



April 2012 – Newsletter

Visit our club website – www.SVGRS.com

SVGRS Schedule for 2012

June 6th @ 7:00pm - General Club Meeting at the train station in New Oxford

June 23- 1PM till 5 PM Open house at Robert McCreas (see details below)

August 8th @ 7:00PM - Executive Board Meeting to appoint nominating Committee for 2013/2014 club officers.

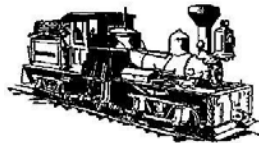
September 8th @ 11:00AM- SVGRS Club Picnic

October 18th @ 7:00PM - General Club Meeting at the Brethren Home

November 10 – Rocky Ridge setup

November 23 thru December 31 running trains at Rocky Ridge

December 8rd @ 5:00pm - SVGRS Christmas Party and Election of 2013/2014 club officers



Open House Tours for 2012

June 23 – Open House at Robert McCrea's 1PM till 5PM, 550 Summit Drive, Carlisle, PA. 717-258-8566. Tom McCloud will have plants for sale and will do a Seminar at 2PM.

Robert McCrea will do a Seminar at 3PM on building Trestles and placing them in your layout.

Open house tours normally run May, June, July and August. If you are willing to host an open house all dates except June are currently available so get your request in early. (continued)

If you know someone close to you that has a Garden Railroad try to coordinate a date that allows members to see more than one layout when making the trip. We also encourage having someone available to do a Garden Railroad related demonstration to help new members learn about our hobby. Demonstrations could be Landscaping, Track laying, layout design, Building Trusses, making buildings or structures, train and track maintenance or other informative demonstrations.

To schedule a 2012 open house contact Joe Mower at 717-241-6483 or E-mail jhmower@aol.com



Presidents Message

I would like to give a big THANK YOU to all members of the club that helped to set up and tear down our club layout at the East Coast Large Scale Train Show that was held this past weekend. I also want to thank all the ladies who helped with the layout and supplied the food. It tasted great as usual.

We were able to set the layout up in seven hours and checked to see if everything ran well. However, we had a track problem on Friday morning with Thomas, and the little switcher. The Climax had coupler problems. By afternoon we had the problems solved and on Saturday we used Turk's LGB 2-6-6-2. Thanks to Turk for providing his locomotives and building materials for us to use on the layout. Turk was not able to help us due to health issues with his mother. Thanks to Phillip Shoop for providing the coal train area and setups. I believe everybody had a good time watching the layout and talking to the guests.

I would like to WELCOME and introduce the new members to our club - James Hitz, Kevin Adams, and Bruce Darney. James and Kevin were a great asset in setting up and tearing down the layout.

James Hitz

437 Allegheny Drive

York, Pa. 17402

717-741-3996

Paw-paw03@operamail.com

(continued)

Kevin Adams
375 Providence Drive
McSherrystown, Pa.17344
717-632-1884
kevinandmelanie@comcast.com

Bruce Darney
617 Pleasant View Rd.
Lewisberry, PA 17339
717 503-2240
brucedarney@gmail.com

I encourage all of you to visit our club members' open houses this year. Enjoy the work and creativity of the layouts and pick up some ideas for your own. Our next meeting will be held at the New Oxford Train Station, 7pm on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. We are going to try something new and have future meetings at a member's home on a Sunday afternoon in October. Any takers ? Keep in mind that we need to set a date to have a clean-up/wash-up day in July. Last year we had it the second Wednesday in July. Will that date work again?

Barry



SVGRS Meeting at Brethren Home March 7, 2012

Officers present Barry, Turk, Jeff and Joe
Total members present 20 Including officers
Meeting called to order at 7:05 by President Barry McNew
New member James Hitz was welcomed
Minutes of Oct 6 meeting were read.
Treasurers report for yearend was given and copy's passed out.
Checking account \$1729.13 + Savings account \$4351.55 = \$6080.68 Total. Report was approved.
Old Business

(continued)

Turk gave report on Rocky Ridge and thanked members for the support. Turk meeting with Rocky Ridge to discuss improvements to building. The dog issue at park was resolved, dogs will not be in our building.. Sound car was purchased for trains. York Flower show offered \$500 but we needed to purchase all flowers and other supplies, offer was refused.

Membership cards were passed out.

ECLS show date is set up March 22, running trains March 23 and 24, tear down after close of show March 24. Lunch will be on your own. A signup sheet was passed around for help with the show.

Marlyn Geessley gave report on meeting to improve attendance at meetings; report will be included in next newsletter and will be discussed at next meeting.

New Business

The Club picnic will be September 8 at Joe Mowers place and will be a catered Pig Roast. The event will be free for all members and immediate family.

The only open house scheduled is June 23 at Bob McCrea's from 1 PM till 5 PM.

Tom McCloud will have plants for sale available and will do a seminar at 2 PM, Bob McCrea will do a seminar on building Trestles at 3 PM.

Richard Reese will audit the club treasury account.

Copies of proposed By-Laws were passed out and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting will be at the New Oxford train Station on June 6, 2012

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.



The following report on improving attendance at club functions will be discussed at the June membership meeting.

Suggestions to improve attendance for SVGRS meetings

On Saturday February 4, 2012 @ 1 PM Mel Pankuch, Bob Segessenman, and myself met to brain storm and come up with suggestions for better membership attendance at our meetings. (continued)

1) Saturday meetings - beginning at 1 PM and Sunday meetings beginning at 3 PM.

2) Saturday meetings would be in conjunction with open house programs, during the summer months, Sunday meetings would be in late fall through early spring.

3) Have meetings at historically related locations, examples: Christiana Freight Station, York Industrial Museum, New Freedom Railroad Station, or any place suggested by other interested members.

4) Divide the organization into 3 hubs.
Western hub, York hub, Eastern hub.

For each hub have a representative to set up meetings and open houses and other activities. This, we suggest would help in getting more folks involved with planning of activities throughout the year.

The picnic and Christmas dinner would be planned with ALL members in mind. Maybe this way we could get a location in each of the 3 hubs, alternating hub locations throughout the year.

The representative would be the communicator between his hub and the board of directors for the SVGRS.

5(A) When planning for an open house, it would be helpful if people who are going to attend would let either the board of directors or the representative of the hub where the open house is to be held, the number of folks that will be attending. This would help the hosts with their planning.

(B) Would a covered dish at open houses bring more involvement from members?

Respectfully submitted

Marlyn Geesey

Mel Pankuch

Bob Segessenman



A very colorful Spring 2012 East Coast Large Scale Train Show by Rob Segessenman Jr - 2012 ECLSTS Coordinator

Another successful East Coast show has come and gone but here's a look back at the results of our hard work. I wanted to take a moment and thank everyone who came out and helped with setup, teardown or monitoring of the layout during show hours. These displays really are a group effort that starts months before hand with discussions about track plans, major elements and basic themes to the actual dates of the show where we have a very concentrated effort to long afterwards when we make repairs, do routine maintenance and reorganize the club trailer to be ready for the next time. The good news, as a coordinator, is you're never alone. There is such a wealth of experience that is ready, willing and able to help that the whole process is quite manageable and not a huge burden.

This year I asked our landscaper to give us more color and Jeffrey didn't disappoint. The plant selections from Tom and Fern as well as from Stauffer's at Kissell Hill were wonderful and allowed us to produce another visually impressive layout. While the basic track plan was recycled from an early 2000 design, all of the elements came together to make it unique. The most common compliment we get, is that our displays are unique from year to year, and I very much take pride, as should the entire club, in that accomplishment.

Each show is a learning experience for our new members or seasoned veterans as well as for the club leadership. We hope to take this opportunity to make the next show a better and more coordinated operation. No show is going to go perfect, and so I want to specifically thank those who helped smooth out any minor bumps in the road at this year's ECLSTS. Finally, I'd like everyone to check out the last picture in this set below or think about what and who you saw watching our display if you were present at the show. For me, this is the biggest payback and one major reason to keep doing what we do!

Spring is upon us, we've built, run and torn down our inside layout so now let's get outside and run some trains!!!

Credit goes to Ken Murry for many of the pictures below! (continued)



Lots of help made this all come together!



A lot of hard work went into this display!



Old (Walter) and new (Kevin) club members worked side by side... (Thanks guys!)



Our town planning committee did another fine job!



Always great to have my Dad to help make ideas a reality!



New elements are always a fun and interesting addition to our displays!



The finished product is always great to stand back and admire while you try and work the kinks out of your back!



It's great seeing all of the elements, water, mulch, rock and plant materials come together.



I think the guy on the platform thought he was going to miss the train and be late to work!



The greatest reward is seeing young and old alike enjoying our efforts!

Active SVGRS members Turk and Renee Russell Take a trip to New Hampshire to visit past members Don and Donna Sweet.



We departed from BWI Airport where it was 80 degrees and arrived in Manchester, New Hampshire where it was 78 degrees. Don and Donna picked us up at the airport and our first stop was Charlie Ro (USA Trains). Their building is huge. The train display at the Top level of the building kept Donna and Renee busy while Turk and Don had time to run their traps with the employees. (Now that's something that will never change).



The following day we drove to Mt Washington to visit the “old man of the mountain” structure. It is currently being repaired after it fell apart 2 years ago. Along the way Turk spotted an Aerial tram so we stopped to take a look. It was the Cannon Mountain Tramway which is part of the Franconia Notch State Park. We took the ride in a 80-passenger cable car brings visitors to the 4,080-foot summit of Cannon Mountain in under ten minutes. On a clear day, you can see the mountains of four states and Canada! At the summit, you'll find spectacular scenic walking paths, a 360 degree observation deck, a cafeteria, bar.

(Continued)



After returning to the bottom, we continued our trip to the Historic Mt. Washington Resort where we spent the night to be close to our next destination. The Cog Rail way. We had to get up early and check out, because they only run steam engines a few times a week now at 8:30 am. .

The majority of the railroads locomotives are now Bio-Diesel powered. Smells great (like French Fries); but in Turks words; it still a damn diesel. We were able to get up in the cab of our 1908 steam engine called the Waumbek. The employees at the railroad were fantastic, giving us the lowdown and letting Turk climb all over the place. It was a beautiful morning at the bottom of the hill, but as we traveled half way up it was raining and when we arrived at the top (6,288 feet up average grades of 25%), the temperature was a bone chilling 48°. Now that's cold for the end of June! We rode this goofy angled train all the way to the top to see sleet and fog. Yippee! Donna had warned us to bring rain suits and the conductors had on snow suits. Considering our area; this place has the coldest recorded temperature and wind speed in the US. 47degrees below 0 and wind speed of 231 miles an hour. They get up to 100 inches of snow a year.

The weather got better and better as we descended down the mountain and by half way Turk was hanging out the window taking photos. This was one of the craziest climate changes in a single day that we had experienced. Now it's back to 68 degrees

(Continued)

After the train ride we headed back toward down through the mountain and stopped at the Conway Scenic Railroad. Don showed Turk around and us girls of course went shopping. We then drove back to Don and Danna's house to rest up for the next day's adventure.

We headed off to Clarks Trading Post in the Morning. It was cold and drizzling rain.(55 degrees) We went there because Don had said where else can you go see Bears and Trains at the same location Turk wanted to see the sister locomotive to The Durbin & Greenbrier Valley **Railroad** the climax; but unfortunately it was not working (Broken Line Shaft). Needless to say we did not ride the train.



(Continued)



That day, as usual; Turk had to find out what's the deal with the loco. The employees took him to meet the owner of the park and who graciously then had his asst engineer take Don and him to see all their trains in the engine house and sheds. This is not open to the public. Turk was excited to see an actual 2 truck shay that was a perfect model to the Bachmann that many of us own. They also had a beautiful restored Railbus; which was very similar to Aristocraft's model. We took some photos and walked down their main street to enjoy all of the many treasures. The next deal was to ride Segways. I did very well and Turk and Don followed without incident.

Next, In Turks words; we got to visit my relatives (that's right they had a bear show with 5 bears) the show was great with lots of comical acts and craziness. Despite the rain we had a good time. Our next stop was the Hobo Railroad. Plenty of diesels and fancy passenger cars. All of the train stations up there are very beautiful and fully restored. Don showed us the famous Zepher train that is currently being restored and he is involved with. The place was closed so we did not take a ride.

The plan for Saturday was for the women to go shopping and the guys to stay behind in Dons shop to work on trains. He is the owner of RCS of New England and specializes in battery powered remote trains. Turk ended up rebuilding Don's ramp to his shed.

Sunday was our last full day in New England; so the Sweet's thought they would take us to see some of the extraordinary landscapes and lighthouses. (72 degrees)

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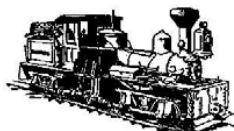
Although, the first order of business was to get some great Cod or Haddock for lunch. Don's favorite as well, and he did not disappoint; finding a place along the main drag. The men ate fish until their hearts were content. We visited one light-house in Maine and then two more in New Hampshire. It was a good end to our visit. The next day we flew home and back to hot weather.

A few things to remember if you go to New Hampshire:

1. You can't get Sweet ice tea anywhere,
2. The main vegetable they serve is asparagus Yuk!
3. You don't have to have car insurance nor do you have to wear a seat belt
4. Most tourist areas are not fully open until the fourth of July
5. you can't turn on Air conditioning before July 4th
(Dons rule)

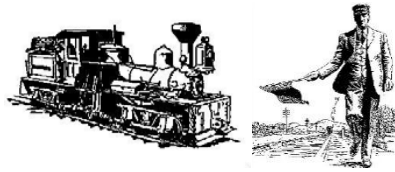
The New Hampshire motto: LIVE FREE or DIE

Submitted by: Renee Russell



NOTE: If you are planning or have in the past taken a railroad trip and would be willing to share it with other club members we would appreciate hearing from you.

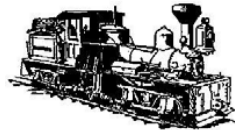
Editor



New purchases from Turk

As we discussed at previous meetings. Our club has been upgrading a replacing equipment as needed. The club has really acquired a nice inventory over the past 3 years. After this last Christmas ; the Rocky Ridge donation cars have really taken a beating getting filled with lots of coins .They have been glued together many times . We had planned on purchasing some new Aristocraft gondola replacements at the show since that is usually the best deal.

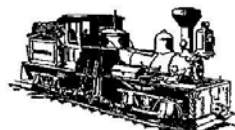
Mike Moran and I meet as usual to exchange parts and items and discuss the popular topics of the day, as we always do. He had some like new gondolas in their original boxes; so I bought them for 35.00 each. That saved the club over \$20.00 based on what we had figured on paying at the show. Plus one of them had Metal wheels so that was a bonus. One is REA green and the other Pennsy so they will be a perfect addition to our inventory



Aristocraft News

Our hobby is down in participants and the cost of materials and trains keep going up. So Aristocraft Trains has made a bold move to sell direct to anyone . This will no doubt upset many vendors and hobby shops. But it will open a new channel for folks who hate mail order and want to buy from a trusted source. tough times call for tough decisions. We'll see if this comes back to haunt them

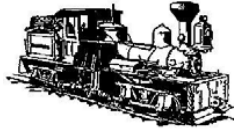
Submitted by Turk



Norfolk Southern Heritage Locomotive Schemes

See the website

http://www.nscorp.com/nscportal/nscorp/Media/images/heritage_images.html



FOR SALE

More items acquired from past members and friends

1. LGB 20301 steam engine set. In box No track included
2. LGB 4067 box car (new in box)
3. Bachmann 0-4-0 small mining /logging loco.
(Brand new running gear/ motor / mechanism)
4. Bachmann 81180 set complete in box
5. 2 Bachmann 81180 Climax locos (one has brand new motor blocks)
6. Bachmann 2-8-0 engine only no tender
7. 2 LGB 503 small power packs.
8. Bachmann spectrum power pack
9. Aristocraft 5400 power pack
10. Aristocraft 11205 electric right hand switch (new in box)
11. LGB coke a cola mogul (in box best offer)

Most of these items are not mine and prices are negotiable; but I serviced them so they are good to go

Call any time 717-762-8873 717-977-1000 cell



SVGRS Club Officers

President – Barry McNew (717)762-2962 bmcnew@centurylink.net

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Related Garden Railroad Businesses

Appalachian Gardens- Specializing in miniature plants and trees for Garden Railroads. They also offer a full range of nursery products. Appalachian Gardens provides plant materials for club exhibits and displays. 717-597-8456 Tom & Fern McCloud Website, www.smallplants4bigtrains.com

Russell's Customizers – Repairs to garden railroad equipment. (Aristocraft, Bachmann & LGB. Moderate pricing for Garden Railroad equipment, technical advice, rail mechanics & maintenance problems. Call evenings 717-762-8873 Turk & Renee Russell.