



THE SIDE TRACK

NEWS

from the Toy Train Operating Society
Sacramento Valley Division

SPRING

2023

Originality is the fine art of remembering what you hear but forgetting where you heard it. - Laurence J. Peter

Jerry Azzaro, editor

President's Message

by Ed Strisar, SVD President

Fellow SV TTOS members:

Good things are happening! SVD TTOS is on the move!

At our January TTOS monthly meeting Kathleen Silvera and Phil Fravesi prepared two very tasty casseroles along with orange juice. A lot of happy faces at the meeting. Thank you Kathleen and Phil!

At our February TTOS meeting Chef Phil Fravesi made freshly cooked pancakes and sausage along with orange juice. Thank you Phil!

At our March TTOS meeting sliced sausage in barbecue sauce along with cooked white rice was served. All the attending TTOS members were very happy after partaking of the above treats. We plan

to have similar treats at each of the remaining TTOS meetings this year. All SVD TTOS members are invited to attend the monthly meetings and share our joy.

SVD TTOS will be traveling to the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad Museum in Rancho Cordova on June 25/Sunday. The park has been reserved from noon – 2:00 PM and we plan on having a pot luck picnic. Additional details to be provided at a later date,

In addition, SVD TTOS plans to visit other fun locations such as the Carquinez Club and the Western Railway Museum,

Members are encouraged to attend the monthly club meetings, have a good time, enjoy the companionship of fellow members, and share their comments/suggestions. We need you. Look forward to seeing you there.

- Ed

“CALIFORNIA SPECIAL”

TRAIN, TOY & MODEL KIT SHOW

PLUS ... OPERATING TRAIN LAYOUTS

*** Open to the Public ***

International Agri-Center, Tulare, CA

4500 S. Laspina ... next to Route 99; Paige Ave. exit

½ way between Sacramento and L.A. → Car Pool with Friends

2023 Show Dates: Nov 18 – 19 (10 – 4)

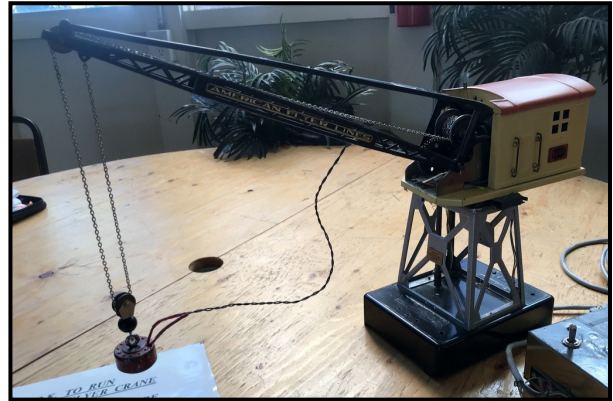
\$10/person; \$15/family (cash only at door) - (good both days)

– **FREE PARKING!**

Up to 400 sales tables + parts + clinic in 60,000 sq ft building
{Vendors – Send SASE to TTOS, PO Box 6710, Fullerton, CA 92834}

January 21 meeting

Photos and comments by David Burke



Phil Fravesi and Kathleen Silvera prepared wonderful breakfast casseroles that were enjoyed by the members.

Show and Tell:

Jeff Silvera showed a San Francisco cable car manufactured by David King. These were scratch-built between 1975-1985. SF has two styles of cable cars. The California Street line uses cars that can operate in either direction, with cable grips at both ends. The Powell & Hyde and Powell & Mason lines use cars with a single grip, and a turntable at each end of the line.

Phil Fravesi showed a kit-bashed stationary crane assembled by Jim Groth. Fully operational, built from a Lionel 219 crane car cab and boom, a Lionel #97 coal loader base and a #438 switch tower frame. Flyer tags and magnet were also used to complete the makeover. All movements of the crane and operation of the magnet are by remote control.

February 18 Meeting

Photos and notes by David Burke

Phil Fravesi prepared a pancake and sausage breakfast for the members and it was delicious.

Show and Tell: Bryan Stanton showed a Lionel hopper car celebrating 100 year anniversary. Carl Curtis showed 3 hoppers; one filled with cut up wine bottle bands, one with VHS gears and a third with a destroyed pool sweep head. John

Leins showed Marx hoppers representing T.C.A.m BMLP Lines, North Star Mine Lines and Monon Lines. John noted that Monon Lines ran only in Indiana, and Monon was an Indian saying for "Swift Running".

Jeff Silvera showed an early shared an early Ives passenger station.



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During the February meeting, Boxcar Jack Ahearn captured some shots of *Chef Philippe* producing his wonderful *crêpes*.

Jack also recorded the maestro's comments (below) concerning what actually took place:

“As the meeting was winding down, I started to prepare pancakes and sausage for the members. I plugged in my griddle and skillet containing pre-cooked sausage. There was an extra griddle available so I plugged that in too. What could go wrong? I laid down 16 pancakes and flipped them over. They were not cooking on the second side. I began to panic! Long story short, I noticed the pilot lights were not on. A popped 20A circuit breaker. I found the box and reset with one less griddle. I still had plates of food ready by the end of the meeting. Jack is the only one that knew I was rattled.”



March 18 meeting

Photos by David Burke



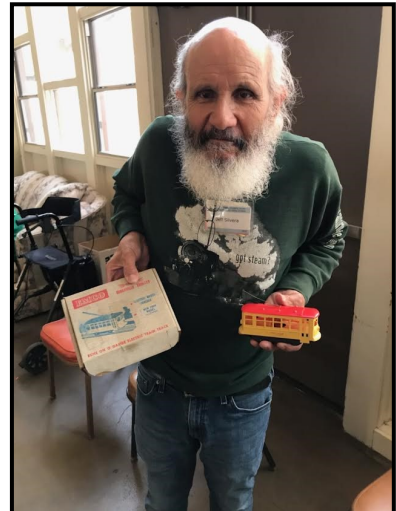
March Show and Tell

By Bob Phillips



(Left) Warren Kennedy presented a European electric loco circa 1957 and a 1930ish crane car (shown)

(Right) Jeff Silvera presents a 1954 General Models Corp. O gauge trolley complete with box.



-Boxcar Jack builds a tiny interurban layout that actually serves several communities

A new addition to my SMALL LAYOUTS ARE FUN! series of three by almost seven footers

By Jack Ahearn

Just about everything in model railroading gets bigger and more expensive! However, I've discovered a way to beat that old maxim and have loads of fun doing so. Wouldn't it be nice to build a neat looking and good running pike and change it around anytime you get a whim to do so? Yeah great, but how does one uproot an average 8 by 10, 12, 16 or even a 20 footer? I'm building, as Lionel catalogs termed them, an Empire! It started with a very portable 36 x 40 inch left-over piece of insulation board. I was too frugal to buy another 8 inches so I settled for just my tiny bit smaller piece. That I now regret, but can live with. The reason is that instead of building one 36 x 40 inch 'empire', I'm building four of them! Yeah, I had to buy two more 8x4's.



Yuppers, four 36" by 40" modules. Each with a different theme and all interchangeable. (You do the math for total variations). As for me, I'm using eight switches (turnouts for our scale friends) to route a couple of trolleys either completely around



the perimeters or re-route them thru all four 'small layouts'. With traffic controlled wiring, I could even have and avoid some potential 'cornfield meets'.

Looking at the photos you'll see the just completed (if one ever is) module. I haven't a name for it as yet, but

looking at the size of the town, its community park, colorful row of tourist type of shops, its Victoria Station, and high steeple Church, I'd imagine it as being somewhere in New England, perhaps Vermont. That locale raises a geographical concern since, as you can see in some photos, that would place Vermont on the border of North Carolina, in fact as soon as the road crews go to work tearing down the hedgerow barrier, Vermont drivers can steer right into Rocky Mount, NC's Main Street! You'll also notice that the track bumpers are in place when only one module is used, such as at a train show or club meeting. In a few photos the bumpers are removed so as to allow the trolley to smoothly make its way to Rocky Mount station. They are also removed if I'd opt to run a train all the way around the



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72x80 inch perimeter. Actually one could bring either just one or indeed all four to a meeting or show, depending on space availability. Either in a square or a straight line against a wall. I told you, Small Layouts are FUN!



As for the almost vacant lots to the rear of 'Somewhere' Vermont, you'll notice on some there are several 'buildings-in-waiting'. You'll see them come to life in upcoming issues of your Side Track on a cyber new-stand in your den or office.



About the quaint row of 'tourist type' shops: I picked that up a Cal Expo show a couple of years ago and am finally using the professionally made exhibit piece. Notice also the unusually high curbing. Its height is caused by its basements hidden, aw, I'll reveal it when I soon tell its full story. It's the only model that I didn't construct and it had a labeled price of \$9.99.

You'll also notice that the other side and ends of the town contain buildings I made from the 1948 Lionel's bonus, send 25¢ for it, catalog. Most members have seen it at several shows but why not still get my quarter's worth out of them? (See CTT November 1998)



I'm looking forward to the FUN of building them and the exciting FUN of running them.



Down the track

Upcoming events of interest to SVD members (SVD events are in **BOLD**)
(Click the underlined links for more information)

April 8: [TCA Nor-Cal Show, Walnut Creek](#)

April 15: SVD Meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

April 20-22: [TCA Eastern Div. York Meet](#)

April 26-30: NMRA Rails by the River, Cal Expo

May 20: SVD Meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

May 27: [TCA Sac-Sierra Show, Scottish Rite Center](#)

June 17: SVD Meeting, St. Mark's Church, Sacramento*

June 24-25: [Carquinez Toy Train Operating Museum open house](#)

July 12-16: National Summer/Fall Steamup, Lodi

August 1-6: TTOS National Convention, Columbus OH

September 30: SVD River City Meet, Elk's Lodge, Carmichael

November 18-19: "California Special" meet, Tulare

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

BRING YOUR SVD and TTOS NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Contact us:

Club business: Ed Strisar, President - (916) 395-3169 stein.ed.0530@gmail.com

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

Website: www.ttos-sv.org

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.