



TRAINS IN THE GARDEN

ARPIL 2008 Newsletter

Contents

Calendar of events
Layout tours
Garden Expo
ECLS Train Show
Setting up a web page
Recipes
Items for sale
Club Officers
Advertisements

Calendar of Events

April 10, 2008

Club officers meeting at Tom McClouds residence 7:00 PM

April 17, 2008

Next Club Membership meeting will be Thursday, April 17, New Oxford Train Station at 7 PM. We need to decide on club picnic and other club events for 2008.

Open House Garden RR Tours

Summer is rapidly approaching and we have several layout open house / technical sessions scheduled already. Mark your calendars to save these dates:

June 7: Tom McLoed and others in the Waynesboro area

June28: Joe Mower and Walter Planck

More details to follow closer to the time. We are still looking for a host for the months of July and October and we are always looking for club members willing to conduct technical sessions to share your garden railroading knowledge and experience with other club members, especially the newer members. You do not have to host a layout open house to do that. If you don't want to host, we will schedule you to share your insight at an open house of one of the other members. Please contact Kirk Slenker at 717-244-3522 or slenke@aaicorp.com.

News submitted by Turk Russell

The club has purchased the following new items after a motion was passed at the last club meeting. The new trains will be stored in the trailer and will be available for all events

USA Trains F3's A and B diesels. In dark Pennsy color
5 USA freight cars and Aristo Pennsylvania steel cabooses
Custom done Western Maryland 2 truck Shay, 3 log cars
Matching WM logging cabooses

Bachmann Trains has donated to us through Barry McNew
3 set of RioGrande passenger cars: combine, coach, observation

Members have asked for a SVGRS lettered train on some engines. Turk will be having the vinyl decals made so that the new engines can run as either Pennsy or SVGRS livery.



August 7, 2008

Browns Travel Agency is offering the following bus trip on August 7, 2008. Walter Plank and I have already signed up for this trip. If you are interested please contact Brown Travel and make your reservation. Call 717-582-9144 or visit website brownstravelagency.com

CULINARY EXCURSION TRAIN

Cumberland, Maryland

Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Culinary Excursion Train

Upon arrival in Cumberland, we'll meet our guide and have time to tour the C & O Canal Heritage Museum. Then "all aboard!" the WMSR for a scenic ride through the Allegheny Mountains to Frostburg, MD. While en route, the group will enjoy a Culinary Show and have lunch on the train in one of the elegant dining cars. After arrival in Frostburg at the Old Depot, we'll tour the Thrasher House Carriage Museum. The collection displays some of the best sleighs and horse drawn carriages in the USA, including Teddy Roosevelt's inaugural carriage. Back on the train for our return to Cumberland, we'll enjoy dessert and learn some of the secrets of a great dessert. Before departing Cumberland, we'll step

back to the 1800's and travel through the historic district on Washington Street and make a stop at the Gordon Roberts House for a Victorian Tea and tour of this lovely 18-room Victorian home.

DON'T MISS THIS TASTY TREAT OF A TRIP!

PRICE: \$122.00 (includes museums, train ride, Culinary Show, lunch, dessert, sightseeing and tour)

DEPARTURES: Newport 6:30am, Duncannon 6:45am, Summerdale 7am (They also said we could arrange for a pickup at the Newville exit off I-81)



Garden Expo 2008

This year's garden show was taken over by Journal Publications. They are located in Harrisburg Pa. While getting off to a very late start they have made commitments to taking the show to new levels and provided more benefits to the vendors. I believe that it will eventually evolve to become similar to the Philly Flower Show. It was nice to have an expo manager and a landscape manager to work with, even though this required more meetings to attend out of town.

They asked me to produce a larger layout and provided the funds to do so. We did just that, creating the largest SVGRS layout ever. A 55 x 32 ft spaced was used. Saturday was our initial setup of the track and to deliver all the materials. We plotted our spot and the guys put together track including the new raised trestle, which had to be assembled.

Upon our arrival, we had a very large mulch pile that was overlapping our marked off area that had to be moved. 2 bobcats tackled that job for over a 1/2 hr. and then we got started. Tuesday was our major setup and landscaping day. 17 folks donated their time to help on this day. Tom Mcloud and Mel Shubert did a awesome job of landscaping the design envisioning what I had drawn up. Special thanks to Stauffers of Kissel (Country Market) for providing us with more than enough plants. Thanks also to Tom and Fern Mcloud for providing 40 flats of small plants. It was successful day. Wednesday was the usual clean up, get trains running and fix all the problems. With 5 trains to run, this took more time than usual to get the quirks worked out. Thursday, had an array of issues .On Friday morning; Marlyn Geesy, Mel Pankuch and I fixed all the problems and the trains ran fine for the rest of the show. Special thanks to them!

We opened the show with Thomas the tank out front by himself for the kids area. Next, we had the outer loop featuring 2 different diesel trains (provided by the Segessenman Boys). The log train loop ran on the inside and zigzagged through the layout and under a 5ft trestle bridge (provided by Turk). A narrow canyon with my log skidder was built from scratch by Doug We also had a double track tunnel with very nice portals (provided by Bob Seggessenman). The third train was set on a raised set of trestles (built by

Jake Middour and myself) featuring the new Bachmann K-27 locos . We designed it to look like the Cumbres and Toltec Rotary snowplow train. This train ran over the pond and the tunnel area; which was snow covered. We featured either doubled or triple headed K's with Rio Grande cars and the Rotary on the front. It was a big hit! Lastly, we had a climax or heisler shoving a coal hopper up the ramp to the tipple and back down on a reversing circuit. This layout also had more buildings and a complete town with automobiles and roads. Bob Segessenman set up a farm area with a huge red barn that He custom built. My logging area also received a new addition. A fully mechanized saw mill complete with conveyer belts, saw blades and lights. Its even remote controlled. Built by Jake Middour, it was a definite eye catcher! This layout had more action going on then any other I have ever been involved in. I heard that during the voting for best of show; patrons had to be told repeatedly they could not vote for the train layout. We did not qualify as a paid client.

We did do a last minute raffle of a Harry Potter HO train set which did not fetch the money we had hoped. The club now has a donation box designed from a Bachmann bobber caboose (built by Wayne Warren and Turk). None the less; we still made an extra \$150.00. Large-scale trains are not nearly as affordable as they were 2 years ago. Just look at Track pricing!

The girls at Kalmbach Publishing (Garden Railways Magazine) provided us with lots of literature and 8 free magazine subscriptions. I contacted the winners and 2 of them have now joined the club.

Getting the club members to work and participate in shows is one matter, but I am constantly urging them to bring and show off their train items as well. We are finally starting to see this and I urge others to come forward.

We have already been asked to come back for next year's show and I have a meeting next month to discuss new plans. I can't believe I logged over 500 miles for this show. Considering this is the most detailed and costly show we do; our net profit was \$1273.98. Not bad for a 4 ½ day show with 2 days of setup.

Thanks to all who participated and helped make the show a success again. I, as well as the club appreciate your efforts!

Turk Russell





East Coast Large Scale Train Show, York Pa. (Fairgrounds)

SVGRS club members demonstrated thru their spirit of cooperation and dedication how a community project can be undertaken and a quality public display can be achieved bringing adulations to the general membership.

Thru unselfish dedication of time and effort the 18' x 30' club layout at the Train Show was created in 6 hours and the teardown was less than 3 hours.

Words cannot describe the beauty achieved by intermingling flowers, shrubs and grasses into a track layout that boasted 3 loops in constant operation. Public comments were many and picture taking resulted in a constant play of shadows and brightness as the flashes of the cameras illuminated the entire room.

The theme was multifaceted including an extensive coal train, a sawmill operation, extensive bridge trestles, circus environment, coal loading, a reverse loop with ramp.

The show was Thursday and Friday. Club members monitored the layout assuring things went well at all times. All maintained their post with many staying additional hours to man the show.

Show Participants (in no specific order)

Mike Oberdick	Lou Stahl	Mel Pancuck
Dick Bleiler	Roberts McCrea	Joe Mower
Marlyn Geesey	Robert Segessenman	Walter Plank
Terry Smith Sr.	Robert Segessenman Jr.	Lindsay Martin
Jake Middour	Dave Watts	Bill Bowers
Robert D. Charles	George Collier	Jim Dysart

Timothy Keinard

Tim Keinard Father was ill)

Many thanks to:

1. Bob Segessenman (Show Chairman) who was the cement that held all things together.)
2. Mike Oberdick (Created many mechanical items for the circus.)
3. Roberts McCrea (Drew track plan on graph paper to assure accuracy and provided cameras (2) with display monitors so public could appreciate the view from the train engineer's point of view.& show committee Member)
4. Jake Midour (Provided the entire sawmill project.)
5. Kissell Hill (Shrubs and flowers)
6. Appalachian Nursery (Small plants) and flowers for landscaping.
7. Don Sweet (Large Amtrack Train)
8. Bob Segessenman Sr. (Lengthy Coal Train)
9. Bob Segessenman Jr. Multi unit Diesel Train
10. Jeannie Plank and Doris Geesey for providing lunch, and Mrs. Benard for providing cookies during the teardown.
11. Thanks to all who participated and I failed to recognize due to my advanced years and senility.

Best wishes to Tim Keinard's father who was taken ill.

Club Projects build comradeship and display our club in action.

Walter E. Plank







"Create An Easy, Inexpensive Web Page" The following article was written by James R. Ingram.

There is now absolutely NO reason for any person or group who desires a web page to not have one, given the availability of today's user-friendly web-building tools. It's a good skill to learn, as you then have the capability to post any information that the whole world can see.

The main purpose might be that you could post photos and notes of your layout, or any kitbashing project. And you can update it YOURSELF, without having to bother or pay anyone else.

The Concept

You can create and maintain an inexpensive web page at a cost of about \$\$6 to \$9 per year, that you can easily update yourself, by doing the following 3 steps:

1. Create a web page, by using a currently-free blog from Google.
2. Adjust the blog's settings to eliminate all possible clutter, so it looks very similar to a regular web page.
3. [Optional] Create a "forwarding domain name" of the format "YourName.com", and forward it to your web page. These forwarding domain names cost about \$6 to \$9 per year.

Video Overview & Examples

The web page at NineDollarWebPage.com has a link to a YouTube video which overviews using a blog, and a second video which overviews getting a forwarding domain name. You should be able to play these videos on any computer with a broadband connection. There are also links to examples of about a dozen web pages that have been created using this system.

A few of the railroad-oriented examples you might want to browse, would be the web pages at CatawissaTrackCleaners.com, MiltonModelTrainMuseum.com, and TandJTrainJunction.com.

Advantages of Using a Blog

Blogs by Google (found at blogspot.com or blogger.com) and other companies have been around for several years. Upgrades by Google in 2007 have made their blogs more user-friendly, and have given the blog's owner the ability to eliminate the 'clutter', making them now useable as a web page. This system allows you to create a web page of reasonably-nice appearance, with the following advantages:

* Ease Of Use - A blog is easy to update. You can easily update it YOURSELF. This is probably the biggest advantage. Updating is almost like composing an email -- except after you finish editing, you click the 'Publish' button for a blog, instead of clicking the 'Send' button as you would with email.

Using the case of an SVGRS members layout photos as an example, it would probably be more efficient for the SVGRS webmaster to provide a link from the SVGRS website to your own web page, where you would post and maintain your photos yourself. Then when you want to add to your photos, you would just do it yourself, without having to bother the SVGRS webmaster.

* Turnaround Time - Turnaround time for updates is minimized. This frees you from needing to write a clear, detailed description of what you need changed, sending it off to a web design company, then having to WAIT for it to get done, and then get a bill for having the change made.

* Low Cost - Blogs are low cost. They are currently offered free from Google and other similar companies.

* Simplified Hosting - Blogs offer simplified Hosting. You don't have to worry about finding a web hosting company to host your domain, and getting involved in all the accompanying, confusing, and time-consuming details. Google provides you a free, reliable, easy to set up hosting service via a blog page.

Additional Advantages

* Photos - Photos will display viewable size on the blog page, but when "clicked", will open FULL size. Blogger software does this automatically. This is a big advantage to any kind of an artist or craftsman making a unique product, as it gives them the capability to show their creation to the whole world in glorious large, full-color photographs.

* No Software - No special software required to edit a blog. The only software required is a free web browser like FireFox or Explorer or similar, and the browser can be running on a Macintosh or Window operating system. This frees you from needing complicated or expensive web-authoring software, that requires continuous software updating expenses and relearning.

* Update From Anywhere - Blog updates can be made from any ANY internet-connected computer. This is because all data is stored on Google's computers, not yours. If your computer suffers a periodic 'Windows crash' and loses all its data, your web page is still safe with Google. (As a precaution however, I recommend you keep a backup copy of your web page's photos on your hard drive, and a backup copy of your hard drive's data on an external hard drive.)

* Multiple Editors Option - You can give (and remove) access to multiple editors. You can even specially configure the blog so that a particular user will have "privileges" to edit only 1 or 2 pages, but cannot modify or in any way alter the rest of the blog.

* Appearance Changes - You can easily change the whole color scheme by changing to a different "Template". You can also customize a particular template, to "tweak" the background colors.

FORWARDING DOMAIN NAME

The second half of this low-cost web page project is getting a "YourName.com" forwarding domain name. Note that you CAN have a web page without having a domain name. However, having the domain name has two important advantages:

1. Remembering - It makes it easier for people to remember the address, for example 'CatawissaTrackCleaners.com' instead of 'CatawissaTrackCleaners.blogspot.com'.

2. Portability - More important, having your own domain name gives you PORTABILITY. You can move the website to a different actual address in the future, without changing the domain name.

This means the address you may have been publishing on your business cards and correspondence for several years, will still be valid; even though your actual web page may have moved from one hosting location to another hosting location.

Domain Name Registrars

You can get a "forwarding domain name" of the format "YourName.com" from GoDaddy.com or a similar low-cost domain registrar, for about \$9/year. GoDaddy is probably the best-known of the low-cost registrars, among the hundreds of registrars that exist.

The registrar 1and1.com is another registrar I have using for my most recent registrations, because they are currently cheaper, at about \$6/year. They also currently include free email addresses. The Blogger.com Help page "Where can I buy a custom domain name for my blog?" lists about eight registrars, including GoDaddy.com and 1and1.com.

Registering & Options - When you register, you usually do it all online, and you will need a credit card to complete the transaction. GoDaddy encourages you to buy lots of extra-cost options. I recommend ignoring all those; just click-past them, and your total bill should not be more than about \$9. Note that it's probably best if you use a registrar that has user-friendly, do-it-yourself web-page controls. The telephone support with these low-cost registrars may not not always good.

Private Registration - GoDaddy wants to sell you an option called "Private Registration", which protects your personal data -- most importantly your email address -- for about an extra \$6 per year. I recommend not doing this, but rather creating a 2nd separate email address, and using that exclusively for domain name registration. This protects your personal email address from possible spamming and phishing.

The registrar 1and1.com includes "private registration" in their basic price, although I have not yet used this feature myself, because it appears to make the registration more complicated, and apparently you cannot later transfer the domain name to another registrar if you use private registration.

Finding An Available Domain Name

The biggest CHALLENGE today with finding a domain name, is that so many of them have already been taken. Most registrars have some sort of tool where you can type in a domain name, click "Search", and it will tell you if the name is available or not, tell you which of the 'extensions' .com, .org, .net, .biz, .us, and .name are available, and also suggest similar names.

I usually use the 'domain search engine' at GoDaddy.com.

Domain Name Reminders

The '.com' is usually preferred, but the '.net', '.biz', '.org' and other extensions will usually suffice. The allowable characters in domain names are letters, numbers, and the hyphen. I recommend trying to NOT use the hyphen, as people seem to have problems remembering when and where to include the hyphen.

Shorter names are usually preferable when possible. However, a longer name that is easier to spell and remember, may be preferable to a shorter name with difficult-to-remember abbreviations. For example, we used the longer 'CatawissaTrackCleaners.com', rather than something abbreviated such as 'CatTrkClnrs.com'.

Note domain names are case-insensitive. For example, you can type in 'CatawissaTrackCleaners.com' or 'CATAWISSAtrackCLEANERS.com', and it doesn't matter. You can view additional articles on finding domain names by Googling a phrase something like "how to find a good domain name". I recommend registering the name for 1 year initially to make sure you like it, then registering it for 5 years or more thereafter.

For Further Opinions

If you have any further questions, feel free to phone me. My landline is 570.322.7597, or I can also be reached at the email address events@track2.com. I am in no way an expert on any of these topics, but I am somewhat familiar with the "ins and outs", from creating these web pages and domain names for the past several years.



Recipe

This is the one you have been waiting for, Jean Planks delicious baked beans. This is the ones we enjoy at the picnic and other events.

Jean's Beans

- 1 #10 (gallon) can Great White Northern Beans
- 2 cups (Heinz) Ketchup
- 2 cups Granulated Sugar
- 1/2 to 1 pound Bacon (as smoky as possible)
- 1/4 cup dried Minced Onion or 1/2 cup fresh chopped Onion (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon Liquid Smoke (optional)

Cut bacon into small pieces in a skillet. Fry bacon crisp, set aside.
Put the ketchup, sugar, onion and smoke into a large pan or roaster.
Add beans and bacon including fat, mix well.
Bake, uncovered, in 350 degree oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

(If you don't want them too juicy pour off some of the bean liquid after you open the can)

Remote Control Systems

PLUG-N-PLAY

Fits Bachmann K-27 and most Aristo-Craft Locos.

NEW



INCLUDES Chuff Cable for K-27

RCS PnP-3

RCS of New England – Don Sweet
 Phone: (717) 259-9523 or Cell: (603) 321-1347
 E-mail: dsweet@rcs.nv.com

www.remotecontrolthrottles.com

SVGRS Club Officers

President – Tom McCloud (717) 762- 9508 fernetta64@embarqmail.com

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

Dave Watts - SVGRS Secretary 717-264-8187 suern@innernet.net

Coordinator of Layout Tours.

Kirk Slenker - (717) 244-3522 or slenke@aicorp.com

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 shube@comcast.net

Secretary/Membership – Dave Watts (717)264-8187

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717)241-6483

Items for the newsletter can be submitted to jhmower@aol.com. Please indicate SVGRS in the subject so it does not get deleted with spam.

The next issue of the newsletter will be out approximately June 5, 2008. Please have any information for the newsletter to me by June 1.

If you have items for sale you would like posted in the newsletter please send me a list.

We are always looking for articles to publish. If you have an article you think would be of interest to other club members please send it to me.

Joe Mower

The following items are for sale from Turk Russell

I need to move out some items and condense collection. Feel free to call 717-762-8873 me anytime or email 1turk@embarqmail.com

1. USA trains Hudson w/phoenix sound , great condition, all wooden cases included.
Accepting offers
2. Various Bachmann ten wheelers some without tenders All have new mechanisms \$40-90.00.
Some would be great for projects or a replacement engine

3. (2) Bachmann consolidation's 2-8-0 1-custom done engine 1-undecorated (new)
No Boxes \$ 200-250.00
4. LGB track cleaning loco. 2085 Recently serviced, in box \$350.00
5. LGB stainz 2020 #2 good condition Rebuilt motor and gears \$100.00
6. LGB stainz 20211 #3, 30th anniversary body is a little dirty complete rebuild \$90.00
7. Aristocraft lil-critter diesel , RioGrande custom done paint, never run \$60.00
8. Bachmann diesel 81896 Midwest Quarry New in box, complete \$90.00
9. (2) Bachmann 38ton 2 truck Shays, 82199 undecorated, complete,
New in boxes \$275.00

All engines guaranteed with my usual warranty as well as manufacturer which we handle as well

Items Wanted

If you have used track for sale contact Terry Smith, Phone 717-840-0580

Related Garden Railroad Businesses

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

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

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

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
717-354-7546
martinsghse@juno.com