



NEWSLETTER

Denver Garden Railway Society



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MEMBERS ONLY

Pete Hendel



View From the Caboose

February, ahhh, the month of love, the month of snow and cold, the month when gardeners get lots of flower magazines and catalogues and garden railroaders dream of getting back into the yard and running some trains. I haven't made or bought a single valentine, and I don't think I will. Perhaps I enjoyed too many years in an elementary school surrounded by red and pink hearts and way too much sugar!

Craig is finding it too cold to be in the garage working on painting his new Heisler steam locomotive so he is on the computer, making spreadsheets and ordering materials and tools needed for his next challenging steam project. I have thumbed through some of the

magazines that found their way into my mailbox, but I am determined to reduce, not introduce lots more work into my garden this year. So I am doing some very minor repairs to buildings that live on our layout in the spring and summer and hide in the basement during the cold weather. I found myself stimulated by the many buildings Don McCullough shared with us at the January meeting and am motivated by the beautiful work Jo Ann Varney did on a couple of the donated buildings Don brought in November. So, I have the glue and paint out and have started sprucing up a few of my buildings. Perhaps I will be ahead of the game for the first time ever when we start running our trains again.

Thanks to a large donation of many buildings we can expect to see more buildings at a future meeting for us to adopt and add to our own railroads. The swap meet at the end of this month may also provide some train related projects for many of us and some yummy pizza!

It is hard to imagine having more fun in February than we will at our swap meet and pizza party(February 27th). We will start promptly at 7:00 PM and ask that you try not to start wheeling and dealing prior to start time. There will be a short business meeting to go over a few things, so most of the evening will be dedicated to buying, selling, eating and visiting!

Bring your items to sell and get your cash out of the cookie jar. There will be no show and tell, just buy and sell, eat and barter. It should be lots of fun! We will clean up and shut down shortly after 8:00PM. If you are available to help clean up, your help is much appreciated!!

Cherylene Evans

It is time to pay your dues for next year:

Annual dues for 2024 are \$48 for a family membership, or \$36 for an individual.

Mail your check to: Al Blount, 6038 Iris Way, Arvada, CO 80004. or bring it to the **February** meeting.

If you want your membership card, please include a self-addressed stamped envelop with your check.

In March, you will not get the newsletter nor the email blasts unless you pay your dues for 2024

Garden Trains on Facebook and YouTube

Facebook has Public and Private Groups.

A Public group on FaceBook allows anyone to see who's in the group and what they post. It is visible to anyone. A Private Group allows only members to see who's in the group and what they post. Most Groups are visible and anyone can find the group. When you join Facebook, you do not have to provide any information that you do not want to share with others.

This is a **Public Group**: [GRNews on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/groups/grnews), and you do not need a Facebook account to view.

The following are **Private Groups**, and you need a Facebook account and join the group to see what is posted.

DGRS has a Private group page (Denver Garden Railway Society). Videos of the operations and others are posted there. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/970224199655068/>

These are other Private Groups:

G Scale Trains: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/248809748503280/>

LGB Train fans: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/52647946993/>

LGB Train Sales & Trades: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/316404888778962/>

GScale.Net: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gscale/>

G-Scale- Garden Trains: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/268889036532980/>

There are many other groups on Facebook that have similar interests.

YouTube

You do not need an account to see posts on YouTube. There are a lot of posts on YouTube that have nothing to do with our hobby.

Newsletter Contributors this Month - A Special Thank You to each

Al Blount	Byron Fenton	Jim Desautel	Pete Lammer
Alan Olson	Cherylene Evans	Joe Foss	Vivian Pershing
Anne Loring	Dean Vande Berg	John Cushman	Walter Weart
Bob Dunlap	Don McCullogh	John Hart	
Bob Finch	Eric Petty	Marilou Hendel	
Bob Leise	James Mackay	Michele Miller	



Programs

2024

February 27, 2024

Our Annual Swap Meet and Pizza night along with our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Bring your stuff and be ready to bargain at 7:00 pm.

March 26

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Michelle Kempema from the Greeley Museum will present a talk on the Greeley Museum Trains.

April 30

Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Sean Jackson, who is one of the leaders at the Durango & Silverton railroads car shop, will do an overview of the recent projects in the car shop as well as the roundhouse.

May 28

We will find a nursery where we can meet and learn some new stuff about plants for our layouts.

June, 29, Saturday

Picnic and swap meet at the CRRM

July 30

Ice Cream Social at the Miller home

August 24, Saturday

General Meeting at Larkspur, LCRR, Bob & Glenn Leise's home.

September

We are looking for ideas for the fall meetings

Ron Keiser

We Need YOU to be our Clinic Chair!

Our club can't keep going without volunteers, and we need someone to step up to serve as Clinic Chair for 2024.

YOU can do this!

You don't have to present the clinics! We already have a volunteer to teach a clinic in the summer for our youth members and other new G-scale modelers on how to use model train tools and how to do basic jobs like installing Kadee couplers. We also have a likely presenter for a DCC clinic.

The Clinic Chair would make arrangements for the clinics, attend one Board meeting per month as a voting Board member, and help come up with other ideas for clinics and clinic presenters. It's not all on your shoulders – other members will help.

Please contact President Cherylene Evans (contact information is in the newsletter or see her at the meeting) and let her know if you will be our 2024 Clinic Chair. Thank you!!!

Hospitality

Here's what Hospitality has planned in the coming months:

GENERAL MEETING: February 27, 2024—Our Annual DGRS Pizza Party to accompany the Winter Swap Meet!!! Interestingly, this day is National Anosmia (loss of smell) Awareness Day. I'm guessing our VP Ann Loring knows this 😊. Come for the deals but stay for the amazing taste (and smells!) of a variety of pizzas. No dessert unless you want to bring something, but plenty of water and soda to accompany the food!

No Show and Tell for February Meeting

There will be no Show and Tell time at the February 27th meeting. Please bring your projects to share at the March 26th meeting instead. The February meeting is primarily devoted to the Swap Meet and pizza with only a short business meeting (we have to approve the minutes from the last meeting).

GENERAL MEETING: March 26, 2024—Easter's early this year—bring a favorite springtime treat to share (and if not top secret, a copy of the recipe for people to snap a photo of!).

GENERAL MEETING: April 30, 2024—If so led, this day is National Oatmeal Cookie Day. Bring your creative twist on this cookie, or bring a special treat with oatmeal. Or...there are many other yummy food choices featured each day in the month of April. Bring one of those! I'm eyeing the chocolate mousse, pretzel, or caramel corn, all featured on different days...so hard to choose!

May typically sends us back to the great outdoors-look for meetings at a plant nursery.

June: Our summer picnic and Swap Meet at the Colorado Railroad Museum in June. Hold the 29th date. Details later.

July 30th will be our General Meeting/ Annual Ice Cream Social (at the Miller's unless someone else wants to host).

August 24th meeting/picnic at the Larkspur Consolidated Railroad.

Keep coming to the General Meetings at the Clements Center—we'll have updates on events as things line up in the next couple months.

If for any reason you're unable to make the meetings because of transportation issues, we already have several carpool groups that have developed. Let me know if having a ride would make a difference in your attending, and we'll make sure to facilitate that!

We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting. As always, find me if we haven't talked in a while, or if you're new to the DGRS. We do have a good number of new members. Please remember to wear your badge so we can put names together with faces. For those who have ordered badges and picked them up, THANKS! A good number are still in the Layout Alpine Tunnel Building, awaiting their homes. If you'd like it brought to the next meeting, let us know and we'll get it to you.

Can't wait to see everyone! Reach out to me if you have any questions!

Michele Miller

OUTREACH:

It's all about FUN (with some engineering, modeling, and gardening thrown in!).

Museum DGRS Layout opportunities continue on days of regular operations. All it takes is a rail truck, trolley, or small engine on Track 7 and a friendly face to help people run it! The snowy weather has interfered on some of the days folks would be out, but warmer days are ahead.

In addition to operators helping out at the DGRS layout, the club continues to look for community based outreach. Terry Foley, Outreach Chair, did a couple events as Train Santa for his Rotary club in December, and has his sights set on planned Rec Center events (starting with South Suburban as a pilot) this spring. Stay tuned, and let him know if you'd like to be involved in the planning! This will hopefully attract people (individuals and families) to the hobby.

The Outreach Committee is also eager to hear any ideas club members might have as to school or community events that DGRS could travel to. Please let us know of these, and we'll do our best to make it work!

Outreach also includes helping those in our club who might need help with a specific project that would allow for railways to be built or continue operating. But we need to hear from you!

Talk to Eric Petty, Terry Foley, Alan Olson, or Michele Miller if wanting more information.

Don McCulloch made this Pettibone Rail Crane from a LGB#4042 Matra crane car, a New Science flat-bed semi-tractor truck and a Aristo-Craft#29358 motor block. Over 90% of the unit utilized the Matra crane and truck parts. Cutting required pieces cutout with a flexible-shaft tool and a rotary sawblade. He added a engine motor from a die-cast car. The tool box, railroad wheel assembly and crane cab were made from scratch. Garden RAILWAYS OCTOBER 2013 featured a in depth article on this project.



Don McCulloch



Don McCulloch

EXHIBITS

Most of you know about the car accident that landed Scott Vance in the hospital with broken ribs, knee, and multiple stitches. The accident happened on February 3. That was the Friday night that it snowed with heavy, wet snow that was so very hard to shovel the next day.

I visited him at the hospital on Monday to find him in ICU looking like he had been made up to star as the victim in a crime movie and feeling terrible. He was not able to get out of bed at that time. I returned 8 days later, to find him looking dang good! The stitches are ready to come out and he can walk with help. He still has a chest tube because all of his ribs were broken on the right side of his body. He is hopeful that the tube can be removed soon. Then they will look at the right knee to see what needs to be done for it. There are fractures and perhaps ligaments that are damaged, but the lungs and chest has been the priority.

Scott enjoys cards and visits and is looking forward to going home in the not too distant future. DeAnn is struggling with the dog that was also injured in the car accident. He kept chewing up the cone and pulling out his stitches. Fortunately he is healing and the worst of that issue is nearing an end.

The DGRS participation in the Spring 2024 Rocky Mountain Train Show is a **Big Deal** for us. It earned us a fair amount of money last year and we have a very large layout to set up and run for the show. Scott has been our guy in charge of displays, but he will not be able to do all of that work this year. Fortunately, Dale Underwood has volunteered to help get the show on the road, but we will need more volunteers to assist. I am counting on those of you who still have knees that can get down and back up off the floor, and backs that can unload and load the track and equipment into the trailer. Scott is planning to be there to direct, but will likely have to be held back from over doing and re-injuring himself. If you are one of those able people please put April 5 (set up date), April 6, and April 7 on your calendar. We are going to need your help this year. Many hands make for light work!



As always we will want members to sign up in March to bring their trains to run during the show.

Cherylene

From DeAnn Vance

Scott would like to say Thank You to all of the members that sent cards and stopped by to visit.

Rocky Mountain Train Show - Spring 2024, April 6th & 7th

<https://rockymountaintrainshow.com/Default.aspx>

National Western Complex, 4655 Humboldt St., Denver, CO 80216

DGRS will be setting up on April 5, at 8:00 AM. There will be lots of tracks to run on Saturday and Sunday. AM and PM shifts for both days. Takedown will be on Sunday at 4 PM.

Come run trains with us and enjoy having conversations with people that also love trains.

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

These are some of the special days coming up in the next four months where we need DGRS members to operate trains, and have fun, in our garden railway.

- **Rail Days on April 25th and 26.**

Steamers #20 and #491 fire up to pull trains around the CRRM loop. Several display locomotives and cars are open for visitors climb into including steam engines, diesels and cabooses. A working hand pumped track maintenance car is in action and the turntable will moving around.

- **"SCFD Free Day on May 9th.**

The Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) opens up many museums with free admission, including the Colorado Railroad Museum.

- **"Dinosaur Express Days" June 1st and 2nd.**

Various groups bring interesting displays of geology and fossils to the museum. The most popular item seems to be a very large T-rex that walks around the museum grounds. It sometimes bends down so children can look into its mouth.

- **"Colorado Power Days" June 22nd and 23rd.**

The Museum is open to antique automobiles, farm tractors, gas powered washing machines and more machines of a bygone era. This year a vertical boiler two cylinder steam powered "ride-on" lawn mower may show up.

Please sign up for these special event days to reserve a time and track. Send a text or an email to Alan or Don to participate.

Alan Olson



Alan Olson

Snow Photos at the Colorado Railroad Museum



Alan Olson



Alan Olson



Alan Olson



Pete Lammer



Don McCullough



Luke Miller

Restoration of the Colorado Railroad Museum Vista Dome Project is almost complete. Two history plaques at the monument base have been restored and now look new.



Bob Dunlap

The Vista Dome car has all new glass windows. The dome has been rebuilt with new front and back stainless steel window frames. We used plastic for the curved dome windows which was shaped with heat guns. The end stirrups will be added after the car is in place. The entire car has been polished and buffed and black paint has been used to restore the D&RGW lettering. The radio antenna has been rebuilt located along the center of the roof.

Bullet holes in the car body are still visible and not restored due to the amount of damage. While located in Glenwood Canyon, the vista dome car was apparently used as a gun target and took a few hits.

The finished Vista Dome Project will be ready for the 75th anniversary of the vista dome concept conceived in Glenwood Canyon. The 75th anniversary celebration will be in March or April of this year and will overlook the DGRS Garden Railroad.

Bob Dunlap



Photos by Cherylene Evans

Train News

Rocky Mountain Railroad Club

This page shows interesting railroad happenings as well as breaking railroad news. Check it often as you may learn about new events and ideas for your railroad. [Rocky Mountain News and Photos](#).

Rail Pictures and Videos

Photos from all over the US. You can select the locomotive type, railroad, location, etc.
<http://www.railpictures.net>

Colorado Railroads

Colorado Railroads, a site for the fans of past and present railroads serving the Centennial State.
<http://www.corailroads.com/>

Abandoned Rails

Featuring thousands of miles of abandoned railroad routes in North America, illustrated with maps, pictures, and history.
<https://www.abandonedrails.com/>

Hobo Brunch

The Hobo Brunch Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. Next meeting **March 9** at Valley Inn. Just show up, no reservations necessary!

Location: **Valley Inn,**

1997 S. Wadsworth Blvd. Lakewood

Please contact Byron & Marta Fenton with questions.

I don't think there are any Hobo's on this freight!



Walter Weart

**The forerunner
of the Geese.**
from Pete Lammer



Choo Choo Sew

February 2024

We are learning so much about how to work with knit material (t-shirts) in quilts. We will have a throw quilt that some lucky person will get to enjoy while snuggling up to watch a movie on TV or read a favorite book. We have arranged and rearranged the t-shirts to make this first quilt and I know this will not be my last t-shirt quilt. My daughter in law has asked me to make a quilt for her from all of the t-shirts she earned running marathons. The train t-shirts keep trickling in, so another t-shirt quilt may be created for DGRS....or we may decide to make vests to wear displaying our many train patches and pins.

Craig and I have been blessed with a new great granddaughter! Cameron Smith made her debut after a rather nerve wracking January in Hawaii. Mom and Dad were vacationing with family when the water broke, and mom was hospitalized in Honolulu for 4 weeks while the doctors monitored the baby and helped to keep her growing and mom healthy. She and her mom were allowed to fly home to San Jose, CA a week after delivery in early February where she was met by her big brother and grandparents. We are most anxious to meet this little girl and deliver the quilt I have made for her.



We plan to drive to California to meet her and play with her big brother (3 yrs.old) in March. After a short visit with this family, the plans are to drive to Central Oregon to visit our 4 other great grand children and their parents, our grandsons and their wives, as well as our son and daughter in law.

Sooo, Choo Choo Sew will not be meeting in March. I have a baby to to hold. We will gather again in April!

Cherylene Evans



Garden Railway Club News

This section is an opportunity for our members to learn from the efforts, tips, techniques, and news of other garden railway clubs. Please Click on each club name below **or** go the following link to access all the clubs:

<https://www.denvergardenrailway.org/index.php/links-to-other-clubs/>

[Northern Colorado Garden Railroaders](#)



**Northern Colorado
Garden Railroaders**

[***Mile High Garden Railway Society***](#)

THE GARDEN WHISTLE

[New Zealand Large Scale Newsletter](#)

[Bay Area Garden Railway Society](#)



[Puget Sound Garden Railway Society](#)



[Rose City Garden Railway Society](#)



[North Texas Garden Railroad Club](#)



[Gold Coast Garden Railway Society](#)



[Northern Ohio Garden Railway Society](#)



[Garden Railroading News \(GR News\)](#)

digital magazine

[Central California Coast Garden Railroad Society](#)



Invitation to the 2024 G-Scale Southeast Regional Get-Together

Friday, August 23rd – Sunday, August 25th

During most years since 1985, there has been a G-Scale garden railroading national convention hosted annually by different large scale model train clubs across the country even though there is no actual national garden railroading organization. The host organization selected at the previous convention becomes the national organization in the year they are the host. Unfortunately, no national convention will be hosted for 2024 since no one volunteered to host it. However, smaller regional get-togethers have been encouraged to take place.



As such, the **Georgia Garden Railway Society (GGRS)** elected to partner with the multi-scale 65th Atlanta Model Train Show to be held at the Gas South Convention Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, Georgia 30097, on Saturday, August 24th, to host a G-Scale Southeast Regional Get-Together that will feature:

- Up to 10 self-guided metro-Atlanta area garden railway tours daily on Friday, August 23rd, and Sunday, August 25th;
- some out-of-area garden railway tours off selected major Interstates on Thursday, August 22nd, and Sunday, August 25th;
- Tours of the new warehouse facility for nationally known model train retailer TRAINZ on Friday, August 23rd;
- an optional indoor Get-Together Dinner on Friday evening of August 23rd featuring door prizes; suggestions for area dining, entertainment, and train venues; and a preview of train show vendors;
- an enhanced G-scale vendor presence at the 65th Atlanta Model Train Show in Duluth, Georgia, on Saturday, August 24th, including a multi-table White Elephant Sale by GGRS members; and,
- G-scale oriented “how-to” and railroad history clinics.

Since the model train show is a fixed venue, GGRS arranged with the closest motel, Embassy Suites, to block off a number of rooms for get-together attendees and to allow those attending our G-scale activities to pick up get-together packages at Embassy Suites. A link to special rates will be posted at our website: www.ggrs.info.

The Registration Package will include driving instructions and a schedule of garden railroad yard tours hosted by members of the Georgia Garden Railway Society (9:00-4:00 Friday and Sunday), a \$1 discount coupon for each family member toward admission to the 65th Atlanta Model Train Show on August 24th (parking is a separate fee), 2 get-together pins for a family registration, driving instructions and passes you may have purchased to the Friday evening get-together dinner, a get-together car if ordered, a list of G-scale vendors at the train show, and other useful information. The Registration Package will be available at the host hotel lobby of Embassy Suites, 2029 Satellite Blvd., Duluth, GA 30097, one block from the convention center on Thursday evening from 4:00-7:00 and Friday morning 7:00-9:00. Late arrivals can also obtain the package at the dinner Friday evening or at the GGRS Membership Table at the convention center on Saturday.

A Dinner Get-Together on Friday night will be a picnic buffet at the nearby Gwinnett County Bethesda Park Senior Center at 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. and will feature door prizes, raffles, tips on additional area shopping and train venues, and more. There is no entrance or parking fee at the dinner site. There will be no bus services provided for this or other Get-Together venues.

A get-together train car will be available. Details are forthcoming. Registrants will be updated on this and other get-together news on a monthly basis.

2024 G-Scale Southeast Regional Get-Together Registration Form

August 23 – 25, 2024

(Please Print Legibly)

Badge Name #1: _____ Badge Name #2: _____

Child Badge #3: _____ Child Badge #4: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Preferred Phone Contact Numbers (Up to 2): _____

Email Address To Receive Updated Information: _____

If arriving by automobile on Thursday, please note the major Interstate highway you will use in Georgia so that we may schedule additional yard layout tours along your route on Thursday. _____

An advance electronic version of the yard tour information will be available 2 weeks prior to the get-together for an additional fee of \$10. Please circle one: (Yes / No)

Select from the following Registration Fees:

Early Registration (Before June 1st): Individual \$25 _____ Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) \$35 _____

Late Registration (After May 31st): Individual \$40 _____ Family (2 Adults & 2 Children) \$50 _____

Will you be lodging at the Embassy Suites? (Yes / No)

Dinner Reservation on Friday Evening: \$25 Each Person _____

A Get-together Car (USA Trains L&N Event Car) will be available to the first 100 ordering one or more at the cost of \$70 each. This purchase is being arranged through the Georgia Garden Railway Society on behalf of a private individual. Details and a photo rendering will be posted on the GGRS website in the near future.

Number of Get-together Cars Ordered: _____ \$_____

The Georgia Garden Railway Society hosts numerous activities during the year. To receive our monthly newsletter and invitations to 1:1 rail excursions, warm weather pot-luck luncheon yard tours, train show activity, swap meets, access to our member-only website section, and future conventions, you may wish to obtain a family membership for 2024 for only \$25: \$_____

Please make payment by check in full to "GGRS" mailed to:

Terry Manning
1201 Timber Glen Ct SW
Lilburn, GA 30047

For GGRS Use: Date Received _____ Check # _____ Amount \$_____

Registration: \$_____ E-Tour Info: \$_____ Dinner: \$_____ Car: \$_____ Membership: \$_____

You can go to the following link for more information: <https://ggrs.info/southern-get-together>

Publications

The best experience of the DGRS newsletter is to read it online or download it and read it on the computer or tablet. Articles and topics provide links to photos, videos, additional information and enhanced content that supplements the article.

If you print it and read it off-line, you will miss a lot of the content. As an example, there may be links to other web sites, documents and movies that you would not be able to access if the newsletter was printed.

Any links in this newsletter were active at the time of publishing. In some cases, the web site may have ceased operation, the material was removed or expired, and it is no longer available. We have no control over these issues, but try to make sure the links are active at publication time.

The newsletter content is for DGRS members and all Garden Railroad club members. We do not share email addresses nor telephone numbers within the general part of the newsletter. For DGRS members, there is a Members Only section that is not distributed to other organizations.

If you need to contact DGRS, the following email addresses are available:

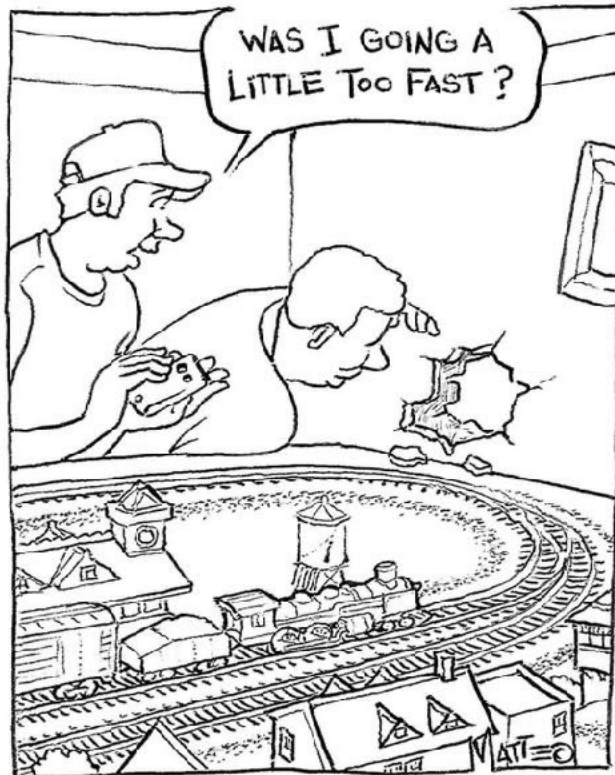
Club President: president@denvergardenrailway.org

Web Site: webmaster@DenverGardenRailway.org

Newsletter: publications@denvergardenrailway.org



From Pete Lammer after reading last month's DGRS Newsletter



The Present and Future of Rail

Part 2

Spain, India, Taiwan

In the previous article, we considered developments in high-speed rail in the U.K., France, Japan and Africa. It is clear that many nations, even many that we sometimes think of as “developing nations” from an industrial/technology point of view, are embracing high speed rail. As populations shift from rural economies to manufacturing or technological/knowledge based (and increasingly urban) I consider that this trend will accelerate.

TAIWAN

Now this can be complicated.

Taiwan is in the news these days, so I think a little side trip to Taiwan’s history is warranted. Taiwan has historically been part of mainland China for thousands of years – little wonder, as it is only 112 miles (sea miles) from the mainland. Taiwan’s history has often been one of being under someone’s thumb – China or Japan in the 18th and 19 Century. After World War II ended, the Chinese Civil war resumed. The Chinese Communists prevailed, with ethnic Chinese evacuating China, fleeing from the Chinese Communists but essentially invading Taiwan to survive. Today, historically indigenous Taiwanese are a minority in their own homeland. However, the population of Taiwan identifies themselves as mostly Taiwanese, separate from China, although 84% of the population are ethnically Chinese. The population is about 24 million people.

Physically, Taiwan is mountainous in its core interior, with forested plains as you approach from the west coast. Although Taiwan (technically calling itself the Republic of China, as opposed to the Peoples Republic of China – the mainland) it is not a huge place: 168 islands (including the big one, Formosa) comprising 13,974 square miles. For comparison, Colorado comprises 204,185 square miles. 7 languages are commonly used in the islands, although Chinese is the major one.

Taiwan is a democracy, and a well-off one. Its GDP is 1,785 trillion (20th in the world) with a per capita income of \$72,485 – clearly a developed nation. To make things even more interesting, China claims Taiwan and its islands as its own. The US Government is not too keen on this, as it would bring a rich and prosperous – and fiercely independent and capitalist society – under Chinese control. Some industries in Taiwan are vital to the world economy, like semiconductor production. Taiwan produces 20% of the global semiconductor market, and operates the first, second, and fourth largest semiconductor manufacturers in the world, including the suppliers of Apple.

If all that sounds complicated, it is. **Now let’s get to the trains.**

Taiwan realized early that their booming economy and resulting congestion of automobile and aviation traffic called for a rail solution, the Taiwanese High Speed Rail Project. The system runs from just north of the capital, Taipei, down the length of Formosa on the western part (along the coast) to Kaohsiung (wow!)-217 miles. Initially, they had planned to adopt a German/French ICE style configuration (Intercity Express) but switched to the Japanese Shinkansen (modern Bullet train, built by a Kawasaki Heavy Industries led consortium) technology and equipment.



Joe Foss

Taiwan's Shinkansen

This resulted in a dandy lawsuit with the German/French consortium winning in arbitration to compensate for their development costs. (to the tune of 85 million, US). At least in part, the motivation of the Taiwanese system choice was economic: the system is privately financed, and the Japanese offered low cost "soft" loans to finance the project. That caused THSR to switch to the Shinkansen equipment and technology.

Construction began in 1999 and operations began in 2007. They were up to 120,000 passengers daily at that time. They operate with a 99% punctuality level at 177-196 miles per hour. It's power is electric, overhead.

INDIA

India currently has no high-speed rail. Current rail traffic tops out at under 100 mph. Construction of high-speed systems have been approved by the government, and construction of the first of 8 HS corridors is underway.

The first one will be a line from Mumbai (old New Delhi) to Ahmedabad.

India of course, is a nation of more than a billion people, surpassing China (which has a declining population) as late as last year. The project proceeds from an MOU between India and Japan, (signed in 2013) and will use the Shinkansen (Japanese Bullet Train) technology.



Joe Foss

Indias WAP-7-LOCO

The train sets are to be built in India. Like other high speed rail systems, the train will be on a dedicated viaduct to eliminate conflicts with other transportation. Both the COVID pandemic and setbacks in acquiring land for the right of way has delayed the completion of this first leg of the system from 2023 to a projected completion date of 2028.

India has moved slowly from Steam to Diesel to Electrically powered railways. Currently any railroad technology they possess tops out at under 100 mph, which is not classified as "high speed" (generally considered to be 160 mph or more,) As with other Shinkansen railroads, the expectation is that they will achieve speeds of 199 mph, with average speeds of 162 mph.

One significant problem facing the development of rail in India is gauge: currently, most of India's railway is five feet six inches between the rails. Therefore, India has a real interoperability issue with Shinkansen, which runs on standard gauge (four feet eight and one half inches in width.) There are plans to upgrade the existing lines so that they are capable of handling 124 mph passenger traffic.

SPAIN

Spain has been very aggressive in developing high-speed rail. The first high-speed service opened in 1992, interconnecting Seville, Cordoba, Puertollano and Ciudad Real. The trains are sleek, quiet, good looking with excellent service.

The system uses TGV technology (a natural, as their system interconnects with France to the north). They currently have 2,464 miles of HS track, second in the world in size (second only to China). This makes it possible to ride interconnected trains from Barcelona all the way to the UK, Paris, even Belgium (but you must switch railroads as you cross international borders).

Unlike India, Spain has also developed interoperability with the broad gauge (5 feet 6 inches gauge, also called Iberian Gauge)

so both standard gauge (TGV) and Iberian gauge can run on the same rails throughout the nation.

We had the opportunity to sample Spanish high-speed in 2023, taking the train from Barcelona to Madrid. Boarding and luggage handling was easy, and we were quickly underway on time. The terrain in Spain, mostly on the plain when we were on the train resembled Southern California more than its French neighbor. Service was excellent, and the beverage/snack cart was soon coming around to our chairs.



Joe Foss

Spains RENFE_AVE_Velaro_

Joe Foss

Next Time: CHINA

The World of 7 ½ Trains

Night Rides at Train Mountain

Within the Larkspur Consolidated Railroad (LCRR) crew, several crew members really enjoy riding our trains at night. The others are happy to ride trains anytime, so as a group we try to arrange one or two Night Rides when we are together. This article describes one such night ride at Train Mountain last July.

Without doubt, riding our trains at night is a different experience, especially during the summer. Summer days can be hot and uncomfortable riding during the heat of the day, so it is especially welcoming to ride as the sun is setting, light turns into dark, and the temperature falls to a comfortable, less oppressive, level.

We arrived at the home we rented on a Sunday late afternoon. Monday morning, we were up and headed to Train Mountain to check-in, pay our fees, watch the safety video, and do some shopping in their store. Afterward, we unloaded our trains from the trailer, and transferred them to several empty tracks at the unloading area called the Crist Yard located near the Central Station. (The Crist Yard is also where we parked our trains when not in use.) The unloading took a couple of hours, and then we were ready to ride. That was during the heat of the day, and the temp was in the middle 90's. We felt baked and overheated, but the equipment ran great. At that time, we decided our ride on Tuesday would be night ride, so we would not get so hot.

Tuesday came and we spent the heat of the day in the rented home. It was nice and cool. Somewhere around 4 pm, we headed to Train Mountain to prep our trains, load our food and cool drinks, and begin our first night ride. One of the disadvantages of Night Rides is not being able to see the layout of our surroundings so we could keep aware of where we were located within the layout, located on over 2,200 acres, spread over an area 2 miles wide by 4 miles long. However, having traversed all the 37 miles of track during previous visits, we felt comfortable setting out to ride in the dark. Our comfort level was aided by understanding how the designers of Train Mountain designed the routes throughout the 37 miles of track. With forward-thinking, they designed the layout so if you set every switch to the

green flag, rather than the yellow flag, it will take you back to central station.

So we really were not concerned about getting lost in all of those miles of track because we knew we could always get back to the station by following the green flags.

As we readied our trains, our excitement grew. We were finally loaded and prepped, and departed the Central Station (Crist Yard).



Sharon Underwood

Leaving the Crist Yard while it was still dusk.



Sharon Underwood

Before the sun actually set, we arrived at the New Section above.

As the sun was setting, the headlights on our locomotives became invaluable. See photos below.



Sharon Underwood



Marilou Hendel

As darkness covered the land, we felt a sense of peace and tranquility as we enjoyed the quiet with the only noise coming from our locomotives. One of the enjoyments of a Night Ride is seeing only the part of the forest illuminated by the headlights. Our vision became focused on what was right in front of us rather than the distant scenery and mountain tops. Another enjoyment was watching the moon appear between the trees in the forest. See photos below.



Sharon Underwood

Our ride that night lasted about 3 hours. It was peaceful, cool, and a great delight riding the rails with our very good friends. It was also truly remarkable to see how the Train Mountain volunteers considered how the different structures within the layout could be illuminated for riders such as us to be mesmerized at night. After riding for a couple of hours in the dark, we decided to head back to Central Station.

Our path took us by one of the campgrounds for the volunteers at Train Mountain. We enjoyed seeing the many RVs with the owners gathered around several camp fires enjoying each other's company. We can only imagine what train stories were being told around those camp fires.



Sharon Underwood



Sharon Underwood

After passing the RV campground and were nearing Central Station, we began to see the various signal lights giving us clearance to enter or telling us to wait.

As we went through Central Station and entered the well-lit Crist Yard marking the end of the Night Ride, we covered our locomotives and put our trains to bed. As we left the yard, we turned out the lights and headed back to our rented home. As we left, we felt a great sense of gratitude for our good fortune to enjoy a Night Ride with its cooler, less oppressive temperatures as well as the freedom to be out in nature.

We also discussed how good it would be to take another were Night Ride later in the week.

Jim Desautel

Photos by Sharon Underwood



John Cushman

John Cushman and Ron Keiser spent the afternoon trying to recreate a recent "Jerry Day" photo of the D&S Flanger number OF, trimming the snow from the mainline. In our pictures all of the numbers of caboose, flanger and engine are prototypically correct. However, the picture has one flaw. Can you spot it?

In Ron's basement there is no snow.

SNOW !!!!!

A selection of photos from DGRS members and their fun with Snow.



John Hart

John Hart's Skyline and Scree Scenic RR has had to cease all operations after a freak snowstorm buried its tracks with over 30 (model) feet of heavy wet snow on Feb 3-4.



Bob Dunlap



Bob Dunlap



Bob Dunlap



Pete Hendel

"Now what do we do?"
The snowplow came off the track at the Lastchance station.



Dean Vande Burg



Dean Vande Burg



Dean Vande Burg



John Cushman

Deliveries are postponed today



Byron Fenton



Byron Fenton



Cherylene Evans



Jim Desautel



Jim Desautel



Jim Desautel



Jim Desautel



Walter Weart



Shawn Viggiano



Walter Weart



Bob Leise

It even snows on 7 1/2" tracks

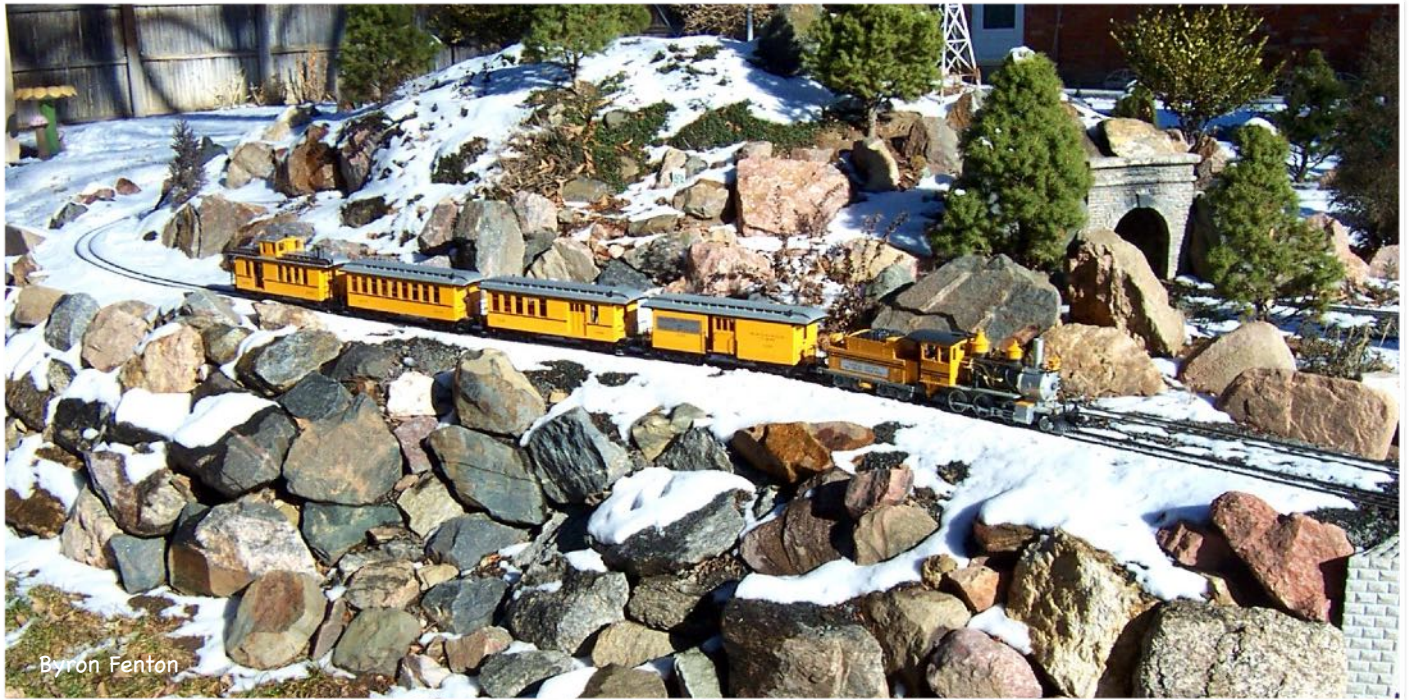


Bob Leise



Bob Leise

<- Hopefully the snow will melt before our August DGRS meeting



Thanks to GR News for publishing this article in the January/February issue:

CLUB CORNER

Curated by Bill Derville, Past President
Rose City Garden Railway Society • Portland, Oregon

Club Corner is a column I started in May/June 2021. Its purpose is to help club members and club leadership think of new club activities and ways to attract new members and retain membership.

One thing every club needs is people willing to become club officers and the enthusiasm to make things happen. Club leadership sounds like a lot of work, but it usually isn't nearly as hard as people think. If you care about your club's future, please consider running for office and do your part to make your club more fun and find ways to attract new members. If you don't want to run for office, you can still find ways to help the club. Volunteer to help with something. None of our clubs are for-profit organizations, so without volunteers, nothing happens.

Continued on page 14 of the January/February issue of the Garden Railway News at:

<https://dl.orangedox.com/GRNews2024.1.JanFeb2024>

Share your ideas with me by email at bill@derville4.com and your club's experiences may be in a future column.



2024 DGRS Calendar

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
Feb 27, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our Annual Swap Meet and Pizza night along with our short General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center.	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214
Mar 5, Tuesday	DGRS Board Meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug Mayes Office. 7114 W. Jefferson Ave, Suite 210, Lakewood 80235 or via Zoom
Mar 9, Sat	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
Mar 26, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Michelle Kempema from the Greeley Museum will present a program on the trains at the Greeley Museum.	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214
April, 2, Tuesday	DGRS Board Meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug Mayes Office. 7114 W. Jefferson Ave, Suite 210, Lakewood 80235 or via Zoom
Apr 13, Saturday	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
Apr 18, Thursday	Choo Choo Sew Everyone is invited and will be welcome.	Contact Cherylene Evans for time and details: 8061 W Grand Ave, Littleton CO 80123
Apr 25 & 26, Thurs & Friday	Rail Days at the CRRM. Steamers #20 and #491 fire up to pull trains around the CRRM loop.	Members are requested to sign up to run trains on the club layout for this event, 9am - 3pm. Most of these operating shifts are 4 hours long. Please call Don McCullough or Alan Olson to support these activities at the museum.
Apr 30, Tuesday	General Meeting. Our regular General Meeting will be held at the Clements Community Center. Sean Jackson, who is one of the leaders at the Durango & Silverton railroads car shop, will do an overview of the recent projects in the car shop as well as the roundhouse.	7:00 PM, Clements Community Center 1580 Yarrow St., Lakewood, CO 80214
May 7, Tuesday	DGRS Board Meeting	7:00 PM, @ Doug Mayes Office. 7114 W. Jefferson Ave, Suite 210, Lakewood 80235 or via Zoom
May 11, Saturday	Hobo Brunch; Members get together and swap stories at breakfast.	8:30 am at the Valley Inn, 1997 S Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO
May 16, Thursday	Choo Choo Sew Everyone is invited and will be welcome.	Contact Cherylene Evans for time and details: 8061 W Grand Ave, Littleton CO 80123