

THE SEMAPHORE

2006 Calendar of Events

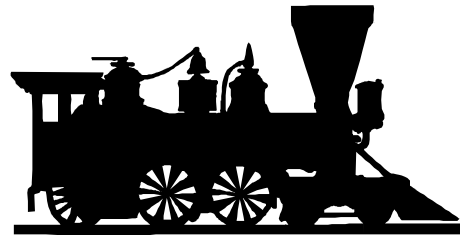
Saturday 28th January club meeting will be held at 10:00 pm, at Boney's Marketplace, 1820 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, Ca. Members, guest and visitors are encouraged to attend.

January 14th NMRA Layout tour at Dan Fowler's see www.trainnet.org

**February 11th NMRA San Diego Winter Meet & Annual Swap Meet
See www.sandiegodivision.org**

**February 18th NMRA Layout tour at Steve Seidensticker
See www.sandiegodivision.org**

**Return Address:
North County Model
Railroad Society
Boney's Marketplace
1820 Oceanside Blvd.
Oceanside, Ca. 92054**





**NCMRS
PRESIDENT MESSAGE**

January 2006

As we start our second year at Boney's we can take pride in our accomplishments this past year. Much has been accomplished. We have sent the groundwork for an exciting 2006. While work continues on the electrical side, scenery will become the major goal for 2006. Now is the time to step up and get involved with the Scenery Committee.

Some of the goals that I see for 2006 are continuing with the strong membership drive. 2005 saw us get new members, many who are very active. This effort will continue. Each member needs to be vigilant and talk up the club. You never know where the next member is coming from.

We have a number of successful social events this year. Both the party at Jay's and the Christmas party at Cliff's were very successful. The Christmas party had twenty members plus guests. This was the largest number of members that I had seen at one time. Maybe we should have more food events. I would like to see this continue in 2006.

One other important goal for 2006 should be the training of club members. We have had some attempts to start classes that didn't get going. I know that members want to learn more and the club will make

classes available to assist in that area. If you have a skill that can be taught, volunteer to lead a class.

In the last couple of President's Messages I mentioned member involvement both as an officer and in committees. I encourage every member to become involved in some aspect of the clubs activities. We increased our activities last year but there are a lot more things we could be doing. The club needs folks to organize and plan activities. Become involved. If you don't know what to do or have suggestions let your officers or Board members know. Let's get January off to a great start.

See you at the club.

Al Cuevas

**President
NCMRS**

THE 2005-YEAR END SHOWS

The North County Model Railroad Society ended the 2005-year with two Model Train Shows.

The Great Western and Atlantic Train Show (formally known as the GATS Show) were conducted at the Del Mar Fair Grounds.

The NCMRS'S plan worked out fine. The attendance at Del Mar Fair Grounds was excellent and the club was well received.

The Carlsbad Children's Museum

At noon Friday the 9th of December, the four horsemen assembled the "Show & Go": George Benton, Dick Miller, Leo Valley and Tom Bernhardt. The Carlsbad Children's Museum sold out a Christmas Show for that evening. The children really enjoyed "THOMAS AND JAMES THE TRAIN" as well as "THE POLAR EXPRESS" train as displayed by the club.

A big thanks to all the NCMRS members that showed up to represent the club at both of these Train Shows.

PROGRESS COMES FROM INFINITE PATIENTS

By Tom Bernhardt

Model railroading is an Art Form. The skills required to create a new model

train layout from scratch is formidable especially when your goal is a "Club Scale" layout. The amount of work required demands the formation of an organized club with a dedicated membership that has a well-defined vision.

The North County Model Railroad Society can stand tall as we look back on our first year as a new restructured club.

Our lists of achievements during our first year of operation speaks well for our club Officers, Directors and Committee Chairmen.

A NEW HOME

In November of 2004 the NCMRS was homeless. The club was looking at storage but the "Train Gods" looked favorably upon us and we found a new home at "Boney's Marketplace" in Oceanside, California.

Thru the year the club took giant steps in planning, designing and construction of our new home with many committees working out the specifications for our new "Club Scale" layout.

LAYOUT STATUS

As the new year of 2006 opens up the club has the entire main line track installed (about 1100 feet). Three of the five yards are laid. The "Fiddle Yard" is now complete with control panels.

There is a lot of work to be done on installing and wiring turnouts. On the up side the main line will be powered by the end of January.

Some scenery has been started. The scenery committee has held five meetings in discussing landscape and structures.

A note to all members

As track is laid DO NOT SET ANYTHING on the track. The track is not a storage bench. DO NOT LAY your arm or hands on the track. Your hands and arms have oil on them. Sweaty hands are acidic and very dirty. A special flag goes up for the Fiddle yard; do not lay objects of any form on the track. Think of the track as your young teenage daughter, “KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF BOYS.” Do not feel shy or restrained if see any one violating this guideline. Even “Good Ole Boys” make mistakes.

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Cumbers & Toltec Scenic Railroad

My wife and I just returned from a six-day vacation in New Mexico. An important part of the trip for me was a ride on the Cumbers & Toltec Scenic Railroad (C&TS). This narrow gauge railroad travels 64 miles through the San Juan Mountains from Chama, New Mexico to Antonito, Colorado. Our ten-car train was headed by two K-36 2-8-2 Mikado's that were built by Baldwin Locomotive Works in 1925. Based on an aggressive maintenance and rebuild schedule, the train crew felt that these locomotives were running better today than they did when they were new. Before we boarded the train several of us were standing around one of the engines talking to the crew. One of the passengers asked where the museum was located. The engineer said you're standing in it.

Picture: Engine #484



Picture: Water Tower at Chama



the Antonito train with our original engine #488.

Picture: K-36's double headed working a 4% grade to Cumbers



The train leaves from Chama (elev. 7,862 ft) traveling to Cumbers pass at an elevation of 10,015 ft. At Cumbers the lead locomotive #484 was taken off. It turned around on the Cumbers wye and returned to Chama. Our train continued, headed by K-36 #488. At the higher elevations there was some snow on the ground from a storm earlier in the week. The aspen trees were in full fall color, which made for incredible valley and mountain views.

Picture: Aspen trees



Our train continued to Osier where we stopped for lunch. At Osier we met the westbound train from Antonito. During lunch the train's crew switched engines so we continued our trip on

Picture: #488 at Osier



The decent to Antonito (elev. 7,888 ft) is beautiful with deep canyons and long valley vistas. My pictures don't do justice to the scenery. For some really good pictures visit the C&TS website at www.cumberstoltec.org The entire trip took a little over 5 hours for a breathtaking average speed of 12 miles per hour.

History

This railroad was part of the San Juan Extension of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway System. This extension went from Alamosa to Durango Colorado. The Antonito Chama portion of the railroad was built in 10 months from April of 1880 to Jan of 1881. The extension to Durango was completed in July of 1881. The railroad ceased operation in Dec. of 1968 essentially put out of business by the highway 17 which shortened the trip from Antonito to Chama to less than one hour.

The New Mexico and Colorado Railroad Authorities purchased the railroad in July of 1970 with the intention of preserving it as a scenic tourist railroad. Today the Rio Grande Railway Preservation Corporation (RGRPC) and Friends of the C&TS operate the railroad.

What a great experience. If you are any kind of a rail fan you will enjoy the trip. Arrive early so you can check out the entire engine servicing facilities. A trip like this makes you want to buy a couple of K-36's models and start building an HOn3 railroad. Maybe I can work in a little dual gauge track into my standard gauge layout.

Dick Miller

**North County Model Railroad
Society**

Boney's Marketplace

1820 Oceanside Blvd.

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www.ncmrs.org

