

Lancaster Farming *Antiques Center*

Model Steamboats To Chug At Cabin Fever Expo

ANTHONY K. WIKRENT
Cabin Fever Expo

YORK (York Co.) — The seventh annual Cabin Fever Expo opens 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, January 18 and 19, at the York County Fairgrounds Memorial Hall East and West. This year's special feature is a large indoor pond with dozens of model steamboats hoisting anchors and chugging away, operated by members of the North American Steamboat Modeler's Association.

Cabin Fever Expo is an exhibition devoted to all types of model engineering, featuring live operation of scale model engines, and other types of machinery, including machine tools, tractors, aircraft, and trains.

Cabin Fever Expo has grown rapidly to become one of the two most popular shows in North America for home shop machinists and metal working hobbyists. Show organizers Gary and Jared Schoenly expect this year's event will draw more than 6,000 attendees, in addition to the hundreds of vendors and exhibitors.

Additional space this year allows space for the indoor steamboat pond. Jared, Gary's son, is studying mechanical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, and did the necessary design calculations for a plastic-lined 30x50 foot pond, containing 10,000 gallons of water.

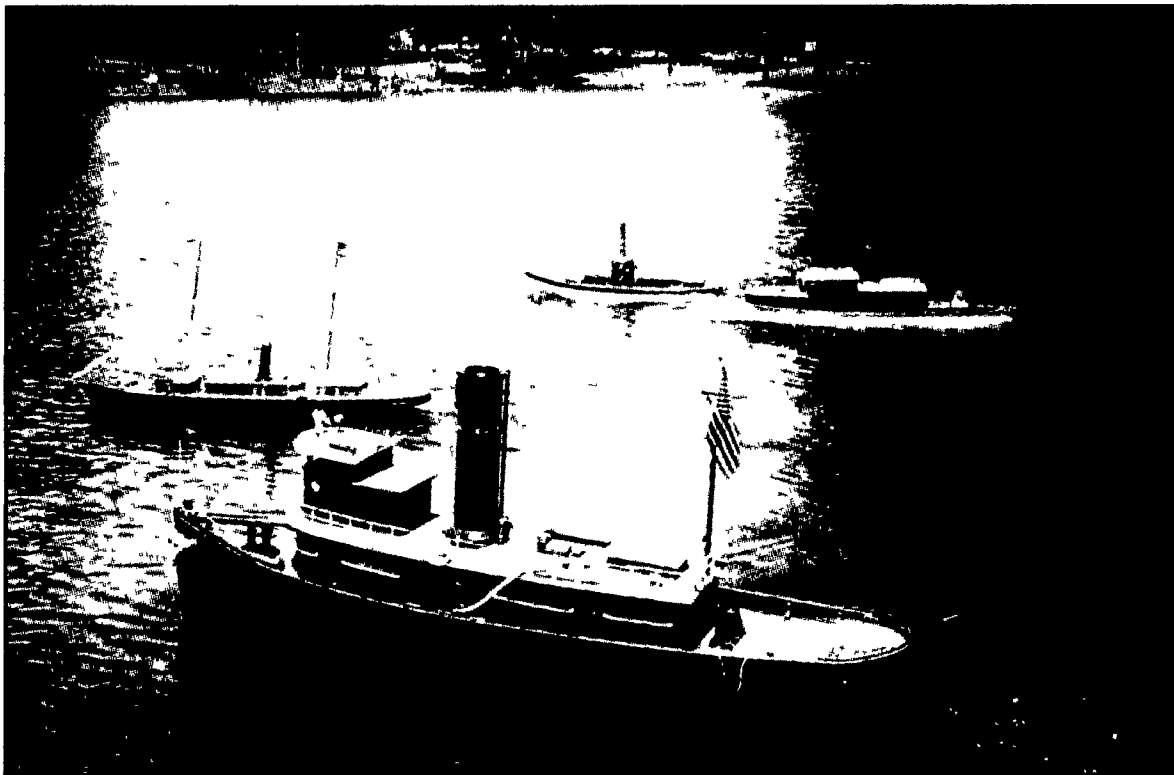
Construction materials and know-how are provided by Gary's brother-in-law, who operates a pool construction and maintenance company.

Attendance has been recorded from almost all 48 contiguous states at past Cabin Fever Expos, and this year a special tour group representing European live steamers is expected to attend.

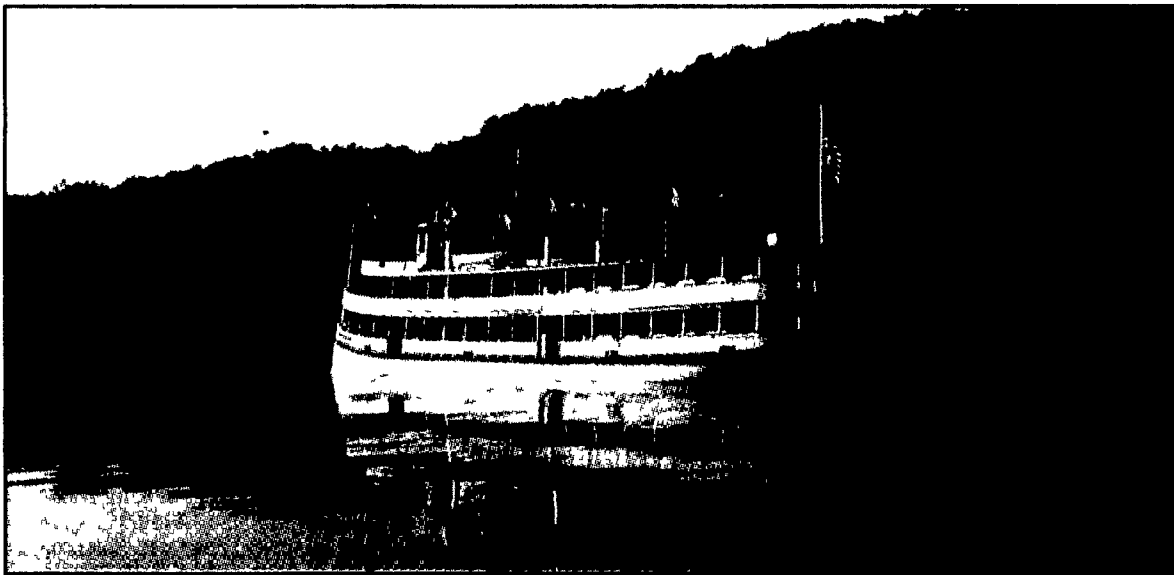
About two dozen model steamboats, ranging from one foot to four feet in length, will be operated by members of the North American Steamboat Modeler's Association (NASMA). NASMA is a group of model steamboat enthusiasts interested in building and operating all varieties of nautical live steam models. Tugboats are the most popular type of model steamboat operated, along with steam launches.

Modelers like launches because there is no deck hiding the steam power plant and auxiliary machinery within the hull. The engine and boilers thus are open to full view, inspection — and admiration. All the models are radio-controlled, and run on alcohol or "camping gas," a small can containing a combination of butane and propane that can be purchased at any sporting goods store. The pond is large enough for a handful of the smaller models to operate simultaneously, but may not be big enough for the turning radius of the larger models. Those will be able to run back and forth across the pond, and perhaps be turned around by hand.

Steve Siegel, editor of the NASMA newsletter, said that one NASMA member from Lititz plans to bring his four-foot model of a Lake Chautauqua steamboat, which many people have mistaken for the real item when viewing photos.



North American Steamboat Modelers' Association will have dozens of model steamboats hoisting anchors and chugging away in the indoor pond.



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The NASMA steamboaters will be making a concerted effort to have some of the smaller model steamboats available for operation by children and teens. Steve also expects a full-size 25-foot steam launch, the Adamy III, to be displayed by Charlie Roth, Gardiner, N. J. The hull is a design of the Rochester Launch Co., Rochester, N. Y. The engine is a 10-horsepower Crescent compound, and the boiler is a 40 square foot vertical fire tube boiler. This steam power plant is about 20 years old, and was built and previously owned by the owner of the Crescent Engine Co., Point Pleasant, N.J.

The propeller is 23-inches in diameter. Because the boiler burns either coal or wood, and the launch will be displayed indoors, Charlie will not be able to "fire 'er up."

But that won't be a problem for the estimated 1,000 model operating engines. Compressed air lines will be available to run those engines normally requiring steam. For the internal combustion engines, Gary and Jared have made sure the halls will be well ventilated.

Altogether, 400 to 500 exhibitors are expected at Cabin Fever Expo. In addition to hundreds of engines, machine tools and other mechanical devices will be on display. Displays include all types of model engineering: hot air engines, gas engines, internal combustion engines, machine tools, airplanes, boats, ships, trains, cars, and tractors.

In addition, 80 vendors will display a wide range of goods for sale, including complete model engine kits, parts and components, plans, machine tools, tool and shop accessories, equipment, and books.

An exhibitors sale area allows participants to sell up to six items. This year, Gary and Jared have also organized an Iron Fever Auction for Friday, January 17, beginning at 4 p.m. Two hundred lots have been consigned, including an Atlas Metal Shaper, a number of different make lathes, a few South Bends, a watchmaker's lathe, hot air engines, hit and miss engines, rare machinery catalogs, and Buddy-L toys. Inspection of items being auctioned will be from noon to 4 p.m. on Friday.

\$5 admission covers both days; children under 12 will be admitted free.

Six seminars on various aspects of home shop machining taught by accomplished craftsmen will be offered at various times during the show. No additional costs are charged to attend seminars by Jerry Frisbie, Bruce Harr, and Chuck Kuhn.

- Carburetion miniaturization - Richard Zipper
- Lathe rebuilding and scraping - Roger Grosser
- Fundamentals of CNC machining - Marty Knox
- Model builder materials - Cliff Schrock
- Model engine ignition systems - Rudy Kouhoupt
- Machining techniques in model engines

More information about Cabin Fever Expo, directions, and a map can be viewed at the Web site www.cabinfeverexpo.com.