



The Binnacle

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Victoria BC Canada
vmss.ca



Yahoo! Newsgroup : VIRCB
Vancouver Island Radio Control Boaters

Pond Happenings





Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

General Meeting – February 9, 2012

Call to order: 7:36 pm

1. Welcome: Guests **Rick McRae** and **Rick Nickleson**.
2. Outreach: The was no outreach
3. Club Finances: **Mike Creasy** reported that we now have 47 paid memberships. While we are down from 56 members last year, we do have 9 new members this year. If any member has a question about the club's finances, Mike will be happy to answer.
4. Upcoming Events: Beaver Fever sailing regatta will be happening in late March. **Barry Fox** will likely be looking for some volunteers to help out.
5. Open Forum: **Barry Fox** reported that the Westshore Hobby Show was a big success. The springer tugs were very well used by interested visitors and did their job well. Hopefully there will be some more memberships that will come from the event. The r/c flying saucer was a big hit at the event. **Dave Denton** reported that he had a VMSS name tag made up and if there were enough people interested there was good pricing available (\$7.25 per name tag). **Barry Fox** presented a variety of sailboats that had been donated to the clubs and were available for purchase at the break. There were 4 Nirvanas with radios, an IOM hull, a Reno hull and two incomplete Halos. Barry reiterated to the group the plan to have more involvement from the members in providing entertainment at the meetings. There is so much skill in the group that it would really help everyone if we shared their questions and solutions. Remember, the club really is a hobby "support group"!
6. Adjourn business portion & break (In which there was great activity on the sailboat sales!)
7. Show and Tell: **Barry Fox** gave a presentation on radios and what they can do. **Jim Briante** gave an interesting electronics presentation and **Graham Smith** presented his PT boat project.

Respectfully Submitted
Graham Smith, Secretary



2012 Executive Committee

President: Barry Fox	294-0350
Vice-Pres: Ron Armstrong	385-9552
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
Librarian: Don Meyer (Books)	381-3356
Publicity: Ron Armstrong	385-9552
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.

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Meeting Moments



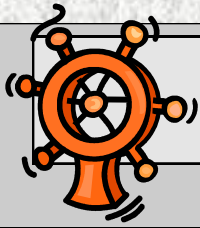
your hard working Executive



Jim Briante with his LED lights



sail boats for sale



The Prez Says...

Prez Says

The first of March and the weather is generally getting better.

We have a few people primed to present some ideas and tips for this month's meeting but there is always room, and time, for more. The other side of that is to answer any questions you might have about how to do something on a project you have going. So bring it along and you might be surprised (maybe shocked sometimes) at the advice that will be available. Now I have to go practice my tips so I can carry them out without looking completely awkward!!

Elsewhere there may be a short article about our participation in the Victoria Day Parade. The committee met once so far and have roughed out a general plan about what to make our "float" look like and what will be on it. You may be approached to let your model be part of the display on the float. If you are then please say yes and do your part to maybe entice a few new members out of the crowd.

One of our members, **David Cook** is off to Dallas, TX in a few days to compete in a fairly big regatta there. Not only will he be representing our club but also our country. Good luck and fast sailing to David.

At our last meeting we were able to get a bunch of reasonably good boats into new hands and bring in a good chunk of revenue for the club. The good news is that some of those boats are getting used and have been out sailing already. We have a few more boats and pieces that will be up for grabs at this month's meeting as well. Some of them will represent a real "steal" so bring your money or cheque books.

Elsewhere you will see a notice that your dues are due. Fortunately, most of you have already taken care of that piece of annual business and our renewal rate is very good so far. If you haven't then



ON THE RADAR

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24th & 25th: Beaver Fever
May 6th: Battle of the Atlantic



Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30-9:30
 4050 Carey Road
 Next is: April 12th, 2012



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 **March 18th**



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

the time is now. Pretty soon no new Binnacle for you if you aren't a member.

No real bad news this month (not that there has been much for years) so a short column this month to leave room for all the other good contributions.

-Barry





THE SUB SUBJECT

Although familiar models do make their way to **THE POND** occasionally, few submarine models (save and except the \pm 69 year old Márklin wind-up toy) qualify for O.A.P. status.

By model standards, however, U-25 at age 26, qualifies cum laude and her history could be traced with some certainty.

The model was built from a Krick kit, which included "all necessary" materials, plans and templates to contour the bread-and-butter hull.

Jack Plummer, in his Ontario days, had been eyeballing the kit in a hobby shop in his Hamilton-Wentworth region and while it intrigued him, he bided his time till he figured it had accumulated enough shelf dust to enter the store and, indifference drooping, said, "How much?"

Losing money, best price and below cost all came up in the negotiations. **Jack** walked out -- one Krick richer and \$110 poorer.

He soon learned that the kit's likely buyer ranks would include very few novices. In particular: shaping the hull was a painstaking, slow and exacting job.

During a November 2003 interview, **Jack** volunteered that the "finished" model was something that's generally known as a disappointment. For one thing, the U-25 model would not dive and, for another, it leaked. The pressure hull lid was not transparent, and its design was deficient. It would cause the pressure hull to leak even while surfaced and stuffing boxes would add to that.

By and by, after numerous diving plane adjustments, the model did dive (occasionally, at least) but leakage bordered on the unstoppable. **Jack** gave his Krick a two-way well deserved rest.

That well deserved rest ended when other modellers came up with submarines. That had taken time. That, then, rekindled **Jack's** interest in U-25, but he did make time for a serious refit. Krick's pressure hull lid was cast aside, and replaced with a Lexan one on a neoprene gasket, held down by studs, washers and nuts (stainless) about every 2". The new lid was fitted with two totally waterproof hatches, for access to the radio and power circuits. New batteries and new motors were installed. But nothing was done about the grease-sealed stuffing boxes, and the stern diving planes still had to be adjusted (trial and error) before and during runs. Bottom line: great improvement from the original, but still a bit of a headache.

Meanwhile, U-25 drew the attention of a young man (learned his name {**Jeff Webster**} years later) and **Jack** parted with the Krick for \$350, and got busy building a Victoria Class model. Again: a bread and butter, wooden hull and once more, a dynamic diver. The Victoria model wasn't trouble free -- very much in keeping with her prototype, but not that bad perhaps.

At the time of purchase, **Jeff**, had been 14 years old. He ran the model for several seasons at The Pond and at Thetis Lake. There U-25 got caught up in weeds (call it an underwater tree) at about 15' down. Apparently, **Jeff** donned mask and fins and retrieved her. Then, after seven or so years, **Jeff** got a job in Alberta and appointed his dad, **Brian**, as his agent.

Dave Denton spotted the ad, in the Binnacle no less, and drew it to **Jim Cox's** attention. What **Jim** did, has done and is still doing is fully reported in the September 2011 Binnacle's "Sub Subject" column. In few words: more new motors and more new batteries have found their way into the Krick. And **Jim**, by all reports, isn't finished yet. But since last September, **Jim** has also bought **Jack's** Victoria, and two more subs from Greg Sharpe of Deep Sea Design -- a Nautilus (Disney?) among them. Then there is **Jim's** basement development. In progress.

Still with his tenacity and determination in mind, it's almost certain that U-25 will see a re-commissioning day at HMYP and Langford Lake. For that to come about, though, time, energy and money will have to be applied.

Jim has talked about a gyroscope. An electronic one would no doubt be an APC (Automatic Pitch Control) but it would take a radio (servo) controlled stern plane -- not something with a flywheel. And something more: the stuffing boxes would have to be the types with "cup" seals that fit the drive shaft tighter and tighter as diving depth increases.

Thinking about the U-25's Krick model, the efforts of her three owners, the numerous changes and her "consumption" of motors and batteries . . . makes one wonder if the manufacturers have/had a test tank. It does not seem reasonable that, by now, U-25 is not a docile diver and surfacer that rides at close to her waterline. Neither does it seem reasonable that the leakage fight was necessary -- and never mind its duration.

In conclusion, the U-25 model has found a good home, and hopes run high that she will soon perform as well as it should have done right from the get-go.

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

Next month's column will deal with the misadventure in August 1973 of the Vickers Oceanics PIII submersible while it was burying a trans-Atlantic cable some 1650' down in the ocean.

Romanus Unicum



Name Change Notice

The Mid Vancouver Island Boat Club has a new name and a new website.

They are now the "Nanaimo Boat Modellers".

The new website is:
<http://www.nanaimoboatmodellers.com>

Thanks to **Mike Claxton** for passing this along.

Contributions to the Binnacle are welcomed.

Deadline for submissions: Sunday before the monthly meeting.

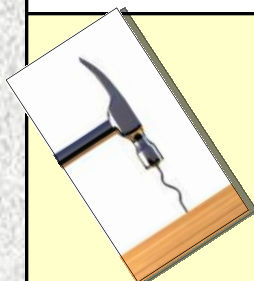
Editor: newsletter@vmss.ca

DUES 'R DUE!

RSVP

(Regular Sailors Volunteer Payment)

Dave's Corner



Its Sunday before the meeting, saw Scott at the pond today, reminded me the binnacle article is due, so here it is.

The water at the pond was great last week, but it was deplorable today. What is going on ? I cant understand the difference. I know it has been a long time since the last cleanup, but today was ridiculous. I cant wait for the spring cleaning. There are a few new members down there continually, getting tips on practice and procedure for their projects. My 17 inch tug is really inappropriate for the conditions down there, building a 24 inch one with a 540 motor in it. I will see you at the meeting with some tips on shaft line up .

See you there

Dave Denton





From the Sailing Director

The first race day of our club spring series on February 19 was a great success with good winds, if a little cold! We managed 10 races. **Dave Seager** and **David Taylor** gave Jan a bad time, but Jan took the first day with two third places to throw out. **David Cook** will be mighty pleased to see this photo of one of the finishes when he beat Jan, as will **David Taylor** number 30. I learned a lot running the races and just watching - don't make mistakes!

1 **Jan Schmidt** 76 BTL 10.0 3.0 1.0 3.0 1.0 1.0 1.0 2.0 1.0 1.0 2.0
 2 **Dave Seager** 62 Kite 21.0 4.0 5.0 1.0 2.0 2.0 2.0 3.0 2.0 5.0 6.0
 3 **David Taylor** 30 Trinity 23.0 1.0 3.0 5.0 4.0 6.0 3.0 6.0 4.0 2.0 1.0
 4 **David Cook** 80 Ska 29.0 2.0 6.0 4.0 5.0 3.0 6.0 1.0 3.0 6.0 5.0
 5 **Adrian Harrison** 21 Ska 29.0 6.0 4.0 2.0 3.0 5.0 5.0 4.0 6.0 3.0 3.0
 6 **Barry Fox** 34 Reggae 33.0 5.0 2.0 6.0 6.0 4.0 4.0 5.0 5.0 4.0 4.0

The next race day is March 18. Jan has volunteered to be race director for the day. Everyone is welcome to enter and don't worry about the lost day - it will all come out in the wash. Enter often and learn to sail without mistakes!!

Do attend Barry Fox's School Daze likely on March 17. There are some great videos of the race day to review. Watch for a message from him to confirm.

And do register for Beaver Fever, our club regatta, which will be held March 24 and 25th.



Rick Larocque of the Ottawa RC Yacht Club is taking a census of EC12's in Canada. If you have one, you may want to bring it to his attention as he is trying to build a fleet there. Contact me (**Fred Herfst**) if you have one and I'll pass it on. There may be interest there in purchasing one or more.

Fred



VMSS MODEL BOAT PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ANY MODEL BOAT CLUB

Just a few Rules:

1. Maximum of 3 entries per amateur-photographer/member: **DIGITAL (jpg) only!**
2. Send by email attachment to: newsletter@vmss.ca subject line: "PhotoContest Entry" (important!)
3. Model ships and related topics only, please. **Limit of 3 (three) entries** per person.
4. **Deadline November 14th, 2012.**
5. Judges decision final; prizes to be announced at a later date in **The Binnacle**.

NOTE: It is intended that the top 12 BEST entries will be used in our VMSS Calendar for 2013. **Questions:** email to: newsletter@vmss.ca

GOOD BOATING AND SHOOTING!!



Potpourri



End of an era
Photo by Bill Andrews



Collision Alert !!! A good example of how not to cross a tug's towline