



# The Mountain GAZETTE

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An Official Publication of the Train Mountain Institute and TM Railroad—Issue Vol. #5 Issue #29 **December 2024**

## December

Hello everyone,

Happy Holidays to all! We hope you have a great holiday season with family, friends and/or pets, and we hope there are trains under your Christmas tree. We hope you have used the new website to sign up for 2025 memberships and we hope you're registered for the Triennial.

We've got our Usual Suspects—the Shelbys with the Splinter, Dale Furseth with On Track, and Joyce—plus some neat articles on volunteer needs (you'd love to volunteer, right?), the solar array and our Facebook/social media presence. Thanks as always to everyone who wrote an article!

Cheers,

Lucinda Gilman and Xander Geraghty

Lucindagilman@gmail.com

12/18/2024 11:40:31 AM  
TM16-KW\_Switch South



### 2025 Train Mountain Train Meet Schedule

	Polar Bear	Spring Awakening	Narrow Gauge	Triennial	Ops	Big Build	Fall Colors
Work week		4/26-5/1	5/24-5/29	6/14-6/22	7/26-7/29	8/30-9/4	
Meet	1/17-1/20	5/2-5/4	5/30-6/1	6/23-6/29	7/30-8/3	9/5-9/7	10/10-10/13

**Join Train Mountain Now!**

Register or Join - <https://trainmountain.org>

**The Mountain Gazette**

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**December 2024**

# Volunteer Report for 2024 Season

Jeff Mills

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who gave of their time, blood (hopefully a minimum of that!), and sweat to the 2024 season. Our volunteers have reason to be proud of what was accomplished. We are fortunate to have two types of volunteers; those whose work is assigned at the Morning Meetings, and those groups of specialized volunteers who take on jobs not always posted at those meetings. Participation in the morning meetings is always appreciated but some tasks must be accomplished by the specialized groups.

This year the Triennial Steering Committee was tasked with leading the Volunteer Meetings and were provided To-Do lists from many sources. This was their “training ground” for our upcoming event. Those individuals did this well with the expectation of a great Triennial in 2025.

2025's first three (only three!) work weeks must be primarily focused on Triennial preparations. These are very specific tasks and must be handled by expert groups who are trained in the **TM procedures** required to meet *precise standards*. All members need to be certain Train Mountain remain a world-class facility, and that every effort is made to live up to these standards.

## **Specialized Volunteer Groups**

Listed in random order, but all equally important are specialized groups for certain vital tasks on our railroad and their leaders. These people *are the point of contact if you have interest in working on these tasks*. They tend to make their own schedules and work on approved projects. They are not necessarily present at all work weeks.

If you wish to work on **any** of these projects, we would love to see you – please use the Member Roster on the TMRR website to obtain these people's contact information. These groups and leaders welcome anyone who wants to help.

**Wonder Bread Crew:** Track work, laying and repairing track

Contact Matt Thomas and Dale Furseth. Dale has posted articles describing his group's work.

**Idaho Mafia:** Track work, laying and repairing track

Contact Mark Flitton

**Signals:** Maintenance and installation of the signaling systems

Contact John Cooper

**Track Shop:** Manufacturing track panels and switches

Contact Lindsey Eddy

**IT – Information Technology:** All IT maintenance and Train Game operations

Contact Steve Eddy

**Tour Trains:** Engineers and conductors for visitors

Contact Visitor Center or Cheryl McInnes

**Wood Shop:** Scale buildings and other wood working projects

Contact Jeff or Teresa Shelby

**Facilities:** Repair and maintenance on all the facilities

Contact Jerry Crane

**Lillyville:** Construction and installation of miniature buildings

Contact Jim Eakin

**Gazette:** Write articles about what's happening at Train Mountain. Could be a one-off or a series.

Contact Lucinda Gilman

These groups contributed greatly to the operation and improvement of Train Mountain in 2024. We expect more contributions in 2025 and are very thankful for their efforts.

### **Volunteers from Work Week Morning Meetings**

I was involved with preparing the To-Do list for the morning meetings. This "LIST" is always posted on a White Board in Central Station's Hall of Flags for everyone to view.

The meetings are important and cover more than just the jobs, they include weather, safety information and conversations with some coffee.

I have prepared statistics from this year's lists. We had five work weeks with 87 tasks identified. Of those tasks, 47 were completed and 26 were started for a total of 73 tasks worked upon. That is **83%** of identified tasks. This statistic does not include items that came up as the railroad operated and attention was required. There were many of those!

In conclusion, Train Mountain Members got a lot accomplished in 2024. The upcoming Triennial year needs us to keep going forward. Volunteering for the Triennial is of *upmost importance to TM*. Please ask your friends and family to help us by attending our meets and volunteering, as well.

**Thanks to ALL Train Mountain Railroad Volunteers!**

## On Track

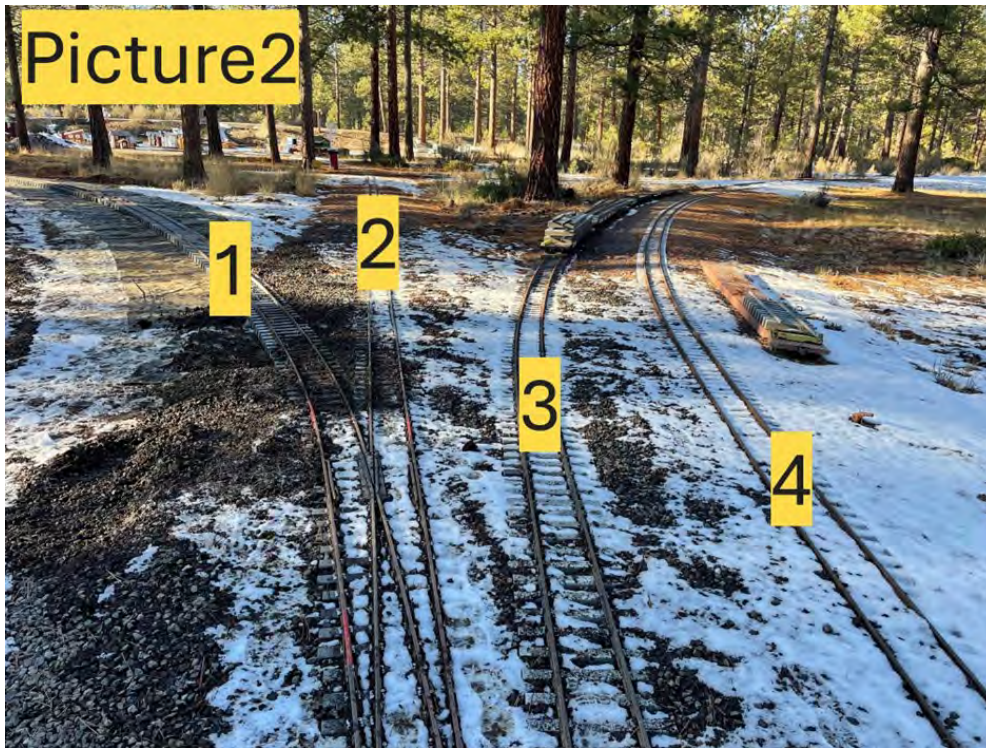
Dale Furseth

This month, I worked on a track project that should have taken a couple of days, but because of the weather I have been working on this for the whole month. We have had some snow days, some days when the ground has been frozen, a few days when it has warmed up and the ground has gotten really mushy - just an uncomfortable mix of normal winter weather that has made it hard to get much done. Bottom line, progress has been made and this project is almost done.

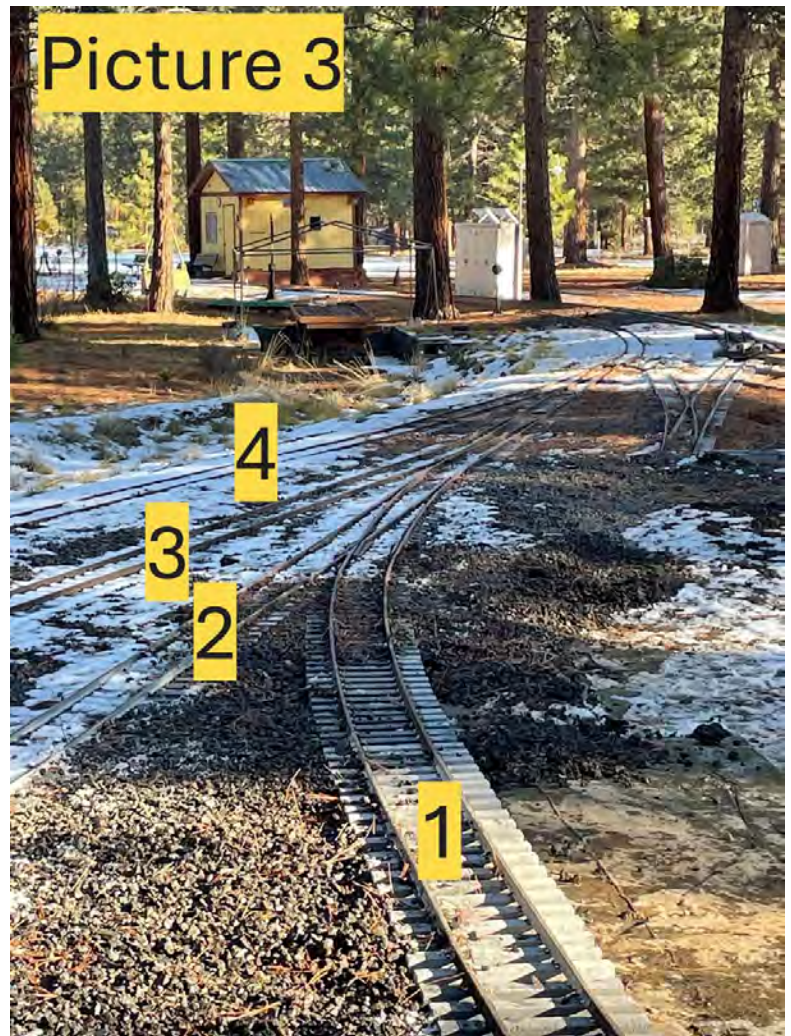


The project has been to realign some of the tracks into the g-ville circle area, and to add a parking siding for trains when visiting G-ville and Lillyville. The track that returns from South Meadow, from the road crossing to the approach to G-ville has been re-graded and realigned.

The Picture #1 shows the track that has returned from south meadow, where the track crosses the road and curves to the right to approach G-ville. This track has been realigned and is awaiting ballast.



Picture #2 faces oncoming trains. Track #1 shows the realigned track returning from South Meadow. Track #2 is the track returning from Lillyville. Track #3 is the new siding and Track #4 shows the existing Mid-way circle track.



Picture #3 is taken while standing on the realigned track that has returned from south meadow. The old alignment can be seen at the abandoned switch on the right side of the picture, which will soon be removed. Track 2 is the return from Lillyville, track 3 shows the exit from the new siding and track 4 shows the existing midway circle track.

Some ballasting and tuning remains to be done, but hopefully by the time this goes to press, it will be all finished and we will be off to our next project.



[This Photo](#) by Un-

## The Splinter

Theresa and Jeff Shelby

As we move into the holiday season, the woodshop projects are on hold.

From the woodshop to your home, we wish you:



The Shelbys

# Train Mountain Power Usage

Jerry Crane

Train Mountain consumes about 200,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electrical power every year. This is about the same as twenty average US households. At 14 cents per kWh, what we presently pay to Pacific Power, it would cost us about \$28,000 per year to acquire this power.

Two years ago, we recognized that we could create a large long-term cost savings if we installed solar power at TM. Therefore, we installed a 107.8 kW solar power system that covered the roof of the backshop. Funds for this project came from the salvage logging operation after the 242 wild fire. This solar power system has been in operation for over one and a half years now; over that timespan it has produced over 218,780 kWh of power. This has generated a cost saving of over \$30,600.

Even though the solar power system has proven to be a success, it still does not cover 100% of our power usage. During the summer months we produce more power than we use each day. Pacific Power allows us to bank this over-production and then draw from it during the winter months. This year, we used up this banked power in November. During the months of December through April we will have to pay for any power we use above what is produced by the solar power system.

To cover 100% of our power usage we would have to install an additional 25 kW of solar panels. Funds are not now available to do this. A project to increase our solar power production will be put on our list of future projects. In the meantime, it would be appreciated if all members would strive to save on electrical power usage while at TM.



## Greetings from Joyce in the Front Office

The big “Brrr” is on. Some rain, some snow, some sunshine and a whole lot of cold is going on.

Visitors are braving the chilly weather to stop in for a visit at Train Mountain. They do the winter walking tour, press pennies, see the indoor part of the museum and shop in the store.

There are still some copies of the commemorative Weyco #101 USB. They are \$20 each if purchased in-house and \$25 each if ordered online at <https://store40549072.company.site/> or by phone through the office 541-783-3030. \$25 includes \$20 for the USB and \$5 for shipping.

Lots of 2025 memberships and 2025 Triennial registrations continue to pour in.

Reminder: The new Train Mountain Railroad website made its debut on October 1, 2024. You can visit it at <https://trainmountain.org>. 2025 memberships, meets and triennial registrations are now available on the new site. Please note that you will need to create a brand-new account for this site. Your sign in information from the old site will not work on the new site. When a login window appears on the screen, click on Create Account near the bottom of that window to create your new account. You will need to sign up for your 2025 membership before you can register for the 2025 Triennial if you are bringing a train or trains to the Triennial.

Deer and a squirrel have been frequenting Ellingson turn table recently. It is a sight to behold as they move through and feed along the way. Like the old saying “While the cat is away, the mice will play,” at Train Mountain it is, “While the members are away, the wildlife will play!”

Have the Best of the Best of the Holidays this season!



This month we are remembering Tom Artzberger.

### What's spinning on the turntable?

#### Doobie Brothers

#### [Long Train Runnin](#)

Check out this [link to the lyrics](#). You've heard this song. Everybody's heard this song. The chorus and the verses have *absolutely nothing* to do with each other. The verses are about trains and the chorus is about love. What the hey. But it's super catchy. Lucinda's sister plays ukelele in a rock band and they're covering this one.

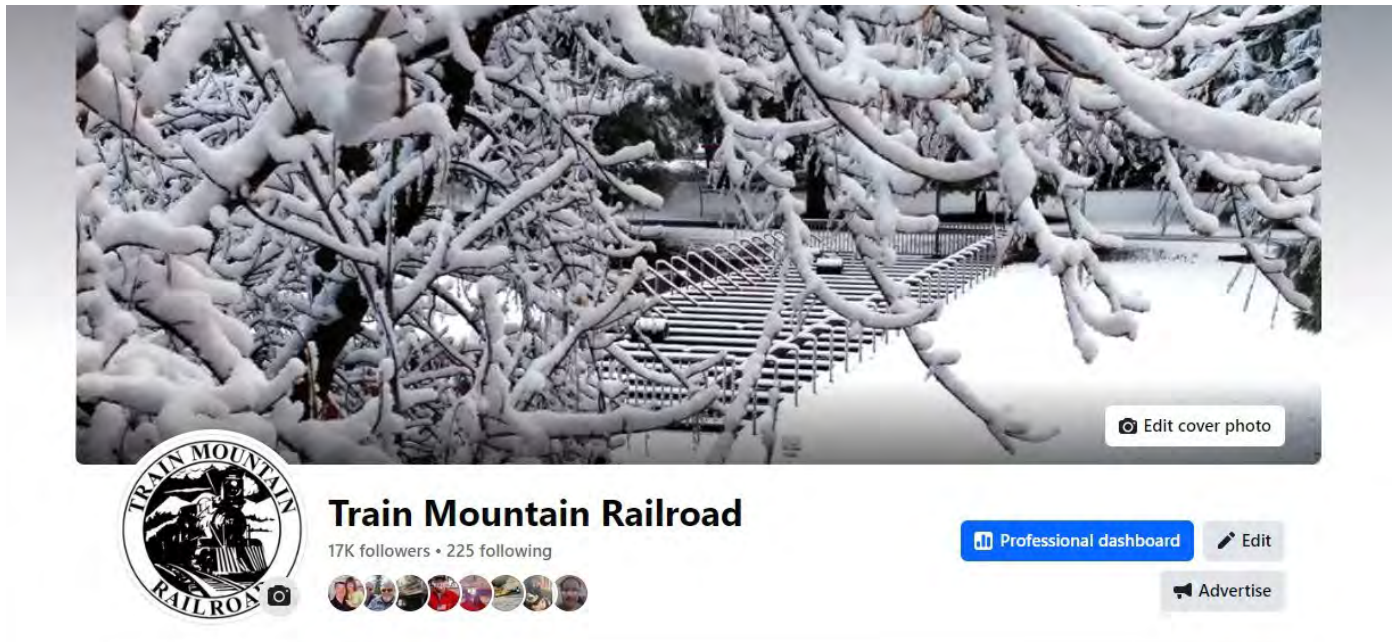
# Twice as Social: The Benefits of Our Two Facebook Pages

Chris Donhost, TM Social Media Volunteer

Eleven years ago, as Train Mountain Railroad was navigating the final steps to secure its future with the IRS, our leadership recognized the importance of Train Mountain having a social media presence. Finding the right person took time, but eventually, a dedicated out-of-state volunteer stepped up just in time to launch our Facebook page, posting the landmark announcement that Train Mountain Railroad was here to stay. This marked the beginning of our social media journey.

Since then, we've explored various platforms to tell the Train Mountain story and connect with enthusiasts around the world. Over the years, we've experimented with Twitter, Hootsuite, Blogspot, WordPress, Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, finding the greatest impact on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Our Facebook presence has been so successful that we eventually expanded to include not just one but two pages. The public page serves as our connection to the world at large and reaches beyond the live steam community. The second page is exclusively for members and supporters of Train Mountain Railroad where posts can be made by anyone in the group.

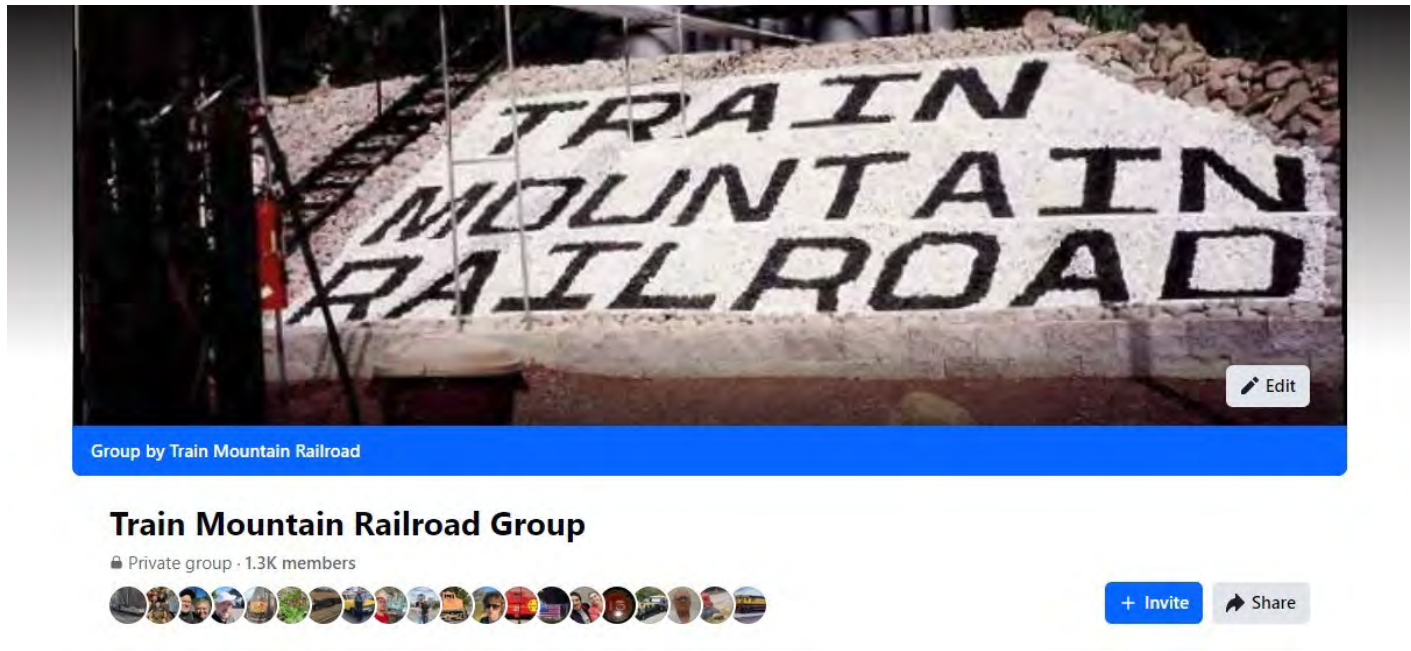
Our public Facebook page engages a diverse audience—ranging from people interested in destination vacations and field trips to those organizing car club meetups, Scouting jamborees, G-Scale, or Harvest Host camping stays. Many visitors have little or no connection to 7.5" gauge railroading, yet they are drawn to Train Mountain's charm. Even for local purposes, like when a towing service needed access inside our gates after a car accident, social media has been a valuable



communication tool. Through these online connections, we've made friends worldwide, often overcoming language barriers with the help of Google Translate. Today, our public page has grown to over 17,000 followers, with fans and supporters from around the globe.

Some members expressed a desire to contribute content directly, but managing a public page requires consistent oversight to ensure quality and appropriateness. With only limited volunteer hours available, we created an exclusive group where approved members and supporters can post directly and engage freely regarding Train Mountain related topics. Meanwhile, the public page re-

mains a curated space for sharing key updates and showcasing Train Mountain Railroad to a broader audience.



Today, the group has a dedicated, close-knit membership of around 1,300. We prioritize maintaining a community dedicated to Train Mountain Railroad by carefully reviewing each request to join our group. Applicants are required to answer several questions designed to help us ensure membership is limited to our target audience: current members and individuals genuinely committed to Train Mountain Railroad. As a result, we decline more requests than we accept to preserve the integrity and focus of our group. Once admitted, people can discuss everything related to Train Mountain: from current track conditions to finding a lost item, inquiring about track availability, learning about the productivity of the solar panels, or selling train equipment.

Social media rarely offers a “one-size-fits-all” solution. That’s why we’ve diversified across platforms, and why we maintain both a public Facebook page and a group. Train Mountain Railroad is a special place, and our public social media presence allows us to share its unique story with the world. Our social media team has doubled in size and we work tirelessly to capture Train Mountain’s essence, taking countless photos and hours of video to create engaging content. We’re also grateful to our members who share their own photos and stories, helping us highlight what makes Train Mountain Railroad unique. If you have a high-resolution picture that you took, or story to share on the public page, we invite you to email us at [media@tmrr.org](mailto:media@tmrr.org). If we’re able to use it, we’ll make sure to credit you. Feel free to reach out with any questions, too!

## For Sale

### Fulton RR 4-4-0 Locomotive with Tender and 2 Passenger cars

**\$32,500 USD** *Price reduced!*

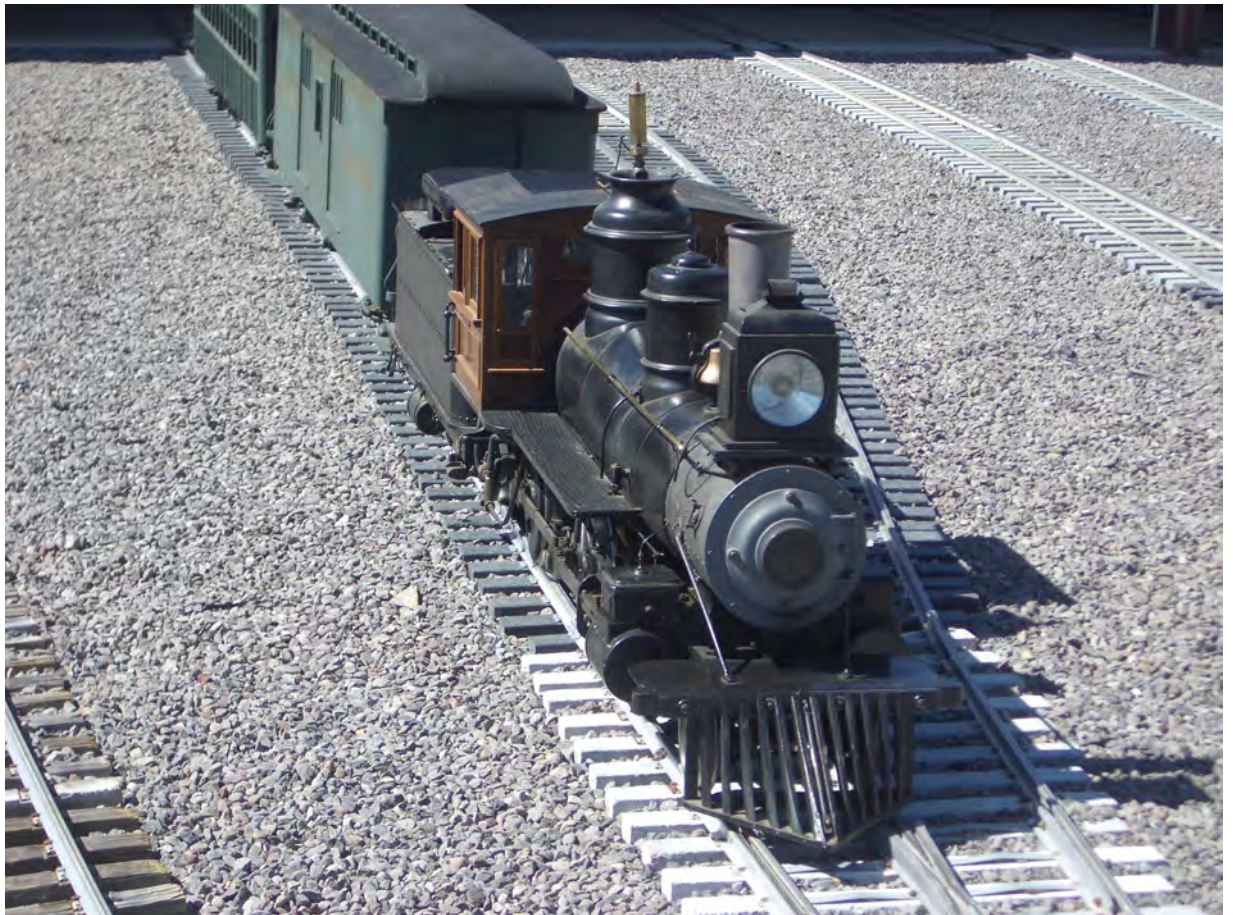
The engine is propane fired and runs very well. One car is a baggage car with provision for the propane tank, air compressor and battery. The other car is a passenger car with removable roof that allows passenger seating. In 2.5" to 1' scale 7.5" gauge.

This train set is of museum quality detail and was constructed by a group of distinguished builders. This engine is large for a 4-4-0 and is very capable. It deserves an owner's attention and admiration. More photos and video are available on request. (note: cars in the video are not included in the sale)

The train can be inspected at Train Mountain by appointment only. It's best to plan to view during the upcoming Train Mountain meets and work weeks. See the meet schedule on the Train Mountain Web site, ([www.trainmtn.org](http://www.trainmtn.org)).

Call the Train Mountain office for scheduling; ask for your inquiry to be sent to the Train Mountain Institute Board. Inquires during business hours only. This Train belongs to Train Mountain and proceeds will go to Train Mountain. Shipping and crating will be the responsibility of the buyer. FOB point would be Chiloquin, OR, 97624.

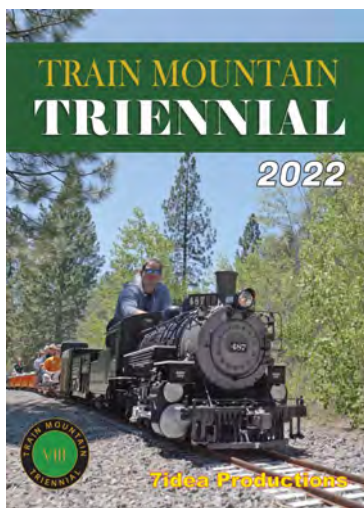
Reasonable offers will be considered.



# CLASSIFIEDS

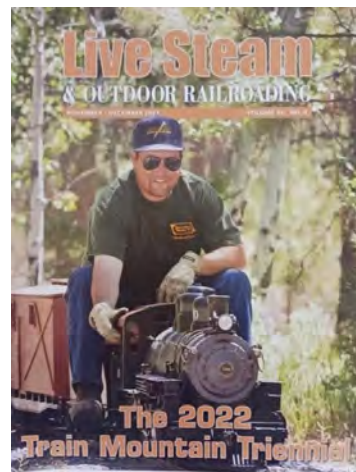
## 2022 Triennial Video Now Available

The 2022 Train Mountain Triennial video from Aaron Benson at 7Idea Productions is now available. You can [order online](#) or call the office at 541-783-3030 to get your copy. This is a most enjoyable video created by a true video artist and of course it just happens to be about our most favorite subject! The cost of the video is just \$29.95, quite a bargain! Videos of past Triennials are also available.



Our good friend Jim over at Discover Live Steam has placed ads for us on his terrific website, thanks Jim. [discoverlivesteam.com](http://discoverlivesteam.com)

Did you see the great article and front cover story from the March / March 2024 issue of Live Steam and Outdoor Railroading? It is a great article covering the 2022 Triennial, and about the great gang of folks that volunteer at Train Mountain and put on terrific live steam train meets. Pretty cool!



## Crater Lake/ Train Mountain Vacation Rentals

### Crater Lake Chalet

Located on Hwy 422, only 1 mile off Hwy 62 and 2 miles from Hwy 97 in the Chiloquin area. This house is at north end of Train Mountain and contiguous to Train Mountain.



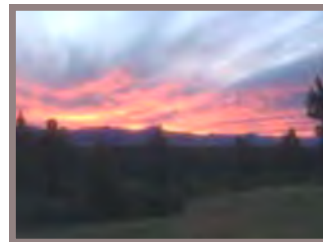
This comfortable house sits on 35 beautiful acres. 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Can sleep up to 6 people.

### Panoramic View Ranch House / Crater Lake

This ranch house is located on Hwy 62, and attaches to the west side of Train Mountain. The 56 acres, panoramic views of Agency Lake and



the Cascades. Enjoy a peaceful and private experience. 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Can sleep up to 8 people.



For more information please call: **Julie 415-756-3943** or **Mike 415-420-9026**

**10% off for train mountain members**

[www.getawayvacationhome.com](http://www.getawayvacationhome.com)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## The Potbelly cafe



Located only 1.5 miles off Hwy 97 in Downtown Chiloquin in the same building as the Post Office 212 1st Ave-



**Good Service**  
**Good Food**  
**Friendly Folks**



## Crater Lake Junction Travel Center

34005 Hwy 97 N, Chiloquin, OR 97624, 541-783-9800

The Crater Lake Junction Travel Center opened for business in 2010, and is owned by the Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Tribes. Open 24 hours a day and located just next door to Kla-Mo-Ya Casino as you enter, this travel center offers competitive fuel prices and many convenience items.

Travelers can fuel up with gas, diesel, or propane. Stop in for a snack or soda, or grab a quick meal featuring food to go or you can eat it there, Free Wi-Fi, a comfortable lounge with large screen TVs, laundry and shower facilities, and ATMs are all available.

**WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS**  
**DON'T YELL AT ME, I AM A VOLUNTEER!**

**HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SELL?**

Place an ad in the Gazette!

1/8 Page: \$25/month or \$250/year

1/4 Page: \$40/month or \$400/year

1/2 Page: \$70/month or \$700/year

Full Page: \$125/month or \$1250/year

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Contributors: TMRR BOD, Friends, TMI

Photos: Tom Watson



**Please submit your volunteer hours. If you work off site or at home on Train Mountain projects - these hours count.**



**REMEMBER: No job is complete without the paperwork!**



# NOTICES

## **Gazette PUBLICATION DEADLINE:**

Submissions to the Gazette must be received by the 10th of the month of publication.

The tenth of the month is to be the last day to submit material. Material received after the 10th of the month may be held until the following month or rejected.

### **SUBMISSION CRITERIA**

Articles and ads may be submitted via MS WORD, Open Office, notepad, or similar text file attached to an email. **The email SUBJECT line must include your article title and a date.**

**Please give each article a distinct file name with your name and a date.** If everyone submits an article named "article for gazette" or something similar it will often get overwritten by another article with the same name when downloading. **Articles sent as text in a email text will no longer be accepted.**

Please use ARIAL 12pt font—it can be displayed in all Browsers, and is easy to read. Please do NOT use the Calibri or Times New Roman font, as we must take the time to convert it to Arial.

If your document has an embedded image, you must also include the image separately as a jpg, png, or similar image file.

Please send all articles to [lucindagilman@gmail.com](mailto:lucindagilman@gmail.com).

## **Visitors to Train Mountain and YOU:**

Train Mountain is very popular and is continually attracting visitors from throughout the world. We announce that our hours are from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM Monday through Friday during the summer, and 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM during the winter. The office is closed on weekends except during meets, and then only when volunteers are available to open the office.

Our insurance advisors request that all people (members and visitors) complete and sign a liability release. If **YOU** as a member encounter visitors on the property without a visitors pass please direct them to the office so that we can insure that a release has been completed and a visitors pass has been issued.

If **YOU**, as a member, open the gate and allow visitors to pass through - **YOU** are responsible to see that the release has been completed, and **YOU** are liable for them until they sign a release. Releases are available in the mailboxes near the office for those times when the office is closed. There are also releases available in the kitchen and in the Back Shop.

***If you do not want to, or do not have the time to, ensure that the releases are completed*** - then please graciously explain that the train park is closed to visitors and that the open hours are normally (Winter - 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM) (Summer - 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM) Monday through Friday. To arrange other hours visitors should call the office at 541-783-3030.

**Please Volunteer at a Train Mountain Meet!**

## **Train Mountain is a NO SMOKING Facility**

During recent events, many Members and their Guests have been ignoring this policy. There are only three designated smoking areas at Train Mountain:

- (1) Outside the front of the Backshop
- (2) Outside the east door of the Hall of Flags
- (3) Outside the Motor Pool (Maintenance Building)

Due to the high fire danger at Train Mountain during the summer, we have zero tolerance for anyone smoking outside one of the designated areas.

**There is NO SMOKING anywhere out on the track!**

Members, Guests, and Visitors that continue to violate the Train Mountain Smoking Policy may be asked to leave.

**I've heard of that social media thing...**

If you want to get Train Mountain information and pictures while you're waiting for the next gazette, follow and like us on these social media platforms:



**YouTube**

Facebook: [/trainmountainrailroad](https://www.facebook.com/trainmountainrailroad)

Instagram: [trainmountainrailroad](https://www.instagram.com/trainmountainrailroad)

Youtube: [trainmountainrailroad](https://www.youtube.com/trainmountainrailroad)

## **New Gate Code**

Due to security concerns, the Gate Code for the Train Mountain Main Gate may be changed at any time without notice. Any Member planning to arrive at Train Mountain when the Office is closed will need to contact the Office prior to arrival to ensure they have the current Gate Code.

**Get New Gate Code—Call Office 541-783-3030**

## Train Mountain Volunteer Hours

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Month & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]