



Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



SVGRS Newsletter January 2016

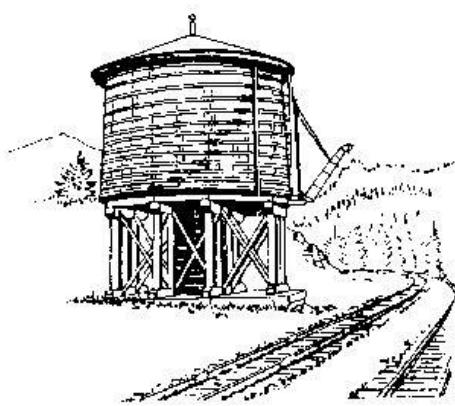
Reminder: 2016 Club dues are to be paid by the end of March. Dues are paid to Jeff Shubert, 258 Chestnut Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-9493

2016 SVGRS Calendar of Event

- Jan-9** **9:00am - Rocky Ridge Tear Down**
(Rocky Ridge County Park, York PA)
- Jan-13** **6:30pm - Executive Board Meeting**
(Location – Gettysburg Outlets Food Court)
- Jan-22** **Deadline for 1st quarter News Letter Articles**
(Email pics & articles to editor)
- Mar-9** **7:00pm - General Meeting #1**
(Train Station - New Oxford PA)
- Mar-24** **9:00am - Setup for Spring ECLSTS**
(York Fair Grounds, York PA)
- Mar-25** **9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 1**
(York Fair Grounds, York PA)
- Mar-26** **9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 2**
Tear Down @ 4:00pm
- Mar-31** **Deadline to pay 2016 Dues**
(Post or deliver to Jeff Shubert)
- Apr-22** **Deadline for 2nd quarter News Letter Articles**
(Email pics & articles to editor)
- May 11** **4:00pm General Meeting #2**
(Location TBD)
- June-5** **SVGRS Trailer Cleanup @ 2:00pm**

- (Bob Segessenman's House Biglerville PA)**
Jul-24 Club Rail-fan outing – Western MD #1309 2-8-8-2 steam engine to Run!??
(Cumberland MD – Details to come)
- Jul-29 Deadline for 3rd quarter News Letter Articles**
(Email pics & articles to editor)
- Aug-10 6:30pm - Executive Board Meeting**
(Location - Gettysburg Outlets Food Court)
- Sep-17 1:00am - General Meeting #3/Club Picnic**
(Jeff & Mel Shubert's House in Shippensburg PA)
- Oct 14 Deadline for 4th quarter News Letter Articles**
(Email pics & articles to editor)
- Nov-12 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Setup**
(Rocky Ridge County Park, York PA)
- Nov-25 6:00pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day**
- Dec-1 Officer Voting Deadline**
(Ballots to Nominating Chairperson)
- Dec-4 5:00pm - General Meeting #4/Christmas Party**
(Railside Banquet Center – Hanover PA)
- Dec-31 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends**

May/Aug Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed?
Jun/Jul Rail Fan Excursions - Ideas?



Message from the Club President

Welcome to the winter of 2016. Winter, really? Anyone have photos of their trains plowing snow yet? This may go down as the winter without snow due to one of the most severe El Nino conditions ever recorded. Of course now that I've mocked the gods of winter, I find a forecast for a weekend nor'easter. Certainly the mild and moist conditions have affected us here in SVGRS territory. On the downside, it caused several rain cancellations at Rocky Ridge's Christmas Magic. How much better would that have looked with snow on the ground instead of mud. On the upside it has given us extra opportunity to run trains outdoors once the autumn leaves were blown or raked away.

In my case, the mild weather permitted me to dig three drainage trenches, a trench for an electrical conduit, outlined the pad area for a generator, dug a pit to bury a 500 gallon propane tank, and IMPORTANTLY opened the area for a 25 foot tunnel for my Darn Leaves & Weeds Railway between the back of the garage and the base of the sand mound which will permit installation of a branch line for storing my trains in my shed. Recently though the ground has frozen too quickly to permit finishing the task, but it was a good start on the long delayed project.

A recently acquired (read - donated throw away) 2-8-2 has become the first battery powered engine on the roster. Manufactured by Lionel as their Polar Express, it will need some electrical modifications and improvements, but will make a good (although small) engine. Once the tunnel is completed, it can be used to test the unpowered track though it. Has anyone else made changes or additions to their layouts?

As for SVGRS this year, we should see a standard events calendar with the East Coast show around Easter, a picnic in late summer, and Christmas Magic in November. There are one or two rail events under consideration. Those details will be discussed with the membership, and the schedule is contained in this newsletter. We are also asking members to consider an open house for their layouts so that we can be inspired by the results of their efforts and ideas. Another idea would be to add a photo from each member's layout to the web page. [This has not yet been discussed.] And input from you would be appreciated.

Again, thank you for all the effort put into a successful Christmas Magic, and I hope that we have a quiet winter and a very welcoming spring and summer of operation our trains.

- Rich



2016 East Coast Large Scale Show Update!

As reported to the membership, this year's ECLSTS falls on the Easter weekend and there is ongoing concern for enough club support to setup, monitor and tear down this display. Club response to our "call-to-arms" has been significant, and because of that, we're evaluating ways to reduce the complexity and insure we don't over burden those coming for cleanup. A final decision will be made by the end of the month! Stay tuned!

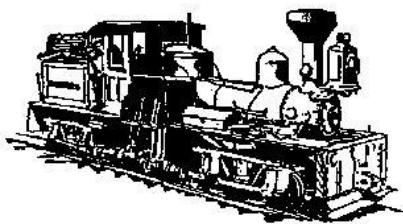
Here are two web pages to check out; you can copy the link and paste into your browser.

Everett RR: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3860YdBlUs>

Diseny's CA Zephyr:

http://www.theblueparrot.info/wabacmachine/The_Blue_Parrots_perch/Entries/2008/6/2_Disney%20%99s_California_Zephyr.html

-RFSJr.



SVGRS Christmas Party – December 13th, 2015

This year's SVGRS Christmas party saw us gathering at a new venue centrally located in our membership area. Thanks to our Christmas party coordinators, Penny and Turk, we found and booked the Railside Banquet Center in Hanover. I hope everyone will agree this was a good move. The space was private and clean, the food was good and we had a location "fair" to just about everyone and located along the Hanover railroad tracks. Unfortunately, Norfolk and Southern did not accommodate our request to run a special freight during the festivities. I'm not sure how many folks realize that just 100ft down the track lies a fairly rare railroad feature. It's a 30 degree railroad-to-railroad crossing.

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We had a really good turnout of 44 of our members and families. The festivities began at 5:00 with a welcome by our President Rich Reese. Barry McNew gave the blessing and then we got down to business at the buffet style food service. After the meal the program began with a short thanks by Rich Reese and we got right into the door prize give always followed by a cute story from Penny and a short SVGRS business meeting which included a treasurers report along with a Rocky Ridge update. More door prizes and the 50/50 raffle coordinated by Renee was won by Philip's Grandmother, Mary McGalleher. This was followed by a collection of short videos presented by Rob Segessenman Jr. The evening was wrapped up with the final five grand prizes drawings. Norma Harbaugh, Bob Segessenman Sr., Kevin Adam's daughter Emily and Jeff Shubert won the first four. Terry Smith's wife, Janet, won the final grand prize. Congrats to all our winners!

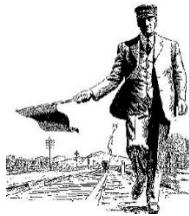
Thanks to Turk & Renee and Rob & Penny and everyone who helped make this a great night along with Deb Scott for the pictures we've included here with the article! See you next year at the same place!



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2015 Rocky Ridge Christmas Round Up

This year's Rocky Ridge season had its warmest weather in history. The Park closed seven days this year due to weather unlike last year which brought snow and rain causing a record number of cancellations at ten. The mild December temps really brought out the people and so attendance was never really lacking on any night. Overall attendance set a new record! (see below) Another new record was set Dec. 13th when the Park was completely full in less than 20min.

Steam in History is our new sponsor and they were a bit overwhelmed at the amount of work and attendees. We were fortunate enough to have five of them volunteer to help monitor the display. With some training in dealing with the possible barrage of problems facing any of our members they became a great asset and filled in many nights for us. Thanks guys! We appreciate it!

28 people showed up to help build the layout, and we ran the heaters due to the 26 degree weather outside. However, since the Park finally gave us our wish, the building is now fully insulated and the new ceiling made things much more comfortable to work in.

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You no longer have to freeze like in past years. Most nights the inside temperature was 55-60 degrees. This is a welcome change for all of us.

Our layout had a record seven trains running with six amusement park rides. WOW! Our largest ever display. I swear every year I am going to cut back, but someone always pushes me to do more. Thanks to Mike Oberdick and others we had some new additions to the display. I brought my big trestles and we ran another back and forth train with Olaf the snowman riding in a gondola. Folks seemed to love it.

More new additions were added with recognizable characters all around the water feature. Last year Jason Scott kept telling me to do something with the movie Frozen. So those scenes were added, including custom lettered boxcars for the main loop, and it was smart advice. Special thanks to Penny Segessenman and Renee Russell (and the ladies) for all the new added touches making this the busiest layout to date. This layout had as much going on in a small area as the former Pennsylvania Flower shows. Thanks also to Phillip Shoop for being our wiring guru and adding lots of extra lights to make it more festive.

Clean up crew was also very well attended. We brought in extra tables to organize our items rather than taking them off the layout and having members lay them all over. This went extremely well. We were done by 12:30

Kambach Publishing provided four cases of literature including lots of Garden Railway magazines. We gave all of it away, but I have not heard of any new members yet. Hopefully that will change.

Below are the Numbers and they are good!

Attendance: 44,400 total visitors This is a huge new record!

Highest Donations: (\$108.50) Saturday Dec 19 Russell's & Segessenman's

Most Raffle Tickets ever sold: (100) Sunday Dec 20 Deb & Jason Scott

Best attendance nights : 3700 Saturday Dec 12 Jeff Shubert/ Rich Reese

Best New Year's eve: 1100 patrons Barry & Linda McNew

Coldest night: 12 degrees: 32 degrees Saturday Nov 30

Our raffle ticket sales for the Thomas the Tank set were also at an all-time high. Compared to last year's low of 448, this year was unbelievable at 928. Thanks to everyone for putting in the effort to sell tickets and hand out info. The winner of the Thomas the Tank set raffle was Casey Addison. His family has visited Christmas Magic this year and his two boys loved the trains so they were super thrilled to win. Thanks to Mike Oberdick for delivering the prize. We now give the set away the week of Christmas. That way the kids and family can enjoy it over the holidays.

Thanks to all who helped make this year's display another success!

Turk Russell Chairman/ Coordinator

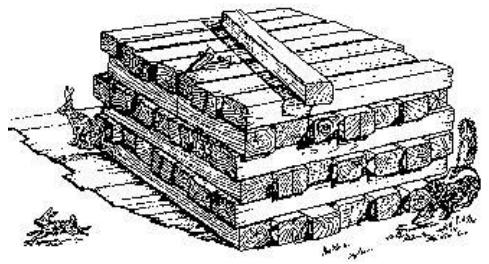
Rob Segessenman Asst. coordinator



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Steam lives again at the Everett Railroad

by: Turk Russell



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After many years , and a few passing hands of ownership , the newly refurbished 2-6-0 mogul steam locomotive is up and running . Test were runs in October were completed; and it was in full service by the second week. They ran Christmas trains till their season ended.

A brief history is that the loco was built in 1920 and went to work in 1923. After 1937 worked for many years but replaced by a small diesel at 55 ½ tons, it was designed for short line railroads. The loco passed hands several times till it was bought by the adjoining railroad. The locomotive was stored inside the M&NJ engine house, protected from the weather, but no further repairs were ever done. With sale of the railroad pending following Pierre Rasmussen's death in 2004, ownership of number 11 transferred to James Wright, a business partner in the M&NJ. Wright, in turn, sold the engine to Alan Maples, president of the Everett Railroad, in 2006. Upon Alan Maples' acquisition of engine # 11

The engine was then sent to Western Maryland Scenic Railroad's shops in Ridgeley, West Virginia for heavy repairs. The bulk of these repairs were finished in March 2015, and the locomotive was trucked to the Everett Railroad's shops inn Claysburg, PA from there, the shops finished the restoration and all things were completed. They currently pull 3 Pullman style cars . The railroad is located just on this side Altoona.

You can check out their website at: <http://www.everettrailroad.com/excursions>



Industry News: By Turk Russell

Bachmann trains: will introduce a working stock car

ANIMATED STOCK CARS



(Continued)

Enjoy the fun action as four horse or cow heads peek back and forth through windows as car moves around the track.

MSRP \$129.00 each

[Item No. 98701](#) D&RG™ with Horse

s

[Item No. 98702](#) CB&Q with Cattle

Accucraft trains: This company has really changed from a primarily 1.20 scale to now a multitude of scales . Their highly successful 1.32 trains have filled a void left by other manufactures who produced 1.29 trains.

They announced several new exciting live steam projects: the 1:32 scale Pennsylvania E-6 class 4-4-2; 1:20.3 scale D&RGW C-25 class 2-8-0 coal fired; and 1:32 scale Southern Pacific P-8 class 4-6-2 locomotives. Accucraft Trains live steam locomotives are limited run, built in small quantities. Should any of the aforementioned projects be of interest, along with others we have officially announced, we strongly urge you to place your reservations now! Remember, deposits are not usually required! Models are built only to the quantities of pre-orders receiver

Now arriving : 1:32 scale - Chesapeake & Ohio H8 class "Allegheny" 2-6-6-6, Early Version (limited production), Butane Fired

1:32 scale – N&W J-class #611 (limited production), Electric / 1:20.3 scale – East Broad Top 3-bay hopper. And many more

Piko Trains:

They have just released their new 2016 catalog . There are too many new additions to mention. They continue to add to their road names of steam engines in USA as well as Euro models. Many new cars and accessories will be available soon . See their website for more info <http://www.piko-america.com/>



is offering new stainless steel track and switches.
with every case you buy ; you get 5 free figures + free shipping



LGB trains has not announced their new catalog yet; but there are several small steamers and a few shop diesels now available

Biggest news is their going to make the 1600 series switches again along with a lot of other track .

The white stuff is coming!

Taken by Turks contact photographer in Durango & Silverton just the other day



How to serve your vege's



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