

THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

SPRING

2017

All the news that fits, we print.

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by Curt Darling, SVD President



Hello to all members,

The holiday season is now behind us. As your new president, I have noticed we have a lot more members who have been bringing trains to the meet-

ing to sell (nice job)! It is starting to feel like the old Sierra 2 meetings, and my mission is to bring some fun back to our club. I have a lot of ideas, and I think they are going to make our club a lot more fun, with your help. A 50/50 drawing: the 50/50 drawings, one ticket for \$1.00, 12 tickets for \$10.00 that will help fund our outings. That way we would not be using our general membership account. As a non-profit organization, the funds collected should be for educational purposes only. Our club car is now on sale for \$25.00 each, or 5 for \$100.00.



Layout chair **Mike Boyd** seeks volunteers for layout operations

I would like to welcome our 2017-2018 officers: President **Curt Darling**, Vice President **Ed Strisar**, Secretary **Jack Ahearn**, Member-

ship Chair **Barbara Rohrs**, Treasurer **Dean Busick**, and Member at Large **John DeHaan**. **Mike Boyd** has agreed to be the person in charge of the layout committee and **Ed Strisar** is going to be running our outings. They will be needing volunteers to help. We have a lot to get accomplished this year with outings, the layout, and also to put together a budget. Our membership is down, and one of my top priorities is to see if we can find new members. We need to invite families and friends, neighbors, and past members. We need to get the word out. We can use more social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Craigslist. We now have a Facebook account: [T.T.O.S Sacramento Valley Division](#). I was happy to see Jenni Parry volunteer to run our Facebook account. I am also happy to see our members being added to our page, thank you.

We need to do more (advertising) and to take a active interest in our club, and make it successful.



Vice President **Ed Strisar** tells members about the Portola field trip attractions

As you may have heard at the December meeting, our Scottish Rite meet didn't do so well. We all need to do our part to try to make it a successful event this year. We might have to look for another place to rent, and maybe hold another smaller meet

Continued next page



President's Message

Continued from Page 1

at the Holiday Inn, this way we could have two meets this year. The Scottish Rite rent is going up this year to \$2,225. Last year it was \$1,975. Scottish Rite changed the date of the 2017 October meet to September 30. Please mark your calendar. The board and I are exploring other options to hold or meet someplace else but this will be brought up for a vote by the general membership. I have been looking at other places to rent. It looks like the Scottish Rite is the best value for our money and for the total space. Also, our rate at the Holiday Inn is up to \$4,840 this year. If anyone has any new ideas, please let us know. I will be needing more members to volunteer for the following committees - to help **Ed Strisar** with outings. Ed is now taking sign ups to Portola on a bus outing. So, let's get that bus filled up. **Mike Boyd** with the Layout will also need volunteers for media drawings.

I want to thank everyone who helped at the Cal-Expo meet to make it a big success!! Wow, I was amazed that we had the layout set up and running in record time. We also did it for the tear down. I was very happy to see the huge amount of volunteers - for set up, running trains, and for the tear down. So again, thank you, so much to **John DeHaan, Jeff Silvera, Rod Walker, Elias Amaral, Carl Curtis, Jack Hornor, Don & Eileen Gueffroy, James Henson, Mike Boyd, Bob Milton, Brian Farnsworth** (and it's also good to see Brian back), **David Gray, Phil Fravesi, John Leins, Zachary Wellner, Warren Kennedy, Gene Edwardsen, Jim Groth, and friend Curtis Berger, George Loughner**, and our new member **Seth Parry** who joined at the Cal-Expo meet. The layout is a good source of advertising for our club!

A big special thanks to the following people: **Barbara Rohrs** for stepping up as our new

Membership Chair, **Mike Boyd** for volunteering to take charge of the layout committee, **Ed Strisar** as head person in charge of our outings and **Phil Fravesi** for making us a suggestion/coffee fund box. I would also like to thank editor **Jerry Azzaro** for putting up with me. I think I have been driving him crazy with all the emails I been sending him. The board and I hope that we can go on a couple of outings this year. Hopefully, it will be a very fun year for all.

And thank you so much for having me as your new president.

Curt Darling

P.S this year will probably go by fast, so **let's have fun!!!!**

The new suggestion and coffee donation box, designed and built by **Phil Fravesi**.

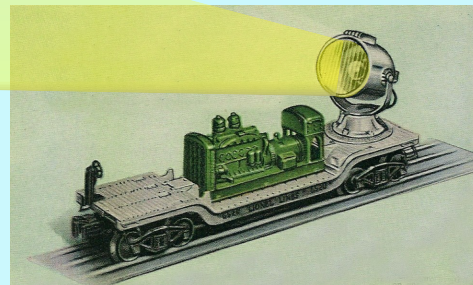
Photos and loan of a dollar by **Jack Ahearn**.



THE SPOTLIGHT

Jack Ahearn photos

For this issue the SVD Spotlight trains its 18-volt beam on member **Dave Thomsen**. Dave brought some of his railroad art oil paintings to the February Show and Tell. Who knew we had a great artist in our midst?



Dave Thomsen holds up one example of his artistry. He states that he has been painting since the early 1970's and has many more works at home.



Seen here is a sampling of Dave's paintings. Boxcar Jack plans on visiting the "mother lode" of his other paintings in his home and will present them as a feature in a future issue of the Side Track.

"Clearing the Way"

SVD members lend their models to enhance a new CSRM exhibit

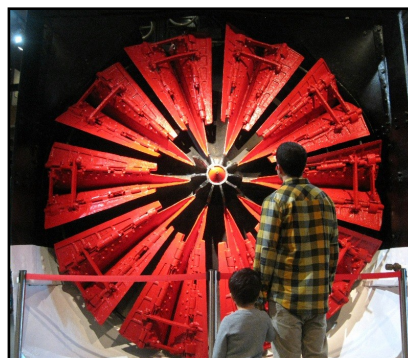
By Jack Ahearn

A new exhibit, at CSRM, "Clearing the Way", tells the story of snow plows and features SP #205, a restored rotary plow.

For the display, CSRM's Exhibit department created a very eye catching, five foot high exhibit case, which illustrates the various types of railroad snow plows developed over the years. I'm proud, as we all should be, that two of our very own SVD-ians, namely: **Bill Bender** and **Phil Fravesi** contributed mightily to this snow packed display!

Seen in the photo is Bill Bender's 'O' gauge rotary snow plow model of the prototype which is displayed within fifteen feet of his! Bill did a great job and almost popped Exhibits Department's Jane Howard's eyes out when she saw the car in his hand he was casually comparing it to the real one.

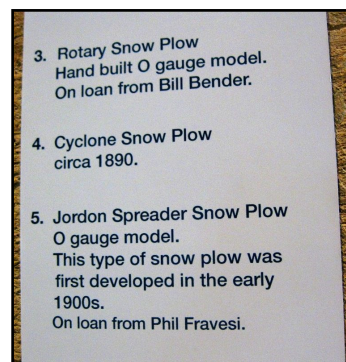
Her eyes were about to pop again when Phil Fravesi modestly stated he too had a snow plow model. "Are you interested, Jane?" He then explained it wasn't a rotary plow but a Union Pacific Jordan Spreader type. His MTH 'O' gauge model is bright yellow with the entire front area painted with white and black safety stripes. SVD kudos to both Bill and Phil!



SP #205 is BIG and POWERFUL!

This is a snowball fight you can't win.

Bill's model (right) and Phil's (below) help tell the story of these machines.



Minutes, Memos and Musings

for the last 3 months

by Jack Ahearn, SVD Secretary

December 3rd, 2016

Meeting was called to order by **President John DeHaan** a bit later than usual so as to adjust for members looking forward to our annual Christmas Luncheon Party. A new member welcomed aboard is **Gene Edwardsen**.

About twenty minutes was expended discussing the ever increasing rental rate of the Scottish Rite Center and our plans to deal with this concern. Consequently, the option of switching that Meet to the location of our current Holiday Inn monthly meetings was suggested with some preliminary figures presented. The rental costs for the meeting room space seems quite attractive, however much of the information at this point was speculative. Our Prez called for a straw vote to indicate member's interest in ascertaining hard numbers for rental particulars such as square footage of space, table sizes and costs and other such details. Members voted in the affirmative to look further into this Elk Grove option.

For his eight years of above and beyond brilliant leadership, **John Dehaan** was presented a Certificate of Appreciation along with a fifteen inch long vintage metal fire engine which features all the trimmings. Following that well deserved presentation, the following were recognized for their service to our Division: **Tim Taormina**, Membership Chair, **Dean Busick**, Treasurer, **Jack Dieres**, Layout Chair, **Beverly Hornor**, Scottish Rite-Tom Gibson Memorial Meet Chair, **Jerry Azzaro** Side Track Editor, **Craig Benner**, Web Master and **Jack Ahearn**, Secretary.

Raffle tix# 654, held by **Bryan Stanton**, won a 1K piece railroad picture puzzle and #665 gave the \$10 fun mon to **Geary Musselman**. No, he didn't use it to buy the puzzle from Bryan.

At this point anxious eyes were focused on the entry doors for the arrival of **Santa Strisar** and his Eatery Elves to enter with the Bar-B-Cue Beef and Chicken and all the trimmings. As in past years, member participation in our annual Food and Toy Drive continued to grow. Lots of both items were stacked high and a full report on the numbers and weight will appear in next issue's Minutes, Memos and Muses column. Hurrah, the doors just opened and the food is coming down the chimney doors!

Meeting adjourned at 11:05. Respectfully submitted, Jack Ahearn.

January 14th 2017.

Curt Darling took to the podium for the first time in the role of our new President!

He thanked all members for their confidence in electing him and asked for continued support. Following established format, he welcomed guests and introduced **Seth Parry** and his wife **Jenni** as new members. Seth stated he's a beginner and has chosen MTH and new technology as his choice in pursuing model railroading.

Discussion and looking into a location change for our Fall Train Show continues. However, to insure a definite venue for our 2017 Show, it will be held at the Scottish Rite location. Note: Due to a scheduling error, this year's show will be held one week earlier, Saturday September 30th. Its attendance will also be watched closely for any indication that perhaps our traditional first Saturday of the month might conflict with that popular first Saturday of the month for many other events, which might reflect a low turnout for us.

John DeHaan and President **Curt Darling** thanked the members who upped & downed and operated our club layout at Cal-Expo. It was reported that SVD received \$150.00 as a result of their efforts in making it possible to have our layout at that show.

Prez Curt announced that special discounts on train items are available to SVD members at Roger's Railroad Junction in Lodi (10%) and R/C Country Hobbies in Sacramento (5%, see Geoff in the train dept.). Western Depot in Yuba City will redeem your raffle Ten dollar fun mon certificate toward a purchase. You must present your current valid SVD membership card to receive those discounts.

Ed Strisar announced plans and preliminary details of our June trip to Portola. He asked for members to sign up early for this popular field trip outing.

Two critical volunteer positions have been filled. **Mike Boyd** will serve as Layout Chair. For Membership Chair, **Barbara Rohrs** will manage that duty. Thank you both!

Ric Wilson, doing a real fine job as Show & Tell coordinator, announced that February is Valentine month and for all lovers of trains to show off their most loved trains at

Continued next page



February's S&T. At the January meet Ric showed off his kit-bashed-customized Big John American Flyer Giraffe Car. Perhaps he should hold off for February's Valentine them and neck with his Giraffe!

Last item of the Meet: Winning raffle tix #670 won **Bob Milton** the \$10. fun mon prize.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20. Respectfully submitted Jack Ahearn, Secretary.

February 4th, 2017.

President **Curt Darling** called the meeting to order at 9:30 stating he would plan for future meetings to last only one half hour or less. During the meeting Prez Curt welcomed newly volunteering Membership Chair Barbara Rohrs back from her trip in the Far East, (uh, three thousand miles east.) Our President also made mention of the passing of **Mike McKinney**. He noted that Mike had a long time relationship with our club and participated greatly in our Scottish Rite Shows.

There were no new members or guests present so his first topic of business was to announce that beginning with the March 4th meeting, a reading of the Treasurer's Report will be the first item of each succeeding meeting.

From the floor, **John DeHaan** announced that our SVD inventory of assets will have to be reported by the end of March. Items should include, but not limited to, seventy two convention cars valued at \$45 each and T.T.O.S. auto license plate frames at \$10 each.

A request was made for volunteers for the club layout to be set up and operated at the May T.C.A. Scottish Rite meet. Members were urged to sign up for this critically important part of our club's public presentation. That message and call for members involvement was also extended to our Fall Tom Gibson Memorial Show. Reminder: This year, the show date is changed to Saturday, September 30th and will be held at the Scottish Rite. **Mike Boyd** volunteered to serve as layout chairman and he reported there are eleven volunteers for the layout set-up and tear down. We can always use more! Remember, if you understandably can't physically join in the labor tasks; consider the very important assignment of working the rope line. That is, to work outside of the layout answering visitor questions and promoting our club. **John DeHaan** has generously stepped up and volunteered to serve as this year's Train Show Chair.

The issue of the layout continued to be discussed with a frank statement from President Curt that we should decide on the future disposition of the layout. That's to say, do we continue with low member involvement of presenting it to

the public? Or, if a lack of volunteers, along with the increasing number of maturing members who are unable to manage the physical labor of setting-up and tearing it down prompts the option of disposing of it. The problem with that option is; how do we do away with it? Hopefully a purchaser, such as a club, might present itself. Key word: Might.

About twenty minutes were spent discussing our SVD Facebook page. The random and varied questions and suggestion became more focused when new members **Seth and Jenni Parry** stepped up and volunteered to manage our endeavor or to enter into social media. Seth took to the microphone and offered several suggested steps to make the venture manageable, interesting and a new-aged vehicle for attracting folks, particularly younger ones to model railroading and our club. Keep in mind; this is a project-in-the-works and will require a lot of trial and error and adapting to what does and doesn't work. The members accepted the Parrys' offer to guru us through this new venture and President Darling thanked him, pointing out that he is too busy with other SVD activities to additionally handle a club Facebook page.

It was pointed out by Prez Curt that we need storage space for our club layout Christmas accessories, garland and other items formerly used for Holiday Show at CSRM. Two \$50 per month rental options were discussed; space at **Elias Amaral's** home or in a minimal five by ten foot storage facility. Hopefully, the raising of a volunteers hand will present a better option.

Two items were presented to the membership. The first, a program named 50/50 and would provide a raffle for members to purchase a ticket for one dollar or twelve for ten dollars. Half of the winning money goes to the raffle winner, the other half to our club. There will be only one winning ticket drawn. The 50/50 Raffle program was passed unanimously by a hand vote. The second program, a members only auction, was voted on but did not pass by enough raised hands but rather, with a thumbs down vote.



Tom Alger (left) collects his \$10 Train Bucks from **Tim Taormina**

Ric Wilson, Show & Tell Chair announced that the March 4th theme will be My Home Grown Gem. It's meant to feature scratch, custom or kit-bashed train models that you created!

The winning raffle red ticket was #707 held by **Thomas Alger** which he quickly turned into green fun mon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12. Submitted respectfully by Jack Ahearn, Secretary.

January 14th Show and Tell

Coordinated by Ric Wilson

Photos and text by Jack Ahearn



Bill Bender shows his American type 4-4-0 refurbished colorful loco. Bill had spotted this gem in a drug store window in 1983. After three months of seeing this orphan loco serving little purpose, he “adopted” it for \$25. The pictures will show how he super detailed it to be a prized addition to his locomotive roster.



A closer look highlights the new headlight and balloon stack for Bill’s wood burning gem



And how far would a locomotive travel without its Tender support system?



Ric Wilson customized an American Flyer Giraffe car and named the Critter “Big Bill”!



A Visit to the Double R Bar Ranch

Jack Ahearn, guide and sidekick

A while back **Dave Thomsen** took an imaginary trip out west - and we all know what happens when Dave goes into imagination mode. If you don’t, take a gander at the last few years of the Side Track photos of his customized trains, kit-bashed buildings and layouts! Well he’s done gone into that mode again and traveled to the western wilds and the calendar pages of the 1950’s! Just think of him driving down a dusty dirt road and seeing a signpost pointing ahead to the Double R Bar Ranch. With his imagination, he probably thought he really would see Roy, Dale, Trigger and the rest of the ranch hands.



Dave has a great ability in bringing scenes to life. Take a gander at the pictures of the ranch and nearby town and share his trip back into the black and white, sixteen inch, rabbit ears world of the golden 1950’s! (’51-’57.)

However, Dave likely arrived at the ranch and that nearby town late in the day. Hardly a cowpoke in sight! I’d guess that all the ranch hands and other buckaroos were in the bunk house or catching a late siesta *underneath the western skies**

hoping to catch a glimpse of the Sons of The Pioneers singing “Don’t Fence me In”*

And for the cynics that may doubt that Dave ever met up with Roy for real; take a look at the proof at right.

*“Don’t Fence Me In” (1934) Music by Cole Porter. Performed in the 1944 movie “Hollywood Canteen” by Roy Rogers and danced by Trigger

Photo data: Dave-Roy-Jane. Dave & Jane visited Roy Rogers Museum, Victorville, CA June 15th, 1992. Note: Roy Rogers: Nov. 5, 1911- July 6, 1998 (81yrs in photo.)



Roy gives a big smile while placing his arms around Dave and Jane (Dave’s wife at the time). Dave’s youthful appearance gives the idea that meeting with his hero reveals he really is a kid at heart!

February 4th Show and Tell

Coordinated by Ric Wilson

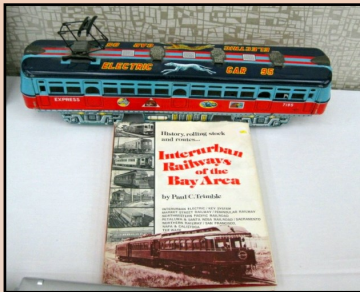
Photos and text by Jack Ahearn



View of the February Show and Tell table. A large-scale Budd RDC snuck into the photo but was never “showed or telled”. Perhaps it will return for a future S&T



John McLeod's 1948 American Flyer freight set was made the same year he was born. He was given it on Christmas morn 1949. No wonder he's a Flyer fan!



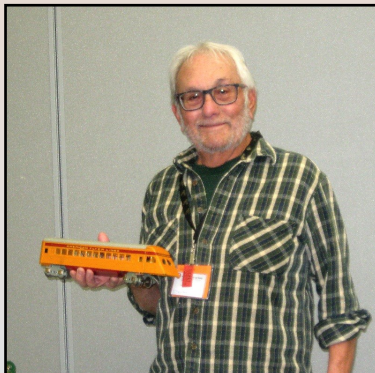
Richard Zanotti brought an extremely colorful and wonderfully lithographed interurban electric express car. Also, the book “Interurban Railways of the Bay Area” written by Paul C. Trimble tells the history of seven interurban companies that serviced the Bay Area and the Central Valley. It contains many pictures of that period.



Richard holds up his impressive eighteen inch long model of an early electric interurban which was made in Japan by Dayia



Pete White's colorful hoppity-hop Bunny Train stands out from the other train sets on the Show and Tell table. Pete has just a few words to say about this iconic 1930's boxed Marx set; it's not for sale!



Carl Curtis shows off the sleek looking lounge car of his American Flyer Hiawatha set. It was given to him by a close friend who, as a naval aviator, placed it in a foot locker and took it on many trips around the world.



Bill Bender holds up one of his favorite models. His grin and twinkling eyes reflect just that



Bill Bender's MTH green and white #1050 PCC street car.



Pete hold-up the Bunnimotive of his four unit Marx Easterish set.

Down the track

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

March 4th: SVD Meet - Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

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

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

May 27th: TCA Scottish Rite meet**

June 3rd: SVD Meet - Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

June 17th: SVD visit to [Western Pacific Railroad Museum](#), Portola CA

***Meetings begin at 9:30 AM BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL
MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

**** SVD club layout will be in operation**

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.