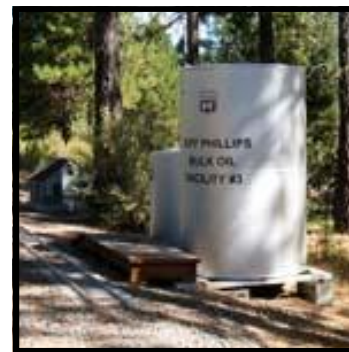




# The Mountain GAZETTE

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## September 2009 From the Manager



**Dang, time flies!** It seems we just got started and it is September already. I guess we have been so busy or I watch the calendar too much. I am starting this article early to keep Carol from nagging me. She plans on leaving for a vacation to the Mid-West and I don't want to slow her down but I do want to thank her for the wonderful job she has been doing with the Gazette. Thank you so much for handling it while Russ was out exploring.

**Back to the Triennial** – the most asked question about the Triennial (to me anyhow) has been if I thought it was a success. I guess I never think of it not being a success, just because I can't imagine anything you all work so hard toward ever being less than a huge success. How would one measure the success of an

event like the Triennial? We can examine parts of it such as the financial side, the safety side, the fun factor, or the numbers of people and equipment, but when it comes to me, I see the gleam of happy and satisfied railroaders having survived a Triennial. Even with all the work and travel, they had great grins and lots of stories to take home. Not everyone had their expectations met, and I hope they will come again and hit that mark, but I have to think that as a whole, it was great. Just the opportunity to see all of you, to chat with you about what you have been doing since last we met and what you have built or seen in this great hobby, was amazing. Then after the cards, emails, photos and articles in papers and newsletters subsided, and I sat back and read them all, all I could think was WOW! It was special and everyone knows it. When thinking back to an earlier article and thinking about Quentin, I thought he would be proud. Now I know he is.

**Thinking about** all the safety issues and what the fire and insurance folks will want to hear we are doing, it all comes down to prevention. Prevention is brought forth by education and we must know how to protect this place we love. Yes, I am working on all these things and more, but as I said before, it's a complex issue. It needs to work right out of the box. No, I don't think it's about rules but about responsibility for ourselves and each other. More to come as the plan comes together, and please keep sending me your thoughts and comments.

**Track is in through** Schubert Wye now and will be ballasted during work week, Signal appliances and conduits are in as well and the electronic folks will be here next week to work their magic.

This is a straight-forward railroad to build, until you get to ballasting. Then we have some problems, such as plastic pipes 8 inches out from the ties running parallel and pipes crossing the grade in many spots. Then there is the issue of running the ballast long distances to get it there. Some of the guys are working on the ballast cars, ballasting parts of the track from the cars and getting pipe covered up for the gators but it is a such a labor intensive process. Come on over and lend a hand, they say many hands make light work.

**News update:** The September Meet is at a close and we had lots of fun and lots of work. Track is now in past Crane Siding and is ready to ballast from Schubert to Crane Siding. A great job was done by the 28 or so workers hauling track, laying plastic, laying track and cleaning up. See, many hands do make light work. Over 6500' of track has been laid since the Triennial and almost half of it is ballasted.

**As always for September**, there was lots of equipment to check out and lots of discussion of winter repairs and projects to be ready for spring. Trains were running hard and some snuck out to the end of track, even



Eddie, Paul, Richard, Chris & Dustin take a break while they wait for track panels

Photo by Dennis Ward

though it wasn't ballasted just because they had to! It is pretty amazing out there; I can't wait to take a train out just to see the views.

**The "Good Guy Award"** this month goes to a really great Canadian! Al Witcombe has been a part of Train Mountain for a long time (some 15 years I think) and has adopted my favorite spot on Train Mountain out in the Back Shop. Thanks to Al and others the load of responsibility has been lessened for me and Al keeps folks in line and keeps their equipment running. Thanks for all your help Al.

**After September's Meet** we start membership renewals for next year, anything after September 11<sup>th</sup> will be good till the end of 2010. You will find increases in rates because as a business we have to make business decisions that will insure our survival and the future of Train Mountain. Most folks I have polled are understanding and expect this. However we did not go to the extremes needed and will work on additional fund raisers to meet the budget demands. I hope you will understand and will also renew your membership at the highest level possible. Your membership and registration fees must cover meet operations and facility operations, but right now they fall very short of this goal. While the store, rental/lease space, and donations all help with the bottom line, they also fall short of budget needs. This increase will help close the gap and I thank you in advance for supporting Train Mountain.

**Congratulations** to the new Life Members: Al Witcombe, Jerry & Louise Balf and Russ & Linda Wood. Talk to you soon,

Ross

[tmrrgm@trainmountain.org](mailto:tmrrgm@trainmountain.org)

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## New Display Items

**Thanks to Steve & Pam Panzik**, we now have a couple of new items for our Maintenance-of-Way display. Steve arranged for the donation of a pair of 1940s passenger car trucks and a Gondola by Union Pacific, and then he and Pam paid the costs of moving them to Train Mountain. Thank you so much, Steve & Pam!



Photos provided by Dennis Ward.

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**Menu for the Fall Colors Meet banquet:** *Your choice of Sirloin Tip or Roasted Chicken. Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli, Creamed Peas with Potatoes and Onion, Oatmeal Rolls and Amaretto Spice Cake.*

**NOTE:** Banquet reservations and your meat selection are due in by September 18, but since the newsletter is late coming out this month because of the meet, if you ask Alma nicely, she may give you an extension..



## Tender Half September 2009



Many of you have asked About the Triennial 2009 DVD. I will share what I know. I spoke with Susan (wife of the producer) and told her I've been telling people it would be available late October or early November. She told me in a very reassuring voice to keep telling people that and that she would put the pressure on Greg. I promise you I will put them online as soon as they get here.

I've been able to spend some time on the website and many things that were new to the store this summer are now on line. I also rearranged a bit and made some new categories. I've listed the category where you can find each item on the following ad page.

Of course the boxes of new Christmas items did not arrive until after I had sent the ad to print, but I can give you a sneak peek:



Pretty Cool Stuff.....I'll have them online ASAP

I also have something very special coming for Chessie lovers. Thanks to Christy Ford, we are getting plush Chessie kittens in pink Pullman blankets. They are adorable!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you were at the Triennial, you may have gotten a taste of Sara Ackerman's Blueberry Buckle. She has generously shared the recipe, which you will find in "Bits & Pieces".

Lastly.....Be thinking about Halloween. Many of you already know that Ross' birthday is October 30<sup>th</sup> and that Halloween is one of his favorite holidays. We've hosted a party the past few years, but this year Halloween falls on a Saturday and we are hoping that more people might be able to come. It will be in the Hall of Flags. Costumes are optional.....Ross and I already have ours. There will be more details to come, but basically bring a snack to share, BYOB and come and have fun.

TTFN, Kay



Dennis Ward delivering track panels for the track to Schubert Wye. This was obviously before Dennis overshot the end of the existing track and created "Dennis' Divot"!

Photo provided by Dennis Ward (he just didn't know what an opportunity he was providing to tell stories on him!)

## Notes from the Noxious Weed Princess



The best way to rid the property of thistles (Canada or otherwise) is to first identify the weed.



Then while wearing gloves, use clippers to snip off each blossom head.



BAG the blossom heads in plastic. These should be taken to the burn pile. (Be sure to NOT leave the plastic in the burn pile.)



If you have a weed spray, use it on the remaining plant. Otherwise, contact me with the location of the weed(s) and I'll go after them with my weed spray.

**As a side note**, I would like to thank everyone who has helped this year with the constant battle against the noxious weeds. I think we're winning the individual battles; we should soon win the war!!!

**Toni Brooks**

aka Noxious Weed Princess

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## Visitor Comments



**Gary, Cathy and Adam Madlinger** from the New Jersey Live Steamers attended our September meet, and very generously shared their impressions of Train Mountain during their visit:

**"The scale of the facility** is overwhelming. We've heard about it, but to see it really impresses you with the planning and care that goes into making Train Mountain. For all its size and grandeur, the one that that most impressed us is that Train Mountain is still at heart a Live Steam Train club with members who enjoy their facility, their fellow members and their traditions. That makes Train Mountain a very comfortable place for any Live Steamer to visit.

**The people we've met** at Train Mountain are absolutely fantastic.

Everyone went out of their way to make us feel at home. They shared their time, their experiences and their beautiful equipment with us – the people made the difference!"

**NJLiveSteamers@gmail.com**

**We're pleased** that you enjoyed your visit and we hope to see you, and many of your friends, at Train Mountain in the future! (And Cathy, apologies for getting you with your eyes closed)



# Already September!



Gosh, here we are, already past the September Meet! Where did this summer go?

The October Gazette may be a little late. Pat & I are taking off for an indefinite period of time on the 20th of September for a trip back to Minnesota to see my brother and his wife, then up into Canada. We have a tentative route and schedule, but we're allowing ourselves the liberty of changing it as we go if we choose to. I don't know when Russ & Linda will be back, or if he's going to want to take a little more time off. At least you'll be prepared if we run late next month.

This month there's a new addition to the Gazette—"Bits & Pieces", a place to share news and information about our members that we think might be of interest to you. The continuation of this column will depend on whether there is information to share—so your contributions will be important. Any tidbits of interest or events you'd like to send out to Train Mountain members? Just let me know, please! Ladies, just a reminder—if the Gazette is sent to your household online and you're having problems getting your husband to remember to share it with you, we can send a copy directly to you if you have your own email address. Just send a quick email to [cpl@lanctot.us](mailto:cpl@lanctot.us) and we'll take care of it!

Carol

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## Bits & Pieces

**Lee & Joanne Breuer** recently joined the ranks of fulltime local members; they sold their home in Garibaldi, Oregon and bought a new home only a couple of miles from Train Mountain. Well, Lee is pretty much full-time; Joanne still travels frequently for her business.

**There are a few birthdays** (that I know about) between now and the time we anticipate publishing the next issue of the Gazette, so our wishes for a very Happy Birthday and another great year go out to Pam Panzik, Bert Newberry, Paul Aragon & Jeff Phillips.

**A huge thank you** to Bev Blenkinsop and Carol LaBerge who painted the motor pool bathroom, put up a train border and signs from the store, hung a curtain and laid rugs. It looks great!



**New Life Members** were inducted at the banquet Saturday night: Al Witcombe, Jerry & Louise Balf and Russ & Linda Wood—with a round of applause for all that you've done for Train Mountain!



**The flat car** donated by Steve Tune for raffle was won by Bill Kludt. Congratulations Bill, and thank you to all who supported the fund-raising project by buying tickets.

**Dennis Weaver & Bill Dobbs** were kind enough to take me for a ride—Dennis was engineer of Bill's train—on Saturday, and here are some of the sights I saw:



Crisp Bridge



Matt Monson



Mort & Dennis Ediger working on their garden railroad



At left, Dick Bartel  
At right, a tunnel - that's Steven Easlon who was sitting in front of me.

Photos by Carol Lancot



And now, Sara's recipe, courtesy of Kay:

### *Sara's Blueberry Buckle*

$\frac{3}{4}$  C. sugar

$\frac{1}{4}$  C soft shortening

1 egg

$\frac{1}{2}$  C. milk

2 C. flour

2 t. baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$  C. blueberries (Sara uses frozen and dusts them with flour, so they don't sink to the bottom)

Mix together thoroughly sugar, shortening and egg; stir in milk. Sift together flour, baking powder and salt; stir all together. Blend in 1 C. blueberries and spread batter in greased & floured 8" square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 min.

Sprinkle with the following topping:

$\frac{1}{2}$  C sugar

$\frac{1}{3}$  Cup sifted flour

$\frac{1}{2}$  t. cinnamon

$\frac{1}{4}$  C soft butter

This recipe can easily be doubled.

Thanks Sara!!!



Photo by Kay Perrin

**Dudley to the Rescue!** Dudley Do-Right arrived in the nick of time to rescue Nell—such a hero! As Usual, Snidely Whiplash escaped (you can see him running away in the back-ground). Kay has contracted with Dudley to stand guard at the sawmill.



Photo by Carol Lancot

**Left:** Jeff Mills visits with Jim Davenport as Jim gets his train ready to go out for a run.

**Right:** Ed & Bev Rehberg and their train-size companion



Photo by Carol Lancot

To contact The Mountain Gazette during Russ' absence: [cpl@lanctot.us](mailto:cpl@lanctot.us)

#### **Contributors:**

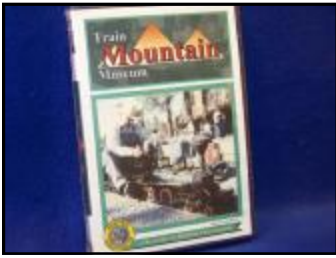
Sharon Breen, Ross Perrin, Kay Perrin, Toni Brooks & the Madlinger family

Photos - Dennis Ward, Carol Lancot, Kay Perrin

Production - Carol Lancot, Alma Weber & Peg Schubert



# Now Available Online!!!!



**DVD Train Mountain**  
1996 -1998



**Steve Booth DVD**



**Safety Video**  
DVD 2009



**Clothing**  
Jr. Engineer Tee



**Whistles Stop Products & For Your**



**Purses & Wallets**



**Apparel Accessories/Belts & Belt Buckles**

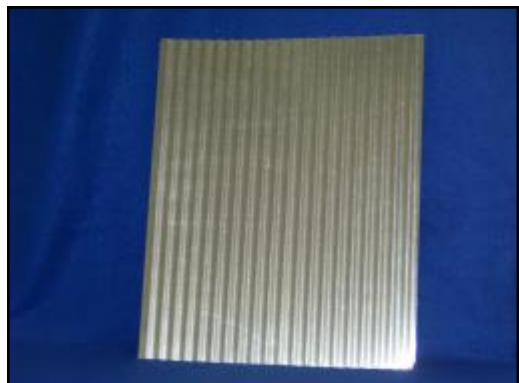


**Parts/ Brilliant**  
**LED Signal Light**  
**heads by Alan**  
**Reigler**



**Mousepads, mousepads mousepads**

**Parts: Corrugated Aluminum**  
**by Bert Newberry**



**Conductor Flags**  
**& Whistles &**  
**Flashlight with**  
**red cone**



**Banks/ Silver Bank**

