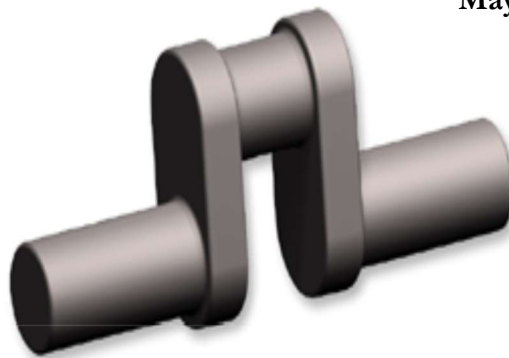


# The Crank Calls



President	Paul Denham	pedenham@comcast.net
Secretary	Your name here!	Please consider volunteering
Treasurer	Deirdre Denham	pedenham@comcast.net
Events Coordinator	Steve Hazelton	steve.hzltn@gmail.com
Webmaster	Mike Byrne	mgbyrne3@comcast.net
Editor/Printer	Wes Wagon	weswag@ix.netcom.com

**MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US**  
Contact Paul Denham at  
pedenham@comcast.net

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the**  
**Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse in**  
**Tilden Park, Orinda, CA**  
Gate opens at 9:00 am  
Meeting starts at 10:00 am  
Meeting will be outdoors, masks required.  
Social distancing will be observed.

**Upcoming Events**

BAEM meetings are usually 3rd Saturday of the month except December. Upcoming meetings:

- May 15, 2021 at GGLS
- June 19, 2021 at GGLS
- July 17, 2021 at GGLS

Watch Crank Calls, BAEM emails and BAEM web page for updates.

## MEETING NOTES

April 17, 2021  
BAEM met outside at Golden Gate Live Steamers on April 17, 2020. Twenty-four members were in attendance observing social distancing. President Paul Dunham mentioned the possibility of an outside table option at the Good Guys August show that would permit running internal combustion engines.

## NEW MEMBERS/VISITORS

BAEM members are reminded that visitors are welcome at our club meetings, and we're always looking for new members.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2021 dues of \$25 have been due since the beginning of the year. Pay now if you haven't already. Give your check to Paul Denham. Dues can also be mailed to Deirdre Denham at 1937 Merchant St, Crockett, CA 94525. Make checks payable to "BAEM".  
The BAEM club is solvent.

## CLUB BADGES

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

# Tom Armstrong

## 1935-2021

BAEM sadly notes the passing of Tom Armstrong, long time member of West Valley Live Steamers and Bay Area Engine Modelers. Tom passed away in early April, after a brief illness. He leaves his wife Eunice, two daughters and their families.

Tom's finished models include a Stuart Double 10, Minnie steam tractor, Dinky Deere hit 'n miss, Fairbanks Morse hit 'n miss, a Snow double acting four-cylinder engine, and two of the GEARS commemorative engines. He also made a Mark 2 Quorn tool and cutter grinder.

Tom was born into a sugar beet farm on the plains of North Dakota. He worked for most of his life in Mountain View on military electronics for GTE Sylvania / General Dynamics. His work was evidently all secret stuff: he never once talked about his work, except to say that he did testing of large computer systems. Perhaps this experience carried over into his conversion of a variable speed Bridgeport mill into a 2 ½ axis CNC. His later engines were built on this mill and a Nardini lathe.

No services will be held.



## **Glen Christoffersen**

1934 – 2021

BAEM sadly announces the passing of BAEM member Glen Christoffersen. Fellow BAEM member Ken Brunskill fondly recalls his many years of working with Glen on a wide variety of interesting mechanical equipment:

My history with Glen began in the 1980's. I met him at Ardenwood, where he was the crew Chief for the 1905 150 HP Best Steam Tractor. At the time the crew was repairing the boiler. Glen was very much involved with getting me into the avocation of steam powered equipment, from models to full size steam. Eventually I got more involved with full size steam and repaid the favor (got even with him) by involving him in repairing full size locomotives.

Glen got involved working on the Niles Canyon Railway, repairing equipment at the California Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Glen also worked at the old Bayshore SP Railyard in Brisbane, restoring a 0-6-0 Switcher. In Utah, we helped repair/restore steam locomotives at the Heber Valley Railway.

Glen introduced me to the GGLS in the late 1980's, leading me to own my 4 ¾" Gage 0-8-0 C16 that I ran at the track for several years. Yes, I still have it! With help from Glen, I have converted it from coal to propane. I'm finishing up that project. Sadly, Glen won't be there to see it in finished form.

Around 2000-2005, Glen had restored a full-size Russell Steam tractor. He exhibited it at the Half Moon Bay Dream Machine Show, at the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton, and other locations. I was lucky to have accompanied him on those occasions.

Over the years, Glen and I participated in several other shows devoted to both models and full-size equipment. We participated in an Early Day Gas Engine & Tractor National event in Wyoming. For 10 or more years, we participated in the Great Oregon Steam Up, at Salem, Oregon. The furthest we traveled was to New Zealand. Glen had gone to New Zealand for many years to participate in their Annual event called Modex, a show held yearly in January, (mid-summer there). I was fortunate enough to join him for trips there in 1998, 2000, and 2002. The highlight was in 2000, when we each built a model Stirling-powered tractor, winning best of show.

Seven years ago, Glen got me involved with the Bay Area Engine Modelers club (BAEM). This involvement resulted in our spending every Tuesday in my shop, where we built a couple of Stirling engines. Next, Glen started building a Parsell and Weed Horizontal hit and miss engine, while I began building an Atkinson Differential gas engine. We posted our progress on the Home Model Engine Machinist (HMEM) site <https://www.homemodelenginemachinist.com/>. It was a satisfying way to spend our time together, indulging in our shared love of things mechanical, and our friendship with one another.

He will definitely be missed.

## FIRST POPS

No First Pops this month.

## BITS AND PIECES

Long time BAEM member John Vietti and his wife were visiting the Bay Area from Wyoming and attended the meeting. Both John and collaborator Don Grimm have written model magneto build articles for Model Engine Builder. John brought several examples of both high tension (spark plug) and low tension (ignitor) magnetos, shown here:

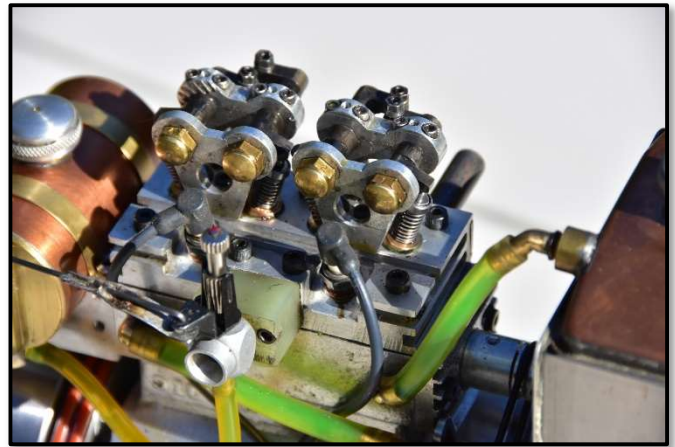


*Magnetos by John Vietti*

John also brought a nicely running "Silver Bullet." This is a 2 cylinder, 4-stroke, water-cooled, .66 cu in, overhead valve, spark ignited internal combustion engine with a .75" bore and .75" stroke. Designed by Bob Shores. It has a 180° crank and uses "O" rings instead of metal piston rings. The cam timing has almost no overlap, which John says helps it idle smoothly. Note the electric drill motor used as a starter motor, in the lower left:



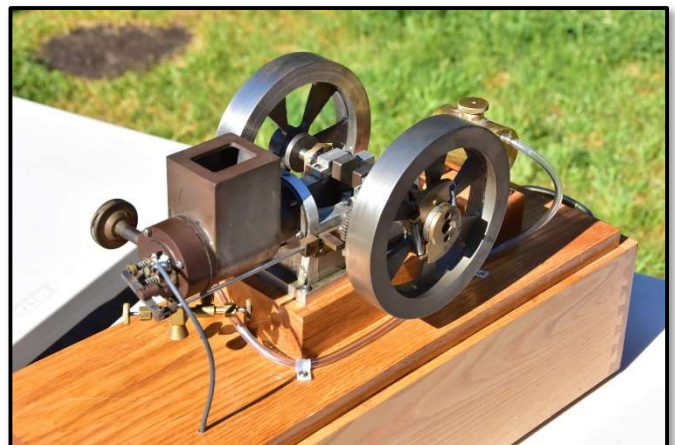
*Vietti's Silver Bullet*



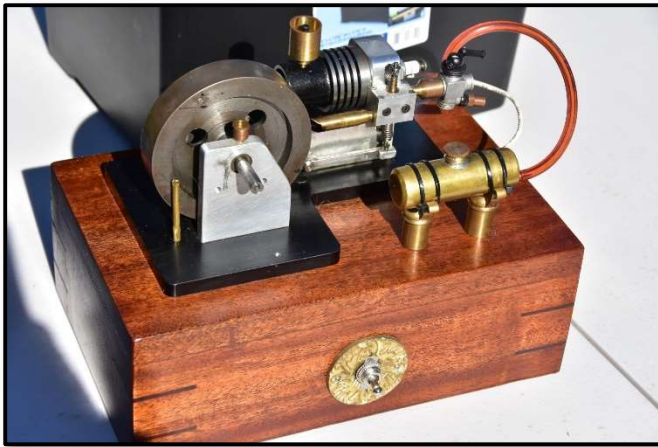
*Silver Bullet detail*

Joel Cohen brought another example of his single cylinder rotary valve engines. [Sorry, no picture available.]

Steve Hazelton showed a Philip Duclos "Odds N Ends" engine project he was finishing. It was mounted on a nice box and was mostly complete. First pops should occur after timing. He also brought his Webster.

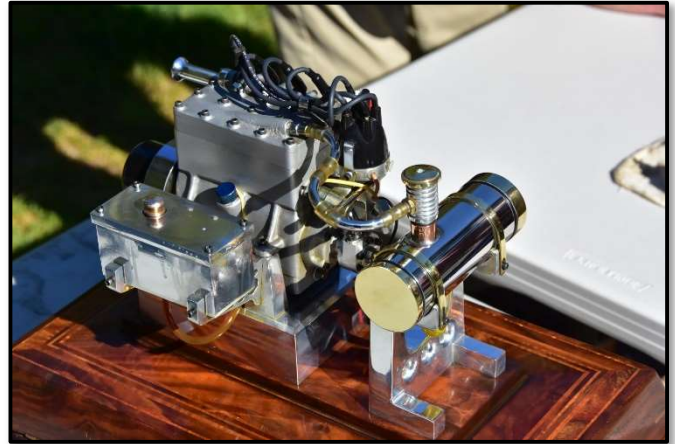


*Steve Hazelton's hit 'n miss*



*Steve Hazelton's Webster*

Bob Kradjian brought a nice running 15 cc version of Westbury's Seal straight 4, shown here:

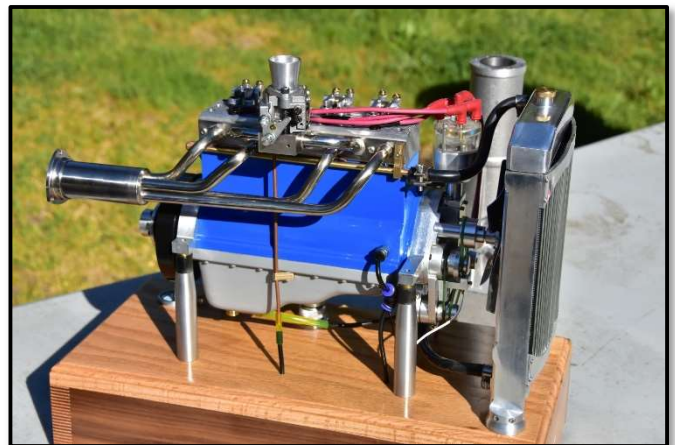


Peter Lawrence is making progress on two interesting engines (perhaps as an excuse for putting off cam grinding of his Merlin V12 project). He is working a 4 cylinder DeHavilland Cirrus aircraft engine using Strictly IC plans and a quarter scale 4 cylinder version of a Duesenberg straight 8 using original plans. Peter also brought in his Mitutoyo bore gage and discussed cylinder lapping compounds.



*Dr. Bob starts it, while Dwight looks on*

Paul Deham brought in his newly repainted Black Widow Four 4 and shared frustrations with paint wrinkling issues and ignition component failures.

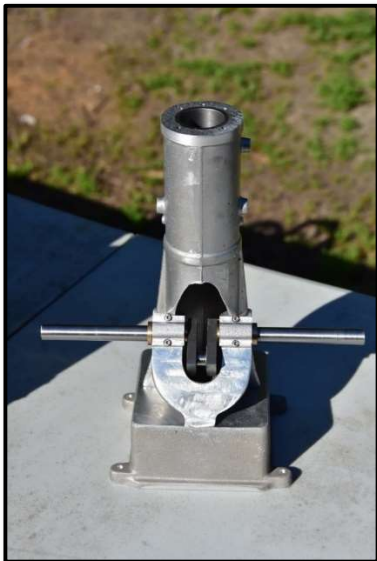


*Paul's Black Widow Four*

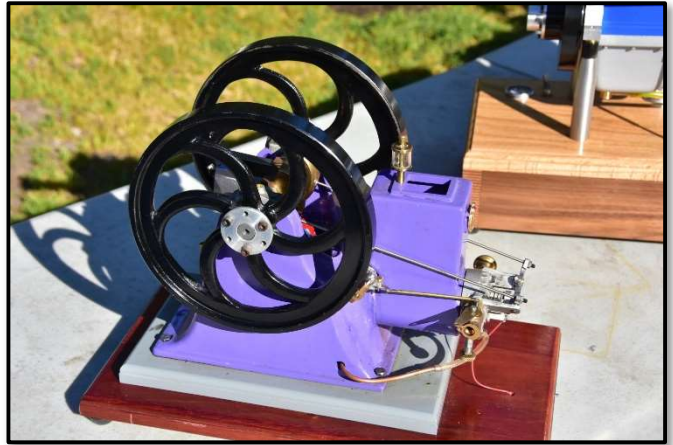


*Paul's Black Widow Four*

Paul also showed progress on his Red Devil IC engine casting kit. A nice 4140 crankshaft is shown in the picture below. This engine is a vertical hit and miss engine with an open-sided crankcase, a side-shaft with its wobble-plate cam on top, and a fly-ball governor. <https://www.shelfpetmodels.com/>



*Paul Denham's Red Devil*



*Paul's Atkinson Engine with Flyball Governor*

Mike Byrne completed the electronics box for his hybrid stepper rotary indexer and is about ready to cut gears. See last month's newsletter for details re this project.



*Stepper motor electronics in the box*

## RAMBLINGS

BAEM member Chuck Klor reports that on April 15, he returned home following open heart surgery and 2-1/2 weeks of hospitalization. Chuck says that he won't be able to attend a meeting for another three to four months.

The club wishes Chuck well, hoping for a speedy and uneventful recovery. Chuck, we look forward to seeing you again soon.

## FOR SALE

Dwight Giles has some stuff he is offering:

**-Castings & Drawings for Örkenrud 340 V8.** This is the same casting kit Wes is using for his build. Price is \$100 donation to club.

**-1.5 hp electric motor.** 1750 rpm. 110/220v AC single phase. Heavy! Price: Free!

**-Engine Mount Box.** Beautiful wooden box for mounting your larger engine. Perfect for a Black Widow V8. 3 available. Price is \$200 donation to club.

Contact Dwight at [jig313@aol.com](mailto:jig313@aol.com)  
or phone: 707-648-1481

--+--

Paul Denham mentioned that he had received an e-mail from someone saying he had a Unimat 3 available. If interested, ask Paul for contact details.

--+--

Got something you'd like to sell? Your ad is free and will be seen by likely customers.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

In the past, this newsletter largely focused on reporting about the most recent BAEM club meeting. With our meetings being somewhat inconsistent due to Covid regulations, we need appropriate content to include in upcoming newsletters. Workshop reports, tech articles, reviews, historical pieces: you contribute, we'll figure out how to post it. Send your contributions to either or both of us. Thanks!

-Mike Byrne at [mgbyrne3@comcast.net](mailto:mgbyrne3@comcast.net)

-Wes Wagnon at [weswag@ix.netcom.com](mailto:weswag@ix.netcom.com)

