



THE BINNACLE

VICTORIA MODEL SHIPBUILDING SOCIETY
Box 45083 Mayfair Postal Outlet Victoria BC V8Z 7G9

SEPTEMBER 1997

New Editors

Dave and Vicki Winter are moving to Vancouver where Dave is starting a new job. We wish them fair winds and following seas. Your new editors - for as long as you want them - are Ron and Julie Hillsden. We are trying a new format for the Binnacle. Your comments are welcome.

Dates to Remember



Sept 28th - Fungatta at Harrison Pond
Oct 9th - Meeting
Nov 13th - **Meeting - **AGM and ELECTIONS****
Dec 11th - Meeting - OR Christmas Dinner - to be decided.

VMSS Executive Committee

President	Ron Armstrong	381-0101
Vice-President	Ron Hillsden	479-5760
Secretary	Julie Hillsden	479-5760

Tug sinks in local swimming pool

A young swimmer recently came to the rescue of a ship in distress. A number of club members turned out at the Commonwealth Pool on the afternoon of Sunday August 17th. All was going well with several boats running when disaster struck in the form of a "collision at sea". Mike Gibson's Chriscraft and Paul Morrow's Lindburg "mini" tug had an unscheduled game of bumper boats. The tug was no match for the bigger boat, her superstructure parted company with her hull and she sank faster than the Titanic. Fortunately, a young lady who was suitably attired in a bathing suit, dived into the pool and rescued the two halves of the stricken tug. Once on dry land, Paul emptied out the water and dried her out with the aid of one of the fans which were providing some wind for the sailboats. Ten minutes at home with Johanna's hairdryer and she will live to sail again - as long as her batteries are charged!!!

Treasurer	Paul Morrow	744-5406
Directors:		
Bill Barker	477-0996	Ray Bethel 474-7565
Bill Birch	592-6456	Dave Winter 386-6967
Jack Plummer	592-2021	

International Connection

This month's Binnacle is going to Germany to a young man named Tim Havfe. Tim was visiting Victoria and he happened by Harrison Pond one Wednesday evening. He showed a great deal of interest and it turned out that he belongs to a model boat club at home in Germany. Ron and Julie asked for his address and are sending him some club info. We hope you had an enjoyable vacation in Canada Tim. Happy modeling

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Bob Rancier
Garnett Rancier

B.C. SHAVER SHOP

742 Fort St.
Victoria, B.C.

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Editorial

Well, our first edition. Please let us know what you think of the new format. Keep the articles coming - there is only so much that we can make up ourselves! Thanks to Dave Winter and good luck with the new job.

In the August Binnacle, there was a membership list. Please check and let us know if your individual information is incorrect. Waaaay back at the beginning of the year (can anyone remember that far back?), there was a member information form printed on the back page of the Binnacle. We requested that these be filled out and returned to the executive. The info on those forms was to enable us to compile an up-to-date membership list and a radio frequency list. Unfortunately, only a handful of forms were returned to us. Whether this was due to forgetfulness, procrastination or apathy, the net result was the same. The lists could not be compiled because we didn't have all the information. A list of frequencies currently in use by club members is a very useful tool to have if you are in the market for a new radio controller. Bottom line folks, it's YOUR club. Your executive is doing its best to do what you want, but your input is needed. In the August Binnacle there was a survey sheet. Please take a couple of minutes to fill it out if you haven't already done so.

Ron and Julie

From the Bridge

MARITIME MUSEUM OF B.C.

I strongly believe that we should have a closer relationship with the MMBC because we are both concerned with maritime heritage, one replicating, the other preserving. Two special exhibits are open right now and I urge all of you to see them. One is MODELMANIA and is on until the end of September. You'll find a carefully chosen array of model ships as well as our website and our brochures. The other is B.C. FERRIES, their history, development, services and technologies. I think it is the finest display that has ever been mounted in the museum. Many models there, including one fine rendition by a company steward. Don't quibble about the admission, grab the grandchildren and GO! Remember you get 1 hour free parking in the parkade.

LOOKAHEAD

2ND FUNGATTA, September 28

This will be our last Fungatta for 1997. Since press time is before the Executive Meeting, at this point the Directors have not discussed my ideas and goals. But hopefully we will put on the most exciting, function-based, multi-type Fungatta yet seen, in this part of the world at least. The aim is to have at least three different types of vessels on the pond at any one time, each on a different

The Rons Club - what's in a name?

One of our fans calls us the "Rons Club" because there are so many Rons. It's a nice thought, but she doesn't know Dick.

We have 3 Rons. But only three. We have 5 Bills, 4 each of Dave, Don and John, and the Rons share triple billing with the Rays and Dougs. Ed, Dan, Rob, Len, Jack and Chris also share their name with someone else!

I don't know if this is unusual for a group this size, but I did think of a practical application for this information. These names belong to half our members. Next time you meet someone, but can't remember his name, start with Bill and work your way down the list!

Ron H (one of them)

Tel: (250)478-0959 Fax:(250)642-2084

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course but meeting, crossing and overtaking the others. Wild and crazy and...a good test of seamanship. To succeed this regatta needs lots of help, especially from members not competing. So circle your calendar and, if you aren't at the September meeting, call me to sign up.

R.A.

Burnaby Regatta, August 10, Central Park Lake

Arrived at the old familiar place in more brilliant sunshine to find I was the only VMSS rep. there(!) Setup identical to last year. Objects in water but no steering course. Static judging by entrants only, no judges(!), in three global categories:- "Warship", "Workboat", and "Pleasure". Not as many models as last year but all except Victoria's excellent quality. Very difficult to choose. Noteworthy was the superb Foss Tug fleet brought by one fellow from Seattle, including one sliced in half bow to stern with inner details visible behind plexiglass bulkhead. And she operated too! Also a 6 foot U-Boat and an 8 foot "Simon Fraser" icebreaker plus many more of all sizes. A delightful surprise was the presence of ex-VMSS member Norm Fisher who has escaped Detroit and now lives in Bellvue, Washington. His "HMCS Haida" won 2nd place Warship, which we could claim as a Victoria trophy since she was mainly built here! Also there was Ian McCreech, of Wolverhampton, England, winning the B.A.M.M. trophy for the furthest attendee. Another guest was Dan Simstead of MCD Control Devices from Ontario. His speed controls were prizes in two overall categories and he

left some catalogues with us at Harrison during our monthly meeting (see me for copies). Also described some incredible mall shows that they put on in the small town of Bobaygeon (!). Much more interesting chat with organizer Brian Dean (of EXPO fame) and Dave of B.A.M.M. The VMSS is still the most organized in BC, having regular meetings, a newsletter and public shows - the others don't! Ian modestly denied my assertion that Britain is the Mecca of model boating but later showed photos of some wonderful lakes in town and country that a few small clubs have ready access to free, as well as some exquisite steam models.

Reflecting growing interest in Burnaby, B.A.M.M. staged both fast electric and sailboat races on the lake. Former frantic (with flipovers) and latter graceful. As for my "fleet", it is amazing how much can be discussed and done when the ships are running right! "Sherry Dawn" made a triumphant loop of the scene of her traumatic sinking last year, and "Moyie" circumnavigated the island. All in all a fun, laid back, interesting day. More of you should go.

Ron A. (another one of them)

Dave Seager is making a plug of a Star for the Star Owners Assn. who will be making a Star kit available for sale.

If you have some news for this column - let's hear about it. We would like to make this a regular feature.

Commonwealth Pool, August 17

13 members, 13 power models and 5 sail models turned out for an afternoon on the aqua-clear waters of half the main pool. This time three fans were set up to provide a decent wind for sail races. Unfortunately they could not be placed to augment the big exhaust fans so only light gliding was possible. All other models ran well, except for our treasurer trying to imitate my track record by deep-diving his tug. My duo continued to run perfectly, to everyone's amazement and, I must confess, my own boredom!

Ron A.

N.B. These reports are not a presidential prerogative - anyone can submit them.

News from the Basement
Boatyards

Mike Gibson, one of our newest members, has been very busy. This year he has launched his Chriscraft - "Wild and Wet", a Fulwell tug, a CG501 Rigid Hull Inflatable, and a Nautique ski boat - "Nauti Gal". He also has a Banckert tug in progress.

Paul Morrow launched (and sank - see related story Page 1) a Lindburg mini tug, has a PT109 ready to launch and a Chriscraft Fisherman and PT15 in progress.

Fred Stolzenberg launched a Monk Senior design motor sailor with a cutter rig - "Halcyon 11".

Jack Plummer launched his Canadian Patrol Frigate - "HMCS Calgary".

Geoff Walton launched "HMCS Peacock" - a fast patrol boat and a Super Tanker which, he says, will be named "Pelagic" 'cos that's where most of his building materials came from!

Larry Lebeouf launched his steam tug - "Brookland" - a 1910 New York harbour tug.

Julie Hillsden launched "Emily Maud" - a whimsical tug loosely based on the Theodore Tugboat TV program.

Len Gibbs launched a 21" torpedo which will be fired from a German midget sub - "Seehund". The torpedo is radio controlled (that's a relief -Ed) but Len is not taking any chances - trials took place only when there was no other traffic on Harrison pond!

Bill Barker launched "Iron Queen" - a model of a typical turn-of-the-century, English, iron, side paddle wheeler. This is somewhat of a departure from the norm for Bill since this is his first radio controlled power model. As one might expect, she is entirely scratch-built to Bill's usual extremely high standards.

Not to forget the sailors - and who could forget them after they showed the power modelers how a steering course SHOULD be run at the last regatta!

Scott Ringrose has launched an EC12 and a Marblehead.

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Box 181, RR#1
Saulnierville, Nova Scotia
B0W 2Z0
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Classified

For sale - a 43" Kevlar tug boat hull - \$100. Bill Huckin has seen this hull and he says it is a beauty. Call Tom Wilson at 920-0009.

For sale - 28 1/2" "Monitor", 1/72nd scale - \$250 OBO and 44 1/2" "Merimac", 1/72nd scale - \$300 OBO 2 channel Futaba motors included. Call A. L. Grossi at 384-9363

Bill Birch has a large quantity of Lettraset to give away. Bill requests that you take only what you need so that as many members as possible can benefit from this windfall.

Saanich Fair, Labour Day W/end



The weather wasn't as advertised - it was great! Between the great weather and the efforts of the set-up crew, we all enjoyed ourselves. We had 16 members and even more boats ranging in size from Geoff's supertanker to several of our mini-tug fleet.

The hit of the show was Julie Hillsden's tug *Emily Maud*. The Maud is based on one of the stars of the popular TV series *Theodore Tugboat*. Em dashed about the pool on Saturday and Sunday making faces at the crowd much to everyone's enjoyment. Unfortunately, she



had an unscheduled fire in her engine room on Monday, to the disappointment of many young fans who had heard about her.

The kids' paddleboat races were a great success again. We could probably run these all day at the fall fair. This year we gave out some prizes and candy. All the gleeful shouting drew large crowds each time we ran the races. These races were so popular we had to schedule them so parents could drag the kids away to look at horses etc. The public tossed \$220 into the donation boat. Talk about well received - I like it when people vote with money! If you see Paul walking with a list, it's due to the heavy coin he took to the bank, not the Yo Ho Ho etc...

The most excitement of the weekend was when a pig escaped. The pig wasn't a problem, but the porker posse caused us some concern. They were exercising a whole lot less common sense than the pig! No harm done in the end, but we did have a few moments while we considered how to save the boats from the posse. I'd like to see this at Harrison Pond!

As a footnote, our friendly tugboat Emily Maud may be a little too friendly. When she wasn't working the crowd for coin, she was flirting with our members. Now we think she may be pregnant. Watch for a follow up story as the news breaks.....



SHOW & TELL

by
Nilson



"HERE'S THE TROUBLE FRED, YOU'VE
BEEN BUILDING WITH THE PLANS FOLDED."