



The Semaphore

On Saturday, April 28 the club meeting will be held at 10:00 am, at Boney's Marketplace, 1820 Oceanside Blvd., Oceanside, CA. Members, guests and visitors are invited.

North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS)

Volume 3, 4

Special points of interest:

Work Schedule

Every Thursday and Saturday are work days at the club-house. 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

President's Message by Dick Miller



Thank You. I hope we take the time to say thank you to our fellow club members for all the things we do for each other and the club in general. I continue to be amazed at the amount of work that gets done at the club.

The number of hours that some club members spend on club activities either off site or at the club would surprise you. There is no telling how many hours Jay Sarno spends building the various electrical bits and pieces required for the DCC system. He has a full plate but still finds the time to keep ahead of the construction team. Thanks Jay.

Then there is Tom Brunner. Any time I am at the club he's there. I have no idea how much time he spends at the club. The man works fast and does brilliant work. Thanks Tom.

Tom Bernhardt is at the club almost every day. Many days he spends 8 or more hours at the club. He spends a lot of time organizing things. If someone brings in a donation give it to Tom.

He will know where it is when it comes time to use the material or put it on E-bay. If you want to have something put away for safekeeping, give it to Tom. If you want to know where something is, ask Tom. Tom is the Club's unofficial storekeeper. Tom, as you know is very involved in the club. As near as I can tell Tom is on every committee. Thanks Tom.

I am not sure club members know or appreciate the number of hours that Leo Valley spends off site and at home doing club business. He single handedly eBayed the Wheeler collection, which, by the way put the club in a comfortable financial position. He has to date completed over 500 eBay sales, which includes the Wheeler items, plus the various train donations we seem to receive almost weekly. Some weeks he has spent over 40 hours working on eBay sales. If you have sold anything on eBay you know in takes a good deal of time and effort. Just writing a correct description for a lot of the Wheeler items was difficult. Then there are the necessary photos, packing, shipping, collecting the money and, in some cases, dealing with recalcitrant customers. His eBay feed back from buyers is positive 100% of the time. We can't thank you enough Leo.

Leo was a good friend of John Tiranti. When John got sick Leo promised John he would help get his collection in order so Shirley could dispose of it. Leo, and his team, which, included Dick McGrew and Tom Ashton, spent several days a week for three or four weeks to identify, catalog, and describe the nearly 700 items in John Tiranti's beautiful HO train collection. John had a very good friend in Leo. Thank you very much Leo.

Overall a special thanks to Leo for the countless hours he put into the eBay sales, over 40 hours some weeks.

As space is limited these are all the members I can thank this month.

All aboard
Dick Miller

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Layout Development

The overall development of the North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS) Club Scale HO Layout is at a peak activity. Three of the Layout's four Peninsulas have scenic development in progress. The creative gears of progress are in motion with communication at the various committee working levels operating at peak performance. With that introduction let's move into the details of the scenic work in progress.

Peninsula A The Port area is eagerly awaiting the installation of the turnout control panels so that the Container and Dock areas can become fully operational. Nick Ruddick has done an excellent job of finishing up the wiring of the turnout control motors and temporary limited turnout controls. All that is needed are control panels that are being provided by the efforts of Jay Sarno. To all those members who provided the thought and energy necessary in creating the Port Area, a hearty job well done from all the NCMRS members.

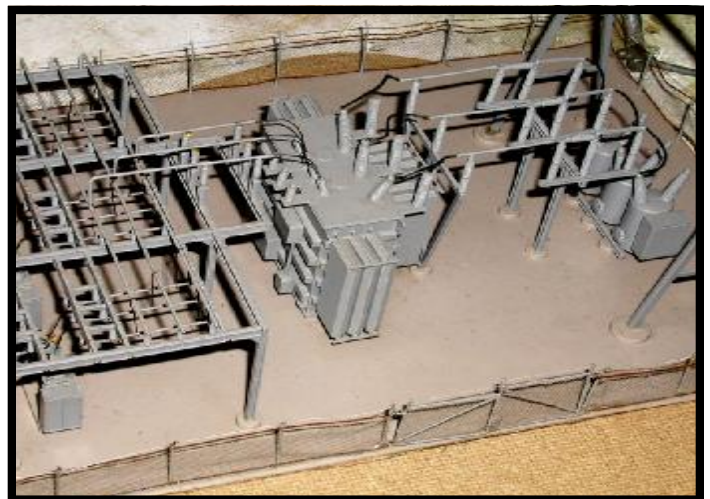
Tom Brunner, with his excellent scenic skills, is pouring concrete roads and installing landscaping of dirt, shrubs and debris in the Port Area.

Peninsula B The fine artistry of David Ford is on exhibit on the port side of Peninsula B. What else can you say? It's just beautiful.

Moving on to the Oil refinery side of Peninsula B we find George Benton on the final development of the tank farm.

Below is a photo of the refinery power station.

The burms for the oil tanks are looking very good. The tanks and associated plumbing are ready for final installation of the tank farm.



The oil switching yard is operational with the turnout control panels installed.

The oil refinery and it's landscaping is yet to be worked on. The buildings and landscaping next to the oil refinery are a work in progress.

The intent was to present a really rugged terrain that did not have a maximum of congested track, but allows the single curved trestle and long distance run to speak for itself. In the spirit of John Allen's masterful modeling, an attempt to provide a floor to ceiling segment of scenery is in order. Well, maybe not to the ceiling in our case.

Peninsula C It is as if God were at work on Peninsula C, with mountains rising, river beds forming, rock quarries developing and waterfalls waiting to be filled with white foaming water so that it can cascade 400 feet down under the John Allen Trestle into the gorge waiting below. I thought we were just a Model Train Club, wow!

Charlie Tucker and David Ford have started laying the cardboard strip backbone of the mountain ridge.

John Stevens and Tom Brunner are working on the opposite side of the mountain ridge forming a short tunnel (tunnel liner made by Tom Bernhardt) followed by a rock slide undercutting the main line track with a possible stone trestle for support of the track.

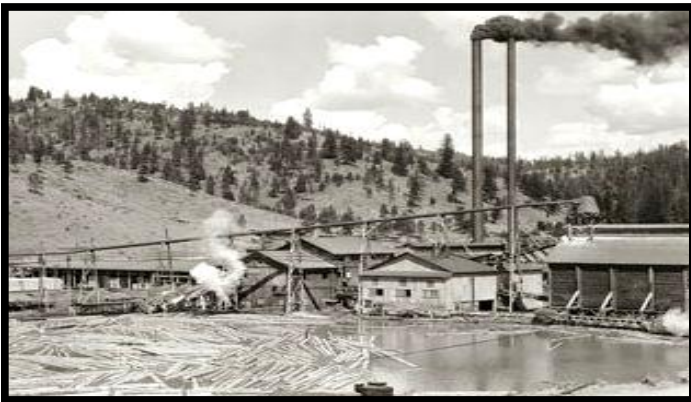
Dan Conway and Charlie Tucker are developing the sawmill area complete with log pond and sawing facility.

New throttle The Club has agreed to purchase and install a North Coast Engineering (NCE) throttle system for the Club Layout.

There are three improvements that motivated the Throttle Committee to implement this change. The present throttle control offers no feedback on the status of throttle conditions from previous adjustments made to the throttle. The NCE throttle has a digital display with feedback on throttle status.

The second is that the present throttle allows with one stroke of a key to plunge the complete layout into a system shutdown with no indication which throttle caused the shut down and only the throttle which originated the shut down can undo the shutdown. The NCE throttle requires multiple strokes to start a shut down and indicates on the digital display that the shut down was initiated on that throttle.

Lastly, an NCE programming system will be installed on the white table in the Fiddle Room. No further programming will be done on the main layout.



Field Trip About a dozen NCMRS members took off on Saturday March 10 and headed up to the Swap Meet in Perris, California. The morning was full of conversation and looking at all the sales and bargains offered by the vendors. Many purchases were made by happy Club members. Unfortunately the wind was blowing quite strongly motivating some members to head for home while the braver of heart struck out for Cajon Pass to view trains.

At Cajon Pass the group saw more than eight container consists. Even with the wind as a big factor, seeing the trains we model in full scale and up front takes your breath away. The trains are truly thrilling and alive with all their power and massiveness on display as they swept by our stalwart huddled group.

Many members showed up at the Club site that evening and eagerly ran their new acquisitions of the day. Boy, there are some tough dedicated modelers.



Operations Night On Tuesday night March 13th, the NCMRS invited the Poway HO modular Club. About fourteen members visiting. The NCMRS showed up in strength with a crew of nineteen members. Only five trains operated, with engineering from the Poway Club and conductors from the NCMRS Club.



I will not labor over the operating problems encountered. It took about twenty minutes to clear things and get back on line. We had an enjoyable evening and the Club received many nice comments from the Poway members about our Club Scale Layout.



Club Track Cleaning Cars In our wall mounted train rack we now have a row set off for Track Cleaning Cars. Members operating freight consists are asked to include a Cleaning car to there train. Please return the Cleaning Cars to the rack and maintenance will keep the pads clean.

Thank you.

Membership Two new members have come on board to join us in the club.

Larry Veach was brought into the Club by Tom Bernhardt. After talking with Tom, Larry joined the Club on his second visit, with his main interest being running trains. Larry is a long time model railroader starting off with modeling "N" gauge. Larry's second interest is playing the Scottish Bag Pipes. Glad to have you aboard our train Club. See you at the fiddle yard.

Ed Fulcher is a friend and colleague of Nick Ruddick who introduced Ed to the NCMRS. Ed is a retired electrical engineer designing Integrated Circuits. On Ed's second visit to the Club he witnessed a Club member put a new steam engine on the track, with a DCC decoder and sound, and he was instantly sold on joining the Club. As a NCMRS new member Ed is interested in our construction and electrical activities but he is primarily interested in running trains. Ed has some very interesting ideas for his home lay out. Glad to have you aboard our train Club. See you at the fiddle yard.

Club Rolling Stock Many hours have been spent bringing over one hundred items of Club rolling stock up to Club standards. When not needed for scenic display on the layout please return club rolling stock to their storage trays. Club rolling stock is identified by a blue square tag on the bottom of the car.

This is a view of our quality of work.



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