



# The Semaphore

On Saturday, December 15th the club meeting will be a Potluck held at 4-7 pm, at Jay Sarno's home, at 7897 Sitio Mirto, Carlsbad. Please call 760-942-0985 to make reservations and find out what dish to bring.

North County Model Railroad Society (NCMRS)

Volume 3, 12

Special points of interest:

President's Message by Dick Miller

**Fire** I guess we were all affected in one-way or another by the recent fires in the county. Thankfully no one in the NCMRS family suffered any physical harm or loss of their home. Cliff Anderson and his wife did come very close to losing their home. Fire burned within a few feet of their back door and in the process burned their cabana, pool furniture, pool equipment, what looked like a mile of sprinkler pipe and, an acre or more of garden and landscaping lovingly tended to by Cliff's wife.

Jan and I evacuated at 3:30 AM Monday morning when the Witch Creek fire came over the hill across the canyon behind our house. It was pitch black outside, the Santa Ana was blowing and there was no fire fighting equipment in sight. The situation looked pretty grim. Because the fire came over the hill so quickly we took only my computer tower, some clothing, and a dozen family pictures. We ended up in a downtown San Diego hotel along with our daughter and her family and a couple hundred thousand San Diego County residents who were also evacuated from various parts of the County. We spent two anxious days not knowing what to expect when we were finally able to return home. Wednesday morning we finally got through to a neighbor by phone and learned the fire burned around a lot of the homes on our short street, and only two were lost. Our home was spared; we were lucky, maybe blessed.

Jan and I promised ourselves that we would conduct a complete inventory of everything in the house in addition to several pictures taken of each room. We made the same promise after we were evacuated during the Cedar fire a few years ago. After we got home from that fire I soon forgot about the inventory. After all, what's the chance

that we would have another fire that would force us to evacuate?

I am happy to report that the inventory is almost done due largely to my wife's effort. It's amazing how much stuff we have. I would hate to have to do a household inventory from memory. I need to take some more pictures and finish a floor plan and we're done.

One of our neighbor's daughter and her family who live across the canyon to the south of us lost everything including their business. The neighbor, myself and another friend spent a week and a half building a workshop so they could get their business going again. I am happy to report that their business is up and running. In the time it took us to build the workshop they completely cleared the property including the foundation. They are now beginning to make plans for their new home.

It's hard to image what this family is going through emotionally. It's hard for me to get my mind around having only some clothing and the car they drove away in. What I can tell you is that when you work with someone that has lost everything it really makes you think about what's truly important in your life. My list includes my family, our children, and our pets. As much as I like my Santa Fe Northern #3751 it didn't make the list.

I'm very glad you are all safe.

All aboard

Dick Miller

## 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

2nd Tuesday of the month  
Setup time 5:30 pm  
Run Time 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

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**SHOW TIME** The month of December brings the Christmas holidays along with Show Time at the Del Mar Fair Grounds. This year it's Show Times, yes two times. The first event starts on Thursday Nov 30 with the packing up of the Show-N-Go and transporting it to the Del Mar Fair grounds. Upon arrival at the fairgrounds Club Members locate the assigned area and reassemble the Show-N-Go making it ready for a weekend of operation..

The Show-N-Go will be disassemble on Sunday Dec. 2, 07 and then moved into storage until need for the next show in January. Thanks to all club members who helped George Benton in pulling off these shows.

## SCENERY DEVELOPMENT

This series of photos shows details that are slowly developing, through the efforts of Charlie Tucker, John Stevens, Larry Veach and Tom Bruner.



This view has taken 7 months to create. Tom Bernhardt's artistic skills were used by Charlie Tucker in mixing the color for the Mill Pond. Charlie also made the trees that stand up behind the third bridge. Good Job Charlie.

Here we see the mill pond from a closer view with a couple of logging Cars moving by the Mill Pond.



Shifting to the right we have this long view of the Mill Pond.

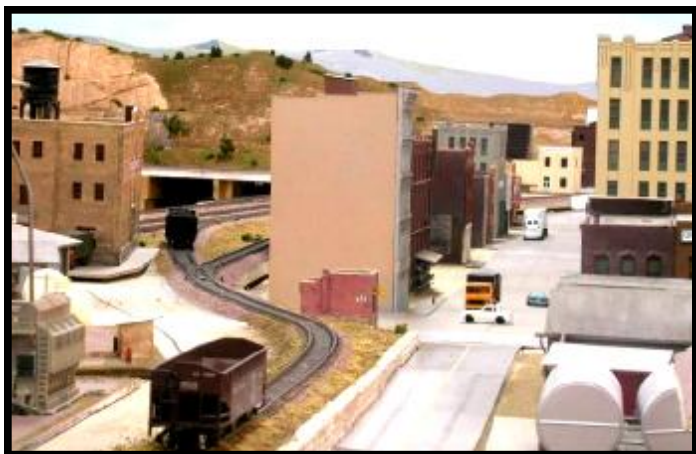


On the left we see buildings associated with the Sawmill. This whole area is beginning to take on a personality.

**Scenery continued:** Moving away from the Mill Pond we take a peek at the road to the rock quarry.



In the background the flour mill buildings looms above the start of rock quarry road that dips down to the Soft Coal Supply Yard. (SCSY Co.). Again we see another area coming slowly together. The Main Line runs across our view.



Following to our right we are looking down the street that just opened to traffic last month. Building foundation construction does not allow curb parking as of yet.



**PUBLICITY** KOCT visited the NCMRS and filmed a segment of Railroad safety to be included in a Rail Safety film to be aired around the advent of the Sprinter Train..

**OPERATION NOTES** The Club rolling stock used during Operational procedures is rapidly growing in quantity and quality. The Maintenance Department has grown in number to four members. Dick McGrew, Tom Bernhardt, Lori La Pierre and Tom McCammant responded to meet the needs of the Club. The Maintenance Department is now responsible for Club rolling stock, Club locomotives and Club layout maintenance.

The Club needs to acknowledge the efforts of Nick Ruddick, Cliff Anderson and Jay Sarno for their on-going work on the layout turnouts and rail short problems.

**STANDARDS** The Rolling Stock Standards Committee consisting of Dick Miller, Cliff Anderson and Tom Bernhardt is hard at work polishing up a revision to the Club Rolling Stock , Locomotive and Operation Standards, soon to be published.

Dick Miller plans to finish up a collection of data presently available that states the Clubs goals, regulations, standards and member guidelines and make it available for distribution as a packet.

**BAD ORDERS** Only four Bad Orders were submitted and corrected this month. They were two freight cars and two turnout repairs.

## North County Model Railroad Society

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