

Number 602

June
2015

The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

Smokebox Corner

Where new(ish) technology meets old.

(Photo by Dave Russell)





Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
31-May-15	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	D Addis	J Burnett	R Crook*
7-Jun-15	M Plant	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	R Copeland	J Davies	G Healy*
14-Jun-15	P Woodford	B Aickin	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	P Jones*	H Martin	C Mitchell
21-Jun-15	I Ashley	A Bailey	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	M Luxton*	A Pritchard	G Taylor
28-Jun-15	G Beazley	D Booth	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	G Murray*	M Richardson	R Stratton
5-Jul-15	B Cotton	P Dowdeswell	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	K Ryan*	A Shirley	P Tomkies
12-Jul-15	M Granger	M Hollis	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	R Street*	D Addis	G Healey
19-Jul-15	D Housley	J Lankow	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	J Burnett*	R Copeland	J Davies
26-Jul-15	D Moffatt	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	R Crook*	G Dickey	P Jones
Please Note: Some prior months changes included							

Bold and Underlined Name:

This is the designated **Train Controller**, i.e. the person in overall control of all operations for the day

Bold with Asterisk* Name:

This is the designated Stationmaster, i.e. the person responsible for activities in the station area. The Stationmaster is also responsible to account for the day's takings.

Drivers: Please keep your eyes open for unusual or suspicious behaviour around the track which may affect the safety and/or smooth operation of our trains. Report such activity to the Train Controller.

Please Note:

If for some reason you are unable to attend on your rostered date, you are respectfully reminded that it is **your** responsibility to find a replacement member to fill the gap – please don't let the rest of the team for the day be left short-handed.

Also, please ensure the member you arrange a swap with is one who is rostered to undertake the same role to ensure we always have members with the appropriate training and experience on the day.

Appeal for more Train Controllers

As members are aware, the Sunday running is what allows ASME to be able to pay for most things it decides to do. Also this ensures that the Member Subscription is kept very low. In total the members subs do not even cover the Insurance bill annually.

We have had comments from the public that there are not many steamers on these days!

To this end I would like to be able to roster a steam loco on again.

However it is all the steam drivers that are tied up on Train Controller duties.

To free them for a Steam Roster again, we need alternative Train Controller personnel.

It is not an onerous task; just requires completing paperwork and being available to assist in any incident.

Please let me know if you can help.

Greville Wills
Vice President

President's Report

The June general meeting introduces the topic of horology and welcomes our member Michael Cryns who will introduce an illustrated program on the topic of watchmaking. ASME has had a number of distinguished members over the years who have made clocks and no doubt many of us have on occasions dared to unscrew the back of a watch to change a battery or worse with, at least in my case, variable success. There are a number of new members and some visitors thinking about joining who have expressed an interest in clockmaking. The obvious advantage of clocks over locomotives is that in general they don't need a railway to run on and are more likely to be appreciated by successive family generations. I know of one model engineer who has made it his business to produce a number of beautiful handcrafted clocks, each one different and specially inscribed for each of his grandchildren. This is also an area of modelling in which there is a definite shallow end with kit sets and even complete movements readily available, as well as quite a number of well written published projects in journals and books. Several of our active members are professional horologists so we have a very good start if we wish to expand this area of our activities.

I've had a lot of feedback regarding my suggestion for the club to buy a 7 1/4 inch steam locomotive for Sunday running. There seems to be widespread support for this idea and there is no doubt that it would greatly enhance both the attraction of the railway for our visitors as well as the experience of working on it for our members. We would need to give a lot of thought to the design and type of fueling as the engine would need to be robust and with a minimum number of idiosyncrasies. Please keep thinking and talking about this idea.

About the time you read this, our MEANZ audit prior to registration will be completed and all of us must be grateful to the large amount of work done by a few dedicated members in getting us to this stage. We should be able to have a preliminary report, at least on the event on the day at our June general meeting.

The proprietor of New Zealand's popular Shed magazine, Jude Woodside, has been in touch to say that in collaboration with the Big Boys' Toys exhibition to be held in Auckland at the end of October he has chartered an undercover secure area for displays related to the interests of his readers. ASME has been invited to put together an exhibition and participate which is a great opportunity for us, perhaps reminiscent of the days when the club was seen regularly at the Easter show. We will welcome Jude along to our July general meeting to talk about some specifics of this opportunity and provided there is enough support we can commit the club to participation.

Recent Sunday running has seen a huge improvement in member turnout which is most appreciated by both the train controllers and our visiting public. Revenue is improving again and there is no doubt that the riding experience is greatly enhanced by a new fleet of broad gauge cars. Steady improvement now will place us ready for the upsurge of visitors in the spring and hopefully a return of a few more steamers to our track.

David Black, President

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Track and Trolley Project

The new track and trolleys are now operating very successfully and the project has moved along well within budget. There can be no doubt that at this time it is in the best interests of the club to complete all of the planned work as soon as and as efficiently as possible. Although the club retains considerable financial resources at this time further funds for this work can be raised and it is now realistic to accelerate progress with several parts of the work undertaken in parallel. Our Constitution requires membership approval for this expenditure even though a substantial part of it will be raised externally.

Notice is hereby given of a Special General Meeting to be held concurrently with the Ordinary General Meeting of the Auckland Society of Model Engineers Inc at the club rooms in Peterson Road Panmure at 19:30 hours on Tuesday, 7 July 2015.

The business of the special general meeting will be a short report on the progress and expenditure of the track and trolley project to date followed by discussion and voting on the following resolution;

Having regard to the details of the track and trolley project proposal put forward to two sequential annual general meetings in 2011 and 2012, which has been approved and with which substantial progress has been achieved so far, the meeting resolves to authorise the Committee of the Auckland Society of Model Engineers to spend up to \$50,000 for completion of the project including the final stages.

David Black, President, for the Committee of ASME

REMINDER

National Model Engineering Convention and Hobby Expo - 7 to 11 January 2016

See pages 12 / 13 of May MICROMETER for details. The TMEC are also inviting ASME and other clubs to participate in separate displays for their own clubs. This would require people to man the display. Further details are available on request from the Editor.

Help Wanted:

Just in case you haven't noticed, there are the remains of a heap of concrete blocks and a pile of concrete and other rubble (left over from the track and trolley project) creating an eyesore outside our clubrooms. This is free to a good home! Will some kind person with a large hole in their back yard (or perhaps their mate's back yard!) volunteer to take it away? Please!! Otherwise it will cost the club \$\$\$ to dispose of it.

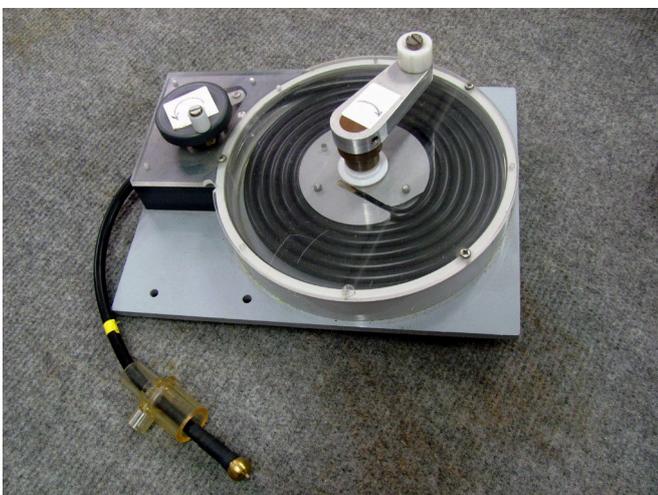
Bits and Pieces May 5 2015

Conducted by John Olsen, with photos and reports by Dave Russell.

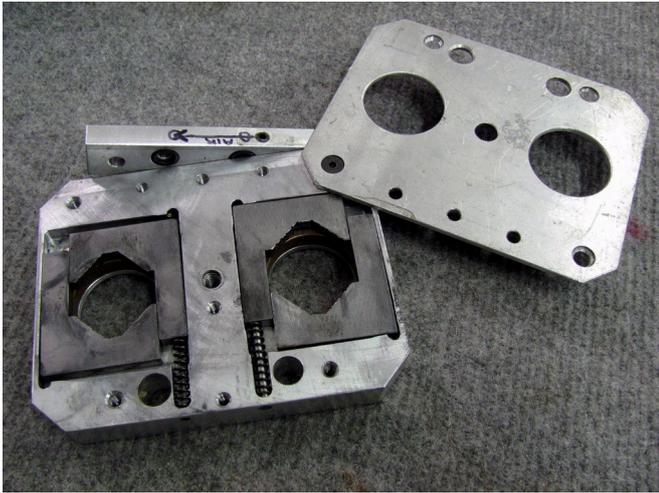


As John Olsen was chosen to conduct the Bits & Pieces proceedings this night it was only fitting that he start with his own item. John has bought this unit to use as the freezer / fridge box in his steam launch. The unit will run on 12 or 24 volts and a very neat feature is that when installed and finally plumbed up it comes “pre gassed” the joining fittings on the pipes have valves that open when they are connected allowing the factory sealed refrigerant to flow through the whole system.

Now at this point I must mention a great thanks to John Olsen who is moving down to Cambridge to live. John has been a long standing member of ASME and a regular contributor to the Bits & Pieces on club nights. John has been a regular attendee to club events and functions along with his wife Diana. We wish them the best of everything in their new home and I am sure they will always be welcome at ASME anytime.

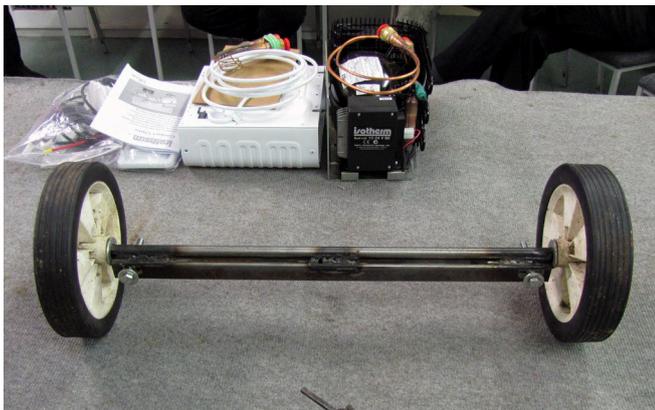


Graeme Murray, some time ago, had made this nice winding gadget for winding up cable. It could unwind slowly and retract quickly, very nice work. Graeme was lucky he had an employer who wanted nifty gadgets and was prepared to pay for someone to design and make them.



This same employer got Graeme to make this air operated clamping unit to hold pipes while they were worked on in the manufacturing process.

Mr Murray's last item was the front panel off a TV Tennis game that was popular back in the late 70's. Such games although quite simple were the fore-runners of all modern computer games. The joystick was made by Graeme as a further development of the game. The two pieces of steel seen in the background are going to be the start of the frames for Graeme's first real "Model" project, George Stevenson's "Rocket" in 7-1/4" gauge.



Lastly tonight we had an axle and wheels made by Greville Wills for a Portable Generator that his son had bought on Trademe for \$1250 reduced from \$2000 because the wheels were missing. The company selling them had a shipment that arrived with no wheels so were selling them off cheap.

Bits & Pieces are welcome from **ALL** A.S.M.E. members and visitors on the regular club meeting on the first Tuesday of every month (except January). The Bits & Pieces section is a key part of the club's foundations in that the wealth of experience of older and sometimes more skilled members can be not only explained but also shared in the flesh. They say a picture is worth a thousand words but combine both and you have a very powerful teaching / learning tool. So please bring along any old thing or masterpiece you are working on so that we can share and learn from each other.

Around The Clubs

June 2015

Reviewed by Tony Lawrence.

Please note that as most of these Newsletters arrive by email nowadays, there are an ever diminishing number of them being filed in the folders at the clubrooms. However a good portion of these letters are available in the Public Domain at the respective Club websites.

Northern Views, Whangarei Model Engineering Club Inc. – May 2015

Wednesday work days have been well attended with progress being made on the “Snack Shack”, which now awaits better weather for painting.

Great article about the L.M.S. turbine loco, No. 6202, built in 1936. It was one of the very few experimental turbines that actually beat conventional engines on thermal efficiency, despite having no condenser. It covered over 300,000 miles by 1945, was built as a conventional Pacific in 1951, but was written off in the catastrophic 3 train crash at Harrow in 1952.

Tony Wheeler continues his diary of building an A3 loco. This time an extensive description of the trials and tribulations involved in making 20 steel tired cast wheels. Great photos of various jigs he made to accomplish this at what appeared to be close to the operating limits of his AL 320 lathe.

Advertising a “Pea, Pie and Pud Nite”, to be held on the night prior to the A.G.M. I wonder if the lure of a good feed might attract more attendees to our A.G.M.??

Steamers and Dreamers, Manukau Live Steamers – April 2015

The great coal Trial continues....., In this issue Bill Krippner reports on his findings and concludes that the “Phantom”, with a narrow firebox prefers to be fed Welsh Coal. He has sourced some coal from Birchfield Coal Mines Ltd, near Reefton. This fuel has worked satisfactorily in his NZR “Ab” loco.

Greg Burrows’s newly completed 2-6-0 Mogul loco had its final steam test and Certification on 23rd May. It has been a two year mission for Greg to complete this project, started by Justin Parker many years ago. Greg has made some changes from the original design, replacing the Briggs firebox with a wet legged type. He also modified the valve gear and smokebox, and added extra lagging to pad out the boiler to be more in perspective. His fine attention to detail includes a lifelike “selfie” 3D printed miniature driver. The finished product looks fab in red and green livery and is badged up as the “Cripple Creek” R.R., named after an American narrow gauge line.

Heidi Loco still for sale. Contact the Owner, John Middleburgh at 09 412 8804
An invitation to Queens Birthday open weekend, 30th May – 1st June 2015.

Wheels and Floats, Tauranga Model Marine and Engineering Club February – March 2015

Several pages of really good humour to fill out this edition! Photos of two new battery electric club locos, recently named as “Silver Fern” and “Kiwi Rail”. These are twins other than for their distinctively separate livery. The late Steve James started this project several years ago, but sadly was never to complete them. They were recently finished by Peter Wisely after 10 months of solid work. (I still have the CD that Steve produced, an excellent step by step set of instructions on “How to Build a Phantom”, It still is as good as anything similar that I have seen recently on YouTube.

An extensive article describing tandem compound engines and locomotives.

As a prelude to the 2016 Convention, to be held at Tauranga, there is a treatise on a fail-safe vacuum operated ride car braking system. It would appear that some method of fail-safe braking will be a condition of running at this track event. This author describes a cheap and effective system that converts a standard, inexpensive, readily available “Ajax” diaphragm type hot water cylinder valve into a brake actuator. Complete with large scale diagrams.

Eastern Bay of Plenty Society of Model Engineers Inc. April 2015

Last month saw two successful midweek Kindergarten runs at the track. Both were busy days with up to four locos on the track.

The great coal trial continues at yet another club! These guys were trying out an un-named batch of anthracite. Paul’s “Lucky 7” with a wide firebox showed initial promise, but struggled to maintain steam whilst running, and had to revert to the trusty Strongman blend. Keith’s N 10 had a similar fate, having to retire early after suffering severe clinkering as well. N 10’s boiler is a modified narrow firebox Simplex design.

Conrod, Otago Model Engineering Society Inc. April 2015

This Newsletter has its “New improved look!” debut this month, with lots of colour photos. Internet link to a mind boggling property for sale in Sherwood, Oregon, USA. This 20 acre paradise in wine growing country is home to 3.2km of 7.25” track, locos, wagons, workshop, a huge indoor scale layout, tearooms and a nice house. Available now for anyone with a spare \$3.5 million!! A look at the latest super-size cruise ship “Quantum of the Seas”, gross tonnage of 169,000 Tons. She is powered by two, 20.5 Mw azimuth thrusters at the rear, and assisted by four, 3.5Mw bow thrusters for excellent manoeuvrability. More coal trials, but still importing Welsh coal for weekly staple fuel diet. The Club is in discussions with the University as to the feasibility of manufacturing Char in this Country.

Mailship, Scale Marine Modellers Inc. April 2015

An inaugural boating day was held at St Kentigerns Boys School, in Remuera on a fine Sunday afternoon. The event was well attended, resulting in a good workout for the equipment, with no breakdowns.

The Monthly meeting at ASME was well attended. There was a good display of boats, including one built by the late Stan Locke, which is being refurbished by Ian Donald.

This issue contained the second instalment covering the 1966 “Palomares” crash of a USAF B52 plane, and the land and sea recovery of the four Hydrogen Bombs that it was carrying above the Spanish coast.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

A construction kit for an E and J Winter, Australia, model of their No.7 Horizontal Mill Engine.

The Kit was purchased three months ago but due to ill health I am unable to start the project.

The Kit comprises:

- Castings set,
- Material set,
- Fasteners,
- Drawings,
- Detailed construction manual.

The cost was A\$691.00 which included freight of A\$115.00. I would be happy to look at an offer in NZ\$ of anything over NZ\$600.00.

Please ring Richard Lea at 4766928. I live on the Shore in Knightsbridge Retirement Village.

For Sale

Bramley Band Saw

Goes well

Have recently re-packed gearbox with new grease.
Works in upright position as well as cut off position.
Make an offer if interested.

Greville Wills

411 5092

