



NEWSLETTER

“Kickin’ it” at Ken’s

The club’s June meeting was at the home of Ken Wilson in San Jose. In addition to being an American Flyer aficionado, Ken is a purveyor of Plymouths and can entertain you for hours on either subject. Before the train talk got underway, there was a considerable discussion and recollection of cars that we’ve owned and loved and the stories that went with them. Don Matthies conducted an informal poll of the members to see how many enjoyed old cars as well as old trains, since he has noticed a general correlation between the two, and a majority of those present seemed to have an interest in both. Could it be that we are all living with one foot in yesteryear? Maybe we just enjoy things that can be fixed with a pair of needle nosed pliers and a bit of copper wire.

Eleven members attended the meeting and we spent two hours discussing the possibilities for Flyer Fest West 2011. Don Matthies had checked with a couple of different hotels in the Sacramento area to see if there was some way to coordinate our event with the TCA national convention in Sacramento in June of 2011 but there was not much interest from the hotels. Al DiMatteo and Paul Guaraglia had investigated the possibilities of using a hotel near the San Francisco airport and had some good results to report. Ultimately, the club voted to pursue a site near the airport and try to confirm a date and location for the 2011 event. There was also a significant discussion about a commemorative car and what the possibilities were from Lionel, S-Helper, and American Models.

Paul has also researched the possibility of a trip to the Cable Car Museum in San Francisco to go along with the Flyer Fest West event next year. A ride on BART along with a short cable car excursion would get attendees to the museum without the hassle of driving and finding a parking spot.



Several of our club members attended the S Fest West event in Arcadia in May. The southern California club did a nice job of hosting their first event with a tour of the huge American Flyer layout at “The Mansion” on Friday night and a trading day on Saturday. Their Karo Syrup car by Lionel was a sellout.

Talk has been circulating around the Web about the possibility that the Chinese manufacturers who have been supplying our trains may stop delivery to the smaller concerns. It seems that the S gauge market is too small for them to be bothered with (except, possibly, Lionel) and they are choosing to abandon those accounts. Wouldn't it be nice if some of that manufacturing returned to the U.S.A.?



Paul Guaraglia brought several items for show and tell. First is a S-Helper D & H bulkhead flat car with a surprisingly heavy load of logs. Next were two car items; a taxi cab and limousine in 1/64 scale and the two cars from the famous chase scene in Steve McQueen's "Bullitt" movie.