

THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

FALL

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2007

President's Message

by Geary Musselman

I would like to say a special thanks to some SVD members in our fine club. First, I would like to say thanks to **Rod Bean** for sitting in for us and representing our division at the 2007 Altoona TTOS National Convention board meeting in August . . . Thanks again, Rod.

Second, I want to say thanks to our newly appointed Social Committee Chairperson, **Pam Richmond** for suggesting and putting together the outing at Niles Canyon Railroad. I know Pam couldn't do all of the details by herself, so she enlisted **George Ann Hornor** to help her with this event. I know that I speak for the entire club saying a special thanks to both of you. Thanks again, Pam and George Ann. The Niles Canyon outing was a great success. SVD members and family, approximately fifty-five in all, enjoyed the outing. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Third, **Karl and Jeanette Schmidt** and **Jack and George Ann Hornor** graciously opened their homes to SVD members and family for food and trains, which is part of the layout tour program that Jack himself chairs. As always, the hospitality was GRRREAT, and the trains were AWESOME! Thanks so much for letting us visit your fabulous layouts.

Wedding bells were ringing within SVD membership . . . congratulations to **Kevin & Elaine Anderson** from all of the SVD members and me wishing you a long and HAPPY MARRIAGE!

Last but not least, don't forget our annual **RIVER CITY TOY TRAIN MEET**: Saturday, October 6, 2007, 10 am to 3 pm, Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento.

National Board Report

Altoona Convention

By George Ann Hornor

None of the SVD officers were able to attend the convention, but as many of you know, we have one member, **Rod Bean**, who now lives about a four-hour drive from Altoona. Rod was good enough to attend the TTOS Board of Directors' meeting and act as Geary's proxy.

Rod's report began, "There was a small problem which caused me to miss the first two hours of the meeting. While getting ready at 5 a.m. on Thursday morning, I fell backwards out of the shower hitting my head and shoulder on the commode." That was a very discouraging start, but he says he's fine now. He sent our officers a summary of the meeting, much of which related to administrative issues. One of the more significant was the Board's decision to hire an executive director to oversee the national headquarters office. The manager of the office in Arcadia had recently resigned, so there was a need to press forward as quickly as possible.

I asked **Don Kyle**, National Secretary, for his impressions about the rest of the convention. Briefly, here is his report: "About 180 members registered, somewhat fewer than had been expected. Some of the best layouts ever were at the show, one O gauge layout so large it would fill most smaller halls. The banquet was well attended and auction went well. A limited edition car produced for the banquet auction sold for \$275. The highlight of the convention was the public day with over 550 coming through the doors. We picked up new members and sold quite a few convention cars.

"We are exploring the option of having a "TTOS East" meet held on the years we will not have an East Coast convention. Tentatively, we may return to Altoona July 11-12-13, 2008 to hold a weekend only show while the Railroader's Museum holds their Railfest. They draw a huge crowd with this and have free train rides. The museum displays are of the quality of Sacramento, just on a smaller scale. More to come on this. This event would be geared towards those in the area and no tours will be scheduled."

There are many members back East who are looking forward to Sacramento in 2008. I'm glad we were able to go ahead and do this.

Don will be sending his "News From National" group e-mail shortly.

Thanks, Rod and Don, for your contributions to this article.



HOM€ LAYOUT TOURS

by Jack Hornor

HORNOR LAYOUT TOUR

The home layout tour in August came to the Hornor home in Galt. I'm proud of my trains and the way they run, so I could write several pages describing the layout and our collections. But I'll be mercifully brief and only mention some of the highlights of this visit. We had food, we had trains, and we had lots of friends.

Food first, of course. The food was good, but the timing was a little off. I had a feeling there might be a problem when I noticed the cook was still in her housecoat and the house was full of people. **Jeremy** confirmed it when he asked me if I lived there, and when I said yes, he asked if I would tell the lady in the kitchen to hurry up with the food. I told him no (I'm not that brave!) But eventually, food appeared, so all was well.

I had two new layouts running -- that is if you count the circle of K-line Super Streets running on the bed in the guest room. (I'm still waiting for the straights to come in.) The PE Birney trolleys recently issued by the SP Division looked and ran great. The other was a 4x6 layout I squeezed in the family room beside my easy chair. (Thanks to **Bill Bender** for that idea.) The two loops of track (Lionel Fast Track on the outside, MTH Real Track on the inside) encircle 'Last Gasp City.'

We ran trains for more than four hours without stopping, and I'll admit to being pleased that the trains ran so smoothly that I could run 11 trains unattended while I walked from room to room. O.K., so there were a couple of minor incidents, the most spectacular of which involved an engine coming off a high-speed curve, falling two levels, and demolishing the Old Town Hotel. I'm happy to report the engine wasn't damaged and the hotel has been repaired.

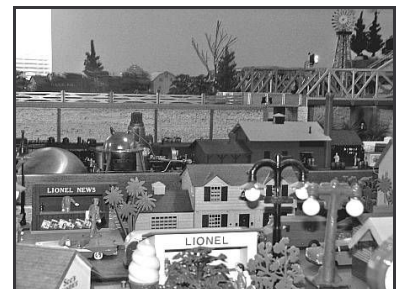
Finally, the friends, which after all are the best part. It's always fun for both of us to visit with our old friends as well as the new ones.

George Ann wants me to particularly thank **Glenda Hanks, Barbara Rohrs, and Betty Musselman** for their help.

- Jack Hornor

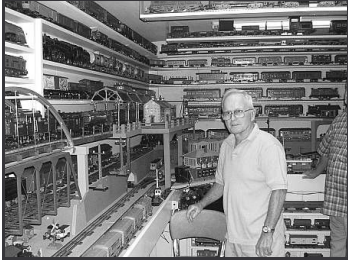


*Photos by Mark Boyd and
Barbara Rohrs*



SCHMIDT LAYOUT TOUR

Thank you, **Karl and Jeanette Schmidt**, for hosting a great layout tour. As usual, your restoration work is truly professional and a real pleasure to see first-hand. And since some of our members couldn't see your collection in person, here's a mini photo-tour (photos by Jack Hornor):



Karl in his layout room



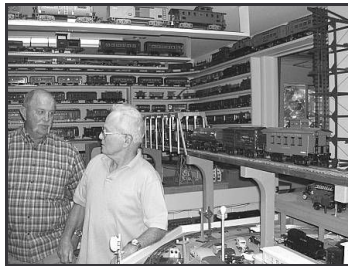
John with some of the best of the restored trains



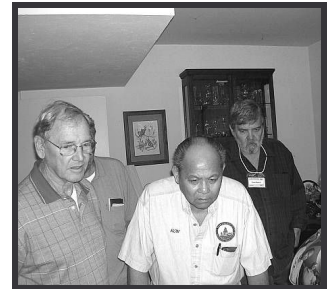
Ron, Mike and Tom admire the collection room



Where all the art begins



Karl and Pete and the famous hand-made #1 gauge loop



In fact, Tom, Ron and Dean are awestruck!

FUTURE MEETS

Assuming you all want more layout tours and want me to keep doing it, here are my ideas. The home layout tours offer us the opportunity to see first-hand the way different layouts are designed and constructed. Since many of our members don't have room for a large layout, I hope to be able to visit several smaller layouts, such as in bedrooms or garages, etc. I would like to begin early in the year with the smaller layouts, and then move to the larger layouts during the last half of the year. If you are willing to show your layout, please contact me before the end of this year so I can put together a tentative schedule.

Please remember, serving food is optional. As you know, in past tours, the hosts have run the gambit from serving just coffee or soft drinks to complete lunches. If you decide to be a host, it's up to you to serve whatever you feel comfortable doing.

-Jack Hornor



Show and Tell

By Bill Wilson

The next Show and Tell will be September first on "Clockwork Trains and Toys". I will not be there but I am sure it will be an interesting session. **Jack Hornor** has volunteered to conduct that session. October is the big River City event at Scottish Rite Center so there will be no S&T that month. For November the subject is "Unusual Train Related Items". (An example is a steam engine tea kettle). Use your imagination on this one!! Since Christmas is coming up in December, lets try "Interesting Train Books for Kids and Grownups" Perhaps some Christmas gift ideas will come out of this subject.

At the November meet, I will bring the list of subjects you folks have suggested. We have gone through many of them so additional subjects are needed. Please give some thought to ones you would like to hear about. I heard a suggestion about a short seminar on foam construction for scenery. There are others such as Jack's famous talk on TMCC. These subjects can take a bit of time. Are they of interest?? See you in October.

Club Layout News

By Norman LaClair, Layout Chair



Model train hobbyists in the northern California area are very fortunate in the months of January and February 2008 as two national train organizations are coming to Sacramento, one in January and one in February. The World's Greatest Hobby National Tour Train Show will be here on January 5th and 6th at

the Convention Center in downtown Sacramento for a two-day show. Our layout will be there, of course.

The Great Train Expo touring show will be here on February 2nd and 3rd at Cal Expo. The layout will be there for the two day show. Start saving your quarters and dollar bills because there will be two opportunities to buy, buy, buy those trains.

There will be more information in the future as to the hours the shows will be open.

A big thank you and congratulations go to **Paul Wells**. He had to rebuild the engine in his pickup and it was finished in time for him to haul the layout to the August meet at Sierra Center. He did the entire overhaul himself with some help on the heavy lifting from **Andy DeSmet**. The club is very fortunate to have Paul. Not only does he repair

our trains, but he rebuilds pickup motors to benefit our club. He tows our layout trailer to the Sierra Center each month and to all public shows.

Andy DeSmet towed the trailer to a couple of meetings when Paul's truck was under repair. Norman went up to Paul's and towed the trailer back to Sacramento for the May Memorial Day Show and Sierra Center meet, and **Lee Deter** towed the trailer back to Paul's. A big thank you to Andy, Lee, and Norman for seeing that our club layout was available.

All of this is my way of saying the TTOS membership is a truly wonderful club to belong to with people willing to help at all times.

Another person in the background to thank is **Phil Fravesi** who steps up whenever he's needed to build tables and repair the layout. He also donates his time to the California State Railroad Museum by going there to repair the trains and accessories in the operating layout at the museum.

The SVD layout will be at the Railroad Museum on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday following Thanksgiving again this year.

Sincerely, *Norman LaClair*



Show and Tell Supplement

By Ricard Zanotti

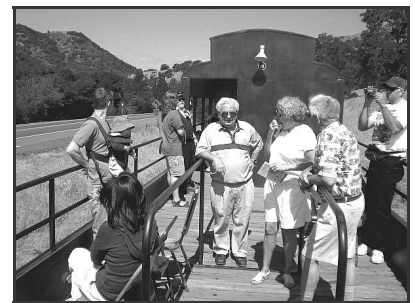
Bill and Sandy Wilson had to attend a wedding that conflicted with our June meeting. Our theme for June was MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS. **Jerry Azzaro** brought in two different clockwork lithoed rack and pinion layouts manufactured by Technifix in the 1950s. I brought in a Technifix clockwork rack and pinion layout called, appropriately, "Rocky Mountain Express". It was made in the 1960s. I also had a battery operated inclined cable railway made in the 1950s by Alps.

In July we had an outing on the Niles Canyon Railway. As a result we did not have Show & Tell.

The theme of our August Show & Tell was BUMPER CARS. **Stan Salzman** stole the show with his postwar, battery operated, Japanese layout, that pulled, hooked, unhooked and pushed cars. **Jerry Azzaro** shared a General Models bumper car from the 1950's. I shared some pictures of the Denver TCA Convention, complete with tours to the top of Pikes Peak, Vail, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Denver, and the Georgetown Loop. I had a tin sign for the Manitou and Pikes Peak Railway that I was able to get in Niles, California, when we went on the Niles Canyon outing.

Riding the Niles Canyon Rails

SVD members and their families enjoyed a day of sun, fun and friendship when they rode the Niles Canyon Railway on July 1. **Pam Richmond** and **George Ann Hornor** worked to make the event a success.



Down the track

September 1: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

September 22-23: TTOS Cen-Cal Division's Kings Cannonball Train Show, Hanford

October 6: TTOS River City Toy Train Meet: Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento (No Sierra II meet)

November 3: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

November 2-4: Cal Stewart Pasadena Convention Center Exhibition Building

November 10-11: International Railfair Model Railroad Show,
Placer County Fairgrounds, Roseville

December 1: SVD MEET, Sierra II Center

December 1-2: TTOS San Joaquin Valley Division Train Show,
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock



TTOS Sacramento Valley Division
291 Bella Vista Way
San Francisco, CA 94127-1811

