

# The Binnacle

AUGUST 1995



Next Meeting September 14th, 1995 - 7:30 p.m.  
Royal Oak Scout Hall

VICTORIA MODEL SHIPBUILDING SOCIETY  
BOX 45083 MAYFAIR POSTAL OUTLET  
VICTORIA, B.C.  
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9th, and 10th, 1995.  
V.M.S.S. Annual Regatta  
Elk Lake B.C.  
details inside.

Sept. 14th, 1995.  
V.M.S.S. Regular Monthly Meeting.  
Royal Oak Scout Hall 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Watch for Fall Sailing Program  
Elk Lake.  
Times and details later.

September 9th & 10th  
Elk Lake Rowing Club Wharf

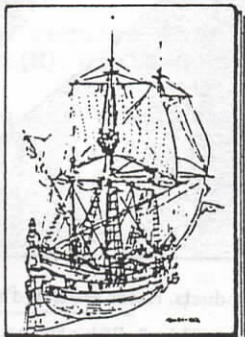
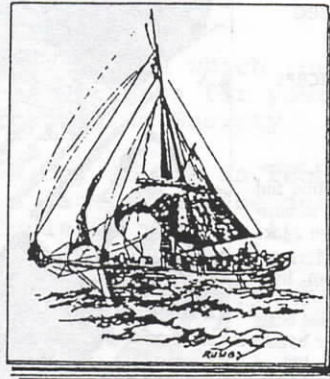


# 1995 ANNUAL REGATTA

**Saturday, Sept. 9th  
12:00 to 4:00 pm.**

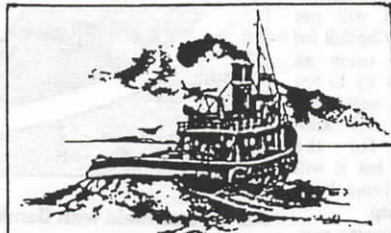
*Sailing  
Preliminaries*

**Sunday, Sept. 10th  
8:00 am to 4:00 pm.**



**Static Judging**

**Sailing Cup Finals**



**R.C. Power & Steering Course**

**PRIZE GIVING**

**CLOSING CEREMONIES**

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Rus1/99



# Ingenuity, trimmers power model boats

A North Saanich business uses motors from weed whackers in its remote-controlled racers

By Patrick Murphy  
Times Colonist staff

Combine a hobby with a necessity, add a pinch of innovation and voila, Dorrien Thompson is in business ready to make waves on a lake near Port Alberni next week.

Thompson and his team from Bandit Boats in North Saanich will be racing six remote-controlled boats powered by a weed-trimmer engine

against 150 of the best in Canada and the U.S. in the Canadian championships July 25-27 on Great Central Lake.

I'd say 99.9 per cent of our boats go to the U.S.

Dorrien Thompson  
Bandit Boats

It will not only be fun for the team as they try to top the world record 117 kilometres per hour for the one-quarter-scale boats, but it will help put Thompson's 21-month-old Bandit business on the map.

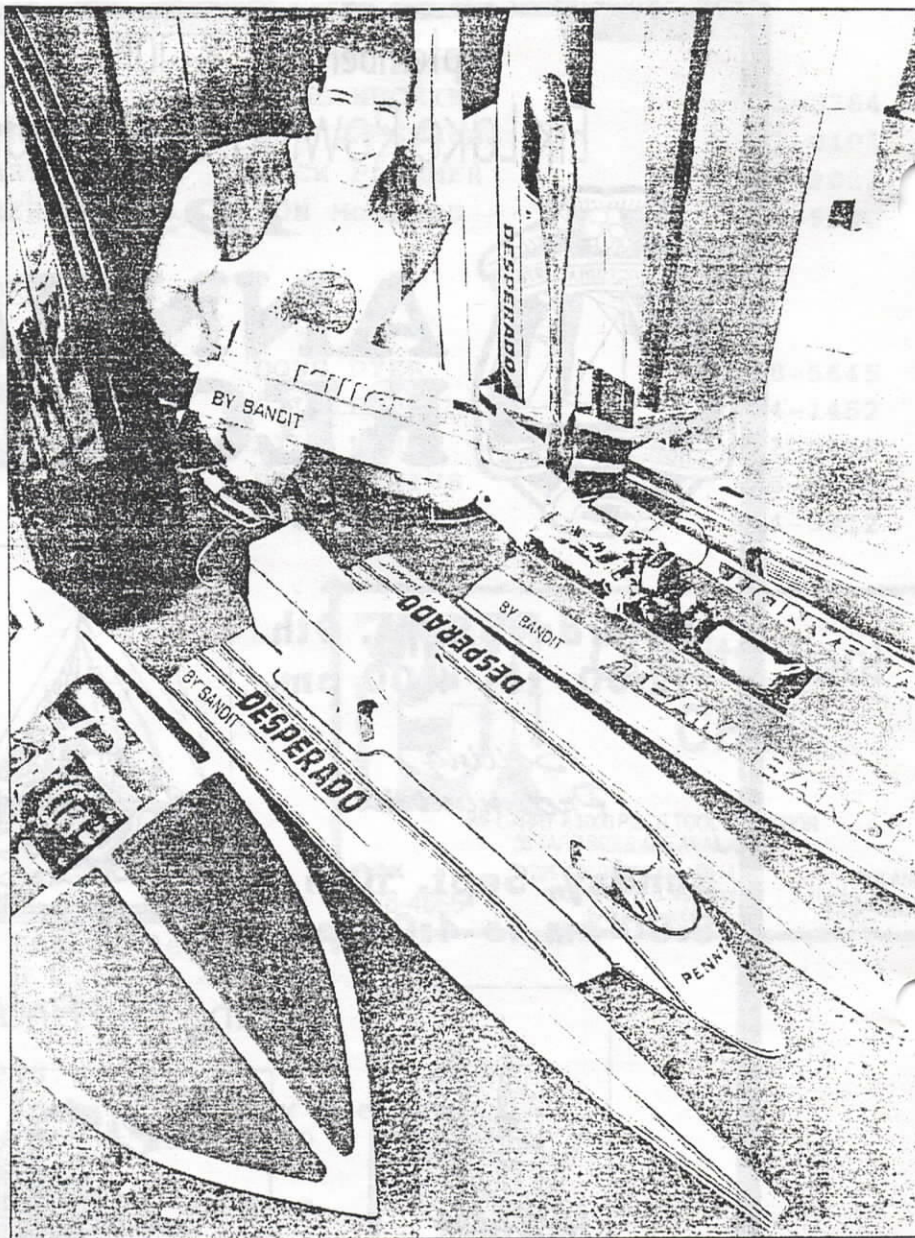
"Racing boats is a growing market in the U.S.," Thompson said in an interview.

"After that there is the Australian and German markets. The Canadian market is small. I'd say 99.9 per cent of our boats go to the U.S."

His company, with himself and two part-time staff, turns out 200 remote-controlled boats a year.

The basic boat has a reinforced plastic hull and costs \$195-\$350 U.S.

Throw in another \$850 to \$1,500



JOHN MCAT/TIMES COLONIST

Adrian Stansfield with Bandit Boats products. Races are slated near Port Alberni next week

for a motor and radio and you are racing.

That will have you clicking through the lake at around 60 km/h, but after the hobbyist modifies the engine it can hit 88 km/h.

Thompson said the average boat racer is 45 years old and will spend \$3,000 a year on his hobby.

Thompson takes the engine from a grass trimmer, which he buys off the shelf. He can get the metre-long

boats up to 32 km/h. With a little bit of modification he is up to nearly 65 km/h, and a really singing modification can get it up to the world record of 117 km/h.

That engine will set one back \$425 U.S., or double the grass-trimmer engine cost.

However, the cost of running is better. Fifteen minutes of gasoline on the grass-trimmer engine is about \$2.50, but the cost of nitro to run the

other engine for the same time is \$55.

Thompson now has orders for six of his boats and engines from the Bahamas.

He said there are about 300 racers in Canada and five on Vancouver Island.

Anyone going to the Port Alberni races can pop into the tourist information office for a map of the best viewing locations on the lake.





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BPF Victoria (C.-B.)  
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MARP: 1110-1 (N00 COMD)

23 June 1995

Mr. Ron Armstrong  
Vice President and Publicity Director  
Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society  
P.O. Box 45083  
Mayfair Postal Outlet  
Victoria BC V8Z 7G9

Dear Mr. Armstrong,


Thank you for your letter of 1 June 1995 in which you requested a day sail in a city class frigate for your fellow members of the Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society.

I am pleased to offer your group a day at sea as requested. I regret, however, that a specific date cannot be determined until this fall's operations schedule is more fully developed. I would ask you to bear in mind that such day sails are arranged to coincide with already scheduled operational sea days and that when the opportunity for a ship to host guests at sea arises, it is not unusual for several community groups to be welcomed onboard. Please be assured that my operations staff will advise you as early as possible of any likely dates.

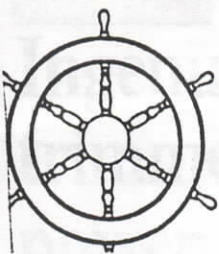
Should you require further information, please contact Lieutenant(N) David Cooke of my staff at 363-2970.

I wish you and the members of your Society a most enjoyable day at sea.

Yours truly,

  
B. Johnston  
Rear-Admiral  
Commander

cc: N31 Deputy Chief of Staff Surface Operations



## *Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society*

### **IT'S REGATTA TIME!**

The thirteenth Annual Regatta of the Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society will be held at our Elk Lake Rowing Club Facility, situated near Victoria, B.C.

on

Saturday, September. 9th, for Sailing preliminaries, and on

Sunday, September. 10th, for Power Boat steering course, Static Judging and Sail Boat run off.

**REGISTRATION** 0830 hrs. to 1200 noon

**ENTRANCE FEE** \$5.00 (Cdn.) includes one boat

\$1.00 for each additional boat

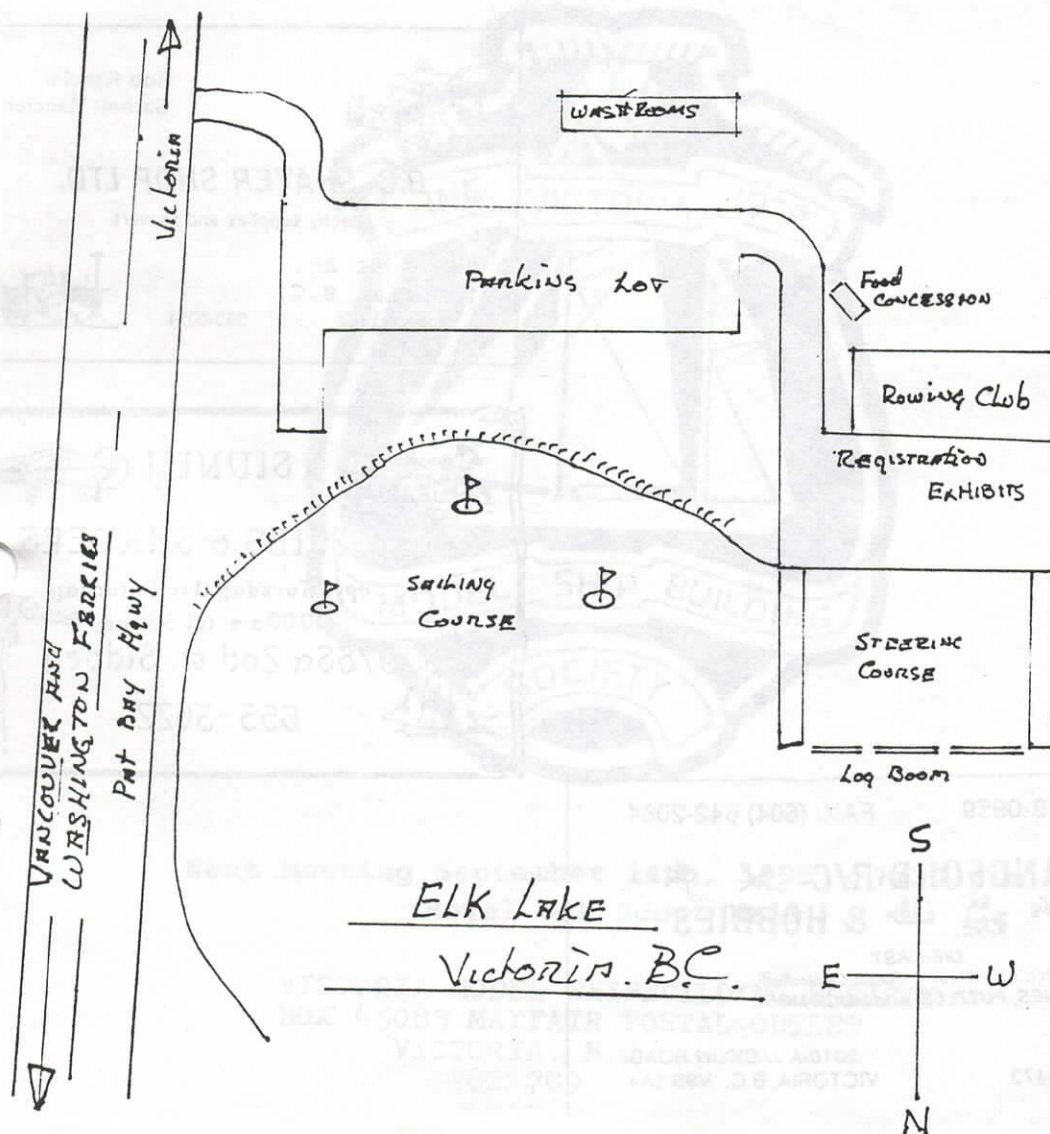
**JUDGING** commences at 0900 hrs.

**FREQUENCY** 75 and some 27 Mgz. bands  
(72 Mgz. bands cannot be used in this regatta)

For further information contact Bill Barker at (604) 477-0996 or Jack Plummer at (604) 592-2021 or in writing. 1512 Davie St. , Victoria, B.C. V8R 4W3.

V.M.S.S. Annual Regatta will allow participants to use only the following Frequencies: 75 and 26 - 27 mgz. surface only. Boats using 72 mgz. cannot be run in this regatta.

## LOCATION FOR REGATTA 1995







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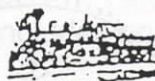
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