



*Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter  
February 2005*

## **FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING AT THE HILDEBRANDTS** **Saturday, February 12, 2005, 1-5 pm.**

Andreas and Annie Hildebrandt, 140 Summerhill Lane, Woodside, CA  
Phone: (650) 364-2233 Email: andreashil@aol.com

See map and directions below

**REFRESHMENTS:** *Please bring items listed if your last name begins with the letters:*

A-G: Desserts — H-O: Drinks — P-Z: Finger foods or salads

*We can always use your extra plates, utensils, cups and ice!*

### **Meetings Calendar**

**Bay Area Chapter meetings — Saturdays from  
1:00 to 5:00 PM unless otherwise noted**

**Feb 12:** Andreas & Annie Hildebrandt's home, 140 Summerhill Lane, Woodside, 94062. NOTE that dues are due: \$20.00 (\$5 national and \$15 chapter).

**Mar 12:** Hope Lutheran Church, 1801 Manor Blvd., San Leandro. Hosts: Phil & Mary Woods (510) 351-8653. Note we'll hold a SWAP MEET.

**Apr 2 (1 week earlier than usual):** Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Rd, San Carlos, (650) 654-0200. Host: Peter Barnes (650) 637-1210

**May 14:** Bob & Colleen Greenfield's home

**Jun 11:** Walnut Creek Model Railroad Club, 2751 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, . Hosts: Gordon Laughland and Don Good

**Jul 9:** Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Corner of Prospect and Railroad Aves., Danville, . Host: Rolf Krumbiegel (925) 939-7576

**Aug 13:** Golden Gate Live Steamers, Tilden Park, Berkeley. Host: Jim Lowe

**Sep 10:** Home of Hans & Heidi Coaz

**Oct 8:** Home of Stretch & Michelle Andersen. Our annual Module SIG FREMO venue./

**Nov: NO MEETING.** International Railfair in Roseville

**Dec:** TO BE ANNOUNCED (TBA)

### **Events Calendar**

**Module SIG operational displays and other events**

**Feb 11-13:** Great American Train Show (GATS), Cow Palace, San Francisco. Coordinator: Tom Melka

**Mar 11-13:** Talbot's Toyland, San Mateo with Märklin USA. Coordinator: Tom Melka

**Mar 20 – Apr 4:** Hiller Aviation Museum Spring venue (our fourth), San Carlos Airport. Coordinator: Peter Barnes

**Jun 24 – Jul 10:** Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville. Coordinator: Rolf Krumbiegel. Note 26 June is "The Big Train Day"

**Aug 20-21:** Eurowest 2005, Basque Cultural Center, South San Francisco (our third here). Coordinator: Tom Melka

**Sep 24-25:** GATS, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, San Jose. Coordinator: Coordinator Tom Melka

### **Highlights of past meetings**

The December meeting was held at the Blackhawk Museum in Danville. Dave Pryor and David Baird thanked the membership for the support and fun they had during the last two years as Chairman and Treasurer, respectively.

New officers were elected: Chris Vais as Chairman, Steve Imialek as Secretary-Treasurer/Membership Officer, and Rolf Krumbiegel as Meeting Coordinator. Tom Melka continues in his role as Module SIG coordinator.



Jacques Vuye gave an update on Märklin's sponsorship for this venue. Six starter sets were given away each week. There is also free literature, catalogs, and discount coupons available. This seems to be very popular with the public.

Rolf and Hans Auerbach brought the goodies for the meeting with a German holiday theme, courtesy of the chapter. Very impressive and enjoyed by all who attended. A special thanks to Blackhawk for the use of their seminar rooms for our meeting.

January's meeting featured sausages, saurkraut, and salads. The meeting was hosted by Maria and Dave Pryor at their home in Hayward. Members brought desserts and sodas. So it was a very enjoyable feast.

Dave showed videos from the previous Messe that Maria and he visited. So this was a chance to sit back, enjoy the excellent food that the Pryor's provided and enjoy the camaraderie.

A very warm and heartfelt appreciation to Maria and Dave Pryor for preparing a fine meal and opening their home to us.

Jacques summarized Märklin's sponsorship of the SIG's Blackhawk venue. Materials were provided by Märklin to build the latest module, Rolf's brewery and biergarten. Six starter sets were given away.

And, as ICE-ing on the cake, an ICE set, the display starter sets, the fire wagon, and a Z set were sold by Dr. Eisenbahn – Jacques – to members during this meeting. A win-win for Märklin and ETE.

Jacques also displayed and ran the new Märklin Mobile Station. He fielded our questions and demonstrated the versatility of this new digital command control system.

The Blackhawk venue lasted almost six weeks. 21 operators and 11 docents were there each week from Tuesday to Sunday. Again, our modules are very popular with the public.

Dan Dunn, the Blackhawk Museum curator, reported that the majority of phone calls the museum received the last few days of our venue were asking how long the "trains" would be there. A special thank you, Dan, to the museum and its staff for their support. Did you know that we are returning next year?

Bay Area Chapter has a new post office box: ETE, P.O. Box 1451, Brentwood, CA 94513

Finally, over half the membership has paid their dues for 2005. Any questions, please call Steve Imialek at 925 516 1673.

## DUES DUE! DO YOUR DUTY!

Dear ETE members:

Welcome to another great year of European railroading with European Train Enthusiasts (ETE).

This is a friendly reminder that the 2005 membership dues are now due.

Once again we have been able to keep the cost of membership low, while continuing to offer expanded value in the ETE Express as well as two great regional shows, EuroEast and EuroWest.

The National dues remain at \$15, International dues remain at \$20. Additionally you might need to pay local dues required by your local chapter. You can find the local dues amount by going to the chapters section on the ETE Web site below.

If you have not paid your dues yet please do so at this time, either through your local chapter or directly to ETE. Please submit your dues to your chapter leaders or mail them to ETE, PO Box 365, Fremont, CA 94537. If you have already paid your dues please disregard this notice.

ETE Webmaster  
Steven Stern  
Fremont, CA USA

European Train Enthusiasts  
Email: [steve@ete.org](mailto:steve@ete.org)  
<http://www.ete.org>

## The Reverse Corner

The new year began with the Module SIG finishing their last week of an almost six week appearance at the Blackhawk Museum. This Fourth Annual Blackhawk Holiday venue was, as always, a crowd pleaser.

This time three new modules were added to the line-up. Rolf Krumbiegel, with Märklin sponsorship of materials and model building help from Richard Orr, built a brewery and beer garden diorama complete with siding and lights.

Many compliments were heard about the diorama and all those people in the beer garden tent enjoying the music on the dance floor and their favorite brew.

Steve Imialek refurbished Jacques Vuye's original Belgian modules which brought every module ever built by the club members, except seven which have been dismantled for home use by previous members, back on line.

There were 26 modules in all at Blackhawk; 20 of them member owned and the module SIG owned six corner modules plus the control panel.

None of this would have been possible without the help of the 21 operators and 11 docents who volunteered their time to run trains and engage the public from 10-5 Tuesday – Sunday from 26 Nov to 2 Jan.. A special thanks goes to Rolf, Stretch Andersen, and Tom Melka who coordinated this venue. And a very special thank you goes to Dan Dunn, the museum coordinator.

Thanks to Jacques Vuye, Märklin USA provided six starter sets to be raffled away to the museum visitors as well as free catalogs, discount coupons, and bumper stickers for kids of all ages. This was truly a win-win-win situation for the modular group, ETE and the Blackhawk Museum.



This venue also included the display cases put together by Jacques, Dieter Vorbach, Paul Canton, Don Good, and Dave Pryor as well as the video program by Gordon Laughland. Thanks to all who made this an enjoyable venue.

And talk about an ETE class act, did you know that Dieter's Mercedes Benz display from LAST year is still on display in the Blackhawk Museum main lobby?

### Hiller Aviation Museum module display

The Module SIG will be displaying their layout at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos this spring. The dates are Sunday, March 20 (set up) through Sunday, April 3 (take down). Museum hours are 10-5 every day.

This is our third year at the Museum and we were being warmly welcomed back.

Peter Barnes is looking for operators and docents for this display, especially from Peninsula Chapter members near this venue; however, all are welcome to participate. Please contact Peter at [pwbarnes@earthlink.net](mailto:pwbarnes@earthlink.net) or 650-637-1210, or see him at the February and March meeting to sign up.

The Museum is hosting an evening event on Saturday March 26, 8-10pm, for which they would like our layout to be operating. If you would like to help, dessert is included. Let Peter know soon as he suspects there may be many dessert lovers.

### April Chapter meeting

The April Chapter meeting will be at the Hiller Museum in their conference room as last year. The date is Saturday, April 2, from 1-5. (Note this is a week earlier than our usual second Saturday).

Klaus Kiel from the Sacramento chapter has agreed to give a presentation on "A different Aspect of Model Railroading - Aviation"; based on his interest in modeling aviation dioramas.

Klaus notes - "Particular emphasis will be given to suitable prototypes; to the sources of 1:87 scale models; to the very modest inventory of tools and supplies required; to the construction techniques and difficulty, to the economical investment of about \$3.50 per plane, and especially to the fun creating and displaying realistic aircraft miniatures in a model railroad setting."

It should be a fun meeting melding the fascinating technical and historical aspects of railroads and airplanes.

We have another exciting year of model train operations ahead! But we could use some HELP. We are currently in need of MEMBERS who would be willing to store and transport the TUNNEL CORNER and/or the REVERSE CORNER. Please make sure you can make most, if not all, the venues and have a covered space in your vehicle to hold them (truck shell, van, SUV, etc.) as well as your domicile (garage, etc.) if you are willing to help and be a part of our chapter's module SIG, please contact:

Tom Melka, [melka@pacbell.net](mailto:melka@pacbell.net) or (415)- 515-0709 or Rolf Krumbiegel, [rolkru@earthlink.net](mailto:rolkru@earthlink.net) or (925) 939-7576

## EuroSnips *Compiled by Jim Recker*

### TOP STORIES:

#### Germany: Million-dollar-plus theft from Märklin Museum — *Many irreplaceable historic one-of-a-kind models were stolen*

GÖPPINGEN, Jan 19 — Burglars broke into the Märklin Museum in Göppingen during the night of January 18 and stole more than 100 historic trains and other models from the museum's collection.

The stolen items, valued at more than €1 million (\$1.3 million), include O and 1 gauge trains and ship models produced before 1910. The burglars also took prototypes of the first OO/HO scale trains and the museum's oldest piece, the "stork leg" model train produced in 1891.

The thieves broke the security alarm and forced open an emergency exit door. Local police do not believe they were amateurs.

In an initial statement, Märklin chairman Paul Adams lamented, "a part of our history was stolen. For Märklin, this is an extremely painful loss".

While Märklin will soon reopen the museum building, open since 1979, the only remaining complete representation of Märklin's history is now exists in an exhibit in Vienna.

Besides listing the stolen items on its website ([www.märklin.de](http://www.märklin.de)), the firm is offering a €200,000 reward for the return of the missing items. Anyone with information on this burglary is asked to contact Fred Gates at Märklin USA at [fredgates@marklin.com](mailto:fredgates@marklin.com) or by telephone at 262-784-8854.

#### Italy: Head-on crash kills 13 in northern Italy

CREVALCORE, Jan 7 —

A passenger and a freight train crashed head-on in the fog in northern Italy, killing at least 13 people and injuring more than 50.

The impact derailed one of the engines, while one passenger car was thrust into the air and crashed down onto the other train.

It was Italy's worst train wreck since a 1980 crash which killed 20. The freight train was carrying heavy steel construction girders, and the impact of the crash hurled them like spears into one coach of the inter-regional passenger train carrying about 100 people.

Medics treated the injured on the roofs of the mangled coaches. Muddy fields trackside made it difficult for ambulances to reach the disaster scene and the injured had to be carried on stretchers to roads.



Fire and railway officials said thick fog made it difficult to bring cranes close to the track.

Accidents are fairly common on single-track lines in Italy and the crash has prompted renewed demands that they be upgraded, at least those sections between large cities such as Verona and Bologna.

One rail union called for a government investigation into the safety of traffic on local rail lines. They accuse the government of wasting time and money on huge projects such as a plan to build a giant bridge between Sicily and mainland Italy instead of improving the railways used by millions each day.

Italian railways and magistrates opened an investigation into the cause of the collision. When trains are using the same track, one usually waits in a station or siding until the other has passed. It was not clear what caused the tragedy.

### **ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE:**

#### **Europe-wide travel guarantees**

Several European train operators introduced a travel guarantee on December 12, 2004. Passengers who are more than an hour delayed because of an ÖBB long distance train get a 20% refund on the ticket price. The guarantee is only valid on tickets costing over €20, or €50 on international trains.

#### **France: Very punctual Eurostar 98% on-time**

Eurostar achieved its highest weekly on-time score ever in the second week of January; 97.56% of all trains arrived early or on time, and during three days that week, all trains met all scheduled times. In 2004, Eurostar was, on average, met its schedule 89.2% of the time, compared to just 78.3% in 2003.

#### **Germany: Railion buys RAG Bahn & Hafen**

Mining, energy and chemicals group RAG has sold its logistics unit RAG Bahn und Hafen to Railion, Deutsche Bahn's freight division. RAG has 950 employees, 110 locos and 2300 wagons. The sale price was not disclosed.

#### **Germany: Cross-city tunnel key to Leipzig S-Bahn**

After many years of delay, the long-planned S-Bahn tunnel below the center of Leipzig is finally under construction. The 4.3 km twin bores serving four stations will run up to 22 meters below the surface and include a short section with a 4% grade.

Four S-Bahn and three regional express services will be routed through the tunnel, to be joined later by long-distance trains linking Berlin and München. Completion of the tunnel in 2009 will be accompanied by an expansion of the local S-Bahn network.

#### **Spain: Talgo has new gauge-convertible electric lok**

Last month, Patentes Talgo unveiled a prototype for the series of 44 gauge-convertible electric locomotives for RENFE, to power through services on both its 56.5" standard gauge AVE high-speed lines and its 66" wide gauge regular national network.

Designated L-9202, the lok is 19.4 m long and weighs 74 metric tons. It has four pantographs — two for 3 kV DC and two for 25 kV 50Hz at a maximum speed of 260 kph. The loco is equipped with LZB and Asfa, and is designed to accept ETCS.

Mechanical parts are made by Talgo. The gauge-convertible bogies were developed from power bogie used on the experimental Talgo XXI diesel trainset.

Talgo said also that Bosnia-Herzegovina train operator ZFBH announced in December that it planned to order nine loco-hauled trainsets to work inter-city services from Sarajevo to Ploce, Beograd, Zagreb, Budapest and possibly München.

A Talgo pendular trainset was tested between Zagreb, Mostar and Ploce by Croatian railways.

#### **Sweden: Storm stops trains**

STOCKHOLM, Jan 19 — A storm with winds up to 125 kph seriously damaged several railway lines south of Swedish capital. The Stockholm - Malmö main line did manage to reopen after a day, but partially single-tracked.

The coast-to-coast Göteborg-Kalmar line will not be opened until Jan. 27 and the rail network will not be restored to full capacity for months. The storm also flooded Brunnsparken, the central node of Göteborg's tram network but this was restored the same day.

#### **Sweden: Wifi added to more SJ trains**

SJ (Swedish Railways) is equipping 85 X2000 and new Alstom double-decker X40 trains with wifi wireless internet and better mobile phone reception. This is in addition to the seven Linx X2000 trains taken over by SJ that already have wifi.

#### **Switzerland: AlpTransit costs rise as track is laid**

Workers on the 34.6 km Lötschberg base tunnel are expected to break through in a few weeks, another milestone in Switzerland's AlpTransit project. Construction teams are working flat out to meet the 2007 opening date.

Track laying began at Raron on December 17, using slab track design with sleeper blocks enclosed in rubber boots. Up to 100 meters a day is being laid.

136 stainless steel containers housing signaling, train control and other electronics are being fitted and tested in Bern prior to installation next October at eight locations in the tunnel. Initial test runs are scheduled on the eastern track between Raron and Ferden in June 2006.

On the 57 km Gotthard base tunnel, about 40% of the 153 km of shafts, passages and tunnels needed have been



completed; 2 km per month are being dug. Gotthard is far more challenging than Lötschberg and is not expected to open until 2015-16.

Reviews of completed work predict that the final cost of AlpTransit will be higher than estimated, perhaps exceeding SFr 16 billion. Two construction firms — AlpTransit Gotthard AG and BLS AlpTransit AG — plan to submit a status report stating reasons for the expected cost overruns.

**UK: Refranchising passenger operations**

The Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) issued an invitation to tender (ITT) for the Integrated Kent Franchise (IKF) to the four bidders pre-qualified in Dec. 2003. SRA included a Stakeholder Briefing Document of proposed changes due to the introduction of domestic services on the Channel Tunnel (Chunnel) Rail Link from 2009.

To be awarded 'by early autumn', IKF will replace South Eastern Trains, now being operated directly by SRA, following the termination of the Connex South Eastern franchise in Nov. 2003.

The four bidders for IKF are 1) South Eastern Railways DSB-Stagecoach JV, 2) FirstGroup's First Kent Integrated Railways, 3) Great South Eastern Railway's GNER Holdings-MTR JV, and 4) London & South Eastern's grouping of Go-Ahead and Keolis.

Greater Western will operate First Great Western (FGW), FGW Link and Wessex franchises for 10 years. Thameslink will operate Great Northern services now operated by WAGN nine years; the last three years will depend on progress on Thameslink 2000.

**USA: GM sells its Electro-Motive Division**

General Motors will sell its locomotive-making unit — Electro-Motive Division (EMD) and General Motors Diesel (GMD) in Canada — to investment companies Greenbriar Equity and Berkshire Partners. EMD has 2,600 employees in LaGrange, Illinois, and in London, Ontario (GMD).

EMD was the world's largest supplier of diesel-electric locomotives after World War II. It was the most successful locomotive builder in North America where it's products proved to be more reliable and economical than its competitors'.

EMD diesels were the primary replacements for American steam by 1960. EMD has also supplied diesel locomotives to several European, Mideast, African, Asian and Australian rail systems.

**Classified Ads:**

**Hummel figurines from Germany are available!**

While many ETE members are known to collect German trains, it is also known that many of our spouses are collectors of another well known German export – Hummel Figurines. One of our members is liquidating a large collection of Hummels, and would like to give ETE members first pick. If you are interested in more information, please contact Stretch Andersen. He can be reached at 925 837-8198 or StretchA@aol.com

*Remember, Valentines Day is February 14th!*

**DUES FOR 2005 ARE \$20.00**

\$15.00 for ETE National and \$5.00 for Bay Area Chapter

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ – \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to "E T E". Mail payment with this dues form to:

**European Train Enthusiasts  
P.O. Box 1451  
Brentwood, CA 94513**

**DIRECTIONS TO THE FEBRUARY 12 MEEETING:**

**Hildebrandt Home, 140 Summerhill Lane, Woodside.**

**From 101:** Exit onto Woodside Road west. Turn right onto Fernside Street (at the southeast corner of Menlo Country Club). Turn left onto Massachusetts Avenue. Continue west – Massachusetts becomes Woodside Drive. Turn right onto Northridge Lane. Turn right onto Summerhill Lane.

**From 280:** Exit onto Woodside Road east. Pass the Menlo Country Club on the left and turn left onto Fernside Street. Turn left onto Massachusetts Avenue. Continue west – Massachusetts becomes Woodside Drive. Turn right onto Northridge Lane. Turn right onto Summerhill Lane.

