

# THE SIDE TRACK

## NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society  
Sacramento Valley Division

**SUMMER**

**2016**

*Come for the trains. Stay for the people.*

Jerry Azzaro, editor

### President's Message

by John DeHaan, SVD President

It's summer! The local train meets are tapering off and we are inundated with tempting invitations to national meets from TCA (Houston), LOTS (Pittsburgh), LCCA (Kansas City), but none compares to the 50th Anniversary of TTOS at the Queen Mary in Long Beach on August 1-6, 2016. Great tours are already booking up and the club had to set aside another block of 100 rooms aboard the Queen to provide for all the members planning on staying there. The display and vendor areas will be in the famous Dome (that once housed Howard Hughes's Flying Boat) adjacent to the Queen. A vast space, all on one floor, ADA accessible. Our big operating layout so impressed **Randy** and **J** that they have invited it to be displayed at the convention. Table reservations, registrations, and rooms are available now so don't delay. Special gifts commemorating our 50 years of toy train fun, all close by so you can DRIVE there (No TSA lines!). Don't miss this one!

TTOS had its quarterly Board meeting on April 10. It was all good news. National has made a profit on the last three conventions (sharing \$4400 with the New Mexico Chapter), all their bills are paid. Thanks to all the volunteer work done by National's staff – **J Keeley**, **Jim Selvius**, **Rick Plummer**, and **Randy Giroux**, the business is being handled well (with only minor bumps). The election went smoothly, and the "new" officers were officially installed: **Steve Latta** took **Tom Gibson's** place as VP, **J Keeley** took **Ron DeSimone's** place as Director at Large (West), and **Regis Harkins** took the new position of Director at Large (East). Our own **Phil Fravesi** continues as Secretary. Membership numbers are stable and slowly growing. The application for 501(c)3 tax status is complete and will be submitted soon. Randy reported that orders for the Miller electronic signs are slower than expected but are expected to sell out at the convention. The TTOS license plate frames (designed and produced by the firm of our own **Elias Amaral**) have been delivered to HQ and are available from them for \$12 each plus shipping.

On a sad note, we note the loss on April 10 of **Tom Gibson**. Tom was a founding member of the TTOS-SVD and the TCA Sac-Sierra Chapter. He joined TCA in 1973 and was TTOS life member 971. He played a key role in establishing the toy train display at the CSRM in 1985. He was the chair for many years of our annual Scottish Rite Meet, and there are plans now to rename that meet in his honor. He was extremely knowledgeable about toy trains and toys in general, especially since he operated his own store in Sacramento for many years. He will be missed as a friend and a member of SVD. Our condolences were offered to his family at the services held on April 23 in Sacramento.

It is with deep sadness that we also report the passing of SVD member **Kit Craighead**, who died unexpectedly on March 13th. Kit and his wife **Rose** joined TTOS and Sacramento Valley Division just prior to the 1995 TTOS National Convention in Sacramento, which was hosted by SVD. Both Kit and Rose immediately volunteered their time to help make the convention a success, and have continued to actively support the division over the years. Kit was a frequent operator on our display layout. The Craigheads have hosted several SVD layout visits at their home in Meadow Vista, and Rose has invited us to an open house/picnic there on June 4.

Our own Division has held steady membership numbers with the addition of several new members (and return of former ones!) in the last few months. Our new layout crew chief, **Jack Dieres**, has done a good job getting the trailer fixed up and can call on one or two of his own employees to help set up and take down our layout (absolutely essential given the advancing age of our present crew). Attendance at our monthly meets has been very good, but we have struggled, however, in other aspects of our club. VP **Ed Strisar** has done a great job of organizing fun summer events but when he asked for ideas and assistance this year, no one came forward. We never have enough people to operate on the layout when we do have it set up. That was never a problem a year or two ago – we always had a full schedule of operators. A display operating layout doesn't have much impact if the trains just sit there as a static display.

**Continued next page**



## President's Message (continued from front page)

The lack of involvement reminds me of a list of suggestions for members (edited by me to suit our situation);

### Ten Ways to Kill a Club

1. Don't come to meetings
2. ... but if you do come, come late
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't come
4. If you do attend, find fault with the work of the officers and other members
5. Never volunteer to run for an office. It's easier to criticize than to do things
6. Complain of you don't get asked to be on a committee
7. If asked by the president to give your opinion on an important matter, tell him you have nothing to say. After the meeting, tell everyone how things should be done
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when others roll up their sleeves and use their abilities to help matters along, complain that the club is run by a clique
9. Don't try to recruit, meet and engage new members. Let someone else do all that.
10. Don't offer to develop new ideas for making all our events more fun - better to complain that it is always the same old stuff.

This club exists for you and your fellow toy train enthusiasts, but you have to be an active part to make it all work.

Keep on the toy train track! See you at the next event!

- John DeHaan, President (until January 1, 2017!)

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## Membership News

by Tim Taormina, SVD Membership Chair

As of this issue of the Side Track I am pleased to report that almost 80% of our members have renewed their membership for 2016. By the time you read this note, I will have sent those who have NOT renewed as yet a reminder. I recognize that we are now requiring proof of current membership with National, but that only accounts for half of those who have not renewed with our Sacramento Valley Division. National membership is a requirement for our association because we are dependent upon them for our liability insurance. So please take the time to send your \$25 single or \$30 family membership (both include a \$5 late fee). Thanks for your cooperation in displaying both your National and Sac Val membership cards when you attend our meetings. Please contact me at (916) 441-4778, send me a note at [trainfun@att.net](mailto:trainfun@att.net), or see me at one of our meetings if you have any questions.

Happy Railroading,  
Tim Taormina, Membership Chair

## SVD on YouTube

By Jerry Azzaro, Side Track editor

A new YouTube channel has been created just for SVD videos. The channel name is "TTOS-Sacramento Valley Division". The three previous videos have been copied to this channel. Future division videos will be placed here also.

Nearly every SVD member has a smart phone and/or a digital camera with video recording capability ranging from pretty good to fantastic. In addition, free basic movie editors are available for Windows computers (Microsoft Movie Maker) or Macs (iMovie) and will permit you to make titles, captions, cross-fades, etc. So, send your toy train videos (raw or edited) so they can be shared. These can be uploaded to YouTube as "public" (will show up in searches and are viewable by anyone), or "unlisted" (not searchable, but viewable by anyone who has the URL). There's a third setting, "private", which is too difficult to use or even to explain.

The three videos currently available are:

[Dean Busick's home layout visit](#) (public)  
[Phil Fravesi's home layout visit](#) (public)  
[SVD 2015 holiday luncheon](#) (unlisted)

# Minutes, Memos and Musings

*for the last 3 months*

by Jack Ahearn, SVD Secretary

March 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

**Prez DeHaan** opened the meeting a bit frazzled as he explained that SVD had two monthly meetings plus a two day train show all within the last three weeks! However, as for the Cal Expo show, all went smoothly. Set up on Friday was accomplished within two hours with adequate volunteering members. **John DeHaan**, one of ten, took a few minutes to heartily thank the other nine layout crew members for their time and energy: They are: **Carl Curtis, John Leins, Chuck Stone, Curt Darling, Elias Amaral, Jack Dieres, James Henson**, and **Jeff and Shaun Silvera**. Kudos to all! John D. did express a deep concern as to lack of members showing up to run trains.

Also there was a lot of interest shown in our club as witnessed by much of our print material being picked up by the crowd of onlookers. Good Show! BTW; we pocketed \$150 from the show's organizers.

There were other folks interested in our club layout as well. John D. was approached by National President **Randy Giroux** and the ubiquitous **J Keeley** asking if our club would be interested in bringing our modular layout to the 2016 Queen Mary convention. Wow, sounds great and it created quite a few comments from our members. The question of logistics, layout placement on the Queen, volunteer availability plus overall expense were just a few of the questions raised. It should be noted that **Jack Dieres** did volunteer to supply both his truck and his wife's chauffeuring. He did note a concern about arriving with no one there to set up the large modge.

The meeting closed at 10:10 with **Spencer Freund** winning the ten spot and new Show & Tell chair **Ric Wilson** opening the Show and Tell session. He also announced that the April Show & Tell will ask members to bring and show their Most Foolish Purchase!

April 9<sup>th</sup> 2016

The meeting opened with a loud welcome to guests, new members and a welcome back to renewed member **Dave Gray**. Applause was also given for Phil Fravesi's guest, **Jim Smith** and **Rose Craigheads** guest **Kerri Leggiero**. **Geoff Langmack** also introduced his guests, **Roberta** and **Lee Washington**. Way to go members!

Switching to a quieter mode, John DeHaan called for a moment of silent meditation to commemorate the untimely passing of **Kit Craighead**.

**Elias Amaral** reported that the TTOS license plate holders are moving through the pipeline (exhaust?) and will soon be available. John D. indicated their price is within the \$12- \$15 frame (pun intended).

Upcoming events called for more members to volunteer for security duties at our October Scottish Rite Show. **Jack Dieres** stated that the rental truck for transporting our layout to and from the Queen Mary will cost \$400. It does feature a powered lift gate. He and his wife will serve as drivers. Thanks to them for their uber volunteering! **John DeHaan** cut the meeting short due to the anxiously awaited auction of trains which were recently donated by **Tom Griffith**. The gavel-by-gavel action is listed below. May 14<sup>th</sup> Show & Tell is "My Figures" Little people I bought!

Meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Following is the auctions sold-by-sold action: Auctioneer:

**Don Rosa**.

Lionel #455 Oil Derrick – **Geoff Langmack**, \$70.

Lionel Floodlight Tower – yellow, rare, **David Burke**, \$45.

Marx Assorted Accessories - **John Leins**, \$20.

Lionel #2460 Crane car, black - **Bryan Stanton**, \$20.

Lionel Type 'A' transformer – **John DeHaan**, \$5.

American Flyer, 'O' gauge 3 rail loco (only) – **John DeHaan**, \$10.

Lionel signs and billboard – **John DeHaan**, \$10.

Lionel U.P. 1467W 1950's full 0-27 boxed set – **Paul Shलगren**, \$180.

Lionel #70 Lamp post – **Phil Fravesi**, \$25.

The total amount of \$385 will be used for worthy SVD projects. We again thank **Tom Griffith** for his overly generous donation. Thanks to **Don Rosa** for a fast moving and exciting pounding of the gavel. And **Tim Taormina** ...we like your friends!

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Meeting started with the introduction of **Richard Highum**, a guest of members **Bee Jay Christenson** and **Steve Gower**. It was also announced that **Jim Smith**, last month's guest of **Phil Fravesi**, is now a member of our division!

Prez John D. reminded all that our August convention is fast approaching and still open for registrations. Can our October Scottish Rite show be far behind? Incidentally, that show is still open for needed volunteers. It's the last set-up/down and operating of our large modge this year.

Between each of the above events will be this year's Galt Heritage Festival on September 24<sup>th</sup>. John D. announced that interested members are welcomed to bring their individual small layouts.

Another event to look forward to will be an open house layout invite by **Rose Craighead** in Meadow Vista! The date and time immediately follows our June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting (Minus travel time.)

**Ed Strisar** was applauded when it was announced from the podium that he had just received his new Hours Bar along with congratulations and gratitude from CSRM for his 13,000 hours of voluntary docent service!

Yea! Members can now order the much awaited golden T.T.O.S. license plate frames from National.

Mark, or unmark, your calendars. **There will be no meeting on August 6th** because the **August 6th meeting has been cancelled** due to the convention schedule.

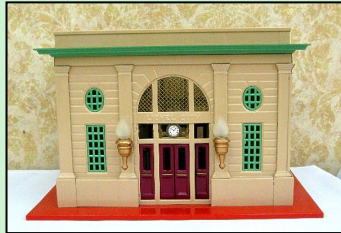
**Come to our September 3rd meeting prepared!** At that meeting we will be asking for volunteers and accepting nominations for new officers. John D. will not accept, consider or be coerced to serve another term of president. Let's accept the fact and be grateful that this man has given more, worked harder and longer than could be expected of any member. The June Show & Tell theme will be 'Funny Loads'. Unusual or strange loads you have on your Gondolas or Flat cars! Meeting was adjourned at ten o'clock after **Phil Fravesi** won and collected the raffles ten dollars.



# March 5th Show and Tell



**Bryan Stanton** proudly shows his beautifully restored Lionel 113 Terminal



**Carl Curtis** has done a marvelous job of reincarnating a damaged Polar Express observation car. In its new life it will serve as a very colorful MOW crane tender



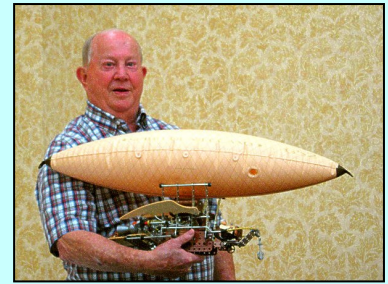
**Dave Thomsen's** American type 4-4-0 has a completely rebuilt cab and whistle using parts from his parts bin. Dave accomplished this within two weeks including the new paint job



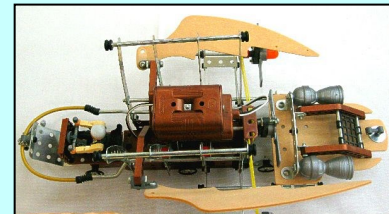
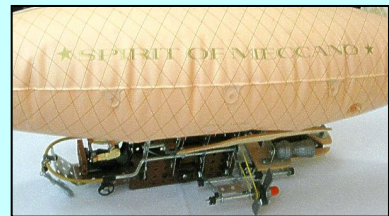
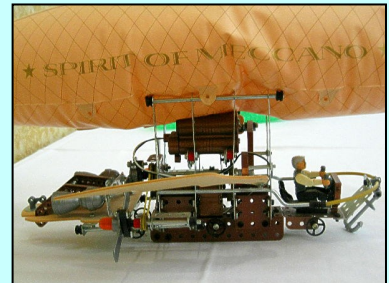
**Ric Wilson** shows the locomotive and tender of the first train set given him on Christmas Morning 1965. The loco is A.F. # 21107



**Richard Zanotti** shows us two Carette engines. The smaller tan loco takes two volts as opposed to the larger green one which runs on four volts. Both are 'O' gauge.



**Pete White** shows and tells about his Baron Von Schlieman Flugzeug Modelle Zeppelin.



**BARON VON SCHLIEMAN'S  
FLUGZEUGMODELLE  
ZEPPELIN**



## April 9th Show and Tell



**Carl Curtis** and his Garratt loco and tender. See more about this massive engine at the Spotlight feature elsewhere in this issue of the Side Track



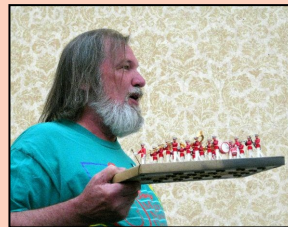
**John McLeod's** Union Pacific #21140 Northern is a find of all finds! The American Flyer loco and tender, produced in 1960 is in Good condition. As reported in Greenberg's price guide its current value shows a high price tag of \$2,000! John paid \$1,500



## May 14th Show and Tell



**Carl Curtis's** Hot Box Lounge; a hang-out spot for the near-by railroad crews to watch guests who let *them* all hang out!



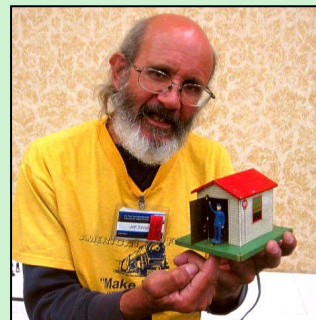
**Ric Wilson's** 20 piece marching band. The figures are a bit larger than 'S' scale, possibly made by Britains and is currently performing on Ric's layout circus



**Pete White's** Village Idiot Marching Band; Every village had its idiot. However this Pete's village hired a band and let the idiot lead it. The leading idiot is seen in the center wearing the grey shirt, yellow scarf and needless to say, idiotic looking hat. He's also seen in Pete Whites hand.



**Richard Zanotti's** vintage railroad station figures. Made by Hornby, these passengers are wearing appropriate clothing for the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

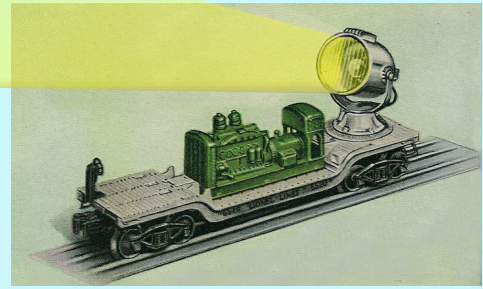


**Jeff Silvera** shows us an operating flagman's shack. Made by Colby in the 1950's, it appears to be in good operating and appearance condition.

# THE SPOTLIGHT

The Side Track Spotlight is on Carl Curtis's Garratt O-Gauge loco as shown during the April 9th Show and Tell session

Story by Carl Curtis, photo by Jack Ahearn



This is a well-done model of a Garratt locomotive. I've been its keeper for six years after picking it up at the 'O' Scale West show. The vendor purchased the engine at an estate sale and kept it on display in his office for twenty years.

At first, I thought the power train was from a pair of Lionel turbines, however on closer examination, the *put together* drive says "Maxi -West Germany". This gives an indication of its age.

Garratts were built in Germany for use in South Africa. They had lots of wheels for light rail and were articulated for tight curves. Those many wheels also served the oversized water capacity used for extended travel between stops.

-Carl Curtis

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*The Garratt articulated locomotive was developed by Herbert William Garratt, a British locomotive engineer, at the beginning of the 20th century. Garratt locomotives came in many shapes and sizes, but the basic design remained the same: an articulated loco with two steam engines at opposite ends and with the boiler and cab carried between them.*

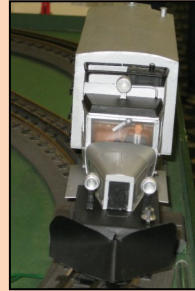
Many photos of prototype and model Garratts can be seen at this [Google Images page](#). Below are a few examples.



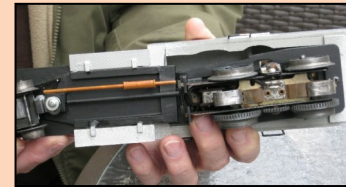
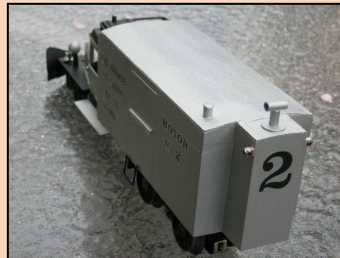


# Dave Thomsen's "Galloping Goose"

Photos and text by Jack Ahearn



All of these photos showing the various views of Dave's model can be summed up in one word: "WOW!"



Yuppers, even the neatly transplanted Marx motor chassis rates a "wow".

## Rio Grande Southern Railroad Galloping Goose

- by Jack Ahearn

The Rio Grande Southern Railroad employed plenty of colorful and imaginative motive power and rolling stock. Its roster portrayed romantic images and the eerie wailing whistles of long ago.

Some of its most creative motive power is exemplified by their innovative fleet of Galloping Goose curiosities. Both economically and labor efficient, they filled the needs of many different chores.

A picture is worth a thousand words. The many photographs in this feature demonstrate why I chose to use images rather than words to present the silver painted stars of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad!

The pictures of Dave's model of Goose #2 are the genesis of my inspiration to do this story. Master Modeler Dave Thomsen, using his talented cutting and fitting of plastic sheeting and artistic lettering, resulted in a perfect model. He brought his 'O' scale model of the Galloping Goose #2 to our SVD meeting and I got lost in the fading pages of railroad lore.

Rio Grande Southern Railroad No. 2 (nicknamed Galloping Goose Number 2) is a gasoline engine powered narrow gauge railroad motorcar. It was converted on August 12, 1931 from a 1927 Buick "Master Six" 4-door sedan. The Buick was cut behind the rear doorpost and extended with sheet metal 18 inches (46 cm) to form an enlarged passenger compartment. The steering column was removed. The front axle was removed and replaced with a swiveling two-axle lightweight railroad truck with sixteen -inch diameter wheels that carried and guided the front of the Goose. Ahead of the front truck the pilot is attached to the frame. During the winter season a small snowplow was attached to the front of the pilot.

Galloping Goose No. 2 is the only example of this type of narrow gauge rail car designed for combination passenger and freight service, which maintains this as-used configuration in Colorado and thus is significant at a statewide level. The period of significance is 1931-1943, the period during which Goose No. 2 operated regularly as part of the Rio Grande Southern R.R.

*Technical details in the above text were excerpted from Wikipedia.*



Prototype photo copyright Carl Weber

## **Down the track**

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

**June 4th: SVD Meet – Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\* \*\***

June 25-26: Crockett Railroad Days, CTTOM Open House, Crockett

**July 2nd - SVD Meet – Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\***

**August - NO SVD Meet – see you at the TTOS National Convention**

August 1-6: TTOS National Convention Queen Mary

**September 3rd - SVD Meet – Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove\***

**September 10th: Railtown Excursion**

**October 1st: Tom Gibson Memorial meet - Scottish Rite Center**

**\*Meetings begin at 9:30 AM**

**BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

**\*\* Followed by a home layout visit**

### **TTOS-SVD Mission Statement:**

*Our mission is to bring together persons interested in the hobby of collecting and operating toy trains.*

*The focus of activities shall be on promoting the best interests of the hobby through fellowship, a sense of good will, camaraderie within the membership, and exposing the general public to the hobby, encouraging greater interest in it and increasing membership.*