

GSMRM **ZEPHYR**

Edition 2011

Winter-Spring

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Hello and greetings! First, let me say what an honor it is to be the new General Manager of the GSMRM. Looking back at the year prior to me being elected and so far this year, we have seen a lot of changes at GSMRM. We started with finding a new home for Tom Snyder's personal layout and it now resides at the NJ Hi-Railers in New Jersey. We have reformatted the memberships of both the GSMRM and the EBMES with a serious drive at gaining new member who we can teach and inspire in all the joys and excitement of model railroading. We are looking for both the passionate model railroader as well as the person that has never modeled anything or never owned a model train. The annual membership we had that allowed access to the museum is now changed to an annual pass for the same price. The main difference with the new pass is our guests will not be bugged about elections and special meeting any more.

Having finally broken ground, we are well under way with our landscaping project out front. It will include a raised flower bed, repositioning of the propane tank, an access way for future repairs of the sewer system if needed, and flower beds sprawling out through the fence all the way to the railroad tracks between the fence and the street. In the not so near future, we will be adding a raised area near the picnic area with possibly another table for members and guest to use.

By the time this hits print we are also hopeful that we will be starting our downstairs remodel. The members pulled together and hammered out a plan which includes new carpet, sheet rocking all the walls, a janitorial closet, and switching the board room with the library, so the library will be larger and user friendly.

-- Randy Smith, GSMRM General Manager

WINTER-SPRING EVENTS

As usual, the GSMRM members took a break from Winter layout work on March 19th to do the yearly Spring cleanup of the outdoor parking and landscape areas. However, this year was different- *Roundup™*



N Scale excess material ready for container. -- photos by Jeff Rowe.



BBQ time! Randy Smith checking the Tri-tips!

did most of the vegetation maintenance and the main cleanup activity was to pack the Snyder layout for rail



Vicki Fassano setting up lunch.

transportation to New Jersey- see article on page 3. Beyond that, the scales completed removal of accumulated excess materials and other obsolete items around

the layouts and storage shed. We filled a 10 yard dumpster (cost anonymously donated) with this material! 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 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. -- ed.



Pam Burke addressing staff.

LANDSCAPE PROJECT UNDERWAY

Last Fall the GSMRM Landscaping Committee submitted a new landscaping plan to Parks for approval. The plan calls for landscaping the areas behind the parking lot, the BBQ area across from the kitchen, the front parking lot area and the areas outside the fence. The plan was approved this Spring and work started on May 27th, with Randy Smith and Don Flores



Front landscape work underway, May 2011. -- photo from Jeff Rowe collection.



Randy Smith, Frank Greman removing the searchlight signal. -- photos from JRandy Smith collection.

doing the backhoe work, with assistance from Phil Figel, Frank Greman, and Larry Price. Work will continue throughout the summer and fall and will greatly improve our curb appeal. The addition of our wigwag and searchlight signals will also be a great attention-grabber.-- ed.

REMODEL PROJECT

This Spring the GSMRM Remodel Committee, led by John Morrison, presented plans for remodeling the meeting, library, and board rooms.

Remodel plans:

- Carpet – Replace the downstairs carpet.
- Drywall – Sheet rock walls and paint to match kitchen wall.
- Stairs and janitorial closet – plan is to construct a wall parallel to the stairs, from the foot of the stairs west. This will provide additional wall space and will include a janitorial closet.
- Swap the library and board rooms. This will provide a larger lighted area for the library with room for small meetings and better public access.

Continued on page 3.

O SCALE

During Winter-Spring 2011, the O Scale group undertook a major project to rebuild the Arrival west ladder and thereby extend the yard tracks about 15ft. This enabled the five yard tracks to be divided into two 32 ft. sections each for additional train storage and further improve operations. All the ladder turnouts were rebuilt using number 8 and 10 frogs. The Arrival panel was updated for the new track arrangements and push buttons controls added for the new west end track routes, along with OSCI -O Scale Computer Interface-wiring. The OSCI panels were updated and the JMRI computer program has been updated to the latest version of JMRI. At the Midway industry area, two spur tracks were added along with new industry buildings. Our way-freight operators will enjoy the new switching possibilities! Stall tracks are being added to the five-stall engine house at Midway. Signals were added for the Zenith block 12-13 block boundary. Our south mountain extension scenery supports are installed and ready for plaster support webbing. This will be one of our big Winter 2012 projects.



Robin Graham, bob Brown, Jeff Heller discussing some of the construction details of the Arrival West ladder rebuild. The post between Graham and Heller was later removed. Others working on the project were Mark Francis, Jim Dox and Jeff Rowe. --photo s by Jeff Rowe

Interurban: Wiring of the control panel for the Churchill yard area and interchange to SFW continues.

On the Eureka & Empire On3 layout, work progressed on the lower Eureka yard including laying and ballasting the yard trackage, adding several buildings, wiring the yard tracks and turntable, and adding control panels. A custom built brewery was added to the Eureka industrial area. Scenery from Eureka towards Empire is underway.



On3 Eureka yard with Bheicheiser Brewing Company, by Jim Ambrose, June 2011.

Additional video cameras were installed in the Arch Bridge area and around the Pt. Richmond passenger yard area. Over the winter the camera train engine was rebuilt to use long lasting Lion batteries and a new 19" flat screen was installed for guest viewing. Our train operators can also view the cam train output on other monitors around the layout via our main video switch.

Lastly, we spent our March cleanup day removing much of the surplus lumber, old electrical equipment and other obsolete items which have collected under and around the layout since 1985.

The O scale public and member web sites have been updated, including new track plans for the SFW and On3 layouts. Take a look at http://www.gsmrm.org/o_scale/index.shtml or http://www.gsmrm.org/members/o_scale/. --Jeff Rowe, O Scale Trainmaster.

HO SCALE

In HO Scale, the past year has largely been taken up with maintenance and reliability issues. We held a thorough 'Spring Cleaning', both of the surface that you can see, and of the large areas beneath the railroad. In addition, we held off on the scheduled expansion of our Chubb computer-operated power-routing system in order to concentrate upon making sure that what we already have is reliable. The result has been greatly improved reliability of operations.

Because of the rapidly-rising popularity of DCC control systems, we decided to give them a try. We installed a Digitrak system, and we are now able to run trains in either our standard DC mode, or in DCC. Our operators like DCC, as it frees them from concern about whether the block their train is entering is set up for them. DCC does this automatically.

There has been some upgrading of buildings in the area near the 16th Street Station, with new interior and exterior lighting, and some interior details. There have been some scenery changes near Long Ravine, to provide more realistic contours, and to keep

derailed trains from falling to the floor.

The intermodal terminal at the Oakland Mole is operational, including a fully-functioning container crane.

The large expanse of East Bay hills that is so much a part



Work along the Long Ravine area.



Phil Figel at the Oakland Mole container crane. --photos by Jeff Rowe

Scale Trainmaster

of the layout, has faded to a drab brownish-gray, over the years since it was built. We are modeling the month of May, so we sent a member out to Altamont Pass on May 1st, with a camera. The pictures he brought back are now being used to upgrade the coloring on our hills, to reflect the bright greens and yellows of emerging springtime vegetation.-- Morgan, HO

N SCALE

We now have an actual model of the Sacramento Passenger Station! Thanks to the hard work of Glenn Smith, who's been working on that project for over the last 14 months. Also, we're adding to our track



N Scale N Scale Sacramento Uptown passenger station by Glenn Smith, June 2011. --photos by Jeff Rowe

detection block by block, along with our signals (which have yet to be wired into the system) Joel Frangquist is hard at work on that. Our Oakland "Mole" is being wired by Jeff Pribyl (he's in the "matrix") and soon he'll have a control panel mounted for that.



N Scale Coach-intermodal Yard and off to the left is Sacramento Yard. To the right of the Intermodal Yard is Sacramento Uptown Street trackage.

The Elk Grove section of the layout will soon be up & running if I can get the panel wired up again (it's been down since the Bakersfield stub track was put in) - seems that I'm the only one who volunteered to see that project through... (Oh, If only we had another 20 N-Scale members to work on the layout)

That's about it for now! --Barry Wilson, N Scale Trainmaster.

REMODEL PROJECT

Continued from page 1

At the May EBMES general meeting the plans were presented and the members recommended that GSMRM proceed.

Adjacent is a drawing of the proposed remodel floor plan. Note the swap between the library and board room. --ed.



SNYDER LAYOUT DEPARTURE

As reported in the Winter-Spring 2009 issue of the Zephyr, we received the Tom Snyder large scale layout in October 2008. During the Fall of 2010, it was decided by the GSMRM Board of Directors to remove the Snyder layout from our site. This decision was based on input from the members who were primarily

concerned about the reduction of space from our meeting facilities and lack of interest in maintaining and operating the layout. Originally, it was envisioned that we would acquire additional space for the layout, but that did not materialize.



Jim Ambrose, Marty Horning, Pam Burke. Pam donated Snyder layout to GSMRM Oct 2008; New Jersey Hi-Railers will be new home for the layout. e. -photos by Jeff Rowe

Pam Snyder was contacted and she was able to find a new home for the layout at the at the New Jersey Hi-Railers, home of the largest 3-rail layout in the USA. They arranged for a 53



Morgan, Walt Smith, Rob Fassano, John Fagan, John Morrison dismantling the layout.



Bob Siemsen, Frank Greman loading

ft. container to be brought to GSMRM to transport the layout to New Jersey.

After some preliminary work, the move took place on March 19, 2011 which coincided with our Spring clean up day.

Many EBMES members were present to dismantle and carefully move sections to the container and securely pack them for the long rail trip to New Jersey.

The New Jersey Hi-Railers were able to quickly re-assemble the layout and had it operating shortly after arrival. The Snyder layout was a good attraction for our younger visitors and it will be missed. Fortunately, it has found a new home. You can view more photos of the move at our web site, http://www.gsmrm.org/tom_snyder/SnyderDeparture/index.shtml. You can see the entire rebuild at: http://www.njhirailers.com/club_photos_tom_snyder/layout.html

OUR 2011 THEME DAYS

During the 2011 season we continue with our special theme trains every 4th Sunday of the month. Some of these included Unit Train Day on April 24, Amtrak Day on May 22, ATSF/BNSF Day on June 26. Upcoming theme days will be Steam Day on July 24, UP/WP Day on August 28, Passenger Day on September 25, Southern Pacific Day on October 23, and concluding with MoW/Wreck Day on November 27. 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. --ed.



The Western Pacific "Zephyr" climbing the hill to Summit on the N layout during Passenger theme day. --photo by Martin Jahner

MEMBER ACTIONS 2011

EBMES

Trainmasters for 2011: N Scale - **Barry Wilson**; HO Scale - **Morgan**; O Scale - **Jeff Rowe**.

In February, **Robin Graham** (O Scale) was approved as Senior Member after leave of absence from the Halleck club. Robin was the O Scale trainmaster in 1985. **Rich Bass** (HO), also approved as Senior Member returning from leave.

In June, **David Proud** (HO) was accepted as first free trial member.

GSMRM

In May, the following were elected as directors for 2011/12 period: **Jim Ambrose, Bill Bigley, Morgan, Sean Dexter, Frank Greman, Floyd McCarty, John Morrison, Bob Siemsen, Randy Smith.**

GSMRM Officers for 2011/12: General manager - **Randy Smith**; Asst. GM - **John Morrison**; Treasurer/CFO - **Frank Greman**; Secretary - **Jim Ambrose**; House & Grounds - **Bill Bigley** and **Bob Siemsen**; Publicity - **Sean Dexter** and **Morgan**; 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.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

We have changed our membership policy. We are now offering a FREE, SIX-MONTH TRIAL MEMBERSHIP. That's right, FREE! You can join our organization, participate in our activities, and learn new model railroading skills, for six months, and it will cost you absolutely nothing!

Not only that, but, if you have family members over the age of fourteen; who are living with you, and who would like to participate in model railroading with you, they can be included in your trial membership at no charge!

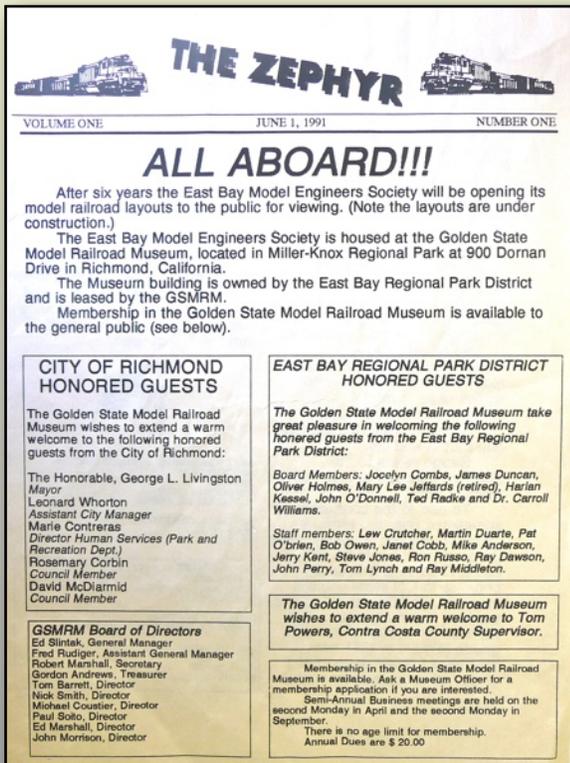
It's a great opportunity to get to know the club and use our facilities and to expand your model railroading experience. Even if you have no previous experience, you will be welcomed, and trained in the skills needed to pursue the hobby.

If you find that we and you are a good fit, you will have the opportunity to join us as a full Senior Member (or Junior Member, if under eighteen), at the end of your Free Trial Membership.

It just doesn't get any better than this! Come join us! -- Morgan, EBMES Vice President

Looking Back...

We recently received a back issue of *The Zephyr* and several issues of *Clinkers & Sparks* from Robin Graham. You can view the complete June 1991 issue and other former issues at <http://www.gsmrm.org/zephyr/index.shtml>. If you have or know about other older issues of these publications, please contact us.



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ALL ABOARD!!!

After six years the East Bay Model Engineers Society will be opening its model railroad layouts to the public for viewing. (Note the layouts are under construction.)

The East Bay Model Engineers Society is housed at the Golden State Model Railroad Museum, located in Miller-Knox Regional Park at 900 Dornan Drive in Richmond, California.

The Museum building is owned by the East Bay Regional Park District and is leased by the GSMRM.

Membership in the Golden State Model Railroad Museum is available to the general public (see below).

<p>CITY OF RICHMOND HONORED GUESTS</p> <p>The Golden State Model Railroad Museum wishes to extend a warm welcome to the following honored guests from the City of Richmond:</p> <p>The Honorable, George L. Livingston Mayor Leonard Whorton Assistant City Manager Marie Contreras Director Human Services (Park and Recreation Dept.) Rosemary Corbin Council Member David McDiarmid Council Member</p>	<p>EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT HONORED GUESTS</p> <p>The Golden State Model Railroad Museum take great pleasure in welcoming the following honored guests from the East Bay Regional Park District:</p> <p>Board Members: Jocelyn Combs, James Duncan, Oliver Holmes, Mary Lee Jeffards (retired), Harlan Kessel, John O'Donnell, Ted Radke and Dr. Carroll Williams.</p> <p>Staff members: Lew Crutcher, Martin Duarte, Pat O'Brien, Bob Owen, Janet Cobb, Mike Anderson, Jerry Kent, Steve Jones, Ron Russo, Ray Dawson, John Perry, Tom Lynch and Ray Middleton.</p>
<p>GSMRM Board of Directors</p> <p>Ed Sliatak, General Manager Fred Rudiger, Assistant General Manager Robert Marshall, Secretary Gordon Andrews, Treasurer Tom Barrett, Director Nick Smith, Director Michael Couster, Director Paul Soffo, Director Ed Marshall, Director John Morrison, Director</p>	<p>The Golden State Model Railroad Museum wishes to extend a warm welcome to Tom Powers, Contra Costa County Supervisor.</p> <p>Membership in the Golden State Model Railroad Museum is available. Ask a Museum Officer for a membership application if you are interested.</p> <p>Semi-Annual Business meetings are held on the second Monday in April and the second Monday in September.</p> <p>There is no age limit for membership. Annual Dues are \$ 20.00</p>

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.

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>

Contributors

Morga



HO Scale Train Master, EBMES V.P. Member since 2009.

Walt Freedman



EBMES treasurer, GSMRM membership secretary, Web Coordinator. Member since 1998.

John Morriso



GSMRM Assistant General Manager. Member since 1986.

Jeff Rowe



O Scale Train Master and Zephyr editor. Member since 2001.

Randy Smith



GSMRM General Manager, EBMES President. Member since 2006.

Barry Wilso



N Scale Train Master. Member since 2002.

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