

Left Hand Running

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

A View From The Footplate

The Southland Model Railroad show in Oak Lawn that we participated in last month was quite a bit bigger this year with more displays and we were pleased to add to the total. The event for us went off very well with excellent participation from our membership. Our modest display was never the less a point of interest for many attendees and hopefully we can have some pictures displayed on our web site shortly to show you the set up. There was good crowd interest in the various elements of our exhibit and overall it was a great success. The lion's share of the credit for this must go to Harry who organized the logistics, exhibit content, layout and manning in a superb way. His personal dedication to the clubs interests is currently a vital part of our success and I wish to extend my personal thanks to him for this. Also Grant Harrison and Robin Ross were also key players and I appreciate very much their enthusiastic support. But as it should be, it was a group effort and it bodes well for the continued success of our group.

At this time of year we seem to enter into a more active period as the fall weather sinks over us and we find more time to retire to our collective basements. My own layout is taking form and I just recently laid the first segment of permanent track! I hope I will have a good level of completion to show you when we hold a meeting here in November. In the meantime our meeting this month at Mike Perry's will give us another opportunity to see his efforts and I believe probably the only operating layout with digital control. Of course the main feature will be the swap meet and so bring your cast offs and your wallets to pickup the various things you have been looking for.

There has been more focus recently on our web site and I would like to thank

Peter Carr in particular for his contributions. I find the links he has provided are very useful and I am particularly curious about his recent find of the British Railway Enthusiasts Magazine as I am finding my usual selections harder to find in the book stores. I hope I can find time to check it out soon. Hope to see many of you at our meeting on October 17th, so until then
HAPPY MODELLING
Don Buchanan

Calendar of Coming Events

October 11th, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm
Great Midwest Train Show
Wheaton [DuPage County Fairgrounds]

October 17th, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Lincolnshire (Mike Perry, 24 Wimbledon Ct.)

November 21st, 1:30 pm
BTS Regular Meeting
Batavia (Don Buchanan, 700 W. Fabyan, Unit 24B)

Swap Meet

This months' meeting is our annual Swap Meet session. Several members will be bringing their duplicate or surplus items to trade or sell. You can expect to see trains, accessories, kits, books, pictures, and all sorts of railway related items at incredibly low prices.

For newer members, this is an ideal opportunity to pick up some things for your collections or layouts and not break your budgets doing it. This is a meeting that you should really do your best to attend.

Items will be on view from 1:30 onwards. Selling and trading will begin right after the business meeting at about 2:15.

Hope to see you all there.

Railway Trivia

By George Rowland

THE WORLD'S OLDEST SURVIVING RAILWAY BRIDGE



The Tanfield Wagon way in County Durham was begun around 1725 and by 1727 included the Causey Arch, the world's first railway viaduct, built by Ralph Wood, near Stanley, County Durham. When built about 1726 it was the greatest work of civil engineering since Roman times and it remains impressive yet, with a span of 105 feet, which crosses a deep, rocky, wooded and, as you approach it, unexpected ravine. The arch carried a branch of the Tanfield Wagonway but was not used for long because, probably, the colliery to which the branch led was destroyed by an underground fire.

Two tracks crossed the Arch: one (the main way) to take coal to the River Tyne, and the other (the bye way) for the returning the empty wagons. Over nine hundred horse-drawn wagons crossed the arch each day. The wooden plates obviously wore quickly and by 1767 iron plates were being made by the Coalbrook Ironworks in Shropshire. Original gauge: Wooden Waggonway / Metal 4 ft 8-1/2 in

Fun and Run Sessions

We will no longer schedule the Fun and Run Sessions at Harry Raynis' place on a regular weekly basis. Very few members were able to attend. Instead we'll shift them to an as desired basis. If you have a new engine that you want to test run, or anytime you want to run or photograph your trains, give Harry a call and we'll schedule a Fun and Run for that week and get the word out to anyone else who might be interested by e-mail.

Bits and Pieces

Harry Raynis' layout is now about 80% complete and he has a lot of construction and scenery items that he will not need. Complete buildings and kits and unopened packets of things will be offered for sale at the Swap Meet. But there are a lot of bits and pieces like building parts, brick and stone sheeting, plaster cloth, Woodland Scenics stuff etc. etc. that have been opened or are in small amounts and odd sizes.

Anyone building a layout or diorama is welcome to any of Harry's surplus things if you can use them. Before you go out and buy stuff, come on over to Harry's place and see if he has what you need.

