



SVGRS Newsletter October 2025

2025 Calendar of Events

Oct 17	Equipment Cleanup and Repack for Rocky Ridge (1:30 pm)
Nov 10	Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track & Platforms (10:00 am)
Nov 15	Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)
Nov 28	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Opening Day
Dec 30	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends
Jan 10	Rocky Ridge Tear Down (10:00 am)
Jan 11	General Meeting/Christmas Party – National Apple Museum (2:00 pm)

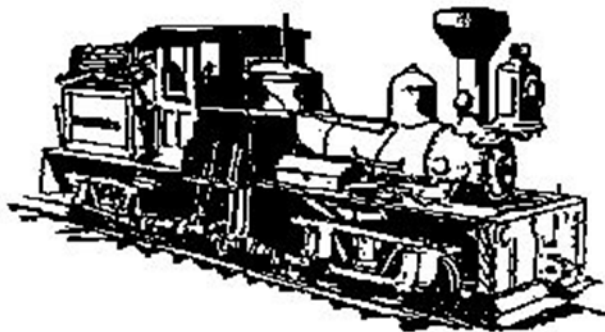
Please print or cut out and put on your refrigerator for reference

Fall 2025 President's Message

Greetings fellow SVGRS members and families!

As I sit writing this, Fall is most definitely in the air with our first threat of a frost tonight. The days are quickly getting shorter and cooler. That means we've had a chance to enjoy the good food and fellowship of our annual picnic and it's time to consider our holiday push to support Rocky Ridge. I want to thank everyone who has already posted their name to our signup sheet with Dee. If you've not done that, give her a call and get your name down with your friends and fellow club members. We're always up to hear new ideas because we really are challenged to do all that much new given the parameters the Park demands, and we contract to provide. This year Penny sister has graciously 3D printed a whole slew of Whoville houses. Penny will be busy painting over the next two months to get that ready! Of course, Rocky Ridge is not all we all consider this time of year. The fall foliage begs for us to get out and see the real trains often inspire the models and scenes we create. So, catch a ride and share your pictures! Speaking of leaves, we'll need the usual donation of reds and yellows that help make Rocky Ridge pop along with orange and brown. Start collecting those please and watch your email for important reminders as we roll into November.

Stay warm, stay dry and happy railroading! -Rob Segessenman



Segessenman Open House

Submitted by Rob Segessenman

On Sunday afternoon August 3rd, Rob and Penny Segessenman held an open house at their home in Littlestown for our club, which was also attended by their family and friends. The weather was wonderful and the attendance solid with roughly 32 people making an appearance. While nothing major with the layout has changed in the time since the club last visited, several smaller additions have been done. As with most of our layouts, there are always plans for more! Because the pre-formed pond liner failed a year ago, Rob has moved the pond and incorporated this with a new small, raised platform holding a farm scene. These buildings are especially meaningful as they were hand built by Rob's Dad (Bob Segessenman) who was a big part of the club several years back. The barn is a traditional bank barn seen all over this part of the States and the house is an accurate version of the house he grew up in back closer to Philadelphia. Rob spent many hours there as a kid as well before the family migrated to the Gettysburg area. This open house Rob chose to focus on his 1:29th collection with steam and diesel present. Penny and Rob had a lot of fun setting scenes and adding details that don't make it out every year. I think maybe that might change because we've enjoyed the additions long after the open house although it's now time to pack it away. We hope everyone who attended had a good time and perhaps those who didn't can make it next time. Who wants to do an open house in 2026?









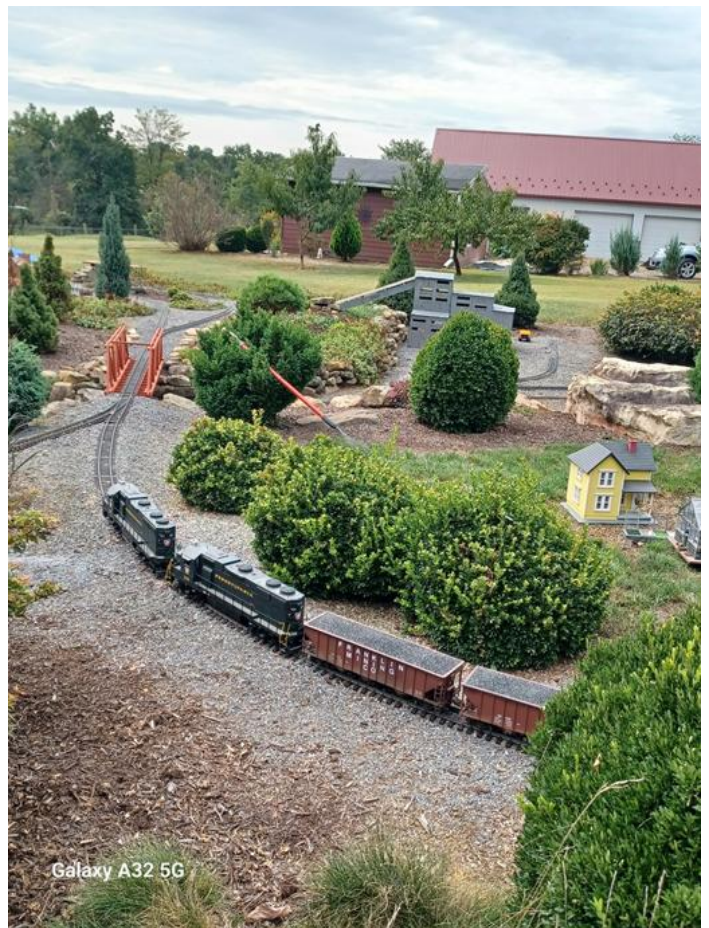
Hyatt Open House

Submitted by Dee Simmons

Bob and Janet Hyatt had their open house on the weekend of September 6th and 7th. Unfortunately, Saturday did not turn out well weather wise. Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day and they had about 50 people total, family, friends and club members visit the layout. It was a great day to socialize and get to see a fellow club members hard work in person.

Bob and Janet have a beautiful setup using the layout of his property and its beautiful landscaping to its full advantage.





2025 Fall Picnic and Meeting

Mother Nature was very kind to us for this year's picnic at the National Apple Museum pavilion in Biglerville on Sunday September 21st. The annual SVGRS picnic kicked off at 1:00pm. This year we again had the catering done by Mission BBQ in Camp Hill. The food was delicious and was kept nice and hot this year. There was also an assortment of 5 different cakes for dessert provided graciously by Dee Simmons. She did an awesome job!!

Our blessing was provided by Barry McNew after a short welcome from our Vice President, Bob Kluk. We were missing 2 of our board members and their families at the meeting due to previous commitments. Bob, Jeff, Turk, Keann and I made sure to keep things going in their absence. We drew tickets for over 20 prizes. We had a turnout of 38 people.

We held a quick meeting with a discussion of our trip to Ohio for the Great Lakes Large Scale train show in May presented by Turk. He mentioned they are having the event again next year and we have been invited back. This year's turnout was just over 1000, and They are hopeful to see 1500 people attend next year's show. Turk did mention that we spent more money than expected due to the number of people that attended and that this would be addressed by the club officers going forward. Next year's event will be May 15 and 16 from 10-4 on both days. Jim Clingan, as well as others, mentioned they would like to make sure this is an event the club votes on.

Turk also talked about his latest Piko steam engine project. He had both the original stock locomotive and his heavily modified /detailed Western Maryland version on display on the front table for all to see a comparison. The project was based off the NJ Central 113 engine. Turk has a love for Steam locomotives and does quite a bit of detailing them with the help of his train buddy Barry McNew.

Turk also updated us about Waynesboro's Land O Christmas event held Nov 22 thru Dec 14. There will be 50 decorated trees and holiday decor everywhere, plus a G scale train set up by Turk and Tom

We also got off to a good head start on signups for Rocky Ridge Christmas magic. We request that all members donate some of their time for this huge event. Please contact Rob or Dee to sign up.

Following the meal, both a joke and a quick story that Penny Segessenman had provided for us was read. Door prizes were selected in groups interspersed with the meeting and

announced by Turk. We had a large selection of mums, trains, and other miscellaneous train-related items. Mary Jane Reiff won the grand giveaway of a beautiful stone building made by Turk and Barry. We did a 50/50 raffle which netted Joe Mower \$39.00.

Jeff was able to take the traditional drone group photo outside. An enjoyable time was had by all. It was great to “see” everyone in person after another long gap.

submitted by: Dee & Turk

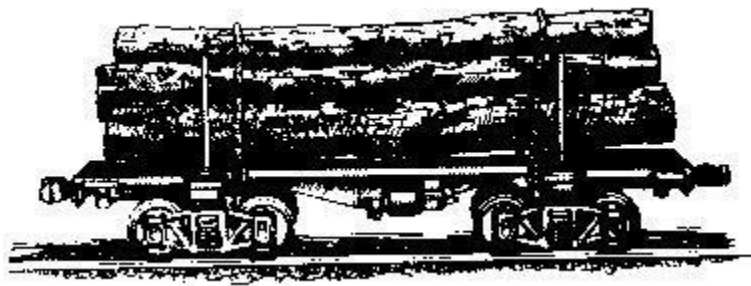












News from your coordinator

I wanted to inform everyone that the club was given the opportunity to take over the Quincy Village Garden RR. Our member Larry Nowak who owns the display and trains, just turned 89 and needs back surgery. He made the offer to me when we passed each other at the hospital. What a coincidence since I have more issues than he does! Larry's outdoor RR is small enough and is independent from the rest of the 6 layouts at the Quincy model RR club. His layout has 2.5 loops and one reversing section. All tracks are on flat level ground. Most trains are battery powered, and some track powered as well. Everything is there we need and trains are stored in a big engine house. The only responsibility is for someone to run at least 2 trains the Sunday after Nov each year. I usually help Larry with this as well as take members to see their awesome displays inside the train building. The plants are already mature, and we would need some ballast and clean up 1 - 2 times a year. The good news is we can use it whenever we like plus it can be used as a teaching and learning for those who are building display. I spoke to a few members who are in favor and regardless, I told Larry I would take this on because it's easy and he has everything provided to make this a treasure.

Questions, feel free to call me 717 762 8873

Friends in Railroading Turk





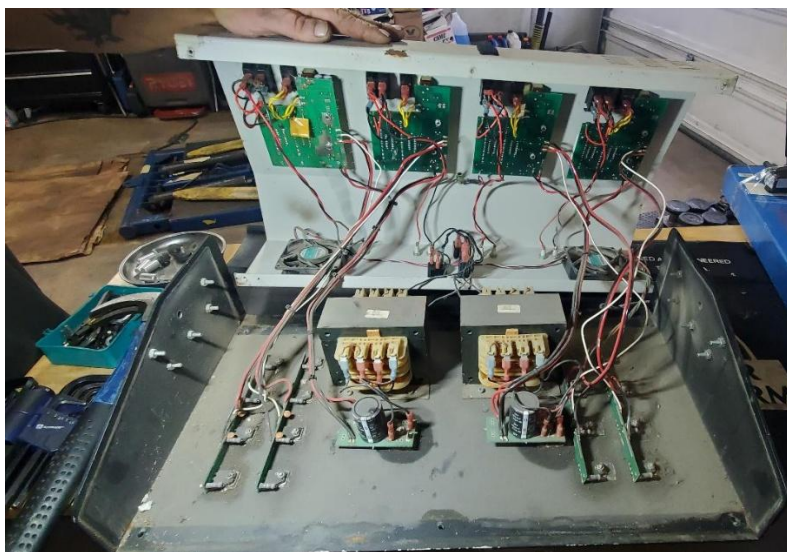
Bridgewater's power pack back in service.

Submitted by Turk Russell

As most of you know our four-track power pack broke down and I was not able to fix it this time like in the past. I contacted Mark at Bridgewater who has taken over for his father who passed away 2 years ago. The company only does a part-time business now since huge expensive power packs are not in demand like they used to be, mainly commercial. Mark sent me some schematics, and we worked together on trying to narrow down the problem and get it repaired. He sent me multiple parts, and I kept telling him that one of the power supplies must have an issue because nothing seemed to work. Unfortunately, we both concluded that I'd have to ship the power pack out which sucks because it's so big and heavy.

He called me 2 weeks later and said that I was correct that the power supply had a minor short which we could not prove during all the testing. I'm glad we got it fixed and it's back in business. There are new circuit breakers which have been upgraded so they won't blow as quickly. We have two new sliders and the PC boards have both been replaced as well as the one power supply which was repaired. Most of the repairs were done by me and Barry McNew, some were done by Mark.

Hopefully we'll get another 10 years of use, since it gets abused being at Rocky Ridge in a hot and cold environment. Mark told me they now only make these power packs by order. \$1,400 to get a new one holy cow!!



Turk was featured in an article on Mastering Locomotive Maintenance for Big Train Operator Magazine.

Mastering Locomotive Maintenance by Andrew Fitch



Educate, Engage & Inspire

For dedicated hobbyists in the world of large-scale model railroading, maintenance isn't just a routine, it's an art. At the 2024 Big Train Operator Convention, held in Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania, enthusiasts gathered to learn from Turk Russell of the Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society. With years of hands-on experience with maintenance and repairs on large scale trains, Turk led an engaging clinic, sharing essential techniques for keeping G Gauge locomotives running smoothly.

Precision Lubrication The Key to Longevity

Kicking off his session, Turk emphasized that proper lubrication is the foundation of locomotive maintenance. He outlined the best practices for keeping gears and moving parts in peak condition, advocating for Plastic-compatible greases to prevent material degradation and Light oils for delicate components like wheel bearings and valve gear, ensuring seamless operation. Turk also explained how to spot signs of wear and determine optimal reapplication intervals, preventing damage before it occurs.

Practical Solutions to Combat Overheating

Few things frustrate train operators more than motor overheating, an issue Turk tackled with practical expertise. He explained how inadequate ventilation can exacerbate heat buildup, leading to performance inefficiencies and potential motor damage. By improving airflow around motors and heat-sensitive components, operators can significantly extend the lifespan of their locomotives.

Production Run Variations

One of the clinic's most captivating segments explored locomotive production run variations. Turk guided attendees through identifying subtle design shifts and mechanical updates, helping collectors and operators appreciate the unique characteristics of different models. His deep understanding of historical context and rare features proved invaluable to those passionate about preserving and operating their prized locomotives.

A Lasting Impact on the Large Scale Community

Turk's presentation wasn't just a clinic, it was a masterclass in locomotive care, delivered with passion, expertise, and historical insight. Attendees left inspired, ready to apply their newfound knowledge to their own collections. As a respected voice in the Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society, Turk continues to elevate the hobby, ensuring that generations of enthusiasts keep the big trains rolling.



For more on Turk and to learn more about the Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society visit <https://www.svgrs.net/>

If you would like to watch Turk's presentation you may do so by going to the Large Scale Trains Website at: <https://largescaletrains.com/g-scale-large-scale-train-videos/> and selecting the video titled "Maintenance & Repair Tips For G Gauge Locomotives To Help Extend Their Life & Your Enjoyment"



FALL 2025/#197/BIG TRAIN OPERATOR 33

Industry News

Submitted by Rob Segessenman

While Accucraft is not a brand every Garden Railroader can aspire to or afford, they are bringing out (slowly) new steam engines in live steam and electric. Below are two examples. The first one is available now and the second is pre-order. These were Baldwin built consolidations from the turn of the century are basically the same design ordered by the Denver & Rio Grande. In fact, the #3 Elton below was eventually bought by the Rio Grande and became D&RG 425 and later D&RGW 315. Accucraft has a solid motor and gear setup now and these engines run well, but do sport scale flanges, so good track work is essential. These are not for the faint-of-heart though with a final price of \$3,800 for the live steam and slightly less for electric. Even so it's good to see new products. Now if we could just get Bachman to follow suit!





"Ted did you know there's a miniature woman tied to the train tracks who looks remarkably like me?"



Videos and Websites

The CamPac Box for mounting Kadee couplers

<https://www.camarillopacific.com/campacbox/#Rolling-Stock>

Focusing on Locomotives Built, Rebuilt, and Completed at Altoona, PA

by the PRR, PC, CR, and NS at the Altoona Machine Shops and Juniata Shops

<https://www.altoonaworks.info/>

Additional websites:

<http://www.trainweb.org/labc/>

<https://www.gwrr.com/freight-railroads/class-i-vs-short-line-railroads/>

<https://rail.transportation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2019/03/American-Short-Line-and-Regional-Railroad-Association.pdf>

<https://www.american-rails.com/history.html>

<https://www.american-rails.com/steam.html>

<https://www.american-rails.com/camelbacks.html>

<https://www.steamlocomotive.com/types/camelback/>

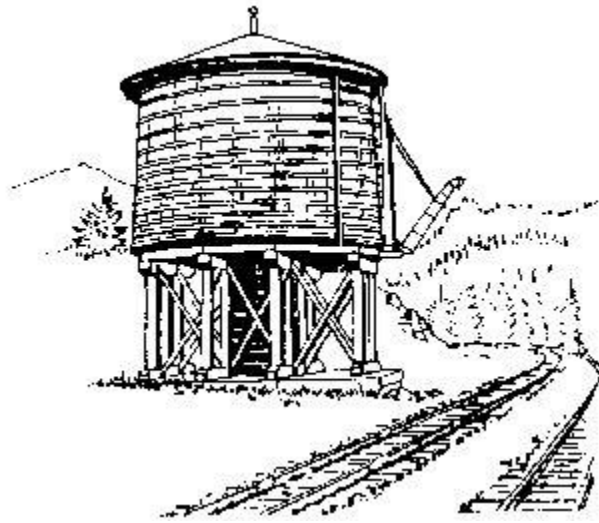
<https://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.org/reading-0-4-0-camelback-no-1187/>

<https://www.thevintagenews.com/2016/06/17/short-life-camelback-locomotives-1877-1927/>

<https://sites.google.com/site/camelbacksteamlocomotives/home>

2026 Open Houses

If you have a garden Railroad layout we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2026. This is a good way for members to get ideas and also provides good comradery among our members. If interested contact Rob Seggesenman or Dee Simmons to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.



SVGRS Club Officers

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