

# *Left Hand Running*

The June 2009 Newsletter of The British Train Society  
www.britishtrainsociety.org

---

## **A View From The Footplate**

About twelve of us gathered at Ralph's house on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We were very interested to see his imaginative layout in N scale that incorporates both English and North American outlines and wish him well on his further work to complete the scenery but it does run well.

Our meeting covered a number of items concerning the future program. Of course the next event is the Picnic and details are provided further on (see minutes attached). There was discussion on the food choice but Ralph and Harry agreed to sort out a menu that should satisfy most tastes. Ralph suggested that salads prepared by attendees would be welcome and Kathy Transue has promised baked beans. Soft drinks will be provided but as in the past those who wish to bring their own beer and wine are welcome. I hope you can make it as it always is a very convivial affair and is well appreciated.

The July program was discussed and rather than a regular meeting the thought was to have the group attend the Owosso Train Festival in Owosso, Michigan on July 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be at least seven steam locos on display and most will be under steam. Various vintages of diesel locos will also be present plus a large O scale layout, smaller scale layouts and a Garden railway. One of the most intriguing exhibits among the steam locos is "Leviathan" which is an operating replica of "Jupiter", the Central Pacific locomotive that took part in the Promontory Point ceremonies for the completion of the transcontinental railroad. This is just a brief overview of the event: more details are available at "www.trainfestival2009.com". The thought is that if a group of us were to travel together we could perhaps save on transportation costs - Owosso is just off I-69

past Lansing (some may want to consider an overnight stay since it is over a four hour drive). I suggest you check out the web site and I will try to canvass at the picnic to see who is interested in going, interested in overnight stay etc. From there we can try to put something together.

There was some discussion again about our Web site. Peter Carr has volunteered his services and I promised to give him a call discuss it. Also John Struthers suggested a brain storming session to hear from the members their ideas as to what should be included. This may make a good topic for the August meeting. that Harry has agreed to host on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Harry also reminded us of the Southland Model Show in Oaklawn on Sept 19/20 where we should be prepared to help if possible in manning or transportation and setup etc.

I think this should cover the major items for now and I hope to see many of you at the picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

Until then Happy Modelling

Don Buchanan

## **Fun and Run Sessions**

Scheduling the Fun and Run sessions on specific dates has made it hard to keep track of when they are and when they aren't. From now on we'll keep it simple. Every Wednesday night is a go. If there is a Wednesday night that is not available, Harry will notify everyone by e-mail. Otherwise Wednesdays will be the regular night.

If you want to come over on a Friday to test run a new loco or run your trains, or take photos, etc, give Harry a call early in the week and if there's no conflict, we'll do a Friday session that week also.

## Look Ma! No Cylinders!

Most modern steam locomotives, especially those seen in North America are adorned with lots of stuff on the outside. There are pipes and valves and stuff to control the pent-up energy of the boiling water, pumps and tanks and more pipes to restrain excessive motion and, of course, big massive cylinders with more levers and things to transform that boiling energy to forward motion. And if you go trackside when this or that big steam engine is in town, this is what you will see.

However there are other steam locomotives, not so common in North America, without all this external stuff. We know them as rather prevalent among the smaller types in Great Britain but such smooth, clean designs were practically unknown here. So short of a trip to Great Britain you are limited to train enthusiast's photo books to see what these looked like. Almost. Almost, that is, unless you travel to Hull, Quebec [just across the river from Ottawa, Ontario] where you will find and be able to ride behind a virtually-British 2-8-0. There, with the Hull-Chelsea-Wakefield Steam Train Co. you can take a 40-mile round trip [let's call it 64 kilometers, it sounds longer] on a former branch line of the Canadian Pacific alongside the Gatineau River to the village of Wakefield. And your engine, so smooth and clean that it could easily be mistaken for a British pre-grouping engine, has no visible cylinders. Look Ma! That engine doesn't have any cylinders! How does it ever work?

Your engine will be none other than the former No. 909 of the Swedish State Railways [SJ] sold into tourist service and brought to Canada in 1992. It is a very light, inside-cylinder 2-8-0 weighing a mere 89 tons [engine & tender together] in working order. Why, it's so almost British that Messrs. Webb and Whale themselves would

swear that the little 909 came from Crewe! Instead it was built in 1907 by Motala Verkstad as an 0-8-0 of SJ class E. And just like many of the London & North Western Railway's 0-8-0's, it was later rebuilt with a leading pilot axle to improve weight distribution and permit higher speeds. In keeping with the nature of its new tourist train duties, speed is kept to a leisurely 25 km/h, though when in SJ service it was rated for a heady 70 km/h and reportedly could go even faster.

So the next time that you are near the Canadian capital don't leave without taking a ride behind the 909. Ignore, if you will, the Scandinavian/Canadian headlamps and snowplow and you can easily imagine yourself behind a "Premier Line" engine on a nice journey through the Lake District. Or simply enjoy your trip along the river and through the Quebec woods with your little Swedish engine in the lead.



## Help! Help!

Your editor needs writings to publish! Remember, this is your newsletter and for it to truly represent our group it needs input from all members. Your editor's backlog of writing is running on empty and your efforts are needed to keep it full!

## Calendar of Coming Events

June 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Rochelle Railroad Days

Rochelle [Rochelle Railroad Park]

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Great Midwest Train Show

Wheaton [DuPage County Fairgrounds]

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

BTS Annual Picnic

Lombard [Ralph Transue, 82 West Rd.]

June 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Galesburg Railroad Days

Galesburg [Amtrak Depot et al]

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Timber Creek Train Show

Sandwich [Best Western, 2300 Drew Ave.]

August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

BTS Regular Meeting

Naperville [Harry Raynis, 1537 Warbler Dr]

September 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>,

Southland Model RR Show

Oak Lawn

October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm

BTS Regular Meeting

Lincolnshire (Mike Perry, 24 Wimbledon Ct.)

