

JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING AT THE PRYOR HOME

Saturday, January 8, 2005, 1-5 pm.

BRING DESSERTS ONLY. The Pryors will provide everything else.

Dave & Maria Pryor, 1285 Yosemite Way, Hayward, CA 94545

Phone: (510) 266-3785 Email: MRMARKLIN@aol.com

See map below for directions

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 8, 2005, 1-5pm: ETE Bay Area Chapter monthly meeting will be held at Dave and Maria Pryor's home, 1285 Yosemite Way, Hayward, CA 94545, Phone (510) 266-3785.

Highlights: Dave has an MFX starter set and Mobile Station controller with a test layout and two MFX lok. This will be an opportunity for members to get hands on with the new Märklin system. He has a *Rollenprüfstand* with a speedometer for those who want to calibrate speeds of their digital lok. Bring a DC power pack if you want to calibrate DC. He will show new video footage of his Fall 2003 German trip. There will be a door prize.

EuroSnips - January 2005

Compiled by Jim Recker

Belgium: LGV2 high speed line launched

BRUSSELS, Dec. 10 — Belgium inaugurated its second 63-km-long high-speed line, LGV2, between Leuven and Ans (east of Liège) as part of the LGV East network towards Aachen and Köln in Germany. LGV1 runs only TGV-type trains to Paris and London but LGV2 accepts a variety of passenger trains. Besides the 300 km/h, *Thalys* and ICE3 expresses, this line will also host 200 km/h "A" trains between Ostende and Eupen, faster than the current maximum speed of 160 km/h.

Future plans include quadrupling and upgrading the existing line Brussels–Leuven line for speeds to 200 km/h and completing LGV3 between Liège and Germany. Work continues on LGV4, the high-speed line from Antwerp toward the Netherlands with completion expected in 2007.

EuroSnips (continued)

Belgium: SNCB budget set

BRUSSELS, Dec 12 – The board of Belgian National Railways (SNCB) has approved a €1.48 billion investment program for 2005.

Infrabel, The Belgian track infrastructure group, expects to spend €473.4 million on high speed line projects and €285.1 million on conventional lines, including the

installation of GSM-R, four tracking from Gent to Brugge and improvements to the Antwerp port lines. Another €127.7 million will go on stations.

SNCB Transport will spend €207.1 million on rolling stock, including the 70 extra M6 double-deck coaches and two-system electric locomotives.

Germany: DB to Cut 9000 Jobs

German Railway, DeutscheBahn (DB) is planning to cut over 9000 jobs in 2005. There are currently 230,000 employed by DB. The cuts are to be done through retirement and by setting up a subsidiary, DB Jobs, to find new jobs within DB or externally. In addition, several German unions have agreed to longer work hours, in return for bonuses relating to company progress starting next year. The measures will reduce labor costs by 5.5%.

Germany: Siemens to build Russian ICE trains

BERLIN, Dec 22 – Siemens has signed an agreement with Russian Railways (RZD) and the Russian group, New Transport Technologies on the development and manufacture of a high speed train. It calls for about 60 trainsets to be built for a top speed of 250 km/h. The trains



are intended for high-speed service on the lines between Moscow and St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg and Helsinki, and between other cities in Russia.

Germany: Delays for the *Fliegende Hamburger*

HAMBURG, Dec 18 –DB started running its tilting ICE-T trains between Hamburg and Berlin in 90 minutes on December 12th. But the DB isn't happy with the trains themselves; they are just "too 'nineties." The manufacturer, Siemens, was supposed to have new ICE-Ts delivered and ready by now, but they are too heavy and haven't been certified yet. However the delay is not disappointing to passengers as the older ICE-T trains from 1999 are just as fast as the new ones will be, and they have a *real Bord* restaurant car. The new ones will have only a bistro! The new 90-minute service is the fastest between the two cities since the first-generation streamlined *Fliegende Hamburger* train inaugurated in the 1930s.

France: French unions oppose Internet booking

PARIS, Dec 6 – French unions blocked a TGV because it was open only for people who booked their tickets in advance on the Internet. These tickets are cheaper than ordinary ones, and unions fear job losses in the manual ticket sales in stations and other ticket outlets.

France: No more smoking!

PARIS, Dec 12 – As of December 12, 2004, all smoking has been eliminated from TGV's nationwide.

Switzerland: New schedules

BERN, Dec 12 – Starting at 3:00 a.m. or 03:00 on Dec.12, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB-CFF) launched a new schedule affecting all trains as part of SBB's "Rail 2000" program. This was the first major scheduling change since 1982.

According to reports over the following days, there were no major problems related to the new schedule. On the other hand, there were many customer complaints as travelers had to get used to the new pace of the SBB-CFF: 90% of all departure times have been changed; this in a country that runs by a very meticulous clock.

This new national schedule provides for 12% additional departures, and some faster transit times: 58% of trips between the 40 largest stations in Switzerland are reduced by 5 minutes or more. 13% will see slightly longer timings. Each hour, 3000 train connections are to be guaranteed.

On the first Monday, 700,000 Swiss commuters saw few problems. Several Intercity trains between Bern and Zurich were delayed by computer glitches that turned all signals to red. The biggest problem was lack of seats on certain trains.

As part of the Rail 2000 project, SBB-CFF has invested CHF5.9 billion (\$ 5.1 billion) into 130 large and small construction projects to support this new schedule. In addition, it invested CHF2.3 billion (\$2 billion) in new rolling stock. The overall objective for Rail 2000 — departures every half hour on most major lines with improved connections — has almost been met.

Switzerland: Conductor missing the train update

According to "inside sources", Swiss train conductors have missed their trains before. One reason is that in the SBB-CFF stations there is no delay time between the time the conductor engages the trackside departure switch and the signal turns green!

In other European countries, there is a short delay: In France, it's six seconds. In Belgium, it's twelve! This gives the conductor time to climb on board.

OUTSIDE EUROPE

Tsunami kills over 1,500 on Sri Lanka express train

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Dec. 27 – The massive tidal waves that slammed into Sri Lanka flung a train off its tracks, and twisted another train leaving over a thousand passengers dead or missing, the Sri Lanka military reported. The tsunami hit the train after it stopped on the outskirts of a tiny fishing village near here, hurling a dozen of its cars across the countryside into coconut groves, fields and flimsy huts.

The heaviest toll was on the *Samudradevi Express*, ("Queen of the Sea"), traveling from the capital Colombo to the Galle on Sunday when it was hit by the killer waves near Telwatta, to the west of Galle, one of the hardest-hit areas on the island. The train was more than 400 yards from the beach.

"We checked and found that 1,000 tickets (for the train) were bought in Colombo," an official said. "After the tragedy, we found 802 bodies in and around the train."

Some 204 bodies were not claimed and rescuers cremated or buried them next to the railroad track that runs along the coastline. The rest were taken to their homes.

Among those killed were the locomotive driver and his helper. The driver apparently slowed the train when water appeared across the track. The two conductors on the train, who were in the last carriage, survived, according to another railroad official.

The twin train wreck in Hikkaduwa, about 12 miles northwest of Galle, appears to have been the single most destructive incident in a country that bore the brunt of the tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean. Three days after the disaster, authorities were still pulling bodies from the twisted wreckage of the carriages, some of which ended up half a mile from the railway line.

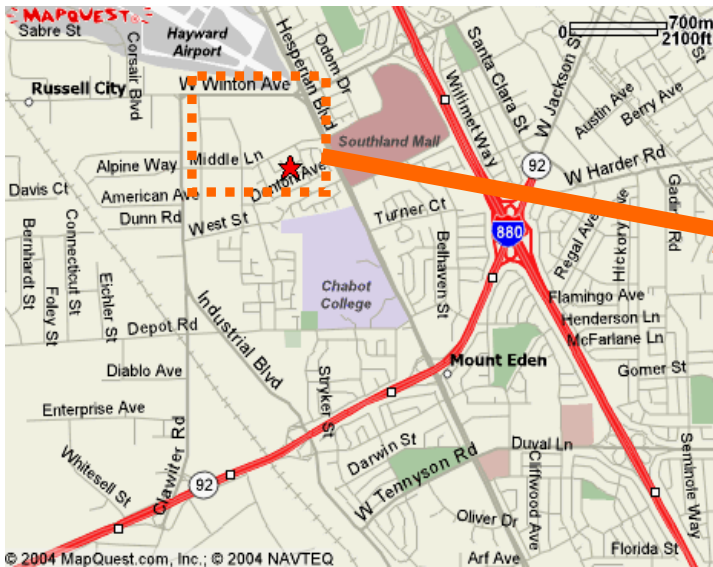


Directions to the Pryors' Home

1285 Yosemite Way, Hayward, CA 94545

(510) 266-5205

Exit from I-880 at Winton Ave. west. Turn left on Hesperian Blvd. Turn right on Middle Lane. Turn left on Chandler Rd. Turn right on Yosemite Way.



DUES FOR 2005 ARE \$15.00

\$10.00 for ETE National and \$5.00 for Bay Area Chapter

Name: _____

Address: _____

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