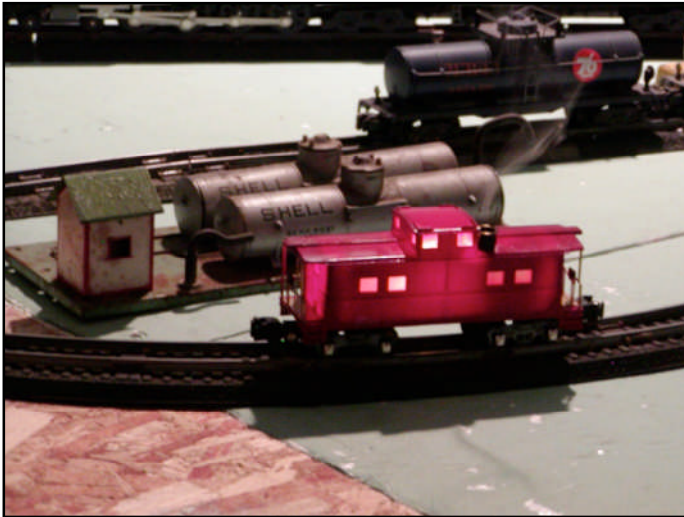




NEWSLETTER

Back at Bill's

There was a good turn out for the January club meeting at Bill Riechmann's home with sixteen club members in attendance. Bill's layout provides the opportunity for some visiting equipment to stretch its legs and this month it was Jake Jacobsen's smoking caboose and Paul Guaraglia's shortened locomotive that showed up.



The general opinion from the crowd was that there was a Seuthe smoke unit hiding in this caboose. Either that or else the interior lighting was heating up enough to turn this into a rolling plastic smelter.



Paul's little 2-4-2 pulled a string of link coupled cars with no problem. The sheet metal tender has been shortened to match the diminutive locomotive and a bare bulbed headlight lights the way.

Jake also brought a factory "mistake" 660 aluminum combination car that had the passenger door on the wrong end of the car. Maybe it was a Monday production run or perhaps a whimsical Gilbert employee thought that the passengers ought to tour the baggage compartment on the way to their seats.

Paul Guaraglia brought along the plans for his new train room which is currently under construction. When completed, he will have over 900 square feet of space to showcase his American Flyer collection. Paul also brought a S gauge Harley Davidson dealership that was manufactured for Hallmark and features a photo voltaic powered revolving stage in the showroom.

Webmaster Steve Haug updated us on the club's website action and reported that we are now getting an average of over 100 unique visitors to the website each month. The site has been up and running for about one year and thanks to Steve's efforts has been constantly improving. Stop by and check it out at: www.GGAFc.org

Arnold Kloian mentioned that the American Models Texas Special EMD E-8's have arrived in A-A configuration and would look quite fine with a string of Budd cars in tow.

Jake has received the Freedom Trains and two-packs as well as the CN GP-9 locomotives from Lionel. The New Haven EP-5 electrics should be in hand as of this writing also. The #792 railroad terminals will be on their way to Jake as soon as he can sort out the shipping details for these large items.



Spotted in the freight yard:



Bill is an ardent supporter of Flyer Fest West as can be seen by his collection of commemorative items from recent shows. Clockwise from above left: the two-dome Shell tank car from FFW2008 and the Sacramento Northern insulated box cars from the 2007 event, the "clubhouse" from 2005, and the Shasta boxcar from 2006.

Flyer Fest West returns to Elk Grove on May 2, 2009 and I'm sure that we'll see the 2009 Western Pacific stock car on Bill's layout shortly after the show.

We had two winners for the monthly raffle:

Paul Moreci went home with Union Pacific boxcar 126816 by S Helper.

Tom Duchscher opted for the more traditional American Flyer 627 flat car with yellowish-orange (his description) bridge girder load from 1948.