

THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX



"Providing smoking news and steaming interests to members and friends"

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Kwikkie Crescent 999
Centurion Lake Ext 1
Zwartkop

 www.centuriontrains.com

 info@centuriontrains.com

 **Centurion Society of Model Engineers**
& Centurion Society of Model Engineers' Supporters Group

CSME NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

COMMITTEE

Chairman - Leon Kamffer	082 577 7813
Vice chair. - John O'Mahony	082 809 3595
Treasurer - Ballot Marx	082 808 5783
Secretary - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Committee - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221
Committee - Francois Hanekom	083 448 2639
Committee - Neil Webb	083 243 0701
Committee - Roko Popich	078 401 2927

e-mail: lkamffer@mweb.co.za
e-mail: omahony236@gmail.com
e-mail: ballotmarx@gmail.com
e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
e-mail: kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com
e-mail: c.f.hanekom@gmail.com
e-mail: neilwebb52@gmail.com
e-mail: popichfam@gmail.com

Non-committee person contacts

Caretaker - Johan Swanepoel	064 520 8572
Facebook - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Alarm & Website - Norman Reyneke	082 553 7344
Newsletter - Carel Janse van Rensburg	076 774 9221

e-mail: swanepoel24.js@gmail.com
e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
e-mail: admin@centuriontrains.com
e-mail: kgtmodelbouery@gmail.com

2025 SUBS: R500 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS R250 FOR SENIOR MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

Official Correspondence & Newsletter

If you read this and are not receiving mail from the CSME you should contact the secretary or editor to update your details. Please ensure we are notified of any change of email address and cell phone number. Those members without email can collect a copy of the newsletter on request from the clubhouse on track day. The news letters are also distributed via the official CSME Whatsapp group.

Next Club Meetings

The committee meeting is on Saturday 14 November 2025 and club running day Sunday 15 November 2025.

Members are welcome any other time by arrangement with Swannie 064 520 8572. The gates are operational by cell phone for members. Members, please contact Norman Reyneke to be added to the gate motor list.

Chairman's Chatter

A busy month on all fronts with Sundays well attended.

The terrain suddenly turned green after the rains, although the overgrown dams do not have water yet.

We worked on the raised track, plan to do so again weather permitting this Saturday, please join us as plenty of hands keep the welding of sleepers as fast as the welder allows.

We have a night run for members, friends and family, no public so please join us for an evening of fun.

We also heading to the end of the year, our club function will be on Saturday the 13th of December with our last public run the 16th public holiday.

Leon

Secretary's Bit

The relevant form to update your membership details is available on the club website in the Members Page menu and the Club Documents sub menu. Please download, complete and return a form when next you visit the website. Forms can be emailed to admin@centuriontrains.com. There are still members who have not yet updated their information.

As reported in the last Newsletter, CSME hosted an event during October, for the Downs Syndrome Association of Tshwane (Pretoria) DSAT. Unfortunately, they had a glitch with their transport buses. Consequently, only about 25% of their expected attendees arrived. Nevertheless, the event was deemed a great success and the Association was very pleased with our facilities. Thanks go out to the members who attended.

Our Birthday wishes for November go out to: Leon Kamffer, who has now joined the 60's gang, and Dirk Boshoff.

Norman

From the Editor

Thank you very much for all the contributions to this edition on **THE CENTURION SMOKE BOX**.

The second last newsletter for the year! Wow, puff, gone is 2025!

Leon's workshop articles are very popular and are also published in other MES newsletters. We call on members to submit their gadgets to share with the community. One or two photos with a paragraph or two does the trick.

Also consider to share pre-loved tools and parts or projects in our sell/swop section. It will most certainly find new purpose in another workshop!

Carel

Inter club Night run

On the November club weekend, we are planning an inter club night run on the 15th of November 2025.

We call on all club members to assist in making this a memorable evening. We are going to dress the bridges and tunnels with fairy lights, to make the night run even more magical.

Bring and Braai at 18:00



**Bring the family and
enjoy to drive club
locos.**

Workshop Gadgets - Leon Kamffer

Ball turning tool holder

Making a once of ball or radius in the manual lathe can be faster even if you own a CNC lathe with the right tool.

One finds various different designs in magazines like the Model Engineering Workshop, or on the internet. Youtube videos are another source of inspiration. Some designs require you to remove the tool post. They may be more rigid on smaller lathes, but one loose your tool post position, especially if one owns a lathe with a digital readout.

One design I decided on was using a boring head for the adjustment, and instead of sacrificing a standard tool holder made a custom one for the tool. Best is to keep the eye out for a cheap boring head, or import one from China.

I also made a few special tool holders, using carbide inserts to allow faster cutting speeds.



Seen around the Club

These engine information boards are a welcome addition to the Meerpark Station platforms (work in progress). On public running days, each platform will display a board showing which locomotive is on duty. A short summary of the engine, along with details of its full-size prototype, offers visitors an engaging snapshot of history while they wait for their ride. Members are welcome to forward their engine details to the committee, in order for us to design the board in this format, and get them made for display when their engine is on passenger duty in Meerpark Station.

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Locomotive on Duty

South African Railways

Class 5 Locomotive





Power type: Steam
Builder: Vulcan Foundry
Wheel arrangement: 4 - 6 - 2
Service area: Cape Town - Touws River
Cape Town - Strand - Stellenbosch
Total built: 4 units (1912)

Locomotive designed by H.M. Beatty, the Cape Government Railways Chief Locomotive Superintendent and built by Vulcan Foundry of Newton-le-Willows, United Kingdom ordered by the Cape Government Railway and placed into service as Class 5 by the newly formed South African Railways in 1912 as numbers 780 to 783.

The 4 engines were placed in service on mainline passenger service between Cape Town and Touws River, where they remained until the loads became too heavy for them. From about 1928, they were used on secondary services, chiefly being employed to haul suburban passenger trains from Cape Town to the Strand and Stellenbosch. Three Class 5 locomotives were withdrawn from service by 1942, but the sole rebolstered Class 5R remained in service for another 27 years. For most of its working life, it was employed in suburban service in Cape Town, where it gained fame for the unusual achievement of being an individual locomotive which worked the same train, the Strand Express, for more than thirty years. During this time, it regularly attained a speed of 60 miles per hour (97 kilometres per hour) while en route between Cape Town and Beville.

The last of the class No 781 was withdrawn in 1969.

Ask your drivers about this model locomotive

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Locomotive on Duty

New Cape Central Railway Garratt

South African Railway GK Garratt





Power type: Steam
Builder: Beyer, Peacock & Company
Wheel arrangement: 2-6-2 + 2-6-2
Service area: Worcester - Mossel Bay
Donnybrook - Underberg
Total built: 2 units (1923)

The New Cape Central Railway (NCCR) was an independent privately owned railway company who operated between Worcester and Mossel Bay. It was formed in January 1893 when it purchased all the assets of the bankrupted Cape Central Railway (CCR). It was amalgamated into the SAR in 1925.

Increasing traffic and heavier loads led to the decision by the NCCR in 1922 to place an order with Beyer, Peacock and Company from Manchester United Kingdom for two Garratt 2-6-2+2-6-2.

They were delivered in 1923 and were initially numbered 12 and 13, but were later renumbered G1 and G2. The two Garratt locomotives were renumbered 2340 and 2341 on the SAR roster and designated Class GK.

During the last part of their life they were then sent to Natal where they remained in service on the Donnybrook to Underberg branch until they were withdrawn from service by 1957.

Ask your drivers about this model locomotive

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Locomotive on Duty

Bagnal 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Locomotive





Power type: Steam
Builder: W.G. Bagnal
Wheel arrangement: 0 - 4 - 0
Service area: Industrial Duties world wide.

These 11 locomotives were supplied to all major groups industrial locomotives.

W.G. Bagnal designed built 11 locomotives in 1933 to cover the various industrial locomotive requirements of the South African Railways. The locomotives were designed to be small, simple, and easy to maintain.

The first of the locomotives was built in 1933 and the last in 1935. The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

Ask your drivers about this model locomotive

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Locomotive on Duty

SAR Class 1E

South Africa's First Electric Locomotive





Power type: Electric
Voltage: 3kV DC
Builder: Swiss Locomotive & Machine Works
Wheel arrangement: Bo Bo
Weight: 80 tons
Service area: Natal Main Line
Total built: 172 units in 7 series (1928 to 1945)

South Africa's first electric locomotive, the Class 1E, was built by the Swiss Locomotive and Machine Works in 1928. It was the first of a series of 172 locomotives built for the Natal Main Line.

The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

Ask your drivers about this model locomotive

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

Locomotive on Duty

Western Maryland Railroad Shay





Power type: Steam
Builder: Lima Locomotive Works
Wheel arrangement: 3 Truck Shay
Service area: Mainly USA

The Western Maryland Railroad (WMR) was a short-line railroad in western Maryland. It was founded in 1882 and operated until 1982.

The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

The locomotives were built in a variety of sizes and configurations to suit the needs of the various industrial groups.

Ask your drivers about this model locomotive

Members Out and About

Lucas Nel on Charles' 16F in front of Leon's 16DA at RSME's Woodside Station.



Members Out and About

We were invited to exhibit at the Model Train Expo held in Kempton Park in November. Me and Neil with Dirk joining us, with support from Leon, Kevin as well as Norman but Neil did all the hard work, steaming his VIRGINIA, plus his coal fired stationary steam plant. Dirk also running his stationary plants, with me just talking about trains and showcasing some miniature train parts.



Seen around the Club



Ballot preparing the container footings.



No more wobbly checker plate ramp!

Meerpark looks great after very good early season rains.



Who can spot the mother to be?



Who's doing what?

From Leon's Workshop:

SAR 15F bogie all cleaned up with new bearing ready for loco.



15 F axle box upgrade during overhaul
courtesy Carel's beautiful castings.