



# March 2009 – Newsletter

Visit our club website – [www.SVGRS.com](http://www.SVGRS.com)

## Club Dues for 2009

**2009 Club Dues are now past due and must be paid by March 30 to continue receiving the newsletter. Dues are \$20.00 per family. You can send payment to Jeff Shubert, 258 Chestnut Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-9493**



Best wishes for speedy recovery to Terry Smith; He is now home from the Hospital.



## SVGRS Club Meeting March 12, New Oxford Train Station

At 6:30 there will be a meeting for those who plan to help with the ECLS layout.  
At 7:30 there will be a general membership meeting. Please plan to attend.

**NOTE: Several members are planning to meet at Brethren Home (Cross Keys) at 5:00PM for Dinner prior to the meeting. This is where we had the Christmas Party. Call Walter plank if you plan to join for dinner.**



## March 2009 East Coast Large Scale Train Show (ECLSTS)

Jake Middour will chair with Marlyn Geesey as co-chair. Please mark your calendars with these important dates:

March 26th (Thursday) set-up day. Track layout people should be there at 8:30 and others at 9:00 AM

March 27th (Friday) and 28th (Saturday) show days. Show hours are 9:00 AM till 6:00 PM both days.

Tear-down of the display will follow the closing of the show on the 28th.

A new Saw Mill will be displayed for the first time at the York East Coast Mar 27-28 show. Attached is picture of the mill building that will be used..

Thanks

Jake Middour



## **2008 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Layout**

This year's show was designed and planned by Walter Plank and Turk Russell. The Show ran exceptionally well, even though the park was closed 7 times due to inclement weather. Hence, the park service decided to extend the hours of operation for an additional 3 days into January. These added days proved to be worthwhile, drawing a record crowd of 29,235.

Setup was on Nov. 15 with 18 willing volunteers. The weather conditions were as usual; frickin cold! Folks arrived in good spirit to help build the newly expanded Layout. The park service asked us to add an outside loop where the train could run in and out of the building, weather pending. This allowed patrons who were waiting outside in line to get a preview of the train. This was so successful; the park service had to modify the fence line. Thus, they had to create a larger waiting area so that folks could

view the train traveling on the outside loop. This in turn left some of the layout watchers a little in the cold due to the door being open constantly.

Although this show was our founding members main source of income, it had started to dwindle through the years, but has now become a major source of income as well as growth for the club. In these bad times, it is nice to see that we have something that is continuing to grow. The club maintained a donation caboose which turned out to be the most successful to date, tallying \$310.99. Adding to the show payment by the Park of \$1500.00, this gave the club a total profit of \$1726.31. Expenses were minimal at \$84.68..

This layout has sparked such great interest; that the park superintendent (Jerry Jones) has indicated interest in expanding the outdoor loop to be larger and even the possibility of constructing an overhead roof to cover the train in bad weather. We would like to encourage all club members to participate in this group effort to make next year's layout even more successful. It is not too early for you to step forward and indicate willingness to serve.

Walter and I would like to thank everyone who participated in the setup, teardown and monitoring (baby sitting, Ha Ha ) of this years Christmas Magic layout.

Submitted by: Turk and Walter



Gettysburg scenic railway suspends 2009 season  
By ERIN JAMES

The Evening Sun

Posted: 02/14/2009 10:27:48 PM EST



Pioneer Lines Scenic Railways Gettysburg office on North Washington Street has been closed for the winter. But now the company appears to have suspended its 2009 season. (Evening Sun Photo by Meghan Gauriloff)

The reason is unclear, but Gettysburg's scenic railroad appears to have suspended its 2009 season.

A brief statement on the Web site of Pioneer Lines Scenic Railway tells visitors to check back in 2010.

Messages left at the headquarters of Pioneer Railcorp, which runs the scenic railway and is based in Illinois, went unanswered Friday.

No one answered the phone at the railway's Gettysburg office, 106 N. Washington St., on Friday. But an answering machine tells callers the 2009 season would resume in April and continue through October. The railway has been closed for the winter, according to the message.

Pioneer Lines Scenic Railway operates primarily for entertainment and offers customers an array of themed train rides - including scenic, murder mysteries, dinners, history and Christmas - on its tracks and then back to the station.

The track also is historic. A century ago, the line took passengers as far away as Harrisburg.

Pioneer Railcorp bought the track in 2001.

The railway recently was the focus of controversy when, in July, a former employee began handing out literature to visitors about what he said were unsafe practices at the railway.

Pioneer Railcorp eventually issued a cease-and-desist letter to Stewart Sifakis, who alleged the railway failed to perform required brake tests. He also said the railway is violating Federal Railway Administration standards by crossing roads with broken signals and failing to post a flagger at the crossing.

It is unclear whether Sifakis' allegations are related to the season's suspension.



SVGRS Club Officer Election results. Club Officers are elected for a two year term.

President: Walter Plank

Vice President: Turk Russell

Secretary: Dave Watts

Treasurer: Jeff Shubert

**Letter from President Elect Walter Plank**

Greetings to all my fellow Garden Railroad Enthusiasts. I appreciate the vote of confidence given by club members. I shall try to keep in mind that at all times it is my responsibility to respond to the needs of the club and represent the majority of members in all decision making. A period of adjustment will be required to achieve a mechanism to assure complete response to club member wishes. Efforts will be made to establish more formal meeting format to transact club business in an efficient manner and still assure that all, who wish to be heard, have the opportunity to express their views.

**My Immediate goals based on feedback I have received will include the following:**

1. Establish and publish a yearly calendar of events to be updated via the Club Newsletter
2. Revise and update the Club Bylaws
3. Maintain bi-monthly Executive Board Meetings.
4. Establish a Club Function to contact members or their family in times of distress (hospitalized, family loss, or passing of a club member)
5. Review accounting procedure to assure transparency of club fund administration.
6. Increase individual club member participation in everyday club activity

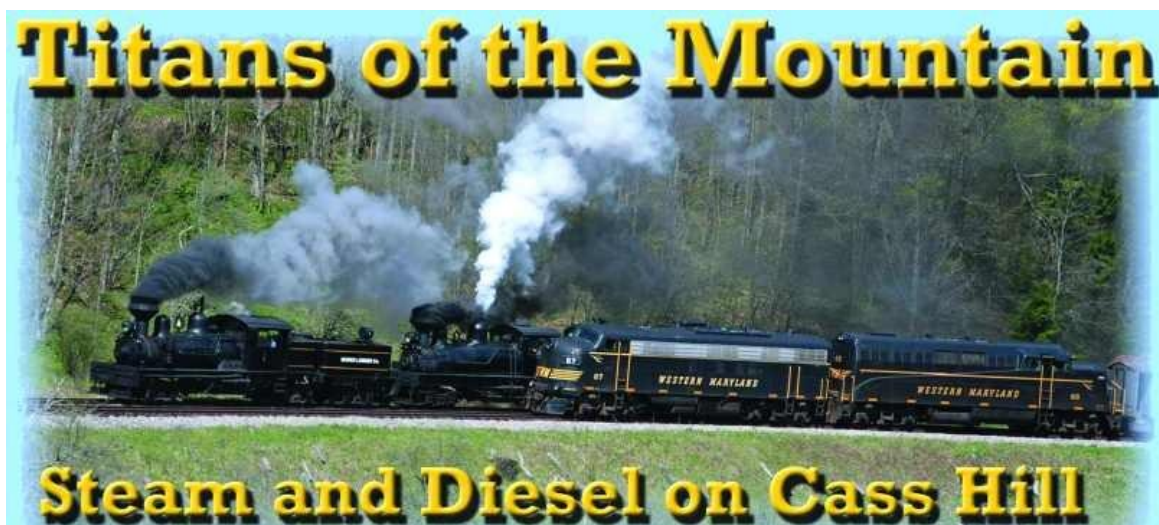
7. Review and revise responsibility of Executive Board Members
8. Consider club sponsored outings to points of interest
9. Increase education opportunities for new members seeking enrichment in Garden Railroading

This is a multi-talented club with unlimited potential for expression. Let us work together for the mutual benefit of all members. New members must be assimilated early into our workforce to provide them the opportunity to profit from the experience of other members and become part of the fabric network that makes our club strong and vibrant.

Members must make every effort become involved and forward concerns or suggestions to the Executive Committee for consideration. Remember, if the committee is not contacted, club members cannot expect resolution of member concerns. Communication is a primary concern of the committee in our effort to effectively serve the membership at large. Change in service provision results from evaluation of past effectiveness. United in our efforts the club will continue to grow.



**May 15-17, 2009**  
**Cass and Elkins, West Virginia**  
**Three Days of Historic Railroading!**





### **Industry news by Turk Russell**

Bachmann Industries has just announced that they have an agreement with HIT Entertainment to produce large scale Thomas the Tank and friends trains.

This will fill the void left by the Lionel. We look forward to these new products

They also have announced and show prototypes of the new RioGrande long caboose.

Availability should be around April of this year.

Originally Posted by **GardenRailways.com**



### **Golden Corral in Waynesboro Re-opens**

For those of you who travel for a visit or to get your trains repaired at Turk's , we have good news. The Golden Corral has now re-opened. The Corral is a favorite of colleges and mine alike. The owners and I are friends and are huge train collectors as well as enthusiasts. They sold the Corral about 6 months ago only to have the new owners fail to make it 4 months into it and the restaurant Closed up. Jeff and Amy decided to take the restaurant back and due a complete and cleanup and remodeling. The double track overhead G scale layout (built by Turk and Jeff) is a favorite amongst all! The food bar will not let you walk away hungry .So next time you're here or passing through; stop in and have a bite to eat and see the trains!

Submitted by: Turk





Published: Wednesday, February 04, 2009

**märklin**

German model railroad manufacturer Märklin has declared bankruptcy, the company announced Wednesday. The filing comes after the company was unable to persuade a pair of banks to extend a \$64 million credit line that expired last Friday.

According to the German business Web site Handelsblatt.com, the filing should allow Märklin to continue operations. "We are determined to restructure our traditional company ... using the instruments of German insolvency law and establish it permanently in the market," Märklin executive Dietmar Mundil said in a statement.

Märklin teetered on the edge of bankruptcy three years ago before being purchased in 1996 by the Kingsbridge Capital investment firm. In 2008, the train manufacturer reported sales of \$165 million.

Märklin's deal with Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg and Kreissparkasse Goepingen for a 50 million euro (\$64.2 million) credit line expired January 30. As a result, the company was unable to pay its workers their January wages.

The company is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, with special celebrations occurring at Nuremberg's Spielwarenmesse Toy Fair, happening now. Sources say Märklin's upper management has not made an appearance at the show.



### Items For Sale

- Accucraft K-4 In box never opened \$1450.00
- Accucraft Track Sale \$288.00 Box
- (1) LGB 2063 #50 Side rod Diesel w/RCS/Dallee \$594.00
- (1) ELY Thomas Caboose w/kadee \$35.00
- (2) USA PRR Speeders \$ 45.00 each
- (1) Bachmann 36 T Shay, \$295.00 New in box.

Attached to e-mail are new 1:29 flyers from Accucraft. Many items are reduced. Limited time only. Club members take 20% off ON ALL Accucraft products.

Don Sweet, RCS of New England, ph 603-321-1347, Fax 717-259-9682





## **SVGRS Club Officers**

President – Walter Plank (717)486-3489 [walterplank@comcast.net](mailto:walterplank@comcast.net)  
Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873 [1turk@embarqmail.com](mailto:1turk@embarqmail.com)  
SVGRS Secretary - Dave Watts (717)-264-8187 [suern@innernet.net](mailto:suern@innernet.net)  
Coordinator of Layout Tours. Joe Mower [jhmower@aol.com](mailto:jhmower@aol.com)  
Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 [shube@comcast.net](mailto:shube@comcast.net)  
Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower (717)241-6483



## **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](http://www.smallplants4bigtrains.com)

**Cool Train Hobbies** – General train supplies and merchandise specializing in G scale trains. 717-898-7119 Ted & Kim Symonds.

### **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](mailto: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.

**RCS of New England** – Specializing in battery control throttles for G scale trains. They also provide sound systems and special lighting effects. 717-259-9523 Don & Donna Sweet

**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

### **Railroadguy.com**

Local company of Custom Steel Bridges

Visit [www.railroadguy.com](http://www.railroadguy.com) Ph. 717-629-5545

