

August 2021

Volume 43 Issue 8



The Binnacle

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Victoria, B.C.



JACK PLUMMER



Ken Lockley on Island Cruise Ships,
Support for Ocean Cleanup,
and workshop progress.

Ron Armstrong on Club History



<http://www.vmss.ca>



**From
The Bridge**

I hope everyone is enjoying a healthy and happy summer. We are getting more members bringing their boats to Harrison Model Yacht Pond, so things are looking better.

Our Thursday August 12 meeting will be in St Peters Church parking lot at 7:30. Those attending the July meeting had a good time and it was certainly nice to socialize with friends again. I think there are some pictures in this Binnacle, Everyone is welcome, just bring something to sit on, and a table if you need it for your show and tell. Masks are your choice, but please space out. And don't come if you are ill.

We do need to discuss the Saanichton Fall Fair (September 4 – 6) at this meeting. We are attending. Jim Cox is our organizer and he will be looking for models and people to help out. I have canceled a camping trip to be there. The Fair will be different this year, but it should be fun. The Fair and VMSS have worked together over the years, so lets get out and show them lots of support this year as they recover from the Covid hit.

We are planning to return to indoor meetings in St Peters Church hall starting in September. Jim Cox will lead a discussion in installing electronics.

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(continued on Page 3)



2020 Executive Committee

<i>President: Ron Hillsden</i>	479-5760
<i>Vice-Pres: Dave Nelson</i>	812-1942
<i>Secretary: Elgin Smith</i>	384-0574
<i>Treasurer: Mike Creasy</i>	888-4860
<i>Director @ Large: Ken Lockley</i>	477-5830
<i>Binnacle Editor: Edward White</i>	385-6168
<i>Quartermaster: Vacant</i>	
<i>City Liaison: Mike Claxton</i>	479-6367
<i>Membership: Bev Andrews</i>	479-2761
<i>All above area code (250)</i>	



ON THE RADAR

Upcoming Events



**Meetings: Second Thursday 7:30 .
Upcoming meeting: 12th. August
St. Peter's Car Park.**



**Sundays 9-11
Harrison Model Yacht Pond (HMYP)
Dallas Road at Government Street**



**LANGFORD LAKE
Wednesdays 9:30
Langford Lake, Leigh Rd. at Trillium**



From the Bridge, (continued from page 2)

There are 2 events of interest happening on August 21. The Burnaby Assn of Marine Modelers is having a fun float, and there is an Outdoor Modelers Shop and Swap at Beban Centre in Nanaimo. I did send emails about these.

A reminder that our Fiscal Year End and Election of Officers is our November meeting. We were authorized to defer the 2020 FYE and election due to Covid, but we need to get this back on track. If you would like to serve as an officer, please let me know.

Thanks, Have a GREAT summer

Ron

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Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society Minutes of Meeting Jul 8 2021 (Tail gate meeting in parking lot of St Peters Church)

Welcome:

- Last Meeting was March 2020, Nice to be back! Meeting started 7:30 with 14 members.
- No New Members but 1 guests

Outreach:

- No known ill or injured

Old Business

- Thank you Calvin for buying Club Stickers and donating proceeds to club. Buy some Stickers!
- Saanichton Fair – Jim Cox has not heard if we will be invited this year as the fair will be scaled back.
- Proposed Nanaimo Hobby tailgate sale this fall – various members –
 - Some members interested in attending
 - Less interest in watching a club table to sell donated stuff to raise money

- Any other old business?

New Business

- Barry Fox plaque we are getting prices?
- Covid Plan for Harrison – note they want us to keep contract tracing record
- Who can we get to do an electronics demonstration at our September meeting? Jim Cox volunteered

50-50 Draw

- Jim Carson won

Round-table and Socialization

- Ron Armstrong demonstrated a method of attaching davits to a model
- Jim Cox demonstrated his dynamic diving submarine
- Ron Hillsden showed the results if using Postrazor software to print model size plans plans or photographs
- Jim Renfrew demonstrated his model of a Hackercraft speedboat, and
- Ken Lockley demonstrated his tug and Kort nozzle rudder. He was also pleased to get photos of the actual tug from Corey Weins.

Meeting adjourned 9:00.



Jack Plummer

Obituary by Ron Armstrong

A longtime member of the VMSS, Jack passed peacefully on Tuesday, August 3rd at his residence "Shannon Oaks" in Oak Bay. He is survived by one daughter here and another in San Francisco. His wife Loretta(Lori) predeceased him. Jack had two careers. He spent 25 years in the RCMP, then joined the Security Branch of Imperial Oil, working there for another 15 years.

Upon true retirement he joined the VMSS, no doubt to keep busy. Indeed he treated the building side of the hobby just like a job. Down to his workshop at 9 a.m., then coffee served by Lori at precisely 10:15. Up for a 30 minute lunch, then back to his shop until quitting at 3:30. His discipline was remarkable and longtime friend Ken Lockley said "his energy was enormous". According to Jim Cox the results were 50 models, half sail and half power. In terms of the latter he built two models that reflected his careers. One was the RCMP catamaran "Nadon". The other was the tanker "Imperial Quebec" . I have never seen a tanker model with such detail and realism.

In 2001 he became President. To the position he brought patience, calmness and a no nonsense pragmatism. After two years he stepped down, well respected by all . A side activity was the making of 30 inch tall(!) marionette models (see below)for family and friends. Naturally, many were dressed in RCMP uniforms!

We may not see his like again.



1983-03-21
Shipfax © Mac Mackay

**The original Imperial Quebec
(Jack's model was never this scruffy.)**



About 40 years ago I attended a club meeting and this Jack Plummer built RCMP patrol vessel was on display. Having some experience aboard police marine units, I never forgot the model.

The other day, Jim Cox gifted me this same model. It came to Jim along with some other boats and accessories after the passing of Jack Plummer.

Unfortunately, this once great build has reached the end of its operational life. I'm paying it forward to a neighbour and his 8yr old son. They will make it a painting project and once again it will last for many years, this time on an shelf in the kids bedroom.

I didn't know Jack but hopefully he'd be happy knowing this model boat is still alive and in the hands of a future modeller.

Rick Gonder.



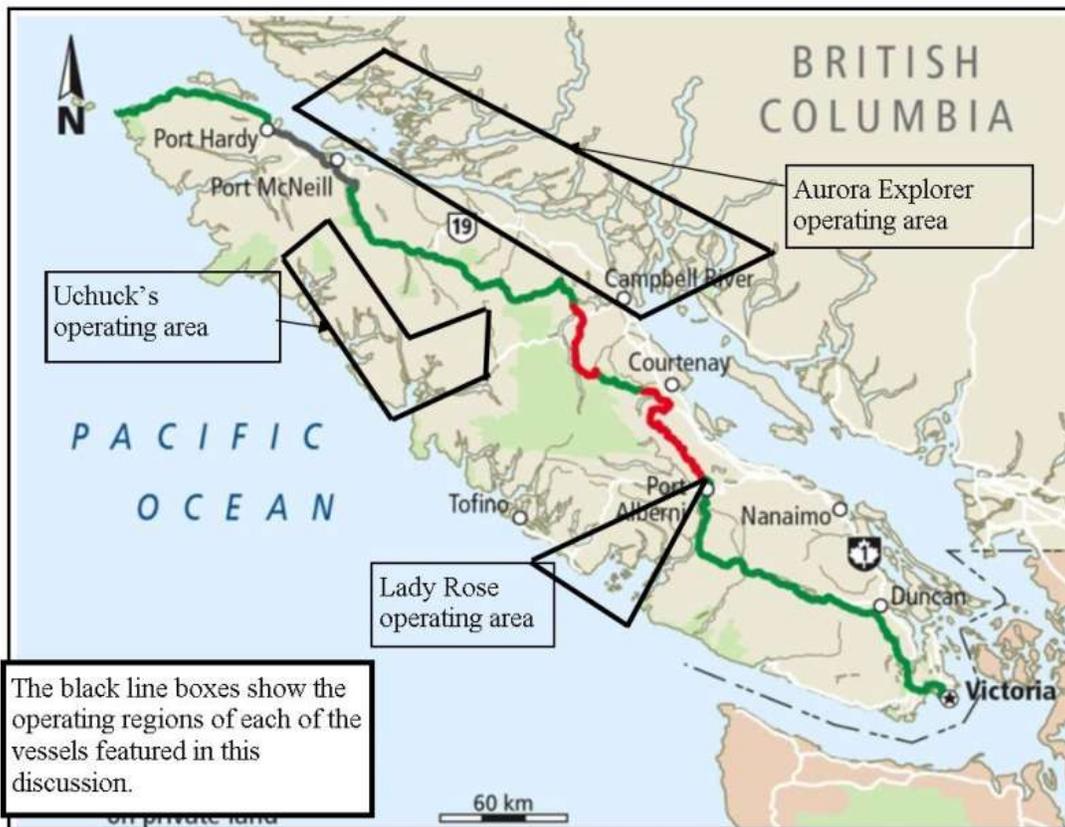


SHIPS, BOATS AND MODELS

Ken lockley August 2021

This map of Vancouver Island, produced by the Times Colonist, showing the Vancouver Island Trail nearly completed. The map gave me some ideas, on small cruise boats around our island with an interesting history. Actually there are many operators offering single day to weekly trips and services. I am only going to touch on four operators because I like the vessels they operate and I feel each of the four highlighted would make great R/C models.

It was originally built in Oregon as a USA Mine sweeper in 1942. MV Uchuck is fitted out to carry 100 passengers and 70 tons of freight. The vessel starts from Gold River and makes various stops delivering freight and passengers to camps and settlement in cruise area. Some over night trips can be arranged by using shore based accommodations such as B & B's in several locations.





Aurora Explorer was built at Hay River, SK. Marine Link Ltd. trucked the barge in sections to Victoria, lengthened the cargo deck and added a deck for passengers. It provides six day excursions in it's six state rooms.



MV Lady Rose, ex Lady Barkley has several day cruises available from Port Alberni down the Inlet to Bamfield, the Broken Island and Ucluelet. It leaves Port Alberni each morning at 8:30 am, cruising alternate days to the above ports and making many stops dropping off freight and Kayakers down the length of the Canal. The same company has purchased a retired BC Ferry Corp vessel ----- The plan is to have a car ferry also servicing the area and the above ports. I believe the car ferry would be very popular.



Below: Berthed at Ogden Point on July 21/21



News release May 12/2021. Maersk Tender and Maersk Trader, offshore supply vessels will be in the North Pacific regions working with The Ocean Clean Up Group. The plan is to remove as much plastic and marine waste as possible.

The vessels are owned and donated by A.P. Moller a Danish Shipping Corporation. The vessels are 70 meters in length and are intended for off shore support to drilling rigs, the off shore petroleum industry and also marine wind farms.



© Arki Wagner
MarineTraffic.com

I really enjoy my weekly trip to Harrison because it's an excuse to view what's in at Ogden Point, as well as seeing other members of our club and their vessels. This visit was special to see these off shore vessels which we don't often see in our waters .

THIS MONTH IN THE WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY night at Harrison, I had the chance to test my moving kort nozzle rudder . It's taken several water test to be pleased with the operational factors. I can now get on with finishing the vessel.



Motor trails at "Harrison" and also testing the steering Kort Nozzle, which worked well.

This month has been mostly a Styrene Building period. I find once I get into the plastic side of the model making it's easier just to stay with the white stuff and get as much done as possible.

The winch has been a challenge making, to be able to be taken apart at a later date for painting . That's also the case with the fly bridge. It can be removed for the wheel house interior to receive a few items .

The tug has twin stacks but is only powered with one motor. At this time most of the larger items are made but there are a ton of small items to make plus purchasing rubber tires and life rings etc. It's the small stuff in the end makes the difference.



Sometimes things just don't work out as hoped. My bumper picture shows that it's just too big so that will have to come off and be reduced and improved.



SCALERS, SAILORS, ALL SKIPPERS ON THE SHORE

by

Ron Armstrong

Our fourth and last decade 2008 to 2018

These final ten years saw a number of changes, not all positive, and special activities that absolutely were.

Our meeting venue changed from the basement of the United Church on Carey Road to our present location, the hall of St. Peter's Anglican Church off Quadra in the Lakehill District, in 2008. Most of our meeting venues have been quietly negotiated by Bill Andrews in addition to his work as Entertainment Coordinator. This includes scouring the city for bargain but new tools for the monthly raffle, and running same, his wife Bev came on board as Secretary. True, we could not let such a vital position go unfilled. But I have the suspicion that this may have been the only way she could see Bill, such were his constant "travels". LOL.

The biggest activity of the decade was our "Salute to the Navy" on its' 100th birthday. The focus was the biggest and most colourful Sailpast ever in Harrison Pond. As Publicity Director I pulled out all the stops, starting in January, which resulted in a big turnout on the day, June 13. But the main reason the "Salute to the Navy" was such a success is the diligence, enthusiasm, organizational skills and contacts by Mark Giles, of the Shaver and Hobby shop.

He obtained major scaffolding and oversaw its' erection on the south side of the Pond. This was intended to be a 3 storey "Bridge" for modellers to see the entire Pond, and thus control their vessels better. Alas, most were afraid to climb the back crossbeams and risk falling off because only the grass would cushion their fall.

Mark secured Navy backing, which I had tried to obtain since February with no luck. He got Lieutenant Commander E.J. Hughes and his wife to review all the models parading past him, standing in front of the above bridge. Each one, no matter how small, got a crisp salute. Rob Ross's magnificent 7ft. 1:48 model of the D-E "HMCS St. Croix" was definitely the "Star of the Sailpast", with working radars, lights and two horn sounds. She certainly got the "Commodore's" dog excited.

Lt. Cmdr. Hughes also brought the Navy mascot, a Newfoundland "dog" named "Bear" (in his shiny black fur he certainly looked the part.)



It became a real Island event with two participants from Nanaimo. Steve Martin brought his superb WW2 cruiser "HMCS Ontario" and a detailed corvette of the same period. Another Nanaimo modeller, not a club member, brought his very up-to-date Halifax Class frigate in 1:192 scale (1/16 inch to the foot). It had a helicopter with rotors turning on the flight deck, and, most dramatic of all, a Phoenix anti-missile gun with a perfect recording of its "Blitzfire".

After the Sailpast we started on the extra events Mark had organized. One was Blind Conning. Skippers watched his or her vessel manouver to instructions given by him to the person holding the Transmitter behind him. Skippers became very uneasy without a transmitter in hand, and they couldn't understand why their vessel just didn't stop, or continue to zport, or didn't go at the speed desired. Commands that were smooth and received instant response from a model under "Solo" Skippers became complex as commands between humans got more stressful and testy. In fact we all thought the Taylors were headed for divorce court after a normally placid Dave became angrier with Jenny.....who just as testily repeated his last command, period.

Mark's other event was "Fuelling at Sea", using a four foot hull as a tanker with various hooks and loops hanging on the side. Unfortunately Mark had trouble with the power train and had to abort. Many skippers were saddened because they were anxious to try the first real addition to skill tests since 1983!

In 2012 we successfully entered the Victoria Day Parade. I admit this was a goal I had lobbied for to dramatically increase our profile. Dave loaned us his motor home to pull Tom Gardner's trailer. The latter was modified with bleacher-type shelving to accomodate about 20 models(!) of all sizes and shapes, all rigorously tied down. Barry Fox and I shared the drive from Mayfair Mall down Douglas Street and return via Blanshard. A unique feat, which did give us some public profile. Quite a treat to get cheers from all sides.....maybe the hobby isn't dead!!

The third major event in this decade was the "Salute to Canada on its 150 th. Birthday" in 2017. Once again Mark Giles stepped up to the plate. He selected three Springer tugs with identical hulls but with different cabin structures.....and behaviours! Each had to start the challenge from the West Finger Wharf dragged east and lashed to the South sidewalk. A contestant chose a Springer according towhim, or pretty colours, or odd deck houses or ????. But having chosen his "steed" the skipper had to follow the detailed instructions given by Mark for each dock. One was going round the centre lighthouse; another had to pull a big barge around buoys without it touching anything; another was to push a liner from one side of the east end to the other side, dock the charge gently, (no bumping), then reverse back to "Home Port". The contestants in this event were the most comfortable skippers at the Pond because they operated under the huge oak tree at the end. Some guys wanted to "practice" just to stay out of the brutal July sun!

For the first round skippers there was the plea of ignorance, of not knowing how their brand new charges would behave. I think Mark cut them some slack as a result. No such sympathy was given the second round skippers, because they had all watched the first round events keenly,



despite the unforgiving sun. The most amusing choice was the free runner Springer. Its' "task" was simply to circumnavigate the lighthouse. But it was bedevilled or maybe even haunted. Any attempt at speed drove the bow under, while backing off power did not quickly calm it. It bobbed and surged like a dolphin. Finally, despite being built strictly according to original Springer plans, skippers driving it towards themselves into the big U dock found it veering suddenly according to prop walk or refusing to go full astern to prevent crashing. Watching this spooked beast I concluded that even the "Great" Ron Burchett would've been cursing and puzzling!!

My Barge try went well because Mark is always fair----all the course buoys were on the south side of the barge track and thus easy to see. But....one had to assume the Springer involved operated normally, that any barge course is not Western Speedway, and that this by dumb slab may respond to current and wind. There is never the former in Harrison but always the potential for the latter. This sultry Canada Day did not. So I side-towed the barge around without any strikes.

My experience with Mark during the "Salute" prepared me for a proper "crew" response to the liner push. Do WHAT is required, nothing less, but certainly nothing more" I butted the liner off it's moorings, then planted this Springer as close to midships as possible. Apply gentle power because it is a "Push", not a "Shove". The latter may speed the crossing. But it could also result in the liner attaching itself to the northern bank as if some secret bond between wood and concrete was now in place. As it was the "b....." took a long time to be pried away from the northern bank and the clock was ticking. Mark's daughter Ashley was in charge and conducted herself gracefully, with no hints, sighs or comments as to how one did.

Certainly all contenders in this event-yes even me- watched astounded as one skipper somehow took the liner west to opposite the maple tree! I don't know if Mark let him finish or cancelled his attempt to put him out of his misery. Again there was neither current nor wind! But maybe the searing heat did a number on his nautical brain cells ! LOL.

That heat lasted all day. No hot dogs" Instead sandwiches, pop and a magnificent cake in the national colours. Bev and Julie Hillsden anxiously watched it, lest it melt. They nearly asked Mark for an interruption to prevent this!

However, the searing heat cooperated. The cake remained pristine and the tent provided enough relief for all to enjoy the day, and feel satisfied about our contribution.

In celebrating our nation's 150th., the Springer event symbolized the essential West Coast transport. From 1867 on, tugs have been our Coastal lifeline, and it's a safe bet that one was within our view in the Strait as we skippered, lunched, kidded and laughed.

Unfortunately Time brought sadness as well. In the years following the Salute, many stalwart and popular members "crossed the bar". Dave Denton succumbed to a heart attack after realizing two personal goals. One was to build a working steam tug, and one was to see and travel England. His followers filled the United Church on Quadra.



A real blow, and not just to would-be model submariners, was the passing of Romaine Klaasen. His vibrant intellect, self deprecating wit, and wide knowledge both nautical and political will always be remembered and was celebrated one afternoon in the Fernwood Inn (as he insisted).

For Sale

Attached are some images of boats and other watercraft that my father George built including a submarine and plane. To my knowledge they are all craft that he controlled remotely as a member of the local model boat club in Coquitlam at the time. He passed away in 2012 and we now would like to find homes for them. There are 4 separate remote controls as well which were used to control them all. I have a general idea of their value, but will consider any reasonable offers as the important thing is to have them appreciated by people that know the hard work involved in building them.

If you or your members are interested in seeing these in person, please contact my mother Gisela at 604-939-5357.

Thanks for your time.

Alfred Woldenga





FOSS tug

Approx 42" in length. Built on a modified Burchett hull by Ron Bray of Seattle. Powered by Voith Schneider drives and well detailed, including the wheelhouse interior. Recent servicing and rewiring by Ron Burchett.

Asking \$2500. Partial trade considered and Island or Lower Mainland delivery possible.

Contact Rick Gonder
rick21142@shaw.ca
250 744-8610





MODEL BUILDERS OUTDOOR SWAP MEET

Saturday August 21, 2021
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Beban Park Centennial Field



Planes, Trains, Boats, Cars, R/C
All Model Builders Welcome

ENTRY BY DONATION

Charities:
B.C. Forest Discovery Centre
Western Vancouver Island Industrial Heritage Centre

MODEL BUILDERS OUTDOOR SWAP MEET

Saturday August 21, 2021
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Beban Park Centennial Field

VENDORS WANTED!

Email: csundstr@gmail.com

35 - 16' x 24' Spaces \$8 · 5 - 24' x 24' Spaces \$12
One space per vendor/group/club

Additional space may be available if needed

Pre-register for space, Pay upon Arrival, Not for Profit
Any monies collected in excess of costs will be donated to the charities

Vendor Rules:

Setup 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Cleanup 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Space Only - Bring your own table/blanket/tailgate/tent
STRICTLY NO TENT PEGS - UNDERGROUND WATER SYSTEM
ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING OR VAPING ON SITE
All Garbage must be removed at end of day
If you park your vehicle in your space, no early exit
Vendor must have hand sanitizer bottle at table, masks recommended
Set up space to promote social distancing from neighbours
No food sales on site - 2-minute walk to mall

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The Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society is a non-profit club, open to all, established in 1978 under the Societies Act of B.C.