



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

<http://stlouisadmirals.com>



## BROADSIDE

Commodore – Jim Schwinkendorf. . (636) 271-8316  
[jaschwink@aol.com](mailto:jaschwink@aol.com)

Secretary – Ray Sepanski (618) 656-3428

Vice-Commodore – Dave St. Clair (636) 671-5353

Treasurer – George Kirby (636) 978-6288

Editor – Jane Rivers-Chapman (314) 355-8660

### NOTICE:

**The next meeting will be held on February 2, 2009 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church,  
33 N. Clay Ave, Ferguson, MO 63135**

## NOW HEAR THIS



### FROM THE BRIDGE

Happy New Year to all model and full sized boating enthusiasts. As we start off on our adventures for 2009, this might be a good time to look forward. Anyone with a boat knows that looking forward is

a good idea, as it gives us insight into what is or may be ahead. So I'm going to tell you where I think our boat club is going.

At our most recent meeting, I presented this idea to the membership and asked for our members' thoughts and comments. Our club historically has participated in a number of activities, and the plan is to continue to do those things that hopefully provide enjoyment in running and displaying scale model R/C boats, as well as allowing us to get together. We also may try out some new activities.

Normally before our monthly meetings when the weather is acceptable, we meet at St. Ferdinand Park pond for sailing boats, discussing hobby problems and solutions, telling tales, and enjoying an afternoon with other members and anyone else in the park that stops by to look. At about 5 PM, we

then drive over to a nearby Appleby's restaurant to continue conversations and enjoy a meal together. Both the afternoon sailing and dinner give those who attend the chance to partake of the comradeship of being an Admiral.

After dinner, we move to St. Stephen's hall for our business meetings. Of necessity, these are more structured events that deal with the topics necessary to plan ahead and keep the club going. So many times there is actually less opportunity to "chew the fat," a somewhat unfortunate reality of having a club organization. I retired from the business world to avoid having to go to meetings, and here I am still running them!

At future meetings, we are going to try to minimize the organizational functions and focus on having more fun with boats. This will include guest speakers, open model problem discussions, and some programs to inform and further educate our members in the skills and tricks involving model R/C boats.

So if you are a past member and haven't been to a sailing session and/or a meeting for a while, come on back and see if you think we are moving in the right direction. If you are new or just interested in

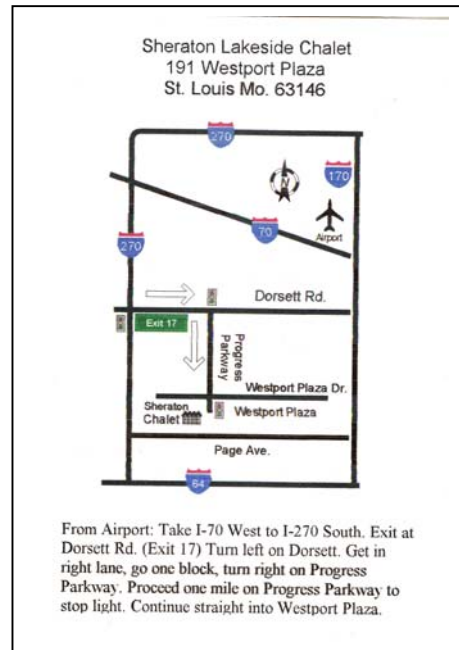
model boats, again drop by, say hello, ask questions, and learn why so many of us find this a worthwhile hobby. We have members with all sorts of interests and skills, and we all would be happy to encourage your interests in our hobby.

Commodore Jim

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**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Westport Toy Show  
on Sunday, February 1,  
from 9 AM to 2 PM**



**February 2, 2009** sail at St. Ferdinand Lake 1:00-5:00PM (weather permitting) and 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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Membership Dues      **###Please take note of the following: ###**

Dues for new members will be prorated on a per month basis based upon our beginning of May 1<sup>st</sup> dues. Please make checks (no cash) payable to "St Louis Admirals R/C Model Boat Club" in the amount of \$30.00. Send checks (no cash) to

Dave St. Clair  
4623 Dulin Creek Road  
House Springs, MO 63051

PS If you would like to have your e-mail address included for receipt of the Broadside and other publications, please include it on a separate sheet of paper, to my attention. If you have moved since your last renewal, please note change of address, etc.

Thank you, Dave St. Clair

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**St. Louis Admirals RC Model Boat Club**  
Minutes for January 5, 2009

Commodore Jim opened the meeting at 7:15 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

We were all very pleased to see our Secretary, Ray Sepanski, at the meeting. Ray and his spouse, Jane, also attended the pre-meeting dinner at Appleby's. Ray is doing fine and will continue to work on behaving himself.

Also good news was that Kathleen Bray had just been released from the hospital earlier in the day, and was going to continue her recuperation at home over the next couple of weeks following her bout with pancreatitis.

Finally, it appears that members Fred Cody and John Ziemer were doing well following their hospital stays. We hope to see them back at our meetings in the near future.

The Minutes for our December meeting and Christmas Social were published in the *Broadside* and approved.

Treasurer George Kirby advised the membership that all bills had been paid. He and the other officers are developing a Budget for 2009, and we will review the final 2008 Budget results at a meeting in the near future.

Commodore Jim presented the Commodore's Award trophy and certificate to Ed Gant for all of his efforts in organizing the boat sailing activities throughout the year.

A discussion was held of what events the Club should participate in during 2009, with the first being the Westport Toy Show on Sunday, February 1, from 9 AM to 2 PM. Secretary Ray will get insurance coverage for the show, as well as for our normal sailing activities at St. Ferdinand Park in Florissant.

Other events for which we will plan include the Grafton and Alton displays, and a picnic at lake area of past Commodore Tom O'Dell residence. Jane Rivers will be coordinating with Mrs. O'Dell to set a date for the picnic.

Other events to be considered include the Park Palooza at the Arch Grounds if held, the Union Station Regatta, participation at Paducah, and other events as may be later brought to the membership for consideration. Commodore Jim stated that he would investigate sailing at Forest Park.

Commodore Jim successfully obtained a block of \$10 Raffle Gift Cards from Mark Twain Hobbies as prizes for the club, to be given throughout the balance of 2009. Two cards will be raffled at each meeting. The Club wishes to thank Mark Twain Hobbies for their generous gift of the raffle cards for the club members.

The next meeting date will be February 2. Dave St. Clair offered to put together a talk for the entertainment and education of the club on model boating electronics and electricity, and the members were enthusiastic about the prospects of Dave's presentation at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes as presented by Commodore Jim

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**Tentative 2009** meeting dates are:

	February 2, 2009	March 3, 2009	April 6, 2009
May 4, 2009	June 1, 2009	July 6, 2009	August 3, 2009
September 8? Or 14, 2009	October 5, 2009	November 2, 2009	December 7, 2009
September 19 and 20, 2009 Regatta			

Subject to availability by St. Stephen's Church.  
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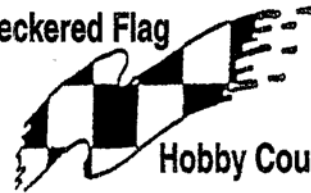
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## NOPLANS

One day, while looking for something to work on, because I just hate not having something going on in my life, I spied a dirty old piece of construction foam. Then, recalling that I had just sold a couple of my “Polo-Tugs”, I decided, all in a flash of course, that there was something worthy to do after all. So I took up that piece of foam and wiped the dirt and grime from it. After eyeballing it for a moment, I knew there was enough for another boat. The size and shape came to mind. The details were left fuzzy. After all, I can’t think of everything all at once can I?

I kind of remembered the dimensions from the last one I had done. It took only a few moments and I began to shape the foam the way I wanted it. The outside quickly took form. I whittled a little here and there and soon it was done. So, I tackled the inside. I remembered that it needed to have a big hole dug into the top to make a cavity for all the electric goodies required. With my trusty drill press, a grinding bit in the chuck, I positioned the foam on the worktable and began digging a hole. I made it about this long and about that wide, and just about that deep, but not all the way through of course.

In my mind, I imagined what the cabin and pilothouse might need to look like. Again in my mind, I superimposed my design onto the piece of foam, which I will now begin to call the “boat”. I knew it was going to take a boxy kind of thing about so-so high. I would just glue it to the deck of the boat and then make the roof removable. That way, I would not need a coaming.\* (See how smart I am?) So, I built a box, almost big enough to cover the whole boat, certainly big enough to cover the big hole in the deck. The roof would come later. I knew that now was the time to do all the engineering stuff. You know, like the stuffing box, the prop, rudder, motor and all the stuff that makes the boat move and controls it as well. One by one I tackled each of these items and before long, there it was! For the rudder, I used a standard servo. For the drive motor, I used a gearbox normally reserved for airplanes, complete with a little motor, which I drove with the electronic guts from another servo. Both of these would plug directly into the receiver.

The last thing I needed to do to the foam before it would become a proper “boat” was to sheath it with some kind of plywood. So, I searched around my shop, which has all kinds of junk in it, and found enough of the same kind of plywood, about a 32<sup>nd</sup> of an inch thick. Luckily, it was the good kind, marine grade. That would make the boat stronger and easier to paint when the time came. With the kind of epoxy that would not attack the foam, I attached the pieces of wood to the outside of the boat. Within only a few work sessions, it was all done and sanded down so the edges didn’t stick out. (Actually, I think I missed one.) Never the less, I was tired of doing that kind of thing and wanted to move along to something different. So I began to complete the cabin. I left it off the boat until all the details were in place. That makes it easier to handle while working on it. I found I had to add a little trailing cabin, which I now call the “Engine Room”, to cover the pushrod for the rudder because it wound up being above the deck. Oh well.

Next, I again used my imagination, and thought about who was going to be driving this thing. I remembered how much the little kids enjoyed my other boats. So, already having a “Theodore Too”, I decided to give this one a similar personality.

I searched my shop again and came up with an empty peanut jar. It was about three inches in diameter. This time, my drill press got a saw bit in the chuck. (Boy do I ever hate to use those things. They really are dangerous when they are in motion.) With the worktable set up to the proper height, I chopped off the top of the plastic jar. Next came the bottom. That required a change in the worktable again. Eventually, I had a three-inch diameter plastic tube about three inches long.

Turning that plastic tube into a “Theodore” was easy. My shop yielded a foam ball about three inches in diameter as well as all the other stuff. It, I took to the band saw and whacked off half of it. Next, I dug out a piece of flat plastic about three inches wide and four or more inches long. It was thick enough to hold its’ own shape. I cut it out so that both ends were nice and round, one to match the foam ball and the other to represent the bill of a ball cap. Then, out came the heat gun and one end got the treatment. When it was warm enough, I bent it up into a gentle curve and let it cool down again. Now, with the foam ball placed at one end of the plastic piece, it kind of looked like the top of somebody’s head. Great! This thing, I glued together and added a coat or two of white paint, which also held down some trim I added to the top of the ball.

The plastic tube we talked about earlier, I put a coat of brownish paint onto, (He had a nice tan don't you know.) Then I added some dolls eyes, a chunk of wood dowel to represent a big nose, (remember Pinocchio?), and finally, some felt cloth strips for eyebrows and a nice wide smile. Now we had a face!

After making a flat roof for the cabin, I was ready to glue "him" to it but decided to hold off for a while. It wouldn't do to get ahead of myself. Instead, I decided to put in some railings. Once again, my shop proved to be a treasure trove. I found some stanchions and some brass wire. After laying out the spacing, I drilled the holes for the stanchions. I also decided that the aft cabin extension, my "Engine Room", should have railing as well. Making sure I had enough of all the same kind of stanchions was important. I did. After running the brass wire and making all the necessary bends, I soldered each joint and stanchion to the wire.

With it all stuck in place, it looked like a nice railing. I just wished I had had some little people to put onto the decks for scale. Oh well. Maybe that would come later.

I was nearing completion. I checked it all over for anything I had left out, took care of it and added a few more details, and made sure that everything was painted appropriately. The tryout will have to wait until I find some water or fill the bathtub. That, I will do later.

But the point of this whole exercise is this. THERE WERE NO PLANS! Everything came directly out of my head. What I imagined, I built! Here is a picture. Kinda cute, ain't it? Guess what I named the boat.

NOPLANS!

Dave

\* **Coaming** is any vertical surface on a ship designed to deflect or prevent entry of water. It usually refers to raised section of deck plating around an opening, such as a hatch. - EDITOR

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Dave, our prolific boat builder needs room at his house, as well as cash, to acquire more boats – so, the following pictures are of some of the items he is willing to part with – if you are interested, please contact him at (636) 671-5353



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