

2nd Annual SNAME Footy Regatta

The 2nd Annual SNAME Footy Regatta was held in the 8th floor swimming pool of the Westin Hotel in Providence RI on Friday Oct 26th where 6 boats sailed closely contested heats before a crowd of around 45 spectators.



Footy racing underway in front of enthusiastic crowd

This year's winner was Christer Broman, from the Texas Section, who also won last year's inaugural event, but he was closely followed by newcomers to the Footy class Dan McGreer from the Pacific North West Section and Gary Van Tassel from the Hampton Roads Section.



Footys on display at SNAME Expo prior to racing



Van Tassel, Broman and McGreer launch their boats

While the SNAME Footy Regatta is a fun event, there is a serious side to it. The Footy Regatta is designed to give designers, young and old, a chance to design, build and operate a real vessel quickly and cheaply and to be able to feed back lessons learned from all phase of the project in a finite time for the modification or development of the next generation design. At full scale this usually take years (or decades) in some case rather than hours or days in the case of using scaled down craft.

SNAME is also investigating plans to bring this Footy program into middle and high schools as a teaching tool as part of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) initiatives and to raise awareness in young people of the opportunities of careers in naval architecture, marine and ocean engineering.

Future Footy Regatta's are being planned in association with the SNAME Chesapeake Sailing Yacht Symposium to be held in Annapolis MD next March, and in Bellevue, WA at the 2013 SNAME Annual Meeting next fall.