

Number 606

October
2015

The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

It's the first day of Daylight Saving..

..as I write this, so what better subject for a cover photo than a rather nice looking clock?





Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
4-Oct-15	R Reichardt	P Woodford	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	G Taylor	P Tomkies*	R Copeland	D Addis
11-Oct-15	B Aickin	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	R Crook*	J Davies		J Burnett
18-Oct-15	A Bailey	G Beazley	Voluntary	<u>D Black</u>	G Healy	P Jones	M Luxton*	H Martin
25-Oct-15	D Booth	B Cotton	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	C Mitchell	G Murray*	A Pritchard	R Street
1-Nov-15	P Dowdeswell	M Granger	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	M Richardson	K Ryan*	A Shirley	D Addis
8-Nov-15	M Hollis	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	R Stratton	G Taylor	P Tomkies*	J Burnett
15-Nov-15	J Lankow	D Moffatt	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	R Copeland	R Crook*	J Davies	
22-Nov-15	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	G Healy	P Jones	M Luxton*	H Martin

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 Asterisked* 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.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Tuesday October 6th, 7.30pm - General Meeting and annual **Club Auction**, ASME clubrooms. Bring along all your unwanted stuff to sell! Your wares should be identified with your name, reserve price if you want to stipulate one, and proportion of sale price to be donated to ASME if other than the standard minimum of 20%. Note: if it doesn't sell, you get to take it home again!! Don't forget your cheque book!!

Saturday October 10th, 1pm - Club **fun-run** day. Bring along your steamer and enjoy the ride!

Tuesday October 20th, 7.30pm - Committee Meeting.

Friday October 30th — Sunday November 1st. - **Big Boys Toys** exhibition, ASB Showgrounds. Set-up day is Thursday October 29th. We need contributors' work to display, and people to man our stall in The Shed pavilion. A minimum of two attendants on the table at all times will be required, and it is suggested that each day be divided into two four-hour shifts. This will mean that 12 people or more will be required to cover the three days. Please indicate your willingness to take part to Mark Richardson or another member of the committee as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

Coming up - Saturday December 12. Annual dinner and prize-giving at the clubhouse.

President's Report

As the summer season gains momentum attendances at Waipuna junction are steadily increasing. The track and trolley gang continue to make good progress both at weekends and also in the evenings at weekly sessions. Attention is now turning to the complicated issue of points design and manufacture but once this is achieved we will have full access to the main line and siding and much easier handling of the second train which at present is possible, but difficult especially with limited numbers.

On that topic, attendance numbers for Sunday running have been improving but there are still some members who seem to be ignoring the roster which can make a critical difference often only saved by a regular few who come along to help as extras. This has been a problem for ASME for many years and various solutions have been tried, none with complete success. The current committee has decided to make this a priority and ideas have been thrashed around and recently refined by Bob Aickin with an expectation that some new rules will be ready for notification before November and consideration at this year's annual general meeting in December.

Talking about December, the committee has confirmed that there will be an annual dinner this year which will be on the evening of Saturday, December 12. This event will be externally catered and will incorporate a catch up on prize-giving which is overdue as a result of the pressures of the track and trolley project. Please mark this in your diary now: these have always been thoroughly enjoyable events and an opportunity to bring our wives or partners along to the club.

This month, October, sees the return of the extraordinary phenomenon of the annual ASME auction in which various items of variable worth circulate around our members, sometimes to return full-circle with the club clipping the ticket on the way. Our professional auctioneer Mike, ably assisted by our member Graham Bell makes the whole event run like the real thing. This year though, our general manager Greville is away in Europe and although another of our talented accountant members is standing in for him there will be a learning curve so we will need to be particularly well-behaved. Part of the attraction of our hobby does seem to be collecting odds and sods and then the problem becomes what to do with the sods. The answer is of course, take them to the ASME auction. My experience, for the most part is that while I thoroughly enjoy collecting bits and pieces, the extent to which they are useful depends on firstly understanding what they are and planning being able to find them when required. So often, because they are not quite right, blunt, bent or lost, the pressure of the job in hand makes going out and buying a new one the preferred solution. Still, that's yet another way of generating fodder for the auction. Nevertheless, quite a few gems turn up, there's a lot of learning, heaps of fun and thoroughly enjoyable evening at the ASME Antiques Roadshow. I look forward to seeing you there and hope I don't have to bring too much home this year!

David Black

President

Bits and Pieces September 1st 2015

Conducted by Mike Banks, with photos and reports by Dave Russell.

There quite a few Bits & Pieces this month, the first five were brought in by Graham Beazley:

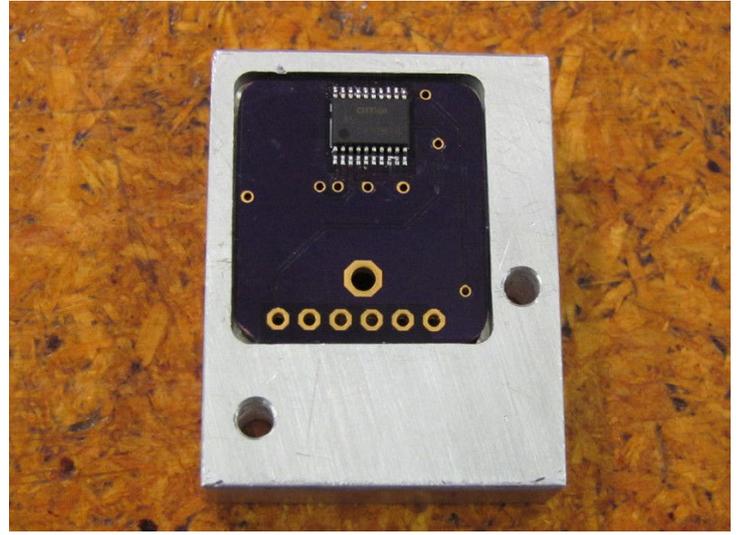
Firstly was a telescope mount that could quite easily be transformed from an equatorial type to an altazimuth type (I hope I got that correct). Graham made this by hand before he had any machine tools and made some plywood patterns to prove the principle would work.



Graham's next exhibit was a handle made to fit into the lathe spindle to enable turning the lathe by hand.

This item is a handy spring loaded centre to push taps when starting a hand tap in the lathe.





Graham's latest project is an x,y,z digital read out for one of his machines. The electronic pieces are fitted into cavities carved into solid aluminium giving the finished item a robust nature. The parts are available locally from a chap on the North Shore.

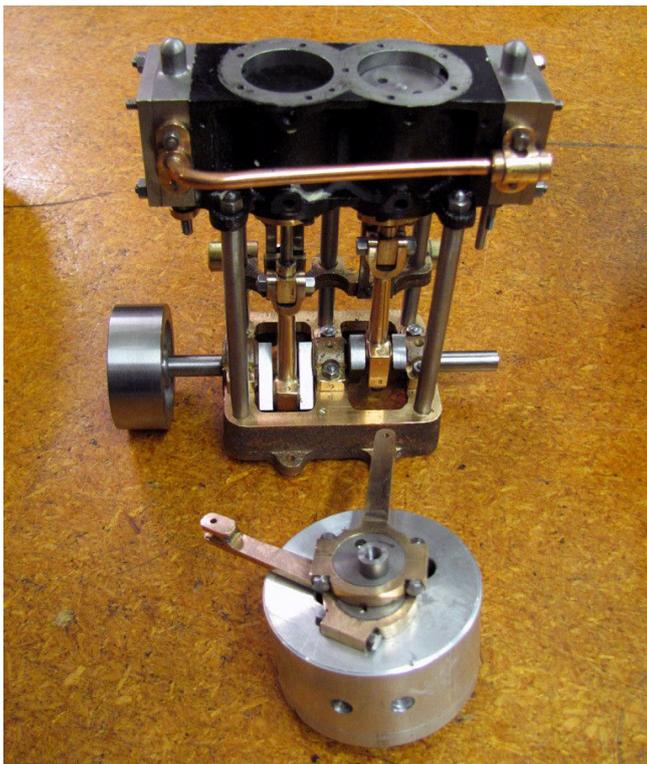


And lastly from Graham, a dolls push chair he made for his granddaughter.

David Black brought in an Opticians tools of trade in the form of a refraction set (circa 1920). David explained that these sets were all handmade and were very expensive.

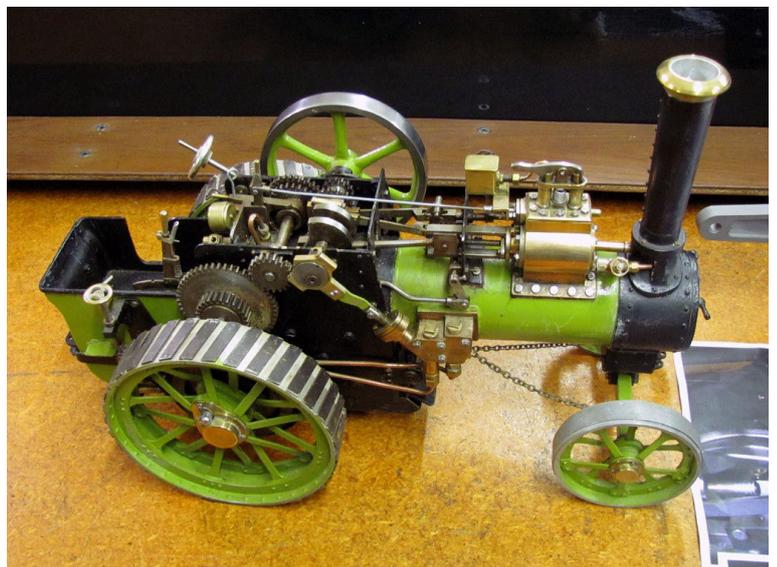


A very fine 1-1/2" scale American traction engine has been built by Peter Moy. The model is primarily for display but does work, the vertical boiler is wood fired. The model was built without any plans and was all done by eye from pictures. An interesting feature was the slipping belt accelerator.



Mike Orange is building a rather nice little Stuart Turner twin cylinder launch engine. Mike has made a jig to enable the reversing gear eccentrics to be timed correctly.

This very nice "Minnie" traction engine was built by Dave Housley's late father. It has been left to Dave and we know he will look after it well, he had to bring it out from the UK.



Sorry to hear from Greg Burrows that his new 7-1/4” loco runs badly; this is due to design faults in some of the valve gear. Greg knows where the problem is and is working to remake the parts concerned. Meanwhile he is getting into his next project, a steam truck. Greg had brought in the steering box for the truck.



Mark Richardson brought in a “what is it” item, this time he was answered quite quickly, It was a “Planimeter”: the tool is used for calculating the area of irregular or curved shapes such as an area of land from a map or drawing.

Another “what is it”, from David Black. This time it turned out to be a gauge for setting distance between divider points.



Mike Banks has built a new low riding 7-1/4” gauge ground level driving trolley. It is fitted with vacuum brakes and the bogies are made to the same design as the new club units.

Lastly tonight Mark Luxton showed us a tube item he has made to fit into the back of his lathe spindle to stop longer bits of bar stock from whipping around while turning.



Out and About

Grant Anderson, wearing one of his other hats as a roving reporter, has been out and about capturing some interesting pictures for our newsletter:



(These two shots were not taken at ASME! What we could do with such floor space (and a forklift truck).....! - Ed.)

This hydraulic ram and its associated turntable were donated by Ikon Engineering and will eventually become the major component of ASME's engine loading/unloading facilities.

These photos were taken during its recent overhaul - in the first picture, Ikon's apprentice Louie completes the air test after new gland seals were fitted and in the second, Dave Giles of Ikon is altering the lift ram/turntable platform.

Meanwhile, back at the track...



Life member Alan Pritchard has put a good load in the barrow, causing our Editor some strain! This was during the clean-up of the final concrete blocks & rubble on 11th July.



View of the pedestrian bridge after Mike Banks led the way to clear it of creepers, phoenix palms and rubbish.



A big group enjoying ASME facilities during Sunday running on 13th September

and Mike Banks, operating his Beejax from his purpose-built drive trolley & hauling a new club trolley, clears the small tunnel,

While on Train Controller duty on this day, Grant was approached by a Mr John LaRoche who wished to donate some tools and surplus bits and pieces to ASME. These were gratefully accepted by Grant on behalf of the club. Thank you, Mr LaRoche.



And at the engine shed, the traverser improvements have been completed - it is now wide enough for trolleys up to 640mm and fit to carry the maximum MEANZ/Worksafe limit of 250kg/metre.



For Your Info

New Plymouth Model Engineers

Track and Club Rooms, 11 Gilbert Street.

Join us for our annual get together, Labour Weekend

October 25-26-27th 2014

Raised track of 2.5" 3.5" and 5" gauges.

All the necessary stuff supplied to steam engines.

Morning and afternoon teas

Luncheon Saturday and Sunday

Evening meal for Saturday and Sunday.

Track running all three days and a night run if you are so inclined

Road machines are most welcome

So come join us and have a good time.

If you wish you can let us know that you are intending to visit.
Either by mail to 11 Gilbert St New Plymouth or by email m.george@xnet.co.nz
Or phone Monty on 067589866.(after 6.00pm)

And don't forget the **National Model Engineering Convention and Hobby Expo** at the **Tauranga Model Marine and Engineering Club Inc** on 7th to 11th of January 2016.

Special Events include "Off The Rails" miniature traction engine and steam road vehicle run.

Saturday Evening Run for Locomotives. Watch the sparks fly from their new viaduct.

Model Engineering Challenge and Les Moore Trophy Presentation.

Hobby Expo.

Saturday Evening Dinner and Prizegiving.

If you are thinking of attending the convention and staying overnight, you may have difficulty finding accommodation at this stage as there are other events on the same weekend.

For further details check their website www.tmmec.org.nz.

For Sale

The following email was received recently from Mr Martin Berry. He writes:

"I hope you don't mind me emailing you but I was thinking of selling one of these Chinese mini lathes that I have had sitting in my garage for some time.

I was going to sell it on trade me but I have a keen interest in model engineering and would like it to go to someone who would use it for that purpose.

The lathe is basically as it came out of the box and has only been spun up once or twice.

If any of your members are interested I would be willing to sell for half what I paid for it."

Anyone interested could contact Mr Berry on 0275453024.

Invitation

Grant recently received this email from Chris Draper:

"Hi Grant,

I don't think we have met, but I am sure you have heard of me - I'm the crazy guy with a private track in Albany-Coatesville area.

For some years we have held an informal Boxing Day picnic steam up. Its a chance for our regulars to bring along their wives and Christmas left overs for a picnic on our lawn and run a train or two.

Monique and I would like to extend an invitation to ASME membership to come out for a days fun and relaxation without the pressures of public running.

Now unfortunately being a private track our facilities are very limited - we have one hydraulic lift for unloading and four steaming bays, so we are forced to limit attendees to ten or fifteen locos and even then will probably need to roster people on and off, so this invitation is on a first booked - first accepted basis and by pre-arranged invitation only.

I'll also be inviting my club-mates at Manukau Live Steamers, and of course our regulars.

You can get an idea of the setup from my website, and of course you are welcome to come see the place ahead of time. (We are on a very steep section, but there is parking in our top paddock)

I am best contacted by email in the first instance and my daytime work ph is 027 4033 802.

Regards,

Chris Draper"

(Website: <http://www.wintercreek.net.nz>, email: chris.draper@wintercreek.net.nz).

NB. Chris suggests:" [Track is] dual gauge, tho I would caution anyone with a very light 5" loco - we have 1 in 40 grades - so a real drivers track. Greville got around OK on his loco, but only just. I think anything under about 80kg is going to have trouble".

Any Takers?

And an email received by David:

"I'm a reporter at the Manukau Courier newspaper.

I've been tasked along with my colleagues to create feature-type stories that we will run later this year on people with interesting or unusual occupations or hobbies.

I was wondering if you had any members in the Auckland Society of Model Engineers who would be keen to be interviewed and photographed for a news article and had, in your opinion, a particularly interesting story to share.

Email is the best way to contact me.

Regards,

Chris Harrowell, Reporter, Manukau Courier", christopher.harrowell@fairfaxmedia.co.nz