

# **The Crank Calls**



November 2011

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## **MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US**

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### **NEXT MEETING**

**November 19, 2011** 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:  
November 19, 2011  
December 10, 2011  
January 21, 2012

### **MEETING NOTES**

October 15, 2011

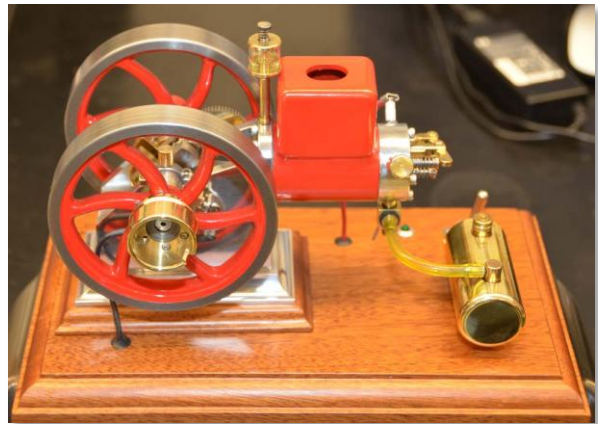
Bob Kradjian, Secretary

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

**Visitors:** A visitor was Gene Baker. A new member and first time attendee was John Place. We met John at the Quail Lodge BAEM show three years ago. Welcome John. Also, welcome back to Gary Moore after successful surgery!

**First Pops:** John Gilmore got a solid 10 seconds out of his newly completed Upshur Farm engine. This little beauty is of the same high quality of John's products. He tried powder coating with a low cost unit from Harbor Freight. A small toaster oven worked perfectly to cure the powder. He solved an electrical problem with a proper grounded for his condenser. He tucked a Tower Hobbies 12 volt battery in a nice oak case that looks as though Dwight had some influence in the design. Various members brainstormed the situation and some suggested less tension in the atmospheric intake

valve spring. We will await an update. We also know John is anxious to get going on his Black Widow V-8 project.



**GEARS Report:** The Portland, Oregon GEARS Show featured 320 engines and was well attended, even crowded, as on previous occasions. An unusual exhibit was an eight-foot Ferris Wheel. There was also a six cylinder Honda motorcycle all developed on a 3D printing machine using colored ink jet heads. The attendees honored our Dario Mecchi with a lifetime achievement award.

## In Memoriam

Dario L. Mecchi

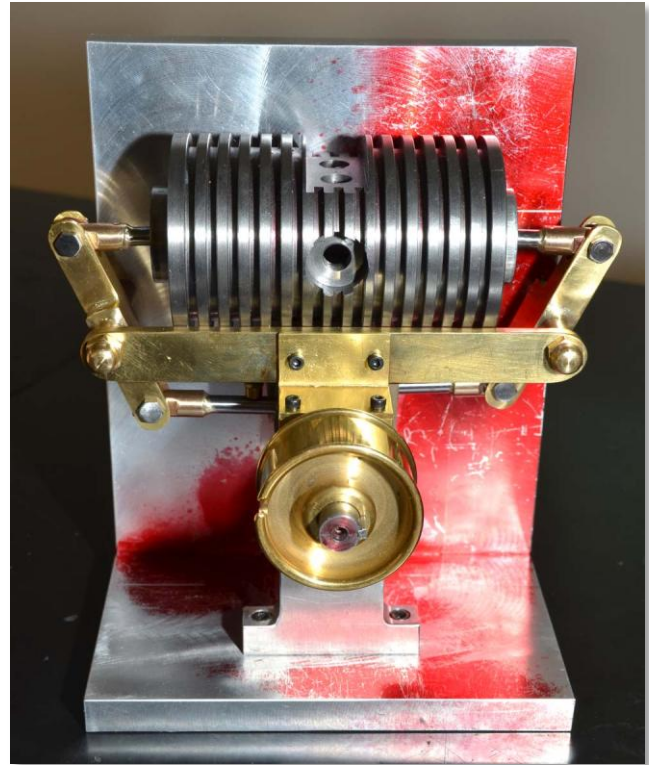
Feb. 15, 1928-Oct. 9, 2011



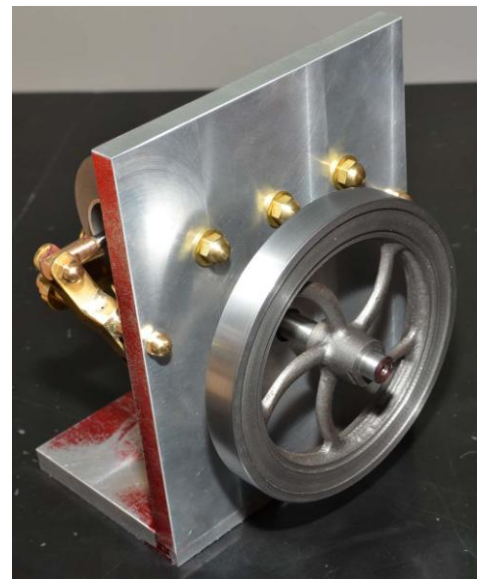
Shortly after the GEARS show, the Bay Area Engine Modelers lost a dear friend on October 9. Dario Mecchi died at his home of a brain tumor. He was a long time member of our club dating back to our very early years. The hallmark of Dario's presence was his sweet and omnipresent smile. He was a long time journeyman machinist with skills of the highest order. His career took him to many important companies where he was noted for his fastidious, excellent work. His fabulous Corliss steam engine won numerous awards and was a wonder to see and hear. It was honored with many featured photos in model publications. It will not be the same to have our club shows without his warm presence. Our group sends our loving support to Angela and son David.



## BITS AND PIECES:



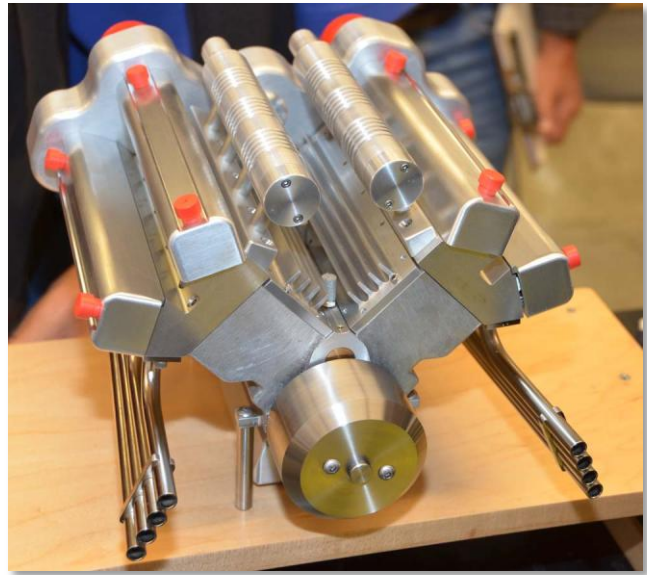
George Gravatt showed us his progress on his original opposed piston engine. He has now fitted a nifty curved-spoked flywheel and is arranging shafts, gears, cams, and a carb with a rotary barrel. Remember that all this building and designing stemmed from O'Connor's mock up of a Rootes-Lister engine. And, no; the red is layout dye and not the final color.



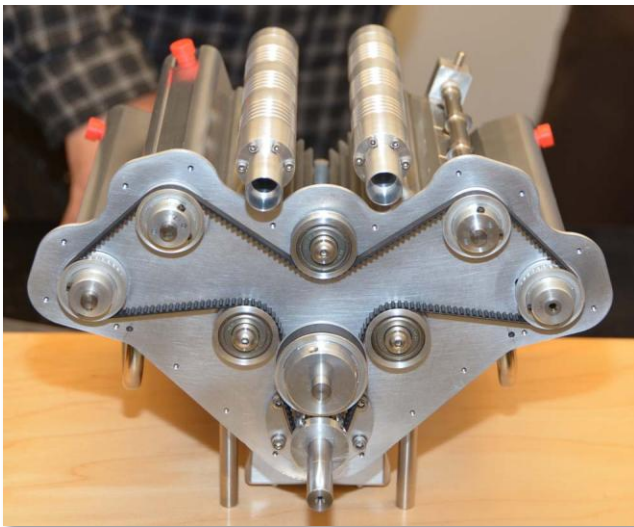




Dick Pretel dazzled us with the current development of his four cam V-8. Although it is based on the Challenger block, it retains little resemblance to that 1960's engine. The photos tell the story. Dave McMillan's artistry with his CAD-CAM equipment is apparent in the timing belt cover. He used titanium for the valves, stainless steel for the tubing. 7075 and 6061 aluminum was used throughout the build along with extensive fitting of ball bearings. A Paul Knapp water pump is used. He is planning a dual C and H ignition. The flywheel is a two-piece aluminum and stainless unit that is dynamically balanced. This will be a landmark engine when completed and is more evidence that our engine club is a world leader.

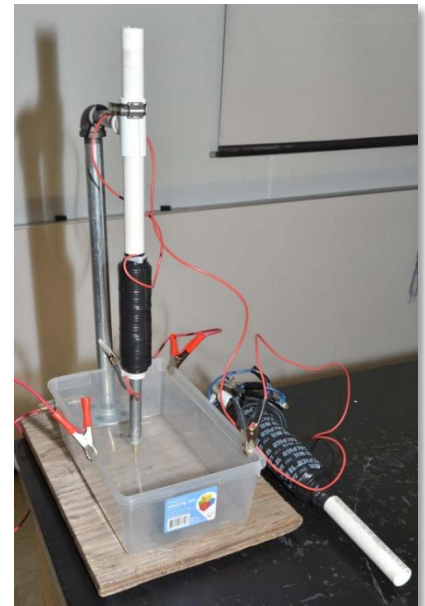


Tom Armstrong showed a beautiful water pump with a four-vane rotor. This is for his Snow project.



Mike Rehms showed us his version of Lynn Anfinson's low-cost 12 volt EDM. They met at the last Cabin Fever Show.

For a very complete description of this project, see Model Engine Builder, issue 26, page 18 for excellent photos, diagrams, and text. The



device is inexpensively built using plastic pipe, conduit tube, 12 or 10 gauge insulated wire, a car battery, and other items likely to be found in a home shop. This device would be best used as a broken

tap burner. The subject is wonderfully adapted to short videos. I would suggest going to YouTube; then entering "EDM at Cabin Fever" or "Electrical Discharge Machining". You will quickly find a lot of excellent illustrations of this modality. Mike emphasized safety: use a 60 amp fuse and respect sparks around vented lead acid batteries.

I recently received a call from our friend Craig Libuse at Sherline. He has an intriguing offer of part time employment build little engines! Here it is:

### **Get paid to build engines!**

The Joe Martin Foundation's Miniature Engineering Craftsmanship Museum in Carlsbad, CA is looking for a model engineer/tool maker to run the museum machine shop four days per week. This would be a paid position (salary negotiable) and possibly the best job in the world for the right person. The shop has produced a Seal engine, a Howell V4 and is now building a Kenner 5-cyl. radial. Future plans include a Black Widow V8. The modern, fully equipped shop is manned during the hours the museum is open so visitors can see a machinist at work and learn how metalworking tools are used. Engines are run for the visitors. The museum displays intricate models and miniatures of all kinds plus over 100 steam engines and over 200 IC engines.

The Carlsbad/Vista area of North San Diego County has what has been called "the best climate in the United States," and does not suffer the traffic and overcrowding found in Los Angeles or San Francisco. Only a few miles from the ocean, the shop is part of a new 16,000 square foot building that houses the museum itself.

Hours: Mon, Tue, Fri, Sat, 9-4 (28 hr/week)

To learn more about the foundation, museum and shop see [www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com](http://www.CraftsmanshipMuseum.com).

Contact museum director Craig Libuse for details.

Submit a resume to

[craig@craftsmanshipmuseum.com](mailto:craig@craftsmanshipmuseum.com) or call (760) 727-5857 and ask for Craig.