

January 2008

MBMB Newsletter



# From The Pilot House

## Geneseo Toy Show

By Richard "The Toyman" Starr

We were off and running as the new year begins. The Geneseo toy show was received by the patrons and show staff with open arms. The six club members that participated gave their all. George Turnquist, David Wendel, Gary Slack, Leo Williams, Fred Lorscheider, David Krohn and myself were on hand to answer any and all questions.

Talking to a few vendors, I found out that the St. Louis Admirals Club does this same promotion at the St. Louis toy show in February of each year. Seems like we as a "new" club are heading in the right direction.



As we were packing up to go, Vern Mariman, (the show promoter) gave us a good show pat on the back and invited us back for next year. He was impressed with the variety of boats and also the craftsmanship (of course) of the display. Vern also informed me that if we need more tables next year that this would be no problem.

I will be sending Mr. Mariman a thank you note for the show and invitation.

Thanks to all that gave up their Sunday for the club....THANKS

The Fleet has arrived at the Geneseo Toy Show. Leo Williams is busy organizing his contribution to this years display.

## MBMB Winter Meeting Dates

Be sure to plan to attend the remaining 2008 Winter meetings.

February 11 presentation by George Turnquist will be Boat Terminology.

March 10 presentation by David Krohn will be Flanking Rudders and Fred Lorscheider will present information on engine selection .

The winter meetings are held at the Bettendorf Community Center 2204 Grant Street and are on the second Monday of the month from 1900 until 2100 hours. Plan to attend and bring your latest project.

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### MBMB Future Events:

- DRCS Swap Meet February 17, 2008  
Davenport Municipal Airport
- Northpark Mall Show March 15, 2008
- Weak Signals R/C Expo April 4,5,6, 2008  
Toledo, Ohio
- May Fun Float May 4, 2008  
Riverside Park 1400 to 1600 Hours

## An Introduction to Steam Engines Presented by Gary Slack

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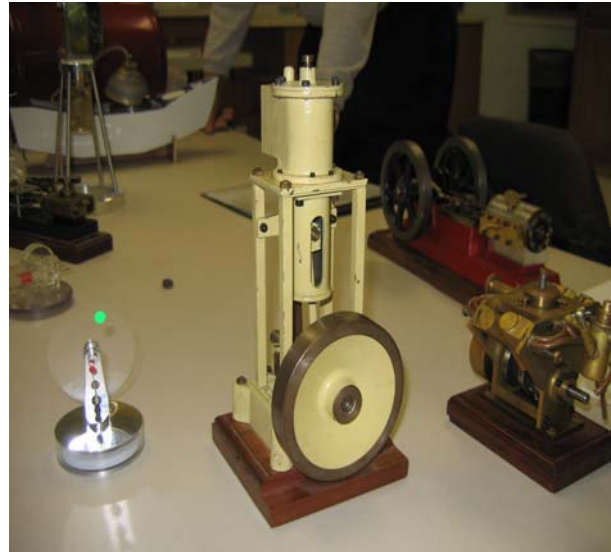
January's presentation by Gary Slack involved his other hobby, building Live Steam Engines. Gary is a retired tool maker who's interest in steam engines has lead him to manufacture nearly 50 engines. These engines include, simple single cylinder engine constructed from Plexiglas, to more advanced multi-cylinder engines complete with a reversing gear.

The engines that Gary produces would operate most efficiently when driven by steam, but boiler design and operation can have explosive results. Normally these engines are run on compressed air for balancing and initial run-in testing.

Many of Gary's steam engines are not built from plans but from pictures. If Gary reads an article about an engine that he would like to build and plans are not available, a picture is enough to get him started building another engine.

One of the engines was a close replica of the engine that was in the African Queen. You remember the movie set in Africa during WW1, Humphrey Bogart, a gin-swilling riverboat owner/captain is persuaded by a strait-laced missionary, Katharine Hepburn, to use his boat to attack an enemy warship. Well, Gary applied air pressure to the engine and as the flywheel began to turn and that famil-

iar ta-pock-a-ta, ta-pock-a-ta, ta-pock-a-ta could be heard. You could almost smell the Gin on Mr. Allnuts breath !!!



The steam engine pictured above is similar to the engine that powered the African Queen. This engine will operate in reverse, however the reverse must be initiated by stopping the flywheel and manually reversing the direction of the flywheel.

## An Introduction to Steam Engines

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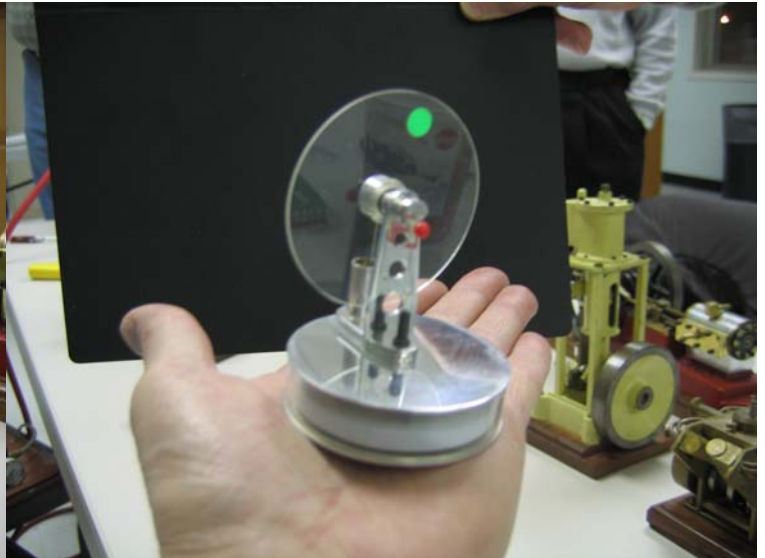
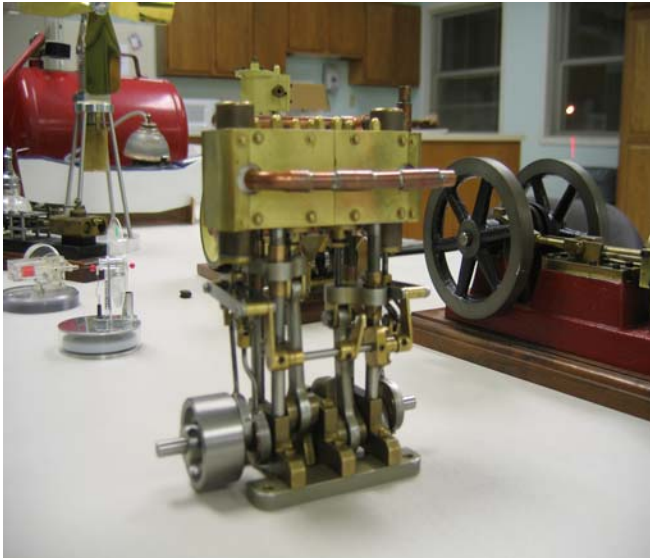
Two Stirling engines were also part of Gary's collection. The Stirling engine is a closed-cycle regenerative hot air engine. One of these engines used a small alcohol lamp for power, the other used the heat from your hand to convert heat into motion. To increase power, ice was added to the other side of the "working fluid" of this small engine. (See the video at [www.thembmb.org](http://www.thembmb.org))

The engines that were displayed ranged from simple single-acting pis-

ton engines that relied on the momentum of the fly-wheel to return the piston to the top of the stroke, as well as, a rocking motion employed to cover or uncover inlet and exhaust ports. And there were complex double-acting engines where steam is admitted alternately to each side of the piston while the other is exhausting.

Thank you Gary for January's presentation, this was a very informative look at the world of steam power.





Here are three examples of Gary's handy work:  
Top Left: Inline 4 cylinder with reversing valve  
Top Right: Hand (heat) powered Sterling engine  
Bottom Left: Single acting engine, the "boiler" is a can of sterno and an modified oil can.

## Super Bright pre Wired LED's

Another item that was discussed was the use of pre wired super bright LED's to add pizzazz to your model.

These 100,000 hour Super Bright LED's come fully assembled with a dropping resistor and insulated wire and can be connected directly to a 9VDC or 12VDC power source.

These super durable LED's last 100,000 hours, draw less than 20 milliamps of power, don't dim when power is reduced and don't get hot. They are available in red, green, yellow, blue and two shades of white, and are available in 3mm, 5mm and 1.8 mm sizes. They emit a fairly narrow beam of light, approximately 35 degrees, however there

was some discussion about sanding the dome of the lenses to get a wider dispersion of light.

For more information you can contact Evan Designs, P.O. Box 2044, Broomfield, CO 80038 303-410-1118.

Or they can be found on the internet at:  
[www.modeltrainssoftware.com](http://www.modeltrainssoftware.com)

Thanks Matt for finding these parts and bringing this information to the January meeting.

# Mississippi Bend Model Boaters Library and Archive

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Richard Starr has started the daunting task of categorizing and store plans, instructions and books pertaining to the building and information of ships and boats.

Richard is putting together a list of available material and will make this available in the near future.

If you have any books or plans that you want to donate to the club please contact Richard. MBMB is accepting any books, magazines, boat plans, instructions booklets or kit plans.

If you have old plans or other material that will fit into the MBMB archive let Richard know, he is looking for you.

These will be available to all club members at no charge.



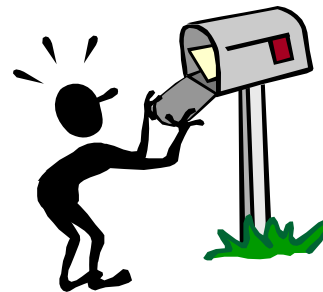
## MBMB Club Dues

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It's time to renew your MBMB membership, come and join us for 2008.

Membership Dues:

Junior Membership	\$10.00 (17 and under)
Individual Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$35.00 (at same address)



## MBMB Board Members

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President	Richard Starr
Vice President	George Turnquist
Treasurer	Fred Lorscheider
Secretary	David Krohn
Public Relations	David Wendel
Webmaster	Matt Engebretson

If you have an item of interest or a item for sale please contact one of the board members.

Please feel free to comment on this newsletter or you can contact us from the main page on the web at: [www.thembmb.org](http://www.thembmb.org)