

Left Hand Running

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

A View From The Footplate

The year is rushing by and our thoughts are turning to the events for the end of the year. We have our swap meet coming up this month (October 18th) and the Southland Model RR Show in Oaklawn (25th & 26th). Harry will be organizing the logistics for this event and in preparation George has delivered the mill module to my place. Our business agenda was short at our last meeting with the issue of the specifications for the layout receiving some attention. Ralph has developed a hard copy of the existing specs for construction of the modules and will try to distribute it to those involved in module modification etc. Harry did a great job in organizing club shirts that have now been delivered. They are very stylish and I was proud to wear one at the meeting. Thank you Harry for a job well done and you will be hearing from him shortly if you have not already. Our meeting attendance was impacted by heavy rains but we still had eight in attendance and two drop-ins. Three of our stalwarts missed it; John D. (wet basement), Harry R. (wife surgery) and Bernie B. (train show conflict). The meeting concluded with my presentation on coal and how the development of the coal mining industry and railways in Britain were interlinked, plus background issues on transportation and modeling. My remarks appeared to be well received and I appreciated the group's attention on a subject that has a special place in my heritage.

Hope to see many of you at the swap meet and until then Happy Modelling

Don Buchanan

Calendar of Coming Events

October 12th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton (DuPage County Fairgrounds)

October 18th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Clarendon Hills (Don Buchanan)

October 18th – 19th, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
iHobby Expo [www.ihobbyexpo.com]
Rosemont (Stevens Convention Center, River Rd.)

October 25th - 26th,
Southland Model Train Show
Oak Lawn (Richards High School)

November 8th – 9th,
Trainfest
Milwaukee (Wisconsin State Fair Park)

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

November 15th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Naperville (Harry Raynis)

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

The Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the British Train Society will be at Don Buchanan's home in Clarendon Hills on October 18th. The program will be our annual swap session. Don't miss it!

Club Shirts

We have received all of the shirts that were ordered. Some of you have already picked yours up. A few more of you have arranged to get them at the train show in Wheaton on the 12th. For the rest of you who ordered shirts, they will be available at the swap meet meeting at Don's house on the 18th. If you need your shirt before then, give Harry a call and another pick up arrangement can be made.

October Fun and Run Sessions

Friday October 10th is the date for this month's operating sessions at Harry Raynis' in Naperville. Bring trains to run, kits to build, or just come and hang out. The Raynis Railway will be running from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Annual Swap Meet

Our annual members Swap Meet will take place at our October meeting. Once again it's time to get rid of those duplicate and other unwanted items and turn them into cash or trade them for items that someone else is thinning out. For new members, this is a chance to build up your collections at some of the best prices you'll ever find.

So bring your British, European, and American trains. All gauges and scales welcomed. Bring kits and parts, books and buildings. Any and all railway theme stuff is OK. Come on out and have some fun browsing and buying and trading and selling. Or just come on and hang out with us and enjoy the fun.

Items will be on display from 1:30 onwards. Trading and selling will start about 2:30.

The Art of Model Railroading

The August issues of both *Model Railroader* and *Railroad Model Craftsman* as well as

the October issue of *Classic Toy Trains* have articles recalling Delta Lines, the legendary model railroad of the late Frank Ellison. Ellison was one of the pioneers of railway modeling in the United States and he wrote extensively in the model press, including the series "The Art of Model Railroading" which appeared in *Model Railroader* in 1944. In his articles, he describes how the model railroad is the stage, the trains are the performers and you, the model railroader, are the choreographer. "The Art of Model Railroading" was reprinted in 1965 and now the original 1944 printing has been copied into a PDF document which is available [free] for downloading from the *Model Railroader* website.

After reading "The Art of Model Railroading", your editor made changes to his layout to make operation of it more railway-like. The concepts and methods which Frank Ellison describes in his article apply equally to British or North American model railway operation.

Visit www.modelrailroader.com and check it out. Ellison's writing is entertaining and his insights into model railway operation informative. This is well worth reading and highly recommended.

