

European **T**rain **E**nthusiasts

Bay Area Chapter

April 2004 Newsletter

When: Saturday Apr 10, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Where: The Hiller Aviation Museum

601 Skyway Road

San Carlos, CA 94070

(650) 654-0200

<http://www.hiller.org/>

Meeting Agenda:

- **Show and Tell – aircraft/aviation models**
- **ETE Modules running trains**
- **Discussion of chapter activities and meeting formats around 1:30PM**
- **Member layouts open after the meeting**

Special assignment...

Refreshments: If your name begins with: A through G, bring **Dessert**
H through O, bring **Drinks**
P through Z, bring **Finger food \ salad**

Meeting Agenda

We'll see the ETE modules in action inside an aviation museum. Appropriately, the Show & Tell theme will be models of aircraft or aviation support equipment. I know Roco has some planes and helicopters, and there are probably lots of nifty vehicles, too. Don't limit yourself to only HO, but please bring in for appropriate train scales (Z, N, HO, G or other scales). Let's see 'em. Don't forget to bring your ETE badges to wear, and polo shirts if you got one.

Peter Barnes has requested a forum to gather info on the desired clinic subjects to be presented at future meetings. This would be a good thing to liven up the content of our meetings. I quote from Peter's email to me :

"Joe Driscoll, Jacques Vuye and I met Wednesday to discuss a process of using ETE to enrich members with more knowledge of European trains and train modeling. We would like to have 15-30 minutes at the April meeting to present our ideas for an ongoing schedule of lectures and hands on team-taught classes at regular ETE meetings. We also want to hand out a questionnaire (perhaps to be included in a future newsletter also) to solicit what topics to focus on and assess member present knowledge level.

ETE University ??? Got a question about European trains? Joe Driscoll, Jacques Vuye and Peter Barnes have been discussing a process to use ETE as a means of enriching members with more knowledge of train modeling and European trains. We agonize over the lack of organized educational information from monthly programs seeing instead primarily social occasions. This can become unhealthy for keeping newly

joined members who have interest, enthusiasm and many questions, yet have to be vigorous and persistent extroverts to get information. Thus we are contemplating an ongoing schedule of lectures, presentations and hands on team-taught classes at regular ETE meetings. We will start by handing out a questionnaire to solicit member interest, topics to focus on, and to assess present knowledge level. Our approach depends on tapping the excellent skills and knowledge that exists in the Chapter to teach new (and old!) members.

We need your help, ideas and encouragement to make this happen. Please come to the April 10 meeting with your thoughts, or e-mail us with input" jvuye@aol.com, jpjd59@pacbell.net, pwbarnes@earthlink.net

Layout Tours

The homes of Joe Driscoll and Don Winslow will be open after the meeting to see their home layouts. Fliers will be available at the meeting with maps. They will be at their homes by 3P.M., but please don't show up earlier as they'll be at Hiller.

Recap of the March Meeting

Thanks to Phil and Mary Woods for hosting us again at their church. The turnout was excellent and there were lots of activities between the swap meet, polo shirt distributions, video viewing, watching trains run on some track loops, etc. The hard part was announcing the passing of Bill Juergens, longtime ETE member.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

May 8 : Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club

Member Tidbits

I recently received a letter from Prof. John Dewey who travels far and wide for his field. I will quote from his letter to me: "I have just been at a conference in Hobart, Tasmania, and came across one of the finest Swiss prototype layouts of my more than 30 years of experience of Swiss layouts around the world. It is a commercial layout modeled in O scale on the BLS (Spiez, Interlaken, Kanderthal). It is housed in a custom-built building and occupies 200 sq. m. with some 350 m. of track. The locos and rolling stock are all hand-made to scale! It is owned and operated by the Jenni family (Swiss émigrés to Australia). It is located in Claremont, an easy bus ride from Hobart. It is one of the great gems of the model railway world and worth a visit to Tasmania."

John included photocopies of the literature, and I will bring them to the April meeting.

Reverse Corner - notes from the Module

SIG by Tom Melka (melka@pacbell.net)

The train venues just keep on coming. We participated in the Train Collectors Association (TCA) Cal-Stewart meet in the

Santa Clara Convention Center the last weekend of March. This is a different twist on our venues because the attendees are all model train collectors. Most of them are Lionel and other large scale tinplate collectors.

"Your trains are so small" & "look a center rail like Lionel" were just a few of the audience comments. We were complimented by invitations to the Toy Train Collectors Association National convention and the southern California TCA Cal-Stewart event. These venues are not fitting into this year's schedule, but we appreciated the considerations. We also had some great press with the National TCA president. (TCA has 35,000 members!) Paul Canton spent over 30 minutes with him at our layout talking about who we are and admiring our handiwork. Maybe we will get invited to the largest train show in North America - The TCA meet in York Pennsylvania! (fat chance)

We also got a good cross section on interest from the audience. Our professional handouts and direction to our website will be driving up the membership! We also took the opportunity to begin our operator training classes. Steve Stern has put together a thorough certification checklist. Module owners and partners went through the first sessions with Steve. This has been well received and will help to present our operating exhibit in the best possible way.

The next venue is the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The details on the April Chapter meeting there are listed separately in this newsletter. We will be set-up in the large atrium area this year. Thanks to Peter Barnes for coordinating this event with the Museum and handling all the staffing.

See you at the Hiller Aviation Museum!

Eurosnips April 2004 (compiled by Jim Recker)

EuroRail NEWS - April, 2004

+++++

=====

Terrorism Attacks European Rail

=====

Terror in Madrid

MADRID, Spain - March 11 -- Ten bombs exploded almost simultaneously on four trains on their way to Madrid Atocha central station in the morning March 11th. Later authorities found more bombs that didn't detonate. Over 200 people died and over 1,500 injured. The following day, over 3 million people across Spain demonstrated against the violence. Though the separatist ETA has denied involvement in the bombings, both it and the fundamentalist Al Qaeda are suspected of the crime.

Three bombs went off on a train at Atocha station, four on a train approaching Atocha, two on the double-deck train at El Pozo, and one on a train at Santa Eugenia. All four trains were

on the same line having all departed from Alacalá de Henares, five minutes apart.

Immediately after the bombings, all rail networks in Madrid were closed, including the high-speed AVE. Several days later, three Moroccans and two Indians were arrested. While investigations continue, authorities are still trying to discover those responsible for the attacks.

Extortion in France

PARIS, France - March 13 -- A group calling itself AZF continues to issue threats to the French government, saying it will bomb the country's rail network unless it receives millions in ransom money. This group has been issuing threats for the last two months. Thousands of French police and military troops have been deployed at various times to comb every kilometer of rail.

On March 25, a massive inspection of the French rail network was getting under way after a railway worker found a bomb with seven detonators buried in the bed of a commuter line between France and Switzerland. It was the second bomb found in just over a month on a rail track in France. Bomb disposal experts neutralized the device, which was half-buried under a track in the village of Montieramey, about 106 miles south east of Paris, on a train line heading from Paris to Basel, Switzerland.

The state-run train authority said it would carry out a massive search of tracks, starting with those carrying passengers and hazardous materials. All traffic was stopped on the line, which transports both passengers and freight.

Then two days later, AZF announced that, while it was not paid a large ransom, it is ending its threats. There has been no comment by the French government.

Fears Across Europe

PARIS, France -- A senior French counter-terrorism official, said in an interview with The New York Times that he was even more concerned about the threat of a terrorist strike on the Paris Metro or the French railway system than on trans-Atlantic aircrafts. The French official's concerns have been echoed by Eliza Manningham-Buller, the head of the British counterintelligence service MI5 who has warned that Al-Qaeda has been seeking to stage a large-scale attack in Britain, where air and rail transport is considered the most obvious target.

The Independent newspaper in London reported Tom Winsor, the British Rail Regulator, saying that the railway stations in Britain are vulnerable. He said train operators were doing everything they could to deter bombers, by using closed-circuit television and removing trash containers, but it was impossible to provide complete protection.

According to The New York Times, European transport officials are strongly resisting inflicting airport-style security checks - metal detectors and baggage searches - on rail passengers because that would represent a radical transformation of an open transport sector and significantly drive up costs.

Eurostar, connecting London and Paris and Brussels via the Channel Tunnel, is the only service in Europe where passengers are screened like airline passengers with metal detection devices and baggage scanners. As a British security official pointed out, if anything went off in the tunnel, it would be disastrous.

Happy Rail News

=====

Ryanair and Ryanrail

BRUSSELS, Belgium - March 24 -- Ryanair will stop flying the London-Brussels route on April 29th. The pullout comes after an EU ruling on illegal subsidies paid to Ryanair by the Brussels / Charleroi airport, and after phase 1 of the London-Chunnel high speed line opened, saving up to 25 minutes. Eurostar now takes 2:20 to go from London to Brussels. FRANKFURT, Germany - March 21 -- Der Spiegel reports rumors that the DB is looking at starting a spin-off company as a low-fares train operator. One of the advantages of a new company is that it could sign new agreements with labor unions to lower labor costs. DB earlier introduced a price cap of €99 for long-distance travel, to meet the challenge from low-fares airlines within Germany. (See www.bahn.de for details)

New High Speed Trains over the Alps

BERN, Switzerland - March 2 -- Cisalpino, a joint venture between the Italian and Swiss railways, has ordered 14 tilting 250 km/h Pendolino trains from Alstom for €300 million. The seven-car trains will seat 430 passengers and weigh 387 metric tons. Delivery will begin in May 2007 and be complete in January 2008. They will join the existing Pendolino fleet, which has been in service between Switzerland, Italy and Germany since 1996. With the new NEAT Lötschberg tunnel opening in December 2007, travel times between Switzerland and Italy will be reduced by 50 minutes. (See www.cisalpino.ch for pictures)

Robin Hood Competition

NOTTINGHAM, UK - March 8 -- Marking the completion of the UK's latest light rail network, revenue services has started on Nottingham Express Transit Line 1. The 14km line runs from the main station through the city center to Hucknall in the northwest, with a short branch from Highbury Vale to Phoenix Park serving a park-and-ride interchange. For around

8km the route parallels Network Rail's Nottingham - Worksop Robin Hood line. The news reports do not indicate which line leads through the Sherwood Forest. For more details, visit either www.nottinghamshiretourism.co.uk or www.thetram.net

OTHER RAILWAY NEWS

POLAND: Following a recent reform, local authorities in Poland may now contract out local rail services to companies other than national operator PKP. So far, 33 carriers have obtained licenses to provide railway transport services, but only four of them, all PKP subsidiaries, are providing passenger services.

ITALY: One person died after two trains collided in northern Italy in the early morning of Saturday March 20. Both trains were overnight sleepers, one going from Paris to Rome and the other from Rome to Paris. The last coach of the Paris-bound train derailed and got in the way of the train to Rome.

EUROPEAN UNION: The European Commission proposes to open international passenger trains to competition starting 2010. Operators of international trains would be permitted to pick up and set down passengers at any station on an international route, including stations in the same country. The European Parliament has already called for this reform to take effect 2008. The Commission says its proposal takes into account that open access may affect contracts between transit authorities and train operating companies. The Commission also proposes a harmonized train drivers' license, and a travel guarantee for passengers. These proposals together make up the Commission's Third Railway Package. Open access on certain freight routes went into effect in March 2003.

CANARY ISLANDS (Spain): The Spanish Ministry of Development called tenders for two contracts to undertake studies for high speed routes on the Canary Islands, including feasibility, alignment options and traffic forecasts. On Tenerife, an 80km route is planned from Santa Cruz to Adeje via Reina Sofía International Airport, while on Gran Canaria a 50km line would run from Las Palmas to Maspalomas via the airport at Gando. The ministry expects high-speed rail to radically transform public transport on the islands, introducing 'a modern, competitive and efficient mode' that meets sustainable development objectives.

MORE TRAM NEWS: Cracks have appeared in several of Siemens' Combino trams, and the manufacturer has advised eight cities to take their Combino trams out of service. The problem seems to be a poor design: With more than 400 cars in service, the rectification cost is expected to be substantial.

In Memoriam

The members of ETE will miss our friend Bill Juergens at all of our meetings in the future. It is my understanding that Bill was one of the starting members of our club.

I know that I will miss his excellent slide shows of his travels in Europe, as well as other members who knew him much longer than I knew him but he always had a nice word for every member of our club.

Bill, I can hear the conductor yelling "All Aboard!" so with that we say save a seat for all of us on that train.

RICHARD T. ORR
1st Sgt U.S. Army Ret.

Bill Juergens passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on March 11th. The memorial service was held on March 16th in Citrus Heights, attended by many ETE members from the Bay Area, Sacramento, and even Chicago chapters. Bill's son Richard greeted all of us warmly and was very interested in meeting so many of us that he had heard of in conversations with his father.

Bill was one of the nicest people I've met. I thoroughly enjoyed his company. He met people very easily, and many of our European contacts with ETE came from Bill meeting someone on a train or boat ride in Europe somewhere, striking up conversations with others. I wish I had been able to participate in the tours he organized in the early '80s before I joined ETE. He was a longtime member of the Swiss Railways Society and had visited them on trips to the UK where they're based.

On my last trip to Switzerland and Germany I joined Bill and Geri a couple of times for special rides on lines where he knew the conductor from some previous trip. One his favorite phrases was "all over creation" and I imagine that Bill had traveled just about all over creation meeting people and making friends. The picture here shows Bill with Rudi Buerri, a Swiss friend who volunteers on various narrow gauge lines as a conductor.

For the last few years, Bill had been active with the meter gauge module group, and he never wanted to miss a chance to get together and run trains. It never bothered him to drive all the way from his home near Sacramento down to an ETE meeting or a narrow gauge get-together. His schedule for the rest of year included a trip to Switzerland, EuroWest and the national narrow gauge meet in September.

I feel lucky to have known Bill, and I'll miss him. But he's left a lot of good memories.

David G. Baird



Directions to Hiller Aviation Museum (next to the San Carlos Airport) :

From San Francisco: Take Hwy 101 south to Holly Street/Redwood Shores Pkwy exit. Go east onto Redwood Shores Pkwy. Turn right onto Airport Road. Turn right onto Skyway Road.

From San Jose: Take Hwy 101 north to Holly Street/Redwood Shores Pkwy exit. Go east onto Redwood Shores Pkwy. Turn right onto Airport Road. Turn right onto Skyway Road.

