

THE BINNACLE

MARCH 1991



NEXT MEETING MARCH 14TH 1991 7:30 P.M.
AT THE FLEET CLUB

VICTORIA MODEL SHIPBUILDING SOCIETY
BOX 4114 POSTAL STATION A
VICTORIA, B.C.
V8X 3X4

COMMITTEE 1991

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Director (Regatta Liason)	Henk Meursing	652-4095
Director (Librarian)	Del Beckner	477-4994
Director (Entertainment)	Ron Armstrong	478-4974

UP COMING EVENTS

March 17 & 31 Sailing Group Ham Race
1-3 P.M. Elk Lake

April 7 Sailing Group Ham Race
1-3 P.M. Elk Lake

April 11 V.M.S.S. Regular Meeting

April 11 - 14 Hobby Show Curling Rink

MAY 23 6-7:30 LAUREL PT

→ Fri 10-2 }
→ Sat 2-6 }

From the President -----Common Courtesy

A couple of things I'd like to bring your attention to regarding common courtesy. I noticed at the last meeting that while our guest speaker was doing his thing, a number of the audience were engaged in deep and noisy conversation and paying no attention to the speaker. As well as being discourteous to the speaker, it is also very distracting to others in the audience who want to listen to the guest. If you must talk during presentations please go out of the room. Also, when members boats are on display, keep your HANDS OFF unless it's your boat. If you want to know something about the vessel, ask the owner. I'm sure he would be only to happy to show you. Sorry guys but I calls them the way I sees 'em.

Ron

NARROW BANDING YOUR EQUIPMENT

There I was, one bright sunny Victoria morning, watching the birds when Henk Meursing arrives with an article in the Fall 1990 issue of Model Yachting. "What does narrow banding your equipment mean?", he asked. For a moment I thought he was referring to the girls at the Red Lion Inn. Unfortunately he wasn't.

The article discusses a problem, called "Second Order Intermodulation Interference", which is associated with the move to the use of odd numbered channels in the 75 MHz band. Up to now we have only been able to purchase even numbered channel radios so that this type of interference has not been a problem to we boat modellers. So what is Second Order Intermodulation Interference.

When your boat radio receives the 75 MHz signal from your transmitter, it mixes that signal with one generated in the receiver to produce a third signal at 455 KHz. The receiver then processes this 455 KHz signal to control the various functions in your boat. With the introduction of odd numbered channels in the 75 MHz band two transmitters that are operating 23 channels apart produce a signal close to 455 KHz. The arithmetic goes something like this.

The difference in frequency between adjacent channels in the 75 MHz band is 20 KHz. So two transmitters, operating 23 channels apart, are producing a frequency of 23 times 20, or 460 KHz. Everyone

operating in the immediate vicinity of these two transmitters will be subject to some interference.

Having stated the problem, what's the solution. That unfortunately is a little more difficult. Manufacturers of model radio equipment are now making what is called narrow band radios which will prevent this type of interference. So if you are buying a brand new radio, buy a narrow band one and you should be ok until the next technological leap. But what if you aren't in the market for yet another radio purchase.

Some manufacturers such as ACE, Airtronics, Futaba, Kraft and RCD are producing modification kits for some of their radios. Henk's article details these offers and I leave you to see him about that possibility.

The third possible solution, and one we will probably have to institute as a club, is to better manage the frequency allocations at our meets and regattas.

That's it folks. The good news is that at least we will now have another excuse when we can't manoeuvre that course. Happy Boating!

Derek Baker

658-2345

ENTERTAINMENT REPORT

As a new member of the club in 1990, I'd like to say how impressed I've been with all our club's entertainment. This year we're off to a good start with the January meeting featuring, "Plank on Frame", (Ron Wild) and "Ni Lighting" (Orv Wilson). February's meeting was equally good with "Little Wonders" (Bill Barker). In the next few months, Ron Armstrong (Entertainment Chairman) has set up EDUCATION - ENTERTAINMENT, featuring:

"Bread & Butter Construction"

-"Ship's Drawings"

-"Selecting and Installing the Power Train"

-"Everything You Wanted to Know About R/C"

Keep up the good work Ron.

-Ed.

"THE SINKING FEELING"

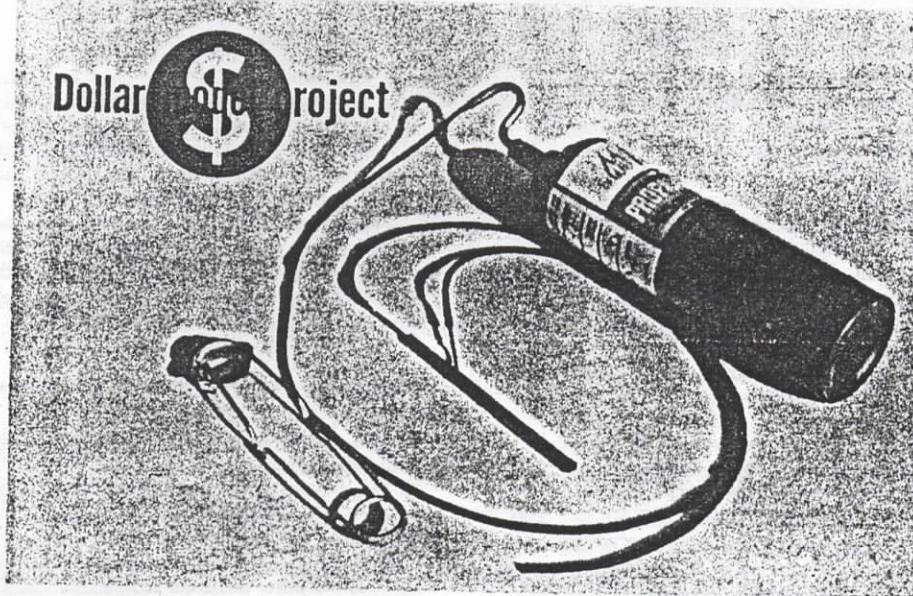
February 17/91 was a day that a few of us won't forget. Arriving at the lake about 12:30 P.M., everything looked normal. Russ H. showed up next and he immediately put out his new floats in position for the afternoon races. The sun was shining and all looked good except for the wind, which was blowing hard from the West. This is not good news because the westerlies are extremely gusty. We'd rather sail with wind from any other direction but West, in the Victoria area.

Robb G's "Ranger" was the first boat to be launched, with its bright new sails to show off. Within 5 minutes, his mast was in two pieces. We still had 5 boats left to get in the water, or did we? Next fatality was my "Black Magic". It toppled out of its cradle & damaged the rudder & broke the back, which retired it for the rest of the day. Roland De S. had to make repairs to his boat on shore, after he got struck by one of those Westerly gusts, and never did get launched.

The start procedure got underway with just three boats in the water & little did we realize that there would be only one left floating five minutes into the race. Fred H. was the first to slowly sink by the stern. We just rescued Fred with the dingy, when down went Henk's "Australia II" like a rock. Once this boat was on shore, upside down with water pouring out of the hatch, Henk summed up the afternoon: "We need floatation, lets go for a coffee"! This was "Black Sunday"!!!

K.L.

Dollar  roject



Complements of Model Railroader 1968

Homemade soldering torch

It gets into small places; is made from telescoping tubing and a ball-point pen

By Eric A. Bracher

WOULD you like to have a torch that you can use in those hard-to-get-at places? A torch able to apply only the heat you need? Such a torch can be made from parts found in most hobby shops or hardware stores. I have been using my torch for 4 years. I have made several for friends; they all have nothing but praise for it and wonder how they could get along without it. The torch consists of an inner tube carrying air, and an outer tube carrying gas. At the tip the inner tube has a small conical nozzle surrounded by a larger gas nozzle: see drawing.

After you have collected the items listed in the bill of materials, the first step is to remove the ball from a discarded brass ball-point pen cartridge. This provides the inner nozzle. The finer the ball, the finer the flame tip will be. I made

two torches, one with a very fine tip for delicate work, one with a coarse tip.

By gently squeezing the end with a pair of pliers, the ball can be removed. Then be sure to boil out any remaining ink. The torch should be longer than most ball-point pen tubes come. Of course, if you can find a ball-point pen tube 7" (18 cm.) long, you don't have to extend the tube. Otherwise, find a piece of brass tubing of the same diameter to make the extension; use a piece of tubing of the next larger telescoping size to make a sleeve at the joint. Solder the three pieces together. Make sure there is no leak.

With the exception of the $\frac{3}{8}$ "-diameter piece of tubing, insert the other pieces of telescoping tubing inside one another. Solder their ends (only) together. Now cut off about $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the soldered end—this piece is used for the end plug. For those of you who have a lathe, the end plug can be turned from a solid piece of

cont'd

brass. Drill the center to just accept the ball-point pen cartridge tube.

Use the $\frac{3}{8}$ " tubing to make the outer shell of the torch, cutting it 6" (15 cm.) long. Approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the plug end of this largest-diameter tubing, drill a hole and file it out to take a 3"-long piece of $\frac{1}{8}$ "-diameter tubing on an angle. This forms the gas inlet. Solder the inlet in place. Make sure to close all openings or pores with solder. Also leave clearance for the inner air tube.

To make the outer nozzle, cut a piece of $\frac{5}{16}$ "-diameter (third-largest) tubing 1" (25 mm.) long. Now cut four slots in one end of it: make these $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm.) long. Squeeze two of the sides together; then squeeze the other two sides over the first two (see drawing) to form an orifice.

Insert the pen cartridge. The tip of it should protrude about $\frac{1}{8}$ ". If it doesn't, the orifice is too small; if it protrudes too far, the orifice is too large. Adjust the orifice by spreading or squeezing it as needed.

Slip a 1" (25-mm.)-long, $1\frac{1}{32}$ "-diameter (second-largest) piece of tubing over the notched piece just finished. Sweat-solder the two together. Place these two soldered pieces inside the 6"-long piece, about $\frac{3}{32}$ " (2.5 mm.) from the flame end. Sweat-solder in position.

Insert the 7"-long cartridge tip into the handle assembly. Assemble the end plug pieces and insert in the back end of the handle assembly. Make sure the tip protrudes $\frac{1}{8}$ " from the notched tip holder. Solder the end plug to the handle and again be sure to close all pores.

Cut the neoprene tubing into a 2-foot (60-cm.) and 3-foot (90-cm.) length. Attach the 3-foot length to the gas inlet; attach the other end to your gas tank and valve. Slip one end of the 2-foot length over the air inlet; you will blow through its other end.

Turn on the gas and light the nozzle. A spark lighter such as is used with an acetylene torch can be used for this if you wish. Regulate the fuel until the flame is $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" long. By placing the free end of the air tube in your mouth and blowing, you can produce a very hot, pencil-thin flame. Blowing lighter or harder will vary the flame.

If the flame continually goes out when you are blowing, readjust the fuel valve to allow more gas. Blowing too hard will also put out the flame. If the flame continues to go out, make sure the air tube protrudes ahead of the flame.

You need not turn off the torch between jobs. Hanging the torch with the flame end up will permit you to leave the gas burning. The handle will become warm, but not too hot to hold.

Bill of materials

6 feet of $\frac{1}{8}$ " neoprene tubing.
Ball-point pen cartridge (used).
Telescoping brass tubing: pieces of each size from $\frac{1}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter inclusive. These are 3.2 mm. to 9.5 mm. respectively; but size is not critical as long as the parts telescope snugly.
Propane tank with valve (such as Bernz-Omatic).

CAPITAL IRON

Victoria's Unique

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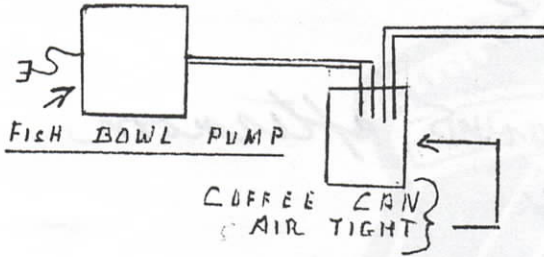
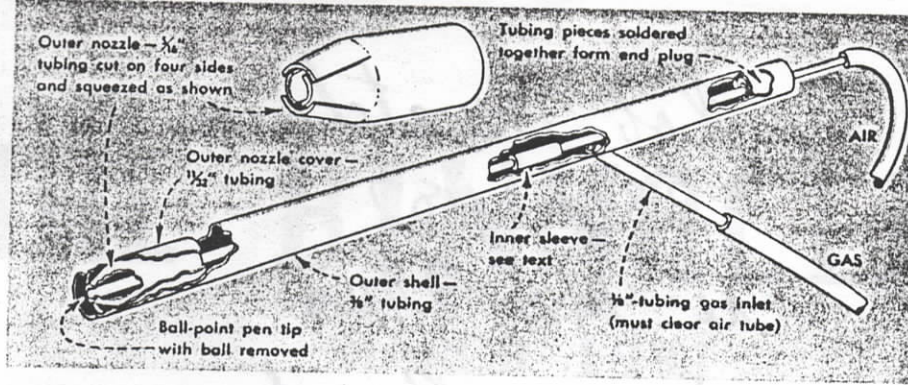
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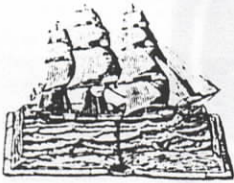
Two Locations to serve you

1900 Store St., Victoria 385-9703

2353 Bevan Ave., Sidney 655-7115



A small fish bowl pump can supply adequate supply of air for torch, instead of blowing into the torch. The can supplies a steady supply of air. Without this a pulsating effect from the pump might happen. The coffee can must be air tight and stand a small pressure. Don MacLeod



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