



October Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 5th, 2010. At Bayland Park Community Center.

The Meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Program - "Plaster Guaze Scenery" by Denny McGonigle

President's Message

By Bob Werre

The model railroad season is just about to began, so get ready. With this year's addition of the Big Texas Train Show coupled with our Fall Tour it will be an especially busy time. So please do plan on spending some time viewing layouts in the area. I can talk from personal experience, that it's very disheartening to spend weeks or months to prepare a layout and have a poor turnout. So gather a couple buddies, grab the car with the best gas mileage and spend the weekend seeking great modeling.

As I began my term as San Jac's president, I want to thank those who had confidence in me that I can guide this fine organization for a short while. I also need to thank all those who served in office or volunteered in the past, because our future is based on the past and it's successes.

I think I will compare this club to running a railroad. In my case I'm this lowly switch engine down in the yards. This engine was born about the same time as those sleek E-6's, the beautiful PA's and the powerful Erie-builts, all pulling those named trains. Those engines have all gone into the history books or Pentrax Videos but there are a few old time switch engines still plugging along making up trains, venturing down questionable track and perhaps waiting for a new ring job that may never come!

Of course we all know there is more than just running a switcher on your shift. We need to think about all those jobs that make things work-like the roundhouse crew, the brakeman, switch tenders, crossing guards, the clerks and even the sales guys who convinced a customer to come back even though we put his last shipment on the ground!

We must think about how we can become part of a smooth running railroad—after all it's in our blood!

Please help this "railroad" to keep on its greater mission. So grab a shovel, a wrench, a telegraph key or a throttle and let's have some fun riding the San Jacinto—it's better than riding the rods with the hobos!

WANTED: Help with our newsletter! Our club has run very smoothly since I joined this group not long after Astro Rail. The one problem that has popped up a few times has been our newsletter, the Derail. Maybe the name says it all—derailed again! Dave, Bob and Doug have done a darn good job of keeping us informed, but there does come a time to turn over the duties. It seems to be a critically important job requiring devotion and a certain amount of basic computer skills. Putting together any publication requires articles and someone to assemble and distribute the results. Most of us have ignored these two elements so those who have taken on the responsibilities have been discouraged to the point of the publication being

somewhat of a painful chore rather than an opportunity.

As many of you know I come from the world of S Scale where several times in our history the scale nearly vanished. What kept us going were our S publications. Right now there are 4 published magazines in S scale plus dozens of newsletters.



I'm going to mention a couple examples of what could be possible solutions. First is a mini magazine that is published by the Canadian S group. This North of the border publication is published and edited entirely by the membership—each and everyone in turn. In this way everyone takes responsibility or the publication dies! It was started well over 20 years ago. Although I doubt if our

group wants to follow this club, the idea that everyone gets involved for the greater good is important when it comes to authoring a short article or two. I'm not particularly adept at writing but I've written and photographed a few articles. I can tell you it's a good feeling when someone comments about your article—try it you'll like it plus it will help you get your MMR.

The second is the NASG's Dispatch, which I am involved in as staff photographer for over 25 years. This magazine is similar to NMRA's various membership magazines that is published 5 times a year plus a membership annual. So basically it's just big newsletter serving about 6,000 members with the usual organizational duties plus construction articles, layout and product reviews. It gladly accepts paid ads and runs color when possible. In this case both the editor and photographer are paid a small amount thus leading to both of us working tirelessly for many years. Again we may not want to go quite so "commercial" but perhaps some kind of reward system might be considered.

I would like to suggest that our club consider any sort of way to keep the Derail on the rails. So search out solutions that other clubs might be using that would make sense to turn the Derail into an opportunity. Please tell us what you think!

NEW San Jacinto Club Display!

Since we've been offered a display table at the upcoming Big Texas Train Show this month, I felt we needed to design a display that represents our club and it's activities. The concept is to make the display flexible enough to change for different events and to be updated as needed. Hopefully it will prove useful for our own show in February, as well as, any future events. The display can be free standing or preferably with members present to field question and information. You can view the beginnings of our display at our October meeting.

Meeting minutes for September 7, 2010

President Robert Ashcraft called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and welcomed 2 visitors.

Vice president David Currey introduced the night's clinic:

Decoder-pro software, by Jim Lemmond

Jim explained how all you really need to program a DCC decoder is a throttle and a command station, but there is an easier way: JMRI's DecoderPro program. This a free, downloadable program that has online help and manuals. All you need is a computer, any DCC system, and an interface cable. You can also use a standalone module like Digitrax's PR3 or LocoBuffer II. Jim used a computer on a projector to steps through the basic functions. Changing sound and speed table settings and made very easy via this program. The settings for each loco are save on your computer for future use as well as other relevant data such as owner name, date bought, etc. – good for clubs. With DecodePro you change CV's, speed curves, sound parameters, etc. via user friendly graphics and menus rather than command station code key/numerical inputs. This is especially helpful on sound decoders.

Denny McGonigle will present "Plaster Guaze Scenery" next month.

Refreshments were thanks to Ed Dibble and Virginia Freitag. David Currey volunteered to bring the treats next month.

Treasurer's report, Gilbert Freitag:

Expenses: none

Income:

\$40 deposit of a Rusk trip ticket

\$9673.78 Ending balance with all bills paid.

Minutes for July were approved as published.

LSR: no report

Division 8:

Ray Byer reported that 9/25 will be an airbrush clinic at the Houston R.R. Museum by Tracy Mitchell. 10/23 will be the annual business meeting at Zube Park, 10:30 AM to 2 PM. There will be election of officers at this meeting. Jim Lemmond, Mickey Taylor, Micheal Bodach, and Tom Marsh are running for office.

NMRA: no report

DeRail:

Dave Milton announced that after over 10 years of service, the current derail staff is retiring and we now need a replacement. Robert Ashcraft and all the club members thanked Dave Milton, Doug Milton, Bob Dannenbrink, and the late Rosalie Milton for their outstanding job publishing the Derail over these years. Dave stated that they are willing to email a basic Derail through the end of the year to ease the transition.

Old Business: -none

Fall Layout Tours:

Contact Byron Spampinato with the dates/times you wish to open this fall ASAP. He is finalizing things. Currently about 47 layouts.

New Business:

Greg Johnson is moving and will have a "layout sale" Sept 11 from 10AM-2PM.

GHTS 2011:

Bob Barnett reported 50 vendor tables have been sold and the balance of the rent has been paid to the City of Stafford.

Big Texas Train Show:

Bill Baxter reported on the upcoming event at the George R. Brown Oct 16&17th.

Proceeds will go to the Houston R.R. Museum. Bill offered the SanJac club a free table and the workers at the table also get in free. A volunteer list was passed for general help at the show, and those workers also get in free. A motion was made and accepted to accept the free table and thus we now need people to staff it. Steve Sandifer suggested we make a bulletin board/display to advertise the club and maybe some postcard handouts.

Election Of Officers:

Bob Werre-President

Don Formanek-Vice-president

Gilbert Freitag-Sec/Tres

Arthur Penny-Director

Were railroaded, I mean elected to office by voice vote. Thanks to those who stepped up to these positions.

New president Bob Werre took over the meeting and asked club members to seriously think about stepping up to the derail staff opening. Bob Werre and Steve Sandifer volunteered to provide photos of local layouts for use in advertising at the show.

Don Formanek announced that the 2015 Nation Narrow Gauge Convention will be coming to Houston. This is a big event attend by some of the nation's best modelers. Don also asked for ideas for programs at the upcoming meetings. Either volunteer to give one of suggest a topic you would like see.

Ray Byer is looking for an LSR youth to sponsor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM General comments: 53 people were present at the meeting.

-Respectfully submitted, Gilbert Freitag, Secretary / Treasurer

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Meetings are the First Tuesdays of January through December at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet. Meeting time is 7 to 9 pm. Visitors are welcome.

OFFICERS

President: Bob Werre

bob@bobwphoto.com

Vice President: Don Formanek-

locogearred@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Gilbert Freitag

gilbertfreitag@att.net

Director: Arthur Penny

Division 8 Rep.: Tracy Mitchell-

traymit@comcast.net

DERAIL STAFF

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• *milton@att.net*

Production & Delivery: Doug Milton,

• *doug@texashorizons.com*

REPORTERS

Local Railroad News

Ted Ferkenhoff

• (281)-835-6010

• *tferk@comcast.net*

Hobby Supply News

Tom Cobb

• (713) 729-6697

• *tecobb@academicplanet.com*

Railroad Scanner News

Dave Milton

• (713) 467-8716

• *ddmltn@pdq.net*

Local Layout Activities

Bob Barnett

• (713) 660-8820

• *rbarnett@sparks-barlow.co*

GREATER HOUSTON TRAIN SHOW

Chairman: Bob Barnett

• (713) 660-8820

• *rbarnett@sparks-barlow.com*

Club Sales Table Chairman:

Tom Bailey

• (713) 774-6990

• *ritabailey1@aol.com*

Vendor Sales Chairman: Don Bozman

• *don_bozman@att.net*

• (281) 481-0352

SAN JACINTO RR CLUB WEB SITE

Webmaster: Jim Lemmond

• *sanjac.leoslair.com* (do not use www)

FALL LAYOUT TOUR

Chairman: Byron Spampinato

• *bspampinato@comcast.net*

• (281) 251-0459

A Note from the Production Room

This is the first issue of the Derail "Lite" and thank you all for allowing us to provide all the membership with this newsletter. If anyone has any questions about putting the Derail together before you commit to helping, please feel free to contact me by email and I will be happy to talk to you.

Doug Milton

doug@texashorizons.com