



# The Binnacle

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



Yahoo! Newsgroup : VIRCB  
Vancouver Island Radio Control Boaters

## Sunday at the Pond







## Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

General Meeting – February 14th, 2013

Call to order: 7:40 pm

1. Welcome: New Members **Garry Forseith** and **Henry Ravensdale** were introduced to the club.
2. Outreach: **Glenn Newmeyer** has hurt his foot in a ladder fall and **Romain** has been in hospital for low blood pressure.
3. Club finances: **Mike Creasy** reported that the club had received the \$300.00 from Westshore Town Centre for the Hobby Show. Mike also confirmed that the \$163.00 annual fee for Harrison Pond had been paid. The club has approximately \$10,500.00 in the bank.
4. Upcoming Events:
  - Beaver Fever sailing event will be held on the March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> weekend at Beaver Lake.
  - The Nanaimo Club will be having a show at Rutherford Mall in Nanaimo on the weekend of April 11-14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Classic Boat Show at Maple Bay will be held on the May long weekend (May 25-26<sup>th</sup>). There will be a pond built to run boats at the event.
5. Business from the Floor:
  - **Dave Denton** reported that the Times colonist 10km run will be held on April 28<sup>th</sup> so access to the pond will likely be restricted.
6. Show and Tell:
  - **Arnold McCutcheon** showed his flexible sail-boat model which steers by flexing the entire hull.
  - **Frank Lohner** showed his troller model.
7. Adjourn and Break: The draw was won by **Graham Smith** (a wood plane) and second was **Richard Nicolson** (a shop light).

## 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**

8. Entertainment:
  - **Bob Rainsford** showed his method of plank on frame building.

Respectfully Submitted  
**Graham Smith**, Secretary





## Meeting Moments



# **WESTSHORE RC HOBBIES**

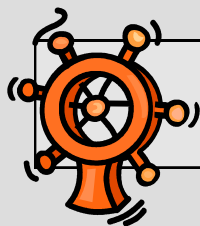
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**From  
The Bridge**

March has arrived, we have shifted the clock forward and we can look forward to better weather. Start cleaning off the dust, check the old batteries to see if they survived the winter and head to a pond or lake.

We have had presentations so far at each meeting and the next two meetings are covered. We'll continue to seek out interesting topics and find a presenter. I understand that the church hall manager is fine with us putting on an airbrush session or silver soldering and those can be pencilled in for two more meetings. Our next two upcoming: one will be on tuning or setting up your sailboat followed by a presentation on what materials can be used should you choose to use the laser cutting services that some members have been using.

Don't forget the upcoming sailing event – Beaver Fever – towards the end of March. Barry is expecting about fifteen boats and will require some assistance on both Saturday and Sunday to ensure a smooth running event takes place. We will provide hot dogs and coffee on the Saturday.

I've met twice with the Maple Bay Marina owners and provided them with information on basic pool construction (thanks to the last Helmsman bulletin that we received). Doug Grinyer of the Confederation Marine Modellers kindly sent me information and photographs of their pond that appeared in that issue. The Nanaimo members are keen to be part of this May long weekend event as well.

Battle of the Atlantic will be coming up in early May and we have been debating what might take place after the initial sail past. Some members would prefer to run their boats as they do now, some have shown interest to have a fun regatta – perhaps a navigational course, barge pull, some activity that can suit the various types of boats that members have.



**ON THE RADAR**

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 23rd-24th: Beaver Fever**
- May 5th: Battle of the Atlantic Tribute**
- May 18th: Maple Bay Classic Boat Show**



**Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30-9:30**  
**St. Peter's Anglican Church, Lakehill**  
**3939 St. Peter's Rd.**  
**Upcoming Meetings: March 14,**  
**April 11th, May 9th**



**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 17th**



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

Show and Tell part of the meeting – bring along that unfinished project and seek out ideas from other members on how to solve a problem in order to move forward and complete the build. I'm probably the worst for starting a project and dithering over it.

Our treasurer reminds us that dues are due from those that haven't dealt with them yet. Please remember to fill out an updated sheet for Barry so that he can add any address or e-mail changes to the membership list.

Let's have fun and go boating!

**Mike**







## Sea Terms Quiz

Match the word with the correct explanation

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1) Scud                 | A) Bottom  |
| 2) Fother               | B) Double ender shallow draft<br>(Ketch Rigged Vessel) |
| 3) Norwegian Steam      | C) Flat calm   |
| 4) Hooker               | D) A leaking hull                                      |
| 5) Ground               | E) Elbow grease  |
| 6) Brass Monkey         | F) To rub before the wind                              |
| 7) All hands & the cook | G) A collision mat                                     |
| 8) Irish Hurricane      | H) An old sailing cargo vessel                         |
| 9) Bugeye               | I) Nick name for Cunard<br>house vessel                |
| 10) Make water          | J) All the crews on deck                               |

answers on last page



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 SEPTEMBER 2002)**

Well after publication of the “Pond side F.Q.A.s” in August and September 2000’s Binnacle, a lumpy-looking, middle-aged type said, “how long do those ‘things’ last?”

I looked up from filling 1:96 Miami’s on-board gas tank. “Come again?” I said. The slob obliged – hands as deep into his baggy shorts’ pockets as they’d go: gut out far enough to intimidate a sumo wrestler.

Most all likely I spoke as follows: “Don’t really know...this one’s five years old...It’s well like asking ‘How high is up?’...And went back to my ante-launch jobbies.

Then, on the way home, the ostensible jerk’s question haunted me for the nine minutes to our garage – so much I’d let my smoke die. Then I forgot about it till I put Miami’s batteries under charge.

Was that a valid, stupid or unanswerable question? How many peripheral and ancillary posers did it raise? Why had the guy turned me off? Why didn’t I go for a smidge of conversation? Should I now feel guilty or something?

All of weeks later, I thought up an answer of sorts: “It all hinges upon MAINTENANCE, bud. AI depends on how well you look after the ‘thing’. There are people young and old, in England and elsewhere, who regularly sail models (not necessarily subs) that were built decades back by their fathers’ fathers, for themselves or their children’s’ children.”

But now think of the ‘How-come?’ of such longevity.

Two possibilities, in this order of likelihood:

- (1) Limited use/extensive display on the mantelpiece (“Look at ‘er, ain’t she a beaut?”) or
- (2) Extensive use and intensive MAINTENANCE.

During my musings about the Pond-met sumpf, these words of a U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander, in charge of the Navy’s Permit-class submarines, came to mind: “If you take an axe and replace the head and handle often enough...pretty soon you have a new axe.” Then I set those words against what a rancher once said to me: “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” A squirt of tobacco juice followed.

Nice contrasts? For sure, but so seminal for us modellers. The point(s) is/are these: If you tire of a model, and are keen to learn how big an egg you’ll lay with a next one, just run, run and run her –long as you recharge the batteries. Do that till the new one is ready for launch, and similar fate. But if you like the performance of a specific piece of handiwork, and now and again think of the hundreds of hours of (fun?) building labour that were spent, then MAINTAIN the model.

What is MAINTENANCE?



It can be routine; it can be preventive. And it's the latter I emphasize in modelling. That really came home to me when I toured the Bangor Sub Base, across the Strait.

The youngish tour guide, a nuclear engineer, took much professional pride in his Navy's "P.M.S. Program". That drew some giggles from persons of the female persuasion in the group. Once he'd quit blushing the guide said that the initials stood for "**P**reventative **M**aintenance **S**ervice." So, okay, we had a bit of a laugh, but the officer had sure made the point. – Exemplifying the stitch-in-time bit.

All subs in the U.S. fleet, he said, have systems and sub-systems overhauled or replaced on a pre-determined schedule and no, they'd never enlist the mentioned rancher. Like in aviation, hours of service are logged, and manufacturers' experiments as well as observed performance tell the Navy when to service, overhaul or replace parts of components. This regardless of how good they still look or perform.

Through P.M.S. boats' lifetimes could be extended almost indefinitely. That's just what **Orv Wilson** did with his green, white and black Shelly Foss tug.

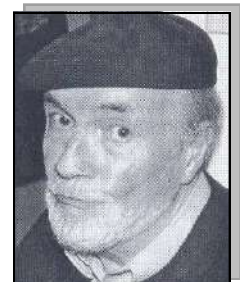
Orv launched the Shelly in 1986, ran her two or more times a week and did so for 11 years, till he traded the temporal for the eternal. At that time, the tug model was on her third set of motors and second pair of stuffing boxes. And he kept on adding features, e.g. the high-fun monitor, that canned sound of the head being flushed and the recorded maritime weather forecast.

In the prototypes' universe, where a gross of human lives depends on reliability, most everything can be updated and replaced – save and except for the pressure hull and the nuclear reactor. The hull, after about 30 years of typical patrols time, will suffer metal fatigue and the reactor...well...you don't much tamper with it – except for its mid-life, multi-million dollar refuelling. The Navy's criterion for decommissioning is this: If a refit is costlier than a new boat, she goes to Bremerton's bone yard.

Meanwhile, it's my guess that I'll nurse at least 10 years/seasons out of the current units in my sub fleet. The way in which I strive toward that goal is simple, not too boring, and peace-of-mind affording like this: Dry them after each run, lube everything that moves and is lube-able once a week and replace all seals and gaskets once a year – or well before they leak. Given time and inclination, touch up the paint, or sand and repaint. Such routines can eliminate the need for drastic refits.

Next month, the touchy-feely \$\$\$'s and ¢¢¢'s business of model submarining will have to be suffered.

## Romanus Unicum







# Potpourri



- Quiz Answers
- 1) F
  - 2) G
  - 3) E
  - 4) H
  - 5) A
  - 6) I
  - 7) J
  - 8) C
  - 9) B
  - 10) D



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