

# GSMRM ZEPHYR

Edition 2019

Winter 2018 - Winter 2019

## GSMRM REPORT

We spent most of the year upgrading lights in meeting rooms and train room. This resulted in considerable reduction in our electric bill charges (See separate reports below). The main train room and all scale -O,HO,N- breaker panels were replaced with up to date, code compliant equipment. Thanks to all who participated in this project!

In the fall, we improved our safety equipment by adding CO2 fire extinguishers and location signs, replaced emergency exit signs and lights, and upgraded the alarm system. Fire inspector gave OK in Dec.

East Bay Regional Park District repaired the outside stairs and walkway which had some dry-rot in various places. Parks also re-surfaced and re-stripped the entire parking lot, and improved the handicap parking areas. Outside motion sensor lights also added.

The club store continues to run well and contributes substantially to our income. The store manager, Dave Illich, has spent considerable time ordering and bar-coding merchandise. This makes it much easier for our Sunday crews to share cash-register duties. Our Square-One register system now allows for remote inventory control so maintaining stock is much improved.

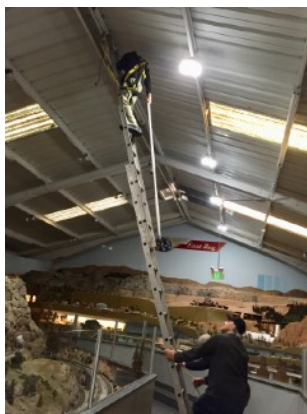
Our Groupon and local library coupons continue to be popular and provide another customer stream to the club. We also hosted EBRPD summer day camp kits in July and *The Golden Gate American Flyer Club* in July and December. —  
*Dave Illich, GSMRM President and Store Manager.*



Park Day Camp visitors.—Photo by Larry Price

## ELECTRIC UPGRADE

During the last year we completed most of the work on the remodel of our meeting rooms. During the 2014 remodel, club members worked to upgrade the wiring for boardroom, library, meeting and room, kitchen, to bring it up to latest standards. Last year, all the T8 fluorescence lights in those rooms were converted to LED fixtures. Phil Figel led the work to convert the layout room lights to LED. As part of this project, the central train



Above: Phil Figel handing down old fluorescence tube to Dave Roth and Don Flores. New LED fixtures on right of Phil. Nov 2017 —Photo by Jeff Rowe

room breaker panel and the Scale breaker panels were replaced to conform with latest code. Many more circuits outlets were installed in the layout areas to eliminate the use of plug strips, in some cases these were chained together. In O Scale alone, over 30 plug strips were in use! Many thanks to all who have helped make this a successful project! — *Dave Illich Project Manager.*

## PG&E REPORT 2017-2018

Shown below are the results of our LED light replacement/Member Conservation program for 2018. The efforts of the members who have donated their time to change out all the old fluorescent lights with LEDs is paying dividends, as is the efforts of members who contribute to our conservation program. Less money to PG&E and more for more trains!

	Total Bill	Total Bill	Peak Use	Peak Use
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Jan	\$227.30	\$358.78		
Feb	\$189.69	\$296.01		
Mar	\$228.88	\$360.22		
Apr	\$239.05	\$421.36		
May	\$273.60	\$433.80		
June	\$349.45	\$556.63	\$17.62	\$25.78
July	\$291.72	\$591.10	\$11.95	\$85.41
Aug	\$309.82	\$571.81	\$0.00	\$54.00
Sept	\$316.45	\$691.86	\$0.00	\$117.84
Oct	\$294.47	\$371.41		
Nov	\$240.10	\$308.01		
Dec	\$305.92	\$255.17		

PG&E bills for 2018 are significantly lower. GSMRM is on the PG&E Peak Pricing Plan. This is an advantage to us as our busiest days are Saturday and Sunday, which are off peak prices for power. Power use for Sunday now averages \$12-14 compared to \$21-28 during the same time in 2017. Total savings for 2018 was \$1950.

Our current conservation program was inspired by the record high bill received for September 2017 for \$691.86. \$117.84 of that bill was for three days of PG&E Peak Power Day charges for the time period of 2-6pm. 12 hours of use for the month represented 17% of the bill. The \$85 of the July bill was also only from 12 hours of use. Peak Day Price use is 3X the cost of Peak use, and 6X the cost of Off Peak use.

The Peak use for 2018 also represents six days. A better understanding of our bill structure and cooperation by members has significantly reduced usage during these periods. Conserving energy is good for California, and good for GSMRM. —*Dave Roth.*

## GSMRM MEMBER HELPS KAISER HOSPITAL

O Scale member, **John Engel**, has over the last several years helped maintain a Lionel layout for the Kaiser Pediatric Oncology Clinic in Oakland, CA. He uses some of our 3-rail donations to help maintain the diorama in good condition for the



Above: Patient at Kaiser Pediatric Oncology Clinic. —Photo by Jim B. Mitchell RN-PNP, Kaiser Oakland Medical Center, Pediatric Neurosurgery.

young patients. Engines are cleaned and restored for months of use at two of the Kaiser facilities. Dr. Bergstrom wrote "It means so much to all of us that the clinic is a place where patients come, not only to receive treatment for their diseases, but also where there are interesting and fun things to do during the visit. Your support has made that possible." In addition to the hospital work, John helped the folks at the historic "Haas Lilienthal House" in S.F. getting their antique Lionel layout that the children played with back in running condition. Many thanks to John for helping these facilities and to our 3-rail donors for providing some of the equipment! —ed. with input from John Engel.

**GSMRM LIBRARY**

The past year has seen numerous donations of magazines and books to the museum. The over abundance of magazines resulted in offering free magazines to our visitors in lieu of charging a modest fee. Only a very small portion of the donations were added to the collection; most were duplicates of existing holdings. During the year, more magazine publishers produced copies of archived issues on CD or DVD. We now have seven collections: *Trains (1940-2010)*, *Model Railroader (all before 2010)*, *Classic Trains (2000--2009)*, *Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette (1964-2014)*, *Model Railroading (2000-2006)*, *SP Trainline (Vol. 1, Issues 1-41)*, and *Mainline Modeler (Jan. 1980-Aug. 2006)*. Members access these issues using the two laptop computers in the library.



New Library arranged and catalogued by library manager Mark Francis. —Photo by Jeff Rowe.

Until recently, book donations were added to the computerized catalog and placed randomly by subject on the storage shelves. We are in the process of labeling all books in accord with the Dewey Decimal Classification system commonly used in local libraries. Upon labeling, the books are shelved in appropriate order to facilitate location. The available computerized catalog is annotated to show the Dewey number. Donated books that are duplicates of existing holdings or are not relevant to the museum's mission are offered for sale through the gift shop. Funds received are used to support library services.

Current policy requires that magazines and books be read on site in the library or club room. Future plans call for allowing members to check out books for limited times. —Mark Francis, Library Manager.

**DONATIONS**

Donations! Donations! Donations! I'd like to thank everyone that has helped with the donation process.

The Library, and each scale receives many items each year. We either keep the items, or sell them in order to buy new items that the Library or the club layout need and have been waiting for.

We had a very successful swap meet last November at Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. We made many model railroaders young and old very happy buying our donations. Each scale participated, and now they have money to buy supplies for their railroad.

I'm in the planning stages of having a swap meet at the Museum to sell model railroad donations. To bring in more people, we will allow members of the Museum and the public to bring their surplus model railroad items to sell at our venue. The swap meet will be on May 25th, which is the last Saturday in May.

—Larry Price, GSMRM Donations Manager.

**MEMBER ACTIONS 2018/19**

**EBMES**

**Dec 2018/2020 Board:**

President: **Jeff Robinson**, VP: **Larry Price**, Secretary: **Dave Clark**, Treasurer: **Martin Jahner**, Directors: **Josh Carpoiff**, **John Engel**, **Alan Klumpp**. Trainmasters for 2018/19: N Scale: **Barry Wilson**, HO Scale: **Jeff Robinson**, O Scale: **Jeff Rowe**.

**New Trial Members:**

- April 2018: **Jim Jones(O)**, **Darrel Lee(HO)**, **Rob&Rob Rudy (N)**
- Aug 2018: **Dave Maffei (HO)**, **Phil Villalobos (HO)**;
- Dec 2018: **Peter Aylward (HO)**, **Ken Harrison (HO)**.

**New Senior Members:**

- Dec 2018: **Rob&Rob Rudy (N)**

**Leave:** **Bill Bigley** placed on Leave of Absence Nov 2015.

**GSMRM**

**GSMRM Officers for 2018/19:** General manager: **Dave Illich**, Treasurer/CFO: **Phil Figel**, Secretary: **Jim Ambrose**, House & Grounds: **Dave Illich**, Publicity – na; Saturday & PIC Coordinator: **Dave Illich**. Directors: **Don Flores**, **Martin Jahner**, **Morris Lyons**, **Larry Price**, **Bob Siemsen**, **Jim Trenkle**. Store Manager: **Dave Illich**.

Thanks to retiring board members for their service and congratulations to the new officers and members and for their acceptance of the Board and member responsibilities. —ed.

**OUR 2019 THEME DAYS**

During the 2019 season we continued with our special theme trains every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. At our theme days you can expect to find many trains representing that day's theme. It's a good chance to see your favorite trains in operation. Refer to the GSMRM web site for latest dates.—ed.

- **Steam/Transition Era Day** on April 28
- **ATSF/BNSF Day** on May 26
- **1980-90 Piggybacks, Stacks, Unit trains, advanced motive power Day** on June 23
- **1960-70 Fallen Flags Day** on July 28
- **Passenger Day** on August 25
- **WP/UP Day** on September 22
- **Foreign To California Day** on October 27
- **Southern Pacific Day** on November 24



## O SCALE

In January, we started our winter projects with repair of a large section in the Diablo canyon area behind the S.F. bridge and then proceeded to overlay area with rock castings, using a total of 300lbs. of plaster! This area now looks much better and provides another nice photo area. Following that, basic coloring was overlaid and work on installing trees around the south side of Mt. Heller is continuing.



Diablo Canyon work, Jim Ambrose, Jeff Heller, Josh Carpoif, Mark Francis, Bob Brown, Andy Olson, Jeff Rowe...—photos by Jeff

We completed LED lighting for all the lower level yards and walkways, plus 110v rewiring of the Departure, Arrival, Midway, Passenger yard, Pt. Richmond area, and Zenith panels to eliminate all plug strips. Along with this project, a new central 110v breaker panel was installed with new circuits for computers and future use.

At Departure, all new track base supports have been added for the block 5 and block 7 loop tracks over the Departure yard. The grades have been precisely adjusted for smooth tracking. A new west yard lead remote control panel was added to allowed engineers to set routes there in addition to the main Departure panel.

At Midway, supports have been added to the central yard base. At Zenith, the West stub yard has been ballasted and three new sidings and industrial buildings added. The yard will have its own remote panel with dual operation from the main panel.

For Pt. Richmond, LED building lighting continues. New street pavements have been added to allow downtown access to the passenger station, from the passenger station to backside, and for the harbor areas and track crossings. Tracks ballasting is also underway. At the entrance to the passenger yard, two signal bridges with 11 signal heads were installed to protect the Pt. Richmond passenger yard inbound, outbound yard tracks

We refurbished the 11 car Milwaukee Road passenger train and its three unit E8 engines. All new Atlas trucks on cars. This historic club train now runs very nice and uses very little power on the layout.



Jeff Rowe, Dave Goslee, Mark Francis, Jeff Heller@O Scale West, 25-26May 2018. —photos by Josh Carpoif

Electrical work included new 12amp DC power supplies for the Arrival and Departure divisions. These will allow both Main and Local cabs can to operate simultaneously and provide backup power if needed.

For trade shows, we began 2018 with the Sacramento Train show. Net sales from donated items at this two day event were very successful. In May, many of us attended the O Scale West show in Santa Clara to trade and sell O scale two rail donations and excess equipment. At the Craneway show in Nov, O Scale

sales after table and tax expenses were also good. These funds will be used for future O Scale projects. Many thanks to those who have donated and helped out at these shows!

Overall, our layout continues running very well with few track or electrical problems. Most of our operational problems are occasional equipment related issues such broken couplers, malfunctioning trucks and dirty wheels or tracks.

Visit the O scale public web site: [http://www.gsmrm.org/o\\_scale/index.shtml](http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/index.shtml). --Jeff Rowe, O Scale Trainmaster.

## HO SCALE

Work continues on the HO Scale Point Richmond and Truckee Railroad on multiple fronts. We have made some track adjustments to our Oakland SP and WP Yards so they can both be better used for future operating sessions. The Oakland SP Yard has a new three part control panel that is six feet long so two people can each work from opposite ends of the yard without getting in each other's way. **Jim McDaniel** and **Don Flores** led the efforts to install these panels. The Oakland WP Yard will get a new panel in the next year.

Since we changed to DCC only on the mainline several years ago using off the shelf components for our Digitrax system, the railroad has gotten more and more reliable and more fun. **Phil Figel** has been adding track and turnout detection along with working signals that are in place to help us and not just look attractive. Our narrow gauge system is also running in DCC only mode with their own Digitrax system and are enjoying its reliability, too.

Earlier this year we started cleaning our track with CRC 2-26 contact cleaner instead of using *bright boys* and other abrasive products. **Larry Price** has found that we only need a dedicated cleaning effort every 3 months instead of at least once a month to keep our trains running well. Now instead of using *bright boys* for spot cleaning, we use regular pink pearl-type pencil erasers which can be washed after they get real dirty. We are also no longer allowing Kadee wheels since they have a black coating that slowly comes off onto the track.

I continue to spend most of my available time working on the 40 foot long section of railroad that we redesigned and replaced in 2015 and 2016. Now all of the track is in operation – mainlines, sidings, and all of the industrial tracks. The main Wood Street section has over 50 feet of industrial track in its 20 foot length.



Some of the industrial buildings by Jeff Robinson. —photos by Jeff Robinson

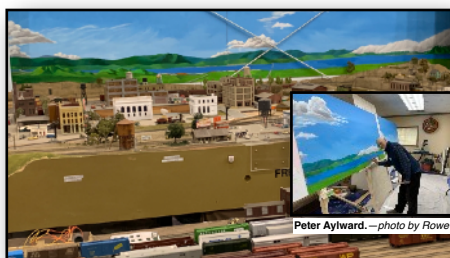
Many of the Oakland and Emeryville buildings for our Wood Street have been built in one of four ways: 1) kits like Sherwin Williams in Emeryville, 2) kit-bashing like Sprouse Reitz in Oakland from three similar kits combined into one building, 3) modular construction using DPM parts for the Cannery in Oakland and PELCO Distributors in Emeryville, and 4) scratchbuilding from sheets and various shapes of plastic with textured overlays and commercial windows and doors like American Steel, Pacific Pipe, Railroad Stop Deli, and the former Kraft Salad Dressing Plant in Oakland. During our winter shutdown

this year **Ed Slintak** spent a day weathering the track from the Oakland 16<sup>th</sup> Street Station to the far end of Wood Street and I installed over a dozen *Rapido RailCrew Electronic* Uncouplers in Wood Street.

The Carbon Black Plant has slowly started taking shape beyond Wood Street and the Rodeo 76 Refinery is being configured and constructed by **David Roth** between Wood Street and Martinez.

I am happy to share that several new people have recently joined the scale or are in the process of joining and are tackling projects that you may see when you next visit us. **Phil Villalobos** has rejoined our club (has was a valued member in the early 90s before moving to

LA) and is focusing on scenery. **Darrell Lee** has joined our club and has been focusing on electronics for signals and the control system with **Phil Figel**. **Peter Aylward** is in the process of joining our club and is working on murals for our side wall that show the Bay and the peninsula beyond it to extend and frame our layout.



New backdrop paintings by Peter Aylward. —photo by Dave Roth

Bob will lead the installation of the murals once they are ready. **Ken Harrison** is in the process of rejoining our club and is adding a non-working crossing of the SP mainlines between Sacramento and Davis for the Sacramento Northern. Ken is working on a Tower to be placed at the site. **Chuck Bailey** is in the process of joining and he and his grandson **Jasper** have refreshed the figures and details around the Martinez SP station and the farm below the Muir Trestle in Martinez. They are now refreshing the details around the Oakland SP 16<sup>th</sup> Street Station. **Juan-Carlos** and **Cathy Sanchez** and their sons **Christopher** and **Joseph** are in the process of joining and are refreshing the Sacramento Station.

—Jeff Robinson, HO Scale Trainmaster.

## N SCALE

We've had an exciting year in N-scale, many trains, lots of wait times, just like the real thing! One major thing, one of our tunnels had to be day-lighted. In Stanford, it was on a curve, with a switch, lots of derailments, all the track in that area was being replaced, so, bye bye tunnel. All of Truckee was realigned as far as new track, switches, a station, a ski lift. There are plans to double track from Truckee through Reno and up Sparks to Mojave, and we are going to lower Mojave Yard about three inches (in the future) to get rid of that 3% grade in Sparks.

Our signals are being replaced with new ones, and more are being added. As they are being replaced, that means they can be switched by our handhelds, or the computer. We are also upgrading the wiring (during our down time), added some new buildings next to Elvas wye, we even have a junk



John Sebastian working on the Tuolumne City area. Morris Lyons and Claus Schlund have also worked on this project. —photos by Jeff Rowe

yard dog!

The next big thing, our corner project, is Tuolumne City! It took us NINE YEARS to change the NN3 (non running]) to standard gauge. Once we get permanent power hooked up, we can get our operators to deliver cars to the saw mill! —Barry Wilson, N Scale Trainmaster

8269 visitors came by in 2018 to enjoy the Museum. This is

## ATTENDANCE

the highest attendance over the last 20 years. The previous years: 2017: 7853 rank 3; 2016: 8263 rank 2. Total visitors since 1993: 152354, or average over 26 years of 6012 per year! We are looking forward to high attendance for the 2019 season, so we maybe we will set another record. —Data provided by Martin Jahner

## FREE MEMBERSHIP

We offer a Free Trial Membership in one of the three scales (N, HO, O) for those interested in becoming full members. The trial period lasts up to six months and lets us get to know each other and see if there is a mutual fit. The Trial Membership can be terminated at any time, if proven to be unsatisfactory. We are looking for enthusiastic members who want to contribute to the club's and scales's activities, so regular participation is important during the trial period. —Larry Price, EBMES Vice President.

## ARE YOU ONLINE?

In order to keep up with the times, the museum is now also present on some of the popular social networks: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. We also have a channel on YouTube. Take a look:

[www.facebook.com/gsmrm/](http://www.facebook.com/gsmrm/)  
[www.instagram.com/gsmrm/](http://www.instagram.com/gsmrm/)  
[www.twitter.com/gsmrm/](http://www.twitter.com/gsmrm/)  
[www.youtube.com/gsmrm/](http://www.youtube.com/gsmrm/)

Please follow us on Twitter, become a fan on Facebook, so you'll always be informed about upcoming events, and you can see the latest pictures as soon as we post them!

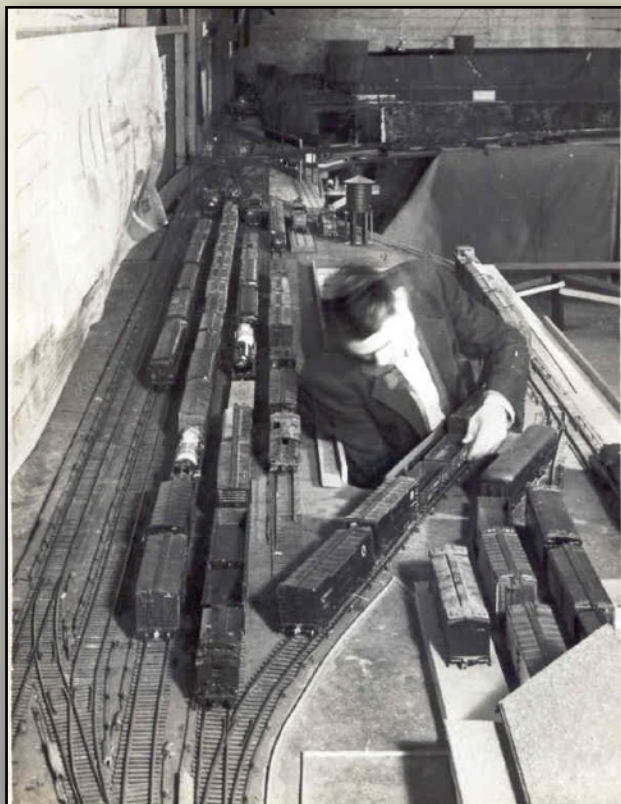
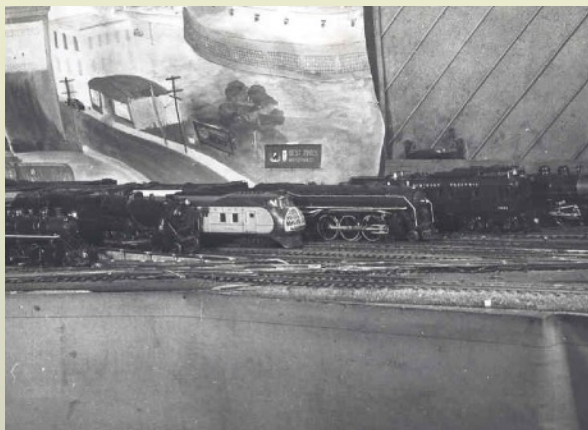
Also new is our online store at: <https://squareup.com/market/gsmrm/>. — Martin Jahner, Web coordinator; Joel Frangquist Facebook contact.





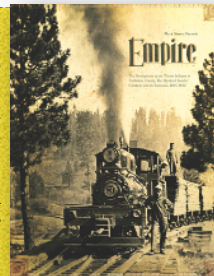
## Looking Back at EBMES 1936...

Here's a couple photographs from our web site showing the EBMES around 1936 at the W.P. station in Oakland. Photos by Gorme Koeppel. You can see more at [GSMRM History](#). —Jeff Rowe.



GSMRM member Mark Francis continues to sell his book *Empire*, covering the development of the Timber industry in Tuolumne County. Mark Francis's just released a history of the founding of the West Side Lumber Company in CD format.

Interested persons can contact Mark at [wheelhorse1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheelhorse1@sbcglobal.net) for information about availability.



## Calendar

**April-Dec**

Museum open:

**Saturdays:** 12 noon - 5 pm for viewing, no trains running.

Free admission

**Sundays:** 12 noon to 5 pm with operating trains. Admission charged.

**Wednesdays:** 11 am - 3 pm for viewing only, no trains running.

Free admission.

**December:** Open Sat and Sun 12 noon - 5 pm, trains running. Admission charged.

Check for latest info at <http://www.gsmrm.org>

## Publications



Check the publications section on GSMRM web-site at: <http://www.gsmrm.org/media> for publications on GSMRM from Model Railroader, You Tube, newspapers, and magazines.

## Contributors



**Jeff Rowe**  
-Zephyr editor

O Scale Train Master Member since 2001.



**Mark Francis**

GSMRM Library Manager. Member since 2004.



**Dave Illich**

GSMRM General Manager, Store Manager. Members since 1997.



**Martin Jahner**

EBMES Treasurer, GSMRM Web Coordinator, Asst. Zephyr editor. Member since 1999.



**Larry Price**

EBMES VP, GSMRM Donations Manager. Member since 1981.



**Jeff Robinson**

HO Scale Train Masters, EBMES Board. Member since 1993.



**Dave Roth**

HO Senior Member since 1994.



**Barry Wilson**

N Scale Train Master. Member since 2002.

Golden State  
Model Railroad Museum  
ATTN: Zephyr  
P.O. Box 71244  
Point Richmond, CA 94807-1244

Editor Jeff Rowe

Associate Editor Martin Jahner

Contributing Editors

GSMRM General Mgr. Dave Illich  
EBMES President John Fagan  
EBMES V.P. Sean Dexter

O Scale Train Master Jeff Rowe  
On3 Jim Ambrose  
HO Scale Train Master Jeff Robinson  
N Scale Train Master Barry Wilson

Email [zephyr@gsmrm.org](mailto:zephyr@gsmrm.org)  
Website [www.gsmrm.org](http://www.gsmrm.org)

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