

The Binnacle

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
4996 Georgia Park Terrace
Victoria, B.C., V8Y 2B9

Next Meeting JAN 8 - 7:30 PM
313 Brunswick Place
Lower floor



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL

**BRING & BUY EVERY
MEETING.
ALSO, BRING YOUR
CURRENT
MODELLING
PROJECTS TO
MEETINGS FOR
SHOW & TELL**

ON THE HORIZON

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 8 - Ed Boddaert has organized City Parks Manager, Al Cunningham to speak on Harrison Yacht Pond
-Plan Night – bring your plans & ideas for your future model

Jan 31-Feb 1 Northwest Model Expo – Puyallap, Wash.

FEB 4-7 - CanWest Mall Hobby Show

FEB 12 - Regular Meeting

April 30 – May 2 Western Ship Model Conference & Exhibit
Long Beach, Calif.

* **POWER:** Sundays 10 – 12 Harrison Model Yacht Pond

* **SAILING:** 1st & 3rd Sundays - 1 – 3 PM Beaver Lake

DUES ARE DUE!

Bring your checks to the January meeting or mail to Derek Woollard, 4996 Georgia Park Terr. Victoria, V8Y 2B9.

Single membership \$35.00
Family \$50.00.

Please renew early and make it easy for our Treasurer, Thanks



**From the
Bridge**

Another year is finishing and our 25th Anniversary Year as well. I believe it has been a good year and on behalf of us all, a thanks to those in the club who have done their part to make it a success.

To all who have organized, supported, and participated in our activities this year a special thank you and may it continue in the year ahead. Thanks to the Executive who worked hard on behalf of us all.

Have a happy holiday season.

Ken Scotten, President"

Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society
Regular Meeting – 11 November, 2003
Extract

The VMSS remains in sound financial condition.

Plans for the Christmas Social on December 11 are complete.

Following the election of the Executive Committee for 2004, Members watched slides showing members and models from past VMSS events. Tom Pound, Secretary



Welcome new member Ken Stirton.

He indicates he is building his first ship model, *Bluenose II* from a the AL kit, and expects to have it finished in the new year. His primary interest is in sailing vessels, both historic and modern, and another hobby is soaring.

2003 Executive

President	Ken Scotten	472-6187
Vice-Pres.	Jack Plummer	592-2021
Secretary	Tom Pound	595-6487
Treasurer	Derek Woollard	658-1150
Entertainment	Paul Jordan	388-0059
Binnacle Editor	Ron Hillsden	479-5760
Assistant Editor	Ken Lockley	477-5830
Publicity	Jack Ross	478-3191
Quartermaster	Bob Rainsford	383-2256
Director at Large	Mike Gibson	642-6540
Director at Large	Mike Woodley	596-8379

SUB-COMMITTEE HEADS

Librarian	John McHutchion	382-8652
Webmaster:	Ron Hillsden	479-5760
City Parks Liaison	Ed Boddaert	746-4459
Binnacle Mailing	Bill Birch	592-6456
Show Coordinator	Derek Woollard	658-1150

EDITORIAL NOTE:

This is the time of the year that I would like to thank all those that contributed material for 2003 BINNACLES. A big thanks goes to Jack Ross and Jack Plummer for photos, Ron Hillsden for building tips and Romain for the SUB SUBJECT. A special thanks to Bill Birch for taking on the printing and circulation. Thanks also to those who, when asked, will write up necessary material.

NEXT YEAR 2004;

2004 Binnacles will be produced by Ron Hillsden as Chief Editor and myself as Assistant Editor. This will allow each of us to produce six issues through the course of the year. Lois and I plan to use our R.V. quite extensively next year and this will make it possible to be still involved with the Binnacle and the club's activities. Please any email material for the publication to both Ron and myself and material in hard copy to either one of us. Thanks for your support. Editor Ken Lockley

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004

The membership of the V.M.S.S. would like to take this opportunity to thank **Romain Klassen** for conducting the election of officers at our November meeting.

POWER FREQUENCIES

Anyone purchasing a new Radio should contact **Bob Rainsford** for channel suggestions.

The Executive and Members of the Victoria Model Shipbuilding Society would like to extend get well wishes to **Bill Birch** (Marlin Spike). Bill has had an extensive operation and has come through fine but is going to need several months recuperating. **Mike Woodley** is pitch hitting for Bill with the Binnacle distribution until he can resume as Circulation Bill. Calm Waters and Smooth Sailing, Bill

NORTHWEST MODEL EXPO

Jan 31 & Feb 1 2004

Western Washington Fair-
grounds
Puyallup, Washington

Daily admission \$7 US
Tickets by mail \$6 US
manufacturers, vendors, exhibi-
tors, club booths, model displays,
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Email –

expoinfo@nwmodelexpo.com

Information:

Bob Brownell – 253 847 5721

Or contact our Secretary,
Tom Pound for forms



BADGES AND MUGS

BADGES

- * Each paid up member will receive one badge gratis/free.
- * Additional badges available for \$4.00 each.
- * These can be sewn onto any clothing you prefer.
- * If you prefer to have a VMSS Badge embroidered onto your jacket, shirt, hat, etc., it can be done for \$7.50 and will take 7 – 10 days.
- * Take your piece of clothing to: OCEAN PROMOTION INC

3026B JUTLAND ROAD
VICTORIA, B.C., V8T 2T2
PHONE 380 7494

our representative there is Craig Burnett

MUGS

- * Huber Trophies
350 Burnside Road
383 0848
- * Has coffee mugs with VMSS Club Crest on one side for \$15.00
- * for **no additional charge** they will put a photograph of your boat on the other side.



- * **GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS.**

MEMBERSHIP LISTS:

If any member would like a copy of the list of members of the VMSS, with address and phone numbers, please contact our very organised, efficient Secretary, **Tom Pound** at 595-6487.

TIPS OF THE MONTH:

Bending small tubing

I hadn't seen this tip for bending small tubing before - probably work just as well with stainless as brass: Slide in a firm fitting piece of nylon fishing line or weed eater type nylon. Bend tube to desired shape and pull nylon out. The nylon will usually thin as it is stretched out but if it is hard to pull out, heat the tube until it either slides freely or melts out. Ron Hillsden

Square-rigged Sailing Ship Computer Simulator

The sunny days are getting shorter, so here is a inside activity for your wet weather enjoyment. There are two sailing ship simulators for your computer available free. Download and run these free simulations of a three-masted frigate and a two-masted brig sailing ship
<http://home.wxs.nl/~pdavis/>

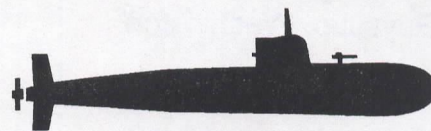
This programme is called HMS Surprise, after the Aubrey/Maturin novels by Patrick O'Brian. I tried it, and found it an interesting way to explore seamanship in the days of square-riggers. Ron Hillsden

THE SUB SUBJECT

Should you elect to learn from your own mistakes rather than mine, skip this "Sub Subject", 'cause this month's aim is to give an outsider's look at an insider's screw ups and, for those who do read on, to then cry, "I'LL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN TO MEEEEEE!"

The tale of woe promised last-month covers a gamut of goofs — goofs that ~~COULD~~ have been avoided. The end result of a multiplicity of blunders was that out of the four not dustballed units in my model fleet of seven only ONE was operational. Two were drydocked — one for six and another for eight weeks — while No. 7 (the Boomer) has awaited torp installation since September 2002.

Here's how it went and goes — in grief and not time structure.



1. --

At the end of 1:125 – scale Miami's July 9, 2003, command performance in the Government House pool, her on-off-on battery to speed control to motor switch rendered up the ghost. Replacing it is a (proven) nasty task in crowded quarters, but it had to be done. Seven bucks dropped at Queale gave me a new switch, and I set to work.

Red (+) to port; black (-) to starboard. Kept VERY close track. But . . . two out of the six wires got crossed. New switch. No power. Charged the battery pack. Melted the charger/adaptor and, same time, fried the speed control. Replaced both. Motor didn't run. Put in a new motor — taking the opportunity to change reduction from 1.85:1 to 2.30:1 — but . . . no result. Then I found a break in the red wire from speed control to motor — a break that had lurked under an inch-length of shrink wrap. Soldered it up, and all was well.

Yes, I had conducted numerous intermediate test throughout the fumbling, odyssean travail, but all I know for sure is that the switch had given out, and that I wrecked charger and speed control. But when did the wire break? When did the motor pack it in? Two simultaneous defects? It can happen, but three . . . aaahhh.

From that exercise in frustration, nothing new was learned. It just bears out the old chestnut, "Haste makes waste". (Or "waist", if one skips lunch.)

2. ---

Following the ballast tank dolor reported last month, the 1:96-scale Miami's sonar sound's on-off switch wouldn't switch off upon submergence. Made linkage adjustments this way and that, and the other. Shorter, longer . . . on it went. Suspected the high-torque, metal gears servo that operates the ballast tank valves as well as the RAM 68's board. All to no avail. The in-out (surface-submerge) moved okay but, as it turned out, just barely not enough. In quick time the disassembled ballast tank lay on the bench. Close looks revealed heavy-duty corrosion -- to a point where a complete rebuild seemed indicated. But, hobby or not, that held zipo appeal. But, say, a can of "Liquid Wrench gunk" stood within reach. On a first shot, much oxidization took off. Not enough, though, to restore the required valve stem travel that the sonar's on-off pined for. Meanwhile, the heat was off. I had (all of) two models working now. So every couple of days I showered the valve with Gunk. Patience paid off. Six weeks later, the brass looked smelter fresh, and both ballast tank and sonar function better than ever.

This experience has added another item in Miami's M. & R. list: "Spray-wash gas-air valve with Gunk, twice a year. Let marinate for one week." (What's most boring: maintenance or a model that doesn't perform?)

3. ---

Last error for now: 1:100-scale Florida. "The Boomer."

She's sat at Ground Zero since September 2002. This draws questions. "When will you launch missiles again?" "I don't know," I have to say.

When "finished" and launched July 16, 1999, her torpedo doors had been cut, but taped up. Torps had to await the arrival of an RX/TX with eight proportional channels. The special order did arrive but . . . Only seven proportional channels. No. 8 is an on-off affair. No good.

Intensive search and thought led to this solution: operate the torps with the unused second channel of the 27 MHz. used to release the safety buoy.

Two torps were built with Wally ingredients. They tested out okay -- buoyancy, speed, range, et cetera. Good enough to carry on. Lead and foam were removed to accommodate the fail-proof doors' action, the launcher and its servo.

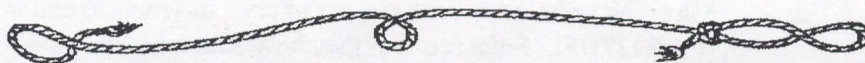
Next (!), the torps developed a multitude of leaks that defied repair. Seems as if TesTor gas and aluminum have had it out in divorce court. To top that off, personal circumstances changed to a point where two hours a week workshop time is generous. As a result: Miami is not operational. New torps have to be engineered, built and tested. Right now, that seems to be some distance out. Spring 2004 maybe. Possibly. Perhaps and who knows.

Lesson learned: Develop a phased work plan. Don't go out on a night's skin-thin ice. Don't consider anything GOOD ENOUGH too soon. It seldom is.

In the end, this column is no cry for sympathy; just a caution. Don't let slack MAINTENANCE and IMPATIENCE sap your enthusiasm for the hobby. Learn from a culprit.

Next month, i.e. Next year, the "Sub Subject" will cover the first in a series of planned interviews with sub modelers. Jack Plummer or Gred Sharpe first? Time will tell.

MERRY CHRISTMAS -- HAPPY 2004
Romanus Unicum



ON LINE SHIP MODELLING MAGAZINES

There are a few free on line model ship magazines. They are there for you to read, or download, now that the weather is not so nice and you need to be busy when your spouse is heading to the mall. These are mostly period ship modelling, no radio control, but some articles may interest you!

Model ShipWrights Journal. The link is to 4 issues, you have to download these to read them. Go to the "Download" button to select them.

<http://www.mtcl00167.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/Journal/index.htm>

Navigation Magazine, by the folks at Dolphin Street Shipyard

<http://www.shipbuildersreport.com/navigation/>

The Dolphin Street Shipyard is worth a visit. They have an online CAD course for model shipbuilders if you have a CAD program.

Warships to Workboats is a free publication on ship modeling

<http://www.warriorgroup.org/WtoWDownload.htm>

Enjoy these, Ron Hillsden



MY FIRST MODEL - - by Romain Klaasen

First love, first mistake, first model . . . ? Can I remember ? Age piled up the shoals of time, so I'll push "Fast Fwd." to 1994 when I launched my first submarine at Harrison Model Yacht Pond.

Built out of 2 1/2" o.s. diameter, purpose- bought La Tosca tomato paste cans, balsa, birch plywood, oak, brass and white metal, she's a 1:202 - scale, free-running, 2.4 V. powered model of USS Miami (SSN 755).

Conceived as an experiment, she taught me a few nuggets about hydrodynamics, buoyancy, leaks, battery charging, control surface sizes and settings, screw diameters and the Pond's depth. Many mistakes were incorporated; some were sidestepped in her progeny.

Should I pull "little" Miami out of my mothball fleet? Can't say. There's so much on my plate and so little time to have a fanciful go at it. But I won't part with her. She got to be real fun to watch 'er run.

* * *



FREE! FREE!

Anyone wanting an old 486 computer in working condition, please contact Ken @ 477 5830



Sailboat For Sale.

Star 45 class model sailboat (45 inch L.O.A.).

Hull of glass reinforced epoxy resin (Woodward #1) with sails by Sterne (one suit, main & jib.). Complete with standing and running rigging, Key fittings by Pekabe, Futaba winch (S 5801) and rudder servo (S 148). All set up, just transmitter, battery and receiver needed before you race. Asking Price **\$400.00**

Radio and Accessories.

Transmitter (w/charger) Futaba Conquest (FP-T4NBF)- 4 channel FM - 75 Mhz - Narrow band. With one set of crystals (ch #75) and matched **receiver** (FP-R127DF). Suits setup of the above sailboat. Add - **\$90.00**

Charger. TOWP0150 (12v & 110), fast charge in 20 minutes and 7.2v battery to suit setup of this boat Add **\$49.00**

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