



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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An Official Members Only Publication of the Train Mountain Railroad Issue: Vol. #2 Issue #8 June 2013

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## From the Editor - Russ Wood

Going, going, gone! With the discharge of the IRS liens Train Mountain is moving into new and exciting times. This is the era of the members organization not only doing volunteer work to maintain the park but more importantly actually directing the future of Train Mountain. The Board wants to insure the members are informed and to become more active in the goings on at Train Mountain. One of the benefits of membership is of course this publication. During the transition era we sent out copies of The Mountain Gazette to thousands of members, non-members, vendors, clubs, etc.,. Starting with the next issue ONLY members will receive The Mountain Gazette. Non-members will receive an alternative document that will be much less informative but will still give important information such as schedules, etc.,.

The June Meet was a lot of fun and lots of very necessary jobs got done. The members in attendance picked up garbage, hauled tons of pine needles and branches and pine cones and . . . Larry and Debra kept us supplied with additional piles of 'stuff' too! The Carpentry Shop was busy with refurbishing some of the miniature buildings and we had a lot of fun and ate really well too! The ladies had lunch for us every day of the work week and I think I could get to liking that kind of service! Boyd had the 'Weed' train out every day and the ladies from the northlands were spraying all of the nasty ol' weeds that seem to get bigger and more plentiful every year. Tom and Dennis also had some relief in the office with some necessary filing chore getting done. Thanks to all of those that came and participated in the "project", we do appreciate all the hard work. The term 'work week' was well defined this June.

Membership in Train Mountain gives you access to the property 365 days a year. While it is really a lot of fun to be here during a meet, being here during the off days is still a lot of fun too! If you look at the 2013 schedule there is some interesting information and also there is some details that don't show up on the regular schedule. First off if you look at the last date of an event (Sunday of a meet) to the first date of the next event (Saturday of a work week) there are only 20 days to get ready for that next event. During that time many of the local members are active in running the Klamath and Western with two public run days during those few days. If you look at those days between the June Meet and the Operations Meet there is also the constant flow of visitors to Train Mountain and many groups who seek to visit the park. We have had the National Historical Truckers visit, we have had three elementary schools visit (200 plus or so kiddies), we have had the local volunteer Fire Department Annual Picnic here. All of these groups are contributing to TM. We have had a member / vendor, Steve Tune of <http://tunetrains.com/> here working on some features of a brand new engine design. He spent a few days going out and doing some real world testing of his designs. BTW it was pretty neat, please contact Steve for details. So you see there is lots going on at the Mountain. You might also like to read what Jeff Pape wrote about his visit during an off week at the Mountain. Oh Yeah! he mentions the track removal between Hairpin and Ellingson Bridge, that happened during the two OFF weeks! Next week before the Operations Meet work week the gang will start relaying the track up at Witcombe Wye, Just another couple of dull weeks in between the meets! Boyd Butler wrote last issue about not having enough time to do actual track maintenance, now you can see why!

Next up is one of my favorite events, the Operations Meet. We run the railroad using switch lists, train orders, scheduled trains, dispatchers, radio chatter, and so much more. If you have ever wondered how

a real railroad works and why, this would be a good opportunity to learn more. If you don't have a train or don't want to bring one, that's OK. Every train needs more crew! There are yard jobs, tower jobs, dispatcher jobs, even office jobs! I can't wait! Starting this year Train Mountain Institute will begin helping the Operations Meet be more of a railroad educational event.

**Fun at Train Mountain Without a Train!** - Jeff Pape

I spent two days at TM this past week with the intent of trying to do some work around the place. I arrived late Tuesday and on Wednesday morning I got started by doing some pine needle raking around the Central Division. In the afternoon I rode along with Dennis Thompson and Ken Stanfield as they went way up North to fix a couple of insulated rail joiners. In addition we picked up about fifteen green blocks after doing the necessary track repairs.

On Wednesday I got involved helping Art Crisp and Charlie Schubert disassembling the old track on the hairpin section. This involved a lot of on-the-knees work removing rail joiners and tie plate screws and then lifting the track sections out of the ballast to allow for easy pickup by a track train. It is harder than it appears to be. An big effort was made to save all of the screws and leave none in the ballast; the ballast will be recovered and reused and we don't want to cause flat tires on TM's equipment.

Thursday morning found me working with Dennis Ward running his train to haul the track sections loosened yesterday up to the main yard behind the back shop. We made 3 trips with five flat cars. Each trip moved about 400 feet of track. The process involved placing the train on the remaining track alongside the loosened panels, stopping and lifting the panels onto the flat cars. A lot of switching was necessary at the main yard to store the cars of panels and to assemble more cars for the next train. In the afternoon I packed up and headed for home.

Near the work removing the track panels on the Hairpin I got to see Boyd Butler demonstrate interesting operating techniques involving a 'Gator with spray equipment attached.

The second track is probably being removed by now. The process will seem longer as one needs to remove the panels one at a time and have a train nearby to put the panels on rather than let them sit along the right of way. Kind of like the Central Pacific building track to Promontory, only in reverse.

Tom Watson took time from his office work to take photos of the crew. Some will probably be posted pretty soon.

Thanks to everyone I have mentioned for your gracious hospitality. I recommend trying to get to TM in between work weeks and operating weekends -- there is plenty to do and it is not necessary to bring your train.

**From The President** - Jim Armstrong

Just a short note from me for this month; lots of things are happening around the Mountain and most are being reported elsewhere in this issue.

The first of a continuing series of Town Hall Meetings between the TMRR Board and the membership was held Friday evening, May 31 in the Hall of Flags. Attendance was good given the short notice of the meeting. We will be holding one of these meetings on the Friday evening of each Meet for the rest of the regular 2013 season. You may also participate in the Town Hall gathering via a phone conference link if you are not at Train Mountain. We will be sending out an email announcement of the meeting, including the conference link number and dialing instructions a few days before each one.

This forum is a great opportunity to ask questions, give your opinions and input, and also help the Board in creating a

<b><u>2013 Train Mountain Train Meet Schedule</u></b>				
	<b>Operations Meet</b>	<b>August Train Meet</b>	<b>September Train Meet</b>	<b>Fall Colors Train Meet</b>
<b>Work Week</b>	6/22 to 6/27	7/27 to 8/1	8/31 to 9/5	none
<b>Meet</b>	6/28 to 6/30	8/2 to 8/4	9/6 to 9/8	10/11 to 10/13

long range plan for Train Mountain and its future.

Our next scheduled event is the annual Operations Meet. The work week starts on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and runs through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Playing trains using radios to communicate with the Dispatcher, tracking all trains on the Dispatch Board, moving freight using Switch Lists, and getting passengers to their destination on time using Passenger Train Timetables all begins on Friday morning (the 28<sup>th</sup>) at 8am with an orientation meeting in the Hall of Flags. It's always fun for everyone, so please come join us for a few days of volunteering and a weekend of emulating how the Big Boys get their jobs done.

Hope to see you there,

**June's News** - TMIInst - John Black

### **Train Mountain Railroad Name Change Complete**

Railroad Institute is now called Train Mountain Institute. We abbreviate it "TMIInst" to distinguish it from the old entity... Train Mountain Inc which the Breen family operated. We are working on a new website at [www.TMIInst.org](http://www.TMIInst.org)... give us another month or so.

### **Finances**

Last Gazette we published the financials over the last 6 months.

Now Friends of Train Mountain as Custodian and Train Mountain Institute are tangled up in details of transferring the books and business so please don't ask for detailed statements for a month or so while we finish the changeover. We are working on it.... right now we are waiting for the Bank to deliver some stuff.

The news is basically good. Memberships and Meet registrations picked up after the announcement that the IRS liens were discharged... but they trail expectations.... partly because the Timberlake Gates are a concern.

Expenses are about the same. Heating expense is down, but more people at TM drives up a few other expenses.

### **Your Membership in Train Mountain**

When you buy a membership in Train Mountain, actually you are joining the 3 organizations that take responsibility for various aspects of Train Mountain:

Train Mountain Institute (TMIInst) pays the taxes and most of the bills... TMIInst will offer educational opportunities including the Museum. It also runs the Store.

Train Mountain Railroad (TMRR) organizes the meets and has people on site to manage the facilities.

Friends of Train Mountain (Friends) has been building and maintaining the track.

In the coming months it will become clear to everyone why this is a great way to structure TM as we build it up. Stay Tuned.

### **Train Mountain Water System**

On May 7th Klamath County did the once every 10 years inspection of the Train Mountain Water System. The County has sent us a letter that requires TM by Oct 4 to :

- 1) Send them a letter by June 30th outlining our compliance schedule
- 2) Add backflow preventers to the water system. The concern here is that from the wells some pipes go to irrigation and the County wants to be sure that no contaminated water can backflow through the irrigation lines and contaminate the drinking water lines.
- 3) Write an Emergency Response plan for the water system. The County gave us a great example to work from.

- 4) Write a maintenance and operations manual. The county gave us a great example to work from.
- 5) Get Dustin, Richard, and possibly others certified as water system operators. This basically requires sitting at a computer and taking an online course for 6 hours.

Jerry Crane is taking the lead on getting this done. THANK YOU JERRY.

### **Welcome Bill and Rose Marie Dobbs.**

On May 31, Bill and Rose Marie completed their purchase of 18.9 acres on highway 62. They made the deal with Sharon. TMInst acted as quickly as it could to make the transaction close. As agreed, Dustin & Richard put hinges on the Prairie gate on Highway 62.... it had been lying in the dirt supported upright with chains. Bill Shepherd surveyed a WYE so new track from Bill and Rose Marie's house can connect at Cooper. Friends plans to grade that WYE and install the 2 switches at Cooper later this summer.

Bill has been busy getting their house started.

### **A Win-Win Track Deal**

There is a lot of Aluminum rail on Wood Ties that is coming up this year. The Hairpin project, a track replacement project at Canada, a track replacement project near Central Station.... read about this stuff in the Big Build article.

The first priority for this track is Containerville. After that, Bill Dobbs needs a lot of track to build track on his property and build the 3500' run to Cooper. Bill has about 187 steel on plastic track panels that came from Quentin and Sharon's house. We have agreed to a deal in which TM will trade Bill 4 Aluminum on wood track panels for 1 steel on plastic track panel. That gets TM a long way toward laying Witcombe to Aspen and gets Bill enough track to meet his needs without him having to find more cash.

### **Capital Expense Program**

At the May 29 TMRR board meeting the following 2013 Capital Expense Campaign was approved :

\$ 3,000 Fix the Water System Deficiencies  
\$10,000 Engineering and Permits for Sewage Fixes  
\$ 3,000 Retaining Wall Repairs  
\$ 7,200 Containerville Foundation Blocks, French Drain, and lift  
\$ 1,300 Fix Backshop Doors  
\$ 8,000 Replace Roll Up Doors in Hall of Flags with an energy efficient solution  
\$ 5,000 Handrails & Code Improvements  
\$ 2,500 Small Projects... Cieling Fans, Containerville Electricity, Museum Signage, etc.  
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\$40,000 Total

TM plans to launch a fund raising appeal to raise \$40,000 to do these projects in 2013. If not all the money is raised, the 2012 Triennial Committee supports using the \$25,202 in Triennial funds to do this work. We are going to do this work in 2013. The hope is that the money can be raised so the Triennial Funds can be used to make Sewage System improvements in 2014. We want to host you, our meets, our education classes and the 2015 Triennial in a facility that is up to code and that has working toilets.

The proposal is that Train Mountain Institute would raise the money and have the donations be tax deductible. We are working with non-profit tax advisors to be sure that we do this properly. It would be our first tax deductible appeal and we want to be sure we do everything just right. When we get the details worked out, we will formally announce the start of the campaign. We are close to the announcement.

The work has started. TM signed a contract with Adkins Consulting to do the Engineering and Permits for Sewage Fixes. Bert Newberry figured out which Lift we needed to buy for the Transfer /Lift device for Containerville. It has arrived. The ceiling fans have been purchased... Thank you Steve Panzik... and the mounting hardware has been created. At least one is on the ceiling.

We are now looking for a good plumber and a good electrical contractor to help us get the fans hooked up and the water system fixed.

Here is a little more detail :

\$ 3,000 Fix the Water System Deficiencies. The County is going to write TM up and we will have about 60 days to make these mandatory fixes.

\$10,000 Engineering and Permits for Sewage Fixes. This is the first step in getting a solution to the Sewage issues that have troubled Train Mountain for decades. We want to do the engineering and get the permits in 2013 so we can make the fixes in 2014 in time for the 2015 Triennial.

\$ 3,000 Retaining Wall Repairs.. The bases of our retaining walls are deteriorating. If we do not fix this soon, the fix is going to be a lot more expensive. If we do nothing, we will not be using the bridges.

\$ 7,200 Containerville Foundation Blocks, French Drain, and lift. We are going to excavate for the second row of containers at Containerville.. We need the dirt for fill at Hairpin. There is very little decent fill available south of South Chilouquin Road. This is the time to put in the foundation blocks, solve the drainage issues, and install the unloading lift. When this work is done, the other 20 containers can be installed. People who keep their trains at TM help with TM.. supporting all our programs.

\$ 1,300 Fix Backshop Doors. This repair puts sensors on the doors that keep the doors from continuing to operate after they jam. which results in the doors coming off the tracks and a \$375 service call every few months.

\$ 8,000 Replace Roll Up Doors in Hall of Flags with an energy efficient solution.. The 2 big doors leak a lot of heat all winter.

\$ 5,000 Handrails & Code Improvements. we need to bring TM up to code. This is lots of little improvements. and a few bigger projects like adding handrails to the stairs down into the steaming bays.

\$ 2,500 Small Projects... Ceiling Fans, Containerville Electricity, etc.

### **Computer Projector**

TM is buying a computer projector so we can use our computers to better explain things to groups.

### **Disputed Equipment**

We are working on resolving the disputed equipment issues. The Garden Scale train that belonged Mort was returned. Letters have been sent by the attorney, Justin Throne, to Ross Perrin and Sharon Breen. He is awaiting their responses.

### **Ties Update**

Last Gazette we showed drawings of 2 Ties. We have gotten very little feedback. One guy liked the RMI ties. They are 3" high vs the 4" high TM standard. Also they offer no long tie solution for us to build switches. Lee Brooks accurately said that the ties that have relatively thin top plates will look bad because in many places the Ballast is an inch below the top of the tie. We are still looking for the best solution.

### **Hairpin & Containerville**

Another gone, gone, gone story! The track from Hairpin to Ellingson Bridge is gone. The track gang carefully removed the wooden tied track so it can be used on other projects and were especially careful to keep track of all of those screws so they are not part of the ballast. This way the removed ballast can also be recycled for other projects.

### **Witcombe**

Up at Witcombe the weather finally gave us a break and Richard and Dustin were able to finish the dirt work and put down the plastic for the redo of the tail track at Witcombe. The track crew should have that

track work done by the time you all get to read this issue..

## The Big Build

Friends of Train Mountain announces the first annual **Big Build**.

Some of us like to work together. If you like accomplishing stuff.... If you like "Big Show Days" where all the tedious prep work has been done and your efforts show big progress quickly... then you are going to love working with us this September. Dustin & Richard will have several big projects ready to go. We are encouraging everyone to help get the following projects done in September :

### Containerville

Form and pour 44 foundations for the second row of containers at Containerville... in 2 separate pours... footings first, verticals second.

Form and pour foundations for full size rail tracks for the new lift at Containerville to move on.

Lay the full sized rail at Containerville

### Track Laying

Lay the switches for the new Wye at Cooper

Lay the new siding at Schubert

Replace a half mile of aluminum rail on wood ties at Canada

Lay 500' new track at Aspen Grove - part of Witcombe to Aspen

Lay the rest of the track at Containerville

Replace 2 tracks between Containerville and Signal Shack

### Hauling Heavy Trains

Move the track needed for the track laying

Move 140 carloads of Track from Canada to TM

Move 150 carloads of wood from Aspen Grove to 6 Acre Campground

### Ballasting

Increase Ballast from 8' wide to 12' wide between Hope and Ward

Beginning this year Friends plans to do a Big Build every September. We will start with the September Meet Work Week... Aug 31-Sept 5 and we plan to continue working Monday through Friday through most of September.... until we finish the projects or the weather breaks. Dustin & Richard will work with us.

The Big Build is a natural fit with the rhythm of work at TM. In October the weather drives us indoors... We get rained out or mudded out. In about May the ground dries enough so we can do dirt work. June and July we do dirt work. August is too hot to get much done, but Dustin and Richard can stage work for a big push in September when the weather is cool enough to work, but warm enough to be comfortable. All the grade is prepared by September. We are ready to lay track.

Since 2007 a few people have shown up every September and have enjoyed some of the most rewarding work TM has. Now we are inviting you to come help us with the Big Build during most of the month of September.

The Idaho Mafia, The Australians, the local track laying crew of Art, Charlie, Dennis, and Tom, and most of your leaders will be there. We hope to get a lot done, have fun, and establish a great new TM tradition

## Town Meetings

On May 31st TM invited everyone to a "Town Meeting" on Friday night 7:30pm in Central Station. John Black and The TMRR board.... Tom Watson, Jerry Crane, Chuck Barnes, and Dennis Ward sat at the front of the room.... TMRR president Jim Armstrong dialed in by phone from Idaho where Jury Duty held him hostage. The first 10 minutes 2 announcements were made... Bill Dobbs had closed and the 2013 Capital Program. Then for 80 minutes the attendees asked questions. Anything was open for discussion and most of the TM issues were asked about. At the end of the 90 minute session the head table asked if it had been a useful meeting and if the people in attendance wanted to do it again. They wanted to do

it on the Friday night at Every Meet. There may not be enough content to justify that forever, but there certainly is enough content for every remaining meet this year.

Mark your calendars.... **7:30pm - Friday, June 28th, Aug 2, Sept 6, and Oct 18**

We established a conference call line so up to 100 people could call in and hear it. Jim Armstrong told me that it was reasonably clear on the conference call. Tom Watson is ordering us remote microphones for the high end speaker phone to make it even better. The dial in instructions will be emailed out a few days before the Town Meetings.

**TM Strategic Plan**

In the first Town Meeting most of the content came from people asking questions. One of the questions dealt with what TM would look like in 20 or 30 years... what is the vision and how would we get there.

This is a question that the TMRR board has asked themselves many times in many ways. A commitment was made to find a way to involve everyone in answering this far ranging and wide question.... a question that many will have different views on and every view deserves consideration. We are working to figure out how to honor this commitment. Certainly some of the Town Meetings will be used think about a Strategic Plan. Get your thoughts in order.

**Train Mountain Members Library** - Jim and Sabra Rickman

Did you know that Train Mountain RR has a library open to all? Books, magazines, plans, manuals, club newsletters, its all here...upstairs in the former Breen family office. Just follow the signs.

Need a good read? There are two bookshelves in the hallway full of paperbacks for the taking. Please return when you are finished (or bring some more to add to the growing list).

We are accepting non-deductible donations of books, magazines, etc. of hobby and railroading subjects.

Volunteers are always needed. Still a lot to do. See you at the Operations Meet. Until then send your questions, suggestions to our e-mail at [library@tmrr.org](mailto:library@tmrr.org).



<b><u>2013 Operations Meet Event Schedule</u></b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Sat 6/22		Work Week Start	
Sat 6/22	10-3:00	K&W Public Run Day	K&W
Sat 6/22	10-4:00	Quilt Show	Chiloquin
Sun 6/23	10-4:00	Quilt Show	Chiloquin
Sun 6/23	6:00	Welcome Dinner	Central Station
Mon 6/24	8:30	Volunteer Meeting	Hall of Flags
Tue 6/25	8:30	Volunteer Meeting	Hall of Flags
Tue 6/25	6:00	Member Dinner	Central Station
Wed 6/26	8:30	Volunteer Meeting	Hall of Flags
Wed 6/26	6:00	Pizza Night	Wood Family Residence
Thu 6/27	8:30	Volunteer Meeting	Hall of Flags
Thu 6/27	10:30-3:00	Ladies Day	Hall of Flags
Fri 6/28		Operations Meet Start	
Fri 6/28	7:30	Town Hall Meeting	Hall of Flags (*)
Sat 6/29		Operations Meet	
Sat 6/29	10-3:00	K&W Public Run Day	K&W
Sat 6/29	6:00	Member Pot Luck	Central Station
Sun 6/30		Operations Meet Ends	

# PHOTO GALLERY



Here's Steve Tunes new ride, a real good looker with a brand new power system. Contact him for more info. Some kids just never out grow the need to play in the dirt, just like Richard at Containerville.



This is just a couple of the 20 or so trucks that stopped by Train Mountain on their way to Yakima Washington for their annual convention and show. We had our own truck show, very very cool!



Truckers on a train, what a concept. We had as much fun as they did looking at their beautiful trucks. So see there are more expensive hobbies than model railroading! Really!



The dynamic duo doing their deep knee bend exorcises while doing the back breaking part of removing the Hairpin trackage. Another job well done by the duo! Thanks guys!





# PHOTO GALLERY

CONTINUED



Ladies Day at the June Meet was really something to see and enjoy. Just look at the wonderful craftsmanship of these very talented ladies. Remember every Thursday during a work week is Ladies Day at Train Mountain. Bring a Show and Tell of your latest craft. These ladies were all preparing for the upcoming Quilt Show that will be held during the opening weekend of the Operation Meet Work Week, June 22nd and 23rd.



I almost forgot, with all of the great work getting done I almost didn't post any pictures of the the fun we had running trains! We made several trips around the layout and even took time out for a great picnic out at Crane Siding. We passed the Kludt Klan out doing the same thing at Hope Circle. Great meet, great fun. You should have been there!



Here's a few more shots of the track gang removing the old wooden tied track from the Hairpin area. This track is some of the oldest remaining track laid at Train Mountain.



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P.O. Box 438  
Chiloquin, OR 97624  
Email: [info@tmrr.org](mailto:info@tmrr.org) Phone: 541-783-3030

**SOLID DESIGN**

# 2 1/2 inch scale EBT Hoppers



**\$3750 for #882**



**\$3500 for #954**

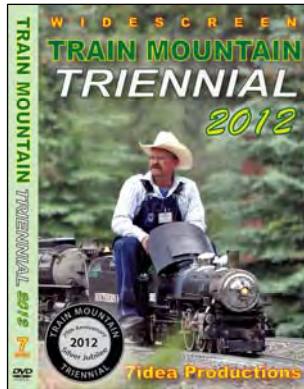
As advertised in Live Steam Magazine  
**Call Adam @ 989-330-6663**

Currently at Train Mountain  
See Bill Dobbs for info

The terrific video that Aaron Bentsen from 7Idea Productions shot at the 2012 Triennial is 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](http://www.discoverlivesteam.com)



Did you see the great article and front cover story from the January /February 2013 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!



[www.livesteam.net/home](http://www.livesteam.net/home)

 **Chiloquilters**  
Chiloquin Oregon

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Show**  
June 22nd & June 23rd

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Chiloquin Community Center  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Admission \$3  
Seniors \$2

Featured Quilter Fran Coker

**Quilts, Door Prizes, Raffles, Vendors, Food, and More Quilts!**

140 So. First Street, Chiloquin Oregon

Contact: Linda  
**541-281-7101**

**Editor:**  
Russ Wood - russ@hobby-tronics.com  
**Contributors:**  
TMRR BOD, Friends  
**Photos:**  
Tom Watson

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