



January 2012 – Newsletter

Visit our club website – www.SVGRS.com

SVGRS Schedule for 2012

January 27th - Deadline to sign up for helping with setup and running trains at ECLSTS and get free pass. Notify Bob Segessenman Jr at , rob@robotronics.com **if you can help**

March 7th @ 7:00pm - General Club Meeting at the Brethren Home in Cross Keys. Those wishing to eat at the Brethren Home should notify Barry McNew at bmcnew@centurylink.net and arrive by 5PM

March 22th @ 9:00am - Setup for the ECLSTS at the York Fair Grounds

March 23/24 10:00am till 5:00pm - ECLSTS at the York Fair Grounds

March 24th @ 4:00pm - Tear Down/Cleanup for ECLSTS at the York Fair Grounds

March 31 – Deadline to pay 2012 Club Dues

June 6th @ 7:00pm - General Club Meeting at the train station in New Oxford

August 8th @ 7:00pm - Executive Board Meeting to appoint nominating Committee for 2013/2014 club officers.

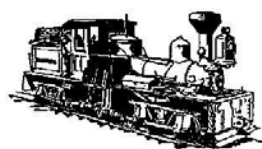
September ??th @ 11:00am - SVGRS Club Picnic

October 18th @ 7:00pm - General Club Meeting at the Brethren Home in Cross Keys

November 10 – Rocky Ridge setup

November 23 thru December 31 running trains at Rocky Ridge

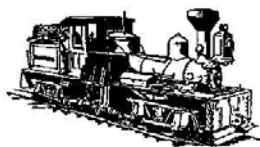
December 8rd @ 5:00pm - SVGRS Christmas Party and Election of 2013/2014 club officers



Note : The SVGRS dues for 2012 are still only \$20, Dues should be sent to Jeffrey Shubert, 258 Chestnut Drive, Shippensburg, PA17257-9493. Make checks payable to SVGRS

Treasurers Report

2010 Year End Balance	\$5817
2011 Income	\$4481
<u>2011 Club Expenses</u>	<u>\$3143</u>
2011 Year End Balance	\$7155



Open House Tours for 2012

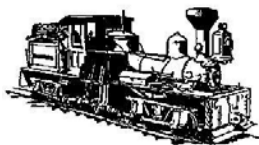
Open house tours normally run May, June, July and August. If you are willing to host an open house all dates are currently available so get your request in early.

If you know someone close to you that has a Garden Railroad try to coordinate a date that allows members to see more than one layout when making the trip.

We also encourage having someone available to do a Garden Railroad related demonstration to help new members learn about our hobby. Demonstrations could be Landscaping, Track laying, layout design, Building Trusses, making buildings or structures, train and track maintenance or other informative demonstrations.

To schedule a 2012 open house contact Joe Mower at 717-241-6483 or

E-mail jhmower@aol.com



We are deeply saddened to report the loss of two SVGRS members.

Bill Catching passed away October 5, 2011, He is survived by his wife Terry Catching . We also heard that Tom Brown’s girlfriend Kay passed away December 10, 2011 due to cancer.

The club offers our sincere condolences and wish peace and healing to the families on the death of these members. We are thinking of the family’s in their sorrow.

With deep sympathy

SVGRS Members

Note: If you are aware of any members or their immediate family in the hospital or that have passed away please notify a member of the executive board so we can send a card.



Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Summary For 2011

This year’s layout was initially constructed on November 12, 2011 and dismantled on January 7, 2012. It was well attended and not too cold. We had a good many volunteers show up to help build and take down the layout. As in years past, a similar layout design that has been proven was built with a few specific additions.

Thanks to Bob Segessenman, who provided us with a raised custom built water feature. This was our first time to try out a larger water feature and deal with the unknown weather for a long show. Lisa and Bob as well as Penny Segessenman did a great job building and landscaping it. The ladies also did a great job decorating 2 trees and making ground cover. We did have some issues; but like always there is a learning curve. There was only one instance of difficulty during the event (SPCA’s barking dog, which proved to be most distracting). It is to be noted the situation was addressed with the Park Service and should be taken care of for next year.

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There are too many members to list who traveled up to the park to help Walter and myself solve any issues that occurred. We ran 3 loops and a Reversing Trolley including an outdoor train keeping visitors well entertained. Many of the animated elements like the snow scenes and the merry-go-round were included, but we did miss the burning house, which could reappear next year.

Attendance for the Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic display set an all time record this year with over 43,800 visitors. This beats the all time record by around 2780. With 6 days of cancellations and favorable weather; I know Jerri (head of the Parks) as well as the rest of us was very pleased. There were 5000 more lights put up this year and the walkways were made wider for better access. As usual; we were the hit of Christmas Magic. Many members brought their own trains to run this year, which gave our equipment a rest. Phillip Shoop ran his fully decorated Christmas train with flashing lights every Monday night for a month.

Due to the success of last year's raffle being a positive experience, the park service again graciously allowed us to raffle off a Bachmann Christmas train set. We were fortunate that the County Parks allowed us to repeat this because it is a big part of what makes this show a financial success.

Over 400 Beginning Garden Railway books and literature was handed out as well as 150 club brochures. We did the train raffle drawing early two days before Christmas so who ever won it could enjoy it over the holidays. Our winner was Gerry Ganse and his two children. Barry (club pres.) was able to deliver the Bachmann train set to them that same night. See photos below. We're hopeful that with all of this outreach we'll get some new members.

We saved the best for last, Financial Report: The park & Radio station WSBA paid us \$1500.00 to build and monitor the layout for 31 days.

The train set raffle took in \$559.00

The Donation gondolas took in \$749.86 (We told you to keep those cars baited and running)

Total take in \$2808.86 our club costs to do the show we was \$296.10

THIS SETS AN ALL TIME RECORD HIGH; beating the 2007 Pa garden expo by \$500.

I feel that we were very lucky with a down economy to help the York County Parks have such a fantastic turnout. This event is successful due to its admission costs.

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Special thanks to those dedicated SVGRS Members who unselfishly donated their time for layout monitoring. Many members donated multiple days to insure this was a great event!

Submitted by show coordinators: Turk Russell & Walter Plank



Winner of the Train Set at Rocky Ridge

2011 Christmas Party Roundup

This year's SVGRS Christmas party was held Dec 4 at the Golden Corral in Waynesboro PA. It was well attended and almost everyone received some type of door prize. The club was able to pay in full for all members and family this year due to our picnic not being held this summer. We will have one this year!

Our president (Barry) led us off in prayer and then proceeded with a few messages. We all ate till we were all stuffed.

The golden corral has a 2 track overhead G scale layout built by the Turk and the owner (Jeff Donald). It was nice to see and hear trains running while at the restaurant.

Our VP (Turk) then spoke about upcoming events and club planning for next year on various items of club business.

After the meal, Miss Amber Segessenman drew the all of the winning tickets for the drawing. Randy Harbaugh was the grand prize winner and received a custom M.O.W. train car all detailed up.

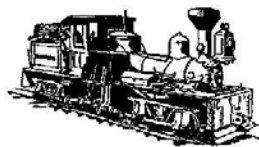
Next, we had our 50/50 drawing. The winner was Fred Wending receiving \$57.00. The club received the same.

Lastly, Turk and his daughter Holly made a DVD that was shown on a big screen projector. Part 1; We watched a pictorial of 12 years of Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic and all of the different layouts we built through the years. Part 2; Showed us a huge variation of show layouts built by members, starting in 2000 till present. It was neat to look back on some of the first shows we designed and produced. From the VW bug to monster logging displays. We have sure built a variety of layouts though the years.

Special Thanks: Jeanie Plank & Mary Shoop for the party favors.

This was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to: Turk and Renee Russell. Chairpersons



Presidents Message

Happy New Year to ALL !

My hope for all is that everybody is in Good Health and this year will be a banner year for our club. We just finished up a very successful Christmas Show at Rocky Ridge.

Now we will set our sights on the East Coast Large Scale Show and possibly York Flower Show. I know that we all have other things to do that eat into our play time. We all have fun at the layout but its takes lots of hard work, time, and dedication to do the type of layout that we create for public enjoyment.

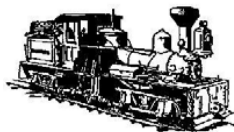
I appreciate everybody pitching in at Rocky Ridge during setup, 5 weeks of monitoring the trains, and for tearing down this past weekend. We had a few minor problems, but all in all, the layout turned out great and we had lots of positive comments from the viewing public. It sure helps when we all work together for a common goal. THANKS!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday 7th March at the Brethren Home in Cross Keys, New Oxford, PA. We will need to set aside one day to clean-up the buildings, people, cars, and engines because of the large amount of DUST on everything. The next show will be on 22 March at York Fairgrounds.

2012 Open Houses are will be starting soon, they are for members and non-members to enjoy and see what other members have created on their garden train layout. I encourage everybody to attend members open houses and bring a friend or two along so they can see different G-scale layouts and maybe they will be bitten by the train bug and join our club and become an active member.

Barry McNew

Note: Barrys new E-mail address is bmcnew@centurylink.net



News from Aristo-Craft

PRESS RELEASE January 2, 2012

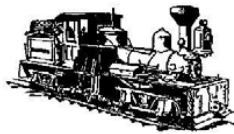
Scott H. Polk is named President of Polk's Model Craft Hobbies Inc. Effective January 1st, 2012 Scott H. Polk, son of Fred Polk, former Executive Director of the Hobby Industry Association and grandson of Nat Polk, owner of Polk's Hobby as well as former President of Polk's Hobby has been appointed the new President of Polk's Hobby; Aristo-Craft Trains and RMT by AristO.

Scott spent 10 years a F.A.O. Schwarz and Build-A-Bear Workshop around the country before joining Aristo-Craft as the V.P. of sales. Lewis and Maryann Polk are retiring after 40+ years running the former retail store on Fifth Avenue and then starting Aristo-Craft Trains.

Scott is very computer centric and will expand the use of the Internet with Aristo-Craft Trains. Scott was born into the industry and has a full understanding of the traditions and likes of the hobbyist. The seventy plus year history of Polk's is in good hands with Scott as he takes the helm.

Lewis M. Polk

Submitted by: Turk Russell



Fire destroys their building Woodland Scenics

Firefighters across Mid-Missouri are still cleaning up in Linn Creek after a fire destroyed much of Woodland Scenics.

The company makes scenery for model trains and sits right in the middle of town on Valley Drive.

Earlier Thursday in a press conference the Osage Beach Fire Chief told me that there were at least 20 fire departments helping battle the fire in Linn Creek. He said that most of the fire fighters were going to be there all night to make sure the fire doesn't spark up again.

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"Throughout most of the night we're going to start piece by piece tearing this building down. Generally this is something we don't do. Our concern though is with the amount of storage they had in this building of flammables, we're not going to be able to completely extinguish the fire," Osage Beach Fire Chief Jeff Dorhauer said.

The Linn Creek Police Chief told me that he got a call about the fire around noon Thursday.

"Around 12:10pm or 12:15pm there was a report of flames being visible from the roof of the building. They managed to evacuate everyone out the building safely," Linn Creek Police Chief Trevor Dowdney said.

At least 150 people work for Woodland Scenics, and right now half of the company's complex is destroyed.

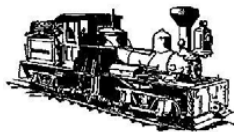
"The impact on this community is going to be great. While majority of the building is still standing, there is smoke and water damage throughout the entire complex. We don't know when they will be back in production," Dorhauer said.

Dorhauer told me they will be investigating what caused this fire throughout the night and into Friday.

He said he hasn't seen anything that looks suspicious.

The water supply in Linn Creek was quickly exhausted Thursday.

Crews from 20 area fire departments helped haul water to the blaze and give relief to local crews.



First SVGRS officer's meeting of 2012 - Jan 5th

The officer's convened at 5:30pm at the Golden Coral in Waynesboro. After a repeat of the Christmas 'stuffing,' we got down to business.

Officers Present: Barry McNew (President), Turk Russell (Vice President), Jeff Shubert (Treasurer), Joe Mower (Newsletter Editor) and Rob Segessenman (Secretary)

Jeff reported on the 2011 year-end income over expenses. A few minor revisions will occur as the final bills finish up but we have solid numbers!

Jeff also reported that the 2012 dues are coming in slowly with 30 of the 57 members having paid thus far.

Turk reported on the overwhelming financial success of Rocky Ridge which you can read about here in the newsletter. It should be pointed out that it was through a lot of hard work and dedication on our members that means all the difference.

A good bit of discussion ensued, but the upshot is this show is our life-blood, and we must continue to invest in it's success both in materials and our members time.

Some specific discussion and notes have been made in the show file that should help us with reducing unplanned maintenance. We're always learning!

Along these lines, the officers also approved the following investments

- two pre-lit Christmas trees bought at after season sales. This should greatly simplify setup and put the club in really good shape for many years to come.

- two flat side pond pumps to replace the ones that have given out. We have a large pump, but we really need the low-profile ones for Rocky Ridge and other similar situations.

- one or two new Aristo gondolas to replace the ones that take such a beating during the show but are vital to the clubs financial success.

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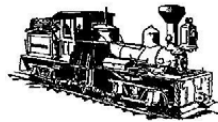
- new motor blocks for the USA F A/B units we ran at the show. It's been at least two years, and a lot of miles, since these units have had any major overhaul.

- Box of nice sympathy and a box of get well cards for our club to send to members and family who unfortunately may need them.

Time was then sent setting the tentative yearly calendar of meetings and events. See schedule here in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at about 8:00pm.

Submitted by: Bob Segessenman, Jr.



Bachmann Trains: New Release

When almost all of us talk about our first inexpensive Large scale train engine; the discussion usually ends up being; Yea, I owned a Bachmann Big Hauler. All of us in some form have either owned one from a set, bought one used or at the very least, ran one.

The Bachmann 4-6-0 known as the (Annie). Bachmann set this industry on a run that no one could imagine selling a million of these locomotives. The 4-6-0 Big hauler first produced in 1988 has gone through 5 generations of changes and mechanisms. Not always the best runners; most of us could not resist purchasing one, because they looked nice and were always cheaply priced! Today Barry's Big Trains offers a complete transformation from upgraded motors, gears to changing into a 2-8-0.

As of 2012, the big hauler will get its most significant re-do to date. A newly designed front lead truck that is weighed and mounts at a different pivot point on the body of the locomotive. Thank goodness; No more pinched up wires and floppy cracking trucks.

Next it will have Metal Gears and a 5 pole can motor. These motors have now been used for almost 2 years and I must tell you that they are much better than the previous ones.

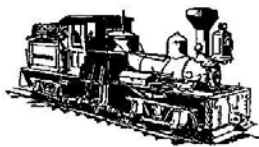
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Lastly they have added more weight so this should increase pulling power. I had no idea of this until late November when I visited Longwood Gardens. While discussing and servicing some of their engines; Ross said to me; “have you seen this new 10 Wheeler yet ?” I said no. Longwood was given a sample to test run and give back results. I was given an opportunity to have a firsthand look at the newly designed engine as well as run it. It’s got some definite improvements!

Bachmann is now leaning towards more reliable mechanisms since moving towards a scaled higher quality market of trains. This now makes 4 available locos with metal gearing . K27, new Climax, new 2-4- 2

I hope the production run locos are as nice as this one.

Submitted by: Turk Russell



SVGRS Club Officers

President – Barry McNew (717)762-2962 bmcnew@centurylink.net

President Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873, 1turk@embarqmail.com

SVGRS Secretary - Bob Segessenman 717-359-8515, rob@robotronics.com

Coordinator of Layout Tours. Joe Mower (717)241-6483 jhmower@aol.com

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 shube@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717)241-6483 jhmower@aol.com

Related Garden Railroad Businesses

Appalachian Gardens- Specializing in miniature plants and trees for Garden Railroads. They also offer a full range of nursery products. Appalachian Gardens provides plant materials for club exhibits and displays. 717-597-8456 Tom & Fern McCloud Website, www.smallplants4bigtrains.com

Martins Greenhouse

It is a small greenhouse business specializing in perennials. This includes rock garden plants & miniature conifers, which fit in well with garden railways.

Noah & Marian Martin, 5489 Division Hwy., Narvon, Pa 17555, Ph. 717-354-7546
martinsghse@juno.com

Russell's Customizers – Repairs to garden railroad equipment. (Aristocraft, Bachmann & LGB. Moderate pricing for Garden Railroad equipment, technical advice, rail mechanics & maintenance problems. Call evenings 717-762-8873 Turk & Renee Russell.

Victoria's Timeless Treasures & Dale's Garden Railroad Depot – Provides a full range of Garden Railroad equipment, accessories and supplies. They invite members to view their extensive multi-track layout. 610-589-9000 Dale & Victoria Bricker