



# Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

*"Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club"*

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2014 Edition

## Upcoming Events

**Friday  
November 28th, 2014**

Rocky Ridge Display  
Opens

**Monday  
December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

**Officer Voting Deadline**  
Ballots must be returned to  
the Nominating Chairperson

**Saturday  
December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
5:00pm**

**Club Christmas Party  
and Meeting**  
Dutch Country Restaurant  
Hanover, PA

**December 31st, 2014**

Last Day for Rocky Ridge  
Display

## 2014 SVGRS Picnic



Picture of Walter's Layout

This year's SVGRS picnic was held September 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of Walter Plank just outside of Carlisle, PA. Walter's property is a wooded, rural setting with gardens of hosta, chrysanthemums, coleus and marigolds for a variety of color. Walter's layout was very nicely groomed and landscaped. Walter had three trains running the day of the picnic. The trains ran over a 15ft bridge that crossed a pond that is fed by a huge waterfall. All of this was greatly appreciated by the adults and numerous youngsters in attendance.

It was a lovely day free of rain and wind. Tents permitted the 60 folks attending to sit in comfort, shaded from the plentiful sunlight. Adequate parking was provided with chauffeured golf cart transport for those requiring assistance. As in the past, several club members provided items for the resale tent and several items changed hands during the picnic.

Susquehanna Valley

20<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary  
1994 - 2014

Garden Railway Society





The meal was fully catered by Crider Meats featuring a roast pig with all the trimmings.



During the meal everyone participated in conversation and fellowship. Following the



completion of the meal, a short business meeting was held where the challenges of trying to run both Rocky Ridge and Espenshades was discussed. Many door prizes, ranging from hostas to trains,

were given away and a 50/50 raffle netted the club and the winner \$67.



It was a great day with good food, expertly hosted by one of our long-time members. The club offers our thanks to Walter Plank.

It's not a GARDEN Railway until it's planted with plants from



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# News from the Industry

By: Turk Russell



Scott Polk continues to fire up the old production lines to offer a rebirth of the now defunct Aristo products. What started with track only has now blossomed into buildings, figures, trolleys, a few cars and the ever popular eggliners. There are now currently FA diesels available, as well as the 0-4-0 steamers. Most of the trains can be purchased through Trainworld.



Piko is continuing to offer more G scale rolling stock and small American engines. Their next new release will be a follow up to the first ever camelback 0-6-0. The limited 2-6-0 camelback will be the blue line version for CNJ



Accucraft Trains has announced it will produce a Norfolk & Western J class 4-8-4 steam engine. The new loco will be marketed in their every growing AML 1:32 Scale line of products. I feel sure this train is being produced due to the current

restoration of J 611. You can find more info on the J restoration at [Fireup611.org](http://Fireup611.org).



USA Trains has announced several

special projects that can only be purchased through certain train shops. While most of the projects are rolling stock, they will be offering two road number SP black widow GP30 locos. These will be offered exclusively through Gold Coast Station



Phoenix Sound has announced a new remote control trigger system that will allow current and older systems to use their horn and whistle effects from a standalone remote control. This product is the second of two new remotes now available from Phoenix. The first remote was remote uncoupling kit that can be adapted to almost any G scale engine.





## 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) 632-1884

## Christmas Magic 2014 A Festival of Lights

3699 DEININGER RD, YORK PA 17406



Looking for a way to celebrate the holidays with your company, scout troop or civic organization? Christmas Magic at Rocky Ridge Park is the way to do it. For more information call Jeri Jones at (717) 840-7226 or email at

[JeriJones@yorkcountypa.gov](mailto:JeriJones@yorkcountypa.gov). Special opening time, discounted admissions and Santa visits can be included in your planning.

Please bring a canned food item along to give to the York County Parks Food Drive.

(Call our informational line (717) 840-7443 for trail updates and closings)

### Where

Rocky Ridge County Park located east of York - a mile and a half north of Route 30 off Mount Zion Road (Route 24)

### New for 2014

- New Santa Claus scene built by York County School of Technology
- Larger G-gauge train display by Susquehanna Valley Garden Railroad Society.
- LED lighting
- More paved sections of trail
- New Nixon Park Wildlife Scene
- New Light-O-Rama display
- New outdoor displays

### When

November 28 - December 31  
(Closed Dec. 24, 25 )

### Times

Monday through Friday, 6 to 9 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.

### Costs

Adults \$8  
Ages 4-12 \$6  
Under age 4 Free  
Seniors(60+) \$7  
Groups: 12+ adults - \$7 each  
Groups: 12+ children - \$5 each

***Sorry No Credit Cards Accepted!***

## Everyone's Help is Needed!



If you can assist with monitoring the layout and have not signed up please contact Turk Russell at (717) 762-8873. We ask that everyone try to help out at least one evening during the display.

## Steel Wheels Festival

By: Rob Segessenman

### Autumn At Its Best

It's the most exciting time of the year for our famous steam train. Ride through the beautiful Maryland Mountains as they explode with a vibrant mix of fall colors.

Schedule your trip today!



The Western Maryland Railroad held their Steel Wheels Festival the last weekend in September and a few of our members took the time to travel to Cumberland, MD to attend.

Friday was a neat opportunity to see both the railroad shops and attempt to get some staged photography in the dark of three steam locos at the Ridgely WV shops. The obvious highlight was the



chance to see the newly acquired C&O compound mallet #1309. This huge engine will be restored to





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service for the 2016 season when #734 will be taken out for her 10 year rehab. Steam engine



#1309 was just recently acquired from the B&O RR museum. The large articulated locomotive has been on display in Baltimore since 1970.

Saturday brought an almost unrestricted shop tour and a bright sunny day to chase the very crowded regular excursion train to Frostburg pulled by engine #734. Check out the pictures and see if you can recognize any of the "actors" (i.e. not Barry, Turk or Rob) the railroad brought in to enhance the photo shoot!

## New Rail Fan Park

Submitted by Jeff Shubert



Earlier this year a new Rail Fan Park opened in Southampton Township, Cumberland County just outside Shippensburg. This location is named

Cleversburg Junction. The park is located at 215 Airport Rd, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. This Rail Fan Park was built and is maintained by Southampton Township Supervisors.

The rail line along the park is referred to as the Valley Line on the Lurgan Branch of the Norfolk Southern Railroad. It runs from Harrisburg to Front Royal, Virginia. At Front Royal, it goes to Manassas, Virginia on the "B" Line. At Manassas, it goes to the old Southern (now NS) Line to all parts south. It's estimated about 20 to 30 trains a day travel along this line.



You will see consists of mixed freight, double stacks and coal trains. There is a pavilion along with several picnic tables, a paved parking lot and handicap accessibility. Railroad communication can also be heard between the railroad dispatchers and trains nearby. Some trains stop at the automatic signal, right next to the viewing area which provides a great opportunity for picture taking.

Come and visit Shippensburg and take advantage of this new Rail Fan Park and watch some of the Norfolk Southern's horses power by.





### G-Scale Installations

We feature RCS America components and install battery power, sound and remote control systems into G-Scale engines, tenders and boxcars. If you have a battery, sound or remote control need, we're sure to find the system and installation to fit your train configuration and needs.

We are located in York PA.

Web site: <http://gscaleinstallations.com/>

Email: [Robert@gscaleinstallations.com](mailto:Robert@gscaleinstallations.com)

Phone: Robert Buck – 717-741-3060



## Longer rides, overnight stays possible with changes coming at Cass Scenic Railroad

By **Chris Lawrence** in **News** | November 02, 2014 at 2:18PM

**CASS, W.Va.** — Plans by the state to relinquish the operation of Cass Railroad to the state Rail Authority promises to increase opportunities for tourism and to enhance riders on the historic line in the West Virginia mountains.

The Rail Authority will add Cass to the Durbin-Greenbrier Valley Railroad in Durbin and the West Virginia Central Railroad which runs out of Elkins. Plans call for all three to be connected.

“Originally they were connected between Durbin and Cass, but the flood of ’85 took them out,” said Rail Authority Executive Director Cindy Butler. “The West Virginia Central runs from Elkins to Bergoo and to the old town of Spruce. There shouldn’t be any changes, just additions.”

Butler said the private operator which runs the two existing lines will also take over operations of Cass. Railroad visitors will still be able to ride the train to Whittaker Station and Bald Knob the way they do now. However, when all three lines are connected there will be a chance to ride all three of the trains in package deals.

“We’ll promote more overnight stays which will be good for tourism,” said Butler. “You can go from Cass to Elkins and stay overnight or you can get on at Elkins go to Cass and stay overnight and enjoy the history of the town there.”

The current set-up at Cass loses about \$1 million a year.

“Cass Scenic Railroad State Park is a wonderful state treasure. Finding a way to preserve it for future generations has been a priority for both the Division of Natural Resources and the Department of Commerce,” state Commerce Secretary Keith Burdette Burdette said in a news release detailing the changes. “We believe this new partnership will allow us to preserve it and possibly even expand the experience for our guests, something we weren’t sure we could guarantee a few months ago. We are excited about the possibilities this arrangement will create.”

State Parks have about 40 of the old homes in Cass restored and available for rental. The transfer of the operation to the Rail Authority is expected to free up staff at Cass to concentrate more on the



other park programs to enhance the experience for guests in the old town.

Butler said the final paperwork should be done by the end of the year and the new operator will take over next spring.

The current season at Cass closes this week.

## **Meg Ryan movie “Ithaca” comes to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad in Cumberland, MD.**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014**



On Wednesday, August 13, 2014, The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad welcomed the film crew for the movie “Ithaca” to western Maryland as they captured images of Western Maryland Scenic Railroad steam locomotive No. 734 (Mountain Thunder). Filming locations included multiple points along the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.

he steam locomotive will be featured in the start of the WWII movie “Ithaca”. Fourteen-year-old Homer Macauley is determined to be the best and fastest bicycle telegraph messenger anyone has ever seen. His older brother has gone to war, leaving Homer to look after his widowed mother, his older sister and his 4-year-old brother, Ulysses. And so it is that as spring turns to summer, 1942, Homer Macauley delivers messages of love, hope, pain...and death...to the good people of Ithaca.

Homer Macauley will grapple with one message that will change him forever.

Based on Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Saroyan’s 1943 novel, *The Human Comedy*, ITHACA is a coming-of-age story about the exuberance of youth, the abruptness of change, the sweetness of life, the sting of death, and the sheer goodness that lives in each and every one of us. Meg Ryan will be making her directorial debut. Both “Sleepless in Seattle” stars will also be reunited on screen where Meg Ryan will play the widowed mother of fourteen year old Homer Macauley and Tom Hanks will play Homer’s father. The film also stars Sam Sheppard and Meg Ryan’s 22 year-old son Jack Quaid. “Ithaca” is scheduled for release in 2015.

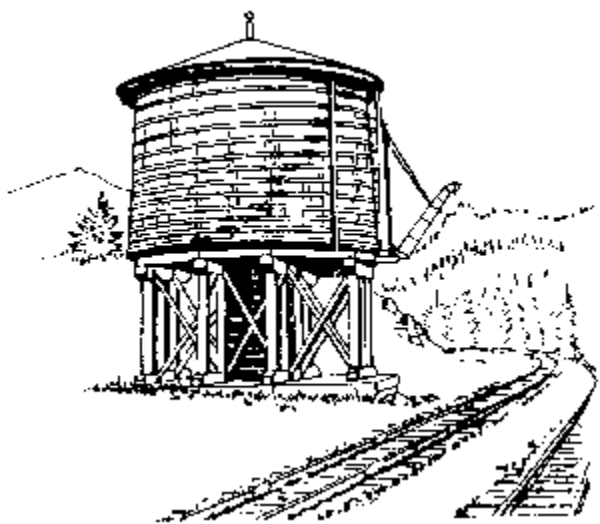


*According to the producers, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad was chosen as a location due to the historical authenticity and variety of train cars made available for filming, combined with a railroad that passes thru beautiful rural landscapes.*



Jody Shaw, Media Coordinator for the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad said *"We are excited to have our authentic, regular operational steam locomotive No. 734 featured in the movie "Ithaca" where history will be played out on the big screen.*

*We would like to thank everyone involved in making the day a huge success. Our railroad is a premier location for regular steam operations and in a few years will operate the largest regularly scheduled articulated steam locomotive in the USA (Chesapeake & Ohio No. 1309)"* For more information on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, go to our website [www.wmsr.com](http://www.wmsr.com) or call 301-759-4400 or 1-800 TRAIN50. To Join, Donate or Volunteer at the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad and the WMSR Foundation go to [www.wmsrf.org](http://www.wmsrf.org). Enjoy the history at Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.



## The Shubert and Russell Families Take on the Mountain

Submitted by the Shubert and Russell Families



The weekend of September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> the Shubert and Russell families traveled to Cumberland, MD to ride the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad and then bicycle down the mountain from Frostburg to Cumberland.

The weekend started Friday evening when we met at the Best Western Braddock Inn in LaVale, Maryland where we stayed the night. We chose this hotel because Jeff's family wanted to bring along their dog Coco. LaVale's Best Western is a "dog friendly" hotel and Jeff's daughters, Alex and Becca, were excited about staying in a hotel room with Coco.



During the evening the girls enjoyed a nice swim in the hotel's heated indoor pool. The next morning we ate a continental breakfast at the hotel. The bikes were loaded on the back of the cars and we headed for the railroad. Turk and Renee' went to the railroad while Jeff delivered Coco to a local dog kennel for the day.

We unloaded our bicycles in the parking lot of the Western Maryland train station. We double checked our back packs making sure we had tools for repairs, extra bike inner tubes, rain gear and lunch. We walked the bicycles towards the platform just as the train pulled into the station. We parked our bicycles on the platform and took advantage of the opportunity to take some pictures while waiting for the non-cycling passengers to board the train. Shortly before our departure time, railroad workers loaded our bicycles on a box car at the end of the train and we headed for one of the passenger cars. After we were "All Aboard!" we headed up the mountain towards Frostburg. The highlights of the trip included the horseshoe turn around Helmstetter's Curve, Brush Tunnel and the mountain scenery. After about an hour and



a half ride we pulled into the Frostburg Depot. The train workers unloaded our bicycles from the boxcars and we located a picnic table outside the

depot where we had lunch. When lunch was over we grabbed a spot around the perimeter of the round table where we watched them turn big 734 around. They were ready for their trip back to Cumberland once they attached the engine to the other end of the train. It was time to mount our bikes for our ride back to Cumberland as well.

We hopped on a short bike trail near the Frostburg Depot and headed towards the Great Allegheny Passage. The connecting trail was steep and winding but we all made it to the bottom of the hill in one piece. The Great Allegheny Passage is a 400-mile traffic free, bicycle and walking trail system connecting Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Washington DC. In Cumberland, the trail is part of the C&O Canal. While some of the GAP is paved most of the ride was on crushed stone. It was a very easy ride because we were riding downhill most of the way. Frostburg sits 2100 feet above



sea level, while Cumberland is only 600 feet above sea level, so there is very little required pedaling during the ride. The bike trail runs parallel with the railroad so you are riding next to the tracks most of the time. We took a break after a few miles into our ride to watch the train as it passed us on the way back to Cumberland. We biked around Helmstetter's Curve and through the 914 foot Brush tunnel. The tunnel is lighted inside to help you see where you are going. We paused outside



the tunnel for some pictures. We had to don our



rain gear during a brief rain shower just outside Cumberland.

The entire trip was very easy. The total ride took about 2 hours and 20 minutes to complete and the total distance was about 16 1/2 miles. The sun was shining again by the time we got back to Cumberland. We all had a really good time and we would recommend this ride for anyone. There is an additional fee of \$5.00 to take the bikes on The train. It was worth the cost. Rental bikes are also available for rental near the station.



## Pictures from the Picnic





## Pictures from the Picnic





## Pictures from the Shubert Russell Trip





## Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society

Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



### 2014 SVGRS Calendar of Events

- 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

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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