



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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**Wonderful**, terrific, energetic, clever, enthusiastic, hard working, and of course, generous. Got your interest did I? Well, you see this time of year I always get in trouble with those “west coast Yankees” (northerners)! I always seem to say something that gets things going, so this year I thought I would start the annual Kitsap Krew issue with some nice words! The Kitsap Krew comes each and every year. They work very hard and get lots of cool stuff going for the year and gets Train Mountain started on its annual build cycle. This year they are coming the week before the Narrow Gauge Meet and should be a lot of fun. I am told they are bringing some more of those terrific switch stands to be installed on the main line. Welcome guys (and yes I’ve warned the ladies!) See I just couldn’t let it go! 😊

**Ah, springtime** at Train Mountain. I’m sitting here working on this issue of the Gazette and the weather report read like this: Today SNOW and the high will be 41. The next 5 days forecast reads clear and highs of 43, 46, 55, 60, and 63. So when you call to find what the weather is like to help you plan your trip, just remember this word of advice— yes, we will have weather! That’s it, we will have weather this time of year. Bring layers, ‘cause some days it’s cold, it’s warm, it’s windy, it’s calm. But most importantly it is a beautiful time of year to visit Train Mountain. Things are starting to show the first signs of greening up a little. Bert’s been running his magic sweeper as shown on the header picture this issue. Debra’s magic isn’t showing yet but it won’t be long. We have started to be able to do some train movements but the mainline is still not open yet but real soon now! Preliminary cleanup is underway and we should be able to have a great Narrow Gauge Meet.

**As the** track begins to clear we will get the track panels moved from their storage piles behind the Track Shop and get them out to the northern end of the line for installation during the May 24th—June 1st Work Week / Meet. The ground is a little sloppy as the snow and ice melts but Richard and Ross are already doing some dirt work getting ready for track work. It’s not just a matter of moving dirt, they are

planning the watershed requirements, drainages, road access, track easements, etc. The list of items is huge and requires their full time attention. In this issue I have included what the goals are for 2008 and if you study the track plan you will see that we have a very ambitious set of goals for this year. It has been a couple of years since we have such a large set of projects planned so if you’ve ever wanted to learn how to build track the Train Mountain way, this is your chance.

**Speaking of** learning how, please remember that the work crews at Train Mountain are very experienced at doing things the Train Mountain way. Observe and participate and see how we do it. Things are done here this way not because it is the only way but because the way we do it has proven to be effective and is the way that works for us. We have specialized tools, we have specialized crews, and we have surveyed rights of way. All of these items require a leader and, of course, crews. Art Crisp and Charlie Schubert are the resident experts, the Idaho Mafia, the Kitsap Krew, and others are some of the non-resident experts. These are the track ‘groups’. In addition we also have many individuals that can show you the ropes. Please plan on coming this year and joining in the learning experience that is Train Mountain. Also plan on coming and having the time of your life, running trains in the woods is really a lot of fun!

**This just** in: With the continuing efforts of Dennis Ward and joined by Tom Vertel the mainline has been cleared of snow and the track panel cars are now proceeding out to the staging area at M&M corner. Thanks guys!

### **Narrow Gauge Meet Banquet Menu:**

Chicken Alfredo, Prime Rib, Garlic Mashed Potato, Caesar Salad, Homemade Oatmeal Rolls, Green Beans w/ Bacon, and Dessert. You may also supply your own liquid refreshments.

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**FROM THE MANAGER**

**The latest information - Ross Perrin**

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I can tell spring is here – the first motor home with a train in tow showed up and ran yesterday! Dennis Ward appeared with his new acquisitions of a GP50 and cars. It is always great to see someone’s new train and the proud and pleased look on their face, but I saw his wife, grandson and mother – in – law all with that same look, so I know they are enjoying the railroad and trains.

There are so many things happening around here most times that you do not get to see (I even miss some of them) but in trying to keep up I want to thank all those I don’t see and let you know how much I appreciate all your efforts. Those I caught are Woody Hensley making our P/A system work again in the Hall of Flags (I hear rumblings he is going to work on the weather station I got from Boyd Butler years ago as well), Steve Panzik, Jerry Balf and Lee Brooks are working on safety cables, Ron and Caroline Young are roofing the bottling plant with “clay tile” (wait till you see this one!!!!) it is looking great. I see Russ Wood and some of his crew around getting K&W ready to open and Pam Panzik and Toni Brooks have been helping around the office. Thanks everyone for all the help.

Way off in the background one of our members has been working on a huge project to supplement my forestry work and help make the way for new projects in forestry stewardship. Toni Brooks took on the task of documenting all of the plants on Train Mountain. Not long after I met Toni, I knew she was the one that could do this project justice, and we would have a great resource book when she was done. Toni tells me this will be a work in progress which one would

expect with living things and Railroads (I think they are living too) and what I have seen of the book is going to be top notch. Thank you Toni for all the countless hours you have spent on this project and thanks to all your able assistants. (Oh- I better thank Lee for staying out of her way! Thanks Lee).

The track shop is cruising now, Paul and Chris have achieved a rhythm and improvements are under way so the panel count is coming up, curved panels are running 20 a day, so the stack is growing. Thanks guys for your hard work. I understand Russ Wood and whoever else is available will start hauling track to the field as soon as possible. Gordon Felber has been working Mondays prepping rail for assembly, this is a big help. The great thing about having Gordon helping is that he has been trained by Art Crisp and Paul Aragon in previous years and that keeps the rhythm going in the shop.

So when will we start laying track? When the ground is firmed up and the grade is cleaned off and finished. We will begin at the north end of Elizabeth River and complete the Farmersville Circle, then head North West to the top of the hill to Witcombe Junction. Culverts are coming and steel for some more crossings, a little more shop work will get them ready. We will be using rural crossings much like the old one at the back shop, the traffic will be light on them once construction is done and they can always be made permanent when and if traffic increases. I think with the weather trends I am seeing we will be on schedule to lay track by the end of May. I chatted with Art Crisp the other day and he is hoping to get to it soon, Art will be my engineer to help determine the radius of track needed.

April will be a busy time here getting everything cleaned up and working for the Narrow Gauge Meet, The Kitsap Krew will be here for their yearly week helping all they can and putting in some new switch stands and our resident members will be out cleaning up their areas of responsibility and working on various projects. A few projects that come to mind, are a crossing light that lost a battle with a truck when it was icy, broken joiners at Grand Junction that cause the gates to malfunction, new posts for the swing at Six Acres (the elk decided it should be moved to a new location) and lots of raking. Always the raking! I have had some news “3<sup>rd</sup> party” but I understand Frank Steuer may not be here this summer (health problems) that means we will have to have more folks to haul stuff to the burn pit. I wish Frank well and I’ll miss having to dodge out of his way all the time!

Another special group that puts in much more time helping Train Mountain than most is our resident

*(Continued on page 3)*

members, these are the folks that live close enough to come and work on a more frequent basis. These folks are even "on call" so to speak when we need shop work, tour guides, train rides, or when a rush is put on a project they come running, and did you ever wonder who finishes up the stuff left unfinished after a meet or work week? It is these folks that come and help. As we all know it is usually a small core group that does most of the work, but in our case that group is larger and they understand the need. While everyone is a great help we know your time is limited and especially when you have to travel a ways to get here, so thank you everyone for your help and especially to the residents.

Yesterday I went out to the North Country and had 3 separate herds of elk join up on the road in front of me and trot away, had to be at least 100 of them. I expect that to be my last sighting for the season as it is warming up and they will move to higher ground. Oh, by the way, the squeakers are out to!

Talk to you soon.

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

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### **OPERATIONS MEET 2008 It's Time to Start Thinking About This Year's Ops Meet - Jim Armstrong**

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Now with spring in the air and the Narrow Gauge Meet just around the corner, most of us are planning our 2008 trips to Train Mountain. Don't forget to include the August Ops Meet in your plans. I've heard there might be some new cars for us to pull and push into new sidings and industries that are scheduled to come online this year.

Aspen Grove Loop will be on the schedule for a couple of our Passenger Trains in addition to new switching ideas suggested by Matt Monson and John Lovely. We're also looking at some additional changes to our radio communications that will hopefully reduce a few reporting bottlenecks.

I'll be checking in soon with those members that so graciously allowed us to use their rolling stock during previous meets to see if we can again include them in this year's inventory of cars to be switched. We can always use more cars in our operations, so if you have any that you would like to include, please shoot me an email with a description of the car(s) and I'll get them into the roster.

As usual, we will need help both before and after the actual meet to get cars spotted out on the sidings and them wrangle them back for sorting on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. Bill and Joyce Kludt have

already volunteered their services but it will take more of us to complete the job. I'm not really worried because each year has seen a great group of volunteers pitch in and help throughout the entire meet.

Well I hope I've whetted your appetite for putting on the gloves, grabbing the red flag, and coupling up some cars for a fun time in playing like the "big boys" during Train Mountain's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ops Meet in July 26th thru Aug 3rd.

Hope to see you there!!

Jim Armstrong - [jgarmstrong@cableone.net](mailto:jgarmstrong@cableone.net)

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## *Photo Gallery*

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This slightly blurred but beautiful aerial shot was taken by a local from his ultra-light and shows one of the elk herds up on Caboose Ridge. Great picture!

I'm glad Bert is getting started on clearing the track of pine needles and pine cones, because now that we can see what was under the snow. You guessed it, there's a lot of pine needles and pine cones. So please don't feel bashful or shy about grabbing one of those rakes and start making some piles for the gator crews to haul off to the burn pit. Remember to leave the piles on the ballast, thanks!



# Photo Gallery (cont.)



Even though it is officially Spring we are just now starting to see the first real signs of it showing.



Everywhere you look you see sprouts poking up through the pine needles or the snow.



It won't be long now until we are the Train Mountain that you folks see when you come during the summer months.



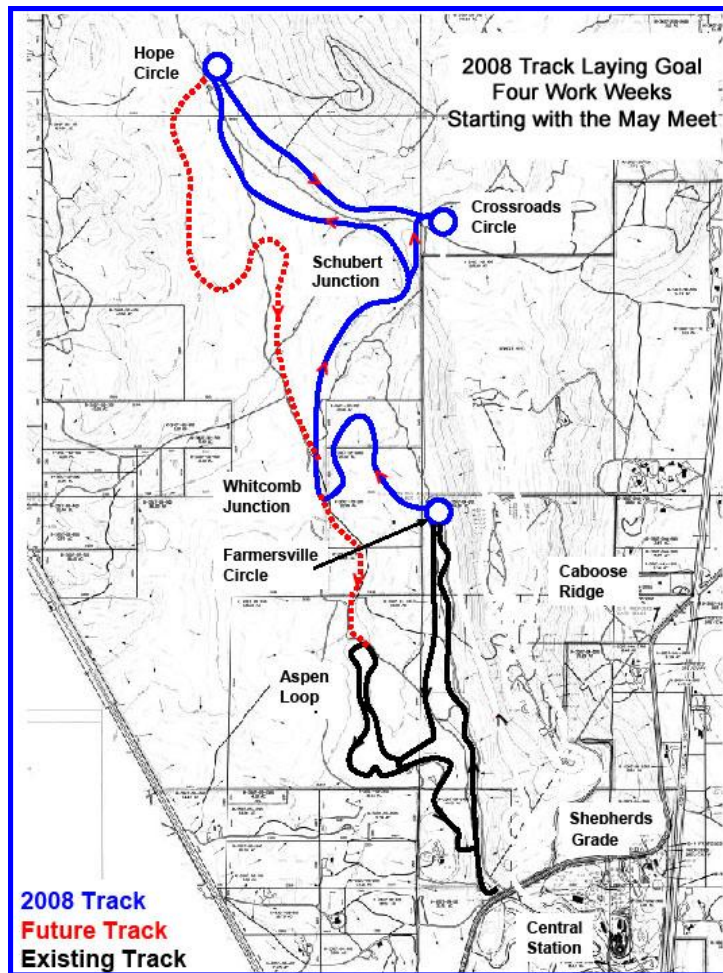
Ron Young and Larry DaBroi are coming right along on their spectacular new bottling plant.



It's a mission style with a Spanish tile roof and stone foundation and really cool windows and a lot more...



Paul and Chris really have the Track Shop running at full tilt now and the locals are keeping the panels moving out to staging.



Meet	Work Week	Train Meet
Narrow Gauge Train Meet 2008	No Work Week	Fri, May 2- Sun, May 4
June Train Meet 2008	Sat, May 24-Thurs, May 29	Fri, May 30- Sun, June 1
July Train Meet 2008	Sat, June 28-Thurs, July 3	Fri, July 4- Sun, July 6
Aug Ops Meet 2008	Sat, July 26-Thurs, July 31	Fri, Aug 1- Sun, Aug 3
September Train Meet 2008	Sat, Aug 30-Thurs, Sept 4	Fri, Sept 5- Sun, Sept 7
Fall Colors Meet 2008	No Work Week	Fri, Oct 3- Sun, Oct 5

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