

Name: Edwin Sudds

Project Name: RAF Crash Tender

Description: Semi-Scale model of 1950's fast launch designed for the RAF as a seaplane crash tender / fire boat. Model is built from a SLEC kit which is a reproduction of model kit originally released in the 1960's. Construction is mainly plywood with a balsa wood bow block carved to shape. It will be powered by a 4240 size 890KV brushless outrunner motor and 4 cell Lipo batteries with a 45 - 50mm two blade S profile propellor.

Dimensions: Length 34 inches, beam 10 inches.

Status: Building was started in February 2023, as of early April the basic construction is almost complete, and model awaits final finishing / painting and addition of scale details.

Problems/solutions/tips

- Model as designed has two recessed access hatches (mid and rear deck) which would not be watertight or secured, this could be a problem as the boat will be relatively fast. A small 'lip' was built around the access holes so that a foam sealing strip could be used, and the hatches discretely secured with small bolts and captive nuts to allow proper sealing.
- As the motor used is an outrunner water cooling is not possible. To prevent overheating in hot weather a fan driven ventilation system is being installed which will pull in fresh air through a concealed vent in the forward hatch. This will circulate through the boats mid section with the motor and speed controller, the warm air will then vent through 3d printed functional scale cowl vents on the cabin roof.



Almost completed model on the workbench. Ventilation hatch can be seen in the roof section in the middle of the boat.



Modified rear access hatch showing lip for sealing strip, and attachment points for the securing bolts.



Full size boat at speed and demonstrating the fire-fighting monitors