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History.

In 2008, GSMRM celebrated its 75th anniversary. The group that actually builds and runs the layouts is the East Bay Model Engineers Society, founded in 1933. In 1934, the club moved to Grahame Hardy's bookstore in East Oakland, and in 1934 took up residence in the "baggage room" of the Western Pacific depot at 3rd & Washington Streets in downtown Oakland in what is now referred to as "Jack London Square". In 1939 the club took up residence in the "Key System" headquarters building at 22nd & Grove Streets in downtown Oakland, before moving in April 1940 to its long term home in a Santa Fe warehouse at 4075 Halleck Street, Oakland, near the edge of Emeryville. For forty years the club built HO, O and eventually N scale layouts. In 1985, the club relocated to the current location, Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline in Point Richmond. At this time, the Golden State Model Railroad Museum was incorporated with goals to provide education to adults and children interested in model railroading, prototype railroad history and operations. GSMRM is a California non-profit corporation and qualify as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3), which means that we can accept tax-deductible donations. The actual layouts are constructed, operated and maintained by the East Bay Model Engineers Society (EBMES). In 1989, construction began on the three layouts in operation today. By 1991, sufficient progress was completed on the new layouts so the club could open to the public. Since then, there has been steady progress on construction and modifications to the layouts. As many regular visitors know, there is always something new to see.

Layouts.

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum houses the three gigantic layouts (O, HO and N scale) built and operated by the East Bay Model Engineers Society. The three displays cover 10,000 square feet. All of the layouts use both standard train control or digital train control. With digital command control it is much easier for fewer operators to control more trains since all the trains receive control information on the tracks in packets, much like a local internet. Decoders in the locomotives respond to those commands to adjust speed, control lights and sound.

N Scale (1:160)

the N Scale layout at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum is one of the largest you'll find anywhere. Covering 1100 square feet, it includes over 17 scale miles of mainline, over 100 hand built turnouts, and several large yards. The track plan represents railroading in Central and South-Central California, including the Southern Pacific route from Sacramento to the Tehachapi loop (and beyond) and the SP trackage from Sacramento up the mountains to Truckee and the Nevada border.

Trains ~ Golden State MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

BY JEFFERY ROWE

O SCALE TRAINMASTER, GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM, AND EDITOR OF THE GSMRM NEWLETTER, THE ZEPHYR.

d Do you want to see trains in action? Did you have a train set when you were younger, or enjoy a train under the Christmas tree? Maybe you put them away in the attic thinking you would get them out again someday when you had more space. Did you ever wonder what a really large train setup would look like? Are you interested in building models, miniature buildings, electronics and computer train control? Then you should consider visiting one of the oldest and largest model railroad museums in the USA. It's the Golden State Model

Railroad Museum located in Pt. Richmond, California and within easy driving distance from anywhere in the Bay Area.

At GSMRM you will find over 10,000 sq. Ft. Of model trains in three scales, each on its own layout representing prototypical scenery in Northern and Central California. Both freight and passenger trains typical of the steam era through modern day diesels will be seen. Three main modeling scales are used: O-scale (1:48), HO(1:87) and N-scale (1:160).



HO Scale (1:87)

The HO layout depicts railroading around the San Francisco East Bay and interior, north to Sacramento, Roseville and Truckee over Donner Pass. It includes sections of Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and Western Pacific trackage. It features many scale miles of track, along with familiar Bay area features like the Oakland Mole terminal, the Oakland 16th Street Passenger Terminal, a fully operational trolley and interurban system and a narrow gauge railroad.

O Scale (1:48)

The O scale layout measures 164' by 25' and occupies over 4000 square feet of our building. Unlike the HO and N scale layouts, O scale is not a model of any particular region, instead it is intended to capture the flavor of the West while providing as long a mainline run as possible, currently that is about 21 scale miles, or 2300 feet long, plus over 2450 feet of yard trackage including over 90 turnouts and two double slip switches. Not much by prototypical standards, but certainly respectable for a model railroad.

Activities.

What kinds of activities will you see at GSMRM? Members of GSMRM have a wide range of interests and skills. The layouts are very large and building them requires a lot of time, and a wide range of skills, from careful planning, to carpentry, track laying, scenery construction and electrical wiring, as well as computer and electronic knowledge for advance train control. Members are able to use their professional skills, or learn from other members as needed.

At GSMRM you can do the activities that most interest you, whether it be building models, working on scenery, electrical work, trackwork, computer work, or just running trains. You can meet with and socialize with people who share a common interest in trains or other related interests. The goal is to have a realistic and prototypical place to have fun running trains while enjoying the activities you like the most.

At GSMRM, you can see a wide range of model trains and how they perform before deciding on a model you may want for yourself. When many of the older members became interested in model trains, most of the scale model trains and structures came in kit form which had to be assembled, sometimes requiring many hours of detailed work. The models were either built from wood or metal, usually brass. After assembly, the model required careful painting and lettering. Today, many models are ready-to-run, allowing more time to actually operate trains. They also range in price from inexpensive, to collector models. At GSMRM, you can see many of these older train and building models, some from the Halleck club, along with many of today's off-the-shelf models.

This is a good place to learn what is needed to build your own home railroad empire. You might even decide that joining our club is preferable in terms of time and costs needed to build a layout at home.

Operations.

Even though many members just like to build trains and work on the layouts, the main goal of most members is to operate their trains. This can take the form of coming down to the club and operating one's own trains, or operating in a more structured

way on one of our open house days for the public. There are also special member run days where trains are operated according to prototype train rules concerning speeds, signaling, and traffic control, as well as operating local trains for pickup and deliveries to various industries, with assembly of larger trains in the yards for trains bound to other areas. These sessions can be challenging in that they require planning for car deliveries and pickups, as well as coordination with train dispatchers and other train traffic, and keeping track of schedules and time.

Memberships.

The members of the East Bay Model Engineers Society (EBMES), all of whom are members of the GSMRM, build and maintain the layouts located in the Museum building. Beginning this year, a Free Trial Membership with one of the three scales (N, HO, O) for those interested in full membership is being offered. It lasts for six months and is a time to get to know club members and how the perspective member can contribute to the club's and scales' activities. Full Membership includes voting and full access to our facility including key and security code to the building. Come down any time to run your trains or work on the layout!

An Associate Membership is offered for those who belong to other model railroad clubs with reduced dues and access privileges. This membership includes the GSMRM membership with privileges as described above. There is also Junior membership for 14 - 17 year olds with limited privileges.

The best way to learn about EBMES is to visit us on one of our work nights, held every Friday night from 7pm to 10 pm. Talk to the people building the layouts and see how you

might fit in. We have need for people of all levels of skill, from absolute beginners to experienced modelers.

Schedules, special run days.

We run trains every Sunday, April through December, from noon to 5pm. We are also open on Wednesdays and Saturdays for viewing the displays. Every 4th Sunday of the month special theme days are celebrated to highlight certain types of trains, for example, Amtrak day, Steam day, Union Pacific day, and Southern Pacific day.

The museum is located at 900-A Dornan Drive, Point Richmond, California, close to the east end of the San Rafael bridge (I-580) in the northeast corner of the San Francisco Bay area. From Marin, the Museum is conveniently accessible near the east end of the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. From the East Bay, take I-580 from I-80 or Richmond Parkway. We look forward to your visit!

Website

At the GSMRM web site, www.gsmrm.org, you will find more information on the museum layouts, newsletter, videos, memberships, driving directions and map. We also have a newsletter, the Zephyr, which can be found at the web site, or www.gsmrm.org/newsletter.shtml, and we are on: Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

