

Metro Detroit Metalworking Club

Newsletter

Volume 3, Number 7 (July, 1999)

NEXT MEETING

The Portland (Michigan) Machinists' Guild will be having its next meeting on Tuesday, July 20 at 7 PM. The MDMC is invited. Bob Edelstein will be showing and discussing his model airplane engine collection. Please contact MDMC president Bob Lorenz for further details and location.

The August 1999 meeting of the Metro Detroit Metalworking Club will be a special meeting held in conjunction with the Buckley engine show. Our meeting will be held on Friday, August 20th at Bob Lorenz' house (about 8 miles from Buckley). Bob has also offered crash space (bring your own air mattress) and camping space with electricity for those who might wish to stay at his place. He'll be there through the entire Buckley show.

For more information on the club, contact our President, Bob Lorenz,

MEETING NOTES

The July meeting was a special all-day event on Wednesday, July 14 featuring rides in N.A.M.E.S. member Tom Stockton's homebuilt steam launch *Arbor Queen*. Many thanks both to Tom for sponsoring such a wonderful event and to his wife for the food afterwards.

We met at Tom's place before noon and prepared the boat. Tom's launch is based around a 1916 vintage 20 foot long steel lifeboat. On this Tom has build a wood-fired vertical fire-tube boiler and a two-cylinder compound condensing steam engine. Visualize the "African Queen" and you'll have a pretty good general picture of the vessel. We trailered the boat to the Huron River and spent the afternoon steaming, pulling weeds out of the propeller, and generally associating ourselves with what was by far the coolest boat on the river.

I would also like to point out that every year in conjunction with the NAMES show Tom teaches a "Study of Steam" class. It's a four-day class held the week before the show. It covers every aspect of steam theory and practice from a perspective useful to the model or amateur engineer. Weather permitting, it also includes a ride in the *Arbor Queen*. I took this class this year and was well pleased with it. Tom's knowledge of steam engineering is truly amazing (and yet he considers himself primarily a gas engine person!) The NAMES 2000 poster has info on the next class, but at present I couldn't find any info about it on the NAMES website. Contact NAMES at for more info.

The steam launch rides were, for me at least, instructive as well as fun. I learned a great deal about practical steam operation.

Our president, Bob Lorenz, pointed out the only disadvantage of travelling by steam launch - you never look out at the scenery. On a beautiful day on a beautiful river, we all stared intently for hours at the engine.

The day concluded with dinner and a club meeting at Tom's place. A number of members who couldn't get the day off for the steam launch rides could make the meeting. We had two guests, as well.

Earl Gage made a presentation on the NAMES Education Day and asked for volunteers (see below for more info on this).

Dick Triemstra announced that he was becoming involved with a local school in trying to get their machine shop and shop training program back in operation. Once he gets an idea of the magnitude of this project, he'll be in need of volunteer help.

We didn't have our traditional door prize drawing, but instead had a table of free stuff generously donated by Tom Stockton, Jerry Kolinski, and Stephen Gutierrez. Larry Tom also generously distributed copies of a decimal conversion chart he sells.

Thanks again to Tom Stockton!

- David M. MacMillan

NAMES Show

NAMES 2000 is closer than you think. The MDMC will be assisting the NAMES organization next year by running the machining demonstration area. If you are interested in helping, please contact MDMC president Bob Lorenz. (I'm sure that they could also use help during the general setup as well. Putting on this show is a **lot** of work.)

On Friday, NAMES is not open to the general public but instead runs extensive and valuable teaching programs for schoolchildren. For NAMES 2000, the plan is to include a machining demonstration (coordinated with the Sat/Sun machining demo for the general public). If you're interested in helping out with this, or indeed with any part of the education day, please contact Earl Gage at: _____

There are plans for a special meeting sometime in early August devoted to NAMES Education Day topics.

Don't miss the NAMES home page at:

_____.

The NAMES website has a writeup about their Education Day at:

The current issue of *MODELTEC* magazine covers the NAMES 1999 show and has favorable remarks about the Education Day.

CLUB PROJECT

For a number of months, we've been discussing a collective engine-building project. So far, we've yet to decide on a design that meets everyone's needs (complex enough to be interesting, yet simple enough to be finishable). So far the two front running ideas seem to be 1) having castings for a small engine made from patterns generously supplied by George White, or 2) using one of the bar-stock based designs of Rudy Kouhoupt. If you want to participate in this project, or have suggestions, it would probably be best to discuss them at the meeting after the August Buckley meeting (as not everyone can make it to Buckley).

WISH LIST

The metalworking lecture/demonstration WISH list consists of:

- making an EDM for tap busting
- more on lost wax casting and rubber molds
- casehardening
- tips on boring an accurate hole using a lathe & Vert. mill
- making bullet molds
- shop made tools
- grinding lathe tools
- using a cutoff tool in the lathe
- wiring a garage for shop use

Any one care to tackle any of these topics? Contact Bob Lorenz

- Bob Lorenz

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