



# The Binnacle

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



Yahoo! Newsgroup : VIRCB  
Vancouver Island Radio Control Boaters

## Wooden Boat Festival @ Maple Bay



Photos courtesy of **Bill Andrews**



## Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

General Meeting – May 9th, 2013

Call to order: 7:40 pm

1. Welcome: There were no new members or guests.
2. Outreach: **Glenn Newmeyer** reported on his wife Sue's recent mild heart attack and recovery. **Bob Rainsford** is recovering well from his mishap at the Battle of the Atlantic.
3. Club finances: **Mike Creasy** was not able to attend.
4. Upcoming Events:
  - The Classic Boat Show at Maple Bay will be held on the May long weekend (May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>). A show of hands was requested from those planning to attend.
  - The Strawberry Festival will be held at Beaver Lake on July 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - On Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup> the Nanaimo club will be having their swap and shop at the Inn on the Lake in Nanaimo.
5. Business from the Floor:
  - It was reported that there were 16 ships at the Battle of the Atlantic event.
6. Show and Tell:
  - **Jim Briante** showed the progress he is making on the "Sea Imp" tug build.
  - **Dave Taylor** presented his sheeting jig for allowing for different rates of pull on the sails on his build of the "Argyle".
  - **Dave Denton** showed plans he has of the Haida class Canadian destroyer and suggested a group build where multiple ships were built.
  - **Frank Lohner** showed his Springer tug.
7. Adjourn and Break
8. Entertainment:

## 2013 Executive Committee

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

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**

- **Arnold McCutcheon** made a presentation "Drilling isn't Boring" to the group. A wide variety of innovative techniques for using drills was presented.
- 50/50 was won by **Bryon Calverley**.

Respectfully Submitted  
**Graham Smith, Secretary**





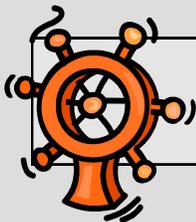
## Meeting Moments





## More Meeting Moments





**From  
The Bridge**

June is upon us – the next three months can be busy with gardening, painting, household clean up and hopefully some time can be found for model boating. There are lots of functions scheduled this summer in the Pacific North West and we look forward to seeing a report from you if you are able to attend one.

The Maple Bay Marina hosted their Wooden Boat Festival over the Victoria Day weekend – there was a good showing of classic wood boats this year. The Marina group set up a pond in the parking area this year to be used for model boats. Our club along with the Nanaimo group set up a display of boats and kept some activity in the pond both Saturday and Sunday. Weather was a bit damp on Saturday but we had the benefit of two large canopies at the ends of the pond to hide under. The Marina group have invited us back again next year. It is always a relaxing two days to sit back, run a boat, meet others and see what they are building. Thanks to those club members that were able to head over the Malahat and attend.

The Nanaimo club had a swap and shop a couple of weeks ago. I took a run up to see what bargains were there. They had a number of interesting boats and kits that were reasonably priced along with bags of assorted parts, electrical bits and some valuable items to everyone in the hobby. Watch for their next one – always something you can use!

The Langford Navy – Wednesday morning group have shifted their coffee location due to the closure of their recent location. I understand they now gather at the Juan de Fuca Seniors Centre just behind the curling rink.



**ON THE RADAR**

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 7th: Strawberry Festival**  
**July 27th: Sidney Air Museum Open House**



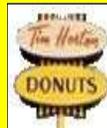
**Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30-9:30**  
**St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lakehill**  
**3939 St. Peter's Rd.**  
**Upcoming Meetings: June 13th,**  
**July 11th, August 8th**



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



**SAILING: 1st and 3rd Sundays**  
**Beaver Lake**



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

Sailing is carrying on regularly – last function showed an increase in interest with a few more boats coming out. Next activities to keep in mind – Saanich Strawberry Festival in July and the pond setting up out at the Air Museum. We have two speakers at our next meeting coming from the Esquimalt Naval museum which should be interesting.

Enjoy the summer, have fun and go boating!

**Mike**





## Disclaimer

**In no event shall this newsletter be responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, for any damage or loss caused or alleged to be caused by or in connection with the use of or reliance on any such content, goods, or services available on or through any such site or resource.**



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

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.

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**Contributions to the Binnacle are  
welcomed.**

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

**Editor: [newsletter@vmss.ca](mailto:newsletter@vmss.ca)**



## THE SUB SUBJECT

**(NOTE: Article originally published June 2005.)**

Many among the long-term readers of this column know that, in essence, it is at times blatant and at other times covert propaganda to enlist recruits into the R/C model submarine ranks.

But alas, to date, after a truncated decade of The Old College Try, the monthly writings have drawn a gratifying volume of laughs but.....no discernible numbers of converts. Yes, yes. There are a few with solid intentions on the back burner. Some have bought plans, and still others claim to have “something” on the go. Aaah.

So far, so it seems the adage that “You can lead a horse to water (HMYP?), but you can’t make it drink” still holds sway. But never mind that. My little 5’2” wife always denied the sayings veracity. She claimed the horse WOULD drink if you’d first made it thirsty. So let’s see if that can figuratively be done while readers split their sides over the now suggested enter-the-sub-hobby approach. Here goes.

Presupposing a dormant glimmer of curiosity/interest in subs, saunter into a Radio Shack, Toys’ R Us or Wal-Mart, aim for their toys section, reach for your plastic and exit with a sub and two-channel radio for give or take a C-note. Head into the workshop, sand up the slick, gaudy coloured surfaces, paint it all in a credible submarine/submersible colour, and adorn the job with a handful of decals. Now the toy may look like a model, somewhat. Once dry, select a grandchild or borrow a neighbour’s kid as foil/escort, sneak over to the pond, and get the feel of how the thing performs. In other words: gauge your reactions to driving something that submerges, surfaces, handles beautifully and doesn’t leak – not that soon anyway.

Imagine now that the disguised toy’s maiden “patrol” turned your crank as much your want-to-know. So take it apart and study the workings of its most all likely inspiring and worth copying engineering – all of which I’m about to do myself. Really.

That done, with little out of pocket and interest kindled, scheme an easy, gradual path towards the ultimate, scratch building a ballast tanked model sub. How? Try this.

Based on what other SubCommittee members have pulled off, buy one of numerous submarine kits intended for static display. Get one that’s deep and wide enough to afford space for a pressure hull, to hold on or two small motors, an Rx, speed controller, two or more mini servos and, perhaps, a battery pack and one or two switches. Going that route can save both building and time capital. And the end results I’ve witnessed are awing. Granted, it will take skill and greater miniaturization than would say, a 1/96, 1/32 or 1/100 scale model. But even with just one small motor, the conversions of German U-boats and USD fleet boats can be breathtakingly fast and manoeuvrable.

Supposing all that has been done, you could stop right there. Maintain the fleet and enjoy. Chances are, though, by now you’d like to get real serious. To that end, in recent years, it’s amazing how many hobby trade manufacturers and vendors are catering to the R/C model sub niche internationally. Britain, Canada, France, Germany... you name it.



Ads in the SubCommittee Report, coupled with a web search by **Ron Hillsden**, show that there are at least 50 purveyors of sub kits, systems and accessories.

Most widely available are GRP or vacu-formed so-called semi-kits. These, as a rule, include a two-piece hull (lower and upper), a sail/conning tower, rudders, bow and/or stern planes, sometimes a five or seven-bladed screw, and some instructions. Prices will range from \$200 or less to \$1000 or more. By and large, the quality/strength of materials and the workmanship are acceptable to excellent, but there are bummers to be had as well, e.g. poor fits and warping.

Next in line, as of late, complete kits are available, some basic, some intermediate, and some that lack only an RT-RX to be totally complete. But this is the rub: don't believe the "Can be assembled in hours ...in two evenings...and sundry other exaggerated claims". In fact, to do the end products justice, you may as well opt for the semi-kit or for a scratch building outright. That way, you'll have no more than your OWN mistakes rather than those of others for which you laid out coin, with frustration tossed in as a bonus.

But even the most avowed scratch builders may want to consider acquisition of ready-made sub assemblies or systems that can defy handymen – even those with lathes, casting facilities and so forth. Look at these samples.

**BALLAST SYSTEMS:** Either complete, ready to install or needing the tank only. Three types: gas, piston or pump-operated.

**PRESSURE HULLS:** Lexan tubes (3.5" or 4.0" dia) with "O" sealed end caps/bulkheads.

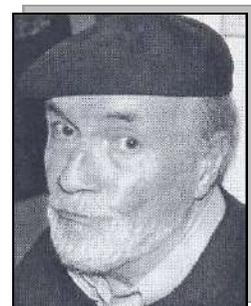
**WATERTIGHT CYLINDERS (WTC's):** Available in the mentioned diameters but Rx excepted, ready to pop into a model. They include a motor, servos, battery pack, linkages, an auto pitch controller (APC) and, in their centre, a gas-operated ballast tank. In theory, these units are transferable from one model to another. Despite their lip-sealed hull penetrations, a few buyers still report leakage/seepage, but that could be their own doing. Also, over time, the effects of gas will mar the transparency of Lexan.

**TORPEDOS and LAUCHERS:** Gas-operated torps and nicely machined, duplex launchers are to be had. Cut torpedo doors, tap into a dedicated servo, and Bob's your uncle.

**CONNING TOWERS:** These are delicately cast and well-researched substitutes for kit buyers who want their model to replicate a specific prototype in her class. The workmanship and acid etching is astounding.

And there you are. But no matter which route you choose, make you first home-built sub a dynamic diver. Save the ballast system for a next go.

## Romanus Unicum





Built by former VMSS Member **Donald Hall**,  
donated by his wife **Phyllis Hall**.

Starting bid is \$75.



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**Victoria BC V9B-0L5**



**Donna Ensor** has donated this supply of wood from her late husband **Ken** to the club. **Bill Andrews** will be bringing small bundles to the General Meetings to sell. If you would like to see the entire collection, please contact **Bill**.



## Shelbourne Shipyard

Getting back to work on the sailboat *Icon* (Victoria Class Sailboat). Have to give props to the **Okanagan Model Sailboat Association**. I am using their instructions, which I downloaded off their website. Much easier to follow and makes more sense than the Instruction Manual that comes with the kit. They also add some tips & hints that could only come from someone who has built one and discovered things that could make it better, like reinforcing the mast support or to varathane all the wood because it will get wet. Missing from the pictures below are the keel & rudder which had been painted and were drying elsewhere. Would like to have it in the water soon but am planning to take my time and do things right. Still have the Midwest Lobster Boat waiting in the wings.

Elsewhere, the *Hunter* saw her first water since being completed. Pleased to say everything worked perfectly.

**Scott Munford**  
Yardmaster

