

GSMRM **ZEPHYR**

Edition 2013

Sum 2012-Spr 2013

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Greetings from the GSMRM Management. The biggest news, this year, is that the long-desired remodel of our meeting and administrative facilities is finally under way. Our volunteer crews have removed the dark wood paneling from all of the walls; ripped out the old, dingy and threadbare carpeting; and stripped away old sheetrock to reveal and repair wiring problems which have been with us since we moved into the building in 1985.

Though not part of our remodel plans when we began, once we got started, we decided to include the store/ticket office in the project. Again, the old paneling was removed, and the tile floor taken up and discarded, to be replaced with a beautiful engineered wood floor. New shelving was installed, and the walls repainted in our new interior color scheme. In addition, we replaced the old metal desk with a new sales counter, giving the store a much more professional appearance.

When completed, the facilities will include a large, well-lit meeting and display space, a private board room, and an enlarged library which will feature professional library shelving, tables and chairs for our readers, and computer access to archived information. We also upgraded our exterior signage, with bright new signs directing visitor traffic.

The growth of last year's exterior landscape plantings has done much to enhance our presentation, and we look forward to completing the landscape project, soon.

Of course, all of these changes hinged upon securing a new long-term lease on our facility, which was finalized earlier this year.

Our Trial Membership program has proved to be highly effective in bringing in new members. We have gained several new members in the past year, and interest from prospective new members continues to remain high.

Finally, efforts are under way to expand our presence in the Bay Area model railroad community, by inviting other clubs to run trains with us on an occasional basis, and by taking steps to involve us in local OpSig activities. All in all, 2013 has been a very good year for us, with many positive changes, and more to come. My deepest appreciation to all of our members who have contributed to moving us forward. We couldn't do it without you. --*Morgan Denegree, GSMRM Assistant General Manager*

**REMODEL PROGRESS**

After many years in our current location, we have embarked on a major remodel at the museum. This project will encompass almost our entire downstairs area. New electrical, sheetrock, insulation, ceiling tiles, paint, carpet and furniture will transform the space into a new



Bob Siemsen, right, directing the demolition crew. --photos by Jeff Rowe

Boardroom, Library, Museum and Store. The store is almost

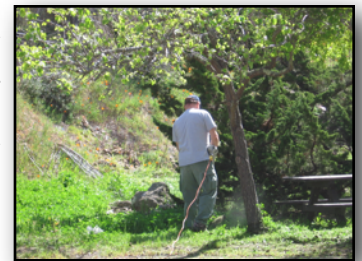
complete, and the rough electrical work is currently being done throughout the rest of the space. It is a slow and costly process, but the end results will be well worth the cost and effort. Two projects not yet included in the process are the replacement of the existing single pane windows and the remodel of our existing kitchen. We hope to include these steps in the process as funds are generated. Please pardon our dust and we hope you enjoy your visit to the Golden State



Model Railroad Museum. --*Bob Siemsen, Project Manager*

**SPRING CLEANUP, POTLUCK, AND BBQ**

Our annual grounds cleanup day and potluck was held on Saturday, March 23, 2013. Twenty-two members were on scene, with representatives from all scales. With grounds cleaned up, weeds whacked and walkways dusted, we were ready for a meal. Hamburgers and hot-dogs this year, expertly broiled by Chef de Jour Steve Cleere, who also brought a killer chili-bean dish. Lots more contributions of salads and endless delicious desserts, including a



Ed Siintak cleaning the picnic area.. --photos by Walt Freedman & Dave Illich.



Morgan and Tyler do the detail work. John Fagan & Paul Culhane do the front.

Floyd McCarty for buying the supplies and fixings, and get the herd organized. But thanks to all who pitched in to work and made this yet another memorable cleanup day and potluck. So nice to see everyone relaxed and enjoying the social aspect of being a member of our club. --*Walt Freedman*

rum cake and a chocolate cake. Morris Lyons even remembered to bring the ice-cream. The weather was beautiful, so tables were set up outside under our shade tree – far nicer than in the meeting room, congested as it is with remodel supplies. Thanks to Bob Siemsen who loaned us tables from his work. Special thanks to



March Potluck and BBQ

## O SCALE

During Summer and Fall months of 2012, the O Scale group completed work in several areas. Water was added to the Pt. Richmond harbor area, along with surface details. Overall, it looks very realistic and greatly adds to the Pt. Richmond city scene. The Midway turntable drive system was rebuilt using a belt drive and relay control, plus an automatic polarity controller.



The south mountain after the winter break. Just about the entire O Scale team contributed, including Bob Brown, Josh Carpoif, Rob Fassano, John Engel, Jeff Heller, Mark Francis, Andy Olson, and Jeff Rowe. --photo by Jeff Rowe

Additional block detectors were added to Midway, along with relay polarity reversers for the Midway reverse loop, so the O Scale Computer Interface (OSCI) can auto dispatch and run trains from Departure to Midway and return.

Push button control of the diesel yard turnouts was added to the main Midway Engine terminal control board so both yards can be operated from one panel. Push button control of the Zenith panel was also completed and work has started interfacing the panel to OSCI. When completed, all turnouts and routes of the entire layout will be controllable by OSCI dispatcher, or even from Wi-Fi connected smart phones or tablets.

During our Winter 2013 break, we concentrated on installing rock castings on one section of the south mountain. This work continued through the springtime. We also entertained the O Scale West visitors in February.

On the Eureka and Empire On3 layout, additional scenery and trackwork in the Eureka yard area has been completed. Several new buildings have been added and details added to others. A spur track and rock crusher plant were also installed. The engine yard has a new fuel oil track and service area.

The O scale public and member web sites: [http://www.gsmrm.org/o\\_scale/index.shtml](http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/index.shtml) [http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o\\_scale/](http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o_scale/). --Jeff Rowe, O Scale Trainmaster

## HO SCALE

HO Scale has been very busy this past year. One of our major projects, led by Morgan Denegree, was the realignment of the Southern Pacific tracks from Niles Junction through Niles Canyon to eliminate "vertical curves" in the track and improve the bridge approaches. Paul Culhane has also been working on building new switching opportunities on the layout behind Davis.

The biggest change however, is the implementation of DCC. HO Scale first ran trains for the public in April of 1991. Various forms of train control were implemented over time, including a single stationary cab for single train control, then two train control. Then a "block" system was created that allowed at first four, then seven trains at a time, using a plug in throttle system, later replaced by wireless throttles. In 1985, a progressive cab control system, was adopted which provided walk around train control unlike anything we had known before. Beginning in 1997, the Computer Model Railroad Interface (Chubb) system was imple-

mented by John Morrison. The Mountain Division along with two more sections of the layout were converted to Chubb.

With many issues affecting the expansion of Chubb over the years, discussions were started about the next generation of train control as early as 2005. The widely used Digital Command Control NMRA standard uses a system to send digital signals through the rails to "speak" with decoder equipped locomotives. After a demonstration of DCC in 2010 by Larry Price, club members could then see the benefits of DCC.

In April of 2013, the HO scale members voted to terminate the Chubb system and convert to all DCC train control, and DCC is now being implemented throughout the Valley Division. DCC installation is being headed up by Walt Freedman. Chris Stone has taken over converting the Chubb computers to Java Model Railroad Interface (JMRI), while Phil Figel is in charge of all layout low voltage electrical items.

This year a Technology Committee was formed to make recommendations to the scale on all subjects related to model railroading technology. The Tech Committee consists of Walt Freedman, Phil Figel, Chris Stone, Larry Price, Morgan and Josh Carpoif.

We are very proud of the dedicated on-going efforts of our members and would very much enjoy speaking with you and showing you our layout. --Bob Siemsen, HO Scale Trainmaster

## N SCALE

New and exciting activities have occurred in and around the N-Scale layout during the last year. We have updated the Sacramento industrial portion of our layout with new buildings and scenery. The Sacramento station area has been populated with buildings and scenery and is a work still in progress. A new cathedral has been added to the Sacramento station area and acts as a focal point for the station and surround area.

During our winter break we have had an opportunity to modify and refresh all portions of the N-Scale layout.



Sacramento Cathedral. --photo by Morris Lyons

Ongoing is the wiring updates for electrical feeds through out the layout with larger gauge wiring. We are now taking advantage of one of JMRI's options for train control with WiFi Throttles.

With the assistance of JMRI's software and our new computer, track detection and block signaling of our layout is now 90% completed. We now have the ability to operate and control train activity from the dispatch room.

At our Roseville engine facility our turntable is up and operational. From four trackage points, a locomotive can access any of the eleven programmed stalls. Navigating to the south, our turntable at the Bakersfield engine facility is also operational and is awaiting a new control panel. Glenn Smith a member of our crew scratch built



Roseville Engine Facility. --photo by Morris Lyons

both of the engine roundhouses, Roseville and Bakersfield.

Navigating railroad north to the former Tahoe area and narrow gauge portion of the layout, all narrow gauge trackage has been removed. We are planning on updating this area with standard gauge trackage. The topography and scenery will change with our proposed modifications. Our expansion plans also include the modifications to the Truckee area trackage, with additional hidden trackage for return loops and mainline access. The back wall expansion plans will combine Tahoe and Truckee areas into two mainline tracks and several short line industrial spurs. The back wall expansion plan also includes updates to the Bakersfield north trackage areas that will include connections with our Tahoe and Truckee mainline access. --*Morris Lyons, N Scale Trainmaster*

## OUR 2013 THEME DAYS

During the 2013 season we continued with our special theme trains every 4th Sunday of the month. Some of these included Unit Train Day on April 28, Amtrak Day on May 26, ATSF/BNSF Day on June 23. Upcoming theme days will be Steam/Transition Era Day on July 28, UP/WP Day on August 25, Passenger Day on September 22, Southern Pacific Day on October 27, and concluding with "Foreign To California" Day on November 24. At our theme days you can expect to find many trains representing that day's theme. It's a good chance to see your favorite trains in operation. --*ed.*

## MEMBER ACTIONS 2012-13

### EBMES

Dec 2012 Elections:

**Sean Dexter, Walt Freedman and Randy Smith** elected Directors for 2-year term 2013/2014. Board voted **Randy Smith** President, **Morgan Denegree** as VP, **Dave Clark** as Secretary, and **Walt Freedman** as Treasurer.

Trainmasters for 2013: N Scale - **Morris Lyons**; HO Scale - **Bob Siemsen**; O Scale - **Jeff Rowe**.

Other member actions:

- Sep 2012: **Ryan Steinwert** approved for trial membership in HO scale; **John Cockle** (HO) returned from leave of absence.
- Nov 2012: **Will Murphy** approved for junior trial membership in N scale; **John Dodds** approved for trial membership in HO scale; **Tim Boles** approved for trial membership in O Scale.
- Dec 2012: **John Barrella** (HO) and **Harry Critchfield** (O) on leave of absence; **Mitchell** and **Spenser Baum** approved for trial membership in HO scale;
- Jan 2013: **Bob O'Neill** (N) terminated his trial membership; **Rich Haupt** approved for new trial membership (N).
- Feb 2013: **Aral Tandavan** placed on leave of absence; **John Sebastian** (N) voted to Senior member.
- Mar 2012: **Will Murphy's** trial membership terminated.
- Apr 2013: **Frank Gremm** placed on leave of absence.
- May 2013: **John Morrison** (HO) resigned from the club and placed on leave of absence; **Tim Boles** (O) placed on leave of absence. **Colin Minekheim** (HO) approved for trial membership; **Danylo Hawks** (N) voted to Senior member.

## GSMRM

This May, the following were elected as directors for 2013-14 period: **Bill Bigley, Morgan Denegree, Walt Freedman, John Fagan, Phil Figel, Larry Price, Randy Smith, and Bob Siemsen.**

GSMRM Officers for 2013/14: General manager - **Randy Smith**; Asst. GM - **Morgan Denegree**; Treasurer/CFO - **Phil Figel**, Asst. CFO - **John Fagan**; Secretary - **Walt Freedman**; House & Grounds - **Bill Bigley** and **Bob Siemsen**; Publicity - **Sean Dexter** and **Morgan Denegree**; Saturday and PIC Coordinator - **Bob Siemsen**; Membership Secretary - **Walt Freedman**; Store Manager - **Floyd McCarty**.

Thanks to retiring board members for their service and congratulations to the new officers and members and for their acceptance of the Board and member responsibilities. --*ed.*

## FREE MEMBERSHIP

We offer a Free Trial Membership in one of the three scales (N, HO, O) for those interested in becoming full members. The trial period lasts up to six months and lets us get to know each other and see if there is a mutual fit. The Trial Membership can be terminated at any time, if proven to be unsatisfactory. We are looking for enthusiastic members who want to contribute to the club's and scales's activities, so regular participation is important during the trial period. --*Morgan, EBMES Vice President*

## STORE NEWS

The company store is doing pretty good. With the remodel of the store and putting in a spinner rack for the hats, we were able to gain more shelf space, thus giving us room to add a few more items. We have added magnets, battery powered complete train sets, some additional hats including four Amtrak styles. Also added a couple more children's T-shirts, plus a book on the Bicentennial train which is very interesting. The Engines we sell in the store continue to be the best selling items we have. We will be marking down some sweatshirts to move them out since they have been there quite some time. As always we will be looking for new train related merchandise to add to the store. Please note that anyone with ideas for the store are certainly welcome to voice their opinion and they can talk to me, Al Klumpp, or Walt Freedman. --*Floyd McCarty*

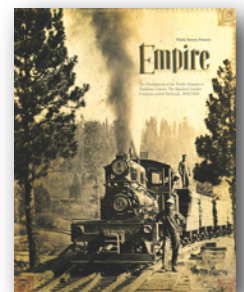


Our Store Managers, Floyd McCarty and Al Klumpp, enjoying the newly remodeled store. --photos by Jeff Rowe

## BOOK AUTHOR!

Congratulations to **Mark Francis** who has just released this spring his book **Empire**, covering the development of the Timber industry in Tuolumne County.

Interested persons can contact [wheelhorse1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wheelhorse1@sbcglobal.net) after July 1 for information about availability.



**ARE YOU ONLINE?**

In order to keep up with the times, the museum is now also present on some of the popular social networks: Facebook and Twitter. We also have a channel on YouTube. Take a look:

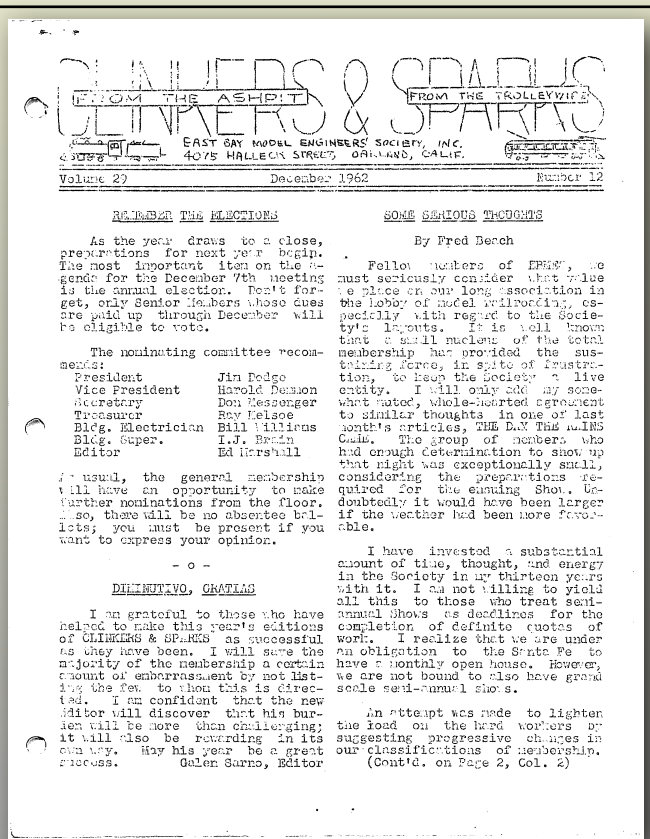
- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Point-Richmond-CA-Golden-State-Model-Railroad-Museum/165356379874>
- <http://twitter.com/gsmrm/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/gsmrm/>

Please follow us on Twitter, become a fan on Facebook, so you'll always be informed about upcoming events, and you can see the latest pictures as soon as we post them!-- *Martin Jahner, Walt Freedman Web coordinators; Joel Frangqvist Facebook contact*

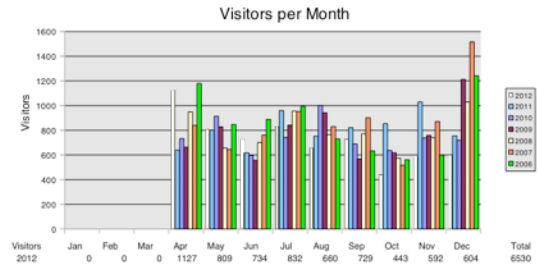


**Looking Back...**

During the packing of the library for our remodeling project, we found a collection of several issues of *Clinkers & Sparks* which we scanned and cataloged for the web site. The issues cover the 1962 to 1983 time span and join historic issues at: <http://www.gsmrm.org/zephyr/index.shtml>. If you have or know about other older issues of these publications, please contact us.



**VISITOR STATISTICS 2012**



**Calendar April-Dec**

Museum open:  
**Saturdays:** 12 noon - 5 pm for viewing, no trains running. Free admission  
**Sundays:** 12 noon to 5 pm with operating trains. Admission charged.  
**Wednesdays:** 11 am - 3 pm for viewing only, no trains running. Free admission.  
**December:** Open Sat and Sun 12 noon - 5 pm, trains running. Admission charged.  
 Check for latest info at <http://www.gsmrm.org>

Jeff Rowe, the Zephyr editor, published an article *Trains at the GSMRM*, in the Oct 2011 issue of *Marketplace Magazine*. Check the GSMRM website at: [http://www.gsmrm.org/media/cc\\_gsmrm\\_2](http://www.gsmrm.org/media/cc_gsmrm_2)



- Contributors**
- Morgan Denegree**  
HO Scale Train Master, EBMES V.P. Member since 2009.
  - Walt Freedman**  
EBMES treasurer, GSMRM membership secretary, Web Coordinator. Member since 1998.
  - Jeff Rowe**  
O Scale Train Master & Zephyr editor. Member since 2001.
  - Bob Siemsen**  
HO Scale Train Master. Member since 2009.
  - Randy Smith**  
GSMRM General Manager, EBMES President. Member since 2006.
  - Morris Lyons**  
N Scale Train Master. Member since 7/2005.

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