

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

## **Bay Area Chapter** **Febbraio 2003 Newsletter**

### February Meeting Notice

**When:** Saturday Feb 8, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

**Where:** Abbott Middle School  
Room 3  
600 West 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Mateo  
(See map)

**Host:** Virginia McQueen

**Meeting Agenda:**

- Show and Tell - Chocolate cars, all scales
- Slide Show – Austria by Train and Ship, presented by Bill Juergens
- EuroWest discussion

***Special assignment...***

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

## **February Meeting Agenda**

Since February is the month for Valentine's Day, let's see what members have in the way of chocolate cars. There are Hershey's cars, a Milka boxcar, Lindt, etc. Bring yours to the meeting. Any scale is fine.

Bill Juergens will present his slide show "Austria by Train and Ship."

We'll continue our planning for EuroWest 2003. Please fill out the form in this newsletter if you would like to participate. Hand it to one of the chapter leaders at the meeting, or mail it to us. You can also find the form on the ETE website in electronic form, if you are inclined to email your information.

## **Recap of the January Meeting**

Thanks to Richard Orr for hosting our meeting at the Willows Senior Center. We started off the year with a mini swap meet and some show and tell.

## **Year 2003 Dues**

Don't forget to renew your membership. Those who haven't yet paid have until the end of February to renew, otherwise your name will be removed from the mailing list. Thanks to all who've paid up so far.

The total cost is \$25, including both the Bay Area Chapter's local \$10 dues, and the ETE National \$15 dues. It is much easier to track the payments if you do not pay ETE National in a separate payment. Please write a check to "ETE - Bay Area Chapter" for \$25, or you can pay cash. If you can't make it to the February meeting, checks can be mailed to :

David G. Baird  
15351 Charmeran Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95124

## **Reverse Corner - notes from the Module SIG** *by Tom Melka*

2003 will be as busy as ever for the Module SIG. We continue to bring our message to the public, about the superiority of both European model and prototype trains. We are having some fun, too!

Our next event is Saturday and Sunday, February 22 & 23, at Talbot's Toyland, 445 South B St., San Mateo. (650) 342-0126. This will be a small setup, about 25' X 10', in the front of the store. It's always a blast because the store management ties this to a hobby department promotion. (That includes cool European stuff on sale.) The Märklin sales rep will be there,

usually with some promo giveaways, also. This venue is fun because we get a good public cross section in the audience.... not our usual Train Show crowd. We hope you can make it!

You now have a reason to go to the Great American Train Show (GATS) at the Cow Palace, Saturday and Sunday, March 8 & 9! European Trains will be running on the ETE modules. We will have a pretty big set-up at this show. We placed first at the last show in the "Best Layout" contest. We had tough competition from the G scale guys and (can you believe it!) a Lego layout!! This is definitely a show for broad model railroad interests. We're glad to be there representing the European scene. Bring the family to this one, there's something for everyone!

The North Bay Area gets to see us May 17 & 18 at the GATS show at the San Rafael Civic Center. This is a smaller, more intimate train show. It is a lot of fun and a bit more personal than the big shows. Architecture fans can also revel at the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings that comprise the Marin Civic Center. Very cool place to run trains!

We will be back at the Danville Museum, this time for 2 weeks. This is a 25' X 10' module layout (like Talbot's) June 21 - July 6. This display kicks off the "Kids at the Depot" program that runs through August.

EuroWest is a little earlier this year. We look forward to anchoring the displays with a large layout the weekend of July 26 & 27, in South San Francisco. This is the "must attend" show of the year!

We will be back at the Blackhawk Museum! In 2003, we will open Friday after Thanksgiving again, and run through December to mid-January. Part of our arrangement this year will include a meeting room to conduct a chapter meeting at any time in December or early January. Details on that will come later. We have helped to set record attendance at the museum this last holiday season. They definitely want us back!

There are some additional GATS shows around the Bay Area during the year. We are considering the San Mateo Expo show the weekend of July 19 & 20. More details on that later.

Our core group membership continues to expand!! Bill James s joined us - first with taking responsibility for the Tunnel corner module. Now, after Blackhawk, he has take responsibility for the 4 standard corners - transportation & storage. This is a huge help to us. Thanks Bill, and welcome aboard!

We are always looking for more members to participate with us. We are an informal group. Some of us are technically challenged and learn from the others. Some of us don't even speak German(!) It's a diverse group that comes together with a common interest in European Trains. We are always looking for docents to engage the audience at the shows. We also can use help from partners who assist module owners with set-up, tear down, transportation & storage. If you are interested contact Tom Melka, Rolf Krumbiegel, or any member of the module SIG.

That's it for now. See you at Talbot's!

### **Eurosnips January 2003** (compiled by Jim Recker)

#### **HEAD-ON COLLISION IN FRENCH RAIL TUNNEL** - (January 27th)

Two trains collided in a tunnel in south-eastern France, killing two Italians and injuring at least 10 other people, according to BBC and French media reports. SNCF spokesmen said the cause of the crash was unclear.

French police said the two regional expresses ran into each other at around 1100 local time on a stretch of single track in the Biona tunnel, between Fontan and Saint-Dalmas, near the Italian border. Each train was running around 30 km/h at the time of the crash.

The impact sent passengers and their luggage flying. Some injuries are thought to have been caused by heavy cases falling from overhead storage racks.

French state rail operator SNCF said one of the trains was en route from Nice to the border town of Tende, while second was Italian, running between Ventimiglia and Turin.

Cargo and passenger rail services between Nice and Cuneo were temporarily halted.

#### **TRANS SIBERIAN FULLY ELECTRIFIED** - (January 14th)

The full electrification of the Trans-Siberian railway, from Moscow to the Pacific Ocean, was completed on Christmas Day.

"The line can now work as a unified system," said Viktor Popov, chairman of the Far Eastern section of the 9267 km line.

The Far Eastern section of the line runs 7500 km and carries more than 30% of all Russian exports. Officials

said they hoped the electrification would boost traffic on the Trans-Siberian by up to 40%.

#### **NORWAY TRANSIT FROZEN STILL** - (January 14th)

Neither Norway's state railway NSB nor Oslo's tram system can seem to tolerate the icy grip of winter. Cancellations and delays have plagued commuters for the past two weeks. Both trams and trains have been knocked out of service by winter weather in the Oslo area.

Things hit a low point on New Year's Eve, when NSB actually advised the public to "dress warmly" if they planned to catch a train. That's because most passengers already were being left shivering on station platforms, waiting for trains that never came. On January 2, when commuters started heading back to work after the holidays, NSB was barely limping along. All extra commuter trains in the Oslo metro area were cancelled, meaning trains ran only every half-hour from the suburban areas of Ski and Lillestrom.

Railway officials blamed sub-freezing temperatures that wrecked compressors and braking systems. Snow also got into ventilation systems, said a spokesman, and eventually iced them up. Scores of trains were forced to repair yards.

The cold weather also wreaked havoc with a so-called "automatic train stop" system that forced trains to run at lower speeds.

A railroad spokesman said moose were another problem. Heavy snows were spurring moose to use roads and train tracks as they went in search of food.

"We've had collisions with moose almost every day," said Harry Korslund of the agency in charge of maintaining the tracks.

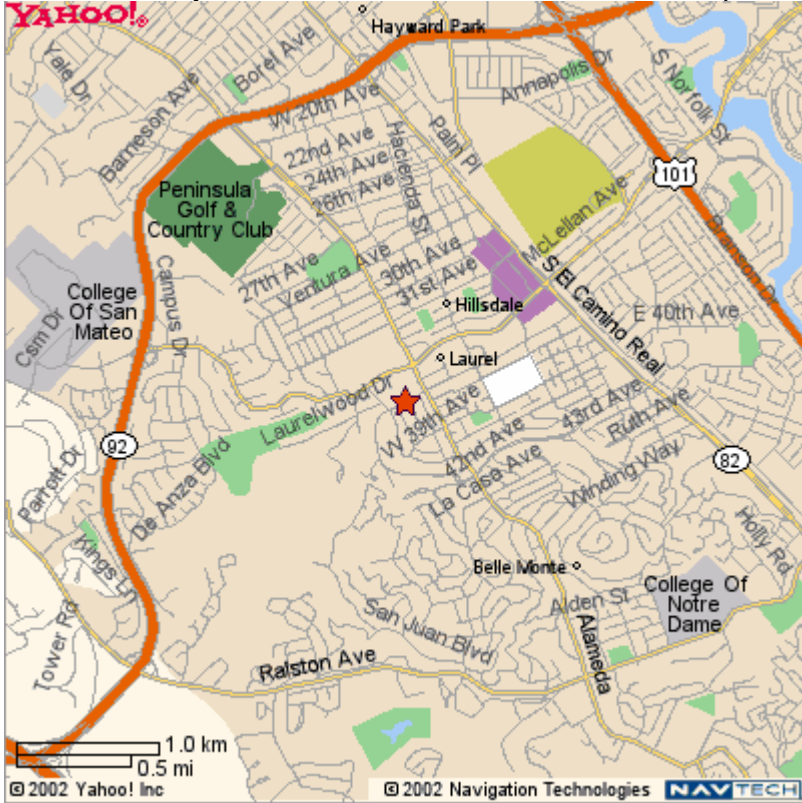
Passengers scoffed at most of the reasons given for the poor train service. "There's no excuse," one woman told Norwegian Broadcasting Thursday morning. "We can send men to the moon, but they can't keep the trains running in winter in Norway?"

#### **LAST PRODUCTION RUN...** - (January 27th)

Pierre Vercelli, the founder of Metropolitan, passed away on January 19, 2003 at the age of 78. The Swiss brass model trains are well known as the most exquisite and expensive in the world, along with Fulgurex and Lemaco.

Location : Abbott Middle School  
600 West 36<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Mateo

This school is very close to the Belmont schools where we've held past meetings.



## **Eurowest information and request for help #2**

**EuroWest 2003 will be held on July 26th & 27th at the Basque Cultural Center located at 599 Railroad Ave, South San Francisco,**

The Chapter needs broad advice and input from all interested in this event two areas

- a) Organization and Planning
- b) Event Assistance and Participation

Please print name and contact info. (phone and/or e-mail)-

**a) Please sign up below for organizing, planning and carrying out activities in preparation for Eurowest 2003 starting now (soon) and continuing as needed until the event. "Many hands make light work" (e.g. lifting rail).**

- Coordinating/Organizing/Steering Committee – (Objectives and goals for the event, budget, coordinating sub-committees and National ETE):

\_\_\_\_\_

- Publicity Subcommittee: \_\_\_\_\_

- Site Logistics Subcommittee (space, tables, chairs, power, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

- Event Logistics Subcommittee (Signs, parking, security, hotels etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

- Volunteer Subcommittee (volunteers for set-up, tear down, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

- Food snacks and dinner/barbecue coordinator(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

- Layouts, Lecture and Clinic coordinator(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

- Raffle and door prize coordinator(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

- Vendor coordinator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- Video coordinator(s): \_\_\_\_\_

- I want to coordinate/organize something not listed (e.g.Children's program white elephant table, T-shirts...): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**(more on next page)**

**b)** Please sign up below for help in carrying out activities during Eurowest in S. San Francisco, in July.

I can help with pushing and shoving:

: \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with lighter chores (docent, tickets, MC etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Help getting ready for event: \_\_\_\_\_

Help during event \_\_\_\_\_

Help after the event \_\_\_\_\_

Call me later when my schedule is better known \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP: Peter Barnes [pwbarnes@earthlink.net](mailto:pwbarnes@earthlink.net) (650-637-1210),  
David Pryor, [MRMARKLIN@aol.com](mailto:MRMARKLIN@aol.com), or David Baird [david.baird@hp.com](mailto:david.baird@hp.com)