



The DERAIL

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A Few Good Members

Richard Louvet

By the time you read this, some of you will have been approached by the nominating committee for leadership positions in the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club. Since the continuing functioning of the club depends on the willingness of members to step forward, I would encourage you to seriously consider running for office. If you have been approached and have accepted, thank you. If you have not been contacted, please consider some formal service to the club starting in September.

As the nominating committee perused the Club Directory this year for likely candidates, it was apparent that many of the regular members have served at one time or another –many several times. We have a shrinking pool of nominees. This brings me to my next topic:

As with all organizations, we are getting older and grayer. Attracting new model railroaders should be a priority. Unfortunately, with many more choices for free time, and with social media reducing face to face interactions, most hobby and service clubs are finding it more difficult to attract new members.

My readings on increasing membership stressed that we first must have something that makes membership worthwhile. We do! The skills of club members and their willingness to share those skills make San Jac on of the best clubs in the NMRA.

But expertise is not enough. A potential member finds his first meeting can be an intimidating experience. The first time visitor is in a room with several MMR's, some of which she has seen in the hobby magazines or on DVD's. While we are very open, we don't make it easy for him to feel welcome on a one on one basis.

We have the tools to increase membership: the Train Show, Layout Tour, clinics, op sessions, work sessions and so on. Just distributing brochures is not enough. We need to specifically include potential members in activities. Part of this is accepting that our efforts will not be reciprocated in many cases. We must put effort into several candidates, even though only a few will actually become active. We could expect every prospective member to immediately see the value of San Jac membership, but real life and real people don't work that way.

Please give my comments some thought. Over the next year, I would like to form a standing committee to explore how we can find and "include" new members. It has been suggested that we assign a mentor to each prospect. The mentor could follow up by bringing the prospect to some "non-first-Tuesday" activity to insure buy in. There are other good ideas out there.

Let me know what you think and if you may want to contribute ideas or participate in this committee.

The following chart showcases the winners from the Bluebonnet Limited Contest from the 2014 NMRA Lone Star Region Convention June 4-8, 2014 in Round Rock, Texas. San Jac members are highlighted in red. Congratulations to all the winners. We will try to include some pictures of the winning displays next month.



Modeler's Name	Category	Position	Entry Name
Janet Pitre	Arts & Crafts-Railroadiana	1	Folded fabric Christmas Ornament
Alan R. Price	Arts & Crafts-Railroadiana	2	Candy Train
Ginny Boos	Arts & Crafts-Needlework	1	T-Shirt with reverse applique - Texas Map
Janet Pitre	Arts & Crafts-Needlework	2	Counted cross stitch butterflies
Carol Merkel	Arts & Crafts-Needlework	3	Embroidered butterfly square
Vicki Price	Arts & Crafts-General	1	A message of love plaque
Janet Pitre	Arts & Crafts-General	2	Kitchen Tips book
Judith Neufeld	Arts & Crafts-General	3	Santa Claus flower pot set
Ginny Boos	Arts & Crafts-Theme	1	Bluebonnet handbag tote
Judith Neufeld	Arts & Crafts-Theme	2	Bonsai Bluebonnet Express
Janet Pitre	Arts & Crafts-Theme	3	Bluebonnets
Judith Neufeld	Arts & Crafts: Most Popular		Bonsai Bluebonnet Express
Ginny Boos	Arts & Crafts: Best in Show		Bluebonnet handbag tote
Barry Bogs	Steam Locomotives	1	D&RGW Gn3 K-27 #450
Chuck Lind MMR	Steam Locomotives	2	On3 Hungry Horse Timber Company #101
Jerry Wilson	Steam Locomotives	3	Sn2 0-4-0 Climax
Frank Glatzl	Diesel Locomotives	1	Burlington Northern SD40-2
Jerry Wilson	Traction & Other	1	Industrial Trolley
Barry Bogs	Passenger Cars	1	D&RGW Closed Vestibule Passenger Coach in Gn3
Jerry Wilson	Passenger Cars	2	Sn3 RGS Combine
Jerry Wilson	Passenger Cars	3	Sn3 Business Car

Bluebonnet Limited Contest (Cont.) Duane Richardson

Modeler's Name	Category	Position	Entry Name
Cody Akin	Freight Cars	1	D&RGW Flat Car
Jerry Wilson	Freight Cars	2	On3 C&S Gondola
Frank Glatzl	Freight Cars	3	Burlington Northern 2 Bay Covered Hopper
Casey Akin	Maintenance of Way	1	D&RGW Wheel and Tie Car
Bill McCall	Cabooses	1	D&RGW HOn3 Long Caboose
Bill McCall	Cabooses	2	ATSF Caboose
Kim Saign	Cabooses	3	Great Northern x272
Jeff Palmer	Structures Off-Line	1	Blacksmith Shop
Bill Eubank	Structures Off-Line	2	New Braunfels Fire Station
Jan Kutch	Structures Off-Line	3	Bait Shop
Jeff Palmer	Structures On-Line	1	Garland Station
Bob Brendle	Structures On-Line	2	Conner Station
Chuck Lind MMR	Structures On-Line	3	Hayrack Boom & Skidder
Loren Neufeld	Bridges & Trestles	1	Trestle
Jeff Palmer	Bridges & Trestles	2	Trestle
Mike Barrett	Bridges & Trestles	3	Trestle
Chuck Lind MMR	Displays	1	Life in the logging camp
Rudolph J. Pirovitz	Displays	2	Sawmill
Richard Snyder	Displays	3	Town Scene
Chuck Lind MMR	Photo-Prototype B&W	1	What a way to make a living
Charles Goodrich	Photo-Prototype B&W	2	618 Charging upgrade
Blake Bogs	Photo-Prototype B&W	3	Chuffing back to the 40's
Cody Akin	Photo-Prototype Color	1	Thursty Freight
Peter Kazmir	Photo-Prototype Color	2	Columbia River Railroad Bridge
Cody Akin	Photo-Prototype Color	3	PM in the PM
Chuck Lind MMR	Photo-Model B&W	1	Busy day in the woods
Charles Goodrich	Photo-Model Color	1	Poker Game
Peter Kazmir	Photo-Model Color	2	Bryan Helms' Dallas & Western
Chuck Lind MMR	Photo-Model Color	3	Working the mine
Chuck Lind MMR	Photo Computer Enhanced	1	Earl's on the throttle
Blake Bogs	Photo Computer Enhanced	2	316 Steaming up

Bluebonnet Limited Contest (Cont.)

Duane Richardson

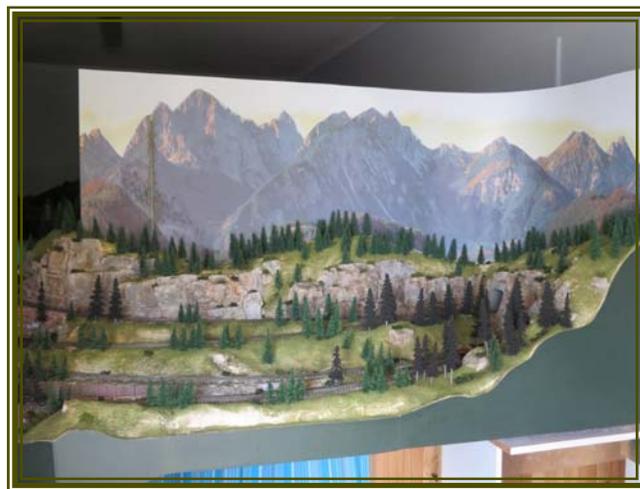
Modeler's Name	Category	Position	Entry Name
Brady McGuire	Complete Trains	1	Pipe Pull
Steven Barkley	Complete Trains	2	North Coast Limited
Steven Barkley	Complete Trains	3	UP Butte Special
Jerry Wilson	Participation		591 total points for meriting models
Bob Brendle	Best Kit Built Award		Conner Station
Bill Eubank	Architect		New Braunfels Fire Station
Chuck Lind MMR	Tree Award		
Chuck Lind MMR	Bob Clark Award		On3 Hungry Horse Timber Company #101
Jan Kutch	Linda Little Award		Bait Shop
Barry Bogs	Most Popular		D&RGW Gn3 K-27 #450
Frank Glatzl	Novice Best in Show		Burlington Northern 2 Bay Covered Hopper
Casey Akin	Best In Show		D&RGW Wheel and Tie Car

Trains Downunder

Don Formanek

In March of this year my wife and I had made a vacation trip to Australia and New Zealand, part of it was an exchange with Friendship Force. Our first week was not an official part of the exchange but we were hosted by a couple from Beerwah, Queensland, Australia which is north of Brisbane. They had stayed with us when their club had an exchange to Houston. They picked us up at the Brisbane airport in their old Land Rover and drove us to their house which is a geodesic dome. Esma and my wife are both weavers so on our second day they took us to see another weaver near the town of Maleny. When we were walking around in Maleny, I found a second hand book store at where I purchased a book about timber harvesting by rail in the Warburton District. Then we went for a walk and picnic lunch in a rainforest reserve. We had noticed a house that had a sign out in front "Model Trains" so we stopped. A building next to the house had another "Model Trains" sign so I went to the door and knocked. I did not get a reply so I tried the door and it was unlocked so I opened it and yelled in "Hello". I got no reply so I took a quick picture from the doorway.

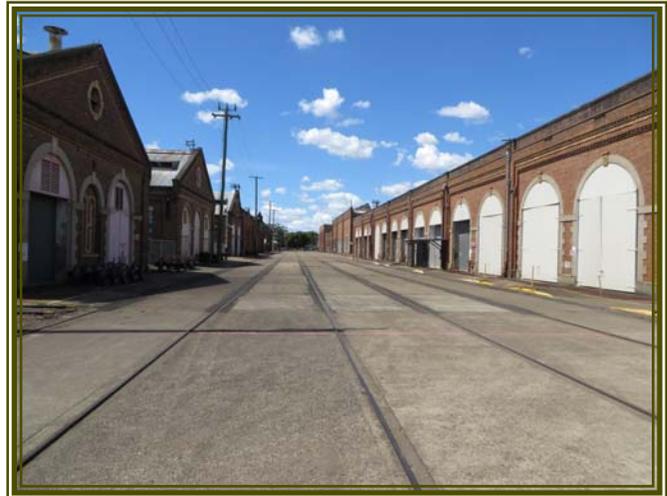
The house is for sale and if we move from Houston this is where we might end up. It turned out that no



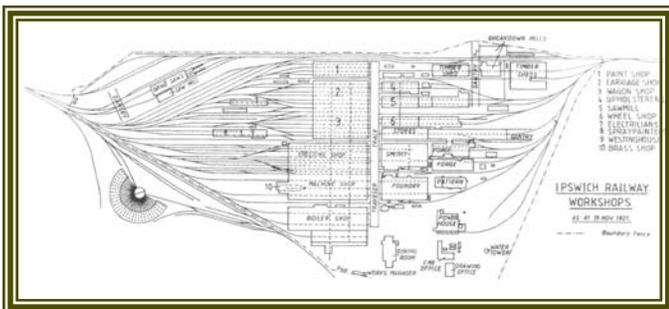
one was home so we were on our way again. The next day we were going to take the train into Brisbane for a chocolate tour. When we got to the station we found out that that section of the line was closed over the weekend for track work and they had a bus as an alternate. We decided to drive. After the chocolate tour I found another bookshop and purchased another train book. On our last day with these hosts we went to the Ipswich Railway Workshops. It is the oldest railshop in continuous operation in the world, it opened in 1864.

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The workshops are currently used to maintain their heritage fleet of steam locomotives and old carriages used for excursions. The facility is huge and we rode the traverser and went by many shops: administration, apprentice training center, blacksmith shop, bogie shop, boiler shop, brass shop, burn-off shop, carriage shop, drawing office, electroplaters shop, employee dining room, engineering office, erecting shop, fiberglass shop, fitting shop, foundry shop, general maintenance shop, laboratory, machine shop, metrology shop, painting shop, pattern shop, power house, sawmill, spray paint shop, stores, tarpaulin shop, timber storage, time-keepers office, tool & gauge shop, upholstery shop, wagon shop, Westinghouse brake shop, wheel shop wood-working shop, x-ray, yard office. At one time there were 3,500 workers there. There were 179 different job classifications. New employees went through a five year apprenticeship. The roundhouse was under separate management from the workshops. It had 30 tracks and could handle 50 engines on the 130' tracks. The turntable was 61.75' long.



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I purchased more books from their gift shop and I inquired about a particular Beyer Garratt locomotive that I wanted pictures of. We had arrived too late to tour that section of the complex. I talked with the two men in the gift shop but they were not very knowledgeable but took my name and email address and gave it to the curator of the museum. He has sent me multiple pictures and we have been exchanging emails frequently. He had come to the Narrow Gauge Convention in Pasadena California last year and is planning to come to the 2016 Narrow Gauge Convention in Denver. The next morning we flew to Sydney

where we toured for three days. We had two members of the Sydney Friendship Force Club that acted as tour guides for us. I was asked by our Houston exchange director to handle all train transportation so when we arrived in Sydney I walked to the Central train station to make our group reservation to take the NXT train to Newcastle. I got there two weeks too late, as the Australian Railway Historical Society book store used to be located there but it had just moved near two stations up the line. We used their transport system frequently. They have excellent commuter trains and ferries; we did not use any of the buses. The NXT train to Newcastle for our one week hosted Friendship Force Exchange was much better than our Amtrak trains, with seats larger, which recline more, and footrests and folding table/tray. The food in the snack bar car was excellent and very reasonably priced. If you ever ride it, get the triple chocolate mousse. Our hosts in Newcastle were there to greet us when we arrived. They had stayed with us when the Newcastle club came to Houston. During our stay they squeezed in two visits to hobby shops between all of the other organized activities. Newcastle does have a huge volume of coal train traffic bringing the coal into port to be loaded onto ships for export. In next my next installment I will continue with more train activity in New Zealand, which topped the first two weeks.

Want Ads

Calling all model railroaders! Photographs needed. If your layout has not been featured in Guess the Layout, then we need you. Please submit 2 pictures to Bob and Terri to be included in a future Derail. We are running low on available layout pictures, but we would like to continue highlighting the talents of our members.

Calling all model railroaders! Articles needed. We get lots of great feedback on the Derail editions that showcase a variety of writing and pictures. We can't do that without you. Whether you can submit one article or become a regular contributor, we need you.

Calling all model railroaders! Videos needed. If you've been enjoying our video corner, help us keep it going by suggesting clips for it. Please send the YouTube link for a video that you think all train enthusiasts will enjoy.

Meeting minutes June 3, 2014

President Dick Louvet called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and welcomed all current members and visitors.

Vice president Rex Ritz introduced this month's program by Bob Barnett: A short primer on the cotton industry and its modeling on Fred Holland's Quannah Acme & Pacific Railroad. This model railroad still exists and the Quannah Museum may try to relocate it to the museum.

Bob started by going over the cotton industry processes.

The cotton gin is the basic building block. Photos of various gins around Texas were shown, most still around in some form today. The gins produced "gin bails". These bails were then sent to "compresses" which used big presses to produce denser bails. Bob had several photos of compress buildings around Texas, along with Cotton Oil Mills and Seed Houses. This was a very good overview of the cotton industry, mostly based on Texas locations.

Bob then showed photos of Fred Holland's layout. Fred had modeled all the building types used in the cotton industry. Many local landmark structures could be seen on Fred's layout. Bob concluded with a full video tour going around Fred's layout.

Next month's program will be by Blake Bogs, Programming Lok Sound Decoders.

The minutes from last month were approved as published in the Derail.

Treasurer's report, Gilbert Freitag:

Expenses: none

Income: none

\$12,376.40 Ending balance

New Business:

Bob Barnett is looking into a club owned projector.

This will likely be in the \$1000 to \$1200 range.

A nominating committee will be seeking volunteers for the upcoming fall club officer elections.

Ed Dibble is in the hospital but should be home by Thursday.

David Currey is looking for information on how the MP switching in Valley Junction was done. Please contact David if you have some knowledge in this area.

Website: no report

LSR:

The annual convention in Round Rock starts this Wednesday.

Division 8:

Is updating local club contacts.

Derail: Bob Sabol

Bob can really use some more articles, short or long. His drawer is almost empty.

Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/SJMRRC>

There can be postings of people wanting to sell/give away RR related items.

NMRA: no report

Refreshments were thanks to David Currey & Laurie Lind.

Bettye Bozman volunteered to bring them next month.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

General comments:

-Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert Freitag, Secretary / Treasurer



San Jac RR Club Meetings take place
the first Tuesday of each month
at 7pm

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St. Houston, Tx

[Click here for directions](#)
Visitors are always welcome!



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Next Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Programming Loksound Decoders

by Blake Bogs

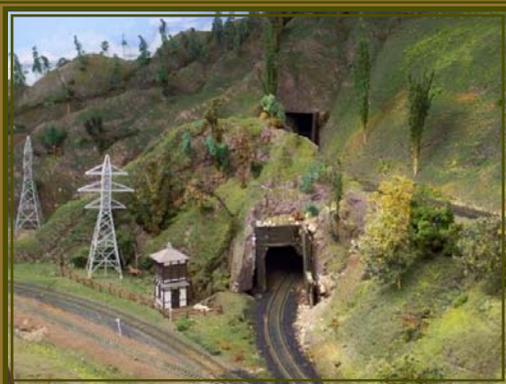
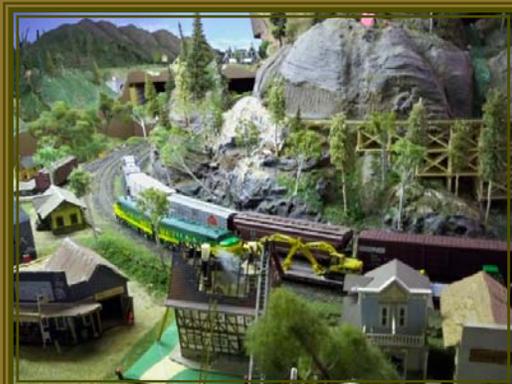
Refreshments: Bettye Bozman and Virginia Freitag

Video Corner

German High Speed Bullet Train

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VS26rg52VS0>

Guess the Layout!



Answer to June's Guess the Layout: Joseph Guarisco