



The Semaphore

On Saturday, February 23 2008, the club meeting will be held at 10:00 am, at Boney's Marketplace, 1820 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, CA. 92054

Members, guests and visitors are invited.

North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS)

Volume 4, 02

Special points of interest:

President's Message by Dick Miller

All aboard : Due to Dick Miller's trip your Editor provided this timely article.

THE Best of all Shows

By Tom Bernhardt

What a month for public relations for the North County Model Railroad Society in the North County Times, (Sunday, January 6, 2008) a week before the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Train Show at the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday (January 12th and 13th) was a front page article in the Life Section, with a picture of Al Cuevas's Challenger pounding down the rails. This big picture had an insert photo of Al Cuevas making a coupler correction that he had been having trouble with.

Accompanying the four photos were 300 words of descriptions and comments concerning the nature and refinement of our museum quality HO layout. For those craftsmen who contributed to the planning and construction of our 1500 ft² layout a job well done must be recognized.

Besides collecting data for the North County Times story, video footage was taken to support a short five minute visual film story for an

"Online Video NC Times.com" feature. Your NCMRS newsletter Editor, coached by the NC Times reporter, supplied an appropriate five minute impromptu dialog concerning the need to "root" a building into the ground to really give it the feeling that it belongs there. All in all the video feature was well received.

Because of the Sunday edition of the newspaper article and a week long internet exposure of the video feature on the North County Times web site coupled with a week of Radio and local TV advertising 30,000 friends and neighbors from four counties attended the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour Train at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Guess who was center front stage, next to the Disney Display, none other than, your North County Model Railroad Society with its Show-N-Go display.

The Train Expo took off on Saturday, the 12th of January, with wall-to-wall parents and their children. The NCMRS never saw the light of day. Ten people deep surrounded the Show-N-Go display and the layout action was phenomenal. The children were in train heaven and they behaved well. The NCMRS members who represented the Club at The Del Mar Train Expo performed an outstanding job on both days.

Hats are off to George Benton for heading up the overall effort leading to a very excellent exposure for the North County Model Railroad society members, and their talents to the world of Model Railroading. Thank you George for your outstanding team leadership.

Your Editor: Tom Bernhardt

Work Schedule

Every Thursday and Saturday are work days at the clubhouse. There are plenty of tasks to be performed.

Visitor Schedule

Every Thursday 3-8:30 PM, Saturday 9:30 AM - 4 PM are the visitor hours at the NCMRS Clubhouse.

Operation Schedule

2nd Tuesday of the month
Setup time 5:30 pm
Run Time 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Inside this issue:

2007 in Review	2
Sharing	2
Running Trains	2
Expo	4
Expansion	5
eBay	5

NCMRS LAYOUT IN REVIEW In this February issue of the Newsletter we'll take a good look at running



trains on Peninsula B as its scenery matures. Above the "John Allen Trestle" stands strong and tall against the developing garnet background. This monument to John Allen will come alive when the mountain river comes crashing down on the left side of the trestle. The effort on this end of Peninsula B has taken half a year and many hours by Tom Brunner and members who assisted him in this work of art. If you stretched the mountain ridge out from the bridge to the far end of the mill Pond it measures about sixteen feet in length and over forty square feet of terrain sculpture area. Located on the mountain ridge are:-

- rock crushing operation
- 100 foot arch truss bridge
- 500 ft. steel trestle
- 100 ft. stone trestle
- 100 ft. tunnel
- 50 ft. arched wooden bridge
- mining operation
- small camp of logger and miner shacks
- four 50 ft. steel girder bridges
- lumber mill with mill pond.

Below we see a small 44 ton yard engine working up at the logger and miner camp. Dismounting from the engine and



walking 50 ft., on the outer rail pictured above, you will come out atop the 50 ft. stone trestle yet to be constructed. All these little buildings need lots of tender loving care "Rooting" them to the ground. This type of work is tedious, but slowly and surely the work gets done. There is easily another six months of work by the artist that have worked on this end of the peninsula.



Then there are the rivers and streams with rapids, white water and cascading waterfalls to be crafted just so doing the things they do without splashing the onlooker.

NCMRS LAYOUT IN REVIEW Contd.

Below shows the accumulation of logs, pallets of wood and lumber bearing bulkhead flat car.



We have moved across the mill pond for another view of the area and the business end of the saw mill. From here we can take in the odor of fresh cut lumber drifting across the pond. As you can see the logs are “walking on the water” as of now. In the near future the logs will look like this real photo below.



This is the effect that we aim to achieve in the pond area.



ROLLING STOCK REVIEW The Club has a collection of over 300 rolling stock cars of various types. They meet all the Club’s specifications per NEMA standards: steel wheels, weight, Kadee couplers, coupler height and glad-hand height. All this effort results in more reliable operation on the layout. Private rolling stock that does not meet Club standards is not allowed on the layout.



The Club layout coupled with the rolling stock level of excellence allows detailed locomotives like this one to operate for hours free of accidents.



The barriers need not be anything fancy. If chairs could be borrowed they would be fine. Poles and ropes would work.

SEAT FOR A TIRED TRAINMASTER

This is more personal: Old legs and hips do much better in a seated position. So why not seats for the Trainmasters?

Howard Livine

EXPANSION

By Dan Conway

I was, for my sins, named Team Leader of the team planning the arrangements for the Expansion Area out beyond the existing north wall of the layout room. However perhaps my sins aren't so bad because I was blessed with an excellent team: three Toms (Ashton, Bernhardt, Brunner), Richard Brown, Al Cuevas, Bob Hunt, Howard Levine, Dick Miller, Nick Ruddick, John Stevens, Charlie Tucker, and Herman Vandenbosch. Richard and Herman have design/contracting skills which have proven very helpful.

The team has come to a consensus on the plan to be presented to the membership, probably at the next meeting in February. We agreed that external walls will be 8 feet high, and interior walls 4 feet high, except for 8 foot high walls dividing an office area from the maintenance area – this wall will have locking closets for maintenance and office supplies and equipment. There will be areas for the office and maintenance work separated from the flow of traffic by low walls, a lounge with our round table, space for other chairs, bookshelves for the library, the TV and VCR player with storage space for tapes, and a place for the coffee/refrigerator/microwave.

The work bench with the existing programming/test track will be moved from the Fiddle Yard area to the Expansion Area (and a new programming track installed near the fiddle yard). One 4 foot x 8 foot work table will be in the Expansion Area, and other work tables can be set up as needed. The table saw will be outside the Expansion Area for obvious reasons (noise, dust).

There will be space for an extension of the layout along the back of the existing north wall of the layout room, and some creative thinking is being done on how to link the existing layout to the extension. No track plan is currently being developed – that is outside the mandate of the Team – and the exact footprint of the layout extension is still to be determined, based on the track plan that will eventually be developed.

Details on the Expansion Area plan will be made available to members soon.

E-BAY WILL BE ACTIVE Your Club eBay activities stepped aside for the winter holidays and will start up this month for another year of making money for the Club.. On that note I am asking all



members to look around at home for items you wish to donate to the Club suitable for sale on E-Bay. The item does not necessary need to be train related. Last year your E-Bay sold an excellent 8 inch telescope for over \$500 . So look around and be creative. Thank you for helping your Club.

Tom Bernhardt

(PS– you do not need to bring it in all at once)

North County Model Railroad Society

**Boney's Marketplace
1820 Oceanside Blvd.
Oceanside, Ca. 92054
(760)-722-7366**

www.ncmrs.org

Editor in chief: Tom Bernhardt

Copy editor: Sue Ruddick

Layout: Nick Ruddick