

Semaphore Lite

We had a great club Christmas party at the Sarno's on the 20th. Thanks to Jay and Julie for hosting the party. At the Christmas party we elected directors for the coming year. Your directors for 2010 are Dick McGrew, John Castaneda, and Dick Miller. The director's first responsibility is appointing the operating officers for the New Year.

Al Cuevas decided not to continue in the New Year as a director. He has been a club officer or a director since he joined the club when we were located in a bank building in San Marcos. He has been a big help to me since I took over as President. I have really appreciated his advice and counsel over the last four years. I am sure he will be at the Club as much as ever. On behalf of the club Al, we all thank you for your service.

The Great American Train Show at the San Diego County Fairground in mid December was a big success. The move to Del Mar and the set up and take down of the Show-N-Go went so smoothly thanks to Al Cuevas and his team. Also, special thanks to John Castaneda for his work on the layout, sprucing up the scenery, and providing building, and street lights (wired by Jay). Very nice. We kicked off the show with an enjoyable breakfast at Milton's Restaurant.

We continue to increase our membership. In the last two months we have added five members. Dale Barney joined the club several weeks ago. Technically Dale is a returning member as he was a member several years ago. Richard Brown, who dropped his membership a year ago for health reasons, is back and looking well. Joe Kirkpatrick (Terry's dad), Rob Deatherage, and Bruce Sutherland all joined the club in the last several weeks. Please welcome these new and returning members. This brings our membership to 51. I guess we must be doing something right.

We continue to work on upgrading track power for our layout. As a first step, all of the defective throttle plugs in the fascia have been replaced. You may not have noticed but there are no more runaway trains or blank throttle screens. The next step is to replace the voltage-robbing light bulb breakers with 3.8 amp circuit breakers in each of layout blocks. These new breakers are expected to allow smoother operation, without the speed changes we sometime experience, as trains move from block to block. After these circuit breakers are installed and evaluated we will decide what further action is required. Installing all these circuit breakers will be no small task. If can confidently use a soldering iron and understand Ohm's law your help would be appreciated.

2010 will be a busy year for NCMRS. There is a lot of work left to do on Peninsula D and work on the back room expansion (Peninsula E) is just getting under way. There will be plenty of work for anyone who is interested and lots of opportunity for new members to become involved.

All Aboard
Dick Miller
1/1/10
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