

The Semaphore

December, 2006

On Saturday, December 30 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, 12

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



The end of the year is almost here and planning for next year has already begun. There are many challenges that face our club. One of the most important areas is financial. We were very lucky to come across the Wheeler collection. This allowed us to continue building the layout and put money back into the bank account. Without this bonus, construction would have slowed down and maybe even stopped. As dues are our only constant source of income it is vitally important that we continue to attract new members and work to keep our existing members.

Another financial item that will be worked on in December is the 2007 budget. One of the goals will be to maintain a positive monthly cash flow. This has not been happening. While we will try to continue funding construction and the other activities that members want, a positive cash flow is vital to our financial health.

This weekend I had the pleasure of participating in an operating session at Dick Trotter's home in Lakeside. I have learned a lot in the year since my previous operating session. This time I was able to notice many subtle things that made the session enjoyable. Track was clean and in excellent condition. Wheels were clean. Couplers were all at the same height and worked correctly. Throttles had an easy to read display. Shorts were few and far between. One of the reasons for the low number of shorts was that two people ran the train. The conductor did the switching and uncoupling. The engineer moved the train when directed by the conductor.

There is quite a bit of planning that goes into setting these sessions up. Dick Trotter uses the RailOp program. Information such as engine, rolling stock data and layout information had been previously input into the program. RailOp produced the work orders for the crews which were printed out and put on a clipboard.

A crew picks up the work order, identifies their engine and starts work based on instructions. As with my previous operating experience three hours passed by very quickly and all too soon our train was back in the yard and it was time to put the throttle away.

Dick Trotter and Dick Roberts have agreed to have special NCMRS operating session at their homes. These will be opportunities not only to get some operating experience but to look at some very nice layouts.

There is a learning curve associated with the operating session. After three hours of operating I realized that I had very little knowledge of the conductor's job, or how the setup was done. When we arrived all of the Train Orders had been printed up. Engines and rolling stock were in place and ready to go. All we had to do was find our engine, get a throttle and get started. As we did not use a fast clock each crew could start whenever they wanted to.

Once again we will have the Show-N-Go at the Great Trains Show December 2 -3. These shows are always rewarding. For our newer members this is an opportunity to assist both with the moving of the layout and the running of trains during each day.

And finally we will have our Christmas party on Sunday, December 17th. Jay has sent some information out and more will follow. The Christmas parties are fun events and give everyone a chance to meet the spouses. Let Jay or Julie know if you will be attending as soon as possible.

See you at The Club.

Al Cuevas

President

NCMRS

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December Scenery Report

By Tom Bernhardt

Scenery work continues on peninsula A, B, and C. Tom Brunner, Charlie Tucker, George Benton, Nick Ruddick and John Stevens continue their excellent work.

Peninsula A

The code "83" track, in the Port, is glued down and powered. Nick Ruddick and Charlie Tucker installed the port turnouts and Tom Brunner and Charlie Tucker designed and installed the track. There is a Port yard switch control panel (temp.) but the switch "frogs" are not connected in the Port yard.

Scenery in the Port area is progressing in the form of ground cover and shrubs planted by the "David Ford Landscaping Co." of Oceanside CA.

Peninsula B

Details make the difference as evident in the "Pop Up" area under development at the beginning of Peninsula B. John Stevens is carefully selecting the structures and the supporting scenery for the transition area to the Oil Refinery Facility.

This includes a crossroad and half a dozen buildings. One of the houses was just modeled and artfully spray painted by a new NCMRS member Pat Hebert of Long Beach Ca.

The oil tank farm, located on the outer edge of Peninsula B, is approaching completion with plumbing well into construction. George Benton has demonstrated patience above and beyond the call of duty with his attention to details in this very demanding assembly. Good job George.

Tom Brunner climbed up on our new "gut wrenching extension ladder" and skillfully sculpted a seven foot long mountain escarpment at the base of Peninsula B. Mr. Brunner is a gifted terra former, to say the least.

Peninsula C

The scenery activity has been really impressive this month. The time we put in discussing our thoughts and visions do not show until we start the first step and what we fashioned in our minds begins to take form. Creating is really great fun.

The code "100" track, in the Packing House Area, is glued down. Nick Ruddick and Charlie Tucker installed the turnouts and Tom Brunner and Charlie Tucker designed and installed the track. The turnouts are installed but not wired.

The "Ice House", at the far end of Peninsula C, is going to look excellent. Here Tom Ashton has nurtured the Ice House assembly with great care to give a natural look to the facility. Peak previews of the Ice House structure show a very real view of the overall facility in location.

A multi-story warehouse building, with a new foundation, is located just past the Ice House. It has a siding track running through the building. This structure is the first of two dozen buildings to be located in the Packing House area. This will be our biggest collection of buildings on our Club scale layout.



MURAL MOUNTAIN PAINTING

by Tom Bernhardt

The mural wall painting has progressed with the development of the landscape. With the addition of mountaintop shadows painted on the skyscape the mural came to life. There remains one final step of painting high lights of reflected sunlight on the peaks of the distant mountains.

The remaining forty feet of the mural will be developed following the addition of terrain and landscaping on Peninsula D of the layout.

Some Club members have asked me how I reach the wall in order to paint. Well I use a three foot extension on the paint brushes so I can easily reach the painting four feet away.



- **NCMRS VIEWS THE SPRINTER**

Jay Sarno arranged a private showing of the San Diego North County Sprinter train for the NCMRS membership. The Sprinter Line will be put into service late in 2007. The 22 mile Line will operate between Oceanside and Escondido with 15 stops. Club members viewed the Sprinter with great interest. The Sprinter will appear regularly just across the street from Boney's Marketplace.



NCMRS STORES AND MAINTENCE

by Tom Bernhardt

There is more to the NCMRS facility than the area that houses the Club Scale layout and that is the storage and workshop area. The Club is truly indebted to Steve and Ryan Boney for their outstanding generosity with our use of the storage and workshop area.

The heavy duty shelves that support our club walls provides storage for our large collection of scenery materials, structures and building materials. There is considerable work in keeping the shelves organized and clean. Please return unused supplies to where you found them. That way they will be there when you need them again.

It is every club members responsibility to clean up after themselves. We have no maid.

FORWARD PROGRESS

By Tom Bernhardt

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's hard to believe that this completes our second year in our new location at Boney's Marketplace. It is also amazing to observe what forward progress we have made on the layout. We are all to be congratulated as model railroaders.

The quality we are building into our layout is reflected in the comments made by our many visitors. The remarks made by our recent NMRA visitors came with very high praise.

In the passed 2 years, our Guest Book shows, 428 signatures and I would say we have had 30% of our visitors not signing in the Guest Book. So that means we have had about 556 walk in guest. Those who came from afar, in the United States came from: AZ, CO, HI, ID, IL, MI, NY, TX, VT, UT and WA state. From outside the U.S. they came from: Canada, Hungary, Germany, Guatemala, Central America and the Netherlands.

From Your Treasurer

Nick Ruddick

Please keep your dues current.

From Your Editor

Tom Bernhardt

In the coming year please support your Editor with picture and articles.

NCMRS

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