



The Mountain GAZETTE

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FROM THE MANAGER



I really thought spring had sprung but today it is cold and threatens snow and high winds! Oh well, the pine needles still fall. John Wheelock reports a tree down on Aspen Grove Loop but he cut it up and cleared the track. The signals need some bond wire repair it looks like and pine needles and cones are a problem; all in all a good day on the railroad. Lee Breuer went out and repaired a damaged switch so the long tunnel is open again. On the building construction front, I understand Russ Wood is building a monster building in his shop so we are all waiting to see it. Lee Breuer is building a 2.5 inch scale combine car of sorts in the carpenter shop and it is looking great.

Kelly and Amy, (Kay's daughter Amy) had their baby (Kody) so all is good in the world again. I came back home but Kay stayed in Washington for a spell to help out with the new guy.

Thank you to those of you that have answered my request last issue, your help is very much appreciated. To add to the list- we need redi- mix for the grist mill foundation install and street signs/RXR signs etc. and Kilz primer for scale buildings. Leftovers from your home projects work great.

After reading emails, newsletters and listening to general conversations, I am inspired to talk about Train Mountain again! Imagine that. With all that has taken place in the past few years and the constant bombardment of rumors generated out there recently, it has been challenging or impossible to get moving on a positive level of progress. Funny thing to me is the lack of people trying to get their questions answered by those that know what is happening. It seems a good story is much better than fact and much more interesting for sure. We are moving forward and we would like to spend our time working in that direction, not in dispelling rumors that frankly become quite hurtful. So when you hear things, please verify with people that would really know the truth before you pass the information on!

Train Mountain has been built by Quentin and the efforts of many volunteers. Along with Quentin's staff and family, the accumulated efforts are responsible for making it the longest miniature hobby railroad in the world. Yes, volunteers, pat yourselves on the back for a job well done and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Let's go on with positive railroading!

FTM has seen a place of greatness here; Carl Vanderspek has spent a lot of money to make us bigger; now we have to make it better. The railroaders that come and are involved are what make a longer railroad special.

Long overdue is a thank you to Ken Stanfield for sending us a new type of insulated rail joiner. Rail Joiners of the slip type work very well for us but not in the insulated joints. Ken developed an insulated slip joiner for use on his railroad and has had great success with it. Last year some of these were constructed and a few modifications made out in the Backshop and then put to use; I haven't had any negative feedback but I did get some positive responses including thank yous for making it faster and eliminating holes to drill. As you can see in the picture the "Stanfield Joiner" is bolted together and straddles a tie (this is made possible by welding 2 tubes on the bottom and splitting the



joiner end to end). To insulate, it uses 2 small sheets of polyester film that wrap around the rail below the head and clamp in place by tightening the joiner bolts. Between the rail ends, it is still necessary to put the plastic insulator.

In the past a plastic or fiberglass fish plate was bolted to the sides of the rail to insulate the joint which required 4 holes to be drilled in each joint. The joint had little to no structural strength so if the tie moved or the rail expanded too much the joint was broken. In many cases when spring thaw came, it was necessary to replace many of the crossing joints for this reason. I hope that this new method will solve some of those issues. I know it is simpler to put in and Richard and Paul like it. Thanks Ken for sharing this innovation with us.

As you know Paul Aragon is fighting cancer. He has gone through radiation treatment and will start chemo next week. While his spirits are good, your support is important as well.

We are all thinking about Steve Panzik also as he goes through by-pass surgery in Seattle. Get well soon Steve.

Talk to you soon

Ross Perrin, General Manager

THE TENDER HALF



By now many of you know that Ross and I are new grandparents. Kody arrived early on March 26th via emergency C-section. Mom and baby are fine now. I was able to stay with them in Tacoma, Washington until April 7th,,,,it's amazing how quickly that maternal rock comes back. It appears that the Miles Kristman family was in Seattle, Washington doing the same thing on the same day. I'm sure they feel as blessed as we do.

The jacket order has been turned in and is expected to be ready the first week in May. Those that are not being picked up will be shipped ASAP. It was interesting to see the finished order. The number of each color was pretty even and about half preferred not to have the logo on the back. I'm as anxious as you to see them done. I think everyone will be very pleased.

Tom Veltman sent me a very cool train email. I did some searching and you too can see it by going to: <http://www.slideshare.net/renatal123/eleznice>. It's not too long, but it's just gorgeous pictures of different trains in beautiful settings. I think each photograph is frameable,

Both our new Train Mountain mugs and our train specific mugs have arrived. Somehow I managed to miss Santa Fe (which John Wheelock pointed out to me in short time)...they should be arriving next week. I had started to rearrange the store with the help of Joanne Breuer and Louise Balf and then I had to leave to go to Tacoma. I'm back now and promise to have it looking spiffy for the May meet. As I'm rearranging I'm finding some items that we just don't need to have in the store any more....so I'm making a clearance table that will be located at the bottom of the stairs in the Hall of Flags.

The ice cream is here and ready for you. It is located in a different place now. It is at my office door near the large map. Again it is on the honor system. There is a blue coffee can for money and the prices are on a list on the wall. Dennis Ward has been doing his part to support Train Mountain in ice cream sales already.

We have a refrigerator/freezer that Caroline Jones has donated to us located next to the ice freezer. I plan to supply it with sugar free frozen treats and sodas....so if you have a favorite....let me know.



He was the cutest little bunny for Easter.

I haven't gotten many emails regarding activities to do at meets. I think it would be fun to do, but I could use some ideas. We are also still looking for good places to get train fabric.

TTFN,

Kay Perrin

FROM THE EDITOR



Let me start my column this month with a profound apology to the hard working FTM guys! Last month I really jinxed them. Remember I said the snow was almost all gone! Well, I won't do that again. It has snowed at least two or three days a week ever since. The good news is that it's not a lot of snow but it's got to be cold to snow, right? Anyhow, sorry FTM!

When you come for any of the many activities being held this spring please take a peek in the Backshop. Jerry Balf and Ross have that place looking like the good old days, when the Backshop was a real show place. Well it is again. Oh yeah, and for those of us that indulge around 4:30 each day, let's make sure that we leave the area as clean as we find it! Thanks to Jerry and Ross for restoring the Backshop.

The locals have been doing all kinds of indoor projects what with the weather being so, well you know! I have been working on another building and this one is taking up a bit more time than I had budgeted for. However it 'should' be installed by the time the Narrow Gauge Meet comes along.

Speaking of locals, Dennis and Barbara Ward are now locals. They have a new home located over behind the Jeld Wen facility. Boyd and Twilla Butler are expecting their new manufactured home to be delivered within the next few days. Welcome neighbors! The local Train Mountain family is growing steadily each year.

The biggest thing happening on the Mountain is the really warm feeling everyone is displaying these days. Sharon is working very hard with the new accounting firm and things are coming along nicely on that front. A lot of the projects that have only been talked about are now actually entering the real planning stages. Track work that has only been talked about is now being planned and scheduled for work during the next couple of months. It seems that everyone is anxious to get back to running trains and most of all just having a great time at Train Mountain.

One thing that has not changed at Train Mountain is our real need for you to attend! This place can only get better with the help of the volunteer efforts of our members. That means we want you to come and enjoy the past efforts of many thousands of hours of work and maybe add in a few of your own. We also ask you to bring a friend with you when you do come. They just might get interested in joining in the fun. It's really a numbers game here. If just a few folks show up for a work week or meet, it's fun and some things get done. When a lot of folks show up, then real magic happens! We have approximately 200 member families as of this writing. Imagine what we could do with 1,000 member families, wow! Upcoming events should be enough to entice you to come. Next up is our annual visit by the great bunch from Kitsap, followed by the always-fabulous Narrow Gauge Meet. If that's not enough, almost immediately after that we have our first regular Work Week and Train Meet at the end of May. This is also the opening weekend for the Klamath and Western public running. All in all a great time to come to the Mountain and enjoy what has been created. Remember to bring a friend and as always save a little time to get out and see the surrounding area, you just might decide to become another one of our locals.

We have a new advertiser this month. Our own Seth Abrahams has a new diesel switcher product available. Please see his full page ad in this issue. I would also like to add to this announcement that Seth told me that if you want to pick up your items at Train Mountain and can wait until one of his frequent visits to deliver it here there will be NO freight charges! Pretty cool! Welcome aboard Seth and we wish you well in your new enterprise.

Russ Wood, Co-editor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Passenger Trains are Exciting

Enhanced passenger operations will be a major part of the Train Mountain Operations Meet June 26th through July 4th 2010. Not only will there be more scheduled trains, but there will even be “passengers” to transport from station to station. The *Southern Belle*, *Firewood Flyer*, and *Midway Chief* will serve south side towns several times a day, meeting at Midway South for interchange of passengers and express, while the *Northwood Limited* penetrates the wilderness. The *Transcontinental* will make the grand tour each morning, avoiding the heat of the day. Get your round hats and brass buttons shined up to relive the “Golden Years” of passenger service.

John Lovely

HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SELL?

Place an ad in the Gazette!

1/8 Page: \$25/month or \$250/year

1/4 Page: \$40/month or \$400/year

1/2 Page: \$70/month or \$700/year

Full Page: \$125/month or \$1250/year

Please get your meat choice to Alma 1 week prior to banquet

Narrow Gauge Meet Banquet

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Stuffed Pork Loin **OR** Tri-Tip

Baked Potato

Caesar Salad

Green Beans w/Bacon & Onions

Homemade Oatmeal Rolls

Cherry Crisp

Amaretto Spice Cake

June Meet Banquet

Saturday, June 5, 2010

Stuffed Chicken Breast **OR** Tri-Tip

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Pistachio Pudding Salad

Marinated Tomato & Cucumber

Cheesecake

Mocha Chocolate Cake

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BITS & PIECES

Birthday wishes for this issue go out to Linda Wood, Alma Weber and Frank Steuer and to all our other members and friends who will be celebrating another year of life during the next 30 days.

Congrats to Ross and Kay on becoming first-time grandparents!

Caroline Jones has finalized plans for the Memorial for Ron Young. It will be held in the Hall of Flags on Friday, June 4 at 5:00 p.m. Debra Cox will cater a lasagna dinner, which will also include a fruit bowl and cake. Please let Alma know as soon as possible if you plan to attend, so she can give a count to Caroline and Debra.

There are a few signs of spring popping up; we relish each and everyone of them, since they seem to be far and few between. You know it's spring when:



The Backshop cat lays on the macadam outside the building to absorb the warm rays of the sun



Dennis Ward shows up again



And then there are the squeakers!
So where is that cat now?

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

Carol

PROJECTS: JUST A FEW TO START WITH!

Anytime:

Clean up at Steuer Siding and Logging Camp, set up canopy.

Check Wheel Benches and paint as needed. Semi-gloss black Rustoleum needed.

Mount and install lights in Six Acre Campground.

Refinish Suggestion Box.

Repair dishwashers.

Repair concrete crossing. Concrete repair products needed.

Work with Steve and Pam Panzik on Museum displays.

First track project: Realign and level upper loop through yard areas, some rail replacement and tie replacement.

First track repair: replace switch going to the long tunnel. DONE

Work on placement of Mill by Grand Junction. Concrete needed.

Service the fire water buckets.

Service the water type fire extinguishers.

Work on the old Ford track maintenance truck.

Build frame for building over a propane tank or 2.

Rake, Rake, Rake and haul.

Backshop Projects:

Switch machine parts.

Rail insulator parts.

Battery repair.

June: Duane and Pat Kaasa will need help repainting the SF caboose at the main entrance

Train Mountain Wooden Gondola Cars for Sale



\$800
**Steel frame easily
Converts to flatcar**



**Drop down
brake wheel**



**Bettendorf
Trucks**

Trucks, couplers
& safety cables
included



\$700
**Handcrafted
By Don Isom**



Contact Store@trainmountain.org or leave a
message @541-783-3036

Your purchases help support Train Mountain

PLYMOUTH SWITCHER



SPECIFICATIONS

Scale: 2.5"
Gauge: 7.25"/7.5" gauge
Dimensions: 36" (L) x 15½" (W) x 27" (H)
Weight: 250+ lbs with Both Batteries

FEATURES

- Brass and stainless steel construction
- Working machined brass bell
- Stainless steel wheels: Brass drive gears, Direct gear drive, No chains
- 12V DC powered, Two motors per axel for a total of 4, 12 volt motors
- LED marker and head lights: Air Horn
- Hobbs meter, Lit amp, and Lit volt meter with dimmer switch
- Working front and rear couplers with safety chains
- Removable throttle box with key lock
- Dead man directional switch for safety
- Open side louvers and holes in front grill for proper heat venting
- Pulls 4 adults up 2% grade with ease
- Uses one or two car batteries (not included)
- Uses 12 Volt car charger (not included)

ORDER INFORMATION

_____	RD712-01A	PLYMOUTH SWITCHER YELLOW, 12V DC, GAUGE 7.5"	\$ 3,500.00
_____	RD712-01B	PLYMOUTH SWITCHER YELLOW, 12V DC, GAUGE 7.25"	\$ 3,500.00
_____	RD712-02A	PLYMOUTH SWITCHER GREEN 12V DC, GAUGE 7.5"	\$ 3,500.00
_____	RD712-02B	PLYMOUTH SWITCHER GREEN, 12V DC, GAUGE 7.25"	\$ 3,500.00

DESIGN AND ASSEMBLY IN USA

ACCUCRAFT RIDE-ON

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)