

THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

WINTER

2021

If we knew the unknown, the unknown wouldn't be unknown. - Dean Stockwell as Admiral Al Calavicci in "Quantum Leap"

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by Carl Madsen, SVD President

Hello all,

I won't start this message off with the same old sore issues the club has been dealing with. Instead, let me first say "thank you" to you special train enthusiasts that truly care about toy trains and friendships and sharing. I'm asking all members to put current issues aside and support the club, and especially three members who poured their hearts out to do this for everyone else. That's what a club should be about.

Starting in January, I hope to start building on a club with only people that truly do put the club's best interest first. An operating layout begins construction that can be present at every club monthly meeting and at every event we can get to in 2022. The layout will be no larger than 8x8 ft., but it will be packed and interesting - and mobile! It should represent Standard, "O", "O-27", Flyer and possibly HO as well.



David Burke, Bob Phillips and Spencer Boles worked to inventory the old layout - an important step in moving to a smaller one.

Please renew your membership for 2022 as soon as possible, and thank you for hanging in if only post-humously - we'll try to change that.

I know "Happy Holidays" is supposed to cover all this, but I like to say "Merry Christmas", "Happy Hanukah", "Feliz Navidad", "Happy Kwanzaa" ... whatever it takes to let you know that the Executive Board cares and is working actively on righting the ship.

Also please ask **Ed Strisar** what you can do for and/or bring to the luncheon ... and yes, I'll be there.

Carl Madsen

Membership News

by Barbara Rohrs
SVD Membership Chair

We welcome to our division **Tom Ireland**, Folsom. Tom collects pre- and post-war Lionel trains and has a home layout.

It is Membership Renewal Time! Dues for the coming year 2022 are back to \$25 for individuals and \$30 for family memberships. Deadline for paying your dues is by our March meeting. After that date, a \$10 late charge will be added to your dues.

Look for a renewal form attached to the announcement of renewal email. Please fill out the form and send in with your payment. I will be at the December meeting collecting dues. Please bring your completed form with your payment. If you are paying with cash, please bring exact change. Checks are also accepted made out to SVD TTOS.

If you have any questions about membership, please feel free to contact me 916 730-1415/ tjbr@hotmail.com.

Sacramento Valley Division Goes to Church

The October meeting was held at our new regular venue - Saint Mark's Church in Sacramento. A substantial reduction in rental fees will benefit the Club and its membership,

Photos and captions by Jack Ahearn



Board of Directors (LtoR) Bryan Stanton, John DeHaan, Ed Strisar, Carl Madsen



John DeHaan taking notes for meeting minutes



Ed Strisar speaking on plans for this year's Christmas Party



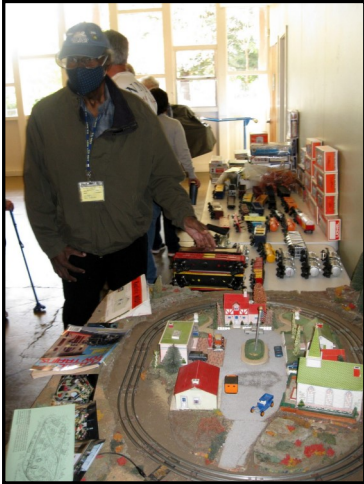
President Carl Madsen elaborating about future of the Club layout and trailer



Ray Ghio expounding on planned disposition of club layout and trailer.



John Leins deciding "To buy or not to buy?"



Leroy Wallace summoning Bryan Stanton to his table to “deal”.



Leroy and Bryan strike a deal!



Leroy Wallace walks away with an armful!



2402: John DeHaan ponders a query from John Leins. Jim Gholson in background.



Ray Ghio, Bob Rhodes and Bryan Stanton exchange views about club layout.

Photos by John DeHaan



A Great Time at the River City Toy Train Meet!

By John DeHaan, Meet Chairman

The Annual TTOS-SVD train meet on November 13 was a great success despite a long and stressful struggle to get it launched, thanks to Covid disruptions in all quadrants. Our usual venue, the Scottish Rite Temple, was committed to a UC Med Center Vaccination Center all year (until June 2021). The staff there then decided to do some renovations, so they would not know its availability until Oct. 1 (which ruled out planning for an October meet)! Staff reductions at SR made communications impossible and I waited weeks to hear their decisions. **Bryan Stanton** found the Carmichael Elks Club had a nice venue to put on the TCA-Sac/Sierra Meet there on May 29. That was an excellent meet and Bryan was good enough to put me in touch with their Catering staff, but their Covid staffing meant long delays at every stage of negotiations. When contact was established in mid-June, the popular venue was booked every Saturday until November! I booked the place as early as I could: Nov. 13!

The venue had lots of free parking and no stairs or ramps to impede loading but it was smaller in overall size than SR. Bryan came up with a table plan to make the maximum use with the 8' tables the site provides. We ended up with 75 tables and were "sold out" by mid-July. The Elks have a kitchen and provided really good hot lunches, coffee, and snacks for purchase from 10AM to 3PM. Perfect weather greeted us all day (except for the tule fog for those coming from the Bay Area).

Customers were lined up before the doors opened at 10

and there was a healthy flow until nearly 2PM. Estimated "customer" count was about 200 (including the youngsters). We presented two complete Lionel O27 sets for youngsters (under 7 and 8-13) donated by vendors. They were claimed by two delighted brothers from Galt. Trading was very brisk everywhere and vendors reported good sales on trains and accessories for every type from Z-gauge to Standard gauge. Our final profit from the meet was \$1900, the best we've done in years!

We were blessed with four small operating layouts that provided entertainment and fun all day – thanks to **Dave Thomsen, John Leins, Ed Strisar and Bob Remley**.

We had a solid staff from the SVD team. **Barbara Rohrs** at the entry door, **Phil Fravesi** (tables and donuts for the vendors!), at the front desk: **Jack Ahearn, George Loughner, and Richard Zanotti; Jeff Silvera** (pre-meet signage and general support), **Spencer Bole** and **Dave Burke** (security), **Rose Craighead** and **Keith Anderson** (clean-up). I may have missed someone in my exhaustion, but my deepest thanks to all SVD members who stepped up to assist that day!

Oh, and I finally heard from Scottish Rite. Out of the blue they offered a contract for our long-sought original date of October 1, 2022. So next year, we will have a bit more room for more tables. **Put it on YOUR calendar NOW!**

John DeHaan River City Meet Chairman.

River City Show Kids raffle winners

By Jack Ahearn

A lucky family drove up from Galt, CA and each of their two sons won new Lionel Train sets!



Left: The 7-12 winner, **Shannon**, poses with his dad and John DeHaan with his prized Lionel Wabash Cannonball set.



Right: His brother, **Christian**, the 7 and under winner accepts a Lionel Rail blazer set from John DeHaan.

RIVER CITY PHOTO GALLERY

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Down the track

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

**December 18th: SVD Holiday Luncheon, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento
(following regular meeting)***

January 8-9: Great Train Expo, Cal Expo Sacramento

January 15: SVD meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

February 6: GGLRRC Show, I.F.E.S. Society Hall, Mountain View

February 19: SVD meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

March 19: SVD meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

October 1, 2022: River City Train Meet, Scottish Rite Center, Sacramento

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

BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Contact us:

Club business: Carl Madsen, president - (916) 204-8217 laststoptrain@aol.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.