



Piston 'n' Prop.

Newsletter

Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.
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February 2012

Engineering section News.

'Or the lack of it as the case may be.'

A very grateful thanks to Bridget Jones for her report and over view of the International Model Engineering "Steam up North" held Whangarei 5th- 9th Jan. It is always very nice to read how our other halves see our wonderful hobby. Thank you Bridget. A good number of wife's and sweet hearts have given much support to our club activity over the years, as they still do thank you ladies.

Secretary Nigel has provided notes on the engineering section night.

Also there are some committee news that you should be aware of that will effect

us all. Well not a lot to report except welcome to 2012, I hope for you all, a bright and happy year ahead with plenty of Model Engineering thrown in.

No workshop reports "again" from me only to say all my workshop intentions fell flat on it's face???! (or mine?).

Family and I usually visit Nelson Club over the New Year period sadly this year for the first time in many we were unable to do so, from all reports they had a busy few weeks. Our close neighbours Picton club had their activities in print with a couple of photos showing us all that they also had a busy passenger service over the Holiday period. Those that went to the Whangarei "Steam Up North", apart from David & Bridget Jones were Brent and Melanie Coburn plus the there 3 boys, and Ken McIntyre. A reasonable number from our small group. Clubs further South also had small numbers attending. 2014 the International will be back in the South Island at Canterbury.

More from the grape vine tells us that MEANZ now has a new President. That is about all I have for you this time, **Heritage Day 6th Feb see you there.**

I wish to stand down after the April/ May newsletter as our section news collator, any reader of these notes! That may like to keep our name in lights please put their hand up.

Happy Steaming

Peter H.

With thanks the following article on the "**Steam up North**" has been submitted by; Bridget Jones.

What follows is the ramblings of a dumb blonde, gently encouraged into giving a report of the 2012 Steam Up North convention - so please do not expect any technical details, just a flavour of the atmosphere and maybe something other blondes will enjoy reading!. Firstly it was very hot and humid; Thursday and Friday saw many loco being disgorged from trailers, motor homes and vans. The majority were 7 1/4" gauge, some huge too. Being a ground level track David had decided it would not be good for his Maid of Kent (or rather David's' back driving it!) so we opted to bring up some Gauge 1 locos to drive on the temporary track that had been erected with enormous skill and dedication by Geoff Hallam to enable model engineers to see some of the smaller stuff but more on that later!).

Although we did not bring anything large both Ken and Brent had made the long trek North with their locos which was smashing. To have such representation from MAMS really was special, made even more so because Brent's "Q" won the best 5" gauge loco!. Also there were Graeme and Mary Chisnall who had come from up from Christchurch with their little traction engine. John Caldwell who flew up from

Nelson so there were a few from the South that we knew.

The Les Moore Trophy was a hugely exciting challenge - coke bottle power! !. How far would the little chassis travel around the track? Our money was on Don Plant, 2012 winner, and the others from Hamilton as they easily won the first round. But on the second "go" Murray Bold and the Palmerston North team brought out their secret weapon - chilly bin "hotly". Something to do with heating the bottle - on the first round it had derailed, but this time it flew around the track - what a result - they could have almost charged two dollars for a ride there was so much power.

Saturday sadly was a total wash out - the rain was ceaseless and very heavy resulting in mud, and more mud, We abandoned and drove to Kerikeri via Kawakawa to ride the BOI Vintage Railway and visit friends. Alas we didn't get back in time for the Convention Dinner, but all reports were that it was a really good meal with excellent company.

Showery Sunday dawned but the outlook was positive. The crowds arrived in droves and the children absolutely loved all the trains from the standard gauge loco that was hauling a carriage the long the length of the Heritage Park to the wee garden gauge, coal and gas fired steam locos. In fact the rain showers made the belching steam look spectacular in all gauges - at this point I have to say my favourite was the replica Lion, complete with coloured coaches - too bad we forgot to bring the passengers!.

On Monday people were starting to depart and that gave me a chance to ride the full length of the track for the first time. It had been so busy over Sunday that I hadn't even attempted to take a trip. The track it self is long and thin, runs through a tunnel before tightly curving back, over a trestle bridge, past the station, then crosses itself, at the same time as crossing the pedestrian access - (which caused a few "who gives way to whom issues to start with? then it spirals twice around the mountain overlooking SH 14. All the while you can survey the rest of the Heritage Park full of niche Museums and Clubs. Finally we took a wee side tri[to meet Copper the one - legged Kiwi who resides at the Native Bird Sanctuary on site. By chance he was with one of the keepers so for the first time I was able to hold a Kiwi (a feathered one!) while listening to a talking Tui awesome.



Setting up Guage 1 display



David Jones Guage 1 "Lion"



Station and loading platform.

**Hats off to every one at Whangarei who pulled out all the stops to make the Convention enjoyable for everyone. - We had a great time.
Roll on Christchurch 2014.**

Notes from January Steam Section Meeting:

4 members attended a very pleasant meeting and discussion for the start of the new year.

Ken McIntyre reported on the recent expo held in Whangarei which appeared to go well although there were not many south island attendees. He mentioned the MEANZ meetings and discussions he had with others concerning the changes to the Amusement devices Regulations and how they would affect each club. Matters that will need to be addressed include training for auditors and appointing a competent person to certify (& issue a certificate) for our operation. This person must be from another club. Rob Wilson from Christchurch is the new South Island MEANZ rep. Next expo would be in Christchurch 2 - 6 Jan 2014. Ken also had a copy of the new code for duplex steel boilers which will be held by the boiler committee.

Bill Ward has been having problems with his Myford lathe and asked for advice on how to rectify the matter. The input pulley rotates but there is no drive through the gear cluster to the output shaft. After inspecting the shaft & gear assy it was suggested the pulleys & gears be removed from the shaft & investigated for wear & looseness of component parts. Mark offered to carry this out. (It later turned out that the gear wheel was connected to the pulley by a bush which was slipping. A light knurling and application of Loctite fixed matters for which Bill is very thankful).

Ken had a pattern for the boiler tube plate for his experimental turbine powered loco.

Mark Taylor had a very nice safety valve he had made for his Phantom - this is a

modified pop valve design. There was discussion on design of safety valves and a neat trick of using a washer beneath the spring which is easier to machine to size than the traditional bonnet.

Notes from January Committee Meeting

Several Committee members were absent but main topic on agenda was Brayshaw Park Heritage Day on Monday 6th February. We plan to have the regular things happening with train rides (providing there are sufficient locos and drivers & station staff), boats operating on the pond and static displays of models. Members are requested to attend and help, please, and to bring models for display if they wish. We will have the use of the SBS Bank marquee for display and hopefully the day will not be as hot as last year. We plan to put the marquee up at 8 am on the Monday before the day's programme gets going. The Coburn family have offered to operate a sausage sizzle for fund raising and at the end of the day we plan to have a BBQ tea for club members & families. The club will provide the sausages and members are requested to bring a salad or similar dish to share for the pot-luck meal.

The matter of painting / repairing the upstairs signal box has turned out to be more complicated than we initially envisaged. Peter Holdaway was asked about acquiring paint for the project and he asked Lawrence Brehaut to assess the building for condition & any repairs that would be required. Lawrence is one of the people who constructed the building in the 1990's and gave a comprehensive inspection and report. Items to be attended to include complete re-roofing, new access stairs, and repairs to window frames at an estimated cost between \$5,000 - \$6,000 for materials & labour. The building is not being used and the Committee intends bringing a recommendation to club members at the AGM in April that the upstairs building be disposed of. Comments about this proposal are requested from club members, please.

Members are asked to give thought about the coming AGM and about Committee positions that are to be filled. We will require nominations for President and Treasurer as well as offers for the other committee positions.

Thanks to the members who cleaned the boat pond on 6th January - it looks good & your efforts are appreciated. .

Boating Report

Well the pond finally got a good clean out and man did it need it! I've never seen it so bad and the perfume from the harbour area was, well, just a wee bit over the top. The day was pretty good weather wise and five members rolled up and the job was fairly well over by lunchtime. We patched a few holes and serviced the

ballcock and the pond appears to have no leaks. I did find Dave Frost's propeller and a sail batten, which I lost two years ago! Big thanks to those who helped clean up.

Heritage Day is next on the agenda. This is a huge day for the club and we hope to have activities happening on the pond all day. Dave Mathieson is going to set up a Yacht course and a steering course. These will be on separate parts of the pond and hopefully no clashing of interests. So please keep your yacht out of the steering course and keep your powered boat away from the yachts. We will try and involve the public as much as we can so please be polite and help people. I am making a few 'pond yachts' for the club to hire out for children (and adults) to use. These are free sailing boats so anything could happen. Be aware of what is on the pond and have fun.

Hope to see you at the pond over the weekend.

PG

Flying Section Report.

The Airfield at Tuamarina has been getting used regularly (not just on club days), the weather has not always been great and flyer numbers have been down a bit. Conditions this Sunday were near perfect and only two of us were there to enjoy it. There are a several new models appearing at the field, a couple of medium sized electric ARF models, several foamies of various shapes and sizes. A few of us have little 600mm to 700mm foamie fun fighters and I must admit they are great fun, tough, fast, agile and exiting to fly. Raz has built a new Vintage Model and is discovering some interesting aerodynamic traits with that, C of G is at 60% chord and flight testing indicates it should be even further back. Something to do with tail area and moments etc.

Allan Knox was the overall winner of the 2011 NDC competition competing in several classes, Kelvin, Razvan, Peter Deacon and Allan Baker also did well in the events they competed in,. For full results see

http://www.nzmaa.org.nz/webfm_send/146

Very well done guys.

The airfield is still fairly green and has kept growing so far. Errol has mown and raked most of the paddock, thanks Errol it for a tremendous effort. Don managed to find a wheel and tyre for the gang mower and I have had to use it already as another tyre split and the tube bulged out.

Slope soaring is continuing on Wednesdays afternoons and have had six to eight flyers lately and usually manage to get some good flying in. A few guys have attempted a bit of combat with foamies, good fun but we need to keep it well away from the Crunchies.

Heritage Day at Brayshaw Park is on the 6th February. It is a big day for MAMS as we get a chance to display our hobby to the public. It would be nice to see a few models from the flying section on display and have some members there to keep an eye on them and answer any question from the public. Philip has offered the

use of his Flight Sim again. Anyone wishing to display models in the clubroom or Marquee will need to have them there prior to 10 am. We have been asked to supply people to man the gate and collect donations from 11am until 12 noon, so far there is only Allan and myself, another one or two would be nice. Please contact me if you can help. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter there will be a BBQ for members and families at the end of the day (Sausages supplied, bring salads or nibbles etc)

There is another aerotow day planned at BMAC ARA strip for the 4th February and they have invited our member to participate or come out and see what it is about (Please note that pilots without Model Flying NZ Wings will require observers with this qualification).

As mentioned earlier it is also time to start thinking about the MAMS AGM.

Carl M.

A few words on the Contest scene from Allan.....

Well that's another NDC contest year over. The results have been posted and I'm very pleased with the outcome as the Trophy gets stay in its pride of place on my book case. Thanks again to all of you who supported contest flying through the year, it is not something that can do on your own and it's a lot more fun with more people involved. Kelvin, Raz, Dave, Al, Peter who flew and those of you who helped with timing, thanks guys.

January kicks of the new contest year. I have flown electric with the Vertex and posted a good time with out getting my arm involved with the prop this time. Al Baker and I were lined up to fly Free Flight Hand Launch Glider and Catapult Glider too but the weather blew out. Great classes these and lots of challenge and fun for very little investment. Allan B has been developing a discus launched free flight glider, very interesting.

The **MFNZ Nationals** were flown over the New Year and were a great success with the numbers up to 138 competitors. The weather was good in Carterton and the full program was flown. Interestingly the Vintage Classes were the best supported which was rewarding for those of us on the Vintage SIG committee.

NDC is different this year. Rather than flying on a particular weekend, we can now fly the months nominate events any week end in that month. I will ring a around those I know may be interested at the start of the month and sort out dates to fly. Call me though if you want to join in 5791424.

Events in the coming 2 months that I expect we will fly are....

February

Vintage 1/2A Texaco scale

Glider thermal A
Vintage R/C Precision
Glider Thermal H (2 Meter)

March

Electric glider 7 x 7
Vintage R/C Duration
Vintage Electric duration (If anyone has one?)
Vintage 1/2A Texaco

March 23, 24 and 25 has been set for the Soar Champs this year in Palmerston North. I'm planning on going and would be keen to share transport and costs with any of you who are keen to go.

Don't forget our slope evening and Air Tow Saturdays.
Lots to look forward to this year

Allan Knox

For Sale;

Yacht 36 inch. **'Starlet'** with a set of UK made
Surrey sails. \$150.00 ono Peter; 578 6165
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**Any one wishing to build a 71/4" gauge NZR Wf .
I can possibly help with my accumulated lot of building materials.**

- :All required NZR Drawings to make a detailed engine.
- :Laser cut Frames, motion bracket, pony & bogie parts.
- :1000 X 1700 x 14g sheet; of Colsumon plate "hard brass"
for Tanks & Bunker (NEW)
- :Copper Fire & Super heater tubes (NEW)
- : Plus approved plan for Boiler design.

Contact Peter ..03 578 6165 Email vintageholdaways@kinect.co.nz

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NOTE - NZ Model Flier's World is now available for issue at both Blenheim and Picton libraries.

MAMS Membership and Subscription Structure

Ordinary Member (all Sections)	\$ 55
Family membership	\$ 60
Junior Member	\$ 35
Country Member (+40km from Blenheim)	\$ 35
Life Member	

Members may belong to any or all of the following Sections, for one Ordinary Membership fee:

Engineering - Boating - Flying.

*Flying Section members may join the **NZMAA** (Recommended) for an additional annual fee of: Senior \$62, Junior \$20, and Family \$67, paid to MAMS. NOTE: NZMAA Fees fall due on the 1st April each year and must be paid by the club before 1st July. NEW members joining after November 1st only have to pay half fees, however existing members renewing late, will still need to pay for a full year.*

For on-line payments members just have to use the club account number, give their name and purpose of payment, i.e. MAMS subs or NZMAA subs.

Account number is 031355 0512739 00

Subscription Policy: Financial membership shall cease if the required subscription fee has not been paid by the **31st of July**. **Non-financial members are not covered by our insurance policy and therefore cannot operate their models at our designated sites**, and they do not receive a Newsletter.

(**New** members who have joined and paid their Subs from December 2011 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2012/2013 year)

Those who have paid their subscription since the last AGM may collect their membership card and receipt from a folder on the notice board in the clubroom.

Publication dates: 1st week of February, **April**, June, August, October, and December.

Please get any items (Notices, articles, or for sale items etc) for the **April** issue to the editor before the end of **March**.