

# Newsletter

**SPINNAKER**



**SPRING  
2019**

## **C O N T E N T S (of key articles)**

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### **Club Sailing Water**

The Club's local sailing water is a pond within Whites Nurseries Ltd., Clay Lane, Earls Barton, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 OEP.



### **Southfields—Club Meetings 2019**

TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 7.30 PM

Southfields Community Centre

Farmhill Road, Southfields, Northampton, NN3 5DS

#### **Next meetings:**

**2nd, 16th & 30th April,**

**14th & 28th May, 11th & 25th June**

**Some of these Tuesdays we may be at the pond instead if we get nice weather.**



## From the Bridge

Welcome to the spring edition of Spinnaker.

In this issue I have done an article, as promised in the last Spinnaker, on a circuit to flash a LED. If you're new to electronics this makes a nice simple starter project.

Leading on from the subject of lights on boats, there is an article on the ColRegs. Add some meaning to a floating Christmas Tree.

Also we remember the 50th anniversary of the capsizing of the Longhope lifeboat in which all hands were lost.

*Colin*

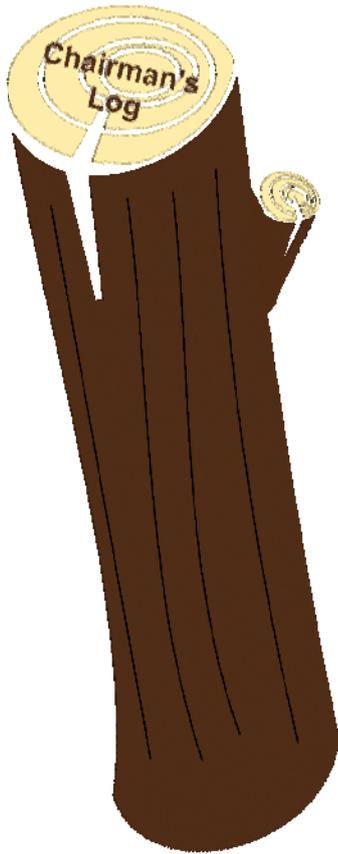
### Earls Barton Pond Access

If you change your mobile phone number then remember to give the new number to Andy or Ian. They will then inform the security people at Whites Farm so their database is updated.

If a dialled number is not in their database then the gates will not open to give you access.

Also you must set your mobile phone to transmit its number on making a call. Some phone settings have the option to disable this function.





Greetings and its the start of Spring!

Now that the colder weather is slowly subsiding we can all begin to venture out of our dry docks (or sheds) after spending most of the winter nights working away on new projects (or not). I have been feverously trying to find time to get my Crash tender finished ahead of this years events.

We have a fun packed year ahead with our first show at the goods shed in Rushden in April so I do hope you can join us for that.

I have been contacted by Northampton Model Engineers regarding an open day they host at Delapre Park in September and are keen to forge new links with our club, if you are like me and have looked at model steam boats but don't know where to start, these guys have all the help at hand, they are willing to come and support us at Earls Barton so this could be an interesting venture.

The condition of the pond today (24 March) is very good and the two new swans have done a cracking good job of eating the weed! We are sailing most Sundays now with Tea and Coffee on hand accompanied by the odd sneaky bacon roll. So if the sun is out you should hopefully find someone down there, keep an eye on the Facebook page as we use this for seeing who's going down ahead of time.

Happy Sailing  
Andy

# Flash a LED

by Colin Tarry

In the last Spinnaker I said this time we would look at a simple circuit you can build that will flash a LED (which doesn't involve the wearing of a raincoat).

Not all boats need flashing lights on them, but those of us who for example who model modern lifeboats (those post 1960) would need to have a blue flashing light on.



Whilst you can buy LEDs that inherently flash, you may wish to use a type that does not. For example both my lifeboat use blue SMD (surface mounted device) type LEDs. At this point in time I have not found any that inherently flash.

The circuit described here is the one fitted to my Waveney class lifeboat. The one in the Solent class is more complex and uses PWM (pulse wave modulation) to flash it.

For the Waveney the circuit is built around the 555 IC (integrated circuit) chip. This integrated circuit has been around since the 1970s and is very versatile and can be used for a number of differing applications involving "timing". Basically this chip can operate in one of three modes, namely astable, bistable and monostable. In this article it is used in astable mode, which basically means we are going to use it to Oscillate.



This circuit can be built with a very small number of components which makes it ideal for a beginners project. For those of you who have never dabbled with electronic circuits before, this is ideal for you.



The flashing light circuit as installed in the wheelhouse of my Waveney class lifeboat.

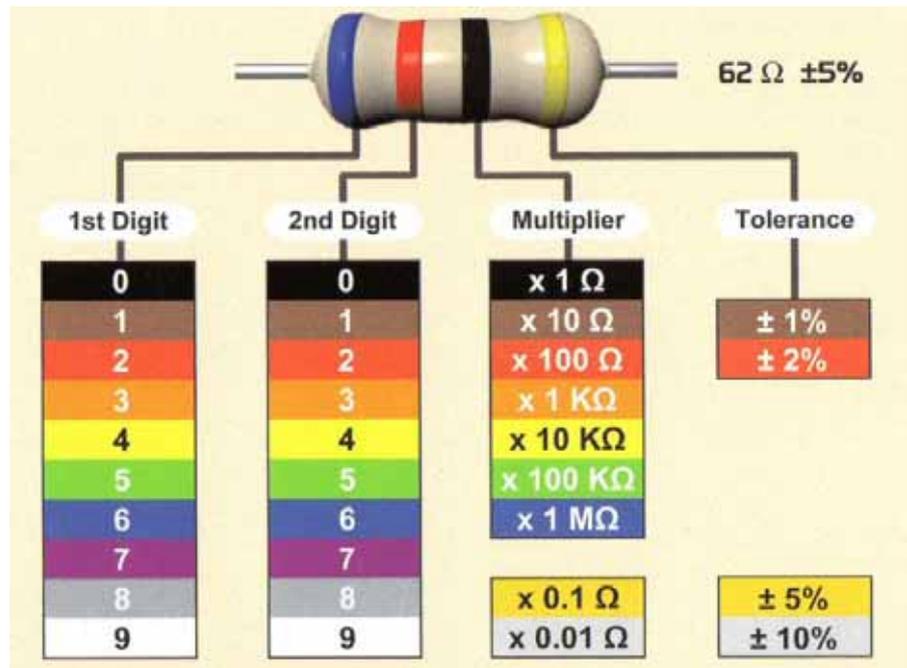


### Components list

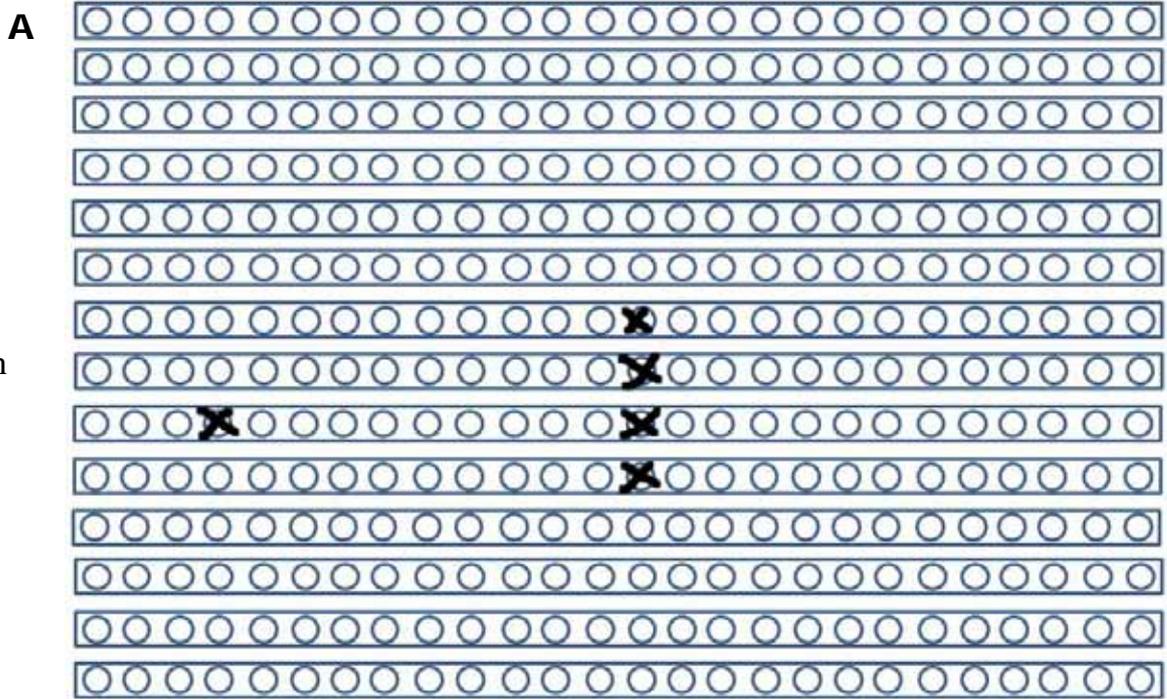
- C1 Capacitor Ceramic type 0.01uF
- C2 Capacitor Electrolytic type 35v 10uF
- C3 Capacitor Electrolytic type 25v 220uF (optional)
- R1 Resistor 100k or 110k
- R2 Resistor 8.2k
- R2 Resistor 1k
- IC 555 integrated circuit chip

- 8 pin IC DIL (Dual in Line) socket
- Wire 0.6mm (between 22 AWG and 23 AWG)
- Copper strip board 14 strips x 26 holes

# Resistor Guide



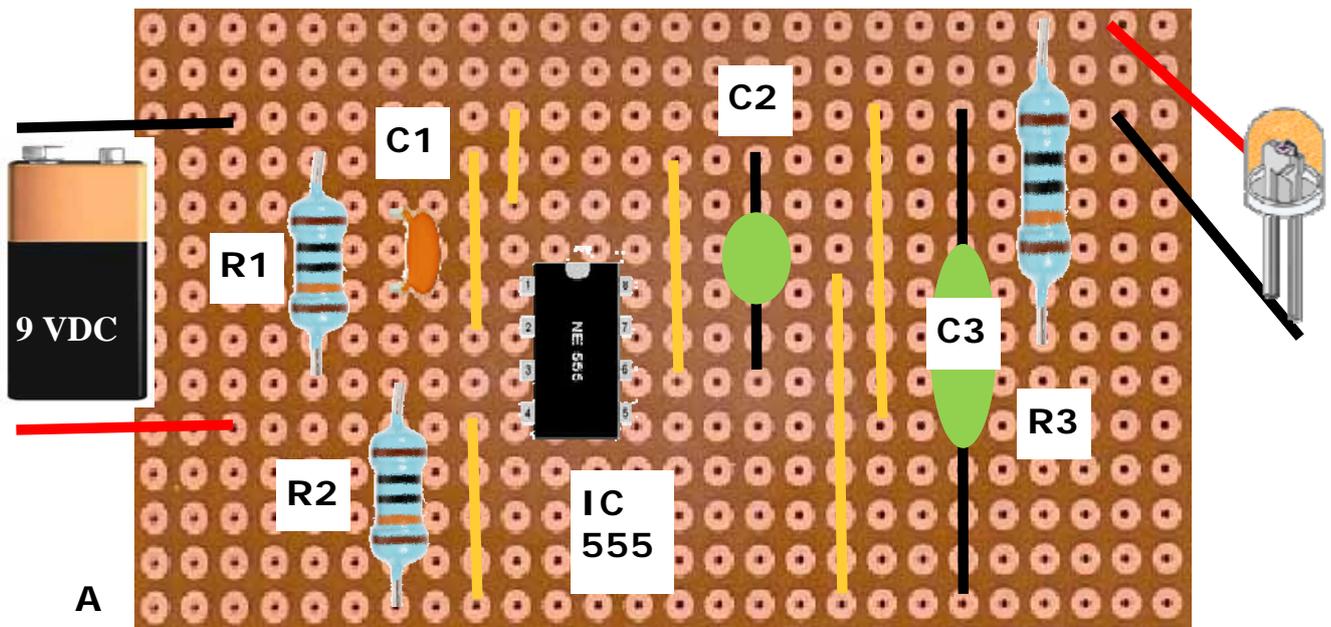
Copper strip board as viewed from the copper strip side.



Note the position of the A in relation to the image on the next page.

**X** Cut the copper strip here to make a break in conductivity

The easiest way to cut the copper strip is to use a small drill held in your hand and just twisted back and forth.



Copper strip board flipped over and viewed from the non Copper strip side. Ignore the colours on these resistors. Place the components onto this side of the copper strip board and push their respective wires/leads through the holes and solder in place on the copper strip side. C3 is optional and serves as a power “stay alive” option where batteries may be loose in a holder. Note the notch cut in the IC555. For installing the IC555 its best to solder an 8 pin DIL (Dual in Line) socket onto the strip board and then push the IC555 into the socket. This has two advantages;

- Firstly this insures that no heat from the soldering iron comes anywhere near the IC. Too much heat on any semiconductor will destroy them.
- Secondly if the IC555 needs replacing all you need to do is gently prise it out of the socket and insert a new one. No soldering required.

I haven't published the actual circuit diagram here as its layout is not as the components are laid out on the strip board. If anyone wants a copy I will supply you with it on request.

# ColRegs

by Colin Tarry

Ian suggested to me, that as some of you are now putting lights on your model boats, this might be a good time to know where to position and operate them authentically. The lights you show on a 1:1 scale boat, that can be seen by other vessels, are governed by the ColRegs.

## History

In 1848 the UK passed regulations that required steam vessels to display red and green sidelights as well as a white masthead light. This was the start of the regulations to prevent collisions at sea, which eventually were adopted internationally. ColRegs is the acronym used for the THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA 1972.

The ColRegs are divided up into five parts, and these parts make up the 38 rules.

- ⇒Part A—General (Rules 1-3)
- ⇒Part B—Steering & Sailing (Rules 4-19)
- ⇒Part C— Lights & Shapes (Rules 20-31)
- ⇒Part D—Sound & Light Signals (Rules 32-37)
- ⇒Part E—Exemptions (Rule38)

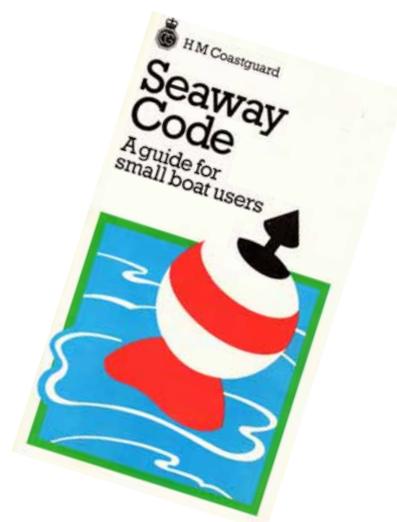
To try and avoid night time collisions at sea, vessels show navigation lights that permit other vessels to determine the type, function and relative angle of a vessel. From seeing these lights a skipper can then decide if there is a danger of collision. In the day time shapes are used instead of lights.

The notes given here are a simplified precis of the ColRegs. For those who want a more in depth look at the regulations then there are plenty of documents on the Maritime & Coastguard Agency web site.

## Highway Code of the Sea

Apart from showing the correct navigation lights on a vessel at night, there are rules, as on our roads, that state who has priority over who in giving way to others.

The priority between vessels is thus :- Power > Sail > Fishing > Constrained by Draught > Not under Command and Restricted in Ability to Manoeuvre. These should apply to us with model boats as well. Probably the exception would be fishing.



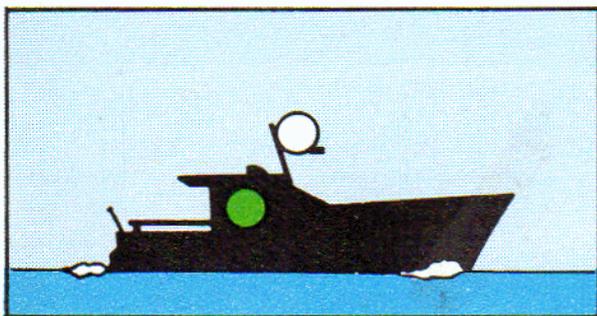
On the next page you will see the diagrams showing how a sailing vessel and a powered vessel display their respective lights. Note the different position of those for a sailing vessel when its under sail and when its under power [using its engine(s)] and not sails for momentum.

## Illumination Rules

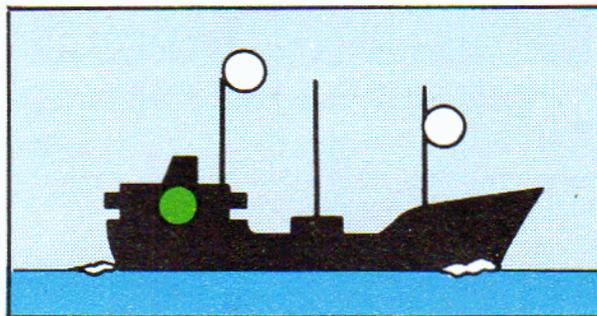
In general sailing vessels are required to carry a **green** light that shines from dead ahead to 2 points ( $22\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ ) abaft the beam on the starboard side (the right side from the perspective of someone on board facing forward), a **red** light from dead ahead to two points abaft the beam on the port side (left side) and a **white** light that shines from astern to two points abaft the beam on both sides.

Power driven vessels, in addition to these lights, must carry either one or two (depending on length) white masthead lights that shine from ahead to two points abaft the beam on both sides. If two masthead lights are carried then the aft one must be higher than the forward one. Hovercraft at all times and some boats operating in crowded areas may also carry a yellow flashing beacon for added visibility during day or night. Lifeboats show a blue flashing light when on an emergency call out.

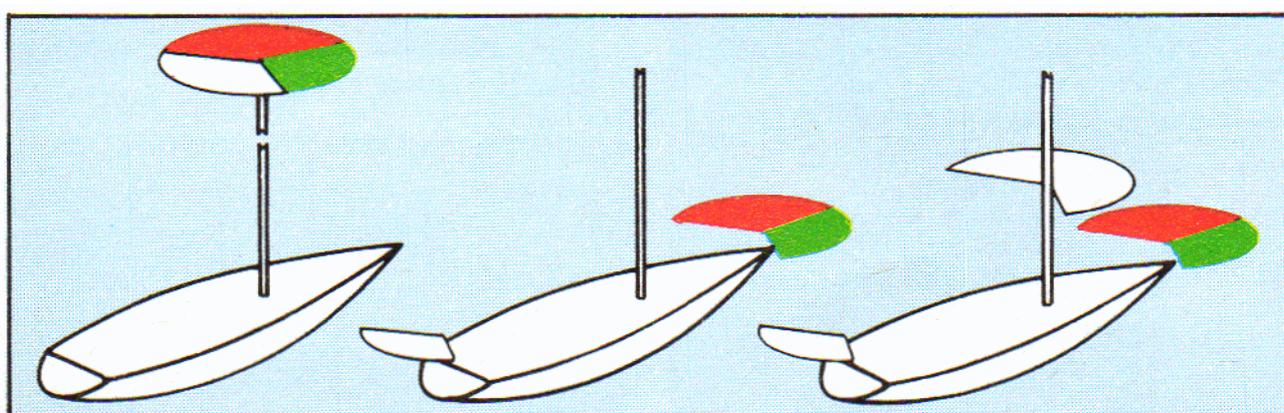
## A few examples of ships lights



Power-driven vessel under 50 metres (164 ft) in length



Power-driven vessel 50 metres (164 ft) in length or over

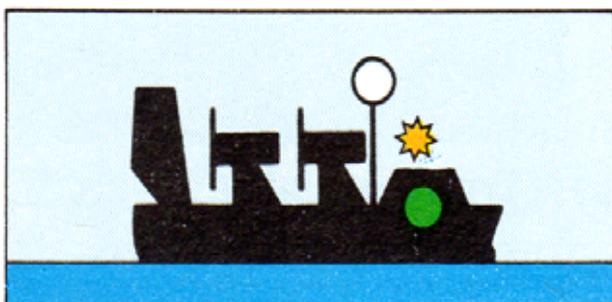


three-colour lantern under sail at sea

alternative under sail, preferable in congested waters

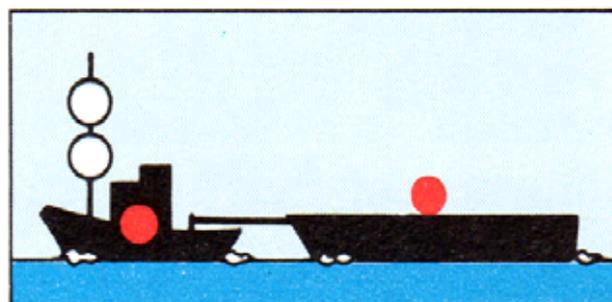
while under power

Sailing vessels less than twelve metres in length.



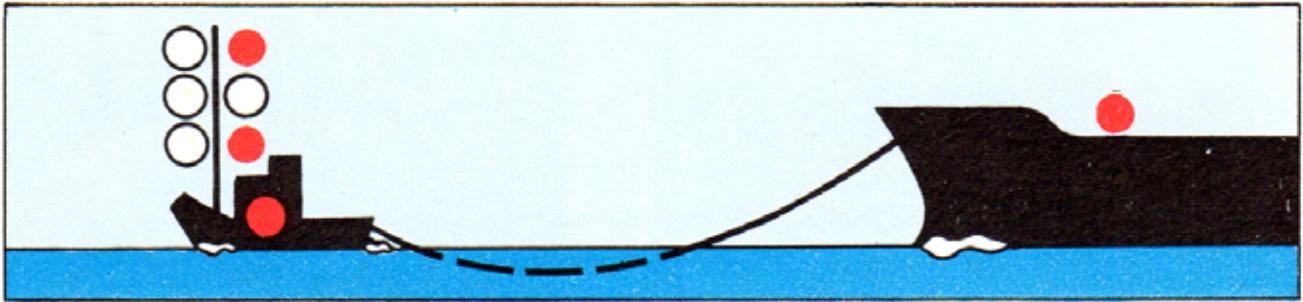
Rule 23 Hovercraft

Note here that a hovercraft has a YELLOW flashing light



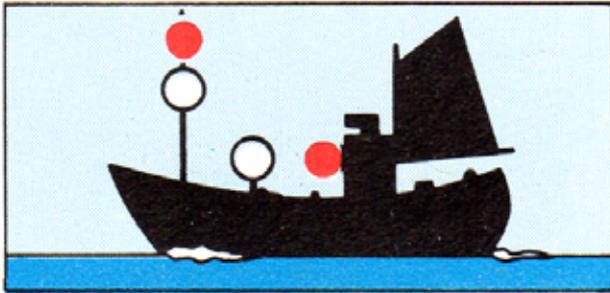
Rule 24 Vessel towing where:  
(a) length of tow less than 200 metres (656 ft); and

Images acknowledgment HM Coastguard 1981

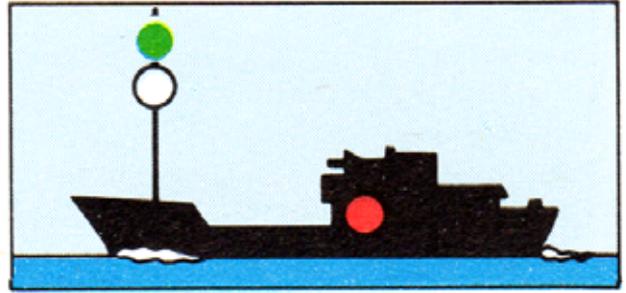


(b) length of tow exceeds 200 metres (656 ft)

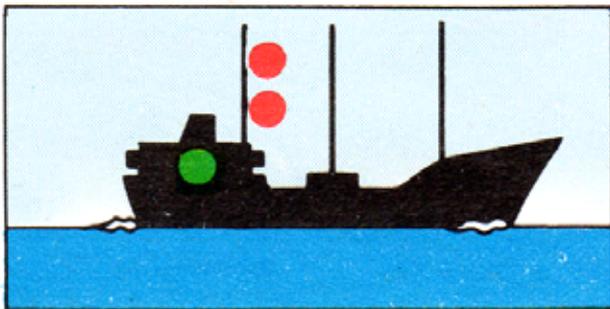
(Rule 27(c) Towing vessel unable to manoeuvre shows additional red/white/red lights)



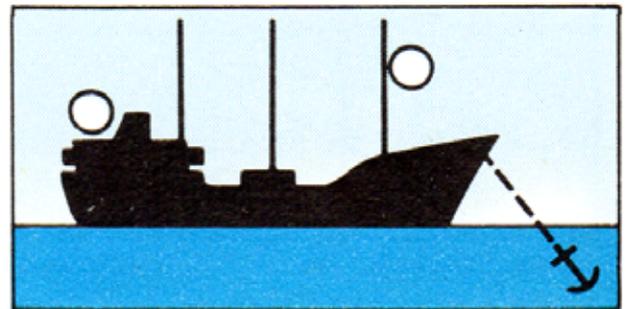
Rule 26 Fishing vessel other than trawler with gear extending more than 150 metres (492 ft) horizontally



Rule 26 Trawler



Rule 27  
Not under command making way. When not making way no sidelight shown.



Rule 30  
Vessel at anchor 50 metres (164 ft) or more in length

In periods of fog a vessel will sound audible signals. These sounds given are like morse code in being made up of short and long blasts on the vessels horn. If the vessel is at anchor then a continuous ringing bell is sounded.

Summing up—don't just fit as many lights to your boat as you can "willy-nilly" and then sail them as a floating Christmas Tree. Understand the ColRegs and apply them to your boat.

## EVENTS 2019

Event	Date/Time	Other Information
Rushden Goods Shed Radio Control Show	April 6th & 7th	Club pond in use
Kelmarsh Country Show	April 20th & 21st	Static display
Lancaster Farm Cavalcade	May 4th, 5th & 6th	More details to follow
Lifeboat Day at Knightcote	May 11th	Fund raising day for the RNLI.
Model Boat Mayhem—Wicksteed Park	May 25th & 26th	Club gazebo and sailing on Wicksteed Park model boat lake
Steering Course	June 9th	Club event
Club Open Day	June 23rd	Venue—Earls Barton Pond
Navy Day at Knightcote	July 7th	Attending as a Club. Sailing available
Vosper Day	July 21st	Incorporating fast patrol boats & services craft. Home waters other clubs invited.
Steering Course—Earls Barton Pond	August 4th	Club event
Earls Barton Transport Show	August 24th, 25th & 26th	Sailing on our own home water

Event	Date/Time	Other Information
Rushden Goods Shed Model Weekend	September 7th & 8th	Club pond in use
Kettering Vintage Rally	September 21st & 22nd	Static show
International Model Boat Show—Warwick	November 9th & 10th	Two day commitment required
Abbey Pumping Station—Christmas Toys & steam Day	8th December	Admission Adults £3.50 Children & Concessions £2.50 Family £8.00 (Small charge for train rides. No on site parking available so use the National Space Centre Car park) .
Club Christmas Dinner	tba	Royal Oak, Cogenhoe

## Web site & Facebook

Don't forget to look at the Club's web site and Facebook accounts for Club information, photos.



Also contribute to these as they are our means of advertising the Club's existence.

Web site: <https://www.ndmbc.co.uk/>

Facebook: northamptonmodelboatclub

## Newsletter Articles



The newsletter editor would still like articles and photos of YOUR model boats. In particular pictures and accounts of your boats under construction to completion and sailing.

# Miniature Fixings

by Colin Tarry

For my current build I needed some very tiny fittings of a nautical nature. Whilst on my search I found a supplier who made just what I needed. The supplier is Prime-Miniatures.

Their web address is

<https://www.prime-miniatures.co.uk>

This supplier for example does brass and tin plated brass hex bolts and machine screws, with nuts and washers from size M0.6mm through to M2.0mm. You can also get threaded brass rod from M1.0 to M2.0mm.

Other items include eye bolts, bottle screws and clevis prongs.



Hi Everyone,

I need help in making a Landing Craft for vehicles and personnel, but not the type used in the second world war, but a modern type.

I have an Abrams tank and an American army truck built to 1/16 scale.

As you know I am not into the internet so it would help me if I could get a plan for such a craft.

I just need a phone number which I can call.

Thanks to one and all.

Dave Gildon



# Longhope Lifeboat—50 Years On

by Colin Tarry

The 17th of March this year marked the 50th anniversary of the Longhope Lifeboat Disaster.



R.N.L.B. TGB residing at the Scottish Maritime Museum

The Longhope lifeboat, the R.N.L.B. TGB, capsized on the

17th March, 1969, after setting out late in the evening from Hoy in Orkney, to help the Liberian cargo ship Irene, which was adrift in storm force conditions. Visibility was near zero.

The R.N.L.B. TGB was a 47ft (14m) Watson-class lifeboat constructed of wood. In fact she was the same class as the Penlee lifeboat—the R.N.L.B. Solomon Browne.

The part of the whole disaster that I find the most difficult to understand is that in 1970 the R.N.L.B. TGB was then sent to Arranmore in the Republic of Ireland, and served there as its lifeboat until 1978. What must it have felt like if you were a member of the crew at Arranmore and you had been sent a lifeboat to serve in, on which eight crew from another lifeboat station had lost their lives? It used to be tradition that any lifeboat that was involved in a disaster where entire crews were lost, would be destroyed by fire.

The R.N.L.B. TGB is now preserved at the Scottish Maritime Museum, which has sites at Irvine and Dumbarton in the west of Scotland.

## Chronological list of known events on the night:-

### March 17, 1969

- 21:15 - *Irene*, a Liberian cargo ship runs aground. She was reached by Coastguard shore based teams.
- 21:28- Last radio signal from the Longhope lifeboat, the *R.N.L.B. TGB*.
- 21:30 - *R.N.L.B. TGB* is seen north of Pentland Skerries Lighthouse by the principal lighthouse keeper.
- 21:35 - The lighthouse keeper sees *R.N.L.B. TGB*'s stern light about a mile away to the east.
- 22: 00 - *R.N.L.B. TGB* fails to respond to a radio message.

### March 18, 1969

- 01:30 - All *Irene*'s crew safely brought ashore by the Coastguard shore based team.
- 13:40 - Thurso lifeboat crew find the upturned hull of the *R.N.L.B. TGB* , four miles south west of Tor Ness. She then tows the *R.N.L.B. TGB* to Scrabster Harbour.

In January 2020 it will be the 50th anniversary of the capsizing of the Fraserburgh lifeboat, in which six crew perished. It was these two events that pushed the R.N.L.I. into speeding up its self-righting programme for all lifeboats. Basically the R.N.L.I. received a warning from the government to cut the loss of life by lifeboat crews or they would intervene in the running of the RNLI.

# Club Information

## Club Officers

Chris Larsen	(President)
Andy Harmer	(Chair Person)
Janet Hubble	(Treasurer)
Ian Hunter	(Secretary)
Dennis Hubble	(Scale Boat Secretary)
Mike Fields	(Multi Racer Secretary)
Dave Gildon	(Pond Manager)
Geraint Roberts	(Members Representative)
Mick Merrison	(Members Representative)

## Non Executive Club Officers

Simon Wright	(Web Master) email: <a href="mailto:sw.wright50@gmail.com">sw.wright50@gmail.com</a>
Colin Tarry	(Newsletter Editor) email: <a href="mailto:wizzo@hymek.net">wizzo@hymek.net</a>

Web site: [www.ndmbc.co.uk](http://www.ndmbc.co.uk)

Club Night: Alternate Tuesday's  
Meeting Time: 19:30—21:00  
Venue: Southfields Community Centre,  
Farmhill Road, Southfields,  
Northampton, NN3 5DS

Secretary: tel: 07788 421370  
email: use contact form on the web site

## Club Membership Rates

Club membership runs from January to December or part of the calendar year, and ALL expire on the last calendar day of December, becoming due for renewal on the first of January. Adult membership £40 per year, Junior membership £15 per year.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Any views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Northampton and District Model Boat Club, its Officials or Members unless so stated.