



Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

"Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club"

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2014 Edition

Upcoming Events

Thursday
February 20th, 2014
Executive Board Meeting
5:00pm

Thursday
March 6th, 2014
Membership Meeting
Brethren Home
7:00 pm

Thursday
March 20th, 2014
East Coast Show Set-Up
9:00am

Friday & Saturday
March 21st & 22nd, 2014
East Coast Show Display
Monitoring & Tear Down

Monday
March 31st, 2014
Membership Dues Deadline

April 26th, 2014
Club Trailer Cleanup
10:00am

April 15th, 2014
Deadline for submissions
for May Newsletter



2013 Rocky Ridge Christmas Display a Success



Overview of the 2013 Christmas Magic Display

The Christmas train layout at Rocky Ridge Park was constructed on Saturday November 16, 2013. We had 21 members assist with the setup. The weather was very cooperative this year with temperatures reaching into the 50's.

This year's display presented me, as well as the club with many challenges. New platforms and design, plus the largest display ever built; shortest operating season ever; adding new attractions with 6 trains in operation;

getting the park to work with us on past commitments with the setup.

We did make some huge progress in getting the Park Service to finally fully insulate our building. It was much brighter and warmer than ever before. We also had 17 brand new (perfect) Platforms that were constructed by members earlier in October. The new platforms allowed us to build our largest train layout to date. The outside display was enlarged to 4 platforms as well.



New platforms being delivered to Rocky Ridge

Special Thanks to the Segessenman men for delivering the new Platforms and doing an initial setup for all of us. That was a real time saver!

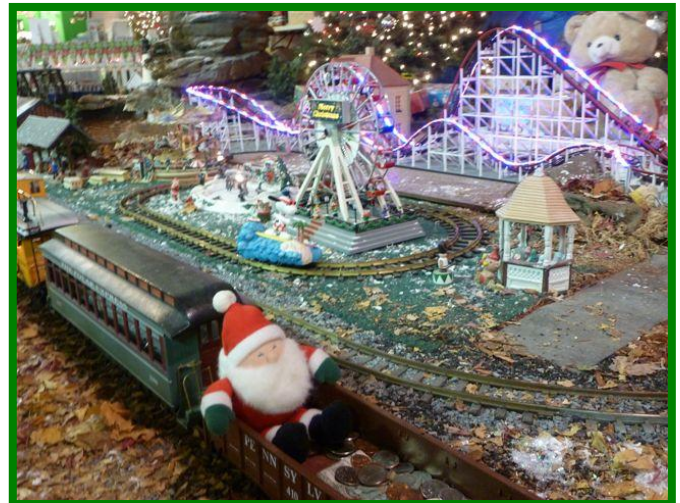
We had six trains in operation including an extended trolley train which travelled across the pond to our new expanded town area. The layout looked a lot bigger this time. A scenic backdrop was added to the inside of the entrance wall. This gave the layout a nice look when you entered.



The new backdrop inside the entrance.

Special thanks to Hermina & Lou Stahl for travelling many hours to help setup the town displays and Disney structures/ figures. The highlight of the display was a 7 ft. long miniature Roller coaster that was provided by Bob Segessenman. Who would have thought that taking Bob to the TCA train convention would end up with such a great toy for all to see and enjoy. With

added LED lights the roller coaster was the blockbuster hit of the show.



Bob Segessenman's Roller Coaster

The trains ran almost perfect this time round, with very little issues. Attendance at Christmas Magic was 31,710 visitors. With Thanksgiving being so late this year, November 29 (Black Friday) was our opening night. We lost 6 days compared to last year's opening dates and the Park closed 7 times due to weather. With a combined loss of 13 days of operation; I did not set very high goals for our fundraising. The first week started off well and set some records right from the beginning. As in the past, the Saturday before Christmas is usually the busiest night. A new attendance record was set that night. 3928 patrons visited the park that evening. The Segessenman and Russell Families were there to deal with the chaos. Extremely long traffic lines caused quite the backup. Police and maintenance had to do some traffic pattern modification to get folks who live nearby to their homes. At 8:30pm we were told the line of traffic was clear out to the end of the main road. Another record was set that evening for running trains. Rob and I did not turn the trains off till 10:50 pm and left the park at 11:30 pm. The wives sold a record 74 tickets that night plus we took in \$157.86 in donations. WOW! Unbelievable! The Planks and Gesseys also had a record Friday the previous evening with attendance at the park being 3109 visitors.

On December 28th we assisted with a marriage proposal. This is the 2nd one in 4 years. Kevin Adams and family assisted the Groom to-be by delivering the ring to the bride to-be in a gondola. She said "yes" and the crowd applauded!



The ring ready for delivery in a Gold Mine Gondola

Thanks to all who helped sell Raffle tickets for the Thomas the Tank Train set give-away and get visitors to learn about our club. Total Raffle tickets sold were 428. This was down compared to last year's 737. The winner of our Raffle was Isaiah Burdette of York, Pa. The 9 year old along with his family have been coming to Rocky Ridge for 10 years and love our trains.



The Happy Train Winner!

Even though raffle sales were down the donation gondolas took in an astounding \$1281.60. Setup costs were \$396.70. This does not include the new platforms which will be averaged over the next couple of years

Over 500 Beginning Garden RR brochures were given out along with other club literature. Kambach Publishing also provided us with 2 cases of Garden Railways magazines to hand out.

Over all I am very pleased. Considering the shortened time frame and we were still able to easily make way more than expected. I appreciate all the efforts put forth by our dedicated members on this year's display. It's a

group effort that now fully supports our club financially.

I am hopeful that our communication efforts from this show will recruit new members to a declining hobby.

Submitted By: Turk Russell & Walter Plank

Club Financial Report

As of January 30th, 2013



Submitted by: Jeff Schubert

Checking Balance
\$4,252.97

Savings Balance
\$6,173.24

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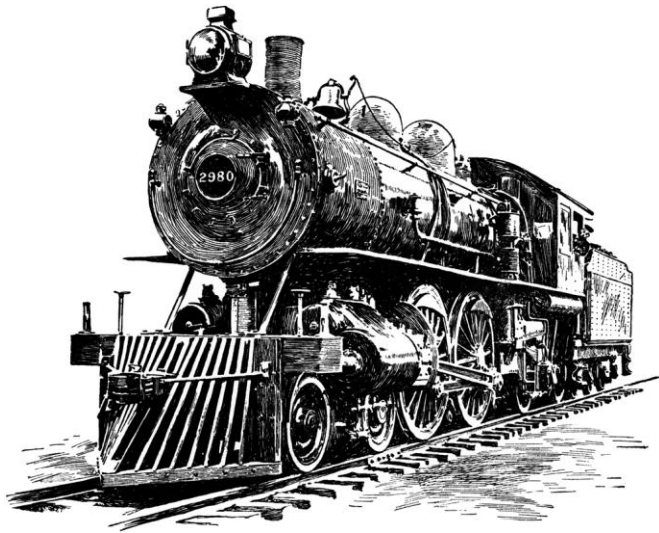
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A Message From the President

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that you received what you wanted for Christmas. If not, you will have a chance to pick up those items at the big ECLST Show, 21-22 March. I want to THANK everybody who set-up and tore down the Rocky Ridge Train layout, along with those members who operated the trains in November and December. Turk Russell, Walter Plank, and Bob Segessenman get a BIG high five for all the work and time they put into the design and set-up of the layout. Turk will have a complete report to give during the Winter Recalibration Dinner (Christmas Party) at the Golden Corral in Waynesboro, Pa, on Sun, 26 January, 2014.

Looking forward to spring and thoughts of warmer weather, flowering trees and bushes, long rows of flowers, grass to mow, and weeds to pull out of the gardens and layouts. This is a good time of the year to do yearly maintenance on the engines and trains cars in your collection so that you will be able to run your trains once you clear the layout of debris and clean the tracks. With the cold temperatures outside, this is a good time to go down to your man cave to think about expanding your layout, maybe adding several new buildings, or even put in a water pond with bridges. Don't forget to make a list of items you will need to buy at the March train show.

Our next general meeting will be 6th March, 7pm, at the Brethren Home, Cross Keys, New Oxford.

Don't forget to pay your \$20.00 dues and we can collect the money at the train show or better yet, just send a check to Jeff Shubert before 31st March.

I'm going to sign off for now because I want to go put some passengers in my new passenger cars.

"Keep on Tracking."

Barry



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We are located in York PA.

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Email: Robert@gscaleinstallations.com

Phone: Robert Buck – 717-741-3060

Open House Locations Needed!

We are currently looking for individuals to show us your layouts.

If you are interested in holding an open house or a meeting at your home this year please contact

Kevin Adams at

Captain49A@comcast.net

or (717) 632-1884.

East Broad Top Spur Refurbishment Begins



Workers have been removing deteriorated ties from the East Broad Top Railroad tracks in Mount Union as part of a multi-million dollar refurbishment project by the East Broad Top Railroad Preservation Society. Photo by REBECCA BERDAR

Workers are replacing ties and pieces of track in Mount Union where the multi-million dollar refurbishment of the East Broad Top Railroad is now underway after years of planning. Larry Salone, president of the East Broad Top Preservation Society, said the first phase of the project stretches from the EBT's junction with the Norfolk Southern mainline just west of town to the Route 522 Bypass crossing. The second phase will carry improvements out to Riverview Business Center in Shirley Township. Despite some workers' encounters with angry bees, "It's moving very well," said Salone. "We'll be to the bypass right after the end of the year and will probably be to the business park by May," he said. "We're putting in new ties, new rail — whatever we need to do to meet short line standards." Salone said the tracks are being upgraded to a three-rail alignment to accommodate both standard-gauge trains and narrow gauge trains as included in the EBT's collection of vintage engines and cars.

"We're doing this mainly for economic development reasons," said Salone, noting once refurbished from the mainline to the Riverview Business Center, business park tenants will have the option of shipping their goods by rail instead of solely by truck. "But we're going to make sure the tourism aspect isn't ignored," he said. "We're constructing a three-track system so that some day, visitors can ride all the way into Mount Union. We're building it with that in mind." The new activity along the tracks, which have sat dormant since

the 1950s, has certainly caught the attention of the borough's residents and leaders. "We are excited to see work commence," said councilman Jonathan Shapiro who has expressed support for the project since it was first brought to the borough's attention in 2011. The borough is acting as a pass-through agency for government funds secured by Salone for the project.

"There are many potentials for this thing — possibilities for both tourism and industry," he said. "It has potential to have a huge impact on Mount Union and give us opportunities to branch out in so many directions." The rail has helped breathe new life into the borough's longtime linear park plan, developed in 1989, then shelved until several years ago when Shapiro rediscovered the proposal.

Planet LoveJoy, in collaboration with Salone, is now running with the project which envisions a stretch of landscaping, walkways and seating areas parallel to the railroad along Pennsylvania Avenue. As landowner, Salone said he's supportive of the park and said it would give Mount Union "a cool place for everyone to hang out," but he's also offering encouragement from the sidelines for another project that runs parallel to his railroad. "I'm a big, big, big supporter of whatever they can do on that wall," said Salone. The century-old stone retaining wall which supports the upper end of Pennsylvania Avenue continues to vex council as they explore various funding and corrective options. Engineer estimates put even the simplest of solutions over the \$1 million mark. "I've listened to all the information and that's a very complicated project," said Salone. "It's going to take a lot of people to do a lot of good things there. I hope they fix it and whatever they do, we'll support it. It's going to be tough on them."

Despite the long road ahead for the wall project, "It's fantastic they are putting the effort into it and it shows a lot of initiative," he said.

Shapiro said watching the railroad project unfold over the past several years has been a lesson on resolve as the borough tackles its own formidable wall. "I'm learned patience over this rail project," he said. "I knew from the beginning it wasn't going to happen overnight. Everybody needs to realize that we're all going to have to have patience." As head of an organization that is investing approximately \$3 million in private funds and government grants into Mount Union, Salone says he is impressed by the time and efforts community leaders are investing in their

hometown. "The borough and Planet LoveJoy have been absolutely magnificent," he said. "These people really care about their town."

Rebecca can be reached at
dnews@huntingdondailynews.com.



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News from the Industry

By: Turk Russell



Hi Everyone,

Today, December 20th 2013, we sadly closed our doors. We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their 75+ plus years of support. Aristo-Craft will live on through you.

We will continue with the Crest line to keep the Revolution going strong.

Our Nephew Scott will continue to keep the Polk name going with his new business Polk's GenerationNeXt LLC. Keep an eye for more information from him.

Thank You,
Lewis and Maryann

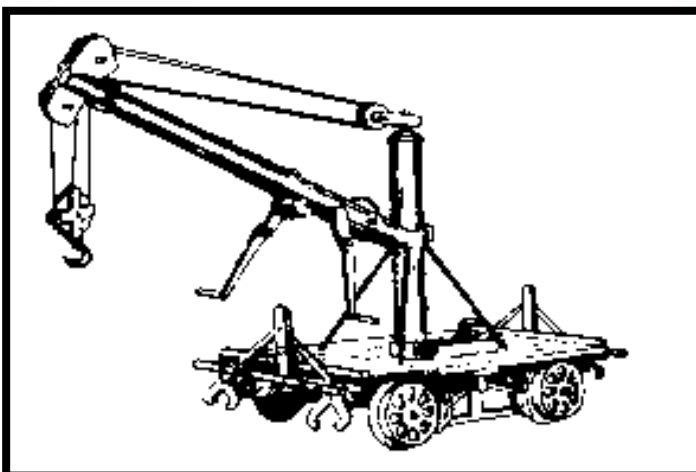
The next generation of Aristocraft Trains Polk's GenerationNeXt

by: Turk Russell

Well, the name is different and sounds like a health food supplement. Aristocraft trains closed up fast and furious December 16, 2013. Everything was shut down including the website and all tech support; forums and manuals.

Aristocraft trains LLC is gone; but are they? Rumors had been flying for weeks now but the word is in. The old man has retired. Scott Polk has announced his new company and opened for business on January 7, 2014. He is starting from scratch; well almost. The first offered items will be track with some odds and ends. He also stated that there are more containers on the way by spring. Let's hope those old train molds will not set on a shelf in China and collect dust too long.

The electronics line was a spin-off of Aristo and will continue as well under its original name Crest



Electronics. That too will be a new separate company. My old buddy Navin (parts manager) will now own and operate it. They currently have a brand new website up and running and have quite a bit of products available. We'll have to wait and see if more old or new aristo items show up again. Maybe those promised Dash 9 heritage paint scheme diesels will show up after all. Who knows; I'll keep you posted on what transpires. Below is their new info.

Polk's GenerationNeXt LLC.
4475 South Clinton Ave. STE 110
South Plainfield, NJ 07080
Phone: 908-834-2139
Email: Scotthpolk@yahoo.com

Crest Electronics.net
The Noble Building Rm 230
32 Noble Street
Newark NJ 07114
Phone: 201-565-6069
Email: crestelectronics2@yahoo.com

2014 Dues Notice

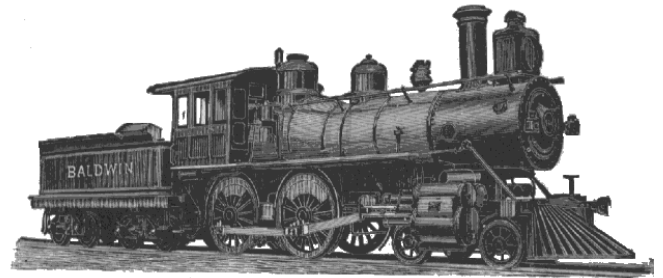
Dues are \$20.00 and per bylaws must be paid by March 31st or you will be dropped from the membership.

Make checks payable to;
SVGRS

Mail to;
Jeff Shubert
258 Chestnut Dr.
Shippensburg, PA 17257



Lone Star Bridge; Builder and producer of those beautiful mahogany truss bridges announced that they will no longer be taking orders of garden railway structures after the end of 2014. They will cease production. The company manufactured high end wooden Bridges for 25 years.



March 21st & 22nd, 2014
For more information go to their
website

<http://www.eclsts.com/>

30th National Garden Railway Convention (NGRC 2014)



Tampa, Florida
May 5-10, 2014

<http://wendysetzer.wix.com/ngrc2014tampa>

**Anyone interested in attending call or email
Turk Russell**

SVGRS Winter Recalibration Party



On Sunday January 25th, 2014 the SVGRS winter recalibration party (Christmas Party) was held at the Golden Coral in Waynesboro. In all nearly 50 members and guests attended the rescheduled party. Following the meal a PowerPoint presentation was presented. It included pictures from the Russell's Trip to the Wringling Brothers estate in Florida, Phil Shoop's Christmas display at the Willow Street Fire Company, and from the

Rocky Ridge Display. In the end there were door prizes given away to several lucky members.



Some of the big winners at the party!



Pictures from Rocky Ridge



Pictures from Rocky Ridge





Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



2014 SVGRS Calendar of Events

- Jan-11 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Tear Down
(Rocky Ridge County Park, York PA)
- Jan-25 5:00pm - Winter Recalibration/2013 X-mas Party
(Golden Coral Restaurant – Waynesboro PA)
- Jan-15 Deadline for 1st quarter News Letter Articles (E-Mail to Kevin)
- Feb-20 5:00pm - Executive Board Meeting
(Location - TBA as per Turk / Jeff)
- Mar-6 7:00pm - General Meeting #1
(Brethren Home, Cross Keys/New Oxford PA)
- Mar-20 9:00am - Setup for Spring ECLSTS
(York Fair Grounds, York PA)
- Mar-21 9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 1
(York Fair Grounds, York PA)
- Mar-22 9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 2
Tear Down @ 4:00pm
- Mar-31 Deadline to pay 2014 Dues
(post/deliver to Jeff)
- Apr-26 Possible 10:00am - Club Trailer Cleanup
(Bob Segessenman's House Biglerville PA)
- Apr-15 Deadline for 2nd quarter News Letter Articles (E-Mail to Kevin)
- Jun-08 4:00pm General Meeting #2
(Member's Home - TBD)
- Jul-15 Deadline for 3rd quarter News Letter Articles (E-Mail to Kevin)

Aug-23	5:00pm - Executive Board Meeting (Location - TBA as per Turk / Jeff)
Sep-4	1:00 pm - General Meeting #3/Club Picnic (Location TBD)
Sep-18	<u>Possible Setup for Fall ECTS</u> (York Fair Grounds, York PA)
Sep-19	<u>Possible 9:00am - ECTS Train Show Day 1</u> (York Fair Grounds, York PA)
Sep-20	<u>Possible 9:00am - ECTS Train Show/Tear Down</u>
Oct 15	Deadline for 4th quarter News Letter Articles (E-Mail to Kevin)
Nov-15	9:00am - Rocky Ridge Setup (Rocky Ridge County Park, York PA)
Nov-28	5:00pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day
Dec-1	Officer Voting Deadline (Ballots to Nominating Chairperson)
Dec-6	5:00pm - Christmas Party/General Meeting #4 (Dutch Country Restaurant, Hanover PA)
Dec-31	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends

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

A special **Thank You** goes out to all who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter.
If you have information that may be of interest to the club members feel free to forward it to me and I will include it in our next edition.



**Susquehanna Valley
Garden Railway Society**

Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



**2014 Club
Officers**

President	Barry McNew	(717) 762-2962	bmcnew@centurylink.com
Vice President	Turk Russell	(717) 762-8873	1turk@embarqmail.com
Treasurer / Membership	Jeff Shubert	(717) 729-0267	shube@comcast.net
Secretary	Rob Segessenman, Jr.	(717) 359-8515	rob@robtronics.com
Newsletter Editor	Kevin Adams	(717) 632-1884	Captain49A@Comcast.net