

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

Bay Area Chapter **February 2004 Newsletter**

When: Saturday Feb 14, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Where: St. Archangel Michael
Serbian Orthodox Church
18870 Allendale Ave
Saratoga, CA
host : Richard Orr (408) 559-7450

Meeting Agenda:

- Swap Meet
- Polo shirt distribution
- Videos
- Show and Tell – HOe or N Scale trains

Special assignment...

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

Meeting Agenda

Let's do a swap meet and show some videos. David Baird will bring his HOe modules and some Austrian narrow gauge trains. If you have HOe trains or N Scale trains, feel free to bring them and run them on this track. Also, any new goodies to show from holiday acquisitions, bring them, too! We can probably set up loops of 2- and 3-rail standard gauge if people are interested.

The polo shirts will be ready for distribution at the meeting. The shirts are the same as the new Sacramento Chapter shirts - navy blue with maroon collars, ETE logo in gold. The logo says San Francisco Bay Area Chapter. A few shirts are available that do not have any chapter name, but still have the ETE logo. The cost is \$25 per shirt. Please bring a check payable to ETE Bay Area Chapter.

The meeting is on Valentine's Day. Last year we had a theme of chocolate cars. If you have any cars with flowers or other

romantic connotations, this would be a good meeting to show them off.

Recap of the January Meeting

A very nice finale to the Blackhawk run. Bill Juergens presented a slide show of shops, sheds and museums around Europe. At the business meeting, Rolf Krumbiegel volunteered to be the events coordinator for the chapter, and he was readily voted in to that role.

New Members

Please welcome new members William Bigley, John Coha, Erhard "Paul" Nieber, and Charles Smith.

Badge Order Forms

The business that provides the ETE badges has changed its address and phone number. The new order form is available on the ETE website under the members menu – you login then

you can access online forms. David Baird will continue to bring hard copy forms to the meetings. The price has gone up to \$6.75 per badge.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

Lots of stuff for the module group – see the Reverse Corner below.

ETE meetings :

March 13 : Hope Lutheran Church, San Leandro

April 10 : Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos

May 8 : Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club

Reverse Corner - notes from the Module

SIG by *Tom Melka* (melka@pacbell.net)

Everyone had a great time at the January meeting in the Blackhawk Museum. We hope you made it.

Bill Juergens delivered an exceptional European rail tour slide presentation to the members and general public. Bill presented a virtual tour of Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, France and Switzerland. His slides featured the great train museums, shops, model train exhibits and open-air museums of Europe. Many thanks to Bill for his professional quality visuals and fascinating oration.

The Blackhawk Museum graciously provided an outstanding meeting room for our use. The Module SIG took advantage of the space for our planning review prior to the Chapter general business meeting held there. Of course, all the members enjoyed our displays and the operating layout. The latter featuring Robert deJong and Cees Feith running both AC and DC equipment at the same time.

We have two venues in February!

Plan on joining us at Talbot's Toyland in San Mateo Saturday and Sunday, February 21 & 22. We will have a set-up in the front of the store, right inside the window. They will have the Märklin representative there and likely have some give-a-ways. Talbot's will usually have an in-store sale at the same time. Some ETE members have picked up great deals on European train items in years past. Join us for the fun. Bring the credit card of your choice!

Talbot's Toyland is located at:
445 South B Street
San Mateo, Ca.94401

Open Saturday 9:30 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

(650) 931-8100

Once again, the ETE module SIG will be the European Train "cornerstone" at the Great American Trains Show (GATS)

Cow Palace this year. It is the weekend of February 28 & 29, Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Many of our ETE members will be there with sales tables featuring the latest European train items and some "clean out the collection" specials. Come see our layout and help spread the European Train enthusiasm to the deprived American model train community!

Cow Palace

Geneva and Santos Streets

Daly City, Ca.

Saturday and Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Later in the year, we will have chapter meetings in conjunction with our SIG layout venues. The April Chapter meeting will be at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos. The July meeting will once again be at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville. You will recall the great BBQ meeting we had there last year.

This will be a fun year full of European trains. See you in February at Talbot's and the Cow Palace!

Eurosnips Feb 2004 (compiled by Jim Recker)

EuroRail NEWS - February, 2004

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Strike in France

PARIS, France - Jan. 24 -- Rail workers in France were on strike last week from Tuesday evening to Thursday morning (the 22nd). Half of all long distance trains were cancelled. Unions are opposed to a government proposal that would curtail their right to strike. The proposal would ensure a minimum mandatory rail service. They are also unhappy with a 1% wage increase for 2004 after 0% in 2003, and 3505 job cuts, 2000 of them at the FRET freight division.

PASSENGER COUNT RISES: EUROSTAR & THALYS

LONDON - Jan. 18 -- The completion of the first half of the London-Chunnel channel tunnel rail link in September, which saves up to 20 minutes, has helped Eurostar win 15% more passengers in the last three months of 2003, compared to the same period a year earlier. Revenue increased 11%. But the gains come after two years of declining patronage. Eurostar is also refurbishing its trains and lounges.

BRUSSELS - Jan. 18 -- Thalys reports that its market share has recovered to 77% in October after slumping to 66% in February after cheap airlines started competing. 2003 saw revenue and passenger volume drop 2%, but traffic to

Germany increased 9% after a 62km new railway opened in Belgium in December 2002 between Brussels and Köln. December traffic was up 1,7% over December 2002. Thalys operates trains between Paris and Brussels, with branches from Brussels to Amsterdam and Köln.

IKEA TRAINS ROLL ON

COPENHAGEN - Jan. 16 -- Though Ikea has quit its rail business, its only train, a Sweden-Germany shuttle, is being continued under a new flag. The German company, which ran the trains between Duisburg and the Danish border, RAG, has now been certified for traffic in Denmark. Ikea's transportation agent has now contracted RAG to run the trains from Duisburg through both Denmark and Germany. Earlier, the Ikea trains were driven through Denmark by TraXion, a Danish operator.

NEW TGV ORDERS

PARIS - Jan. 15 -- French National Railways (SNCF) has confirmed a new order for TGV Duplex trains worth €310 million. The order is part of a master agreement signed in October 2000 calling for 82 Duplex trains supplied by a partnership of Alstom and Bombardier.

EUROPEAN RAIL LIBERALIZATION IN DISPUTE

BRUSSELS - Jan. 29 -- The European Parliament and Council of Ministers are still in conflict over the adoption of the Second Railway Package, which will bring about further reform of railways in Europe. The key issues are the deadline for the introduction of open access for railfreight and passenger services throughout the European Union (EU), the development of common safety rules, and the composition of the board of the proposed new European Railway Agency. A conciliation committee meeting this week failed to resolve the points of dispute, the most important of which is the European Parliament's plan to open up rail access to all railfreight services from January 1 2006 and all passenger services from January 1 2008. These deadlines bring forward the dates included in the original proposals drawn up by the Council of Ministers, which envisage liberalizing international routes initially before allowing open access on domestic routes.

ANTWERPEN CENTRAAL REOPENS

ANTWERP - Jan. 1 -- Starting the New Year, Antwerpen Centraal's (original) upper level was restored to full use, now with six terminal tracks instead of the former ten. A long atrium or light-well has been created between the two groups of three tracks, allowing natural light through the fine old

train-shed roof down to the new tracks still under construction, four terminal platforms at the lower (street) level and four through platforms at the deep (sub-surface) level, the latter due to come into service with the south-north tunnel at the end of 2006.

OTHER RAILWAY NEWS

DENMARK: København's new Flintholm station opened today. It is set to be Denmark's third biggest by passenger number by 2010. It boasts metro, commuter and long-distance trains, and sits on the new Ringbanen cross-town link.

GREAT BRITAIN: LONDON - Jan. 20 -- The British Government has suppressed a rail industry document that paints an alarming picture of a ramshackle network that will fail to show any major improvement unless the industry receives billions of pounds extra from taxpayers. Further discussions in Parliament are anticipated.

GREAT BRITAIN: LONDON - Jan. 20 -- The Strategic Rail Authority has postponed indefinitely consultation on a 360 km/h railway from London to Edinburgh that would halve travel time to 2 hours. The SRA says it must concentrate on making existing lines more reliable.

In Memoriam

Mark Cihlar contacted me with the sad news that chapter member Julie Laughland died on January 27th. The Laughlands have been long time ETE members, and very active in the chapter leadership, activities and video productions. Our condolences go out to the Laughland family. I believe the family is preferring to keep any services private.

I have fond memories of Julie at the ETE meetings, laughing with the other ETE ladies. But my favorite memory is of a chance meeting with Julie and Gordon in Switzerland. I was at the Spiez station awaiting a local train that would take me up the Loetschberg Pass to Kandersteg. The purpose was to take the BLS walking path from Kandersteg down the mountain

past Blausee-Mitholz station to the town of Kandergrund.

As I waited for the train on the Spiez platform, I looked up and saw the two of them waiting for the same train. We were able to share the train ride up the pass till I disembarked and they continued on down to Brig. I took one of my favorite pictures of the whole vacation – the two of them in the passenger car. I tried to scan the shot to include with this newsletter, but it did not transfer well. I will bring the photo to the ETE meetings to show.

I will continue to treasure these memories of Julie Laughland.

David G. Baird

Directions to the 2/14/04 ETE meeting at 18870 Allendale Ave in Saratoga : Use highway 85, between Highways 280 and 17. Take the Saratoga Ave. exit and head towards the southwest (towards the hills). Turn left on Fruitvale Ave. and go a block or so to Allendale. Turn left onto Allendale. Note that you will pass the Church of Latter Day Saints right after the West Valley College parking lots. The Serbian Orthodox Church is a little further down Allendale, on the right side of the street.

If you're coming from the East Bay, use 880/17 to highway 85, then take 85 north to Saratoga Ave.

