

The Crank Calls



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MEMBERSHIP \$25.00 US

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NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, October 12, 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

- Oct 12: BAEM meeting at GGLS (Note: **date of meeting moved up a week.**)
 - Oct 18-20: ~~Maker Faire at Mare Island~~ **Canceled!**
 - November 12: BAEM meeting at GGLS
 - December 14: BAEM meeting/potluck 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 September 14, 2024. Paul Denham welcomed 16 members. The date of this meeting was moved up a week, to coincide with the GGLS Fall Meet, and encourage GGLS members to attend our meeting. Several GGLS members attended.

Paul noted further upcoming adjustments to BAEM meeting schedules. The October meeting will also move up a week to Oct 12th to deconflict with the Maker Fair the following week.



September 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 that the club's finances are in good shape.

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.

-Maker Faire Bay Area Canceled!

The Maker Faire Bay Area will be held at Mare Island Naval Shipyard on October 18-20, 2024. We were planning to participate in this event, showing our engines as we did last year. However, it was decided to cancel our involvement.

Steve Hazelton and Paul Denham will provide details at our upcoming October 12 meeting.

Here's the Maker Faire website:

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

FIRST POPS

No first pops at last month's meeting. Keep working on your build!

BITS AND PIECES

Over the last several meetings, Paul Denham has been providing us with regular reports of his construction of a model 1862 vintage Benson Pillar steam engine.



Paul's Benson Pillar steam engine

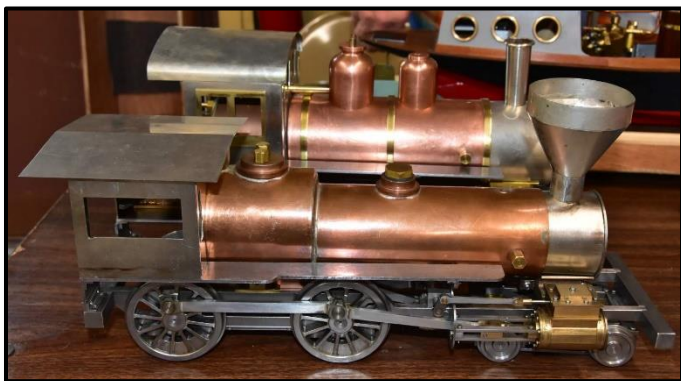
This month, Paul described his most recent improvements on this project. He has been fine tuning the steam engine, getting it to run smoothly. He has the fly ball governor working. He noted the machining challenges he encountered, having to deal with very small parts and screws. For example, he had to fabricate a custom open-end wrench to fit over a 0.090" screw head. Paul now considers the project finished. As you can see from the accompanying photos, he is justly proud of his fine work.



Close view of the fly-ball mechanism.

Among his personal history of fine home-shop machine work are two impressive steam engines constructed by Peter Lawrence, which he shared with us. Both were constructed from stock materials, and both run on compressed air.

One project was a **Pennsylvania A3 Switcher**. This was one of Peter's first model engine machining projects, based on Kozo Hiraoka's book of the same name.



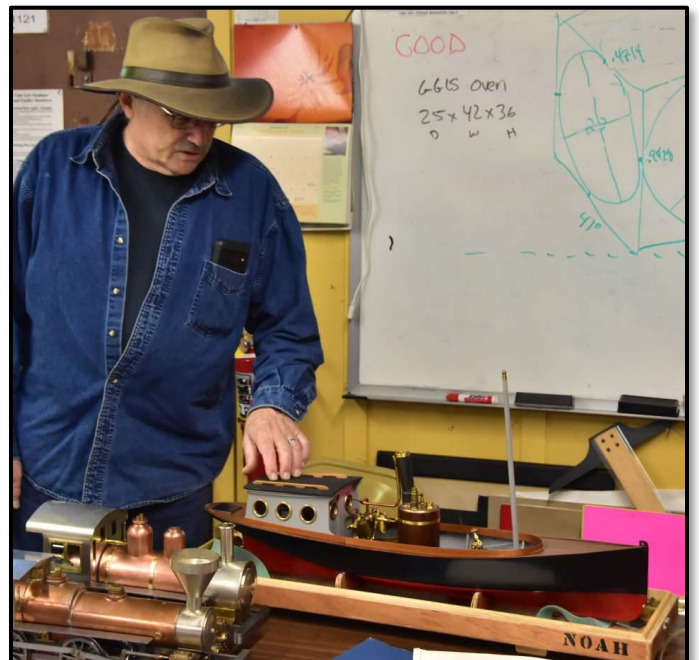
*Peter's model steam engines. The engine in the rear is a model of a **Pennsylvania A3 Switcher**. In the foreground is Peter's model of a **Baldwin American 4-4-0**.*



A Baldwin American 4-4-0 on display.

The second engine was a Baldwin American 4-4-0. Peter saw one of these engines on display in the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. Peter designed his model of this engine, using photographs he took at the museum, and a museum brochure. Peter began work on this project many years ago, but set the locomotive aside to peruse other interests. He recently got back to it, getting it running for the Golden Gate Live Steamers open house.

More information about this museum display can be found [here](#).



Charlie's model steam boat.

Charlie Reiter brought a small (to him) steam powered boat model. The steam engine is fired by a boiler, burning propane gas as fuel. The boat is equipped with two-channel radio control (steering/throttle). Charlie acquired the hull, which came in a nicely fitting wooden case.



Charlie's steam boat with fitted case.



Closer view of steam engine and boiler.

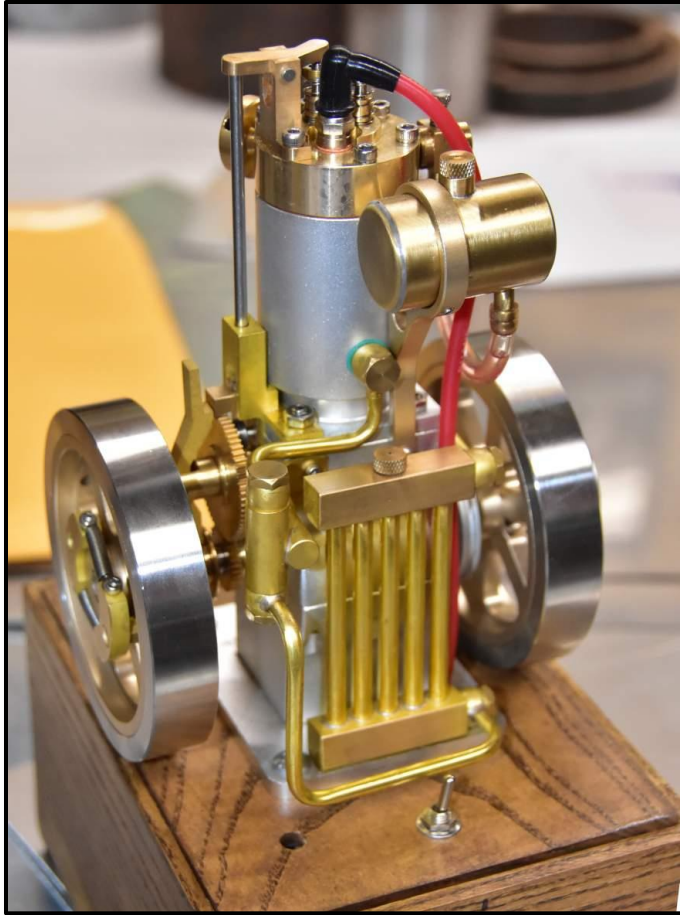


Charlie fabricated the fuel tank to be easily removable, for ease in filling it with propane.

Charlie planned to show at the San Francisco Model Yacht Club event "2024 Model Boats on Parade" on September 15, at Sreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park. Click [here](#) for more information about this event.

Chuck Klor recently acquired a vertical IC model engine kit from BangGood (<https://usa.banggood.com>). The listing description is: "Eachine ETX Hit & Miss Gas Vertical Engine Stirling Engine Model Upgraded Version Water Cooling Cycle Engine Collection – Silver". This confused description suggests a seller with a less than perfect understanding of the mechanical nature of their products.

Chuck described the challenges he faced in getting BangGood to ship replacement parts for some that were damaged.



Chuck Klor's BangGood model engine.

After installing the new parts, he couldn't get it to run. He asked Paul Denham for help. Paul discovered the spark plug was faulty (perhaps because it was made of plastic). Paul got it to run with a new plug. Chuck was very pleased.

BangGood is now offering a variety of model engine kits, including hit and miss and throttle governed in several configurations.

Anthony Rhodes brought in three of Kozo Hiraoka's locomotive build books published by Village Press: Shay, Heisler, and Climax. Anthony was motivated by the Peter Lawrence discussion at the August meeting, regarding Peter's linear algebra derivation of dimetric projected drawings. Readers will recall that Peter was highly impressed with the clarity of Kozo's technical illustrations and sought to emulate that clarity in drawings of some of his own recent projects. Peter has been applying his derivation to draw some parts and has discovered that manually drawing the required construction lines could be quite tedious. He is reportedly reconsidering his disdain for CAM software and may even be considering taking a class.

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