



The Mountain GAZETTE

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You folks really missed it! Missed what you ask? The Polar Bear Meet has come and passed. For the few that came it appears they had a great time. See the article in this issue for all of the gory details!

Your BOD is still working very hard to make it easier on all of us to be a member of Train Mountain. Several new faces have joined the ranks of worker bees to make this all happen Chris Donhost and Dale Furseth are new to the mix and their jobs respectively are Social Media and Information Technology. Please read the articles in this issue and follow the links to get even more information. Also all of the past information during this transition period has been posted on the Train Mountain website <http://www.tmrr.org>.

Tom has been working hard on all of the technology devices we use on a day to day basis at Train Mountain and has recently got the wi-fi and DSL situation tuned up and working well for us all to use during our visits. We also use this setup for the running of the business side of Train Mountain, IE the Company Store, Meet Registrations, Memberships, etc.,.

We are getting some traffic from the Company Store but mainly it's for the terrific Triennial video. Steve and Pam are getting the inventory straightened out so we can start posting to the web so more goodies will be available online soon.

Did you know that Train Mountain has an extensive research library? Well we will and do, that's the large project Jim and Sabra have taken on and they are making great progress.

From the President - Jim Armstrong

Happy 2013 and may this new year bring you good health & many days of fun and good fortune!!

Just a quick but important note this month - please check the TMRR website at http://www.tmrr.org/Resources/tmrrdocs/tmrr_org_chart.pdf to see the many committees that need your participation in order to make Train Mountain shine **this** year. Please send an email to info@tmrr.org letting us know which committee you would like to be a part of.

Even if the committee doesn't have a leader yet, please let us know your interest and we'll make sure that your voice, ideas, and willingness to volunteer is part of that important group.

Hope you are making plans to be at the Mountain as many times as possible this year. We are looking forward to seeing you there!!

Friends of Train Mountain as Custodian

We are still treading water while we wait for the IRS appraiser to report back. He has been working on the problem since August 20th. Hopefully we will hear something soon. We are still months away from Closing with the IRS.

Everyone has been working on TM Administrative issues. Thanks to Tom Watson's hard work.... the Website is up and the Online Store is functioning. Dale Furseth is working on a membership and meet signup online application that is really powerful.

Dennis Ward has been cleaning up a database of about 3000 train enthusiasts that have been involved with Train Mountain. Tom Watson has been working out how we do emails to large numbers of people without looking like a spammer. Chris Donhost has been helping us get ready to launch a Social Networking program.

Dennis Ward and several others are working our way through the financial issues. As of Jan 10th this is the state of play.... We have good records on income and expenses since Nov 1. We are making progress on valuing the store merchandise and personal property owned by TM. There are still unresolved accounting issues including accounting for the Store and the year end Payroll expenses associated with Train Mountain Inc's employees before Nov 1, 2012. We still do not have a stable chart of accounts and standardized reporting.

We left the TMRM account open under Sharon's management while we got some automatic deposits switched over and while we got VISA machines attached to the Friends Custodial Account. We are now ready to close the TMRM account.

Prior to November 1, the following bills were incurred. This is not a criticism of the former board. Some of these pre Nov 1 expenses were not billed until after Nov 1.

Bills Owing Prior to Nov 1

Real Estate Taxes	\$19,312.76
Kirschner's Hardware	\$28.02
Live Steam Subscription	\$34.95
Aspell Della Rose	\$147.00
Aspell Della Rose	\$507.50
ISCO Accounting Bill for TMI	\$311.50
ISCO Accounting Bill fot TMF	\$1,017.50
ISCO Accounting Bill for TMRM	\$1,409.01
Amerigas	\$254.97
SubTotal	\$23,023.21

Then there were some costs associated with the transition. The largest of these costs were switching from a bunch of keyed locks to re-programmable keypad locks and cleaning up a big mouse poop problem.

Costs of Transition

Builders Exchange	\$50.00
Dennis Ward - Als Lock Shop	\$216.50
Ayers Painting - Mouse Damage	\$822.00
Ayers Painting - Mouse Damage	\$1,694.00

John Black -

Locks and other expenses	\$3,734.01
Network Solutions - Transfer Domain Names	\$19.98
Network Solutions - trainmountain.org 2 years	\$31.98
Staples - Bankers Boxes	\$48.00
Home Depot - Keypad Locks	\$258.00
Jerry Crane Lock & Door Parts	\$1,272.63
Oregon Tax	\$12.40
Carl Brown - Fix Chiloquin Bldg Breakin	\$165.00
SubTotal	\$8,324.50

The following expense figures give you a good idea of what it has cost to run Train Mountain since Nov 1. These figures are not yet final 2012 figures.

Fixed Expenses

Reserve for RE & Personal Property Taxes	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00
Insurance	\$1,479.04	\$2,780.09
Housekeeping		
Cleaning & Maintenance Supplies	\$18.32	
Welding Tanks	\$57.66	\$57.66
Garden Supplies		
Office		\$139.98
Misc		
Cat		\$46.33
Checks & Safe Deposit Box	\$187.00	\$92.94
Utilities		
Electricity	\$730.87	\$871.65
Propane		\$2,472.46
PortaPotty & Sanitation Services	\$385.00	\$245.20
Garbage Service	\$227.12	\$227.12
Phones & Broadband Access	\$437.08	\$437.08
Permits, H2O tests		
Water Tests	\$35.00	\$80.00
Haz Waste Fees		\$457.00
Total	\$5,257.09	\$9,607.51
2012 Total		\$14,864.60

Overall, we are about on budget. The insurance bumped up in December because we adjusted the property values to more realistic insurance levels. The January bill will be \$2390 and then insurance will level off at \$1907 a month. Unusual expenses that are coming up include an annual January payment to Timberlake of about \$2000 related to the track license and the April Personal Property Taxes.

TMRR sold 84 paying memberships bringing in \$10,925. They received \$1080 in meet fees and \$425 in donations.

When you include the Cell Tower revenues.... Revenues have exceeded the above expenses for Nov and Dec. There are also funds in the TMRM account that are not visible to us yet.

In addition to the above detailed expenses Friends is continuing to support Dustin, Richard, the cleaning team of Raven and Penny, and a little of Sharmoni's time to help with the transition. Long term, these expenses should be paid from revenues.

We are continuing to work on the financial reporting. We are comfortable we know the figures.... except inventory values, personal property values, and outstanding TMRM funds which we will soon know. We are tracking the needed things. Now we need to perfect the reporting. We are working on that.... along with many other things. Thank you for your patience. There are lots of details to track down.

ICE

We got a very good email from our friend down under Simon regarding a cell phone campaign that he passed on to me. I thought it was such a good idea that I decided to post it here. We use cell phones on TM for safety reasons when we travel through the northern portions of the property because the FRS radios can't reach that far. As such safety and cell phones go together at TM. So here is the email I got. Thanks Simon. ED.

Message from the Ambulance Service...
PLEASE PASS IT ON TO YOUR FRIENDS!

Not a bad idea for helping your loved ones or saving your own life by **helping the Paramedics!** We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this '**ICE**' (In **C**ase of **E**mergency) Campaign.
The concept of '**ICE**' is catching on quickly.

It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As mobile phones are carried by the majority of the population, All you need to do is store the number of a contact person or Persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name '**ICE**' (In **C**ase Of **E**mergency.)

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as '**ICE**'.

It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest.

For more than one contact name

Simply enter **ICE1**, **ICE2** and **ICE3** etc.

PLEASE PASS THIS AROUND TO AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE AS THIS CAN HELP IN AN EMERGENCY

Hope it will never happen but it is always good to be prepared!

Polar Bear Meet 2013

Work *noun, adjective, verb, worked or wrought; working.*

noun

1. Exertion or effort directed to produce or accomplish something; labor; toil.
2. Something on which exertion or labor is expended; a task or undertaking: *The students finished their work in class.*
3. Productive or operative activity.

Play *noun, adjective, verb, played, playing.*

noun

1. Exercise or activity for amusement or recreation.
2. Fun or jest, as opposed to seriousness.

The Polar Bear Meet has passed and we have answered a couple of nagging questions while doing it. The first nagging question was can anything that was **WORK** be that much **FUN**! Of course the answer is YES. The second nagging question was why would anyone leave their nice warm house, drive hundreds of miles in less than ideal conditions to endure such terrible things as frost, snow, cold, ice, etc., . . . Well again the basic answer is, its lots more fun than it is work. Almost everything we do regarding the running of trains in our wonderful hobby is pretending! We pretend to haul freight in our box cars, we pretend to haul passengers around the country only to return them to exactly where we started, its' all pretend. Now let it snow a few inches, stick a plow on the front of your engine (steam or diesel) and well my friends we are now doing meaningful **WORK** and having a **BALL** doing it! So my question to you all that don't come and join us for these Polar Bear Meets, is it **WORK** or **PLAY**, you be the judge!

So what is the Polar Bear Meet? Is it the usual hustle and bustle of lots of members coming with their trains and friends to enjoy the facility here at Train Mountain? No its' just a few crazies who have done this before along with a newbie or two who don't know any better! The idea of the meet is to use our trains to plow the snow off of the track so that we can start getting ready for the new riding season. The key word for all of this is snow. Some years we have no snow. This year we have a kind of snow. Snow when fresh fallen plows like a hot knife through butter. Old snow has a crust on top that is more ice than snow. Snow that has been walked on is packed ice! Old packed ice / snow is more like concrete than it is like snow.

This year's snow / ice Polar Bear Meet was still a lot of fun (see definitions listed above). It started off with Dustin and Richard trying to keep the crossings mostly clear while doing roadway snow removal. Lee and Boyd worked very hard on the 4 Way Crossing and got it to the point where it was some work to clear but not a lot of work. This was all done before the meet ever started. Once underway the attendees of the meet spent 3 days of chipping, melting, shoveling, pry bar-ing, and late Sunday finally got a train run around A loop. So after three days of fun, how much did we get open, less than a mile. We got from the Backshop, through the fuel depot, across 4 Way, and around Containerville. Was it worth it? You bet! Lots of smiles, lots of very tired folks, and some great fellowship was had by those attending. The dinner Saturday night was potluck and was just excellent. Great food, along with great fun. Thanks to Barb, Dana, Pam, Steve, Gil, Janet, Bill M., Tom, Dennis, and Larry.

Polar Bear Meet Photo Gallery



So how cold was it? Take a look!



Larry and Jim making some headway



Larry just had to try his new toy!



Central Station did NOT get plowed!



The Motley Crew!



A very carefully timed shot showing Larry hitting it!

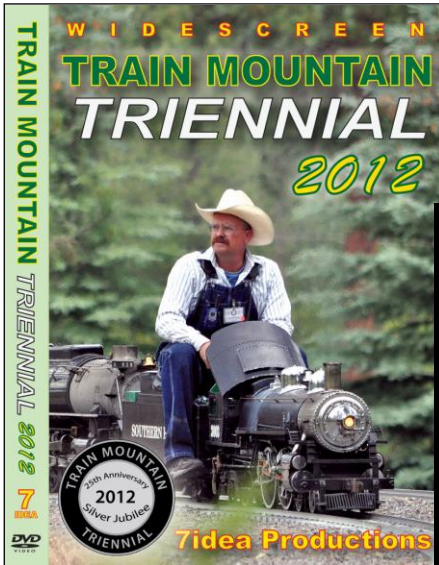


Dinner is served and boy oh boy was it good!



Did you see the great article and front cover story from the latest issue of Live Steam and Outdoor Railroading? It is a most complimentary article about the facility and the great gang of folks that hang around the place and put on terrific live steam train meets. Pretty cool!

Speaking of pretty cool it's really terrific the way folks are coming in almost daily and asking what they can do to help. And when things are going on outside they jump right in and participate in what's going on. Case in point, Boyd was testing the snow to see if we could plow it or chisel it! Lee saw what was going on, grabbed a shovel and started de-icing the grade crossings. Seems like a little thing to some but to those getting ready for the Polar Bear Meet clearing the grade crossings is a huge deal, thanks to Lee and Boyd.



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!

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

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