

The Crank Calls



March 2012

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NEXT MEETING

March 17, 2012 at
Chabot College, building 1500
25555 Hesperian Blvd, Hayward 94545
Doors open at 9:00 AM
Meeting starts at 10:00 AM

Upcoming Events

BAEM meetings:
March 17, 2012
April 21, 2012
Palo Alto Concours, June 24

MEETING NOTES

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February 18, 2012

Bob Kradjian, Secretary

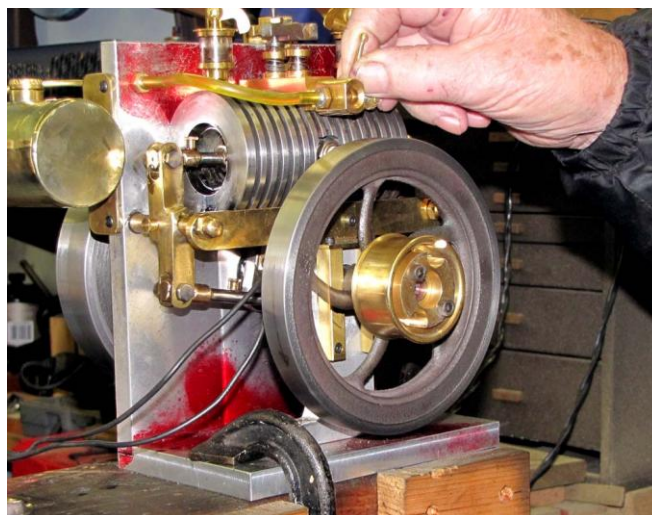
President Don Jones called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

We had several visitors: Leggoe, Kartner, Peterson, and Berkey. Chris Leggoe visited about a year ago and is currently studying welding and machining at Laney College in Oakland.

FIRST POPS

This was not discussed at the meeting, but George Gravatt persisted in his efforts to complete his two-opposed piston, single cylinder engine. To see this wonder in action, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v38PuSrMPk4&list=UU8BeMp3tMs3Bhgpck1K-WTQ&index=1&feature=plcp>



Ken's neighbor helped make a fabulous 45-second trailer for the Black Widow V-8. The quality of the video is absolutely stunning!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fB813FcVT4>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Palo Alto Concours is Sunday June 24, Sand Hill Road Athletic Field at Stanford. The website is: www.paconcours.com for all the details. We have attended with an exhibit for a number of years, and have had a good time and a warm reception. The cars are lovely, and some of the best seen in California.

The GoodGuys

Steve Hazelton gave us a report on an upcoming event on Tuesday March 20 aimed at third grade youngsters. It's called Youth Ag Day and will be held at the Solana County Fairgrounds. For details, see: scfair.com or call Steve at: (707) 501-3535. His E-mail is: steve.hazelton@gmail.com if you want to participate in this worthy outing. Steam engines, hit and miss engines would fit the bill.

BITS AND PIECES

Next followed an excellent discussion on the making of piston rings by member Ray Fontaine for his Red Wing. He mentioned George Trimble's article from Strictly Internal Combustion magazine. Initially he followed Trimble's directions for turning, fixtures, heat-treating, turning, and slitting. As is often the case Ray made modifications. The temperature for heat-treating was discussed at some length. Our club consensus is that a temperature of 1200 degrees F. is adequate for a one-hour heat soak followed by an open-air cool. 40,000 psi cast iron is used by most builders and available in bar form from MSC and other vendors. Tom Armstrong donated the use of his electric furnace for the heat-treating. (Tom is still working on his ambitious Snow engine project.)

Ray used stainless steel foil wrapping to avoid scale. For ring gap, he used 0.004". Dwight uses a 320 grit wet and dry, double-sided, with oil or kerosene for grinding the gap on his rings.

An upcoming issue of MEB will feature an article on rings made without heat-treating of any kind.

A digital read out purchase report from Richard Levesque followed. He purchased a high-quality set for \$455 plus \$14.00 2-day shipping from a dealer in Chicago. He is pleased with the quality, the service,

and the price. It uses glass spars and is accurate to two tenths.

John Gilmore showed us the oil pan for his Black Widow build. He drilled 56 holes for 3-48 bolts and broke his tap on the last hole!

Next, I showed the 30 cc. Seal to complement the nice build project of a 15 cc engine from Joel Cohen

John Meredith brought in his 1/4 scale Wright J-5 Radial that was the type of engine used in the "Spirit of Saint Louis". The build was in "Strictly Internal Combustion" many years ago. The displacement is 130cc and the bore is 25 mm. The beautiful castings are Swedish and over twenty years old. The build is up to John's usual high standard of fit and finish. He will use Paul Knapp's plugs instead of the large plugs of the earlier day. John plans to have it finished this year.

Jim Freel displayed a truly beautiful piston, connecting rod, fixtures, and a rocker-arm for the Black Widow build. There is beautiful blue anodizing on the rod. Jim's machine work is absolutely beautiful.

Mike Phelan brought in a casting set and plans for the "Economy" hit and miss engine. It was given to him by a friend, and he is donating it to the club. The set is complete except for the crankshaft. The original owner had a mishap while machining it and decided to abandon the project. President Don is thinking of a raffle to benefit the club. Thanks, Mike!

Mike Rehms's neighbor had a 9" South Bend lathe for sale, possibly for around \$500.

Thanks to Don Jones and the Chabot College folks, we have full audio-visual support including connection to the Internet. We watched a video from a TV show of a 1947 Harley Davidson "Knucklehead" being duplicated in 1/8th scale. The builder, Jerry Kiefer, is known to most of us from the PRIME Show in Oregon. He thinks he'll have 10,000 hours involved in the build, which he thinks will take three more years. Don also showed a YouTube film that illustrates a build of a 12 cylinder air-powered motor.