



NEWSLETTER

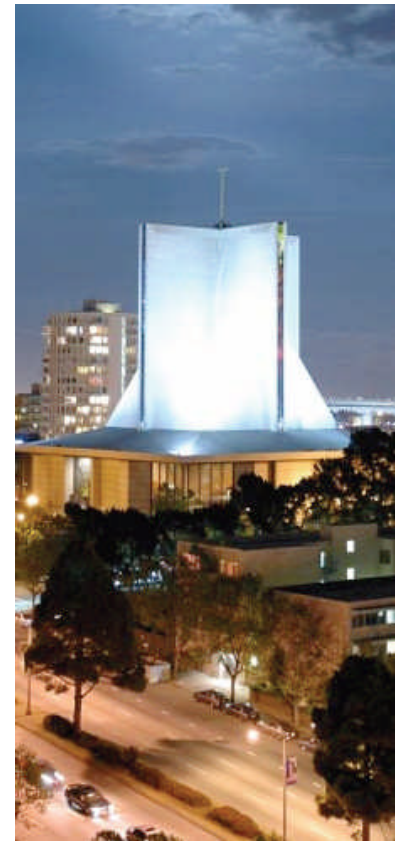
Flyer heaven in 2011

Empty out your closets, climb up in your attic, find those neglected pieces of American Flyer and drag them over to St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco on April 30th for Flyer Fest West. What? You don't have any pieces that you want to part with? No problem! You can come and work the other side of the tables and go home with an armload of happiness.

Thanks to the efforts of club member Richard Ridgeway, we are going to have plenty of room to spread out this year as the GG AFC hosts the 11th annual Flyer Fest West event which is coming to San Francisco for the first time. **Free parking!** In San Francisco?! You should come even if you don't buy any trains! If you think that a cathedral might be an odd place for a bunch of train guys to get together don't worry, the show will be downstairs in their Event Center where we will have about 4000 square feet for the trading hall and an additional 1500 square feet for lunch.

*Paul Guaraglia and Jake Jacobsen have been spearheading the commemorative car project. There will be two color schemes for the Feather River mining gondola: a **green car** with **orange graphics** and a reverse colored **orange car** with **green graphics**. We're waiting for a mock up of the car and hope to have pictures of it posted to the club's website soon. The long gondolas are being produced by American Models for this event and Paul has already arranged for two different colored drop-in loads to go with the two different cars.*

Flyer Fest West will be on Saturday, April 30, 2011 and self guided layout tours are being scheduled for Sunday, May 1. While in "The City" you can also amble over to the Cable Car Museum, climb Coit Tower, twist down Lombard Street, crack a crab at Fisherman's Wharf, have a hot fudge sundae at Ghirardelli or maybe even pop into a bar in North Beach and see if you can spot the ghost of Herb Caen. ***



On December 3, 2010 the club gathered at The Ranch in Hayward for our annual Christmas dinner. The turnout wasn't as large as previous years, possibly because we had to opt for a Friday night event instead of Saturday, but we had a good time. What wasn't smaller this year was the club's contribution to making Christmas a bit happier for a few less fortunate kids through our Jerry Wood Toy Drive. If Jerry were still with our group today I'm sure that he'd be particularly proud of past officer, current web master, and perennial September meeting host, Steve Haug. The following is a message I received from John Dalton (coordinator of the toy drive) after our December get together, my apologies for not getting this news to the club last month but it's still a nice note to start the New Year with:

Hey guys,

Constance & I talked w/ Steve extensively in the parking lot after our Christmas dinner last Friday. Among other things, he wanted to go to Abode Services' Sunrise Village to see their facility for himself. (More info. here --

http://www.tricityhomeless.org/programs_sunrise.html)

Since he wasn't available on Monday, I arranged for him to meet me there on Tuesday, 12/7 to make our club's donation.

He made a major donation to our effort this year. And, so the club's donation was the largest by far (in the 12 or so years we've done so).

For example, this year the rest of the club gave 44 items & 2 gift cards (totaling \$20). Steve added 40 items & 5 gift cards (totaling \$100)!

In contrast, last year the whole club gave 47 items & 3 gift cards (totaling \$55).

For anyone who is interested, Abode Services has monthly tours available in which you can meet staff and residents of the shelter and learn more about Abode Services' programs. The next one is on Tuesday, 12/14.

http://www.tricityhomeless.org/about_tours.html

As a reminder of the coordinated (i.e., a hand-up, not a hand-out) services they provide:

"Abode Services offers housing programs linked to support services for low-income and homeless families and individuals. Each Abode program integrates those two components to help people establish permanent stability and return to independent lives."

<http://www.tricityhomeless.org/programs.html>

The club can certainly be proud of the good work that has been done annually by our donations!

John Dalton

Thanks, John and Constance, for another great toy drive and a special thanks to Steve for his generosity. Our appreciation and thanks also to Joyce and Angie for handling the finances at the Christmas dinner, Paul Moreci for booking the event and conducting the raffle and all those who contributed to the toy drive and the club raffle.

Ron Hawkins sent me links to two websites of interest. The first is a local company called "The Electric RR Co." and they specialize in Command Control products to add fun and excitement to your layout. Visit them online at

<http://www.electricrr.com>

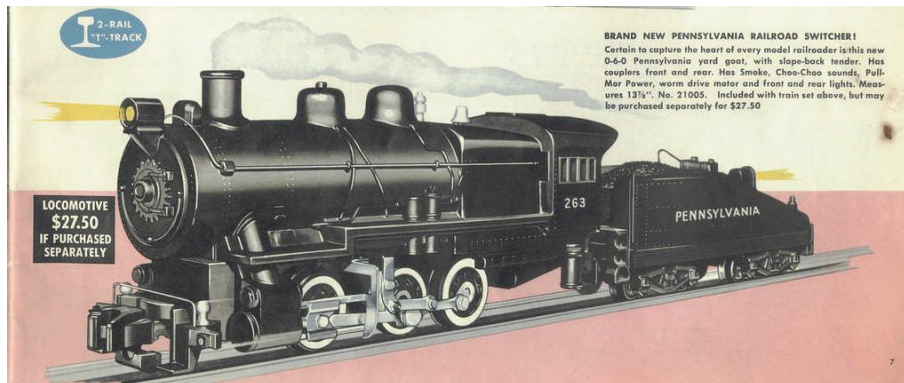
His second suggestion is Carl Tuveson's site which is full of tips and techniques for S gauge railroading. You can see photos of Carl's layout and browse through his suggestions and solutions at

<http://www.tuveson.com>



Thanks, Ron!

WANTED



John Baker, from our club, is looking for a PRR 21004 0-6-0 switcher and has told me that it is the only AF engine that is missing from his collection. If any one in the club has one for sale, John would like to talk to you. As you undoubtedly know, the picture from the 1957 Gilbert catalog shows the engine as number 263 but it was produced as 21004.

I recently received an email from TCA member Tom Rose who lives in Clifton, N.J. He is looking for any information about two miniature railways: the "Centerville and Southwestern" which was part of the Becker Farm and Miniature Railroad in Roseland, N.J. (1938-1972) and the "Key West Miniature Railroad" which was located in Key West, Florida from 1970-1984. Tom is a member of the Phillipsburg Railroad Historians which now owns most of the miniature railroad and he is looking for any stories, photos, or anecdotes about it's original operations. He had his first train ride on the C&S in 1953 at the tender age of 10 months. If you can help Tom out with any information, let me know and I'll put you in touch.