



# The Mountain GAZETTE

©Copyright 2005, Train Mountain Railroad Museum

An Official Members Only Publication of the Train Mountain Railroad Museum Issue: #52 December 2005

**Well my** goodness, is it really Christmas time already? You all know what that means don't you? It's count-down time! All right let's hear it from the top, how many days until the next Meet? If you guessed 31 you are the a winner in the first round and that Meet is of course the 2nd Annual Polar Bear Meet (maybe, see Ross's column) and you get to go on to the first elimination round. Ready? Here goes - how many days until the first Work Week? Careful this is a trick question! If you are one of those hard working Kitsap folks there is only 105 days to Kitsap Mania number 8! If you are a regular volunteer at the meets then there are only 162 days until the first meet of 2006. Now a little drum roll if you please, and the big number is 187 days until the Next Big One! Just think of all the stuff that's already planned for Train Mountain's big bash, the 2006 Triennial. Lots of seminars, lots of trains (over 100 registered already), lots of good food, lots of train rides and lots of friends being reunited on the Mountain. This is going to be another very special event in the history of Train Mountain. If you would like to participate, here's the order of things that you need to do, first send in your registration for the Triennial, second contact Jerry Crane and volunteer to be a worker bee at the Triennial, and lastly call Greg Robinson and sign up to be a presenter at a seminar. Now the first two are pretty simple. The last one may not be your cup of tea, but how about letting Greg know what kind of seminar you would like to attend. I know he would love to hear from you members.

**I've asked** many times over the past 50 issues for people to contribute to The Mountain Gazette, it is after all your newsletter. Well we have a contributor to this issue and I hope it will spark many more contributions. The contributor is Louise Balf, the wife of backshop wizard Jerry Balf. Please read her funny story.

**The winter** scene around the Mountain is very beautiful and the trees look like a giant Christmas postcard. That's the good news. The bad news is that we are having a bit of a problem getting it plowed in preparation for the Polar Bear Meet. I've just about got Lee Pirtle talked into going out next weekend and giving it a go. I've done some plowing as has Tom Vertel, but

without some horsepower this year's crop is giving us a tough fight. We had a nice crop growing and then we had 12 hours of RAIN! The combination has proven to be very heavy and a little on the STIFF side. Anyhow we will keep on trying and with a little break we will have some track opened up to get us started for the meet. I've developed a list of train assignments for the plow teams and the spreader teams. We should be much more organized this go round. Rumor has it there is even a special event planned but shhhhhh it's a secret!

**Make sure** your dues are paid 'cause this could be your last Gazette til ya' do!

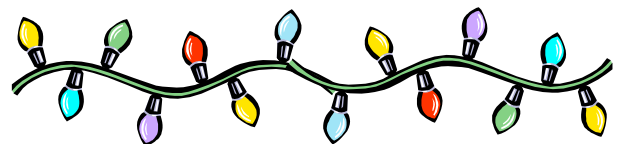
**From all** of us here at Train Mountain, staff and locals, please have a safe and Merry Christmas - Happy Holidays!

To contact The Mountain Gazette:  
 Gazette@trainmountain.org or  
 The Mountain Gazette, P.O. 927, Chiloquin, OR 97624  
 Russ Wood, Editor

Contributors:  
 Ross Perrin - General Manager Train Mountain  
 Louise Balf - Mountain Tales  
 Greg Robinson - Triennial Seminars  
 Carol, and Peggy - The Gazette

**Table of Contents**

<b>From The Manager.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mountain Tales .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Next Work Week .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Triennial Seminar Report .....</b>	<b>3</b>



(Continued on page 2)

---

## FROM THE MANAGER

### The latest information

---

First of all, Happy Holidays! I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season with your friends and families. If you are in need of a white Christmas, come on over to Train Mountain. I guess you could say we have an abundance of the white stuff – we must have well over a foot of the white stuff out there and it's not going away! I am asked often what our snowfall is like and I usually reply that I don't know what is normal here; I have lived here for 15 years and have been through snowfalls that require roofs to be shoveled and shored up, even roads that are closed because there is nowhere to move the snow to. Looking at past winters, I would say normal is mild temperatures and minor snowfalls but the snow doesn't stay long, 6 to 8 inches would be normal for a storm. This is not one of those years though.

The snow could affect the operations of the railroad for the Polar Bear Run so watch your email or give us a call for updates. I spoke with Tom Vertel the other day about snow removal from the tracks and was told that the snow is too deep (well over the top of his engine) and is very icy. This combination makes it impossible to remove by plowing. It is beautiful though!

Something new—Mountain Tales! We want all of you ladies to be involved by submitting short stories of your experiences (or experiences you've been told about) here at Train Mountain! The funnier the better. The guidelines should be "G" for general rating and around 500 words. I know there are some funny and interesting stories out there on trains, wildlife, camping, dinners, experiences in general. The first installment has been provided by Louise Balf (thanks Louise). Who will be next? I know Peggy has some good ones, Toni has a rabbit story that is great, Jeannie has a campground band story, I'm sure, and I know Texas Billie can spin a tale; I'll be looking forward to your stories. As with all submissions, we reserve the right to edit as needed.

Most outdoor work is suspended till the snow is gone, except for Richard, Sarah and Sonya - they have to get the snow removed to keep us open and so Carol can't say she can't get in to work because of snow on the roads. Art and Charlie have been rebuilding some track panels in the shop, getting ready for projects to be done when the snow melts. Jerry has been getting things accomplished on the old Railroad Supply GP40 he is resurrecting. Ron and Caroline are putting the finishing touches on the country store from Youngstown; it has gone through a major overhaul.

It looks like Triennial staffing is in pretty good shape, thanks to the leadership of Jerry Crane and his staff. The next experience of Triennial is promising to be the

best ever. Remember if you have suggestions get them emailed or sent to us so we can implement as much as possible before things are set in stone. I understand that we are over 100 registered locomotives already.

Thank you to Bev Rehberg for the engineer Ken dolls with handmade outfits and to Steve Panzik for the donation of a pair of cable cutters to cut safety cable type cable. I am still looking for suggestions for a better safety cable, the quick link is pretty hard to use during operations so if you're thinking of an affordable solution, share it please.

Many of you were able to view the Oregon Public Broadcasting piece on Train Mountain and we appreciate the positive comments. But for those who do not have access to OPB or a station that has rebroadcast it, I have a copy that I will let you view while you are here. The folks doing this program did some very good filming and editing that made this piece a wonderful representation of the Mountain.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. Talk to you soon

Ross Perrin, (GM)- [tmrrgm@trainmountain.org](mailto:tmrrgm@trainmountain.org)



**STEAM ON THE MOUNTAIN** takes you for a ride in the shadow of California's Mount Shasta behind a ninety-year-old classic Baldwin 2-8-2. Bob Brown wrote in the *Narrow Gauge Short Line Gazette*: ***The views of the train are spectacular. I enjoyed this video and learned a lot about how steam locomotives are operated. The vintage Baldwin is a beautiful locomotive, and seeing and hearing her work was delightful.***

Call **800-564-1066** to order. DVD only \$19.95 plus \$4.50 s/h (California residents please add 7.25% sales tax.)

[www.steamschool.net](http://www.steamschool.net)

---

### MOUNTAIN TALES: "The Resourceful Mouse" or "The Don't Bother Me Cat"

---

A "behind the scenes at the back shop" story by Louise Balf

Jerry was drilling holes in metal braces for the locomotive project and he needed to deburr them. As he looked around, he saw that the large floor drill press had a deburring tool in it. He walked over to it and pressed on the foot switch; the machine started and then there was a large "KAWAM!" from inside the belt cover. Believing the machine had blown up, all Jerry could think was "Oh my, what am I going to tell Ross!". Cautiously lifting the lid, not knowing what to expect, he saw a huge pile of cat food all wedged in and around the front belt assembly. As he carefully examined the belt compartment, he saw a mouse laying

*(Continued on page 3)*

in the back with its feet up in the air, and its body shaking. "What the hell is this?" he thought. Thinking the mouse was dead, knowing that Ross was going to stop by the back shop soon and thinking that he would never believe this if he didn't see it, he closed the lid. When Ross came in, Jerry told him that the machine sounded like it blew up and told him to go over and lift the lid. Ross carefully lifted the lid, and much to the surprise of both of them, the mouse was standing there looking at them. It had survived; it was beaten up, but still breathing. Now you know Jerry, a solution for everything. He went and found the back shop cat, Olivia, and took her back to the drill press. Making sure she could see the mouse, he set her up on the drill press. She just sniffed, walked around the mouse and left. The mouse, seeing his chance to escape, headed off for the storage boxes under the work bench never to be seen again, probably not even by the disinterested cat. After Jerry scooped all the cat food out of the belt compartment, he decided to weigh it. Well, this mouse must expect a long winter, as it had over a pound of food stored and a real nice nest made from fibers that it had found. Ross and Jerry are still shaking their heads in disbelief and are still having a good laugh. They do keep going back to check the drill press and so far, the mouse has not returned; hopefully, it found a safer winter home.

**NEXT WORK WEEK (JUNE MEET 2006)  
What do we do next!**

**This will be the LAST work week before the 2006 Triennial work week!** We are now down to just one more work week until the 'Big One 2006' edition!. Take another look at this list and you can see that it can get done, but it's going to take your help! But please remember to plan enough time to have some **fun** while you are here!

Meet	Work Week	Train Meet
Polar 2006	2nd Annual Polar Bear Meet	Sat Jan 13- Sun Jan 16
June 2006	Sat May 27-Thurs June 1	Fri June 2- Sun June 4
<b>Triennial</b>	<b>Wed June 21-Sun June 25</b>	<b>Mon June 26- Sun July 2</b>
August 2006	Sat, July 29-Thurs Aug 3	Fri Aug 4- Sun Aug 6
Sept 2006	Sat Sept 2-Thurs Sept 7	Fri Sept 8- Sun Sept 10
Operations	2nd Annual Operations Meet	Fri Oct 6- Mon Oct 9

**Possible May Work Week Projects  
May 27th - June 1st, 2006**

- Main Line Tune up** - Several Crews, all work week
- Main Yard Tune up** - 2 people (currently underway by Art and Charlie-Bill)
- Six Acre Siding** - 2 people 1 week  
Lay track and ballast.
- Grade Crossings Upgrade** - 2 to 4 people 2 days each  
Replace any wooden tie sections within two track sections of all grade crossings with steel rail on plastic ties (this is an ongoing project)
- And of course there is the always popular, rake pine needles and pine cones fun and games!*

*You do know that you are welcome anytime to come to Train Mountain and volunteer to help, you don't have to wait for a meet, just come on up and check in with Ross to see what needs to be done.*

**TRIENNIAL SEMINAR REPORT  
Presenters Needed - Please!**

The **7+ RAILROADER** magazine is pleased to again be organizing the seminars for the 2006 Triennial. A number of speakers have already approached us with subjects they would like to speak on. Some spoke last time. Others are starting fresh. A few of the topics already planned are 7.5" gauge snow removal, boiler inspection, ways to wreck your steam engine, operations, locomotive design, and more. We are still looking for additional speakers, though. If you have a subject that is important to you, it would certainly be important to other hobbyists as well. You are invited to contact us with your idea for a presentation you'd like to give.

Also in the works are a number of special narrow gauge activities to be hosted by Tom Artzberger of the **Hartford Shops** and the **7+ RAILROADER** magazine. This "meet within a meet" will be open to everyone. Special presentations, photo opportunities, and runs will be organized. If you have wishes or suggestions regarding this facet of the Triennial, we will do our best to make them a reality. --Greg Robinson, **7+ RAILROADER**, P.O. Box 8953, Red Bluff, CA 96080, [mainline@sunset.net](mailto:mainline@sunset.net) 530-527-0141

"Tracks" In the snow



Photo by Peg Schubert



Photo by Peg Schubert

But if you park here, you may never be seen again