

Left Hand Running

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

A View From The Footplate

The fine spring weather did not detract from a well attended meeting (16) on April 19th. The presence of a reporter from the local newspaper, *The Doings*, who viewed my layout and interviewed several members, along with a photographer set the stage for a lively and collaborative exchange of views. The subject, of course, was the approach to correcting a variety of operating problems with the display module as evidenced at the LTHS show in March. It is generally agreed that one of the problems is not having the whole assembly together long enough to really search out and correct the trouble spots. Finding a location to accommodate the total sixteen modules is difficult and as a compromise I proposed an approach that would give a workable compromise. Starting in January next year I suggested we assemble ten of the modules in my basement to form a shorter circuit. The issues of height, leveling, track alignment and circuitry could be identified and corrected in place. Operating methods could be practiced and so on. The suggestion was agreed to and a core group of six members have committed to work one night a week during the period Jan-Mar to make the necessary changes. During this interval two modules left out of the initial set up could be interchanged with two modules from the initial 10 module set up and those problems, if any, could then be addressed. (The Viaduct module and Georges Mill will be handled separately) Methods of maintaining alignment and circuitry were discussed and will be the subject of further attention as the work progresses. I think we all felt that we had an approach for solving our problems and I think the inconvenience of the module in my basement for two months is something that I am prepared to live with.

As we approach the year end we will revisit this topic and if the circumstances permit proceed accordingly.

There some other issues that I should highlight: First; a reminder that our annual Picnic is on June 28 at the Transue's place as before. Ralph and Harry have agreed to handle the arrangements and further information will be forthcoming. Also, the Southland Model Railroad Show that we participated in last year will be held this year a month later, October 25th and 26th, and we plan to have a display there again.

Finally, I am pleased to welcome a new member to our group - Temoor Shouib.

Temoor is planning to build a British layout drawing on his experience with British Rail in Burnley, England. I extend a warm welcome and look forward to his continuing participation.

Some of you I will see at The Great British Train Show in Toronto and until the next meeting,

Don Buchanan

Happy Modelling

Picnic Raffle

As in past years, there will be a raffle at this years' June picnic, A ticket will be available to each member attending at \$2.00. Every ticket will be a winner. There will be at least two brand new locomotives to choose from and other goodies as well. Don't miss this event.

If you have a nice item or items that you would like to donate as a raffle prize, please bring it (or them) to our May meeting. Thanks in advance for your support.

Harry R.

Calendar of Coming Events

May 4th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Great Midwest Train Show

Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

May 10th, 1:30 pm

BTS Regular Meeting

Clarendon Hills (Don Buchanan, 17 Golf Ave.)

June 28th, 1:30 pm

BTS Summer Picnic

Lombard (Ralph Transue, 82 West Road)

July 19th, 1:30 pm

BTS Regular Meeting

Highland Park (John Struthers, 780 Appletree Ln.)

August 16th, 1:30 pm

BTS Regular Meeting

Chicago (John Derler, 5516 N. Lotus Ave.)

BTS T-Shirts

We are going ahead with our planning for club T-shirts. They will probably be Golf shirt style with short sleeves, collar, and a pocket. Figure out the size you wear, (Ask your wife, or look in the collar of a similar shirt you have.) and bring your shirt size to the next meeting. Also let us know your color preference. We haven't settled on a color yet, so make your wants known now.

As a related item, we need a logo to go on the shirts. Design a logo for us and win a prize. It could be anything from simply "BTS" to something more elaborate and graphic. Give it a try. Submit your designs by picnic time and we'll let a panel of wives (maybe) pick the winner. More picnic fun and another way to win a prize.

Harry R.

Routine Operating Sessions Planned

Harry Raynis is offering to make his layout available at least twice a month for operating and train fun sessions. It would be a chance for members without layouts to run trains or test new items. Bring kits that you need help building, work on Harry's scenery (there's miles of that to do) or just hang out. We're thinking of a weekday evening the week before and the week after our regular meeting. So as in April if our meeting was on the 19th, the operating sessions would be during the week of the 7th and the week of the 21st. Let Harry know which day of the week is best for you. We won't pick Mondays because ETE gets together then. Let's discuss more at the May meeting.

