

Another River City Winner

By Jeff Silvera, meet chair



You know fall and winter are upon us when our River City Meet has come and gone. I just wanted to let you know that I believe we had a very successful meet. I don't have the exact numbers, but it was very lively as the day seemed to fly by. As always, I did not get to thank all who were involved the way I would have liked. I get so busy with this and that, plus being involved with our club layout. That must be why it just flies by for me! The River City Meet is our one public meet of the year, and the one that we rely on to make a portion for our rent for the Sierra 2 center. I really believe if we did more advertising we would have an even better turnout. As the River City event has always been my favorite meet of the year, just a family swap meet, it's one that I always look forward to. I would just like to let everyone know I really appreciate all of your help — a very big **Thank You**. Happy Holidays, Jeff Silvera



Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs

It is time to renew your Sacramento Valley Division annual dues. At the last meeting the cost of dues was raised: Individual - \$20; Family -\$25. I will be collecting dues beginning at the December 6 meeting. The deadline for dues to be paid is April 1. Please make an effort to pay your dues at a meeting or mail before this deadline. I also ask every renewing member to take the time to fill out an application form (one is included in this newsletter). This form not only assists in keeping accurate membership records and dues payments but gives us a chance to make sure that your correct address, phone & email are used. Also, please complete the Layout Questionnaire on the back of the application form.

Just a little note: There was quite a discussion at the November meeting about the increase in dues. The increase was not just because of our meeting place. There are several other expenses that have gone such as mailing & printing costs of newsletters, directories, flyers, etc.; card stock and badge holders for membership cards not to mention the ink to print them. So the \$.40+ increase per month will cover some of these "invisible" expenses.

So remember to pay your dues early! Make checks out to SVD TTOS. If you are going to mail them, please send them to:

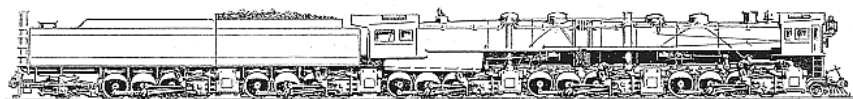
Barbara Rohrs
 Membership Chair
 3950 Mack Road – 57
 Sacramento, CA 95823

if you have questions or concerns about your membership, please contact Barbara at (916) 395-3925
tjbrr@hotmail.com

WELCOME NEW/RETURNING MEMBERS

Steve Gower
Steve Hamer

Heidi Bergdahl - (family members: husband **Stephen** & son **Raymond**)



HOME LAYOUT TOURS



Bob Effa and **Beth Ison** were our gracious hosts for the September home layout tour. Their layout is in a compact bedroom and shows how you can have an O gauge layout that is active, busy and fun to operate in a limited space. The layout can operate two or more trains simultaneously with plenty of room for interesting switching operations at the same time. Bob's consists are made up of postwar to modern steam and diesel trains, operated conventionally with a Z-4000 and other transformers. The track is Lionel O gauge with 31 and 42 inch curves. Beth's clever scenery uses items found around the house, in the garage and in dollar stores. It looks as realistic as layouts done by professional modelers. You've done a great job, Beth and Bob, and we thank you for the food and hospitality.



I am happy to say that there will **not** be a change of administration coming to the Fair Oaks **White House**, and I'm sure the folks who visited **Pete** and **Nancy's** home in November will agree with me on that. As usual, we all enjoyed the seeing the trains and antique toys as well as the wonderful toy soldiers. The trains fill an upstairs bedroom and closet with a standard gauge layout at eye-level and an O-gauge track suspended from the ceiling. A unique feature is the monorail which also circles the room. This is a highly entertaining layout with a Toonerville Trolley, a circus and fireworks. A special highlight was the double helix track set up on the dining room table. Of course there was another table for the cookies and delicious Apple Hill cake that Nancy fixed for us. We all enjoyed sharing a nice afternoon with the Whites. Thank you.



... a note from the membership secretary

BE A GOOD GUEST!

We all love those layout tours after each meeting. It is interesting and fun to see what others are doing with their layouts and get ideas on how to improve our own. It is appreciated that individual members so willingly open their homes to us. So let us remember some "layout visit" etiquette.

- Please do not arrive at the home before the indicated time.
- Please remember to look with your eyes not with your hands.
- Please do not open cabinets, curios, etc. without permission or assistance by the owner.
- If you have youngsters with you, please be aware of what they are doing and/or where they are.
- If food is provided, please remember that others will be visiting also. Please do not carry the food and/or drink in other parts of the home unless permission is given.
- Please do not overstay your welcome.
- Please do not forget to say "Thank you" to the host/hostess for allowing you to visit.

If we remember some of these simple good manners, the visit will be pleasant for you, other members and more importantly, the host/hostess. We want them to ask us back again.

-Barbara Rohrs



Meeting Notes

by John DeHaan, SVD Secretary

SVD Minutes: Sept 6, 2008

Business Meeting: Chaired by Secty **John DeHaan** in the absences of Geary and Brian.

Guests: **Monty McGill** of Gardnerville NV, guest of **John DeHaan**

New Members: **George Zorzi, Cameron Zorzi Heidi Bergdahl, Raymond Bergdahl.**

Treasurer **Zanotti** presented a Treasurer's Report

Jack Hornor presented thank you gifts to those who hosted layout tours during the TTOS National:

Bill Wilson, Mike De La Pena, Chuck Brasher, Chuck Stone, Clyde Easterly, and Jack Hornor.

Paul Wells thanked the volunteers who helped with the layout during the National and asked for help with the Iowa Hill (Colfax) layout demo on Sept 28.

Jeff Silvera reminded everyone that there would be no meeting in October as the TTOS Scottish Rite train meet is Oct 4. Help is needed with door registration and other admin.

The proposed "Division car" was shown to Steve Latta at the National who said the National Board had to approve any product. A letter will be sent to him.

There was discussion of new possible locations for monthly meetings. **Jack Ahearn** and others are making enquiries.

With the failure of the portable PA system, meetings are hard to run (and HEAR!!). **Tom Upchurch** volunteered to find a replacement before the December meeting.

Show & Tell included offerings by **George Ann Hornor, Jack Hornor, Pete White, Bill Wilson and Carl Locher.**

Tom Gibson agreed to be Nominations Chair. Members were reminded that the "steam-up" days for the Roots of Motive Power Museum in Willits were Sept 6 and 7 with lots of live steam rail and logging equipment running.

Respectfully submitted
John DeHaan, Secretary SVD

SVD Minutes: Nov 1, 2008:

The meeting was chaired by Secty **John DeHaan** in the absence of **Geary** and **Brian**.

Returning member **Steve Gower** was welcomed

Nominations Chair **Tom Gibson** offered the slate of candidates for the December election:

President: **John DeHaan**

Vice-president: **Jack Hornor**

Secretary: **Phil Fravesi**

Treasurer: **Brian Stanton and Jack Dieres**

The election will be held on Dec. 6.

Barbara Rohrs has agreed to serve another term as membership secretary.

Treasurer **Zanotti** reported that a profit of about \$1500 resulted from the Scottish Rite Meet. The profit would have been considerably reduced if TTOS National had not covered the insurance for the meet as part of their blanket policy.

Several ideas for a new meeting location were discussed. Several under consideration had been withdrawn or rejected for various reasons. The rental agreement for Sierra II for ten meetings in 2009, for a total of \$3800 was presented and will be paid by Dec 1 to ensure a place for now. All members are encouraged to continue to scout out locations in and around Sacramento.

Bill Wilson requested ideas for Show & Tell for 2009. This is a unique and fun feature of our meets, and we need more ideas.

John Shelton has announced that starting in December he will be able to supply only coffee, not other goodies for our meets. The membership thanked John for his efforts for so many years!

John DeHaan reported that Weaver has issued a scale SP express car just like the one we designated for the joint Sacramento-Chicago "Division Car". He has spoken to Weaver and they are willing to produce 300 cars with the TTOS-Sacramento-2008 stamping on one end and TTOS-Chicago 2009 on the other at no additional cost, and sell them to us for \$27.50 each (list price \$45). This information will be passed on to TTOS National for their approval. Cars could be delivered in 6-8 weeks, with die-cast trucks and couplers, and are made in the US (so additional cars can be ordered as needed). Membership voted to pursue this concept.

There was extensive discussion of a motion to raise the annual dues for the SVD by \$5.

Ultimately, this motion passed by a 25 to 22 vote of the membership.

Members were reminded that toy and food donations will be needed at the December 6 meeting. **Jeff Silvera** will co-ordinate transport for donation to the Sacramento Children's Home. Members were also reminded that the San Joaquin meet will be in Turlock on Dec 6 and 7. Unfortunately, our by-laws will not currently permit voting by mail or proxy.

Respectfully submitted
John DeHaan, Secretary SVD

Board Meeting: 9/6/08:

Present: **Paul Wells, Jeff Silvera, Richard Zanotti, and John DeHaan**

Moved and approved issuance of recent checks by Treasurer:

\$140 to **Lisa Stanton** for replacement transformer for layout

\$83.15 to **Curt Darling** for parts for layout

\$1200 to Scottish Rite for rent

\$70.26 to **Suzanne Wells** for post cards and mailing

Meet Chair **Jeff Silvera** was authorized to spend up to \$100 for donuts for Scottish Rite hospitality.

Raffle prizes for two attendees and one vendor were approved.

Richard was authorized to pay \$40 to the Scottish Rite custodian as a tip.

Jeff Silvera was to check on food vendors as there had been no response from previous vendors.

All receipts and invoices for the meet were to be delivered to the Treasurer on Oct 4.

There was a discussion of the layout trailer. It was agreed that **Norm** would continue to take care of scheduling and commitments (who and when) and **Paul** would take care of logistics (where and how). The trailer has been with the Darlings since the National Convention and they will bring it to the Scottish Rite meet. Reimbursement for their service/costs must be considered.

Paul will authorize the purchase of parts and supplies for the layout or trailer and provide receipts to the Treasurer for reimbursement.

Richard pointed out that even with a normal return from the Scottish Rite meet, the SVD will experience a budget deficit and requested the Board create a budget committee and put a dues increase on the general meeting agenda for November.

Respectfully submitted
John DeHaan, Secretary SVD



BOXCAR JACK'S WEB PICKS

Jack Ahearn surfs the web in search of great railroad sites for you

'Highways and High Iron'

Locomotive steam whistles are like.... no other sound in the world!

Once again you can hear the wailing, and thundering blasts of steam engines as they race across the cities, countryside and through the mountains of Mainline America.

Coupled with some great railroad scenes in this 1930's Chevrolet promotional film, there are some great vintage automobile shots. Also, seen are a lot of 'gone by the wayside' scenes showing such present day oddities as; cattle cars, forty foot freight cars with catwalks, ice-hatched reefers and the most missed and colorful of all...the caboose!

The opening scenes bring to life the boasts of toy train makers promising young boys a life of real railroading. That is, if they learn to run their four by eight empires the same as the high-iron engineers shown in this movie.

So, sit back and click onto: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWofCp8LWo0> and listen to the nostalgic sounds of whistles, bells and horn-honking as we return to the rail and paved roads of yesteryear!

Note: For the picky, picky amongst us: An anachronism is depicted early-on in the film. Can you spot this five second chronological revision? (answer in the next Side Track)

Editor's note: we're working on getting the online version of the Side Track to accept active links so you'll be able to just click on Jack's recommended site and it will open automatically. Meanwhile, you can quickly find this video by going to www.youtube.com and entering "safe roads 1935" in the search window

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Richard Zanotti, Treasurer

**THIS REPORT APPEARS
ONLY IN THE PRINTED
VERSION OF THE
SIDE TRACK**



Show and Tell

By Bill Wilson, Chairman

The fall season for Show and Tell was a bit sparse with only September producing a S&T of "Interesting Loads for Flat Cars and Hoppers". **Jack Hornor** displayed farm gear items, and **George Ann**, not to be outdone by Jack, brought a hand made car received from the Queen Mary meet in 2000 as a conference gift. **Pete White** showed antique autos plus a flat car with an airplane load. I brought three flat cars with mining loads made from kits. **Carl Curtis** brought several flats with wood load (1400 pieces), an airplane seat, pipes and plumbing parts. Carl has plenty of junk lying around that make good flat cars loads.

November was an interesting Show and Tell. The subject was "Special S gauge cars". The exhibition was fantastic (if you have a great imagination). I guess the S gauge guys are just too embarrassed to show off those "itty bitty" cars. (just kidding)

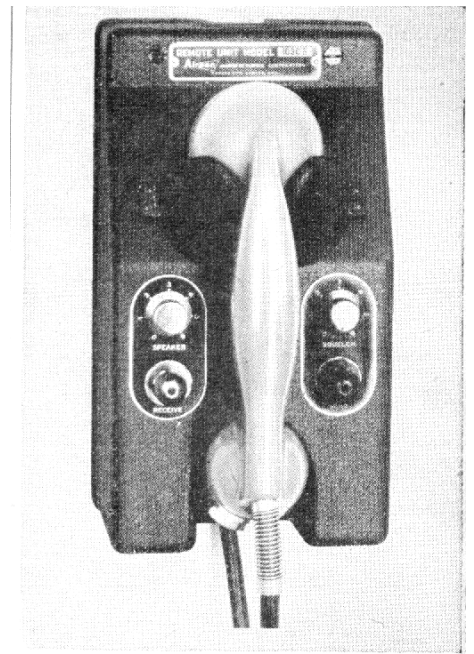
December is Christmas cars before WWII. I hope some goodies are brought. The train season is upon us.

For January let's try "European and International Trains" This has been requested a couple times. Also requested and for February: "Pre and Post War Cranes".

For March how about "Your most Valuable or Interesting Standard Gauge Engine or Car"?

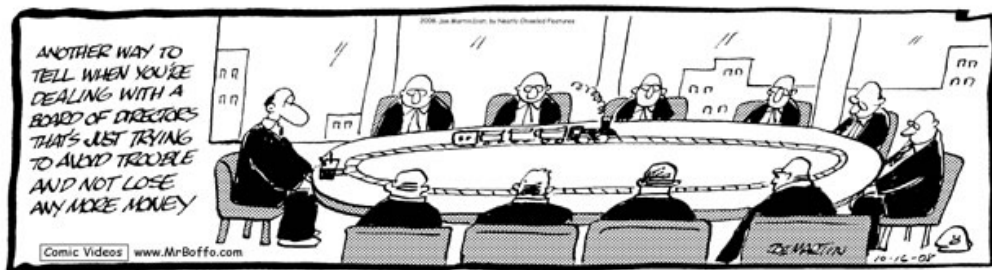
At any Show and Tell, if anyone has a train item that is interesting and special, bring it to a S&T session and share the story with all. My list of suggested items is at each meet so please list your desires.

Bill Wilson



Locomotive-to-Station Phone

ENGINEERS on moving trains can speak with stations as much as 50 miles away with the Aireon radiophone, above. The locomotive's headlight generator can be tapped for power. The handset has a rubber cap over the earpiece and a "lip" microphone that transmits the voice only. Volume controls are alongside the handset. Auditory signals from the receiver, plus "send-receive" lights, warn when a party is calling. The set operates on a frequency of 70-200 kilocycles.



SEE YOU ONLINE!

Be sure to see the color version of this Side Track at our website: <http://www.ttos-sv.org/>



Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members

December 6: SVD Meet - Sierra 2 Center (toy and food charity drive)

December 6-7: TTOS San Joaquin Valley Division Train Show -
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, Turlock

January 3, 2009: SVD Meet - Sierra 2 Center

January 10-11, 2009: Great Train Expo, Cal Expo, Sacramento

February 7, 2009: SVD Meet - Sierra 2 Center

March 7, 2009: SVD Meet - Sierra 2 Center

Previous events:

November 1, 2008: Barbara and Tony Rohrs 40th Anniversary



TTOS Sacramento Valley Division

