



NEWSLETTER

Michael Smith Hosts February Meeting

Sixteen members gathered at Michael's house in South San Francisco last month to watch the American Flyer trains race around his elaborate layout. Paul Moreci's son, Bryan, also attended as a guest. Michael's interests include live steam trains and equipment and there were several examples and works-in-progress in his garage for us to admire.



His S gauge empire includes mountains, trestles, accessories, and even dinosaurs to accompany the trackwork!

The business meeting started at 9:00 P.M. Jake gave the treasurer's report and also reminded everyone that the club discount from Ron Leventon for items ordered from the new Lionel catalog by March 17th is 20% off list price with free shipping to Jake's house. If a member wanted to buy one of each American Flyer item in the catalog, the total cost would be \$3388. Some of the more notable items are the UP 4-8-8-4 Big Boy, a swing bridge, an Atlantic Coast Line Pacific, a CN GP9 diesel, a UP stock car, and the Spirit of 76 train.

Registration forms for Flyer Fest West 2008 were handed out to members in attendance and have been mailed to the rest of the club members so everyone should have their's by now. The two-dome Shell tank

cars are over half sold at this time and the rest of the registration forms to the general public will be mailed out shortly. Updates on registration numbers will be given at this month's meeting at Bill Riechmann's house.

Paul Guaraglia passed around a copy of the new Lionel 2008 Volume 1 catalog and pointed out some of it's highlights. He also brought a pristine 1950 boxed Farm Set, A.C. Gilbert #5001T, that he had won "for a song" at auction. Paul had bid \$974 for what was described as a complete set from "old store stock" but when it was discovered upon delivery that it was missing the paper tractor he negotiated an amazing price of \$400. Pat Altieri commented that even **he** had never seen the box to this rare set. (See photo below). Pat rounded out the evening by sharing a substantial collection of model helicopters that are compatible with S gauge. The business meeting concluded at 10:40 P.M. Paul Moreci handled the evening's auction and there were two winners; Bill Riechmann chose a GN boxcar and Michael Stanton selected a UP stock car.

