

THE SIDE TRACK

SUMMER

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2006

President's Message

by Jeff Silvera

Hello all! As you might know I have been very busy at my job. The good news is that we have plenty of work. The bad news is that it takes away a lot of my Saturdays. It always seems to fall on the first Saturday, so I really have to keep my trains a priority in my life. It's something that I want to do. It gets hard, working almost every Saturday. My trains will always be #1. I just wish I could find more time for them, But the pay is good!

Thanks to all of you who helped with the February Luncheon. I thought it a good time was had by all. Speaking of a good time, I hope everyone makes it to our June 3rd picnic at Rio Vista Junction. It should prove to be a wonderful day of trains and fellowship, and fun too! Remember, there will be **NO SVD MEET AT SIERRA CENTER IN JUNE.**

We will start our July meeting early—about 9:30 AM—so that we can have plenty of time for the layout visits in Grass Valley that **Jack Hornor** has arranged.

The 2006 TTOS National Convention will take place August 13-20 in Costa Mesa, in Southern California, with the Southern Pacific Division hosting. Make sure you get your registration in early. There is some good information on it in our latest edition of the Bulletin. They also have a nice convention car planned for early registrants. Hope to see you all There!

Membership News and Notes

by George Ann Hornor

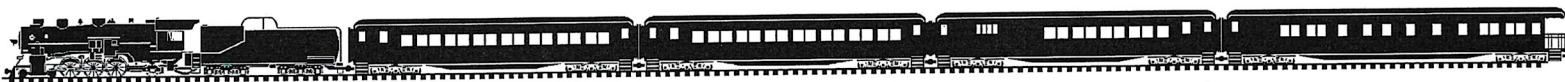
Let's all welcome our newest members: **Harold Christiansen** and **Jack and Lazette Dieres** from Elk Grove; **Chuck Gant, Ken Knott, Ken Mack** and **Tom Wacherly**, all from Sacramento; and **Mike De La Pena** and **Jim and Julie Peroutka** from Shingle Springs.

Way back in 1994, **Ken Knott** was chairman of the modular layout committee, and along with **Jim Groth** was a driving force in designing and building our layout.

I'm happy to report we've added twelve new members to our roster since the beginning of the year. That's a nice improvement over the past few years, and I would like to thank those of you who brought new members to the hobby and to the club. Glancing at the applications, I see that **Geary Musselman** and **Ric Wilson** each referred two new members to us, while **Forrest Allgier, Tom Gibson, Ken Mack,** and **Carl Locher** also brought new members. I know that several others have invited guests and encouraged friends to join us, so it looks as if the Division will be alive and active in the future.

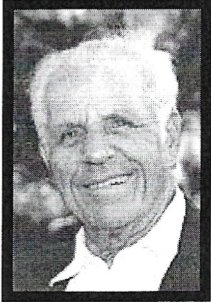
PICNIC TIME AT RIO VISTA JUNCTION!

Pack a lunch and join SVD members and families for a day of railroading fun at the Western Railway Museum on June 3rd. Complete details and reservation information inside this issue,



Remembering Carl Boyer

by George Ann Hornor



Carl Boyer, one of our early members, passed away in March. I, along with many others, will always remember him fondly. Wearing an engineer's cap and a big smile, Carl came to almost every meeting, but often when everyone else was packing up to leave. He loved his

standard gauge trains, but he had other interests, too. He loved to tell stories of his days as a child radio actor on "Jack Armstrong, All American Boy." He played pro-baseball for the Cardinals before his career was interrupted by World War II. After the war, he was head baseball and basketball coach at UC Davis and Sacramento City College in the 1950's. He went on to be the Director of Parks and Recreation in North Sacramento where he served as Commissioner of ASA softball for over 30 years. In recognition of his exceptional service, Redwood Park was re-named "Carl E. Boyer" field.

Bill Bender Receives CSRМ Honors

by Ron Wong

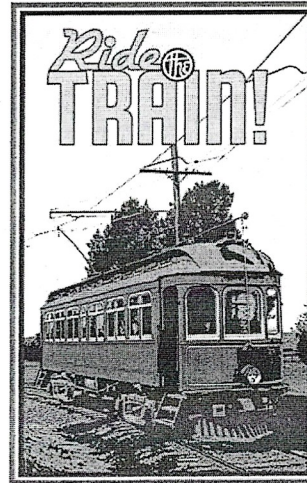
On April 28, 2006, the California State Railroad Museum held its 25th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel. The welcome address was given by Catherine Taylor, District Superintendent/Museum Director followed by Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks who presented the 25 Year Service Award to volunteers and docents. Among this group who were greatly honored was our fellow club member, **Bill Bender**. This magnificent event was witnessed by several of our members who are also active at the museum.

According to Jack and George Ann Hornor, Bill says that he went to the 1981 Rail Fair and never really left.

RIDE A VINTAGE TROLLEY CAR

Our picnic at Rio Vista Junction in June

We're heading to the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction for our picnic on June 3. SVD will pay for the admission to the museum for members and immediate family, but you'll



need to bring your own food and drink and perhaps something to share. If you prefer, there's a snack bar on the property with hot dogs, sodas and other treats. We will have complete access for the day to the museum's carhouse displays and operating trolley cars. Information and directions to the museum may be

seen at www.wrm.org We recommend that you bring sun blocker and lawn chairs if you have them, since the area has only wooden tables and benches

If you haven't already done so, call or e-mail George Ann on or before May 27th to let her know you'll attend. Give her the number of people in your party and their names. A list of SVD attendees will be at the ticket desk on the day of the picnic, so just identify yourselves and get tickets to enter. **Every attendee must have a ticket to be on the museum property.** If you are a WRM member, please show your member card so that SVD will not be charged for your admission. Bring and wear your SVD badge. If you own SVD apparel, this is the time to wear it.

If you received a museum brochure with this newsletter, the admission fee shown for your non-family guests may not be correct. The current admission is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors (over 65) and \$7 for children 2-14.

Reservations: Contact **George Ann Hornor**
Phone: 209-744-0626
eMail gahornor@softcom.net

Note: after May 24th, **phone only** (leave message) no e-mail.



Show and Tell

By Richard Zanotti

The theme of our March meeting, “The Ives of March”, was suggested by **Jack Ahearn**. **John DeHaan** brought a nice Ives “Gray Ghost” set. He also brought an old Ives station with lithoed interior and a #115 station with light. **Pete Keesling** shared a maroon Ives standard gauge passenger set in beautiful condition. The most interesting part was that it was wrapped in the original 1926 Chicago newspaper. I displayed pictures from the 1928 Ives catalog (the year Ives went bankrupt.) These included the Ives three-position remote reverse so coveted by Lionel, the Standard Gauge die-cast steam locomotive so coveted by American Flyer and prototype 19-inch passenger cars which were never produced. I also displayed a 100-year-old Märklin station beautifully restored by **Ira Keeler**.

Rick Wilson suggested that since our meeting fell on April Fool’s Day our Show and Tell theme should be “The Train That Fooled You”. **Jack Hornor** brought a Marx “William Crooks” locomotive. He said that it started smoking the first time he ran it, so he quickly stopped it. Then he learned that it came with a smoke unit. **Chuck Stone** showed a Lionel #50 gang car. He later discovered that it had been made from a #69 maintenance car. Chuck also displayed a “very rare” Flyer Wide Gauge searchlight car. Flyer never made such a car, this one was nicely converted from a flat car. **Jim Groth** brought an O-Gauge prewar Flyer cattle car which he made from a Flyer boxcar. Jim also had a Flyer Wide Gauge searchlight car which he converted from a flat car. Jim showed us his Flyer #3045 crane car, made from a cast crane assembly he purchased and had finished by **Ira Keeler**. New member **Jim Peroutka** brought two Lionel passenger cars purchased on eBay. He was disappointed to find that they were not “excellent” as represented by the seller; in fact they had some reproduction parts. **Paul Wells** brought a trolley he purchased at the Cal-Stewart auction. He thought it was a 2-rail model but was delighted to find after buying it that it was 3-rail. **Jerry Azzaro** showed his 1947 Christmas gift—a Lionel steam freight set—and the diesel streamline passenger set his mother bought for him in 1951. Not knowing the difference, mom had in fact purchased a Flyer “Silver Streak” set. This eventually put Jerry on the path to being a Flyer aficionado. I told about the roofless station I purchased at one of our meets many years ago. I thought that it was Lionel, but **Karl Schmidt** said that it was not. He guessed that it was Märklin, and after much research I confirmed that he was correct. I also showed photos a station I purchased at York. I originally thought it to be Märklin but later found it in a 1931 Karl Bub catalog.

In June we will have our picnic at the Rio Vista Junction museum. In July we need to allow time for everyone to get to the Grass Valley layout visits. So, no Show and Tell until the August SVD meeting.

33 DAYS IN THE BRIG

CONFESSIONS OF AN EBAY MISCREANT

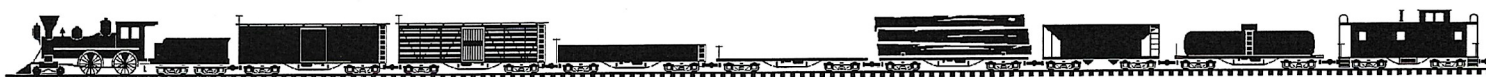
by Jerry Azzaro

Members who attended the March SVD meeting heard the beginning of my tale of woe and intrigue. While helping to sell a toy collection from a friend’s estate, I included four vintage Hubley toy cap pistols in my eBay listings. I was not aware of any eBay restrictions regarding these and since there was a category called “cap guns” I didn’t give it any thought.

About two days into the auction period eBay discovered and removed one of the pistols. I received a one-day suspension for violating eBay’s policy regarding “knives, weapons and guns”. Two days later a second pistol was removed along with another one-day suspension. Then the remaining two were removed and I was suspended for “not less than 14 days”. As it turned out, I was shut out for 33 days, during which time I could not list or bid on anything, could not communicate with buyers or sellers, and had no access to my account information.

One can understand the reason for banning these items from their site—there have been several unfortunate events where a toy gun was mistaken for a real one (whether a \$600 Hubley “Pirate” double-barrel gold-tone cap pistol could ever be taken for a true weapon is another matter).

Anyway, my advice to everyone who uses eBay as a selling tool is to avoid anything that resembles a real weapon in any way.



HOME LAYOUT TOURS

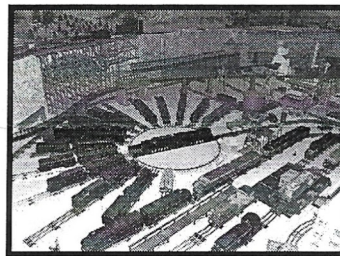
by Jack Hornor

Layout visits - how good can they get? We've seen two outstanding O-gauge layouts, and now we have more to come. In June, of course, we travel to the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction. And the July 1st home layout tour will be really special. **Chuck Brasher, Clyde Easterly** and **Chuck Stone** all have layouts that are known and admired by collectors and operators from all over the country, and we're fortunate to have them as members of our division. You may have seen videos or magazine articles featuring one or all of them. Chuck Brasher collects and operates pristine standard gauge trains, all made before 1939; Clyde has standard and O-gauge trains, but maybe his pride and joy is his No. 1 gauge operating layout; Chuck Stone again has standard and O, but the display of his Ives collection steals the show there. The Brashers and Easterlys live in Grass Valley, and the Stones are in nearby Penn Valley. We had originally scheduled two visits on successive months, but because of the price of gasoline, we decided to combine them. The three visits will make for a fairly long day, so we hope to start the meeting on July 1 a little early and skip the Show and Tell. Instead of everyone beginning at one home and moving as a group between homes, we suggest you start at any of the three homes and proceed from there at your own pace. Because it will be difficult to plan the number of guests at each home at any given time, the hosts will not be serving lunch, so please make your plans accordingly. Maps will, of course, be available. Don't miss this one, and plan to spend the day.

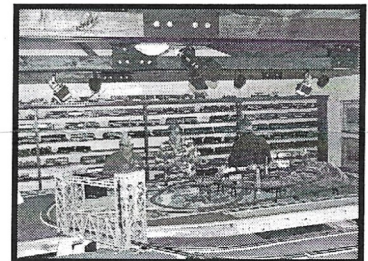
We will skip August because it's just before the TTOS National Convention in Costa Mesa. In September, **Mike De la Pena** has invited us to his home in Shingle Springs. Mike has been in TTOS for several years, but he's new to our division. Skipping October for the River City Train Show, we re-visit the "White house" in November.



Visitors at Phil Fravesi's layout



Phil's turntable



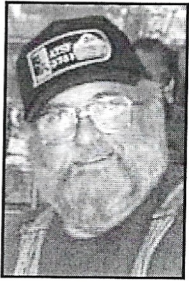
Dean Busick's layout within a layout

Well, didn't I tell you that **Phil's** layout was spectacular? For those of you who missed it, the layout is housed in a 24' x 30' room he added to his house. The layout uses conventional operation on old-style Lionel O-gauge track. There are several loops for multiple train operation using old ZW transformers. Almost every accessory, from post-war to modern, is featured and they all operate. The exciting operation of the three-level railroad empire is enhanced by the structures and imaginative scenery that Phil designed and created. Typical of the clever scenes you will notice is the truck driver dumping drums of waste over the side of a canyon. Not a good practice, I'll admit, but fun to look at. As usual at the **Fravesi** home, we had a great lunch. Phil's culinary skills are well known around train people, and his chili proved the point. Thank you, **Phil** and **Emma**.

How can we thank the **Busicks** enough for the wonderful layout tour, lunch, and afternoon together? Everyone had their fill of a great lunch with lemonade made with lemons from the tree which partially shaded us while we visited about trains. The heart of their layout is an original Lionel Classic Super-O Dealer display layout from the 60's. Surrounding this is a great beginning of a 16' x 17 1/2' modern, multi-loop Ross track and switches layout. **Dean** had both layouts operating superbly with TMCC on the modern layout and conventional Lionel transformers on the dealer layout. There was something for everyone - the dealer layout with original accessories for the postwar fans and the new layout for modern operators. The train room was specifically built for the trains and the decor includes plenty of shelves for displaying their collection. As this layout approaches completion, we hope we're invited back to observe the progress. Meanwhile, thank you so much, **Dean** and **Bonnie**.



Club Layout News By Norman LaClair



The layout was invited to the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) convention on May 5th and 6th, which was held at the Doubletree Inn in Sacramento. It was well attended by NMRA and TTOS members. Our layout also was well attended, even though we were given short notice about the event. If any of our members were not contacted about it by **Norman LaClair** or **Paul Wells**, please let Norman know so your name can be added to the list of those who are interested in running trains or helping to set up or take down the layout. The current list has 24 names and we can always use more people. Apologies to anyone who may have been interested but didn't get a phone call.

We set up at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 5th. The people who helped set up and/or came to run their trains that day were **Paul Wells, Jack Hornor, Lee Deter, Dennis Irwin, Norman LaClair, Dave Ashman, Brian Farnsworth, Marc Jines, Ed Strisar, Tony Rohrs, and John DeHaan**. On Saturday, May 6th, those who came to run trains and/or help take down were **Dave Ashman, Marc Jines, Brian Farnsworth** and his son **Christian, Paul Wells, Norman LaClair, Tony Rohrs, John DeHaan, Mike Boyd, and Bob Milton**.

Thank you to all who participated on such short notice. We appreciate all who came in.

Sincerely, *Norman LaClair*

2006 Club Apparel Order

Ron Wong will take orders at the June picnic and the July Sierra Center meeting for club apparel. Here are the prices and what's available this year:

POLO SHIRT with embroidered club logo \$25 for sizes Medium, Large and Extra Large. \$27 for sizes 2X and above. Personalized Name available in Flyer Yellow OR Lionel Orange, \$5 extra.

CLUB LOGO PATCH---Choice of either Sew-On or Iron-On \$4.50 each. (NOTE: Complimentary patch for new members only...see Ron)

BASEBALL CAP with club logo. One size, adjustable back \$15

NEW by members' request: Embroidered club logo on individual-provided jacket, sweatshirt or shirt \$15 per item plus \$4 mailing to/from vendor.

2006 Club Apparel Order Form

Date: _____

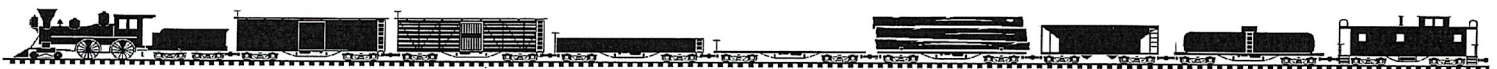
Name: _____ E-Mail & Phone: _____

DESCRIPTION	SIZE and QUANTITY				ITEM PRICE	EXTENDED TOTAL
	Medium	Large	X-Large	2X/3X/4X		
Polo Shirt Dark Navy Blue with left chest pocket. Direct Embroidered Club Logo					\$25.00	
Personalized Name on right side Choice of Flyer Yellow OR Lionel Orange					* \$27.00	
Club Logo Patch						
Sew On Type:					\$4.50	
Iron On Type:					\$4.50	
Baseball Cap					\$15.00	
Solid Navy Blue with Club Logo. One-Size adjustable back.						

Make check payable to: **Sacramento Valley Division-TTOS** **GRAND TOTAL:** _____

Paid By Check # _____

5/1/06



Down the track

May 27: TCA Train Show, Scottish Rite Center

June: NO SVD MEET at Sierra II Center

June 3: SVD Picnic at Western Railway Museum, Rio Vista Junction

June 25: Great Pacific Railroadiana Show & Sale, Scottish Rite Center

July 1: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

(Early meet begins at 9:30 AM followed by Grass Valley Layout Visit)

August 5: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

August 13-20: TTOS National Convention, Costa Mesa CA

September 2: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

October 7: River City Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center

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18 MAY 2006
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