



C. Tanner-Tremaine,
Secretary
P. O. Box 11134
Rynfield
1514

cttremaine@mweb.co.za

cell 082 828 0665
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NEWSLETTER – Aug-Sept 2008

On the model railway front this is the quiet time of the year, and the coldest. Between the July and December hols there is no chance of erecting our layout so we rely on the monthly meets and having much time to reflect on life and what to do to our modules. How can we improve them from a reliability and scenic aspect. The answer is “lots”, but what have we done? The school break in early October was an opportunity to go to the school on 2 weekends but the response was zero, but some of us have our modules at home. In my case I am afraid to say that my modules have not been taken out of the trailer since loading them when we dismantled the layout back in July. But I have put a lot of thought into them, and procured the ballast!! So when the layout goes up in December some improvements will/may take place.

As mentioned above we rely on our monthly gathering to keep the cub active. Mike has been pretty active in arranging some interesting visits and when I look back at what I have included herein it definitely has a bias towards Rhodesian/Zimbabwe railways. I wonder why, read on and all will be revealed.

I am often asked technical questions so again I include a section on “Electrical Solutions for Model Railways” this time covering motors and their operation, and wiring standards.

Visit to REEF Steamers at Germiston.

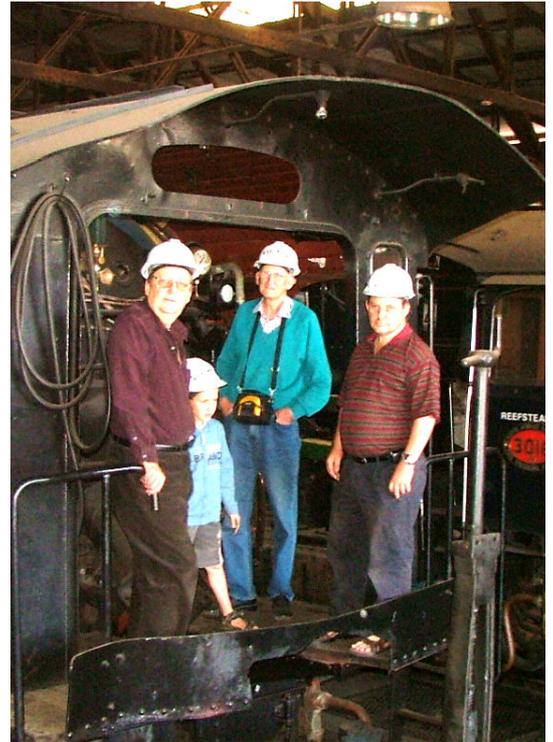


Nine brave members went to the workshops of the REEF STEAMERS on Sunday 24th August, I say brave because the route to the workshop appeared to be a dirt track into a squatter camp and disused mine dump. I must admit I had second thoughts about going too far down this track, was it the right track? Especially as the sign that should have been there saying that this was indeed the road to their site was missing, presumed stolen to make another shack! Anyway at the end of the track was many

more, railway tracks this time and a securely fenced off yard with many old locos, carriages and an assortment of trucks.

We were met by the security guard who insisted that we all log in and sign the indemnity form, and that we wore a hard hat. Those who did not have were issued with one. Quite honestly this was a waste of time as nothing was likely to fall on ones head, if any protective gear was required it was safety boots, as we were about to walk in filthy places and climb over large pieces of machinery. If one tripped over something then perhaps one would have fallen on ones head! So maybe the hard hat??.....?

We met some of the members in their office cum cafeteria having their lunch so they told us we could go into the works and wander around and do our own thing, which we did. Steam locomotives are indeed large pieces of machinery. There were 15Fs, 25NCs, a GMAM garret, a class 12 all in various states of repair so we could climb into the cabs, under the wheels and really get to feel the power and enormity of these magnificent machines.



The engine of a 15F that is still in working order and is used on the Magaliesburg excursions



The pride of the fleet? The mighty GMAM class Beyer-Garret that is also in full working order.



So what is this yellow diesel doing here? It is to be preserved and put back into action one day!!

It has been retrieved from the National Railways of Zimbabwe together with a rake of coaches that are also in storage on the site. The engine itself is an English Electric loco very similar to the British Railways class 40 in that it uses the same SVT16 diesel engine and controls, the wheel arrangement is 1-Co-Co-1 as is the Class 40. It is of a shorter frame as it does not include the steam heater boiler and its under slung water tank, as is required in the UK to heat the carriages and the passengers. So to me, and Vic this was a very interesting exhibit.

So the few of us who took the opportunity to visit the REEF Steamers had an enjoyable afternoon, our thanks to Mike Ingles for making the arrangements and to the REEF Steamers themselves.

September Visit

Mike had some difficulty in arranging a meeting this month so the invitation went out to all to come and spend some time and run their trains on my layout. As I can accommodate Analogue and DCC the intention was to run analogue only in the morning and digital only in the afternoon. As it turned out only members of the branch line fraternity came so we ran plenty of analogue and just one DCC loco after lunch. So we had an enjoyable day.



What is so strange/out of place in this scene?

Obviously the style of houses indicate that it is in the UK somewhere but that train looks out of place. Is it that Rhodesian train again?

Yes Vic was here with his home made Rhodesian Railways garret and brown coaches.

Pity about the footbridge, should be in Europe somewhere, definitely not British. I must do something about that.



Branch Line News.

As the layout has not been put up since July no activity is evident but I know that the guys have been busy working on their modules ready for the December hols. I reckon that there will probably be more activity on the branch line than the main line, there are new DMUs. Locos and.....to be seen running on new tracks.

Model Train Convention

You may or may not be aware that the next Model railway Convention is being arranged by John Burkhardt and will be held in September 2009. He is pulling together an organising committee plus volunteers of which many will be required, so contact him direct if you can help out.

He has also established a web site at <http://www.2009gauteng.hot.co.za:80/> EMRIG will no doubt be involved with a smaller version of our normal layout being required at the convention hall, and those of us who have something to show at home may be asked to have an open day for the delegates. So be prepared, finish that scenery, electrics, viaduct, signalling or whatever needs doing, or emigrate?

Web Site

You may not know this but EMRIG actually has a presence on the web! <http://www.herman.rula.co.za/links.html>. It is a bit out of date but we are working on it. Go to this site as it not only covers EMRIG but just about all other major model railway groups. I am working with Herman to update our information; he has several new photos and other info covering our activities but it up to his web man to implement them. It will happen one day I assure you.

John Burkhardt with his many connections has given me the following information. The yanks always do it bigger if not better. They held a model railway convention recently at Derby City where they erected a huge modular layout in N gauge, all DCC controlled, naturally. For those of you who have a fast connection (ADSL or ISDN or better) here are 2 URL's where you can view pictures and the planning diagram of this mammoth layout. Must have been a logistical nightmare - imagine having the get 700+ modules together!

There's a DCE **Photo** sharing site here:

<http://gallery.mac.com/pauljdowns#100126>

In addition to the link for photos that Martin Myers gave in his email you may want to go to the Convention web site at http://web.mac.com/pauljdowns/2008_N_Scale_Convention/Home.html and then click on the "NTRAK" link at the top of the page (second line from top, second from right). Then on the NTRAK page scroll down. There is a **diagram** of the layout there, as part of the overall Convention hall.

Thanks John, amazing what can be done if you have all the resources and ambition!

Forthcoming Events.

Mike Ingles has not yet given up on arranging outside visits, if any of you can assist with ideas or contacts please let him know. On his list of possibilities are:

- A visit to the railway sheds/yards where the ROVOS rail operates from. Here we hope to see the steam engines being prepared, fired up/cleaned/lubricated?
- A day out at the Centurion Model Engineers who run live steam models on 3.5, 5 and 7.25 inch gauge tracks. A picnic/braai are by the lake and rides on the trains for all. Should be fun.
- Re scheduled visit to the Rand Model Railway Club, Clive you are a member there so can you organise a visit to your other club; the visit for last year was called off for some reason.

Below is a calendar of forthcoming events

EMRIG

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME - 2008

Revised 8 Nov 2008

		Meeting	Venue	In Charge
NOVEMBER				
29	Sat	Swapmeet	Klerksdorp	
30	Sun	EMRIG Monthly Meeting	TBA	
30	Sun	Toy Fair	Blairgowrie Recreation Centre, Park Lane Park, off Conrad Street, Blairgowrie. Map ref 55DL97. Web site www.modelcars.co.za	
DECEMBER				
6	Sat	Erection of layout , Layout operation & activities,	Set Up at School	Bob Woodhead
	Sat	Swopmeet Pretoria		
Sun	7	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Mon	8			
Tue	9			
Wed	10	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue only	Bob Woodhead
Thu	11			
Fri	12			
Sat	13	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Sun	14	Layout operation & activities, Hornby Assoc Visit - Braai	Analogue only	Bob Woodhead Braai
Mon	15			
Tue	16			Public Holiday
Wed	17	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue only	Bob Woodhead
Thu	18			
Fri	19			
Sat	20	Layout operation & activities,	DCC only	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Sun	21	Layout operation & activities, Club Braai	Analogue - DCC	Bob Brunt
Mon	22			
Tue	23			
Wed	24	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Bob Brunt
Thu	25	Christmas Day		
Fri	26	Boxing Day		
Sat	27	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Bob Brunt
Sun	28	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Mon	29			
Tue	30			
Wed	31	Layout operation & activities	Analogue only	Bob Woodhead
Thu	1	Layout operation & activities	Analogue - DCC	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Fri	2			
Sat	3	Layout operation & activities, Annual General Meeting 14:00hrs	Analogue - DCC	Bob Brunt
Sun	4	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Bob Woodhead
Mon	5			

Tue	6			
Wed	7	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue only	Bob Woodhead
Thu	8			
Fri	9			
Sat	10	Layout operation & activities,	Analogue - DCC	Colin Tanner-Tremaine
Sun	11	Layout operation & activities, Take-Down 13:00	Analogue - DCC	Bob Brunt
Mon	12			
Tue	13			
Wed	14	Term Starts		

Contact persons for the swapmeets are;

- Blackmark Trains;- Mervyn Mark hicky@megabits.co.za
- Pretoria Model Train Club;-Alwyn Carstens carstaj@unisa.ac.za
- Toyfair;- Don Ravenscroft don@modelcars.co.za

That's all for now, sorry this edition is a bit late but work has had to take priority, I am glad to say that the pressure is now coming off a bit. Roll on the holidays.

Happy Modelling,
Colin TT 082 8280665 / cttremaine@mweb.co.za

Accompanying this newsletter is

Electrical Solutions for Model Railways, "Electric Motors and layout wiring requirements."