

President's Note

Jeff Lange

The get-together for the club's annual business meeting was held on Saturday, January 15th from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club in Portland. There were about 35 club members in attendance. The pot-luck luncheon was very satisfying, and the dessert table was well-stocked, as always.

The business meeting lasted from 2 p.m. to just before 4 p.m., as many items were on the agenda, and discussion and voting on several items took longer than in normal quarterly business meetings. The 2011 budget passed unanimously, as did the capital expense for the new club lift bridge to be used at all shows along with the Modular SIG layout. The EAGER committee's proposal for more realistic landscaping with moss mats, and other items was also approved, so that the modules will really take on the look of a garden railroad at the upcoming train show in February. For all those interested in participating in the show, please contact Larry Blair, Darrel Dunham or Greg Martin to see where you can best fit into the many volunteer positions required to run this crowd-pleasing event.

Railroad Movie Saturday Night

Jan Zweerts

Hello all you Rounders, the last movie shown, **Breakheart Pass**, was a slam-bang action Western based on an Alistair MacLean novel and set mainly on a train. It had Charles Bronson as an undercover agent seeking gun runners and confronting a false epidemic. A good time was had with 17 members in attendance.

Afterwards I compared notes with Marvin the manager of the Fanno Creek Brew Pub and discovered that the next scheduled RR Movie Nite had been pre-empted by the Nano Beer Festival with tents to

be set up in the back parking lot and the back room to be used as a pass through to the front of the brew pub. Marvin was horrified and very apologetic when he realized that he had overlooked our group's RR Movie Nite gathering for February 26th; right in the middle of the brewfest. The next available Saturday night would not be until March 10th; therefore I have decided not to have two RR movie nites in one month.

The movie for the March film offering has been made by Presidential decree and will be that all time favorite of hard core rail fans, **Emperor of the North**.

The following review is from "Leonard Maltin's Movie & Video Guide":

Emperor of the North (1973) 89 min.

Cast: Robert Aldrich. Lee Marvin, Ernest Borgnine, Keith Carradine, Charles Tyner, Harry Caesar, Malcolm Atterbury, Simon Oakland, Matt Clark, Elisha Cook.

Unusual, exciting (and heavily symbolic) action film set during the Depression. Sadistic conductor Borgnine will kill any tramp who tries to cop a ride on his train; legendary hobo Marvin announces he will be the first to succeed. Beautifully filmed in Oregon (Cottage Grove) by Joseph Biroc. Taut script by Christopher Knopf and typically muscular Aldrich direction make this a unique entertainment. The movie was initially released as "Emperor of the North Pole".

A few historical notes from Jan: The term "Emperor of the North Pole" was used by hobos to indicate something that was not of great worth. Tramps and hobos rode many freight trains and were regularly shook down by train crews for 25 cents to a dollar a division (100 miles mostly).

Hobo jungles aka Hoovervilles were always a part of railroad town geography and still exist today. There was a fairly rigid code of conduct among the

hobos and tramps that is still known today as boxcar etiquette. The movie uses examples of this code though out the film. A few books that deal with hobos and riding the rails are “Beggars of Life— A Hobo Autobiography” by Jim Tully c. 1924, “Hopping Freight Trains in America“ by Duffy Littlejohn c. 1993, and a more modern local writer D. C. Jesse Burkhart wrote “Travelogue From an Unruly Youth” c. 2007, Rolling Dreams Press, White Salmon, Washington. There are many more books available just browse the RR books shelves at Powell’s or your local library.

This event takes place at the Fanno Creek Brew Pub 12562 SW Main St., Tigard. They have recently upgraded the backroom with a tunable attachment to the big screen to allow more people a better viewing angle. I think 40 or so members will be able to watch comfortably.

The Fanno Creek Pub has good food & drink at reasonable prices and will put in a dedicated server for groups bigger then 10 and with of course no outside food or drink.

Please RSVP to Jan Zweerts via the Yahoo club web site or phone and leave a message at 503-247-7531. The next RR Movie Nite is March 26, 2011; mark your calendars now!

Jan & Rae near the
Oregon Slough Bridge
MP 8.8 BNSF Fallbridge Div.

The Appeal of Trains

Have you ever wondered how much railroads have affected our lives? Millions of people world wide are involved in activities related to trains. It is not possible to indicate and define all of these activities out side a large book or series of books; but let me wander through a few examples.

Many young boys were thrilled with the idea of becoming a locomotive engineer. Many men and a few women who become locomotive engineers love their job. There are not many other jobs where you have the excitement and some sense of danger in successfully controlling a huge and powerful machine. Working on the railroad in whatever job

you do is a way of life distinctly different from the many other occupations of people world wide. The US moves more tonnage of freight than any other country in the world.

Railfanning involves a huge number of people in so many different activities and niches. The hobby extends to all aspects of rail transport systems. Railfans may have one or more particular concentrations of interest, such as:

- Railway locomotives and rolling stock— This subject will be of interest to nearly all of the activities mention below.



A railfan, under the supervision of a CSXT Engineer, during a rare tour of CSXT 4617, which used to wear C&O livery.

- Still-used or disused railroad lines, bridges, tunnels, stations, and other infrastructure— Searching for and exploring abandoned railways is another area of railfan interest. Using old maps, one may find the former route, and the abandoned railway stations, tunnels and bridges may remain after a railway closure. Some abandoned rail rights-of-way have been converted to rail-trails for recreational use such as bicycling, walking, hiking, running or jogging. This would be considered railbanking, where the right-of-way is preserved, by keeping it intact, for the potential reactivation of rail service in the future.
- Subways and other local rail transit systems— The Portland Vintage Trolleys run from 10:33 a.m. to 5:44 p.m., Sundays only. The New York Subway Museum has several ancient cars that run on special days, usually a planned railfan trip.



Portland Vintage Trolley

- Railway history— Many defunct and a few operating railroads have a historical society dedicated to preserving the railroad’s past history. The historical society’s records and libraries are a great source of information if a modeler wants to use a particular railroad as the theme and example for the model operation.

- Many railfans also collect “railroadiana” or “railwayana”. Railroadiana refers to artifacts from railroads and railroad operations and could include nearly anything to do with a particular railroad, including public or employee timetables, locomotive number boards, dining car china, passenger train tickets, tools and pieces of equipment such as lanterns, or sometimes items as big as train horns, or track speeders. Although few can afford the acquisition cost or the space for storage, some railfans collect full size rolling stock or locomotives.

Collecting unusual tickets is a pursuit for some railfans. For example, China Railway does not sell round-trip tickets officially, but one could buy a multiple-trip ticket with the identical starting and ending station, making a round trip. This problem was fixed in the latest ticket-selling software. Another example is the two railway stations Dongfanghong (The East Is Red) and Taiyangsheng (The Sun Rises) in Heilongjiang province, approximately 600 kilometers apart with no direct train connecting them. Someone bought multiple-trip tickets from one to another so the ticket read

Dongfanghong -> Taiyangsheng, this is a famous lyric in a Chinese song The East Is Red.

- Railfan Trips— Many railway preservation groups run special trips for railfans using restored trains, often on “rare mileage” locations that do not see regular passenger service. These trips are both social events, as well as an opportunity for railfans to photograph unusual trains.

Another enthusiast activity is attempting to ride the complete railway network of one or more cities, state, or countries. This may take months or years in the case of dense networks. The definition of ‘complete’ riding may change from person to person, and non-passenger routes may be included by travelling on special excursion trains, others may attempt to ride on each individual track and curve, rather than the route as a whole, some may not include riding during night, and others may require visiting each station rather than just passing through. British enthusiasts who attempt to cover a railway network are usually referred to as “gricers” or “track bashers”

- Railroad photography— Railroad companies sometimes dislike railfans, considering them a nuisance. Because of terrorist activities world wide, the security people often now make photography difficult. The companies also acknowledge that railfan’s presence can sometimes make the railroads safer, since they typically know what is normal behavior and can detect criminal behavior, or something that appears to be abnormal.



Railfan photographers awaiting a special train in Belgium

- **Trainspotting**—“Trainspotters” make an effort to ‘spot’ all of a certain type of rolling stock. This might be a particular class of locomotive, a particular type of carriage or all the rolling stock of a particular company. To this end, they collect and exchange detailed information about the movements of locomotives and other equipment on the railway network, and become very knowledgeable about its operations.



A WAG-5 in Araku Valley near Vizag, India
– a paradise for trainspotters

- **Rail transport modeling**— If you mention that you are interested in model railroading when in a conversation with someone for the first time you may get the ‘look’. You can almost see the thought bubble popping up above their head saying “but he is a grown man and he is playing with toy trains”. This is despite the fact it is in the top 5 of the most popular international hobbies or pastimes.

So why does a hobby that is connected to youth appeal to grown men of all ages? Well the main reason can be that it rekindles their childhood memories of playing with their model railway with perhaps happy times spent with their parents and all the fun times associated with it. It may even be a good way of having some quality time with your own children by getting them involved with the hobby.

Another fascinating aspect is the chance to build your own miniature world and do it your way. It can be any period in the history of railroads, whether it is an old steam layout or modern day electric or die-

sel trains they all can be replicated with some simple skills and a bit of time.

What about relaxation? Modern life can be so stressful for the modern executive who has to commute maybe 25 miles or more everyday in heavy traffic. Then there is the possible stress at work with deadlines, a boss that keeps piling work onto you or maybe targets to hit. With your railway model hobby you can come home and escape to your own little part of the house, shed or garage and forget all your worries while you slip into another world. Perhaps a small country station in the English countryside or a dramatic city layout it is all in your own hands.

How about the skills side of things. There is so much involved in building a good layout that you improve your skills at many things such as wiring, electronics, woodwork, metalwork, planning, modeling and building. All this is done at your own pace with no pressure at all so you can actually enjoy creating something unique to you.


- **Railway art or architecture**— There are many railroad stations in the US that are closed or abandoned. Many of these stations have been renovated by people in the towns where they are located and converted to local museums or public buildings complete with railroad art and Railroadiana artifacts and can include nearly anything to do with a particular railroad.

- **Railway preservation/restoration**— There are many excursion trains and their rights-of-way in the world that are maintained by volunteers. These trains are often remnants of defunct commercial operations. Examples would include Mount Hood Railroad, Sumpter Valley Railway, Thunder Mountain Line, and many others in the US. Britain has a large number of antique excursion trains in the national trust.

- **Timetable collecting**— Timetables are a source of train schedule information which are useful for railfans planning photography expeditions. Timetables are also useful for railfans who attempt to cover an entire city’s railway network in one day,

riding from first to last train. Other railfans collect old train timetables, and imagine trains not existing now, or search for historical matters relating to the railway.

**COMPLETION AND
OPENING OF THE L. I. RAIL ROAD.**



BROOKLYN TO GREENPORT 96 MILES.

On and after the 29th July, accommodation trains for the local business of the Island, will run as follows, and at the annexed rates of fare, viz.:

Leave Brooklyn at 3 p. m. every day, Sundays excepted, for Greenport, stopping at the following places, viz.:

Bedford, 12½ cts	Deer Park 88
East New York, 12½	Suffolk Station \$1 12½
Union Course, 18½	Medford Station 1 50
Jamaica, 25	St George's Manor 1 75
Brushville, 37½	Riverhead 2 00
Branch, 44	M Matteuck 2 00
Hempstead, 44	Southold 2 12½
Hicksville, 56	Greenport 2 25
Farmingdale, 68½	

Returning, leave Greenport Depot for Brooklyn, at 5 A. M. stopping at the intermediate places.

The way trains will run as follows, viz.:

Leave Brooklyn at 9½ o'clock, A. M., for Jamaica only.
do do 3 do P. M., thro' to Greenport.
do do 5 do P. M., for Jamaica.

Leave Jamaica at 8 do A. M., for Brooklyn.
do do 1 do P. M., for do
do Hicksville & Hempstead, 7½ A. M. do

Light freight and packages taken by the passage train—freight to be paid in advance.

The arrangement affords an opportunity for the residents of Sag Harbor and Greenport, and the adjacent country, to remain in New York five hours, and return the same evening.

Boats leave the South Ferry, New-York side, for Brooklyn, half an hour before the departure of the trains.

Due notice will be given of the connection of the road with the eastern lines to Boston.

An 1844 timetable for the
Long Island Rail Road

- Railway operations, economics or commerce—These interests are primarily of interest to the railroad companies in hopes making enough profit to stay in business. Railroad stocks are no longer a major player in indexes such as the Dow Jones or the portfolios of many mutual funds. However, the railroad companies around the world. employ large numbers of workers.

- Monitoring railroad radio communications with a radio scanner.

Notes From The RCGRS Annual Meeting On 15 January 2011

President Jeff Lange called the annual meeting of RCGRS to order at 2:00 p.m.

Secretary stand-in, Jonette Lee, read the minutes of the last quarterly meeting. Ken Shipman moved that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion seconded by John Stiger and passed.

Treasurer's Report - Steve Cogswell
Steve reported that the dues for 2010 \$2580.00, Summer Tour 907.00 profit, Auction \$527.00 profit, banquet loss \$662.00. Miscellaneous Income \$217.00, Total income was \$3293. Total expenses were \$2670.00 with a net profit of \$596.00. Account balance was \$5095.52, which includes some of the dues for the new year 2011. Motion moved and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as read.

Yardmaster's Report - Greg Martin
Not much to report except he would do an updated inventory once the modular tables are completed. The small display is at Steve Cogswell, club mogul is at Nick Kelsey's and two bridges are at Construction. Motion was made, seconded and passed that Greg's report stand as read.

Introduction of new Members - Jeff Lange, stand-in for Nick Kelsey

Jonathan Krebs was introduced and welcomed into the club. He is still learning about us and does not have a layout yet.

Bryce Lee was introduced and welcomed into the club. Bryce is enjoying his time spent with the club.

Committee Reports:

Summer Tour Chair Report - Bill Derville
The date of the RCGRS Summer Tour is June 18, 2011. Bill will limit the homes on the tour to 10. So far 8 layouts have signed up. Looking to have someone in the Milwaukee area, as Tim Poole will not be on the tour this year. Staver was recommended as a possible on the tour, but Staver needs to be a member to be on the tour. No honorary memberships will be honored going forward. Bill Derville didn't think it was necessary to have a meeting in January. He has everything under control. Dave & Margaret Kookan volunteered to pull together the driving directions for the tour, Darrel Dunham

will organize the volunteer list, Vaughn Lee will produce the books and flyers again this year, and Jonette Lee will handle the publicity. Bill Derville will contact club members to help deliver books once they are complete. Ron Bacon wanted some books available for National Train Day in May. A request was made for Summer Tour books for the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) in Tacoma June 20–26, 2011, (www.cascaderails2011.com). It was suggested that the new layouts on the tour be highlighted with a star in the corner.

OPSIG Report – Nick Kelsey
Nick Kelsey not in attendance.

MODSIG Report – Greg Martin
Greg Martin sent out an E-mail prior to the meeting giving an update on the progress of the layout, with attachments. Greg asked for questions on the update.

GTE show Information tables & Layout
It was suggested that we ask club members for the use of their photo albums to show different layouts in the club to the public. Carolyn Rose volunteered to head the project. Tom Gaps suggested we make clear whose layout belongs to what album. Dave Kooker suggested that a notebook with our club newsletter be available to the public. Dave has offered his notebook of newsletters he has saved over the years. It was suggested that we need 1000 flyers promoting the Summer Tour for the show. Greg Martin suggested we have a clinic table showcasing the water tanks and turntables made by club members, and Gary Lee volunteered for the club clinic table. Another table showing the different scales of rolling stock in the hobby. Jeff Lange volunteered to make a video display for the public. Volunteers to lay track are needed and will be coordinated at the expo center during set up. Jan Zweerts volunteered. Larry Blair is handling the sign up sheets for information tables. There were 4 openings left. Kid's table – Nick Kelsey is spearheading. Contact Nick for sign up. Robert Westhafer volunteered for one shift.

Transportation

Gary Lee will transport the modular tables and trailer to the Expo center and back.

Operations

Darrel Dunham is coordinating the running of trains on the layout. Contact Darrel to get on the schedule.

Greenery on the layout

Christina's display was discussed for plantings on the layout. 5 sections will be set up.

Gary Lee spoke about the conflict between garden railroaders and large-scale enthusiasts in the past. Gary feels Christina's idea will show the layout in a natural format and bring the club together, truly depicting the hobby as "Garden Railroading". Ron Bacon wanted to know if trees would be used on the layout. Bill Derville mentioned that Al's Garden might be loaning trees for us to use.

Honorable mention

Merlene Bacon and Jean Dippert were recognized for sewing the 260 ft of skirting for the modular display. Thank you and great job!

Hours of GTE

Set up is Friday from noon to 7:00pm. Set up orientation 12:00–12:20 p.m. You can get in at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday. Show times are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Saturday you must be out within 15 minutes after they close. Security will escort you out. Sunday after tear down, there will be a no host pizza party. Location to be determined.

Movie Night – Jan Zweerts

Jan Zweert reported on the movie nights planned for January and February.

March 26th is President's Choice. Jeff Lange has been asking for this movie – Emperor of the North. We will be celebrating birthdays for Nick Kelsey, Jeff Lange and Jan Zweerts that evening.

April – Will be announced later if we want to have one. Gary suggested "Where the Hell's that Gold". Stay tuned.

Open House Updates – Tom Gaps

On the calendar

February – GTE Show

March – Clinic: Details to come from Gary Lee. Proposes a handcar shed.

April – Darrel suggested an auction indoors. This was agreed upon. Next club meeting on this date of April 9th.

May – Westhafer's in The Dalles for a track laying party and get together was decided.

All of the other months have been filled.

Glacier National Park – Carolyn Rose

Picture display was set up with information. Travelers would leave Friday, August 5th at 4:30 p.m. on the Empire Builder to Spokane, and then arrive at Glacier National Park at 9:15 a.m. the following morning. There is a 1917 tour car that holds 17 people available, lunch at the lodge – seating by the Weep Wall where all the waterfalls can be viewed. Carolyn has information available for people interested in the trip. Cost for one \$700.00 under the age of 62, cheaper for two if you are traveling together, and cheaper if you are 62 and older. Travelers will return on 8/9. So far 10 people have signed up.

Unfinished Business – Bridge Project – Greg Martin/John Stiger

Plans were shown and discussed about the bridge needed for the modular set up. Cost to build the bridge was upgraded to \$1000.00. Bill Derville moved we approve the cost, Richard Parker seconded the motion and it was voted on and passed. Tom Gaps brought up the issue of storage and transporting the bridge. Greg Martin responded that there is no issue with either.

New Business

Public Display Policy – After discussion on how the cost of worn out or broken equipment would be handled (club would have to budget for this), who

would be charged for rent, who should buy their own locomotives, etc., Jan Zweerts moved that it get sent back to the committee for rewrite. John Westhafer seconded, voted and passed.

2011 Budget – Steve Cogswell discussed recommended amounts. Jeff moved to approve, Gary Lee seconded, and it was voted and passed. Steve Cogswell announced there was only 2 bags of ballast left and needed to buy 30 bags at the cost of \$250.00.

Auction in April

Darrel Dunham will chair. Darrel suggested we spend \$450.00 to purchase paddles of our own for the auction. Jeff Lange moved "Do we spend \$450.00 to purchase paddles," Bill Derville seconded. It was not passed. Gary Lee told Darrel to contact him as he had lots of scrap wood at Constructavision and was sure something could be worked out.

Jerry Chapman offered a discount on his products to the club.

Next meeting April 9th at Woodland, in conjunction with the auction.

Jeff moved the meeting be adjourned at 3:55 p.m., seconded by Dave Kookan, voted and passed.

Newsletter Editor Accident

On Saturday afternoon, January 29th, your newsletter editor was repairing the support structure of our mailbox. In drilling a support strut, the metal slipped out of its clamp, trapped his hand in his glove, and severely injured his left thumb and hand. Allan will see a hand surgeon next week. Following that appointment, we should know more about return to being able to use. For the next newsletter, some help in preparing articles would be appreciated. (From Kathryn Warrior, nurse and boss)

Schedules & Timetables for 2011

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 our 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 interested in having an Open House or sponsoring an event, please contact **Tom Gaps 503-659-8893, tgaps@comcast.net**

February 18-20: The Great Train Exposition of 2011

March: Clinic: Details to come from Gary Lee. Proposed is a handcar shed.

March 26 Railroad Movie Saturday Night:

Time: 6 p.m. preshow 7 p.m. main event "Emperor of the North". Fanno Creek Brew Pub, 12562 SW Main St, Tigard

April 9, Woodland, WA: Quarterly meeting and auction. Darrel Dunham is host.

May: Westhafer's in The Dalles for a track laying party and get together was decided.

June 11, 2011, Saturday: Tom and Betty Gaps open house.

June 18, 2011 Saturday: "Railroads In The Garden Summer Tour" 2011. Bill Derville, Chairman

June 21 - 25:

2011 NGR Convention in Overland Park, Kansas

July: Bill and Brenda Derville open house (quarterly meeting)

August 6 - 9: Glacier National Park Trip

August 13, Saturday: Bill and Jean Dippert open house.

September 10, Saturday: (quarterly meeting) Jeff and Dianne Lange open house.

October 8, Saturday: Ron and Merlene Bacon open House.

November 12, Saturday: Annual RCGRS Luncheon

December Christmas ships?

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