



FALL

2014

Come for the trains. Stay for the people.

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by John DeHaan, SVD President

What a summer it's been for the Sacramento Valley Division! We had a great day at the Western Railway Museum to kick it off and now we are heading for a double-header in September – Speeder Rides in Shingle Springs and Railfest in Folsom, with an open house at **Don Rosa's** in-between! If you didn't make the reservation list for speeders, come on up on the 27th anyway! **Ed Strisar** will have details at the September 6th meeting.

The Buffalo Convention was terrific! The Niagara Frontier Division put together an unforgettable line-up of events. A tour of the GM Tonawanda engine assembly plant and the Pierce-Arrow Museum, a steam train ride on the Arcade & Attica line, Erie Canal locks tour on a paddle-wheeler in Lockport, great layout tours, a first-rate welcome party at the hotel and then an "open house" visit to the Navy ships at the Lake Erie waterfront. We had an ice cream social on the fantail of the USS Little Rock (a heavy missile cruiser), and time to explore the USS The Sullivans, a WWII destroyer, and USS Croaker, a WWII submarine.

There was a substantial turnout for the trading hall and several silent auctions that helped deplete a couple of checking accounts.

There was a National Board meeting, so **Tom Gibson**, **Phil Fravesi**, and I attended in person. The National TTOS is doing very well thanks to the generous volunteering by **Jim Selvius**, **Rick Plummer**, **J Keeley**, and others. We have a new webmaster and Bulletin editor (who re-issued a plea for more articles and photos from all members), a new accountant, and a new CPA. President **Randy Giroux** is doing a good job in moving National towards better things on many fronts. **Dave Otth** will provide contact info on the SW Division members and Randy will contact them directly to see if they want

to rejoin National as part of a newly realigned division map of Southern California (despite the insistence of **Larry Pearson** who says SWD people do not want any part of National). The big news is that the revised by-laws for National were passed at the Board meeting for voting by the membership. (New bylaws are a necessary step toward tax-exempt status for National.) The big change to the bylaws is the provision of two members-at-large ... one for the East (of the Mississippi) and one for the West. The growth of eastern membership makes the provision of a member-at-large a really sound idea. Thanks to the great planning by **J Keeley** and **Jim Strom**, the convention was in the black with all hotel minima met. (It was a really nice hotel with a great staff, too!)

There was a pretty good attendance at the convention (200 or so) but there was not a quorum at the membership meeting, so the by-laws have to be voted on by the entire membership via a mail ballot. Randy introduced the new Board members and plans were announced for the 2015 National Convention in Albuquerque. Lots of things to see and do there but the big feature may well be a two-day pre-convention tour to include runs on the Cumbre & Toltec and the Durango & Silverton lines! Sign me up now!

The 2016 convention (50th anniversary) will be in LA, maybe on the Queen Mary! The 2017 event is being planned for "back East" – Cleveland has been suggested.

Our own "Big Event" (Scottish Rite) is just weeks away and table reservations are being taken now. See Beverly for forms. Please note that YOUR entire Board is up for election in November. **Ed Strisar** has volunteered to run for VP, but we have NO nominees for President, Secretary, or Treasurer and your incumbents are NOT running again! So help your club move ahead and stand for election! None of the jobs are terribly demanding and your skills are needed to keep the fun coming!

See you at Scottish Rite!

Best regards, John

Meeting Notes

by Beverly Hornor, SVD Secretary

TTOS – SVD Meeting Minutes – 6-07-2014

9:30 a.m. – Call to Order.

President **John DeHaan** opened the meeting by welcoming two guests, **Chuck Anderson** and **Ken Hall** and encouraged them to join.

The Summer issue of Side Track is especially informative and has many pictures taken by **Tim Taormina** and **Jack Ahern**. **Jerry Azzaro** does a tremendous job putting together and editing the newsletter and he is always looking for new material for future issues.

John received many compliments for the club layout at the TCA Scottish Rite Show. A special thank you goes to layout chairperson, **Rick Rose** and the crew who put in so much time into upgrading the layout in time for the show, as well as to those who set up, operated and disassembled it after the show closed.

Jerry Azzaro is putting on a camera clinic to sharpen picture-taking skills for all who attend following the July 5 meet.

The El Dorado Speeder rides will be held on either September 27 or 28, 2014. More on this as information is received. The Folsom Railroad Festival will be held this same weekend, so you may want to consider attending both events.

The TTOS-SVD's license plate holder fundraising (American-made) idea brought to us by **Elias Amaral** was presented to National and they liked it. This could be a good way to add money to our coffers.

Nominations will be accepted in September for our upcoming election for Board of Directors. As a reminder, none of the current Board members plan to serve another term in office.

Show and Tell: Topic was Urban Trolleys. **John DeHaan**, **John Leins** and **Richard Zanotti** presented trolleys/streetcars they had brought to share. Entertaining stories of how trolleys brought back childhood memories from Chicago for John and San Francisco for Richard.

On this 70th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, member **Lynn Cochran** was acknowledged for his service to our country. Lynn was a pilot carrying paratroopers during that historic military invasion. All those in attendance recognized Lynn with a standing ovation.

Door Prize Drawing: won by **Ed Strisar**

Adjournment: 10:35 a.m.

TTOS – SVD Meeting Minutes – 7-05-2014

9:30 a.m. – Call to Order.

President **John DeHaan** opened the meeting by thanking **Bee Jay Christiansen** and **Ed Strisar** for the very successful and fun outing at the Western Railway Museum. Special thanks to **Jerry Azzaro** for his time.

There are still vacancies for the National TTOS Convention in Buffalo, New York.

The El Dorado Speeder Ride outing will be on September 27, 2014. There will be two separate runs (2.5 hours each run) and 6 people per car. SVD will pay the fees for the runs. Questions go to **Ed Strisar**. **Don Rosa** has offered to have open house and hot dogs after the outing.

Thanks goes to **Paul Wells** for his donation of ceramic Christmas houses for the club layout.

The bank balance for TTOS National as of May 31, 2014, was \$93,359.38!

Show and Tell: None for this month

Door Prize Drawing: Won by **Jeff Langmack**

Adjournment: 9:55 a.m.

TTOS – SVD Meeting Minutes – 8-02-2014

9:30 a.m. – Call to Order.

President **John DeHaan** opened the meeting by welcoming new members **Claire Sallee** and her son **River K**. **Mike Boyd** was a guest.

Our newly redesigned flyer advertising our annual October show and the updated Table Application were discussed.

Signups continue for the El Dorado Speeder outing on September 27, 2014. The runs will be at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. The runs are 90 minutes long and 12 people will ride each run. **Don Rosa** has offered to host an open house after the outing.

Folsom Vintage Days is September 27-28, but is not part of our outing. Therefore, you will be on your own if you attend this festival.

John DeHaan is taking one of the prototype license plate frames to the National TTOS convention to propose using them as a fundraiser.

Show and Tell: none

Door Prize Drawing: Won by our brand new family member **River K.!!**

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 a.m.



John DeHaan displays the TTOS license plate frame

Membership News

by Tim Taormina, SVD Membership Chair

Please join me in welcoming **Claire Sallee** and her son, **River K**, to the Sacramento Valley Division of TTOS. Our membership is now at 93 members. As we head into the fall months and some upcoming exciting activities, we ask that you continue to seek out new train enthusiasts to join. Also, it's that time of year to start thinking about renewing your membership for the new year! Early renewals are welcome.

Once again I will remind you to please stay current with your national dues, as it is a requirement for division membership and we are dependent upon national for our liability insurance.

Happy Railroading!

Club Layout News

By Rick Rose, Layout Committee Chairman

The layout was working great at the TCA meet and we heard several positive comments. There were lots of people to set up and take down the layout and everything went smoothly, Thank You. The sign-up sheet will be available at the September meet in Elk Grove for the October 4th meet at the Scottish Rite Temple. We will be adding a couple more features at the River City show while the layout is operating.

We will be changing operating times from two hours to one hour per person per consist. If you have two trains to run we will schedule separate hours for each. We feel this will give more people an opportunity to run their trains, O gauge 5 hours times two tracks=10 people, S and Standard gauge 5 hours each. Please remember that workers who set up and/or take down the layout have first choice of hours and have free admission to the meet. IF YOU ARE a Standard or S gauge operator we usually need more of you than sign up. Please think of running your trains. Something else to remember is Marx, Joy Line, Bing, Paya and any other little, old, or WIND UP toy train can run on the layout!

Further down the track we have again been invited to the California State Railroad Museum's Thanksgiving Week Blowout. Please mark your calendar and set aside some time for the layout and roaming around the museum for three days. (FREE in exchange for a little labor on the layout)

A digital photo clinic for SVD members

Jerry Azzaro conducted a digital camera clinic for SVD members on July 5th, following the SVD meeting.

The clinic was held in the clubhouse at **Jack Ahearn's** mobile home park. Jack put a tremendous amount of effort into arranging for and hosting the clinic ... in fact, he confessed that this was the first SVD meeting he had ever missed.



Photo by Bryan Stanton



Toy Train Word Search Puzzle

Found and submitted by Rose Craighead (solution on page 11)

B N U F P C D L G O N C M G
R D S Q T L A R Q K O A F D
I I I L E N A R W N I B R T
D D A E I S S T S L T O E B
G K E M S A T T F X C O X F
E S R E V E R E H O E S P R
T E T A P U L D A G R E R E
T D R R C S D R R M I M E I
S E L T S E R T E A D L S G
I P I H B E B W R L U W S H
G O A T D H E A D L I G H T
N T A A N E L B A T P A C K
S L O Q Y T R A C K S W R I
F L R E P P O H L E N N U T

Find the capitalized words below in the grid at left.

Elevated BRIDGE	LIGHTS
CABOOSE	LOADER
Passenger CARS	MAIL car
Highway CONSTRUCTION set	Safety PACK
DEPOT	PLATFORM
DIESEL	REVERSE
DIRECTION signals	Scenic SET
EARTH mounds	Highway SIGNS
EXPRESS train	SPEED controller
FLATBED	STEAM locomotive
FREIGHT cars	SWITCH
Family FUN	TABLE for train set
GRASS	TERMINAL
GUARDRAILS	TRACKS
HEADLIGHT	TRAILER
HOPPER	TREE kits
Mountain KIT	TRESTLE
LAKE material	TUNNEL

Show and Tell

Members bring their favorite train items to the meetings and tell about them

By Jeff Silvera, S&T coordinator

On June 7, **John Leins** brought in a K-line Budweiser trolley with some O gauge trucks.

John DeHaan brought a K-line Interurban and also Lionel Illinois Central Interurban like he used to ride on as a kid in Chicago.

Richard Zanotti brought a Streetcars of Sacramento book. Along with 25th anniversary T.C.A. Disney trolley 1979 made by Pride lines, U.S.A. and some Japanese Interurban trolleys...

On July 5th, **Don Rosa** brought a General Electric Transformer, pre-war 100 watt very heavy chromed - a piece of history.

A big "Thank You" to everyone for their Show and Tell Items!

2014 River City Toy Train Show

By Jeff Silvera, meet chairman

With the club's annual River City Toy Train Show coming up on Saturday, October 4, you may need to get some information or registration forms ... or just want to get involved and help put this event on. Please contact Beverly Hornor at (209) 754-3505 or email me at afjeff_56@yahoo.com or phone (916) 481-4694.

SVD Picnic at Western Railway Museum

Forty-five members attended the day-long event on June 15th which included trolley rides, car-house tours, and a grand picnic. **Ed Strisar** organized the outing, and he gives thanks to Bee Jay Christiansen, Michael Sommers, Emily Strisar, and Tim and Betty Taormina for their help ... and to everyone who attended and made the event such a success.

WRM picnic photo gallery - photos by Jack Ahearn and John DeHaan



LET'S GO to the HOBBO CONVENTION!

- with Boxcar Jack Ahearn, tour guide

WELCOME TO BRITT, IOWA

Home of the National Hobo Convention since 1900



Crowns fit for a Hobo



August 6-10, 2014



2014 King and Queen



What is a Hobo?

*A hobo wanders and works;
a tramp wanders and dreams;
a bum neither wanders nor works*

HOBOS AND THE RAILROADS

DURING THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN DEPRESSION

At right: Depression era hobos, possibly en route to the convention held each August in Britt, Iowa.

More pictures of the Hobo National Convention ... click [here](#) to view.
Amazing folks, dem "hobos".



Continued next page



Railroads across America during the 1930's

when America was banded together with 250,000 miles of steel rails.



Some folks rode in first class luxury...



... while others rode the "side door Pullman"

Class I railroads total less than 100,000 miles today.

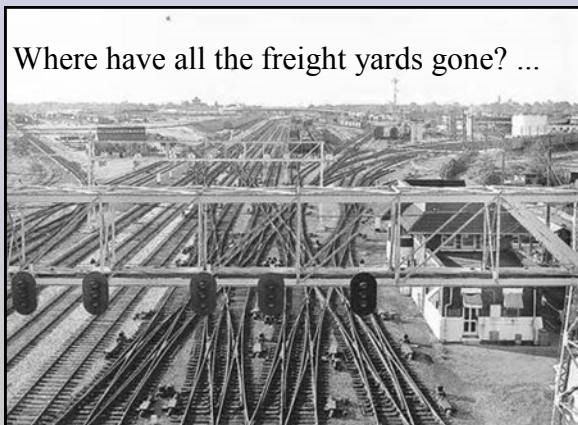
Where have all the cabooses gone? ...



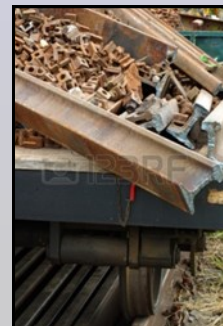
... gone to museums and motels everywhere.



Where have all the freight yards gone? ...



... gone to scrap yards and blast furnaces all around.



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Where have all the box cars gone?



Gone to sidings and made into track crew camps.



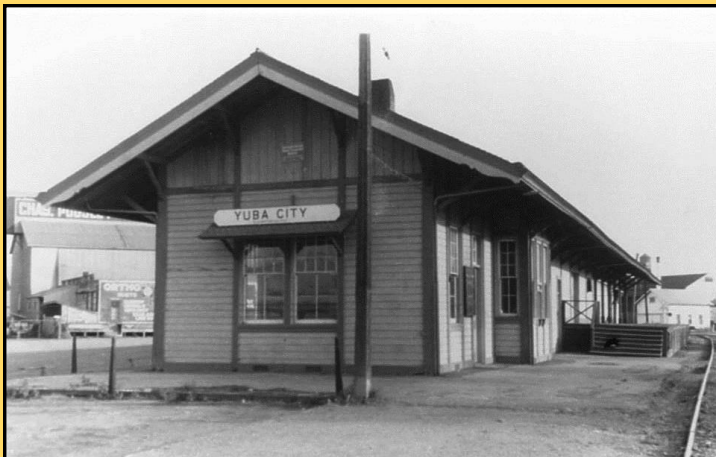
Where have all the steam locos gone?



Gone to trackless grave yards, rotting away in the sun.



And the stations where we waited so long ago?



They're waiting for trains that will ne'er come again.



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Hobo Museum

This is the Hobo Museum, housed in the Chief Theater at Britt, Iowa.



The Museum started in the 1980's with a box of artifacts. The reality of a hobo museum took hold when the Chief Theatre was purchased by the Hobo Foundation with money willed to them from an unknown hobo. Collections have come from all over the world. Books written by hobos, Music recorded and crafts created by hobos are all available at the Hobo Museum. Recently classes from Iowa State University came in and renovated both the building and exhibits

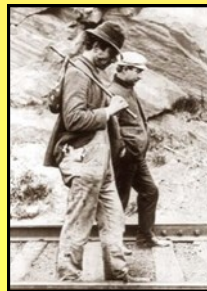
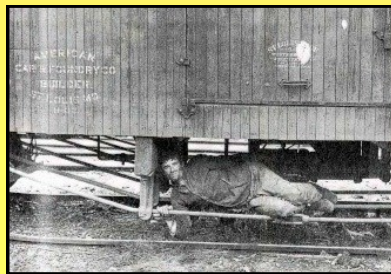
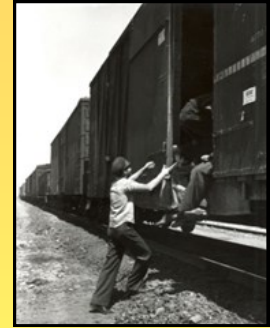


Quite a few hobos have a knack for artistry in writing poems and carving quaint items presenting their lifestyle. The Hobo Museum has many examples of their craftsmanship on display, click [here](#) for a closer look. Watch the movie for more examples of Hobo art: (Iowa Public Television; Hobo Museum film, click [here](#))

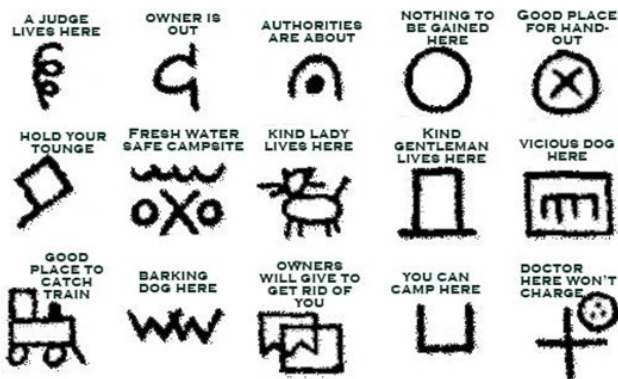
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Knights of the Road ... ahh, the good life!

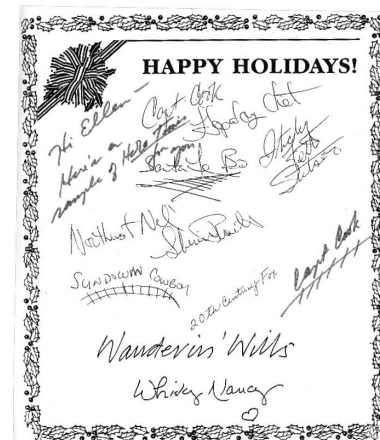


Hobo symbols and greetings



More pictures of the Hobo National Convention. Amazing folks, dem "hobos" ([click here](#))

For a fuller understanding of the hobo folk lore and lifestyle, [click here](#). As a bonus on the above site, you'll also get to see an interactive model layout which will allow you to search for typical Hobo markings, warnings and other 'codes' used by those hardy Knights of the Road. If you think this convention is more of a curiosity than a well organized week-long venue of fun filled and imaginative events, [click here](#) and take a gander at their wide variety of programs!



While preparing for this story in the C.S.R.M. research library, I inadvertently came across this one-of-a-kind greeting. I was leafing through old issues of the 'HOBO NEWS', when out of the decade old pages, a loose sheet fell to the floor. I had been hoping to find examples of the colorful names and scrolled signatures that hobos quickly chalked onto freight cars. As I retrieved it from the floor, my eyes quickly absorbed its mother-lode content. It revealed not only a thoughtful holiday greeting, signed by the papers staff to CSRM's chief librarian, but also the very type of signatures and images I was hoping to find. *Wow; wad a nice kinda guys doze there hobos' wuz!*

Continued next page



Westbound

The Hobo Memorial Cemetery is where our brother hobos go to rest after catching the Westbound



Hobos have a language all their own. It's colorful, and in many of their sayings are tones of pathos and irony, and some humor is expressed. Those sentiments can be heard in the following exchange:

"Hey Bo...Ya been seeing 'ol Tex around anywhere?"

"Naw, he won't be 'round any more. He took the Westbound!"

This poignant reference to a westbound train is a hobo's way of saying one of theirs died. Or more likely, met his or her death while hopping or falling from a freight train. Either way, it was their final moments as they headed into the western sunset.



For a detailed look at the cemetery, go [here](#)

He Caught the Westbound

Many years ago, when I wouldn't dare leave home without a comb, I knew a frisky little guy nicknamed "Leprechaun". Johnny was his given name but his moniker fit him better. He was a little guy, barely topping sixty inches and his weight hardly doubled that. Yeah, you're right, he was (key word **was**) a jockey. But that was quite a few years earlier from when I knew him. When I met and became acquainted with the lovable little rascal, he could better, or for worse, be described in racing world terms as a, 'stable bum'. But damn it, to me the Lep wasn't a bum...he just took a few wrong turns, on and off, the track.

It was a late night in late June when I last saw Leprechaun. It was apparent that he was experiencing one of his frequent personality changes. Those changes were brought about by either eighty or one hundred proof beverages, of which he was quite partial. He also showed favor to any recent month's vintage wine.

"Hey Lep, whatcha been up to?"

"Not much Jack, but hey I'm planning a trip!"

"Great, where to?"

"I'm gonna, once an fer all, go back to the Derby next week"

It had been said, mostly by he, that Leprechaun had once played some role or other in the Kentucky Derby, but any details were omitted. We simply accepted that, in one form or another, he did appear at Churchill Downs.

"Ya got money for the trip?"

"Naw, gonna hop a freight."

"Side door Pullman? Getting a bit long in the tooth for that, ain'tcha?"

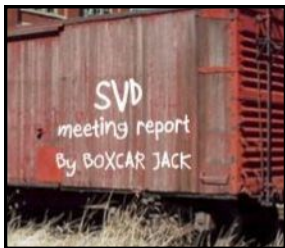
"Naw, I can hack it. Jest hope I don't make it onto a flat or tanker car. It's misery riding dem!"

Realizing there would be little point in debating the issue, I slapped him on the back and wished him luck.

"Give 'em hell, ya lttle 'ol Lephrechaun!"

"See ya 'round, Jack."

A few days later word was out that he hopped a freight. The Houston Chronicle had a short item telling of a hobo's body being found severed along the tracks. Apparently, as a result of falling from a freight train headed toward Los Angeles. The poor dumb 'Bo' was aiming for Kentucky on a train traveling west from Houston, Texas. Truly, my friend; "Caught the Westbound."



Bocar Jack sends these layout photos from the August 2nd TTOS-SVD meeting at Elk Grove

Geary Musselman



SN's #712 engine approaches the twin passenger platform

Roght: River K., our newest and youngest family member, tries his hand on Geary's layout.



Betty Musselman at the controls



Dave Thomsen

Right a Rock Island freight passes the station

Below: A clean looking R.E.A. reefer

Lower-right: Dave's "running trains is fun" smile beams in full operating mode!



Bill Bender



Bill and his work train



Two locos on Bill's layout



ready to roll out a Lionel modified Penny B-6 switcher

September 27th SVD trip to Shingle Springs/Placerville

by Ed Strisar

On September 27, TTOS-SVD will be riding the Shingle Springs motor cars/speeders, visiting Don Rosa's layout in Placerville, and visiting the El Dorado County museum in Placerville.

There will be two departure times from Shingle Springs for the Shingle Springs speeders, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Because only twelve people can ride the speeders, half of the twenty four people who signed up will depart at 11:00 AM and the other twelve people will depart at 1:00 PM. We suggest those riding the speeders arrive at the Shingle Spring station twenty minutes before departure time.

If you are signed up for the speeders but cannot attend the event, please contact Ed, 916/395-3169, stein_ed@hotmail.com, so people on the backup list can ride the speeder.

Invitation to Grass Valley TCA event

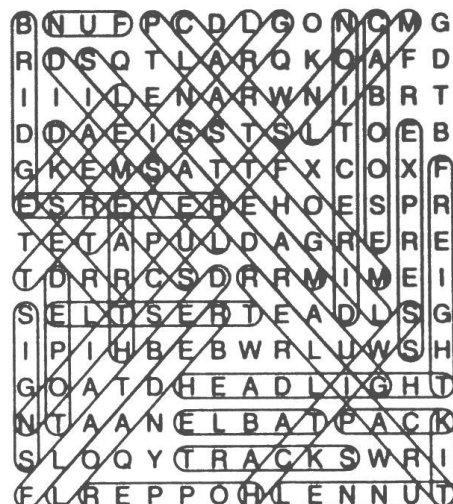
by Ed Strisar

TTOS-SVD has been invited to join our TCA counterparts on Saturday, October 25th for a catered lunch and layout tours in Grass Valley.

There are several exciting layouts in Grass Valley and I have been told the catered lunch is AWESOME! In addition, the Grass Valley ice cream truck is expected to be there with fantastic desserts. The people from Grass Valley speak very highly of that ice cream truck.

The Grass Valley event occurs once a year and is an event not to be missed. Cost of the catered lunch is about \$16.00; if you plan to attend, contact Ed Strisar at one of the two TTOS meetings before the event.

Solution to Word Search puzzle on Page 2



Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members (SVD events are in **BOLD**)

September 6: SVD Meet - Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

September 27: El Dorado Railway Speeder Rides

October 4: River City Toy Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento

(no regular first Saturday meeting in October)

October 25th: Grass Valley TCA barbecue (details inside)

November 1: SVD Meet – Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

Thanksgiving Weekend: Club Layout at CSRM, Sacramento

December 6: SVD Meet & Holiday Potluck – Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

***Meetings begin at 9:30 AM. BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD**

TTOS Vision Statement:

The future of the Toy Train Operating Society is predicated on one simple fact. We must attract new membership. The TTOS National Club will focus on developing, in conjunction with the divisions, viable recruitment and retention plans and provide support both at the divisional level and the national level towards these goals. Potential new members are typically attracted to our hobby by experiencing our toy trains in full operation and witnessing the camaraderie that comes from sharing our passion and hobby with others, not unlike the original direction our founding members envisioned. This will be our primary focus.

Membership First – both new and old is our goal. Happy members are proud members and typically these members want to share their experience with just about anyone who will listen. Everyone likes being a part of a successful organization. TTOS National will plan and design all efforts with this in mind.