

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

Bay Area Chapter November 2003 Newsletter

November News

By tradition, the second weekend of November is when International Railfair happens, so the Bay Area Chapter skips its monthly meeting. Railfair takes place at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville.

Saturday 11/8 10am – 5pm

Sunday 11/9 10am – 4pm

Admission : adults \$6, kids under 12 free
parking \$1

If you have internet access, please visit
<http://www.internationalrailfair.com/>

GATS happens at the end of the month, and the ETE run at the Blackhawk begins right after Thanksgiving.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

Nov 8-9 : International Railfair, Placer County Fairgrounds

Nov 28 – Jan 11 : ETE modules and displays at Blackhawk

Nov 29-30 : GATS/Pleasanton

Dec 13 : ETE Chapter meeting at David Pryor's home

Recap of the October Meeting

Thanks to Stretch and Michelle Andersen, who opened their home to ETE once again. The ETE modules were running all weekend in their garage, and Stretch's AndersenBahn has shown much new growth in the Train Room. Bill Juergens and Joe Freese brought some rolling stock and locomotives of the Czech Republic. And did everyone see the Maerklin BR103 with the digitally controlled pantographs that raise and lower on command? Way cool ...

Officers for 2004

It's time to start thinking about chapter officers for year 2004. We will hold an election at the December meeting. We need volunteers to take on the leadership roles. David Baird is willing to continue in the newsletter/treasurer/membership officer role, but cannot take on further duties. David Pryor is willing to continue mailing the newsletters but not as an officer. Peter Barnes has contributed towards the organization of the last two EuroWests plus the chapter's events for this year, a fantastic service to the chapter. He will step down from the leadership position and take a well deserved break.

The greatest need for officers is in the events area for 2004. The mechanics of the treasury, membership and newsletters will be covered by Davids Baird and Pryor, unless someone

else really desires to take on those roles. So we just need to concentrate on finding a person or two who would like to take on the role of finding meeting venues and arranging events for 2004, and setting meeting agendas. Step up to the plate!

Reverse Corner - notes from the Module SIG

by Tom Melka

The SF Chapter meeting in October featured the module SIG set-up in Stretch Andersen's garage. Those of you attending had the chance to see the layout in action. This year, we had a smaller, 10 module set-up with the return loops for point to point operation. The layout was all inside the garage this time. The meeting was well attended and featured some great operating sessions... We also had a fun operating session on Sunday before our teardown. Thanks to Stretch, Michelle and Eden for hosting us again.

Our preparation for Blackhawk this year included a pretty comprehensive workshop on Saturday, November 1 at Stretch Andersen's house. Our four corners and tunnel corner sections all needed some reworking. The module owners and partners participated in a workshop with additional help from these ETE members: Cees Feith, Don Good, Bob Greenfield, George Rask (delayed in traffic), Dieter Vorbach and Peter Barnes.

Module owner, Jim Lowe, showed us how to use the Sommerfeldt catenary templates he made. Wow! True art in soldering! Cees Feith participated with us and also contributed Noch scenery supplies. Look for the new vineyard on our layout next time! We had a fun time and completed significant work on the track, catenary and scenery. You will see much smoother operations and "refreshed" scenery at our next venue. Thanks to all who participated. Special thanks to Cees for the supplies and Stretch & Michelle for the hospitality.

Our workshop also reviewed the work in process with Steve Imialek who is rebuilding Jacques Vuye's former modules and Rolf Krumbiegel's construction of his brand new module. They are shaping up well and will add some new highlights to our layout.

I can't believe we will be opening this month at Blackhawk for the 3rd year in a row! This seven week venue will start the Friday after Thanksgiving (November 28) and run through Sunday, January 11. As always we will have display cases featuring European train prototype info and models, TV monitors showing our latest videos and our large, award-winning layout. Come out to Danville and see us again. It is always fun to talk trains! If you would like to participate as a docent, Rolf Krumbiegel is handling the staffing, as he has in the past.

Thanks go to Steve Imialek for taking the responsibility for the group's reverse corner unit. Steve is also taking over responsibility for Jim Recker's single module. He'll be taking these modules home after Blackhawk. Adding this to his four other modules, Steve has his own module empire going! Robert deJong is looking for a partner on a module building project. He would like to construct a 3 module through station and is looking for someone to join him on this. Contact Robert directly for more information.

Many more individuals are building modules. We should have quite a European Train empire in the years to come. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any module SIG member.

See you at Blackhawk!

Chapter Finances

Here's a summary of the Chapter's financial state : **excellent**
We started the year with a balance of \$2863.90. The balance is currently \$5335.56 plus \$136.29 of petty cash. There will only be some small expenses for the rest of 2003 (unless you approve of some payments to the Send Baird To Switzerland Boondoggle Fund).

The biggest contribution to increasing the funds came from EuroWest 2003. Seller's table fees brought in \$560, the raffle tix about \$800, and admissions fees for about 300 people amounted to about \$1400, for a total income of about \$2760. Expenses were about \$950, so the net was about \$1800 for the Bay Area Chapter. ETE National accounting was done separately for advertiser income and program brochure costs. The Chapter also did net about \$320 from the dinner because the estimated cost per person was about 10% higher than the actual cost turned out to be (not bad for 100+ attendees).

Chapter membership fees brought in \$1275. Expenses have proven less than previous years because the newsletter costs have been reduced by using Dave Pryor's office instead of a commercial reproduction outfit like Kinko's.

The chapter has funded some activities like the barbecue at the Danville Museum (\$100) and the excursion ride at Niles Canyon (\$140 subsidy in addition to attendees' admissions). We paid \$100 for 10 ETE cars to be raffled off at EuroWest.

Chapter members may inquire about any specifics of the transactions. The checking account is held with Union Bank of California. Chapter Treasurer David Baird maintains records in Intuit Quicken on his home computer.

Directions to Railfair (from Bay Area)

The website <http://www.internationalrailfair.com/> has a pretty good map of the area.

Take I-80 north past Sacramento (about 10-15 miles), and exit at Riverside Ave.

Go north on Riverside Ave. to Cirby Way and turn left.

Take Cirby Way to its end at Foothills Blvd and turn right. Go over the UP tracks and on to Junction Blvd. Turn right.

Take Junction Blvd to Washington Blvd and turn right. You'll see the Placer County Fairgrounds on the right.

Parking is usually available in the large lot near Washington Blvd, but you can also take the streets a little further into the fairgrounds and find parking near the buildings where the model trains area.

It is also possible to go from I-80 to downtown Roseville, then under the UP tracks and onto to Washington Blvd. Then the Fairgrounds will be off to the left of Washington Blvd.