

Evolution of *The Warbonnet*

The Warbonnet traces its origins to a *Newsletter* circulated by Bob Longo to a group of fellow Santa Fe Railway enthusiasts. The *Newsletter* quickly proved popular and grew into a formal organization, the Santa Fe Modelers Association (SFMA), in 1970. The SFMA published the *Newsletter* from November 1969 through March-April 1971. The *Newsletter* was converted from newsletter to magazine format and was renamed the *High Iron*, which was published from May-June 1971 through November-December 1973.

In 1974, after a reorganization, the SFMA slowly faded into the background. Bob Longo, the editor, enlarged and renamed the publication *Southwestern Prototype Modeler*, which was published by Prototype Modeler, Inc. The expanded magazine included coverage of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific. The scope of that publication changed again at the end of 1973 to cover the Santa Fe, Missouri Pacific and KATY, while the Southern, Western and Union Pacifics were covered by a separate publication, the *Western Prototype Modeler*. Due to a continued interest by Santa Fe modelers in having their own magazine, in 1977 Bob Longo briefly introduced another magazine, the *Santa Fe Prototype Modeler*, which lasted for three issues (January-February, March-April and May-June 1977). However, lack of readership forced Bob Longo to cease publication due for financial reasons. All the various *Prototype Modelers* were then merged back into a single magazine, *Prototype Modeler*, which had no further relationship to the Society.

In late 1977, the Santa Fe Modelers Organization (SFMO) came into being through the efforts of Jared Harper. The SFMO was a new organization, although it continued the spirit of the former SFMA and involved many of the same individuals. The SFMO launched its publication, the *Santa Fe Modeler*, with the first issue being November-December 1977. Jared Harper served as editor of the *Santa Fe Modeler* from 1977 through 1986, when he retired to pursue other interests. Jay Miller took over in 1987 and edited the *Santa Fe Modeler* until 1993, when the next step of the Society's evolution occurred.

In parallel with the *Santa Fe Modeler*, in 1983, a group of Santa Fe enthusiasts organized the Santa Fe Railway Historical Society (SFRHS). The SFRHS published the *Santa Fé Route* to disseminate the information it gathered about the Santa Fe. The *Santa Fé Route* was initially edited by Michael A. Martin, who edited the magazine until 1991, when he stepped down. At that time, Barbara Meyn took over the editing of the *Santa Fé Route*. Ultimately, the *Santa Fé Route* was published in eight volumes beginning in the summer of 1983 and ending with an issue published jointly with the fourth quarter 1993 issue of the *Santa Fe Modeler*.

In 1993, the SFMO and SFRHS merged to form the Santa Fe Railway Historical & Modeling Society (SFRH&MS). Wally Abbey was recruited as the editor for the combined Society's publication and produced a single issue newsletter in 1994 entitled *Between Trains*, but was then unable to continue. Keith Jordan, a former president of the SFMO, then stepped forward and edited the initial issue of *The Warbonnet*, which came out in the first quarter of 1995. He was followed by Kevin EuDaly, who edited the *The Warbonnet* from 1995 through 1996 before also stepping down. The Society then turned to John Signor, who has edited *The Warbonnet* to the present time.

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