

*E*uropean *T*rain *E*nthusiasts



*Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
August 2006*

Chapter Meeting Saturday, Aug.12 at the Coaz's **17 Oak St., Los Altos, CA 94022**

Refreshments: Please bring items listed if your LAST name starts with:
A - G : Desserts H - O: Drinks P - Z : Finger foods

Future Chapter Meetings

Locations will be listed in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Module SIG Events

November 24, 2006–Jan. 7, 2007: Blackhawk
Automobile Museum, Danville.

Redactie :Robert de Jong

Publicatie : Wolfgang Leitenberger

Voorzitter : Chris Vais

Penningmeester : Steve Imailek

Modules voorzitter : Tom Melka

Promotie : Rolf Krumbiegel / Peter Barnes

Meeting Highlights from July 8, 2006 at the Museum of San Ramon Valley, Danville

A regular meeting of the S.F. Bay Area Chapter was called to order by Chris Vais. There were approximately 25 members present. It was noted that the low turn out was probably due to the email distribution of the newsletter and 100+ F. temperature. Chris thanked the museum for the use of their facilities and Chrissa Imports for the beverages.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on 6/30 was \$3639.01
(The treasurer was notably absent because of a flat tire on the way to the meeting. Sorry, guys).

Module SIG: The next venue will be at the Mechanics Bank at Hill Top Mall in Richmond from Sat. July 22 – Sat. Aug. 5. This will be a very lovely setting inside the bank under the atrium. If you go, don't miss the Oriental style of the bank's architecture. The next venue will be Eurowest at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos Aug. 19-20. Then from Sept. 9-24 the modules will be set up at the Tracy Historical Museum. Our year ends, and our next season begins, at Blackhawk Automotive Museum in Danville from Nov. 24, '06 – Jan 6, '07.

Unfinished Business:

The newsletter will try a new delivery system ETENEWS@sbcglobal.net beginning with this issue. Thanks for your patience. Surplus newsletters will be available for free at Eurowest until they run out. So if you're missing an issue or two, stop by the ETE table.

The Eurowest committee will be meeting soon to firm up the details and begin distribution of the banquet dinner tickets (\$30).

The position of Chairman and Vice-Chairman are still open. Please consider volunteering yourself for a one year period (or two, as Chris and Steve I. have done) to continue the fine work of the chapter. Thank you to John and Lalo Ruehle, and Ed Rikkelman for volunteering to be the secretary and treasurer respectively.



The El Camino Medical Center project is off to a good start. Steve Imialek and Rolf Krumbiegel met with the architects, contractors, and chief medical officer of the hospital. Plans were presented and options were discussed. The layout will be 4'x8', built entirely on a sheet of 5/8" plywood, trucked to Mountain View and slid into place. The construction will take place in two phases: track laying and wiring, and landscaping. The layout will be in place by Feb. 1, 2007 followed by the grand opening of the hospital on March 1. Special thanks to Steve (and Florence for allowing us to use the dining room table and living room instead of the garage with 110+F. temperatures), Rolf, Ian Lorentzen, Dieter Vorbach, and Wolfgang Leitenberger as the initial committee. If you are interested in this worthwhile project, please contact Steve (925-516-1673 or imialek@pacbell.net).

New Business:

Junior Program. Dieter Vorbach and Rolf Krumbiegel brought up this idea of attracting younger members to the chapter. They noticed a number of youngsters with a genuine interest in European trains and the layout during the venues we have had this past year. The objective of this program would be to encourage and support participation using the operating layout as a means of mentoring and teaching. Their dues would be less and they would receive the newsletter. Discussion ensued and mention was made to ask ETE National about this proposal.

Next Meeting: Aug. 12 at the Coaz's, 17 Oak St., Los Altos, CA 94022. There will be (1) a swap meet, so bring \$\$ or rolling stock to swap; and (2) Wolfgang Leitenberger will offer two clinics: (a) lok maintenance, cleaning, and lubrication; and (b) soldering practices, techniques, and solder equipment.

EUROSNIPS ----

By: Jim Recker.

Eurotunnel, on the Edge of Bankruptcy, Reaches Deal

PARIS, July 27 - Eurotunnel has reached a deal with their two primary customers, SNCF and British Railways, on how to calculate their rates and charges, bringing an end to the dispute started in 2001 regarding the calculation of their contribution to the Channel Tunnel operating costs.

It also settles the 2005 financial year and sets out a lump-sum mechanism for the majority of operating costs for each year from 2006 to 2014. Eurotunnel has been in court in Paris for several months seeking protection from creditors, struggling to reach a deal with its creditors to reduce a mountain of debt of £6.2 billion (US\$11.5 billion). In late July, a Paris court delayed its decision on whether to back Eurotunnel's request for protection, delaying its verdict by eight days until August 2nd. The Channel Tunnel operator had asked a French court to freeze its debts so it can continue operating.

Eurotunnel has warned that without court backing for its request for protection, bankruptcy is a real risk. The agreement restores a favorable climate for better cooperation between the railways and Eurotunnel, The crisis at Eurotunnel has its origins in the construction of the Channel Tunnel, which was completed in 1994. The tunnel cost about £9.8 billion (US\$18.27 billion) to build, but the number of vehicles has been way below expectations, which has seriously hurt Eurotunnel's revenues. A dissident group of creditors has refused to support Eurostars's proposals. Eurotunnel is now blaming Deutsche Bank - one of the primary creditors - for the breakdown in talks.

Eurostar revenues take off

LONDON, July 21 - Meanwhile, as EuroTunnel fights off bankruptcy, Eurostar business traveler numbers rose again in the first six months of 2006, boosting revenues to £259.9 million, an 11% increase in business ticket sales. In the same time, Eurostar has

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P.O. Box 1451
Brentwood, CA 94513



boosted a punctuality rate half-year record of 91%, while handling more than 3.7 million travelers.

Eurostar and Eurotunnel are two entirely different companies with two different management teams. Eurostar is Eurotunnel's largest customer: Eurostar UK Ltd, the SNCF and the SNCB are each responsible for the running of Eurostar services on their own territory.

Eurostar's seamless city-center to city-center journeys continue to draw in more business travelers.

Punctuality means Eurostar continues to outperform the airlines operating on London-Paris and London-Brussels routes by a considerable margin. Eurostar has also seen good growth in the leisure market helped along with major sports events boosting sales. Many football fans chose to travel to the World Cup in Germany by high-speed rail using Eurostar to connect with other European operators.

Eurostar also got help from "The Da Vinci Code", the blockbuster movie, generating strong interest in overseas markets as fans of the film looked to follow in the footsteps of its stars.

In autumn 2007, Eurostar will move its London terminal from Waterloo International to St. Pancras International, with the completion of the second section of the UK's first high-speed line. Journey times will be even faster with Brussels just 1h 51m away from London and Paris just 2h 15m.

At least 34 die in Spanish subway crash

MADRID July 3 - At least 34 people were killed when a subway train derailed in Valencia on the eastern coast of Spain. The derailment occurred around 1 p.m. on Line 1 between the Plaza de España and the Jesús station near the city center.

Initial reports from investigators suggested that the cause was a damaged wheel. The train also appeared to be traveling too fast.

An official at the Interior Ministry in Madrid said that investigators had uncovered no indications that terrorism was involved. Officials reported that two cars had overturned and that, in addition to the deaths,

the crash injured at least 12 people, three of them seriously.

Local officials made only guarded public comments about the investigation into what caused the crash, saying it was still in its early stages. However everything suggests that this was an accident. The Spanish national police said they would send a team of investigators to Valencia to assist in the investigation, news agencies reported.

Summer Records in France

PARIS, July 14 - Over 1.5 million travelers came through the rail stations in Paris over the Bastille Day weekend. For most, this was the start of their summer holidays. The SNCF scheduled 2000 trains, 1300 of them TGV, between the 13th and the 16th.

At Paris-Montparnasse and Gare de Lyon, the SNCF scheduled 130 TGV trains each to handle over 190,000 passengers.

Several days later, the first speed trials began on the new TGV Est line that will eventually link Paris, Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Western Germany. On a 90km test bed between Trois-Domaines (Meuse) and Reims, a locomotive with several test cars reached speeds of 320 km/h.

The TGV Est line will come into service in June 2007, putting Strasbourg 2 hours and 20 minutes from Paris. With some additional high-speed lines, the travel time will eventually come down to less than 2 hours.

Speed Record in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, July 26 - A specially equipped train on the Stockholm - Göteborg main line reached 281 km/h, beating a Swedish Record from 1993.

The tests are part of the "Green Train" project which includes an active bogie - stiff on straights and soft in curves - as well as a trackside noise camera system which uses recent increases in computer power to understand noise emissions from fast trains.

The Regina train, manufactured Bombardier, could be ready for commercial service by 2011. This would be the third tilting 250 km/h train after Alstom's Pendolino and Bombardier's Amtrak Acela Express (240 km/h).

The wide body Regina was conceived as a cheap and capacious train for regional service. It seats five abreast and is 3,45m wide, over 60cm wider than a typical European train. Over 70, two- and three car trains were built, in versions for 180 and 200 km/h. They are similar but wider than the Øresund trains that also run in Denmark.

Digging Continues

BERN, , July 3 - Over 62.5 percent of the Gotthard Base Tunnel has excavated, according to the Gotthard Base Tunnel group. Of the total of 153.5 km of tunnels, galleries and passages of the Gotthard Base Tunnel, 96.06 km or 62.5 % had been excavated. In June alone, the tunnel was extended by over 1,891 meters.

Faster Trains to Russia

HELSINKI, July 18 - Train services will become 25-40 minutes later this year on the "Sibelius" train from Helsinki to St Petersburg, reducing travel time to 5 hours 9 minutes.

The Sibelius and Repin trains to St Petersburg will first switch to the Finland station in St Peterburg instead of the Laatokka station today. The rolling stock will be renewed as well.

Playroom On the Rails

HELSINKI, July 14 - The Finish VR railroad has introduced 28 refurbished double-deck coaches with new playrooms for its younger passenger. Families are a significant customer group in train travel during the summer months, constituting nearly 20% of total passenger volume. VR and its partners have developed tickets and services for families since the beginning of

1980s. The new playrooms are the latest example of this long-term development work.

The new playroom is located on the upper deck of these new rail cars. Designed by an interior designer from Helsinki, Marianne Manninen, special attention was paid on safety. The playroom has a lively look. The biggest attraction is the slides linking the top level to the bottom. New fittings are a castle wall with a funny mirror. There are no loose toys in the new playroom as all furniture is fixed. The renewal more than quadruples the playroom area.

The cars are to be run in over 80 InterCity services are available at that time in various parts of Finland.

Some Guys Don't Know When to Stop

BRÜTTELEN, Switzerland, July 24 - Local police went chasing after a car bumping down the tracks between Brüttelen and Anet in Bern canton. The chase ended quickly as the driver lost control and was injured.

As the police approached the damaged car, the man started up again across a field until he ran into a ditch. At that point the man was arrested and taken to hospital. The man's car was totaled, and one of the police cars was damaged in the chase. There was no damage of delays reported to the rail traffic.

Latest New French Light Rail

MULHOUSE, May 13 - The latest new French light rail system was recently launched in the relatively small city of Mulhouse (population about 112,000), located in the southern region of Alsace. This brand-new light rail tramway consists initially of two light rail transit (LRT) routes, totaling 12 kilometers (about 7 miles), with 24 station-stops and a fleet of 27 tramcars. Eventually the system will be extended to 19.7 km (12.2 miles), with 38 stations, at a total cost of €340.2 million (about US \$442 million). Ridership is forecast to reach 87,000 per day. In 2009, the Mulhouse-Kruth Tram-Train, similar to the dual-modal system in Karlsruhe, will be launched. Then, in 2011, the entire urban system is scheduled for completion.



Terrorists Kill over 200 on Mumbai Rail

MUMBAI (Bombay), India, July 11 - Several Major cities in India remain on high alert after a series of coordinated bomb attacks on packed commuter trains in Mumbai killed more than 200 people and injured more than 700. Hours after the blasts, rescuers continued to hunt through the wreckage for victims.

Mumbai police Chief A. N. Roy said the eight blasts were caused by bombs, possibly high-powered plastic explosives, at seven separate locations within 30 minutes. Two blasts occurred at one location. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, but Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh vowed to defeat the "evil designs of terrorists."

The first blast struck about 6:25 p.m. local time during the peak of the evening rush hour in the western port city formerly known as Bombay. Some of the explosions occurred on moving trains and there are reports that some passengers jumped out. Video from Mumbai's Mahim Station showed a rail car with its sides blasted out as people scrambled through the wreckage searching for survivors. The footage showed bleeding and dazed passengers crowding on a platform under heavy monsoon rains.

Rail services were suspended for hours on the city's commuter rail lines, which usually carry more than six million passengers each day.

In 2003, a bomb blast on a Mumbai train killed 11 people and injured 65. The explosion happened the day after the 10th anniversary of multiple bomb explosions in the city killed 257 people and injured more than 1,000.

Mumbai is India's financial capital, home to the Bombay Stock Exchange, the corporate headquarters of many Indian companies and is the center of the country's famed film industry, Bollywood. The city's name was officially changed to Mumbai from Bombay in 1995.

High Road: Tibet Train Finishes Journey

LHASSA, Tibet, July 3 - Trains are now rolling from Beijing to Tibet along the world's highest railway,

opening direct service to the Himalayan region that China has been trying for decades to tame.

Pens spit ink and packaged foods burst in the low pressure as the "Sky Train" climbed the 16,640-foot Tanggula Pass. Some passengers threw up. Others took Tibetan herbs or breathed oxygen from tubes. Outside, Tibetan antelope and wild donkeys grazed beneath snowcapped mountains and deep-blue skies.

Despite Beijing's public commitments to preserving the fragile Tibetan plateau crossed by the train, plastic bags, bottles and cardboard boxes were scattered along the tracks.

Many Tibetans loyal to their exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, say the railway is part of a campaign to crush Tibetan culture, and a still-simmering separatist movement, by encouraging a huge influx of majority Han Chinese migrants.

China says the newly opened 710-mile stretch of rail, linking the ancient Tibetan capital of Lhasa to a station that had been a final stop on China's vast rail network, is an unparalleled engineering marvel. The \$4.2 billion project was built in four years on delicate permafrost, marshy ground easily damaged by human encroachment. Engineers used sunshades and high-tech cooling columns plunged into embankments to help ensure the ground stays frozen. China has earmarked \$190 million for environmental protection along the railway.

The government acknowledges that Tibetans have so far been largely excluded from the project but says more Tibetans will be hired. China's Railway Ministry has said that 10 percent of the 100,000 construction workers who built the railway were ethnic Tibetans.

Chinese state media says the railway will help double tourism revenues in Tibet by 2010 and cut transport costs for goods by 75 percent. Goods going to and from Tibet have been trucked over mountain highways that often are blocked by landslides or snow, making trade prohibitively expensive. Chinese officials had been thinking about building a railway to Tibet since the 1950s.



DB meets the World Cup Challenge

BERLIN, July 27 - The recent FIFA World Cup meant an extra 600,000 passengers a day for Deutsche Bahn. That means a total of 5.5 million passengers a day. Demand exceeded expectations during the tournament: DB saw 12% more customers on its daily on local and long-distance trains throughout Germany. More than 300 extra long-distance trains were added to the schedule. Seat load factor of over 90 per cent!

The public and the worldwide press both gave Deutsche Bahn very high marks. More fans traveled by train than expected, yet traffic ran smoothly and economic forecasts surpassed expectations.

The Deutsche Bahn timetable for the World Cup featured 10,000 additional trains throughout the country. The rapid transit "S-Bahn" lines in particular coped well with the huge crowds in the host cities. In Berlin, 3.5 million passengers more than usual used the local S-Bahn, and in Stuttgart more than 90,000 fans took the S-Bahn to the stadium for the four preliminary-round matches. Deutsche Bahn achieved the ecological "Green Goal" announced for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, which banked on environmentally friendly public transport rather than private motorized transport.

Following its inauguration on 28 May, Berlin Hauptbahnhof proved to be an efficient transport hub and simultaneously an ideal meeting point and tourist attraction for the football fans from all over the world.

Special training for more than ten thousand DB employees enabled Deutsche Bahn to deploy extra personnel at all World Cup venues to ensure even better customer service.

Spirits were particularly high on the 13 special trains chartered by Mexican and Brazilian fans. The Polish and Australian supporters also traveled on special trains. Even some of the national teams - from Croatia, Sweden, Costa Rica and Mexico - traveled by rail during the preliminary round.

Behind the scenes, the DB subsidiary "Schenker Global Sports Events" was responsible for the stadium logistics at all the match venues and ensured that the

team luggage for the 32 teams was carried back and forth between the stadiums "just in time".

As expected, South African Spoornet took copious notes, hoping to reproduce the success in their country for the 2010 World Cup.

Peninsula Layout Tour for EuroWest

Several local European train layouts will be open to visitors on the eve of ETE's EuroWest this month, on the evening of August 19th.

Details and directions will be handed out at this month's ETE monthly meeting, and also will be available in the member section at www.ete.org.

If you want to add your layout to the list, or for additional information, contact Jim Recker at jcrecker@cs.com or +1 (650) 801 4723.



www.Eisenbahnclinic.com
wolfgang@Eisenbahnclinic.com



EuroWest 2006 Buffet Dinner

" Celebrating Ten Years of EuroWest"

Saturday August 19th 6:00 PM

Hiller Aviation Museum

601 Skyway Rd, San Carlos CA 94070

Family members, friends and future members are all welcome

Menu

Pork Medallions with Sauteed Scallions and Mushrooms

Wild Game (mixed grill) with Spaetzle and red cabbage

Chicken Ragout in a mushroom and white wine sauce

Rouladen (Stuffed Beef Rolls) with Spaetzle

Fine German Desserts

Dinner includes Salad, Entrees, Desert, Wine, Beer and Coffee

Buffet Dinner provided by Teskes Restaurent of San Jose

Wine sponsored by Chrissa Imports, S. San Francisco

Beer sponsored by Spaten West, S. San Francisco

Tickets will be handed out at EuroWest on August 19th

Send this coupon and check payable to ETE to:

EuroWest Dinner, PO Box 1451, Brentwood CA 94513

Reservation deadline - August 15th

Reserve early, space limited to 80 guests maximum

Cost: \$30/person (tax & tip included)

Guest Names: _____

Tickets: _____

