

*E*uropean *T*rain *E*nthusiasts



*Newsletter of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
September 2006*

Chapter Meeting Saturday, September 9 at: Annie and Andreas Hillebrandt

140 Summerhill Lane – Woodside, CA 94062 (650)-364-2233

ANNUAL OCTOBERFEST!

Future Chapter Meetings

Locations will be listed in the next newsletter.

Upcoming Module SIG Events

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

Redactie : Robert de Jong
Publicatie : Wolfgang Leitenberger
Voorzitter : Chris Vais
Penningmeester : Steve Imialek
Modules voorzitter : Tom Melka
Promotie : Rolf Krumbiegel / Peter Barnes

August Meeting Highlights

A regular meeting of the SF Bay Area Chapter was held on Aug. 12 at the home of Heidi and Hans Coaz. Chris Vais opened the meeting with about 40 members present. Chris warmly thanked Hans and Heidi for their generous hospitality. Hans has an HO and HOm layout that has a spur track from his train room to an outdoor staging yard connected by about 25 feet of track. All the members enjoyed the shaded lawn and spacious garden area. Many members took advantage of the swap meet. Heidi and Hans noted that when they first bought the property it was covered with 60 apricot trees and the house was about 100 years old. Chris commented that he grew up not far from the Coaz's house and remembers acres and acres of apricot trees. Don Winslow made note that before there was an expressway it was originally the main

train line on the peninsula. So basking in all this history and model trains made for a very relaxing afternoon.

Status Reports

Membership: New members David Diamond and Chris D'Elia were present. Chris also works for Talbot's and brought their raffle prize, a Marklin starter set. They are also in the process of building a module together. Welcome to the chapter!

Also please note email correction for Robert Waal: rcwaal@comcast.net

Treasurer, Steve Imialek, reported that there was a balance on hand of \$3542.06

Newsletter seems to be arriving by email without serious problems. Non email subscribers will be receiving the newsletter through the post as before.

Module SIG: Rolf Krumbiegel displayed a photo and flyer poster of all our past venues this year. The poster will also be on display at Eurowest. Rolf was also instrumental in getting the Mechanics Bank at Hilltop Mall in Richmond venue. The bank gave a very generous honorarium to the SIG for their two week effort. Many bank customers and employees were very pleased with our layout and are looking forward to having us return next year. Rolf also made a photo poster of our display at the bank which will also be at EW X.



Our next and last venue before Blackhawk will be at the Tracy Historical Museum from Sept. 9-24. Operators and docents can still sign up for this ten day event. The museum, a former WPA Post Office building, is located at 1141 Adam St. Directions: Interstate 580 East over Altamont Pass, Exit 11th St., continue east on 11th, left on Adam (look for the Tracy Inn on the right), ample parking in back. The museum is open Sun., Wed., Fri. and Sat. from 11-4. The dates are Sept. 8 (set-up), 9,10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 23, and 24 (takedown at 2:30). Call Rolf at (925) 939-7576 or rolkru@earthlink.net if you would like to operate. This will be a 10 module layout like our other museum/bank venues.

Unfinished Business

ECMC Layout: Rolf, Dieter Vorbach and Steve Imialek visited the layout at the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Palo Alto. This 8'x8' layout was built and is maintained by the Menlo Park Model RR Association. It depicts an American rural layout set in the Bay Area. Unfortunately, trains weren't able to run that day. But several staff members told us how much they and their patients enjoy the layout.

Steady progress is being made on our ECMC layout now moved to Steve's garage. Completion is scheduled for Feb. 1, 2007. The surplus buildings and track given to us by Mrs. Small were sold at EuroWest X netting \$470 to offset construction costs. The inner and outer tracks were temporarily laid down by Rolf, Steve and Wolfgang Leitenberger last week with special thanks to Marklin. Trains were last seen running on the outer track. Beverages were passed around to commemorate the event.

Junior Program: An initial discussion was held to introduce the idea of attracting younger members to the chapter. Some pros and cons were brought up to be pursued further at the next meeting. Dieter Vorbach and Don Good will be the committee to form a presentation to the chapter.

EuroWest X: At this writing, it was a successful event. Not all the figures are in but there were over 800 visitors at the two-day event. The vendors reported good sales were made over both days. Modular layouts were operated by San Diego, Sacramento N Scale, SF Bay Area, and the HOm SIG. Seven clinics were given. Seventy-two people attended the banquet. Marklin's latest products were

demonstrated by Dr. Tom Catherall. Rutger Friberg showed off a new crane to be produced by a Danish company. Many raffle prizes were given away to many happy people. Jacques sent his best wishes.

During the meeting before EW X, Chris mentioned the need for a standing EuroWest committee to be formed soon for EW XI. So there are many EW items that need to be discussed at the next meeting and we hope to have all the figures available by then.

Roy Parker shared his memories about his recent tour to Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg. He gave an interesting report on their latest construction and expansion improvements. He also gave us an update on the latest DB news from his travels around Germany.

Congratulations to Jens Ullmann and Shireena Dubey who were married Aug. 4th. Our best wishes for you two. May you have a life filled with good health and happiness.

Next Meeting: Annie and Andreas Hildebrandt will host an Oktoberfest at their house Sept. 9.

Future Meetings:

Oct. 14: Host Don, Mary and David Winslow
Generation Church
2811 San Carlos Ave.
San Carlos, CA 94070

Nov. 11-12: (no meeting)
30th Annual International Railfair Sat. 10-5 &
Sun. 10-4

Placer Co. Fairgrounds, Roseville
(www.internationalrailfair.com)

Dec. 9: Host Rolf Krumbiegel
Blackhawk Museum
3700 Blackhawk Plaza Circle
Danville, CA 94506
(www.blackhawkmuseum.org)

2006 DUES ARE now 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



EUROSNIPS ----

By: Jim Recker.

Eurostar Profits from Terrorist Threats, World Cup

PARIS, August 28 - In the four days following threats to air travel and heightened security measures at British airports around London, Eurostar increased its service through the Chunnel and carried more than 30,000 passengers than it normally does during that time period.

The unexpected spike in business follows Eurostar's latest impressive quarterly report which was full of good news: Ticket sales have climbed by 6%, business class sales have increased by 11%, on-time arrival is up (91% of all Eurostar trains arrive within 15 minutes of arrival time), and total ridership for the quarter climbed just over 3.7 million. Eurostar ticket sales were helped along by fans of the "Da Vinci Code" movie (featuring Eurostar), and English soccer fans on their way to Germany for the World Cup.

Belgium: Main Line Quadrupling & International Detour

BRUSSELS, Aug 24 - The SNCB launched construction of a new regional RER line for the Belgian capital, starting along the main line leading to Namur. SNCB officials, Belgian ministers and local town mayors gathered in a ceremony that will quadruple Line #161 between Etterbeek and Ottignies stations, a large portion though the Forêt de Soignes southeast of the city.

Construction of the RER network by TUC-Rail will involve most major rail lines around Brussels. TUC-Rail has nearly completed construction of the high-speed "LGV" rail links to Germany (Liège to Aachen) and the Netherlands (Antwerp to Rotterdam and Amsterdam).

On the same day, a major freight train derailment between Quévy and Maubeuge on the Belgian / French border caused international traffic in that region to detour over 80 miles to the East through Jeumont. This disruption did not affect the high-speed LGV service between Brussels and Paris; only freight and long distance passenger service. The derailment did

not cause any injuries, and service was restored four days later.

Spanish Train Derailment Tragedy

PALENCIA, Spain -- August 22 - A simple derailment near Palencia in the north of Spain killed six and injured 36 others. Local officials have yet to announce the cause.

The RENFE Talgo train was linking the town of Vigo to the French border town of Hendaye when one passenger car leapt off the tracks and collided with a bridge, dragging five cars behind it. While the Talgo is capable of speeds of 200km/h, the train was fortunately going at a slower rate. Passengers reported intense shacking of the passenger cars just prior to impact. While there was much smoke following the crash, no fires were reported.

The last serious train crash in Spain was back in July when a metro's excessive speed caused it to derail and crash in Valencia, killing 43.

Freak Storm Wreaks Havoc on Budapest Rail Transport

BUDAPEST, Hungary -- August 20 - An unusually strong summer storm, which had been forecasted correctly by the local weather service, claimed three lives and injured over 240 people when it reached the Hungarian capital just as a special firework display was starting. Thousands of spectators had been lined up along the Danube River.

The storm was so strong that two people were reported to have been washed away by the Danube. Gabor Demszky, the mayor of Budapest, has called for an inquiry. The mayor had asked for central government help to clear debris from the streets.

Two tram routes and two trolley bus routes were suspended. All train transport in Budapest was suspended for several days because of damaged power lines from the storm.

New Trains Beats 1993 Swedish Record

STOCKHOLM, July 26th - A specially equipped wide body Bombardier Crusaris Regina train reached 281 km/h on the Stockholm-Göteborg main line in Sweden. The tests are part of the "Green Train" project which includes an active bogie which is stiff on straights and soft in curves, as well as a trackside noise camera system which uses recent increases in computer power to understand noise emissions from fast trains. Bombardier says a 250 km/h train could be ready for commercial service by 2011. This would be the third tilting 250 km/h train after Alstom's Pendolino and Bombardier's Amtrak Acela Express (240 km/h).



The wide body Regina was conceived as a cheap and capacious train for regional service. It seats five abreast and is 3,45m wide, over 60cm wider than a typical European train. They are similar but wider than the Øresund trains that also run in Denmark.

The incident is likely to cause Chinese officials to carefully review its plans for the second Maglev line in China between Hangzhou and Shanghai.

OUTSIDE OF EUROPE Chinese Maglev Catches Fire

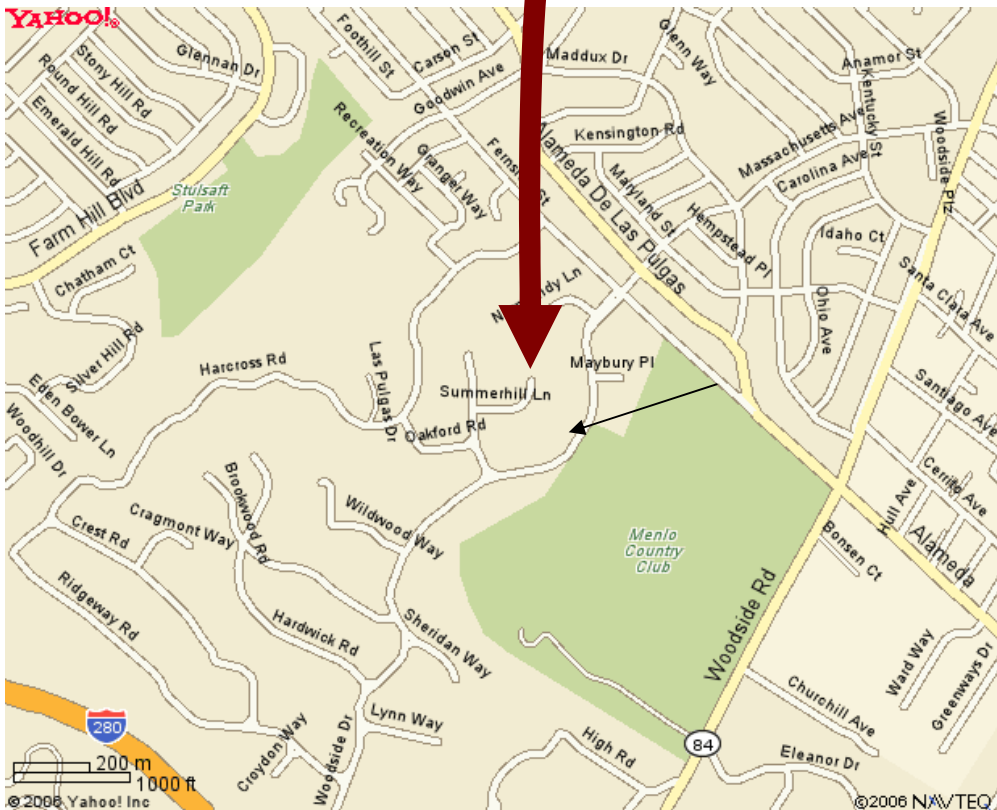
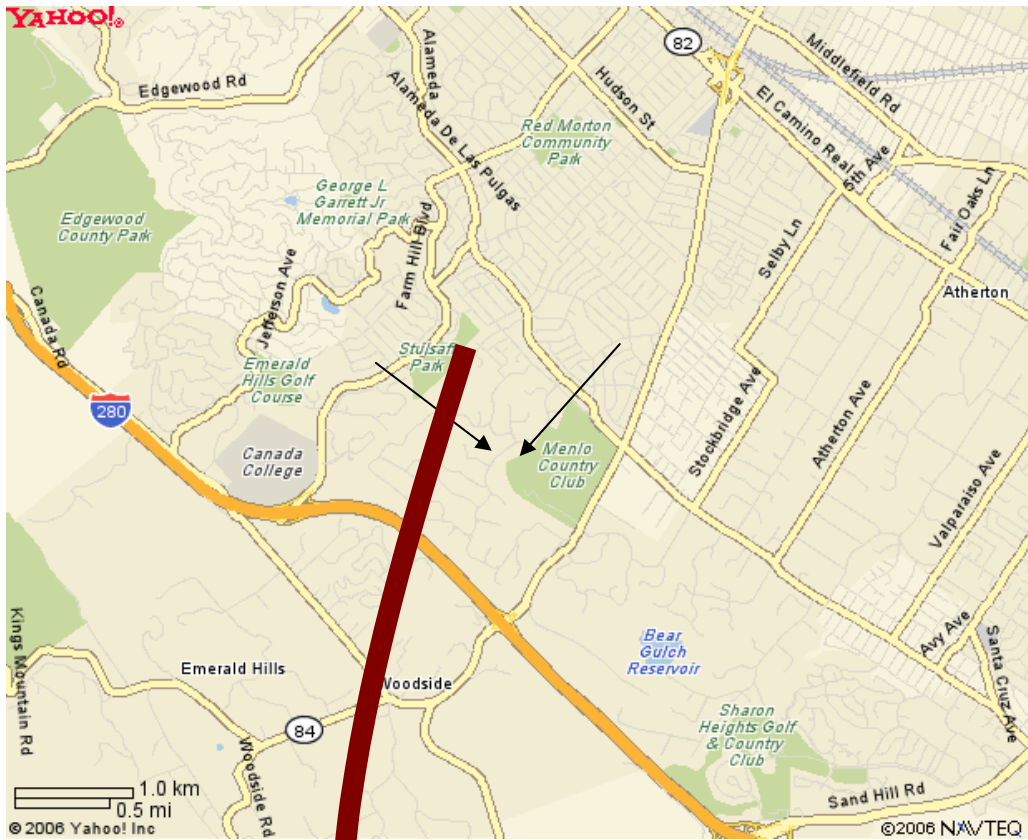
SHANGHAI, August 11 - While the story occurs outside of Europe, the rolling stock is German: A Siemens built Maglev, on an afternoon run between Long Yang Road Station to Shanghai's Pudong Airport, caught fire causing a system shut-down. The fire was quickly put off, all passengers were rescued and there were no injuries. Fortunately local fire services had rehearsed such a fire emergency in May. Removing passenger from an elevated track is no simple matter, involving many ladders and "rescue tubes".



(Thank you to Edson Yamazaki who forwarded this news)



Picture of Month Detail:
Belgian SNCB weed killing train, at Limal near Ottignies.





The module SIG had two more letters of very good comments about our groups layout. Below are the two letters!

You too, can join the Module SIG - Ask about it this Saturday at the club meeting!

European Train Enthusiast San Francisco Bay Area Chapter P.O. Box 1451 Brentwood, CA 94513 8/15/2006 Thomas F. Bennett Regional Manager The Mechanics Bank 3170 Hilltop Mall Road Richmond, CA 94806 Dear European Train Enthusiast, I can't express adequately how well received your exhibition and demonstration of a variety of European trains has been here at The Mechanics Bank. Both customers and employees of the bank stood in awe of the ornate representations of trains and a quaint small scene one might find along the railways of Europe. The details and conversation with members of your ETE organization made this one of the most memorable events here at The Mechanics Bank. I Many customers and staff have recounted stories of their childhood, visits to Europe, and future plans to visit again. I feel the time and patience your members spent with our clients made this a very special and memorable event for all. I hope in future years more will come to see, listen, and learn about this exciting spectacle of miniature trains and. scenes of Europe. I hope we may be put on your permanent annual schedule and the ETE display will become an anticipated extravaganza by our clients. In future years we hope children, parents, and grandparents alike will calendar a visit to our Mechanics Bank Home Office in Richmond. Its uniqueness and quality are fantastic examples of how The Mechanics Bank differentiates itself from other institutions by demonstrating our commitment to the community. Warmest Gratitude and Thanks, Thomas F. Bennett Regional Manager The Mechanics Bank of Richmond

European Train Enthusiasts C/o Mr. Rolf Krumbiegel 151 Park Avenue Walnut Creek, CA 94595 June 13, 2006 Museum On Main Street 603 Main -Street, Pleasanton CA 94566 Dear Rolf and all the wonderful members of the ETE, Thank you so much for your generous donation of time, expertise, and humor to the Museum On Main. Your willingness to share your model train layouts with both the Museum and our guests is deeply appreciated, especially considering the time and effort it requires on the part of your organization! We are thankful for your support and appreciate the trust you have placed in our organization. It is the thoughtfulness and generosity of people like you that makes our museum programs possible. Thank you again for your interest in and support of the museum and the Amador-Livermore Valley Historical Society. We invite you to continue to visit the museum in historic downtown Pleasanton and discover just how exciting local history can be! Sincerely, Teny Berry Executive Director