



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

May, 2008

Volume 10 Issue 5

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

Calendar

June 14, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

June 21, Mid Year Western Division Meeting, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Inverness, FL

July 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

August 9, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

August 16, Late Summer Western Division Meeting, Plant City, FL

September 13, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

Layout Status

Stan is making great progress on the Rainbow Bridge. He took it up to the Regional Convention in Winter Haven for display and it drew lots of comments.



Jim Morse is reducing the height of the Narrows to make it less imposing and to improve the view of the Southwest Portland Cement Plant.



Jim Morse is also working of scenicizing the area where the narrow gage exits the Rocky Mountains and comes into Colorado Springs and the Rock Island interchange track goes.



Dwight has finished the track installation for the NTRAK switching puzzle and is now installing the drops to get it wired up. This is two different switching puzzles placed on one module. The first is the famous John Allen Time Saver, and the second is what is called an Inglenook and is a British invention. Both together on one module will provide unending combinations of switching puzzles for centuries of fun (the Inglenook alone can generate over 40,000 car arrangements with just 8 cars. This will be fun.



The Edmier Concrete products plant and batch plant is now complete except for some conveyors. This really looks good!



Make and Take Clinic

We announced this clinic several months ago at one of our meetings. It seemed at the time that about 15 or so people were interested in building this bench power supply and the estimated cost of \$40 seemed reasonable to folks. However, no one has signed up for the clinic and given Stan the \$40 up front to buy the parts. The sign-up list is on the wall to the right of the doorway as you go from the HO room to the NTRAK room. Please add your name to the list and pay Stan the \$40. As has been noted, any excess moneys will be returned to each participant.

Sunshine Region Convention May 16 - 18, 2008

The convention was held at the Best Western Admiral Inn in Winter Haven beside Cypress Gardens. The clinics began Friday evening, from 6 to 11 pm, and Saturday morning till about 1:30. Guided layout tours in vans left Saturday morning at 8:30 and 9 am and took all day. The Banquet was well attended and the auction afterwards was spirited!! Not very many models were entered into the contests so it would be nice if that could be improved next time. Attending from Scale Rails were Peter Gross, Dennis Little, David Nelson and Stan Seeds, MMR. We all had a great time. The next convention is at Deerfield Beach in mid-October. They put on

a really great convention so please put it on your calendar and plan to attend.

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2008

Members present: Jim Beliveau, Dick Bell, Walter "Ben" Curll, Jim Edmier, Steve Gdovin, Alex Grantt, Ryan Hannaway, Heino Hartmann, Dennis Little, Jim Morse, George Nink, Stanley Seeds, MMR.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Dennis Little, at 1:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Financial Report: Stan Seeds, MMR, Treasurer reported that we are \$2,900.00 ahead of budget. The monthly report was missing from by notes.

MEMBERSHIP: No new members this month. George Mocko has not contacted us to bring his dues up to date. At last month's meeting we decided to give him an extra month. He still has not contacted us. Therefore, by a vote of the membership George Mocko has been removed from our membership rolls.

COMMUNICATION: No new communications this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Layout Status:

1. **Upper level:** We need someone to take over the Diesel House construction. Please see Stan or Peter if you can help get these two buildings completed. The narrows in Victorville is being modified to help better view Peter's impressive Cement plant. Check the upper and lower level TO DO Lists. Lots of projects need to be completed. Stan's

Rainbow Bridge is about completed and looks great.

2. **Lower level:** Scenery areas are filling in, thanks to Mike Connor and Jim Beliveau. The new panel has been completed for Colorado Springs thanks to Dennis Little. Ron Parker is working on new fencing near Castle Rock.
3. **N-TRACK:** The New Time Saver and Switching puzzle module is almost finished thanks to Dwight. This Module will be a lot of fun and should hone our switching skills.
4. **Narrow gauge:** The expansion is now through the continental divide and has arrived at Colorado Springs.

2. **Building maintenance:** The storage trailer is gone. The parking lot needs to be resealed. This will cost between \$400.00 and \$500.00. A motion was made by Mr. Curll and seconded by Mr. Grant to have the lot resealed for this price; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **MAKE AND TAKE CLINIC:** Lee Doby's is putting together a Make and Take clinic for a Bench Power Supply. Materials cost for this project is \$40.00 and you will build the Power Supply at the Depot and then take it home. If you would like to participate, sign up at the Depot and pay Stan for the parts. If the cost is less than \$40.00 each, a refund will be given.

2. **DISPATCHING LOCOS:** We are beginning to have problems with the DCC system because the slot stack in the command station is getting full. Don't forget to Dispatch the locomotive when you finish running your train. If you do not know how to dispatch your locomotive, just ask someone who does.

3. **SSR SPRING CONVENTION:** Best Western Admirals Inn, Cypress Garden has rooms for \$79.00. The Dates are May 16-18.

4. **SSR CONVENTION:** No new date for a 2009 SSR convention had been proposed. So Mr.

Ben Curll made a motion that Scale Rails offer to host a 2009 convention. The motion was seconded by Mr. George Nink and the motion carried.

5. **AMTRAK:** Mr. Alex Grantt reported that CSX Corp. has indorsed the idea of passenger service to the area. Again Alex said we will be riding trains soon.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Rules of Model Railroading

1. Don't ever put your soldering iron down on anyplace you might sit.
2. Don't ever think that hard to reach track work will not be a problem.
3. Don't be fooled into thinking that because you followed instructions exactly it will work.
4. Don't be fooled that because you measured it three times it will fit.
5. Don't be fooled by a label that says "it's easy."
6. Don't think that because everyone else's works great yours will too.
7. Don't ever believe announced shipping dates.
8. Don't go to fast with your chopper.
9. Don't put your coffee down by the jars that you use for mixing various noxious concoctions.
10. Don't hand your wife a controller if she appears in the train room one night wearing only make up and high heels.
11. Don't ASSume because the box says an item is "ready-to-run" it actually is.

12. If you have a lift up or lift out section of track, DON'T forget to put it in place before running your trains.

13. If a loco derails in a tunnel, in a hard to get to place on your layout... Don't send another around to "push" it out. You will then have two derailed locos in a tunnel in a hard to get to place on your layout.

Storage



As you can see from the picture, there is a big empty spot where the storage trailers used to be. We arranged to have a local person take it apart for the scrap metal, at no cost to us. Our neighbors had to do the same with their trailer so we both used the same person. We contracted for the dumpsters and we agreed to split the dumpster costs. We are now in the discussions with our neighbors to settle up the bill for the dumpsters. There were four dumpster loads, and with rental, transport and dumping fees the bill totaled about \$1,050. We have paid the bill in full and expect our neighbors to reimburse us soon for their half.

We have decided to go without local storage for a while to see how much pain and

withdrawal it causes. This will help us to establish what our real 'need' is also. The box car is in good shape and our good "stuff" is stored there. We may decide we don't "need" local storage, or we may decide we can't do without local storage. Doing without for a while will be a good test, and it might build character!

Fairmont Speeder



Calling all Speeder fans. We have this Fairmont Speeder which used to be operational. There are some who would like to get it back into operation again. If you would like to be involved please contact Jim Morse.

Freight Snippets

RAILROAD GAZETTE 3/28/1884 p. 240

The Santa Fe's Corn Train.

A train of 35 cars loaded with corn donated to the flood sufferers of the Ohio Valley by farmers and merchants of Sedgwick County, Ks. will arrive St. Louis next Thursday morning. It leaves Wichita on Monday via Santa Fe, and at Kansas City will be turned over to the Chicago & Alton to be delivered at St. Louis to the Ohio & Mississippi for delivery to the Cincinnati distributing point. The Santa Fe, besides furnishing the cars and transportation free, has decorated the train gorgeously but tastefully to enter St. Louis

with flying colors and bearing the mottos proclaiming the sentiments of the farmers of Kansas.

RAILROAD GAZETTE 1888:

BAD MAKE-UP OF TRAINS (all roads) A correspondent, referring to the careless placing of cars of long lumber, unhandy oil tanks, empty high-sided board coal cars etc. in the rear of the train, where a brakeman will be impeded in getting at the brakes, says: "It is a notorious fact that in many instances it would be almost impossible to stop some freight trains as they are made up. It should be the duty of every yardmaster to put at least four good brakes next to the caboose, and as many more next to the engine. I see trains almost daily which it would take a good active man 10 to 15 minutes to get over and not set a brake! Trains made up hit or miss, besides being dangerous to life and limb, are expensive to handle, as all hands are afraid of them. The engineer shuts of a little sooner, the brakemen hold the train as hard as they can, and the consequence is a drag into the station. Or, in the case of an unexpected stop such as have to be made frequently, the first signal the engineer gets he reverses, uses sand and stops as soon as possible. This sort of work is expensive either way; it is hard on the machinery, hard on the coal pile and mighty trying to the nervous system of the crew.

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.

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REMINDERS

June 14, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

June 21, Mid Year Western Division Meet,
Inverness, FL

July 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

EDITORIAL

We have two "To Do" lists, one for each level of the HO layout. It would be really good if everyone could find a project to do from this list. That way you will be able to have a part in the layout construction, and the job will get done faster. Please give it some thought and see Stan or me about a project you could take on. We need all the help we can get. Any you will find it to be fun.

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor