

Left Hand Running

The May 2006 Newsletter of The British Train Society
Chicago

A View From The Footplate

The future of our Society was very much the focus of our discussions at the meeting last Saturday. Not that our group is under threat or anything like that but I thought we had a very fruitful exchange of views as a follow up to my comments in the last newsletter. My expression to have someone else take the lead in organizing and directing the arrangements for our annual show was answered promptly as Harry Raynis enthusiastically responded to the challenge. This led naturally to the larger issue of the direction of the group in total. I volunteered some suggestions on structure but given the importance of this issue I urged the group to discuss this among themselves. Since I will be in England during the middle of May an opportunity presents itself at the May meeting for everyone to express their opinions and wishes without any inhibition by my physical presence. I must indeed present a formidable restraint judging by the way this suggestion was eagerly adopted (-only kidding)! Never the less, considering the aging of the membership I think it is timely to address this issue in a deliberate fashion. I will still be very much a part of the club and will be prepared to serve in any capacity that does not impact my physical health. I eagerly look forward to the outcome of your discussions.

Another interesting milestone is also before us and that concerns the establishment of an internet website. Larry McCann has volunteered the capabilities and sponsorship of his consulting company to achieve this and think it is a great opportunity to broaden our horizons. Larry has committed his own time to this effort and I wish to personally thank Larry for generous support, both financially and otherwise in this project. I think it is fair to say our members are

generally enthusiastic about this with some appropriate caveats and we will approach this in a prudent manner. The group took the first step in approving the name proposed by Larry -“britishtrainsociety.us”. I am happy to report that Larry informed me today that that name has been accepted by the site administrators and we are now free to pursue the details of its construction. I think we all will look forward to future developments.

Also at the April meeting we welcomed a new member to our ranks: Robin Ross of Westchester.

Happy Modelling

Don Buchanan

The Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the British Train Society will be on Saturday May 13th. This meeting will be hosted by John Struthers at his home in Highland Park. The special program will be a review of British Railways' coaching stock by Martin Venn. Don't be late!

Summer Picnic

One again Ralph Transue has generously volunteered to host a BTS summer picnic in at his home in Lombard. The date is June 24th. The festivities begin at about 1:30. The picnic chairmen Ralph and Harry note that eats will be bratwurst, hotdogs, hamburgers, chicken and so forth. If you have any special requests, let Harry or Ralph know. Driving directions to Ralph's will follow in the June LHR.

Calendar of Coming Events

May 7th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

May 12th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm
Elmhurst Scale Model RR Swap Meet
Elmhurst (Redeemer Center, 345 S. Kenilworth)

May 13th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Highland Park (John Struthers)

May 21st, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Homewood Railroad Heritage Day
Homewood (Municipal Center, Dixie Hwy & Chestnut)

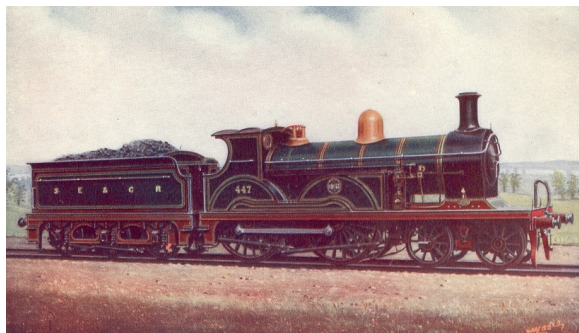
May 28th, 2:00 pm
European Train Enthusiasts
LaGrange Park (Public Library)

June 4th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

June 24th, 1:30 pm
BTS Summer Picnic
Lombard (Ralph Transue)

June 25th, 2:00 pm
European Train Enthusiasts
LaGrange Park (Public Library)

July 15th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Chicago (John Derler)



Great British Train Show 2006

It was with our usual fanfare (or lack thereof) that three intrepid BTSers once more made the pilgrimage to that Mecca of British railway modeling, the Great British Train Show in Brampton, Ontario. BTSers Buchanan, Derler and Struthers braved the hazards of Chicaoland road construction (and, most hazardous, the duty-free shop) to attend the show Saturday April 29th. Sponsored by Platelayers Society of Toronto, the Great British Train Show is the premier exhibition for enthusiasts of British railways in North America.

On Friday evening John D. and John S. were made most welcome in Sarnia by Roy Kennedy, Allan Mearns, John Riley and others of the Sarnia modeling fraternity to whom we extend our thanks for their generous hospitality.

On Saturday morning the BTS contingent arrived at the show venue in Brampton and commenced to see all the trains there were to see. Ah, trains! There were little ones and big ones, old ones and new ones to be seen among the numerous (22 or so) layouts and exhibits.

Did you ever wonder how in the world anyone actually runs trains with scale three-link couplings? At the GBTS you could observe such marvels.

Did you wish to turn back to the days when Trix Twin, Hornby-Dublo or Tri-ang were every boy's dream? At the GBTS those dreams were roaring around on their tin-plate tracks in fulfillment of those childhood dreams.

Did you ever want to know what a live steam model loco is like? At the GBTS, gauge 1 modelers displayed (and steamed) their engines.

For British railway modeling at its finest, the GBTS was the place to be. Pictures of the show will be available in due course.