

THE BINNACLE

NOVEMBER 1990



NEXT MEETING (banquet) DEC. 13th 1990 7:30 pm.
AT THE FLEET CLUB

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.

Nov. 18 Sailing group at Elk Lake. 1:00 pm.
 (see details inside.)

Dec. 2 Sailing group Turkey Race - Elk Lake

Dec. 13 VMSS Annual Banquet. Fine dining and
 good entertainment, free of club
 business this year!

Dec. 16 Sailing group Turkey Race continues!

Jan. 1 You should have paid your 1991 dues
 by now.

DEL'S HUMOUR.

Buoy - A buoy is a floating device you always smash
 into when trying to avoid the submerged obstacle
 the buoy is there to warn you about.

Dinghy - The sound of a ship's bell, i.e. "Dinghy-Dinghy-
 Dinghy-Dinghy".

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Ron passed on the outcome of a recent meeting with the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society's main officers, concerning our future at that site.

The final word is that we have been officially kicked out by the SHAS.

The club has had some correspondence with one of the Central Saanich Aldermen, however, that indicates their goal is to see the park opened up to special groups like ours in the future.

I will let Ron fill in the details firsthand.

BANQUET MENU.

And now for some good news. Fred Haire has been busy organizing our Christmas banquet and the menu has been finalized:

Appetizers

Assorted pickle, onion, olive and celery trays.

Salads

Tossed green salad
Fruit and vegetable jellied salad
Bean salad
Pasta salad
Sliced tomatoes

Sliced cucumbers
Sliced pickled beats.

Main Course

Baron of beef
Horse radish or hot mustard
Baked potato
Sour cream
Minted peas and carrots.

Dessert

Assorted small cakes and pastries.

Also

Roll and butter
Tea and coffee

It was decided to eliminate the cold meats this year to reduce the cost to \$11.95 (from \$12.95) per person since the cold meats were not in selected by many last year.

Sounds delicious, Fred.
Thanks for your efforts.

SAILING GROUP.

Henk Meursing has been busy getting things really moving with this eager new group of V.M.S.S. members who are interested in sailboats

On Oct. 7 the initial outing saw 5 boats in the water for a bit of practice and one race. (a 6th boat had technical difficulties and stayed on shore). Winds

were rather light, but this suited the newcomers in the group.

Oct. 21 provided much more wind and additional boats, with Rangers (64" long), Marbleheads (50") and smaller boats (36" - 39") represented. Several races were staged, and a number of other club members and general public came to watch.

The boat owners seemed very willing to hand over the transmitter to a spectator, to give him a try at sailing, and by the end of the day there appeared to be a few more converts.

The start of races was done by a voice on a tape recorder, counting down the minutes to the start, but this proved difficult to hear so Henk is proposing to use coloured flags to signify the time before the start (standard real boat practice!)

A white flag will be hoisted at 5 minutes to the start. It will be replaced by a blue flag at 1 minute to the start. At 30 seconds to go, the blue will drop and a red flag will be raised. Finally the red flag will be dropped to signal the actual start.

For those who aren't into racing there is plenty of room for free sailing.

The next outing is Nov 18 at 1:00 pm. Come on out to Elk Lake and see what it is all about.

CHANNEL EXPANDER.

John Isaac has returned from a trip to Ottawa with information about some interesting new products. He took in the Ship Model Exhibit put on by the Capital Marine Modellers' Guild at the National Museum of Science & Technology. In attendance were several companies showing their wares. One innovative company showed a channel expander that converts one channel of your transmitter into 12 more switched channels.

This provides 12 outputs for controlling things like lights, pumps, horns, anchors etc. without using extra servos and microswitches as is often done.

A small keypad with 12 buttons attaches easily to an unused channel of the transmitter, and a small circuit board in the model plugs into the receiver,

providing 12 momentary switches or up to 6 toggle switches (with the remainder being momentary).

The design seems to be well thought out, with low loss MOSFET output transistors that can handle up to 5 Amps each, and opto-isolation to protect your radio equipment from the high power circuits and help prevent noise from motors etc. from glitching the radio.

Installation is very simple, and the unit is covered by a 1 year warranty. The price for all this is only \$124.95 and there are club discounts on 5 units or more.

John picked up one of these units, and will likely have it at the November meeting to show off. He indicated he would be willing to arrange a group order.

He also has info on a Nicad charger and a 50 Amp fully proportional (forward and reverse) electronic speed controller from the same company.

The charger appears to be a quick charge type (3 to 10 Amps) for 4 to 7 cells and features constant current charging, peak

detection with a switch to a trickle charge at the end of the charge.

The speed controller can handle 200 Amps peak (almost enough for one of Rob's boats) and has neutral stick and speed adjustments.

Finally, John has some info on various (military) boat kits and fittings for sale by a couple of companies who were present at the Ottawa model boat show he attended.

For more information, talk to John or myself at the meeting.

TURKEY RACE.

Henk Meursing has planned a interesting series of races over 4 days for the sailing group. The rules are as follows:

1. The competitor must be a member in good standing of V.M.S.S.
2. The owner of the boat must estimate his time to sail the course.
3. The one nearest to his estimated time is the winner and gets 0 points. The second place boat gets 1.7 points and the other finishers get points equal to their placing. Those who don't

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complete the course get one more point than the number of entrants.

4. No time measuring devices are allowed during the races.
5. There will be a total of 4 races on 4 days. The first may be on Nov. 4 if other arrangements fall through, but the rest are on Nov. 18, Dec. 2 and 16, and a 4th date later if required.
6. The grand prize is a TURKEY!

For additional details call Henk at 652-4095.

SOME WAY TO ORGANIZE A SHIPWRECK.

(Henk Meursing)

When visiting Virginia in September last, we heard an interesting explanation for the name of NAG's HEAD, at the Atlantic Coast. Nag's Head is situated on a narrow peninsula, jutting out and paralleling North Carolina's northern coast.

In olden times, the beach-looters (beach-combers) waited for dark, stormy nights. They took their horses (nags), tied a strap around their necks and attached a lattern. They then walked the horse quietly over the dunes, so that the movement of the

horses gave an impression of the light of a ship, that rode the swells. Merchantmen at sea thought it was safe to sail where they saw the lights of other ships (!) bobbing on the waves, they hit the shallow coasts, wrecked and were plundered.

SAILING RULES.

In order to be fair to other sailors and to avoid situations that could result in a collision with another boat, causing damage, some basic sailing right-of-way rules should be observed.

The fundamental rule is that a sailboat on starboard tack has the right-of-way over a boat on port tack. This means the wind is coming over the starboard (right) side of the boat and the sail is swung out on the port (left) side.

A boat to windward shall keep clear of a leeward boat, and an overtaking boat must generally keep clear.

Additional rules may be the subject of a future Binnacle, but if you have more immediate questions contact Henk Meursing.



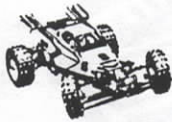
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