



THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

Fall

2018

The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed. - Martina Navratilova

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by Curt Darling, SVD President



It was a long summer. with all of the fires around us. We have members in the Redding area. I hope and pray that everyone is

okay and that their houses and properties have survived as well.

We finally had our first layout committee meeting. At that meeting we had discussion about making our layout lighter.

The committee decided instead of making the layout lighter, it was more important to have operating accessories. We took a vote and it was unanimous that we fix the accessories we have on our layout and purchase more of them to help us make our layout more appealing to the public. Another discussion

that we had was about seeking volunteers for the layout. There would be one announcement at the general membership meeting about seeking help, and after that we would not have anymore discussion about it - even if we didn't get enough help for the layout.

John DeHaan filled in as my proxy at the national convention. He will give us any updates from national.

The S.V.D. officers are coming up for nomination In October. We will need to nominate for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Barbara Rohrs has agreed to stay on as your membership chair person.

One more note, we our selling off our club cars \$25.00 each or five cars for \$100. Also we still have license plate frames if you're interested. Contact **John DeHaan**.

Let's have some fun!!!

Curt



LCCA goes to Chicago (well, part of it!)

By John DeHaan

A family crisis offered me a chance to participate in a small part of the LCCA Annual Convention in Lombard, Illinois (a western suburb of Chicago). The Westin Hotel in Lombard was the HQ, adjacent to a very large shopping center and numerous restaurants.

There were numerous tour events scheduled, including: a Moonlight Dinner Cruise on Lake Michigan, the Sanfillippo Estate, Museum of Science & Industry (MY favorite place when I grew up



there), River Boat Tour, Art Institute, Sears (Willis) Tower, and more. My

highlights were the Illinois Railroad Museum, Illinois Live Steamers and the Chicagoland Lionel Railroaders Club (CLRC). The IRM gets better every year with new barns, more rolling stock (875 by one count), and numerous restorations advancing (both full restorations and cosmetic ones). There is a tremendous variety of engines: 25 steam, 45 diesels, 11 electric; trolleys, streetcars, and interurbans, plus passenger cars (a complete Electroliner). We got a long ride on the 9 miles of cate-

nary right-of-way on a vintage interurban car and then the same ride on the **Nebraska Zephyr** with its original Burlington E5 loco. There is quite a collection of signals, signage, advertising, and trackside buildings to inspire modelers. All of the barns were open and we didn't have enough time to see all of their content. Check out the website: www.im.org for more!

Another tour offered the Illinois Live Steamers and the Chicagoland Lionel Railroaders huge layout/HQ (in New Lenox, southwest



of Chicago). We were earlier than expected at the ILS, so we got to see how much WORK it is to do model trains at these scales: Trailers, lifts, a two-level "car barn", turntables, all needed two-person crews. The engines include battery-powered electrics and live steam (fueled by propane usually), and gasoline/generator sets (using small garden tool engines to drive generators). The facility has grown to 7.3 acres, with thousands of feet of track in 7.5" gauge, nearly the same in 4.75" gauge, and 600' in elevated 3.5" (G) gauge trackage. The layout includes bridges, scenery, and buildings among the

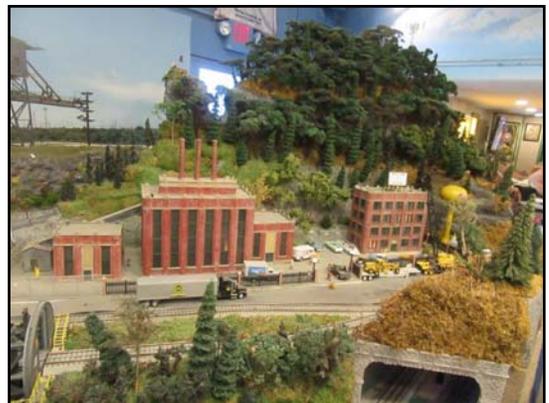
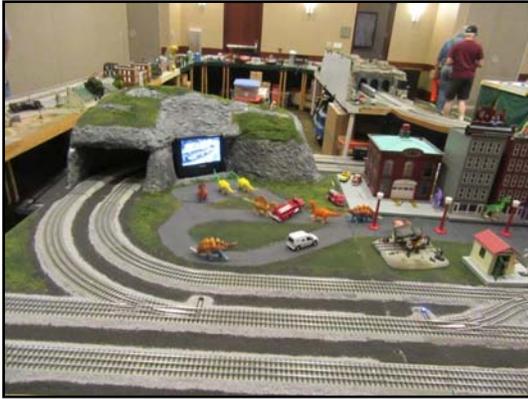
trees and creeks of the original orchard.

The CLRC is an amazing group. With only 120 or so active members they have built in just the last 6 years an awe-inspiring layout (see photos). In their own building in an industrial/business park, they have a salesroom (supported by Lionel) of both new and used CLRC and Lionel issues, a snack service, office, and a balcony with kid-sized operating layouts (which is the only way to take in the enormity of the main layout! The can run dozens of trains at the same time (with Lionel remote systems) and conventional O-gauge trains (including pre-war).



More photos next page





July & August Show and Tell

Coordinated by Ric Wilson

Photos and text by Jack Ahearn

For July, the theme was “Red, White and Blue”



Bryan Stanton shows his mint in the box #36769 Lionel 4th of July box car



Rose Craighead shows us a colorful book about the Santa Fe.



Above: **Jim Henson's** red and white striped U.P. grain car made by Atlas for the 1976 Bicentennial. Below: Jim displays a colorful circus billboard.



Phil Fravessi with his U.S. Army #44 Lionel Rocket Launcher (left) and exploding target car.



Joaquin Murphy holds up his boxed Lionel/ TCA “Spirit of '76” set. He also presented a complete boxed set of K-Line’s 1990 Freedom Train cars.



Warren Kennedy's beautifully repainted 1930 (only) Ives blue & red “Patriot” set



John DeHaan shows us a NIB set which is one of several “Election Special” train sets. The Roosevelt set is shown

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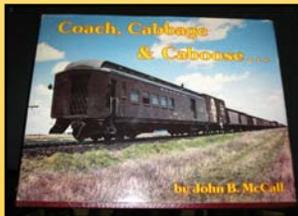
For August the theme was “Last in Line”



Mike Schafer displays his ‘O’ scale observation car recently made by K-Line. The prototype car was manufactured in 1947 by Northeast Train Co., Mass. It was sold to the Milwaukee Road at that time and remained in service until 1980.



Bob Orsich gave an interesting talk and explanation about his ex-Norfolk Southern Flashing Rear End Device, aka FRED.



Rose Craighead brought another of her Railroadiana books. This one is titled “Coach, Cabbage and Caboose”.



Richard Zanotti brought three photo albums and gave an interesting account of the 2018 T.C.A. Convention held in Warwick, Rhode Island.



Carl Curtis brought three interesting Santa Fe cabooses. One’s a “stretch limo” from his own shops.



We learned that **Bill Bender’s** favorite railroad is Florida East Coast Ry. Bill revealed this secret love affair at the August 4th meeting as he showed off two FEC locos.



Rich Kotowski’s very heavy Jim Beam decanter caboose. One can only hope it’s as heavy at the end of the run as when it first left the yard.



Great fun at the 2018 TTOS National Convention

By John DeHaan

I only saw a couple of SVD faces - **Phil & Emma Fravesi, Rick Plummer**, and a few from SoCal Divisions, so it looks like way too many people didn't want to risk DC's humid summer days. Too bad! The crew from HQ and **Regis Harkins** (Eastern Director-at-Large) put together a really fun week for the hundred or so souls that did come. The program started on Sunday, 29 July with a tour of Dover (Delaware) Harbor and Colonial Williamsburg. A larger group took the 2-day trip to the Cass Scenic RR in West Virginia. I was on it a few years ago so I can testify to the great scenery and real steam fun on the Cass RR. Wednesday's tour to Harper's Ferry was well-received but had to be shortened when flooding prevented the buses from getting to the hotel to



start on time. It rained almost every day at DC but Regis had it hold off during all the tours and the wonderful dinner cruise on the Potomac on Wednesday evening. The highlight of the week was the guided tour(s) of the Udvar-Hazy Smithsonian Air & Space Museum near Dulles Airport. Words cannot express the stunning effect a huge hangar filled with every kind of aircraft and spacecraft has. Your first view from the entryway is of the SR71, the fastest plane on earth (Mach 3+, 2300+ mph). Behind it is the Discovery space shuttle, and real Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo spacecraft, NOT mock-ups. Surrounding these stars are examples of airplanes from Wright-era, WWI fighters, 1920s stunt planes and racers, airliners, a REAL Lockheed Constellation, THE Enola Gay, fighters from WW2 (German, Japanese, Russian, and US), Korea, Vietnam, and today (F-35STOL).

Many are restored to perfection, as flown, and many were actually flown to the museum. We had a Marine pilot (flew F-4's, F-18's and many others) as our tour guide. He was so knowledgeable and fun we kept him an hour past the 2-hour official time. The tour ended with an awesome IMAX theater



film on modern carrier warfare but no one wanted to end their visit, but we didn't want to miss the welcome party at the hotel.



Friday was trading hall day (I was in central Virginia visiting my 1952 Jaguar under restoration there) but there did not appear to have been many vendors or shoppers. The home layout tours were a big hit with several great ones on offer.

The highlights of the show days (Friday and Sat.AM) were undoubtedly the modular layouts offered in O-gauge (by the Capital City Trackers), and Standard Gauge (Now that's the way to show off the BIG stuff!), N-gauge, and a table top layout in S-gauge. The CCT layout filled the entire atrium, and many "modules" had extension panels with towns, farms, industries, and even a reduced scale "Monuments" panel (for those who missed the dinner cruise!). Big trains in continuous operation filled the halls with motion, color, and sounds.

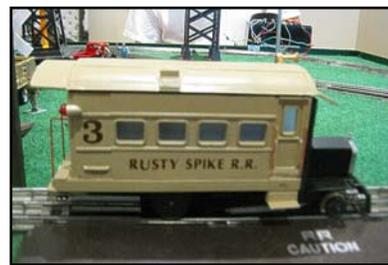
SVD layouts at the Nor-Cal TCA Scottish Rite event

Photos by Jack Ahearn

Our big club layout along with portable layouts brought by **Ed Strisar** and **Dave Thomsen** drew lots of attention.



Our big modular layout operates O, S and Standard Gauge trains. Led by layout chair **Seth Parry**, **volunteers** from within our club provide the transportation, setup, operation and disassembly each time it is displayed. Along with our website (managed by member **Craig Benner**) and our annual River City meet (chaired by **John DeHaan** and staffed by many **club volunteers**), it fulfills our mission to expose the general public to the hobby, encouraging greater interest in it and increasing membership.



Dave Thomsen operates Railbus #3 on his Rusty Spike RR.



The bus terminal on **Ed Strisar's** layout is served by two trolleys and three generations of Greyhounds.

Down the track

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

September 29th: SVD River City Meet, Scottish Rite Center

October 6th: SVD meeting at Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove*

October 7th: Just Trains Open House, Concord (no fee)

October 13th-14th: CTTOM Open House, Crockett

October 13th: Flyer Fest West, SES Hall, Elk Grove

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

**December 1st: Annual Christmas potluck luncheon
Holiday Inn Express, Elk Grove***

December 8th-9th: CTTOM Open House, Crockett

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

BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Contact us:

Club business: Curt Darling - (916) 822-4425 curtspempire@yahoo.com

Membership questions: Barbara Rohrs - (916) 730-1415 tjbrr@hotmail.com

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.



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