Re: Ether Steam Engine ???

Source: http://sci.tech−archive.net/Archive/sci.physics/2007−03/msg01335.html

- *From*: The Ghost In The Machine <ewill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
- *Date*: Mon, 12 Mar 2007 16:46:15 −0700

In sci.physics, jimp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
<jimp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
on Mon, 12 Mar 2007 23:15:02 GMT
<p23hc4−4o1.ln1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

> The Ghost In The Machine <ewill@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>
> > In sci.physics, jimp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> > <jimp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
> > wrote
> > on Mon, 12 Mar 2007 21:25:02 GMT
> > <tpsgc4−90g.ln1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:
> >
> > > G=EMC^2 Glazier <herbertglazier@xxxxxxxxx> wrote:
> > >
> > > > Ether boils at 96F Either is very explosive.
> > > > Good engineering could
> > > > come up with a clean combustible engine. I
> > > > have an idea mixed with water
> > > > gas(steam) and you would end up with lots
> > > > of energy. Bert
> > >
> > > Engines where the fuel detonates are soon called junk.
> >
> > Pedant point: Diesel and Gasoline engines fall into this category. :−)
> >
> > Or did you mean "detonates in the fuel tank"? :−)
>
> It is relatively easy to keep gas under control.
>
> It is rather hard to keep ether from detonation and pre−ignition.

> http://www.streetrodstuff.com/Articles/Engine/Detonation/
>
> Also, the smog components of engine exhaust are not a factor of the fuel. The come from using air which contains nitrogen as the oxidizer.
>
> The higher the combustion temperature, the more smog components you get.
>
> I'm assuming you are talking about orinary ether as used as an engine starting aid.

I'm not the one that brought up ether (presumably, that's Glazier's idea), which is actually a class of organic compounds (presumably, the "ether" he's mentioning is diethyl−ether, C2H5OH5C2). I'll admit I know little about engine starting aids, beyond the existence of such things as glow plugs in diesel systems, and nitrous oxide used as a power boost in racing engines.

I also know predetonation −− usually because of too low an octane, fouled plugs, and/or mistuning an engine −− does nasty things. :−)

I frankly don't know why an ether−steam combo would be any better from an emissions standpoint than our current ICE, a H2−based ICE (which isn't all that good an idea), or a H2−powered fuel cell. (Assuming the H2 can be gotten from an absolutely clean power source, and that's a very big question mark; the best I can do is PV cells and there are many issues in the manufacture thereof.) Also, wouldn't there be a risk of the steam hydrolyzing the ether, yielding just plain old alcohol? If so, why not just use alcohol? Butyl alcohol is occasionally touted as an interesting renewable power source. (I don't know how good it is compared to biodiesel or battery power.)

In any event, good engineering includes knowing what to avoid in the making of an engine −− unless one really does want to make a drivable bomb, in which case one wants the engine to work and the bomb not to go off prematurely... :−)

−−
#191, ewill3@xxxxxxxxxxxx
Useless C++ Programming Idea #12995733:
bool f(bool g, bool h) { if(g) h = true; else h = false; return h;}

−−

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