

January 2013 Volume 35, Issue 1



The Binnacle

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Victoria BC Canada
vmss.ca



Yahoo! Newsgroup : VIRCB
Vancouver Island Radio Control Boaters

Lighted Boat Parade





Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

No minutes taken during informal meeting.

2013 Executive Committee

President: Mike Claxton	479-2258
Vice-Pres: James Cox	382-3266
Secretary: Graham Smith	477-8234
Treasurer: Mike Creasy	888-4860
Show Coordinator: B.Andrews	479-2761
Binnacle Editor: Scott Munford	382-1673
Quartermaster: Bob Rainsford	383-2256
CRD Liaison: Barry Fox	598-4619
Parks Liaison: Mike Claxton	479-6367
Sailing Director: Fred Herfst	652-8445
Librarian: Dave Denton (Plans)	478-1800
Publicity: Ron Armstrong	385-9552
Memberships : Barry Fox	598-4619
Director@Large: Jim Briante	590-5708

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



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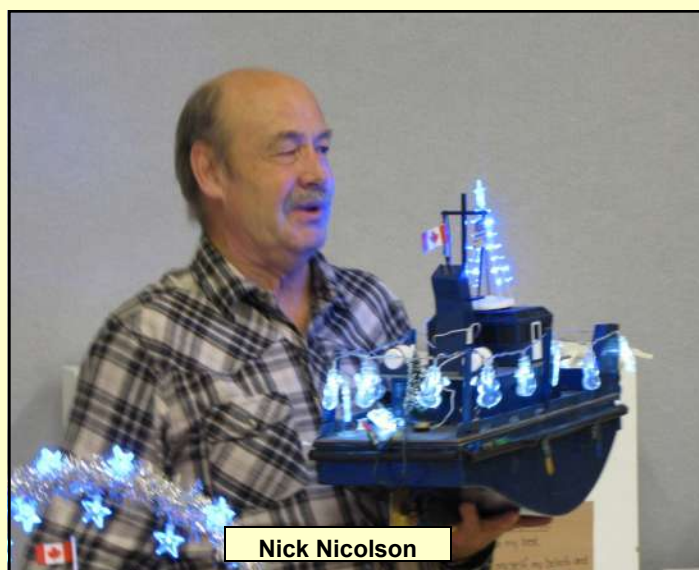
PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOBBY SHOP



Meeting Moments



Dave Taylor



Nick Nicolson



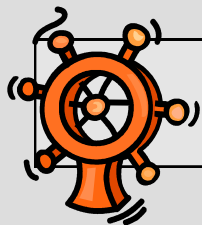
Rick McCrea



Ron Burchett



Romain Klassen



From The Bridge

Greetings to All – and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Barry has chosen to retire from the position as president having served three terms – we thank him and the executive for the time put in over three busy years. A number of events both with sailing and power meant there were many week-ends spent either at a lake or a pond. The Christmas party/Awards night rounded off the year. I was caught with the flu bug and unable to attend but understand the food was great, awards were presented and everyone had a chance to enjoy each other's company.

We look forward to a busy and perhaps interesting year. The executive have suggested some changes to the Show and Tell evenings and the 50-50 raffle. Those will be highlighted at the next meeting and in the Binnacle. We have presentations planned for the next three meetings – one on painting using an airbrush, one on silver soldering techniques and another on basic sailboat set up and tuning. We will come up with more as the year progresses. Should anyone have other ideas, please jump in and let us know. We have a wide cross section of interests amongst our membership and could easily miss a topic of interest.

The show at Westshore is coming up quickly – be sure to sign up. Dust off your old boats or bring out that new build that you are working on. Both the pond set up and take down require a little extra help so please consider those times.

This March we will again host the 'Beaver Fever' sailing event. I understand this is the third year and holding it again in the spring will help avoid problems with weed interfering with the boats. Members who have not attended one of these sailing events might consider dropping by – some help is generally required in running an event such as this.



ON THE RADAR

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1st-3rd: Westshore Hobby Show
March 23rd-24th: Beaver Fever



Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30-9:30
St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lakehill
3939 St. Peter's Rd.
Next is February 14th, 2013



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



SAILING: 1st and 3rd Sundays 1 – 3 PM
Beaver Lake
Next is January 20th



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

We are hoping to return to the Maple Bay Wooden Boat Festival the May long weekend. We along with the Nanaimo club have had discussions with the Marina owners who are keen to see us return. They were not able to have the model boats there last year due to the lack of a pond. It would be a two day event – Saturday and Sunday where a variety of boats could be operated and put on display. Some things that are being considered – Springers running some type of navigation course, general free running, people's choice award, tugs and barges, sailing demonstration in the bay below the marina.

More information will be available shortly – the main requirement is a pond. This will be their 18th year hosting the Wooden Boats.

(continued on page 5)



Watch the Binnacle for other events – the Nanaimo show coming up (we'll get a date shortly), the Burnaby Regatta and Foss Cup in August and the various sailing events. These are always worth attending – both to see some great model boats and also to share ideas and information.

The Binnacle will continue to print Romain's articles on submarines and perhaps soon one will surface in the pond! We used to see at least three in previous years.

We have 11 months to work on the Best New Build (for the meeting in November) – lots of time to be creative.

Let's have fun and go boating!

Mike



How would you like to win \$200 cash & a free membership?

Starting with the January 10th meeting, every member who brings an item for **"Show & Tell"** will get an entry into the draw. Bring an item every meeting and you can have 12 entries in it. At the end of the year, one lucky name will be drawn.

So dust off your projects, tips & ideas and bring them along.

Christmas Lighted Model Boat Parade, December 22

by

Ron Armstrong

Our fourth annual Parade seemed to me our most successful yet. Eleven members turned out to show off their brightly lit models to about 150 spectators. Kevin's Aqua-car and red-nosed snapping crocodile were big hits, especially with children. My "Princess Maquinna" enchanted the crowd with Christmas carols----until the CD got stuck on "Noel". Various tugs, sailboats and Dave's corvette rounded out the waterborne magic. Congrats to all.

CHEK TV covered the event, though the result was heavily edited when aired the next night. Naturally Kevin's two were the focus.

Barely a breeze (a problem for the sailors) and the drizzle held off for an hour...all in all a great evening.





THE SUB SUBJECT

(NOTE: ARTICLE ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED JULY 2004)

Sam didn't hide his boozy ways, but 'clandestinized' them did, (if it can be believed) fairly ingeniously. What he did he said, was to buy a bunk-sized, hot water bag in a medical supplies place, in Gibraltar. It was meant to treat hypothermic patients or, when filled with cold water, ease the suffering of burn victims. "It could hold a couple gallons of vodka easy as pie. Had the store put a tap in its bottom. No extra charge. Wow!"

Apparently, Sam was generous with his cache, but made sure to get his share – anytime the mood struck, which meant: ANYTIME. Sam looked as if he could still taste the liquor; then told me he'd gone dry for some two years now.

While Sam unloaded the dryers, I got in my first successful questions: What brought him to Victoria, and why had he left the Navy or navies?

"A young, green, snot-nosed medic disqualified me. Said my liver made him think of The Rock of Gibraltar – not so much its size as its density. Then, too, my eyesight didn't help me any much either. So it goes." And he'd been in Victoria since spring, looking after a whale watching outfit's inflatables. "Piece O' cake. Some patching...plugs once a week...duck soup." (Apparently he'd read an 'Engineer Wanted' ad in a boating magazine in a doctor's waiting room in Prince Rupert.)

"And next?" I said.

He swayed his head left and right, as if trying to juggle his thoughts into shape. "Now," he said, "that I'm up on electronic banking...think I'll winter in Florida or Costa Rica. Come spring...don't know yet. Getting up in years, you know." Then he was gone, without a word of farewell. Last I saw of him, a laundry staffer helped Sam out the door – new plastic bags under both arms.

I'd no sooner pulled into the garage than I backed out again. Another 1.2 clicks back to the laundry. The retro named 'Encounter with Sam' had caused me to forget shirts and pee-jay tops, up on coat hangers above the linen's scale.

Over the weeks following the encounter, forcing memory not to fade overly, I kept on mulling over all this stuff 'Sam' had dispensed – orally. It still wasn't until many weeks later that I thought of reporting the 'Encounter'. By then, it had struck me as so much fun that I wanted to share it on paper. Still, troubling points ran threefold:

- (1) If he'd been 17 or 18 back in '38 or '39, he'd have been in his early 80's, late in November 2003. Wrinkled and clapped-out as he looked, he could still have been some 10 years younger.
- (2) After 19 years of service, at least four of those during WWII, not a single encounter with the enemy? By all reports, the Mediterranean was not exactly off limits to the Reich's Luftwaffe, the Kriegsmarine's U-boats and Mussolini's air forces.
- (3) And why did Sam evade naming the 'flags' he'd sailed under, the source(s) of his multiple pension cheques?



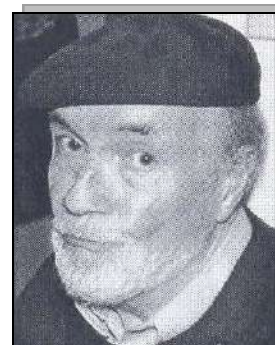
Still, in all, I concluded that he knew too much ‘first hand’ to have picked up book knowledge, or to have heard it from others. I granted him that. Also, he had this credible (but not pin-point-able) British accent. Mind, I’d never before met anyone with a (claimed) Maltese background.

To maintain or regain my (personal) credibility with those who read the May and June “Sub Subject” columns, I decided on a sort of whitewash to soften possible ‘gullibility’ accusations. To that end, I rated the highlights of Sam’s tale in tabular form. I wonder how my ratings may tally with yours.

RING OF TRUTH	RATING
Sam’s age/background	75%
His ‘real’ name	15
Cause of oily skin	0
The olive oil prank	80
Name the Boat contest	95
Hot-run torp incident	100
Sailor gone berserk	100
Periscope accident	50
His liquor cache	60
Victoria employment	100
Medic’s diagnosis	100
How Sam enlisted	20

My ratings, of course, are personal and subjective, “but ‘Sam’, wherever you are, thanks for the entertainment. Hope I did your tales some justice, and that the Binnacle’s readership will have a chuckle or three.”

Romanus Unicum



Contributions to the Binnacle are welcomed.

Deadline for submissions: **Sunday before the monthly meeting.**

Editor: newsletter@vmss.ca



Up for Auction

WW2 Liberty Ship (Carol Lombard) built by former member **Nels Combe**. Opening Bid starts at \$50. The auction will conclude at the February General Meeting.
Thanks to **Bill Andrews** for supplying the photo.



DUES 'R DUE!

RSVP

(Regular Sailors Volunteer Payment)





Some extra Lighted Boat Parade
pictures from **Bill Andrews**





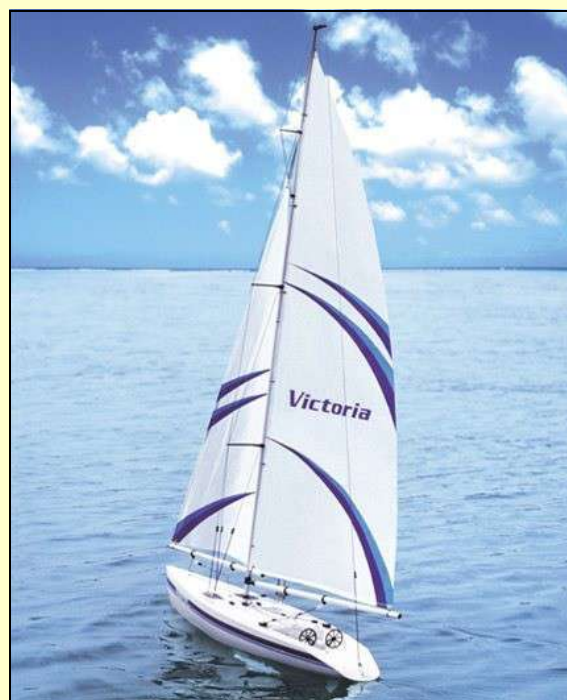
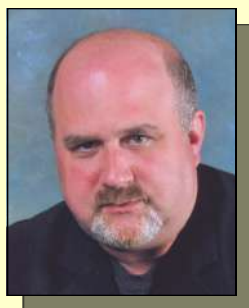
Shelbourne Shipyard

A new year and a new project. The Shelbourne Shipyard has been contracted to build a Victoria Class Sailboat. It is a somewhat of a double-edged sword. This will be the last new project that will be undertaken under my watch. But fear not for the workforce. With the **Happy Hunter** still under construction, as well as the Boothbay Lobster Boat, an aircraft carrier under the bed, a static Blue-nose II partially started and a sub-contract to oversee the construction of the tug **Carol Moran** by a third party. Along with those and the usual maintenance & upkeep of the fleet, I foresee several years of work.

Before the kit had even arrived, I was already on the Okanagan Model Sailboat Association website ordering all the available upgrades. Except the fast sails, I'll save those for another purchase. The task of choosing a name for this vessel is taking more time & thought than I had planned. Some of the front runners are "**Icon**", "**Kraken**" (I always wanted to say 'release the Kraken') and "**Excalibur**". I chose the Victoria Class for it's versatility. It's big enough to sail at Beaver Lake but still able to use at Harrison if I so desire.

Back to the dock to get some boats ready for the Westshore Hobby Show just around the corner.

Scott Munford
Yardmaster





Awards & Christmas Dinner



Maritime Museum President
Barry Rolston



Shelbourne Shipyard owner **Cathy Munford**
& Submariner **Romain Klaasen**





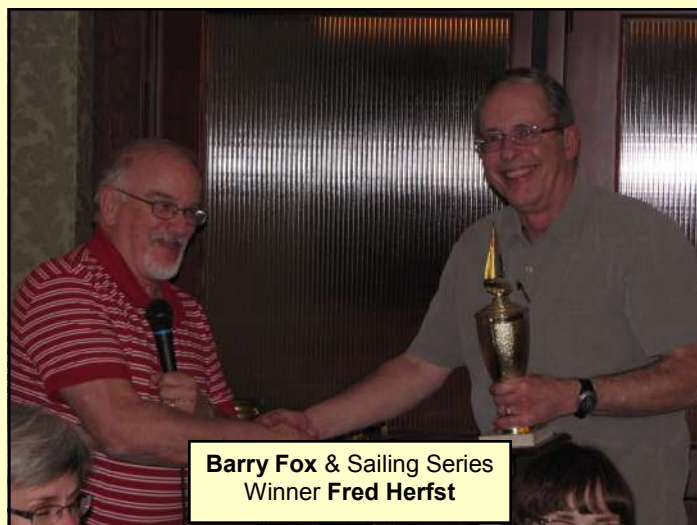
Awards & Christmas Dinner



**Barry Fox & Bent Prop Award
Winner Bill Andrews**



**Barry Fox & Best New Build
Winner (Military) Dave Taylor**



**Barry Fox & Sailing Series
Winner Fred Herfst**



**Barry Fox & Best New Build
Winner (Work) Glen Newmeyer**