

Short Track *Gazette*



Please Note: This is issue 3 of Volume 20. There is no issue 1 or 2.

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SHORT TRACK RAILROAD

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF 'MODEL RAILROADING IS FUN' WITH N SCALE

Fall Club Update December/January

Short Track Railroad had a fantastic Fall Tractor Show. Both our layouts were full of trains. We had many visitors that marveled at all the trains. Our members answered questions and reminisced with visitors about our first train sets.

In addition to our ever-popular children's game where contestants are to identify various parts and scenes on our layout, we added a new game. Contestants were given two almost identical photos of our layout. They had to identify differences in the two photos. The differences were very subtle. Winners got to keep the photo. Thanks to member Andrew Weldy for the photos.

We are putting an education class together for museum members. The class will show how to build various parts of a model railroad. It will be held on Sundays. Watch museum announcements for start dates and more details.

As I've written in previous columns, we like to set goals for completing various projects on our Donner Pass Exhibit. One member set a very lofty goal. Complete the town of Colfax before the Spring Tractor show in June 2011. This involves completing all the scenery, roads, and especially the structures. The scenery and roads will not be that difficult. Scenery will be done by our "Greenies" scenery crew. The buildings are another story. They are all hand built after being cut from wood on our laser. We have the plans for most of them. It is a time consuming task creating the plans, entering this information into our computer, creating the wood sides and roof, building and painting the structure, then mounting it on the layout. Quite a task. It will take team work to complete this task before June. Stop by and see how we are doing.

Winter Club Update February/March

Short Track Railroad has been busy as usual. Our construction crews are working hard to complete the town of Colfax before the Summer Tractor Show in June. The base is done, roads are sketched out, and the hills have been finished. Now it's time for the scenery crew to step in and give the plaster base some color, add ground cover, and then trees. The building crew is busy building the buildings that will occupy Main Street.

Our track crew is busy installing sidings at various points on the layout. When track work added, the electrical crew follows and adds the wiring and the controls to throw the switches.

We took the month of December off from our monthly Operating session. The monthly sessions resumed in January. They are held on the Second Thursday of the month at 7PM. Visitors are invited. No experience necessary.

We had a big weekend February 19 and 20. Saturday we hosted the National Model Railroad Association San Diego Division Winter Meet. There was a swap meet in the morning, followed by lunch, and finally a meeting and some instructional clinics. The following day, we hosted an open house and operating session in conjunction with a railroad symposium taking place in Duarte. Many people attending the symposium traveled to see some of the fine layouts around Southern California.

Some of our members are planning on driving and volunteering at the Flower Fields this year. We hope some of our new members will sign up to drive tractors.

We participated in the museum open house on Saturday January 22. We did our popular scavenger hunt for visitors.

Remember, we are open Saturday's from 9-1. Stop by and say "Hi".

Have You Seen Our Greenies?

Visitors to our section house will not immediately recognize our "Greenies". They don't look green. They don't wear green. Their hair isn't green (Those that still have hair, that is). No green fingernails. No green teeth. (We hope)

So how does a visitor recognize our greenies? Visitors just have to know where to look. Look for people planting trees on our layout. Look for people putting down grass. Look for people coloring scenery. Look for people placing buildings. Look for people standing next to the layout drinking coffee and doing nothing (Those are not Greenies).

We call our scenery crew "The Greenies". They truly have a gift for creating our realistic scenery. Our club goal is to create realistic scenes in miniature. We start with photographs of the real scene. Then "The Greenies" take over. They study the photos and determine what is needed to reproduce the scene. Then they get to work.

Greenies have lengthy discussions about scenery color. What color are the trees? What color is the grass? Then it gets to how high are the trees? When was the photo taken that we are using for reference? For the time period we are modeling, would the trees be taller or shorter? Were the trees Aspens, or Pines, or Oaks?

Greenies are quite detailed in their research and approach to scenery.

When visiting, feel free to ask the greenies questions about the layout construction. One note, make sure you pronounce the name "Greenies" correctly. Some of our members seem to have trouble and confuse their "G's" with their "W's". Sometimes it sure sounds like they are calling them "Weenies". I'm sure they aren't, but now that I think about it... In addition to the "Greenies", (Our scenery crew), we have a track crew, an electrical crew, and a building crew. Without all our crews working together, our layout wouldn't be as far along as it is.

Don Ham (Scenery Superintendent and Greenie) and Ray Inbody (Greenie) work on placing grass and trees.



Don Ham is placing rock molds on the DPE Layout while Jim Wirt works on wiring.



Other Club News

STRR hosted the San Diego Division NMRA Winter Meeting on February 19. We started with a swap meet in the assembly building, and then moved to our section house for a potluck lunch, clinics, train running and general camaraderie with fellow modelers.

The next day, February 20, we had an open house in conjunction with the Sn3 Symposium. This allowed our members to run trains on both layouts and generally have a good time.

We were open both days for the Civil War reenactment and had quite a few visitors wander in.

Our layout construction continues. We have set goals to be accomplished before the Spring Tractor Show in June.

We have an operating session the second Thursday of every month. We are open on Saturday morning from 9AM-1PM. Come in and look for a "Greenie".



N Scale is fun

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SHORT TRACK RAILROAD

Organized in 1991, The Short Track Railroad is an N scale model railroad club in north San Diego County, California, USA.

We are located in our own Section House on the grounds of the Antique Gas and Steam Engine Museum.

We have a nice, large and dedicated building, lots of NTRAK modules, a permanent layout under construction, and a great bunch of fun-loving members.

We welcome beginners, families, visitors and people of all ages. No equipment or experience is required. All skill levels are welcome and there's always something for everyone to do.

For more information about items in this issue check out:

<http://www.shorttrackrr.org/>

<http://www.agsem.com/>

<http://www.ntrak.org/>