

SHORT TRACK GAZETTE



October 2008

What an exciting time we've been having at the Short Track Railroad!!!!

We had a mixed bag of good and bad news this summer. Usually, our summer is punctuated with nearly month long exhibition at the Del Mar Fair. While a very fun and fulfilling activity, all other work usually comes to a screeching halt. In fact, our group had been debating whether or not to continue the exhibition, when the Fair resolved the issue for us by not offering our usual space in the O'Brian Building. Since our trains don't run too well outdoors, (an unwary ant can derail a locomotive...) we had to decline their offer and stay home this summer.

That was the bad news. The good news was that by staying home this summer, we were able to concentrate our efforts and make a lot more progress than we would have otherwise.

We had a great exhibition during the Summergrass Festival. Lots of guests stopped in and we ran lots of trains. Afterwards, our members were even treated to an impromptu concert "on the veranda" (that's the "patio" to you less-sophisticated folks...) by the members of the "Saw Mill Road" Band. All the while, we were enjoying an "al fresco" meal in the fresh air. Ok, maybe it was just hotdogs and pie, but in *my* book, it was still dinner, dessert and an evening at the arts. Who ever said that hanging out with grown men who play with trains didn't have its perks...?

We also showed the AGSEM "Flag" at the National Train Show in Anaheim Ca during July.

Construction-wise, our surveying crew has completed a big part of their job on the Donner Pass Exhibit (DPE) and taming the summit and other areas in the "wilderness". The boys got all the benchwork/risers and roadbed installed as well as a good start on the mainline cork. (That means we are getting ready to lay a lot more track along the back wall!) This required the addition of a bunch of 3/4" cross pieces in the benchwork. We're working away at phase III of the track plan (Summit to Truckee). Truckee, Reno, Sparks and several of our snow shed areas in the high country will soon have steel rails and iron horses!

Check out the pictures of the scenery "growing" amongst our layout skeleton. The Cape Horn area, (the one you see just as you enter the building) is almost complete and will soon be the first area that is officially declared "complete" on our railroad. Our town of Colton is growing, with the addition of a few more buildings, and more are on the way.

As always, past, present and future model railroaders, of all scales, are welcome to join our club. For more information, stop by on almost any Saturday morning. A word of warning though...wear old clothes, because we will probably put you to work!