



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

November, 2008

Volume 10 Issue 10

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

Calendar

December 13, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

January 9 - 11, Prototype Rails, Cocoa Beach Hilton Hotel, Cocoa Beach, FL

January 17, Annual Meeting, 1:30 pm

January 17, Public Clinics begin, 10:00 am

Feb 14, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

Feb 21, Western Division Meet in Bradenton

26th Annual Holiday Train Show A Great Success

Once again Scale Rails of Southwest FL held a very successful train show. The public enjoyed it, the dealers did well for the economic conditions prevalent today, and all the kids who came to the show and the Depot were thrilled. Club members can also be thrilled because we managed to make some money on the show.

Because this was a new location for the show, we were concerned about people not knowing where it was. We decided to spend more money upfront on advertising to overcome the new location issue. Dwight Sedgwick took on this task and did a really great job. Do to his efforts we got better advertising in the News Press, as well as significant news coverage by the News Press and Fox TV news. The significant exposure in the News Press assuredly helped attendance.

A small group of folks worked on cleaning up the Depot, and it looked really good. George Alexander put together teams of train operators so we would have 5 or 6 trains running all the time. The Public really enjoyed that. Lee Dobyms and Ben Curll worked hard to finish the helix detection and display system. The Public thought that was pretty cool. The operators had to endure a long day of on the floor operations and answering questions, but it was worth it. We had a steady stream of people that started at about 11 am and went to after 4 pm, both days. They asked lots of questions and were very interested it what we had built.



The Ed Best layout was busy the entire time the Depot was open. It is very popular with the children and their parents.



The Temple was a little smaller than the Ambassador Hotel so we had fewer dealer tables to rent. However, it still worked out well. Saturday's attendance was greater than last year's and so was Sunday's. Shoppers were looking for bargains, so the dealers in new materials tended not to do as well as the dealers in used materials.



Jim Morse's Christmas layout, with the Polar Express Lionel train, was very popular, especially with the ladies. Jim reported the locomotive died the first day so he went home and got his 50 year old Lionel loco and it is still running!! Smoke too.



Jim's On30 layout continues to be very popular with people spending hours talking with him about the design, construction and plans for modifications too. The children were fascinated by it as well.



The NTRAK folks had a great time and everything ran very well. Alex Grantt got some new hats too!



Jim and Sarah Jane Kaserman, authors who live in Fort Myers, asked if we could sell their books at our show for a commission. One book was *Tails from Christmas Trains* and the other was *How the Pirates Saved Christmas*. We agreed to do this, and Carol Edmier volunteered to be the sales lady. Thanks Carol. Unfortunately, the books did not sell real well.





The Garden Railroad Society of Southwest Florida attended the show this year, and had an elevated layout that drew a lot of attention.



We had a N scale layout which had been donated to the club earlier in the year. Several members worked on making it operational and scenic it. Then Mary Jo Little and Pam Morse volunteered to handle the raffle table itself. Thanks Mary Jo and Pam. Steve Gdovin was in charge of keeping the trains running. All were successful. Here we see a young lady from the crowd drawing the winning ticket from the basket while her brother covers her eyes. And here is the winner. His image will not be clarified

so he can safely get his new layout home without having to contend with pirates.



Meeting Minutes November 8, 2008

Members present George Alexander, Jim Beliveau, Jim Edmier, Lee Dobyns, Steve Gdovin, Skip Giddings, Alex Grantt, Peter Gross, Russell Hammer, Heino Hartmann, Ryan Hannaway, Dennis Little, Jim Morse,

George Nink, Dwight Sedgwick, Stanley Seeds, Robert Veefkind.

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

Minutes: The minutes for the October meeting were published in the Newsletter. Motion by Steve Gdovin, seconded by Alex Grantt, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Stan Seeds, GMMR, Treasurer, reported that we have \$7,000.91 in checking and savings. Our mortgage is \$31,214.07. Total assets \$143,928.54. Due to a low cash balance, a motion was made by Mr. Seeds to transfer \$2,000.00 from Savings to the Checking account. Motion was seconded by Mr. Little and the motion carried. Cash balance should improve after the Train Show.

MEMBERSHIP: No new members this Month.

COMMUNICATION: No new communications.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Layout Status: upper level: Mr. Oren Stephans is almost done with the roundhouse. Thanks, Oren. The Rainbow Bridge is near completion, and looks great. Thanks Stan. The Narrows is looking good, and will be ready for the Train Show. Thanks Jim. The Helix light show locator lights are being tested by Mr. Lee Dobyns and Mr. Ben Curll, and will also be working by the Train show. Mr. Ron Parker has volunteered to finish both Diesel Houses. Check the upper and lower level TO DO LISTS; lots of projects need to be completed.

2. Lower level: Scenery areas are filling in at the Rock Island interchange. Peter is working on the new freight house in Colorado Springs. Trees are being planted near the narrow gauge, between Castle Rock and Denver. Work needs to be done at Denver, see Dennis for details.

3. N-TRACK: The New Time Saver and Inglenook Switching puzzle module is complete and is a lot of fun. Try out your switching skills.

4. Narrow gauge: The new K-27 engine is back from the manufacturer's overhaul, and is running great. New trees are being planted, and the mountain scene looks much better.

5. Building Maintenance: Mr. Seeds will re-key the Depot soon.

6. Train Show: Mr. Edmier reports that all of the tables have been sold. We have 100 nice Train Show posters to be placed. Please help find some high volume spots for these posters. As we all know a lot of hard work is needed for this Train Show to be successful. Please help in any way you can. The Garden Railroad Society should be at the train show. Assignments have been made for everyone who is in town. Please get your assignments from Dennis and let's all work to make this a great train show.

7. SSR Convention: The Convention is May 9-11, at the Clarion hotel. We will have 14-18 clinics and need a clinic chairman.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Prototype rails meet at Cocoa Beach is in January. This is a great show and we will car pool for any one that wants to attend.

2. AMTRAK: Mr. Alex Grantt reported that much progress is being made in train travel because of the rising fuel cost. Alex said we will be riding trains soon.

3. Club Elections: Three nominations were received: Mr. Little, Mr. Edmier, and Mr. Gross. As there were only three openings on the BOD, a motion was made by Mr. Seeds that the election to the BOD be made by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grantt and the motion carried. Congratulations to Mr. Gross, Mr. Little and Mr. Edmier.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15 pm.

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

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EDITORIAL

After a lot of hard work, we had a very successful Holiday Train Show. Thanks to everyone who was able to help out. Without your time and effort we would not have been able to do such a great job. Have a joyous Christmas and plan to have a fun filled New Year of model railroading!

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor