

# *Left Hand Running*

The February 2008 Newsletter of The British Train Society  
www.britishtainsociety.org

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## **A View From The Footplate**

About ten of us gathered in Harry's basement on a bitterly cold day for our first meeting of the year. While I think the elements may have reduced our attendance the atmosphere at our meeting was warm and convivial as usual. Our primary order of business was the planning for the events of the year but with emphasis on the spring schedule. It was decided that we would not participate in the Harper College show this year because of the proximity to the LTHS event on March 29<sup>th</sup>. With a planned rehearsal for our main show on February 23<sup>rd</sup> it seems like we all have plenty on our plates. We have reserved a room at the Westmont library for the rehearsal and details are provided below. In addition to the folks with modules I would like to make an appeal to the other members of sound body to assist in the heavy lifting, assembly and takedown. From our past experiences it is a busy afternoon and we can use all the help we can get. A new corner module is to be constructed by Ralph to replace Harry's and despite Ralph's absence due to a bad cold he assures us it will be ready on time. Robin also has a new module to replace a second module from Harry that has now become a permanent part of his home layout. Harry will be coordinating the logistics and will be in touch with some of you. Our experience at the rehearsal will determine what changes if any we wish to make but I am not anticipating any significant problems. We talked about our meeting schedule through April, selecting April 19<sup>th</sup> for the next regular meeting, which will be at my house. I will put together a presentation on coal, its production and use in practice on railways in England during the steam era. Finally I would like to summarize the results of the appeal for funds to support the

rehabilitation of the Severn Valley Railway that was started in November last year. As you know the club agreed to donate \$100 and through George's initiative we raised another \$100 in individual donations that was added to my initial contribution of \$50 for a total of \$250. I think a very credible effort for our group and I thank you all for your support. George Rowland is making arrangements to have funds transferred in Sterling to the SVR.

That's all for now but in the meantime check out your display modules so they are in tiptop shape for the show as traveling and time does take its toll.

Happy Modelling

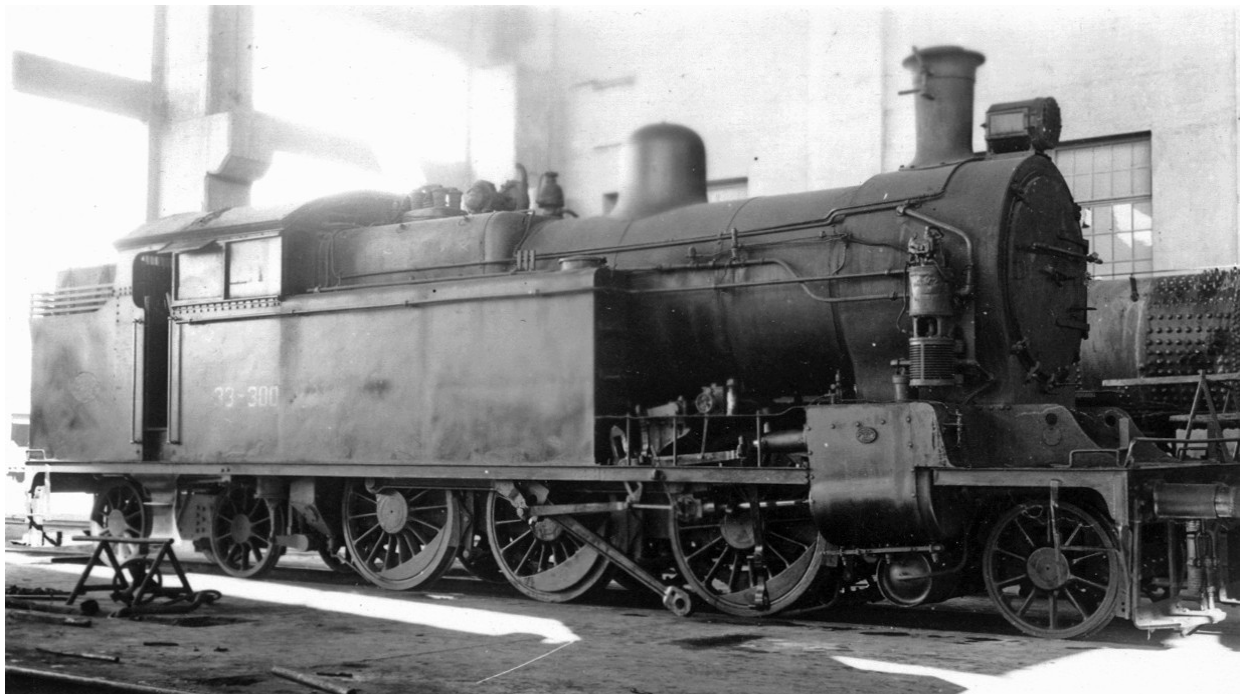
Don Buchanan

PS: I will be in Florida from February 7<sup>th</sup> and will return on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **The Next Meeting**

The next gathering of the BTS will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm in Westmont at the public library. Our activity will be a preliminary setup of the modular layout in preparation for the train show in LaGrange. The library is located at 428 North Cass Avenue.





### **Puzzle Corner**

Who can identify the locomotive shown above? The photograph was acquired by John D. a number of years ago along with several others which had been taken in Iran during World War 2. The locomotive appears to have footboards under the front buffers and it has a headlight and an air pump – so it's not British although it could have been British built [there is an oval-shaped maker's plate on the valve chest above the cylinders]. It is numbered 33-300, but because the number is written with European numerals it is unlikely an Iranian or Iraqi engine [they use Eastern Arabic numerals]. Whoever can tell your editor what this is will win a prize [a very small one, but a prize nonetheless].

### **Calendar of Coming Events**

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Great Midwest Train Show  
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 pm  
BTS Modular Layout Rehearsal  
Westmont (Public Library)

March 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
High-Wheeler Model Railroad Show  
Palatine (Harper College)

March 29<sup>th</sup>  
All-American Model Train Show  
LaGrange (Lyons Township High School)

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Great Midwest Train Show  
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm  
BTS Regular Meeting  
Clarendon Hills (Don Buchanan, 17 Golf Ave.)

April 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Great British Train Show  
Brampton Ontario (Archdekin Recreation Centre)