

# The Binnacle



Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society  
Victoria BC Canada  
[vmss.ca](http://vmss.ca)



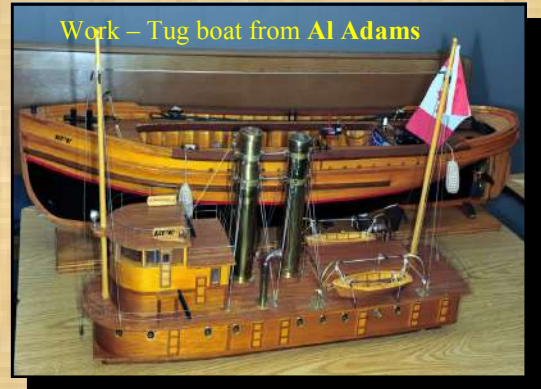
Yahoo! Newsgroup : VIRCB  
Vancouver Island Radio Control Boaters

Pleasure – Chris Craft Cabin Cruiser from **Dan Baker** (below L). Self-propelled rowboat from **Kevin Hamilton** (R), and Steam powered African Queen from **Pascal Smyth** (L). Sail: IOM Barry Fox (below) and **David Cook** (lower L)



**ENTRIES:  
BEST NEW  
BUILDS  
2011**

**Winners: See Page 6**



Work – Tug boat from **Al Adams**



Military – Vanguard from **Dave Nelson**



## Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society Annual General Meeting – November 10, 2011

**Call to order:** 7:50 pm (27 members in attendance)

1. Welcome: New members **Dave Habetler**, **Gerald Wolfe** and **Fred Threlfall** joined tonight.
2. Outreach: **Ernie Reid** is still recovering at home. **Al Adams** had knee replacement surgery.
3. Club Finances: **Mike Creasy** presented the Year-end financial report. The results were printed in the Binnacle. Mike pointed that the club did purchase a new rescue boat and build 3 new club boats this year. **Romain Klaasen** asked about listing those as assets but Mike said we are 'cash based' club. It was moved by **Bill Sturrock** that the Financial Report be accepted, seconded by **Dave Nelson**. All in Favour. Report Accepted. **Bill Sturrock** made a motion to thank **Mike Creasy** for all his hard work.
4. Upcoming Events: On November 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> will be races 2 & 3 of the Club Sailing Championship. The Christmas Social & Awards Banquet will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Gorge Vale Golf Club. Ticket prices are \$27.50 for a single, \$50 for a couple. Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade at HMYP, weather permitting. Start time is at 5pm.
5. VMSS Calendars: **Bill Sturrock** is taking orders for the 2011 VMSS Calendars. They must be paid for at time of ordering.
6. Business from the floor: Nothing discussed.
7. Elections: **Barry Fox** officiated the Election of Officers, with the following results:
  - President – **Barry Fox** (acclaimed)
  - Vice President – Two names put forward, **Mike Claxton** & **Ron Armstrong**. Winner by secret ballot – **Ron Armstrong**.
  - Secretary – **Graham Smith** (acclaimed)
  - Treasurer – **Mike Creasy** (acclaimed)
  - Director at Large – **Jim Briante** (acclaimed)

The following members have volunteered to stand for appointment to the Executive by the elected directors:

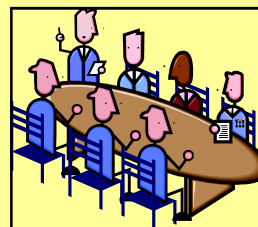
- Quartermaster – **Bob Rainsford**
- Show Co-ordinator – **Bill Andrews**
- Binnacle Editor – **Scott Munford**
- Public Relations – **Ron Armstrong**
- Parks Liaison – **Mike Claxton**
- Sailing Director – **David Cook**
- CRD Liaison – **Barry Fox**
- Librarian (ship plans) – **Dave Denton**
- Librarian (books) – **Don Meyer**

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Executive Committee

<b>President:</b> Barry Fox	294-0350
<b>Vice-Pres:</b> Rob Ross	598-4619
<b>Secretary:</b> Scott Munford	382-1673
<b>Treasurer:</b> Mike Creasy	888-4860
<b>Show Coordinator:</b> B. Andrews	479-2761
<b>Binnacle Editor:</b> Bill Sturrock	479-0239
<b>Quartermaster:</b> Bob Rainsford	383-2256
<b>CRD Liaison:</b> Dave Denton	592-6866
<b>Parks Liaison:</b> Mike Claxton	479-6367
<b>Sailing Director:</b> David Cook	388-5994
<b>Librarian:</b> Dave Denton (Plans)	478-1800
<b>Librarian:</b> Don Meyer (Books)	381-3356
<b>Publicity:</b> Ron Armstrong	385-9552
<b>Director@Large:</b> Dave Denton	592-6866

*All above (250) area code*



*[Your Executive meets the last Thursday of every month!]*

**The Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society is a non-profit club, open to all, established in 1978 under the Societies Act of B.C.**

Mailing address:  
**106-4480 West Saanich Road**  
**Box 55**  
**Victoria, BC V8Z 3E9**

## BC Shaver & Hobbies

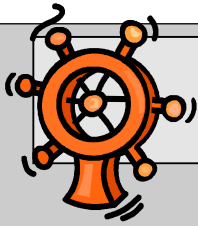
Garnet Rancier

742 Fort St. Victoria BC V8W 1H2  
(250) 383 0051  
<http://www.bcshaver.com/>



Ship Kits & Accessories  
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## The Prez Says...

### Prez Sayz

A little late this month so I'll keep it a bit shorter.

Good to see some nice boats brought out for the Best Build contest at the meeting last month. Some nice (and sometimes unique) work by some of our newer members and all of them showing good attention to detail and finish. Well done to all.

Last month was also our AGM with no big surprises and a bit of a protracted election session. There seems to be some belief that being on the Exec has some huge time demands. That is pretty well not true. There are a few occasions through the year where we do have things to do but our meetings are at least as relaxed as our general meetings, maybe even more so.

I'll take this space to thank **Bill Sturrock** for his time as Binnacle Editor. His production of our monthly newsletter has been spot on, well populated with articles (yes he will call you when you are late) and always with some great pictures. I'm sure he will be a contributor in the next years as well because he just can't put that camera down.

Also a big thanks to retiring VP **Rob Ross**. Rob has helped get us going on a number of projects and pitched in on just about every activity we have organized. More big boats on their way, Rob?

The good news is that we have some newcomers to fill Exec vacancies. **Graham Smith** and **Jim Briante** have both stepped up to the plate to bring us some fresh views of what we do and maybe with their help we can find



## ON THE RADAR

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dec. 17th: Lighted Boats (HMYP) 5 PM



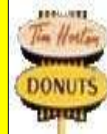
**Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30-9:30**  
4050 Carey Road  
**Next is: December 8: Social Evening, 2011: Merry Christmas**



**SAILING: 1st and 3rd Sundays 1 – 3 PM**  
Beaver Lake  
**Next is: December 18th**



**POWER: Sundays 10 – 12**  
Harrison Model Yacht Pond (HMYP)  
Dallas Road at Government Street



**LANGFORD LAKE NAVY**  
**Wednesdays 9:30 AM**  
Langford Lake, Leigh Rd at Trillium

even more good things to do with our boats. Welcome aboard.

Our Awards and Xmas Party will be about to happen by the time you are reading this. Another great night out with our fellow modelers.

And then the Christmas Light Parade. Oops, gotta go now and find my string of lites for the old tug!!! See you at the pond and/or lake.

-Barry







**THE SUB SUBJECT**  
**Magnets in Models: Part III**

Last month, in Part II, the column covered how a magnetically activated, submerged model torpedo may be released from any of the WWII midget submarines. In a way, that was relatively easy. Hooks are withdrawn by radio, the torpedo's magnetic switch moves away from the hull-mounted magnet, the motor starts, and the missile is off and running. But this month, methods for dry launches are the focus.

Torpedo boats and other torpedo-armed warships carry the torps in tubes on the main deck or in torp emplacements above the water's surface. The "fish" has to be propelled out of its tube (while the motor starts) and belly-flop (or dive) on or into the briny at a distance of one and one-half to about two times its length away from the point of launch.

In the prototypes it looks as if compressed air is used to do the trick—most often anyway. Lots of space, lots of engineering .... No big problem. But in models? It can be done of course (**Rob Ross** is understood to be going that route) but problems could arise in reasonably close scale calibration. The torp

should not fly off like a bullet. Its exit speed should allow for a gentle downward curve and a bit of a splash at the end, and all that within sight of the operator and onlookers.

Unfortunately, no articles or eyewitness reports could act as guidance. So the thinking cap and sketching pencil were put to work. That resulted in four possible solutions—not one of them tested.

1. Servo-operated trigger and soft coil springs. One servo could handle both a port and starboard release (See Figure 3).

2. Individual servos with horns that could

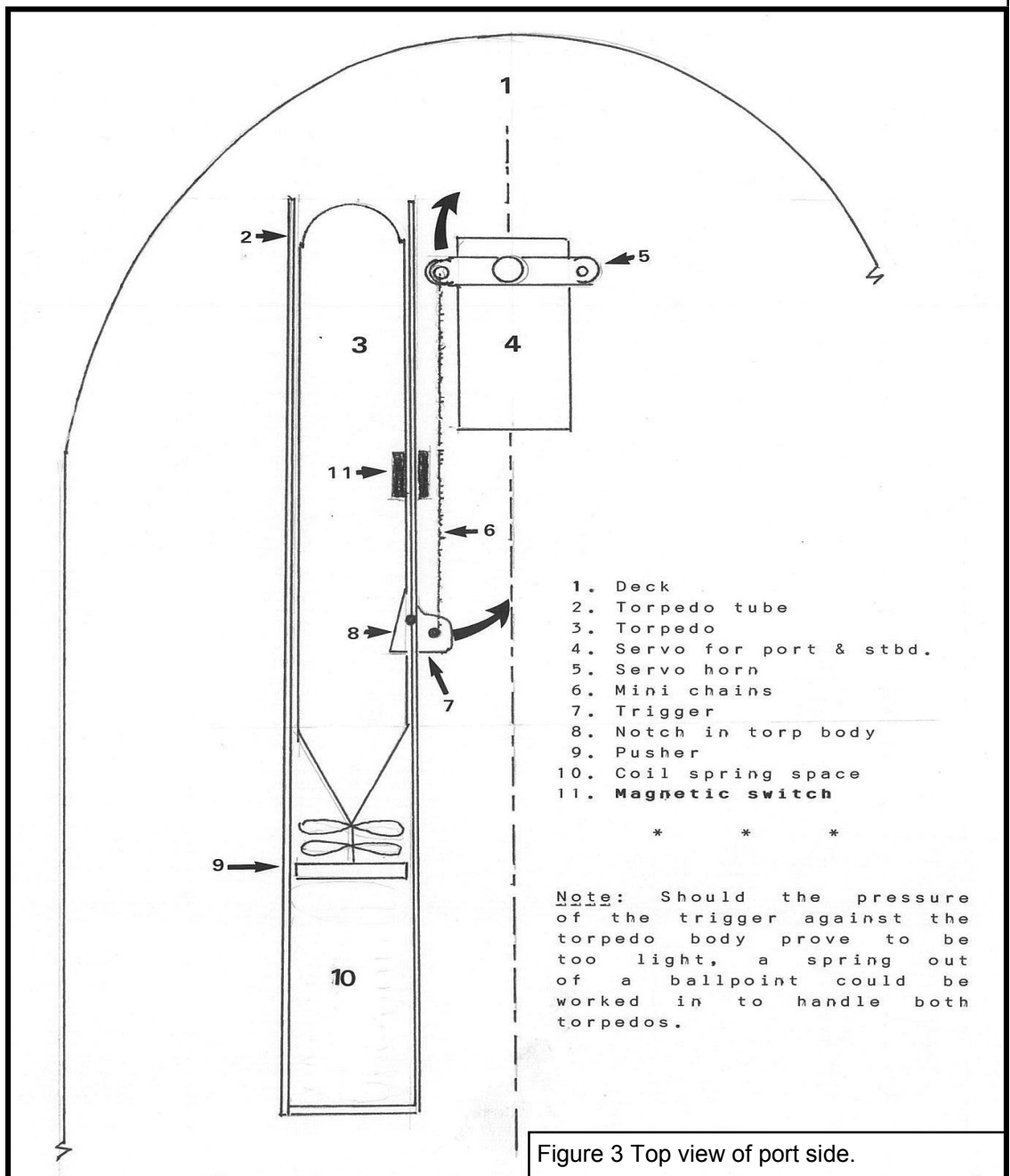


Figure 3 Top view of port side.



produce enough of a kick to get the torp running and out of the tube. (May require the servo's full travel. It would also require slots in the tube, to allow the servo's horn to permit its full travel. Distance between end of horn and pusher may (initially) require adjustment. Servos to be placed cheek by jowl with the tube. Hence the anticipated pair of them. Also, depending on available space, the servos could be tipped, or laid flat; they could be placed at the tubes' sides or bottoms. Whatever works toward maximum sweep.

3. Radio-operated solenoid. An idea borrowed from how door chimes do their chiming. Each tube (note) is struck in proper sequence by a small solenoid (A cylindrical coil that acts like a magnet when a current passes through it). In the hobby field, solenoids are used in model train setups. Mainly to operate [track] switches. It should prove possible to radio control solenoid action through an on-off channel. The solenoid core (pin) can deliver a pretty decent wallop. The unknown is its travel distance. But, if properly configured (and strong enough) the solenoid should have enough power to slide the torpedo forward, allow the magnetic switch to close, and give the torpedo an elegant exit. To that end, the downward angle of the tube will have an influence.

4. Water or air pressure? Will have to consult **Rob Ross** on that alternative. In all likelihood, it would come closest to the prototypes' design. It would not likely put heavy demands on servo vendors. Still, valves will need to be opened and shut.

So there it is: four tentative possibilities of launching deck-mounted torpedos. All are likely to work, but which one could work best? Hope that one VMSSer or another will rise to the challenge. And yet another hope: that someone would attempt to build a torpedo on the Russian Shkval

[[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VA-111\\_Shkval](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VA-111_Shkval)] principle. That (more or less still experimental) can hit 200+ knots by blowing a tunnel in the water. That, then, does away with a lot of friction.

Shkvals have a solid-fuel rocket motor that drives the missile rather conventionally. Meanwhile it also has a circle of jets near its warhead.

That force is deflected by a streamline cap that directs the jet flow rearwards, cushioning the torps body from drag. More details are given in the July 2010 "Sub Subject" (**Binnacle**) column.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Next month (January 2012 ...) "The Sub Subject" will deal with the loss of the Russian/ U.S.S.R. Kursk. That event has already drawn much publicity and ... controversy. Fans of the ubiquitous CONSPIRACY THEORIES will lap it up.

**Romanus Unicum**



# DUES 'R DUE!

**RSVP**

*(Regular Sailors Volunteer Payment)*



(Continued from page 2)

8. Best New Build Presentations: Categories & Entrants are:

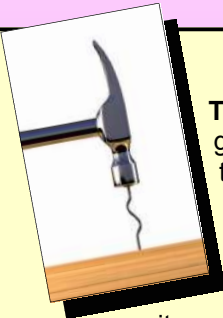
- Work – Tug boat from **Al Adams**
- Military – Vanguard from **Dave Nelson**
- Sail – IOM from **David Cook**, IOM from **Barry Fox**
- Pleasure – Chris Craft Cabin Cruiser from **Dan Baker**, Self-propelled row-boat from **Kevin Hamilton** and Steam powered African Queen from **Pascal Smyth**.

9. Adjourn business porting & break.

10. **Winners of “Best New Builds” for the Year:**

- Work – **Al Adams** (acclaimed)
- Military – **Dave Nelson** (acclaimed)
- Sail – **Barry Fox** (secret ballot)
- Pleasure – **Kevin Hamilton** (secret ballot)

Respectfully Submitted  
**Scott Munford, Secretary**



**The end of the year**, got something good Dave? ... nope! I got a nice little motor for my tug, it made installation of all the extra bits nice and easy, tried it out, and it wouldn't pull the skin off a custard pudding. I re-powered it with something bigger... with a gearbox, and now it will bring home the bacon to mama.

I had to bend some 1/32 plywood for a cabin and it would have to be steamed; I thought of all the off center tricks that have been suggested over the years, and I find a lot of them to be just pie in the sky, so I went back on my shipwright training and built a proper steam box, a lot less work and a guaranteed result. I could tell you how I did it, but then I would have nothing to demo for you at the Jan. meeting.

Its been a good year fellas I think next year will be better, wait 'till you hear what we have planned for the “May parade”.

See you soon.

**Dave Denton**





HI BILL, **KEN LOCKLEY'S** SCHOONER IS UP FOR AUCTION WITH 50% GOING TO THE CLUB. KEN WOULD LIKE THE BIDDING TO START AT \$300. AND A CLOSING DATE AT THE END OF THE WESTSHORE MALL HOBBY SHOW IN FEBRUARY 2012. **NORM FARLEY'S** SAIL BOAT IS ALSO BACK ON THE AUCTION BLOCK AND THE BIDDING FOR IT WILL START AT \$100. WITH A CLOSING DATE OF JAN.12/2012.

**CONTACT: BILL ANDREWS, (250) 479-2761**

**BUILT BY NORM FARLEY...NOW  
UP FOR AUCTION.**

**CONTACT: BILL ANDREWS.**







### **The Final Word**

It is with very mixed feelings that I relinquish the post of Editor of your Binnacle. Over the past four years or so since I took over from Julie and Ron Hillsden, we have met several challenges that enabled us to upgrade the whole publishing process to make the best use of all the new technology that is now available all around us.

I have enjoyed working with the many good contributors: writers and photographers that have made the Binnacle what it is today. Our many volunteer executive members, over the years, have also made my Editor's job very easy with all their good inputs and suggestions.

Now that Scott has volunteered to be our new Editor/Publisher, I will have a little more time every month to spend in my boatworks tuning up the Point Fermin, among other things. And, (I have vowed this before), I vow to keep my tug in the water longer, so I will finally learn how to park a barge, etc. I am not proud of the fact that some members call me "Capt. Rick O'Shea" for good reasons.

So keep up your model building and don't hesitate to put "pen to paper", and share your experiences with all of us. That is one of the blessings of the VMSS Members that we possess a huge inventory of skills and knowledge that should be passed on to the younger members. Also keep sending those photos in to the Editor.

All the best to our new Editor, Scott Munford, and...

Complements of the Season to everyone.

Happy Boating New Year! And God Bless.

Bill Sturrock  
Editor Emeritus