



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

February, 2008

Volume 9 Issue 2

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

Calendar

March 8, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

March 29, Last winter clinic, a layout tour,
10:00 am

April 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 10, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 16 - 18, SSR Convention, Winter Haven,
FL at Cypress Gardens

Layout Status

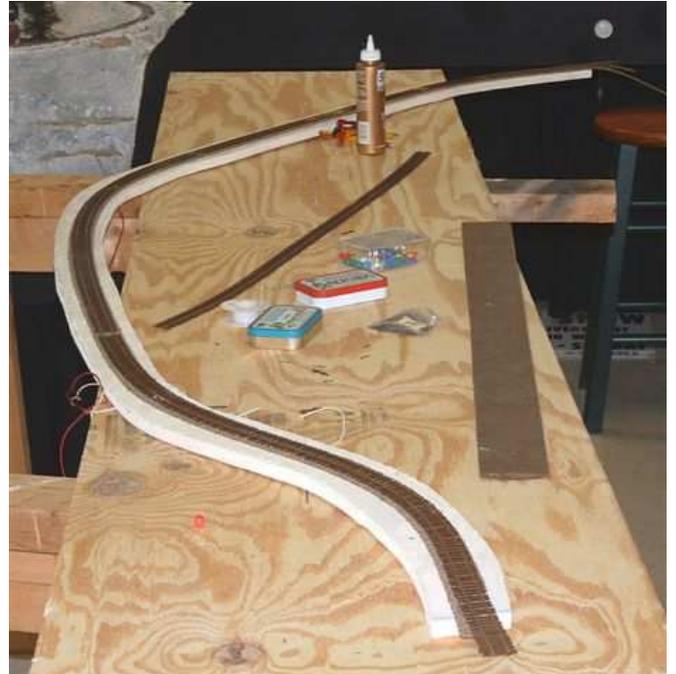
The new Victorville is fully functional, and trains are now running eastbound through Victorville and on to La Junta, and the westbound trains come from La Junta through Victorville on the westbound track. Smooth running, with transition curves and easements. Really looks good. Now that the fascia boards are on, the next step is to finalize the placement of the cement plant, modify the mountain as necessary, and add the roads and buildings, and then the rainbow bridge when it is complete.



The Rock Island interchange now has a live TV monitor (it sort of reminds me of the first TV we had when I was a kid) to allow us to see what the RI trains are up to when inside the interchange tunnel. About 8" square and B&W, but boy does it work well. Thanks for Dennis donating the camera, and Lee for finding the monitor cheap and installing it. A great job.



That will allow us to put the narrow guage to work, instead of just running in a figure eight. This will be a neat addition.



The addition to the narrow guage is starting to take shape. Jim Morse is destroying Jim Edmier's rock quarry to move the cliff face out some, allowing room for the track. He promised Jim he would rebuild it, but I noticed he waited till Jim was out of town to start work on it! He has also cut in the turnout and is laying the track over the subroadbed, through a tunnel portal into the bench work tunnel and out the other side into Colorado Springs.

The NTRAK modules are back together so we now have the little guys operational. This is great not only for the NTRAK-ers, but also for the visitors we get all the time. Here is the end module that Darrin finished.



Here is the new engine service facility, fully operational.



Make and Take Clinic

[Note: This is being repeated since we did not get a chance to discuss it at the last meeting.]

Based on the power supply project that Peter was building, Lee has suggested that we could consider a clinic for club members on building a very well regulated bench power supply. Purchasing such a tool would cost sever hundred dollars. He estimates the cost to build one would be less than \$35. He suggests that if there is interest (besides me!), he could set up a make and take clinic for those who sign up and pay the materials fees. Then once a week he could meet with all those building the bench power supply to answer questions, provide suggests, trouble shoot, and provide overall help to each person. The work can be done at home or at the club. If at the club, each member would need to bring his own tools since there would not be enough to go around the also allow other club work to get done. It is just an idea now but think about it and we can discuss it further at our next meeting.



Western Division Meeting

February 16, 2008

Manatee Convention Center,
Palmetto, FL

The Sarasota Model Railroad Club had asked us to bring up our NTRAK layout for display at the Train Show in Palmetto Feb 16 and 17. Here are some pictures taken at the show to give you some idea of what this NTRAK lash up was like. The three clubs (SR, SMRC, & Plant City) made up a scale 7 mile run!



Sunshine Region Convention May 16 - 18, 2008

The spring 2008 Regional Convention will be held at the Best Western Admirals Inn at Cypress Gardens, in Winter Haven, FL. In addition to clinics, layouts, dealers, etc there will be an extra fare buss tour of 6 layouts: John Wilkes, MMR, Tom Wilson, Lake Wales Club layouts, Keith Williams, and the Cypress Gardens HO layout. Contact Walt Roberge, Registrar at 863-294-3297 or write to him at 4120 Sprucewood St., Winter Haven, FL 33880. The Registrar will handle all registrations and room reservations at the hotel. Costs are as follows:

Convention & Banquet	
Single	\$70
Couple	\$100
Convention only	\$40 (\$45 at door)
Banquet only	\$35
Hotel	\$79 + tax/night

Let's see if we can't get a bunch of us to go to this one from Scale Rails.

Meeting Minutes FEBRUARY 9, 2008

Members present: George Alexander, Jim Beliveau, Dick Bell, Dan Cermak, Mike Connor, Walter "Ben" Curll, Lee Dobyns, Jim

Edmier, Steve Gdovin, F.A. "Skip" Giddings, Alex Grantt, Peter Gross, Russell Hammer, Ryan Hannaway, Darrin Kerwin, Randy King, Rich and Dianne Korf, Dennis Little, Ted Marshal, Jim Morse, David Nelson, George Nink, David Parsons, Gary Randall, Gordon Roedding. Dwight Sedgwick, Stanley Seeds, MMR, Oren Stephans, Robert Veefkind, Ray Welliver Jr.

Meeting was called to order by President Peter Gross at 1:30 pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes for the January meeting were published in the January Newsletter. Motion by Dennis Little, seconded by Ben Curll, to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Stan Seeds, MMR, Treasure, reported that we have \$ 13,333.54 in the checking and savings accounts. Our mortgage is down to \$ 34,976.57. The club net worth is \$ 114,359.60. With our strong financial position a motion was made by Seeds to pay \$2000.00 towards our mortgage. The motion was seconded by Ben Curll and the motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP: Mr. Randy King was introduced as our new member. Congratulations and welcome Randy. Mr. Mike Connor is now a Founding member. Thank you Mike. A motion was made by President Peter Gross to drop Mr. John Miles from the Club due to Inactivity and lack of monthly dues. Motion seconded by Jim Morse and motion carried. Mr. Hino Hartmann is recovering from a heart attack. We all wish him well and hope to see him soon.

OLD BUISNESS:

1. Layout Status:

- a. **LA Div 1:** The Victorville modification is in place and the track work is being tested and is just about ready to be populated with buildings. This is a great modification to our layout and will prove to be a benefit when

operations resume. Stan is hard at work on the Rainbow Bridge. This bridge will be a beautiful addition to Victorville. Check the upper and lower level TO DO Lists; lots of projects need to be completed.

- b. **Joint Line:** The new Edmier Concrete and Culvert plant is in place at Colorado Springs. Ballasting and scenery work is coming along and looks great.
- c. **N-TRACK:** The turntable and Roundhouse is complete. The Modules will be at Sarasota Railroad meet.
- d. **Narrow gauge:** The Turntables are in at both ends of the line. A new Roundhouse is being installed at Cripple Creek. The new expansion is starting soon.

2. **Building maintenance:** The new paint looks great, the Depot looks like new. Rich Korf painted the web site address on the front of the depot and it looks great too. The roof and Parking lot will need some attention soon. Stan is working with the Seminal Gulf railroad and will report soon on their ability to move the box car to the depot.

3. **PROMOTIONS:** As mention last month, H&R Block will give us \$ 25.00 for each new customer that mentions the club. The brochures are on the gust sign in table in the front room of the Depot. If each person gets one friend to us this we can earn a substantial amount of money.

NEW BUISNESS:

1. **WESTERN DIVISION MEET:** We will be car pooling to the Sarasota Model Railroad Club and Western Division meet on February 16. We will leave from the Depot at 8am so if you need a ride, be here by then.

2. **SSR SPRING CONVENTION:** The Spring convention will be held May 16-18, at the Best Western Admirals Inn, Cypress Gardens, in Winter haven, Florida. Room rate of \$ 79.00 is available.

3. **CLINICS:** Starting in Jan 19, we will have Clinic every Saturday for approximately 10 weeks.

4. **PICNIC:** a picnic for all members, spouses and family is planned for the first weekend in April. We now have a gas grill so we can cook our own burgers and dogs. All we need is some volunteers.

5. **LONG TRAINS:** Please refrain for running any trains longer than 10 cars. Our layout was designed for this length of train, and any longer train will damage our relays in the power management circuits. Also all of our pre-made up trains have been disassembled, rearranged and moved. These need to be rebuilt and put back were they belong. In the future all members are asked to not change any trains on the layout, and if you run them return them to their originating yard and track. Steve, Ben, Skip and George Nick have agreed to rebuild these trains and put them where they belong so we can start having operating sessions again.

6. **OPERATIONS:** Mr. Little stated that we need to form a committee on operations. Please see Dennis if you would like to serve. A bad order car box is placed near Mr. Nink's work area. If you have a problem with a piece of rolling stock, document the problem and put it in the Bad order box. If the wheels are dirty clean them.

7. **Amtrak:** Mr. Alex Grantt informed us of the Rail Passenger plans for our region. Looks like within 3 years we could be riding the rails.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Shirts

If you want a Club shirt, contact the Club Shirt Lady, Dianne Korf. Shirts are about \$28 each. Let her know your size and she will order them for you. You can contact her at (239) 281-8636 or by email at dkorf@msn.com

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida

Our Charter

Our intent and purpose is to promote and encourage the art of model railroading and preserve the history, science and technology of rail transportation. To this end we have organized our efforts for charitable, educational, literary and scientific purposes. As part of our endeavors, we host railroad displays, give talks and presentations for school, museums and various organizations. Our members do not presume to be experts, but rather a group of individuals sharing knowledge with each other.

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida

1262 Piney Road

N. Fort Myers, FL 33903

www.ScaleRails.org



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REMINDERS

March 9, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

April 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 10, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 16 - 18, Sunshine Region Convention at Cypress Gardens

EDITORIAL

The NTRAK bunch had a real good time at the train show in Palmetto, operating their sections along with the Plant City and Sarasota club sections. This is what it is all about for them; going off to shows to display their handiwork, talking shop with other NTRAK folks, learning from others and interacting with the Public. They really enjoyed themselves and look forward to other opportunities.

The HO folks should give some thought to building some FreeMo modules in order to do the same thing. They would have fun too.

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor