



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Hello and Good Greetings to all,**

**All the Holiday** notes and cards, volunteering, and support mean so much to TM and to me. I haven't been very vocal or responsive this last year but I believe I'm coming out of the shock from the changes and doing better. I'm looking forward to this years' activity.

**As an elf** during the Holiday Express event, I really enjoyed the effect of all efforts which made for many a happy and amazed expression on our visitors. My daughter, Sharmoni, had a great time taking pictures of Santa's guests, along with Carol and Marty. My granddaughter however, absolutely had a ball,

as did many a child. But at not quite two years old, I didn't expect her to be so outgoing and interactive!

**We will plan** for next year. But folks, do not spend money for the project without either approval for reimbursement or freely donating it. We budget what we can feel safe with and so should you.

**This year**, through a good deal of diligence and help from members, some tax bills that accumulated during Quentin's illness have been paid off. Now, I am devoted to dealing with some other challenges, which hopefully can be won. I'm looking forward to more visiting and fun with you here! Thank you for your involvement.

*Sharon*, President TMRR

## FROM THE EDITOR

**OK**, how about starting off another great Train Mountain year with a little quiz? I promise this will not be too hard. Here we go, what do you get when someone comes up with an idea for a middle of the winter, uncertain weather, never been done before, Christmas event? Well, you might guess that it would be a certain recipe for a disappointment. But, my fellow Train Mountain volunteers you would be very wrong (I was!). What you get is 20 plus volunteers putting in hundreds of hours and displaying some very artistic talent to put on an absolutely outstanding event. We had volunteers from all over the country,



not just locals. They worked many very long hours before, during and after the event. There was

even a contingent that took time out to decorate a float for the Annual Snowflake Festival parade in Klamath Falls. The parade was held the night before our opening night. It made for a great lead-in to tell the Klamath folks what was coming up in Chiloquin. The Holiday Express was the very first event held at Train Mountain that was geared directly for the public. In spite of rain, snow, and some very cold conditions, they came. They came by the hun-



dreds. There were lots of kids, lots of old folks, and lots of smiling families. We had better attendance for the Holiday Express than we did for the 2009 Triennial! How about that! Ross and Sharon had a target goal for the inaugural event; if we came close to that goal, we would then schedule the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Express for 2010. Well, you can mark your schedule for 2010 as



we not only hit the mark, we DOUBLED IT! Everyone involved represented Train Mountain and its members very well. The public was totally blown away. We heard constant comments about the Holiday Express being the best Holiday event they had ever been to. They all left with a smile and said they would be back next year. In fact, many folks that came the first couple of



days came back again and again, bringing more folks with them on each visit. It was just a great event and I'm so proud of the Holiday Express crew. You'll find a list of the volunteers that worked so hard to make it happen in the Tender Half!

**So what did** you get for your entry fee to the Holiday Express? First you were greeted at the main gate by a team of elves for registration paperwork. You then were directed to the Six Acre Campground for parking. From there, you were greeted by still more elves and then



boarded one of three trains; two diesels and one really big steamer, which ran constantly, day and night, rain, snow or shine.



The train took you and your family to the North Pole (AKA Central Station). There you were greeted again by one of Santa's elves (Charlie Bill) and invited to have some hot chocolate or hot coffee before going in to see Santa. Along the walkway were displays of 7 1/2 inch gauge equipment and an operating HO layout. Once inside you were greeted by still more elves that directed you to the many activities going on inside. There was Santa's Workshop, where you could make your own Christmas decorations

and Santa's Study, where you could write a letter to Santa. Of course, there was Santa and you could get your picture taken with him (I did!). Mrs. Claus had her kitchen in full swing, with hot food, hot drinks, and some plain cookies that the kids could decorate themselves with frosting and all the goodies. The Company Store was open and when there was room in the store you could go in and see all the cool stuff that Kay had put into the store. The entire (and I mean the entire) inside of the North Pole was decorated with Christmas trees, decorations, model trains running (including two mounted in the 10' tree that was auctioned), bright lights; it was just a magical place. When you finally decided to go back to your car, you again boarded one of the trains and took a ride through Train Mountain. The volunteers had also decorated the right-of-way with outdoor decorations that were especially neat to see after dark. In fact there was even a special train that only ran at night and it was all lit up with decorations too!



Thank you to all the volunteers for doing an absolutely outstanding job and making it a very happy holiday for so many folks.

**This being the first issue** of 2010, it is the first issue of the New Year where I get to nag! Get your dues in please! The dues are very important to maintaining Train Mountain. We have seven scheduled member events and one public event to put on this year and we need your volunteer hours, your talent, and your dues

to make all this happen. I see on the web every once in awhile questions about what folks get for their \$150 dues. Train Mountain is a very special place. I belong to a couple of other clubs and their dues are similar. However, what I get for my dues money is not at all similar. At Train Mountain, I get year round access to 2,000 plus acres of live steam park. None of the other groups that I belong to allow me that kind of access. Of course, none of the others have this size of facility, but if I can't get in to run, it doesn't matter how big or small it is. Also, at Train Mountain there is on-site camping facilities and a member's only RV park, located at Blue Caboose campground. Future plans call for upgrades to these facilities and more. However, none of this will happen without a very active membership. It also is going to require that we, the members, provide a very active recruitment effort to grow the membership. I know the temptation is to just pay your dues during the Triennial Year or just pay your dues for the year you might come and visit. Please keep your dues current and participate when you can. Let us know what would make your future visit better. Let us know what you would like to see from Train Mountain on the years when you can't visit. Our overseas members enjoy the Triennials, but they also continue to pay their dues in between these great events. I mean come on; we are only talking about \$12.50 per month, only \$2.91 per week, or, even when you think about it, it's only \$.42 per day! Bottom line, please pay your dues and encourage your fellow local club members to do the same. If you do plan on coming this year, please make room in your vehicle for another fellow modeler that might enjoy Train Mountain. Just imagine what we could do with 1,000 member families. Oh by the way, it is a FAMILY membership you are paying for, so make sure to bring all your family.

**Another major source** of income for Train Mountain is the very cool Company Store. Kay has it stacked to the rafters with all kinds of train goodies. She has the Internet sales going like gangbusters and with some help from some volunteers, has it looking great. During the Holiday Express event, the store was constantly packed with folks buying bags of stuff. Also, give the new Company Store website a look see (<http://www.trainmountainstore.com>), it really looks terrific; Kay is doing a great job.

The Triennial puts a lot of pressure on the staff, the volunteers, and especially the track at Train Mountain. I think this year we should try to tune up and upgrade as much of the existing south side track as we can. Next year will be the prep year for the very special 2012, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Triennial event. This year, we can do some things that require taking some portions of mainline out of service for a meet or two while we bring everything up to the current Train Mountain standards. This will, of course, require a large commitment from all of us, the members. A couple of main concerns are the tracks we call the Upper Loop and the diamond known as Hairpin. These areas have gotten little attention in recent years and, well, they are showing a little age. During the Holiday Express event we had multiple problems running on the upper loop. Yes, we had weather related problems, but this only amplified an already existing set of problem areas. The work to be done is similar to the work that we have done in many areas. However, we will need to do a little dirt work in a few places. Much of this track has wooden ties and some of the right-of-way will need to be regraded after the track is removed. I don't believe that any of the dirt work will require the year of settling we have required in the past. I believe it will be possible to complete each area in the same year we remove old track. Ross, of course, is the final word on this subject, but I think with a concentrated effort on these areas we can get'er done! BTW don't forget we still have to rake!

Russ Wood

Editor, The Mountain Gazette

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## THE TENDER HALF



**Wow!!!** What a December! It was exhausting and wonderful at the same time. Thank you to everyone who participated in the first Train Mountain Railroad Holiday Express. It was without a doubt a success. It was simply amazing to see what was accomplished in just 2 months time...It was Holiday Spirit at its finest that was enjoyed by 1300 plus guests. I keep trying to think of an excuse to do it again in the summer, so more of you could come. I know you would have loved it.



Picture by Marty Flogerzi

## A Special Thank You to:

Seth Abrahams, Sharmoni Addington, Jerry & Louise Balf, Lee & Joanne Breuer, Lee & Toni Brooks, Bill Dobbs, Dennis & Mort Ediger, Marty Flogerzi, Chris & Michelle Kuehl & Family, Steve & Pam Panzik, Jim & Sabra Rickman, Charlie & Peg Schubert, Al Taylor, Dennis, Barb and Dana Ward, Dennis Weaver, John Wheelock, Russ & Linda Wood & their ShopBot  
 Also to: the Armstrongs, the Beauchamps, the Flittons, the Meissers, Carl Schmidt, Mike Schroeder, the Veltmans and the Wilkinsons who sent their support in supplies, donations and encouragement.

I heard a saying the other day that Jim Rickman shared. It is so true that I think we should have a great big sign posted somewhere. It just says it all!!!

*Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are*

**PRICELESS.**

**Happy New Year!!!** to everyone as well. Of course in the store that means "Out with the Old!!!!!!!!!!!!!!". I have put many items on sale and/or clearance on our new website: [www.trainmountainstore.com](http://www.trainmountainstore.com). I encourage you to peruse each category of the web...there have been changes. The discontinued items can be found most quickly by using the search engine with the word "clearance". **(There's 3 pages )** The plan is to make room for new items, which I would like your help with. Besides "POCKETS!!!!" ...what do you want? I have a few ideas rolling around in my mind including a light weight windbreaker type jacket, but I'm very interested in knowing what you think as well. I'd love to hear from you. You can email me at [store@trainmountain.org](mailto:store@trainmountain.org).



And I got to kiss Santa!!!

**As you know** the Triennial 2009 DVD is available. It is called Train Mountain-Living Quentin's Dream. We thought it was ready and I actually sent 57 of them out, *but*...there was an imperfection in a small bit of the audio. The only person who feels worse about this than me is Greg, the producer. I know he has put in many late hours trying to get this ready for us for Christmas and he continues to work diligently to correct the problems. I guess you just can't rush perfection. Those of you who have received yours before January 8th will be receiving a replacement disc. You may continue to order this new DVD and I will send you the updated version as soon as it arrives.

# Train Mountain Company Store has a new face.



**Look at the new face for the store!** It was part of the old fashioned Christmas theme for the Holiday Express event, but it will stay. There is room on the inside for display cases or bulletin boards....again your thoughts and talents are welcome. We almost put shelves there, but decided we needed to give it more thought than time allowed. Another idea for the look of the store is a G scale train running overhead. I am thrilled with the idea, but don't have a clue as the where to start. It would be wonderful, if someone were willing to take that on as a project.

TTFN

*Kay Perrin*

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## FROM THE MANAGER

**Happy New Year!** While we have lots to think about from last year and many things to be thankful for, it is the New Year and it looks like a promising one to me.

First, I want to thank all those wonderful folks that worked so hard on the "Holiday Express". You all were so good words can't do you justice, I hope you get the pats on the back from all those that attended the event. I know I still hear good things from the local community and a lot of folks wish they had come to see what we do. I can't wait till the next one!



**One of our elves** even worked so hard he had to spend Christmas in the hospital! I felt very bad for him, but he seemed to take it in stride... what a trooper. Thank you for all you do, Dennis Ward. We could not have pulled it off without you and your extended family. All the elves in attendance were outstanding to the point of even involving their families to fill positions and freeze on a very cold "Snowflake Parade" night by walking with the Train Mountain float through Klamath Falls. You will see quite a long list of folks in the "Tender Half" that worked so hard. Thank you all.

**I have some sad news.** I just got off the phone getting an update on Ron Young. Ron has an inoperable brain tumor and is residing in an assisted care facility in Klamath Falls. Caroline tells me he enjoys cards, and, if you like, you can send them to Ron Young, PO Box 700, Chiloquin, OR 97624. Caroline is doing as well as can be expected and is Ron's strength. She told me he had a better day today and ate well. I miss having Ron to confide in while he takes a break in the shop. He is always full of ideas and solutions. Ron and Caroline started coming to Train Mountain about the same time as I did and I think we bonded quite well. Their imagination and experiences fueled many of my thoughts on things we have done and will do on The Mountain. My thoughts are with him, as I know yours are as well.

**So, what am I** thinking about for this years projects? I think it is time we get some maintenance taken care of, don't you? Listening to many of your comments I keep hearing "we have to take care of what Quentin has given us". This is very true and as we get in better shape financially, we can afford to do a lot with what we have without spending much. We can do a lot of straightening/aligning work, we can do lots of screw replace-

ment and tightening, we can pull up track and clean off the gravel, lay the track back in and the list goes on. We have a lot of experience with this track, so let's put it to use.

**While we move** into a new year, many things are changing. We have a Board that approves most things, instead of Q making on-the-spot decisions at dinner. This doesn't mean anything bad, it just means things are different; our system of leadership is a growing and learning thing. We all have ideas that fit into the puzzle and we just have to get them all to fit. I look forward to the future with great expectations of what we can do and I hope you do as well.

**As with Quentin**, I have a relationship of cooperation with Sharon and the common goal to make Train Mountain better and continue to be the Railroader's Mecca, as we hear it referred to. Many parts of this puzzle are developing and have to be put to the test and develop into policy. That is the hard part; the fun part is getting to draw on all of your experiences. Don't think that when I ask you a question or overhear your comments to someone else I don't listen, the information you pass on is very valuable and I use it. So don't be shy, tell us what you think!

Talk to you soon

**Ross Perrin**, General Manager

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## BITS & PIECES

**It is so amazing** what people can do when they set their minds to it! All of those people that Kay listed worked so hard to make the Holiday Express an event for those that attended to remember and to look forward to next year! What Kay didn't mention were the hours above and beyond the call of duty that the staff put in—so to Alma, Debra, Jerry, Kay, Richard, Ross, Sharon and Sonya I raise my glass and offer a salute. Cheers to all of you, volunteers and staff alike! And a little extra appreciation to those of you that spent most of your time outside, despite cold, snow, rain and fog (lots of fog).

**Our wishes** for a very Happy Birthday go out to Fred Vertel and Genevieve Crisp—and to those of you who have birthdays between now and the middle of February, but haven't shared the dates with us.

**And our best wishes** to Ron Young and Caroline Jones; I'm sure both he and Caroline can use our prayers and our moral support.

**Enjoy your lives;** it's the only one you get.

*Carol*

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What joy there is in the kids' reactions!



When the day is done, the volunteers get to take a well-deserved break.

# “Out with the Old”

If I'm tired of looking at it...It's on Sale!!! Big Time!!!

There are too many items for one page,  
but this will give you an idea. Go to  
“Clearance” on our website  
[www.trainmountainstore.com](http://www.trainmountainstore.com)



With a little luck February will be  
“& In With the New!!!”

## **2010 WORK WEEK AND TRAIN MEET SCHEDULE**

### **Polar Bear Train Meet**

Friday, January 15—Sunday, January 17, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **\*\*NARROW GAUGE WORK WEEK\*\***

Monday May 10—Thursday, May 13, 2010

### **Narrow Gauge Train Meet**

Friday, May 14—Sunday, May 16, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **June Work Week**

Saturday, May 29—Thursday, June 3, 2010

### **June Train Meet**

Friday, June 4—Sunday, June 6, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **Operations Meet Work Week (formerly July Meet)**

Saturday, June 26—Thursday, July 1, 2010

### **Operations Meet**

Friday, July 2—Sunday July 4, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **August Meet Work Week**

Saturday, August 7—Thursday, August 12, 2010

### **August Meet**

Friday, August 13—Sunday, August 15, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **September Work Week**

Saturday, Sept. 4—Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010

### **September Train Meet**

Friday, Sept 10—Sunday, Sept 12, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)

### **Fall Colors Train Meet**

Friday, October 8—Sunday, October 10, 2010  
(Banquet is 6:00 Saturday Evening)