

## **2007 Railroads In The Garden Summer Tour**

Our biggest summer tour yet! Because of the coverage we received in the Oregonian, thanks to Jonette Lee, we had the biggest Summer Tour event since its inception in 2002. It was held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 16th, the day before Father's Day.

Some gardens had about 700 visitors. We estimate that the club sold 398 books yielding us revenue of \$3,941. After paying expenses of \$1,142 we netted a profit for the club of \$2,799!!! \$810 of our expenses were for printing. We also signed up five new members. I am going to propose that each of the nine host be reimbursed \$20 for cookies and lemonade since we have the money and many of us spent that and more. I think we went through the first two packages of cookies before noon and we refilled the lemonade container many times.

We never expected to get the turnout we got this year. The four page article in the Oregonian featuring Odell and Hazel Lee's railroad that returned to the tour this year and included my phone number and Email for further information. I received no fewer than 50 phone calls and a dozen Emails from people wanting more information about how to get tickets and the general locations of the layouts. Some of these calls were from Eugene, Corvallis, and Hood River, Oregon.

My thanks go out to all our retail outlets for selling our booklet. This year we added two additional hobby shops (Mainline Trains in Forest Grove and HobbyTown USA in Wilsonville). We also added Dennis Seven D's nurseries (3 locations) and Portland Nurseries (2 locations). We printed 400 books initially, and when nearly every retail location was sold out of books, we printed 100 more the day before the tour. We delivered 25 of these to Tammies

Hobbies which were sold out of that day. The rest of them went to the homes on tour to sell to walk in guests.

I called all the retail outlets and gave them my cell phone number if they had people who wanted books after they ran out. My phone rang off the hook and didn't stop ringing until 12:15 p.m. the day of the Summer Tour. I gave people directions on how to get to the layout closest to them. Several houses sold out of books as well.

In all, everything went well, and no one seemed too unhappy since they could go see the layouts even if the books were sold out of the retail outlets. Despite the expected crowds, we handled the people fairly well. Because everyone was coming and going to quite a few layouts, it never seemed overly crowded.

Sadly, we had one fatality however. During a brief downpour, Gary Lee fried a board in the tender of one of his Consolidations before he could cover it with a tarp. The rain didn't last long or dampen the spirits of our guests, but it demonstrated to all of us this is real railroading in the elements!

This year we held the event on one day because several people could not open their railroads again this year. But our thanks to the owners of the nine layouts on tour who included: Bill and Jean Dippert, Bill and Brenda Derville, Allan and Kathryn Warrior, Joe Chesney, Shannon and Millie Pratt, Mike and Terri Greenwood, David and Margaret Kook-en. Odell and Hazel Lee, and Gary and Jonette Lee.

My thanks to the many volunteers that helped operate these railroads and staff the greeting tables. Special thanks to our runners Joe and Jen Eckardt who helped Bill Dippert open on time and then delivered booklets to several layouts.

Next year the Summer Tour will be held on the weekend of June 21st. Whether it will be held on two days or one will depend on how many layouts

are open. We need a minimum of six layouts a day (12 total) to operate both Saturday and Sunday as otherwise it leaves too many people at too few layouts causing traffic jams of people and cars.

We hope to print the books earlier next year. If you would like to be on tour next year, please send me an Email or let me know during one of our events. I would like to finalize the list of those on tour in this winter 2008.

I collected Email addresses of many people who want to be notified of next year's event. That will help us carry this year's momentum into next year.

Don't forget the Puget Sound Garden Railroad Society is having their first Summer Tour this year on August 11th and 12th. See Gary if you would like a free booklet to join the tour. We are going to try to incorporate some of their map ideas and visitor instructions into our booklet next year.

Bill Derville  
Summer Tour Chairman

### **Baker and Grand Ronde Railroad (Summer Tour)**

Th crew jacked up the caboose and rolled the truck back underneath in only two hours. Bystanders cheered at the completed feat.



Oops! The No. 2 caboose lost a truck.

Just like larger scale, sometimes things happen. The No. 2 caboose lost a truck while switching on the house track at Whiskey Creek Station during the summer tour.

The crew saw a part on the ground at the main west switch but did not think much about as "Those railcars are always losing parts". Company officials after an extensive hunt on the entire railroad located a missing center pin clear up at the top of the hill at the Odell Summit wye. "Thank goodness the ca-

boose did not tumble over a trestle and into the river, that would of been expensive to retrieve."

### **Open House at the Baker and Grand Ronde Railroad**

July 15th was the open house at Gary and Jonette Lee's mountain railroad in Corbet, Oregon. Many of our Society members attended and enjoyed the trains operation on a warm partly cloudy afternoon. The potluck dinner and social gathering was great.



A busy afternoon at the railroad

The Baker and Grand Ronde Railroad is a point-to-point that leaves the train assembly yard in the shop; or more officially, leaves the Whiskey Creek Station in the valley and winds and climbs through the mountain range to the Odell Summit wye. The rail line passes through some spectacular scenery as it traverses over water features on hand-built

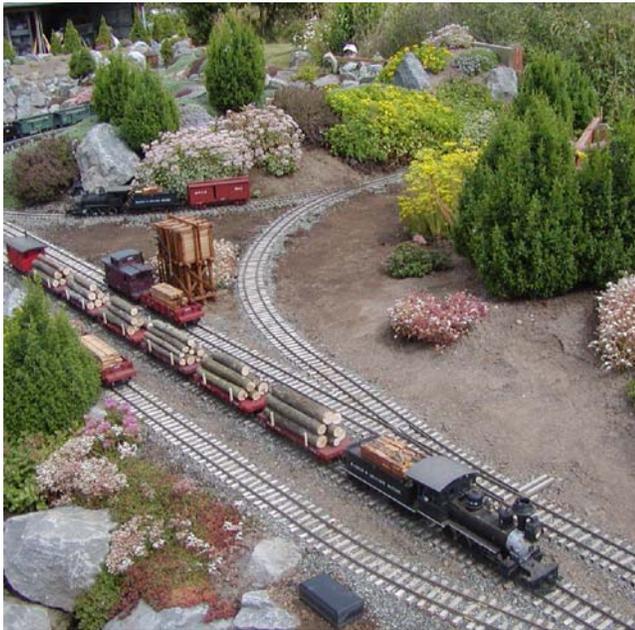
trestles. There is a awesome trestle prior to arriving at the Odell Summit wye. All of the track is hand-laid. The stub switches are a design from the early days of railroading where there were no moving points. A large lever shifts the track on the roadbed to align with the desired direction of travel. The railroad is either battery powered or live steam.



Whiskey Creek Station



Jeff Lange controls a train across the high trestle leading to the the Odell Summit wye.



The Odell Summit wye; a busy turn around



Joe Eckardt coaches daughter Marsala in operating a train at Odell Summit. Jan Zweerts (background) operates another train.



Odell Lee, Carolyn Rose, Christina Brittain, and Dennis Rose discuss the event.

### **Tom Miller's Very Large Scale Railroad**

We have once again been generously invited to visit Tom Miller's outdoor riding railroad. The date is **Saturday, September 29th beginning at 10 a.m.** This is a great outdoor railroad that our club has enjoyed visiting annually for the past 3 years. Tom has 2 miles of track on his 10 acre property. A ride behind one of his live steam engines takes about 20 minutes and includes a trip over a 100 foot long and 3 story high trestle, and a tunnel as long as a football field.

Tom is also building a world class indoor F scale (1.20:1) that captures the flavor and in some cases actual scenes on the Cumbers and Toltek Railroad under steam power. This is rapidly becoming one of the finest indoor railroads anyone has ever seen. He also has a great model ship collection.

Tom asks that no children under 16 years old attend this event. He also asks that no one come on the property before 10:00 a.m. We all look forward to a great morning. Feel free to bring a sandwich as he has a picnic area. There will be no food or drink at this event other than what you bring. The event should conclude around lunch time or shortly thereafter. Hope you can all attend.

Bill Derville  
503-499-6483

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## **Schedules & Timetables**

Make sure you check the calendar on our Website at <http://www.rcgrs.com/> for the most up-to-date schedules and timetables.

Anyone interested in having an Open House or sponsoring an event, please contact **Christina Britain**. The following events so far for 2007 are listed below.

### **August 4, 2007, Saturday, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.:**

Open house at Ron Dunham, 5044 NE Alberta Court, Portland, OR 97218, 503-287-9803. Hamburgers and hotdogs supplied. Beverages and side dishes appreciated.

### **August 12, 2007, Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.:**

Open house at Quinn Mountain (Bud Quinn & Christina Brittain), 812 Canyon Creek Road, Washougal, WA 98671; 360-837-3711. Main meat

dish and soft beverages supplied. A–C Bread; D–H Side Dish; I–O Salad, P–Z Dessert.

To get to Quinn Mountain, go east from I-5 or I-205 to Milepost 26.5 on Washington State Hwy. 14. Turn north up Canyon Creek Road (just east of Salmon Falls Road) for 7/10 mile. Our driveway is on the right where Friendly Bear is waiting to welcome you. Directions and a map are available at their Web site. <http://www.quinnmountain.com>

You can see Quinn Mountain if you look northeast from the Cape Horn viewpoint on Hwy. 14. Canyon Creek Road is about 1.5 miles east of viewpoint.

**September 9, 2007, Sunday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.:** Open house and pot luck at Mike and Terri Greenwood's. 7007 N. Borthwick; Portland, OR 97219; 503-225-9373. I am all battery power; no track power available. I encourage all battery and live steam locos to attend, I will also be letting everyone run my engines to experience battery/RC control for themselves.

A–E Side Dish,  
F–M Salad,  
N–S Dessert,  
T–Z Main Dish.

**Saturday, September 29th beginning at 10 a.m.** Tom Miller has again invited RCGRS to visit his 1-1/2 inch scale railroad in Scholls, OR. The railroad features 12,000 feet of track, a 30 foot tall by 400 foot long trestle with a Howe truss center span, and a long tunnel. The estate is beautiful. This railroad is not normally open to visitors, so this invitation is a real treat. Tom's address is 18055 SW Seiffert Rd, Sherwood, OR. Bring your own picnic.

**How to get there:** Take the OR-210/Scholls Ferry Rd. near Washington Square toward the southwest. (approx. 7 miles). At the flashing yellow light where OR-210/Scholls Ferry Rd. meets River Road, turn LEFT toward Scholls. Go past the store at the intersection of OR-219 and OR-210/Scholls Ferry Rd. for approx 0.09 miles. Turn LEFT onto SW Seiffert Rd. (0.70 miles).

**October 6, 2007, Saturday, starting at 10:00 a.m.:** Track laying party at Barbara and Jerry Clark's house. 4802 NE 32nd Court, Vancouver WA 98663, 360-737-0176

Members can bring salad or desserts – The hosts will provide main course and beverages.

Come to build track and learn about it in the process. Bring track benders, gloves, hand-trowels for digging trench, knee pads, rail clamp tool. Clark's will have rail and ties together with area staked/ marked for the track laying. There will not be track power to the area of track being laid.

**How to get there:** From I-5 North; go right (East) onto 39th Street Exit; and cross 15th Street (3-way stop) to merge onto SR 500. Go left (North) onto St. Johns, left (West) onto NE 49th Street; left (South) onto Work Street for parking. Parking is very limited, at our home and parking is not allowed on 32nd Court, so if you will park on Work Street (just West of 32nd Court) and walk up to 32nd Court if able. The house is not visible from the street (NE 49th Street).

**October 13, or 14, 2007 (final date to be announced), 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.:** Open house at Steve & Mimi Cogswell's, 17520 S Holly Lane, Oregon City, OR 97045, 503-650-4682  
Scogswell@tkw.com

**November 2, 2007, Saturday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.:** **Halloween** open house at Bill & Jean Dippert's. 2650 NW Robinia Lane, Portland OR 97229, 503-646-9783, bandjdippert@zcloud.net

A–E Main Dish,  
F–M Side Dish,  
N–S Salad,  
T–Z Dessert.

Bring your Halloween decorated car or train. The railroad is track powered.

**November 2007:** Annual RCGRS Banquet

**December 14, 2007, Friday:** Jan and Rae Zweerts.

**Editor's Note: The deadline for the September 2007 newsletter is August 25th, 2007.**