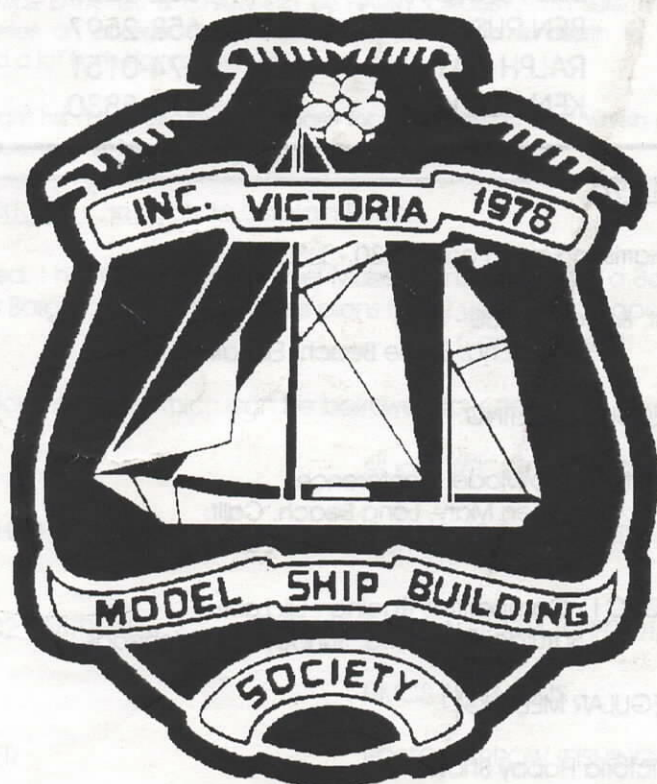


The Binnacle

FEBRUARY 1996



Next meeting MARCH 14, 1996 - 7:30 PM
Royal Oak Scout Hall

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Box 45083 Mayfair Postal Outlet
Victoria, B.C. V8Z 7G9

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NEWSLETTER	KEN LOCKLEY	477-5830

UP COMING EVENTS: 1996

Every Sunday	Harrison Yacht Pond 10:30 - 1:30
Sundays	1st. & 3rd. - 10:30 - 3:00 South End, Eagle Beach, Elk Lake
March 14th	REGULAR MEETING
March 22-24th	Western Ship Model Conference Queen Mary, Long Beach, Calif. for more information, see Editor.
March 30 & 31	NORC I - Competitive Racing - Elk Lake Saturday- 12Metre, Sunday - Marbleheads
April 11	REGULAR MEETING
April 19, 20 & 21	Victoria Hobby Show details to follow in March

DUES: Are you still owing for 1996?
Make your cheque payable to - V.M.S.S.
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LAST MEETING:

We had in attendance, 52 members & 3 guests. Ben Rusi won the raffle, a BATTERY CHARGER. Two models were brought in for display & viewing. Geoff Walton showed his "Mona's Queen", of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Co. This is the sister ship to the "Lady of Man", which almost made the B.C. Coastal Service under the Stena House Flag. She's 313' in length, with displacement of 2998 tons. Good choice Geoff.

Fred Stolzenberg brought his half finished, 50" Edwin Monk Sr. design of a 50' Sedan Cruiser of 1930 vintage. The hull is constructed of doorskin frames with basswood planks & mahogany plank wedging. Fred is showing us some excellent craftsmanship.

Our entertainment was BATTERIES & CHARGERS by HARRY CROSBY. I'm sure more than one of us went home to put batteries on charge. There was lots of discussion & depth to Harry's information & the membership gained a lot from Harry's talk.

Jack Lenfesty brought his magnetic cutting board for the fellows to see, which is also described in "Shop Notes". A good evening for Modellers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In Reply to Captain Powell:

If you are interested, I have a plan by Model Maker Plans Service for a Barge Yacht which I think is a link of Thames Barges. I have had these plans for 22 years - still in good condition.

Captain Geoff

I also have the following plans which can be borrowed for copying:

USS CF ADAMS	SS KYLE RHEA (BRITISH COASTER)
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HMS YORK STRETCHED TYPE 42 DESTROYER	ANN M. (BRITISH COASTER)
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MS EXETER TYPE 42 DESTROYER	25' WHALER (3/4 TO FOOT)
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HVF EILEEN	HMCS ANNAPOLIS
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TOPSAIL SCHOONER	BOSTON ARROW (FISHING BOAT)
------------------	-----------------------------

JAMES SINCLAIR	RMA S ROYSTERER TUG
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HMS WELLINGTON (ESCORT SKOOP)	SEAFORTH TUG SUPPLY SHIP
-------------------------------	--------------------------

HMS LLANDODNO (BANGOR CLASS MINESWEEPER)	HMS MARVEL (ALGERINE CLASS MINESWEEPER)
---	--

HMS SAKTASH (<A> CLASS MINESWEEPER)	HM SUBMARINE STURGEON 1933 ("5" CLASS)
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I was interested in a model under 14" for the temporary pool. I discovered a book by James P Delgado - Dauntless St. Roche The Mounties' Arctic Schooner. It had some drawings from the Canadian Parks Service so I was off to my favorite photocopy shop (PMC in Broadmead) to get the drawings converted to 1/96. St Roche was 104', or 13" in 1/96. I like working with full scale drawings and make several extras because I cut them up, glue to them etc. I had photographed the ship in the Vancouver Maritime museum and also had another book The Big Ship written by her captain Henry Larsen. I was ready for a project someday.

Then Ken asked for an article for the Binnacle.....

St Roche is a rigged schooner. My first challenge was figuring out how to get into the hull while retaining the standing rigging. I split the hull sides at the main deck so the upper hull sides, deck, superstructure and rigging all come off as one piece.

I made a pine plug and vacuum formed the lower hull out of .060 high impact styrene. But that isn't part of this story.

I laminated 3 pieces of .020 styrene for the deck over a jig. I like jigs and use them whenever I can. I made the jig by cutting the shear into a piece of blue Styrofoam (quick, cheap and nasty). This gave me a .060" deck with shear to match the hull. I didn't bother with the camber at this small size. The deck was a bit heavy, but I intended to cut away any that wasn't needed later. The deck with the shear served as the jig for the upper deck planking, so it needed all its strength until the planks were bent to follow the shear and laminated.

I used Evergreen strip styrene to plank the upper hull (.060 x .080). I haven't figured out how to cut styrene into small strips with satisfactory results, so I buy the strips. They are a bit expensive, but the quality is excellent and they are indispensable for detail work in styrene. A razor blade is the best tool to cut styrene strips.

Pre-bend the strips by running them between your thumb and finger before you glue them. If you make a nice close fit before you glue, you will have removed all the tension and will avoid those ugly words, fingerprints in the parts and gaps with stingy things. Remember the glue is just solvent, it doesn't hide or fill anything. Always use the solvent you get from a hobby shop as well. (i.e. Testors or Micro Weld etc.). It's been neutered so it doesn't destroy your brain cells as fast as the industrial chemicals. It doesn't stink as much either.

Before gluing the planks, I ran an hobby blade down each corner of the strip to emphasize the individual planking. The planks around the stern were a pretty tight bend. The thumb and finger method weren't enough, so I used a hobby knife handle or paint brush instead of my thumb too tighten up the radius. I didn't use any heat because you pretty well have to make up a pretty complicated jig to heat form these small strips.

After 3 planks, I cut out in the main deck where it would be covered by the cargo hatch, superstructure and fore and aft decks. This took out some weight - I believe in building light so I can add ballast where it is needed. I am a bit worried about top hamper on this model anyway because she is a rigged schooner and has a lot of weight way above the centre of gravity. Ballast size doesn't scale down which is why some model sailboats have such deep keels.

The fore and aft decks were made from 3 laminations of .020" glued in place over the planking. They form the next (4th) plank. The next planks were slightly smaller strips, pre-bent and corners broken, fastened with solvent. Ribs were added. I used spacers made from a wooden coffee stirrer (Styrene solvent doesn't stick to wood). The tops of the ribs were trimmed with a razor blade and wet-dry sandpaper. The cap rail was pre-bent and glued as before. This finishes the planking of the hull and the decks.

Now its time to start using some sheet, so a word or two about using it. Styrene sheet comes with a gloss and a dull side. I like to layout the part right on the sheet. A pencil works well on the dull side. Sometimes it is preferable to scratch the lines lightly with a sharp scribe. I like to use a drafting compass to

transfer the sizes from the drawings.

I use the compass to score a parallel line the width of the piece I need and then 'snap' it out of the sheet. Sometimes several scores are needed depending on the thickness of the plastic. Then hold the piece over a sharp edge of your desk, push down, and the styrene will 'snap' cleanly along the score.

You can also use scissors, a paper cutter, hobby knife or razor blade to cut. Special tools are not required. You can use your woodworking drills, leather punch and files. One thing to watch for is that when you are using a hobby knife to score or cut, a little ridge is left. It can be removed by scrapping or sanding.

Another neat trick is to keep a sheet of wet-or-dry sandpaper handy. Lie it flat on the workbench (be careful there isn't anything under it!) and move the part you are sanding over the sandpaper. It's backwards from the usual process, but it will give you nice crisp lines on small parts because it is easier to control the part. This will remove the ridges left by a knife cut, but it is especially handy for tidying up glue joints.

A mistake? Small mistakes can be corrected with gap-filling crazy glue. A little bigger error; put baking soda in the error before the crazy glue. Bigger than that? Automotive spot putty works well, but I recommend Squadron White Putty which is white spot putty (it makes painting easier as it is the same colour as the plastic).

On to the first part - the cargo hatch. I used the compass to measure, score and snap. Work carefully to get close tolerances and the solvent will make a nice tight little box which fits over the hole in the deck. I covered the hatch with a 'tarp' - piece of Kleenex which I held in place while I painted solvent through it to bond it to the plastic.

The main superstructure is next. It was built in place over the planking and decks to ensure a good fit. It is basically two boxes laminated together. Doors on this ship were wood. I cut the doors out of the outside lamination so I can add 1/32 plywood doors later. I also cut holes in the inside lamination behind the door so the portlights in the doors don't show the inner box. The inner laminations have larger holes behind the portlights for the glazing. I like to reinforce the corners of these structures with strips of scrap styrene for a bit of added strength.

The wheelhouse is the last bit of trickery. It is also 2 boxes laminated together. The inside box is clear styrene to represent the window glazing. The challenge is that the front of the wheelhouse on the ship is curved plywood, but the glass is flat. It is 1 3/16" wide, 1" long and 13/16" high.

I laid out the windows and doors using my compass on a piece of styrene the correct height but many times too long. I cut out the windows first by starting a hole in the middle of the window and carving at the hole until the window reached the score lines left by the compass. I did the front sides and back all at once (it's easier to layout and compare the pieces that way, and the bigger piece is easier to hold with full size hands!). Then I cut out the doors and portlights before cutting out the front, back and sides. I then cut out the deck and deckhead together so they are the same, flipping one over in the process to make sure they were same on each side of the centre line. I laminated the clear styrene to the back and sides and glued them to the deck, painted the interior and added a chart table, wheel and binnacle. I used the deckhead to make sure everything was square while the solvent was drying but I didn't glue it in. I carefully curved the front outside piece by rolling it over a hobby knife handle (it's got the holes for the windows, so one half is weaker than the other). I then cut 3 pieces of clear 1/3 the width of the wheel house, put them in place and touched solvent to all the edges. There, a rounded front with flat windows!

The hull and superstructure are ready to detail, so that ends this story. Tell Ken if you are interested in a story on making the details.

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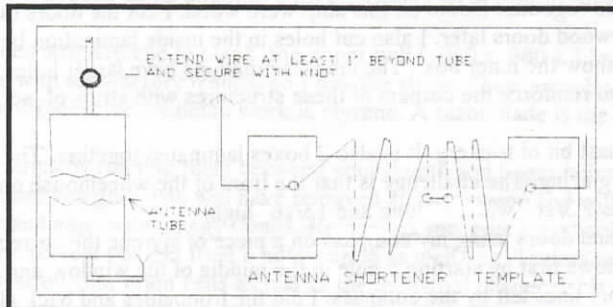
RECEIVER ANTENNA ROUTING

(help from Futaba)

To obtain the best possible range (boat to transmitter distance) and reduce the possibility of interference, please observe these antenna routing instructions. Failure to follow these guidelines can result in loss of control or limited range.

1. Never cut your receiver's antenna wire. Your system has been precisely tuned to the full length of the stock antenna.
2. Excess antenna wire should NOT be tightly coiled. To safely store the excess wire make an antenna shortener from a small piece of stiff cardboard. This will provide maximum reception and prevent tangling and breakage of the wire.
3. When routing the antenna wire to the antenna tube keep the wire away from battery and speed control wiring. The high power of the NiCd battery creates electrical 'noise' which can cause interference.

Captain Geoff



FOR SALE - Sailboats:

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ABRASIVE PAPERS by Ray Shorter

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QUICK TIP: Try using double sided carpet tape to stick
sandpaper onto sanding blocks.

INCIDENT AT SEA

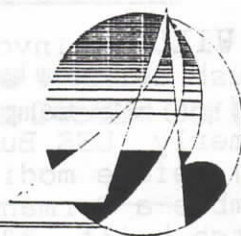
-Marlin Spike

The operation lasted for half an hour in a wet, dismal focsle with six frostbitten seamen lying in bunks as reluctant spectators. The carpenter had sharpened the cook's saw & butcher knife, the unconscious seaman was lashed to the table. With no anaesthetic available, the captain proceeded to amputate the smashed leg above the knee. The wound was cauterized with a hot poker; the stench of the putrid leg & the burned flesh filled the sealed focsle.

After weeks of agony the seaman did survive. This is a true incident that occurred around 1900. There were no regulations protecting the health & welfare of seamen, & medical supplies were left to the whims of the ships' owners & captains.

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PROJECTS UNDER WAY:

VMSS MEMBERS

by RAY GOODACRE

LEN GIBBS has just completed a British T Class submarine, HMS Tally Ho, built in 1947. With fully gas ballast, his model has an overall length of 51 1/2 ". Under construction is a 50" model of a submarine tender, a supply vessel carrying provisions, fuel and torpedoes.

ROMAIN KLAASEN now has a nuclear submarine, USS Miami, hull number SSN 755. This is a dynamic model, with no ballast tank. The prototype is 362 feet in length; the model is 1/125 scale, determined by the size of a piece of sewer pipe! Under construction is a larger version of the Miami with a ballast tank, complete with a sonar unit.

LEN THOMAS is working on a 3/8" to 1' scale model of the sternwheeler SS Moyie, currently under renovation at Kaslo, B.C. Scratch built, the overall length will be 6 feet. Len is reproducing the complete steam plant, to scale.

RON WILD is involved in building a flush deck, 4 stacker destroyer based on HMS Campbellton, (formerly USS Buchanan, built in 1918) before modifications to resemble a German destroyer. It is scratch built, 32" long, with a fibreglassed balsa hull.



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SHOP NOTES:

DEREK BAKER reports: For those of you who want to get more out of your radios, PR/Designs of the Excited States have a R/C Channel Extender Model 127 which gives one an additional 5 proportional and 2 on/off channels. This unit, which requires some construction, replaces one channel on a RC Radio. The proportional channels operate a little more slowly than the normal channels on the radio. The units cost \$129US plus \$7US shipping. They can be obtained by calling (508) 470-0498 between 6AM and 2PM Pacific Time. Source -Sub Committee (Newsletter for model submariners)

Ron Wild reports that he has found a source of 12 figures in various poses in 1:96 & 1:24 scale. D & F Enterprises, Phil Dewsnap, 105 Maybourne Ave., Scarborough, Ont., M1L 2W3, area code 416 751 7609 after 6 Eastern time. Catalogue available. Also agent for Deans Marine (Warship hulls).

Dave Seager has discovered a vinyl sign material at Pro Sign Stores, ideal for decal making & deck covering, approximately \$2.00 per sq. ft.

BYRNE WESTRAN reports, B.C. Shaver will be having the Xacto Block Plane in shortly, selling for \$9.50-10.00. Also, the Spoke Shave \$7.00 - \$8.00. Byrne also purchased from Home Hardware at Hillside, a 13" scroll saw by Brico for \$59.99 on sale from \$119.

More on the SMALL BLOCK PLANE from David Powell. He reports Home Hardware at Hillside have them in the locked case, for \$10.00, with 4 or 5 left.

Need LIFELINES? Ben Rusi discovered the white plastic material used for restringing tennis rackets is excellent. Available from Las Vegas Discount Golf & Tennis, Broadmead Village Mall.

FRED STOLZENBERG reports many small items in 1"-1' scale available at UPSTAIRS-DOWNSTAIRS DOLL HOUSE SHOP in the Monterey Mews, Oak Bay Village.

NORC I

MARCH 30 & 31, 1996 - at EAGLE BEACH, south end ELK LAKE

An interclub organization to promote model yachting, Vancouver, Greater Seattle, Oregon & Gig Harbour. Open to all AMYA, CRYA, IYRU-MYRD Members.

As usual, EC12's on Saturday, MARBLEHEADS on Sunday.
Skippers Meeting 9:15 AM. Racing to start at 9:30

Get together after sailing at Bird of Paradise Pub.
Dave Seager will hand out registration forms after the first
out of town entry is received, or contact Dave at
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