

# The Semaphore

August, 2006

On Saturday, August 26 the club meeting will be held at 10:00 am, at Boney's Marketplace, 1820 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, Ca. Members, guest and visitors are invited.

Special points of interest:

**North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS)**

**Volume 2, 8**

## 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.

## President's Message by Al Cuevas



August 2006

Once again I have been subtly reminded by our editor that I have only a few days to get the August "Prez" message in. So here goes. As I write this it is Show-N-Go weekend at Boney's. I enjoy these shows for a number of reasons. It is rewarding to see members working together to assist with the Show-N-Go and talk with the visitors who stop by. There have been improvements in the Show-N-Go and these make it a little bit different every time. Of course, this is an opportunity to bring in your favorite train and take a few laps. Today it seemed like every time a volunteer was needed, a member was there to talk to a visitor or take them upstairs.

We had two reporters visit us on Saturday. One indicated that an article would be written soon for the "Daily News". Additionally, her photographer came by later in the day to take pictures. We don't get many opportunities to "show off" our club. These types of public relations are a very important part of our club's functions.

Layout construction is on track (pun intended). As I wrote about last month, our weekly meetings have helped get everyone on the same page. Most of the white sculpt-a-mold has been replaced with dirt, grass and trees. On Saturday about thirty trees were "planted". Additional work found switch panels being put in place.

Over the next couple of months there will be some great offsite activities. The first is the semi-annual swap meet held at Perris on Sept 16. This is always a good opportunity to see what everyone is selling. Who knows, if we get enough people interested Cajon is only another hour up the road. An opportunity for some great rail viewing might be available.

Next is the NMRA/PSR regional convention that will be held in San Diego, Oct 11 – 15. For those of you who haven't been at the monthly business meetings, I have been a broken record telling everyone that I feel this is very valuable experience. NCMRS has been asked to be on the convention tour and I have committed us to three days. We will be on the layout tour for Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of the convention week. This is a great membership recruitment opportunity.

The last event for this year is the Great Train Expo, formerly the Great American Train Show. It will be held on December 2 & 3, 2006 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. We have traditionally participated in this event under its previous name, GATS.

As you can see there are a lot of activities going on both at the club and other venues. Make it a point to go to one of the outside events. You will enjoy it. See you at the Club.

Al Cuevas

President

NCMRS

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## WHEELER COLLECTION

After four months of intense continuous effort by Leo Valley the Wheeler collection is rapidly coming to an end. The service of several hundred hours to the North County Model Railroad Society by Leo has netted thousands of dollars to the Societies treasury. The sale of over 1,200 pieces of rolling stock to buyers over half the surface of the earth, has projected an excellent image of the NCMRS to all buyers. This has been gauged by reviewing the feed back to e-bay by the buyers. Leo received thumbs up for honest description, professional packaging and fast delivery of goods purchased. Over and above the rolling stock were approximately thirty five complete Passenger trains and fifty freight locomotives, some with powered "B" units and some with dummy units.

Supporting Leo in the organization, sorting and testing of some 1800 items were Tom Ashton, Dick McGrew, Tom Bernhardt, Charlie Tucker and George Benton.

## REMOTE VIEWING SYSTEM

NCMRS member Jay Sarno has provided a four channel remote viewing system for the NCMRS club scale layout. The monitor is located in the Fiddle Yard so that operators of train consists can view the blind routes for traffic conditions of inbound and outbound rail traffic. The system is powered up when the track power is on. There is no need to push any buttons in making use of this system. Also the NCMRS extends a thank you to Jay for his ongoing efforts in providing a high quality system of turnout monitors and controls for the main layout.

## MEETING & MAINTINANCE MOVED

The multi use area for meetings, lunch and rolling stock maintenance has been relocated out beyond the main layout area. This multi-function area is now located in our storage area. Needless to say that it is every club member's responsibility to keep this area neat and clean. Additional area lighting has been provided to support the rolling stock maintenance activity.

## SCENERY REVIEW

The scenery review committee has been functioning with positive results. The 1 hour meeting every Thursday evening is well attended.

**Peninsula A** scenery is developing well with the painting of the sky. The horizon scenic design and fabrication need to be completed to support the sky painting finish.

Some thought is developing on the port yard at the far end where the Port Building and Dock Area are located. There are many details too be worked out in the design of the extensive port yard with both train and truck traffic.

**Peninsula B** is also developing in good fashion. At the base of peninsula B the road way pop up structure is completed and scenery with road work is soon to be started. The truss bridge beach road and water drain structure area need some work to be finished.



Good progress is being made on the refinery Tank Farm insert with the berm walls for the oil tanks nearing completion. The Oil Refinery rail yard is completed at the track level as is the base for the oil refinery structure, supporting buildings and road ways. The foreground on the oil refinery side of the B peninsula is ready for scenery. And finally, as the layout eases toward the C peninsula, a rock ridge is developing a pleasant visual scenic view as the main line slices through the ridge.

**Peninsula C** has a beginning with a foundation for the buildings in the layouts largest business area.



## **DOUBLE FEATURE TIME**

**First Flick**—The Show-N-Go was presented and well received on the main floor at Boney's Marketplace on the weekend of July 15-16. The Club members provided plenty of support under the guidance of George Benton. The layout had a more frontal display spot where one could see the "Show-N-Go" on entering the store. A new operational feature has been implemented with manual switching into a operating train stand-by yard. This facilitates moving train consists on and off track four. Thanks to Dan Conway and George Benton for their work on the "Show-N-Go" display and a hearty "THANK YOU" to all the Club members who supported this event with their trains and time.

**Second Flick**— Our "Show-N-Go" and "Club Scale Layout" fell under the scrutiny of reporter Candice Reed and her professional photographer on Saturday, 15th of July. Candice offered something the Club could not resist, front page coverage. Al Cuevas ( Pres.) and Tom Bernhardt (Editor, PR. and Membership Chairman) were interviewed as they showed Candice our equipment and facilities. Candice will advise the Club as to when the article will be published.

Editor: Tom Bernhardt

## **Newsletter Input**

**Articles, Comments and Trip Reviews are appreciated along with Club photos.**



NCMRS

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