

The Crank Calls



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MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US

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NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, July 20, 2024, at the
Golden Gate Live Steamers clubhouse site in
Tilden Park, Orinda, CA**

Gate opens at **9:00 am**
Meeting starts at **10:00 am**

Upcoming Events

- July 20: BAEM meeting at GGLS
- Aug 17: BAEM meeting at GGLS
- Sept 14: BAEM meeting at GGLS (Note: date of meeting moved up a week.)
- Sept 14 & 15: GGLS Fall Meet/Open House
- Oct 18-20: Maker Faire at Mare Island

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

June 15, 2024, was a beautiful day in the Berkeley Hills, so the Bay Area Engine Modelers held their meeting outside at the Golden Gate Live Steamers site in Tilden Park. This meeting was conducted in conjunction with the GGLS Spring Meet and Open House. Twenty BAEM members attended, along with several GGLS guests. Paul Denham welcomed attendees.

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 that the club's finances are in good shape. On behalf of the club, Paul expressed his deep appreciation for Deirdre Denham's work as BAEM treasurer and income tax consultant.

2024 BAEM dues of \$25 are payable. Checks can be mailed to Deirdre Denham at 1937 Merchant St, Crockett, CA 94525. Make checks payable to "BAEM".

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

Engine shows and similar events provide an opportunity for BAEM members to display their craftsmanship to an appreciative audience. They also serve to publicize our club's existence to potential future members, helping build our membership.

BAEM encourages all its members to participate in shows. Your help is needed to populate our display tables. You don't need an impressive collection of model engines to display. In fact, you can help without anything at all to display, as we always need people to provide coverage. It's a lot of fun interacting with members of the public, explaining what the engine model building process is all about.

-GGLS Spring Meet and Open House

GGLS held their "Spring Meet" on Saturday/Sunday, June 15-16, at the GGLS site. BAEM members attended and displayed their engines. Peter Lawrence ran his Merlin V12 and fired up his Hansen vertical. Paul Denham and Ray Fontaine showed their work. Charlie Reiter showed his scratch-built McLaughlin 1:6 scale steam tractor (see below).



Ray Fontaine shows some of his fine engine work at the GGLS Spring Meet/Open House



A very nice lunch was served at the GGLS Spring Meet

-GGLS Fall Meet and Open House

Looking ahead, GGLS will be holding their "Fall Meet" on September 14 & 15. It's an event very similar to the recent "Spring Meet," except, well, it's in the Fall. BAEM members are encouraged to attend and display their engines to an appreciative audience. Our Sept meeting has been moved to the 14th for this event.

-Maker Faire

Another show opportunity this October is the Maker Faire Bay Area, held at Mare Island Naval Shipyard on October 18-20, 2024.

Here's their website:

<https://makerfaire.com/bay-area/>

Steve Hazelton will be coordinating.

FIRST POPS

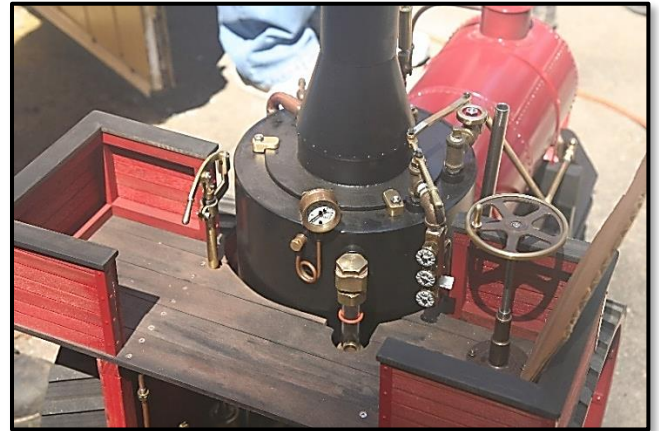
No first pops at last month's meeting.

BITS AND PIECES

Charlie Reiter brought in his scratch-built McLaughlin 1:6 scale steam tractor. This very impressive tractor features two drive wheels and a single front wheel. The original was designed to run on wood, coal, or oil. This tractor had a vertical steam engine suited for flat California fields while other steam tractors of the era used horizontal steam engines for stability on sloped fields.



*Charlie Reiter and his McLaughlin steam tractor.
Note the use of a man-sized image to provide scale.
Nice touch Charlie!*



Note the fine detail in Charlie's tractor, including miniature pressure gauge.

Charlie also brought in his three-cylinder steam powered outboard motor.

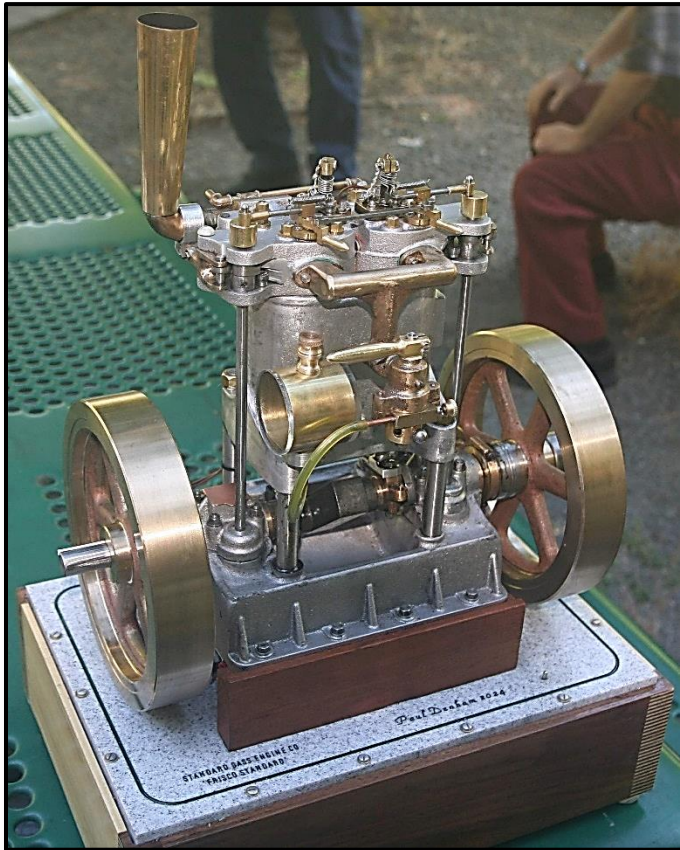


Charlie's outboard motor engine.



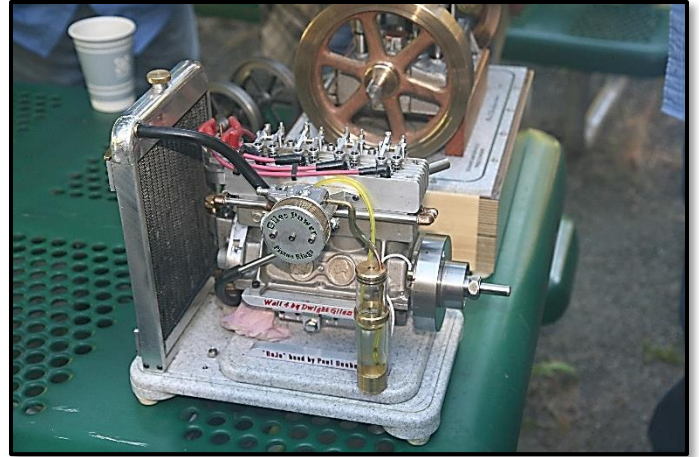
Mike Byrne, Paul Denham and Mike Rehmus contemplate Paul's Frisco Standard Twin

Paul Denham ran his Frisco Standard twin cylinder vertical engine, now using low tension ignitors. He describes some of his tweaks for resolving issues with ignition, compression, and carburation. For example, the high compression in one cylinder was preventing ignition.



Paul's very fine Frisco Standard twin.

Paul has also started work on a Gade horizontal hit and miss. He acquired the casting kit from Dwight Giles who paid \$200 around 1990. Martin's current catalog price is \$375. Paul was very impressed with the high quality and dimensional accuracy of the cast iron and silicon bronze castings. We look forward to updates regarding his progress with this build.



Wall four by Dwight and Paul.

When Paul picked up Dwight to come to the meeting, Dwight suggested bringing along a Wall 4 that they had serially machined. The engine had not run in some time and Paul was initially unable to start it. Post meeting efforts were more successful. Peter Lawrence believes root cause of the running problems is the weed whacker carburetor, designed to run best at either idle or full throttle.



Peter's Hanson

Peter Lawrence brought his Hanson derived throttle governed single cylinder vertical and his Merlin V-12 to show. He ran the Hanson before the meeting and was able to start the Merlin but described some tuning issues. He passed around some replacement shop-made ignition plugs. He also suspects valve issues may prevent running at higher rpm.



Peter adjusts his Merlin V12

GGLS President John Sargent shared that they had just received two model engine donations. One was a steam engine and the other was a large Challenger horizontal hit and miss engine. The Challenger had a builder's label: "R. Frederich 2004". He was hoping to

get some BAEM help in getting the engines running. Paul Denham expressed interest and offered to help.

RAMBLINGS

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

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 mgbyrne3@comcast.net

-Wes Wagon at weswag@ix.netcom.com