



The Mountain GAZETTE

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From the Editor - Russ Wood

Project noun \ **Definition of PROJECT**

1: a specific plan or design

2: a planned undertaking: as

a: a definitely formulated piece of research

b: a large usually government-supported undertaking

c: a task or problem engaged in usually by a group

So this is the word of the month and also for the year of 2013 – **Project**. Or better yet **Projects!** We are the members of an organization that has the challenge to be the care takers of the World's Biggest Hobby Railroad. 2200 acres of mountain pine forest that sees very large temperature swings, sunny days, snowy days, rainy days, and 36 miles of 7 ½ inch gauge track. We have many buildings, some full size many miniature, we have camping areas, lots of grass, and oh yeah a few trees! All of this needs OUR attention and in this issue we have a listing of some of the many **projects** that require our attention. Please read the list and the proposed schedule to see if you can match your schedule to our schedule and come up (or down) to give us a hand at keeping YOUR railroad the best that it can be.

Speaking of giving us a hand, we all owe a lot to the wonderful bunch of characters from Kitsap Livesteamers. They have their own railroad to maintain, and already this year they have had two public run days. So what do they do that is so special, they give up a weeks time every year to come down to Train Mountain and help us get going for the season. They have been doing this for many years and this year was no exception. We greeted the group with a couple of days of bitter cold and snow flurries and one day of complete white out. They usually come down with no pre-planned agenda, they do a site survey and then go about the business of *fixin'* stuff! It is a great bunch and we can't thank them enough for all that they do. Thanks guys!

In just a couple of weeks the Annual Narrow Gauge Meet will be in full swing. It should be a great one as all of the rooms are booked and the list is growing of members attending. A quick reminder though is that the Narrow Gauge Meet has the theme of narrow gauge but EVERONE is welcome, bring your train (even if it's not narrow gauge) and have some fun.

With the snow falls starting to taper off we are just now starting the annual Train Mountain Raking Festival! Larry has the grassy areas all cleaned off, Boyd has trimmed the trees in the public areas and is starting on his annual pilgrimage around the layout doing the same, trimming trees. Next out will come his weed sprayer and that will start when the weather stabilizes even more. Barbara and Dana, in addition to feeding us very well, have also started their annual rake the needles campaign. Deborah is back and almost immediately the grounds looks better. She is a dynamo so if you wish to learn about work ethics TRY and keep up with her for a day or two! You also need to check out the latest from computer wiz Tom and his sidekick John Cooper, between them they have added some neat new goodies again this month. Go to the club website and under the two little webcam pictures click on the link to the CAMERA PAGE, then scroll down the page and see the pictures of the last train(s) though Central Station. Pretty neat, thanks Tom for keeping the Train Mountain web page interesting and enjoyable.

Tent Catapillars - BOD

Train Mountain has a major Tent Caterpillar problem that we need to aggressively get under control. Tent Caterpillars are a serious problem because they eat so many of the leaves on a bush that the bush dies and becomes serious fuel for any fire. If we do not kill the Tent Caterpillars, we are asking to lose Train Mountain to a fire.

Tent Caterpillars construct and enlarge white silken tents while consuming adjacent foliage. We need to cut off the branches with these tents, collect them in Plastic Bags, Take them to the Garbage Cans by the office, and then they will be burnt to kill them. Please be sure to put the covers on the garbage cans. The office is keeping a map showing the areas where Tent Caterpillars have already been harvested.



IRS Liens Update - Friends

As of the morning of April 14, 2013, we have submitted additional information to the IRS and we are waiting for the IRS report back. This is about where we expected to be at this point in the process.

Stay Tuned.

Timberlake Track Closure Update - Friends

On about March 2nd Timberlake erected gates across the N end of the South Portal tunnel in apparent breach of a Track License Agreement that TM and Timberlake signed in 2007, a Track Easement agreement that Timberlake signed with its neighbors in the same year, and other agreements. Friends of Train Mountain (Friends) has engaged lawyers to get the gates removed. The lawyers made a formal request that the gates be removed by March 29. Timberlake did not remove the gates. As of April 14th, Friend's lawyers and Timberlake's lawyers are talking.

Timberlake has opened the track to the Northern 2000+ acres (92%) of Train Mountain.... apparently 8:00am to 8:00pm... with some flexibility on Friday and Saturday nights of Meets. This is better than nothing, but not adequate. This is going to take time to resolve. We will not be adjudicating the issues on email forums or in the Gazette. These are legal, not political issues. We will keep you informed of changes in the situation. Thank you for your continuing interest and support as we deal with this. Please support Tom Vertel during this difficult period.

This Year's Dirt Moves - Friends

Every spring there comes a 6-8 week period when the ground is no longer muddy, you can drive around on it, and there is enough moisture in the dirt so we can do dirt work. About the time you read this, Dirt Work Season will be beginning. Later in the summer, the dirt dries out so it becomes dust as soon as you move it. There is no moisture and you have to truck a lot of water in to keep the soil damp enough to be workable. What you get done at Train Mountain every year depends on how well we use the Dirt Work Season.

This year we plan these Grade Projects :

1) Finish the Witcombe to Aspen Grade

Monday, May 13th.... after the Narrow Gauge Meet.... we plan to tear up the legs of Witcombe Wye... leaving the track to Coyote and Schubert open as bi-directional track under Signal Authority. We will re-grade the legs of the Wye to lower the grade and then re-lay the track. When it is done there will be an obvious connection toward Aspen. We hope to have the track re-laid and open for the June Meet starting Saturday May 25.

2) New Siding Grade at Schubert

We plan to do the minor grading needed to add a siding for S bound traffic at Schubert. This siding will allow trains to stop and take in the view of Mt Shasta before descending to Witcombe.

3) New Grade at Hairpin

May 25-30.... during the June Meet Work Week we plan to rip up the track from the steel on plastic just N of Hairpin. through Hairpin to just past Dogwalk and also Hairpin to Bottleneck crossing. There are multiple problems in this stretch. The track is some of the oldest at TM. There is a big fill that is falling away to the south and is quite narrow on top. The roadbed is on questionable fill. Drainage is inadequate. To fix the problems about 70-100 dump truck loads of fill needs to be added and the grade reconfigured a bit. The fill would come from excavating near the burn pit. The substantial fill needs a winter to settle... so we would plan to re-lay the track next year. We have to do all of this at one time so the equipment has entrance and exit paths from the work.

The track we take up will be stored on the ground S of the Motor Pool. It will be made available to lay track into the containers at Containerville. The used track will be priced at the price Ross set years ago... \$30 per panel, \$250 per switch.

Outlook for New Track - Friends

The track that we take up from the Hairpin project we will use to lay track at Containerville.... this includes a new track to under the Ballast Loading Chute at Containerville. Friends will probably not lay any other track.... or make other track available... until after Closing when Railroad Institute owns TM. After closing, in September, we may lay the new siding at Shubert, a little track at Aspen Grove, and replace some track between Containerville, the main yard, and the road crossing beside the Signal Shack. Stay Tuned.

Train Mountain No Smoking Policy - BOD

Due to the extreme fire danger and personal health issues associated with smoking on Train Mountain property, the following policy has been adopted and approved by the TMRR Board of Directors.

There shall be no smoking on any Train Mountain property or any track right of way associated with Train Mountain.

There are two (2) exceptions to this policy where responsible smoking may occur, they are:

- Paved area outside of the east side doors of Central Station. An approved ash receptacle will be placed an appropriate distance from the building that meets the criteria of Oregon law and is also in a fire safe area. The ash receptacle will indicate the location where smoking may take place.
- Paved area outside of the east side of the Backshop's south bay doors. An approved ash receptacle will be placed an appropriate distance from the building that meets the criteria of Oregon law and is also in a fire safe area. The ash receptacle will indicate the location where smoking may take place.

Responsible smoking means that all smokers will use the ash receptacles for both ashes and any remaining butts and will maintain a clean, litter free area in these approved locations.

The TMRR Board of Directors asks that any observed violations of this No Smoking Policy be reported to the TM office or any TMRR director. Reported or observed violations will be dealt with by the TMRR Board.

2013 Projects - BOD

Building Train Mountain is FUN. You should get involved. We need you. This year we have lots of projects organized... big and small. Some have to be done by a certain time. Most can be done in any order and at any time. We plan to use the Gazette from April to September to keep everyone informed on what needs to be done. The office will also have the latest info on what has been done so far.

2013 Train Mountain Projects - BOD

Projects with a Schedule

ASAP -- Before we can really Run

- 10 Pine Needle Cleanup
- 11 Clean Drainage Ditches... Some places pine Needles are left in the ditches. If this happens for a couple of years, the runoff dumps dirt and fills up the drainage ditches and we have a drainage problem. Please clean the ditches
- 12 Track Audit -- identifying track work that needs to be done

When the Tent Caterpillars Appear

- 20 Hike the property collecting Tent Caterpillars.**
- 21 Office has trash bags and map of areas that are done.**

By end of Narrow Gauge Meet

- 30 Test and Distribute Fire Extinguishers
- 31 Load and Distribute Fire Protection Gondolas
- 32 Remove Track for Hairpin Re-Grading -- Store track on ground S of Motorpool

In May or June

- 40 Before the ground dries out... Install Conduit for lights at Road Crossings at Panzik, Crane, 3 crossings at Katy Lane, Dam 3.5, Hilltop, Vertel/Canada, Brooks & Shepherd.... Rail Bonding 40' out, Insulated Rail Joiners at Crossings, Double track needs conduit, wire, bonding, in both directions

In September

- 50 Siding at Schubert if IRS Closed
- 51 Replace Track Containerville and main yard exit to Signal Shack near Central Station If IRS Closed
- 52 Track Aspen Grove N to first Road Crossing If IRS Closed
- 53 Bring in Fire Gondolas
- 54 Bring in Fire Extinguishers

Group Projects We want to Coordinate

Gator Ballasting

- 60 Ballast SW leg of S Wye at Hope... then we can move the Gator Loader to Crane Road Crossing
- 61 Ballast full 12' wide Hope to Ward

Other Projects

Projects to be done using your Train

- 70 Install 350+ Mileposts, 14+ Siding/Station Signs
- 71 Install 20+ Whistle Posts 40' before roads
- 72 Straighten Bent Mileposts-- the Elk bend them

- 73 Clean up Aspen Grove. Move Firewood Aspen Grove to 6 Acre where the Klamath County community can load up the firewood... A lot of firewood has been cut up in Aspen Grove. We have 18 firewood cars. Many are under Pine Needle boxes.
- 74 Inventory Picnic Tables - do they need repair, What needs repair. Tell the Office
- 75 Re-Finish Picnic Tables
- 76 Gather information for better map of TM --- GPS coordinates of mileposts, Signals.... list of Switch Stand Locations.... List of Water Sidings.... List of Ash Pits.... List of Bridges with Names & Locations.... List of Road Crossings (Do They Have concrete, gates, signage, signals ?)... Map showing Divisions

Projects you can get to by Train

- 80 Install Road Crossing Crossbucks ... at .. Panzik, Crane, Hope, N of Hope, Hope Burn Pit, Butler, Wheelock, Brooks & Shepherd, Brooks South, Brooks West, Porta Potty Drive at Steuer, Vertel/Canada, Crossroads, Cooper, Aspen, 3 crossings at Katy Lane. Locate signs so there is road crossing at every point between the signs.--- in other words, in the snow when you cannot see the road crossing, you know you will be on a road crossing if you are between the signs.... road crossing may extend beyond the signs
- 81 Pick up Plastic Nails Witcombe to Schubert

Site Maintenance Projects

- 90 Repair Tunnel Portals at Rio Grande
- 91 Repair Walls at Ellington Bridge
- 92 Repair Walls at Serpentine
- 93 Repair walls at Bridge toward future bridge over South Chiloquin Road
- 94 Fix Chain Link Fence at Entry to K&W Parking

Track Maintenance Projects

- 100 Remove Switch on SW leg of S Wye at Hope
- 101 Install new Switch Stands at ... NE End Douglas Siding, S End of Elizabeth Siding, N End Pine Needle Disposal Track, S End Pine Needle Disosal Track, W End Dam 4 Siding, E End M&M Siding, E End Beauchamp Siding, N End Pyrtle Siding, S End Woodpecker Siding, N End Helena Siding, Brooks Track in M&M area. Dustin & Richard can make up kits.
- 102 Install new tracks at Containerville including a track for the Ballast Loading Chute.
- 103 Repair Track around Ellingston Turntable

Signal Projects

- 200 Repair Signal Tower the Elk knocked over at Dog Walk
- 201 Re-Bond Farnersville to Witcombe
- 202 Road Signals at Bond.. Rebuild with John Cooper

2013 Train Mountain Train Meet Schedule							
	Polar Bear Train Meet	Narrow Gauge Train Meet	June Train Meet	Operations Meet	August Train Meet	September Train Meet	Fall Colors Train Meet
Work Week	none	5/4 to 5/9	5/25 to 5/30	6/22 to 6/27	7/27 to 8/1	8/31 to 9/5	none
Meet	1/19 to 1/21	5/10 to 5/12	5/31 to 6/2	6/28 to 6/30	8/2 to 8/4	9/6 to 9/8	10/11 to 10/13

Projects to be done by Car

- 300 Put Flat cars on Caboose Ridge on Pallets to get them out of dirt so they will not rust. The Pallets are up there.
- 301 Move Wood Ties off Disputed Land near Bone Yard to someplace on TM land

Projects around Central Station

- 400 Replace Kick Switches in Main Yard. There are kits to do this that are kept in the Track Shop
- 401 ReStack Wood behind Marketplace so it will not rot
- 402 Paint Letters on Road Signs
- 403 Lay track to under Ballast loading chute at Containerville

Forestry Projects

- 500 Remove small trees within 6' of Centerline Track
- 501 Remove Brush and small plants within 6' Track
- 502 Move Firewood from Firewood fences into piles in the roads... out of the way, but ready to burn next winter
- 503 Cut down Juniper Trees
- 504 Thin trees.... With Trees 3' high cut down little trees leaving strongest trees with about 3' of separation... With Trees 5' high cut to 5' Separation... With trees 10' high cut to 10' separation.... With trees over 10' cut to 20' separation

Garden Railway Projects

- 600 G'ville Cleanup

Projects that you can do at home

- 700 Help create a Powerpoint presentation to Orient people to TM. This is the first step in creating a new Orientation Video. We want to trial the messages before we shoot video.
- 701 Help create a Powerpoint presentation to Orient Rail Bike renters. This is the first step in creating a new Video. We want to trial the messages before we shoot video.
- 702 Help create a Powerpoint presentation to be given to audiences that are interested in learning more about TM. This may develop into a video. We would like to raise awareness of TM in most 7.5" rail clubs.
- 703 Organize Historical Photos of TM. They are on Disk and need to be sorted by year.

Start Your Own Train Mountain Work Week - Jerry Crane

Another Kitsap Work Week at Train Mountain has come and gone and a very enjoyable time was had by all. I am writing this article to encourage you to start your own work week. There are several reasons why you may want to do this.

A work week by your group not only helps Train Mountain it also helps your own group. Living and working together for a week you really get to know your fellow club members. This helps when you need to do **projects** at your own track.

Spending a week with the local resident volunteers lets you experience what it is like to have full time access to Train Mountain. You get to see what happens when a meet is not going on.

A work week gives your members that are less financially secure a chance to experience Train Mountain. Someone that cannot afford to come to a meet can come to a work week for very little cost. You usually share rides to Train Mountain, Train Mountain provides beds in the bunkroom for free and you have access to the kitchen to prepare your meals.

Work weeks are not all just work. You always have to take a track inspection tour with one of Train Mountain's units. The Train Mountain kitchen is the lunch and evening gathering place for the local volunteers so you can participate in a lot of interesting train discussions.

You do not need a large group to start a work week. You can start with two or three individuals. The numbers will grow as the word gets out about the great time you had. Give Train Mountain a call at the office 541-2783-3030 or info@tmrr.org and they can arrange a week that meets your schedule

March Financial Report - By John Black

Friends as Custodian reports that March was uneventful financially. The expenses continued as budgeted... there was propane expense, but it will show in the April report. Insurance was low because of a one time refund/adjustment.

Mar 2013

Property Basic Operating Expenses

Real Estate Taxes (Reserve)	\$1,700
Insurance	\$597
Utilities	
Phone and Broadband	\$466
Electricity	\$769
Garbage	\$227

Total \$3,759

To fund the above expenses TM has a few Lines of Business. 100% of the income from the property goes to pay the above expenses. This includes cell tower income, room rentals, container fees, riding car rentals, K&W's lease payment, etc. Friends as Custodian also runs the store. Actually Steve and Pam Panzik run the store with Tom Watson setting up the online portion. Russ, Dennis, and Charlie help with the order fulfillment. In March the store sold \$359.29 with \$63 in expenses and about \$180 in cost of goods sold.

From the President - Jim Armstrong

Many thanks to the Kitsap Crew who again this year is back at the Mountain doing their hard work and magic in getting TM back in shape for another fun filled season of meets and events.

Jerry Crane is assembling a couple of trial stair railings at Crisp Yard and the Turntable to checkout his design to make those locations safer for our members and guests. If these prototypes work as planned, then railings at each bay will be installed later this year.

The Board is busy putting together the guidelines for the initial fleet of rail bikes which are being assembled over the next few weeks. These new rental rail bikes will hopefully provide a fun and economical way for members and guests to experience Train Mountain as an engineer in full control of their route and get that needed exercise that we all strive to obtain in our daily lives. When you're here this year, stop by the office and arrange to give one a try.

Please take a look at this year's Train Mountain volunteer projects outlined in this issue of the Gazette. Our intent is to make it easier for the members and guests to be aware of what needs to be done before they actually arrive. There are all kinds of things that will take you deep into the workings of TM and give you that great satisfaction and pleasure of being truly involved in the ongoing success of the world's largest miniature railroad.

With the Narrow Gauge and May Meets just a few weeks away, be sure to include Train Mountain in your plans for early summer fun and then return in later months for even more adventures at the Mountain.

'All Aboard' for a train load of good times in 2013!!

- 1) The Polycom conference phone has been purchased for \$439. Also, a Straight Talk phone unit was purchased for \$98.88. There will be a monthly service fee of \$15 per month. The system has been activated and tested.
- 2) Some misc. parts were ordered allowing me to :
 - a) Get IP Camera 2 Port Forwarded so it can now be controlled remotely.
 - b) Get a second Computer work station operational. It is located in the conference room.
 - c) Set up for Raven to copy old TM photo CDs. She has already completed this task.
- 3) The three computers donated by John Cooper had the hard drives wiped, so there are no operating systems installed on any of them. I did find the product keys, so now I need to locate installation disks. John Cooper is going to assist with obtaining the installation disks.
- 4) I had to again factory reset and re program the Central Station DSL Modem. It has a tendency to get corrupted. I installed a donated UPS which appears to have cured this problem.
- 5) The TM phone system has tended to crash and need resetting after every storm. I located and replaced the UPS battery for the phone system. It has not crashed since.
- 6) We purchased five UPS batteries for the donated UPS units. I will be installing UPS units on the CTC system computers as time permits.
- 7) We are slowly getting things in order, but there is still more to accomplish.

NARROW GAUGE MEET		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Sat May 4	Arrival Day	
Sun May 5	Welcome Dinner	6:00 Central Station
Mon May 6	Volunteer Meeting	8:30 am Hall of Flags
Tues May 7	Volunteer Meeting	8:30 am Hall of Flags
Wed May 8	Volunteer Meeting	8:30 am Hall of Flags
Wed May 8	Pizza Night	6:00 Central Station
Thurs May 9	Volunteer Meeting	8:30 am Hall of Flags
Thurs May 9	Ladies Day	10:00—3:00 Hall of Flags
Fri May 10	Narrow Gauge Meet	
Sat May 11	Narrow Gauge Meet	
Sat May 11	Poltluck Dinner	6:00 Central Station
Sun May 12	Narrow Gauge Meet	

PHOTO GALLERY

Did you ever wonder whose running trains at Train Mountain? Well the dynamic duo of John Cooper and Tom Watson have been collaborating on tying the signal system into the new webcams system. When you head down the hill from the flagpole at Memorial Gardens headed towards Central Station the signal system triggers the camera to take a snapshot of the train. This snapshot then gets uploaded to the website and is viewable by all of us.



On the club website www.tmnrr.org, directly under the two live pictures you will see a link to the Live Camera Page, click on it!



When the Live Camera page comes up, scroll down the page and see the snapshots taken and what time they were taken. It is another really fun addition to our growing website. I love it!

PHOTO GALLERY

CONTINUED



Here's a few pix from one day during Kitsap Week. Jim and his train coming back from a days work on the railroad. Next is Bert and his track sweeper after being out clearing the track for us all to enjoy.



It's hard to see but Larry is headed downgrade with some of the pine needle cars and Boyd is giving directions (scary thought isn't it). Next is the real Larry at the right end of a pine needle train.



Tom was out running some more tests on the prototype railbike. This last shot is of Raven's handy work painting all of the grade crossing signs for the Northlands.

PHOTO GALLERY

CONTINUED



The Kitsap Krew arriving for their annual work week. A really nice set of trains to run. They also used them for their work week projects of which there were many.



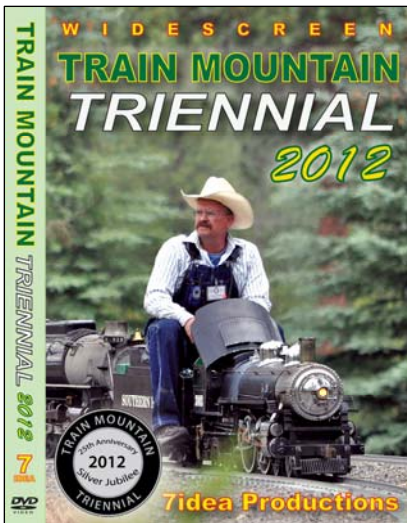
Pardon the expression but I think this is a picture of the Kitsap Krew getting organized, I know, but it does look like it, doesn't it! 😊 Next is them actually using a measuring tool and we have a pictures to prove it! Just kiddin' of course!



Out in the woods setting the new milepost markers. They also spent some precious moments of their time relaxing at Central Station and enjoying the food and comradeship.



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!



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!

Our good friend Jim over at Discover Live Steam has also placed an ad for us on his terrific website, thanks Jim.

www.discoverlivesteam.com

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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