



THE NORTH STAR CHRONICLES – a newsletter primarily for the model railway fraternity

Volume 7 no 9 September 2019

Editor: David Cairns

e-mail: northstarrailway@gmail.com

Website for back copies: www.northstarrailway@gmail.com

Phone: +27 82 653 5642

Editorial

The first weekend in August heralds the holding of the annual Wings Wheels and Whistles hobbies exhibition at the Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society premises, Rudling Road Pietermaritzburg. This show is believed to be now in its 16th year. On this occasion two other events coincided with WWW, namely a National Live Steam Meet and a garden railway exhibition. This edition of the NSC is devoted mainly to the latter.

The weather was kind, if a trifle hot on set up days. The park like grounds and revamped station with its new paving made for an ideal setting in which to host the event.

In addition to the model engineering scales which drew locomotives from all over the country to run on the 7¼", 5" and 3½" tracks, 45mm, 32mm and Rodney Proud's Lionel/American Flyer/Trix Twin layouts featured. A range of stationary steam engines was also on show including a number made from the excellent value horizontal, vertical and boiler kits that PMES sell.

Other hobbies, including woodworking, radio controlled aeroplanes, philately and coin collecting, card and jewellery making. Minerals were also exhibited as were leather working, sewing and miniature wagons.

Attendance was slightly up on last year at around 2200. Train rides on the two days totalled around 2500 also an improvement on last year. There were two portable large scale layouts on show. Umkhulu Modules, a dual 45mm and 32mm layout which has been a regular visitor for the past 5 or 6 years and Carel Janse van Rensburg's twin track 45mm layout which came all the way from Centurion.

Set up of both layouts commenced on the Thursday. Being smaller and with tracks permanently fixed to the baseboards, the Umkhulu Modules layout was pretty much erected by the end of the day while the boards on Carel's layout were up, thanks to some hard work from Carel and his son Christiaan. On the Friday the laying of track was completed.

As the photo below shows Carel uses metal legs for the CCA treated slatted decking wood. The baseboards are joined with 6mm threaded rods and wing nuts and the track is then nailed down.

Umkhulu Modules uses adjustable wooden legs to support the shutterboard baseboards which are joined by 13mm carriage bolts and wing nuts. The tracks are then joined with fishplates and banana plugs ensure continuity on the electrified 45mm track. Those who want more information on the techniques used with Umkhulu modules should refer to North Star Chronicles Volumes 1 no 8, and 2 no 7.



Carel's layout with the feature bridges rear. These are also to be used on the Centurion gauge 1 layout.



Umkhulu Modules with a radio controlled Roundhouse 'Lady Anne' being refreshed by Gravin Phyfer. The rake of freelance coaches is by Brandbright. Note battery powered Smith and Harrison Engineering 'Scarab' (loosely based on an Orenstein and Koppel design) now produced by Roundhouse and called 'Hercules' pulling Binnie skips on left and SAR wagons by Philip Elwin rear.



The 'Gautrain' built by Lourens Sturgeon on a LGB LCE chassis crossing the aluminium bridges built by Carel



Another shot of 'Lady Anne' strutting her stuff. This loco and the rake of coaches was built in 2000 by the late Don Baker, a strong supporter of PMES in the early days.



A Marklin Prussian class T18 which later became class 78 pulling a rake of Marklin German State Railways (DRG) coaches. Note the busy station for the ride on trains at rear.



Another shot of the class T18 and German State Railways coaches.
And now for some professional photographs by Brian Melmoth



Marklin type B VI of the Royal Bavarian Railways (K.Bay.Sts.B.)



T18 etc again



LGB 2017D upgraded by Mike Leppan in Cape Town through the fitment of a sound decoder



More LGB – an ATSF 0-6-0 shunter which has also received the treatment from Dr Mike



LGB 2051S BoBo diesel of the Federal German Railways. This model of a metre gauge prototype appeared in the late seventies!



It does not have to be in colour to make a great photograph. Early LGB no 2071D based on U-Series of the Zillertal Railway upgraded with a Massoth decoder by Mike Leppan



If you are 'in' to SAR narrow gauge you have to love this loco – an Accucraft UK 16mm live steam NG15. This loco is designed for 32mm track but is re-gaugeable to 45mm. Only 50 were made but another batch is planned. Start saving for yours now!



Danger! Man at work. Roundhouse R/C tram based on Billy chassis. Wish I could take photos like this. LGB 2017D again.



And this! The base is a Marklin tinplate chassis. Body scratchbuilt with brass etching and walnut wooden strips by Carel to emulate freight wagons of the Royal Bavarian State Railways.



Atmospheric photo of Prussian class T18.



Carel the orchestra leader at work.

My thanks to Brian Melmoth for permission to use his beautiful photos.

Finally, an event similar to WWW is to be held on the 21st and 22nd September at the Model Engineering grounds, Centurion. Insofar as large scale modellers are concerned, the main item of interest will be the opening of the gauge 1 track currently under construction at the club at the initiative of Carel Janse van Rensburg. While initially only 45mm gauge equipment will be able to be run Umkhulu Modules which also has a 32mm track will be attending from Durban so this will enable live steam and battery controlled locos in that gauge also to be run.



Model Engineering Fair

21 – 22 September 2019

Sat 21st : 09:00 to 16:00 - Tickets at the gate

Sun 22nd : 09:00 to 15:00 - Tickets at the gate

Join the Centurion Society of Model Engineers for a fun day out with family and friends



Meerpark Station

999 Kwikkie Crescent
Zwartkop (behind Outsurance)
Tel : 012 643 0750
GPS: 25°51.066' S
28°10.971' E

www.centuriontrains.com
csmetrains@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/Centurion-Society-of-Model-Engineers

Model train rides
Exhibition of steam engines
Hobbies and crafts
Model boats
New - Radio controlled trucks and earth movers
New – Garden scale railway
Picnic and braai facilities
Food and cool-drinks on sale

Entrance : R 15 per person over 2y (includes one free train ride)
Train rides : R 10 per person over 2y.
(Children 2 years and younger ride free with an adult)

The End