

President's Message

by Geary Musselman

I can't believe a year has already gone by in my first term of a two year obligation as president. So, on that note we are gearing up for an exciting year in 2008! With all the events coming up starting with a bang April 5th, the first Saturday of the month. Our club members are invited to celebrate our Membership Appreciation Day at the Trolley Museum at Rio Vista Junction. It should be a great time for all of us. A reminder to you all: we are not having a meeting that day at Sierra 2 so don't show up at the usual place.

Don't forget the TTOS National Convention in August the week of the 11th through 16th at Sacramento Convention Center. If you would like to volunteer as a national member to help, please contact Randy Giroux, our Executive Director, at (626) 574-7453.

Our club needs to say "thanks" to **Craig Benner**, a fellow member, for bringing our web site up to date; you can view it at www.ttos-sv.org/ On behalf of myself and our fellow members, A BIG THANKS to CRAIG BENNER, our website coordinator.

Some sad news: we have lost two long-time members. **Francis Eister** passed away on January 13, 2008, also **Clarence Hanks** passed away on February 15, 2008. They will always be in our hearts and surely will be missed. As we remember them and celebrate their lives, I'm sure they would want us to keep enjoying our trains and keep our club strong and healthy!

Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs

Welcome, New Members

Say hello to our newest members & their family members:

Leon Gravelin, Reno, NV
Family Member: **Judy Clinton**

Family Member: **Matt Shelgren**, Son of **Paul Shelgren**, Lincoln, CA

Tony Basile, El Dorado Hills, CA
Family Members: **Nancy Basile, Gaetano Basile, Amanda Basile, Tom Malone**

Tim Taormina, Sacramento, CA
Family Members: **Betty Taormina, Leo Taormina**

John Stoos, Sacramento, CA
Linda Stoos, Sam Stoos, Isaiah, Tarn, Ty, Aileen, Arden, Anna & Avery Johnson

Annual Membership Dues

Don't Miss the Deadline! Deadline to pay your 2008 Sacramento Valley divisional dues is April 1. If you have not sent in your renewal, do not wait another minute and do it today. This year's dues are \$15 for individuals & \$20 for a family membership. Also if you have any change in your address, telephone or e-mail since last year, please include it with your payment. Send it to:

Barbara Rohrs
Membership Chair
3950 Mack Road - 57
Sacramento, CA 95823



HOME LAYOUT TOURS

by Jack Hornor, Chairman

Home Layout Tours in 2008

Because of schedule conflicts with other train shows, we started this year after the March meeting with a visit to **Dave Thomsen's** in Woodland. Of course, we'll be going to the Western Railway Museum in April, so our next home layout visit will be in May when we're invited to the **Fravesi's**. The only other date I have pinned down is September when we go back to **Bob Effa's**.

We've had several visits to large layouts lately, and although they're always enjoyable, all of our members like to run trains, no matter what their available space allows. So I'm asking for volunteers with smaller layouts in garages or extra bedrooms to come forward in June, July or November. Maybe you have solved a problem that is troubling someone else, or maybe you need ideas to proceed.

And please remember – serving food is optional. It's nice to look at trains and eat, but looking at trains is the big thing. You can get in touch with me at 209 744-0626 or at jwhornor@softcom.net.

UPDATE ON KIT AND ROSE CRAIGHEAD'S STORM LOSSES

Contributed by Paul and Susane Wells

(Most members know by now that a giant tree fell onto Kit and Rose's house during the storm on January 4. The tree crushed the bedroom section of the house, which included their train room. Many SVD members have helped them salvage as much of their train collection as possible. Meanwhile, they are renting a place nearby while insurance companies and contractors work to bring things back to normal. Paul and Susane Wells, who live next door to Kit and Rose, sent this update as we were preparing this issue of the Side Track)

"Kit and Rose are doing well. We would like to say 'great', but as you know these are trying times for them. They are living a couple doors



away on the other side of our place, which makes it easy for them to keep track of what's going on at their house nearby. Work has begun on the teardown of the damaged portions of the house. We walked over one evening to check it out and were impressed by the amount of work that had taken place. We also ran into Rose who was taking care of some of the loose ends that they

needed to attend to. Both Kit and Rose wanted to express their thanks again to everyone who helped and called to offer help and expressed their concerns for them. They are hopeful that within three to four months they will be home."

- Paul & Susane



Oh, how we'll miss them!

- remembering Francis Eister and Clarence Hanks
by George Ann Hornor

The club has lost two of our favorite members, and our meetings will never be the same.



Francis and Becky Eister

Francis Eister passed away January 14. We'll always remember Francis for his big grin and his quiet presence at almost every meeting. Francis and Becky, who were married 64 years, enjoyed the train hobby together and were wonder-

ful hosts to the many visitors to their layout in Loomis. In an article he wrote for the March 2004 *TTOS Bulletin*, Jack Ahearn told the story of how, in the mid-50's, Becky, young and innocent, couldn't have realized what she was getting into when she saw an ad in the paper for a Lionel train set and thought it would be nice for their son, Billy. Armed with the \$40 asking price, Francis returned with his arms full of locomotives, cars, accessories, and even some track. By 1990, he joined TTOS, and soon after, he found TCA and York. In 2004, the club visited their room-sized layout where we were treated to the sight of a busy, happy layout with mixed gauges, lots of accessories and a mountain that reached the ceiling. You can best describe the layout as "fun", and "fun" describes Francis, too.

Clarence Hanks died on February 15. We'll all remember Clarence for his grin as well, and for his enthusiasm for collecting and talking about trains. His wife, Glenda, loves toy trains, too, and together they enjoyed attending train conventions all over the country. I'm not sure that they ever missed a Cal-Stewart in either Pasadena or Santa Clara. It all started in 1961 when Clarence's mother sent a train set for her grandson, Brad. Of course, Dad had to get involved. A friend brought him into TCA in 1978, and shortly after he joined TTOS.



Clarence and Glenda Hanks

When I first met Clarence in the early 90's he was one of the foremost Marx collectors on the West Coast. Later he decided to switch to prewar Lionel, but he was slowly returning to his Marx. He loved "Show and Tell" and always had something to show us. He was a WWII veteran and avid military history buff, so sometimes we had a little history lesson with our trains. As I think about what I'll miss about Clarence, it may be kidding him about the 30,000 American flags he bought. If you have been a club member for a while, you probably have one or two. I know we do.

Finally, as I remember these two friends, I recall that they both were happy people. That's a good memory to leave, isn't it?

TTOS Sacramento Valley Division on the Internet

By George Ann Hornor

Thanks to **Craig Benner**, the Division has a new and improved web site. Craig and I will be working together to keep our site up to date and relevant. The new address (URL if you're a techie) is www.ttos-sv.org. Due to his travel schedule, Craig had been unable to participate in club activities for a couple of years, but thank goodness he's back. Not only did he create the new page, he donated the annual fee to the club. We thank him for that. We'll be adding pictures later, so keep checking in, and if you have any

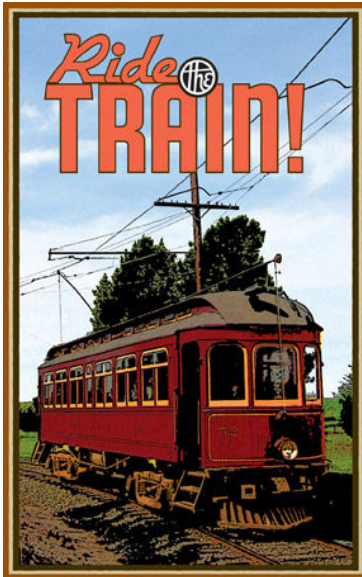
you would like to see included, please send them to me at gahornor@softcom.net.

Now, did any of you anti-computer hold-outs decide to join our online community? If you did, please send me your e-mail address. I send meeting reminders and other announcements to our online mailing list. Once I found an exceptional price on a train set and several members were able to get a real bargain. I can't promise that again, but maybe ...



APRIL 5TH OUTING FOR SVD MEMBERS AND FAMILY AT WESTERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

By Pam Richmond, Social Coordinator



Our annual trip this year is to the **Western Railway Museum** on Saturday, April 5th. The museum is located a few miles west of Rio Vista. Maps will be available at our March meeting.

Our club will pay the cost of the admission fee into the museum. The admission fee includes touring the museum and a large car house with historic electric-powered rail vehicles, riding the streetcars, and riding in the coach car of the **Scenic Limited** train that runs only on weekends in April. The train runs at 11:00am, 12:30pm, and 2:00pm. The streetcars run every 15-20 minutes. The museum is open from 10:30am to 5:00pm. The club will pay the museum admission fees for each club member plus one guest, and all family members for those with family memberships.

We have the opportunity to ride in the **observation car** of the **Scenic Limited train**. To ride this car, it will cost \$5.00 per person in advance. (The club is not covering this cost). We have reserved the car at 2 different times – 11:00am and 12:30pm. A train steward serves drinks and cookies on the observation car. The car is equipped with armed sofa chairs and small tables. **The car holds 39 passengers so we have reserved seats for 78 people (2 train runs). The museum has a website, www.wrm.org, where you can find a lot of information.**

At the February meeting, we had many members sign up for the observation car. I have received \$5.00 per person, so far, from half of those members who have signed up. Thank you. For those who have not yet paid their \$5.00, please pay me as soon as possible in order to save a reserved seat. They are going fast. When they are gone, they are gone. Please sign up for the time you would like to ride in the car - 11:00am or 12:30pm. Please stick to the time you reserved.

A separate sign-up sheet is available for those who plan to come to the museum, but do not want to ride on the observation car. They can participate in all the other museum activities. The cut-off date on this list is March 20th.

When you arrive at the museum, please check in at the front desk so we can check you off the list. Bring your club membership I.D. badge or other I.D. for checking in.

You are responsible for your own lunch. There is a picnic area, and snack bar on the museum grounds. The snack bar has hot dogs, drinks, and other snack items.

If you have any questions please telephone me @ (916) 689-3542 (home #) or (916) 607-5034 (cell).

I hope to see you at the museum on April 5th!

Show and Tell

By Bill Wilson, Chairman

We are back on track for the Spring season of Show and Tell. In looking over the suggested subjects, the next three subjects are:

- March 1 Great and Interesting Marx Trains
- April 5 No Show and Tell
- May 3--Railroad Collectables--documents, lanterns, artwork, etc.
- June 7-- Handcars--prewar era, postwar era

Bring your good stuff and let the members know some good stories about them. This makes our hobby interesting for everyone, collectors and operators.

I will bring an updated list of suggestions for future Show and Tells. Please add your ideas so we can make it fun for everyone.



Club Layout News

By Paul Wells, filling in for Norman LaClair, Layout Chair

Hello everyone, as you know Norman was in the hospital for a couple of weeks. He is recovering at home since being released on January 7th. So, I'll try to fill you in on our layout display and operation at the **Sacramento Train Museum**, the **Greatest Hobby on Tour** and **Great Train Expo** shows.

First, the Museum show November 23-25 was a great success. The layout crew and everyone who kept the trains rolling did an outstanding job. Unfortunately I do not have the list of everyone who participated. If I try to remember everyone I might forget someone, so, you know who your are . . . GREAT JOB!

Now for the Greatest Hobby on Tour Jan. 5th & 6th. First we were going to set up on Friday the 5th. I contacted the young man in charge of getting things set up and he asked if we would be one of three layouts invited to come set up on Thursday to do TV interviews in the morning. I told him I would have to talk to the crew and see if they would be interested and if they could do setup on Thursday AM. I checked with them and they said "OK", so I called him back to tell him it was a go for Thursday morning. He said that the TV crews would not be there in the morning and asked if we could come in in the afternoon to setup. So, back to e-mail and the phone and (would you believe?) they all said "OK" again. What a bunch of great people we have that would change their plans at the last minute to help. Well, we get there and started setting up, just to find out that the weather was more important to the TV stations than promoting the Worlds Greatest Hobby. So, we set up anyway and had some fun doing it without having to be in a hurry. A special thanks to **Jack Hornor, Curt Darling, Ed Strisar, John Leins, Zachary Wellner, Brian Farnsworth, Pam Richmond, Jim Groth**, and of course myself.

Anyway, come Saturday, everything was ready to go. Wow, what a couple of days both Saturday and Sunday were! There were more people around the layout on those two days than I have seen all year at all our meets and shows in 2007. Helping keep the trains rolling were **Jack Hornor, Paul Wells, Jeff Silvera, Mike Boyd, John De Haan, Curt & James Darling, Brian Farnsworth, John Liens, Ed Strisar, Mark Jines, Carl Curtis, William Howes, Tony Rohrs, Pam Richmond, Cory Franz, and Rod Walker**. Also **Craig Benner** showed up after visiting with Norman to help take down the layout. It was a great time had by everyone at this very large show.

We had a great time at Cal Expo on February 2nd & 3rd. Thanks to the layout crew for doing a great job of setup and take down. We set up on Friday, which was great. **George Ann Hornor** did a good job of cleaning track, so when we came in on Saturday we just had some minor adjustments to get the trains running. A special thanks to **John DeHaan** for manning the layout both days, sometimes by himself even though he wasn't feeling up to par. John always brings an assortment of trains from Standard to S to run. His Standard gauge passenger set was the star of "Good Day Sacramento" when they stopped by to do interviews on Sunday morning. It was the first train the people watching saw when they started their segment on the train show. Also I was interviewed by Lori who thought our layout was a great place to start the morning interviews. Of course we missed Norman who was recuperating at home.

Get well soon Norman, we miss you.

The layout will be at the following events:
Sat. April 26 Valley Springs East of Lodi on Hwy. 12
Sat. May 24 TCA meet at Scottish Rite Temple
August 11-16 TTOS Convention Sacramento
Sat.-Sun. Sept. 27-28 Colfax Founders Day/RR Days
Sat. Oct. 4 TTOS River City meet
. . . and any monthly meeting we can get to.

Thanks to SVD-TTOS for your support.

-Paul Wells



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2009 CONVENTION CAR OPPORTUNITY FOR SACRAMENTO VALLEY DIVISION

Contributed by John DeHaan, SVD Secretary

(In the printed version of this newsletter, we failed to include some important information from John DeHaan's minutes taken at the December and February board meetings)

From the December minutes: The 2009 National meet will be in Chicago, and the "host" Division (Illinois/Land of Lincoln) is currently inactive, so TTOS is offering us a chance to make and sell a Division car to be sold in connection with the 2009 meet. Our division would gain profit from any cars sold over the break-even (500 cars made/250 would be break-even). Since there was not enough time to get a car designed and made for 2008 this would be a great second chance. Your ideas for a car that incorporates both Chicago and Sacramento connections are welcome now! A UP refrigerator car has been suggested. What else??

From the February minutes: Secty John DeHaan gave an update on the TTOS Chicago/Sacramento Division car offer for 2009 and asked for suggestions for cars that link the two cities. the California Zephyr and Santa Fe have been suggested. We need to move on this soon so we can have a car for 2009.

Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members

March 14-16: Spring Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara Convention Center

April 5: SVD Picnic at Western Railway Museum (details inside)
NO SIERRA 2 MEET

May 3: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

May 24: TCA Nor-Cal Sac-Sierra meet, Scottish Rite Center

June 7: SVD MEET, Sierra 2 Center

