



East Coast Santa Fe Modelers Meet

April 16-17, 2004



Bill Fletcher and Bill Van der Meer's 20 car Stock Extra on Howard Zane's Allegany Mountain Piermont Division

A Good Time Was Had By All

Not to be outdone by previous year's events, an excited bunch of more than 30 Santa Fe Modelers descended on the State of Maryland for their annual meet. The meet was held in two separate venues beginning with an evening get together at the home of Mike Davis, near the Chesapeake Bay. In his layout room a completely different world than that of blue crabs and sails now emerged in the form of Cajon Pass. To the delight of the participants Warbonnet diesels and sound equipped steam locomotives were displayed or traversed those yet to be scened mountain passes.

On Saturday the event moved to Howard and Sandy's home in Columbia MD where more than 30 enthusiasts enjoyed operating sessions, displays, seminars and each other's company. Featured in the February 2004 issue of Model Railroader, Howard Zane's Piermont Division is arguably one the most spectacular scale model railroads in existence today. Howard Zane is prolific modeler and advocate of the hobby. About our Santa Fe trains operating on his free lance West Virginia railroad he said, "*The AT&SF still looks strange on the layout, but still really neat!*" We thought so too. Thanks also to Howard's assistant and friend, Keith Albright, for keeping our trains in the clear.

This core group of highly motivated Santa Fe modelers have conducted meets for many years throughout the Mid Atlantic Seaboard and New England. Although space restrictions at this year's event precluded a general announcement and mailing to the general SFRH&MS membership, they have been traditionally open to all members and non-members alike, having drawn the curious from as far west as Chicago.

Kudos

Special thanks go out to our hosts Mike Davis and Howard Zane and to the many folks involved in organizing the meet. Don Borden and Mike Davis coordinated the locations and munchies while Ramon Rhodes and Bill Van der Meer got everyone there through marketing and mailing. In response to Lou Nost's encouragement for more folks to share their knowledge of history and modeling at these meets, several heeded the call. "Loco Lou", as he is affectionately known, has been very active as a cohesive force and mentor over the years but sadly could not make this year's event. Very informative and enjoyable clinics were conducted by Al Iezzi, Paul Moorehead, Karl Erk, Jim Babcock and Ramon Rhodes. Howard Zane also took the time to share scenery and structure techniques he used on his layout. Thanks go out to the all the vendors, too numerous to mention, who contributed door prizes. There was hardly a person who walked away without some little trinket.

Stay tuned for announcements about future East Coast Santa Fe Modeler meets. And think about sharing your knowledge by offering to do a clinic. To be completely enveloped by Santa Fe model trains and prototype history in the company of those who enjoy it is intoxicating. Meets like this help provide the push for model railroad enthusiasts to get out there and create something of beauty, all because they put the heart and hands to work.



Howard demonstrates his innovative scenery techniques



Mike Davis's model of the San Bernadino engine house is taking shape on his Cajon Pass layout near Annapolis, Maryland



Jim and Ramon



Karl's Truck Clinic



Sandy Springs is taking shape on the Piermont Division expansion



Jon and George



Bill chuckles as guys drool during a run-by



"Railroading from the Rear End" Where will the front end be next year?