



NEWSLETTER

South Bay Rendezvous

Ken Wilson was our host for the June club meeting in San Jose and eleven members made the trek to his house to talk trains and tinker with tinplate. Like a lot of our members, Ken has another hobby and his happens to be a passion for Plymouths so a few of us got sidetracked mulling over the Mopar. It's always nice to be able to come home and tell your spouse that somebody has more (fill in the blank) than you do even if the response is, "Yeah, but he's a train guy so that explains it."



Paul Guaraglia brought two different versions of Pocket Force military figurines which would work well with S Gauge, the US 1st Infantry from WWII and the US 7th Marines from the Vietnam era. These die cast pieces were made by Monogram Models Inc. which was known for producing scale models of very good quality. The Battle Links product was a container which opened up into a three dimensional battlefield for the pieces so you could be ready to work on your attack strategy just about anywhere.

Paul consistently brings items for show and tell to the monthly meetings and it's often something that will complement your layout without breaking your train budget.

Don Matthies brought the new Castline M2 Machines which are incredibly well detailed with opening doors and hoods, authentic looking engines and interiors, and rubber tires. There are six different models from the 1950's including a Mercury, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Chevy, and two Fords. Series I and Series II are different "auto-thentic" original paint schemes, Series III has translucent bodies, and Series IV has hot rod colors.

The business meeting lasted for one hour. Jake gave us the treasurer's report and there was a general discussion of the changing state of train buying at the retail and club level with the Internet and soft economy producing a challenging market environment for the average retailer or dealer.

Lionel reportedly has a replacement smoke unit for the Northerns which will cure the infamous "chirp" for a cost of \$25 (installation not included).

We had two raffle winners. Ron Hawkins chose a Belcher Oil tanker by Des Plaines Hobbies and Ken Wilson kept an American Models 510 tank car.

The next club meeting will be **Saturday**, July 19 at Jon Nelson's house in Tracy at 2:00P.M. Save some gas money by carpooling if you can and we'll see you there.

