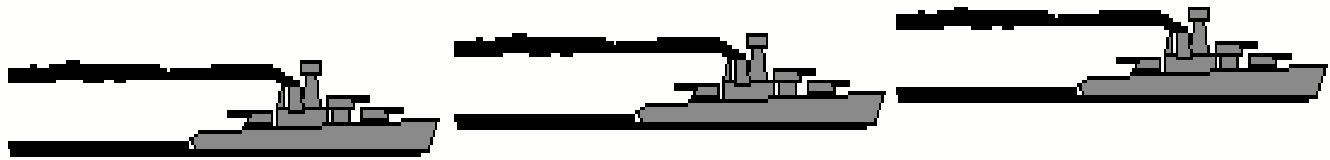


TASK FORCE 144



The Official Newsletter of Model Warship Combat, Inc.

www.mwci.org

Summer - 2006



CALENDAR OF MWC EVENTS

July 14-16:

Ice Breaker 2006:

Center Park, Jordan, MN

Site Host: Bob Hoernemann

Email: r_hoernemann@hotmail.com
(952)488-8808

July 15:

Battleship Bash:

White Hills Elementary, E. Lansing, MI

Site Host: Luis Negron

Email: ostfrieslanddn@yahoo.com

July 22-23:

Summer BB Splash:

Tom Triplett Park, Savannah, GA

Site Host: Rob Stalnaker

(704) 782-1354

August 5th:

Cannon Carnage:

White Hills Elementary, E. Lansing, MI

Site Host: Luis Negron

Email: ostfrieslanddn@yahoo.com

September 2:

Rumble In The Rockies:

Dan's Pond, Peyton, CO

Site Host: John Bruder

Email: hobbydad@adelphia.net

September 9-10:

Fall Furious Fight:

White Hills Elementary, E. Lansing, MI

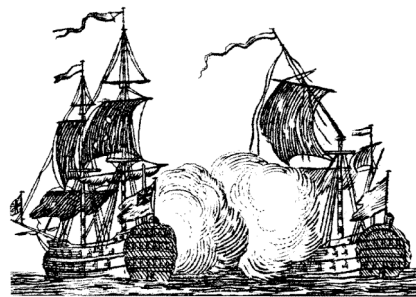
Site Host: Luis Negron

Email: ostfrieslanddn@yahoo.com



The Tiki Hut will let anyone in !

Photo by Georgie



April Ambush !

by Pete Demetri

My wife was in Ft. Drum, NY, bringing the grandchildren & daughter down for a visit, so I didn't have the usual film footage to refer to for the events depicted below. I also neglected to take any notes what so ever. So most of what follows is my own experiences that weekend.

At first the weather looked like it was going to ruin our day, but it actually turned out pretty nice, the rain didn't kick in until everyone had left for the day. The lake had a lot of moss on it, thanks to several days of warm weather. I had visited the lake the week before and didn't see any at that time. Friday afternoon I had started cleaning the shoreline, clearing areas behind the reeds in case anyone wanted to hide behind them. Saturday morning, Rick King waded out and cleared most of the moss away, at least the areas around the two launching points. We had a small 3' x 5' "mini-dock", which was very useful for those that needed to tweak their cannons before the battle. The pavilion was at our disposal, which Chatham County has let us use ever since they built it, so no canopies were

MWC OFFICERS and Board of Directors

President—Bob Hoernemann

1480 Lake Susan Hill Drive
Chanhassen, MN. 55317
(952) 488-8808
r_hoernemann@hotmail.com

V.P.—Luis Negrón

3315 Jonis Circle #107
Lansing, MI. 48906
517-886-5179
ostfrieslanddn@yahoo.com

Secretary—Mark Roe

1115 Shenandoah,
Clawson, MI 48017
248-435-0680
Mark.Roe@meritorwabco.com

Treasurer—Tim Krakowski

1479 Brookcliff Drive
Marietta, GA. 30062
770-509-1101
tkrakows@mindspring.com

John Bruder

8323 Radcliff Drive
Colorado Springs, CO. 80920
719-282-7877
jrbruder@cs.com

Pete Demetri

17 Lanvale St.
Port Wentworth, GA 31407
912-966-2261
pkdeme@aol.com

Ron Horbul

1480 Lake Susan Hill Drive
Chanhassen, MN. 55317
(952) 488-8808
r_hoernemann@hotmail.com

Brian Lamb

3315 Jonis Circle #107
Lansing, MI. 48906
517-886-5179
ostfrieslanddn@yahoo.com

Steve Reynolds

1115 Shenandoah,
Clawson, MI 48017
248-435-0680
Mark.Roe@meritorwabco.com

Ty Supancic

20760 Vose St.
Winnetka, CA. 91306
tyger@socal.rr.com



The OLN cameraman filming us, as we filmed him.

Photo By Georgie

required. I had bought a “Tiki Hut” umbrella (which had first made an appearance this past Feb, down in Cocoa) and a Tiki hut under a pavilion would look dumb, so I set it up to one side of the pavilion, so that gentle zephyrs would rustle the canopy, giving the sound effects required for the South Pacific theme I was trying to set. Which worked quite well, until the wind picked up and knocked the canopy, and my boat cart (which I was using to anchor the canopy) over...

Most importantly, we were going to be filmed for a half hour show for the Outdoor Channel’s, “Inside RC” show (the episode is to be aired sometime in June). There were two cameramen that would be shooting our battle, and talking to us on film. We were a little short on combatants, so I hope the camera makes our numbers seem larger, as opposed to our waist lines! According to the cameramen, we put on a great show. Of course, what else would you say to a bunch of guys (psychos?) who spend weeks building models, only to have them shot to pieces by ‘friends’...

Saturday morning was beautiful, slightly breezy, and the lake was a little mossy (as previously mentioned). Everyone showed up in good order, except Martin Helsing, who arrived a little late. He had been trying to get his (new) CL together. But with all the issues that new ships tend to have, his CL never made it. Rick King had brought his Scheer as a loaner, and they

spent some time getting Martin’s radio into Rick’s boat. However, he did not make the first battle.

The fleets were divided Axis / Allied. Numbers wise the fleets were unbalanced, three Axis ships vs. five Allied ships. But the Allies had two cruisers, where the Axis had only battleships.

I was on the Allied fleet (U.S.S. Des Moines), the order of the day was to sink the Yamato! A tall order to say the least. But fortunately, as a cruiser captain, I don’t have to get next to the monster and eat dual side mounts. I’m more than willing to let the big boys sit next to each other and duke it out. The cruisers were given the task of attacking the Yamato’s bow. A relatively easy task, as the Yammer maneuvers like an iceberg, and has a large bow area. I don’t know for sure how many of the 3445 damage points can be attributed to the cruisers, but I do know that I did score a few points on the monster.

Rick King sank in the second sortie with a miniscule three belows and five waterline hits. Afterwards it was determined that a faulty step deck seal (well, not really faulty, more like non-existent). During maneuvering, as the Nagato heeled port and starboard, the step deck would go awash, and thereby the ship would take on water. As Rick was a “person of interest” for the Allied fleet, he had a lot of maneuvering to do. And as he ram sank my Des Moines during some



Joel recovering Rick's Nagato. Photo By Georgie

with the Scheer (being a rookie for starters, but you've got to learn this hobby by doing, not watching), and rammed the Yamato real bad. The Yamato sank on its way to shore, but was allowed to join the battle after the ram was repaired. Martin sank during the second sortie, thereby fulfilling his duty that all rookies must sink in their first battle!

Finally, after all day, the Yamato sank! Hooray for our side! The, "relatively easy task", was not so easy after all. But still, the amount of damage inflicted on the Yamato was quite high, and would have been higher in a battle with more Allied BB's around.

We left the park just in time. The bottom fell out about 3:45pm, and we received some much needed rain.

Sunday was a very nice, but a slightly breezier and cooler day.

Since this was the big "finale", we had to make it look good for the camera. The more sinks the better! The cameramen said that they did get a lot of good footage, and had decided to stay and film some more before heading back to Texas.

This time the fleets were flag/no flag, Tim K. & the Augusta had joined the Axis fleet to even up the numbers (Brian K.'s son Christopher was joining us for the Sunday battle, with his HMS Lion, so the Allies really outnumbered the Axis). Tim & I had conspired against

close order maneuvering, I don't feel all that bad about him sinking (only kidding Rick!). Actually Rick rammed me twice, the first one was a high, bow on bow strike, that left a dime sized hole high up in my starboard bow area. The second strike was on the Des Moines' port stern area, and although I couldn't see the damage (being on the far side of the hull from where I was standing), when the bilge pump started pumping real hard, I knew I was in trouble. She sank on the edge of the reeds on the way back to the dock.

Peter Kunisch sank during the morning second sortie of the day, but for the life of me, I can't remember why. He also had relatively low damage (six belows and nine waterline hits). But with the low number of Axis targets to choose from, the Allies probably ran the Derflinger until he sank.

Don Cole also sank in the morning second sortie, and in doing so was awarded one of the two "Homer Simpson Tactical Achievement" awards given that weekend, for forgetting how to turn his bilge pump on. He only had two belows, and one waterline hit, but had an attack of "oldtimers" disease, and switched his pump off, when he thought he was turning it on!

With the weather looking less charming, we decided to forgo lunch, and start the second battle earlier than

normal. Martin would be joining the Axis fleet using Rick's Scheer. Peter Kunisch joined me at the Tiki Hut for a bit of relaxation before the second battle.

The cameramen reminded us that when we sank, would we please do it farther away from the reeds, so as to get good camera angles. And although no one sank during the first sortie of the second battle, I believe that Tim K. did oblige them, and the Augusta sank away from shore. There was some serious deck sealing in that ship, as the bow never went under, and Tim was able to drive the Augusta to shore!

Martin was having some issues



Rob recovering his Yamato, next stop – hernia surgeon! Photo By Georgie

Brian, to insure that the Vanguard (which had not sunk so far this weekend), would indeed take the plunge (I was on the no flag fleet). Alas, fratricide was not required on my part, as the Vanguard did indeed sink on Sunday (I don't remember which sortie).

As the battle was going along, I wasn't really paying attention to what my own ship was doing. Even though I knew I had already taken some minor damage. When I finally decided to look back at the Des Moines, she was listing to starboard, and down quite a bit! I quickly turned the bilge pump on (no Homer Simpson award for me!), and she pumped out nicely. Don was next to me, and said, "Come on Pete, sink for the camera!". Well, anything for the theater! So I switched off my pump, and asked Rick & Rob to fire me up, as I would play 'lame duck' for them. The Nagato pulled up and emptied her magazines in me (what was left of them that is), with little result, as I turned my pump back on & emptied out again. The Yamato was trying to bring guns to bear, and he also was short on ammo, not enough to put me down with my pump on. So I asked Rick to bring the Nagato alongside the Des Moines, and I would turn my pump off. At least it would sorta look like they sank me! At the last minute,



The Des Moines'. "for the Theater" sink. Photo By Georgie

I turned the pump on so that there would be some sort of splashing when she went down. And of all the sinks that weekend, this one, in my opinion, was the least dramatic. The Des Moines settled slightly stern heavy, and only when the main deck was awash, did she finally roll into the water. No bow in the air, no dramatic roll, just a flat sink. I was disappointed to say the least. I guess I need to take acting lessons...

Admiral's Award:

(A no frills award to the victorious fleet Admiral)

Don Cole, Allied Fleet

Homer Simpson Tactical Achievement Award:

(An award for tactical mistakes during combat)

Don Cole. For turning his bilge pump off, when it was already on.
Tim Krakowski. For forgetting to turn his bilge pump on.

Superman:

(Sorry, You know who you are, but I don't remember)

Mighty Mouse:

(Awarded to the toughest, smallest ship present)

Tim Krakowski (U.S.S. Augusta)

Sieve:

(Awarded to the ship with the most damage without sinking)

Rob Stalnaker (IJN Yamato)

Order of the Soggy Britches:

(For sinking)

- Don Cole
- Pete Demetri
- Martin Helsing
- Rick King
- Peter Kunisch
- Tim Krakowski
- Rob Stalnaker

Thomas A. Edison, Shame! Shame! Award:

(Awarded to those who experience electrical failures during combat) was not awarded because Lou Mesasous did not attend this battle.



Don Cole folding his "award" for victory. Photo By Georgie

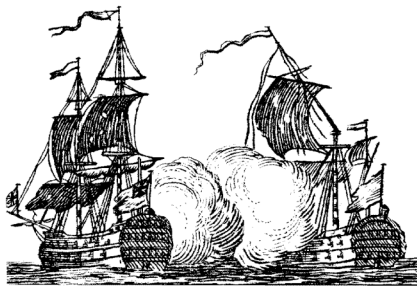


Bob H. & Kevin Bray. Bob's been up for 41 hrs, raring to go! Vid cap – Bob H.

at 7am got unloaded and helped Kevin set up. Kevin Bray, Pat & Matt Clarke and Randy were also in town for the battles Friday. The morning started out a little cool but there was hardly any wind. As the day went on it warmed up a little but the wind picked up a lot.

We divided the fleets into Flag/No Flag. Randy in the Tiger, Matt in the Houston, Pat in the Indiana and Ben in the NC vs Kevin Hovis in the Missouri, Kevin Bray in the Massachusetts and Myself in the Warspite.

Battle was called and we quickly went stern to stern. I t-boned Pat and put a nice big hole into his side by the stern turret. We both pulled our ships while he patched up. Mean while Ben was taking after Kevin Hovis. He said he felt intimidated at first by the twin sidemounts but found there was a lot of room behind them to shoot at. Pat & I got back on the water and started to mix it up again. Of course I hit him and again put a big hole in his side. Back out to patch, at least this time he had all the material he needed with him. While Pat and I were standing watching, Ben had started



Farmington Fracus

By Bob Hoernemann

With an early NATS this year and the loss of Kevin Bray's pond we were without a "Mini NATS" to start out the year. Kevin Hovis found a pond in Farmington, Missouri about 20 minutes from his house. The pond has a nice new pavilion with tables that was just finished two weeks before our battle. You could still smell the fresh cut wood standing inside of it. The pond was a very large oval with a rock point in the middle that came out about 80'. Kevin put a rope barrier from this point to the right that gave us 80' x 300' to battle in. Kevin Bray and I thought this was a great set up for our 26 second ships. The fast battleships would not be able to run too far before we could catch them.

When Kevin first posted with battle there were going to be four of us Port Polar Bear captains attending. The weekend before the battle Moe and Ron both got sick and could not make it. Ben and I decided to leave my house at 8pm and drive through the night so we could battle all day Friday. This turned out to be the best thing we could have done since the weather went south on us during the weekend. We pulled into Farmington



Matt Clark, Bob Hoernemann, & Kevin Bray. Video cap by Bob H.

to get some good hits into both Kevins. Randy and Matt were also adding to the damage total. When I finally stopped running into Pat I was able to mix it up with Randy and get some sidemounts into him. Bray and Pat also were trading sidemounts and it looked like Pat was getting the worse of it. He went down close to shore, right and the end of the sortie. He latter found two more ram holes that he did not call. No doubt done by my pointy bowed ship. Since I had been out of most of the sortie I had a lot of bbs left. I shot them in Randy's direction and he started pumping pretty hard, but did make it off his five. For the second sortie I pledged to stay away from Pat so I would not ram him any more. Our fleet deceived to go after Randy and put him down and then work on Pat some more. Just a few seconds into the battle I started to back in on Pat's bow while he was stern to stern with the Kevins. Pat did not see me coming or did not think a QE backing in was a bad thing. I was able to get many well placed sterns into his bow before he woke up and moved off. While I was blasting Pat with twins



NC making the drum beat on the Missouri. Video cap by Bob H.

Randy was hitting me with his single stern gun, oh the humanity of it all! After that we went back to our plan of getting Randy, it started off very well. Bray and I were able to sandwich Randy and add to his damage. The new Tiger slipped beneath the waves for the first "Real" sink of the weekend. Vengeance was quick however for the Flag fleet as I lost site of were I was and parked behind Pat and Ben to take a bow full of triples. After a

little too much chasing around the triple holes got below the water, my pump was not able to keep up and I sank 20' from shore. The water was nice and warm but was up to my armpits. The rest of the day I was freezing as the cold wind blew on my wet pants. After I got the guns on the Warspite cleared and pinned I ran to grab my camera. Virginia (Randy's wife) had taped the first sortie and was now using Ben's camera to get the second. The timing of it was perfect. I got back to the pond to catch Ben blowing out the starboard side of the Missouri. Ben had climbed up Kevin's side and was locked in with his sidemount. It was that beautiful drum beat sound made by pop battle armor when bbs hit home. No other armor makes this sound. I love hearing so much I was cheering Ben on as he gutted my teammate. They went through this circle of death a couple of times before Kevin sank next to shore.

What looked like a sure No Flag victory had turn into a great come back by the Flag fleet.



Damage to the Missouri. Video cap by Bob H.



Damage to the Missouri.

Video cap by Bob H.

hobbies' best cruiser captain. But running a slower ship is not something he is use to. Kevin and I have been in our ships for several years and really did a number on him. Matt gave quite a bit back to us but being out numbered in a new ship with one broken rudder was a bad thing. I was surprised how long it took for him to sink in the first sortie. Either Kevin or I was hitting him with sidemounts the whole battle. I started to think maybe we were not sending any of them through the hull. We did finally get him to sink next to the shore. We went after Randy next and tossed the last few bbs at him. Ben had started to take it to Kevin H. again getting a lot of triples and sidemounts into the billboard sides of the Missouri. After this sortie I went to look at the Indiana and was very disappointed not to see any big below the waterline hits. But as I looked closer I began to find lots of little holes. Pat does such a good job sheeting with perfect balsa it's hard to see the holes even when you're look at them. I counted the belows and part of the aboves so Matt could patch and come back in. He had 42

SCORES WERE:

No Flag:

Mass (Bray) 25-2-6
 Warspite (Bob) 40-2-5 sink
 Missouri (Hovis) 169-13-18 sink
 Total Damage: 6,615

Flag:

Tiger (Randy) 23-9-25 sink
 Houston (Matt) 3-2-0
 Indiana (Pat) 36-6-23 sink
 NC (Ben) 25-8-11
 Total Damage: 6,445

The second battle started after lunch. The wind had really picked up by then and was going to make it tough to battle. I taped my haymaker turret over to keep extra water from coming in. Most of the other battlers also taped their decks down so only the bbs holes would sink them. The fleets stayed close to the same, people wise. The No Flag fleet added Tom running a borrowed USS Mpls. Tom lives in the area and was making a Friday afternoon "Sales" call. After the battle and on Saturday we went over his Brooklyn kit, giving him tips on its construction. He left the battle Saturday excited about the hobby and ready to get his kit

built. The other fleet changes had Randy changing to the VDT and Matt taking the Indiana out for the first time. Kevin and I wanted to work on our team tactics and thought Matt would be a good target. The first sortie was really two battles. Bray and I were working Matt over, with Pat running the Houston between us and Ben and Randy were chasing after Hovis on the other end of the pond. Matt, or The Viper as he has come to be known, is the



Tom Palmer, the latest biker rider, gets ready to take Mpls out. --- Bob H.

aboves on the portside from the A turret forward and 78 belows, not bad team work after all. The next sortie Kevin and I targeted Randy's VDT. He turns better than a Sodak and was a little harder to tie down. It took until the 3rd sortie but once again we were able to reach our goal and Randy sank. Now the wind was really picking up and Ben had chased Kevin B around taking a few too many triples. Bray and Ben got into a pushing match and Ben was not calling a ram. Kevin B managed to push him around until he got too full of water and went down; due mostly to the rough water and Kevin's pushing not battle damage.



Action photo of the NC finding the undefended flank of the MO. – Bob H.

SCORES WERE:

No Flag:

- Mpls (Tom) 36-5-2
- Warspite (Bob) 48-0-9
- Missouri (Hovis) 177-19-13
- Mass (Bray) 97-19-13
- Total Damage: 6,530

Flag:

- VDT (Randy) 30-9-28 sink
- Indiana (Matt, total with patching) 93-9-94 sink
- Houston (Pat) 10-2-6
- NC (Ben) 80-7-15 sink
- Total Damage 13,105.

Trent and Trystan showed up in the middle of the third sortie. It was already pretty late and Ben and I were beat from the long drive. Everyone packed and got a shower and headed to Hovis' house to work on ships and get some dinner. Ben jumped in the shower first and as I was shaving I heard him say "You've got to be kidding me, we're out of hot water!!" The plumber must not know how to hook up a shower as he had the hot on the cold side. We made it to the BBQ place in

town right before they closed. They had to put some more food out on the buffet line just for us. By the time we got back to Kevin's I only had enough energy to patch one side of my ship. Ben and I went back to the hotel to get some much needed sleep; we had been up for 41 hours.

Saturday morning started out a little cloudy and calm. Hovis brought out the electronic speed tester to see how it worked. I ran the Mpls and Warspite through it. The wind was again getting bad and the sensors were moving around too much to test. Trent was not able to find the problem with his Roma's drive but they did get the Graf Spee working for Trystan. Ron also had made it with his Gneisenau. The last time I had seen this ship was my first battle in '99 when it was owned by Dave Mote. Ron bought it from him and this would be his 2nd battle with it. The fleets were set up:
 No Flag Warspite (Bob), Mass. (Bray), Mpls (Tom), Gneisenau (Ron) vs Flag VDT (Randy), Indiana (Matt), Houston (Pat), Missouri (Hovis), NC (Ben).

By the time we were ready



Mighty MO rolling over after getting hammered by NC & Indiana - Bob H.



Warspite sneaking up on the Indiana, wake up Pat! - Bob H.

on, had already gone in the water. He made it to where the Mpls had gone down but the water was over his waders and pulling him down. Tom fired the guns to mark the ship and it had moved all the way out to the rope line. Pat jumped in the water to get Kevin out and then started going after the Mpls. I pulled the Warspite to shore and started to take off my rain gear, jacket and shirt. Pat could not find the ship or touch bottom. He was coming in as I was swimming out. I swam half way and had Tom fire the guns again. To everyone's surprise the bubble were right next to me. I dove down and could not see a thing. It seemed like a long way down and then I got hit in the face with bubbles. I could hear the pump running and found the ship on the soft bottom. I had a tough time swimming with it into shore because the waves were getting in my face. So I launched it in front of me and it beached itself. Everyone had pulled their ship while I was out but I had bbs left and wanted to battle. Matt, Pat and I put back in and started battling. The wind now was really bad. I could hardly back up into the wind

for battle it was raining and windy. Tom had gone to Wal-Mart to get some rain gear. Ben also took off for breakfast. Since the weather was getting worse we started the first sortie without Ben. Hovis also missed the first sortie as one of his solenoids had broken off the tank. Bray and I were going to go after Ben but ended up tangling with Matt instead. Early in the battle Ron took off after Trystan's Graf Spee. He tossed a few shots his way and came back by me. He told me him pump was not starting so he went to go hide at the far end of the pond on five. No one noticed or felt bad and did not go after him. He made it off his five without sinking. In-between sorties he found the wire had come off of his pump. I showed him how to solder it back on correctly. The first sortie was a hug n slug fest with all of the slow ships slugging it out. Ben made it back and into the second sortie. Ron never took any damage so I guess everyone was too busy trying to sink Kevin and me to go after him. We were out numbered 5 to 2

and they keep coming at us. I remember thinking if this is what NATS will be like I'm going to love it. There were shots lining up for us faster than we could take them. I had run down the shore to chase Randy when I heard that the Mpls had sunk. Seams Tom got sideways in the wind while turning and the ship tipped over. Ben told me latter that it looked like he was close to shore and might be able to drive it in. By the time I had walked over to everyone Hovis, with waders



Warspite looks to score some cheap belows as NC starts to roll over. - Bob H.



Pat Clark, he's a Texas Long Horn fan! Video cap by Bob H.

and got the guns firing. This whole time everyone else was trying to get Trent's ESC to work. Strange things were happening, things only a cursed ship would have. Finally we pulled out the tied together wires and got rid on an old ground wire that was not connected to anything. This fixed the problem. There is no reason why this wire would cause any issues, it must be cursed. Of course I put it in Bray's ship to pass it on. Ben and I packed up our stuff and we all headed out to dinner at the Mexican place in town. After dinner we went back to the hotel to patch and I was going to change my drive motors. Ben was sleeping before I got both ships patched. With the drive motors done I went to bed at 11pm.

It was very cloudy but not windy or rainy Sunday. Tom had left so I kept the Mpls in the car. While I was getting things ready I found the cursed wire in my ship. Kevin was laughing and was the guilty party. I tossed it at Hovis' ship and scored. I wanted to check speed with the

and turning was a bad idea. Matt pushed me around and I rolled under. Matt gave a victorious little whoop and I was back in the warm water again. It was better than being in the cold wind. We counted and thought about battling after the weather pasted but things just got worse. It was so windy that there were 6"-9" white caps on the pond. So we all packed up and headed to Hovis' house to work on ships. SCORES WERE:

Flag:

Graff Spee (Trystan) 4-0-0,
 VDT (Randy) 15-5-11,
 Indiana (Matt) 64-16-49,
 Houston (Pat) 26-3-12,
 NC (Ben) 33-8-27
 Total Damage 6,670.

No Flag:

Gneisenau (Ron) 0-0-0
 Mpls (Tom) 1-0-0 sink,
 Mass (Bray) 40-5-13,
 Warspite (Bob) 38-0-1
 Missouri (Hovis) 68-5-32
 Total Damage 5,620

On our way there Ben and I saw a tree branch hanging

from a power line. I commented that power would be out at Kevin's and it was. We still unpacked and started patching ships. Trent and Ron had their ships on the bench with everyone looking over their problems. It was like ER, the dieing patient on the table and all the doctors working on them. Trystan and I were wiping down all of my stuff in all of my boxes. They had sat in the rain and were full of water. After we were done I looked over his Graf Spee



When pumps don't work, Roma sinks as Mpls runs over the survivors – Bob H.

new motor so I buttoned things up and hit the water. The new motors made it backwards for 10' feet, forwards for two and died. It drifted to shore and on the table I found the motors to run direct but really slow, the wires also were getting hot, soon there was some smoke coming from the starboard side motor. The cursed wire strikes again. I moved Warspite to another table and got Mpls out of the car. In between getting her ready I helped Trent and Trystan get their ships going. Hovis found one of his solenoids stuck open and was also out of the battle. That's cursed wire two, battlers zero.

The fleets were set up as: Flag NC (Ben), Tiger (Randy), Gneisenau (Ron) vs Mass (Bray), Mpls (Bob), Graff Spee (Trystan) Roma (Trent).

I tried to run with Trystan but he had a bad list to the portside and could not move around too much. Ben went for the Roma and hit him hard in the stern with sidemounts. I put most of my sterns toward Randy and Ron. Soon the Roma looked very bad and was not pumping very much. She rolled over and sank next too shore. The Gneisenau also went down after taking a few too many sidemounts from Bray. As the second sortie started the Roma was not putting out much of a pump stream even though we could hear the motor running. We thought he might have the pump wired backwards. Trent pulled his ship out as it sank and he sat out this part of the battle. Trystan's list was fixed with a wrench and he was ready to go. Again I tossed most of my shots to Ron and Randy. Ben and Bray were off playing down to the right of the pond. I had lost my rudder in the first sortie and it jammed up again, need to reglue that post in place before NATS. Ben and Randy came after the

Mpls to put her down. I was able to get the last bbs I had into them and managed to stay away from them taking a big pounding. A few times I used Randy's (Empty sidemount) starboard side to hide from Ben. My five was over and Ben went to go get Bray who was also on five. But Kevin had already pulled his ship. He had both drive motors burn out and was smoking. Cursed wire three, battlers zero. Only Ben seams

immune to the curse, he drove around with the wire on his ship all day. We'll see how his motors hold up in the next battle. As I was pinning my guns Ben pulled up and emptied his port sidemount into me. He made a nice big hole under the hanger. This was the last organized battle of the weekend. Randy, Hovis, Trystan and Ron went out to play around. Ron sank again and had a very hard time



The G-Man's bad wiring leads to a sink.

Video cap by Bob H.



Kevin Bray unsheeted in one piece!

Video cap by Bob H.

finding his ship. Luckily after 20 minutes he got it out. I spent some time with Trent going over his ship and making a “to do list”. Things that need to be done for NATS, and things that can wait. Ben and I said our good byes and hit the road. Because I brought my lap top I was able to write this as we drove. Though I still find myself wondering what happened during the battles. It was a good start to the season I can’t wait for NATS!



YOU MIGHT BE A MODEL WARSHIP COMBAT MODELER IF:
By Bart Purvis

After arriving at the lake you invariably discover that you have left your transmitter or batteries or tool box or even your ship at home.

After spending an hour clearing your workbench for the new ship project you find that you are down to one square foot of work space within five minutes after starting construction.

Any object you drop in the shop disappears instantly, sometimes even before it hits the ground.

Your ship will, after losing control, unswervingly seek out and get stuck on the only dead tree in the middle of the lake.

Your cyanoacrylate glue tips always clog after the third use.

You think RC is great, if you don’t drink too much before bedtime.

You really think that your opponent will tell you to turn on your pump.

You keep putting off building that certain obscure ship that you love and, of course, someone else ends up making it.

You find that the number of ships you produce is inversely proportional to the number of plans and machine tools you have.



Warspite gets haymaker on target, another below for Indiana. - Bob H.



NC takes a dive!

Video cap by Bob H.

You show up at NATs with a brand new, untested ship that you almost finished before you left home.

You discover that, after the first sortie, the nice shady spot you selected to set up your table is also the site of a fire ant condominium.

You just know that someone else will have a spare burst disc. Right!

Your ship, which did its proper 24 seconds during speed testing, will only do 32 when battle is declared.

Your opponent's ship, which did its proper 24 seconds during speed testing, does 14 when battle is declared.

After the battle your one-on-one opponent says, "Drop test? What's a drop test?"

You find that your "on five" ship is equipped with an "on four" pump

You actually remembered to bring everything you need to the battle (See item number one) except one of the corner aluminum pole to the dining fly.

Your tool box contains six LH props and no RH props.

You really thought your batteries were charged.

You never have a cold soldered joint fail until your ship is on the water and war has been declared.

And after everything above has happened to you, you can honestly say, "Aw what the heck. I just came to the battle for the joy and pleasure of spending quality time with my friends. I'll just take videos. But wait, I left my camera batteries on the charger at home,"

I think this is a list of Bart's facts of his life as an R/C combat modeler, but he claims he copied this from someone else.... PKD



THERE AND, WELL BACK AGAIN. TRAVELLING TALES FROM THE THOMPSON'S

A pair of Rookies adventure in MWC...

By Trent & Trystan Thompson

It all started with a magazine, WWII to be exact. My son & I love everything to do with the Greatest Generation. We were at the grocery store one day, and picked up a copy. Flipping through the pages, I see an ad... Model Warship Combat-Swamp Works... What in the world is THAT? Intrigued I go to the web site. That was in '04...

It wasn't just getting hooked-it was the Great Obsession for sure! My son and I decided this was for us. We spent the better part of a year searching the web for anything related to MWC-feasting on glories past and pictures of ships in combat. In April of '05, I called Kevin Bray on the phone and introduced myself. He lived about 2 hours away. He invited us to The Fray the following month. It worked out as I had some vacation time available. We couldn't stay for the whole weekend, but we could see some ships and some battles.

There we meet Kevin and his wife who treated us like we had



Big Mamie gives the G-Man the triple stern salute. Farmington Fracas - Bob H.

been friends for years. Also there was Bryan Finster and Steve Reichenbach. We were early, of course, and nothing was set up. But we get to see our first ships. Kevin showed us some videos and we were hooked for sure now! Later as everyone else starts to arrive we are introduced to Bob Hoernemann, Patrick Clarke, the Bruders, Ben Radenbaugh, Randy Stiponovich, and a few others I can not remember, and of course Her Fluegel. Who promptly asks me what side I'm on. I had been fascinated with the history of the DKM Prinz Eugen and when I announced *that* to Her Fluegel, he smiled and welcomed us to the Dark Side.

Dinner was an invasion by a bunch of guys talking about toy ships - much camaraderie was evident, and we were made welcome by all. Even my wife passed judgment that this was by far the most normal group of guys of all of my past hobbies...(so this should tell you something about me...)

The next day Bob had a surprise for Trystan and I. He had brought an extra ship, the Minneapolis, and we could take turns using it. Later we learned it had a nickname: "The Bicycle".

Long story short here, We had a great time but had to leave early. Trystan didn't stop talking about it, and I joined the long list of people who sank The Bicycle and was baptized in the red clay waters of Brays pond getting her from the bottom.

Over the next year boxes, parts, and stuff starts collecting in my garage. The Prinz Eugen has



Warspite doing an impression of a submarine. Farmington Fracas.
Video cap by Bob H.

arrived from Australia and has started to resemble something of a combat ship, even if by fits and starts, & is slow go. I invite my brother to a ship building meeting at Kevin's place. He too is soon talking about building a ship. Out of curiosity I decide to post online to the MWC forum to see if there are any ships for sale for my brother. That is how I meet a very helpful Peter Kunisch. He has an offer I cant refuse, a Roma and a Graf Spee for sale. I had seen John Bruder's VV at the Fray and fell in love with it. My brother decided he wanted to build from scratch so I pounced on the Roma and my son bought the Graf Spee. Three weeks to the Fracas...hmmm. We can make it...

They arrived in good order with some repair needed here and there from the trip from Florida to Missouri. But I soon wonder what I have gotten myself into with committing to the Fracas. As we arrive in Farmington it starts to rain...and after meeting up with everyone and having dinner I go

back to the room to finish soldering leads on batteries till 2 a.m..

Next day the rain has stopped for a time. Only the Graf Spee makes it onto the water for Trystan for a short run. Everyone seems to be having some issues though so I don't feel too bad. I man the camera and have almost as much fun. Trystan is in heaven but the Graf Spee starts to have a few problems and has to be pulled from the water around lunch time. Then the Hurricane hit. I cant ever remember seeing white caps on a pond before...at least not like these. The waves and the driving rain- it really was like a Hurricane. It was crazy WINDY and we had a good time trying to pack everything up without blowing away!

We went back to Kevin Hovis' place and went to work-in the dark mind you- since the power was out. But Bob the electrician saved the day with a power inverter from his car battery. The Graf Spee needed a little work- mainly with the



NC hitting Missouri with triplets. Farming Fracas. - Bob H.

regulator. It had a leak and kept freezing up. We replaced it with a Swampy light weight, but then the bow gun would not fit in the hull due to the rotate. We found out that the rotate servo was dead as well and removed it. After some wrangling we got it back together with no leaks. Had to do some re-soldering of a few leads here and there. The stern gun had to be rebuilt due to a crack in one of the brass tubes that caused it also not to function well. After those repairs and finally figuring out the park flyer receiver and hook ups, things went well for the Graf Spee. Trystan had loads of fun driving it around next day.

On Sunday a cub scout den was at the pond before our battle and Trystan was the center of attention with the sharp looking cruiser. I will have to check on the pump and the rudder servo though for routine maintenance. The pump just didn't quite put out enough for a stinger and towards the end of the day the rudder servo started twitching. We also have to work on getting the

balance just so as the Spee, like most cruisers, is a little tippy.

He did well. Sniped where he could and ended the day with only 4 above and 2 belows. MUCH better than me. The last battle was close though as he was coming off 5 he started to slip beneath the waves (pump was out) but was close enough to shore that he was able to touch it before he sank! He had a very good time and has not stopped talking about it.

The Roma. Well the Roma took a bit more to get going. She actually didn't make it on the water till Sunday. I was very thankful for the fact that there were so many experienced builders there willing to help. I had replaced the original motors after talking to Randy Avalone on the phone (the original builder of the Roma). It worked before I took the old motors out but after wiring in a new stinger pump and 2 new 600s It was dead. I just couldn't figure it out. It looked like it was wired right. Turns out it was. But there was a "Bad" wire that used to be a ground wire that was

causing problems. It was like a scene from ER though. Here is the Roma on a table, with 6 or so captains circling the table ripping this out and that out, plugging this in and soldering that, replacing parts, poking with gadgets, pulling hair out and walking away to return to bring the patient back alive. All in all it took 6 captains about 4 hours to get her running. It all ended up being a ground wire that was not attached to ANYTHING but was close enough to cause some resistance. That or it was the devil. Most of us decided it was the devil...more on that latter.

Sunday I got her in the water about 5 min. before battle started. Mind you this is the first time I have ever run her. She turns pretty good. So so acceleration forwards but stops like nothing flat from full forwards to reverse in about a ships length. And as you can imagine acceleration in reverse is very very good. I didn't get to do a speed test so I think by tweaking the radio I will fix the forward speed as she was too slow. I was routinely caught by Bens NC and could not escape her by running. I had to run and then reverse letting the NC go by. I also found that the Roma can turn in reverse better than some I have seen. Ben in his NC and Randy in his VDT was kind enough to test the Roma's pump for me. It worked but I apparently did not file down a flat spot on the new stinger motor for the impeller and it was slipping- not putting out near enough water. I sank on 5 with 48-11-26 and a ram hole from the NC earlier in the battle high on the Roma's bow. She sank before battle began in the second sortie, due to poor pump flow. I found out (later) that only the starboard side mount and one stern gun fired hard enough to penetrate balsa. The port gun only fired every other throw

and not nearly hard enough.

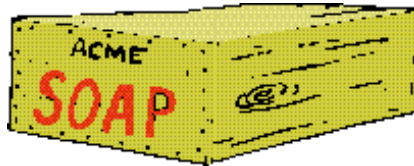
The ship responded well and I was very pleased to have it on the water and in a fight even if I was just a target. I learned an enormous amount from this weekend from all of the captains there and am very appreciative of all of there time and help getting the Roma to this point. Again thanks to all.

I need to spend some more stick time with her and Bob Hoernemann was nice enough to give me a priority list of things to get done so I will be more reliable.

As I mentioned before, though we had much fun with the "bad" wire, we decided that it WAS possessed. After 'someone' put it in Ben's NC- it was just coiled up laying in the bow- His pump stopped working and he sank...Then it made its way into Randy's boat. I didn't see it, but I was told he sank... From there I

think it was in Hovis' Missouri at some time and yet again another sink... Luckily Bob found it in his boat before disaster struck, and then it ended up in Bray's boat for the last battle- his drive motors caught on fire! This is the new Axis secret weapon! A common looking, but Possessed wire!

Well, after all that-we signed up for NATS! Lets see how much we can get done by then! A new adventure awaits!



Thanks to everyone for the articles! I actually have others that will have to make it into the next issue (squeezed in amongst all the NATs coverage of course).

CORRECTIONS:

In the previous issue I miss-spelt Mark Roe's name as "Marc", sorry 'bout that.

I also miss-identified Rick King's Nagato as Brian Koehler's Vanguard, in one of the photos. I don't know who was more offended... I guess I need to do a little ship recognition work before NATs starts!

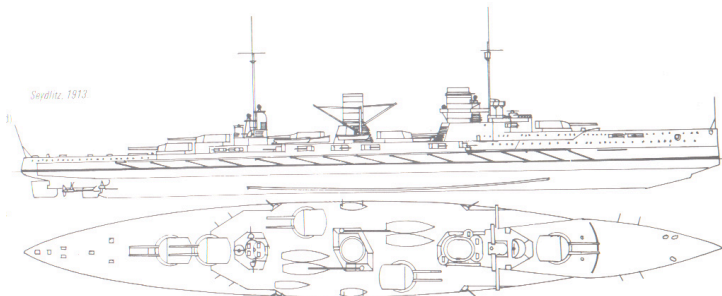
The scores for the April Ambush described herein are available on the MWCI.ORG web site. There were just too many (I'm not complaining mind you) stories to tell this time.

You may have noticed some format differences between this issue and the Spring issue. Just trying new things to see how they work. Feedback is always welcome.

----- PKD-----

TASK FORCE 144

17 Lanvale St.
Port Wentworth, GA 31407



"Once we have a war, there is only one thing to do. It must be won. For defeat brings worse things than any that can ever happen in war." - Ernest Hemingway