



# Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

*"Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club"*

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2014 Edition

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday**

**June 8th, 2014**

Membership Meeting

**4:00pm**

*Still Looking for Someone  
to Host at their Home.*

**Tuesday**

**July 15th, 2014**

Deadline for Submissions  
for August Newsletter

**Saturday**

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

Executive Board Meeting  
Time and Location to be  
Determined

**Sunday**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Club Picnic and Meeting**  
Location and Time to be  
Determined

**September 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, &  
20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

Possible Set Up and  
Monitoring for East Coast  
All Scale Fall Show

## Spring ECLSTS 2014 - It Takes a Village!



An overview of the logging area of this year's layout.

As with all our displays, it took a group effort to pull off this Spring's East Coast Large Scale Train Show layout. I'd like to thank my Dad, Turk, Jeffrey and Phillip for specific efforts to make it all work. Beyond that our setup and tear down crew, including a few of our newer members, really helped make a difference. My sincere thanks to each of you for your time and energies!

Looking back I feel like this was one of our better efforts. All the elements,

from track, to buildings, to the plant materials just worked well together.

What I liked best about this design was the way the two distinct areas and themes were separated by the raised trestle. As always, the sawmill scene is a crowd favorite. It's challenging sometimes to keep raising the bar so to speak, but the vastly different layouts and themes help.

Each year, for several years, my Dad

Susquehanna Valley

**20<sup>th</sup>**

Anniversary  
1994 - 2014

Garden Railway Society

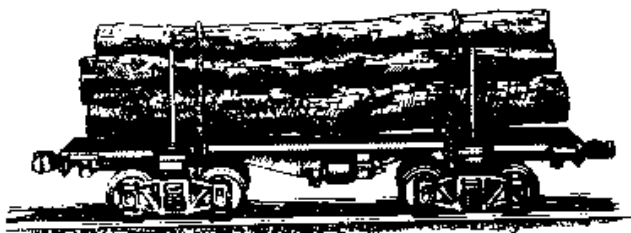
and I have pondered over what we could do that is new and fresh. Sometimes one of us just has a theme in mind, and other times, like this year, the main layout just seems to pop into one of our heads. We can then play ideas off each other to create the track plan. The final step is a trial run setup in my Dad's barn carefully fit in between the cars and trailers stored for the winter. From there it's exciting to see it all come together on setup day. Where Rocky Ridge is a marathon, this show is a sprint!



An overview of the layout from another perspective.

I encourage anyone interested in stepping up for the fall show to give it a go. Everyone will pitch in and help so you're never alone!

Your Spring East Coast Coordinator - Rob Segessenman Jr.



Below are a few links to some videos that were shot off our layout at the show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A61wc1V>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AkJN35re>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c29GkUaE>





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VP Coordinator



**William "Turk" Russell**

Cell 717-977-1000  
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[www.svgrs.net](http://www.svgrs.net)

## 30th National Garden Railway Convention (NGRC 2014)



Tampa, Florida  
 May 5-10, 2014

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



This Edition of the Newsletter is being published  
**In Memory of Two Friends of SVGRS**

## Ken Murry



Ken discusses a recent purchase at last year's club picnic.

Ken was a member of our club for over ten years. He was an avid collector of all things trains and an amateur photographer. He was also a noted historian on the Pennsylvania and Western Maryland Railroads. He donated his time and talents to the Pennsylvania Railroaders Museum in Strasburg.

Over a fifty year span he collected tons of material, including drawings and books from the railroad. He hosted many G Scale open houses and was a wealth of knowledge on the history of railroads. Ken was also a member of the NRHS, Lancaster Chapter and just recently received his 50 year pin.

There will be a memorial service for Ken Sunday May 4th at the Washington Borough Central Manor Church of God at 1:30pm. A luncheon will be served. The church address is 397 Penn St., Washington Borough, PA. (Just off Rt. 999, South of Columbia, PA)

Ken and his knowledge will be greatly missed by the all

## Jeanie Plank



Jeanie and Walter on a recent trip.

Jeanie Plank passed away on Friday April 4th a little before 8am at her home with Walter by her side. Most of us knew she was having breathing problems for the past two years, but it became critical these last few weeks.

She and Walter were married for 59 years - WOW! Jeanie participated in almost every SVGRS event often involving the planning of luncheons, dinners, party favors and gifts. Many of us had the pleasure of working with her and Walter for when the club started to expand our events and party's. She spent most of her time keeping Walter organized. (Yea Right!) Some of us got to celebrate her last birthday with a surprise cake at the ECLSTS in York just last month. Even in a wheel chair, she was at the helm still serving food. Walter is doing much better than any of us could imagine, and he is thankful that Jeanie can now rest in peace.

You are free to call or email him at any time.

She will be greatly missed.

## 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](mailto:Captain49A@comcast.net)  
or (717) 632-188

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## News from the Industry

By: Turk Russell



Piko Trains will be releasing the long awaited Camel Back Engine. It will be an 0-6-0 based on the Reading Railroad. This is the first production of this style loco in Large Scale. If you are interested I am taking pre-orders for these since my friend Mike is a dealer.

They are also releasing a line of short passenger cars similar to the popular Aristocrat Sierra cars. In addition, there will be a drovers caboose offered as well. Plenty of road names are available



LGB continues to struggle along with a long list of foreign based engines and rolling stock. The company now under Marklin control has very little to offer in US based railroading equipment.



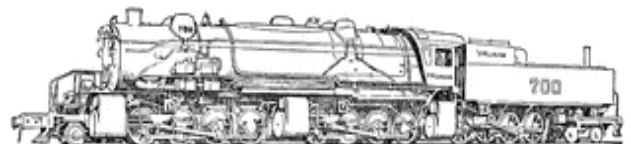
Bachmann trains will be releasing a new Durango & Silverton fire suppression tank car. This is a new car that the railroad currently has in use, the car will come with metal wheels.

They are also producing Heritage SD-70s in HO SCALE (not G) in 10 road names. Maybe large scale will be next.

### Club Financial Report

As of 4/30/14

By: Jeff Schubert



Checking Account Balance  
\$1053.33

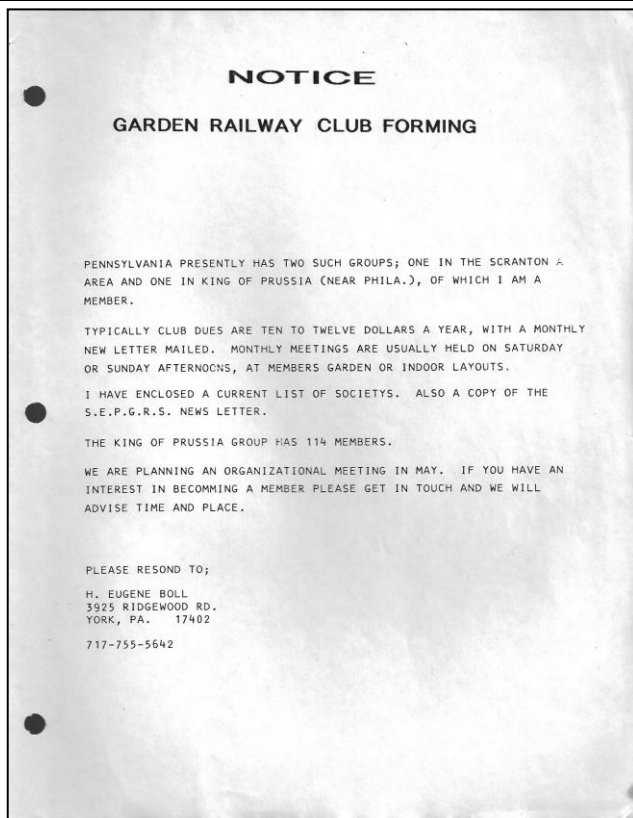
Savings Account Balance  
\$6173.24

# Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society Celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2014

by: Turk Russell & Lisa Boll

A lot of you may not be aware; but 20 years ago in May 1994; the Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society was taking form.

## Original Notice of Club Forming



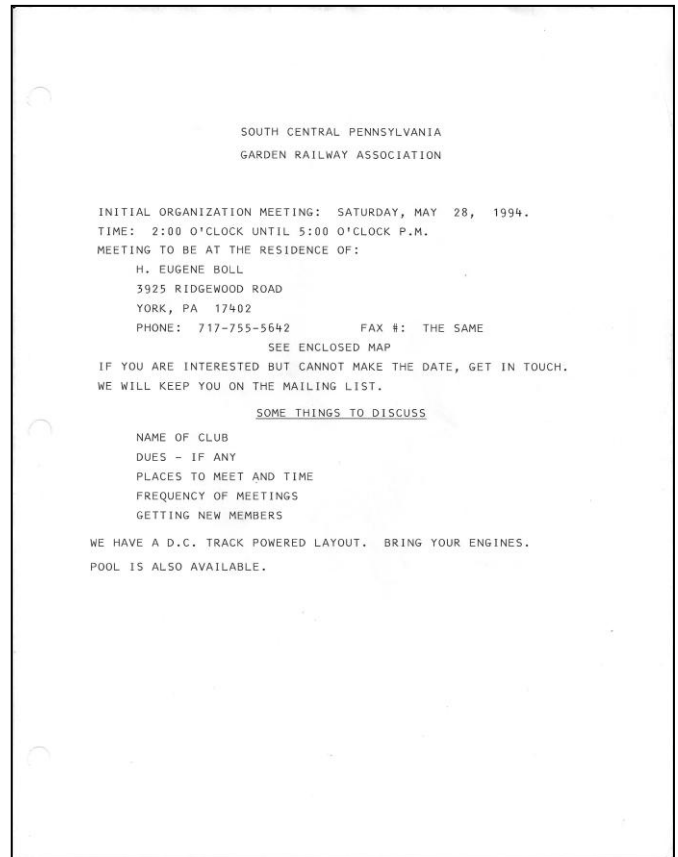
Gene Boll, along with his daughter Lisa and a few other G scale enthusiasts were starting to form a large scale model railroad club. Gene started it all from his home in York, PA.



The home the first meeting was held at.

They had a small nursery and a beautiful outdoor train layout on the hillside. Many of us spent each year enjoying their home and the kids swam in the dog bone shaped swimming pool.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Club Meeting Notice

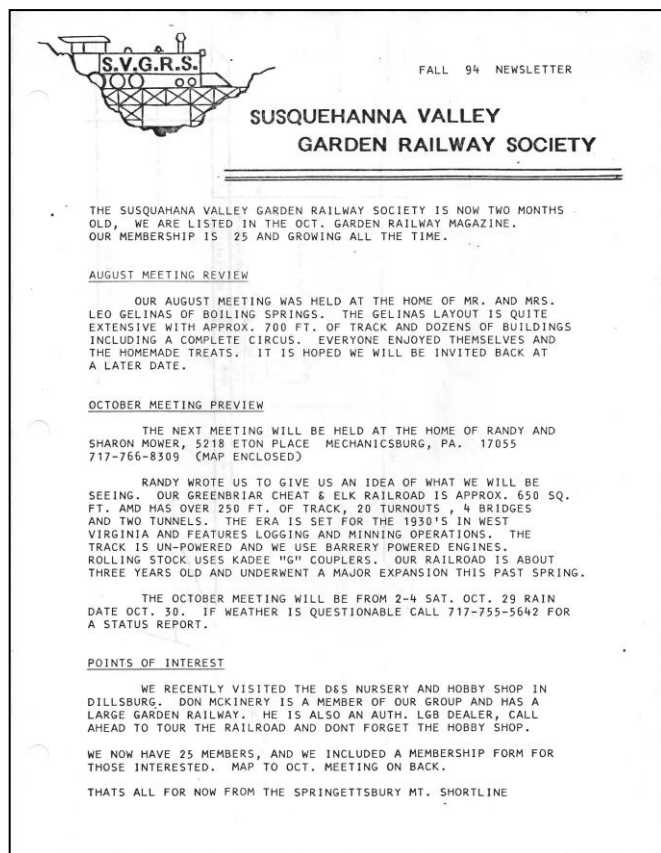


Picture of an early club gathering.



Lisa did the newsletter the old fashioned way. It was later taken over by Randy Mower.

## The First Club Newsletter



One of the club picnics in the early years

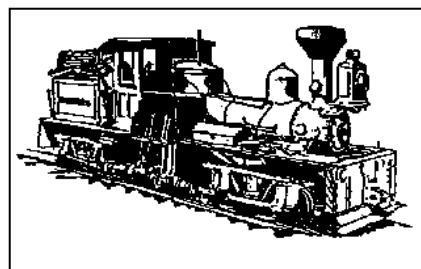
We will be including in each newsletter some memorabilia of the club and its history.

**Congrats to all for keeping our hobby alive!**

**Let's make it another 20 years!**

## Report from the Engine Shop

By: Turk Russell



We have been busy the past month with repairs to the clubs current equipment and adding new inventory items

to our collection. If you compare prices, you will find that these deals were purchased way below value. **The New Purchases Include the following:**

1. 1 box of LGB 1600 curved track \$91.00
2. Kalamazoo 0-4-0 steam loco \$49.80
3. An Aristocraft Modern Box Car, an

- Aristocraft long caboose and a tender were purchased for \$89.00.
4. Two new rail clamp tools \$8.00
  5. Aristocraft SD-45 Pennsy diesel and an Aristocraft consolidation 2-8-0 Custom done in Pennsy paint scheme. Turk serviced them both at no charge. Both engines cost \$635.00
  6. 2 large water towers for our display. ! Purchased for \$65.00 and one donated by Turk.
  7. A LGB track cleaning loco was purchased for \$420.00. It was later returned for a refund. It turned out to be defective and not worth fixing. Our current LGB track cleaner loco was repaired for \$196.00
  8. The board voted to purchase a new Bachmann C-19 large scale steam locomotive. Bachmann management offered Turk a one-time deal. \$420.00
  9. 6 pieces of LGB flex track were purchased to re-do the dog bone layout with better and larger Curves. Pastor Orf offered this to us for a super deal. \$50.00
  10. 8 model cars were purchased for our displays. Includes Fire trucks & Pickups \$54.00
  11. 1 wooden style and 1 modern Style. USA trains freight cars were purchased for \$72.00 from Gary Rammond. Both Cars have high end metal wheels. Those alone cost 40.00 for a set of 4. So we got \$80.00 in wheels alone. Now that we have plenty of diesel engines we will use the modern one to build a diesel sound car with phoenix sound. This will make it easier to change out locos and always have sound. It will also be programmable to change to any sound if needed.
  12. A like new Lionel Thomas the Tank train set was purchased at auction \$98.00 this will be used for the Rocky Ridge raffle in 2014.

**The following Repairs have been made to our current equipment:**

1. Bachmann Shay- Rear truck had burned brushes out and cracks. I replaced them all. All the wheels have a flat spot like

- someone left it stall out and get stuck on the track. This had to happen quite a while back since none of us we were ever informed of it being broke or running poorly. Sound works good.
2. Bachmann C19- Was lubed and is ready to go. It ran extremely well at the show.
  3. LGB New Orleans large trolley had a bad motor block. This is very unusual. This happened sometime at Rocky Ridge. The motor was replaced and the gears repaired.
  4. Thomas and Percy Bachmann locos now have the updated drop down couplers. Now any car can be added to them without height issues. The noise and derail problems have been solved on the coaches. New ball bearing wheels and pivots were installed to correct the problems we were having at Rocky Ridge.
  5. The Aristocraft PCC trolley that we just got it last year has a bad motor. We ran it for one day before the breakdown occurred. Evidently they are notorious for this since they have HO scale motors wired in series. It also had a short in the wiring from the body to the truck. I spoke to Navin and got lucky as usual. He shipped us a new one (\$26.00) and its fixed and ready to run.
  6. The USA trains GP-38 and GP-7 need the sound repaired. This system was installed by me for previous member Bill Catchings in 1999. At the show it was hardly loud enough to be heard. The sound was not repaired. With the purchase of the diesels mentioned earlier we have a lot of diesels now that can now be used. We will be building a new diesel sound car instead. The bad news is all 4 axles' gears on the GP-38 had cracks in the splines. I replaced all of them at the request of the board. The GP 7 had 2 bad ones. This is a common problem with the earlier USA diesels which have plastic gears earlier plastics.
  7. Our F3's with newly installed motor blocks were perfect in their first year of use.



## 2014 CASS RAILFAN WEEKEND

### RETURN TO SPRUCE AND BEYOND

May 16, 17, & 18, 2014



### EXPERIENCE THREE DAYS OF STEAM AND DIESEL!

Return to Spruce • Big Cut & Beyond • Including Night Photo Sessions

Railfan Weekend is sponsored by the Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association in cooperation with the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park and the Durbin and Greenbrier Valley Railroad!

Friday, May 16, 2014:

#### Bald Knob

Including Multiple Runbys on Cheat Mountain!  
Special program at shop!

Night photo session with Steve Barry!

Saturday, May 17, 2014:

#### Spruce & Beyond

Including Multiple Runbys on Spruce Curve & BIG CUT!  
Featuring first generation diesels with passenger & freight consists!

Night photo session with Steve Barry!

Sunday, May 18, 2014:

#### Whittaker Station

Featuring a NEW REVISED photo location at the 'S' curve!  
Famous Triple Shop Race & Numerous Runbys to Whittaker!

### See Inside For Details!

Be a Part of this Historic Weekend, Make Your Reservations Today!  
Call Cass Scenic Railroad Toll Free: 1-800-225-5982 (Ask for Railfan Weekend)  
Local Number: 1-304-456-4300  
[www.MSRLHA.org](http://www.MSRLHA.org)

## The Carpenter's Corner

By: Kevin Adams

This past winter has given me the opportunity to spend time in the workshop constructing several structures for the Providence Junction Railway. In my series, the carpenter's corner, I am going to share with you some of the techniques I used along with some tips that may make your model building a little easier. The first structure we are going to look at is the Barn that was constructed for our layout. The barn was constructed from scratch drawn plans at 1/2" scale. I started the construction by making a sub shell for the building out of 3/4"



pressure treated plywood. To join the plywood I used 1-1/4" galvanized drywall

screws and Elmer's Max Wood Glue. Since the structure is going to be used outdoors the galvanized screws will not rust and the Elmer's



Max Wood Glue is waterproof and will not weaken when exposed to the weather. Following assembly of the sub shell I began to cut and install the exterior siding of the barn. The exterior siding is 3/4" cedar that I ripped on the table saw to 1/8" x 3/4" planks. The

siding was secured to the barn using the Elmer's

Max Wood Glue and pin nailed to hold in place until the glue dried. You can see that I left out the area where the louvers will later be installed. The louvers are constructed from craft stick that can be purchased at your local hobby store for a couple dollars. After



completing the siding, I moved to constructing the roof. The roof also has a 3/4" treated plywood sub shell. It



however is going to be covered with cedar shakes. The cedar shakes used on the barn are all hand cut 3/4" wide x 1-1/4" long and

1/16" thick. The roof was installed using the Elmer's Max Wood Glue and pin nails. Starting at the bottom the shakes were laid in rows with each row overlapping the previous row by about 1/4". I used a straight line as a reference when placing the shingles. Do not be real concerned with keeping



them perfectly lined up. Most cedar shake roofs realistically have an uneven bottom edge. Continue up the roof until the entire surface is covered.



When you reach the top on both sides you can turn a piece of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " cedar and run it long ways across the peak to make the

roof cap. Next the entire structure was painted with Valspar interior / exterior grade spray paint. Following painting, the louvers and doors were installed. With the painting complete it was onto the stone foundation. In this case ceramic tile is being used to simulate stone.  $\frac{1}{4}$ " cement backer board was applied to the area where the tile was being applied. The cement backer board was secured to the structure using galvanized wood screws. The tile was then broken



into irregular shaped pieces to simulate field stone. The tile was applied using ceramic tile mortar. Since the building is being used outside you do not want to use the premixed mastic adhesive as it is not designed for use in wet or damp areas. The mortar was allowed to dry overnight. Following the installation the tile was then grouted with sanded tile grout. The grout was spread over the tile carefully making sure to fill in



all the areas between the tiles. The grout makes a great simulated mortar when finished

and comes in many colors to suit your project. To finish off the project Cedar wood posts and fencing



The finished project prior to installation on the layout.



The finished barn in its new home on the Providence Junction Railway!

where added to the area in front of the barn.

If you have any tips or tricks to share, please forward them to me and I will include them in future newsletters.



## Pictures from the East Coast Show





## Pictures from the East Coast Show







## Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



### 2014 SVGRS Calendar of Events

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-7	1:00 pm - General Meeting #3/Club Picnic (Location TBD)
Sep-18	Possible Setup for Fall ECTS (York Fair Grounds, York PA)
Sep-19	Possible 9:00am - ECTS Train Show Day 1 (York Fair Grounds, York PA)
Sep-20	Possible 9:00am - ECTS Train Show/Tear Down
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	<a href="mailto:bmcnew@centurylink.com">bmcnew@centurylink.com</a>
Vice President	Turk Russell	(717) 762-8873	<a href="mailto:1turk@embarqmail.com">1turk@embarqmail.com</a>
Treasurer / Membership	Jeff Shubert	(717) 729-0267	<a href="mailto:shube@comcast.net">shube@comcast.net</a>
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