

The Crank Calls



President	Paul Denham	pedenham@comcast.net
Secretary	Your name here!	Please consider volunteering
Treasurer	Deirdre Denham	dedenham@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, December 14, 2024, at the Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse site in Tilden Park, Orinda, CA
Gate opens at **10:00 am**
Meeting starts at **11:00 am**
Potluck follows

Upcoming Events

- December 14: BAEM meeting/potluck at GGLS
- January 18: BAEM meeting at GGLS
- February 15: BAEM meeting at GGLS

See below for more details regarding events. Watch Crank Calls, BAEM emails and BAEM web page for updates. BAEM meetings are usually 3rd Saturday of the month except December.

MEETING NOTES

The Bay Area Engine Modelers met at the Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse on November 16, 2024. The meeting was slightly complicated by sharing the clubhouse with a scout GGLS maintenance outing. Paul Denham welcomed 16 members. He shared experiences showing engines at the Mare Island Maker Fair on October 19. That event was well attended, and our display of engines generated a lot of interest. However, the logistics were awkward, so Paul elected to show only on Saturday.



The Meeting

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

Paul Denham reported the club's finances are in good shape.

CLUB BADGES

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

SHOWS AND EVENTS

At last month's meeting, Paul reminded members of the annual potluck luncheon scheduled for the second Saturday in December (December 14). This is our club's one and only social event of the year, so all members are encouraged to attend, along with their spouses and other guests.

Deidre Denham has offered to coordinate food preparation to ensure a reasonable variety of foods and lessen the risk of ending up with only 16 plates of brownies. Members are asked to contact Deidre at dedenham@comcast.net and let her know you are planning to attend, number of guests, and what food items you're planning on bringing.

FIRST POPS

No first pops at the last meeting.

BITS AND PIECES

Charlie Reiter brought in a large model boiler assembly. Made mostly of copper, it was a Suffolk Steam (<https://www.suffolksteam.co.uk/>) boiler based on a Yorkshire design. Original application was to power British steam waggons (British spelling, according to Charlie).



Charlie's boiler

Charlie also brought a very nice Heisler geared locomotive displaying it on the GGLS round table outside.



Ray Fontaine acquired a Martin Models Mery "Explosive" Engine casting kit. (<https://www.martinmodel.com/products/mery-engine-casting-set>) The kit includes gear castings, but Martin no longer offers machined gears. Last month Ray brought fixtures he built to cut the gears on the Tormach CNC mill. This month he showed the machined cast iron gears.

Ray also mentioned some valve leakage issues he was having with hot tube engine project. Dwight Giles suggested milling a slot on the face of the valve and lapping the valve seat by pressing down on the valve head while applying a rotating motion. This is much more efficient than trying to exert pressure on the valve seat by pulling on the valve stem.

GGLS received a large Challenger horizontal hit and miss engine and asked Paul Denham to get it running. Paul's first attempts had some issues, and he spent some time reworking the buzz coil ignition. He ran the engine after the meeting.



Paul gets the Challenger running

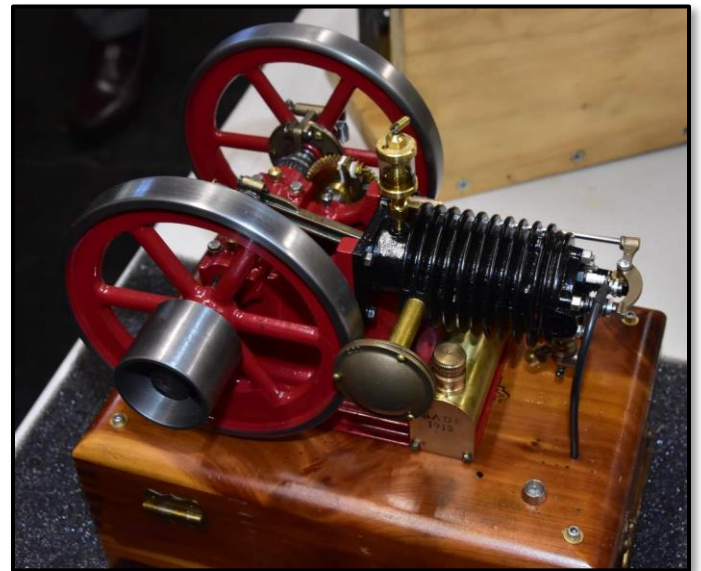
Peter Lawrence brought in the telephone magnetos he set up to interest kids at engine shows. Cranking one magneto will ring bells. Cranking the other will light a strobe. Peter has room on the setup for a third magneto and asks for suggestions on how to demonstrate the generation of electrical power.



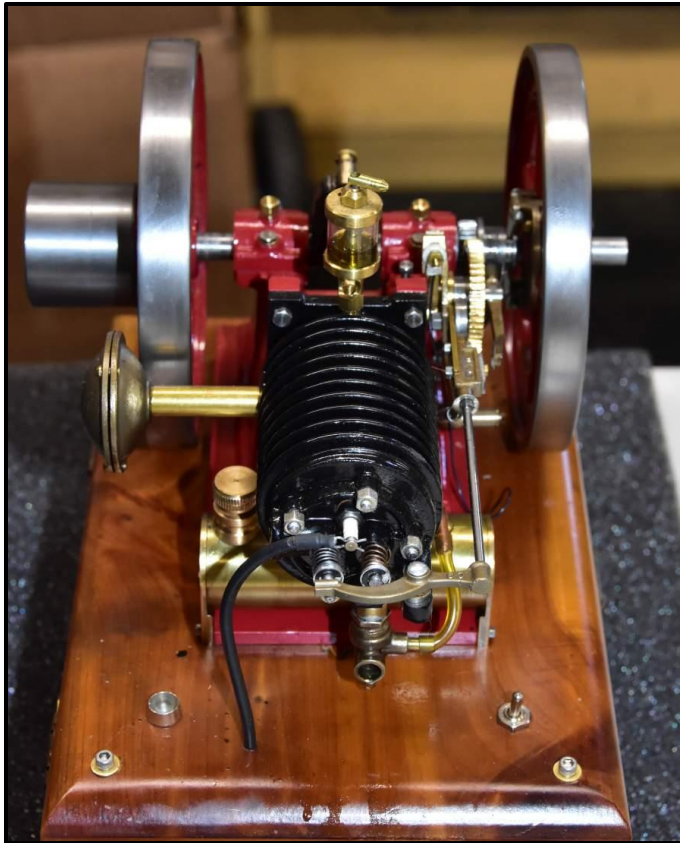
Peter's magneto exhibit

Someone brought in a car license plate holder labeled with "Bay Area Engine Modelers" and the web site URL (baemclub.com).

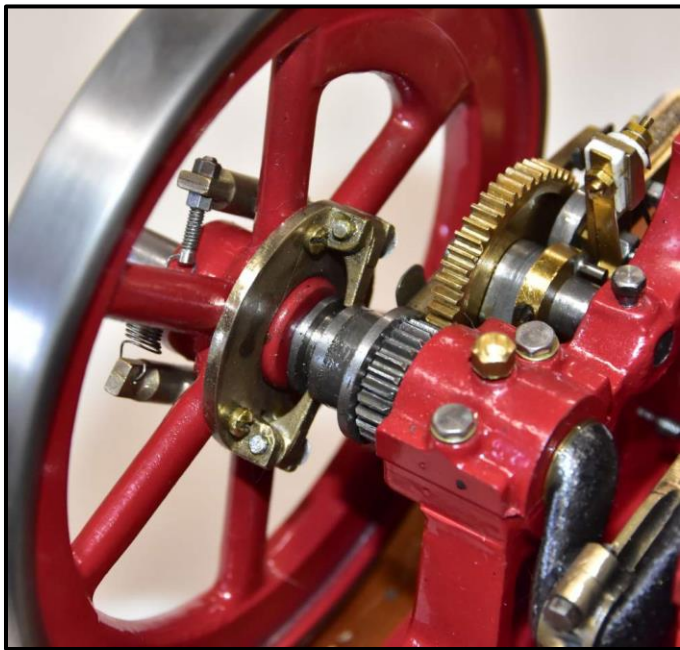
Paul Denham brought in his 1/4 scale model of the 1912 Gade horizontal hit and miss engine, which was featured in last August's BAEM Crank Calls. Larry Zurbrick took some nice photos showing the details of Paul's fine craftsmanship, which we share below.



Paul Denham's 1912 Gade



Head view of Paul's Gade



Detail view, Paul's Gade

Paul Denham also brought in some cast iron cylinder head castings that he got from Dwight Giles. Apparently, Dwight has about 20 of these. They were intended for a two-stroke engine. Here's what they look like:



Cast iron castings from Dwight

Paul had no interest in building a two-stroke, but thought these would work fine as an air-cooled motorcycle engine model. He machined them with cooling fins and bored the cylinder out to 1".

Paul described his plan: "I have made a Hoglet V twin, and I like it and its simple open construction. It resembles a HD, which is why it is called a Hoglet. But I always wanted a Ducati that has 90-degree cylinders. So, I thought, why not make a Ducett? But I have 4 cylinders? OK, how about a 4-cylinder Ducett? Two crank throws with 2 fork blade con rods, and the crank throws at 180 degrees. With push rod valves like a Hoglet on both outboard crank plates."

And so, work began. Here's a photo showing initial progress:



Paul's 4-cylinder Ducett

RAMBLINGS

As we look back on the past year, we need to acknowledge the significant contribution of time and energy by our leader, Paul Denham, whose efforts keep this club humming along. Stop and think for a moment about all that he does. Serves as chairperson over the meetings, which includes advance planning, checking in with club members to make sure we've got people to show stuff. Coordinates with the GGLS folks. Serves as contact person for the club. Makes sure the club treasurer does her job. Answers the phone when someone calls the club. Serves as a technical resource for those seeking solutions to machining challenges. Contributes his time and energy to our club appearances at craft shows, such as the Maker Faire and the GGLS open house, to ensure these are successful events for our club. Oh, he also finds time to be tremendously productive in his own workshop, providing the club with fine examples of superior craftsmanship that serve to inspire us all.

Thanks Paul, for all that you do.

Working on an interesting project? Got a great BAEM story? Share it with us here. Send us pics and project details, and your hard work will be shared with the entire club.

FOR SALE

Free to a good home: back issues of *Home Shop Machinist*, *Projects in Metal*, and *Machinist's Workshop*. About 3 linear feet of shelving. Local pickup only. Carl Wilson talleyho123@yahoo.com

BAEM member Jim Piazza has two items that he is offering to sell:

--A boiler. Asking \$125.

--A Holridge Radius Cutter. Asking \$375

Photos of both were provided in last month's BAEM Crank Calls.

If you're interested in acquiring either of these, contact Jim at jdanzpiazza@comcast.net or call him at 408-446-4825.

BAEM member Chuck Klor recently purchased a number of items from PM Research with the intention of constructing a model engine powered by live steam.

Item	Cost
Water gauge.....	\$31.00
Pressure gauge with syphon	\$84.00
Water tank	\$69.00
Water pump fully machined	\$69.00
Steam boiler kit.....	\$289.00
Safety valve	\$21.00
Solder and flux	\$14.00
ESBIT dry fluid 2 boxes @\$12.00 ea....	\$24.00

This listing shows the items purchased, and what Chuck paid for them. All the items are new, in their original packaging.

Chuck has changed his mind regarding this model project. Rather than deal with the gory details of returning all these items to PM Research, Chuck would prefer to turn them over to another BAEM member who would be inclined to use them in a steam-powered project of their own. Chuck asks that whoever wants these to make a \$100 donation to the club, and the entire bunch is yours.

Chuck will bring all these items to the next meeting. If you have any questions, you can reach Chuck at klorconsulting@yahoo.com.

The club thanks Chuck for his generous contribution. We look forward to hearing about the build details of the project by the lucky buyer!

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

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION

Your contributions to this newsletter are appreciated: workshop reports, tech articles, reviews, historical pieces, whatever. You contribute, we'll figure out how to post it. Send your contributions to either or both of us. Thanks!

-Mike Byrne at mgybyrne3@comcast.net

-Wes Wagon at weswag@ix.netcom.com