

The Semaphore

January, 2007

On Saturday, January 27 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 3, 1

Past President's Message by Al Cuevas



As you know by now I am no longer President of NCMRS. It has been a great two years and I have enjoyed it immensely. The progress that our Club has made in the last two years is quite impressive. My reward has been seeing the different committees step up to their assigned tasks. George Benton has done wonders with the Show-N-Go. Cliff Anderson headed up our planning committee and gave us a great track plan. Tom Brunner has lead our scenery construction effort and given us museum quality scenery. Our Web Site has matured thanks to efforts by Nick Ruddick and all the members who have contributed to the Web Site. Tom Bernhardt has done a fantastic job as Newsletter Editor, Membership and Public Relations Chairman. Behind each of these people are you the members. When each committee needed help you were there.

I made the decision to step down as I felt that it was time to get some new blood into our officer ranks. The Board and I know that it is important to give our new members an opportunity to lead and share their ideas with the Club. Our new President, Dick Miller and his Vice-President, Dan Conway have a lot to offer to the Club. They have good organization and speaking skills. They both know the direction the Club must take to be successful and the Club will benefit from their leadership. Nick Ruddick, Treasure and Burt Gray, Secretary will continue in their present Club Officer positions. Both have done an excellent job this past year.

My primary focus for the coming year will be assisting Leo Valley and Tom Bernhardt with new member Mentoring. The Club's ability to exist comes from new members. Many of our members have joined and then wondered what to do or how to get involved.

The Mentor position will address this void by actively assisting new members in getting involved quickly.

This year the Club faces two challenges. The biggest challenge is financial. Currently we have a strong bank account. However, our monthly cash flow has been negative for the past couple of months. The Treasurer along with the Board will work to create a budget for 2007 that allows for a reserve fund and has money for scenery construction.

Rent remains our biggest monthly expenditure. Although our rent is well below market rates, it still takes most of our monthly income to pay the rent. Thanks to Jay's negotiation with Ryan Boney, rent for 2007 will only slightly increase. Helping to keep the rent increase down are a number of projects that Jay has done for Ryan in 2006. There are a few more tasks for Ryan in 2007 and Jay may ask for help with these. Know that these projects do benefit the Club. This helps keep our rent increases down and demonstrates the value that we bring to Boney's Marketplace.

Another challenge is new member recruitment. It is vitally important that we continue to increase our recruitment effort. Every member needs to consider themselves a part of the Membership Committee. New members mean a larger cash inflow each month and more discretionary money available for scenery and operations.

During the past year our budget expenditures have been driven by scenery and yard construction. This will continue to be a major part of where our discretionary money gets spent.

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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

Jan 15, Tuesday
Set up Time 5:00 pm, Run Time 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

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Thanks to Dan Conway seven Club members have had the opportunity to visit and participate in an established Operating Session at Dick Trotter's layout in Lakeside. This has given each of the seven Club members a keen insight into how Operations work. Dick has had his layout running for approximately 35 years. He runs a couple of sessions each month. Before our Operating Session Dick gave us approximately 25 minutes of briefing on how he sets up the Session, why he does things in certain ways and how to read and follow the train orders. Everyone who attended found this Session to be an eye opener.

There will be more NCMRS operating session at Dick Trotter's layout. I encourage every NCMRS member who is interested in attending Operating Sessions to contact Dan Conway. Dan is the coordinator for these sessions and makes the arrangements. They are held on Friday evenings. Due to the long drive on a Friday afternoon we car pool and eat dinner in Lakeside before the session begins. A typical session last two to three hours, starting around 7PM and ending around 10PM.

Thanks to all of the Officers and members who supported the Club in 2006. We are looking forward to an exciting fun year in 2007.

See you at the Club.

Al Cuevas

NCMRS

THE NCMRS EDITOR THANKS THE PAST PRESIDENT

I want to take this opportunity to thank you Al for all the support you gave to the Club's Newsletter in the last two years. The President's Message is the keystone of the Newsletter and you never failed me.

Tom Bernhardt, Editor

This is a view of the Container end of the Port. The building locations are not firm at present.

When the Stork arrives on the second floor of Boney's Marketplace, being a train place, he leaves baskets of toys and unfulfilled dreams. In the month of December we received a basket of Lionel toys and dreams. There was also a selection of 1940 -1950 Gilbert and American Flyer train items mixed in the basket.

There are only three pieces of "HO" rolling stock the rest being "O" gauge.

Here is a list of the donated items:-

1. A Lionel Crossing Gate
2. An American Flyer Crossing Gate House with automated Guard with swinging arm and lamp
3. An American Flyer Semaphore with operational lamp and arm.
4. A Lionel 28 inch steel bridge
5. A complete set of Lionel plastic riser arches
6. An American Flyer Station with complete window shades and five lamp fixtures in near perfect condition
7. A fully operational Gilbert Talking Station
8. A near new fully operational Lionel Cattle Car

NOTE:- Most items are in the original boxes.

I thank Leo Valley, Dick McGrew, Dick Miller and Cliff Anderson for help in this effort.

According to our source for this contribution there is more to come, so watch for the stork. This activity has proven to be an excellent source of revenue for the Club.

By Tom Bernhardt



Scenery Review Nov. 30 and Dec. 28 2006

Attendees: Cliff Anderson, Tom Bernhardt, Tom Brunner, Richard Brown, Terry Kirkpatrick, John Stevens, Charlie Tucker and Dan Conway.

Peninsula B

Lift-out: John Stevens is working on the village that is on and around the lift-out at the top of B

Refinery footprint: George Benton set the refinery foot print so roadwork in the area can continue. Work is progressing on the plumbing for the tank farm.

Peninsula C

Industrial / Town area: We placed a group of industrial and town structures along the center of C to get a feel for what this area might look like and to see if we could effect a scenery break. Looks good. A lot of the area adjacent to the various sidings will need to be brought up to track level.

Trestle and mountain at the toe of C: We agreed that the mountain or ridge in this area should be approximately 6 feet high with a disappearing horizon open top so that we can start to shape the mountain or ridge with cardboard. A river will come in on the west side and swoop around to the tip of the peninsula and cascade down under the trestle at the tip of C. A steel trestle, approximately 5 ft in length and approximately 2 ft in height, will have two or three rivulets cascading down toward the floor.

Quarry: The Crusher Plant could set up above the main line track on the west side of the mountain ridge north of where the river first enters under the main line. A track siding would need to be extended from the existing flour mill area at the east end of the industrial area of peninsula C.

Lumber Mill: The Lumber Mill and Log Pond would be located in the area originally proposed for the Quarry facility. (sorry for lack of map)

Dick Miller and Tom Bernhardt

New view of the Bay Bridge



Additional Detail Scenery Review from Dec 28 Page 3

by John Stevens

Meeting convened at 5:30. Discussion focused on peninsula C. Several options were considered. Results may be difficult to visualize, but here they are: (remember, Railroad East is the upper staging yard, West is the lower staging yard).

1) **Trestle and mountain at the toe of C:** Main scenic feature will be a gently downward sloping ridge extending diagonally across peninsula from a point at the railroad East (main aisle) end of the 180 turn, to a point on the C-D aisle near the end of existing industrial sidings. Ridge will hide an access hole to be used in making/maintaining scenery. There will be a short tunnel through the ridge adjacent to the aisle immediately east of a curved steel trestle bridge over a canyon and stream which will be at the end of the peninsula. After the stream/canyon pass under the trestle, they will drop to near the floor. The ridge will serve as a block to break up the view of the track making the 270-degree curve at the end of the peninsula. On the straight track on the West side of the trestle will be a bridge over the stream. Bridge type undetermined.

2) **Quarry:** Quarry to be moved to the B-C aisle. New tracks serving the quarry will extend from the existing siding at Cortina / Dixon railroad East toward the stream. Quarry structure will be on the far side of the main, west of the stream. Quarry itself may be on the aisle side of the main. Conveyors over the main!??

3) **Lumber Mill:** Lumber Mill will stay at the main aisle end of the peninsula. Layout proposed by Dan accepted with potential minor tweaking.

4) **New Mineral Mine:** A new short branch will start at the spur formally to be used for the quarry and will climb the ridge to a mine and small "western" town using some of our stored structures. Branch may have a 3% grade. This branch may require no new turnouts.

Other topics discussed without resolution: adding switching possibilities at the front edge of Summit, and adding operations enhancing crossovers at the East end of Summit and at the Lumber mill lead at the West end of Vista. A subset of the committee discussed adding a turnout and industrial spur at Oil City/Oro Negro.

Meeting adjourned about 6:30.

New Operational Facility adjacent to Bay Bridge



Operation night Coyote Pass & Northern RR

On Friday 8 Dec a group from the Club made the trip to Dick Trotter's home in Lakeside for an Operating Session on his Coyote Pass and Northern RR layout. Al Cuevas, Terry Kirkpatrick, Tom Brunner, Dan Conway, Leo Valley, Charlie Tucker, and I made the trip.

The Brass Hat (center) and two Gandy Dancers

We divided into groups of two, an engineer and a conductor. We were assigned a train and the conductor was given a set of operation instructions telling where we were to set down and pick up freight cars along Trotter's beautiful point-to-point railroad. Trotter's railroad, which is the result of 35 years of work, runs 8-10 car trains with **LOTS** of switching.



Engine servicing

I was teamed with Tom Brunner. Our first switching assignment was at Sealy where we set out four cars at various industries and picked up four different cars. To accomplish this required the use of a local switch engine. A little more than an hour later we had completed our assignment at Sealy and were ready to move on.

Needless to say the evening flew by and it was 11:00 PM before we knew it. Tom and I had completed two switching assignments with one to go. Unfortunately that would have to wait for another time. What a great evening!

For lots of really great pictures that Tom took during the evening, visit our Club web site.

By Dick Miller

NCMRS CHRISTMAS PARTY

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The annual Christmas Pot Luck Party was held at Jay Sarno's home on the 17th of December and the Club turned out with their appetites. Jay graciously provided the turkey and ham and it was a real feast.

The wine flowed while the appetizers were devoured. The Christmas party provides an event where the ladies, who put up with those boys and their trains, show up adding their beauty to the festive event. The Club might dream up a similar event at mid-year.

The NCMRS December meeting, as customary, was called to order by the President, Al Cuevas, before the main meal began. The Club Annual Election was the only event on the calendar and as reported by the Club Secretary, Burton Grey, three names were presented. The names were Al Cuevas, Jay Sarno and Leo Valley and no other names were called. The names were presented by acclamation and a vote was called for, resulting in a unanimous vote in favor. The Board Members are Al Cuevas, Jay Sarno and Leo Valley. The meeting was adjourned. The party continued into the early evening.

ELECTORIAL NOTICE

The 2007 NCMRS Officers are:

President	Dick Miller
Vice President	Dan Conway
Secretary	Burton Gray
Treasurer	Nick Ruddick

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