

RCGRS Annual Meeting

The RCGRS Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2006, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Columbia Gorge Railroad Club, 2505 N Vancouver Avenue (corner of Vancouver and Russell) near Emanuel Hospital. The new officers will be installed and the annual budget meeting will be set. Some of the annual activities will be adopted. Please attend.

Open House at Shannon and Millie Pratt's

It was one of those cold blustery blustery afternoons, but fortunately Shannon's railway is inside his house. The railway is a treat to behold! All of the many European style locomotives and rolling stock owned by Shannon are made by Märklin.



Shannon at the console. The **Party City** RR station is in the foreground and we are looking toward **Farmdale**.

Märklin is a well known model maker in Europe, but has had limited sales in the U.S. Their scale is strictly 1:32, highly detailed and beautiful. The railroad related buildings on the layout are also

Märklin and are high quality. Märklin track is 45 mm gauge but more closely sized in height to about 0.175 instead of the 0.250 or 0.332 track that most of us use. As a result of the track

height, the flanges on the wheels on the rolling stock sold in the U.S. are too deep to pass through Märklin switches without derailing.

Shannon's layout is basically a double loop dog-bone with additional sidings. One end of the dog-bone is the town of **Party City**. At the other end of the dog-bone is the village of **Farmdale**.

Party City is the larger town and there are many things happening in it. Today, there is a Christmas parade. The carousel is in full operation with its attendant music. The stage toward the left has the ballerinas dancing to "Swan Lake". Not easily seen in the "Party City" photo is the lighted movie theater in all of its glory and the moving sign on the bank building displaying the latest news. The vehicles and figures are all 1:32 scale.

The **Village of Farmdale** sits at the foot of a mountain. Both of the tracks go through a tunnel at the

base of the mountain. One of the tracks makes a reverse loop at Farmdale. Those few model railroaders who have successfully engineered a reverse loop with track power know that it takes some electronic wizardry to create a reverse loop that does not cause a short circuit. In the Farmdale photo, the lighted Christmas tree changes colors and "Honest Bob" shows off one of his cars on a miniature rotating turntable.

Shannon has a large collection of figures and seasonal buildings. He decorates the town and village in accordance with the season of the year and any holiday. He believes that his arrangements and decorations for Halloween are his most spectacular effort. He is requesting that he can host our annual Halloween Ghost Train event in 2006. (He is promising to lay down a loop of G-scale track on his patio for guest trains.



Party City



Village of Farmdale

Special attention has been paid to the wall murals around the layout so that the landscape gives a good illusion of depth. Special lighting has been installed as we have seen at the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club and at Tom Miller's F-scale building. The lights can be set on a timer so that the room changes during the "operating day" to go from day to dusk to night to dawn and back to day.



Farmdale at night

Molds for Jig Stones™

The Jig Stone committee, Penny Walker, Larry Dick and Carolyn Rose, met to discuss the best way to distribute and care for the three sets of Jig Stone molds that the club voted to purchase.

Each set contains three molds in one pattern. Whoever uses the molds will have all they need to make a building, bridge piers or walls. Because it takes considerable time to make enough blocks to do a project, it was decided that each set should be checked out for one month at a time. Please do not ask to keep it a second month as many members would like to have an opportunity to use them. We suggest that there be a \$15.00 returnable deposit and a \$15.00 rental fee. To help keep track of the



Party City at Night

pieces, each set will come in a box designed to hold a specific number of molds. Each piece will also be numbered.

If you think the club should have free use of the molds, read on. We would like to see people that use them make enough blocks to build the fruit stand that Rex shared at the workshop or other relatively simple building. At a second workshop that Rex Ploederer has agreed to lead, we could get advice and help putting the building together and learn how to insert doors and windows. Doors and windows can be purchased from Garden Texture™. Tammie's Hobbies carries some of the Grant Line™ doors. Hopefully, we won't have to use any of the rental money for replacing lost molds and the club can use the money for workshop supplies and buying additional molds. Rex says some plastic molds are available to make doors and windows. They might make a good addition.

One person will be in charge of checking out the sets, collecting the money and returning deposit checks when the sets are returned. That person would report to the yard master on whatever time schedule he determines. We ask that if you want to check out a set, you pay when receiving the set and give a check for the deposit part of the rental. The following web site will be helpful:

WWW.JIGSTONES.COM

P.S. The molds have arrived and will be ready to use January 1. Contact Carolyn or Dennis Rose if you are interested in a one month rental. Your choices are brick, random stone or stone block.

Napa Valley Salad

Serves approximately 12-16 as a side dish

Kathryn Warrior served the following salad at the Pratt's open house and a number of people asked for the recipe.

Ingredients:

- 20 cups Broken romaine lettuce pieces
- 2 Granny Smith Apples chopped appropriate for salad
- 1 cup Raisins or dried cranberries (or half and half)
- 1 cup Gorgonzola cheese* crumbled
- 1 cup Sugared walnuts coarsely chopped (cook walnuts in 3+ tablespoons of sugar until caramelized)
- 1 cup Poppy seed dressing (Homemade "Famous" is good or bottled Brianna's Poppy Seed Dressing is good)
*Similar to blue cheese

Directions:

Combine all ingredients at serving time.

Also good using oranges or strawberries and almonds instead of apples & walnuts.

Famous Poppy Seed Dressing

- 1 cup Honey or sugar
- 2 tsp. Dry mustard
- 2 tsp. Salt
- 2/3 cup Unseasoned rice vinegar, fresh lemon juice or white vinegar
- 1/3 cup White onion
- 2 cups Canola oil
- 3 T. Poppy seeds

Directions:

Mix honey, mustard, salt, vinegar and chopped onion in blender. Slowly add oil beating constantly until thick. Then beat a few minutes longer. Add poppy seed and blend thoroughly. Store in refrigerator.

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 **Donald Goltger** at **360-896-1778** or grammabob@wanet.com.

January 14, 2006, Saturday, RCGRS Annual Meeting, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.: Columbia Gorge Railroad Club, 2505 N Vancouver Avenue (corner of Vancouver and Russell) near Emanuel Hospital. Let's make it a pot luck and the club will supply drinks. B-D side dish, E-M dessert, N-Z main dish.

February 18 & 19, 2006, Saturday and Sunday, Spring 2006 Great Western & Atlantic train show. The show will be at the Exposition Center. Many of our members will be needed to help.

(1) The setup would be on Friday night February 17, 2006. Everyone is needed and would be welcome so we can get set up and out of there (17:00 hrs to 21:00 hrs or 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)

(2) There will be 8 hours of operation on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19, 2006. We need at least 2 members to run trains on the mainlines and 1 or 2 members to do switching problems and talk to the public at all times. Members can sign up for more than one slot of an hour.

(3) Sunday, February 19, 2006 after 16:00 hrs or 4:00 P.M. Help is needed to take down and put away the modules.

July 3 - 9, 2006, National Garden Railway Convention, Santa Clara, California:

Web Site: www.bagrs.org/convention/index.html

Editor's Note: awarrior@comcast.net Pictures and articles are eagerly sought for the newsletter. Help keep your newsletter interesting by submitting materials that can be printed and shared with our members. **The deadline for the February newsletter is January 25, 2006.**

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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, 7910 SW 19th Avenue, Portland, OR 97219 Make checks payable to RCGRS.