

Left Hand Running

The June 2008 Newsletter of The British Train Society
www.britishtrainsociety.org

A View From The Footplate

First I would like to thank all those in the club that have shown so much sympathy and support to Lois after the death of her brother Peter. As you know we made the trip to England for his funeral and also to visit her elder brother Eric who also is not in good health. It was a sad trip but it is nice to know there are so many like yourselves whose help and understanding is a great comfort. It is certainly nice to be home.

This communication will be short this month as I was not able to make the last meeting and feel a little bit out of touch. However, Harry's efforts in keeping things going are very much appreciated and I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Picnic on June 28th.

On train subjects we did have the opportunity to ride the rails frequently on our trip to the U.K. Services were on time and without incident. When we travel, we usually use a Railpass and for seniors there is a good discount for first class which helps at our fragile state of age. However, I did observe under the present organization of train transport in Britain how the service levels differ between the various operating companies. For example, "East Coast" running HSTs out of Kings Cross to the North had scruffy looking coaches, poor seats and minimal in-seat service. By contrast the "Cross Country" HST from Manchester to Bournemouth had super seating and service; "First" operating only DMUs across the Pennines was equally comfortable even providing free sandwiches at the seat. The worst was the electric service of "Southwest" on the busy route between Southampton and London Waterloo that did not even provide storage space for heavy luggage and we had to pay for tea or coffee. The best service and seating of all in

my experience, although I did not get to ride them this time, was "Virgin". These are just some things to keep in mind if you are planning any trips, although in truth sometimes the choices are limited by your destination requirements.

That's all for now and hope to see you at the Transue's place.

Happy Modelling
Don Buchanan



Calendar of Coming Events

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 10th, 9:30 am-3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

August 16th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Chicago (John Derler, 5516 N. Lotus Ave.)

September 6th & 7th, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
EuroEast'08 - European Train Show
Lancaster PA (Farm & Home Center)

September 14th, 9:30 am-3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

Potluck Picnic

As we have for the last couple of years, this picnic will be potluck style. We ask that each family or person bring their own meat item (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Steak, etc. etc. and the buns or special sauces that you like to go with them). We'll have the grills ready and we will cook it for you or you're welcome to cook it yourself.

We also ask that each family or person bring a food item to share with the group. A salad, a main side dish, a dessert, or some kind of appetizer munchies would be great. Harry is putting a list together and will be in touch with you all so that we don't end up with 18 desserts and no beans!

See you at the picnic.



Picnic Raffle

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

The items that we have for raffle prizes will be on view at the Fun and Run sessions at Harry Raynis' place this month. Once you see what we have you won't want to miss the Picnic.

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 one of the next Fun and Run sessions at Harry's house or to the picnic 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" or, perhaps, something more elaborate and graphic. Give it a try. Submit your designs at the picnic and we'll let a panel of wives (maybe) pick the winner. More picnic fun and another way to win a prize.

June Fun and Run Sessions

Friday June 6th and Wednesday June 18th are the dates for this month's operating sessions at Harry Raynis' place. The door is open from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Bring trains to run, kits to build, or just come and hang out. The picnic raffle prizes will be on view on both of those nights.

If you like to build goods wagons kits, Harry has some you can work on. If you like building structures, Harry has some kits. If you like doing scenery, Harry has many scale miles of it to do. Come on out, we'll keep you busy. Mark your calendars now for the 6th and 18th.

