

GSMRM **ZEPHYR**

Edition 2009

Winter-Spring

SNYDER DEDICATION SET



Snyder layout after reassembly Oct 2008. -- photos Jeff Rowe collection

As you probably know by now, in October we received the late Tom Snyder's gauge 1 layout. The layout was dismantled by the builder and club members over a three day period and transported from Snyder's Tiburon home to the GSMRM site on Oct 23rd. The layout was reassembled and wired for operation for our holiday shows during November and December. The official dedication will be held on Saturday, June 20th from 12 noon - 2 pm. Members of the Snyder family and friends will be attending. It will be a private dedication with catered food based on a variation of a 1969 "Zephyr" menu.



Open to public first day 6 Dec 2008!

All EBMES members are invited but must sign up. Please contact Jim Ambrose for additional information.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Snyder

-- Jim Ambrose

ANNUAL CLEANUP DAY



Bob Brown and son Casey (visiting from Hawaii) taking care of the BBQ area.

On March 21st we had our annual site cleanup day. Many club members turned out to clean the parking lots, front landscaping and interior walkways and glass. Due to meeting room space limitations we were unable to hold out annual potluck luncheon this year. Thanks to all who contributed to this event!



Jim Dox and Mark Francis working the back parking lot -- photos Jeff Rowe collection

GSMRM GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As usual, there are many projects going on, or planned for the future. As you all know, we have contracted a janitorial service to keep the public portions of the Museum clean. This is working out very well, so far. Please help maintain the layouts and environments by cleaning the inside of the walkway glass, and checking for items that should not be visible from the aisle way.

The official dedication for the Snyder layout has been set for June 20, from noon to 2pm. This is a Saturday, and it is by invitation only (not for the general public). If you would like to attend, please sign up on the list posted in the meeting room. Food will be served. If you are interested in helping with the layout, please contact me or Jim Ambrose.

The Parks District has not yet scheduled our bathroom and kitchen remodel. The Board has reviewed their plans, and I am in contact with their project manager. Stay tuned for updates.

We have also been discussing landscape plans with Parks. They have volunteered their gardener to help select native species, etc. We will get a second picnic bench next month.

Skirting has been installed in the HO and O scale layouts, and the Snyder layout has been measured. N scale -- you're next!

Please watch for a notice regarding our upcoming election and annual meeting. And, thanks for your support!

-- John Morrison, GSMRM General Manager



Jeff Heller installing skirting on the O Scale layout.

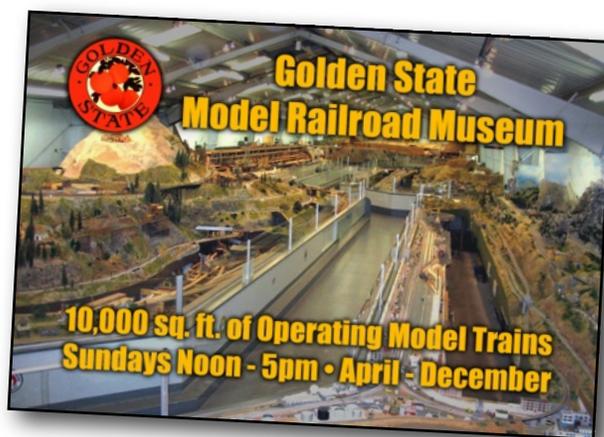
EBMES BOARD ACTIONS

The EBMES Board would like to remind members that if a member is having difficulties paying their dues they need to contact their TrainMaster or a board member, so the board can discuss their problem on a one-one basis and decide to collect partial or no dues until the member is able to resume regular dues payments.

The Board also adopted a new policy for youth under age 14 as follows: A parent of such a "Junior" will need to join as a Senior (Apprentice) if the parent wishes to participate as well in club activities, or Associate if not. Once the minor reaches the age of 14, he/she will be signed up as a Junior (Apprentice) and the parent may then drop their membership.

It was also decided that all regular under age guests of members including family need a medical waiver on file. This includes all junior members.

-- Randy Smith



O SCALE

During Winter-Spring 2009, the EBMES O Scale group has continued work on the scenery area between Midway and the Zenith yards. During one of our Saturday work days we added rock castings along the entire area. Texturing and foliage work is now progressing. The new siding from Midway track 28 up to the oil refinery is operational. The Midway Union Station and other factory buildings have been installed. Midway is nearing completion!

Infrared train detection for improved dispatcher control has been installed along the Midway block 9 reverse loop (this area now blocked by scenery). Four additional track cleaning cars with floating abrasive pads were custom built to improve our operations.

Work on the On3 scenery has also continues with most of the visible areas now plastered and some texturing and tree work completed. Electrical work in the Palisade division is being completed.

Design work on the computer interface prototype (OSCI) also continues. Route relay boards are installed on the Departure

panel and all Departure yard track routes can be selected with panel push buttons (or via OSCI after accessory control boards added).

Work on the O Scale Interurban layout has been restarted. A control panel and power supplies have been installed and one trolley loop is operational (no overhead yet). Additional wiring and turnout motor installation is underway.

The O scale public and member web sites have been updated. Take a look at http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/index.shtml or http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o_scale/.



The Midway Union Station

--Jeff Rowe

-- Jeff Rowe

HO SCALE

Work on our Valley divisions this winter included replacement of two deteriorating plastic bridges with BLMA 150 ft brass truss bridges - one at the WP/SP crossing on the Altamont and a second at Niles Canyon. The Niles bridge included track realignment and related scenery rework to eliminate interference with large steam locomotives. Elsewhere, a number of aging turnouts were replaced and ballast reworked in areas where time had taken its toll. Work to install signals for the next phase of Chubb continued. The project to install skirting was completed, hiding all of the unattractive benchwork visible from the public aisle. Planning is underway to completely rework the Oakland turntable and build our long-delayed roundhouse, thanks to a new and very experienced member who recently climbed aboard.

The Elvas complex is now fully functional under Chubb. Work continues on the final phase of activating the west end yard gates at Roseville Yard and testing local panels at Tracy and Sacramento. On Donner, an energetic group of workers completed plastering in and painting an extensive section of scenery in time for opening day. At last, our Back 40s are hidden from public view. Another new and experienced member is hard at work planning and building the Towle Brothers lumber mill complex between Gold Run and American that will service our yet-to-be

completed lumber line. The turnout to the spur will need to be moved to improve the alignment of the spur - a project for next shutdown.

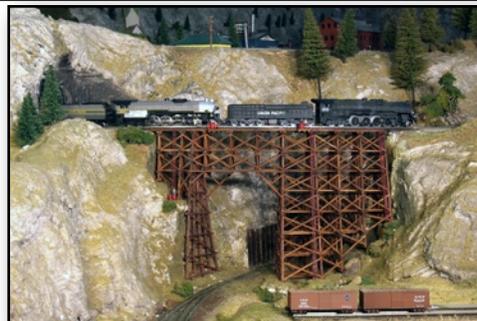
We completed work on the two Long Ravine bridge sections that have sat partially completed for a couple of years. The original bridge track was replaced with conventional track, both decks ballasted per prototype and handrails installed and painted. The decks will be installed during the run season, one deck at a time, as soon as the support towers are built - work is in progress. A recent possible development is that the Narrow Gauge track that passes under the bridge may need minor realignment to avoid the desired locations of the support towers. Our surveyors are on-site to make the final determination.

Our first Museum-wide theme day of the year on April 26 - Unit Trains - saw a variety of equipment on the HO layout - Triple Crown roadrailers, BN coal, Napa pipe flats, Holly Sugar Beets hoppers, a string of Mopac reefers and other representative equipment. We had a dispatcher for the Valley Divisions using our Motorola radios that did not see much use last year. Dispatching added an enjoyable level of interest and we plan to repeat that more often during the run season. Next up is Amtrak Day on May 24 - all Valley trains will be in constant radio contact with the dispatcher!

-- Walt Freedman

N SCALE

Seems like the digital age is starting to show-up on the N scale layout: Track detection is now on 1/4 of the total mainline tracks and growing, and the operating signals are not far behind. The Big Picture is to be able to run the layout using a computer in the dispatcher's room with a dispatcher. Look for the "new" James Canyon Trestle in Cliff, built by "That English Guy with a Motorbike" (that's James Christopher-Norris). The Bakersfield Engine terminal is well on its way to becoming operational thanks to the efforts of Joel Frangquist. Also in that



James Canyon trestle by James Christopher-Norris -- photo by Martin Jahner

same area, (the other end of Bakersfield) Chuck Ciaccio has added scenery to the industrial part of town. Sacramento street trackage is still in works (and yes it does work) thanks to Steve Cleere. Like the REAL railroad, the HOT weather has given us some wonderful heat kinks in our track (which seems to happen each year) so we wait till it cools down a bit then re-align and glue it back down. Isn't Model Railroading FUN?

-- Barry Wilson

BE SAFE

SAFETY is always our concern at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum. Fire, blood, telephones with emergency numbers and electrical panels are basics to be aware of. Members should take time to learn the locations of First Aid kits, Fire Extinguishers and Phones around their layout areas. Walk around to all the places you go, and look for the FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. FIRE is fast. When a fire starts, it will be too late to find a fire extinguisher. Locate them now. It might save your life.

Blood transmits disease. Don't touch blood. If you must, use RUBBER GLOVES. They are located by N, HO, and O scale first aid kits, and by the kitchen first aid kit. Bandage your cuts. Don't spread blood.

See the Members List in the kitchen and on your scale's Bulletin board for emergency contact information. Please e-mail any needed updates to Martin Jahner (cfo@gsmrm.org).

Keep everything 3 FEET away from electrical panels. Be aware of obstructions and low overhead areas in your layout area. These should be clearly marked so you and your guests can avoid injury. Finally, know how to exit the building from your area in case of an emergency.

More information and safety item location diagrams can be found on our web site at:

http://www.gsmrm.org/members/gsmrm_ebmес_safety.shtml

-- Bob Brown

2009 THEME DAYS

Last year we had several successful special run days in which a particular type of train or railroad was featured. Thanks to the very positive feedback this year we have expanded the concept to every 4th Sunday of the month. On each of these special days we will celebrate and highlight certain types of trains. Some of those can't be seen every day, so be sure not to miss our 2009 Theme Days!



Amtrak action in Bakersfield on the N scale layout -- Martin Jahner collection



Amtrak action on the O Scale layout -- Martin Jahner collection



Unit pipe train in Oakland Yard on the HO scale layout -- Martin Jahner collection



Unit coal train at Donner Pass on the HO scale layout -- Martin Jahner collection

Remaining 2009 Theme Days	
June 28	ATSF/BNSF Day
July 26	Steam Day
August 23	UP/WP Day
September 27	Passenger Day
October 25	Southern Pacific Day
November 22	Wreck Train/MOW Day
December 27	Foreign to California

IN MEMORY...

John Edginton - Senior Member 1995-2008

On November 26, 2008, we lost one of our most dedicated and active Senior Members to cancer. On joining the club as a member of HO-scale, John, a semi-retired Maritime Lawyer by profession, quickly became involved not only in scale activities but also in the running of EBMES and GSMRM. On the Museum side, he served as Secretary on the Board of Directors for virtually the entire span of his membership, provided legal counsel, handled publicity with the press and TV stations and maintained contact with the East Bay Regional Parks District and the Point Richmond Chamber of Commerce among others. His Vision of developing GSMRM into a quality Museum was a driving force for many of the accomplished projects and those still in the planning stage.



John also served at various times on the EBMES Board of Directors. He was a very active member of HO and his artistic talents will be hard to replace. His patient and meticulous modeling of prototypical scenes over many of hours of work on our Donner Pass Mountain Division has left a true legacy. His main focus in equipment modeling was the Southern Pacific, Western Pacific and Santa Fe during the steam and transition eras of the 1940's-early 1960's. His freight cars were all carefully weathered to attain what he referred to as "Museum Quality". He accumulated a magnificent collection of brass locomotives and passenger cars with the goal of having one example of every train that ever operated out of the Oakland Mole. Sadly he passed on before completing that objective - he was three trains short - but those were on order for delivery in 2009 !

With all of this, John was also an active member of the Sierra Club. He and his wife Jane led summer group tours to many parts of the world. He was a very active member of the Maritime Law Association and editor-in-chief of their Benedict Quarterly Bulletin and participated in other organizations, including the National Model Railroaders Association. The standing joke among our Wednesdays work group at the Museum was "Oh, John will be along around 2 p.m. or so - he is lunching with one of his many organizations" !

John is sadly missed for the energy, dedication and talents that he devoted to the Museum and its activities in every respect. Rest in Peace.

-- Walt Freedman

MEMBER ACTIONS

- Dec 08:** Hugh Brown and Des Power(O) terminated as members.
Phil Gerstle converted from senior member to associate member.
Brad Scherer leave of absence extended to July 2010
- Jan 09:** John Cockle leave of absence extended
- Feb 09:** Harry Critchfield (HO-O) converted to associate member from senior apprentice
Morgan Denegree approved senior apprentice HO scale
- Apr 09:** Arul Tandavan approved for Senior Apprenticeship (HO)

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.

June: Snyder layout dedication, June 20th at 12 noon.

Latest calendar at

<http://www.gsmrm.org/events.shtml>

Contributors

Jim Ambrose



GSMRM Board Member.
Member since 1998

Bob Brown.



EBMES Board Member.
Member since 2008

Walt Freedman.



GSMRM Assistant Secretary, EBMES Secretary and HO Scale Train Master.
Member since 1998

John Morrison.



GSMRM General Manager.
Member since 1986

Martin Jahner



GSMRM Chief Financial Officer, Webmaster, and Company Store manager.
Member since 1999

Mark Francis



GSMRM Board Member since 2004

Jeff Rowe



O Scale Train Master and Zephyr editor.
Member since 2001

Randy Smith



EBMES Vice President
Member since 2006.

Barry Wilson.



N Scale Train Master.
Member since 2002

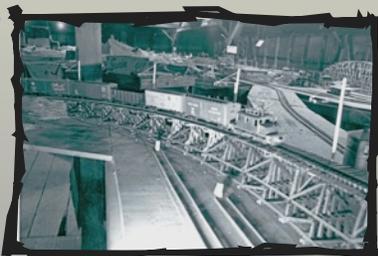
Looking Back...



North end of EBMES Halleck St. 1948 The OA&E Power house was built by Elmer Cummings, and for many years it was on the north end of the Halleck street trolley line. It is now on the south section of the current O gauge line. --photos from Tomas Buckingham collection



O Scale trolley action with #1208, 271, 500, 660 at EBMES Halleck St. 1



Tomas Buckingham built SN 660 with help from Elmer Cummings.

--From the Ken Shattock collection.

More information and photos from Tomas Buckingham can be found on our web site
<http://www.gsmrm.org/history>
http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/OSH1story/OSThist1948Buckingham/

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