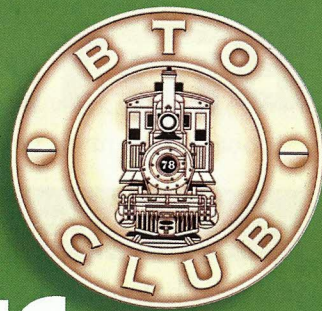


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2012 BIG TRAIN OPERATOR CLUB CALENDAR ISSUE



Season's Greetings!

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Diablo Pacific Short Line National Train Day Module Display

The Martinez Amtrak Station (MTZ) is visited by over thirty Amtrak trains a day. Not only do the Coast Starlight and California Zephyr stop here, four San Joaquins and more than 20 Capitol Corridor trains make this a fun station to spend time at. Add to those a blend of long UP freights such as unit tank, auto rack and container trains mixed with frequent double headed locals and one can get a day's fill of train watching.

On May 7th, as part of the National Train Day celebration, the Diablo Pacific Short Line module group (www.shortline.org) set up an 18' x 62' display on the Easterly platform of the MTZ station.

DPSL members were swamped for the official four-hour event with a couple thousand spectators. The nearby parking lot was filled with booths representing everything from local support groups to Operation Lifesaver. Our hosts, the Martinez Chamber of Commerce and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority couldn't praise our involvement in this fun gig enough and plans are being formalized for a bigger and better celebration in 2012.

Yes it was noisy. Yes it was windy; and yes it was busy...but it sure was fun!



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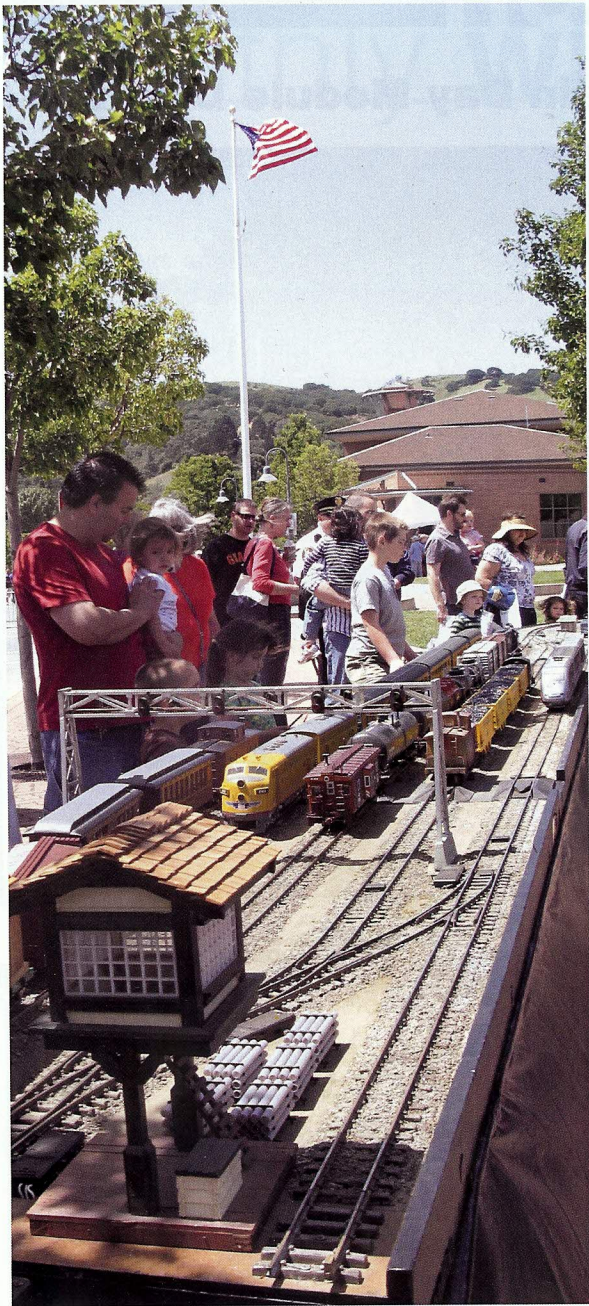


Photo (above) by Amy Herman. All other photos by the author.

