

**April 2010**

## **Operating Session in HO**

**By Bill Derville**

On Saturday, Feb. 27th, Bill and Jean Dippert and Ed Foley hosted a RCGRS Operating Session on the HO layout in Bill's basement. This layout was

built by Bill and Ed many years ago. Nick Kelsey, Bill Derville, Bill Dippert, Jean Dippert, Ken Shipman, and Ed Foley were all operators and were challenged by the mainline and switching operations on this complex layout with great scenery.



The car card operations used were similar to the procedures set up by Nick and Joe. The cars rotate to four logical places on the layout in four separate operating sessions. (At least we completed only one session in that day.) Everyone had a fabulous time and all were anxious to do it again. We also learned why we all prefer working with larger

equipment. Bill's layout is built primarily with code 70 track for the sidings (although some code 55 and even a little of code 40 is used). All track and switches were hand laid by Bill and Ed, and all the cars had prototypical wheel flanges. When a car came off the track, we were challenged to rerail it with our older eyes!



## Build A Backwoods Water Tower

Fourteen people attended Gary Lee's clinic to build a water tower. The craftsmanship and results are beautiful.



Joe and Jen Eckardt prepare a component



Karen Shipman finishes her water tower.



Proud owners of new water towers: Gary Lee, Odell Lee, Ron Bacon, Merlene Bacon, Jen Eckardt, Joe Eckardt, Nick Kelsey, Darrel Dunham, Rob Reiterman, Rex Ploederer, Ken Shipman, Karen Shipman, Dave Stratton, Gary Garnas, Mike Greenwood

## **The Fanno Crew Brew Pub Movie Nights** by Jeff Lange

On Sunday evening, March 28th, twenty-eight members of our club braved the windy and wet weather to participate in the 2nd Monthly Movie Night at the Fanno Crew Brew Pub in Tigard. Jan Zweerts, our illustrious train video guru has graciously offered to share part of his collection with our club, and we all had the opportunity to vote on several different choices of shows to view. The first movie night back in February was a big hit, as we viewed “The Silver Streak” (1976) with Gene Wilder and Richard Prior.

The movie we just enjoyed was “The Great Train Robbery” (1979), with Sean Connery and Donald Sutherland. Our small group of train enthusiasts thoroughly enjoyed the storyline, and the scenes with the speeding train passing underneath some very low overpasses was excellent. All the while, we kept thinking that Sean Connery was going to be knocked off the train by the frequent low overpasses, but he always managed to ‘hit the deck’ just prior to being obliterated. Jan shared with us that the movie crew helicopter had trouble staying up with the train, as the steam train was going so fast, it made filming difficult.



The little “JNJ” train in front of the cake represents the birthday trio Jeff Lange, Nick Kelsey, and Jan Zweerts.

On this particular Sunday evening, we were able to celebrate three club member’s birthdays. Jeff

Lange’s, Nick Kelsey’s and Jan Zweerts’s birthdays are all each just two days apart, March 25th, 27th and 29th, respectively. A large sheet cake from Costco decorated with the ‘J – N – J’ railroad was purchased and adorned with green roses, and enjoyed by all. Our waitress, Kim, even served up mint-chip ice cream to all who wished to have this to compliment their cake. She worked very hard to serve everyone’s meal, drinks, and dessert, and even remembered to call each member by their first names, making the evening even more enjoyable. Nick has asked that all members please reply to the Yahoo Group site with your birthday, (month and day only) so that we may all recognize everyone’s special day in our club.

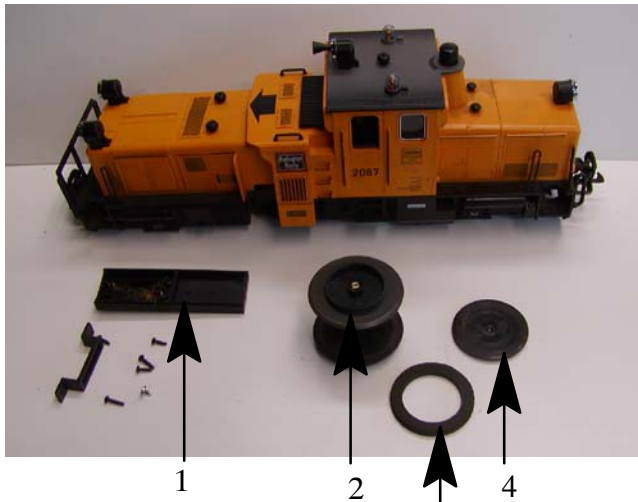
Thank you very much Jan for organizing this fun event, and to all who have attended the first two movie nights. We hope to continue having these special get-togethers in the future, so watch the Yahoo Group site for announcements of the next time this special event will be planned. Vote for your favorite movie from the short list of available features, and plan on joining us for a fun-filled evening. The Fanno Crew movie room is private, and catered, so it really makes the attendees feel very comfortable.

## **The “Grinder”** By Allan Warrior

Several years ago, I purchased an LGB track cleaning loco (also known as the “grinder”) which has been one of my unhappy expenditures. While it does clean the tracks, it also marks the tracks because the cleaning wheels bounce as they work. I use it as a preliminary cleaner when getting ready to begin railroad operations in the spring. The cleaning “tires” do wear to the point that the large flanges will prevent the tires from contacting the track. One of the other unhappy features is the \$30 replacement cost of the two cleaning wheels (if you can find them).

I found that I could extend the life of the worn mild abrasive “tires” by disassembling the cleaning wheels and adding 2 mm to 3 mm to the diameter of the hub. The tires will not stretch much, but will

accommodate a slight increase in the hub diameter with a subsequent increase in the outer diameter.



1. Gear cover assembly
2. Hub on the inner flange wheel
3. Abrasive "tire"
4. Outer wheel cover

Remove the five screws and remove the gear cover assembly. Note where the two longer screws go.

Carefully slide the bearing supports and wheel assembly from the frame.

Remove the outer wheel cover and the abrasive tire.

I carefully cut a 4 mm strip of vinyl electrician's tape long enough to wrap around each hub to increase its diameter about 2 mm.. Re-assemble the grinder assembly. The tires should be ready to continue their work. I am still interested in finding a substitute material that will retro-fit the tires and be so much less expensive to replace.

## Would You Like To Go On A Fall Train Tour?

By Carolyn Rose

Several members have asked when we could go on another club trip. Please consider this possibility as detailed below and be prepared to say if you are definitely interested at the business meeting in April. If you will not be attending the meeting at Kook-en's, you can call to let me know you want to be included.

1. We would leave Portland train station Saturday, October 9, to ride Amtrak south to Klamath Falls. The coach tickets are about \$40.00 round trip. Shortly after leaving the station there is a wine tasting of Oregon wines in the parlor car, cost \$5.00. We would eat dinner in the dining car or you could bring your own "picnic".

2. The train arrives in Klamath Falls at 9:50 p.m. .A shuttle would take us to the Camarron Motel (the same place the train crew stays). The motel costs about \$55.00 per night per room and includes breakfast. We would be staying two nights.

Sunday morning a charter bus would pick us up for a trip to Crater Lake Lodge for brunch and time to enjoy the scenery. If 20 people go on the trip, the charter bus would cost \$50.00 per person.

3. Back on the bus we would stop at Train Mountain, where a meet is being held. Since the brunch at the Lodge is ample we won't eat again until we get back to Klamath Falls. The afternoon would be spent at Train Mountain, at least that is the plan so far. We will be in contact with folks who know more about the event before final plans are made.

4. We would be back in Klamath Falls for dinner and leave Monday morning for the return Amtrak trip to Portland. This route is best enjoyed on the way north as it winds around Lake of the Woods and through the Cascades from the east side to the west traveling through several tunnels and some beautiful scenery. We would have lunch on the train and more wine if you like. The train arrives in Portland about 3:30 p.m..

The date of the trip depends on the results of our findings about Train Mountain. On other weekends tours of Train Mountain can be arranged with a short train ride or a longer ride with a picnic lunch. First choice is the meet weekend when many trains are running. If you are not familiar with Train Mountain, go to the web site below and you will see a great video that was part of an Oregon Public Broadcasting program.

<http://www.opb.org/programs/ofg/segments/view/1565>

## Schedules & Timetables

It is our Society's policy to attempt to have an event or open house on every second Saturday of the month. Other and additional dates during a month are also available and encouraged.

**Editor's Note: The deadline for the May 2010 newsletter is April 25, 2010.**

**April 10, 2010, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - All Day:** OPS SIG clinic and work session to install Kadee couplers. General Tool Conference Room at 2705 NW Nicolai, Portland, OR, 503-499-6483. Rex Ploederer will hold a short clinic on installation of body mount Kadee couplers. We will convert all of Bill Derville's stock to body mounts. Bill Derville will supply pizza and soft drinks, couplers, cars, and tools.

**April 11, 2010, Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.:** Open house and quarterly business meeting at Dave and Margaret Kooken. 7542 Carolina Lane Vancouver WA 98664. 360-695-0389-0389, dmkkooken@pacifier.com

**April 16, 2010, Friday, 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.:** Operations Session at Worthington and Randolph RR. 1369 SE 12th Loop, Canby, OR 97013  
Phone: 503-266-1110

**May 8, 2010, Saturday, Noon to 5:00 pm:** Open house at Dennis & Carolyn Rose's home. 18325 SW Jaylee St., Beaverton, OR . Potluck: Host will provide beverages and dessert. A-K-main dish; L-Z side dish.

Members can run their trains. Minimum track radius is 4-ft. Track power or RC is OK. NO live steam please.

**May 14, 2010, Friday, 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.:** OP SIG meeting at Bill Derville's Colorado & Southern RR.

**May 28, 2010, Friday, 4 p.m. until 8 p.m.:** OP SIG meeting at Gary and Jonette Lee's Baker and Grande Ronde RR.

**Jun 12, 2010, Saturday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.:** Open house at Odell and Hazel Lee's home. 619 NE 160th Portland OR 97230, 503-253-3447

**June 19, 2010, Saturday:** Railroads In The Garden Summer Tour 2010. Bill Derville, Chairman

**July 10, 2010, Saturday:** Open House and quarterly business meeting at Gary and Jonette Lee's home

**July 29 - August 11, 2010:**

2010 NGRConvention.in Tacoma, WA. Website and registration information is available at [http://www.psgrs.org/2010\\_NGRC\\_Schedule.html](http://www.psgrs.org/2010_NGRC_Schedule.html)

**Pre-convention Tour:** July 20-31 Oregon & SW Washington. Volunteers will be needed to assist the layouts that will be open for the tour.

**Convention & tours:** August 1-8 Greater Puget Sound area.

**Post-convention tours:** August 9-11, British Columbia.

**Aug 14, 2010, Saturday:** Open house and annual auction at Ron and Merlene Bacon's house.

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