



THE SIDE TRACK

SPRING

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

2010

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by John DeHaan

Well, we did it! We found a new home – at least while the old homestead is being remodeled. Thanks to **Curt Darling's** advance work, we enjoyed our first meet on February 6th at the Holiday Inn Express in Elk Grove. Easy to get to, lots of parking, close to the freeway, food nearby – all nice features. We had such a big turnout we overfilled the space. On March 6 we will be at the Hilton (across the street) in a larger room, and then in April we will be back at the Holiday Inn in a 'double room'. Even the double will be less than what we were paying at Sierra/Curtis (\$300 vs. \$380). We have reserved space at Holiday Inn through June. We will vote by March as to whether we want to stay in Elk Grove or move back to Curtis (on an as-available basis). After many attempts over the last 3 years, we have been unable to find anything suitable in Sacramento but we are not locked in to either present choice. If you know of a good venue at a good price – let us know (Don't just complain that "there must be someplace else!").

The Spring TCA Sac-Sierra Toy Train Show will be at Scottish Rite. The hall will open at 6:30 AM to accommodate the set-up (without charging \$600 for access on Friday as they originally demanded). Mike Marple and other large vendors have agreed to set up on Saturday morning. We will be able to get the same deal (I hope) for our October River City event. So plan now to come early and give us a hand in setting up tables so we can open on time.

On the National scene, **Brian Fields** reports that at present membership levels, National cannot sustain itself beyond this year and is considering closing shop. It is uncertain what this would mean for the Divisions. We could probably carry on as separate entities. National is reducing staff wages and looking for a cheaper office location and is seeking ideas from Divisions.

What can we do? First, go out and get new members. As membership has dropped in the last 5 years, so has operational income. Second, every Division member is supposed to be a National

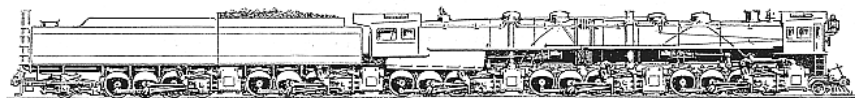
member. If you are not, you're part of the problem— sign up now! Our Membership Secretary **Barbara Rohrs** has tried to trace the non-members but this is a tedious process. Third, attend the San Antonio convention (4-8 August). National used to be able to count on income from such conventions. Chicago broke

even but Sacramento incurred a huge loss. National is considering canceling future conventions (if they stay in business) including the ones planned here in California. Fourth, consider buying TTOS club cars (and our Inter Division REA car). This will convert "stock on hand" to "cash in hand!" We really need a national network to help the toy train hobby survive and thrive, so please support TTOS National any way you can.

Enough said – weather is cool and wet – perfect for enjoying our toy trains. Don't Forget the Cal-Stewart Meet on March 12-14! See you there.



A tight squeeze: SVD members, known for their loyal attendance, packed the meeting room during the February 6th meeting at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove



HOM€ LAYOUT TOURS

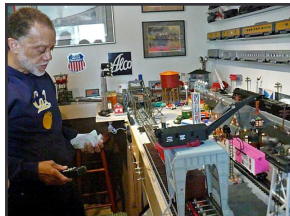
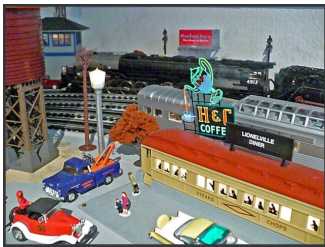
by Jack Hornor, Chairman and SVD Vice President

Wow! Everything worked, and **Jim Henson**, you may be in line for a gold medal. (At the very least you get a gold star.) Our last visit to your layout was a year ago, and the improvements were amazing.

Here we have a man who likes big O-Gauge engines. Not to be intimidated by a somewhat small room for a big layout, with the exception of one siding, all of his curves are O-72. The layout can easily handle two big trains operating at the same time. What makes this layout particularly exiting are the many operating accessories, including a motorized carnival with a musical carousel. The room decor (with a train theme, of course) makes a perfect setting for this unique layout.

We all had a great operating day with no mishaps. Powered by his MTH 4000 transformer and TMCC remote, this layout was well worth visiting, especially for those planning to build a layout in a limited space. Thank you, **Jim and Delores**, for a great visit.

Photos by Jack Hornor and Jim Groth



FUTUR€ MEETS

As of now, no one has come forward to volunteer to host a home layout visit for the rest of the year. George Ann and I can be hosts after the May meet (but with a revised menu, per the cook). I was thinking of having a how-to demonstration on using the new IR accessories. That leaves us needing volunteers for July, September, and November. The July and September dates fall on a holiday weekend, but in the past, the tours on holiday weekends were well-attended. We can discuss this at the March and April meets, or you can contact me by phone or e-mail. Don't hesitate if your layout is unfinished—we all like to see layouts under construction. Small layouts are always popular, too. Also, if you have already hosted a tour, people like to come back. People have told me that every time they visit a layout, they see something new or get an idea, regardless of how many times they have seen it before. - Jack Hornor



Show and Tell

By Bill Wilson, Chairman

Show and Tell for February 2010 was Your Favorite Car. Five members, **John DeHaan**, **Mark Boyd**, **Carl Curtis**, **Bill Wilson** and **George Ann Hornor** brought interesting trains and cars ranging from an interurban to flat cars with special loads,. **Jack Hornor** brought a new track cleaning car that he guarantees will do a super job. A dirty track causes all kinds of problems. Contact Jack for more info on this item.

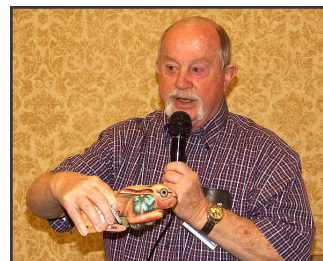
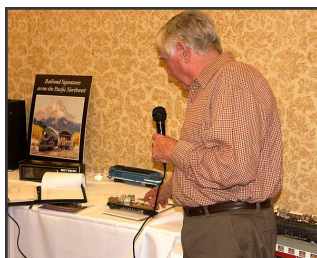
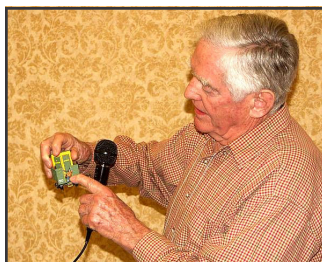
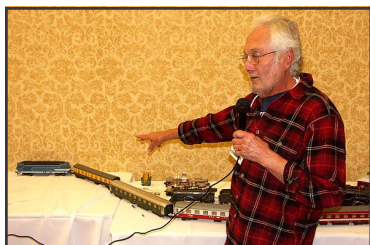
The next S&T is April. I thought a good subject would be "Interesting train Accessories, Old and New" Bring those items you enjoy along with the story behind them.

2010 Cal-Stewart Santa Clara Event

By George Ann Hornor

This year's Cal-Stewart promises to be a good one. They are adding a large, fun G gauge layout that many tinplaters will find tempting. There are three clinics -- one on installing The Electric Railroad Company electronics in older engines and another on trouble shooting TMCC/DCS systems. Plus, Lionel's Chief Technical Officer will talk about the Legacy Control System and their new Vision Line trains. The clinics are only on Saturday, so if you wait until Sunday to attend, you will miss them. The cost to register for both days is now \$45 and admission to the public on Sunday is \$10, family included.

RECENT SHOW AND TELL HIGHLIGHTS



LIMITED EDITION SP EXPRESS CAR



To celebrate TTOS National Meets in Sacramento and Chicago, TTOS-SVD commissioned this custom-number (#5700), O gauge "INTER-DIVISION" car by Weaver. TTOS info on end panels only!

Limited time price reduction: \$35 or three for \$100 plus tax, available at our monthly meets

BOXCAR JACK'S WEB PICKS

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

Anyone for a hundred year old ride down S.F's Market Street? Some may have seen a shorter, choppy version of this nostalgic film, however, this is a fuller and much clearer look into that long-gone era. On the lighter side, it would appear to have been filmed by the Mack Sennet Driving School!

Click onto: <http://www.wimp.com/sanfrancisco/>** for a daringly adventurous 1905 cable car ride. Accompanying this historic film, I've added another site which colorfully describes that very same year. After viewing the movie, click <http://local.aaca.org/bntc/mileposts/1905.htm>** and enjoy an informative visit to "Once upon a time" land. Along with the facts and interesting comments found in the center section, be sure to click onto the 'Special Features' listed within the left column.

Adviso tello: I never, never want to hear anyone repeating any of the 1905 cornyisms or song titles featured in the “Car Tunes” and the “Horseless Humor” sections!!!

■ **Find the link to this and to previous web picks at the TTOS web page: <http://www.ttos-sv.org/BoxcarJack.htm> ■

The Impact of Trains on American Culture

*(California State University East Bay (Hayward) posted the following information on the Internet. Thanks to **Jack Ahearn** for spotting it)*

Anyone who loves trains will want to see Cal State East Bay's first-ever model train display in the C.E. Smith Museum of Anthropology opening March 5. Dozens of never-before-displayed model trains – some handmade - will be included in, "All Aboard! The Impact of Trains on American Culture." The free exhibition by anthropology museum students will be in Meiklejohn Hall 4047, on south side of the Hayward campus, 25800 Carlos Bee Blvd. The opening reception will be from 4-7 p.m. Friday, March 5, and the exhibition will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday March 9-June 11, except for March 20-28, March 31 and May 29-31.

At the center of the exhibition are selected items from a 500-piece collection of antique tinplate toy trains and HO models assembled over a 93-year lifetime by model railroading pioneer Richard “Dick” Wheeler of Monrovia, CA. “This is an unusual collection for our museum, but it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up. It’s extraordinary for a collection like this to be made available to the general public,” said George R. Miller, anthropology professor and museum director. “Creating this exhibit has challenged the students to turn the anthropological lens on objects of their own culture which has produced some insightful results.”

Using the construction of the transcontinental railroad as a foundation, the exhibition of Lionel trains, Pullman porters, Harvey Girls, and trains in the media, among others, will illustrate how trains played an essential role in putting America on track.

"The infrastructure of the American railroads is like the ancient Roman and Incan road systems," said Marjorie Rhodes-Ousley, museum associate director. "It allowed the U.S. to be united, both geographically and with a common purpose."

The exhibition is designed to be appreciated at several levels, from that of a child, to the true train and/or history buff interested in America's industrial era, United States history, and California history.

Museum information is at class.csueastbay.edu/anthropologymuseum/ CSUEB welcomes persons with disabilities and will provide reasonable accommodation upon request. Please notify event sponsor at 510-885-7414 at least two weeks in advance if accommodation is needed. Campus parking is \$7 per vehicle per day, Monday-Friday. Permits may be purchased from machines in a lot across Harder Road from Meiklejohn Hall, or in lots E2, F, G, H, K or N.



Meeting Notes

by Phil Fravesi, SVD Secretary

December 5, 2009

There was discussion regarding temporary alternate meeting facilities. Anyone with possible idea for a meeting place should contact the board. **Curt Darling** looking into possible sites at school gyms and hotels in the area.

Incorporating was discussed. It would cost \$2000.00 in fees to incorporate plus the division would need it's own insurance for meetings and train meets.

Thanksgiving week-end at the State RR museum was a big success. Our layout looked terrific.

January 2, 2010

There was discussion about alternative meeting sites. At this time, we do not have a contract with Sierra II. If we decide to stay at the facility, we will have to negotiate a new contract after the construction is complete. February meeting will be at the Holiday Inn at Hwy 99 and Laguna Blvd.

There was no new information regarding insurance or incorporation.

February 6, 2010

We had one guest, **Joel McConnel**

There was a good attendance at the new meeting place with good comments about the location. The room is not available for March but the same management company operates the Hilton across the street so the March meeting will be at the Hilton (Hwy 99 and Laguna Blvd). A motion was passed to reserve the room at the Holiday Inn for the month of April and May. It was suggested to extend through June and also, through the end of the year. Curt is checking with the hotel for future availability as rental is a first come basis.

A Farewell to Jim Milligan

By George Ann Hornor

Jim Milligan, who passed away on New Year's Day, joined the Division in 2005. He learned about TTOS from Geary Musselman when they were talking of their mutual love of trains. Jim worked with the modular group and was eager to become an active member. However, in the last couple of years, his health problems prevented him from participating in many of our meetings and activities. He was one of the nicest people anyone could meet, and I'm so sorry he won't be around.

Treasurer's Report

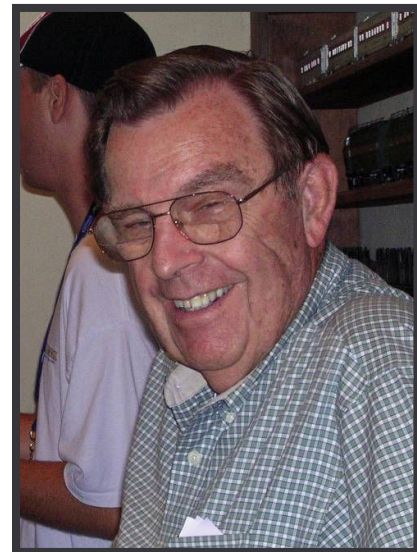
by Bryan Stanton, SVD Treasurer

2009 ended, and we finished with a \$3800 loss for the year. The biggest expense was the club car purchase of \$9300 which accounts for the large deficit. This total does not include the \$2000 to \$3800 yearly expense for our monthly meeting location. In prior years, we paid in advance for the entire year, and the expense would have been reflected in our year end profit/loss statement.

We are between locations right now and have not paid in advance for the room. The Holiday Inn worked out fine for January; we just need to rearrange things so that there are chairs along the wall and a double row of tables. Our monthly expense for the Holiday Inn is \$200 vs. \$380 for Sierra 2. We have the option to rent the adjoining room for an additional \$100 when we bring the layout to the monthly meet.

This year looks like it will be a good year for the club. We are saving up to \$1800 a year on the monthly meeting room. By going green and sending the newsletter by email link, the club will save almost \$800 a year. If all goes well with the sales of club cars and old club inventory, we should do well this year and be able to afford a nice outing for all.

Remember, dues are due now and must paid by the time you walk into the door at the April meet. Please pay your dues if you have not already done so, and by all means buy a club car or two. They are selling for \$35 each or 3 for \$100. Stock up now for the holidays; these make great gifts for that special train person.



Jim Milligan - photo taken at Dean Busick's open house in 2007

Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members

March 6: SVD Meet, Hilton Garden Inn, Elk Grove*

March 8: Exhibit "The Impact of Trains on American Culture" opens
Cal State University Easy Bay (details inside)

March 12-14: Cal-Stewart Meet, Santa Clara (see inside)

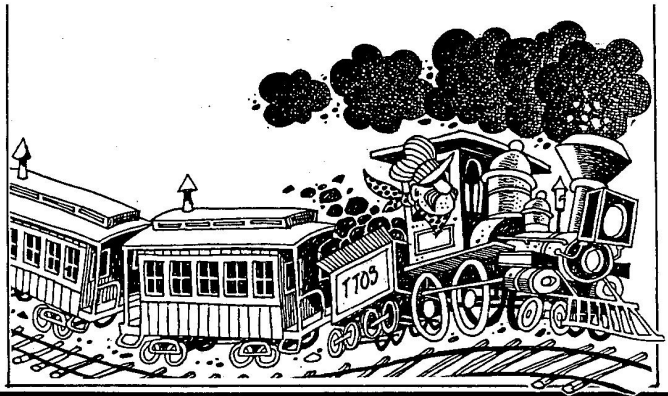
April 3: SVD Meet, Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

May 1: SVD Meet - Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

May 29: TCA Sac-Sierra Train Show, Scottish Rite Center

June 5: SVD Meet - Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

*meetings begin at 9:30 AM



Steamin' to San Antonio

**2010 TTOS NATIONAL CONVENTION
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY, AUGUST 3-7, 2010
IN BEAUTIFUL SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

Our host hotel is the Crowne Plaza on the River Walk.

The room rate is \$129.00 for a single or double.

The hotel direct phone line is 210-354-2800, or 1-800-972-3480.

You must mention that you are booking for the

TTOS National Convention 2010

when you call for reservations.