

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

Bay Area Chapter

Junio 2003 Newsletter

June Meeting Notice

When: Saturday June 14, 12:00 to 4:00 PM (early start)

Where: **Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society**

2751 Buena Vista Ave

Walnut Creek, CA 94596 (925-937-1888)

Hosts: Gordon Laughland, Don Good

Meeting Agenda:

- **Layout Tour – Rolf Krumbiegel : 11A.M. - noon**
- **Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society : noon - 4 P.M.**

Special assignment...

Refreshments: If your name begins with: A through H, bring **Drinks** (no alcohol, please)
I through P, bring **Finger food \ salad**
Q through Z, bring **Dessert**

ran lots of European trains, including the Capitole, BR18, OBB 310, BR50 and others in both freight and passenger service.

Meeting Agenda

A busy day of visiting layouts. The main event is running at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad. Before that event, Rolf Krumbiegel has offered to open his home layout for viewing. Due to the time constraints, Rolf will not be able to run guests' trains. However, his layout does not lack for trains to run, and you'll enjoy seeing the nice building that houses the beautifully scenicked layout.

The Walnut Creek Model Railroad has graciously offered to help us run trains that we bring, much like West Bay did last month. Let's have a good turnout with the food and drinks so that we can offer the WCMRR members some treats for their efforts. Visit <http://www.wcmrs.org/index.html> for more info, and directions. Don't forget, the Club runs HO DC trains only. Also, please don't bring any alcoholic beverages, as the Club has a policy prohibiting those.

Upcoming Meetings

July 12 : Danville Museum, host Rolf Krumbiegel
July 26/27 : EuroWest 2003, South San Francisco
August 9 : Niles Canyon Railway, near Sunol

Recap of the May Meeting

Many thanks to the West Bay Model Railroad Club in Menlo Park for hosting our May meeting. They cleared the HO tracks for us, and we

EuroWest 2003 update (compiled by Peter Barnes)

EuroWest is becoming bigger and better, but it happens next month and we can use additional Chapter support and involvement. The Steering Committee met May 31 and will report briefly at our Walnut Creek meeting. Here are some highlights

Information Items and Requests for help and advice –

- Banquet will have recognition of 30 years of ETE and recognition of several worthy ETE members. We anticipate 80 or more attendees. Make sure your dinner reservation(s) is in to Steve Stern, and paid for, as we expect many out-of-town attendees as the event gets closer. A limited run 30th Anniversary momento will be included.

- Club members who want Sales tables are urged to move promptly making reservations with Andreas (ANDREASHIL@aol.com)

- Märklin plans to display at EuroWest, but Roco will not attend due to a schedule conflict.

- Door Prizes (hourly?) as well as Raffle items will be awarded We could use some leads on sources for one or two high value raffle donations or reduced prices if we purchase. Credit to donors will be given in the program. Contact Steve Stern

- Publicity

Flyers are out at some Bay Area hobby shops and additional flyers will be available at the June meeting for distribution. Ads will also be placed in German Language newspapers in Bay area and Sacramento.

- Do you deal with a friendly local hobby shop the we might have missed. - One that we could approach for placing flyers and requesting sponsorship (raffle item?) Contact Steve Stern or Steering Committee.

- Any clubs, groups, shops, we should contact for publicity? Pass on your contacts to Ian, Bob Carlson, Sue Davis, or Joe Freese.

- Volunteer at EuroWest We still need help (especially on Sunday) Less than half the available slots are filled. - Ticket Sales, Docent, Children's activities, Set-up/Clean-up, Contests, - Contact Steering Committee (Steve, Peter, Ian, Andreas, Bill)

- Get your loks lubed and warmed-up for the Speed Run and Lok-Pull contests. Sign up will be circulated at the Walnut Creek meeting. Speed contest (pulling 3 passenger cars) and Lok Pull (pulling weighted cars up increasing slope) will be offered for AC and DC - Digital and Analog, in three categories - steam, electric, and diesel. Prizes, certificates and perpetual "little engine that could" trophy will be awarded. Peter Meijer from Portland, is organizing the Hochgeschwindigkeit.

- We still have a few time slots for lectures, presentations, and clinics. Please consider participating. Enlighten us on your specialty (models, technical, travel, operations....). Informal presentations welcome - Audience is friendly. Contact Jacques(Jvuye@aol.com).

- Out of town visitors should keep in mind our contact with the David Hotel in downtown SF where \$50 rooms (with breakfast?) would be available to ETE folks on EW weekend. Contact Andreas for details.

- Would you like to offer hosting and housing for out-of-town ETE guests? Contact Andreas.

As always, contact us with your questions, suggestions, and concerns. We want to have an enjoyable and fun event.

Reverse Corner - notes from the Module SIG
by Tom Melka

We had a great month in May! We hope you enjoyed the month, as well. Here's what made it a good one for us.

We had a wonderful "downsized" GATS show in San Rafael the weekend of May 17 & 18. This is one of the smaller Great American Train Shows. It was a pleasant weekend at the Marin County Civic Center. We had our "downsized" layout there. While small, it was the biggest attraction. Most importantly, we had a great turnout of members and friends. Trains were running constantly and we had plenty of conversation ranging from the recap of Modellbahn Treff to the latest transponder technology. Oh yeah, did I mention - we won "Best of Show" - 1st place in the layout contest!

Special welcome goes to ETE member, Chris Vais. He has joined our Module SIG, now handling the tunnel corner we use in the large set-ups. Chris joined us for set-up, tear down & docent support. Thanks also to Don and David Winslow for their docent help on Saturday. The attention to "crowd appeal" gets us the blue ribbons!

Opportunities still exist for those interested in joining the Module SIG and participate in running trains, etc. We have the module corners and reverse corner needing a home. It's easy, everyone helps out and you are guaranteed to have fun! Contact Tom Melka at (415) 927-7477 or melka@pacbell.net

Late June will see us at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley in Danville. We will have a small 1 module X 4 module layout set up for a little over two weeks. Don't forget the July San Francisco Chapter meeting there. BBQ outside and trains inside!

Here's the recap of venues for the remainder of 2003. Address details are on the ETE website - www.ete.org
June 29-July 13 Museum of the San Ramon Valley - Danville
July 19 & 20 - 11:00 am - 5:00 pm Great American Train Show (GATS) - San Mateo Expo
July 26-27 - EuroWest 2003, South San Francisco
November 26-January 10 - Blackhawk Museum, Danville

Eurosnips June 2003 (compiled by Jim Recker)

Air Travel takes a bite out of Eurostar

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National Express is giving up its 40% share in Eurostar UK, which is losing an estimated £100 million a year. Cross-Channel travellers are taking to the skies with cut-price airlines. Despite a drop in some fares of as much as a quarter, the Eurostar trains have suffered a 14% decline in passenger numbers over the past two years on the London to Paris and Brussels routes. It is expected that National Express will pass its shareholding to SNCF, which is keen to secure a majority stake in Eurostar UK. Eurostar is being restructured and will run as one integrated company rather than three separate businesses (one for each country served - UK, France and Belgium) with their own fleets and depots.

Lower profits may mean that London and Continental Railways, which owns 50% of Eurostar, will not have money to build its high speed railway between London and the Chunnel. With passenger numbers less than half the original forecasts and still falling, the gap between fare income and charges for using the tracks is widening.

Help from Brussels for Chunnel Traffic

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The European Commission has voted to allow State financial assistance for the high-speed link from London and under the Channel. New European regulations will allow governmental backing of bonds issued by the London & Continental Railways Ltd. This will permit that company to be protected from unfavorable variations in interest rates. The EU believes that governmental backing is necessary in this case to support private enterprise activities in a project of pan-European interest.

Lacroix, Darling

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The French SNCF is redecorating 183 TGV train interiors in a style composed by fashion designer Christian Lacroix. Second class will

have mostly purple (!) seats, with some breaking off in red, and baggage racks in the middle of the coaches. First class seats will have electrical outlets and will be mostly gray, with rebellious souls being offered a lovely green.

Fortunately the SNCF has toned down the original colours after asking what passengers thought. Lacroix, working with MBD Design and seat maker Compin, had won a competition announced by SNCF in November in which three groups designed their own coaches. Chiqueifying the interiors costs 10% of a new TGV train, and the whole project will cost 270 million.

New SBB-CFF Orders

The Swiss National Railways (SBB-CFF) recently announced that they have ordered 18 new electric locomotives from Bombardier Transportation for 66 million. While the new Re484 quad-current locomotives can run under any European catenary, they will be used for freight traffic between Italy and Switzerland starting in December of 2004.

Eschede Fines

A verdict was returned on May 8th by the German courts in the matter of the Eschede ICE catastrophe. That accident, where an ICE derailed and hit an overhead road bridge, claimed 101 lives on 3 June 1998. Three engineers, all involved in wheel fabrication, were found to not be "mostly responsible" for the accident, and were fined 10,000 each. The investigation and trial revealed that the derailment was caused by a failure of wheel. It is expected that civil trial against the DB will follow.

SPECIAL: DB Rediscovered Branch Lines

The Deutsche Bahn (DB) has been "thinking out of the box" and has launched RegioNetze; starting in Thuringia, Hessen, Saxon and Bavaria. The DB has discovered that there may be some money to be made in the regional market after all.

About 67 million Euros were invested altogether in the RegioNetze in 2002: Over twenty-five million Euros was granted by the DB for new rail cars as well as for the maintenance, 42million Euros were contributed by local states (lands) for the improvement of the infrastructure. While the rail vehicles become property of the RegioNetze, the DB will oversee operations after securing multi-year contracts with several federal states.

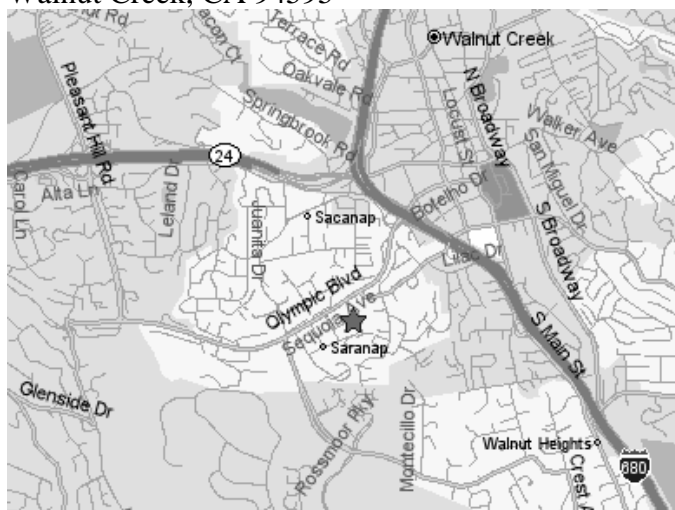
RegioNetze GmbH actually consists of two separate enterprises - Track Maintenance (Infrastructure) and Operations - with Operations paying fees to runs trains over the tracks. It is expected that RegioNetze should realize a profit by 2006. A new hourly schedule on RegioNetze lines should raise passenger traffic by at least 30 per cent.

To keep costs manageable, RegioNetze will have limited staffing. For instance on Schwarzatalbahn, a small 25km regional line recently discarded by the DB feeding the historic 2.5km long Oberweißbacher funicular railway, RegioNetz employs 26 to manage every aspect of the line.

RegioNetze has taken over other larger networks as well, 245 km of track in north Hessen, 217 kilometers in Saxon, as well as a suburban network in southeast Bavaria with over 406km of track..

Maps

Rolf Krumbiegel
151 Park Ave.
Walnut Creek, CA 94595



Directions to Rolf's house :

If you're coming from Highway 24, take 680 Southbound. Take 680 to Olympic Blvd, and go West (go left from Northbound 680, right from Southbound 680). Go a little over a half mile to Willow Ave. and turn left. Go one block to Park Ave. and turn left.

Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society
2751 Buena Vista Ave
Walnut Creek, CA 94596



This is a bit north of Rolf's place, maybe a mile or two north of where 24 joins 680. From 680, take the Geary/Treat exit and go West on Geary to the second signal at Putnam/Buena Vista. Turn left (South) onto Buena Vista and go 1.5 blocks to the swimming pool parking lot for Larkey Park. Look for the large building housing the WCMRR.