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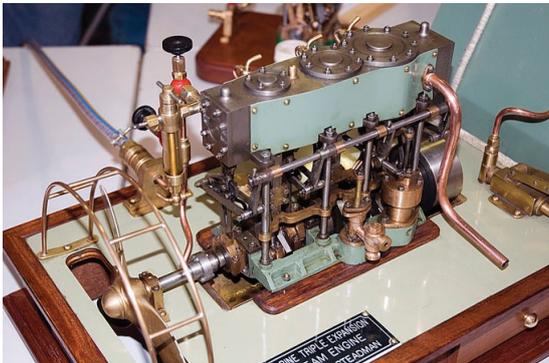
NEWSLETTER

Captain's Log 7th November 2008

This issue we have 200 words from Murray on his rescue vessel Argy-Bargy. Those given to peril upon the sea may rest easier now that we have this asset within our group - thanks Murray.

Recent events

Interstate people often tell me we are lucky to have so many modelmaking clubs and events in Victoria, yet it seems to me we take them for granted and seldom bother to attend.



A fine triple-expansion marine steam engine seen at the Model Engineering Exhibition

An elegant model steam yacht adds to the spectacle at the Como Gardens Open Day



From our last meeting

Members are advised to be on the look out for a lockable cabinet, preferably wooden, 900 wide x 450 deep x 1800 high for storage of our library at the church hall.

Coming events

BMBG 9th Nov, Cairnlea 23rd, Illawong Nov 16th

Argy-Bargy: A Model Boat Recovery Vessel

by Murray Teese

Argy Bargy was designed and built from scratch to recover model boats stranded on water, islands and in reed beds. Whether it be a stalled 1.1 metre petrol powered speed boat, a runaway steam battleship, a balsa run-about anchored to a buoy rope or an upturned airboat, Argy Bargy has recovered them all without damage - a total of eight rescues to date.

Like a faithful dog returning a stick to his master...



An RC controlled winch and jaws provide the main recovery system. The jaws clamp onto the stalled boat and a life line attached to Argy Bargy's stern bollard is retrieved bringing everything back to shore. The sub-catcher forklift attachment can retrieve submarines, bottles and other debris.

There is nothing ornamental about the crane. Fitted with a treble hook it can lift 2.3 kg! At 930 mm long, 320 mm wide and weighing about 10 kg, I like to think it's stable, indestructible, unsinkable and about as reliable as gravity. My son Nathan liberally reminded me that they said this about the Titanic, but my marine entity of geometric splendour has yet to meet its iceberg.

*It certainly looks well insulated against the cold - ed.
Photo: Flack*



Four motors provide power to prop, winch, water pump and bow thruster. Two 12V batteries supply a 24V speed controller and electrical system which include 6 lights. A four channel 27 MHz radio controls everything. Costs were minimised using recycled materials and commonly available components.

For me, the project has been a good introduction to model boat building. Now that Argy Bargy stands ready for recoveries every sailing day, I can focus on my next project. A boat with curves, character and all that other stuff.

Note: Please keep Dec14 free for our Christmas picnic/sail.