

The Crank Calls

JUNE 2006

DUES ARE DUE

\$25.00

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NEXT MEETING
SWAP AND RUN ENGINES
JUNE 17, 2006 AT
Robert Schutz's Shop,
366 40th St. Oakland, CA
Doors open at 9AM
Meeting starts at 10 AM

Events Coordinator Report -Dick Pretel

Here are show dates that are tentative.
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.TBD

MEETING NOTES

5-20-06

Carl Wilson

Pat O'Connor opened the May meeting of the Bay Area Engine Modelers and asked our guests to introduce themselves: Donn Schiffano, Jeff Traeger, George Hawks, Andy Macica, and Jim Newton.

Lew Throop, our treasurer, gave a brief report. He didn't ask for an increase in our dues, so I guess we are doing OK!

There were no First Pops this month, but I did have a First Silence. Tom Armstrong and I brought the first two of six Low Delta *t* Stirling Engines built to the design of James Senft. My engine has run several times, quite silently, and at the meeting it was silent, and quite non-operational. I'll admit to being both frustrated and puzzled.

Travel and show reports: Bumper crop of shows reported this month! Bob Kradjian, while talking about the Hillsborough show, told the story of Ed Fullerton: when Ed was 85 he bought the chassis and engine from a 1936 Bugatti sold by Harrah's collection and built the rest of the car. What a feat! Bob also reported on The Legend of the Motorcycle show held near Half Moon Bay. One of the highlights was the World's Fastest Indian motorcycle built by Burt Munro to race on the Bonneville Salt Flats. Tom Hare visited the Harrowgate Model Engineering Show in England. He saw lots of steam engines and tractors, but few internal combustion engines. Tom also visited the Science Museum in London and marveled at the collection of models, aero engines (full size), steam engines and machine tools. Tom Armstrong reported on the North American Model Engineering Show (NAMES) held in Toledo, Ohio this year. Tom has been following the construction of a 1932 Dusenburg in 1/6th scale by Louis Chenot. The engine should have its "First Pop" sometime this summer. Look here for a picture of this beautiful car: http://neme-s.org/NAMES_2006/NAMES_2006_15.htm Bob Kradjian took over with his comments on the collection of engines designed by Elmer Wall and owned by Reed Martin. The collection has one of almost every engine designed by Elmer including his very first engine of 1906. Bob has created a web site with pictures of IC engines at: <http://web.mac.com/lilenginebob/iWeb/Site/HOME%20PAGE.html>. Pat O'Connor concluded with comments on the 1000 hp steam turbine power plant that he visited in Idaho. He also mentioned a 1000 hp Corliss engine, but I missed the rest of the details.



What do you call 1/2 of a Black Widow, the engine that is, not the spider? Dwight Giles didn't tell us, so maybe this engine does not yet have a name. The design of this straight 4 is taken from the Black Widow V8 designed by Dwight, Ken Hurst, and John Vlavianos.



Cory Fraser is building a .223 caliber rifle using these receivers forged from 7076 aluminum



George Gravatt presented the Vaughan engine, one of three that he and Dwight Giles are building from castings by De-Bolt. George said that several details of the engine were cast solid rather than being cored. This cylinder was solid and he made a few chips getting it hollow. Looks like the patternmaker chose to core the water hopper rather than the cylinder. Note the helical gear on the crankshaft that drives the side shaft. The pair of timing gears was part of the kit.

Cor Langeweis brought another of his fine steam engines, a 1/12th scale model of a 20 hp Table Engine by James Coombes. This was in service in a British colliery for about 100 years. More information may be found here:
http://www.stuartmodels.com/inprod_det.cfm/section/casting/mod_id/48

Mike Pinkerton talked a bit about the use of ceramic parts in gas engines, then presented this RCV (Rotary Cylinder Valve) engine. This commercially available aero engine uses a ported cylinder rotating at 1/2 crankshaft speed to control the flow of gases into and out of the engine. More: <http://www.rcvengines.com/>



Al Vassallo never fails to amaze us, this time with a four cylinder Sterling engine. The cylinders are parallel to the crankshaft and drive it through a swashplate. It burns propane for the hot end and is water cooled at the cold end. Al also entertained us with a story from his youth. At age 14 he was working in a shipyard assisting with the alignment of a periscope in a submarine. He grew frustrated with the approved method in use at the time and suggested a new way using a taut wire and electrical contacts. The success of his method astonished the management and confirmed Al in his desire to become an inventor.



Bob Kradjian bought this 4 cylinder HME Otter on eBay. It was designed and built by a medical doctor under the name of Haydock Model Engineering.

Bob also showed this Silver Angel, designed by Bob Shores.



Jim Newton is "opening a public access workshop on the SF Peninsula offering milling machines, lathes, sheet metal equipment, welders, plastics working equipment, electronics design and fabrication tools, and just about anything you'd need to build anything. www.techshop.com

The valve train picture is of Roger Butzen' hemi 1/4 scale V-8. He bored the angled holes in the rocker arm, silver soldered a sleeve in the arm and pressed in a bushing.

