

THE BINNACLE

JUNE 1990



NEXT MEETING JULY 12th 1990 7:30 pm.
AT SW CORNER OF BEAVER LAKE

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Box 4114 Postal Station A
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 3X4

COMMITTEE 1990.

President	Ron Wild	478-5430
Vice President	John Marsh	385-5740
Secretary	Ron Hillsden	479-5760
Treasurer	Bernard Eeles	652-4842
Director-(Publicity)	Fred Haire	474-3650
Director-(Newsletter)	Dave Teece	478-3701
Director-(Newsletter)	Peter Favelle	652-5086
Director-(SHAS Liason)	Neil Milner	477-6103
Director-(Librarian)	Del Beckner	477-4994
Director-(Entertainment)	Arnold Swards	383-4801

UPCOMING EVENTS.

Jun. 16th - 17th Historical Artifacts Society Summer Fair. A strong showing of operating boats could help us all! (See the President's message.)

Jun. 24th Westcoast Model Boat Club Regatta
Vanier Park, Vancouver from 10 to 3
Free sailing, steering course and static judging. Subs, sailboats, paddle wheelers, fireboats, warships, speedboats and "Some Surprises"

June 24th Work party at Sandhill Lake, 9 am
Final chance to ready the lake for the regatta. Please help out!

Jul. 8th VMSS regatta at Sandhill Lake.
(Details elsewhere in this issue!)

Aug. 11th - 12th Burnaby Marine Modellers, Pacific Rim Regatta. Static judging Saturday at All Saints Church, Burnaby and free running, steering course, hi-speed electrics and tug races Sunday at The Pond, Central Park, Burnaby.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE.

At our recent "fun day at the pond" I had a chat with a couple of the executive of the Artifacts Society. They were pleased with our turnout and happy with the fact that we "were having fun". I came away optimistic in that apparently the door is still open for further negotiations. We have verbally agreed to have a meeting after the regatta with an arbitrator in an effort to settle our differences. With this in mind, I am asking all our members not to discuss our problems with any of the Artifacts people, and most especially not to antagonize them in any way. This means no snide remarks like "how are the geese" etc. PLEASE be polite if you do have to converse with them.

The Artifacts have agreed to provide us with tables and "no parking" signs for the regatta and in return they have asked if we could run our boats for their "Summer Fair", so if possible please show up at the pond on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 & 17.

Thanks, Ron

NEW MEMBERS.

We had three new members join at the May meeting:

Cecil Bartol-Drinker (at 380-9838), Alain De Loor (at 477-5984) and Robert Gwalchmai (at 380-6487) have brought our numbers up to 60.

Alain runs a computer bulletin board at 477-2461 and has offered to run a section for people who wish to discuss model boats, if there is any interest.

Please make them feel welcome, and perhaps share some fresh ideas.

CORRECTIONS.

I have new addresses and phone numbers for Shawn Greig, Mike Fisher, and Norm Fisher if anyone requires them. Rather than try to keep up with address corrections in the Binnacle each month, I will just publish a revised membership list in a few months. (when I need some good filler!)

VMSS REGATTA.

Well, July 8th is almost here (in fact there will not be another meeting before the big day) so we should all be thinking of how we will be involved.

First, it is absolutely essential that we get as many people as possible out to the lake on June 24th for a work party, starting at 9:00 am. This is the only opportunity to clear the lake of weeds and make sure the grounds will be presentable for the event.

On the day of the Regatta, registration is from 9:00 to 11:00 but if you can arrive earlier, you could be most helpful. Judging starts at 11:00 and the cost to enter is \$5.00 for the first boat, plus \$1.00 for each additional boat. Of course there will be free sailing for those not wishing to enter, when your transmitter frequency is not in use by competitors.

In case any of our newer members or out of town friends aren't sure of the location, it is at Sandhill Lake on the grounds of the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society. This is on the highway just past

Elk Lake, north of Victoria, on the way to the ferry.

It is hoped that we can put on an incredible show and really give the public, as well as our entrants, a day to remember!

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RAILINGS.

by
Doug Dyer

Railings are a very necessary part of a model ship and it is important that they look as close to scale as possible. Many members already have their own preferred and accepted methods for constructing their railings - this is mainly aimed at those who are interested in "model boat-building basics" and may provide ideas for others.

While building the SALTSPRING QUEEN and the LADY ROSE in 1:48 scale, it became obvious to me that my soldering skills were poor. Therefore when it came time to construct the railings I knew I had to come up with a solution that did not involve soldering, yet was fairly simple to put together.

The solution is actually quite simple and I will probably make things seem more complicated than they really are, by trying to describe the method.

The materials needed include wire, (I use copper. For larger scales a harder metal may be required.), five-minute epoxy, permanent felt marker (fine tip), and a number of small holding devices such as hair clips, paper clips, or in most cases, Scotch tape works best!

STEP 1. Make a pattern for stanchions with precise marks showing DECK LINE, MIDDLE BARS, AND TOPS OF STANCHIONS.

STEP 2. Cut all stanchions using the pattern, allowing extra length to be sunk into the deck. Also, using the felt marker, mark off the heights of the cross-bars.

STEP 3. Drill the holes for the stanchions in the deck. Using 5-minute epoxy, glue the stanchion in place. "EYEBALL" the stanchion from one end to make sure that all are straight up and down, and that the tops are at the same level. Due to the

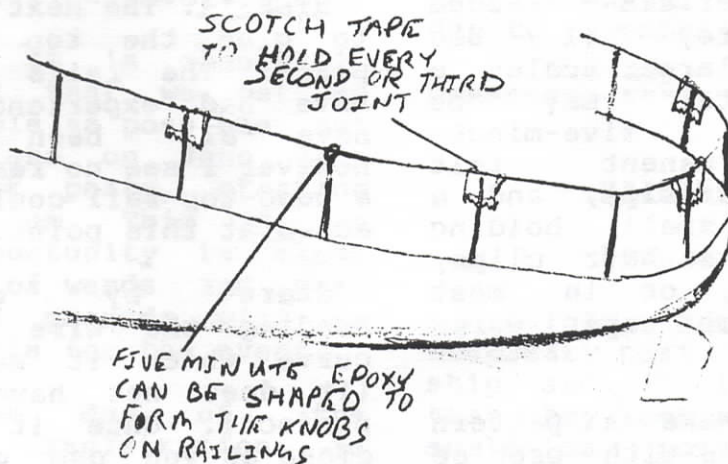
speed at which the epoxy hardens, you may not be able to glue as many in place at one time as you would like - perhaps 8 at a time.

STEP 4. The next step is to glue the top rail in place. The rails that I have had experience with, have all been metal, however I see no reason why a wood-top rail couldn't be added at this point.

Start by gradually bending the wire to the curve which it must take (it does not have to be perfect). Once it is as close as you can get, use Scotch tape to tape the rail in place at every second or third stanchion. Make a final check to see that your stanchions are perfectly upright. Then mix your epoxy and glue every second joint. As the epoxy hardens it can be shaped with a toothpick to form the "knob" on the railings, or if they are the welded type, the excess epoxy can be removed. Remove the tape and glue the final joints.

STEP 5. Lastly we work on the middle bars. These are usually thinner than the top rail, so I suggest threading transparent nylon thread or fine fishing line

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between the stanchions, taking one turn around each. (Use Scotch tape to hold the loose end and keep tension, while you check to see that the bars are parallel.) The nylon thread is easily glued using CA glue. Metal bars can be put in place, but this is more difficult. Use the paper clip or hair clip to hold the metal bars in place while the epoxy hardens. With the thread, you will find that it takes the shortest route possible, so

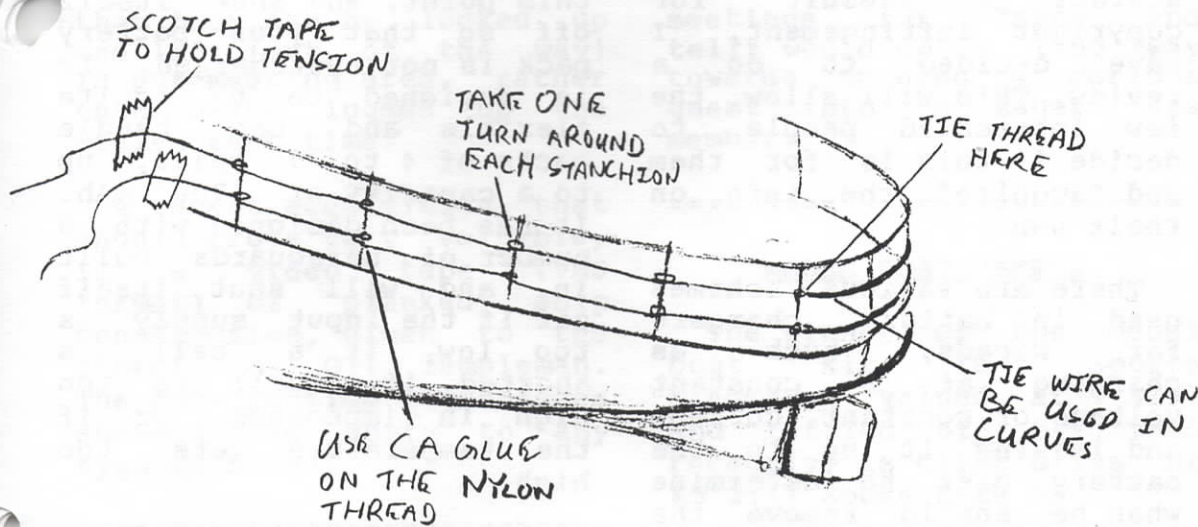
on a curve, the thread still runs straight. In these areas I used tie wire in place of thread.

* NOTES

- It is best that the surface which you expect the epoxy to contact be roughened with an old knife to create a better bond.

- Don't forget to sand the wire before you start, so that the paint will stick!

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NICAD CHARGER.

Submitted by Nels Combe

have been R/C Modeler.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In answer to my repeated whining for material to publish in The Binnacle, Nels brought me a very interesting article about building a charger for Nicad batteries. The article, however, appeared as a construction article in a model magazine. The author was Howard W. Cano, and while the name of the magazine is not indicated, the format suggests it may

This presents me with a problem since I generally try to avoid printing material published commercially (and therefore probably subject to copyright).

The charger is of sufficient complexity that only a few of our members are likely to attempt it anyway. Therefore rather than duplicate the entire article here, (It would

likely require a couple of issues for the entire article), and possibly attract a lawsuit for copyright infringement, I have decided to do a review. This will allow the few interested people to decide if this is for them and "acquire" the info on their own.

There are various schemes used in battery chargers for Nicads, such as charging at a constant voltage or constant current and leaving it up to the battery user to determine when he should remove the charger. Some chargers attempt to automate the process by detecting an absolute voltage level or a temperature rise to determine a shutoff point. However these schemes are said to be inaccurate.

This charger is designed to take advantage of a characteristic of nicads, whereby their voltage peaks when they are fully charged and then drops VERY SLIGHTLY afterwards. This is quite difficult to detect since the actual point at which it occurs depends on temperature, charging current, and variations in the actual cells, and therefore requires special circuitry

to sense.

This charger can detect this point, and shut itself off so that your battery pack is not overcharged. It is designed to be quite flexible and can handle packs of 4 to 7 cells, up to a capacity of 1700 mAh. It has been designed with a number of safeguards built in, and will shut itself off if the input supply is too low, if a cell is shorted, if a cell is too high in impedance, or if the temperature gets too high.

While a schematic, circuit board artwork and description of circuit operation are provided, you can also order a basic kit from the author, consisting of the circuit board and the more exotic components for \$16 US. The remaining components should only cost a few more dollars and should be found quite easily locally.

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LIBRARY REPORT.

Del is continuing with a re-organisation of the library's resources. He is trying to order a new book or two each month so that

new material to read, and is working toward getting an easily moveable storage cupboard for the books, so that they can be locked up and left (out of the way) in our meeting area, rather than being lugged up the stairs each time.

A recent acquisition that should prove very valuable, is a video tape (VHS format) of planked ship construction, given to the library by Gil Templeman. The construction techniques shown should apply to any type of model.

PARTICIPATION.

In this busy age there are many choices of leisure time activities to tempt us, as well as obligations to keep us from following all the hobby pursuits we would like to. It is easy to be "too busy!"

However each of us in VMSS, came to realize that the study, construction, and / or running of model boats is a pleasure worthy of our time.

It would be encouraging, therefore, to see more of members coming out to our meetings. Sometimes it

would be hard to prove to a guest that we are a model boat club, but a few more models brought to the meetings for "show and tell" would go a long way towards turning a curious guest into an eager new member.

MODEL BOAT RAFFLE.

The winner of the model boat kit (a Sports Fisherman valued at \$197 and raffled off by VMSS recently) is Clint Giles of #5 2911 Sooke Lake Rd.

NEXT MEETING.

Last year, we held our summer meetings at the pond, keeping the business portion short, so that we could run our boats during the balmy early evenings. It seemed to be quite successful.

The next meeting (July) is scheduled to be held at the south-west corner of Beaver Lake. There is lots of parking at the south end and a small area suitable for launching nearby on the west side. As some members decided last year, swimming is optional.

SOURCES OF PLANS.

(Editor's note... The following was shamelessly taken from the Sept. 89 "CMMG LOG", the newsletter of the Capital Marine Modellers' Guild. A couple of common US sources were deleted in the interest of saving space.)

The following is a list of companies that offer plans for ships. With most of them is an indication of a fee that is wanted to cover the cost of mailing their listing or catalogue. Where this information is not listed, it would be a good idea to assume that a SASE and international reply coupons sufficient to cover return postage would be the very least requirement to receive a catalogue. The list is by no means exhaustive

Bassett-Louke Ltd.

Harvey Reeves Rd., Northampton, NN5 5JR, ENGLAND

Sailing ships catalogue: £1.30; power craft catalogue: £1.00

Coastal Forces

136 West Broadway, Bangor, Maine, 04401, USA

list \$1.00 US funds

David McGregor Plans

99 Lonsdale Road, London, SW13 9DA, ENGLAND

Catalogue - airmail: £3.50

Marine Modelling Plan Service

Severn Drive, Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire, WR8 0JL, ENGLAND

Model Reduit de Bateau Plans

Kip Marketing, 33 Yorke Gardens, Reigate, RH2 9HQ, ENGLAND

Catalog: £3.50

Technical Arts Service Ltd.

P.O. Box 1598, W. Nottingham, NH, 03291, USA

Catalogue: \$2.00 US funds

Vanguard Model Marine

P.O. Box 708, Stn. B, Ottawa, Ont., K1P 5P8

Catalogue: \$2.00

The Wooden Warship

40 Willis St., Lansvale, New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

Catalogue: \$6.00 Australian currency



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