



# NEWSLETTER

## Vern's Been Busy

The August club meeting was at the home of Vern Brooks in Castro Valley. Twenty club members showed up to see how much progress Vern had made with his underground American Flyer empire and they weren't disappointed. Since he was asked to host an open house for Flyer Fest West last May, Vern started enlarging his basement in the early part of 2008 and now has trains running in the "annex". The trains that aren't zipping around on S-Helper track and winding their way through the numerous accessories are tucked safely into shelves and display cabinets throughout the rooms and it's fun to explore those between conversations. He also has an impressive static display of Gilbert HO trains for those that like to see the scaled down version of their favorite Flyers.



We had a brief business meeting and Jake Jacobsen updated us with a treasurer's report. Don Matthies said that there had been a 10% price increase from S Helper as of August 1 with an additional 10% increase predicted for January of 2009 and yet another 10% in the middle of 2009. At this rate, we're all going to need a federal bail out just to be able to afford some trains! All kidding aside, we all know that oil prices are continuing to rise and with that goes transportation costs, manufacturing costs, etc. so be prepared to dig a little deeper into your wallet when it comes time to pay for those "must have" items.

The club Christmas dinner has been reserved at *The Ranch* restaurant in Hayward.

For "Show and Tell", Don Matthies brought Spooky Buildings by Lemax which are available at *Michael's* stores if you want to add a Halloween theme to your layout. The buildings are a good size for S Gauge although the people are a bit big. Paul Guaraglia brought a Lionel Big Boy Lighthouse as well as some American Graffiti 1/64 cars and a Penn Salt tank car still in the original box which appears to be a factory error. There are no handrails or platform and some of the lettering seems to be missing as well.

There were lots of participants for the monthly raffle so we had three winners: Hugh Salas, Frisco stock car, Michael Stanton, NYC operating searchlight car, Don Matthies, Frisco hopper.

