

European Train Enthusiasts



Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
June - 2006

Chapter Meeting Saturday, July 08, 1:00-5:00 pm
Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville
Railroad Avenue, Danville, CA

Refreshments: Club will host this event, please bring yourself with an appetite!

Upcoming Module SIG Events

June 18-July 9: Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville

November 24, 2006-Jan. 7, 2007: Blackhawk Automobile Museum, Danville.

Redactie : Robert de Jong

Publicatie : Wolfgang Leitenberger

Voorzitter : Chris Vais

Penningmeester : Steve Imailek

Modules voorzitter : Tom Melka

Promotie : Rolf Krumbiegel / Peter Barnes

This link from one of our readers... check it out!

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20060630/ap_on_re_as/china_tibet_railway

Something interesting:

...taking the 16,500-foot passes at speeds up to 60 mph



JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A regular meeting was held on June 10 at the West Bay Model Rail Road Association in Menlo Park. There were approximately 30 members present. The chapter thanked our host, Joe Freese, and the West Bay club for hosting the meeting. The club has an HO and O gauge layout built inside the Menlo Park freight station from yesteryear. This site is now a Cal train stop at Milepost 28.9 on the SF to Gilroy run. European trains ran all afternoon with ETE and West Bay members at the controls. We also welcomed new member, Curt Rigor.

STATUS REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand as of 5/31 was \$3880.96.

Membership: There are currently 121 members. New members for 2006: John Cooper, Dave Cowl, Chris D'Elia, Mike Edwards, Dan Eggerding, Tom Everman, Jeff Pimper, Curt Rigor, Henry Stein, Bill Tharp III, Nick Topolos, and Robert Waal. Welcome!

The 2006 Chapter Directory was mailed to all members in the June Newsletter. Please contact Steve Imailek if there are corrections. The second section of the directory lists all members by AREA CODE. Members can now see who lives near them by region and can use that information for car-pooling, committee work, socializing, etc. Looking at these four regions, there are 45 members in the SF/Peninsula; 46 members in the East Bay; 21 members in the South Bay; and 8 members in the North Bay.



Newsletter: Just 15 members do not have email. So if we can successfully email the monthly newsletter to the other members we will save over \$100 a month in printing and mailing costs. It costs about \$14 a year for each member to receive the newsletter by post and chapter dues has remained at \$5 a year.

Module SIG: The Museum on Main Street in Pleasanton has been well attended. Rolf Krumbiegel noted that they received a \$50 personal check from Chris and Heather Rizzoli for our participation at the museum. Thank you Chris and Heather! This venue wouldn't be possible without the modular owners: Chris Vais, Ian Lorentzen, Rolf Krumbiegel, Steve Imialek, and Robert DeJong along with operators: Peter Dittrich, Hans Auerbach, Don Good (display case also), Dieter Vorbach, Bill Tharp II, Bill Tharp III, and Wolfgang Leitenberger. Many thanks guys for all you do.

The next venue is our annual return to the Museum of San Ramon Valley at Danville from June 18 to July 9.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

El Camino Medical Center: John Spotorno, AIA, LEED of Hawley, Peterson & Snyder Architects in Mountain View has sent us preliminary drawings of the project. Two of the overview drawings are in the June newsletter. Our work will begin this summer using Steve Imialek's garage as the staging area and it will, hopefully, be trucked to ECMC and put in place by Feb. 2007. Dieter Vorbach has suggested that if anyone is interested in the 'City Planning' to contact him or Steve. Sections of the cityscape can be put on platforms and buildings taken home to finish, embellish, etc. Then the platforms can be put into place later and no need to travel to Brentwood to build the dioramas. Pete Nieber has offered to build the bench work. And so far, Ian Lorentzen, Rolf Krumbiegel, and Wolfgang Leitenberger have offered their help in track laying, wiring, landscaping, etc. Wolfgang is also our Marklin contact. Any others interested in helping on this worthwhile project? Please contact Steve.

EuroWest: Chris Vais reported that more volunteers are needed. Please consider giving up an hour or so of your time to make this a successful event. A

committee meeting will be scheduled soon to report on the progress. Please contact Chris if you can help.

ETE Postcards: Jens Ullmann brought four possible postcards for us to consider. The steam train was the overall favorite. He also showed us other ideas he was able to produce on the postcard. The postcard is eye-catching and will be another source of revenue for the chapter. Thank you Jens for your hard work in developing our newest postcard.

NEW BUSINESS

GWAATS: (From the *Trellis & Trestle* Bay Area Garden Railway Society): "The troubled Great American Train Show – recently called the Great Western and Atlantic Train Show – has gone out of business, according to its parent company's web site." The San Mateo, Stockton and San Rafael shows for this coming November have been cancelled. But a show is tentatively scheduled at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton on Nov. 25-26.

New Officers for 2007: Ed Rikkleman has volunteered to be Treasurer. John and Lalo Ruehle have volunteered to be Secretary. Thank you for stepping forward and offering to help your chapter. The position of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson are still open. After two years of experience, Chris Vais and Steve Imialek will still be around to offer advice and assistance to the new club officers. So won't you please consider running/volunteering for these positions?

Missing Stool: *A blond wood stool used by the narrow gauge modular group has been missing since the Hiller venue. If you know of its whereabouts, please contact Jeff Keuscher.*

Train Music: A two CD set of train music is available from the Smithsonian (www.smithsonian.com). Mort Grosser added that Naxos has produced a set of 'lokomotiv musik'. Contact Mort if you would like more information. A friendly discussion ensued on the merits of banjo and accordion music...

Next Meeting: on July 8 at the Museum of San Ramon Valley in Danville, the chapter will provide food and beverages.



EuroSnips - July 2006

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FIRST TRACKS & TESTS IN LÖTSCHBERG BASE TUNNEL

BRIG, Switzerland -- June 21 - With electrical installation near completion, the Swiss Federal Transportation ministry (BAV) has granted permission to beginning testing in the Lötschberg Base Tunnel on a 10 km test track up to speeds of 120 km/h.

Trails will begin in July on the section from the new Visp junction, over the new bridge over the Rhone River, and 9 km into the new eastern tunnel tube. Until in August 2006 the maximum speed will be restricted to 80 km/h until testing of the ETCS signaling is completed.

Starting in October 2006, the speed limit will be raised to 200km/h and above. Testing through the entire length of the tunnel will last six months, starting in December.

Elsewhere in the same tube, the installation of the longest turnout switches on ballastless track in Europe to date was completed. Despite difficult conditions and high quality demands in terms of manipulating long turnout parts in a confined space, the installation was completed within the required line geometry.

The total length of the turnout switches is 182 meters. The switch rodding is placed on concrete sleepers fitted with rubber shoes and elastic inserts. Unlike a simple Märklin K-track switch, there are eight motors mounted in the switch area - three other motors reverse the movable frog! Trains up to a speed of 200km/h can run on the deflecting section branch connection of the turnout - the straight line is designed for 250 km/h. Due to limited space in the tunnel, the unloading of the extremely long turnout parts had to be carried out manually with trestles. The turnout was prefixed in the line with the required track geometry and then casted with concrete.

SIMPLON TUNNEL CENTENARY

BRIG, Switzerland -- May 20 - While working on the new Lötschberg Base tunnel, across the Rhone River over 30,000 celebrated the Simplon tunnel's 100th birthday. The 19.8 km Simplon tunnel between Brig

and Iselle was inaugurated in 1906 and held the title of longest tunnel worldwide for decades.

During a special day of celebration, there was a large interactive exhibition, presentation about the tunnel construction at the Brig station, and special jubilee trains. Both new and historical rolling stock was run, including the legendary "Venice Simplon Orient Express" and the new tilt train ETR 610 of Cisalpino. The evening concluded with a sold out rock concert.

GOTTHARD HIGHWAY CLOSURE INCREASES RAIL TRAFFIC

GURTNELLEN, -- June 12 - Following the Gotthard A2 highway closure on May 31 when huge boulders struck a car killing two Germans, blocking a main holiday route connecting northern Europe with Italy, the parallel Gotthard rail link has seen significant increase in traffic, particularly freight.

In the last three weeks following the highway closure, SBB Cargo and Hupac have introduced up to 40 extra trains via Gotthard, Lötschberg/Simplon, Brenner and Modane. This has meant a capacity increase in intermodal transport of up to 1,000 trucks a day on the north-south axis.

A program drafted by SBB Cargo and neighboring foreign railway companies foresees a short-term increase in domestic traffic between Ticino and North Switzerland, as well as in transit traffic between Italy and North Europe. Additional transport trains have been added between Basel and Chiasso, as well as between Aarau and Stabio, and Basel and Lugano.

FIRST NEW GENERATION PENDOLINO COME OFF ASSEMBLY LINE

SAVIGLIANO, Italy - June 5 -- The newest Italian Pendolino was shown to the press at a ceremony at the Alstom plant, prior to test run at the "locodrome" in Velim (Czech Republic). This new generation Pendolino is the first of an order of 26 units for Trenitalia and Cisalpino, due to run in Italy by the end of the year, and into Switzerland in early 2007.

UIC FAMILY REUNITES

MONTREAL, Canada - June 7 -- The General Assembly of the International Union of Railways (UIC) unanimously approved the accession of the



Russian Railways (RZD) as a new active member. The international "railway family" is now almost complete with the return of Russian Railways - previously the Railways of the Soviet Union - who were among the founding members of UIC (in 1922). The Soviets left the UIC in the early days of the Cold War in 1949.

The RZD undeniably constitute one of the major players on the international railway stage with a network of more than 85,000 km, a workforce in excess of 1.2 million, 1.3 billion passengers carried every year and an annual volume of 1.66 billion metric ton/km, representing 80% of freight transport excluding pipeline transport and 41% as a proportion of total freight transport in the Russian Federation.

This return to the UIC underscores the essential role to be played by Russian Railways, regarding in particular the development of trade between Europe and Asia. On account of its geographical location straddling Europe and Asia, the scale of its network and numerous agreements with other stakeholders in the transport sector, the RZD intends to play a key role in numerous UIC projects.

SWEDES CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

NORA, Sweden - June 5 -- The Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf led ceremonies to celebrate the 150-year jubilee for Swedish Railway (SJ).

On 5 June 1856 the first passenger train in regular traffic in Sweden ran on the route Örebro - Ervalla - Nora. Some 150 years later, over 6,000 visitors participated in the celebrations that started with a smoking steam train arriving to Nora with the King and 200 invited guests.

Swedish Railway has plans for other special events during the upcoming year.

High-speed cooperation between TCDD and DB AG

BERLIN - June 5 -- The Turkish Railways (TCDD) and German Railways (DB AG) have signed a cooperation agreement as Turkey has begun planning and projecting of new lines and putting large efforts into developing the rail traffic.

With high-speed rail traffic expected to continue to grow, DB AG will deliver experience and knowledge in the high-speed train business. The cooperation will concern all areas within the construction of a high-speed railway system by TCDD, such as planning infrastructure support.

2500 DB STATIONS SMOKE FREE

FRANKFURT - May 31 -- Nearly half of all 5,400 German rail stations are now smoke free. DB AG launched the program in the fall of 2002 and plans to expand the program further across the country.

On the trains themselves, smoker sections are eliminated as passenger cars are modernized, starting with commuter trains and extending to long-distance service. DB AG has succeeded to reduce the number of "smoker" seats by 50% since the seventies. In response to customer requests, only 8% of the seats on ICE trains are set aside for smokers.

NEW FUNDING FOR BASQUE RAIL

BILBAO -- June 1 - Two agreements signed by the Spanish government, the Basque regional government and local rail infrastructure authority ADIF have established the division of funding and other project responsibilities for the Y-shaped high speed network linking the Basque cities of Bilbao, Vitoria and San Sebastian.

The Basque government will undertake civil works on the branch from Bergara to San Sebastian, expected to account for €1.64 billion of the total €4.18 billion project cost.

ADIF will be responsible for the Bilbao and Vitoria segment, as well as the junctions between the three routes. The Ministry of Development will be responsible for developing an extension from San Sebastian to the French border at Irún, which was omitted from earlier studies. ADIF has awarded Alcatel a €3 million contract to install and maintain signaling and telecommunications equipment on the 87 km Madrid - Segovia high speed line. This includes ETCS Level 2 with transmission of movement authorities by GSM-R radio.



GREETINGS FROM JACQUES

Yes life is good here....

We are enjoying the old-new house and its surrounding very much.

The pool is at 85 deg F all the time and we are swimming practically every day since mid-April. While swimming we are looking at a *real* medieval village on the cliff on the other side of the valley too.

Wine and food are great, we have now a few special small family producers for wines, cheese, foie gras and other goodies

And wait... there is more!

We even have a fantastic microbrewery nearby.

The brewer learned how to make beer in Belgium...nuff said!

Meccano has been the only small diversion to the busy times of restoring the house next door, so we can turn it soon into a summer rental property for Americans looking to spend some quality time in the protective shadow of a 12th century tower, that was build long before Columbus sailed West.

I haven't done much with trains so far except to hang the big display shelves and unpack my favorites.

I am considering using the basement for the future layout, as two of the walls are made of the original bedrock...so it would constitute a really nice and realistic mountain backdrop.

Another advantage, the wine+beer cellar is right next to it. Wouldn't even have to go upstairs to grab a cold one...

I am trying to find some locals to be interested in investing in the rehab of the Lot Valley Touristic railroad (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/quercyrail/>) and start something like the Napa Valley Wine train here. The products and cuisine are at least as good as in California, so there is no reason why it wouldn't work. The line is much more spectacular than in Napa and is also longer.

I even have a name for the train: The TGV-L (Train Gastronomique de la Vallee du Lot) but so far no one has come forward with some risk capital. Hey..it's never puurfektly purrrfexkt!

Tell our ETE friends we are doing well...

Love to all!

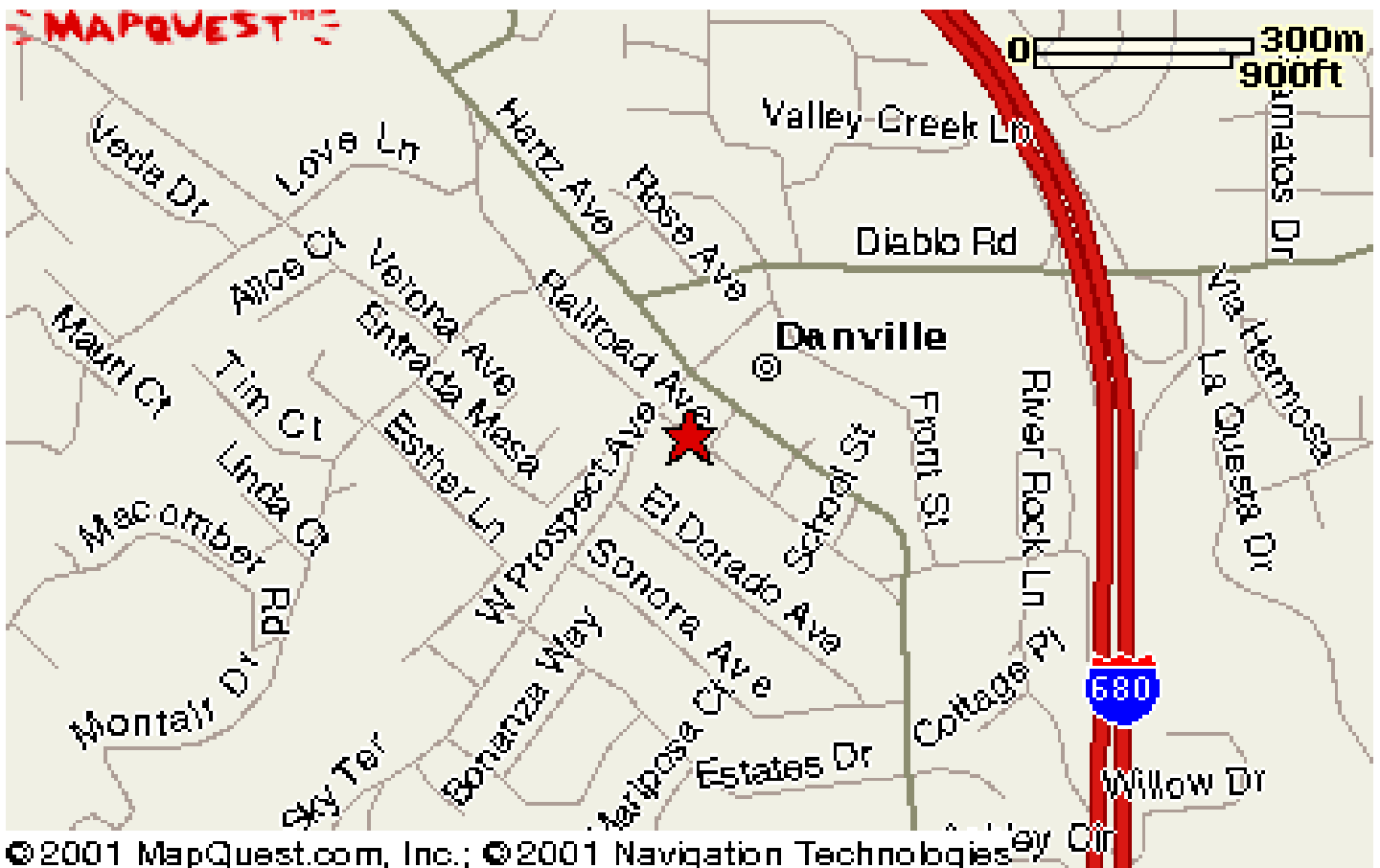
Jacques Vuye AKA Dr. Eisenbahn
Tour de Faure, France

**2006 DUES ARE PAST DUE - \$20
\$5 for SF Bay Area Chapter and \$15 for
ETE Nat'l Name Address City, State, Zip
Phone, Email, Fax**

**Make check payable to "E T E". Mail
payment with this dues form to:
ETE SF Bay Area
P.O. Box 1451
Brentwood, CA 94513**

**NON MS OUTLOOK USERS:
Please send me a short email so I can
put you all in a separate group!
(no discrimination, just logistics!)
Rnrdejong2006@sbcglobal.net
Thank you! : Your editor**





Exit the 680 freeway at Diablo Road and go west to Hartz.
Turn left on Hartz (south) and go one block.
Turn right (west) on Prospect.
Go one block west to Railroad.
The museum is at the corner of West Prospect and Railroad.