

THE BINNACLE

July 1997



Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society

Box 45083 Mayfair Postal Outlet

Victoria, B.C. V8Z 7G9

Next Meeting: Thursday July 10 1997

7:30 PM Harrison Yacht Pond

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1997

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------|
| President | Ron Armstrong | 391-0101 |
| Vice President | Ron Hillsden | 479-5760 |
| Secretary | Julie Hillsden | 479-5760 |
| Treasurer | Paul Morrow | 744 5406 |

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN 1997

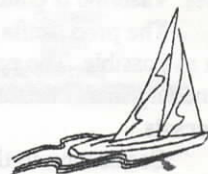
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|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Every Sunday | Harrison Pond | 10:30 - 1:30 |
| Sundays 1st & 3rd | Sailing - Beaver Lake | 10:30 - 3:00 |
| July 13 | Strawberry Festival | Beaver Lake |
| August 10 | Burnaby Regatta | |
| August 14 | Regular Meeting | 7:30pm Harrison Pond |
| August 24 | 2nd Fungatta | Tentative |
| All Summer | Maritime Museum Modelmania | |

Just to inform you:

The editor of the Binnacle has moved. Although the phone number will not change if you wish to forward articles by mail, please forward them to the following address.

Dave Winter
2320 Quadra St. #43
Victoria, B.C.
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From The Bridge



At the time of this writing the July 6th Fungatta has not happened, nor the July 13th Strawberry Festival at Beaver Lake. Hopefully there will or has been a great turnout at both as well as the July meeting at Harrison pond. What I want to emphasize is that for all those members who don't have models ready to run please come out anyway. We are trying to have the club boat available for your use at these events. Also I hope my tug could be run by a more daring skipper when I'm running the sternwheeler and vice versa. And we always need help with the shore-side functions. See you pondside!

R.A.

How To Build Props & Prop Shafts

Article from the Internet

The prop shafts and rudder post must be built in such a way as to allow the energy to exit the hull but not allow the water in. The stuffing box is the way this is accomplished on the real ship. As with everything else there are several ways of accomplishing this. There are several companies which commercially sell stuffing boxes for model boats. Sources include Dumas, Robbie, and several others. Some of their prop shafts are very good and include threaded ends for prop installation. The disadvantage is they cost money and in case you haven't noticed we combat sailors are a tight fisted crew.

Building Your Own Prop Shafts

So, the next choice is to build your own. The main method is shown on the following above. It consists of a solid rod of brass (usually 1/8 inch) for the prop shaft, two small sections of tubing for the ends

(the next size tubing) and an outer casing of tubing (still one size larger). By drilling a hole in the outer casing and soldering on an additional section of tubing, the shaft housing can be filled with grease to prevent water from coming through into the boat. (note: a newer development includes soldering a grease fitting on the end of the fill tube so that an automobile grease gun can be used in filling.) The end pieces can be glued or soldered in place. Care must be taken to assure the end pieces are lined up as much as possible or wear will occur on the prop

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*Jimmy Bezuidenhout
Doug Westlake*

shaft. I do this by greasing the prop shaft and fitting it in to line up the end pieces during the soldering or gluing process. Vasoline is commonly used for the grease in prop shafts within the hobby.

The prop shafts are glued in place in the hull, taking care they line up with the electric motors as much as possible. The props will deliver the most energy and affect the trim of the vessel least if they are lined up in as horizontal a plane as possible.

Universals

Connection to the electric motors is possible through some kind of universal. Several types are shown. I have tried all three types and most of my ships are now using the Dumas dogbone type. The others are okay for less powerful engines than I currently use in my battleships. A good universal allows some miss-alignment between the motors and the shaft and thus allows the prop shafts to lay in a more nearly horizontal position. I would recommend the dog bone type (one of this type is made by Dumas) for heavy engine and big prop installations as the nylon will slip if presented with too much power transfer. A home made universal was shown in Hull Busters some time ago, if you wish to save a little money. This was made of brass tubing modified with cuts across and a matching brass slot in the connecting piece. The whole universal was soldered to collars which had set screws for securing to the motor shaft and the prop shaft.

Props

Props were home-made at the beginning of the hobby by cutting a circle from a heavy metal can and trimming out a clover leaf pattern and bending the props into shape. These props seemed to be less efficient and weaker than the airfoil design available in the commercial field and everyone bought props after a short while. Dumas makes a good plastic or nylon prop which is available at most hobby shops. A cruiser uses from a one inch to one and one quarter inch prop and these are available for under two dollars. Exact Miniatures in Oxford, Maryland makes good looking brass props in many sizes that seem to be very efficient also. The Exact Miniatures props cost about five dollars each but vary in price as to the number of blades and size. These brass props can be ordered in almost any prop shaft size you request and with 2,3,4 or 5 blades. Other props are available, check with your local hobby shop. Most of these props attach to smooth prop shafts either by set screws (flatten the shaft at the set screw for maximum security), glue, solder, or by threads and a locknut.

The Maryland Attack Group has been making their own props for some time now and here is how we do it. First cut out a hub from a solid piece of brass rod. Make sure it is large enough to hold a threaded hole for a set screw. Drill an 1/8th inch hole (or whatever your prop shaft diameter is) in the center. Now cut slots in the hub at 45 degrees to the prop shaft direction with a hack saw. These are to mount prop blades. These slots are spread equal distance around the hub with the number dependent upon the number of blades you want. Now cut the blade blanks out of Brass sheet stock (thickness must fit in the hacksaw cuts in the hub).

Shaping the blades can be partially done now or wait until they are soldered to the hub. Solder the blades into the hub (can use a jig to hold in position) with silver solder. Final shaping of the blades can now be done with a Dremel tool being careful not to overheat the blades and weaken the solder joints. These props are not as "scale" as many but are much stronger than any commercial ones I have used.