

GSMRM ZEPHYR

Edition 2008

Spring

EBMES's 75TH ANNIVERSARY

With this edition we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the East Bay Model Engineers Society! The club has accomplished a great deal during these 75 years and I thought a review of some of events and milestones would be in order. Most of this information is available in greater detail at our website <http://www.gsmrm.org/>.

Each of the layouts has celebrated many milestones during the past years, and will certainly continue to celebrate new achievements in the future. You are invited to keep in touch and to watch our progress through this publication, our web site, and by visiting the club in person, or by joining one of the layout teams. During this season we will also celebrate with various special events. Stay in touch at our web site for details.

--Jeff Rowe

GSMRM/EBMES Historical Mile Stones	
1991	Open to public.
1999	January Model Railroader article on HO Layout
2000	Aug: HO completes Chubb system on Mountain Division
2000	Oct: N Scale featured in N Scale Railroading magazine
2005	East Bay Model Engineers Celebrate Golden Spike (Mountain Division), O Scale Trains, Jan-Feb 2005
2005	"Train Play", the first-ever movie (DVD format) about the Golden State Model Railroad Museum produced.

GSMRM/EBMES Historical Mile Stones	
1933	Founding of East Bay Model Engineers Society. First "home" for the club may have been Walter Brown's Industrial Gear Machine Works in Oakland.
1934	O Scale layout started- Hardy's Book Store, Oakland.
1936	EBMES moves to the WP Depot and starts the HO scale layout.
1939	Short stay in the Key System offices
1940	Move to SF Halleck St. warehouse, Oakland.
1940-80	HO, O, and N scale layouts built.
1939-40	Club helps with O Scale display at the World's Fair, Treasure Island, SF Bay.
1947	Hosted West Coast NMRA convention
1962	June Model Railroader article on club history.
1968	March Model Railroader article on the HO layout-Santa Fe Central.
1984	SF lease terminated.
1985	Relocated to current location in Miller-Knox Regional Park. GSMRM incorporated.
1989	Construction starts on our current layouts



**GSMRM GENERAL
MANAGER'S REPORT**

First, I would like to thank all who participated in our cleanup day. We got a lot done and had a great time afterward – see Floyd McCarty's report on the potluck which follows.

The 75th Anniversary Committee has been busy planning events and merchandise for this year. We plan to have a special event nearly every month, capped by a Grand 75th Celebration on September 21st with music, food by local restaurants, a possible live steam demo, and BNSF Op Lifesaver display. Other events, as reported before, will include hosting various modular groups during a weekend in May, July, September, and October. So far, we have booked the Peninsula NTRAK Modular Group on May 18th (setup on 17th)

We have also proposed special theme days as follows:

- June 22: Passenger Train Celebration
- August 10: Steam Train Celebration
- November 9: California Railroads Celebration

June 7: We are invited to the BNSF company picnic and Genset loco tour at park.

Watch for further announcements as we fill our calendar.

Participation would include all three scales, and we will work out the details with the Trainmasters. We would like everyone to take part in these theme days. Details forthcoming. We will also be selling 75th Anniversary Polo shirts, caps and T-shirts to members and through the Company Store.

The Parks District will be rebuilding our rear deck and ramp over the next few weeks. They will pour concrete footings to raise the wood above ground level to fix our wood rot problems. During this time, we will not be able to use the rear door, but we hope to barricade it to allow the doors to be opened for ventilation.

Our baggage cart has been repainted (thanks, Bob Brown!). The Long-Term Planning Committee will be meeting to refine our landscaping plan, so we can clean up the premises.

The Museum has purchased fascia skirting materials for all three scales. O Scale has already started installing theirs, and I would encourage HO and N to work with their Trainmasters to get started. It will make a big improvement in what is visible to the public.

There are lots of exciting things going on, but we need your help in order to make them happen. I encourage each of you to step forward and volunteer for some of the projects mentioned above, especially the anniversary committee. And, thanks for your support!-- *John Morrison*

MEMBERACTIONS

- Apr 08:** James Christopher-Norris -> Senior Apprentice (N)
Bob Brown -> Senior member (HO)
Sean Dexter -> Senior member (N)
- Mar 08:** Harry Critchfield -> Senior Apprentice (HO)
- Feb: 08:** Sean Vanderjagt resigned (HO)
- Jan 08:** Mac Dow resigned (HO)
- Dec 07:** No member changes
- Nov 07:** Sean Vanderjagt -> Senior Apprentice (HO)
- Oct 07:** No member changes

MARCH CLEAN UP & BBQ

March 22, 2008 members gathered at the club to participate in the annual spring clean up of the grounds and interior of the building. They worked with great zest and enthusiasm



knowing that when they were finished a barbecue/potluck



luncheon awaited them. A total of 45 people sat down to enjoy barbecued TRI-TIP & TERIYAKI CHICKEN plus numerous hot and cold dishes, salads and deserts prepared by the spouses of the members.



A great time was had by all and we were able to relax, visit and enjoy each other's company. Special thanks to Al Klumpp & Harold York for room setup, and to BBQ cooks Randy Smith, Mike Leahy, and Steve Cleere. -- *Floyd McCarty* (Thanks also to Floyd for planning and managing the event--Ed.)

WHERE DO OUR VISITORS COME FROM?

Ever wondered what we do with the information that you enter when you sign our visitors book? Well, an important use is to establish the areas in which our visitors live so that we can target our advertising - in local newspapers, libraries, stores and other public venues. And especially which areas to concentrate on to attract first-timers - we know that we get many repeat customers - those are not counted in the graphed results. Here is a graph of data extracted from the Y2006/7 entries in our visitors book. While very successful attracting East Bayers, we have a lot of work to do to get the word out to the other locations around the Bay. -- *Walt Freedman*



O SCALE

The GSMRM O Scale group has been busy during Fall and Winter work period with completing the scenery and texturing of the large mountain area on the west (train direction) area of the layout, as well as the mountain areas of the On3 layout. The lower part has been rocked and textured. We have just recently finished with the rock castings for the upper mountain sections and texturing and foliage work is in progress. During the Winter break, we completed the base plastering of a large scenery area between Midway and the Zenith yards. Also this Winter, we replaced the double slip switch at Post Road to improve connections to the passenger yard.



The automatic track selector for the Midway turntable to the three-stall round house is complete and operational. Most of the

engine terminal trackwork has been completed and wired. Ten additional storage tracks are available, plus room for five additional roundhouse tracks. The diesel engine facility is still in the planning stage.

Along the mainlines, we continue to add additional infrared train detection for improved dispatcher control. We have also been experimenting with various kinds of track cleaning cars to improve our operations.

A computer interface prototype has been developed for O Scale (OSCI). It's based on the free open source software -JMRI- (Java Model Railroad Interface). The prototype has the Departure panel including all signals, turnout controls and indicators, and block indicators. It uses a DCC bus to communicate with DCC accessory decoders and sensors, and is connected to a Mac or PC via a USB bus. The system is designed to allow either manual, DCC, or OSCI to operate the layout. To fully implement, the turnout and block toggles on our control panels will have to be replaced with pushbutton controls to allow the dispatcher panels plus local and remote manual operations to interface with OSCI. Remote control of the Post Rd junctions and passenger yard from the Arrival control panel is underway.

The O scale public and member web sites have been reworked. Take a look at http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/ or http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o_scale/. -- Jeff Rowe

HO SCALE

Signals, signals, signals ! Wiring, wiring, wiring ! Much effort has been expended getting ready for the cutover to Chubb for the run from Sacramento to the west side of the Altamont. Our top-side crew has installed a forest of signals, even beyond the planned extension. With the layout shutdown since January, the pace has accelerated to do work that could not be done while we were still running during the last few months of the year.

And not to be forgotten is training for the new system. A well-attended class on signal aspects was held in February and "hands-on" sessions in March. We may see some shaky running for the first few weeks of the new season until we gain familiarity with running under our new Automatic Block Signaling (ABS) system !

Scenery has not been neglected. Our master scratchbuilder, Jeff Robinson, is doing a phenomenal job on the buildings in our new town of Pleasanton. As an example, he has used



153 pieces of plastic to build and stabilize the peaked roof for Pleasanton Hotel. Two previous tries with less bracing warped in the winter cold of our building. We are holding our breath that trial 3 is it ! The roof has a cupola. Jeff used an additional 55 pieces just for that ! He is also scratchbuilding a model of Kolln Hardware – the portion above the main roof of its corner dome contains 140 pieces of plastic. These are models of contest quality – we are working on him to find a way to give the models appropriate exposure in the modeling community.

Work on developing the site for the new Martinez depot is progressing well. Background information and a photographic record of the stages of progress is documented on our website – scroll down looking at the left side of website homepage to "What's Happening ... " HO Scale.

A long section of the dual track Mainline between Davis and Sacramento was ripped out and relaid to eliminate an annoying vertical kink at the Sacramento River bridge. Benchwork has been completed for a new siding and switching area at Dixon, providing the operators some further operating interest and ability to change the makeup of a train before it reappears for the public.

And another large area of basket-weaving scenery base for the Hill was covered – under Cape Horn just to the left of the large elevated cab above Sacramento. Progress, progress !

-- Walt Freedman

N SCALE

At long last, our Mojave Yard is 99.9% complete. In the future, we'll be adding a passing siding off the main track. Otherwise, it all works well. We had an operation day in Dec of 07 at which the yard was used for the first time. Everyone had to get used to the new entry & exit procedures, which took a little time.

Now it's Bakersfield's turn to be torn apart, some of us just can't seem to reach those last one or two yard tracks so it was de-

ecided to cut into the bench work to accomplish that. Also, we wanted to put a drill track in next to the Sandcut block. As of now, there's a lot of bench work going on in that area.

Our Engine facility in Roseville now has a custom built Roundhouse, (the Trainmaster is finally working on gluing a floor down for that). -- Barry Wilson

THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum Board of Directors wishes to express appreciation to all members of the community who have made donations to the Museum. Donations have come to us in the form of cash and/or goods. Goods are typically model railroading items that no longer have value to the donors but remain usable. These items may find a place on one of our layouts or be sold to the public. The proceeds of sales are added to our scale funds.

Examples of the items we received during the past year include model railroad magazines, rolling stock (cars and locomotives in various scales), Lionel equipment, scenery supplies and track. Donors include visitors, family members of the Museum, heirs of former members as well as current members of the Museum and the East Bay Model Engineers Society.

As we are a non-profit organization all donations are welcome additions to the limited funds that support our activities. In addition to the satisfaction gained in giving don't forget that the value of your donation is tax-deductible in accord with the law. Thanks again. GSMRM Board of Directors via -- *Mark Francis*

MEMBER PROFILE



DON FLORES is one of our more senior members, having joined East Bay and Golden State in 1989 to assist with the HO Narrow Gauge layout (HO_{N3}). He was born, raised and educated in San Francisco, attending Lincoln High School and CCSF. He developed a love for trains on vacations to Santa Cruz as he and his family traveled by rail. He was just getting into model railroading when a tour in the Navy

interrupted his plans. He served on active duty in Viet Nam between 1966-68 as a diesel engine-man specializing in hydraulic systems on reefer ships and minesweepers.

When he returned from active duty, he joined the Golden Gate Club in San Francisco to pursue his modeling hobby in HO standard gauge. His love for narrow gauge railroads was growing, however, and some railfan trips to Colorado added fuel to his fire for this specialty.

In 1989, he resigned from the Golden Gate Club and joined a group in San Rafael. When this group proved to be poorly organized he made his move to GSMRM/EBMES.

He says he still has an interest in modeling HO Standard Gauge, but since at least 1990, he has been involved only in the HO_{N3} layout at Golden State. Largely this is due to the relationship he developed with Paul Soito and "Doc" Myers who showed him the ins and outs of narrow gauge. He was trained to lay track and install turnouts and is responsible for a good deal of right-of-way on our HO narrow gauge layout. When he first joined, he did a lot of work on the HO standard gauge layout as well, as the walkways in the Museum were just finished and layout construction had just begun. Both Paul and Doc are gone now so Don works with Walt Smith and others to keep HO_{N3} running. He has assisted with recent improvements, including expansion of narrow gauge into the Colfax area and conversion

of the layout from DC control to DCC. He served as a director of Golden State for two years about 5 years ago.

Don is now in his 40th year with PG&E and looking at retirement next year. His outside interests include photography, mountain biking and canoeing. He hopes retirement will produce more time at home, in the garden and for railfanning and model railroading.--*John Edginton*

Calendar

May 15: Point Richmond Stroll will be on Thursday from 5:30 pm to 8 pm.

May 30: GSMRM annual meeting 8:30 pm in the Boardroom.

EBMES 75th Anniversary Events:

May 18: Peninsula NTRAK Modular Group.

June 7: BNSF company picnic.

June 22: Passenger Train Theme Day.

August 10: Steam Train Theme Day.

Sept. 21: 75th Grand Celebration.

November 9: California Railroads Theme Day.

Latest calendar at

<http://www.gsmrm.org/members/calendar.shtml>

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