

Trak-Writes

Training Bulletin

OPERATING GUIDELINES FOR SUN N SAND ENGINEERS

1. When you sign up to run, *you* have the responsibility to be there in person or to find a replacement if you cannot make it.
2. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for ensuring the room is clean for public viewing.
3. When you sign up to run, you have an obligation to arrive early enough to have all your trains set up and your carrying boxes stored by the time we open for the public.
4. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for ensuring that three or more engineers are present before opening the room to the general public.
5. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for protecting the layout and promoting the club. That means spreading out to *watch the public* and engage them in conversation when appropriate.
6. When you sign up to run, your room key is your license, and you are responsible for knowing how to operate the layout.
7. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for operating in the correct direction of travel:
 - RED:** counter-clockwise
 - YELLOW:** clockwise
 - BLUE:** counter-clockwise
 - GREEN:** clockwise
8. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for leaving all switches, throttles and settings in the "default" position at the end of the session.
9. When you sign up to run, you are obligated to remain until the end of the session and not abandon your line before closing.
10. When you sign up to run, you are responsible for ensuring that the layout is turned off, all doors are locked and secured, and the lights are off before leaving.

Progress updates

Construction is progressing well on the museum building.

- ▶ Cement block work has started and is expected to be completed by June 11.
- ▶ Concrete work was finished on June 2.
- ▶ Trusses are currently being installed.
- ▶ Steel erection is nearing completion.

Valley Rain Landscape Co. has been awarded the work for the parking lot scheduled for July 6–September 30. The current schedule is to complete the west half of the parking lot first, then the east half.

The Scottsdale city attorney is still drafting/editing the license agreements and hopes to have them to the clubs for review shortly.

The summer concert series has been a very good success so far with the pleasant weather. With the hotter days coming the Park expects to see people showing up just before the concerts to avoid some of the heat.

–Scott Switzer

Layout status is frequently updated on the SNS Website at <http://www.sun-n-sand.org/sns-business/new-layout/layout-status>

–George Morris

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RAFFLE

Scott Switzer
 CP Caboose
 Richard Sauerbrun
 Rio Grande 50' Boxcar
 Leo Van Kallen
 NYC 40' boxcar

ELECTRONIC EDITION

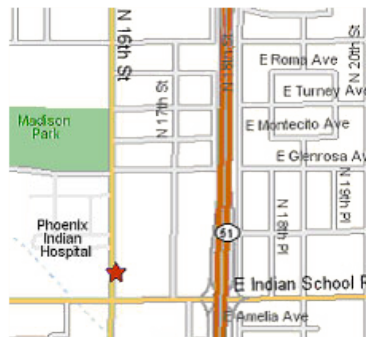
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If you are receiving the print edition and would prefer the electronic version, please send an email to editor@sun-n-sand.org.

GETTING TO DRUMBEAT

For meetings at Bob Nuss' store:
 Drumbeat Indian Arts, Inc.
 4143 North 16th Street
 Phoenix Arizona 85016

(16th Street and Indian School)



Website access

The process of giving club members access to the Sun N Sand web site continues.

Here's how you get member access to the site:

- ▶ I need your email ID. That means that your email ID has been added to the roster.
- ▶ A "user name" is generated. I've adopted the policy of using first initial plus last name. (So I'm "bschindler" and George Morris is "gmorris".)

- ▶ The site sends an invite message containing a special link.
- ▶ You click the link (or paste it into your browser). That takes you to a web page where you set your password.
- ▶ Once your password is set, you can then login to the site.

If you have any problems or questions about this process, please send me an email and I'll do my best to help.

-Bill Schindler
 editor@sun-n-sand.org

June 9

General meeting, Drumbeat, 7:00pm

June 12

Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 13

Sunday run
 Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 15

Work session, Drumbeat, 7:00pm

June 19

Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 20

Sunday run
 Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 22

Work session, Drumbeat, 7:00pm

June 23

Board meeting, Drumbeat, 7:00pm

June 26

Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 27

Sunday run
 Work session, Drumbeat, noon

June 29

Work session, Drumbeat, 7:00pm

CALENDAR



www.sun-n-sand.org
 Bill Schindler, Editor
 editor@sun-n-sand.org

Board of directors

- Bob Nuss, President
- Bob Hoddy, Vice-president
- Steve Gendler, Secretary
- Richard Sauerbrun, Treasurer
- Greg Adamson
- Tony Pietsch
- Jim Elliot
- Skip Spittle

Business meeting minutes

Meeting called to order by President Bob Nuss, May 12, 2010, 7:00pm at Drum Beat Indian Arts Center.

Members present: Bob Hoddy, Bob Nuss, Steve Gendler, Richard Sauerbrun, Jim Johnson, George and Maryanna Morris, David Brown, Leo Van Kallen, Skip Spittle, Hank Schaaf, Greg Anderson, Richard and Mary Garner, Tony Pietsch, Bob Laity, Jim Elliot, Chip Svoboda, and Ben Schiffer.

Guests present: Jeff and Garrett Crosby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The business meeting minutes for April 14 were approved on a motion by Scott Switzer and a second by Bob Hoddy. The board meeting minutes for April 18 were approved on a motion by Scott Switzer and a second by Jim Elliot.

A special "thank you" went to George Morris for his service as secretary and to Charles Greenacre for his service as treasurer. Beginning this year Steve Gendler will serve as Secretary and Richard Sauerbrun will be the new treasurer.

Guests were introduced and a long time member who is now an associate, Hank Schaaf, was recognized.

The club received copies of *N-Scale* magazine and *Scale Rails* magazine which were passed around to those attending. In addition, the club received a flier announcing the NMRA Arizona Division meet which will be in Flagstaff June 12. Sun N Sand members were invited to run on the Tucson Club's layout during Rail-Fair. Please let Steve Gendler know if you are interested and he will forward your name and availability to the Tucson Club.

Leo Van Kallen left a new Bachmann UP AX40 16-wheel diesel locomotive on a yard siding after run-

ning March 14. He was wondering if someone put it away somewhere for safe keeping and if they would please contact him as soon as possible.

The run schedule changes from 12-4:00pm to 4-8:00pm beginning June 1st. Bob Nuss passed around the sign-up board and asked members to please not sign up for more than one specific line until the sign-up had been at least around once in order to give everyone a chance to sign up for their favorite lines.

The club picnic will be on Saturday, May 15th. So far over thirty members and guests are signed up. The club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers as well as soft drinks; the members are bringing dishes to share.

Special thanks to Jim Johnson's wife, Johnna, for providing the cookies for tonight's meeting and to Bob Hoddy who "catered" the meeting with sandwiches from Subway.

REPORTS

The treasurer's report through April was given by Richard Sauerbrun. Richard reminded everyone that there is a sign up sheet being circulated which allows members to donate their key deposit when the current layout room keys are turned in for the move to the new building. The key deposits had been shown as an "operating expense" in the new budget; and, based on the number of club members who have already donated their key deposit refund; the budget approved in April had been revised. On a motion by Scott Switzer, and a second by Jim Elliot, the revised budget, which no longer shows refund of key deposits as an operating expense, was approved.

Richard Sauerbrun also reported on the purchase of new software, ap-

proved by the board, which will aid in accounting for dues, billing, and reimbursements. This included a new expense reimbursement form which he has put into effect. In addition, he explained that the balance sheet reflected payment of the club's two insurance policies (club liability and board liability). Bob Nuss reported that the Board had looked into the possibility of our liability insurance going down when we moved into the new building and found that we were already receiving the lowest premiums. He also advised that the NTRAK dues, which the club pays for its members, is coming due which Richard will handle. On a motion by Scott Switzer, and second by Jim Elliot, the Treasurer's report was approved.

Vice-president Bob Hoddy, who is managing the Sunday run schedule program, addressed problems and questions relating to signing up, showing up as scheduled, and getting replacements when a member cannot make his scheduled commitment. The current system, in which Bob is maintaining a master schedule, will be in place until October when we move into the new building. George Morris reminded everyone that we will still have to schedule operators for Sunday run sessions even in the new building.

Richard Sauerbrun reported that the board approved a half-page advertisement in *The N Scale Collector* magazine for the club's sale of Route 66 Collector Cars. That advertisement was in the current issue which was passed around for those present to view.

Scott Switzer, club liaison to the park, provided an update on the new building. While building projections are still "fluid," the opening date is

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Board meeting minutes

Meeting called to order by President Bob Nuss, May 26, 2010.

Members present: Bob Nuss, Bob Hoddy, Richard Sauerbrun, Jim Elliot, Tony Pietsch, Greg Adamson. (excused: Steve Gendler)

Guests: George Morris

BUSINESS

Dues were discussed. Phone calls and letters will be sent to those behind in dues.

Additional rent for space at Drumbeat was discussed. The club approved an increase in rent due to our use of more space, but it was never paid. Back rent will be brought up-to-date. We are using more air conditioning due to summer and more work sessions (Tuesday, Saturday, Sunday, and some independent time).

Arrangements were made to revise the bank signature card.

Three Route 66 car sets were sold.

We need to reactivate the club training program. We have not been

doing it for the last few years. At the June meeting, we will pick some dates for newer members to attend. Items will include: how to run the layout and close down; sign-up procedures; public operating guidelines; and member civility. There have been some personality conflicts among some members. We must all try to be more polite to each other. Remember, we are all in this for fun.

Due to a change in the wall height around our space from 42 inches to 32 inches (glass is on top of the wall), the board and construction committee recommend lowering the layout height from 42 inches to 38 inches. This will bring the top of the layout closer to the top of the solid wall and also give us more clearance below the top of the glass wall.

A thank you to Ron Reid for his donation of freight cars and structures to the club.

We sold the HO layout that we gave to the HO club. The money will be donated to the HO club.

Work is progressing on the new layout. We need more volunteers to help on the new layout and repair the old modules. Work sessions are Tuesday evening, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday afternoon. Special work sessions can be arranged by calling Bob Nuss at Drumbeat (602-266-4823).

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to an electrical discussion on DC and DCC operation, equipment, and wiring. A lot of diagrams and alphabet items. Come to the June meeting for a presentation by the electrical committee on DC/DCC supplies and signaling.

The DCC order will be sent after the June business meeting.

—submitted by Bob Nuss

New meeting location

The June meeting is at Drumbeat Indian Arts, 4143 N 16th Street — just north of Indian School Road.

Business meeting minutes, continued from page 3

October 6. However, the “move-in date” has been reduced to two and a half weeks, approximately mid-September, due to “green” requirements. The park is still depending on Sun N Sand to be the most operationally ready of the three layouts when the building opens.

BUSINESS

Layout operation: There was an extended discussion of problems relating to the run sessions including members showing up late, not cleaning the layout room, not leaving the layout closed down properly, damage to the layout, members leaving before scheduled closing, and engineers who habitually do not follow operating guidelines when the public is in the room. The consensus was that the club is not adequately training members, then holding them responsible for operating properly. Bob Nuss directed the secretary to place a clearly marked “training bulletin” in Trak-Writes summarizing the main points from the operating guidelines.

Regarding layout repairs and maintenance, a special thanks went to Jim Johnson for repairs he has been making that have kept the layout operational.

Everyone was reminded that there are Tuesday work sessions scheduled at both the park (for layout

repairs) and Drum Beat (for layout construction).

Layout construction: The new layout modules were set up in the parking lot of the Drum Beat facility last month and was quite impressive. Currently, foam and roadbed are nearing completion and track laying is scheduled in the next month. Joel Singer’s “Diablo Canyon Bridge” was on display as an example of how the scenery will be integrated into the layout modules.

Work sessions on the new layout are Tuesday nights at 7:00pm as well as Saturday and Sundays at noon. Those who come to a work session automatically receive an entry into the “Golden Spike” drawing for the honor of being the first to run on the new layout in the new building. Members receive one ticket for each work session at Drumbeat they attend and can purchase a ticket for \$5 each to increase their chances.

DCC order: George Morris reported that in addition to the discount on the club’s order from Digi-trax, Richard Sauerbrun has a source for DCC discounts beyond the order. Richard clarified that this was primarily for power supplies.

Layout rolling stock: Scott Switzer reported on his efforts to get donated, western theme, engines and rolling stock for the automated op-

erations on the new layout. At this time he has a possible commitment from Atlas involving a combination of 50% donated items and 50% purchased at a 40% discount with Atlas getting some “recognition” on the layout. Atlas has provided Scott with a list of surplus engines and rolling stock on hand which he distributed. He needs input on what should be requested from the list within the next two weeks. Members with copies of the list can e-mail him at Scott.Switzer@cox.net. A committee was formed consisting of Scott and Richard Sauerbrun to make the final selection.

New member induction: Jeff Crosby, a former member who has applied to reactivate his membership, completed the application process and was voted in unanimously on a motion by Skip Spittle and a second by Bob Laity.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

—submitted by Steve Gendler

Notices and announcements

Layout work sessions

Now that the layout work has reached a point where multiple tasks can parallel each other, the work sessions have expanded. We work Saturdays and Sundays starting at noon. Saturday and Sunday sessions typically start with a quick social time and lunch. We also work Tuesdays starting at 7:00pm. All work sessions are at Drumbeat. (See the map and directions on page 2.)

Special work sessions can be arranged by calling Bob Nuss at Drumbeat (602-266-4823).

Free park concerts

The free concerts in the park started May 2 and continue every Sunday through July 10.

Mailing address

If you are sending your dues check via postal mail, send it to the following address:

Sun N Sand Model RR Club
c/o McCormick Stillman Railroad Park
7301 E Indian Bend Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85250



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