



The Binnacle

<http://members.shaw.ca/vmss>

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
303-2151 Haultain St
Victoria BC V8R 2L8
vmss@shaw.ca



Photo by Ron Hillisden

"A sailor's gotta do what a sailor's gotta do!"

Astrid Braumschmidt "A Channel 12", with Dave Denton

ON THE HORIZON INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 3 Senior Living Festival, Cedar Hill Rec Centre
March 23-26 Mid Island Marine Modellers' Annual
Marine exposition at the Country Club Centre.
May 7 Opening Regatta—Battle of Atlantic Sunday
May Day Maple Bay May Long Weekend
Jul 22 Regatta HYP 50th Anniversary



MEETINGS: Second Thursday 7:15-9:15
313 Brunswick Place Next is March 9th!



POWER: Sundays 10 – 12
Harrison Model Yacht Pond



SAILING: 3rd Sunday 1 – 3 PM
Beaver Lake Next is February 19!



LANGFORD LAKE NAVY Wednesdays
9:30 Langford Lake



From the Bridge

The Can West Show is behind us: a very successful event. I have gotten some very positive feedback concerning the "A" Channel coverage, and I had the time to talk with some members that don't usually speak too much during the "circus" that we call a meeting. It would have been nice to see Nanaimo people here, but perhaps some motion on our part in a northerly direction would help them in a southerly direction, remembering that when you point a finger that there are three pointing back at you. The Harrison Committee will be meeting with Victoria Parks on Feb 10; we will be watching with interest what develops there. The next sailing date is Feb. 19 at Beaver Lake, lets hope for nice weather. Our presentation at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre on March 3, perhaps should concentrate on 'building methods and styles' as this event is to showcase different hobbies for seniors' participation, so we can generate interest, and most likely some new members. Till we meet again keep your antenna up, and your gumboots handy. **Dave Denton.**

Reminders

Dues are Due January 1— so they are overdue now! \$35 to Tom Pound
at your earliest convenience, please.....
Please submit your Address Update and "Radio Channels".

Tom will have additional copies at the February meeting.

You can also email: vmss@shaw.ca



There is a limited number of rare 2006 Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society PHOTO CALENDARS still available for \$15. See Dave Denton, 478-1800

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

Regular Meeting – January 2006

Minutes

The President welcomed new member **Barry Fox**. The Christmas Social Event was a great success. Thanks to **Ken and Lois Lockley** for organizing it. The Harrison Model Yacht Pond is clean and full; bushes on the west end have been removed. The Improvements Committee has prepared a list of eighteen recommendations which the City of Victoria is prepared to implement.

Following the break, **Dave Denton** demonstrated the delicate art of recovering the electric motor from a portable drill.

Financial Report 2005**Revenues:**

Membership Dues	1,785.00
Show Fees	1,400.00
Donations	890.00
Interest	3.83
Other	270.00
TOTAL:	\$4,348.83

Expenditures:

Insurance	792.00
Club Expenses	1825.90
<i>The Binnacle</i>	355.39
Show Expenses	236.90
TOTAL:	\$3,210.19

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures: **\$1,138.64**

Respectfully submitted,

T. Pound

Secretary-Treasurer

2006 Executive Committee

President Dave Denton **478-1800**

Vice-Pres. David Taylor **652-6480**

Secretary/Treas Tom Pound **595-6487**

Show Coordinator Bill Andrews **479-2761**

City Parks Liaison Mike Woodley **598-8379**

Editors Ron Hillsden **479-5760**

Bill Sturrock **479-0239**

Quartermaster Bob Rainsford **383-2256**

Entertainment Mike Claxton **479-2258**

Mike Creasy **658-1731**

Librarian John Gough **479-1843**

Publicity Jack Ross **478-3191**

Director at Large Ken Scotten **472-6187**

Director at Large Derek Woollard **658-1150**

**COMING EVENT!**

MAPLE BAY May Long weekend Model Boat Show and Run

Dear Sirs: As an avid tugboat modeler, I'm trying to make our annual event a little better every year. For 2006, we plan to have 2 freshwater pools, of about 40'X25' each so every one can get on the water a bit more. Also frequency board, lots of display tables. Lots of power for re-charging, etc. I will be coming down to the mall to see you guys this Saturday, and will bring some pictures and stuff! See you then! Mike Wright

Harrison Pond 50th Anniversary

2006 is the 50th Anniversary of Harrison Pond, and we are planning a regatta July 22. If you have suggestions to make the celebration more fun, please discuss with Mike Woodley, Bill Andrews, or any member of executive



THE SUB SUBJECT

As announced in December, "The Sub Subject" resorts to a book review—an ambivalent one.

The Complete IDIOT'S Guide to Submarines By Michael DiMercurio and Michael Benson Published by ALPHA. A Pearson Education Company. ISBN 0-02-864471-9. 357 pp. including Appendices, Glossary, Bibliography and Index. \$31.02 at Bolen Books (Victoria, BC)

Most times, I buy new books on the strength of reviews. This particular one (despite its silly title) was reviewed in the June 2004 issue of *The Subcommittee REPORT*. Got the book that July and, within weeks, had read its every jot 'n' tiddle. To this day, though, I can't decide whether I enjoyed it, or slugged through it out of respect for the \$31.02 I'd parted with. Let's take a look.

Most times, I buy new books on the strength of reviews. This particular one (despite its silly title) was reviewed in the June 2004 issue of *The Subcommittee REPORT*. Got the book that July and, within weeks, had read its every jot 'n' tiddle. To this day, though, I can't decide whether I enjoyed it, or slugged through it out of respect for the \$31.02 I'd parted with. Let's take a look.

IDIOT'S, to be sure, is chock full of detailed information that, until recent years, must have been stamped TOP SECRET by all authorities. It's totally amazing, really, what all has surfaced since the end of the Cold War.

Before I tackled this review for this fourth try, I reread the review that caused me to buy it. Still, I have great difficulty in classifying this . . . uhhh . . . book, tome, text or what have you—and its target audience. It is far too technical for those among the public with a casual interest in warships in general, or submarines in specific. On the other hand, it is not a text that could help a greenhorn in applying for a job at Electric Boat, or the US Navy. In that regard, then, it is neither fish nor fowl. And upon rereading the 2004 review . . . well, I should have done so more carefully in the first place. Meanwhile, although I cannot in good conscience recommend its purchase to V.M.S.S. members, I'm still pleased to have it in my library's 'Submarine' section.

On a very positive note: the two authors (DiMercurio especially) write from hands-on knowledge and not, as often evidenced, from what was picked up through research, i.e. the "Your research shows," criticism that creative writing students often get on marked assignments.

Where experience stands out in scintillating colours is in Chapter 15, titled "Starting a Nuclear Reactor." That chapter, as most others, has 15 subheads, such as Entering

Maneuvering, On Being Nominal, Estimated Critical Position, Starting the Pumps, Heating up the Core, To Cracking Open the Throttles, etc., etc. and much more.

Of possibly broader interest is Chapter 16: "Getting Underway." Here we follow the full script of orders given and responses received, such as at the dive point. The OOD (Officer of the deck) must say, "Request permission to submerge the ship to one five zero feet and attain a one-third trim." The Captain/Commander comes back with either, "Dive the ship," or, "Take her down." Then, under the diving officer orders two or three specialist crew members contribute their inputs to the successful and SAFE dive.

Throughout the book, great emphasis goes out to safety systems and prescribed procedures. It is not good luck that the US Navy's record of submarine mishaps is as lean as it still is after operating subs for more than a century, and nukes for over 50 years. But the cost and time it takes to keep that record so favourable are exorbitantly high. Meanwhile, from the taxpayers' angle, they're out a billion bucks plus if a sub is lost. Emotionally and politically of course, the loss of lives is immeasurable. My conclusion here, doubted no doubt by the faint of heart, is that, in the American armed forces, during peacetime, there is no safer place to serve than in a nuclear submarine.

I know that this review will come across as a panner, but that's not fully so. If my outright dislikes go out to anything, they go to the layout.

Here, it looks as if, in a go at a more reader-friendly presentation, too many rather than too few subheads were used. In addition, footnotes were replaced on most EVERY page, with boxed sidebars and inserts (in a font that differs from the main text) with these three recurring titles: "Secrets of the Deep", "Beneath the Surface" and "Mike's Corner." Each one gives interesting info—often worded quite humorously. These are examples from page 210:

Secrets of the Deep

You always make an engine order as "all ahead one third," even if your ship only has one screw. OODs who abbreviate this to "ahead one third" in the interest of logic risk being flamed on by the captain.

Don't say 'hours' after the time—that's Army talk.

Most all of these blurbs are very informative and in context with the topic but, visually they fracture the text and hobble seamless reading. Too bad.

To conclude this review: I'm still happy to have bought and read *IDIOTS* but keep wondering whom it was aimed at. One group I can think of is writers of fiction. With *IDI-*

(Continued on page 5)

CANWEST MALL'06



**Public Choice : Nonsuch by
Jack Ross**



**Modeller's Choice: Seaspan Ven-
ture by Doug Allen**



**Best New Model of ship with BC
Coastal Service: Master by Bob
Rainsford**



**Top three trophy winners along with the Steering Course
winners: :1. Ron Hillsden 2. Ken Scotten 3. Dave Taylor
Awards were presented by Annabelle, Manager of CanWest
Mall. Also present: Dave Denton and Jack Plummer**



Photos by Jack Ross and Bill Sturrock

(Continued from page 3)

OTS on hand, the book's information could lend authenticity to their tales--provided, though, they don't lace their writings with an overdose of the USN's acronyms and "initialisms".

Next month I'll stick my neck out one nautical mile plus 17 fathoms (102'). I'll present my very own "balanced views" on the Canadian Navy's acquisition of the RN's four Up-holder-class submarines. Yes, skating on thin ice may carry some rewards.

Romanus Unicum



FIRST

INSTALLMENT



Ready, Waiting for Sailing, Wading

Cribbing is already in place for the Capital City grant-financed wading pool at Holland Point. The kidney-shaped pool will measure about 240 by 90 feet and will cost \$17,500. The pool

has been object of criticism by some aldermen and members of the public, but is championed by Mayor Claude Harrison. Boy with boat is all for it, is waiting for the water.

Victoria Daily Times

VICTORIA, B.C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1955 15

CONTINUED

NEXT MONTH

The History of Harrison Yacht Pond - #1 by Mike Woodley

In September, 2005 I searched the library microfilm files of the Times and Colonist for items about HYP. I started with Sept. 1, 1955 and looked at every page of both papers until Aug. 31, 1956. I found 14 items.

The pond was quietly opened without fanfare in July, 1956. There was no ceremony because city council was opposed to the spending of provincial beautification grant money on it. Only Mayor Claude Harrison was in favour of it. He convinced the 6 member Capital City Grant Committee to spend \$17,500 of the \$50,000 city beautification provincial grant on the construction of the pond.

WORK STARTED ON HOLLAND PT. SAILING POOL

"City works crews began excavating at Holland Point today for a sailing boat pool planned by Capital City Grant Committee.

Acting city engineer J.C. Garnett said speedy action is aimed at beating the rain. Unless a firm base is laid for the cement lined pond before the winter rains turn the project to mud, the job might be delayed until spring. The Capital City Grant Committee will spend \$17,500 of the annual government beautification grant on the pool. It will be kidney shaped and will measure 240 by 90 feet.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Some public and aldermanic criticism has been directed at the project although it is a favorite scheme of Mayor Claude Harrison.

WINTER SKATING

Mr. Garnett said if the weather is cold enough, the pool might afford some ice skating this winter. In area it is larger than the ice-surface of Memorial Arena. Otherwise its use will be limited to persons who make a hobby of sailing small boats.

The grant committee is comprised of three government officials and three members appointed by city hall. Balance of the grant is earmarked for beautification in a program started last year along Dallas Road waterfront. It will include some paving and construction of curbs on both sides between Cook and Clover Point. Ald. Robert Macmillan had earlier asked that the grant be used to start financing of a civic auditorium, but council ruled that it had no right to tell the grant committee how to spend the money. Ald. Macmillan has promised further objection."

Norton Tustin

TUSTIN, Norton Eric It is with sadness, but relief that we share dad's passing with those who knew and loved him. After the love of his life for 61 years, Eileen, passed away on November 3, 2005. Dad's lonely heart soldiered on until Monday, January 9, 2006 when he died peacefully at Saanich Peninsula Hospital. He will be greatly missed by his daughters, Debbie and Jo-Anne and his grandchildren, Jennifer and Matthew. The memories of mom and dad will live on forever in our hearts. We take this opportunity to thank the dear friends who have supported us through this difficult time and to Pat and Dr. Wray for their continued kindness and care. A memorial service will be held on January 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Anglican Church, 9691 Fourth Street, Sidney. In lieu of flowers donations to the B.C. Lung Association PO Box 34009, Stn. D, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 9Z9 194262



BC Shaver & Hobbies

Garnet Rancier

742 Fort St. Victoria BC V8W 1H2
(250) 383 0051

<http://www.bcshaver.com/>



Ship Kits & Accessories
Radio Control
Tools and Material

MODEL SHIPYARD DAVE DENTON

Quality Fibreglas Hulls
TUG * SCHOONER * SLOOP * GIL NETTER
250 479 1800

flags for model ships

Ron Hillsden

250 479 5760

<http://members.shaw.ca/modelflags/>