

The Express

Newsletter of the *Tinplate Trackers, Austin, Texas*
July 2003 – 39th Edition

A newsletter will be sent out every two months to the current members, past members, and visitors of the club. Please contact Ed Weltens at 512-250-0616 or E-Mail him at Ed.Weltens@sbcglobal.net if you have any information you would like to have included in future newsletters. All comments/submissions welcome!

From The Editor

Hi Tinplaters!

I am taking over responsibilities for the newsletter from Steve and while the last several months have been busy for me I will try and keep up the standard that he has set.

Don't forget to keep the newsletter in mind while working on your trains or layouts.

Regards,
Ed

PAST CLUB EVENTS

BCE Fun-Run – January 17-18, 2003

The club setup our layout at the Branch Creek Estates clubhouse on January 17 and 18 for a fun run. Attendance was good and most members tried out the MTH DCS Control System.

SAMRA Train Show, Live Oak – February 1-2, 2003

The club participated in the annual SAMRA train show. This is always one of my favorite shows and this year was no exception. Attendance was good and we had interest in joining our club from several visitors. There were many accessory modules set up by Ira and Adrian as well as others. Ira had his trolley modules operating, and Ed brought his bridge modules. Use of the DCS system went rather well with the exception of the discovery that DCS and TMCC operate differently with respect to the HALT function. Some work has been done to make this work better in the future. There are pictures on the TTAT web site at <http://www.trainweb.org/ttat/>

The Gathering, Westlake Presbyterian Church – February 18, 2003

Several Members of our club set up the 4x8 layout at the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church for a group of seniors. Bob Stettner gave a talk on collecting and operating O-gauge trains and what the hobby is like today. Trains were operated and it turned out to be a fun event for those involved. Thanks to Bob, Scott Smiley, Jim Smiley, Ira Schneider, Adrian Elliott and Ron Fiebelkorn for participating in this event. Pictures from this event have been posted at the following site: <http://www.photoaccess.com/share/guest.jsp?ID=A57CE036112&cb=PA>

The layout was left up for use at a Boy Scout Meeting later that night. Scott Smiley took over from there and took the layout down.

TTAT Club Work Day May 3, 2003 9A.M. – 1 P.M.

A club work day was scheduled for May 3rd at Jim's house. In addition to a new cradle being built for the corner modules Scott Smiley reports the following:

We had a successful work day over at Jim Smiley's house, even though he was not there. Two new tires were purchased and installed on the trailer. This has been on our list for a long time so it was a relief to get it done since we had a trip to SA coming up. The shelf for the siding and trolley modules was reworked to hold all of the sections and be more flexible with which ones go where. You do need to be careful with the trolley ones with the bumpers though. The socket end of the legs were sanded to make them fit easier. The new corner module had its leg sockets filed out to better fit all legs. Plexiglas holders were installed on the rest of the corner modules (Thanks Steve). These worked great at the show. With all of the help we had, we were done around lunch time.

GATS, Live Oak June 7-8, 2003

Count this as another successful show at the Live Oak Civic Center. The club set up an "L" shaped layout in the center of the civic center and was a highly visible part of the show. Lorraine Schneider volunteered to sell raffle tickets at the show and we brought in over \$140 before expenses.

Jon Weinstein, formerly of Jon's Trains, was at the show with some merchandise from his old store.

Ira Schneider added some pictures from this show to the TTAT web site.

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS

Club Event Schedule

The following table shows the events and shows that the club has scheduled or is considering.

2003 Schedule

	DATE	SHOW	PLACE	STATUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	January 17, 18	Club Fun Run	Branch Creek Clubhouse	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feb 1, 2	SAMRA Train Show	Live Oak	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Feb 18, 9a-2p	The Gathering	Westlake Presbyterian Church	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 29, 30	Club Fun Run	Branch Creek Clubhouse	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	May 3, 9a-1p	TTAT Club Workday	Jim Simleys Home	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	June 7, 8	GATS	Live Oak	Confirmed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aug. 15, 16	Club Fun Run	Branch Creek Clubhouse	Canceled
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aug. 23, 24	Railfair	Burnet, TX	Confirmed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sep. 11	Annual Club meeting	Luby's Cafeteria #4	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sep. 20, 21	Temple Train Show	Frank Mayborn Convention Center	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 4, 5	AMRE Fall Show	Live Oak	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 25	Austin Jamboree	First United Methodist	Pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oct. 25, 26	Czhilispiel	Flatonia downtown	Confirmed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dec. 5, 6	Club Fun Run	Branch Creek Clubhouse	Confirmed

OTHER NEWS

New Online Show Coordination Documents

A new online Show Coordination feature has been added to the members area of the TTAT web site. Be sure to visit and fill in your plans for the Burnet Railfair and the Czhilispiel.

TTAT Club Flyers

Steve Wise has placed TTAT flyers in the Austin Area train stores. When you are in a store look for the flyers and don't forget to mention you are part of the club so they know we are patronizing their businesses. Ira delivered some to, The Collectible Caboose, the new train store in the Cedar Park Railyard shopping center. The web site is <http://www.collectiblecaboose.com/>. Craig Berry, the owner stopped by our layout at the GATS show.

FLATONIA RAIL PARK

A place to watch & photograph Trains

Contributed by Tommy Schultz and Bob Stettner

Last October the Flatonia Rail Park opened The Photo Pavilion. The pavilion is located on City owned property on the West Side of the interlocker on Old Spanish Trail Street. This is a safe area for rail fans to view and take railroad photos of both the Sunset Route & The DALSA Line (Dallas, Hearne, Giddings, Flatonia to San Antonio). The pavilion is three and half feet above grade with ramp access and has a large (25 x 40) covered deck area. The pavilion is open to the public 24/7. Pictures may be viewed online at: http://aoot.com/hotg/Pictures/Flatonia_Rail_Park/home.html

Another part of the Rail Park is the old Southern Pacific Tower # 3. Now located in the center of downtown, the tower was saved due to the efforts of Mrs. Martha Tauch. Mr. Tauch was a Signal Maintainer with the Southern Pacific for forty years. The tower has been restored to its original condition before being closed by Union Pacific on September 30, 1996.

There are three other historical railroad buildings in Flatonia: the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad (SAAP) passenger station next to the interlocker built in 1890 (which the UP is donating to the Rail Park); the SAAP freight depot on Hwy. 95 one block north of the (only) red light and is privately owned and the GH & SA passenger Depot which is now being used by the Flatonia Police department.

In the near future a Southern Pacific Caboose # 4743 will be moved next to Tower # 3. Currently the caboose is setting on a siding near the Photo Pavilion.

The tower may only be viewed by appointment. Call 361-865-3920 (Chamber of Commerce) or Tommy Shults at 979-743-5366 or email Tommy at tas@pcguns.net to set up a time.

Flatonia Railroad Genealogy:

Buffalo Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railway (BBB&C)	1850 – 1870
Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway (GH&SA)	1870 – 1934

Texas & New Orleans	1934 – 1955
Southern Pacific	1955 – 1995
Union Pacific	1995 – Present
SA&AP	1887 – 1925
Texas & New Orleans	1925 – 1955
Southern Pacific	1955 – 1995
Union Pacific	1995 – Present

New Members

Several new members have joined TTAT in the last few months. New Members include Bob Miller and Dwight Edens. Make sure to welcome them when you see them at TTAT events.
