

Kauai – The Garden [Railroad] Island?

By Greg Martin

Back in March I was able to spend some time on Kauai to get away from it all. Hiking, biking, R&R etc. and of course searching out all things railroad. Unfortunately a storm that hit the island just prior to my arrival caused damage to the tracks and the train was confined to the barn out of sight. Once the tracks are repaired, Grove Farm is where to be when the train runs again for those that are visiting later in the season. In continuing my quest, I did find a hobby shop in Lihue called Beach Rail. The name at least sounded promising. Finally, something that had to do with trains.



The shop is not that big, but once you walk in you witness the 10# in the 5# bag effect. Floor to ceiling of all things hobby and collectibles with narrow aisles that eventually lead you to the train section. I felt like the mouse in the maze that finally found the cheese. The owner of the shop has been a 30 year distributor of Lionel trains and it showed. I didn't realize that Lionel had such a variety of locomotives and rolling stock. Majority is new stock with some consignment of older vintage equipment.

The owner wasn't there, but his wife was minding the shop. I mentioned my interest in Garden Railroads and the Club etc. The good news is that the owner is going to expand the offering to Large Scale trains as well. There was that choice he had to make between HO and Large Scale. I assured her he made the right decision. I also asked if they knew of any garden railroads on the island, but knew of none. So to save the best to last, when you step back outside the store, there is a garden railroad. Fully landscaped with a palm tree smack in the middle of it. Mind you that this is in the middle of a small shopping center.



Kauai must be on another planet. Could a garden railroad with a train running, structures and unattended still be there at closing time here at home?



Not having any problem watching a train go around in circles for hours on end, I probably watched it longer than anyone else.



As I sat there, I could see a Bachmann starter set in the window. Was this the harbinger of things to come? I also realized that the garden railroad was indeed guarded by Spike the Gecko perched above on the palm tree.



Kauai is perfect for garden railroads if you don't mind the landscape growing faster and greener. Like Oregon it rains often, but the sun shines much more. So visit Beach Rail when visiting Kauai and put in a pitch for garden railroading. There is only one thing that keeps me wondering. How will they ever get the flex track and boxed up big boys into the store and down those narrow aisles? I guess I will have to ponder that over some shaved ice (on ice cream of course) at Jo Jo's on the other side of the island.

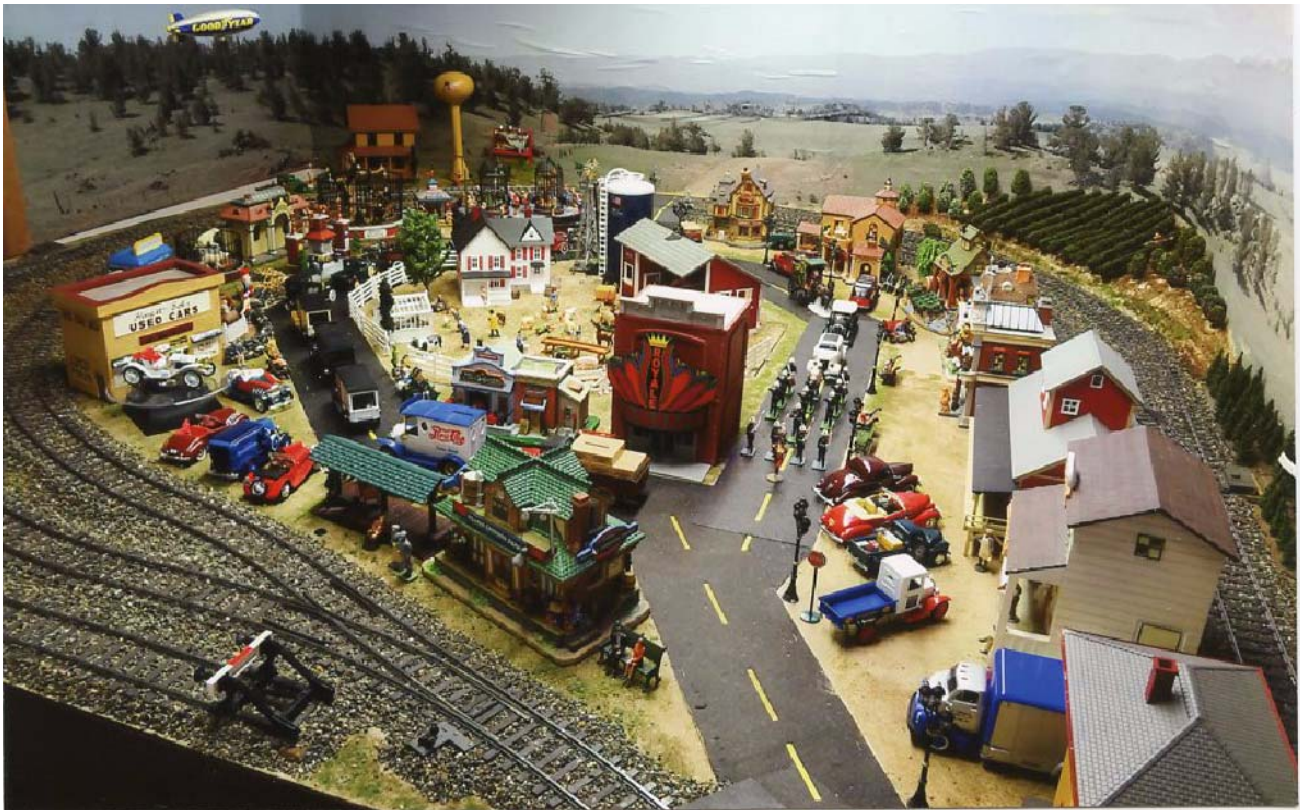


Partytown and Farmdale Railroad By Shannon Pratt

The May 5th open house was held at Shannon and Millie's Partytown and Farmdale Railroad. Jan Zweerts was the engineer skilfully keeping four trains running most of the time.



The carnival came to Partytown.



The Vineyard for which the Vineyard Village got its name is at the right rear of the photo. The zoo is on the left.



The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, straight from New Orleans, stopped in Farmdale on their national tour to put on a concert. All three towns, (Farmdale Partytown, and Vineyard Village) had classic parades.

News from the RCGRS Railyard Greg Martin – RCGRS President

Our May Open House at Shannon and Millie’s home was enjoyable with a Cinco de Mayo theme in regard to food and drink. As always they are great hosts. Jan took control of the Partytown and Farmdale Railroad with 4 trains running at once. We urged him to go to 5 but Jan knows his limits. I still think he would make a good engineer as an occupation. Unfortunately the attendance was lower than expected, but those that attended enjoyed the afternoon with good food and conversation.

As I promised last month to give a report on the Staver Locomotive Steam up, here it is. I spent all day Saturday checking out the many live steam locomotives in operation. Even got some hands on with running Ron Bacon’s K27 keeping an eye on the water level which I did and nothing blew up. Ron Bacon, Andre Anderson and Alex English from Steam SIG attended the event. Washington, British Columbia, California, Nevada and Utah were represented by those who attended. Overall it was a fun time with a great BBQ dinner and great hospitality by Larry Staver. I will be looking forward to September’s Steam UP for more exposure to live steam.

Well, Tom Gaps finally got to have an OP session on the Lone Pine and Western RR. The Baker and Grande Ronde RR had some maintenance to catch up on so the Lone Pine snagged the contract. The session was well attended and the session went very well. Even Rogue 1 from the SNE&OH RR showed up to do some switching. If you have not seen or run on Tom’s railroad, put this on your “to do” list when the next opportunity arrives. The railroad is very well thought out and executed. This event also doubled as hands on “get to know the railroad” exercise for those that will be helping Tom on Summer Tour. Oh, by the way, have you secured your spot to help out on the Tour yet?

Talking to some of the brakemen here in the yard, it sounds like the work party at the Bearspaw Southern RR went well with much progress being made. Also the Eagle Scout project at Shady Dell is getting closer to completion. Sorry I didn’t attend these activities because I have been hypnotized to believe that there is a life outside of railroading. I’m sure the Club members are appreciated for participating in these activities that are helping our fellow members and the community.

Well, looking forward to June we have our next open house at Bill and Brenda Derville’s aka Colo-

rado and Southern RR. Look out I will be flipping burgers at this one. So don't get too close to the grill. How come cleaning a grill has a déjà vu effect on me? Bring some trains and good weather and run on the RR that has more turnouts than any RR in the world of garden railroads. This will be a fun day at the Colorado and Southern.

Of course what is June without Summer Tour? Since I have already addressed the importance of participation for this event I will be looking forward to a fun day on the Whisky Creek and Bear Mountain RR. This should be a rewarding day for our Club as we share our hobby with the community. Thanks, Bill, for chairing this event and to everyone else that has helped to make this happen.

Upcoming this month are two OPSIG sessions at the Baker & Grande Ronde RR and the Worthington and Randolph RR. A final session will take place to wrap up the Eagle Scout Project at Shady Dell. We have a new member looking for help on a track plan sometime after Summer Tour so look out for developments on this upcoming opportunity. Check the Yahoo calendar and upcoming reminders for details of these and other Club activities. Hope that covers it for now. So happy June Birthday to Marilyn Watson, Merlene Bacon and The Track Cleaner.

RCGRS Quarterly Meeting Minutes

April 15th 2012

Home of Dave and Margaret Kookan

Greg Martin called the meeting quarterly meeting of RCGRS to order at 2:30 pm. He thanked the Dave and Margaret for hosting and introduced special guest, Ted Burdge, from the UK who described the clubs and model railway operations there. He said most have/use 16 mm., 16 gauge and use 6.2 mm track. He added that a lot of people make their own models. Ted does live steam.

A motion to accept the proposed Meeting Agenda was seconded and carried.

Nick Kelsey moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as distributed. Motion carried.

In the absence of Steve Cogswell, Greg Martin reviewed the report provided by Steve. The current bank balance is \$3136.48. Motion to accept Treasurer's report approved.

Financial/Asset 2011 Annual Audit Report—Greg provided background that the RCGRS Bylaws instructed the President to appoint an audit committee. That appointed committee included: Bill Derville, Steve Cogswell, and Tom Gaps. The Audit Committee reported that the RCGRS Treasurer books were found to be in order except for a small discrepancy which is being corrected. The audit committee recommends that all expenses have a line item to identify the expense.

Vice-President's Report – Nick Kelsey reported that we have 11 new members and he is looking for mentors for two members, Bill and Gelene August from New Liberty Iowa.

We also have as recently joined:

David Perry McMinnville, OR

Ken & Pat Stanfield, Battleground, WA

Rick & Renee Amies, Vancouver, WA

He reported that new members, Dan & Kerry Ririe and their son Ben, are hoping to get some expertise and technical advice. Ben is working on an Eagle Scout project at Shady Dell. Nick provided information regarding the kind of help needed.

Yard Master Report — Tom Gaps reported that he purchased a few items for the show. He reports that he needs to review the club asset list with Bill Derville. He estimates that the club has about \$25,000 in assets. Jan Zweerts suggested getting a wheel stop for the trailer and Ron Bacon provided Jan with information for obtaining the wheel stop.

Committee Reports:

Board Report – Greg Martin reported he intends to have a board meeting prior to each meeting.

MODSIG – Jan Zweerts and Tom Gaps reported that the club needs younger fitter members if they are going to continue the MODSIG activity. The show ran well most of the time with trains running most of the time. There were some track power is-

sues. Because of the available volunteers, the kid's layout and ferry were pulled. They emphasized they would like to have more folks helping out. The Steam SIG is proposing a side yard where they could work on equipment. Bill Dippert reported prior to the meeting that regluing of the scenery is needed before another show.

Nick Kelsey suggested new radio control equipment be purchased. Jan Zweerts has Bridgeworks power supply for sale and double track controller.

Nick Kelsey reported that he picked up 6 pages of people interested in Summer Tour and that we also had 10 times normal traffic on the website. This show has better advertising and had some people attending multiple days. He heard about 24,201 attended and suggested that a lot more people attended because of location.

Ron Bacon spoke regarding the proposals from the "live steam" group and is not asking club for money.

Jan Zweerts requested a helper on MODSIG as Top Gaps will not continue to be MODSIG co-chair. Andre Anderson said that he would replace Tom Gaps as co-chair.

OPSIG - Nick Kelsey reported that, Saturday, April 21st, will be the 1st Saturday operating session. He reported there are several Saturday sessions scheduled this summer to give other people in the club the opportunity to run over a brakeman.

SteamSIG — Ron Bacon reported that Andy has drawings of what steam SIG would like to do with the modular display. He announced that the last weekend of April Larry Staver who is now a member of RCGRS is having a steamup on Thursday through Sunday on NW 29th. Registration for the steamup is \$25. If you come, you will see a variety of sizes of steam engines. Any club members, who come, look for Ron and he'll steer you around. The SteamSIG is hoping to work on modules for the next show. Larry is expanding railway to the outside.

2012 Summer Tour 2012 - Bill Derville

Greg Martin reported for Bill that this year there are 9 layouts on the tour: Joe Chesney, Gary Lee, Ron

Bacon, Doug Watson, Bill Dippert, Shannon Pratt, Tom Gaps, Allan Warrior.

It was announced that hosts will need to recruit their own helpers. If that doesn't work, then hosts should talk to Darrell Dunham. Jonette Lee will get an ad in the Oregonian. Vaughn Lee is working on the tour books which are expected to be in stores by May 1st. Gary Lee has a proof copy of the tour book and asked that people on tour check for accuracy. He is hoping to take to printer tomorrow. This is the 11th year of The Summer Tour which provides a lot of funding for the club.

2013 West Coast Tour - Gary Lee

Gary distributed copies of the proposed plan for the 2013 West Coast Regional Meet and explained what the West Coast Regional Meet is. Because the 2013 National Garden Railway Society convention will be in Florida, RCGRS is being encouraged by Russ Miller to host a West Coast Regional Meet. A fact finding committee consisting of Nick Kelsey, Tom Gaps, Darrell Dunham, and Ron Bacon was appointed in January to draw up a plan. The proposed dates are June 28-29-30 or July 12-14. The committee is requesting a budget of \$3000 so that they can promote the event in the Garden Railway Magazine beginning in the fall. The committee suggests using the same format as the Summer Tour with a book selling for \$25. Suggested Attractions: Larry Staver live steam, Tom Miller, SP4449, SP&S 700, Oregon Garden, Mt. Hood Railway, Garibaldi RR, and Pacific NW Live Steamers.

San Diego is hosting West Coast Regional this year and Gary encouraged club members to attend San Diego event.

Tom clarified that the committee will be asking RCGRS to initially fund at \$3000 the advertising and printing of books which would be replaced by the sale of the books. The committee has determined that 120 books would need to be sold to break even. Tom Gaps moved that the club fund the committee at \$3000 to move forward to host regional meet on June 28-29th. Discussion of the motion followed. It was reported that advertising is \$670 per issue so the 1st draw on the \$3000 amount would be for submission of an ad in November for

the February issue of Garden Railway Magazine. Question called for. Ken Shipman moved to table the motion until the next quarterly business meeting when we will have had summer tour. The motion to table received no second so the motion died. Motion to fund the committee for \$3000 was approved.

Staff Reports/Comments:

Club Store – Dave/Margaret Kookan

Dave reported the store is virtually non-existent. Nick moved and it was seconded to take inventory from club store and put in raffle. Motion approved.

Open House and Education – Tom Gaps

Tom reported that at least one open house has been scheduled for each month. If you want a date other than scheduled, send Tom an email. Jan will host Christmas ships on December 7th.

Newsletter – Allan Warrior

Kathryn Warrior reported that Allan welcomes and encourages members to submit articles for the newsletter.

Webmaster – Nick Kelsey

Nick reported that he is creating a website for the regional meeting and that the RCGRS website had 10 times normal traffic on website for weekend of the World's Greatest Hobby.

Event Reports:

Movie Night – Jan Zweerts announced that in October close to Halloween will show "Ghost in the Darkness" which is set in Africa and stars Michael Douglas. November will feature, "Water for Elephants" and a short subject on Circus trains

Colorado Trip "6 Trains in 6 Days" – Carolyn Rose--Contact Carolyn for information regarding the trip.

Unfinished Business:

Contribution to Oregon Rail Heritage Museum

Jan Zweerts moved that the motion from the January 14th meeting to: "donate 5% of the summer tour book sales to the Oregon Rail Heritage Museum" be put back on table. A motion to re-table until the July meeting was voted down. Tom Gaps moved to

amend the original motion changing the wording from a percentage to a fixed amount. Motion was seconded followed by discussion. A fixed amount could not be determined at this time so Darrell Dunham moved and seconded that this matter be tabled until next meeting.

Mentors for New Members update – Tom Gaps Banquet Chair and Committee needed. Nick Kelsey announced that a volunteer to chair the RCGRS Annual Banquet is needed. After the chair for the banquet has been determined a committee will be formed. Nick explained what that position entails. Please contact any member of board if interested in chairing the Annual Banquet.

Insurance policy review/recommendations – Angela Stewart No report Angela not present

New Business:

Donation of three LGB starter sets to the Club – Nick Kelsey announced that three LGB starter sets that were purchased in Germany during the 1970s have been donated to club to do what we would like with. Darrell Dunham moved and it was seconded that these be sold on Ebay. Motion carried. Jan and Jeff will get together to sell on Ebay.

Jan Zweerts moved and it was seconded that we repeat the discount membership for summer tour that day at one of the 9 railways on the tour. Cost of purchase of ticket is applied to membership that day. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Monday night, April 16th will be the last night at Constuctavision until fall.

If anyone is interested in having a group focusing on the gardening part let Nick Kelsey know.

Jan Zweerts reported that he attended Pacific NW chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society banquet. He provided an update on the progress of construction of the Oregon Rail Museum which is being built across the street from OMSI. The foundation is being poured and about half the slab for walkway is complete. The museum will be accessible by streetcar and the MAX line. They ex-

pect to be up and running by fall and are looking for volunteers to be docents. Ron Bacon might be interested.

Ron Bacon announced there will be no National Train Day in Portland this year. Larry Staver might have his own version of National Train Day. Contact Larry if interested.

Ron Bacon shared pictures of Mike Greenwood's (past member) new hobby of model rockets.

Jeff Lange is willing to loan his DVD from the train show to someone who can transfer to DVD for other club members. Tom Gaps offered to copy Jeff's tape to DVD but only one copy as he doesn't want to be in the DVD manufacturing business. Ron Bacon indicated that he could also make a copy to DVD and that he could make multiple copies so Jeff will work with Ron to get DVD copies of his tape.

Confirmation of date/location of next Quarterly Meeting. July 14, 2012 at Steve Cogswell's in Oregon City.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:21.

Bear Paws Work Party

Attending the work party at the Bears Paw on May 19th were Penny and Richard Walker, Nick Kelsey, Tom Gaps, Gary Lee, Jan Zweertz, Bill Derville, Dave Stratton and Maynard Orme. We broke into three crews. The first crew worked on leveling the grades for the front yard loop. The sub roadbed was already installed but was in need of smoothing out as it had lots of ups and downs.



The second crew worked to mount support brackets on the fence posts along the east side fence and along the back fence. This involved some rather cramped working conditions as the space is only a few feet wide, squeezed between the back fence and a retaining wall.



The third crew worked on the supports for the curved section attached to the grape arbor in the south west corner. Kari Ririe and her son Ben arrived later in the day. Ben helped disassemble some portions of the support structure that needed adjustments in order to make the fit in the tight spaces. Significant progress was made, but as usual, the goals exceeded the results so additional work will be required before track can be put down.

May 18 OP Session

The LP&W, having been rained out the previous session, offered to hold the May 18th session. The following pictures are scenes from the session.





Schedules & Timetables

It is our Society's policy to attempt to have an event or open house on every second Saturday or Sunday 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**

OPSIG June 1st, Friday 4 pm to Dark
Worthington and Randolph RR (Nick Kelsey)
Location: Worthington and Randolph RR
Street: 1369 SE 12th Loop
City/State/Zip: Canby, OR 97013
Phone: 503-266-1110
Operations Session. Come and be the Engineer or Conductor running a freight and getting the train through on time. Please call the host and request an invite to attend. Bring your own dinner/lunch.

June 9, 2012, Saturday, Noon - 5:00 p.m.: Open house at Bill & Brenda Derville's Colorado & Southern RR.

930 NW 170th Place, Beaverton, OR 97006
Phone: 503-645-1771
Details TBA

June 16, 2012, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.: "Railroads In The Garden Summer Tour," Bill Derville, Chairman. Volunteers are needed to help at the railroads open for the tour.

OPSIG June 23rd Saturday Noon to 5pm
Baker and Grande Ronde RR (Gary Lee)
Location: 34140 SE Hurlburt
City/State/Zip: Corbett, OR 97015
Phone: 503-696-2550
Operations Session. Come and be the Engineer or Conductor running a freight and getting the train

through on time. Please call the host and request an invite to attend. Bring your own dinner/lunch.

July 6 - 8, 2012: West Coast Regional Meet in San Diego, CA. San Diego Garden Railway Society.

July 14, 2012, Saturday, Noon - 5:00: Second quarterly business meeting and Open house at Steve Cogswell's. 17520 S Holly Lane, Oregon City, OR 97045. Phone: 503-501-8630
Details TBA

August 11, 2012, Saturday, Noon - 5:00: Open house at Tom and Betty Gap's Lone Pine & Western RR. 5922 SE Skyhigh Ct., Milwaukie, OR 97267, 503-659-8893.
Details TBA

August 15 - 19, 2012: 28th National Garden Railway Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

September 8, 2012, Saturday, Noon to 5:00 p.m.: Open House at Dennis & Carolyn Rose's Blueberry Mountain RR. 18325 SE Jaylee St., Beaverton, OR 97007
Phone: 503-649-4904
Details TBA

September 11-16: Colorado Trip: "6 trains in 6 days" For information, contact Carolyn Rose

October 2012: The October Open House will also be a quarterly business meeting and is generally the Halloween decoration event. To encourage maximum attendance at business meetings we would like to see the business meeting held at a somewhat central location to minimize the average travel distance for attending members.

November 2012: Annual Banquet is not scheduled yet.

December 2012: Not scheduled yet.