



SVGRS Newsletter October 2024

2024 Calendar of Events

Oct 14	Third Quarter Newsletter
Nov 4	Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track & Platforms (10:00 am)
Nov 16	Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)
Nov 29	Christmas Magic Opening Day (5:00 pm)
Dec 1	General Meeting /Christmas Party - National Apple Museum (4:30 pm)
Dec 30	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends
Jan 11	Rocky Ridge Tear Down (10:00 am)

Please print or cut out and put on your refrigerator for reference

President's Message

Members -

It was fantastic to see a great turn-out at the recent club picnic. Even though the food was a few minutes late, there was no shortage of socializing. This was wonderful. I think we were all thankful for a nice dry pavilion given this was the second year in a row it rained. Still, I think we all had a good time. As we are still setting in with new leadership, please pass along any feedback to the new board.

Following such a great event, it was also a tad disheartening that we only had five members and three spouses who were able to make it over to the museum Sunday to help with trailer repack. To be honest, we really could not have kept 40 folks busy, but an additional 3-4 would really have made a difference. This year we tried something new and opened the Rocky Ridge sign ups way early at the picnic and we got a good response. Dee has mailed out her best effort to decode what was written, but please check that and fill in any gaps you are able to. The main Rocky Ridge set up on November 16th is our next big push and I see this as one of our make-or-break moments for the club. We have to have enough help to ensure those that do show up are not overburdened. As October flies by, look for phone calls in the first week of November! We also have the Pre-Setup on November 4th. This is essential to making the main setup successful. If you have not previously helped with the platforms and or track laying activities, please consider trying something new during the week for this first push. We could use some new folks to share the load.

Finally, if your yard is “blessed” with colorful leaves, especially reds or anything bright, please consider bagging some for us and bringing it along for main setup. We will need both mulched and non-mulched leaves. Even basic brown is useful.

Parting thought! I acknowledge Rocky Ridge is a big effort, and one the club likely cannot sustain forever. We do need something else, or even several smaller efforts to keep the club together before we give up Rocky Ridge, or else, what is the point? Most of us heard Turk talk about the new North-East Large-Scale Train Show in Springfield MA. This would be a new, and shorter surge for the club, but distance makes it a challenge. There are other shows that are closer, but all require at least several hours of travel. We are all very open to additional ideas and thoughts.

Reach out to us anytime! –

RFS Jr.

2024 SVGRS Annual Picnic

Submitted by Rob

Once again, Mother Nature presented us with rainy weather, but it didn't dampen a nice crowd attending at the Southampton Township Park just outside of Shippensburg on Sunday September 29th. Festivities kicked off at 1pm, but many showed up early for extra time to socialize. It was nice to get back to this venue and Norfolk Southern even provided several mixed freight trains throughout the afternoon. This year the catering was provided by Mission BBQ out of Camp Hill and even though the delivery was a few minutes late, it was enjoyed by everyone. Our blessing was provided by Barry McNew after a short welcome from our new President. We were missing a few members, but still had an impressive turnout of 41 attendees. Dessert was a series of cakes baked by Dee and well appreciated!

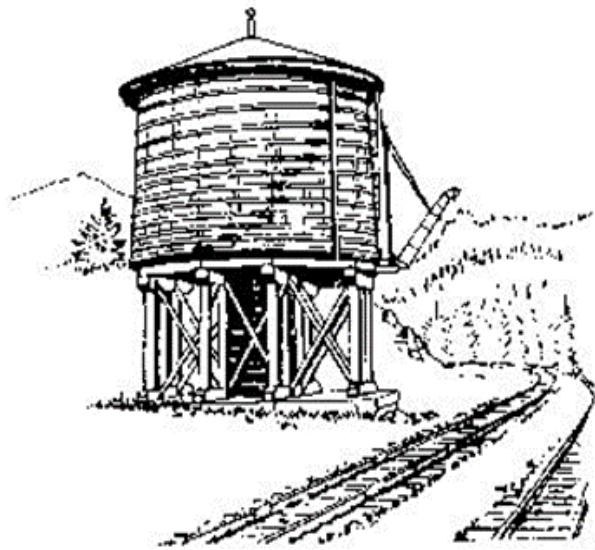
Following the meal Penny Segessenman and the officers provided several jokes and a quick humorous story, We held a relatively short business meeting focused primarily on Rocky Ridge and a new Secretary. Kevin Adams has stepped forward to fill the role. Thank you, Kevin! Door prizes were selected in groups interspersed with the meeting composed of a selection of train cars, Mums, pumpkins, and gifts card. Phillip Shoop won the LGB Stance giveaway. We did a 50/50 raffle which netted Joanne Kluk \$51. Well, done all!

Because of the weather, the traditional drone photo was impossible, and we failed to get a group photo to commemorate the event. An enjoyable time was had by all. It was great to "see" everyone in person after another long gap.









Rocky Ridge Round Up

Submitted by Rob and Bob

If we have not belabored the topic enough, I want to make one final reminder in this newsletter about the critical upcoming Rocky Ridge dates.

Pre-setup of the platforms and track is Monday Nov 4th at 10:00am. If you have never participated in this effort, we welcome your help.

The main setup adding scenery, decorating trains, and putting up fence is Saturday November 16th at 10:00am. We really need help for this as is the largest single day/effort of the event.

In addition, we need members to gather leaves, some mulched and some not. If you (or your neighbor) is blessed with access to colorful leaves, please make them available to us even if you cannot be there.

We have had a really good response to the calendar already. Thanks to everyone for that! Remember, three nights of support gets you free membership. You are of course very welcome to do more. We have a couple of Thursday/Friday/Saturday evenings we will need a second member or couple to help cover.

It is coming quick, let's do this thing!



Adams Family Open House

Submitted by Dee Simmons

Kevin and his family put on an open house on Sunday July 7th from noon - 6pm. It was an enjoyable day to connect with our SVGRS friends and a great time was had by all who came.

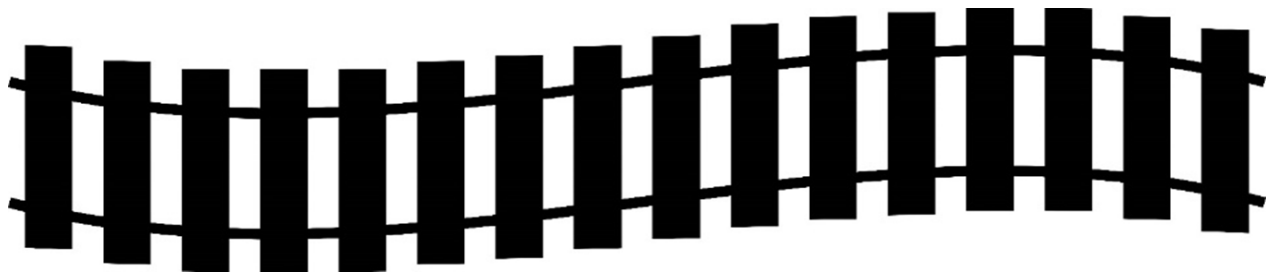
Kevin and Aaron were the prefect hosts, and we were treated to a class where Kevin showed us several tips and tricks, they use in their train garden. He demonstrated step by step how he creates the tin roofs for his buildings. He also showed us the template he created for making his trestle pieces as well as how he creates the stone façade pieces. I was personally extremely excited to hear all the tips and tricks he provided for us. He also showed us different building materials he uses.

He had up to four trains running at once on a 40' x 80' layout with almost 500 feet of track.

For anyone who has never had the privilege of visiting Providence Junction, Kevin has several scratch-built structures that provide a great atmosphere in his garden.







McNew Family Trip

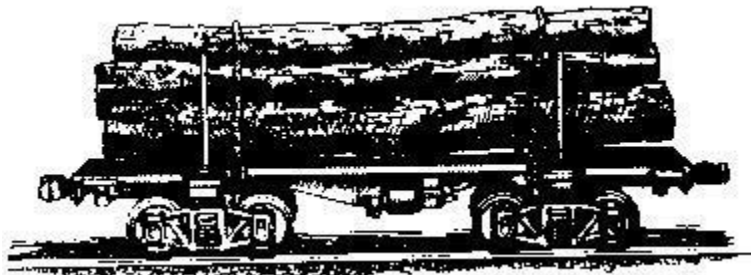
Submitted by Barry McNew

Our family took a very nice train ride from Scranton, Pa in September to Jim Thorpe, Pa. We rode in the club car which was limited to 20 passengers. There were only 16 of us in the car. It was a very smooth ride because the car has 6 axes trucks. They also offer free drinks and snacks.

While we were in Scranton, we visited Steamtown.







Entertrainment Junction

Submitted by Barry McNew

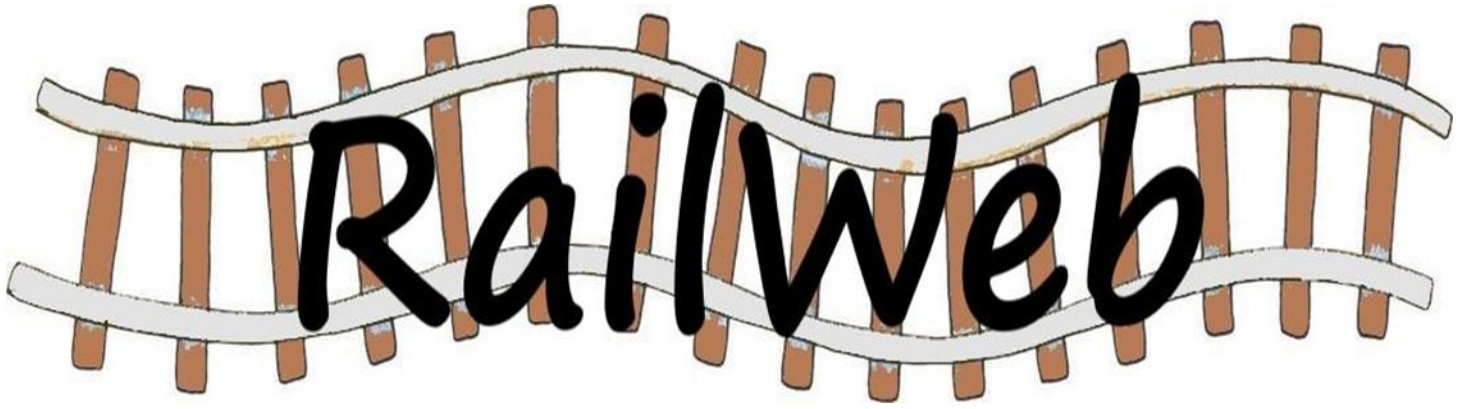
Here are pictures from the Entertrainment Junction located in West Chester, Ohio. It is the largest train display in the world. 90 G scale trains running on over 2 miles of track. These pictures are from one of Barry McNew's trips there.

Unfortunately, the business will be closing down some time in January of 2025. It will be open until that time and is worth the trip to see.









Videos and Websites

This column is dedicated to sharing some interesting items that a previous member (Bob Wenger) had found on the Internet and thought he would share with club members. He provided us with many of them before leaving so we can continue this section of the newsletter for an extended period of time. Please send me any interesting videos and websites you have found so that we can continue sharing them in future newsletters. Enjoy! Dee

Incline on the Yosemite Valley RR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4_mJuS9WWc

Early Logging & Hewing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzVCByldpWI&t=406s>

Lombard track crawler running at the Maine Forestry and Logging Museum.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf4T_pKz-gQ&t=143s

Railway surgeons

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/what-did-railway-surgeons-do>

Painting Amtrak

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/amtrak-paint-designs>

History of Train Couplers - How do train cars stay together?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEX6_GRk6sU&t=265s

Who says diesels don't need a fireman???

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDcjIWIvbmK>

The worst-maintained tracks in the US

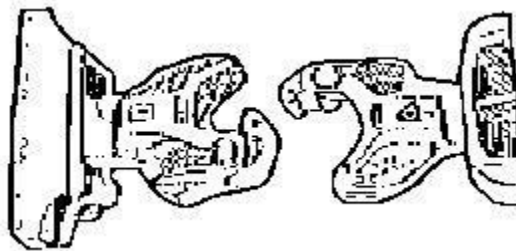
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X2A2f6E5DI>

Pikes Peak Route (Colorado Midland, Midland Terminal Railways)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bH09ab9MIkQ>

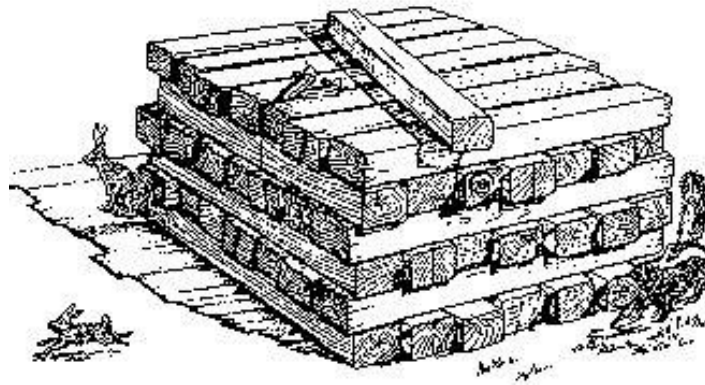
History of an interesting railroad in New Zealand

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/historic/charming-creek-tramway.pdf>



2025 Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed

If you have a garden Railroad layout, we would appreciate it if you would consider having an open house in 2025. This is a way for members to get ideas and provides good comradery among our members. If interested contact Robert Kluk at jokatson@msn.com to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.



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