



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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An Official Members Only Publication of the Train Mountain Railroad Issue: Vol. #2 Issue #2 December 2012

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## From the Editor, Russ Wood

Are we there yet, are we there yet, are we . . . . . NO! Patience, patience, everything we do for the next several months will be a Work In Progress (**WIP**). As you will read later on in this issue there are still some outstanding ISSUES! Your entire BOD is working every single day on making the Train Mountain experience, not only a great one, BUT also an EASY one! Getting things automated is a start, getting automated things to work together is a **WIP**. Getting the web to talk to PayPal and to get PayPal to talk to the bank is really a big **WIP**. So to answer the question are we there yet, the short answer is no, BUT we are making great strides, just have a little patience, is all we can ask of one another, thank you.

One would think that after someone had produced over a 100 or so issues of a newsletter they 'should' have it all figured out right? Well as you can tell from Vol. #2 Issue #1 I'm a little rusty, to say the least! For that I sincerely apologize to all for the weird things that went on with that issue. It is my sincere desire to be part of the EASIER part of being a member instead of the confusion of last month. So here it is, the second issue of what will be called the **Train Mountain Project**. Because of the different entities involved in the ongoing story of Train Mountain, WE and THEY all have to work together to make it work. This is what the PROJECT is all about, making Train Mountain work. Friends of Train Mountain (FTM) and Railroad Institute (RRI) and Train Mountain Railroad (TMRR) all share in this PROJECT. None of the entities can do it alone and TMRR certainly can't do it without you. Please step up to the plate and join in the next phase in the history of Train Mountain by supporting the Train Mountain Project, it really is a **WIP**!

There is a lot of information in this second issue so please read it completely and follow all of the links to get the whole picture of the Train Mountain Project.

## Train Mountain Railroad TMRR - Jim Armstrong President

The Holiday Season is now upon us and most of our thoughts have turned to those activities associated with this time of year. Are good thoughts of Train Mountain floating around in there somewhere? I hope so!

One sure way to spark those TM thoughts and bring the anticipation for next season up to operating pressure is to sit down, turn on the DVD player, and watch the 2012 Triennial video. Within a couple of minutes you'll be back at Train Mountain enjoying the trains, thinking about all your friends, and remembering the excitement and fun you always have when living the dream at the world's best facility.



If you already have the video, take another peek at it and see what I mean. If you don't have a copy yet, be sure to order one (or more and share with your friends) from TMRR's new website <http://www.tmrr.org>. In my opinion, this is the best Triennial DVD yet. Aaron Bentsen has captured the whole Train Mountain experience of the miniature mechanical marvels we love to run and watch, the enjoyment of sharing friendships and tales of toil with our fellow hobbyists, the satisfaction we get when volunteering our labors of love to achieve the finest facilities available, and to simply take in the beauty and vitality of the natural setting we are so fortunate to be a part of.

Your TMRR Board of Directors has been busy during November in getting more of the organizational and operational details worked out and enhancing the website to make additional information available and make it easier to join the fun at Train Mountain. In keeping with our promise to make things as transparent and open as possible, this edition of the Gazette contains more articles on the budget and the flow of dollars through TM.

Memberships during November were a little slower than we had hoped but I'm sure they will pickup in the next month or two as we draw closer to the 2013 Meet Season. Tom Watson put in many, many hours getting our new PayPal feature working to allow members to pay their membership dues on-line and soon to do the same thing with meet fees and registration. Our goal is to have the complete process of joining and registering totally on-line and paper free early in 2013.

A new TMRR Organization Chart [http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr\\_org\\_chart.pdf](http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr_org_chart.pdf) has been developed to better show our structure and its relationships. As you will see, the functions, duties, and responsibilities demonstrate that the organization is of the members and for the members. We are forming various committees that will be necessary to keep Train Mountain functioning smoothly and performing all the required tasks to maintain the facilities in proper condition so as to assure the enjoyment of all who come to play, visit, and volunteer.

Please remember that the committees may grow as we identify additional areas that need special attention at TM. As you can see, we have had a few members who have already stepped forward to volunteer for leadership and/or participation in some of the committees but we need many, many more volunteers to properly staff and manage the numerous projects and activities that must be done to keep things running smoothly and efficiently.

Give us a call at 541-783-3030, email us at [info@tmrr.org](mailto:info@tmrr.org), or stop by the office to sign up for a committee of your choice and join in the fun and personal satisfaction of helping to keep Train Mountain the finest facility that the railroading hobby has to offer.

To all of you from all of us; have a wonderful Holiday Season, a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!! See you at Train Mountain in 2013.

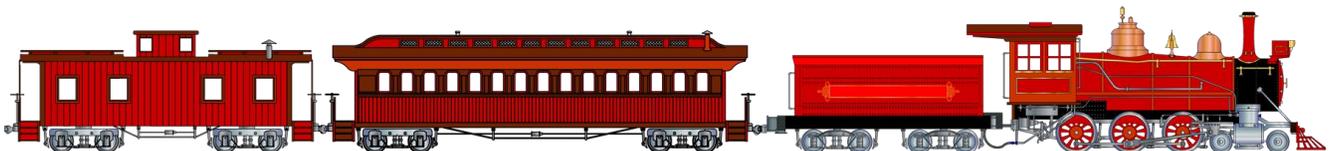
### **Membership** - Jerry Crane BOD

Train Mountain Railroad (TMRR) is incorporated as an Oregon non-profit, mutual benefit corporation. It will be applying for a 501(c)7 IRS "Social Club" tax exemption status. TMRR is the organization that you will join to become a member of Train Mountain (TM) and to participate in Train Mountain activities. To meet IRS organization funding rules, we will require all individuals to be a member or the guest of a member to participate in any Train Mountain activity. An individual will no longer be able register for a meet as a non-member. We now offer several levels of membership that should meet all needs. We have reduced the yearly dues back to what they were several years ago. We believe that the cost is now reasonable enough that membership should not be a financial burden.

All memberships are for a calendar year. Those signing up for initial membership on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> will have their membership continued through the next year.

The definition of a guest is a friend or relative of an Individual or Family member. Guests cannot bring any equipment to Train Mountain. They could operate their host's equipment with their host's approval and while the host is at Train Mountain. They would be able to rent and operate the Train Mountain rail bikes.

Dues to Train Mountain Railroad are not tax deductible.



The types of Train Mountain Railroad memberships are:

**Subscription Member** (No minimum Age) Dues \$20/year

**Benefits**

Laminated name badge.  
Map of TM.  
E-mail monthly newsletter.  
Daily Blog.

**Restrictions**

Not allowed to bring any equipment to TM.  
Cannot operate any equipment at TM.  
No access to TM during any meets.  
No voting privileges.

**Railbiker Member** (Minimum Age 18) Dues \$25/year

**Benefits**

Laminated name badge.  
Map of TM.  
E-mail monthly newsletter.  
Daily Blog.  
Daytime access to TM trackage (see restrictions).  
Can rent TM rail bikes.

**Restrictions**

Only allowed to operate a non-motorized rail bike at TM.  
No access to TM during any meets or special events.  
No voting privileges.  
Must follow all rail bike rules.  
Must annually attend safety/orientation class.

**Individual Member** (Minimum Age 18) Dues \$50/year

**Benefits**

First year – Name badge with TM year pin.  
Renewal – TM year pin.  
Map of TM.  
E-mail monthly newsletter.  
Daily Blog.  
Can hold TMRR official positions.  
Can cast one vote in all elections.  
Access to TM trackage.  
Can use Train Mountain Library.  
Can attend all TMRR meets and events (fees may apply).  
Can rent TM trains, cars and rail bikes.  
Can rent motel rooms, bunk house beds and campground sites.

**Restrictions**

Some trackage and facilities may be closed during special events.  
Must annually attend safety/orientation class.  
Member registration for meets limited to one individual, all others as guests.

**Family Member** Dues \$75/year

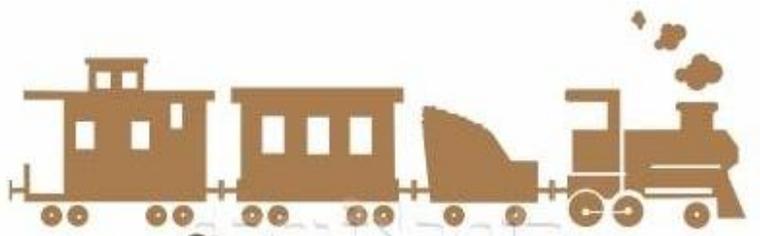
Definition: Two related adults and all children and grandchildren 17 and under or one adult and all children and grandchildren 17 and under.

**Benefits**

Same as Individual member.  
Plus:  
Two regular name badges and pins if registered as two adults.  
Laminated name badge for all children and grandchildren.  
Can cast two votes in all elections if registered as two adults.

**Restrictions**

Same as Individual member.  
Except, member registration for meets open to all family members, all others as guests.



**Young Adult Member** (Age 14 through 17) Dues \$25/year

To become a Young Adult member an individual must be sponsored by an Individual or Family member. An individual that qualifies as a family member may chose to be a Young Adult Member.

**Benefits**

First year – Name badge with TM year pin.  
Renewal – TM year pin  
Map of TM.  
E-mail monthly newsletter.  
Daily Blog.  
Can attend all TMRR meets and events (fees may apply).  
Can rent TM trains, cars and rail bikes.  
Can rent bunk house beds and campground sites.

**Restrictions**

Some trackage and facilities may be closed during special events.  
Must annually attend safety/orientation class.  
No voting privileges.

In addition to the five member categories listed above, Train Mountain Railroad offers four premium memberships. These memberships are for those individuals or families that would like to contribute additional funds to Train Mountain Railroad. Examples are someone that visits Train Mountain several times a year and believes that the experience justifies additional funding or someone that cannot attend the work week but would like to help with additional funding.

**Supporting Member** Dues \$150/year  
Includes Individual or Family Membership.  
Identifying pin.

**Participating Member** Dues \$250/year  
Includes Individual or Family Membership.  
Identifying pin.  
One free Family meet registration.

**Yard Boss Member** Dues \$500/year  
Includes Individual or Family Membership.  
Identifying pin.  
Two free family meet registrations.

**Empire Membership** Dues \$1000/year  
Includes Individual or Family Membership.  
Identifying pin.  
Full sized Train Mountain Flag.  
Free Family registration for all meets.



Attached to this Gazette is a request for membership form. Please fill it out and join us as members of the “world’s largest hobby railroad”.

**Meet Fees and Registration** - Jerry Crane BOD

Members and their guests will be charged fees to attend each of the organized meets that Train Mountain Railroad (TMRR) holds each year. These fees will allow members and their guests access to Train Mountain property, provide a meet badge and allow registration for the meet banquets.

The meet fee for an Individual and Young Adult Member will be \$35.  
The meet fee for a Family Member will be \$35 for the first adult, \$25 for the second adult and \$5 each for children 6 and over. The maximum meet fee for a Family will be \$100.

The meet guest fee will be \$20 for each adult and \$5 for each child 6 and older. The family maximum guest fee will be \$50. If more than one guest family is attending, the guest family max will apply to each guest family.

The one day guest fee will be \$10 for each individual guest 6 and older. The daily guest family maximum fee will be \$25.

TMRR will also offer a \$120 meet fee package that will allow one individual to register for all the meets in that calendar year.

Online meet registration is being worked on and should be online shortly.

### **Help Wanted** - Jim Armstrong President

All positions come with a rich benefit package and great growth opportunities within Train Mountain Railroad, a membership organization that organizes Meets and Activities at the world's largest model railroad.

**Position #1:** Use your computer skills to implement Wild Apricot's cloud based Membership Management application. See <http://www.wildapricot.com>

Have you worked with a database? Have you written emails? Have you designed forms to gather data? Have you developed reports using a database? If your answer is 'Yes' to one or more of these questions, then we have the perfect fit for you!!

TMRR needs your help getting Wild Apricot configured to automate the functions involved in signing up members, managing their memberships, signing people up for Meets, and providing the web based interface to allow the members to manage their membership and meets.

**Position #2:** Social Media Developer to implement TMRR's social media package to reach out to our current members, future members, and all others interested in Train Mountain and the world of hobby railroading.

Have you worked with Facebook, Twitter, and group forums? Have you designed or managed a blog? Are you excited and active in this realm of modern communications? If your answer is 'Yes' to one or more of these questions, then we have a great opportunity for you!!

TMRR needs your help in propelling Train Mountain into cyberspace and the blogosphere. In order to reach out, inform, retain, and attract members and other interested supporters with our love of trains; Train Mountain must use this new media to be successful both now and in the future.

All positions are volunteer staff and come with a benefit package that rewards each volunteer with the satisfaction of knowing they are a part of Train Mountain and are helping to make it the best facility in the hobby. You will also have the opportunity build many friendships with others.

If you are ready to sign-on for one of these positions, please give us a call at 541-783-3030 or send an email to [info@tmrr.org](mailto:info@tmrr.org).

Train Mountain -- Where Friends share Skills

### **Friends / Railroad Institute** - FTM as custodian of Train Mountain

2012 was the year that Friends worked on Right of Way grades.

Friends completed about 85% of the 4,200 foot southbound grade from Witcombe to Aspen. Friends also worked at Butler and did the last major cuts and fills on the 4.22 mile route from Hope to New England. We now have about 5 miles of grade that is fairly close to Plastic Ready. All the major cuts and fills have been done. There is some grading and tree trimming to do, but the hard part is over. To get Witcombe to Aspen ready for track, the northbound track through Cooper Siding will have to be closed for a couple of weeks so the Wye can be re-graded.

It may be a while before the above described new track is laid. After the liens are discharged, the highest priority may be to replace the following 5.1 miles of track:

- 4,700 feet - Little Falls to Hairpin to Dogwood to Rabbit Run
- 4,400 feet - Long Tunnel to Wedding Cake to Yard Bypass & Central Station Bypass
- 2,700 feet - Cox Bridge to Cotton to Hilltop Crossing
- 1,600 feet - Dogwalk Crossing to Copperhead Junction
- 1,200 feet - Midway Circle
- 900 feet - South Portal Circle
- 6,200 feet - Midway to Red Ant to Phillips to Lucky to Rio Grande
- 2,400 feet - Timberlake to Dam 4 to Steuer to Timberlake
- 2,900 feet - Timberlake licensed track

In 2012 Friends did lay 3,030 feet of new track at Dam 3.5 and at Steuer. The track at Dam 3.5 allows south bound trains to turn around and go north again without having to go all the way to South Portal Circle. The balloon track at Steuer gives Friends better access to the mile and a half of track panels that are stored at Canada.

There is now more than 35 miles of track at TM. 36% more mainline track and 25% more total track since 2007. Here is the history of miles of track:

	<u>Mainline Track</u>	<u>Other Track</u>	<u>Total Track</u>
2007	17.6	10.7	28.3
2008	18.6	10.9	29.5
2009	20.7	11.0	31.7
2010	22.3	11.3	33.6
2011	23.1	11.5	34.6
2012	23.9	11.6	35.5

### **Friends as Custodian**

On November 1st, Friends became custodian of Train Mountain. Friend's duty is to preserve the assets while we wait to see if we can discharge the IRS liens and transfer ownership of Train Mountain to Railroad Institute. Here are answers to several Frequently Asked Questions :

**When will the liens be discharged?** -- No one knows. On August 2 we gave the IRS a few inches of paper that explained what we thought the value of TM was under various assumption sets. The IRS appointed an appraiser on Aug 20th. Everyone is waiting to for the appraiser to report back. Then there will be a period of negotiation and IRS approvals. Then we can close. The closing date is still months away.

**What if you cannot discharge the liens?** -- Friends is working to discharge all the liens on all TM property. At least some liens should get discharged. If some liens are not discharged, then the IRS has advised us that it will probably take 2 years to foreclose on the property. During the foreclosure process Train Mountain would be able to continue operating. So it is safe to join TMRR. The meets will happen this year and probably for a year or 2 after this year. If Train Mountain goes to foreclosure, Friends can bid to buy the property.

**Is Friends going to fix up TM?** -- Not much this winter. All the available money needs to be kept in case it is needed to discharge the liens. Friends is treading water until TM is transferred to Railroad Institute. Friends has changed the locks to give better access, cleaned up a mouse poop problem, fixed the Central Station roof, and replaced a door that made heating Central Station more costly. Our plan is to continue doing low cost things that need to be done, but not to make any substantial investments until after closing.

**Is Friends going to build more track this winter?** -- Not until there is a deal with the IRS. Friends wants to conserve the available cash. Friends does plan to fix up the equipment, burn the wood piles, make the mile posts for the track that is already installed, and generally get ready for the next track construction.

## **Railroad Institute**

Railroad Institute (RRI) is a public benefit non profit corporation that was started to deliver railroad education. In the past 2 years RRI has been developing education programs to be offered when the IRS liens are discharged and Train Mountain's future is more secure. Railroad Institute has not yet accepted tax deductible donations or recruited members, but plans to when the IRS liens are discharged. RRI news can be viewed at <http://www.railroadinstitute.org>

## **Items with Disputed Ownership**

There are several items at Train Mountain where Train Mountain and another party are both claiming ownership of the items. Friends and TMRR have compiled a list of items with disputed ownership. We want your input. If you have testimony that helps determine the rightful owners, please email your testimony to [info@trainmountain.org](mailto:info@trainmountain.org). We have tried to get pictures of many of the items with disputed ownership.

Our plan is to take testimony until January 1st, 2013. This comment period may be extended. The Friends and TMRR boards plan to evaluate the testimony and decide how to proceed. The idea is to make the issues as public as possible and hope the facts that come out speak clearly.

Here is the link to the descriptions of the Disputed Items:

[http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr\\_disputed\\_items.pdf](http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr_disputed_items.pdf)

## **New Locks**

Something had to be done about the locks at TM. We had to move from a system with 3-5 keys where some keys opened everything to a system where we could easily give access to members, educators that will help RRI, and others... while still maintaining some control. Friends and TMRR have cooperated on replacing the keyed door knobs at TM. They are being replaced with keypad deadbolts and un-keyed door knobs or lever handles. The keypads hold up to 19 codes that can be easily changed. We think this is a better solution than spending \$1200 to re-key the locks and make keys. It gives much more flexibility. For more information on how different Crews are being granted access to different areas of TM see [http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr\\_lock\\_plan.pdf](http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr_lock_plan.pdf) For more info on keypad deadbolts see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUplyehUEOc>

## **Finances**

Before Nov 1st, 2012, Train Mountain kept few financial records. We have found no evidence that income tax returns were ever filed. Payroll taxes appear to have been filed for at least the last 2 years.

We have to start from nothing. We are working on a Chart of Accounts and a set of Monthly Reports that will clearly explain the financial position of TMRR. It sounds easy, but it takes time to get all the data, try a few versions, and get a presentable, workable, and understandable set of records and reports. We have to produce accurate records for Friends of Train Mountain, the Custodial role that Friends is playing for the courts, and Train Mountain Railroad.... as well as a consolidated view. The figures below are preliminary for November.

On Nov 1 Train Mountain had \$204,946.70. This amount includes reserves for some substantial obligations that are still being worked out in the Vertel vs. Breen law suit.

TM had the following outstanding bills that were paid after Nov 1.

Hardware Bill	\$ 28.02
Sharon's Lawyer	\$ 654.50
Payroll Tax	\$ 469.40
TMI Accountant	\$ 311.50
TMF Accountant	\$ 1,017.50
TMRM Accountant	\$ 1,409.01
Real Estate Taxes	\$19,312.76
Total	\$23,202.69

TMRR & Friends as custodian have incurred the following Expenses in November :

Fixed Expenses

Insurance	\$ 1,695.54
Propane (No Nov Bill)	\$ 0
HazMat Fees	\$ 457.00
Electricity (No Nov Bill)	\$ 0
Garbage Service	\$ 227.12
Septic tank Pumper	\$ 385.00
Norco Welding Tank Rental	\$ 57.66
Phone	\$ 437.08
Website Hosting - 2 years	\$ 94.80
Water Testing	\$ 35.00
Post Office	\$ 6.30
Wild Apricot Software	\$ 98.33
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,493.83

Discretionary Spending

Bank Fees	\$ 342.08
Safe Deposit Box	\$ 95.00
Scan building Drawings	\$ 50.00
Repair Mouse Damage	\$ 2,516.00
Trash Bags	\$ 18.32
Live Steam Subscription	\$ 34.95
Email Software	\$ 138.00
Laser Printer	\$ 243.26
Staples - Office Supplies	\$ 187.68
Sheet Feed Scanner	\$ 490.96
Lock Replacement	\$ 2,274.68
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	\$ 6,390.93



Total Spending, not including bills prior to Nov 1 = \$ 9,884.76

Total Income Memberships, Meet Fees, Rents = \$14,076.72

**New Housekeepers**

Friends has hired Penny and Raven to do housekeeping. Raven works full time. Penny (her mom) helps a day or two each week. Central Station is looking a lot better. It smells better. They keep working and it gets better and better.

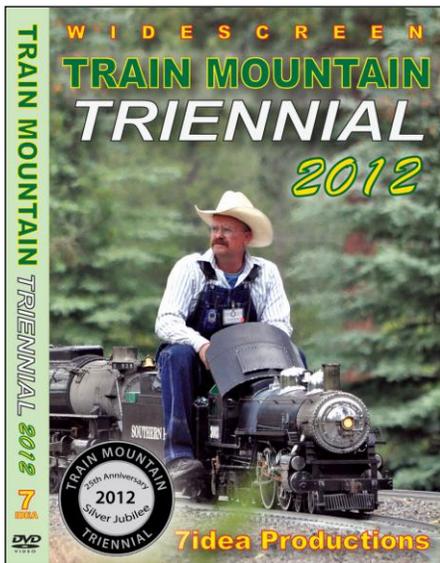
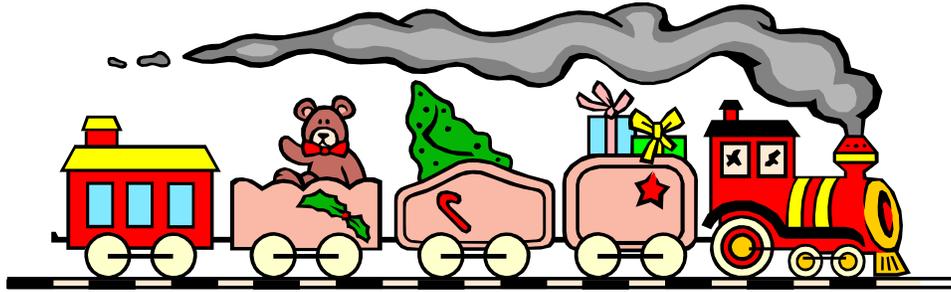
Friends as custodian is currently receiving donations to fund the House keepers, Dustin, and Richard while they work on many new TM projects. The expectation is that, over time, TMRR will develop economic vitality and TMRR will support the portion of their time that is spent working on TMRR projects.

**Containerville / Backshop** - Chuck Barnes BOD

The last 10 containers have been installed in the south row of Containerville. We hope to get the remaining improvements done next summer including; twenty amp electrical circuits serving an outdoor weatherproof duplex outlet for each two containers, a hose bib on the east side of Containerville, and security lighting.

Friends of Train Mountain is now the custodian of Train Mountain Foundation property. Since Containerville is located on Train Mountain Foundation property, a new Train Mountain Containerville Agreement between Friends and the Tenants will be necessary. A new agreement and an invoice for the annual lease fee will be sent to the Containerville tenants within the next few weeks. If you are interested in reserving a container in the north row, have any suggested improvements for Containerville, or have any questions regarding the new agreement please contact Chuck Barnes at [containers@tmrr.org](mailto:containers@tmrr.org).

TMRR is exploring the possibility of renting track space in the center and north bays of the Backshop. TMRR is attempting to identify the owners of non-Train Mountain equipment that is currently stored in these two bays. Thank you to the owners who have informed TMRR of their equipment stored in the Backshop. If you have equipment stored in the Backshop and have not informed us, please contact Chuck Barnes at [backshoptrack@tmrr.org](mailto:backshoptrack@tmrr.org) as soon as possible. Track rental will provide valuable income for TMRR.



The terrific video that Aaron Bentsen from 7Idea Productions shot at the 2012 Triennial is now available through the main office at Train Mountain. Give them a call at 541-783-3030 and get your on the way to your place. It's \$30 for the video and \$3 shipping and handling lower 48, \$4 S&H for all others. A most enjoyable video shot by a true video artist and of course our favorite subject, Train Mountain! Enjoy!

### 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

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