

2010 Western Mini-Meet

Amid torrential rain and hurricane winds, the Western SFRH&MS mini-meet was held at the recently restored historic San Bernardino Santa Fe Depot on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Hosted by the San Bernardino Railroad and Historical Society, the meet was an exceptional day. President Steve Shaw and Allen Bone of the SBR&HS made our day memorable. Overall, approximately 150 people braved the weather as either attendees or sellers. We had approximately 135 paid attendees from six different states, including Keith Jordan and Warren Scholle from Kansas.

Attendees were treated to five great clinics by Glen Icanberry ("The Kite Shaped Track"), Loren Martens (San Bernardino Shops and A Yard"), John Berry (Santa Fe's Maritime Fleet in San Francisco"), Stan Kistler (Southern California and Santa Fe in the 1940's and 1950's), and Charlie Slater ("The Process to build a new Sunshine Models car").

We had 29 tables of various sellers or displays. There were four authors there signing and selling books.

The San Bernardino Railroad and Historical Society Museum was open to attendees, and I was very impressed with the displays already installed in the Museum in the short time it has been open. Hundreds of Santa Fe items are on display with many more to be displayed as time permits. SFRH&MS is indebted to former Santa Fe employees Glen Icanberry and Don Sheets for their help with this show.

Finally, once again, Gary Green and his band of Free-Mo modelers set up a great modular layout and ran Santa Fe trains galore, much to the delight of attendees.

Of most importance, we were able to recruit new members, and were helped in that endeavor by a Mike Martin, who got material to us at the 12th hour. Thanks Mike.

It was a unanimous vote that this be a yearly event, alternating between Northern and Southern California, so look for us again next year, probably in Bakersfield.

Gene Rutledge
Charlie Schultz
Coordinators