

THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society Sacramento Valley Division

Winter

2017

If they didn't have the model trains they wouldn't have gotten the idea for the big trains. - Amber Cole, "A Mighty Wind"

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by Curt Darling, SVD President



Hello everyone,

Christmas is here already! This is a very busy time of the year for us all. My first year serving as your President is over already. I guess time goes by fast when your having fun!!! I still want to get some

more fun things accomplished before my term is over as your President.

I'm very excited about the future of our club. I've been working and networking with Andrew, an organizer and promoter from Toy Fusion here in Sacramento. Andrew and I are working on some upcoming events. He also has become a new member of our club. Two examples of the upcoming events are a parking lot sale and an event to help raise money for Make A Wish Foundation.

Jerry has sent out an e-mail with a survey. Results of this survey will help the board and me in making better decisions for our club. At our September 2nd meeting we got 31 survey responses. Wow! Great job - I'm very impressed, and thank you very much for your participation in this survey. We now have over 50 responses and we are still reading them. We should have the results of survey at our January meeting. Thank you, **Phil Fravesi**, for making the survey!

Club news: the board and I decided to get a laser printer. this will help Jerry with the Side Track and help to keep our operating cost down. We also had a banner made up for our River City meet. We're hoping this will attract more people. Also the board and I are working on next year's venue for the River City Show.

A big special thanks goes out to **Ed Strisar** and **Elias Amaral** for representing SVD at the Galt Heritage Days, educating the public about our hobby and passing out our River City show flyers.

Our River City Show:

John DeHaan has worked very hard in making this show a very big success. We had 354 paid admissions. After all expenses, we made \$2,800. Nice job. A big thanks to **John DeHaan** - also **Barbara Rohrs, Dean Busick, Bill Wilson, Ed Strisar, Jack Ahearn, Jack Hornor, Mike Schafer, Don Gueffroy, Eileen Gueffroy, Jeff Silvera, David Burke, Seth & Jenni Parry** and **Bryan & Lisa Stanton**. All the people named above played a active part in setup, admission, advertising, security, and cleanup. We also thank our vendors - without them we couldn't have had this great show. Another big thanks to our layout crew for an outstanding job with setup and takedown. And to all who ran their trains. **Seth Parry, Jenni Parry, Steven Parry, Elias Amaral, David Gray, Don Gueffroy, Christopher Gueffroy, Zachary Wellner, John DeHaan, Jeff Silvera, Denny Dollahon, Mike Boyd, Jim Smith, Bob Orsich, Phil Fravesi**. Thank you for being a important part of our club!

I would like to welcome aboard new members to our club: **Andrew Leung, Denny Dollahon, David Sandfort**, and **John Young**.

The members who attended our September 2nd meeting voted to support taking our club's layout to CSRM for their "BIG Weekend of Small Trains" event. This was previously held on Thanksgiving weekend, but this year it was held on November 4-5, 2017. A special thanks to everyone who helped with the set-up on Friday: **Seth Parry, Steven Parry, James Henson, Rose Craighead, Jeff Silvera**. And everyone who ran their trains: **Seth Parry, Steven Parry, Jack Ahearn, Don Gueffroy, Christopher Gueffroy, Elias Amaral, Rose Craighead, John DeHaan, Jeff Silvera**. and to our portable layout crew. **Ed Strisar, Dave Thomson, John Leins**. We all had a really good time at CSRM running our trains.

A final note - we are selling off our club cars at \$25 each or five cars for \$100. I also picked up some 1993 club cars - they will be on sale for \$20.00 each. We still have TTOS license plate frames if you're interested.

Let's have some fun!!!

Curt

Minutes, Memos and Musings

for the last 3 months

by Jack Ahearn, SVD Secretary

September 2nd, 2017

President Curt opened the meeting welcoming guests and introducing new member **Denny Dollahon**. Denny states his interests are Marx, pre and post, along with some Lionel.

Referring to the fast upcoming Scottish Rite show, our Prez noted that there was a volunteer sign-up sheet awaiting member's signatures. **John DeHaan**, Show Chair, gave members a presentation of the Scot-Rite's current vital signs. Table sales stand at 106 and there are currently five (six if you count our big one) layouts scheduled to operate during the show. Thanks to all who participate in such a tremendous way to boost the sounds and sights of our annual show.

Along with the usual volunteer posts to fill, John D. brought to mind an additional boost that a few members can bring to the show's program of promoting their hobby. I submit that interested visitors should not have to try getting the attention of an otherwise busy operator keeping the trains running on time (and the tracks) to have their questions answered. Visitor questions might have included; how do I start to build my own layout or join your club? John D. proposed that one or two members circulating around the outside of our modular layout could serve a great and informative purpose, both for potential new members and our obligation to inform and promote our hobby under the terms of our tax-exempt status. Keep in mind, an active group of members responding to inquiring visitors wouldn't be only for the Scottish Rite, but all of our up-coming shows. And, BTW; it's fun to be a docent!

Members were also reminded by our Prez to keep our Membership Chair, **Barbara Rohrs**, updated on any changes of your phone and soc.-mede whereabouts. (soze-mede?- social media>Twitter, Face Book and other such clickacations.) Sigh L.

Prez Curt made a good news announcement about a savings of our Club's money. Curt has done a wonderful job in dealing successfully with the Holiday Inn folks. When scheduling our 2018 meeting dates, our treasury benefited from a one thousand dollars plus reduction in rental fees! Kudos for Curt and hurrays for the H.I. sales team!

The question as to whether we should participate in the Railroad Museum's Seasonal Train show went to a

floor vote. The many positive yea votes gave the high-ball to continue our many years of appearing at the museum. There is a change in dates from the traditional Thanksgiving weekend schedule. The reason given: several years of attempting to manage two major shows on a same Holiday weekend became unmanageable. The logistics of timing, parking and personnel required by each became untenable. Alas, Santa and the Elves of the Polar Express won the day.

By now you should all be aware that the new Museum show dates are November 4th and 5th with set-up scheduled for Friday the 3rd. Hey, who knows? Maybe the Gods and Goddesses of Toy Traindom will shine brightly upon us!

There were interested and enthusiastic responses to the topic of advertising for our upcoming Scot-Rite gig. A seventy dollars sign was approved and will be displayed at the convergence of where 'H' & 'J' verge or uh, un-verge. The approximate six by two feet colorful canvas sign will be displayed 24/7 telling of the shows happening this coming Saturday. Folks, in my opinion, thats a lot of advertising for seventy bucks! Good work Prez and thanks to Jeff Silvera for monitoring the sign whilst going/coming daily to/ from his job! Jeff also plans to place balloons on our usual Show day sign. We also recognize and thank member **Eileen Gueffroy** for her knowledge of and contacts with local media so as to get mention of our Scot-Rite show.

Show and Tell had a huge showing! A total of 35 camera clicks pictured over a dozen spectacular choo-choo related items proudly displayed by ten of our spirited members! Thanks to all and our thanks to **Ric Wilson** for another successful showing by our members! Speaking of which, said same Ric announced that our October 7th theme for S&T will be: 'Copy Cat Trains.' I imagine we'll be seeing a lot of questionable creations from that other hemisphere.

The meeting wrapped up with the raffle drawing which yielded **Eli Amaral** a tee shirt and **Dave Burke** a slightly counterfeited ten spot.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20a.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Ahearn, Secretary.

October 7th, 2017. Meeting called to order at 9:33.

President Curt called the meeting to order and introduced new member **Ray Ghio**. Mention was made of, and condolences extended, to **Curt Darling** on the occasion of his mother's passing. Curt was presented with an all member signed card of condolence.

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Minutes, Memos and Musings

from the previous page

Up for discussion were the conflicting dates of CSRM's Annual Train Show scheduled for the week-end of Saturday November 4th at which many members will be participating. That Saturday conflicts with our first Saturday meeting. The following Saturday, November 11th, has the Roseville Show scheduled in which (or wherein) several of our members will be vendors and other members will be vendees. A majority of members voted to cancel our November meeting. Consequently, our next meeting will be held on December 2nd which will feature our annual Holiday luncheon. **Ed Strisar**, Party Chair, was called upon to brief us on the details. Firstly, he urged all attending members to register on the I'm Coming List so he can get an accurate number of meals to order. He also reminded us that this event is used as our annual drive to bring food and toys to the young kids at the Children's Center. Please, please bring your donation of packaged or canned/nonperishable groceries and unopened toys to our club's yearly outpouring of good will. I also heard him suggest attendees bring either a large or extra-large dessert. (My paraphrasing.) Incidentally, Membership Chair Barbara Rohrs reminded us that the 2018 \$25. SVD (\$30 family) dues will be accepted at the December meeting. Barbara stated that payment in cash is preferred. Hmmm, perhaps we should keep a close eye on her! J

John DeHaan, the Show Chairman announced that the Scot-Rite Show was a success as reflected in the numerical totals of tables sold, visitors etc. The dollar figures will be reported elsewhere in this issue. John also thanked our members who volunteered to fill all positions. He commented that SVD's and all other vendors were quite satisfied with the Show. Additionally, he complimented **Eileen Gueffroy** for contacting local media to get mention of our Fall show.

Seth Parry, Layout Chair, followed with positive comments about the club layout and its volunteers. He paid special tribute to the set up crew who likely broke a time record by setting up the entire layout within one hour. Good going, Seth!

The next Show & Tell theme will be Military Trains and related khaki-like items. Keep in mind there is no meeting in November and the December Holiday Meeting skips the Show & Tell segment. Consequently, the next Show and Tell will be held in the January meeting. This month's winning raffle ticket was #879 which yielded **Mike Schafer** the coveted ten spot!

Meeting adjourned at 10:29.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Ahearn Secretary.

Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs,
SVD Membership Chair

We welcome new members:

Raymond Ghio & Dolores Herrera, Stockton
Denny Dollahon, Fair Oaks
Joaquin Murphy, Pinole

Please contact me at the meetings or by e-mail with any questions or changes concerning your SVD membership.

-Barbara tjbrr@hotmail.com

Club Layout News

By Seth Parry, Layout Committee Chairman



Well, it appears that it is time for another episode of "As The Layout Turns".

The club set up at the California State Railroad Museum on November 3rd for operating on the 4th and 5th. We had a great group of people show up for set-

up. Aside from having to call North State Tire out to fix the tires on our carts, the setup was completed in an hour. The electronics were installed and tested Saturday morning and worked great.

Elias Amaral was able to run his Lionel Legacy engines on the same track as my MTH Proto 3 engines. The turnout for the event was incredible and everyone seemed to love running the trains using the tablet and wi-fi. Teardown went smoothly (except for **Jeff Silvera** getting hit on the head by a falling section) and we had a good turnout of members to help. Thank you to everyone who donated time (and Excedrin for Jeff). When we come together as a club, the layout works good and is fairly easy to set up.

The next setup will be for Cal-Expo in early January. I hope to see everyone there!

September/October Show and Tell

Coordinated by Ric Wilson

Photos and text by Jack Ahearn

For September, the theme was "Trolleys and Trams"

Bryan and Lisa Stanton



A colorful double-decker trolley. Lisa proudly shows her favorite preferences: Cute & lithographed clockwork toys, especially when gifted by another of her favorites: Hubby Bryan!

An original Lionel 1908 Standard gauge #2 trolley. Bryan states it runs well and it certainly looks good for being a hundred and nine years old!



Bill Bender



Bill performed his usual magic on the 'O' gauge trolley by modifying the pole, resistors and adding cow-catchers. Prototype vintage 1920-70.

Paul Wells



Paul repainted and decaled this David O. King open-air 'O' Gauge trolley from the 1960-'70's and added it to his L.A. Pacific Electric roster.



Paul again used his paint and decal talents to restore this 'O' gauge 1960's-'70's interurban R.E.A. combine.



Another restore by Paul shows a passenger trolley lettered for Pacific Electric car #1110



Paul poses proudly with his Lionel 'O' gauge 'Zephyrette' and added it to his W.P. roster. It was custom painted by Dave Thomsen.

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Don Rosa



This mini Toonerville look-alike is an 'S' gauge David O King item offered in the 1960's and 70's.

Michael Schafer



Michael did a professional job of kit bashing, painting and decaling this Rio Grande combo car. He used two Lionel cars, passenger and caboose, to create this RPO/Caboose. Michael stated he would be pleased to present a workshop to show how he crafts a project like this.

Carl Curtis



Carl built this 'O' gauge Northwest Short Line kit into a 1911 era Sac Northern trolley. The kit contained epoxy cast components and gets around on Atlas power trucks and a Lionel E-unit.

Pete White

Pete brought us this wind-up Toonerville trolley made by the Nifty Co. Shown with it is the colorful companion book and the all-necessary *makes it go* key.



Joaquin Murphy



Wow, this gleaming BART train is a beauty. Produced by U.S. Toy Train Corp. in 1978, it sold for \$250. More plus a video at <http://www.robertstrains.com/BART.htm>

John DeHaan



A Chicago Transit "L" train, the newest from the newest Marx. The box and wrappings speak for themselves as does the smile on John's face.



October S&T - next page



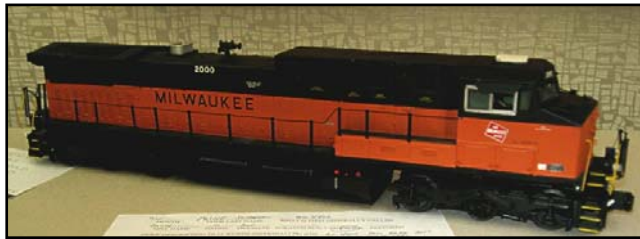
For October, the Show and Tell theme was “CopyCat Trains”

Ric Wilson



Ric tops the bounds for the copy-cat theme by showing this Japanese made locomotive which is a tin toy copy of an American Flyer “Franklin” locomotive!

Mike Schafer



Mike performed 2 weeks of painstaking work on modifying this MTH AC 4400 Milwaukee Road diesel. Actually, Mike explains, this is a ‘never was’ creation in that the engines issue date of 2010 conflicts with that railroads cessation in 1980.

Richard Zanotti



This scratch built twin motor brass 0-4-4-0 engine is a home-made reproduction of Lionel's late 1920's #402-E standard gauge gem.

Right: Richard poses proudly showing his unique copy of Lionel's standard gauge 402- Electric locomotive.



CHRISTMAS IN PAPER TOWN

1948, 1998 and Today

By Jack Ahearn

As Christmas morn' and 2018 draw near, I find myself nostalgically reliving a 70 year love affair.

In the early 1940's The Mills Brothers recorded their hit song, "Paper Doll". In the late 1940's, I had my own big hit. It wasn't a record and certainly not a doll, but it was a paper beauty! I received a colorfully printed sheet of paper with six cut-out buildings which I made into my first toy train village. Lionel mailed it with their 1948 catalog as a bonus to millions of kids like me. That was seventy years ago and through all those years - uh, decades - Lionel's Paper Town is still my favorite place to be a kid again!

Fifty years later, I bought an original sheet from Dave Dansky and constructed them for a photo feature in Classic Toy Trains (Nov. '98). In that three page story, I described my progression from a 12 year old ten-thumbed novice to a more adept 50+ (+ 's) scale modeler.

And now, as I face 2018 with seventy years of memories "kidding" around with toy trains and make-believe villages, Lionel's paper town is rising again. Like Brigadoon, it's showing up as one of the highlights on my latest, still under construction, Lionel empire!

Hopefully, this latest effort of Toy Traindom will be my best yet. Ironically - alas and with a deep sigh - the ten thumbbed clumsiness of my preteen years is now returning as I enter my north-of- 50 (+ 's) years.

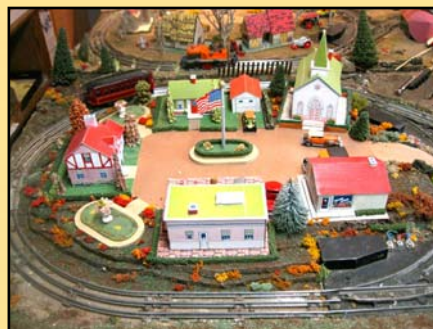
Enjoy the preview pix and as you can see, no one has yet moved into those 1940-50's homes. Hey, maybe a Paper Doll will move into Paper Town!



The November 1998 issue of C.T.T. featured a deeply comprehensive and colorful photographic account of the author's long time involvement with these six paper beauties. All required building materials were delivered on a 32 x 40 inch sheet of glossy paper.

In 1998 - 50 years on - Jack took a Mulligan and then wrote a CTT article about it.

In 2017, Lionel's response to the postwar housing crisis is still holding up. -ed.



2017: View of the yet to be inhabited paper paradise shows all six of Lionel's 1948 paper town buildings. Notice the era appropriate 48-star flag flying high over the town oval.



The residents of these two homes certainly have ample sources for their food, gasoline and spiritual needs. 1948 Campbell tomato soup 13¢ - gasoline 16.9¢ - as for the other ... let your conscience guide you. Notice the rare Public Service #102 Mini-Toys, N.Y. 10.5 inch trolley.



The only gas station in town is also the cleanest. The driver is likely waiting for the attendant to come out and fill his/her 1931 Duesenberg.

SVD Layouts at CSRM's "BIG Weekend of Small Trains" Event

Our big layout was there om November 4-5, and several members brought their portable layouts too.

Photos by Jack Ahearn and John DeHaan





The Big TTOS-SVD 2017 RIVER CITY TOY TRAIN MEET

Our annual fundraiser was a huge success!
Read the highlights in Curt Darling's President's Message on Page 1.

Photos and text on this page by Jack Ahearn. More photos next page by Curt Darling and John DeHaan



President Curt Darling presents **Keanu Samson** with the Lionel New York Central Flyer freight set he just won.



Josie Rodriguez, our happy raffle winner wouldn't turn her big smile away from the Lionel Pennsy Flyer she just won. Her proud dad looks on and perhaps will re-enter the Hall to buy additional track! *Well, kid, it was your train for a little while!*



Sacramento Valley Division's Board of Directors pose around our club's new and colorful banner. The breeze-blown banner faced the oncoming westbound traffic nearing the Scottish Rite Center.



Pete White brought his all-time favorite towering helix featuring the bumpity bump Toonerville Trolley at it nears the summit.



V.P. **Ed Strisar** takes a break from his busy schedule to check on the Halloween spooks infiltrating his layout.



John Leins relaxes as his colorful and fully accessorized layout illustrates the Magic of Marx!



Right: **Dave Thomsen** flashes a big smile as an American Flyer freight delivers new cars to the dealerships along his Rusty Spike railroad's right-of-way.

More River City Meet photos by **Curt Darling** and **John DeHaan**



Down the track

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

December 2nd: SVD Toy/Food Drive, Christmas Pot Luck luncheon

Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

2018:

January 6th-7th: Great Train Show, Cal Expo **

January 13th (2nd Saturday): SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

February 3rd: SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

March 10th (2nd Saturday): SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

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

BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

**** 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.