

Ghost Train Event 2005

It was a beautiful setting at the Quinn Mountain Bed and Breakfast for the annual Ghost Train event on Sunday, October 30th. Our gracious hosts, Bud Quinn and Christina Britain, made us all feel wel-

come to their home and garden railway. There were many cars that were spectacularly decorated and crafted in the Halloween theme by our members. The garden railway covers both sides of the entrance.



Some Ghost Train cars



Two of the Ghost Trains on the western loop



Bill Dippert sets a car on the track



Jeff Lange (lt.) holds an unusual boom car constructed by Dennis Ediger (rt.)



Jan Zweerts concocts a suspicious smokey brew in his tank car



The food was plentiful and wonderful at the Ghost Train event

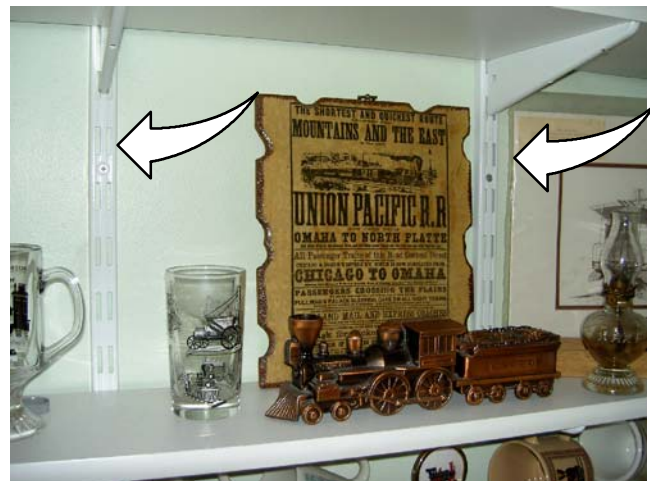
**Who Would of Thought?
FOR SHELVES OR THE BRIDGE**
By Rex Ploederer

This idea comes to us compliments of Dave Kook-en of Vancouver. During the Summer Tour visit to his railroad, Dave challenged us to figure out the material used for his bridge (see Bridge picture below).



The first guess was an Erector Set. “No, I tried that but they are too expensive” was Dave’s reply. His

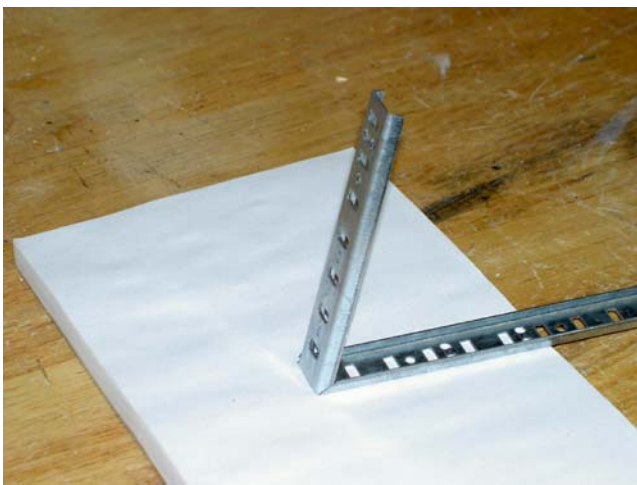
solution is common and inexpensive (see picture below). He used the channels that support shelf brackets!



This material is readily available at any home improvement and most hardware stores. In fact, many different types can be found from store to store. Looking around can reward you with the exact style, thickness, width, and material that suits your needs. For instance, Fred Meyer carries channels with double slots over an inch wide and 5/8” deep. Home Depot has a style that is only 1/2” wide x

1'16" deep. Some hardware stores carry perforated metal sections that can be used as well.

Construction was fairly straightforward. Dave cut material out of the sides before bending the channels to the angle desired (see picture). A hacksaw, bench grinder, scroll saw, rotary tool with a reinforced cutting wheel, or your favorite steel cutting tool can be used to cut the material. Pieces are joined with sheet metal screws and/or pop rivets. Very few holes must be drilled because, with few exceptions, the numerous slots and holes manufactured into the channels will line up and can be used to join pieces.



Dave says he did not fasten the track to the bridge or the bridge to the ground because of different expansion rates between the steel bridge and aluminum track. He also cautions to consider the track height and add this to the standard tunnel clearance height when constructing a bridge with overhead spans (see picture above). Because it is steel, don't forget to finish the bridge with your favorite paint to keep it from rusting.

Using Dave's idea, you can easily build a realistic looking, strong, and durable steel bridge for a fraction of the cost of many of the steel bridges produced for our hobby.

RCGRS Annual Banquet

Fifty Members attended the RCGRS Annual Banquet held at the East Moreland Clubhouse on November 5th. Five "How-To-Do-It" seminars were presented beginning at 4:00 p.m. and a delicious dinner followed. The entrees were a choice of halibut or prime rib. Our thanks to the Banquet Committee for planning a great evening.



Committee Members for a Successful Banquet
Marion Kantor-Snyder, Karen Shipman, Gary Lee, Steve Cogswell



Jerry Chapman conducts “Five Steps to a More Reliable Running Railroad”, a class on ideas and how to build and maintain a garden railway.



Allan Warrior describes ways to create night scenes in a garden railway and demonstrates how to construct miniature light fixtures and building lighting effects.



Gary Lee demonstrates methods to layout and create solid road beds.



Gary Lee demonstrates how to apply “dry letter transfers” as Gordon Pisle looks on.



Rex Ploederer demonstrates how to make Jig Stones™ and use them in constructing buildings. During the business meeting later in the evening, the members present agreed to purchase some sets of molds. These molds can be borrowed by members for some of their own projects.



Ken and Karen Shipman prepare to pull the winning raffle tickets.

A number of great raffle prizes were given out. The winner of the the 2-8-0 Consolidation locomotive was Chuck Murray. The winner of the 4-6-2 Pacific locomotive was Darrel Dunham

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting of the RCGRS will be held January 14, 2006. This meeting will include the installation of officers for 2006-2007. Each member will receive a ballot in your Email this month. (Members without Email will receive a ballot by snail mail.) Try not to lose it in the rest of your holiday mail. **Please return your ballot as soon as you can, but not later than December 31, 2005.**

Membership renewals are due for 2006. Each member will receive a form that includes your dues notice for 2006. Please! Everyone fill out the form so that we can update our records and return it with your check to RCGRS.

RCGRS Officers (2004-2005)

President, Dennis Peoples 503-452-4469
dpeop517@aol.com

VP, Darrel Dunham 503-697-4738
dunham.darrel@menlolog.com

Secretary, Dennis Rose 503-649-4904
d.rose@worldnet.att.net

Treasurer, Marion Snyder-Kantor 503-803-9050
marsnyder@hotmail.com

Yardmaster, Gary Lee 503-695-2550
garylee@constructavision.com

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. **Your newsletter editor will be away from home December 19th through January 2nd. The January 2006 newsletter will be published during the first week in January.**

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.

December 16, 2005, Friday, 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.: Jan & Rae Zweerts are having an open house. They live on a houseboat at Jantzen Beach, The Christmas ships will be sailing past their house that same evening. Jan's European railroad is on a barge next to the houseboat.

Hot Cider and Chili will be served, finger food is welcomed. An RSVP will help them know how much chili to make. Address: 1859 N. Jantzen Ave. Portland 97217 (503-247-7531 or cell phone 503-705-3840).

Directions: Take I-5 to Jantzen Beach exit. Park between Home Depot and the Burlington Coat Factory. Walk from the parking lot south to the pedestrian gate down ramp #4. The pedestrian gate is open 6 to 10 p.m. Tell the security guard "Zweerts Party". Then walk west to Row O and proceed down Row

O to the last home on the walkway. Watch for two train signs.

Warnings: The ramp is grated and is steep (10% slope), wear non-slip shoes. Put your keys away before you leave land (the river won't give them back). The 1:1 trains have the right of way.

December 17, 2005, Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.: Open house at Shannon and Millie Pratt's home, 6677 SW Bancroft Way, Portland, OR, 503-292-9464.

Soft drinks will be provided. Pot Luck: B to D dessert, E to M main dish, N to Z side dish.

Shannon's railway is Marklin Gauge #1 and uses track power. The railway is in two large L-shape loops. Shannon states that the flanges on the wheels of most other manufacturers (LGB, Aristocraft, USA Trains) are too deep and usually will not operated correctly on Marklin Track.

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.

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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.