



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

September, 2008

Volume 10 Issue 8

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

Calendar

October 11, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

Oct 17 - 19, SSR Regional Convention, The Deerfield Coastliner II, Deerfield Beach, FL

November 8, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

November 29, 30, Holiday Train Show, Araba Shriner Temple, Fort Myers

December 13, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

Layout Status

The pace of work has continued to be slow. Folks are beginning to return from up north, so we should see more progress soon.

Stan is still working on the Rainbow Bridge, and is still working on the road bed and the railings.

Lee has been gone the whole month so progress on the helix detection and display system has not progressed.

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2008

Members Present: Jim Beliveau, Ben Curll, Jim Edmier, Steve Gdovin, Alex Grantt, Peter Gross, Ryan Hannaway, Heino Hartmann, Randy King, George Nink, Gordon Roedding, Dwight Sedgwick, Stan Seeds, Richard Sopha, Don Sprotbery, Oren Stephans, and Bob Veefkind.

Meeting was called to order at 1:50 P.M.

Minutes for July and August were reviewed. Motion by Gordon Roedding, seconded by Ben Curll, to approve the minutes as presented in the newsletter. Motion approved.

Finance Report: We have \$8,594.56 in our checking account and our net worth is \$112,985.73. Year to date income is \$10,448 and expenses have been \$6,809 so we are \$3,639 ahead on income versus expenses. Motion by Gorgon Roedding, seconded by Alex Grantt, to approve the finance report. Motion approved.

Membership: President Peter sadly reported that Dave Parsons had passed away this summer. Jim Morse had a heart attack, had to have a stint implanted, and is recovering nicely. Richard Sopha has passed his trail

membership period. Motion by Oren Stephans, seconded by Ben Curll, for Richard to become a regular member. Motion approved. Richard will be a "Founder" member. Glad to have you Richard.

Communications: Letter received from the NMRA that the Scale Rails magazine subscription will be going up \$7 annually upon your renewal. Dues will remain the same at \$36 without the magazine. With the magazine, dues and subscription will be \$55. Student memberships will be going up \$4 to \$28.

Ballots have been mailed to members for voting on Sunshine Region officers.

OLD BUSINESS:

Upper Level: Ron Parker is working on the diesel house and making great progress. Stan is working on the Rainbow Bridge and hopes to be through soon. Peter is working on relocating the cement plant and the set-up of the main street in Victorville.

Lower Level: No report.

Narrow Gauge: Bob Veefkind reported the light in the locomotive is out again.

N Scale: Dwight reported that they are working on structures to scenic the puzzle module. Both puzzles are operational if anyone would like to try their hand at switching.

Building: We are almost through the summer rainy season and there have been no noticeable water problems after out painting and sealing of the building.

Donations: Keep an eye out on e-bay, there are some items that were donated to the Sunshine Region that will be going up for auction

NEW BUSINESS:

Kids Layout: Thomas the Train engines and cars were donated. The passenger cars do not run well because of the tight radius. The passenger cars will be kept on display.

DCC Turnoff: Peter reviewed the proper way to turn off the HO DCC layout.

Train Show: The Ambassador Hotel closed on September 29. Jim Edmier has talked to dealers and verified that we will have a Train

Show, but have not yet found a location. They all want to come. Jim is looking for a new location. Thirty two tables have been sold to date.

Regional Convention: There is a regional convention in Deerfield Beach on October 17th - 19th. See Peter for details.

Speeder: We need to decide what to do with the speeder. Jim Morse and Darin Kerwin are interested in rebuilding the unit. Peter will talk with them further to determine what they would like to do.

Re - key the Building: We still are using our original keys. Many people have come and gone. Motion by Dwight Sedgwick, seconded by Jim Edmier, to re - key the building. Motion approved.

Operations: Peter has asked Jim Morse to work on an operations plan for the upper level of the HO layout.

Make and Take Clinic: The deadline to sign up for the make and take power supply clinic is October 1. Cost of the clinic is \$40. Please sign up on the sign up sheet and give Stan your \$40.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Annual Holiday Train Show

We have contracted with the Shriners to use their facility at 2010 Hanson Street to hold our Holiday Train Show this year. The facility is as large as the Ambassador, without the big lobby area. It has a large, carpeted stage that will be perfect for the Garden Scale Railroad. Because of the facility configuration (it is 5 feet narrower) the number of tables it will fit is less. We are going to mount a more aggressive advertisement campaign this year because it is in a new location and because the local economy is hurting. The ads we plan to run in the News Press are on our Web Site. Check it out.

The Gulf Coast Express III

Scale Rails is going to sponsor the Spring 2009 NMRA Sunshine Region Convention. We have contracted with the Clarion Hotel, 12635 S. Cleveland Ave., in Fort Myers to hold this event. This is the same hotel that was used to host the 2003 SSR convention. There have been many significant improvements to this hotel since then. It was a Ramada, but now is a Clarion, part of the Choice Hotels chain. The hotel and rooms have been renovated. The hotel now features:

- Sam Seltzer's Steakhouse, which has been very successful
- A great outdoor Tiki Bar
- Fitness Center
- Free, High Speed Wireless Internet Access
- Your choice of rooms:
 - Tropical Courtyard Pool-side for \$73
 - Executive for \$83
- AAA approved

The following elements of the convention have been settled on and will be further developed over time (see the SSR Web Site and the SSR Yahoo Group for updates):

1. Operating Sessions: Scale Rails hopes to offer as many as three different layouts to host operating sessions on Friday, May 9.
 - The Scale Rails club layout has been developing their operating scheme and will be available for convention attendees to sign up and participate.
 - There are two Scale Rails club members with home layouts that may be available for operating sessions as well. One is an HO scale layout and the other is an N scale layout. As more information on these this posting will be updated.
2. At least 14 clinics will be offered, including clinics by MMRs and also some make and Take clinics.
3. On Sunday there will be home layout tours open for inspection. There are several new layouts that will be made available on this tour. Also, the live steam layout in

North Fort Myers has been significantly enhanced since the last convention and now includes a curved trestle on a grade and a roundhouse.

4. At the convention the Scale Rails NTRAK layout will be on display. That layout includes an addition completed this past summer that has a Timesaver switching puzzle and an Inglenook switching puzzle. These switching puzzles will be available for convention attendees to attempt to solve.
5. There will be an area where attendees are asked to display models they have built, or are currently working on. This is for display only, but will be included in the Popular Vote Contest.
6. There will be an NMRA Model Contest.
7. There will be a small Train Show with dealers who sell quality, new products.
8. The Saturday evening banquet will have a buffet of Prime Rib and Shrimp. Speaker to be announced.
9. For the Spouse Program there are several things under consideration: **A) BUFFET CRUISE - Saturday - 5 Hour Cruise - \$32.50 + tax.** Enjoy a five hour relaxing cruise, going east on the calm waters of the Intracoastal Waterway. Pass through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Locks that control the waters in Lake Okeechobee and observe the working of the locks. Have a much talked about meal (ALL YOU CARE TO EAT). On the way back join us in our sing-along, dancing or the open third deck. A Fun Filled day! **B) A guided trip to Bell Tower Mall for shopping and lunch.** **C) A CRAFT category in the Model Contest Room** where spouses may enter some craft items they have made.

Shirts

If you would like a new Scale Rails shirt, please contact Gold Coast Active Wear and let them know this is a Scale Rails shirt. Phone: 239-549-4200. Address: 4519-B Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral. Mrs. Dianne Korf is no longer able to provide this service.

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.

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

October 11, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

October 17 - 19, SSR Regional Convention,
The Deerfield Coastliner II, Deerfield Beach,
FL

November 8, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

November 29, 30, Holiday Train Show, Araba
Shriner Temple, Fort Myers

December 13, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

EDITORIAL

It is now time to begin work on the Annual Holiday Train Show. We have a lot of work to do to bring this off with our usual flourish. Everyone is asked to pitch in.

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor