



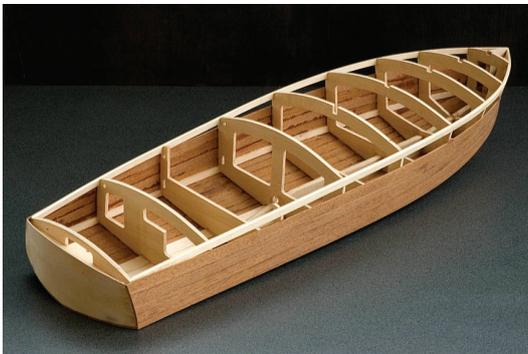
NEWSLETTER

Captain's Log 5th February 2010

The wooden boat (full-size) is enjoying a resurgence of interest these days as may be witnessed by the large number of wooden boat festivals that run in capital cities each year. For those who have never considered it, there can be a wealth of inspiration here for that next model - take your camera and record all the details.

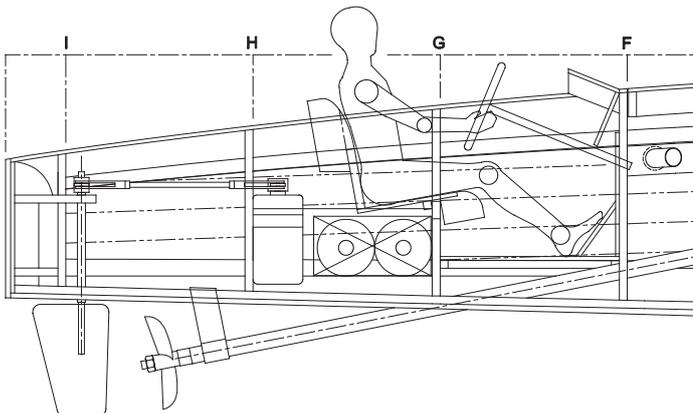
Mahogany runabout

My main project for this year is a 1:8 scale model of a typical 1920s racing runabout, shown below under construction.



Main features: single cockpit at rear, front engine; Liteply framing; mahogany planking; fibreglass sheathing on the interior as an experiment.

The design is very tight in the region of the driver's cockpit, and it has taken quite a few hours of CAD work to reconcile the conflicting needs of balance, access and appearance.



(Above) Layout of drive battery, rudder servo etc. in the cockpit area

Twilight zone



Looking like an interplanetary excursion vehicle penetrating the asteroid belt, Chris's high speed submarine skims along just under the surface of Northcorps Lake at warp factor 5.

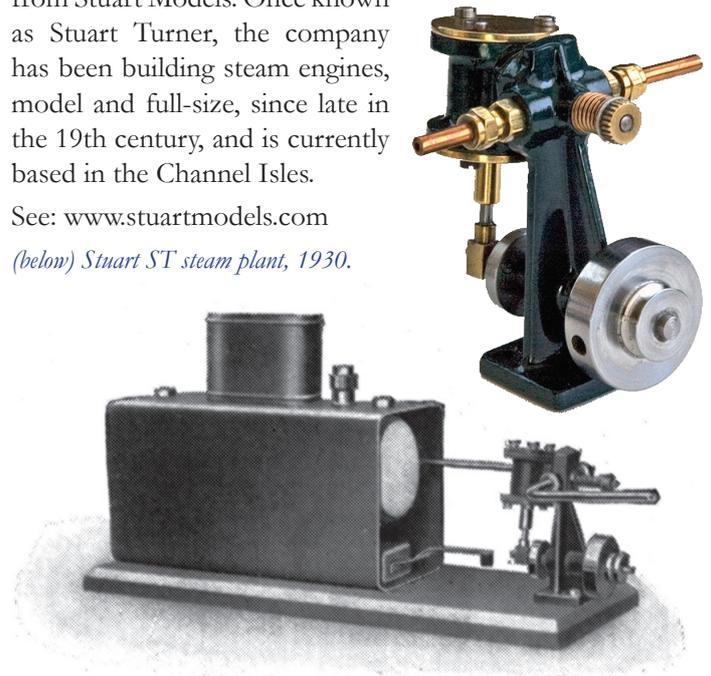
I have enhanced the colours and contrast a little in Photoshop (and removed some floating rubbish) but the disturbance effects of the canopy and propeller wash are clearly present on the original image. It is interesting to speculate on the causes of this. The photo was taken with a polarising filter fitted to the camera. Is the passage of the model temporarily altering the polarisation of the light reflected off the surface of the water? Why does a 'shadow' of the canopy appear above it?

Stuart ST steam engine

I recently bought this little steam engine on eBay. It is a lovely example of the Stuart ST oscillating engine, the smallest and simplest type of engine they make. The design has a long history, appearing for example in my 1930 Bassett-Lowke catalogue as a complete steam plant with boiler. This particular one was built from unfinished castings purchased from Stuart Models. Once known as Stuart Turner, the company has been building steam engines, model and full-size, since late in the 19th century, and is currently based in the Channel Isles.

See: www.stuartmodels.com

(below) Stuart ST steam plant, 1930.



Does this represent the beginning of my steam apprenticeship? Probably not, I can't imagine myself gathering together the skills and machine tools needed to construct a 'real' engine, and they do remain quite pricey to buy.