

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

Bay Area Chapter **Maart 2003 Newsletter**

March Meeting Notice

When: Saturday Mar 8, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Where: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,
153 Manzanita Ave, San Carlos, 94070
(See map)

Host: Bob Carlson (650-591-3081)

Meeting Agenda:

- **Show and Tell – Dutch trains**
- **Jacques Vuye presentation – electric locomotive technology**
- **David Baird – Brawa operating gondola demo**

Special assignment...

Refreshments: If your name begins with: A through H, bring **Drinks**
I through P, bring **Finger food \ salad**
Q through Z, bring **Dessert**

March Meeting Agenda

Lots of goodies. First, bring your Dutch trains for show and tell. Loks, coaches, freight in NS or any other logos.

Next, Jacques will give a presentation on electric locomotive technology. Finally, David Baird will bring a mostly-working setup of a Brawa two-gondola lift, showing some of the finicky parameters to consider if you want to set one up yourself. Brawa makes a variety of ski lifts, funiculars and gondolas, and they all share a common motor mechanism.

Recap of the February Meeting

A great turnout, almost 50 people on a sunny day. Bill Juergens did a reprise of his Blackhawk slide show on Austria by boat and rail. Thanks to those who helped cover the windows to get the room dark enough.

Thilo Protze and Byron Satterlee of the Sacramento Chapter visited. They participated in planning discussions about EuroWest 2003. Don't forget, if you want to volunteer your services for EW'03, there is a form that you can use to indicate your preferences.

We had an incredible turnout of chocolate cars, in 2 scales and 3 gauges. There was an LGB boxcar, a Bemo HOm boxcar, and a bunch of HO boxcars from Maerklin and Roco. Companies covered included Lindt, Milka, Mirabell, Nestle, Toblerone, Frey, Mars, Suchard, Caillers, and several others.

Reverse Corner - notes from the Module SIG

by Tom Melka

Many of you have expressed interest in participating with us in the various venues. Welcome!

Some will be participating as docents. We look forward to that. Make sure I have your email address and I will include you in on the schedule and other communications about our various events. Sign-ups are directly to me, Tom Melka at melka@pacbell.net. Rolf Krumbiegel, irmik@jps.net, will be helping me with this on certain events, as well.

Others are interested in building modules. All of us will be glad to share what it is all about. There will be a session on the modules at a future SF Chapter meeting. Ian Lorentzen and Steve Imialek will be your expert hosts. Contact them if you have any specific questions or module topics you would like to hear about. Building modules is a very rewarding project. It is a lot of work, but the gratification is tremendous. Personally, it prepared me well for building my current home layout.

Either way, you should purchase the current ETE video "Euro Trains in Miniature"! Many of your construction questions will be answered there and you will become familiar with the topics needed as a docent. But most importantly, you'll see some great model trains and modules from many of our chapters! Contact Steve Stern, or purchase it on our website, www.ete.org.

"Talbot's is my favorite venue!" claimed Dave Pryor. Many of us agree, the Talbot's Toyland venue is right up there at the top of the list. We had lots of fun with a "neighborhood audience" from the San Mateo area, February 22 & 23. There was a respectable crowd and lots of curious questions. We also had more ETE applications handed out and new members join! Jeff Stimson, Märklin Sales Manager, joined us Sunday to participate in the weekend store wide train sale promotion. Thanks to all of you who dropped by to make this event a success. I can't think of a better way to spend a day, running trains and talking about them, too!

Our next event is right away! The Great American Train Show (GATS) is Saturday and Sunday, March 8 & 9 at the Cow Palace in South San Francisco. We'll have a large layout there. Also, we are signing up the operators & docents now. Plan on dropping by and checking out the newest modules from Jim Lowe and some interesting train operations from your favorite countries. We look forward to seeing you there. Contact me if you want to participate.

Don't forget our other events:

May 17 & 18 at the GATS show at the San Rafael Civic Center.

Danville Museum, June 21 - July 6.

GATS - San Mateo Expo Center (pending) July 19 & 20

EuroWest, July 26 & 27

Stretch Andersen's house - October SF Chapter meeting

Blackhawk - Thanksgiving to January, 2004

Finally, some good news and bad news. The good news is Hans Beck will have a very cool Hauptbahnhof in the middle of his home layout! We all look forward to seeing the finished product! The bad news is, he is using the station from his beautiful modules. We will miss these modules at our large venues, especially Blackhawk. Meanwhile, there is a heckuva' opportunity for a potential module builder out there! Hans will make these module frames available at a nominal price to someone planning on building their own modules. They are a "foursome", designed for all 4 units to go together. This could be the foundation to quite a set-up. Talk to Hans to see what it would take to break up these up into pairs. Give Hans a call to get the details.

Eurosnips March 2003 (compiled by Jim Recker)

New S-Bahn tunnel for München

German Railway Chairman Hartmut Mehdorn and Bayern Transport Minister Otto Wiesheu announced the go-ahead for a second cross-city S-Bahn tunnel. Construction is expected to begin in 2006 for completion by 2010. Running up to 40-meters below ground, the new tunnel is expected to cost around Euro 900 million. Of this the national government will fund 60% and Bayern the remaining 40%.

Together with upgrading of the signaling on the existing tunnel, the second tunnel will boost capacity to accommodate 10 minute interval services on all S-Bahn routes. There will also be a new express service from the city center to the airport. The Bayern Transport minister expects this upgrade to lift patronage to more than 700,000 passengers/day.

And when will Caltrain make it to downtown San Francisco?

Eastern European News: BDZ restructures

THE BULGARIAN Transport Ministry awarded a contract on December 18 for a team of consultants led by Systra of France, CIE Consult of Ireland and Railplan of the Netherlands to advise on the restructuring of Bulgarian State Railways.

BDZ has already been split into three state-owned entities in line with European Union directives. The 11-month EU-funded program will provide practical assistance in reorganizing the rail sector to meet the Bulgarian national reform program and boost economic development.

Spain to make serious new rail investments for 2003

INVESTMENT by the Spanish Ministry of Development, including RENFE and FEVE, is expected to total E4.4 billion in 2003, with the high speed program once again at the head of the list with a planned spend of over E3.6 billion.

At the end of 2002, responsibility for the construction and operation of seven high speed projects was formally transferred from the ministry to GIF. Including the Pajares base tunnel, the Y-shaped route serving the Basque Country and branches to Sevilla and Soria, they bring the total length of route entrusted

to GIF since its creation in 1997 to 2935km, requiring an estimated investment spend of E23.5 billion at 1999 prices (right).

In 2003, the ministry itself will be responsible for direct expenditure of E572 million which would also include the conventional network. Infrastructure projects to expand suburban services will receive over E 200 million, while other upgrades will account for E40 million. RENFE is to invest E 471 million, including E22 million for stations on the Madrid - Barcelona high speed line, while FEVE's E33 million investment program will prioritize work to improve safety.

Moisture Stops X 2000

Sweden's SJ's X 2000 trains are in worse shape than previously known, and extra maintenance means 25 services per day are being canceled. Moisture has gotten to the ball bearings on the wheel axles, causing the bearings to wear out. Seventeen out of the 37 X 2000 trains will be in service until repairs are complete in June.

Expansions in Paris

Paris transport operator RATP has put the first of 13 Alstom Citadis 302 LRVs (trams) into service on Line T2 between La Défense and Issy-Val de Seine, and in December 2002 it ordered a second batch of 13 cars worth E21 million for delivery in 2004. The route's existing Alstom TSF cars will be transferred to Line T1 between Saint-Denis and Bobigny, where an extension to Noisy-le-Sec is due to open this year.

Further expansion of the light rail network is envisaged in an ambitious plan to boost public transport and reduce the number of private cars in the centre of Paris, unveiled by Mayor Bertrand Delanoë last month. As well as bringing forward work on the 'Boulevard des Maréchaux' outer orbital light rail corridor for completion in 2006, the mayor also hopes to build an inner-orbital route to link the main rail termini by 2020.

Other expansion transport plans for Paris transport include a sixth RER tunnel that would provide a north-south link between the SNCF stations at Montparnasse and Saint-Lazare, parallel to métro Line 13. Four métro routes would be extended, and Mayor Delanoë wants to see the largely disused Petite Ceinture ring railway revived as an urban freight distributor, helping to reduce the number of commercial vehicles entering the inner city..

Meeting location address

153 Manzanita Ave, San Carlos, 94070

from highway 101, the Holly St. exit is the best

