

SASMEE BULLETIN

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MODEL
& EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERS

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THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF
MODEL AND EXPERIMENTAL ENGINEERS

NOVEMBER 1994

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* BITS & PIECES *

by Norm Kernich

HELP !!!

While your Committee were discussing the format of the club bulletin it was suggested that some notes about running days, news of member's new models, information about new projects and so on would help to add colour and interest to the production.

I have (probably rashly) offered to collect and write such items for a regular quarterly issue of the Bulletin, but I need your help. I'm usually involved for most of the time on field days around or in the pond so don't get to see much of what is happening on the tracks or the steam house.- So please come and communicate. Let's have your "Bits & Pieces" of information.

Speaking of the pond, it has been good to see more activity lately in this area.

On Sunday Oct. 4th there was a fine turn-out with Gerry and Mary Turner's paddle-wheeler and steam launch, Alan Saunders with his mine-sweeping armed trawler, a member (my apologies for forgetting his name) with his model of S.A.'s own sailing ship, One and All and also a yacht and Norm K. with his trawler and two hydro's.

Then on Sept. 17th, Allan Wallace produced his steamboat fitted with a variable pitch propellor.

Oct. 2nd was a rather damp and poorly attended day (football final, Bathurst, and the weather was against us.) but we welcomed some visitors from Horsham. Kevin Hutchinson and his family were taking notes on the points operation for the new track of the Wimmera Model Engineer and Live Steam Society at Golf Course Road, Horsham. The society is only a few months old but Kevin had photographs to prove what an enormous amount of work has already been done. There are as yet only 12 in the society of whom 6 are hands-on workers so there progress is evidence of their enthusiasm.

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According to former member John Norris, heard on "Australia all Over", that the "MARION" which was restored at Mannum was in steam on Oct. 2nd and is due to be re-commissioned on Nov. 20.th.

On Nov. 19th, the Mayor of Unley, Michael Keenan, a vice patron of SASMEE will be our guest at the public field day.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION.

The club has purchased 4 "walkie Talkies" as an aid to maintaining a more effective communication method during busy field days.

MINUTE SECRETARY.

Glen Templeman is filling the gap of Minute Secretary during the absence of John Cartmell.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

Members are advised that due to the requirements of the Taxation Department our financial year will commence in July and finish at the end of June. The annual general meeting will be held in July. This move is effective 1995.

1995 CONVENTION.

Members are advised that the 1995 Convention will be held in Townsville, Queensland. More information is available from the SASMEE secretary.

MODEL RAILWAY SHOW.

The annual model railway show will be held in June of 1995. SASMEE has reserved a stand in the Wayville Pavilion. Members who intend to display an exhibit are urged to keep this period free. More details when the time is closer.

SICK LIST.

Member Hugh Whisson is in hospital. Hugh is having a bit of a battle, but being in good hands will ensure Hugh a speedy recovery.

MATERIAL SUPPLIES.

For members requiring smaller quantities of copper tube, copper sheet, plus bronze and brass sections try Wright and Company, 64 Wood Ave. Ridleyton 5008. Phone 08-340 2711.

A recommended supplier of steel sections is, A.J.Stock 3 Visor Crt. Holden Hill. 263 4233.

SASMEE PARK BOOKING.

Members are asked to attend a special field day on Sunday the 20th November. (3rd Sunday) The booking relates to a school Xmas party for which the club will financially benefit. A good roll up of Locos will make the day a success.

GENERAL NOTES.

In the last bulletin there were a couple of omissions and errors that need correction:

- a. Committee member and Boiler inspector is R. Bridgeman NOT J. Bridgeland as indicated. (As Ron pointed out, you could embarrass one's self by ringing the wrong person)
- b. The club public officer is Angus Templeman. this important position was inadvertently omitted from the executive listing in the last Bulletin. Apologies from the Editor.
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- c. Club hosts are Fred Gordon and Colin Cook.

SASMEE PATRONS and VICE PATRONS.

PATRON

The Hon. Diana Laidlaw. MLC
Minister For Transport; The Arts;
The Status of Women.

VICE PATRON:

His Worship, The Mayor of The City of Unley,
Mr Michael Keenan.

VICE PATRON:

The Member for Unley
Mr. Mark K. Brindal MP.

A BIT OF HISTORY

"Port Line Observations" was the appropriate title chosen by Ralph Skewes when he gave a most interesting and informative illustrated talk at the September meeting. Ralph's reminiscing brought back many memories for those people who were familiar with the old Port line. Members were treated to a collection of stories and history about an era when steam ruled supreme as the mode of transport for moving people and goods in the Woodville and Kilkenny area. The slides shown during Ralph's talk clearly captured the past and allowed members to make a comparison with the present. A most enjoyable evening presented by a person who was there when it was all happening. Many thanks to Ralph.

FOR SALE

AL2 Model Marine Petrol Engine. 25cc.

Suitable for large scale model boat. 4 Stroke. Water cooled. Overhead camshaft. Magneto ignition. Recoil starter. Silencer. Spare plug. Centrifical clutch. As new. Complete with all instructions. \$150.

Phone:- Norm. Kernich (08) 269 3684.

WARNING DEVICES FOR MODEL "DIESEL" AND/OR ELECTRIC LOCOS

Having rigged up an electric horn on my electric locomotive and fiddled and persevered with it for some time, I was not altogether happy with the results for two reasons: The acoustic output was nothing to rave about. I had two 4" diameter speakers mounted in the front of the engine and these had to be shrouded in plastic wrap to keep out dust and grit etc. Similarly the amplifier and tone generators had to be well isolated from grit and dust. All in all, although each speaker was handling about five watts of output it was surprising how meagre the acoustic output appeared under running conditions. So back to the basic engineering approach to any project. Was there a simpler way to achieve a better result? ---- YES!

I purchased a Triple Tone Air Horn from K-Mart. As anticipated the acoustic output was far in excess of what was required and it sounded like something you might hear on some of the souped-up "Bombs" that terrorize the suburbs! However a few alterations produced a very acceptable result. I cut the major length of each trumpet from each of the three air horns, leaving a short stub of tube about 3" in length. To these tubes I attached three pieces of garden hose, the longest being about 6" in length. I then tuned each piece of hose by varying the length until a very acceptable triple tone was achieved.

The acoustic output without the trumpets is now reduced to a more realistic level but the unit still has plenty of punch. The result, a simple, powerful, robust horn which sounds great and doesn't take up much room inside the front of the locomotive.

Article by: Ian Clark
Hon. Sect.
SASMEE.

TECHNICAL MATTERS

The next issue of the Bulletin will feature the details of a 2 way steam valve (typical for drain cocks etc) as made by member Fred Gordon. Constuction is simple and could be the answer you have been looking for. Workshop plans are currently in the hands of the Draftsperson.

John Culshaw has been working on the large SASMEE Vee twin air compressor and is close to being ready for service.

SASMEE GENERAL MEETING EVENTS

DECEMBER: Film night
JANUARY: SASMEE inter-club run. (more news later)
FEBRUARY: Talk on the Port Dock Station.
MARCH: Illustrated talk on the measurement of surface finish. "How smooth is smooth?"
APRIL: Talk on Penzance oils (more details later)
MAY & JUNE: Speakers wanted
JULY: Annual General Meeting. 4

STEAM HOUSE NEWS

article by Colin Cook

The underfired multi-tubular boiler has recently undergone its annual survey by boiler inspector Mr. Bernie Dickinson and was passed, fit to supply steam for another year. The club is indebted to Bob Scanlan and Allan Brabham for their efforts in the considerable amount of work necessary to enable the inspection to be made.

We miss the presence of the late Wally Mann who interested himself in all aspects of the steamhouse and was known as "Mr Engine Driver". At the time of his death Wally was nearing the completion of a beautifully crafted small steam traction engine.

Regarding fuel, we thank those members for the steady supply of timber cut to the correct length ready for firing, also thanks to Andrew Malooka for keeping the ashpan clear.

The visitors on field days display a lot of interest in the small engines on the bench, especially a three cylinder triple expansion marine type engine with Stephenson's link motion reversing gear. Bryon Homann has kindly loaned the engine to the club for display.

Visitors often enquire why a mirror very nicely installed in a sandwich board type stand is placed on the lawn outside the bench of the boiler house. Some even guess correctly that it is not for the staff to admire themselves, but to enable the fireman to conveniently observe the amount of smoke (if any) coming from the chimney. Thanks to Phil. Waugh for constructing this useful bit of equipment.

COBDOGLA IRRIGATION MUSEUM

On the recent October long weekend whilst touring the Barmara area I took the opportunity to visit the above venue. If its seeing steam, watching things go round, feeling things go thump under foot and be thoroughly intrigued (confused in my case) as how the Humphrey Pump works a visit to the Museum is a MUST!.

The main items on show and working are the Humphrey pump, the Fowler B6 crane traction engine and the 2ft gauge Bagnal Locomotive. There is a very interesting undercover historic display covering the Riverland in bygone years. Refreshments are available. Cost of entry is \$4 for adults, once inside all rides are free. Those intending to visit the complex are advised to check with the local tourist office as the Humphrey pump only operates 4 times per year.

I have a list of operating days if any one is interested which covers to June 11th 1995. Next general steamdays is 9th of October '94. and the 1st of January '95. The National Steamboat Rally is to be held on the 26th to the 29th of January '95. The next time the Humphrey pump is scheduled to operate is the 29th of January '95. The whole show is run by volunteers and everyone is made to feel most welcome.

Bill Coles