



SCALE RAILS of Southwest Florida

Newsletter

March, 2008

Volume 9 Issue 3

OFFICERS

Chairman: Dennis Little

President: Peter Gross

Vice President: Jim Edmier

Secretary: Jim Morse

Treasurer: Stan Seeds, MMR

Calendar

April 12, Picnic for members and family members, 11:30 am

April 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 10, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

May 16 - 18, SSR Regional Convention, Winter Haven, FL at Cypress Gardens

June 14, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

July 12, Monthly Meeting, 1:30 pm

Layout Status

Victorville on the railroad is looking more and more like the real thing! Not only is the track plan now prototypic, but the Narrows is being built;



The Southwest Portland Cement plant is being positioned;



The Rainbow Bridge is under construction, and the streets, sidewalks and curbs will go in shortly. This is really looking good.

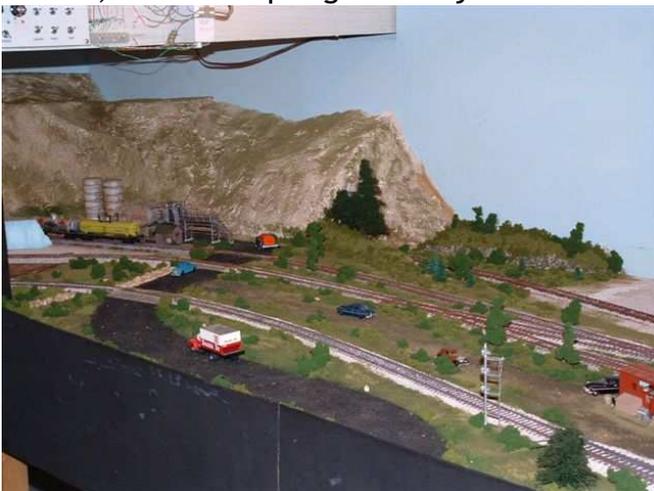
Jim Morse has made good progress with the

narrow guage crossing over the Rocky Mountains and heading into Colorado Springs.



There will be a golden spike ceremony very soon. He has also made functional the turntable at Colorado Springs.

Jim Beliveau and Mike Conner have been working on various scenic elements in Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Cajon.



Ron Parker is now building barbed wire fencing for the range just south of Castle Rock.

We get lots of visitors still, so we give them a tour and run a train from the lower level to the upper level through the helix, and then back down. People continue to be fascinated with the helix and will watch trains inside of it seemingly all day. Lee is finalizing a design to give us detectors in both helixes, to give feedback to the Dispatcher on status so he can better control traffic, and to interface with the signal

system. Peter is working on a design of the display board that will be based on a system map showing both the Sante Fe and the Denver & Rio Grand Western. This display board will have lights that go on when a train is detected in the helix at that location, giving a chase light effect. Then we need to decide what part of the helix to cover, and what to leave open for public viewing.

Let's Have a Picnic

We have talked about it, now it's time to do something about it. We plan to have a cookout on April 12, with the food service starting about 11:30 am. This is for all club members and their family members too. We want to share what we have been doing with family members so they can be assured we are not just playing down here! We will have dogs and burgers, some chips, soft drinks, and maybe something for desert too. Please come and plan to bring you family members too.

Sunshine Region Convention May 16 - 18, 2008

The spring 2008 Regional Convention will be held at the Best Western Admirals Inn at Cypress Gardens, in Winter Haven, FL. In addition to clinics, layouts, dealers, etc there will be an extra fare buss tour of 6 layouts: John Wilkes, MMR, Tom Wilson, Lake Wales Club layouts, Keith Williams, and the Cypress Gardens HO layout. Contact Walt Roberge, Registrar at 863-294-3297 or write to him at 4120 Sprucewood St., Winter Haven, FL 33880. The Registrar will handle all registrations and room reservations at the hotel. Costs are as follows:

Convention & Banquet	
Single	\$70
Couple	\$100
Convention only	\$40 (\$45 at door)
Banquet only	\$35
Hotel	\$79 + tax/night

Let's see if we can't get a bunch of us to go to this one from Scale Rails.

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2008

Members present: Jim Beliveau, Mike Connor, Walter "Ben" Curll, Steve Gdovin, F.A. "Skip" Giddings, Alex Grantt, Peter Gross, Russell Hammer, Ryan Hannaway, Darrin Kerwin, Randy King, Rich and Dianne Korf, Dennis Little, Jim Morse, David Nelson, David Parsons, Gordon Roedding, Dwight Sedgwick, Stanley Seeds, MMR, Don Sprotbery, Oren Stephans, Robert Veefkind.

Meeting was called to order by President Peter Gross at 1:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes for the February meeting were published in the February Newsletter. Motion by Dennis Little, seconded by Ben Curll, to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Stan Seeds, MMR, Treasure reported that we have \$12,174.84 in the checking and savings accounts. Our mortgage is down to \$32,783.98. The club net worth \$115,393.49.

Membership: Mr. Randy King and Mr. Ron Parker were introduced as our new members. Congratulations and welcome Randy and Ron. Mike Connor is now a Founding member. Thank you Mike. Mr. Ted Marshall has moved and has resigned. Best of Luck on his move and he will be missed. Our sympathy goes to Mr. Alex Halberda on the death of his wife Paula. She was a very nice lady and a good host and dispatcher on Alex's train layout.

Old Business

1. **Layout Status:**

Upper level: The Victorville modification is in place. The buildings on "D" street will soon be in place. The Narrows is being completed and the Rainbow bridge project

is taking shape. Peter is getting ready to put his cement plant and track work at Victorville. Check the upper and lower level TO DO LIST; lots of projects need to be completed.

Lower level: Scenery areas are filling in, thanks to Mike Connor and Jim Beliveau. The new control panel has been completed for Colorado Springs thanks to Dennis Little. The new Edmier Concrete and Culvert plant is in place at Colorado Springs.

N-TRACK: The turntable and Roundhouse is complete. The Two 6' Modules are back from Plant City. Those who went had a good time. A new 2' x 4' switching extension is being plan for the N-track layout.

Narrow gauge: The expansion is now through the continental divide and has arrived at Colorado Springs. The narrow gauge empire is almost complete with golden spike ceremonies soon.

2. **Building maintenance:** Mr. Curll and Mr. Dobyms have, after much hard work, fixed the building electrical ground problem. While Lee was in the ceiling, he inspected the attic for possible roof leak signs and reported no problems.
3. **Promotions:** As mentioned last month, H&R Block Tax will give us \$ 25.00 for each new customer that mentions the club. The brochures and forms to take to H&R Block are on the Depot guest sign in table.

New Business

1. **Building Security:** About 3 weeks ago George Alexander came in on a Saturday morning and found the front door unlocked and the HO layout not shut down. Thursday Jim Morse and Peter Gross returned to the Depot at 5 pm and the back door was unlocked and the AC not set back. A List is now posted at the front door on how to properly leave the building. Please use this list so we don't have a big surprise some day and have someone come in

and destroy what we all worked so hard to build.

2. **Dispatching Locos:** We are beginning to have problems with the DCC system because the slot stack in the command station is getting full. Don't forget to Dispatch the locomotive when your finish running your train. If you do not know how to dispatch your locomotive, just ask some one who does.
3. **Picnic:** a picnic is planned for the first weekend in April.
4. **Long Trains:** Please refrain from running trains longer than 10 cars. Our layout was designed for this length of train, and any longer train will damage out power management circuits. Also all of our pre-made up trains have been disassembled, and need to be rebuilt and put back were they belong. Steve, Ben, Skip and George Nick have agreed to rebuild these trains and put them back, so we can again start having operating sessions.
5. **SSR Spring Convention:** The Spring Regional Convention will be held in Winter Haven at the Best Western Admirals Inn at Cypress Gardens. The room rate is \$ 79.00. The convention will be held on May 16-18. We want to encourage Scale Rails members to attend this convention. They are of great and we always have a good time.
6. **Building Safety:** A safety committee has been formed to help keep us out of trouble. With the amount of visitors we are getting we need to be ever vigilant of possible problems. Mr. Sedgwick, Giddings, Halberda, Roedding and Kerwin will serve on the committee. Mr. Alex Halberda is the chairman. Any suggestions on improving safety should be directed to these people.
7. **AMTRAK:** Mr. Alex Grantt reported that CSX Corp. has indorsed the idea of passenger service to the area. Again Alex said we will be riding trains soon.

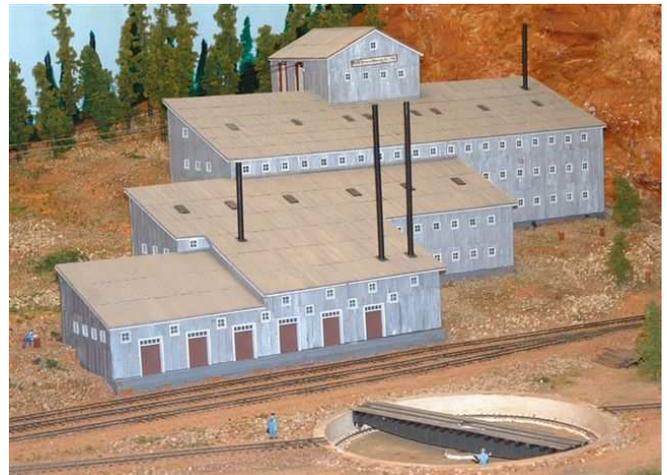
Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Layout Tours

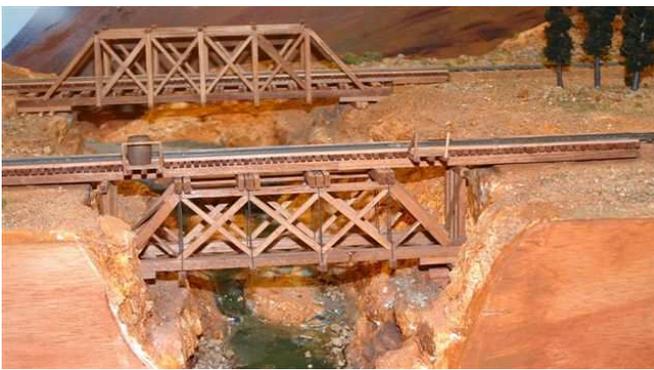
Jim Morse did a great job of organizing the layout tours this year, and we decided to do them over two consecutive Saturdays. On March 29 we did the tour of layouts in Estero and Naples. On April 5 the Fort Myers and Cape Coral layouts will be toured. Here is a brief overview of the layouts we saw in Estero and Naples.

The first layout we visited was at Gary Randall's house in Estero. He has been building an N scale layout for about one year. Jim Morse has been helping him of some of it, including the use of splines for subroadbed construction. Gary is really into electronics so he has lots of electronic 'stuff' on his layout, including TV cameras, dwarf signal lights for his yard turnouts, automatic turnout control on some turnouts, and an operating container loading terminal where you can actually load containers on the cars!





The second layout was Bob Veeffkind's in Naples. Bob is a member who is skilled at scratch building narrow gage steam locomotives. He also has built a fantastic narrow gage layout in a building separate from his home.



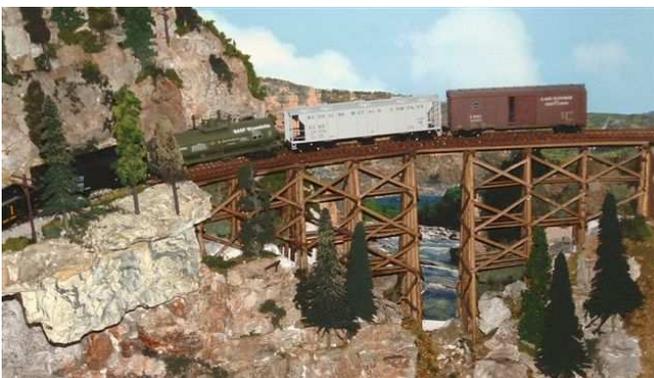
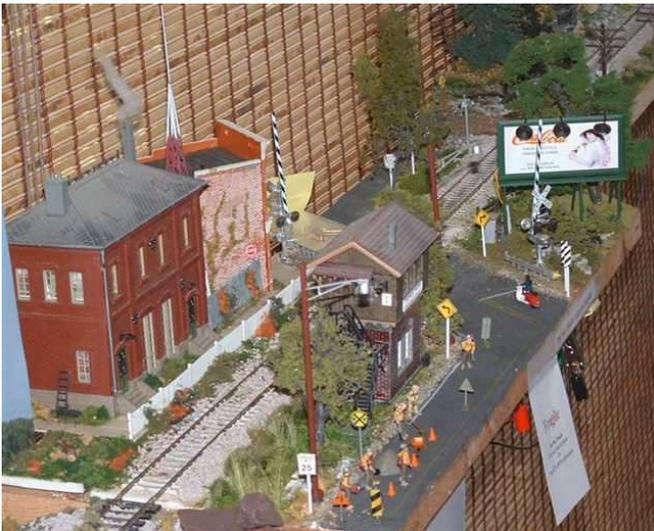
The next layout belonged to Wolfgang Schulz from Naples. His layout is in a large room and is on two levels with a double track helix connecting the two. He uses Maerklin equipment and has a tremendous amount of detail in his layout.



The next layout was owned by Mike Ayotte of Naples. His layout is an around the room shelf layout with some very nice scenic touches, a nice trestle and a lift out section for access to the room.



Our last layout was at Franz Huth's house in Golden Gate. His layout is in a bedroom and is also made with Maerklin equipment. It is a very full layout.



Shirts

If you want a Club shirt, contact the Club Shirt Lady, Dianne Korf. Shirts are about \$28 each. Let her know your size and she will order them for you. You can contact her at (239) 281-8636 or by email at dkorf@msn.com

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida

Our Charter

Our intent and purpose is to promote and encourage the art of model railroading and preserve the history, science and technology of rail transportation. To this end we have organized our efforts for charitable, educational, literary and scientific purposes. As part of our endeavors, we host railroad displays, give talks and presentations for school, museums and various organizations. Our members do not presume to be experts, but rather a group of individuals sharing knowledge with each other.

Scale Rails of Southwest Florida

1262 Piney Road

N. Fort Myers, FL 33903

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REMINDERS

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EDITORIAL

We have finished another season of clinics open to the public. Everyone did a great job and I want to thank all of you for your efforts. Many members of the public come to these clinics and get a start on model railroading. Eventually some join the club. It is rewarding for each of us to participate in this educational process

Keep having fun!
PETER GROSS, Editor