



## **June 2009 – Newsletter**

Visit our club website – [www.SVGRS.com](http://www.SVGRS.com)

### **SVGRS Calendar of Events 2009**

#### **June 10 SVGRS Club Officers Meeting**

**June 20** – Layout open house Marlyn Geesley Golden Spike Ceremony. (Details in the letter)

**July 8** - The next meeting will be held on 8 Jul at the Brethren Home starting at 7:00pm.

**July 16 to 19** – Train display Northumberland. Details inside.

**August 8** – Bob & Susan McCrea Open House Saturday from 1 to 5 PM. Bob will be running Live Steam, Battery powered and Trak powered units. Bob has a large layout and has a lot of Trestles on his layout. Light refreshments will be available. Bob address is 550 Summit Drive, Carlisle, PA. Phone 717-258-8566.

**August 22** – Eric & Dianna Spooner Open House Saturday from 1 to 6PM. Light refreshments to be served.

Phase 1 of the P&G RR is almost complete. It is late 1800s / early 1900s and is battery powered with about 240 ft of track.

We live off the beaten path, so if you don't have GPS, you should print out the directions from mapquest or call 717-235-5518. Address 15239 Country Club Road, New Freedom, PA. We look forward to seeing everyone.

#### **Sept 9 - SVGRS Club Officers Meeting**

**Sept 12** – SVGRS Club Picnic. The picnic will be held at Bob Segessenman's where it was held last year. Dave Watts is chairperson for the picnic. More details will be in a later newsletter.

**Sept 25, 26, 27** - East Coast Train Show York Fairground. Setup will be September 25 and trains will be running the 26 and 27'th.

**Nov 11** – SVGRS Club Officers Meeting

**November 14** – SVGRS Workshop. This is the first event of this type. We plan to have work stations set-up to discuss wiring, trestles building, engine maintenance, basic layout and landscaping. More details will be announced as we approach the schedule date.

**November 21** – Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Set-up

**November 28** - till???? Running trains at Rocky Ridge

**December 5** – SVGRS Christmas Party (**Note date change**) Co-chaired by Myra Gamble and Colleen Midour, Myra stated the party will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at the Brethren Home in New Oxford (Cross Keys) starting at 4:30pm and lasting until 10pm. She also mentioned the menu as been selected and that more information will follow in the coming months.



## Open House Events

**June 20** Marlyn & Doris Geesey and thier neighbor Richard Rutledge will be joining their garden railroads in a golden spike ceremony.



Marlyn Geesey Layout



Richard Rutledge Layout

The open house will be from 12:00 noon until you are tired of railroading. The Golden Spike ceremony will be at 1:00 PM. You are encouraged to bring your G gauge trains to run on the layout.

For comfort bring your lawnchair, light refreshments will be available.

Directions to 2932 Exeter Drive So, York Pa – Route 30 to rt 83 South to rt. 74, travel south on 74 passing Mack's Ice Cream to Honey Valley Rd., turn right on Honey Valley Rd, to Spartan Rd. turn right on Spartan to Exeter Dr. So. Which will be the next left. The Geeey home is the 7<sup>th</sup>. Home on the right. Look for the railroad crossbucks.

Parking is limited, some folks will have to park on Woodshed Terr. Folks will be available to assist with parking.

We have plans in the works for July and August open houses . The dates and details have not been finalized at this time.



### **Mel & Ruth Pankuch,**

Thanks for the open house. The weather was great, the trains were running perfect and the layout looks wonderful. Mel had a great turnout for the first open house of the season.





## SVGRS – “Gilbert’s Garden Center”

Greetings to everyone from up North, this is Jeff Johnstonbaugh. Some of you already know me from working on the club layouts at York. Two years ago I did a layout for the local Garden Center – “Gilbert’s Garden Center”. The club and Walter Plank were gracious enough to lend some of the equipment needed to do the layout. With the help of two other people (slave labor family) we ended up with a very nice layout. I did show the pictures to several members two years ago at a club outing.

I used a modified version of the Clubs layout that was done at York in the spring. The modification was that it was expanded to a size of 30’ X 60’. This really gave us the capability of nice long runs of straight track and use of the largest curves available. This location is a “Garden” Railroaders dreams come true! Unlike all of the other layouts that the club does, there is no hassle for plants, mulch, water or need to be careful not to make a mess. The biggest concern here is having enough tracks to fill the space. For me it was an absolute pleasure to look at the space and go out into the nursery and just grab the trees, plants, shrubs and flowers that I wanted. Then if I didn’t like it I merely took it back to where I found it. One of the biggest plusses to this location is the end of the display. We merely remove our track and equipment and we are done. The garden center takes care of putting the plants back where they belong and they clean up the mulch! Hope this sounds good to everyone!

A lot of people came to see the layout and ask questions and just plain have fun watching trains. As with any of our displays it is the look on the faces of the children that makes it all worthwhile.

The display is scheduled for set up Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup> (set up time as needed), Friday July 17<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 6 PM, Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 6 PM and Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to 5 PM. Tear down starting after close, ending with everything packed and you all on your way home. When I did it, I came back Monday afternoon after work. People who were there on Monday wanted to see the trains run, so the workers started to remove the plants early.

The distance from up here and the bulk of our members being the biggest issue for this project, it would be best to plan some car/truck pooling. To allow for travel time we can schedule track layout to start around 10:30 AM. (I’m basing this on when I travel to York it takes just under 2 hours by car depending on traffic) If there is a consensus among those helping for starting earlier, that can be arranged? Walter Plank is working on plans to bring the club trailer. I will have the site prepped and ready to go.

The need for Engineers, Conductors and Brakeman, these three days will be just like other shows. During this time we really only need a couple of people to man the layout, keeping trains running and meeting people. My plans are to be there most of the time the whole weekend. Anyone wishing to help will be welcomed. Please email or phone me the days and times that you are available. (Phone 570-473-7973, E-mail jjgar-

denrr@yahoo.com.) I will apologies now that I may not recognize some names right off the bat if you call. Since I'm like everyone else, better with faces, like with Mike Oberdick! Who could ever forget that sorry mug, only a wife could put up with! Just kidding Mike! Everyone should also be aware that you are welcome to bring trains to run....it's always fun to see your trains on a different layout.

The Club is welcome to have a club table there to display pictures, leaflets and membership applications. Please bring a chair of some kind, I do have some and can make them available. There are places to go for shade, and the Garden Center did provide a patio umbrella for over the transformers.

Since I am not great at working out a layout I am open for suggestions. The track plan from York would work, but since this is outdoors and exposed to the possible elements, I don't think we can use any of the working mechanicals like the bridge, and this would be fine to just make the tracks elevated or use the other bridges the club has. The Thomas Dog Bone is on wood, so not certain how that would react to moisture. This could be a chance to do a larger version of a layout that is planned for York in October 2009. I was hoping to use the log tunnel that the club had used before, since that is really awesome and would look great on one of the long straight stretches. Definitely want to work the waterfall and pond in no matter what the design is. I guess what I am leading to is a layout expert. We are working with a totally flat, blank space here and can do what we want. There's room for narrow gauge as well as prototypical bigger engines (this is when I wish I had sound in my Mallet),

Well enough is enough for now. It is very difficult to put everything in writing; it's not like standing in front of you and running at the mouth. Just want to say thank you for helping me show people of this area the beauty and fun of our hobby.



### **The Littlestown Loop closes the gap - finally!**

It's been a long time coming, and there is still much work to be done. Due in large part to the dedicated labor provided during both last fall and this spring, (Thanks a ton Dad!) Saturday evening saw the final piece of mainline track laid and connected. It's not electrified yet, so only my battery (Airwire) power engine has had the privilege of making the entire circuit which has worked out to be just over 200ft. Below are a few shots I've been taking to document the activity.

It's not yet time for an open house, but I'm getting closer. It's fun to watch the looks from folks out on Rt 97!

-RFSJr.





Dad, Here is a shot of the mill you built and had down at the ECLSTS now that you've "in-stalled" it in a more permanent location...  
-RFSJr.



IMG\_3165.JPG



Below is a picture of my last winter project. The Castle and Garage are made from Jigstones. Joe Mower



## Turk,s Hershey Gardens Layout

Work progressed well at the Hershey Gardens train project considering the downpours of rain that we had to endure. The pics I have included are of 2 ½ days in which we completed stage 1. Flowers were to be installed the following week due to weather. 2 loops are now up and running.

Special thanks to Jeff Shubert and Lou Stahl for bearing the weather to assist me in this project. I could not have finished this task in such a short time without you!

Members who have signed up for running trains; I apologize for the delay. We are waiting on Hershey Management to approve some minor details for the schedule This should be wrapped up by the time you receive this Newsletter. You will be contact very soon to come and play with your trains. Anyone wishing to make a visit to the Gardens; Call me. All are welcome and its free for volunteers and their family.

Turk Russel





## **SVGRS Meeting Minutes**

**13 May 2009**

President called meeting to order at 7:00pm

Officers Present: Joe Mower, Walter Plank and Dave Watts

Officers Not Present: Turk Russell, Jeff Shurbert

Membership Present: 20

The secretary presented the minutes from the 12 Mar 09 meeting to the membership to read and make comments or corrections to the minutes. No comments or corrections were made and minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: No Report given



## Old business

Hershey Park layout: No up-date was provided, please contact Turk for information/questions about this layout.

By-Law Revision: The executive board has started drafting a rewrite of the by-laws and a copy of the current by-laws will be mailed to each member for their input.

Picnic: Dave Watts stated that the picnic will be held on 12 Sep at the Segessenman's. A committee will be formed shortly. This year picnic will be a covered dish with club providing the meat. More information will follow soon and if anyone is interested in serving on the committee please contact him at 717-264-8187 or 729-4194.

Northumberland Nursery Display: chaired by Jeffrey Johnstonbaugh dates are 16 Jul as set-up day, and the display will operate on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>. Tear down will late afternoon on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The club will be paid \$500.00 for this display. Please help/volunteer with the display. More details will follow.

Christmas Party: Co-chaired by Myra Gamble and Colleen Midour, Myra stated the party will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at the Brethren Home in New Oxford (Cross Keys) starting at 4:30pm and lasting until 10pm. She also mentioned the menu as been selected and that more information will follow in the coming months.

Helping Hands committee: Chair Marlyn Geesey, stated they held their first event at Scott Rosenbaugh's with five members in attendance where they discussed concerns and addressed questions with Scott. Marlyn then went into more details on this event and stated the next event is scheduled at Denny Rothermel's. Marlyn will be contacting members throughout the year for their help on various events.

Club Events Schedules: Chair Joe Mower gave an overview of upcoming events and mention that the club calendar has had more events added. Please mark your calendar and try to attend these worthwhile events.

Membership; Chair Al Bernard stated cards will be prepared shortly and mailed.

## New Business

Meeting Place: The Brethren Home has offered the club the use of their facilities for our meeting at no cost and the club has accepted their offer.

Membership Meetings: The membership has requested that we hold more membership meetings and after some discussion a motion was made by Rob Segessenman and second by Al Bernard that the club hold a meeting bi-monthly. The picnic and Christmas party will be two of those meetings. The next meeting will be held on 8 Jul at the Brethren Home starting at 7:00pm.

Fall ECLSTS Show: Chair's will be Eric Spooner and Bob Seggessenman, The show dates will be 24 Sep as set-up day and 25 and 26 as operation days with tear-down being also on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A committee is being formed and additional details on this display will be forth coming.

Ma/Pa Railroad Excursion: The activity maybe moved to the fall of the year as the club has a busy event schedule in Aug with Bob McCrea's open home on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Eric

Spooner's open house scheduled for the 22th. Dave Watts will gather more information and present more on this event at the next meeting.

President Comments: Walter spoke about his goals, and one of those goals will be leading the club in a new direction with a special effort towards more interactions within the club and with more shared responsibilities distributed across the membership.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50

Dave Watts  
SVGRS Secretary



I have two displays scheduled this year. Landis Homes, Lititz PA Friday May 1 1 – 5  
and Saturday May 2 8 – 1

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=1001+E+Oregon+Rd.,+Lititz,Pa,+17543&.html>

This will be my third time there. Since my first visit, the residents have set up an outdoor rail road of their own. I could check to see if this will be running as well. Esbenshades Garden Center, Lititz PA

[http://www.esbenshades.com/retail\\_locations/directions.asp#lititz](http://www.esbenshades.com/retail_locations/directions.asp#lititz)

Wednesday Nov 25, 27 & 28 Friday evening the store has a special holiday event, with food, music and of course trains. While they are not club specific events, members are invited to stop by either event. Any questions give me a call. 717.859.4422

Clair Dice



### **SVGRS Club Officers**

President – Walter Plank (717)486-3489 [walterplank@comcast.net](mailto:walterplank@comcast.net)

Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873 [1turk@embarqmail.com](mailto:1turk@embarqmail.com)

SVGRS Secretary - Dave Watts (717)-264-8187 [davewtrainpappy@yahoo.com](mailto:davewtrainpappy@yahoo.com)

Coordinator of Layout Tours. Joe Mower [jhmower@aol.com](mailto:jhmower@aol.com)

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 [shube@comcast.net](mailto:shube@comcast.net)

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717)241-6483





## **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](http://www.smallplants4bigtrains.com)

**Cool Train Hobbies** – General train supplies and merchandise specializing in G scale trains. 717-898-7119 Ted & Kim Symonds.

### **Martins Greenhouse**

It is a small greenhouse business specializing in perennials. This includes rock garden plants & miniature conifers, which fit in well with garden railways.

Noah & Marian Martin, 5489 Division Hwy., Narvon, Pa 17555, Ph. 717-354-7546

[martinsghse@juno.com](mailto:martinsghse@juno.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.

**RCS of New England** – Specializing in battery control throttles for G scale trains. They also provide sound systems and special lighting effects. 717-259-9523 Don & Donna Sweet

**Victoria's Timeless Treasures & Dale's Garden Railroad Depot** – Provides a full range of Garden Railroad equipment, accessories and supplies. They invite members to view their extensive multi-track layout. 610-589-9000 Dale & Victoria Bricker

### **Railroadguy.com**

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