



## Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter February 2008

### Chapter Meeting Saturday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 5:00pm

**ONCE AGAIN!** Blackhawk Automotive Museum (*Downstairs Classroom*)

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle • Danville, CA 94506 (925) 736.2277

**Wear your ETE shirt or badge to gain free entrance to the Museum.**

**Refreshments: Please bring items listed if your LAST name starts with**

**A-G: Desserts    H-O: Drinks    P-Z: Finger foods**

### Future Chapter Meetings

March 15	Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos <b>Special Module Display</b> (until the 03/30)
April 12	Hope Lutheran Church, San Leandro <b>SWAP MEET</b>
May 10	Generations Church, San Carlos
June 14	Western Railroad Museum, Rio Vista <b>Joint outing with Sacramento Chapter</b>
July 12	Museum of the Ramon Valley, Danville <b>Summer Party</b>
August 9	West Bay Railroad Club, Menlo Park <b>DC running</b>
September 13	Annie and Andreas Hildebrandt, Woodside <b>Octoberfest</b>
October 11	Camino Medical Group, Mountain View
November	<b>NO MEETING</b> – Railfair in Roseville
December 13	Blackhawk Automotive Museum, Danville

### Upcoming Module SIG Events

March 15 – 30	Hiller Aviation Museum, San Carlos
May 10 – 24	The Mechanics Bank (Hilltop), Richmond
July 26 – 27	<b>EuroWest 2008</b> - Hiller Aviation Museum
Oct. 18 – 26	Alden Lane Nursery, Livermore
Nov. 28 – Jan. 11	Blackhawk Automotive Museum

### Have news to share?

We will publish almost anything you can write as long as it has to do with European TRAINS!

NOTE: PRESS DEADLINE IS THE 25<sup>th</sup>, every month  
Send contributions to: [jcrecker@cs.com](mailto:jcrecker@cs.com)

*Editors: Jim Recker & Jens Ullmann*

*Publishing & Distribution: Jens Ullmann*

*ETE Chapter Chairman: John Ruehle*

*ETE Secretary: Lalo Ruehle*

*ETE Treasurer: Ed Rikkelman*

*ETE Events/Program Coordinator: Rolf Krumbiegel*

*ETE Module SIG News: Steve Imialek*

### January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Meeting Minutes

#### A. Call to Order:

A regular monthly meeting, held at the Belmont Congregational Church in Belmont, CA, was called to order by John Ruehle at 2:00pm. The ETE thanks the Peter Barnes and the Belmont Congregational Church for allowing us to hold our meeting there.

#### B. Announcement:

One of the next monthly chapter meetings is to be held at the Hiller Aviation Museum on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 5PM. This is also the location of a special 2 week venue for a display by our Module SIG, from March 15<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### C. Attendance at Blackhawk:

Attendance during the Module SIG display from during November to January was follows:

Adults:	2,694
Seniors:	772
Students:	800
Children:	550
Total:	4,816



D Treasurer's Report:

The transfer of our funds from Union to Mechanic's Bank has been completed.  
Dues were due January 31<sup>st</sup> – \$30.00

E. New Member:

John Ruehle introduced a new member, Klaus.

F. Hiller Aviation Museum Module SIG Event:

This year's show runs two weeks, March 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>.  
*The Museum will be closed on Easter (March 23<sup>rd</sup>).*  
Peter Barnes is coordinating this event: Operators and docents needed for the ETE modules, especially midweek.  
Steve Imialek will be promoting train operations, with the idea to challenging operators and offering diversity.

G. EuroWest 2008 Planning has begun:

This year's proposed theme is the history of trains:  
On *Saturday*, a chronological display, starting with Era I. Trains of appropriate era will be scheduled to run throughout the day.

On *Sunday* – the history of model trains. The oldest models would be first, ending the day with the most recent models available running last.

Please contact Jens Ullmann to join the EuroWest 2008 planning committee. The first planning meeting will take place after general chapter meeting in February at the Blackhawk Museum.

H. Raising Dues:

Joe Freese read two letters from ETE Bay Area chapter members questioning the increase of our national dues without membership vote. There was some discussion around the idea of offering "tiered dues": Those not wishing to receive the Express would pay a smaller National dues portion.

Other ideas arose, e.g. establishing a local chapter fund to aid the few people whose limited fixed incomes are stretched by the increased dues. No consensus was reached. The Chapter Officers is to study this topic more and report back on the cost and contribution of the ETE National services for liability insurance, and the ETE website.

I. Miscellaneous:

- The newsletter deliveries by e-mail and U.S. mail seem to be running smoothly.
- Mark Cihlar is looking to swap his 2-rail Hag BLS Re4/4 #161.
- Richard Orr made some observations regarding ETE module operations at Blackhawk. He expressed concern about track roadbed coming loose, projecting upward and presenting obstacles to the running trains. He also shared his technique in making sure that kids kept their hands off the modules.
- Don Good is trying to coordinate another joint Bay Area/Sacramento chapter meet in Rio Vista in June, with a swap meet planned.

**2008 European Train Enthusiasts (ETE)  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter Officers**

Chairman: John Ruehle  
Phone: (415) 334-3041  
Email: [ruehle\\_j@comcast.net](mailto:ruehle_j@comcast.net)

Treasurer/Membership: Edwin Rikkelman  
Phone: (925) 689-2662  
Email: [rikkelman@msn.com](mailto:rikkelman@msn.com)

Secretary: Lalo Ruehle  
Phone: (415) 334-3041  
Email: [ruehlem@comcast.net](mailto:ruehlem@comcast.net)

Events/Program Coordinator: Rolf Krumbiegel  
Phone: (925) 939-7576  
Email: [rolkru@earthlink.net](mailto:rolkru@earthlink.net)

**Note from the Treasurer**

For me the winter time normally means more time for trains. In most winters that is the rule. This winter has been the exception. Besides my busy work schedule, my kids have been demanding that I take them to the ski slopes. This has been very rewarding for me to see them take on some of the blue runs on their own now. Also not paying for the \$100/day or more for two kids for the day leaves a little more money for some trains. With that said, the only time I have ran trains this winter, other than at Black Hawk was on my Dads 1 Gauge layout during New Years up in the Paradise area.

I look forward to finishing the collection of 2008 dues so I can be freed up for some train time. Here is an update for this collection. Last year we collected dues for 102 members, as of 1/26/08 we have 64 paid memberships. Two of those are new members. So

we are more than half way. Our goal was to get memberships paid by 1/31/08. I will be at the next monthly meeting at Black Hawk on 2/9/08. If you plan on attending you can pay the \$30 renewal at that time. If not, please send in just a check to .....

**ETE**  
**PO Box 21544**  
**Concord CA 94521**

On a last comment, I was hoping to publish our 2007 chapter financial report in this newsletter. There are a few accounting points that I am taking up with Steve Stern and National ETE before I can do so. As soon as those points are addressed I will make that report available.

### **Reverse Corner** – By Steve Imialek

A hearty round of applause to all the module owners, operators, docents and chapter members who participated in the Module SIG's very successful 2007 venues!

The first of our last two venues was the Fall Festival at **Alden Lane Nursery** in Livermore. On the two weekends we had 350 adults and 260 children visit the layout. During the school tours that week we had 540 children view it. Many delighted comments and many happy faces were everywhere to be seen. A nursery staff member reported, "The trains are a marvelous addition to our family activities here at the nursery". We have accepted their invitation to return to their 2008 Fall Festival. Please mark your calendars for the week of Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> and come enjoy the wonderful surroundings and ambience of Alden Lane Nursery.

The seventh annual **Blackhawk Museum** holiday venue was also a resounding success. During the 35 days, there were 2694 adults, 772 'kids over 65', 800 students, and 550 children who toured the 28 module layout. Rolf Krumbiegel displayed his latest lighted village with church and marketplace diorama with the help of Dieter Vorbach's wonderful wizardry. Dieter's touch was also noted on the Jacques'/Steve's modules as a Belgian construction crew magically appeared to repair a retaining wall. Dieter and Wolfgang Leitenberger also displayed their Deutsche Post vehicles. Dieter provided an impressive display

showcasing the history of the German postal system. Also back in the module line-up were Stretch's 'mountain modules' providing a unique topographical relief to the layout. Stretch also displayed his late father's Z scale locomotive exhibit, which is always a crowd pleaser and generates many comments about model trains and their sizes. Every day there were also two continuously playing ETE videos. And, to top it off, the Märklin fire engine starter set was won by a four year old boy and his little brother; future ETE'ers we hope!



Presentation of Blackhawk raffle Märklin train set to Jonathan and Gillian Marek and their little 4-year old son of Lafayette.

And yes, we have been invited back for our eighth annual Blackhawk venue.

Please check "Upcoming Module SIG Event" calendar on Page 1 for the 2008 SIG venue schedule.

### **Next Module SIG event:**

**HILLER AVIATION MUSEUM, SAN CARLOS AIRPORT**  
Sat. Mar. 15 – Sun. Mar. 30, 2008

Our fourth annual spring holiday venue: Peter Barnes is again our contact and venue coordinator.

Don't forget: The Easter Bunny arrives by helicopter March 16. Many docents will be needed. Circle your calendars and plan on joining us!

Finally, there are **MODULES FOR SALE**. Yes, Ian Lorentzen needs to make room for his latest construction so he is selling all **THREE** of his Hans Beck modules. They are ready to run and hopefully the new owner/s will join us at Hiller. Please contact Ian (510) 793-2038 or [ilorentzen@concast.net](mailto:ilorentzen@concast.net) for the 'particulars'.



## **EUROSNIPS** – By Jim Recker

### **Train Ends Car Chase – Kills 4**

NEUFCHÂTEAU, France, January 24 – An early morning high-speed car chase was suddenly interrupted by a freight train at a railroad crossing, killing three pursuing police officers and the driver of a stolen car.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy expressed the shock and sorrow of the entire nation to the families of the three officers.

An initial report describes that the three French *gendarmes* were chasing a stolen car when the driver stopped at a railroad crossing to wait and let pass a train, then inexplicably drove onto the tracks in front of another train. The pursuing policemen got out of their car to get the driver out; at the same time trying to alert the train engineer. Sadly the freight train was unable to stop, clipped the officers, and dragged the two cars some 900 feet. Two of the officers and the suspected car thief were killed instantly. The third officer died later in hospital.

### **Polite Driver Signals Train**

CHEILLE, France, January 25 – Another railroad crossing incident, shortly following a dramatic collision that killed 4, fortunately only injured the car driver and caused no damage to the railcar.

In this incident, while on a stretch of line running parallel to the D17 highway, the engineer of a regional local railcar on the Tours-Chinon line noticed a car traveling at a similar pace along side him. He then watched the driver flick his turn signal, but then was rather surprised when the driver turned but failed to stop at the railroad crossing. The train hit the car at a speed of 85 km/h (53mph). The car driver was taken to the hospital reporting some back pain. The 16 train passengers got to their destination in several taxis.

### **DB buys British Train Operator**

BERLIN, January 21 – German Rail (DB) announced that it is buying British passenger train operator Laing Rail for an undisclosed sum. This is DB's first passenger rail acquisition in Britain, although it

recently acquired EWS, Britain's biggest rail freight operator, from Canadian National.

Laing Rail owns Chiltern Railways, which operates services between London Marylebone, and Birmingham Snow Hill and Stratford-upon-Avon. Laing Rail is also a partner in the new London Overground franchise. A DB spokesman said that the acquisition "will allow us to substantially strengthen our position in the European market along with providing the basis for future growth."

### **RCA and GySEV Buys MÁV Cargo**

BUDAPEST, January 4 – A consortium of Austrian Federal Railways' (ÖBB) freight arm, Rail Cargo Austria (RCA), and Győr-Sopron-Ebenfurt Railway (GySEV) has completed its acquisition of Hungarian State Railways former freight division, MÁV Cargo, in a deal expected to be worth around Forints 102.5 billion (€404 million). The takeover is the ÖBB's first buyout of a non-Austrian company.

MÁV Cargo is a potentially lucrative acquisition for its new owner, boasting a 20% share of the Hungarian freight transport market and a turnover of Forints 93 billion in 2006, carrying 46.8 million metric tons of freight. MÁV Cargo expected 2007 to be another profitable year with an anticipated turnover of Forints 87.7 billion.

### **Eurotunnel Shuttle Revenues Rise**

LONDON, January 16 – Revenues from shuttle services at Eurotunnel reached €500 million (\$742 million) for the first time during 2007, but revenues at the operator of the cross-Channel tunnel still fell because of the end of guaranteed funding.

Passengers using the tunnel by Eurostar, the high-speed train service linking Paris and Brussels to London, also rose, by 5% to 8.26 million.

However, revenues from rail operators fell from €350 million to €262 million because of falling volumes of rail freight traffic and the end of the minimum user charge, guaranteed Eurotunnel minimum revenue from Eurostar and rail freight which ended in November 2006.

### Russia Railways Has Great Year

MOSCOW, January 24 – Russia Railways’ (RZD) net profit of Russian Railways more than tripled in 2007, rising to RUR84 billion (US\$ 3.41 billion) compared to the previous year. The company's President Vladimir Yakunin announced that company revenues climbed 12%. Russian Railways is forecasting more than RUB1 trillion (US\$ 40.60 billion) in revenue in 2008.

### China – Germany freight test

BERLIN, January 9 – German Rail (DB) and five other railways began test operation of intermodal freight services between China and Germany yesterday, when the train left Beijing on the first leg of its 10,000km journey to Hamburg. The service will take 20 days to reach the German port, running via Mongolia, the Trans-Siberian Railway, Belarus and Poland. The train is being run as part of the Eurasian Land Bridge project, a joint venture by the six railways to develop a viable alternative to sea and air freight between Asia and Europe.



DB CEO Mr. Hartmut Mehdorn said: “We want to demonstrate that that we can get a train like this to its destination quickly, safely, reliably, and under real-life operating conditions. The train will provide experience for the intended launch of regular Eurasian rail freight services, the potential for which is extraordinarily high.”

### Hupac Continues to Grow

ZURICH, January 14th – Swiss “rolling highway” operator Hupac announced a 92% traffic growth over the last five years. However, while waiting for the new Gotthard Base Tunnel to open, it remains heavily

dependant on government subsidies for its truck transportation services.

### Eastern TGV exceeds expectations

PARIS, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Eastern France had to wait while other portions of the nation benefited first from high speed rail service, but riders between Paris and Strasbourg have taken to the rails enthusiastically since high-speed service between Paris' Gare de L'Est with Strasbourg began in June, 2007. By October, the service had captured a 60% market share, coming at the expense of airline competition, according to French National Railways (SNCF).

Air France-KLM unit Air France had already cut back service between the cities last summer in anticipation of the competition. Air traffic between the cities fell 25%, the Strasbourg airport said.

SNCF's LGV Est Européen, and also ICE train sets, continue east from Strasbourg to serve southern Germany and Switzerland, running at speeds up to 320 km/h (198 mph).

### New Sweden - Germany Freight Link

AMSTERDAM, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Hector Rail has begun operating non-stop freight trains between Sweden and Germany via the Øresund Bridge and Denmark.



The Swedish-based open access operator is running five trains a week between Norrköping and Herne in the Ruhr area under a contract signed with Dutch logistics firm Van Dieren Maritime. Further service will be launched from Västerås in September 2008.



The Scandinavia to Germany trains are hauled by 10 specially ordered Bombardier F140AC Traxx multi-system electric locos which are equipped to run on the 15 kV AC networks in Sweden and Germany and on 25 kV when passing through Denmark. Designated Class 241, the locos do not need to be changed at the borders. The average speed of the trains is reported to be 70 km/h (43 mph).

### Blue Train and Train Blues

BELGRADE, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Serbia’s Ministry of Defense is to sell a saloon car from the Blue Train, the fleet of luxury rolling stock built for the former President Tito.

The Blue Train was used by the presidents of Yugoslavia and their state visitors, and in recent years has been available for private charter. According to Serbian Railways it has carried more than 60 world statesmen since entering service in the 1950s, and has visited countries including Austria, France, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Greece.

One person who might consider bidding for the Blue Train would be the South African who lodged a complaint with his country's Advertising Standards Authority after being disappointed to discover that the locomotive used when he traveled on the similarly-named South African train was not actually blue. The ASA rejected his complaint, ruling that “guests pay for the experience of being in the train. The service and experience offered by the respondent is what guests expect and get. A reasonable consumer would expect at most a predominantly blue train.”

### Polish Teen Hacks Tram Network

LODZ, January 11<sup>th</sup> – A Polish teenager allegedly turned the tram system in the city of Lodz into his own personal train set, triggering chaos and derailing four vehicles in the process. Twelve people were injured in one of the incidents.

The 14-year-old modified a TV remote control so that it could be used to change track switches. Local police said the youngster snuck into several tram depots to gather information needed to build the device. The teenager told police that he modified track setting for a prank.

"He studied the trams and the tracks for a long time and then built a device that looked like a TV remote control and used it to control switches at junctions," said Miroslaw Micor, a spokesman for Lodz police. "He had converted the television control into a device capable of controlling all the switches on the line and documented his efforts in the pages of a school exercise book detailing the best junctions and what signals to change.

"He treated it like any other schoolboy might a giant train set, but it was lucky nobody was killed. Four trams were derailed, and others had to make emergency stops that left passengers hurt. He clearly did not think about the consequences of his actions," Micor added.

Transport command and control systems in Lodz apparently were designed by engineers with little exposure or knowledge about security using simple electronics. The apparent ease with which Lodz's tram network was hacked, even by these low standards, is still a bit of an eye opener.

Problems with the signaling system on Lodz's tram network became apparent when a driver attempting to steer his vehicle to the right was involuntarily taken to the left. As a result the rear car of the train jumped the rails and collided with another passing tram. Transport staff immediately suspected outside interference.

The youth, described by his teachers as an electronics buff and exemplary student, faces charges at a special juvenile court of endangering public safety.

### Website of the Month

This is a new segment for the casual web browser. Let us know how you like it. Send us your suggestions! (Editors)

<http://www.swisstrains.ch/>

Track SBB-CFF train movements in real time across Switzerland on a Google Map.

### 2008 Models are announced!

All major manufacturers have updated their websites. There is something for everyone from Roco, Märklin, Trix, Brawa and Bemo. See the web links to these sites at <http://www.ete.org/etelinks.htm>.

### Pictures of the Month: January 2008



SNCB 7700 trio outside Gremberg, Germany



SNCF BB22398 at Villefranche sur Saone, France

### **Next Meeting: Blackhawk Automotive Museum**

3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle • Danville, CA 94506 (925) 736.2277

### **Parking at the Meeting**

There is still new construction near the entrance to the museum, which has reduced parking near the museum: Use the Blackhawk Plaza Mall parking, and walk through the Mall to reach the Museum entrance.



2008 ETE Newsletter Survey

As announced in last month's Newsletter, we are soliciting feedback from all SF Bay Area members to determine what you would like to see in your monthly newsletter. Please click below for the online survey!

http://tinyurl.com/ysr9wz

Only if you received this newsletter in the mail, fill out the survey below and mail it to Jim Recker, PO Box 3571, Redwood City, CA 94064 by February 22nd.

Results will be posted in the March newsletter. Thank you for your time!

1. Please tell us who you are. A reply is not obligatory.

Name: Phone Number:

2. How long have you been an ETE member? Please circle:

1-3 years 3-5 years 5-7 years 7-10 years 10-15 years 15-20 years More than 20 years

3. Tell us what other railroad publications you read. Please circle all that apply:

ETE SF Bay Area Newsletter ETE Express Model Railroader
Märklin Magazine (& Insider) Today's Railways European Railways (ER)
German train publications French train magazines Swiss train publications
European train publications (others) Others (please specify)

4. In what format do you read your monthly ETE newsletter? Circle best answer:

Electronically (on a computer), from eMail Hard copy - It is sent to me in the mail
Other or N/A (please explain)

5. If you replied "Yes" to the above question, do you print out your electronic copy? Please circle:

Yes No Sometimes

6. Are you receiving your monthly newsletter on time? Please circle:

Yes No Sometimes

7. Rate your satisfaction with the ETE San Francisco Bay Area monthly newsletter.

Please choose one of the five replies: Very Satisfied / Satisfied / Neutral / Dissatisfied / Very Dissatisfied

Entire issue Pictures of the Month
Chapter Monthly Meeting Minutes What's Wrong with this Picture?
Notes from the Treasurer Web Site of the Month (New)
Reverse Corner (SIG News) Directions (Map) to the next chapter meeting
EuroSnips (Current Railroad News) List other topics you would like to see added

8. Would you like to contribute to the newsletter?

Yes No Sometimes

9. What European railroads do you have interest in? Check all that you want hear more about.

Besides any "national" railroads, please indicate other special interests.

Austria (OBB) Switzerland (Standard Gauge)
Benelux (NS,SNCB/NMBS,CFL) Switzerland (Narrow Gauge)
British & Irish Eastern Europe (CD/ZSR,PKP,MÁV,BDZ,CFR)
France (SNCF) Russia & CIS (RZD,BCZ,UZ,CFM)
Germany (DB) Baltic States (EVR,LG,LDZ)
High-Speed (ICE,TGV,Thalys,Eurostar) Balkan States (JZ,HZ,LG,SZ,MZ,ZCG,ŽFBH/ZRS,HK/KZ-
Italy (FS) Kosovo)
Scandinavia (DSB,NSB,SJ,VR) Southeastern Europe (HSH-Albania,OSE-Greece,TCCD-Turkey)
Spain / Portugal (RENFE,CP) Other European rail systems (please specify)

10. Please add any additional comments or concerns below or on a separate page: