



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

September, 2007

Volume 8 Issue 8

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

HO Layout Status

LA Division 1

Stan has finished the San Bernardino Depot, and it is a beautiful model. It has now been mounted onto the layout for all to enjoy. Here is a picture of the 'street side' view, which you will not be able to see on the layout since it faces away from the isle.



Congratulations Stan of a magnificent model.

Calendar

Oct 13, Monthly meeting, 1:30pm

Oct 19, SSR Board of Directors meeting,
Scale Rails Depot, 3:30 pm

Oct 20, Western Div. Meet, 8:30am, North
Shore Alliance Church and Scale Rails Depot

Nov 10, Monthly Meeting, 1:30pm

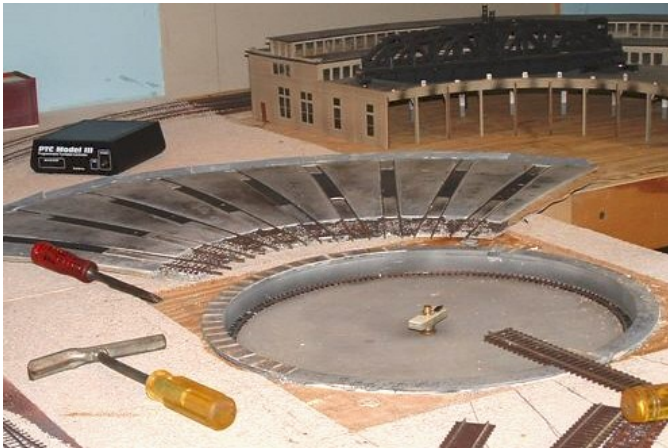
Nov 24, 25, Holiday Train Show,
Ambassador Hotel and the Depot

We had a strong electrical storm (actually, a very normal occurrence here in SW FL, the lightning capital of the world) on September 13th which damaged several of the signaling systems electronic boards, as well as at least one, and maybe more of the PM-42s. Team Digital fixed the boards and returned them in less than one week! What a fantastic outfit to do business with. The PM-42 that was damaged has been replaced with one borrowed from Don while the sick one is sent to the hospital for surgery. We also ordered a new one to make sure we have a spare on hand should this happen again. We are now back into operation, but may not be totally out of the woods. There are still some strange happenings. It turns out that the damage was caused by having our system tied to two different grounds that were at two different potentials. One is the building ground. That was installed when the building was built, and while the outside

ground bar is very good, the building relies on the metal conduit to carry the ground circuit. That is no longer acceptable in the code, and is certainly not good enough to protect all the digital systems we have. The second ground system was installed by us when we refurbished the building. It is a 10' copper bar driven into the ground just outside the dispatcher's office, but inside the building. As a temporary fix, Lee has bonded the nearby electrical conduit ground to the other ground. However, there are several circuits we use that are relying on the electrical conduit ground, which is not reliable. We will need to bond them all to the building and system ground so there is no potential between any of them. That will be a job for this winter.

Joint Line

Ray and Ben have been working on the installation of a turntable in Denver. It is coming along. The turntable and the roundhouse came off Stan's home layout. Here is a picture of the work in progress.



Plans have been made to bring the narrow guage line across the rock quarry in Castle Rock via a trestle, through a tunnel and out the other side and into Colorado Springs. The layout in Colorado Springs will include a turntable to turn the locomotive and some dual guage track, cause it's neat looking! In order to accommodate this change, Dennis relocated Jim Edmier's concrete batch plant to the opposite end of Colorado Springs, in the area where the narrow guage turntable

will be located, and has filled in the area there which was originally going to be a body of water.

Narrow Guage Status

The Blackstone 2-8-2, DRGW 'Mudhen' steam locomotive has finally been delivered. This model is made by Blackstone, a division of Soundtraxx, and includes a Tsunami sound decoded with an outstand replication of the Mudhen sound, and the loco's detail is very well done. It is a great addition to the layout.

Peter had built and with Jim Morse's help installed a control panel for Cripple Creek, the terminal on the Denver side of the layout.

Jim Morse is scratch building a gallows turntable for installation in the Colorado Springs narrow guage area. He has used a servo motor from an R/C airplane, some gears from an R/C car, some wood and wire and brass, and somehow has come up with something that actually works! Amazing. Here is a picture showing the turntable installed in the area in Colorado Springs where the narrow guage line will run.



NTRAK Layout Status

Dwight has declared the NTRAK layout fully operational on both DC and DCC. All the modules have been assembled, and everything runs well. The Maine Potato Train

is particularly impressive, although it would have been much better if it was being pulled by some Boston and Maine motive power!!



Cub Scouts Visit Scale Rails

About 30 Cub Scouts from Pack 82, Cape Coral, along with about 15 adults to supervise, came to the Depot on Thursday evening, September 20, 2007. They were very excited and enthusiastic about what they saw. They enjoyed the sound equipped locomotives on the HO layout, the details of the NTRAK layout, and of course the opportunity to run trains on the Ed Best layout. The adults were all fascinated as well, being amazed at the details included in so many scenes. We expect to see more of such groups from both Cape Coral and North Fort Myers.

Here you can see a large group all clustered around the Ed Best layout, where only three could operate at a time. I warned the adults that they were not allowed to operate this layout, that it was only for the kids.



Below is a picture of some cubs catching the action.



There was great interest in the raffle layout too. When they learned that we would raffle it off at our Holiday Train Show in November there was even more interest!



Scale Rails Meeting Minutes September 8, 2007

Members present: Dan Cermak, Lyle Crouder, Walter "Ben" Curll, Lee Dobyns, Steve Gdovin, Peter Gross, Alex Halberda, Ryan Hannaway, Jim Morse, Dwight Sedgwick, Stanley Seeds, Don Sprotbery, Oren Stephans, Robert Veefkind, Luther Ward, 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 July meeting were published in the August Newsletter. Motion by Ben Curll, seconded by Lee Dobyns, to approve the minutes as published; motion carried.

Financial Report: Stan Seeds, Treasurer, reported that we have \$10,365.80 in the checking and savings accounts. Our mortgage is down to \$ 35,887.21 The club net worth is \$ 110,481.22 The club is ahead of budget for the year by a couple of dollars. We now have \$1 Million Dollars of NMRA Liability insurance, due to our 100% NMRA membership.

Correspondence: We received a phone call from a Mrs. Little, requesting to have Cub scouts visit the Depot. She will let Peter know when and how many at a time will visit. One or two dens each visit, of 20 or so plus adults would be workable.

OLD BUISNESS

Layout Status:

1. **Division one:** The San Bernardino Station is complete, along with the highway overpass. Stan has put many hours into this beautiful depot and it will be the centerpiece of the San Bernardino Yards. Oren Stephans is busy completing the roundhouse improvements. The new crossover is in at summit and is working fine. Houses are being built and will be a welcome addition to the San Bernardino yards.

Joint line: The staging yard at Denver is in and will allow three trains to be held for

operating sessions. The Rock Island interchange is working and a new signal is in place to protect the Rock Island interchange.

N-TRACK: The double ended yard is finished. Much progress is being made on the modules. They look great. The layout should be up and running soon.

Narrow gauge: Our new K-27 engine is on the layout. It runs and sounds great. The narrow gauge is expanding and soon will travel to Colorado Springs, Via the Continental divide (scenic divide) and will enter Colorado with trackage next to the Rock Island interchange.

2. **Train Show:** Table Sales is behind last years total at this time. We need new ideas for advertising and new layouts to view.

3. **Western Division Meet:** The October 20 meet will be at the North Shore Alliance Church. We hope to have 60-80 people attend. The attendees will visit the Depot after lunch and run trains.

NEW BUISNESS

1. More people are needed at the Thursday night sessions. Only two people showed up last Thursday and if attendance is not any better in the coming weeks, the Thursday evening session may be discontinued. Peter committed to keeping them going through next March or April, but after that is will need more attendance to justify doing it.

2. We need a new web master, if any one is interested please see Mr. Gross. Lee Dobyns volunteered to become the new Scale Rails web master.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:05 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

Western Division Meet, October 20, 2007
North Shore Alliance Church, 330 W. Marianna Ave.
N. Fort Myers, FL

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida, Inc. and the Western Division of the Sunshine Region, National Model Railroad Association, Inc., are sponsoring a Western Division Meet on October 20, 2007, in North Fort Myers. Admission is \$10, which includes lunch and soft drinks. Non-NMRA members are welcome.

| | |
|--|---|
| 8:30 - 9:30 am | Registration |
| 9:30 - 9:45 am | Free-Mo Overview- Brian Stauffer |
| 10:00 - 10:45 am | Making trees from natural materials - Dan Cermak |
| 11:00 - 11:45 am | Scenery break painting techniques - Dan Cermak |
| 12:00 - 12: 40 pm | Burgers and Dogs off the grill |
| 12:40 - 1:00 pm | Remarks and Q&A by Mike Brestel, President, NMRA |
| 1:00 - 1:15 pm | Layout and Operations Orientation - Dennis Little |
| RELOCATE TO THE SCALE RAILS CLUB HOUSE, THE DEPOT | |
| 1:30 - 3:30 pm | Operating session on the club layout - All |
| 3:30 - 4:00 pm | Closing Discussions - All |
| 4:00pm | Adjourn |

This will be an opportunity to meet others in the Western Division, learn more about Division activities and the fine modelers that exist in our Division, and become more familiar with the NMRA and programs it offers. It will also be a special opportunity to meet Mr. Mike Brestel, President of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., who will be in attendance.

We welcome any Division member who has a Free-Mo module to bring it to the meet and hook up with the others. This is getting to be a very active part of the Division activities and we encourage others in the Division to build their own modules and bring them to the meets (which we plan to hold 5 times a year in the Western Division).

We will have tables set up for you to display models you have built and would like to share with others in the model railroad community. As is customary, we will have a popularity contest for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize models. Stan Seeds, MMR, President of the SSR, will also present a Presidents Award to the model he judges to most warrant that recognition. Achievement Program judging can also be done.

Gusts will be given an opportunity to operate trains on the Scale Rails club layout.

In addition, the Sunshine Region will be holding a Board of Directors meeting on the previous day, Friday, October 19, 2007. This meeting will be held in the Scale Rails club house, the Depot. Mr. Mike Brestel, President of the National Model Railroad Association, Inc., will be attending both the BOD meeting and the Division Meet. NMRA members are welcome to observe.

To make this meet a success will require the concerted effort of all of us. Work assignments will be finalized at our October 13 monthly meeting. Please plan to attend.

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



Scale Rails of SW FL
1262 Piney Road
N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903

REMINDERS

Oct 13, Monthly meeting, 1:30pm

Oct 19, SSR BOD meet, Scale Rails Depot, 3:30 pm

Oct 20, Western Division meet, 8:30 am, North Shore Alliance Church, and then to Scale Rails Depot after lunch.

Nov 10, Monthly Meeting, 1:30pm

Nov 24, 25, Holiday Train Show

EDITORIAL

October will be a very busy month. We will be cleaning up the Depot, getting organized and then conducting the Western Division Meet on the 20th, and then getting organized for the annual Holiday Train Show in November. We will need the help of everyone to pull it all off. Please contribute your time and talents to the club; come by when ever you can to give a some time and effort.

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor