

The Crank Calls



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MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US

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NEXT MEETING

**August 18, 2018 at
Golden Gate Live Steamers
Tilden Park
Berkeley, CA**

Doors open at 9:00 AM
Meeting starts at 10:00 AM

Upcoming Events

BAEM meetings 3rd Saturday of the month

- August 18, 2018 @ GGLS, Tilden Park
- September 15, 2018 @ MoAH, Palo Alto

WEME Show - August 24 -26 at the Alameda
Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, CA

MEETING PLACE FOR August 18th

We will meet this month (August) at the Golden Gate Live Steamers meeting room in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA.

Note that we will have a Swap Meet at the August meeting. Bring your treasures to sell, trade or barter!

MEETING NOTES

July 21, 2018

Bob Kradjian, Secretary

President Paul Denham called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the meeting room at the Museum of American History in Palo Alto.

VISITORS: Ken Brunskill a retired tool-and-die maker and a long time member of the golden Gate Live Steamers is now a new member of our group. Welcome, Ken!

SWAP MEET: We are planning a swap meet for the August 18 meeting at the Golden Gate Live Steamer meeting room.

FIRST POPS: There were none.

EVENTS:

Steve Hazelton gave a detailed report on the challenges of the upcoming WEME Show August 24 through 26. August 23, Thursday, is for set up. He has been in close contact with the Goodguys management. The issue of pop up tents for sun shelter was discussed. The use of the "Four Seasons" court behind the building was discussed. It seems that other entities have reservations for that space, from time to time, during the three days. We have three vendors who are planning to display. "Sandwich Boards" are available to help guide visitors to our displays. A compressor will be rented for air supply to our "steam engines".

For members not bringing engines, your help in monitoring inside tables while other members are running engines outside will be greatly appreciated.

A 32-inch video display for viewing tapes and discs of engines running at other shows is planned by Mike Rehmus.

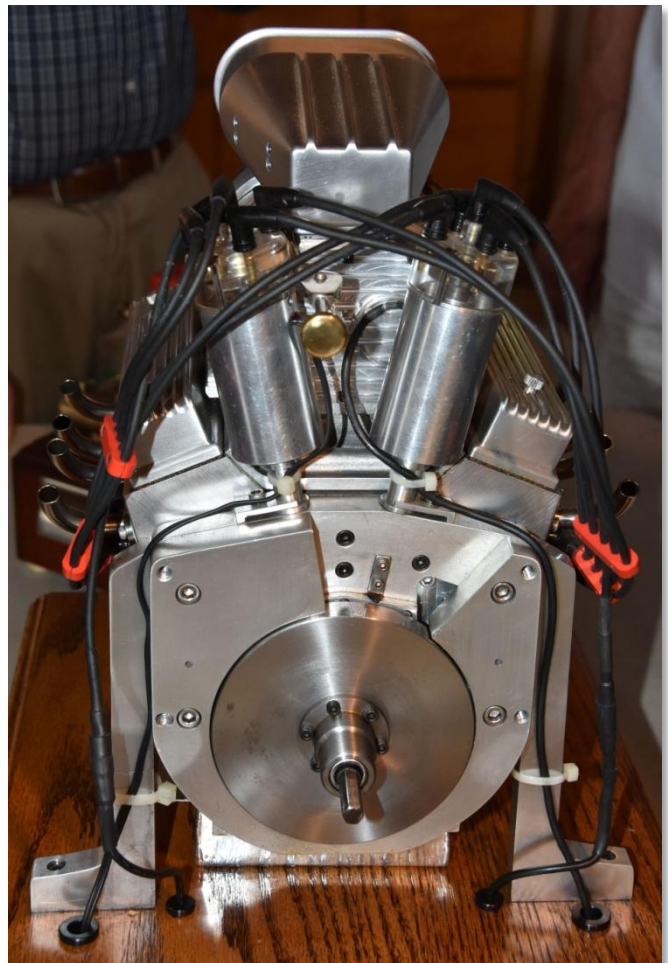
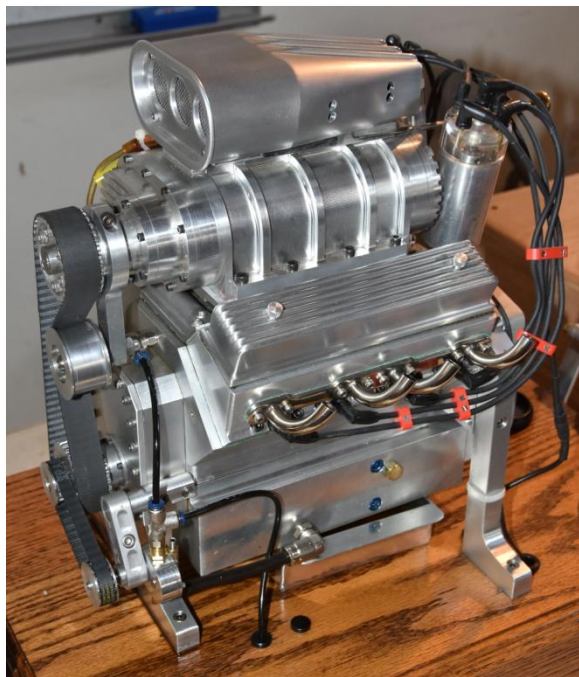
Steve reminds us that we need a permanent home for the club trailer following the show.

Concerning another event, Shannon Lile told us of an EDGE & TA Branch 13 meeting. They will be holding a show in Galt on October 5 through 7.

Our group is invited to join in. Galt is roughly a hundred miles from the Bay Area. It is about twenty miles North of Stockton, and about a two-hour drive. They have an interior barn space with overnight security. No compressor will be available.

Mike Rehmus informed us that a video of John Palmer's Wright engine running is available on the Model Engine Builder YouTube collection. Also available on this site is an article about "lost PLA casting". This variant of lost wax casting uses a common and inexpensive PLA material used in 3D printers. The object is modeled in PLA, then coated in the ceramic slurry and cast in the usual manner. The PLA is melted out of the mold and then the metal melt is poured in. This results in a very nice casting. This could permit castings of high intricacy that wax could not allow. Aluminum and zinc castings using this technique have been made. In another method, a shell of PLA is printed and the metal poured directly into the ceramic-supported hollow. The hot metal blows away the PLA. Member Tom Hare has been experimenting with this process. Finally, a publication that has information on these topics is "Additive Manufacturing".

It seems that 3D printing is becoming a necessity for small machine shops. Such printing is especially good for quickly making machining fixtures.



Mrs. Gilmore has gifted to our club the wonderful V-8 engine built by John Gilmore. This is a highly modified dragster engine built on the basic design of the "Black Widow created by Ken Hurst and Dwight Giles. Dwight gave us a complete history of the building process. When the first attempt at machining the block from a casting failed, John decided to have a block made from billet and cut out by electro discharge machining. John's persistence resulted in a remarkably fine and detailed engine complete with supercharger. This was an amazing achievement for a second engine build

TREASURER'S REPORT: We are solvent. In addition, we have now paid our annual insurance bill.

CLUB BADGES: If you are a member in need a badge, contact Mike Rehmus (mrehmus@byvideo.com) who has offered to produce them.

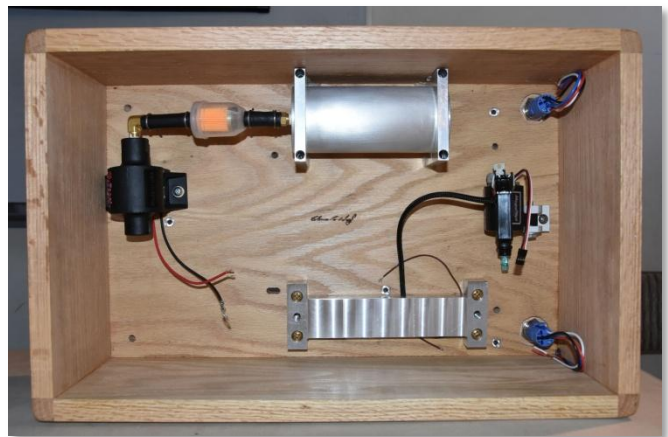
BITS AND PIECES

Steve Jasik has a new sideline. That is making aluminum washers for the suspension on high-end skateboards. The washer is coupled with a urethane bushing. He had a custom form tool and a custom step drill made for the task of delivering 4,000 of the washers to his friend in Santa Rosa.



Glenn Christoffersen brings up the subject of holding small castings for delicate machining operations. The use of Wood's metal, epoxy spuds, or casting resin was discussed.

Irene Lile informs us that Ellen Palmer passed away. Ellen was always seen with husband John at our club showings and at EDGE & TA events. We recalled our long history with the wonderful Palmer family. We send our condolences to daughter Alice Palmer.

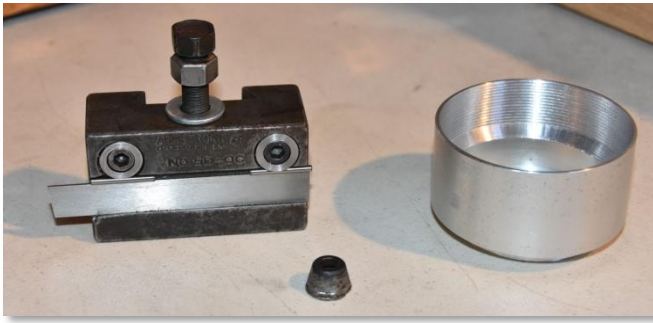


Jim Freel gave us an update on his spectacular version of the "Black Widow" V-8. It now has a custom-made wooden box and all the under motor essentials. He is planning to have the engine running for the WEME Show.

Dwight reminds us to paint all surfaces of the box, including the hidden interior, to prevent oil from wicking inside and interfering with wiring and other components.



Peter Lawrence has a new project based on a triple-expansion steam engine at the Henry Ford Museum in Detroit. The engine was originally used to power a dynamo for Thomas Edison's laboratory.

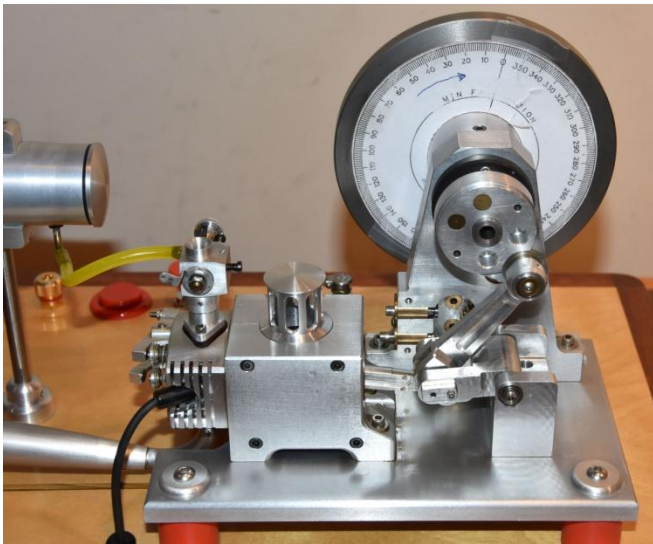


Jerry Franklin tells us of his continuing adventures on his antique Whitcomb-Blaisdell lathe. He is gaining valuable experience and knowledge making fixtures, bushings, and tool holders.

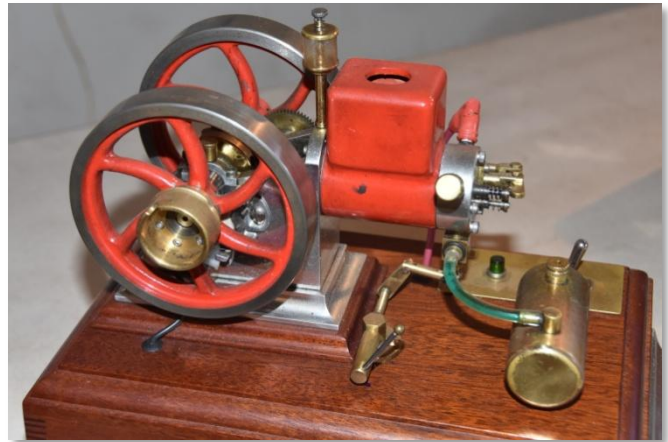
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This photo shows one of the group Webster engine builds by Steve Hazelton, Aaron Keller and Wes Wagon as first mentioned in the June 2017 Crank Calls Newsletter.



Dick Pretel showed us an Atkinson Cycle engine built by the late Frank Kurz in 1990. Frank was a loyal club member and a machinist at Ampex for over thirty years. He was famous for running his Wall Four without coolant until it seized. "Don't worry", he would say, "It'll cool down and be fine!" And--it would! Dick rebuilt the engine in 2012 along with a fine case and all new "plumbing". However, some niggling problems with camshaft timing remain, and Paul Denham has agreed to take the engine to his shop after the meeting for some trouble-shooting.



The photo above shows a GEM engine built by John Gilmore and donated to the club by Mrs Gilmore

We adjourned at 11:20 am.