

SVGRS NEWSLETTER – October 2007



TRAINS IN THE GARDEN

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Calendar of Events

October 6, 2007 open house will be at Kirk Slenker's indoor layout in Glen Rock, PA on Saturday, October 6 .

October 6, 2007 Strausburg Museum train set up 9 till 12 AM. Display open till January 1.

November 8, 2007 General Membership Meeting will be held in New Oxford.

November 10, 2007 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic set-up 9 AM till 1 PM. Show open November 23 thru January 1. We also need people willing to clean track from November 25 through December 30. Please contact Lisa 717-741-3266 or obackdes@aol.com if you can help.

December 8 Christmas Party at Brethren Home, Cross Keys (Reservations required)

Sunday, Dec. 9, 1-4 PM: Santa Comes to New Oxford Train Station.



Christmas Party

Christmas Party - Sat., Dec. 8, 6:30 PM at Cross Keys Brethren Village
Fun and prizes for everyone! Auction, 50-50 drawing and more!!! Don't miss this event! Bring the whole family.

MENU:

TOSSED SALAD, CUCUMBERS, GRAPE TOMATOES, SLICED RED ONIONS. CROUTONS, ASST. DRESSING

ROLLS & BUTTER

BUFFET: ROAST TURKEY (BREASTS AND THIGHS), TURKEY GRAVY

ROAST BEEF, BEEF GRAVY

HOUSEMADE FILLING

FRESH MASHED POTATOES

BAKED CORN PUDDING

ORANGE GLAZED BABY CARROTS

CUT GREEN BEANS VW HAM & BROTH

ASST. DESSERT TABLE

CARROT CAKE, TRIPLE CHOCOLATE CAKE

LEMON SPONGE PIE, CHERRY PIE, APPLE PIE

BEVERAGE TABLE: COFFEE, DECAF, HOT TEA, PUNCH FOUNTAIN, PEPSI, DIET PEPSI, SLICED TEA, ICE WATER

Vegetarian meals available upon request with reservation.

Cost is \$12 for adults; \$7, children 5-12; FREE, 4 and under. This is a \$22 value for adults and a \$13.15 value for children. The club is subsidizing the cost of the meal, and this is your Christmas gift from SVGRRS.

Reservations with payment must be received by Dec. 1. Please send to Jeff Shubert, 258 Chestnut Dr., Shipensburg, PA 17257 Email: shube@comcast.net



Comments from the Club President

Thanks to Fred Whitley for co-coordinating the plans for the picnic. It was a beautiful day. 43 people attended, along with 4 children.

General Membership Meeting will be held in New Oxford on Thursday, Nov. 8. Several items concerning future shows will be on the agenda.

Upcoming shows are in need of people to co-ordinate set-up and operation of club displays. These shows are fundraisers for our club, and everyone's help is needed. These shows include:

Rocky Ridge - Lisa will need helpers to run the trains.

The PA Garden Expo - 2nd week of March '08.

The East Coast Large Scale Show - first weekend April '08.

York Fair - September '08.

By the way, a BIG thanks to Lisa, Mike and Donna for their commitment to this year's York Fair. Also, thanks to the others who gave of their time to help.

Tom McCloud

SVGRS 2007 Picnic Fred Whitley

On September 16, 2007 the weather was ominous with heavy rain as the day began in Akron, PA for the Susquehanna Valley Garden Railroad Society (SVGRS) annual picnic. However, the weather prediction for a sunny afternoon soon proved to be accurate. President Tom McCloud and his wife Fern were the first to arrive. They had no difficulty finding the Roland Park in Akron, as they had been there previously. However, as others began to arrive, it soon became apparent that a mistake had been made with the directions, as the park is on 11th street, NOT 12th street, as inaccurately mentioned by me. I apologize for this blunder, but folk soon put this behind them and the picnic festivities commenced for the day. Double parallel tracks were soon placed onto a hill for the 'pulling contest'. Tom asked me to find some bricks for weight, which I did at my near-by home. The "For Sale" table was soon opened inside the hall, and soon trains began to appear for those who might find another 'asset' to add to their trains.

After a brief business meeting, presided over by President Tom, and a few welcoming remarks made by Picnic Chairman Fred Whitley, a new member this year to this organization, the meal was served. The anticipation on the faces indicated a hungry group of people were fondly looking forward to the food.

Various desserts were brought by many members along with other goodies. Jean Plank brought a large crock-pot of delicious baked beans. I personally gathered the impression that this is a 'signature dish' associated with Jean. (Thank you—very enjoyable!) Lunch was catered by Retter Catering of Manheim, PA. Grilled chicken and roast beef sandwiches were the main meat, served along with potato and macaroni salad, fresh vegetables and dip were also provided, etc. Tom McCloud knew of the Martin pretzel factory that is 'around the corner' and asked me to purchase a box of freshly made pretzels for one and all. Down the center of the tables was a 'gravity train' that was used to deliver various food items for those lucky enough to be sitting alongside the right of way!

As the meal began to be digested, Tom and Fern motivated the group with various work games. Hmm.. some of them were DIFFICULT, and Tom soon shared the answers to prevent any anxiety that might have developed. No one got all of the answers correct, but they were able to smile and laugh as the correct answers were revealed to us! Also, two other games were included; guess the number of parts within a jar, and, guess the weight of the spikes and other railroad items within another jar.

James Ingram, from Williamsport, PA came with the intent to photograph members, and to ask a few comments about how and why they became in railroading. Jim is very conscientious about promoting many toy railroad organizations, of various gauges with the 'focus' on clubs in Eastern Pennsylvania, especially. We thank Jim for his time and talent.

My house is located 'on the other side of the hill' from our picnic hall. I made an invitation for anyone who might like to see some American Flyer trains, and, most importantly, to look at the terrain of my yard and offer suggestions to me for the day I might begin a garden railroad. As anticipated, there was a wealth of experience as ideas were presented to me. Most important, I was directed to specific members who have mastered certain logistical problem. I 'Thank' all who visited with me at my home.

In conclusion, I believe an enjoyable time was had by one and all. I already was told a suggestion that next year the date be one or two weeks later in the month to perhaps enable more members to attend this annual function. (Yes, we know that not every person can be accommodated, eh?!) These social activities are important 'cement' towards the bonding of the members. I trust an enjoyable day was had by everyone.

Stay well, and operate with a 'green-board'. FRED WHITLEY, Picnic Chairman, 2007

Note from James Ingram

I recently attended the SVGRS's (Susquehanna Valley Garden Railroad Society) annual picnic down in Lancaster County, held on Sat 9/15/07.

This group has the most advanced "picnic table service" of any group I have so far encountered. As the attached photo shows, they have large-scale **rail service right to your plate.**

Thus when you need more potato chips or pickles, there's no more having to in-

interrupt your conversation, struggle up out of your chair while jostling your neighbors, and then having to hike across the room, and search around for the potato chips. Instead, the train delivers that stuff right to your plate!



Layout tours - If you would like to host an open house layout visit please contact Kirk Slenker (717) 244-3522 or e-mail slenke@aaicorp.com



The next layout Open House will be on Saturday, October 6, from 10:00 to 4:00 at Kirk Slenker's indoor layout in Glen Rock. Please note this is a change from the October 20 date reported previously in the newsletter. His G-Scale layout is in the Glen Rock, PA library building. It is in a very large room with three other large layouts: an

O gauge, Amereican Flyer and HO that together make up the Glen Rock Volunteer Fire Company Christmas train display that is open to the public between Thanksgiving and January. The G-Scale layout has a double track main line loop with a secondary mountain loop. Taking advantage of the indoor location, the highlight of the layout is the large yards and extensive switching operations. The main yard has 20 sidings up to 18 feet long and the coal yard is 8 tracks wide and 20 feet long. Five trains can be operated simultaneously including the switching operations in the two yards. The layout is track powered using conventional cab and block wiring. Motive power is provided by 15 engines ranging from Shay, Climax and Pacific steam to GP-9s, NW-2s, GP-38's, U-25s and some F units. Rolling stock is about 80 cars spanning the 40's to modern tank cars, covered hoppers and well cars.

Refreshments will be available all day and a hot lunch will be served noon to 1:00. Please contact Kirk Slenker before next Thursday, October 4 if you are planning to come for lunch.

(slenke@aaicorp.com or 717-244-3522)

Bring anything you would like to run with curves less than 8 feet diameter. Stay a while to build and disassemble completely hands off 10 car trains in the yards and dispatch trains to and from the loop lines. (kaydee couplers only). Remember, it's indoor! The weather is not a factor!

Directions:

I-83 to Glen Rock exit. If going south on I-83, turn right at the bottom of the off ramp. If going north on I-83 turn left at the bottom of the off ramp. Follow the road a little over 1/2 mile to its end at a stop sign at Susquehanna Trail. Turn left and then in less than 100 yards turn

right onto Church Street Extended. Follow several miles and the road will eventually descend into the town of Glen Rock where the road ends at a stop sign. Turn left and then in 100 yards turn right across the railroad tracks into the parking lot next to the library building on your right. Do not park in the spaces immediately in front of the building that are reserved for library patrons. If you get to a traffic light, you passed it and must turn around. Go up the steps into the main library building entrance and follow the hall back to the train layouts.

From the square in Hanover, PA, take PA route 216 to the traffic light in Glen Rock (roughly 15 miles). Proceed through the traffic light a short distance to the railroad tracks. Turn left next to the tracks into the parking lot next to the library building. Do not park in the spaces immediately in front of the building that are reserved for library patrons. Go up the steps into the main library building entrance and follow the hall back to the train layouts.

Bob Segassenman,s Open House

Speaking of great events, below are a few photos I took at my Dad's open house. I'll admit that I am probably biased when it comes to the railroad, I do know that folks had a really good time. The weather was near perfect, and it was a fun time watching trains and getting a relaxed chance to socialize. I think the pictures bear this out. One thing I didn't get pictures of was the clinics my Dad gave to any who were interested. I believe he did two throughout the afternoon. My Dad would like to express his gratitude to those of the club who were able to attend. For those who could not, there will hopefully be a "next time." THANKS! Rob Segessenman





York Fair Layout Exhibit

Walter E. Plank

The exhibit was very well presented. It was the result of many hours of preparation and numerous construction projects. The public expressed gratitude for the exhibition. York Fair employees were well pleased with the interactive portion of the display, especially the bubble blowing station. The club received accolades for the project.

The extent of the display well presented the opportunity for operation of multiple rail lines operated at multiple levels. Landscaping consisting of trees, green shrubs and flowering plants complemented a well constructed rural scene depicting rural life adjacent to an operating rail line of years gone by. Numerous Circus Items caused one to remember experiences of childhood attending the local circus or carnival.

A project of this magnitude requires numerous man-hours for successful presentation. It fell upon the shoulders of Mike Oberdick, and Lisa Boll to construct and maintain this exten-

sive project. A call for help resulted in minimal response by individual club members. Perhaps club members had previous commitments which prevented greater response to the call for help maintaining the display.

If our club expects to reap the rewards for public displays it will be imperative that greater club participation be demonstrated. We have extensive commitments requiring club participation which will suffer or be cancelled if there is not improved response to a call for help. Will there be enough response by club members to assure sufficient manpower to set up, tear down and supervise Rocky Ridge, Strasburg, or shows planned for the year 2008?

I feel we have not demonstrated sufficient appreciation for the Herculean efforts of a few dedicated club members who have provided services on behalf of the club without requiring or expecting more than a "Thank You".

Calls for support of the planned club activities must be embraced by all club members lest the faithful few become disenchanted and discontinue their efforts on behalf of all members. If you feel my observation is flawed, call a club officer and volunteer today.

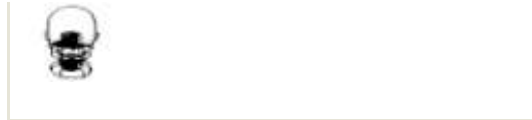
Walter E. Plank

York Fair Photos by Lisa Boll



News from Truk

Well here it is guys Bachmann has released a K-27 locomotive. you can have a little piece of Durango or Cumbres in your back yard and finally we don't have to buy an over-priced; too darn heavy Accucraft. This is the only picture I have right now there are 7 versions including ones with the doghouse on the tender. This is great.



Treasurers Report

1/1/07 Opening Balance \$5,444.86
Income thru 9/30/07 \$2,665.00
Expenses thru 9/30/07 \$1,782.10
Balance 9/30/07 \$6,327.76
Note: \$3,000.00 was transferred into a CD leaving a balance of \$3,327.76 in the checking account.



Receipt

Donna's recipe for cupcakes that were devoured at the open house.

Black Bottom Cupcakes

Preheat Oven to 350
8 oz. Package of cream cheese
1 egg
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 oz. chocolate chips
1 pkg. devil's food cake mix

Directions Combine cream cheese, egg, sugar and salt, mix until well blended. Mix in chocolate chips and set aside. Prepare cake mix according to package instructions. Fill paper cupcake liners 1/3 full with cake batter. Top with heaping teaspoon of cream cheese mixture. Bake for 30-35 minutes. Sprinkle with powder sugar when cooled. Makes 24 cup cakes. Donna S.

SVGRS Club Officers

President – Tom McCloud (717) 762-9508 liner-man@earthlink.net

Vice President – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873 1turk@earthlink.net

Dave Watts - SVGRS Secretary 717-264-8187 suern@innernet.net

Coordinator of Layout Tours.
Kirk Slenker - (717) 244-3522 or
slenke@aicorp.com

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

Secretary/Membership – Dave Watts
(717)264-8187

Newsletter Editor – Joe Mower
(717)241-6483
Items for the newsletter can be submitted to jhmower@aol.com. Please indicate SVGRS in the subject so it does not get deleted with spam.

The next issue of the newsletter will be out approximately December 5. Please have any information for the newsletter to me by December 1.

If you have items for sale you would like posted in the newsletter please send me a list before December 1. We are always looking for articles to publish. If you have an article you think would be have interest to other club members please send it to me. Joe Mower

Related Garden Railroad Businesses

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

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

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

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
717-354-7546
martinsghse@juno.com