

Annual Ghost Train Event

The annual Ghost Train Event was hosted by Bill and Jean Dippert from noon until about 10:30 p.m. on October 25th. Jean had made pumpkin soup and

the potluck provided by the members and guests ensured plenty of food. Each member was encouraged to bring a “ghostly” decorated car or train to run on the railroad.



Ghost Train part 1



Ghost Train part 2



Ghost Train part3



The train of the “Ghost and Gob-Lines Railroad” makes its way over the trestle



An open motor car built from scrap box parts pulls a small train of Halloween celebrants



Jean and Bill Dippert

The RCGRS Annual Banquet

A heavy rain on the outside did not dampen the activities of the RCGRS annual workshops, luncheon buffet, and model displays held at the Kingstad Center in Beaverton on November 8th. Three outstanding workshops were presented to help us become better modelers and garden railroad builders. Our Society is fortunate to have several master crafters who can share techniques and mentor us in one of the “world’s greatest hobbies”.

The buffet was delicious and plentiful with an entree of salmon or chicken and accompanied with rice and a great vegetable medley.

The models built or kit bashed by many of our members this past year were on display and each showed beautiful work and craftsmanship. It has been decried in some areas of our country that the art of scratch building and ingenious kit bashing is becoming a lost art. From the quality and quantity of the models on display, the art is still strong in our Society.

G-Scale model kits have not been generally popular and I note with interest that several of the raffle prizes were kits this year. Since G-Scale makes up only about 6% of the model train market, we have not had much choice in kits nor large assortments of building kits or rolling stock. Of course the fact G-Scale is further fragmented by several scales that all run on 45 mm track exacerbates the difficulties presented to a potential manufacturer in making products for our gauge. However, we have certainly gained a much wider choice in commercially available products in the past 10 years.

The upside of this equation is that in order to have a prototypical reasonable model for whatever railroad scheme we have, we are required to learn new skills to produce that special model just for us. This can give a great sense of accomplishment. Ultimately, we have a diversity in our Society that ranges in scope from the “master gardener” who includes a railroad feature as part of the garden to the “engineer” who has a great railroad design and a few plants here and there.



Jo Hinds demonstrates the uses of commonly available materials to save expenses and still create beautiful models.



Gary Lee describes many of the decisions required and the “civil engineering” needed when starting a new railroad.



Ron Bacon presents kitbashing ideas and how to super detail models.



Mike Greenwood: Elected winner of the “Kit Bashed Locomotives“ category for his highly detailed and animated ghost train. The locomotive is “rusting and decrepit” and the tender is full of bones for the boiler fire. The tombstone car is guarded by an animated ghoul (with voice) and a “lost soul” in a crypt that opens and closes.

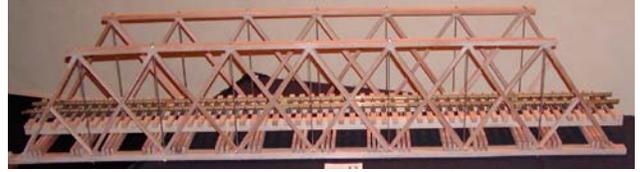


John Steiger: Elected winner of the “Structures” category for his beautiful church. The delicately designed and assembled stained glass windows are spectacular.



Bill Dippert: Elected winner of “scratch built/kit bashed” cars and equipment. A highly detailed model of an open-air car for rail fan trips on the Rio Grande Railroad.

Some of the Models on Display



A beautiful truss bridge



A diorama of a garden railroad with a Z-scale train as the railroad feature.



Small hotel made from foam



Kit Bashed and Weathered Locomotive



Large Diorama: The Bait Shop and Lake



Kit Bashed/Scratch Built locomotive and cars



Kit Bashed/Scratch Built Cars



Kit Bashed car: CP Lumber Car

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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.

It is the 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. Anyone inter-

ested in having an Open House or sponsoring an event, please contact **Christina Brittain**.

December 19, 2008, Friday Evening: Jan & Rae Zweerts 1859 N. Jantzen Avenue, Row O, Slip 9 (Last House), Portland, OR, Phone: 503-247-7531. The Christmas ships will be sailing past their house that same evening. Jan's European railroad which is on a floating deck next to the houseboat will be in operation.

Host will provide chili. Guests please bring appetizers, side dishes, salads, snacks, etc. Also, beer and wine is welcome.

Layout: Fast, frequent Swiss style service reducing the need for automobiles and aircraft. Features that makes RR unique? European style cars and engines. New this year? Swiss village scene.

Layout info for those who want to run their own trains Yes, but be aware of water hazard. Divers are NOT standing by! 5% grades at Swiss Jct. Can members run trains? Any limitations, i.e., no steam? Ask control operator for permission. Hook & loop couplers and Kadees. The minimum track radius is 2 foot radius with 12000 series LGB switches. Track power with electric blocks permits independent control of 3 trains, plus a switching district. Is the layout FN³ compatible? Probably not.

House conditions: 20% slope on the ramps to the river; wear non-slip shoes and warm coats to observe Christmas Ships outside. All children 10 years or younger need to wear life jackets (Jantzen Beach Moorage rules). We have a small supply on hand, bring your own if available. Reminder: walkways can be slippery if it has been raining. Please keep this in mind when deciding what shoes to wear (low heel and non-slip walking shoes are better).

Also, put your keys in your pocket or purse before starting down the walkways. The river is anywhere from 3-30 feet deep. The likelihood of retrieving your keys if they are dropped overboard is pretty close to nil!

Editor's Note: The deadline for the January 2009 newsletter is December 25, 2008.

2009 OPEN HOUSE PLANNING SCHEDULE

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| January 10, Saturday | Annual meeting of the RCGRS |
| February 14, 15; Saturday, Sunday | Great Train Exposition, Expo Center, Portland |
| March 2nd weekend | |
| April 2nd weekend | _____ Ron and Merlene Bacon, Portland, OR |
| May 2nd weekend | Dave and Margaret Kookan, Vancouver, WA |
| June 20, Saturday | RCGRS Annual Tour of the Garden Railroads |
| July 5 through July 11 | 2009 National Garden RR Convention, Denver, CO |
| July 11, Saturday | Gary and Jonette Lee, Corbett, OR |
| August 2nd weekend | Nick Kelsey |
| Sept 2nd weekend | |
| October 2nd weekend | _____ Bill and Jean Dippert, OR |
| November 14, Saturday | Annual Buffet/Banquet |
| December 2nd weekend | Jan and Rae Zweets (Annual Christmas boats? ???) |

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OPEN HOUSE INFO NEEDED FROM HOST:

Layout info for those who want to run their own trains?

Can members run trains? Any limitations, ie., no steam?

What is minimum track radius?

What is power supply?

Is layout FN3 compatible?

Education: Is there a topic of interest host will present?

Or unusual or crafted feature that makes RR unique?

Directions:

What Host will provide:

Membership Dues Are Due!

The dues are \$30 per year for an individual and an additional \$6 per year for a significant other. There is only one class of member and all dues paying members have a vote in the business of the society. All dues are payable in December for the following fiscal year.

Name _____
Spouse _____
Address _____
Town _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone Number _____ Email: _____
My Interests: _____

Return the bottom section of this page with your dues payment to: RCGRS, 17520 S. Holly Lane; Oregon City, OR 97045 Make checks payable to RCGRS.