

November 2011

Partytown & Farmdale RR Pictures and Text from Shannon Pratt

This railroad is an indoor whimsical Gauge 1 (1/32) railroad constructed entirely of Marklin track and equip-

ment. It is a tourist and freight railroad. The trackage is very dense, but traffic is carefully controlled by electronic block signals which enable three or four trains to be operated simultaneously in limited space.



Host Shannon Pratt and “Chief Engineer” Jan Zweerts (borrowed from Swiss Flats RR) operate the Partytown & Farmdale RR.



Around the dinner table with Shannon & Millie. Judy and Glen Wadley drove from Bay City, OR. Dean and Donna Mead drove from Ocean Park, WA.



Halloween characters waiting for the train on the station platform in Partytown.



The Santa Fe passenger train enters the Canyon Yard from Farmdale while “Der Adler” leaves the yard towards Farmdale. The spirits train rests on a siding by the control tower.



Halloween is being celebrated as creepy characters inhabit the park in Farmdale



Vinoville is a major new extension of the railroad. A vineyard occupies the corner and there is an exotic load on the flatcar consisting of lizard legs, tongues of toad, and skin of bat.

Whiskey Creek & Bear Mountain Railroad

Ron and Merlene Bacon hosted the October 8th open house and the RCGRS Tthird quarterly meeting. The

theme was “Halloween Trains” where members were encouraged bring a railroad car or train decorated in a spooky manner. Ttwenty–one members attended while the weather was cool and relatively dry.



Lunch Time



Jeff Lange’s Halloween train had a wide variation in the “loads” on the cars. Jeff had also purchased a number of miniature LED strings from a craft store so that the locomotive and all of the cars displayed twinkling lights. A second “mixed” train of spooky cars enters the loop.



End view of Jeff's train



The MDC power truck in Allan Warrior's "Terror Car" ran very slowly and not reliably. Subsequently the power truck has been disengaged from the motor and a "hook and loop" coupler was installed so that the car could be pulled by "Thomas" or one of the LGB locomotives. This change created an unexpected problem. It was found that the hook and loop couplers on the Thomas train set are about 1/4-inch higher than the standard. If the coupler height is adjusted to fit "Thomas and Friends", it will not couple correctly to anything else. It is difficult to adjust the height on a hook and loop coupler because of its design and attachment. A kludge was finally worked out in remounting one coupler upside

down so that the car can be pulled in one direction by Thomas and in the other direction by a locomotive with a standard height coupler.

Minutes RCGRS Third Quarterly Meeting October 8, 2011

Ron & Merlene Bacon's home

Jeff Lange, President, called the quarterly meeting of the Rose City Garden Railroad Society at 3:02 p.m. He welcomed members and thanked Ron & Merlene for hosting the meeting at their home.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as amended to add Live Steam SIG under committee reports.

Minutes: The minutes of the July 9, 2011 quarterly meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Printed copies were distributed. Summer tour netted club \$2,377.88. Total income for the year \$4,516.02 and expenses \$4,448.00. Cash on hand \$4,471.48. Motion to approve Treasurer's report

approved. Steve later in the meeting reported that the banquet and dues can be paid using PayPal.

Yardmaster Report: Greg Martin absent

VP Report: Nick Kelsey: New member, Rusty Baumberger, was introduced.

Committee Reports:

OPSIG–Nick Kelsey

Since the July meeting we have held OP sessions on the railroads of Gary Lee, Allan Warrior, Bill Derville and Nick Kelsey. The OPSIG is looking forward to next Friday when we will have operations for the first time on Tom Gaps Railroad. That promises to be a very interesting one. That session will conclude the season for the SIG, so we can do other things, like MOD–SIG.

Personally I must say that after this season, I am more than ever a disciple of “battery, and raised track” — no more will be said on those topics.

The SIG now has a tote with supplies to take to each session, including the infamous Brakemen (or should that be spelt Breakmen) so that each railroad does not have to duplicate the tools and items needed to host a session. In the tote is also a wired dispatch phone system which allows the train crews to OS their status and location to the Dispatcher. We tried this out at Bill Derville’s and Allan Warrior’s and I think will make a great addition to the Op sessions. It sure beats constantly walking back to the Dispatcher so he can tell you where to go!

(OS is ON SHEET, when a crew reports its arrival/departure)

Apparently, Operations is contagious, because several who have come to watch our sessions, have ended up with controllers in their hands and puzzling about exactly how to get that boxcar onto that siding.

Everybody seems to be having a good time moving freight and passengers, well, except the brakemen of course. Penny added that we now have three women participating.

Banquet Committee–Nick Kelsey

November 12th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch at noon. Morning clinics start at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon clinics begin at 1:30 p.m. Carolyn Rose and Jan Zweerts are working on clinics and a survey will be coming out for people to select clinics. The Clinics to date are: “Garden RR Plants” by Sky Yankee, “Intro to Live Steam” with Ron Bacon, “How to build your RR”, a panel discussion led by Jan Zweerts, “Spouse Class Card making”, “Using Yahoo Groups” by Nick Kelsey, “Weathering with chalk” by Amy Eng (participants bring a boxcar to weather). There may be more added as we get closer.

Darrel Dunham is chair of the model display. Richard and Marilyn Parker are working on table decorations. Nick reported there are some interesting prizes in the raffle this year, including an Aristo 0–4–0 shifter and tender, boxcar, gondola, books, gift certificates, cordless Dremel tool, Split–Jaw loader, rail bender, hats and a surprise “Daylight” item. The raffle will be held following the afternoon clinics.

The same raffle rules as last year will apply— if you have won two prizes, and win a third, you can either swap for one you have, or decline the prize.

Carolyn Rose requested time at banquet to discuss a possible train week in Colorado next September 2012.

MODSIG Report–Greg Martin

In Greg’s absence, Nick read the report from Greg. Greg has indicated that he is resigning from the position of Chair of MODSIG phasing out by the end of November. The group decided they would like to seek their own chair person who would best support the activity and preserve the direction and goals that the group has worked very hard to achieve. Next MODSIG meeting October 22th at Constructavision, 4025 N. Williams, Portland

Live Steam SIG: Ron Bacon,

Ron is going to be the chair and Andy Anderson the vice–chair. Bars have been ordered for name tags. An introduction to live–steam will be given at the banquet. Anyone interested in live steam is welcome to join. Owning a live steam locomotive is not a requirement.

Nominating Committee–Gary Lee

Chair of nominating committee announced election coming up in January 2012. If you’re interested in running for an elected office let Gary know. He is hoping to have a forum at banquet for candidates to speak. The positions are President, Vice–President, Secretary, Treasurer and Yardmaster. He reports there are two openings for sure: Yard Master and President.

Unfinished Business:

Grant Program–Tom Gaps

Tom announced that he needs six volunteers (has 4 currently) for a committee to investigate idea and possibly come up with a proposal for some method to assist members just getting started in the hobby. No meeting has been held yet.

Al’s Garden Center–Gary Lee for Bill Derville

The Christmas display for Al’s Garden Center was discussed. At this point, a volunteer from the club is needed to go weekly (8 weeks) to check on the equipment. A sign–up sheet was sent around. Dennis and Carolyn Rose volunteered for the month of November. Garry

and Judy Jantsen will take the month of December. Jan Zweerts can also stop by and check. Set-up day is on October 29th at 8 am at Al's Garden Center, Sherwood. Gary described the tasks and it was suggested that a log needed to be kept. Volunteers should wear their badges. Nick will create a check list.

New Business:

Restock supply of ballast:

Darrel Dunham will pick up the ballast to be sold to the club. An email will be sent to members asking what they need.

Replace existing club banner: Nick Kelsey displayed our club banner which is showing deterioration from being stored in a hot location. Nick reported that for about \$90 a new banner that would have a protective coating could be printed. Discussion followed. Nick will get more information regarding printing a 2-sided banner versus one side and report to the board who will make a decision regarding having a new banner made.

Banquet Raffle tickets: \$1 each, 12 for \$10.

Jeff will bring raffle sign and bucket to the banquet.

Other Business:

Tom Gaps brought up a concern about club liability insurance coverage. Nick clarified that homeowner's insurance is the first with back up of club insurance coverage. If open for tour and someone injures self, document the accident with pictures and witnesses. A report form is now on the Yahoo site. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rcgrs/files/Club%20Business/>

Confirmation of Annual meeting and Elections January 14, 2012; Location: Columbia Gorge Club House—RCGRS provides ham and members bring potluck items.

Announcements:

Friday, December 2nd, Staver Locomotive is holding a benefit for the Children's House. Staver Locomotive Steam up dates: Friday, December 2nd.

Note: The date was subsequently changed to Sunday, December 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Film Fright night: October 29th at Fanno Creek Pub—Short subject at 6 p.m. followed by the main feature slasher movie **Terror Train** with Jamie Lee Curtis. Jan reports the film was made in Canada. RSVP to Jan. You are encouraged to come in costume.

November 19th film night—a survey will be coming out

Gary Lee announced that beginning Monday evening and subsequent Monday evenings this winter Gary will

avail Constructavision to have open work evening to work on projects.

Jeff explained his decision not to run again for President because of his work load. Jeff expressed appreciation for the rest of the board members and their support and fulfillment of their officer responsibilities.

Gary showed the card boxes that he has made for the members to use at OPS sessions.

Adjournment at 4:40 p.m.

Members present: Allan Warrior, Jan Zweerts, Rusty Baumberger, Darrel Dunham, Tom Gaps, Ed Foley, Jean and Bill Dippert, Ron Bacon, Merlene Bacon, Penny Walker, Dave Stratton, Gary Lee, Jeff Lange, Nick Kelsey, Dennis and Carolyn Rose, Judy and Garry Jantsen, Steve Cogsell, Kathryn Warrior and Guests, (Ron's sister and brother in law—Melinda and Jim Dorning)

Kathryn Warrior, Secretary

MODSIG Change

By Greg Martin

It is my pleasure to announce to the Club that Jan Zweerts will be our new MODSIG Chair. In addition, Tom Gaps will fill the role of Assistant Chair. Let's do all we can to support these guys in bringing even more success to our MODSIG activity and to having the best show yet in February. This change is effective this weekend and all MODSIG communication should be directed to Jan and Tom. We had a good session Saturday with everything sorted and organized. MODSIG has its sleeves rolled up and is ready to get to work. So look out for upcoming announcements here on the wire. Thanks Jan and Tom for taking this on and thanks to everybody for supporting my tour of duty as chair. The best team I ever worked with on a project.

Al's Garden Center

by Bill Derville

The mountains were bigger than ever, and a second bridge was added to the scene. We started at 8 a.m. and finished by 2:30 p.m. We were provided three sturdy tables upon which the layout was built. The track, roadbed, trestles and engine belong to the club. They buy the snow blanket, snow, screen, pallets, wood boxes, and rail cars. Al's constructed a rock wall to protect the scene from inquiring hands. Nick Kelsey built a button that will activate the train for 5 minutes so it won't run continually and wear out our club engine.

Tony Connor supplied a great station this year. Other members loaned accessories to complete the scene.

The people at Al's Garden Center were very happy with the results, and many people now come just to see the train. It is becoming a holiday tradition. They may be contacting the Salem club to see if they can get some help with their main store in Woodburn.



Greg Martin lends a special car



Gary Lee and Doug Watson



The following people were present for construction: Gary Lee, Bryce Lee, Bill Derville, Greg Martin (not pictured) Richard and Marilyn Parker, Tony Connor, Doug Watson, Nick Kelsey, Tom Gaps, Rob Reiterman, Johnathan Reiterman, Garry and Judy Jantzen (not pictured) —pictures by Tony Connor



The station



Test Run

Railroad Movie Night, Saturday, November 19, 2011

6 p.m.—Preshow: Jamaican Railways with highlights from the making of the movie.

7p.m.—Feature Presentation: “Dark of the Sun” 101 minutes

Location: Fanno Creek Brew Pub 12562 SW Main St. Tigard.

The Fanno Creek Pub has good food & drink at reasonable prices and will put in a dedicated server for groups bigger than 10 and with of course no outside food or drink. This location is on the south end of Main St. Tigard just off 99W and should be easy to find for most club members.

They have 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.

Please RSVP to Jan Zweerts via the Yahoo club web site or leave a message at 503-247-7531.

From the web site: “Rotten Tomatoes”
The Mercenaries (Dark of the Sun) (1968)

Movie Info: Curry (Rod Taylor) is a veteran soldier-of-fortune hired by the president of the Congo for a three day mission. He and native Congolese Ruffo (Jim Brown) are to oversee the safe passage of a train through hostile enemy territory and bring back some uncut diamonds and a human cargo of fugitives loyal to the Congo cause. The two employ the drunken Doctor Wreid (Kenneth More) and a suspicious ex-Nazi named Henlein (Peter Carsten). The quartet, along with 40 of the Congo’s best soldiers, try to maneuver the train against the rebel forces and save the beautiful missionary Claire (Yvette Mimieux) at no extra charge. The action takes place in the wake of the political unrest that swept the Congo in the 1950s. ~ Dan Pavlides, movie Unrated, 1 hr. 41 min. Most likely R or a strong PG-14 today

Drama, Action & Adventure

Directed By: Jack Cardiff

Written By: Wilbur Smith, Ranald MacDougall

In Theaters: Jul 3, 1968 Widescreen

Schedules & Timetables

It is our Society’s policy to attempt to have an event or open house on every second week end 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**

November Weekends 5,6 -12,13 - 19,20 - 26,27

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.: 2011 Columbia Gorge Model RR Club Model Railroad Show.

November 12, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Annual RCGRS Luncheon/Banquet; Canby Adult Center 1250 S. Ivy St. Canby, OR

Volunteers needed. Same caterer as last year.

November 12th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with lunch at noon. Morning clinics start at 10:30 a.m. The afternoon clinics begin at 1:30 p.m. Carolyn Rose and Jan Zweerts are working on clinics and a survey will be coming out for people to select clinics. The Clinics to date are: “Garden RR Plants” by Sky Yankee, “Intro to Live Steam” with Ron Bacon, “How to build your RR”, a panel discussion

led by Jan Zweerts, “Spouse Class Card making”, “Using Yahoo Groups” by Nick Kelsey, “Weathering with chalk”s by Amy Eng (participants bring a boxcar to weather). There may be more added as we get closer.

Important Survey: The Banquet Committee needs to arrange space for the clinics on November 12, 2011 and your reply is needed ASAP. Please use the following link to respond

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MBRJRY>

November 19th film night—a survey will be coming out

December 4th 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Stavers Locomotive is holding a benefit for the Children’s House. Looking forward to seeing a lot of club members there, and remember if you have a live steamer bring it and boil some water and make the event even better. This is a good way to enjoy the wonderful venue that is Stavers Locomotive. Those people bringing a steamer can arrive at 1:00 p.m. so you will be ready to roll at 2:00 p.m.

December 9th, Friday, 7 p.m.:

Jan and Rae Zweerts open house and viewing of the Christmas ships.

January 14, 2012, Saturday: Annual meeting. The Columbia Gorge Model Railroad Club has graciously

offered to let us hold our annual meeting at their club house, 2505 N. Vancouver Ave, Portland, OR 97227, 503-288-7246.

12:00 Doors Open

01:00 Potluck

----- Club Provided Main Dish – Spiral–Cut Ham

----- Coffee & water will be provided by the club.

----- Members may bring an alternative NON- Alcoholic beverage of their choice.

----- A-G Side Dishes and Bread

----- H-O Deserts

----- P-Z Salads

02:00 Annual Business Meeting and election of officers for the next two years

03:00 HO Club Open for display

04:00 Clean Up

----- Put everything away

----- Turn off lights

----- Lock the door

Note: To minimize cleanup, the club will be providing paper plates, cups and plastic ware.

February 25th and 26th, 2012: The Worlds Greatest Hobby is coming to the Oregon Convention Center.