



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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**Dear Members:** What a full year it has been! Yet, the year is not quite over...there are some very special elves & Santa(s) sneaking around! Read on.

I am still amazed at all that you folks have done through 2009 & what that has meant to Train Mountain. It has meant a great deal to me, personally, as well. If you had given up, my heart would be broken. But you didn't and I don't believe you will in the future, even in the face of strong challenges.

I will do my best in taking care of the challenges. Just wish me strength & health! **I do appreciate you folks so much**, and the wholesomeness of the hobby, that I am encouraged & look forward to many wonderful days & events ahead. Best of fall days to you,

**Sharon**

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## FROM THE EDITOR – Russ Wood

Well your 'other' editor is back and wow what a trip! 12,000 miles, 28 states and 90 QUILT SHOPS! Yes, I said 90 – ninety, but it really was fun!

In the last issue of the Gazette was the announcement of some new Life Members. Jerry & Louise Balf, Al Witcombe and Linda & myself. Congratulations to all. Linda and I are very pleased and almost speechless. We have been members for many years. We didn't have the funds to make the monetary investments some have made to Train Mountain, we did however make the complete commitment to Quentin's Dream by selling our house, we left our jobs, friends, and family and moved to Chiloquin. That was 9 years ago and we have enjoyed the experience very much. Thank you Train Mountain, we will try to live up to the high standards that the other life members have set!

Speaking of the Gazette, Carol has done a wonderful job and has raised the bar for the Gazette. I will try and to get up to the new level. I think the plan is to set the Gazette up with two co-editors, Carol and myself. That way we can take some side trips and not be tied to the publication dates of the Gazette. Sounds good to me and I look forward to the next 100 issues!

Linda and I left on our journey right after the Triennial. When we arrived back in Chiloquin, we were blown away with what you folks accomplished during the next two meets! WOW! Remember when John took you folks on that van ride out into the woods and after some period of time he stopped and let you out to see the beautiful water tower at Crane Siding? Well folks you can now get there on your train! How's that for progress! This progress is possible because of the coordinated efforts of the staff and the volunteers. The staff had everything prepped and ready to rock and roll. When the volunteers showed up they were able to lay the track and get it ballasted. It is this coordinated effort that makes it work. Neither group can accomplish as much as they can by combining their efforts. In addition, Dennis Ward and Lee Breuer filled in the places that could not be finished during the regular meets. A hardy 'well done' to all concerned.

During the Fall Colors Meet, we were introduced to a new color to the mix, and that color was **blue!** The color was of course added due to the very COLD conditions. During the meet, we had a major derailment that took out one of the switches on the mainline. At any other meet that could have been a very bad problem, as it should have shut down half the railroad. However in addition to the track out in North Country, YOU the members, laid and ballasted the 2% Solution trackage. This allowed us to simply throw one switch and by pass the track until it could be repaired.

The Mountain is growing and changing and getting better and better. Even the gang at the Klamath and Western were busy making things better by pouring cement for a new walkway for the public access.

*(Continued on page 2)*

In this issue you will find a letter to the editor and some thoughts from Ross, our General Manager. Both contain comments about 'other' things going on around Train Mountain. I have some very strong feelings about this. Quentin created a beautiful wonderland, but sitting around making libelous comments about family, staff, and members serves no purpose but to show how very little respect they have of such a great accomplishment. If they spent 1/10<sup>th</sup> the energy trying to make it work instead of trying to make a mess, we would all be a lot better off. PLEASE read the letter to the editor, and, of course, please read the Manager's report.



It's dues time folks. Train Mountain is the biggest, best, most fun, best views, longest run, live steam park in the world! It is also one of the best deals! I have followed, with some amusement, when the topic of Train Mountain dues comes up. I will review what you get with your payment of the current years dues:

1. Access to Train Mountain during non-meet days! That's 314 days per year.
2. Discount access to any of 7 meets per year. That's 21 event days per year.
3. The Mountain Gazette club newsletter 12 times per year.
4. Membership CD containing membership roster, past Gazette's, and more.
5. Calendar, membership badge/pin.

For some reason many members don't know that Train Mountain is here for you to run on every day. A few members take advantage of this, but most do not. Train Mountain is also visited, almost daily, by guests from around the world. Whenever possible, they end their visit getting a walking tour and a train ride. The train rides are given by anyone who is here, but for the most part, they are given by the locals. Here's the bottom-line on membership, for LESS THAN 50 CENTS PER DAY, it's a real good deal!

As we make the transition from fun run season to the fun off-season, the locals are shifting into party mode! First comes the Halloween Party, then the holiday season with lots of stuff going on. This is also when we get the snow gear out and make sure everything is in order for the coming plowing season. Of course, we also must make sure that the track is in good working order before it gets covered up. I will, however, restate though that these activities are not just for the locals, if you are going to be in the area, please come join in the fun. Give Alma a call and see what might be going on. You know, maybe if we could get everyone in the party mood maybe the other moods would go away. Just a thought!

Russ Wood, Editor, The Mountain Gazette

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#### FROM THE MANAGER – Ross Perrin

We had the Fall Colors Meet and it was quite beautiful out there on the rails, but you should see it now. With some more cool nights and warm days, the colors are just popping. During the meet, we worked a little and played a lot. We even spent an evening in the meadow below Caboose Ridge watching the moon rise and sipping champagne. It just doesn't get much better than that! Thanks for all your help and coming to see us change to fall.



Fall mode brings on lots of preparation for winter, such as last minute track repairs and winterizing everything we can. Also, it's time for much needed time off for staff and cutting back to winter hours. The office will be closed Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, but Alma will be there to take care of your needs Tuesday thru Thursday. As always, you can reach me by phone at 541-783-3778 or 541-892-6543 and my email [tmrrgm@trainmountain.org](mailto:tmrrgm@trainmountain.org).

This time of year means more need for security because you guys are all gone and I don't have the benefit of your eyes watching over things. We will also now be having you sign in and out when you are at Train Mountain. This is for a number of reasons, including security and creating a volunteer hour record for an application for 501(c)3 tax status. Also, a big part of this is for your safety and security. By signing in and out, we know that you're here and that you returned from the railroad without incident. Also, in case of emergencies we know if you're still here and we can find you.

We will also be installing a security system donated by Al Taylor and Alma Weber. With video cameras, we have a much better tool for protecting Train Mountain.

*(Continued on page 3)*

This year, we are doing a Santa's Workshop kind of thing for 9 days in December as a fund raiser and community project. We will have a steamer bringing folks around to the Hall of Flags where they can get refreshments, see Santa, check out an operating Garden Railroad, get a picture with Santa and shop in the store. Anyone that can help is needed, so please give us a call and we will fill you in. Do you have any other fund raising ideas? Please feel free to suggest them.

Thinking ahead to next spring, we need to concentrate on maintaining the track and tuning it up to Train Mountain Standards. So gear up and get ready, there is a lot to do. The south side of the highway is where the big traffic is and that causes many issues that a good tune up will solve.

In this time of rumors and trash talk, it is hard to focus on where the opportunities are hiding and turn things into positive efforts. As Hank Todaro spoke at the last banquet, I was taken back to a time when the dream Quentin had was forming and everyone was excited to follow his lead and build Train Mountain. The dream of Train Mountain has been turned into a reality and we are charged with keeping it going. There was a fire in Hank's voice telling us to support what has been accomplished with all your might and he is sincere. While many of you can't be here a lot, we want Train Mountain to always be here when you can come see us and it is going to take some work to make that happen.

While many things appear to be threatening us, they will all go by the wayside as we conquer the issues and dispel the rumors. Sharon is committed to this task, as am I and the staff. Even the FTM staff that is losing their jobs has a great deal of loyalty to the membership and the Mountain. Not that they wouldn't, but even in these trying times they show their support. We will push forward and we will run trains on the longest hobby railroad in the world.

What can you do? Renew your membership and get your friends to join. Let Sharon know this is a battle you want her to fight and win, learn the truth and develop your own opinions without the influence of rumors. Talk to those involved in our reality. Ask the Train Mountain Board your questions by e-mail to: [Sharon@trainmountain.org](mailto:Sharon@trainmountain.org).

Things are going to be difficult and we need YOU!

Happy Halloween, Talk to you soon:  
Ross Perrin, General manager

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#### **TENDER HALF – Kay Perrin**



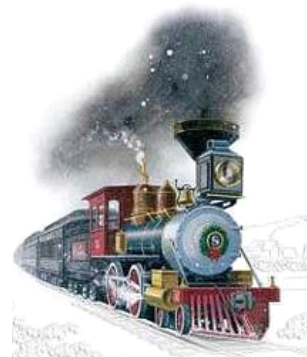
The camp grounds are emptying and people are returning home. It reminds me of the last day of school...the end of a fun-filled season. Now it's time to regroup and make plans for the future. Train Mountain is planning new activities to fill in some of our slower months.

The Train Mountain Champagne Starlight has already had a dry run (no pun intended, especially since there was plenty of liquid refreshment flowing) and was unanimously declared a success. Les Dent and his conductor, Dennis Ward ran his train from Central Station to Helena Siding while their passengers relaxed and sipped their champagne or sparkling cider. The site was ready with seating, crackers, fruit, cheese and refills. We watched the moon rise over Ca-boose Ridge and enjoyed the outdoors companionship. Everyone seemed to have a marvelous time. We're thinking that this may be a fundraising activity open to the public in the spring.

We are going to offer the community a train ride to Santa's workshop from December 11-20th. This is a rather large fundraising undertaking, so anyone interested in helping is welcome. The decorating will begin the first of November. Dennis and Mort Ediger will be setting up their G scale display. There will be a huge tree to make beautiful and Santa's picture taking station to build. All elves are welcome and will be kept busy, busy, busy you might even get a candy cane out of the deal.



Did you know that Santa has been  
to Train Mountain?  
He has, and he's coming back in  
December!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



Please remember that October 31st is a Saturday this year, so if you can work us into your plans, we (the Perrins and the Balfs) would love to have you attend our Halloween Party. It will begin at 8:00 in the evening and go until we've all had enough. Costumes are optional, but most of us will be wearing them. Please bring some sort of snack to share with everyone and bring your own beverage. Dale and Veronica Taylor will be here with their music. If you haven't heard Veronica sing, you are in for a real treat.

I have spoken to the Triennial 2009 DVD people. They are very aware that I wanted the DVD by late October/early November. However it looks like it will be available more towards the end of November. Maybe we'll be surprised. Keep watching the website: [www.trainmountain.org/store](http://www.trainmountain.org/store).

Our **new** store website ([www.trainmountainstore.com](http://www.trainmountainstore.com)) will be up soon, hopefully by the end of October. (Don't worry. There will be links from the old site to the new.) It promises to be much more user friendly. You will actually be able to search for an item, instead of guessing where I might have put it. Although I have to say, you're getting quite good at it. Orders have been coming in. I encourage any of you looking for Christmas items to get them now. They were very hard to get and I have a limited supply. The larger companies grab them up at the Trade Fairs.

### ***Chessie is here!***

*These are both collector's items...when they're gone, they're gone.*



Lastly, I have a great potty training tip from George Hayden. He shared that when his grandson was at the right age, the child asked to go for a train ride. Grandpa answered very sorrowfully that he couldn't go on the train yet, because of course he wasn't potty trained. You guessed it! Within 6 weeks, the child was a master.

With that ....TTFN Kay Perrin

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## **MUSINGS FROM MIDWAY – ‘Mort’ and Dennis Ediger**

Great things are happening at G-Ville. We have almost 1000 feet of track laid which includes a completed circle around the pond, over a long bridge. The new circle also ties into the original figure 8.

We are very excited about next year because Midway Garden Railroad (G-Ville) will be on the open house schedule prior to the National Garden Railway Convention to be held in Tacoma, WA.

The convention dates are Aug. 1st through the 8th and we'll be open one or some days the week before for travelers coming north. This should be good exposure for G-Ville as well as to Train Mountain and should be a lot of fun.

Mort 'n' Denny



*(Continued on page 5)*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Hank Todaro

At the Fall Colors Meet, I gave a sort of presentation of my thoughts on the current situation at Train Mountain. The following is the full text of that presentation:

*My Fellow Train Mountaineer's:*

*There has been a huge amount of water over the dam this past year. We have lost our revered leader and there are other issues that threaten the existence of Train Mountain.*

*To Sharon Breen, we all owe the existence of Train Mountain. Sharon could have easily walked away, throwing her hands in the air. No one would blame her or question why, knowing what she faced alone. Never have so many owed so much to one person for her efforts and tenacity in her fight to keep Train Mountain alive. There is no good reason to rehash all the problems, dilemmas, mistakes and situations of the past. The majority of these issues are in the past and it would be in the best interest to leave them there. It will serve no useful purpose to dig these bones up and chew on them. Sharon and Greg have a good handle on these issues.*

*We also owe our thanks to Sharon for the exhausting time and huge effort to keep the torch lit. That is the van guard of Quentin's dream. In effect, the enemy is now at the gates. Sharon has made the choice to stand and fight. She has embarked on a noble crusade which has come at probably the most difficult time in her life. Sharon has shown us (the membership), and her foes, what she is made of. As Train Mountain members, it is our place to fall in behind Sharon and go forward with this noble crusade.*

*OK, this is what we can do: Stop all of the sky is falling and end of the world negative rumors. Believe and preach that Train Mountain is here to stay, flourish and grow beyond our leader's dreams.*

*What can you do as a member of Train Mountain?*

*We all have abilities, talents and unique personalities. Lets face it, the cream of the live steam large scale model railroaders of our hobby are members of Train Mountain. Our efforts lead the majority of the hobbyists of the world. These hobbyists outside of Train Mountain look at us for leadership, innovation and standards which are set forth at Train Mountain. We have all heard, "This is how it's done at Train Mountain". Yes, my friends, we have become the keepers of Train Mountain.*

*Most of us Train Mountaineers live in the hinder lands far away from Chiloquin, Oregon. We all go to train meets and shows in our own areas. Most of us visit with fellow hobbyists and others who have a interest in trains in general. This is your opportunity to sign them up as members. Tell them about Train Mountain; the way we are going forward and how every railroader must, at least once in their lives, make the pilgrimage to the Mecca of our hobby, Train Mountain, the center of the world of live steam-large scale model railroading. SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS!*

*Let me explain the above statement:*

*I talked with Quentin many times since I first met him over 15 years ago. We have shared many thoughts, concepts and ideas. I could see his dream and where Quentin wanted to go with it. I have said many times, even in my articles, that Quentin's greatest pleasure came from watching us, the members, running our trains. The comrade we all have, the following of ideas, concepts and turning these thoughts into reality have shaped our hobby and have continued to carry forth through the hobby industry. He was a great director, always building the empire of Train Mountain for us to enjoy.*

*My last deep discussion with Quentin happened during the Narrow Gauge '08 meet. He told me that Train Mountain, from now on, is ours (the membership) and he was done. It was up to us to keep it going! I know now what he meant; that he knew that he had major health problems along with other overpowering issues. What he was saying in essence was, "Guys, I got ya'll this far. The rest is up to ya'll."*

*Ok, ya'll have heard freedom is not free. Well, Train Mountain is free no longer. If we want Train Mountain, we are going to have to fight for it just like our boys & girls in the service of our country. Our shining hour has now begun.*

*All this being said: NOW HEAR THIS! TRAIN MOUNTAIN WILL NOT GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT! TRAIN MOUNTAIN IS GOING TO KICK, FIGHT, SCREAM AND DRAW BLOOD FROM OUR FOE'S UNTIL THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY.*

*To all of our members who are veterans of our military service: to quote a patriotic phrase:*

*During the Spanish American war, Admiral Dewey, commanding the US Navy's Asiatic fleet, upon engaging a possible superior Spanish fleet and shore batteries in Manila Bay in the Philippines, gave the order, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!" !*

Hank Todaro



Here are two more  
pix from Midway  
Garden Railroad at  
Train Mountain



Check out these fall colors here at  
Train Mountain. The leaves have  
turned even prettier since this picture.



# **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED 2010 TRAIN MEET SCHEDULE.**

We have added a Narrow Gauge Work Week for 2010, which will be Monday, May 10 - Thursday, May 13. As the track has expanded, we need more help from more people to make the condition of the track more enjoyable and safe again after winter. This has always been a volunteer effort. Come early for the work, fun and camaraderie.

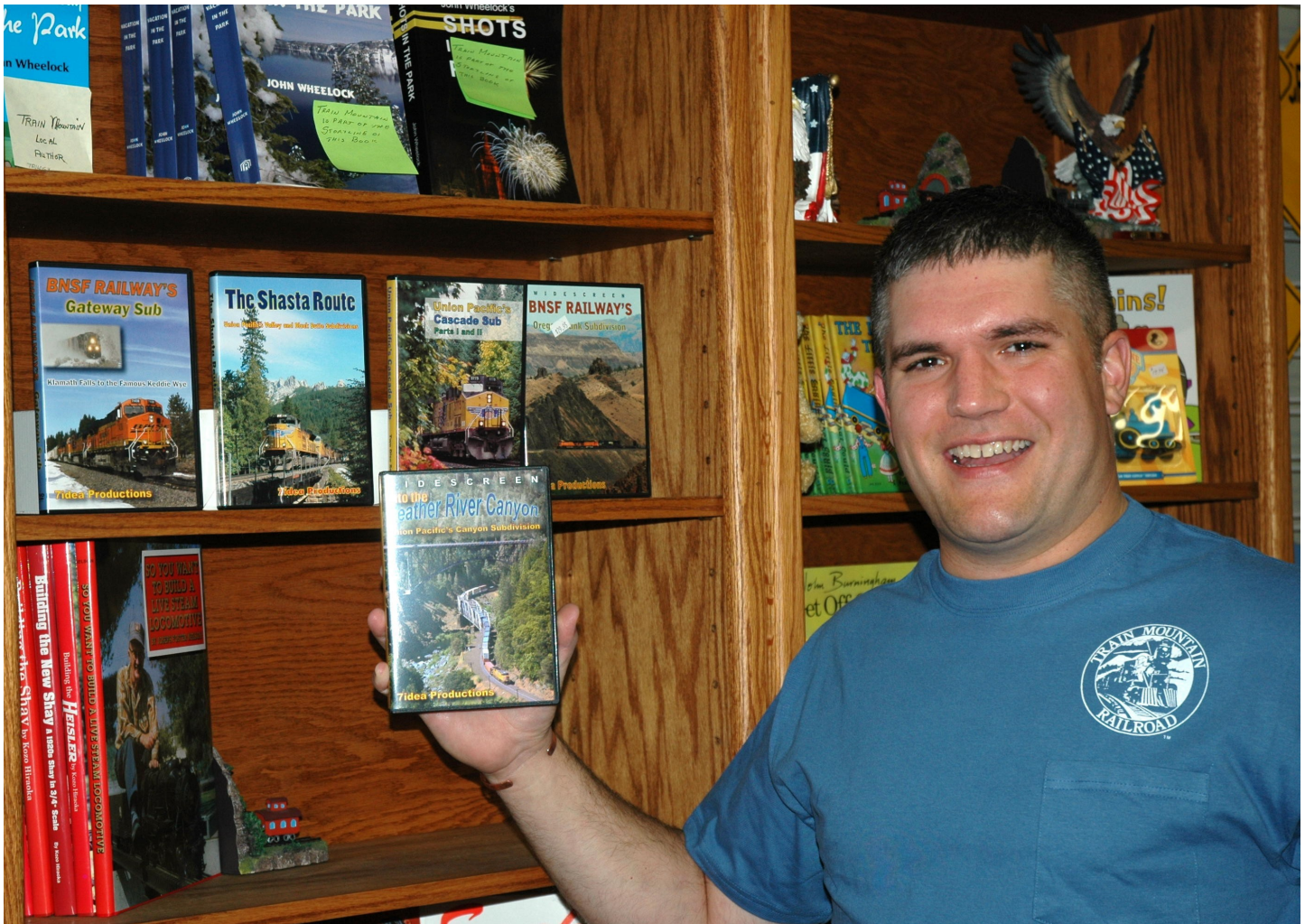
Also note the Operations Meet is going to be over the 4th of July Holiday. This has always been a good time for folks at Train Mountain.

We haven't selected the Banquet Entrees yet for 2010, but will get those in the Gazettes no later than the month before each Meet. Remember, we need your Entrée choice TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF EACH MEET.

Event	Work Week	Train Meet
Polar Bear Meet 2010	No Work Week	Fri, Jan 15- Sun, Jan 17
Narrow Gauge Meet 2010	Mon, May 10- Thurs, May 13	Fri, May 14- Sun, May 16
June Meet 2010	Sat, May 29- Thurs, June 3	Fri, June 4- Sun, June 6
Operations Meet 2010	Sat, June 26- Thurs, July 1	Fri, July 2- Sun, July 4
August Meet 2010	Sat, Aug 7- Thurs, Aug 12	Fri, Aug 13- Sun, Aug 15
September Meet 2010	Sat, Sept 4 - Thurs, Sept 9	Fri, Sept 10- Sun Sept 12
Fall Colors Meet 2010	No Work Week	Fri, Oct 8- Sun, Oct 10



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