



NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Twenty eight club members and family saddled up and rode to *The Ranch* restaurant in Hayward on December 6 for our annual Christmas dinner. Club V.P., Paul Moreci, deserves our sincere appreciation for making all of the arrangements for the event and coordinating the evening program. We had a great dinner and a good bit of socializing as well.

Trains are the common tie that brought us all into the group to begin with and we have members who've had careers in the railroad industry, others who are model train retailers, and a lot of us who just happen to enjoy collecting or operating toy trains. Still, it's always interesting to hear the variety of topics of conversation around the room, "How's your 201K (formerly 401K)?", "When's the new child/



grandchild due?", "Where's your next vacation trip to?" Good people do certainly make for good times.



After dinner and a brief business meeting, Paul Guaraglia announced the winner of the 2nd annual **Pat Altieri Award** who is selected by secret balloting of club

members during the year. This year's honor for outstanding promotion of S gauge went to **Jake Jacobsen**. As we all know, Jake has been instrumental in the operation of this club for decades as well as promotion of Flyer Fest West, TCA, and a tireless advocate (and consumer) of S gauge trains. Congratulations, Jake, on a well deserved tribute!

The raffle table drew a lot of interest this year. Paul Guaraglia is always the front runner when it comes to



obtaining donations for club events and this year he even outdid himself by receiving a brand new **Lionel B&O pacific locomotive!** In addition to donations from club members, here is Paul's list of organizations that contributed:

American Models

Dollhouses, Trains, and More

Lionel

The Loco-Boose

Scenery Unlimited

S Helper Service

Talbot's Hobbies



Thank you, Paul, for all of your hard work. Club members please remember to patronize these businesses and show your appreciation of their support!

By now, I suppose that everyone has heard who's ticket was pulled first for the raffle: Richard Ridgeway. Since it's the winner's choice of prize and since Richard said that the B&O was one of the few locomotives that he had *not* already purchased, he decided to take it home.

Everyone took something home from the raffle table although Mark Boyd tried not to. When raffle ticket number 734 was called no one claimed it. Mark was nudged from fiddling with his camera long enough for him to deny that it was his number since all of his were in the 730's.....oh, wait a minute! Thanks for the laugh, Mark!

Jerry Wood Toys 4 Tots was a big success again this year. Thank you to all club members who pitched in with new toys to help make Christmas a little brighter for some of the less fortunate kids in our community. John and Constance Dalton deserve a big round of applause for spear heading this annual drive.

You still have a few days to get that track laid under the tree, just kick those pretty packages aside and make some room for trains! If you got 'em, run 'em, at least until Aunt Daisy threatens to stomp that diesel roar right out of your loco or the smoke in the room is so thick from your steamers that your niece from Berkeley is threatening a lawsuit. Heck, maybe they'll get down on the floor with you and wrestle you for the rocket launcher button.

**Wishing you all the best for this holiday season.
Good health and happiness for you and yours in the New Year.
Merry Christmas to all!**



FUTURE CLUB MEETINGS:

January 16, 2009 Bill R. Walnut Creek

(This is almost a month away, I will send a reminder in January)