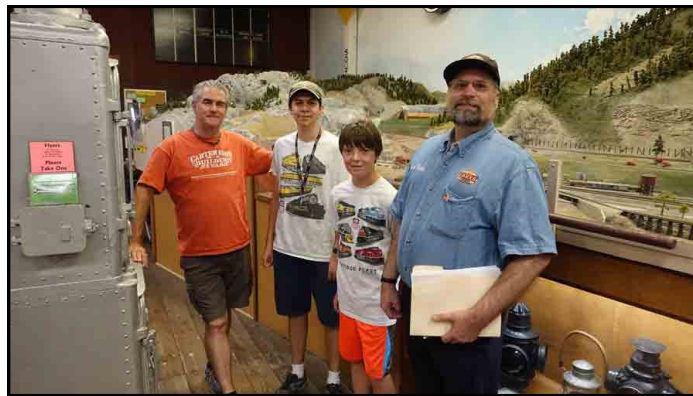




The Santa Clara BLOCK



GREAT TRAIN CONTEST 2015



Left to right: Bob Bartlett, Giavonni Rossi, Joe Mascher and Edward Thelan

The Great Train Contest was held on Saturday, September 26th. Bill Burket was the Chairman, with Chuck Stead, Woody Rider, and Nick Griffen as judges. Each contestant operated their entry around the layout, gave a description of it, and answered questions from the judges. The Winners were:

- #1 Bob Bartlett and his UP Granite Rock Train, with 119.5 points.
- #2 Edward Thelan, running an SP Peninsula Commute train #143, with 115 points.
- #3 Joe Mascher, who ran a BNSF Turn, with 112 points.
- #4 Giavonni Rossi, running UP Passenger train the Portland Rose, #17, with 102 points.



Left Winner #1, UP Granite Rock, Right Winner #2 SP Peninsula Commute #143

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)



Left Winner #3, BNSF Turn, Right Winner #4 UP Portland Rose



BOOK REVIEW

THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC

Trackside At Transition

Photography of Alden A. Armstrong, Author

After examining this book, I was left with a dilemma: How do I review a book like this? The best approach appeared to be a description of how Alden Armstrong became such an avid photographer. Alden lost his father at an early age. His mother went to great effort to pass on Alden's father's photography hobby to their son. She gave him her husband's equipment, and went on to show him good photography practices. She showed him how to bracket photos, and discouraged him from using his father's light meter; instead, learning the camera's abilities, and its relationship to the type of film it was loaded with. His mother helped him make a darkroom out of the bathroom, develop rolls of film, and use his dad's Federal Enlarger.

And she didn't stop there. Since Alden was still too young to drive, his mother sacrificed her weekends to take him to railroad places he wanted to visit and photograph. Alden writes that back in those days, young kids were not very welcome in railroad work areas, but his mother possessed certain charms which would deflect railroad personnel long enough so that he could snap the photos he wanted.

Alden began taking photos around 1953, during the twilight of steam power on the Southern Pacific. This 320 page glossy paper hardcover book covers SP power, as well as a number of branch lines plus other operations. The author clearly kept very detailed notes as he took his photos. This book is basically a photo gallery, with some in black and white, and many in glowing color, and each photo is accompanied by a detailed description. And it doesn't stop there. The index includes all locomotive fleet numbers that he took photos of, with the pages they are on.

So here modelers, is another incredible resource: If you are looking for details of a piece of SP power not shown elsewhere, check out this publication.

GS-4's, AC's, even one the two non cab forward compounds is included. Many yards, such as River Yard, Taylor Yard, and others, are here as well. Some power is shown in several different paint schemes, as things changed over the years.

Locations and Branch lines: He's got many of those. Santa Paula, Oxnard, Vincent, Owens Valley, Keeler Branch, Edison, Tracy, Jawbone Branch and far more than can be reproduced here. There are seven chapters organized by location, such as Southern California, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, Bay Area, Northern California, North Coast, and Owens Valley itself.

There are even a few pages devoted to other organizations including the Sacramento Northern, Western Pacific and the Fruit Growers Association.

(Continued on page 3)

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The final page fittingly enough shows AC-5 #4146 being scrapped. After flipping through so many pages of locomotives and trains in action, more than half of them steam locos, this seems to be the appropriate photo to complete this wonderful gallery book.

After going through this book, one cannot help but wonder how many “rejects” did not make it into the publication for one reason or another. With the excellent quality exhibited in the book, this reviewer speculates there are a lot of those rejects that would still make for a good edition in their own right. Perhaps we should wish for a follow-up publication.

Reviewed by Norman E. Spaulding

OPEN HOUSE TRAIN SHOW

NOVEMBER 7 AND 8 2015

Thanks to all of the members who contributed their time, effort and resources into making The Open House Train Show the second best show, ever. There were over 550 paid visitors, as well as approximately 350 children who attended the show over the two day span.

Photos of the event are shown below, and on page 4.



(Open House Train Show Photos, Continued)**SAN JOSE HISTORIC TROLLEY SERVICE***John Cross Photo*

VTA's Holiday Season Historic Trolley Service begins its annual season on Friday evenings and weekends commencing Friday, November 27th. Operation is from 6:30 PM through 10 PM Fridays, and 2:30 PM through 10 PM Saturdays and Sundays, except for Levi's Stadium events that occur on Saturdays or Sundays. You can ride the trolley between the Civic Center and the Diridon Train Station.

NEW SBHRS WEBSITE

The South Bay Historical Railroad Society has revamped and updated the website. It's still at the original address: <http://www.sbhrrs.org>, but now has an all new look with many new features.

Members can log in and maintain or update membership dues, post articles in the Forum, check the Calendar of Events, and more.

The Member Login area is on the lower left side. Once a member is logged in, he or she may update payment information, personal data, and add a member under the membership rules.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VANCE JOHNSON!

Vance Johnson was elected by the Board Of Directors on December 1st as the Operations Director. He will replace Vern Deto in that position, effective January 1st, 2016, for the next term.

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY!



The SBHRS website
Is at: www.sbhhs.org

MEETING FACILITIES

At Historic Santa Clara Depot

Host your next Business, Educational or Social Meeting at the South Bay's most unique meeting place: The Board Room in The Freight House At Santa Clara Depot, and The Meeting Room.

Both of these artfully decorated and historically significant rooms are available as rentals for organizations, companies, or individuals.

For more information, pick up a brochure at the Santa Clara Depot,

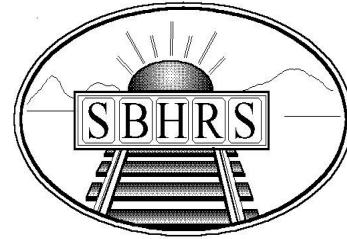
E-mail: info@sbhhs.org, or phone 1-408-243-3969, or write:

South Bay Historical Railroad Society,

Attention: Special Events Coordinator

1005 Railroad Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050-4319

THE SANTA CLARA BLOCK



South Bay Historical

Railroad Society, Inc.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Leave a recorded message at the phone number listed below if you have any suggestions, or if you have inputs, comments, or ideas for this newsletter.

SBHRS at Santa Clara Depot:

1-408-243-3969

Website:

www.sbhhs.org

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(Norman Spaulding

Newsletter Editor and Publisher)

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