

European Train Enthusiasts



Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
August 2004

This Month's Meeting

When: Saturday August 14, 2004, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Where: [Golden Gate Live Steamers Association](http://www.ggls.org/) (http://www.ggls.org/)
Tilden Park, Berkeley, CA

(see map and directions on the next-to-last page)

Host: Jim Lowe (415) 381-8768

Agenda: Ride miniature trains on the Tilden Park system. Business meeting.

Refreshments: If your last name begins with letters as follows, please bring:

A-G: Finger foods and/or salads **H-O: Desserts** **P-Z: Drinks**

PLEASE BRING YOUR EXTRA PICNIC PLATES, NAPKINS, UTENSILS, CUPS, ICE!

August Meeting Agenda

Thanks to Jim Lowe, once again we have the opportunity to visit the Golden Gate Live Steamers (<http://www.ggls.org>) in Berkeley's Tilden Park. Come ride the miniature live steam trains in the scenic Berkeley hills. See directions and map on the next-to-the-last page (page 4).

Recap of the July Meeting

We held our July 10th meeting at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley (MSRV). This was a finale to the last weekend of the Modular SIG's layout display in the MSRV's historic restored Southern Pacific Railroad depot in Danville. Thanks to Rolf Krumbiegel (host) and Stretch Andersen (BBQ) for a great venue & chapter meeting. We all enjoyed it.

The Reverse Corner

Notes from the Modular SIG

Well the summer has flown by — almost as fast as a TGV or ICE! No sooner had we finished at Danville over the Fourth of July, than it was time for GATS in San Mateo.

The GATS San Mateo show was a lot of fun. We had a good sized modular layout plus Peter Barnes' switching layout — always fun. Attendance was strong and some of us made some good deals on European model trains. And, yes, we did win First

Place and the Blue Ribbon again!! Thanks to everyone for continuing to set the standard in a great looking and smooth running layout. Without question, our docent support and audience interaction make a huge difference, also.

EuroWest is right around the corner. I can't believe it. This will be our full sized layout, four modules bigger than our GATS display. With all the module owners & partners with multiple commitments those days, we will be needing docents to help host the audience at our layout. Any volunteers? Contact me at by email or phone, as listed below.

Football season is starting and kids are heading back to school. It will be time to get to Europe to see some real trains soon!

See you at the next show! Happy Railroading!

Tom Melka (melka@pacbell.net; (415) 927-7477)

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Saturday, August 14, 2004: ETE Monthly Meeting, 1-5pm. Tilden Park, Berkeley, at Golden Gate Live Steamers, hosted by Jim Lowe.

Saturday & Sunday, August 21-22, 2004: EuroWest 2004, Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave., South San Francisco.

Saturday, September 11, 2004: The home of Bob and Colleen Greenfield, 3146 Stonegate Drive, Alamo, CA. See Bob's layout and watch some videos.

Saturday, October 9, 2004: The home of Michelle and Stretch Andersen, 337 Paraiso Dr., Danville, CA. See the annual FREMO layout in their garage and back yard.



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EuroWest 2004 is Almost Here!

Where: Basque Cultural Center, 599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080 (map and direction on last page).

When: Saturday & Sunday, August 21 and 22, 2004

Hours: Sat. Aug. 21 10am to 5pm; Sun. Aug. 22 10am to 4pm
ETE Banquet, Sat. Aug. 22, 6:30pm

Features:

- Operating European Train Layouts
- Clinics
- Lectures
- Videos of European Trains
- Vendor Sales Tables
- Manufacturer & Distributor Displays
- Refreshments Available
- Door prizes
- Children's activities
- Fun Contests for Young and Old !

For more information, contact Andreas Hildebrandt at (650) 333-9400 or email andreashil@aol.com.



EuroSnips

News about Railways in Europe and the World

Two Fatal Train Crashes In Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey, July 23, 2004 – Turkey has been shocked by two train crashes on Turkish State Railways (TCDD) in less than a week. The first accident, on July 22, was the most serious when 37 died and 81 were injured following the derailment of a Haydarpasa-Ankara train. According to transport minister, Mr. Binali Yildirim, the train was traveling 118km/h — 38km/h over the 80km/h speed limit on that section of line. Lawyers representing the three crewmen who were arrested following the accident dispute this, claiming that the speed limit was 130km/h.

Turkey's Consumer Protection Agency has filed criminal charges of negligence against the prime minister, transport minister, and head of TCDD, saying the railroad was premature in launching new faster daily train service between Ankara and Haydarpasa on June 4 which cut the 567km journey from 6h30m to 5h — part of a new Istanbul-Ankara high-speed railway under construction and planned for completion at the end of 2005.

The second accident involved a collision between a train and a bus on a level (grade) crossing, killed 15 and injuring four.

DB Expands Parcel Service

KÖLN, Germany, July 23, 2004 – Deutsche Bahn AG (DB) and Lufthansa airline last year started a joint venture called **ic:kurier** to handle 40,000 parcels this year and 50,000 in 2006. DB (and predecessor DBB) has offered an intercity rail parcel service since 1982.

UK Parliament to Vote on Crossrail

LONDON, UK, July 20, 2003 – The British government will introduce a bill for approval this fall for Crossrail, an east-west £10 billion (\$170B) project which would connect major London stations with Heathrow airport. As well as creating faster trips for commuters and shoppers, the trains would cut overcrowding on some of the busiest Tube (subway) routes. The rail link will run through tunnels in central London, stopping at key Tube stations like Bond Street, Tottenham Court Rd. and Liverpool Street. Under the current plan, Crossrail would provide 24 trains/hour in each direction and be capable of carrying 160,000 morning rush-hour passengers.

The project is to be funded by public taxpayer and private business, but details have not been finalized. Transport Secretary Alistair Darling told House of Commons that the scheme was a "huge challenge".

Cracked Rail Detector Works at Normal Speed

LONDON, UK, July 20, 2004 – Crack-detecting track inspection trains normally run at about 50km/h but British researchers have developed technology to spot cracks in rails at normal speed. This would avoid delaying or canceling revenue trains, which could even be fitted with the new inspection capabilities.

British Train Travel up

LONDON, UK, July 4, 2004 – Train travel in Britain has grown 33% since privatization, according to the Association of Train Operating Companies. Passenger kilometers increased 36.1% nationally, more than in any European country, and 46.5% in London and the southeast over the past 10 years. Freight traffic grew 32.6% over the same period. The increasing traffic has resulted in more delays, though punctuality reached 83.1% in Q1 of this year, an improvement of 2.6% over last year.

Meanwhile, troubled *Eurostar* saw passenger numbers increase by 19% in the first half of the year over to the same period last year. Revenues are up 16% and 89% of trains were on time.

Lyon's Lea Tram Line Moves Ahead

LYON, France, June 21, 2004 – Construction of the 14km Ligne de l'Est de l'Agglomération (Lea) electric tram (light rail) route in



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Lyon is on course to start in September. Running east from Part-Dieu station to the Meyzieu industrial zone, Lea will follow the

alignment of the former Chemin de Fer Est de Lyon, retained for limited freight traffic to the industrial zone. The outer end of the line is to be converted to carry the Leslys interurban light rail line between Lyon and Saint-Exupéry airport. The tram route will serve 10 stops, and will share the rail alignment with 10km of dedicated bicycle path.

New ERA Dawns in France

VALENCIENNES, France, July 15, 2004 – The formation of the European Rail Agency (ERA) reached a milestone with its first meeting of the board of directors. Based in Valenciennes and Lille, ERA has been set up “to contribute technically to the implementation of community legislation aimed at ameliorating the competitive position of the railway sector,” notably through the development of interoperability, and “to develop a common approach regarding the security of the European railway.” It will bring together working groups of experts commissioned by various European organizations, and will submit its recommendations to the European Commission (EC).

The board has one director from each of the 25 European Union (EU) member countries, four representatives from the EC and six non-voting representatives from different segments of the railway industry.

MORE NEWS

Swiss and French Stations get WiFi: Eighty-nine stations in France and Switzerland are to be equipped with broadband wireless internet (WiFi). Swiss SBB-CFF is also equipping 75 first-class coaches with Wifi. It appears access will be free of charge.

Non-stick Paint Eludes Graffiti: Research engineers in Denmark have developed invisible paint that can protect trains and buildings from graffiti, which can easily be removed from a protected surface by simply wiping it with a dry cloth or applying ordinary tape and then pulling it off. The new paint is cheap and does not need to be re-applied after graffiti is removed. Teknologisk Institut, sponsor of the paint, says it can be available commercially within six months. Danish State Railways (DSB) is also resorting to covering graffiti with foil if there is no time to remove it before putting a train in service.

Latest Swiss headlines for July:

- BLS and RM have made the initial decisions about a merger scheduled for Jan. 1, 2005.
- LSE and Brünigbahn will merge. LSE will buy Brünigbahn from SBB, paying it with new shares. Its new name will be Zentralbahn.

– the BLS line from Brig to Goppenstein was interrupted for about 30 hours after a crane overturned.

- DB 185 (“Traxx”) pull freight trains from Stuttgart through Switzerland to Wolfurt, Austria, near Bregenz.
- SBB will remove dining car service on the Lötschberg route.
- Giessbachbahn (cable railway) celebrated 125th anniversary.
- Centennials this year include MOB Montbovon–Château-d’Oex–Gstaad, and Vevey–Chexbres.

Email or Paper Newsletter?

Thanks to those Bay Area Chapter members who opted for email delivery of the monthly newsletter. You’re helping to save time and materials.

Those with email addresses who didn’t respond one way or the other will receive the monthly news in both formats for a couple of months. If you haven’t opted for one or the other by October, you will automatically default to email delivery.

If you don’t want email, then please let me know as soon as you can.

Thanks!

Ryan Hoover
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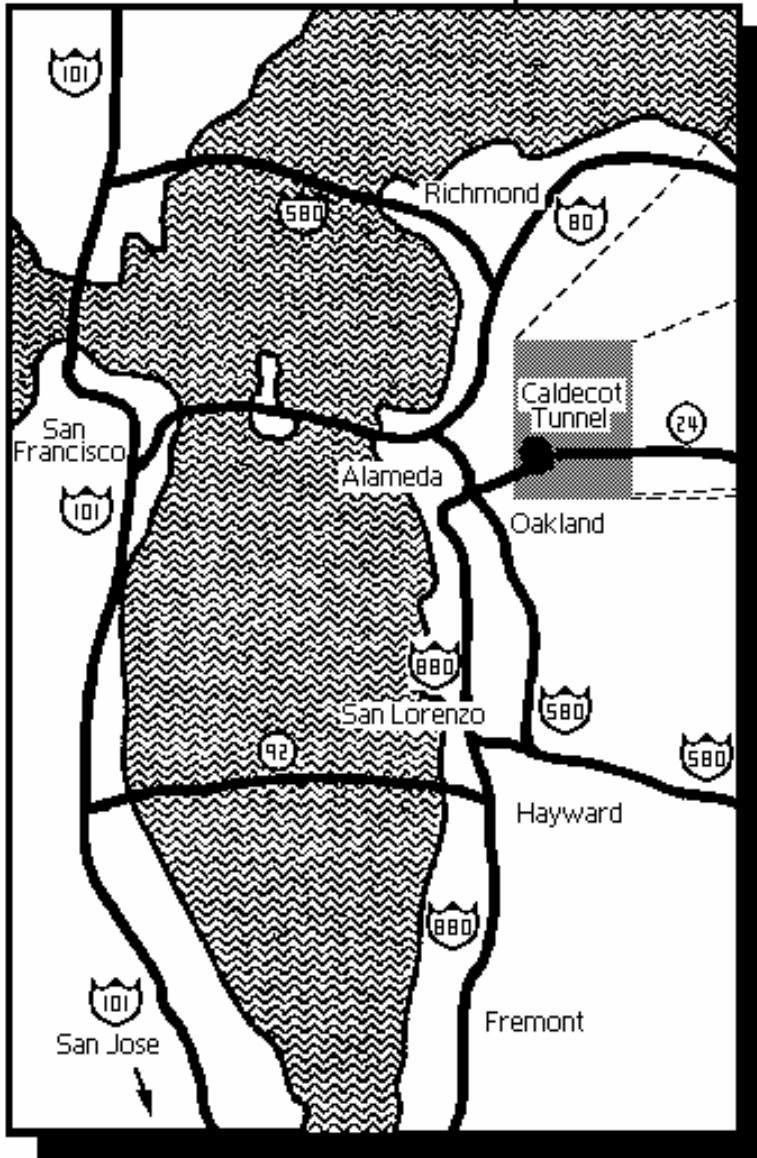




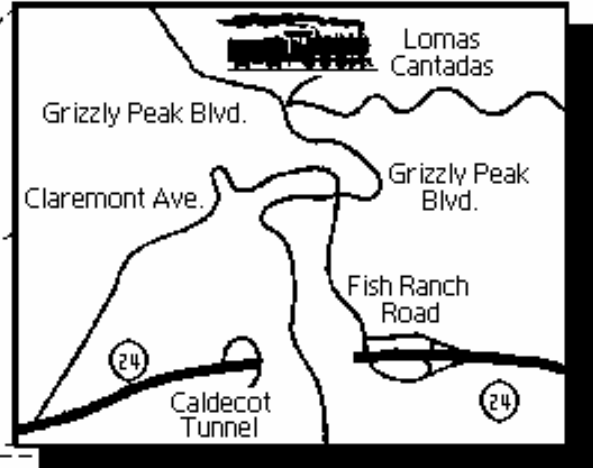
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Directions And Maps To ETE Bay Area Monthly Meeting, Sat., Aug. 14, 2004

San Francisco Bay Area



Tilden Park GGLS Track



The GGLS track is located in Tilden Park in the hills above Berkeley. Get on hiway 24 and head toward the Caldecot tunnel. Take the Fish Ranch Road Exit. If you are going East it is the first exit after the tunnel, if you are going west it's the last exit before the tunnel. Take Fish Ranch Road up the hill till you come to an intersection. Turn right on Grizzly Peak Blvd. and continue up the hill till you come to Lomas Cantadas. Turn right on Lomas Cantada. There will be a parking lot immediately on your left. Follow the signs to the Steam Trains. Enter the Redwood Valley Railroad and go straight. There will be a walk way down to the GGLS track. We generally provide free rides to the public every Sunday from 12:00 to 3:00.



Left: Photo from GGLS' Spring 2004 Meet





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DIRECTIONS TO EuroWest 2004

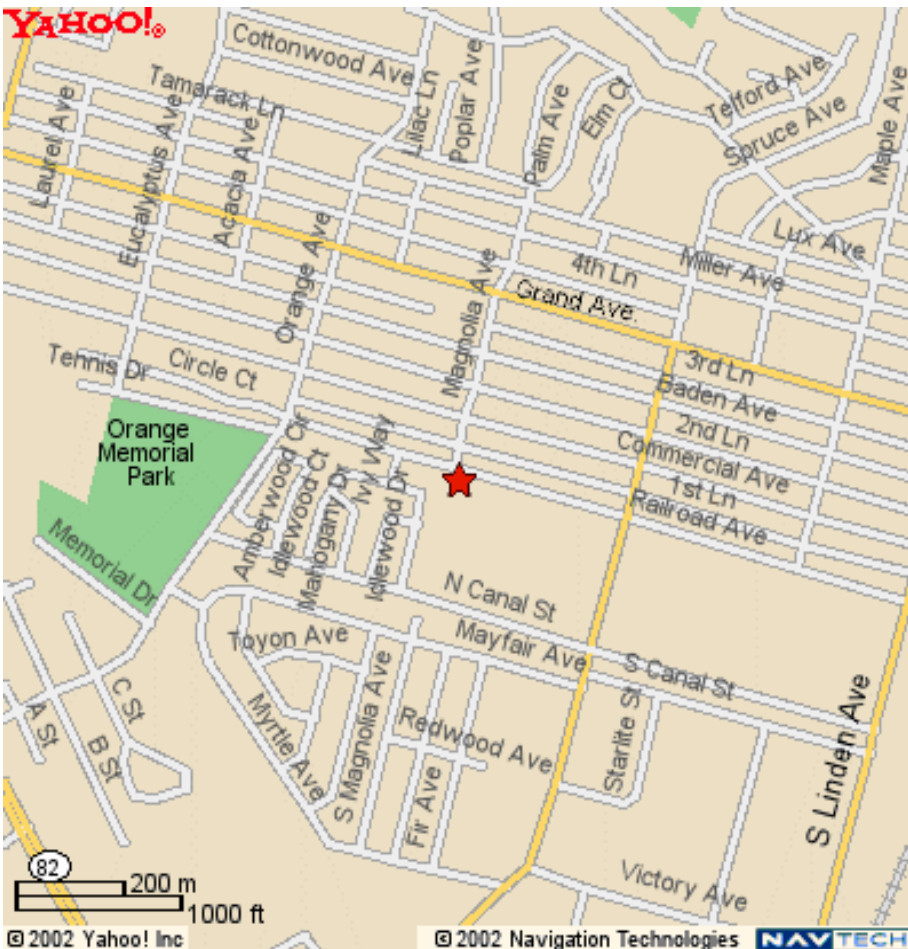
Basque Cultural Center (BCC), 599 Railroad Ave. South San Francisco, CA 94080 (650) 583-8091 <http://www.basqueculturalcenter.com/directions.htm> Saturday & Sunday, August 21-22, 2004

Directions From Interstate Highway 280

North: 1) Take 280 north to South San Francisco and take the Avalon Drive exit. 2) Go straight on Junipero Serra Blvd. 3) Turn right on Westborough Blvd. 4) Turn right on El Camino Real. 5) Turn right on Orange Blvd. 6) Turn right on Railroad Ave. 7) Proceed to 599 and turn right into the BCC parking lot. South: 1) Take 280 South. 2) exit onto Westborough Blvd., then to step 4) above.

Directions From Highway 101

North: 1) Take 101 north to South San Francisco, 2) take the Grand Avenue exit. 3) Turn right on East Grand Ave. 4) Turn left on Grand Ave. 5) Turn left on Magnolia Ave. to Railroad Ave. 6) Cross Railroad Ave. into the BCC parking lot. South: 1) Take 101 south. 2) Exit onto Grand Ave.; go to step 5) above.



EuroWest 2004

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