects together. I cannot begin to say how many models we built over the years.

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\*Tom was also interested in rebuilding old cars. Needless to say he talked me into working on them with him. He was a good mechanic. I was the assistant. This worked for many years. His interest was in Ford Falcons and Ford Mustangs. After finishing a new project he would enter them in car shows around the area.

\*Tom was also a person who was not afraid to try other types of projects. If he wanted to renovate his home he wasn't worried about starting on it. This was not one part of his endeavors I worked with him on. He made several changes to his home that were well done.

\*Even with the above interests we still kept up with our modeling interests. We both sold old model kits on the side. Tom's interest was in model cars. Mine was in ships and airplanes. Tom had a partner, Steve Lovan, in the model car selling hobby but when his partner couldn't make a show I would go with Tom to help out. We made many trips doing this.

\*We also traveled to model shows, showing off built models. We had many good times together at these shows. In the evenings we talked over what we had seen or bought. We also took some of our models for display or sale. Tom and I made many new friends at these shows.

\*Tom was a person who was always ready to help someone out. If a person needed help with a move or a project they were doing Tom was right there to help him out. He was a good friend indeed. From his travels Tom made friends all over the United States.

\*R/Ving was another interest Tom had. He and his family traveled all over the U.S. He traveled in his R/Vs for 30 years or more. In 1973 Tom said for me to take his camper and see if I would like camping. This was the kind of friend he was. We then bought a camper our own and have been R/ving for many years.

\*Tom also organized many camping trips for his friends. This group went on float trips and to the Grand Ole Opry. Sometimes there would be 4 or 5 R/Vs in our group on a trip.

\*The best times were when Tom's, and my family would go to Dolphin Island on the Gulf Coast. For Tom and I this was a fishing trip. Arriving on Sunday Tom and I would go to the harbor to see if the head boat was going out the next day. A head boat is one that takes a load of people and anchors over a wreck to fish. We never came back without each of us having a string of fish about three feet long. That meant we had a lot of cleaning to do. We always had a big fish fry on Wednesday. In the morning we'd go to the harbor and buy a bucket of fresh shrimp to go with the fish. Another cleaning job.

\*Tom was the chef for the Wednesday night meal. Well, as you have already guessed we had more than we could eat. This didn't faze Tom. Off he would go rounding up everyone in the campground to come and eat what they wanted. It was a fun night. On Friday we always had a 40-foot fishing cruiser reserved to go trolling for fish again. The members of the families who wanted to go went with us for a day of fishing. Another 2 stringers of fish. These were cleaned on the way back to the harbor. Saturday we were off for home. A good time was had by both families.

\*One day Tom asked if I would be interested in starting a radio controlled boat club. Well, he started us on a new project. We threw ourselves into this new idea and founded The St. Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club. This was about 30 years ago. Tom really enjoyed this new endeavor and worked hard to make it a success. And He did. It is now the biggest in the Midwest with a huge membership and a great reputation.

\*Another modeling success for Tom was his curator ship of a modeling museum in St. Charles, MO. He spent several years at this job after Owens Illinois closed the mold shop where we worked.

\*To give you an idea of Tom's character, there was a time when my legs were giving me a lot of trouble. I could only walk short distances. At that time I had a handicap scooter that could be disassembled. When going to the shows we would take turns driving. When we got to the hall Tom would stop at the entrance, get out, assemble my cart for me and then go park the car. That way I had my scooter to get around on. After the show he'd get the car, take the scooter apart and load it into the car. Then we'd drive home. This was the type of helpful man Tom was.

\*Tom was an arranger for everything he did. He liked to have every thing run smoothly. There was never anything forgotten when Tom set up picnic or a trip for his family or a group of friends. He was very proud when things ran without snags.

\*There (were) two things Tom didn't like. Onions and politics.

\*Tom and his wife had three children, Elizabeth, Cathy and Steve. Tom was a good father doing his best for them and his wife. Apparently he did a good job, as Tom and Ellen were married for over 50 years. Steve, I'm sure you have lots of memories of being taught how to cut grass, (correctly), fish, and repair cars. Tom did his best to teach all his children to be educated and have well-rounded personalities. This he has succeeded in. Tom was proud of them.

\*When the St. Louis Admirals had a moment of silence at the passing of a club member, Tom would always end with this: we wish you fair winds and following seas. I would like to pass this comment on to Tom now: *Fair winds and following seas good friend.*

\*I don't know how to explain my friendship with Tom, but it must have a good one to last for over 50 years. Tom was not just my friend; he was like a brother to me.

\*Ray Sepanski would now like to say a few words about his relationship with Tom and the Club. Tom and I had started and it is still growing.

**Comments given by Norm Kalaskie at Tom's Memorial Service**

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**St. Louis Admirals RC Model Boat Club**

**Monday, January 7, 2008**

**St Louis Admirals R/C Boat Club Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:19pm. Twenty-two (22) members were in attendance.

The minutes from the St Louis Admirals meeting on December 3, 2008 as printed in the Broadside were approved.

**Member's Report:**

Tom O'Dell is not doing well. Please keep him in your prayers.

Frank Berchek was in the hospital the day after New Year's and is expected to be released soon.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Website:** Jerome will still take care of the domain but will not be doing the actual updating to the site. Jim has found another person to take care of the updates.
- **Newsletter:** Jane River's needs a volunteer to be the club's official photographer. This person would need to take pictures of the monthly meetings, club events and the Regatta. Gary Harmon volunteered to assist at least part time in this capacity. If member's take pictures, please send them to Jane so she can publish them in the Broadside.
- **Officer's Meeting:** Jim Schwinkendorf reported that Ray Sepanski has compiled a list of everything the club owns and where it is currently located. It is planned to consolidate all the club's items into one location. Storage units are cost prohibitive. The club would like a volunteer who has enough extra space to store what the club has.

**Old Business:**

- Dave St Clair has volunteered to take over the duties of the Membership Chair. This position was previously held by Alden Clark. Jim Schwinkendorf informed those in attendance that this change would require a motion per the club's constitution. Luther Disher made the motion; Ed Gant seconded. The membership approved the motion. Dave St Clair has the call tree list as well.
- The SSMA magazine ran a 7 page spread featuring the club's 2007 Regatta.
- Club apparel: Jim Schwinkendorf has two (2) baseball caps left with the club's logo embroidered on it, and four (4) white, extra large t-shirts with the logo screen printed on them. Cost is \$15 for a hat and \$15.75 for a t-shirt. Interested members can contact Jim Schwinkendorf.
- Sunday, May 18, 2008 – Club Picnic at St Ferdinand Park in Florissant  
The club has a pavilion reserved for the event, but needs someone to chair this event. Please contact Jim Schwinkendorf or Dave St Clair if you can help in this capacity.
- Jim Schwinkendorf thanked Santa (Paul Kirby) for showing up at the Christmas party.

- Luther Disher has delivered the Past Commodore pennant to Tom O'Dell. The pennant was awarded at the Christmas party in recognition of Tom's many years of service to the Club.
- Sunday, February 3, 2008 – Westport Plaza Farm Toy Show  
The club will be putting on a static display of the member's model boats. This event will be held at the Sheridan Westport Plaza Hotel from 8:30am – 4:00pm on Sunday only.  
There is parking on the west side of the hotel. Jim Schwinkendorf will email Ray Sepanski to get the club's banner for the event.
  - Mike Bickel will be speaking at next month's meeting and will do a power point presentation. He has been the diving officer on diesel-powered submarines.

### **New Business**

- **St Louis Admirals 2008 Regatta**

Kathleen Bray has left voicemail messages with Union Station in an effort to confirm the dates for this year's 20<sup>th</sup> annual regatta.

Jim Schwinkendorf is establishing a committee to oversee this year's event. The committee consists of the following members: Jim Schwinkendorf, Dave St Clair, Kathleen Bray and Tom Eckert. A fifth person for this committee will be appointed.

The components for this year's awards have already been purchased and are expected to be delivered by May. This year's awards will be the St Louis Arch with a small resin model of the Admiral coming through it.

James Kantor will not be in charge of the impound at the Regatta. Tom Eckert has stepped-up to take over this aspect.

- **Annual Report/Budget**

Jim Schwinkendorf passed out the 2008 budget for the club to the membership. Jim went through it and noted that this was just a plan and not set in stone. The primary purpose is to give everyone an idea of where the funds go.

- Tom Eckert requested an attendance count/list for each meeting/event be published in the Broadside so everyone could see if attendance was rising or falling. A discussion followed and it was generally thought to be a good idea.
- Next meeting dates are February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Other business**  
Dave St Clair is selling one of his Hartman boats.  
Bob Chapman is selling his Ergenstrasse, Jeremiah O'Brien and trailer. He is hoping to sell them all together.

At 9:03pm, Jim Schwinkendorf adjourned the meeting.

### **Show and Tell**

Bob Schwarze brought a Dumas 1949 Runabout with sound and lights. It was a joint project between him and Frank Berchek.

Dave St. Clair brought a Dumas Typhoon (pointed at both ends) with lights and lots a power!

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Dave

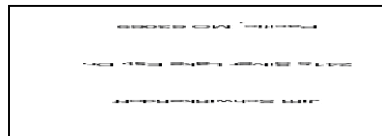
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**Tentative 2008** meeting dates are:

March 3, 2008	August 4, 2008
April 7, 2008	September 8 (Labor Day is on the 1st), Regatta on September 20-21
May 5, 2008	October 6, 2008
June 2, 2008	November 3, 2008
July 7, 2008	December 1, 2008

Subject to availability by St. Stephen's Church.

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Tom O'Dell at 2007 Regatta - Farewell good friend  
"Fair winds and following seas"