

RCGRS 2007 Annual Banquet

This year's annual soiree was a luncheon instead of an evening banquet so that members who often can not attend in the evening could participate. A day luncheon is also less expensive than an evening event. A wonderful day (11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) was planned by the Banquet Committee and 63 people attended at the Kingstad Center in Beaverton, Oregon. The food was excellent and the many activities provided something for everyone. Congratulations and thanks to the Banquet Committee for their excellent work.

The day included informative seminars for the beginning garden railroader as well as those with more experience.

Make Your Garden Grow!

A discussion of miniature plants and ground covers to use and not to use in a garden railroad. The many samples of the plants were given as raffle prizes.



Rex Ploederer describes miniature plants and trees available for garden railroads.



Dennis Rose presents samples of miniature ground covers often used in garden railroads

Power Up!

Mike Greenwood discussed track power, battery power, control systems, and what is new in electronic controls.



Scratch Build a Curved Trestle



Gary Lee showed techniques for building wood trestles and bridges in garden railroads and on curves.

Lunch

The luncheon speaker was Bob Melvo, Former Southern Pacific (SP) and Western & Pacific (W&P) Manager, and now Director of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Rail Division. He presented some interesting facts and history regarding railroad operation in Oregon. A few of the items mentioned:



- * There are two Class 1 railroads in Oregon; the Union Pacific (UP) and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). Class of railroads is determined by their revenues and not by their trackage. BNSF actually has only a relatively small amount of trackage in Oregon. Amtrak provides an incentive to the railroads for keeping their passenger trains on time. The UP is far from compliance and doesn't make many efforts to keep Amtrak trains on time. The BNSF is much more sensitive in attempting to keep Amtrak trains on time. There are currently five Amtrak trains running between Eugene, OR and

Seattle, WA, but three of these "trains" are busses.

- * The W&P is a Class 2 railroad based on their revenues and is a regional railroad serving several areas in Oregon.
- * There are a few Class 3 railroads in Oregon who find survival difficult. The current crisis involves the ceasing of operations between Eugene and Coos Bay because of unsafe tunnels. Class 3 railroads often do not have enough revenue to keep their right-of-way in useable condition.

Glenda Bockel

For many years, Glenda Bockel and her husband were professional model makers for architectural and engineering firms. When Glenda built her "Oregon Grape and Boomtown Railroad", her structures were widely admired for their detail, craftsmanship, creativity, and ability to survive in the weather of a garden railroad. Glenda sold her railroad on September 18, 2004. Many of our members attended the sale and purchased parts and structures of her railroad for use on their own layouts.



Glenda has continued conducting classes for modelers and has a rather full weekly schedule. One of her favorite building materials is in using 4-pound density polyurethane foam board, which weathers well, can be easily sculptured, and is used to create highly detailed and a large variations in structures.

Her session was a preview of her day-long 2008 hands-on model building workshop being offered to interested RCGRS members. Several members

showed interest in attending the class. Our Treasurer, Steve Cogswell, sent out a form in the internet for members to sign up for the class. There is a charge for the materials. There are more details in a following article by Steve Cogswell.

Model Contest

Many wonderful models created by our members were on display. Jen Eckhardt and Greg Martin arranged the model contest and display. The following models were voted by the members present as notable in their class:

Modified Motive Stock:

1st – Carla Ploederer –
“Rio Grande Southern” Steam Locomotive

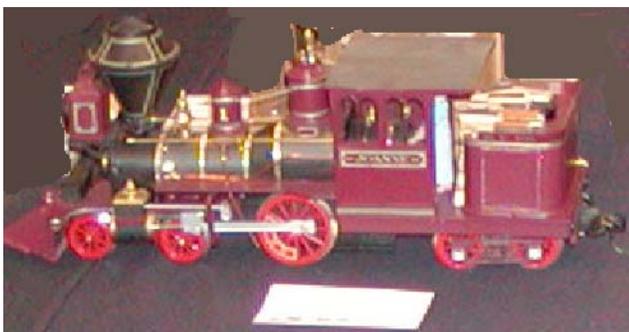


2nd – Allan Warrior – Modified Doodlebug



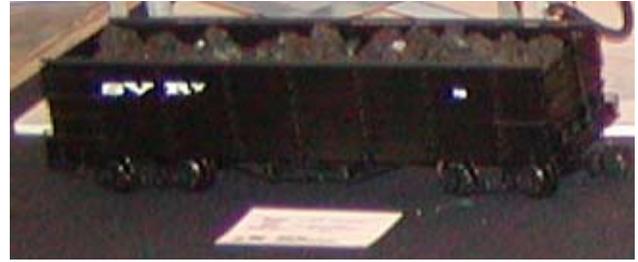
Scratch Built Motive Stock:

1st – Mike Greenwood –
“Joanne” Steam Locomotive



Modified Rolling Stock:

1st – Doug Vorwaller –
SVR Gondola w / Coal Load



Scratch Built Rolling Stock:

1st – Mike Greenwood –
“Oregon Lumber” Work Car



Scratch Built Structures:

Best In Show plus 1st – Hilaire / Jo Hinds –
“Hindsburg Bahnhof” Station



2nd – John Steiger – “Hotel Ella”



2nd – Ron Bacon –
Modified Caboose on Trestle



Kit Built Structures:

1st – Steve Cogswell –
Lookout Tower #12



(Three way tie)

- 3rd – Odell / Hazel Lee – “Special” Water Tank
- 3rd – Odell / Hazel Lee – “Open Top” Water Tank
- 3rd – Odell / Hazel Lee – “Typical” Water Tank



Diorama:

1st – Dennis Rose –
Icing Facility w / Rail Cars



Whimsical / humorous:

1st – Jeff Lange – To and Fro Halloween Train
(Picture not available)

A note from Contest Coordinator Greg Martin:

Any suggestions for next year’s model competition would be gratefully received.

Newsletter Editor’s Note: Many of the models shown would make a great Newsletter article on “What I did” and “How I did it” with interim photographs. Please keep a possible article in mind as you do your work. Any articles on the current models would be well received. (I will even help you write something if you can supply the data.)

Raffle prizes of miniature plants and railroad items were awarded as the day grew to a close at 5:00 p.m.

The 2007 Annual Ghost Train Event

By Bill Dippert

The 2007 annual Ghost Train Event was held at the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad (D&RGW) operated by engineer Bill Dippert and assisted by Jean Dippert. This event encourages members to decorate a car or locomotive (or train) with a ghoulish delight. There is a normal requirement that each design will pass through a typical bridge or tunnel. Several interchange cars were brought so that the various coupler designs could be used to couple the cars into a Halloween train.

Approximately 50 members and guests attended the event with many decorated cars. The pot luck food was good as usual and everyone had a good time.

Some of the cars exceeded normal clearances, so

there were a few that would not go through the tunnel. Jan Zweerts trimmed his pirate's mast down so that it would go through the tunnel and then he had to trim one of the huckleberry plants. Some lower branches of the plants still caught various cars and required additional trimming. There was at least one track power train (D&RGW passenger train) plus up to three battery powered RC remote operated trains, and about three live steam engines in operation at various times. There were no head-on encounters, just a lot of fun trying to run multiple trains on single track on three reverse loops. The railroad is largely a "dogbone" that begins with the village at the top of the backyard and runs for a relatively long distance down the side yard to the street.



A GP38 (Ghost & Gob-Lines Railroad) pulls a ghost train out of the upper village



A U25B pulls another ghost train through the upper right-of-way



Bill Dippert also had his HO/HOn3 basement layout open to the members. The HO layout dates back to 1968, the HOn3 section began in 1966, and the G-scale outdoor railroad was begun in 1982. Bill

has been into model railroading since 1947! His first layout was a Lionel O27 started in 1948 with his dad. The first HO layout was started in 1957 in the attic at his parent's house.



John Rossi operated his live steam pony engine with a vertical boiler to pull four mine tram cars around the system.

Model Building Class From Steve Cogswell

Glenda Bockel, a former professional and still very active model builder, has agreed to share some of her extensive knowledge of model building using styrene and polyurethane foam to RCGRS members in one or two classes in February. The classes will be two full days, Saturday and Sunday, and will build a small building face using several different materials and techniques. See the attached flyer.

The idea is you will be able to look at the resulting "manual" and remember what it is you did to achieve each result on the model. The cost of the class will be as much as \$60.00 per person including materials, but there will be a discussion, most

likely at the January business meeting, of a club subsidy to bring this cost down.

Each class is limited to 12, and Glenda needs to know by mid December which weekends are the best option. She has offered us February 9-10, 16-17, or 23-24. Please let me know ASAP, but no later than December 10 if you are interested and which dates work best for you. SEND NO MONEY NOW.

Please be SERIOUS about taking this class, and consider only sending one from each household so that we may spread this knowledge base as far as possible. If you do take the class, please also consider offering to teach others at an upcoming clinic or open house, to further share the wealth of knowledge. Please do not contact Glenda directly, as she

is only teaching the class, not organizing the registrations.

Notes from the President

Darrel Dunham

For all of you that didn't make it to the Banquet this year, you missed what I think was one of the best we have had. The best part is we have the same place reserved for the November 2008 Banquet. It went from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. non-stop. It could have been an all day event with the amount of interest in the workshops and presentations. I want to thank all who worked so hard to make this happen.

Remember the annual meeting at the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club, 2505 N Vancouver Ave., Portland, OR., in the afternoon on January 12, 2008. Watch for a flyer with the time and details later. At this meeting, the new Board Officers will assume their elected office. Anyone having motions to bring up at the meeting are ask to submit them to Gary Lee, garylee@constructavision.com prior to the first of January so an agenda can be created to save meeting time. Please give your support to the new board.

This summer I received an email from a garden railroad fan from Hawaii. He has a summer home in Hood River and wanted to down size his holdings. I met with him a couple of months ago in Hood River when he was state side and he gave me two boxes and about 10 grocery bags of trains and engines. This makes up two Starter Sets and an engine, tender and 13 cars. These for the most part, have Kadee couplers and metal wheels. One Starter set is an LGB and the other is a Bachmann "Big Hauler." The miscellaneous cars are also Bachmann.

All that he asked was that they go to some young people who have an interest in garden railroading. I think we could find three such people and give them something to get started with. I am not sure how we can go about this and am asking the membership for their ideas. If you have any ideas, contact myself, dwdunham@msn.com or 253-222-8367. Thanks for your help.

RCGRS Officers and Staff

(2006-2007)

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Election Results

Submitted by Dennis Peoples

The 2008-2009 RCGRS election results are almost as expected. Gary Lee is the new President, followed by Jeff Lange's continuing role as Vice President. Barbara Clark and Steve Cogswell elected to keep their position as Secretary and Treasurer respectively and we supported them in their decision. Congratulations to you all.

I am the past-President of the Society and according to the bylaws I am responsible for the elections of new officers. It was brought to my attention by our current President that there was a conflict of interest in the fact that I was the election committee and also running for the office of Yard Master. Because I tallied the votes and did not keep them, I told Darrell I would decline the office of Yard Mas-

ter in lieu of redoing the election process. With that in mind, I will not accept the office of Yard Master.

The Yard Master’s responsibility is for the club’s possessions and inventory. He/she must be able to store the club’s trailer in a secure area and transport the trailer to designated club functions. Anyone interested in this office may contact any officer of the club. According to the Bylaws Article 5– paragraph 2; the President and remaining board members may appoint a member to fill this position.

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**.

December 14, 2007, Friday: Jan & Rae Zweerts are hosting an open house. Their houseboat is at Jantzen Beach, 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.

[See the accompanying invitation from Rae and Jan Zweerts.](#)

January 12, 2008, Saturday Afternoon: RCGRS Annual Meeting at the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club, 2505 N. Vancouver Ave, Portland, OR 97227, 503-288-7246. A separate announcement will be sent describing the time and details.

Editor’s Note: The January 2008 Newsletter will not be published until after January 4th. Any items for the Newsletter should be sent before that date.

A DEVELOPING SCHEDULE FOR 2008

- January —Annual meeting
- February
 - Model building seminar with Glenda Bockel
- March
- April
- Saturday, May 17
 - Ron & Merlene Bacon, Hillsboro, OR
- June —Harvey & Arlyn Becker, Bend, OR
- July —Bill & Brenda Derville, Portland, OR
- August —Dr. John Stiger, Milwaukie, OR
- Saturday, September 13
 - Jeff and Dianne Lange, Vancouver, WA
- October
- November
- December —Zweerts Annual Christmas ships?

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.

Creative Pumpkin Carving



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ImagePictures.net - Image Copyright © Joe LeMay 2007

Remarks: On May 26th, 1934, the Pioneer Zephyr made its record-breaking non-stop dawn-to-dusk run from Denver to Chicago, passing under this signal bridge at Downers Grove, IL. This night, an eastbound coal train led by a pair of SD70MACs does the same. Happy Halloween!

