

WHEELTAPPER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

WESTERN PROVINCE LIVE STEAMERS

President	Arthur Zuhlsdorff	Date	Sep 2014
Vice President	Bernard Ridley		
Chairman	Ian Dorrat	Postal	WPLS
Vice Chairman	Bobby Moore		P.O Box 15810
Secretary	Ivan Stewart		Panorama
Treasurer	Mervyn Knickelbein		7506
Committee	Basil Lotter	Track	Bertie Genade St.
	Bernard Taylor		off Frans Conradie
	Jeandre Briedenhann		Parow
	Neil Hunn		
Editor	Justin Shaw	Web Site	www.wpls.co.za
Public Running	First Saturday of Every Month	Play Day	15th Nov 2014

Around the club

Running days have been well attended by the public although we are just moving all the passengers and I believe we are going to need some extra haulage power this summer when the weather improves, fortunately I have heard rumors of one or two loco's that are nearing completion. Henk Hugo joined us recently and has very kindly donated some LED flood lights which were installed on a day night switch with the help of Roberto Bezuidenhout, the grounds around the club house are now nicely lit at night enabling Chubb to clearly see any trespassers, a big thanks to Henk and Roberto. Track maintenance was done on the line heading towards the tunnel which was lacking much needed attention. The workshop was cleaned out and reorganized, members are requested to please keep the workshop clean to their proper place . In order to have the tunnel completed by December, the committee has decided to contract out the work of completing the wing walls of the tunnel. The compressor tank has also been replaced as the old one was reaching its life's end, many thanks Bobby for driving this.

Club Activities List

In order keep everyone informed of activities happening at the club, I have created a list of reoccurring yearly activities & projects currently needing attention, if there is something you would like to help with or oversee, please speak to a committee member. I would like to include this list in the club calendar in future editions of the newsletter, so feel free to send me your suggestions.

Re-occurring Yearly Activities

Spray the track - Once a month
Track maintenance – One working day every two months
Collect coal – Collect coal from Atlantis – done as needed
Crush and sieve coal – Done as needed
Cut grass – Currently done by council, although we are not sure if this will continue
Trim trees – Once every 6 months

Clean ash pits – Once a month
Maintain firebreak – Once a month
Committee meetings – Once every 3 months
General meeting – Once every 6 months
Newsletter – Once every 3 months
Running day – Once a month
Xmas braai – Once a year
Play day – Months with 5 Saturdays

Once off projects

Tunnel – Complete wing walls and give a two more coats of water proofing, creepers to be planted when spring arrives
 Station Railing – Replace or repair the station railings on both platforms.

Station Signage – Make new signs for public running days and number platforms.

Steaming bay repairs – Currently in progress, repair damage to the new steaming bay retainer walls and pipework.

Painting – The hoist & bridge requires a new coat of paint

Turntable – The turn table requires some attention

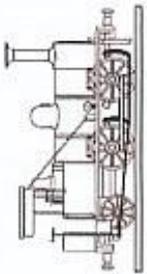
Water proofing – The storage area behind the compressor requires waterproofing.

Annual General Meeting

The 2014 AGM will be held on the 13 September at 1pm at the Western Province Live Steamers, all members are invited to attend. The existing committee has agreed to continue in its current state.

If you wish to nominate a new committee member, please complete the attached nomination form and bring with you to the meeting.

-----CUT HERE-----



Western Province

Live Steam Society

Nomination Form

Nominee: _____
(First name and Surname)

(Signature)

Position *(Mark with a ✓)*:

President		Chairman		Treasurer	
Secretary		Committee		Other	

If other, specify: _____

Proposed by: _____
(Signature)

Seconded by: _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

A Tale of Two 15 F's

This story started for me when I returned from an offshore trip in May, when I saw the following advertisement for two 15 F locomotives in the SA Rail magazine, Vol. 52, No. 1 of March 2014.

15F live steam model trains for sale

An avid and renowned modeller from Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, Daan le Roux, passed away four years ago leaving his widow with the task of finding a buyer(s) for two of the 15Fs he built – the other two were sold before he died. Both locomotives are semi-complete, but all the parts are included. The family home is to be sold and these beautiful machines must find a new owner. They are open to reasonable offers.



Visit this link for more photographs: <http://s892.photobucket.com/user/madporra/library/Jana%2015F%20Train> or contact his daughter, Jana, by email to jana@hencrist.co.za OR cell +27 72 928 9077

(The advert contained a number of errors, the worst being Don's name being printed as Daan, and there being mention of four 15F's, when there were only two from the start.)



The late Don with one of the 15 F's in his workshop.

After looking at the images of the loco's on the internet link, and being interested in purchasing the set, I called Jana, the late Don's daughter, who gave me more information about the loco's, (and the fact that they were 5" Gauge), and then gave me the number of her mother, Hanneltjie, in Pietermaritzburg.

I learned from Hanneltjie that there was an existing offer from a potential buyer in Rustenburg, but that he had not managed to get the funds together for a number of months.

After a number of to-and-fro emails and phone calls, a final offer from me was accepted after the existing one from the other party was withdrawn, and arrangements for the collection of the locos started in earnest.

My plans were to drive through to Pietermaritzburg from Cape Town, with a suitable trailer fitted with internal tracks on which to mount the two locomotives for secure transport back.

I had a tow-bar fitted to my Freelander, and then rented a 7ft covered venter trailer with a fitted roof-rack. I welded two 5" gauge rails with the correct clearance for the side by side locomotives, and secured these to the base of the trailer.

I left for PMB at lunchtime on Wed. 14 May, and after a very bumpy and pot-holed drive through the Free State, arrived in PMB at 12h00 on Thursday 15 May. I detoured into PMB central city and did a bank transfer into Hanneltjie's account.

I arrived at the residence located close to the R56, and for the first time was able to see the locomotives up close. Both the Locomotives were mounted on large, heavy-duty custom-made work trolleys, which meant that they could be easily moved around if required.

HISTORY

Up until his passing, 05/03/1940-10/04/2010, Don (Donald John Le roux), worked professionally as a Toolmaker from his large workshop attached to his house He specialised in making high precision press tooling for the automotive industry. (I would have been honoured to meet him in person). From the photographs I have seen, his workshop was extensive and he was able to tackle any complicated machining job. He was truly a Master-Craftsman.

The workmanship of the near complete locomotive, and the semi-finished chassis could only be described as exceptional, with the components meticulously hand-made and finished to the highest standard. All the wheels were manufactured from solid steel and machined and fettled to the same outstanding standard.

Being a Toolmaker myself, I could really appreciate the meticulous attention to detail and near-perfect scale components. It was very seldom that Don would actually buy a part, whether it be a screw, nut or bolt, as he preferred to make these all himself. The rivets used on the tender and locomotive were all individually hand-machined.

I learned that Don originally joined the Durban Society of Model Engineers around 40-50 years ago. He completed his first steam Loco, a Simplex, around 1980. He then later joined Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society in 1990, and remained a member until his passing in 2010.

The two 15 F locomotives were started 1984, with most of the parts being scaled up from a commercial set of drawings for a 3 1/3" gauge 15F, and also from original SAR&H drawings.

Work on both locomotives continued until his passing...a total of 26 years of work. The one locomotive is approximately 90% complete, with the boiler and its clothing fitted.

The second locomotive is about 50% complete, a rolling chassis, with all the motion gear completed, but not fitted, The cylinders are only pilot-bored, and the boiler is still a piece of steel tubing. A milk-crate full of completed components came with the rolling chassis.

Both tenders are about 85% complete, and the workmanship and skill displayed in manipulating the curved surfaces and corners and riveting is once again exceptional.

Hannetjie was a very active participant in the building of these locomotives, and she helped with the riveting of both the tenders.

Loading the Locomotives.

There being no overhead lifting facilities,(one complete locomotive weighs over 200KG), the trailer was run onto a pallet to raise it, and at the same time the two end wheels of each trolley was removed to bring them to the same level as the trailer. The two units were then very carefully run onto their tracks in the trailer, and secured with cargo straps. Small beach mattresses were then inserted between and on top of the units. It became clear that the two trolleys were going to be too heavy for the trailer roof-rack, so they were stripped down into loose components and packed into the trailer and back of the Freelander, together with the two tenders and their bogies. It took about 4 hours to complete the loading and securing, and I left at 17h00 that afternoon, and was back in Cape Town at 13h00 the following day. The load was checked on arrival, and there was luckily no damage found.

I used my own chain-block and strops to hoist out the locomotives, and they are now secure on top of the reassembled trolleys, ready for the next stage of their assembly and construction. – Joe Miller



On the web

Some great pictures of Wings, Wheels & Whistle's held at PMES beginning of August <http://goo.gl/uQpXAH>

Members Projects

Peter Gracie is one of those members who has been quietly working away on his locomotive (3 ½" 16DA), it is almost complete and we look forward to seeing it on the track soon!



Club calendar 2014 - 2015

Date	Time	Event
Sat Sep 6	9:00 – 17:00	Public Running Day
Sat Sep 13	13:00 – 15:00	Annual General Meeting
Sat Oct 4	9:00 – 17:00	Public Running Day
Sat Nov 1	9:00 – 17:00	Public Running Day
Sat Nov 8	13:00 – 14:00	Committee Meeting
Sat Nov 15	9:00 – 17:00	Club Play Day
Sat Dec 6	9:00 – 17:00	Public Running Day
Sat Dec 20	9:00 – 17:00	Xmas Braai Day
Sat Jan 3	9:00 – 17:00	Public Running Day