

# GSMRM ZEPHYR

Edition 2010

## WINTER-SPRING EVENTS



Bob Siemsen, Martin Jahner, Dave Illich, Don Floes, Alan Klump - photos Jeff Rowe collection

Spring cleanup of the outdoor parking and landscape areas. There was a good turnout for this event and it concluded with a fine tri-tip BBQ with plenty of food for everyone. The Parks department has approved landscaping plans which should



Bob Brown, Joel Frangquist



Floyd McCarty directing the heavy lifters Randy Smith and Larry Price



BBQ time! Randy Smith and Harold York chefs.

greatly reduce the amount of maintenance work needed in the future- allowing more time to enjoy the BBQ and socialize! Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event.

In April, the PBS series *Tracks Ahead* visited GSMRM to film our layouts for an upcoming PBS program. They spent two full days with our members and narrators presenting the various layouts and staging train operations. We spent a



Tracks Ahead film crew with Walt Smith and Don Floes on the HO narrow gauge layout. - photo Jeff Rowe collection



Tracks Ahead film crew working on the O gauge layout. - photo from Jeff Rowe collection

should enhance our publicity when broadcast sometime in 2011. Thanks to the narrators and crews for enabling this event.-- ed.

lot of time reversing trains to get multiple train pass-bys just right for the cameraman! It was a great experience and



Tracks Ahead crew filming the editor at the O gauge computer center. - photo by Bob Brown

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As you already know, Parks finished our bathroom remodel early in the Spring. I know it's been inconvenient to all of us, but the results are worth it. We no longer have to direct our guests to the infamous Porta-Potty. That eyesore will soon be gone forever!

We sometimes don't fully appreciate what a great deal we have going here. In addition to the bathrooms, Parks refurbished our kitchen (painting, staining, new faucet, new door, and a new countertop). They provided a new entryway with ramp and fencing. And, they re-stripped the parking lot. All this would have cost us at least \$25K, if we had to pay for it. Add to this last year's repainting, which cost almost \$25K, the \$40K they spent on a new roof (before we even opened), outside ramps, and free - to us - alarm system, and it's easy to see they aren't making any money off of us.

Randy Smith will soon be ready to start the front landscaping. The plans need some retuning, but the general idea is still there. Please be ready to step forward when he asks for volunteers to help with this effort. It gives us a chance to greatly improve our curb appeal. The addition of our wigwag and searchlight signal will be a great attention-grabber.

Finally, I would like to welcome the newest members of the Board. Floyd McCarty has already assumed the role of PIC/Saturday Coordinator. Morgan Denegree has expressed a willingness to help with publicity, an area where we can use a lot of help. Bob Siemsen, who did such a great job with the new lighting panel, will work with Bill Bigley on house and grounds improvements.

We have made great progress, but there's still lots to do. Please step forward with your ideas and muscle, and help the Museum reach its full potential. And, as always, thanks for your support!-- John Morrison, GSMRM General Manager

## MAJOR 2010 BUILDING PROJECTS

During the Winter-Spring period two major renovations were undertaken by the Parks District and our members.

First, the Parks Department undertook a complete tear down and rebuild of our two bathrooms. These are now compliant with latest building and handicap access codes and feature energy and water saving utilities. One of the bathrooms has outside access



New walkways and outside accessible bathroom.

-- photo by Jeff Rowser

for our visitors, eliminating the visits to the Porta-Potty, or to other park facilities across the street. The project also added wheelchair access to the ticket office and a fenced sidewalk from our store and ticket office up to the stairway into the train room. *Continued on*

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## O SCALE

During 2010, the O Scale group's major winter time project was the double tracking of Santa-Fe Western block 5 connecting Midway, Arrival, and Departure divisions. The construction, wiring, and panel updates were completed by opening day. The result has been a much improved flow of traffic between the three divisions. Another large project was the re-tracking of the Diesel Yard adjoining the Midway Engine Terminal. There are now inbound, outbound and turntable tracks controllable from either the Midway Engine or Diesel Yard panels. We also added two new industrial spurs in the area. In total, thirteen turnouts were built for these projects.



Midway engine terminal with Diesel yard (top center) --photos by Jeff Rowe

Interurban: additional scenery work in the Churchill yard area including the 1930's gas station, a cattle loading area, a new

custom built freight building, and the Three Palms track maintenance area. The Churchill yard panel is installed and wiring underway.

On the Eureka & Empire On3 layout, the lower Eureka yard was raised to match the standard gauge track levels. Yard trackage and a turntable with roundhouse have been installed. There are also two industries from the SFW Pt. Richmond passenger yard leads.



On3 Eureka yard with interchange tracks to SFW.

All of the X10 wireless surveillance cameras have now been replaced with high resolution wired cameras. These all feed into a 16-port video multiplexor switch from which they can be grouped, sequenced or combined for output to video monitors in the control panel areas.

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

## HO SCALE

The last year has seen significant changes in the HO Scale layout. The biggest change has been the installation of a Digitrax DCC control system. Once feasibility was confirmed, designing our system and installing the components proceeded at a rapid rate, and we are now at the point where we have the option to control the trains with either our regular DC system or the new DCC system, simply by throwing a selector switch.

The next phase of our Chubb system installation is proceeding smoothly, and almost all of the necessary wiring is in place. We are actually about a month ahead of schedule on this project.

A major change in the operation of our SP and WP Oakland yards is the result of alterations made to the track arrangements around Magnolia Tower. We now have the option of entering or leaving the east end of both yards by a variety of routes, giving our operators much more flexibility in the routing of their trains. Trackwork is underway at the west end of the WP yard, to connect the yard ladder with the mainline, which will allow us to enter or leave the yard at that end as well.

Work has commenced on extending our signal system. The miniature signals have been purchased, and plans are underway to locate and install their 'concrete' bases. As with our existing signals, when completed, the new installation will provide fully-working lighted signals, just like the real thing.

As a special treat for our visitors, a fully-automated container crane is being installed right next to the viewing aisle, near Oakland Mole. We will be able to lift and move miniature containers, to and from railroad cars and highway trucks, simulating the operation of the many container terminals here in the Bay Area.

The twin bridges at Long Ravine have been installed, and we are beginning to fill in the final scenery contours there, and in the rest of the incomplete area in the middle of the Sierra section of the layout. The bare scenery will have to be covered with thousands of trees, with deciduous trees at the lower elevations from Auburn to Colfax, and evergreens from there up to and over the mountain summits. We are making Oak trees from natural twigs and ground foam rubber, and we will use a custom-built 'tree-making machine' to manufacture the evergreens.

-- Morgan Denegree, HO Scale Trainmaster

## N SCALE

During the year, we installed two new switching panels. One for the Bakersfield Engine Terminal, the other, is for the Elk Grove section of the layout that's been out of service due to the Bakersfield stub track project (that is now in service). We now have a computer to run the signals (along with train detection) and we still have a lot of new signals to install. Sadly, Matin Jahner, our person who has been working so hard with the electronics, is moved to Germany. We're REALLY going to miss him! This winter, we're scaling back our planned "renovation" of the twin bridges just to the right (east) of Woodford till we get all the new parts together. That work will start when we're closed in the 2012 year. As of now, Bakersfield is our main concern. With our efforts

in getting locomotives into the engine terminal, onto the turntable, and eventually into the roundhouse. Along with that, our oil rigs are moving up and down, and the "flare" is working in oil city. Sadly, our workforce is now down to four people on site, a few work on projects at home which helps somewhat. Want to join us?



Work is progressing on the new Bakersfield roundhouse and turntable

--Barry Wilson, N Scale Trainmaster.



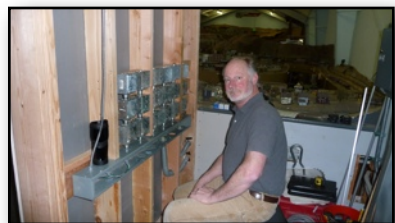
## BUILDING PROJECTS

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Second, our club's electricians, Bob Siemsen and Dave Illich rebuilt the central electrical control panel for all building and layout electrical services. According to Bob Siemsen, *the old table top lighting console took a lot of floor space, so our plan was to change to a wall configuration to open up floor space and provide us with a space for a white board. We did this by disconnecting all the electrical feed to the console, removing the existing console, constructing the rough framing of the wall, installing all metal electrical boxes and wires necessary to accommodate all the light switches required, then finishing the wall and then created a new junction box under the HO layout to connect all the*



Dave Illich dismantling the old lighting console, Jan 20, 2010. -- photo by Jeff Rowe



Bob Siemsen at the new Electrical Panel. Feb 9, 2010 -- photo by Jeff Rowe

*new wires to the existing lighting circuits. This effort involved over 36 circuits and took over 150 hours of work. -- ed.*

## OUR 2010 THEME DAYS

During the 2010 season we had special trains every 4th Sunday of the month. Some of these included Unit Train Day on April 25, Amtrak Day on May 23, ATSF/BNSF Day on June 27, Steam Day on



Amtrak theme day action on the O Scale layout. -- photos by Martin Jahner



Steam theme day action on the HO layout.

July 25, UP/WP Day on August 22, Passenger Day on September 26, "Foreign to California" Day on October 24, F-unit Day November 28, and concluding with Southern

Pacific Day on December 26. At our theme days you can expect to fine many trains representing that day's theme. It's a good chance to see your favorite trains in operation. The photos show some of the highlights from last year.. --Martin Jahner



The Western Pacific "Zephyr" climbing the hill to Summit on the N layout during Passenger theme day.

## MEMBER ACTIONS 2010

### EBMES

In January, retiring EBMES Board officers were **Jeff Robinson**, President, **Randy Smith V.P.**, **Walt Freedman**, Secretary and HO TM, **Walt Smith**, Treasurer, members **Barry Wilson**, N TM, and **Jon Ames**. The new board members are **Randy Smith**, President, **Bob Brown**, V.P., **Sean Dexter**, Sec., **Frank Greman**, Treasurer., **Morgan Denegree**, HO TM, and **Martin Jahner**, N TM., Continuing members are **Jeff Rowe**, O TM, **Jeff Robinson** and **Floyd McCarty**.

In April, the EBMES members welcomed **Bob Siemsen**, HO scale, as a new Senior member and **Danylo Hawks**, N scale, as a Junior member.

In August, **Bob Brown** resigned for family reasons. **Morgan Denegree** took over as EBMES VP. **Dave Clark** was elected to fill Bob's board position.

### GSMRM

In May, the GSMRM Board elected these officers: General Manager – **John Morrison**; Asst. GM – **Randy Smith**; Secretary – **Jim Ambrose**; CFO – **Martin Jahner**; Asst. CFO – **Frank Greman**; House & Grounds – **Bill Bigley** and **Bob Siemsen**; Publicity – **Sean Dexter** and **Morgan Denegree**; Saturday and PIC Coordinator – **Floyd McCarty**. Retiring directors were **Jeff Pribyl**, **John Fagan** and **Jeff Heller**.

In Sept, **Martin Jahner** resigned from the GSMRM and EBMES Boards - he has temporarily returned to Germany. As a result, **Frank Greman** took over as CFO on the GSMRM Board. The EBMES Board re-assigned duties as follows: Acting Treasurer and Membership Secretary - **Walt Freedman**; Store Manager - **Floyd McCarty**. **Barry Wilson** returned as N-Scale trainmaster. **Joel Frangquist** volunteered to be the Facebook contact.

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.

--Bob Brown & ed.



## 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.

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 HO Scale Train Master.  
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Member since 1986

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**Jeff Rowe.**  
 O Scale Train Master and Zephyr editor.  
Member since 2001

**Randy Smith**  
 EBMES President  
Member since 2006.

**Barry Wilson.**  
 N Scale Train Master.  
Member since 2002

## Looking Back...

We recently received some photographs from A.E. Rice which cover some work in progress on the Halleck Ave On3-On30 areas of the O gauge layout. The pictures had no date or descriptive information, but hopefully some of our readers can provide additional information. You can see these and other pictures from this collection at: [A. E. Rice Collection](#)



Ken Shattock provided this information: TOP ROW (L to R): Roy Anderson, Jr. (positive!); A young "Paul Franke" (pretty sure); FRONT ROW (L to R) Bill Schupbach (pretty sure); Bill Williams (positive); a young "Paul Beach" (maybe)

Notes: Roy Anderson, Jr. is the son of the late Roy Anderson, Sr. who was one of the founders of the "Golden Gate Model Engineers Guild" (EBMES Predecessor). He lives in OREGON.

Bill Williams was an active O-scaler--- former O-Trainmaster-- and owner/operator of the famous "Bill Williams Circus" ... Dozens of animals and characters-- big top tents all staked out on the layout, BIG long circus train. Unbelievable! Bill would set everything up at the South end of the O-scale layout, near the Richmond Yard, when we held a big three-day weekend show.

Ken Harrison has some of the cars I believe.

## 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.

**Jul 3-4** Nat'l O Scale Convention tour of GSMRM.

**December&Jan 1-2:** Open Sat and Sun 12 noon - 5 pm, trains running. Admission charged.

Check for latest info at <http://www.gsmrm.org>