

## Western Mini-meet

February 18, 2012

The 2012 SFRH&MS Western Mini-meet was held February 18, 2012, at the restored Santa Fe Depot in San Bernardino, CA. This is the location of the San Bernardino Historical and Railroad Museum (SBH&RRM), and the Society's Western Archives. We were the guests of the Museum and its membership. Since this is being written the day after, final figures are not available, but it appears that we had over 130 guests, 15 dealers and 6 great speakers. We had participants from Oregon, Kansas and Ohio, just to name a few.

Kenny Rhoads started off with a great presentation on the Santa Fe equipment at the Arizona Rail Museum and its current state of restoration. Many will remember our visit there during last year's convention in Tempe.

Steve Crise and Michael Patris, of the Pacific Electric Historical Society, spoke on the history of the PE and its relationship with Santa Fe. They also previewed a new book they just published "Pacific Electric Railway", which is very good.

After lunch, Richard Hendrickson, the dean of Freight Car information, spoke on how to update new freight cars titled "How to Make Ready to Run Car, ready to run" It was excellent.

Next came Stuart Forsyth, doing an fabulous presentation on "Cajon at War, the San Bernardino Bomb plant and Rialto Ammunition Depot", both served by Santa Fe. There was standing room only for this presentation.

We closed the day with a light-hearted, but very informational clinic by Bob Drenk on the "Good 'Ol Days.

We have a standing rule that anyone under 15 years gets in free, hoping to generate younger interest. We are happy to say that this year; we had several young men who took advantage of the rule.

Gene Rutledge