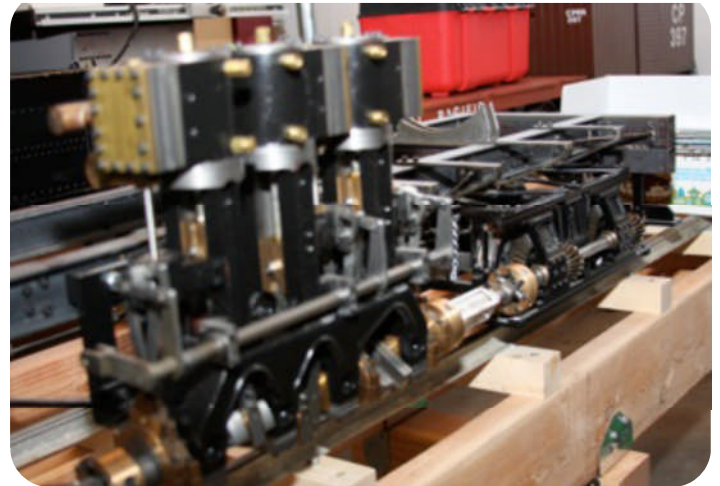
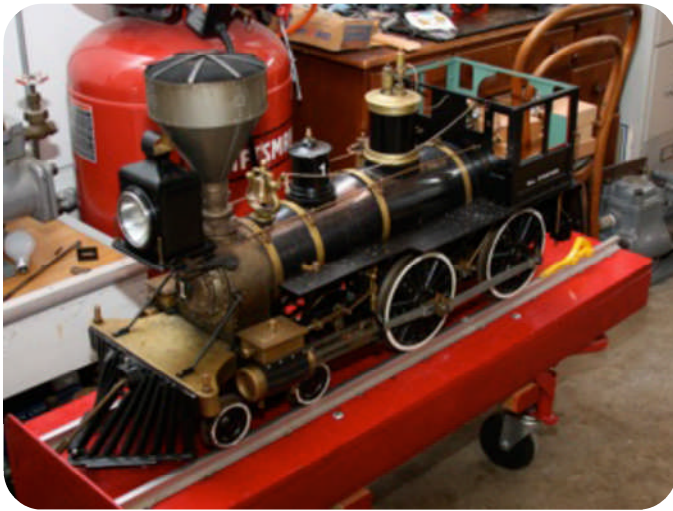




NEWSLETTER

South San Francisco Locomotive Shop

From the outside it looks like an ordinary garage on an ordinary street in an ordinary neighborhood but behind the unassuming facade there is a mini machine shop where some pretty impressive construction has taken place. On one side of the shop sits the coal fired Governor Stanford live steam locomotive with it's hundreds of hand built pieces assembled into an operating replica of the historic machine. In the middle, there is a Shay locomotive under construction with it's exposed gearing all meticulously cut



and assembled and awaiting the day when there will be a cacophony of clatter as it rattles around the track in the backyard or perhaps Tilden Park. Milling machines, drill presses, lathes, tool boxes, table saws and much more are interspersed with boiler parts and compressors as you scan the workshop of Michael Smith.



So, we shouldn't be too surprised to find that the S gauge world that we step into as we leave the machine shop is any less intricate. Lots of accessories, lots of interesting track work, and his enthusiastic son at the controls. There is the whimsical dinosaur pit at one end of the layout and a Franklin pulling box cars around an upper loop. The main level has freight yards and switching galore with a reverse loop or two thrown in. Freight cars dominate the scenery but there are a few passenger consists as well.

Steamers, diesels, link or knuckle coupler, you can find it all on Michael's layout. He is an operator so you won't see lots of carefully lit display cabinets highlighting rare trains but you will see a lot of American Flyer trains zooming around the track.



Cupola on steroids? Well, sort of. Alan Teruya raised the roof on this caboose in order to install an onboard camera. As the train rolled around Michael's layout we got a conductor's eye view of the action on Alan's notebook computer. A red light on the back of the caboose indicates that the camera is turned on. Reversing the caboose in the line up allowed us to watch as a second locomotive that was chasing us on the main line closed the gap.

Jake Jacobsen brought along a recent acquisition for show and tell. It's a black Branford Diner with a red stripe and red doors. There is no indication that the shell was ever painted yellow and the red stripe looks like an original factory application so the assumption is that this one slipped through the assembly line while the painter was on a coffee break. Michael's dinosaurs seem to have brought their own lunch so they're not stopping at the diner.



Don Matthies announced that he has bought an interest in the Brakeman's Train Shop in Auburn. Jake also thanked Don for bringing a truckload of Lionel stations for delivery to club members and saving the expense of shipping them.

There were 18 club members who enjoyed the afternoon at Michael Smith's home as well as a few guests. Some of the younger ones had fun operating the electric locomotive and flat cars in the backyard.

Pete Goodier and Paul Moreci were the monthly raffle winners, Pete chose a MP 929 cattle car and Paul went home with a Cotton Belt AF boxcar.

