

Real Life Skills - Build a Yacht! **'BugNews 41** **Real Sailors Build their Own Boats!**

Multiple Families Build a 'Bug in Berlin!



Norbert (left) with proud builders and the 'Glühwürmchen' ready for sailing in Berlin.



Katinka, Merta and Ida keen for a sail!



Interesting artwork! The builder's hand stamps on white then the stencilled name over the top. Nice job. The name 'Glühwürmchen' is a direct translation of the word FireBug or Firefly.



Holger enjoying a sail on the lake.

Norbert Pauli in Berlin writes "In a team effort we built, launched and finally sailed "Glühwürmchen" last week at Lake Parstein, Berlin, Germany. The builders were six children and six adults working Saturdays over a period of 18 months, all sawing, planing, and glueing framing lumber and plywood. Many times the Saturday building hours resulted in group lunches - special thanks to those who supplied the food! During this summer holiday we saw the last pieces coming together and put the boat to water. Favourable weather, good food, and nearly all the builders together for the first sail. It was a great day! Hosting this endeavour for me has been very exciting. Please find pictures attached. We would be proud to find one of them in the Firebug NewsLetter. Thank you all so much!"

- Norbert and the Glühwürmchen team.

Competition! Win a new Sail!



Bill Barry, longtime FireBug supporter and sailmaker has developed a new Mk 5 sail. He's made one, it looks beaut and it's the competition prize! How you enter.. Write 3-400 words on **What makes my FireBug so Special!** Judging will take age into consideration. Email your entry to pete@firebug.co.nz and include a photo of yourself and the boat, partly built is ok.

Funding at Concord Ryde

Ross Venner from Concord Ryde SC reports that the club, working with the Australian Sports Foundation, has raised \$10,000 to allow pupils attending local high schools to learn to sail and then participate in a 'Bug Build'. While CRSC is close to Meadowbank TAFE, home of Sydney's only boat building school, there is no assumption that participants will seek one of the 30,000 jobs in the industry. A young person who can say, "I sail and I built a boat" will surely stand out among candidates for almost any job. To quote one businessman, "I can't get stickability like that anywhere."

FireBugs at the AWBF in Hobart



Ben Glover sailing 'Hot Buggy' at the AWBF.

Once again there were 'Bugs sailing at the fabo Australian Wooden Boat Festival. Rod Stevens advises from Hobart that the Lindisfarne Sailing Club has a regular fleet of five boats racing and there are more boats available to buy or borrow - how about some adults using those spare boats to boost the fleet numbers and provide a challenge for the kids. They love a chance to beat the Dads or sailing instructors!

Some New Launchings..

Hi Pete, I had success a few weeks ago, launching in a light breeze, what has been named 'The Grinch', (main character from the Dr Seuss children's story). All went well. The boat is not painted green, it is adhesive vinyl that can be removed and the colour changed. Good trick! Regards Aaron Dixon, Brisbane.



'The Grinch'

Recent launching of two boats in Tauranga New Zealand by Philip Churchill. A smart looking boat each for sons Timothy, 12 and Michael, 9. Phil too pot painted the spars white and they look great! The boats are shown being launched from the front lawn, so lucky!



FireBugs in Oregon.. (nothing to do with the recent bushfires!)

Brandt Eilers in Portland Oregon USA writes:
Peter, Here are some build photos and finished pics, (see below..) We named the boat "Flying Squirrel" and launched it on September 2. The build took part of 2 summers since I had to build on my front porch. The sealed hull sat under a tarp all winter waiting for warm weather to put the paint and varnish on. Then I painted the hull to match the first boat I built which is a 10' stitch and glue skiff. Overall the build wasn't too much more complex, the hardest part for me was learning to use a metric tape measure. The boat sails very well, and is a blast in moderate wind. My nine year old son and I took it out yesterday in our local river and had a great time, even with strong gusts the boat stood up well, with just a little chop splashing over. It's nice to know that even if it does go over, it will come up fairly dry and ready to go. I'm thinking it will be a great sail training boat for my son (when I let him use it!). I love the way the boat turned out and I'm hoping for a few more good sailing days this year before the weather turns. The few days I've been able to get out this fall were so fun, I'm considering a drysuit for winter sailing. If not, I'll be eagerly waiting for next spring. Thanks for the great plans, beautiful sail, and support with the wooden spars and hardware. I will be spreading the word about what a wonderful unique boat the Firebug is. Thanks and happy sailing, Brandt.



Brandt's 'Flying Squirrel' under construction. The boat has been launched. Primo sailing photos in the next issue..

What the 'Bug's About..

The FireBug has always primarily been about; **Learning life skills for kids: reading plans, measuring, basic maths, cutting and shaping, choosing and buying, gluing and painting, graphics, names, boats and sailing.** As a senior educator in Australian said **It's a great idea, kids, especially boys would enjoy learning for a change but to get it into the system is like trying to change the direction of a dinosaur!**
 It reminds me of the 18 year old who was offered a job in the movies.. His parents sprang him out of University and although they were looking for someone much older he passed the months trial and got a fantastic job. Later he told his father: **Dad, if I hadn't been able to build and sail boats I wouldn't have got that job!**
 No study, No student loan, Fantastic career learnt on the job.

Small Sail Boat Foiling..



Our spy camera spotted this boat doing secret trials on Wellington harbour by night! It's an Opti and are they doing secret training for the World Champs? Has anyone tried 'BugFoiling'? If you're keen contact me with your ideas.. pete@firebug.co.nz And as Norbert asks 'What about ice sailing in a 'Bug?'

New 7 Boat Fleet in Gore



Peter Salmond writes from the Gore Boat Club in Southland NZ *Peter, I've attached a photo of three of our fleet of seven Firebugs at the Southland Boat Show. We sail on a forty acre lake which is ideal for the Firebugs and have purchased, through grants, a safety boat which is proving invaluable. The kids love the boats!*

New FireBug Website The New Website is on the 'back burner' awaiting funding. Hopefully some will turn up soon!

Brett and Henry in Grenville



Brett Purcell from Grenfell, west of Sydney (home of famous Aussie poet Henry Lawson and hence the name) has almost completed 'Henry' and is looking forward to get afloat. Brett's family are experienced boat builders and it shows, lovely job! He says *'Pete, it's been great fun. I got the sail, WOW fantastic! What a beauty, great colours, I won't get lost on water!'*

Regatta Dates for the South Island

Tom Arthur advises regatta dates:
South Island Champs at PPYC Dec 9th.
Canterbury Champs at the Waimakariri Sailing Club, March 10-11.
Lake Mahinapua Aquatic Club Regatta in Westland Feb 3-4. Camp by the lake!
 Further info: tom.arthur@orcon.net.nz
 **Aussie entrants welcome, borrow a boat!

New Sailor on the Waimakariri River



Kerry O'Brien's daughter Stalena enjoying a sail in the recently launched 'Dawn Treader'. Kerry is the Commodore of the Waimakariri Sailing Club based on the Waimakaruru River near Christchurch. It looks like a beaut place to sail!

Thanks for the Stories and Photos!

Brett Purcell, Brandt Eilers, Peter Salmond, Norbert Pauli, Bill Barry, Jason Smith, Ross Venner, Aaron Dixon, Phil Churchill, Damien Royes, Robert McLean, Kerry O'Brien Rod Stevens, Tom Arthur, Damien Royes..

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