

Ozark Garden Railway Society Dispatch



December 2011

*I would like to thank Jean Munson for taking the meeting minutes for me at the November meeting. I also want to thank Jean and Rex Easterly for providing me with pictures for the newsletter. **THANKS AND A GREAT JOB JEAN AND REX!***

November Meeting



Rex and Melanie Easterly hosted the November meeting in Springfield MO. Rex gave a short history of their layout. They began building in July of this year. Future plans are to continue to expand and to do more landscaping. Rex and Melanie also plan to add water features. Like most garden railroads, this will be an ongoing project for several months or possibly years.



Rex expressed appreciation of the kinship of the club members. He told how the club members were able to count on each other for support, for problem solving, and even lending a hand when needed. **THANKS REX AND MELANIE!**



Also, during the meeting, Keith Richardson gave a clinic on using scale to create depth on a layout. Keith explained that by using smaller scale buildings and figures in the background creates the illusion of distance. **GREAT JOB KEITH!**

December Meeting

The December Meeting will be Saturday the 10th at the Bois D' Arc United Methodist church. This is the club's annual Christmas Dinner. Members need to start showing up around 11:15 am and the meal will be served around 12:00 pm.

The price is \$7.50 per person or \$15.00 a couple. For those new members, who have not attended, this will be a real treat. There will be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate; if you do not wish to exchange gifts, that will be ok too. If you wish to take part, you can either bring one gift per couple or one gift per person. If you bring one gift, you will receive one gift. Or if a couple wants to bring two gifts (one per person), they will receive two gifts. If it is not possible for you to prepay for the dinner, you can pay there. However, if you do not prepay, you need to contact Tom DeGeere (donsproduce@mchsi.com or 417-860-7145) and let him know so that the club will have a good count on the number of people attending. This is because the women's group at the church cooks food for the number of people attending. A good head count will insure that there is enough food to go around.

Sandy again volunteered to be in charge of table decorations. There is a contest for "best centerpiece" from club members. She would appreciate knowing how many persons will be bringing centerpieces, (does not have to be for competition). Please advise her through her email address at bear10@suddenlink.net.

Things Too Remember

- The club needs people to be considering hosting a club meeting in 2012. The months that are not yet taken are March, April and November.
- There is a need for volunteers to give how-to clinics in 2012. Several have already volunteered and are listed in the Clinics section of the newsletter.
- OGRS dues for 2012 are due January 1st.
- The club needs helpers to set up the Christmas layout at the Botanical Gardens at 10:00 am on Friday December the second. Those who are making dioramas for the layout are asked to either bring them on Friday or Saturday December the third at 10:00 am when the final touches will be put on the display.
- If anyone has something to submit to the newsletter such as how to articles, tips, trivia, history of railroading, pictures of your projects, etc. Send email to Glen Carlisle. carlisle02@sbcglobal.net

Meetings For 2012

- **Jan.** - Meeting will be held either at Library Station or Botanical Gardens in Springfield MO.
- **Feb.** - Train Show in Springdale AR.
- **March** – Open
- **April** – Open
- **May** – Tom and Mary Lavelly in Shell Knob MO.
- **June** – Hoisted jointly by Craig and Charlene Chesbro - Fred and Marilyn Allen in Mt. Home AR.
- **July** – Rex and Melanie Easterly in Springfield MO.
- **August** – Tom DeGeere and Jean Munson in Springfield MO.
- **Sept.** – Steam-O-Rama in Republic MO.
- **Oct.** – Dennis and Martha Rayon in Mt. Vernon MO.
- **Nov.** – Open
- **Dec.** – Christmas Dinner in Bois D' Arc MO.

Scheduled Clinics For 2012

- **Jan.** Jerry Davis: Straightening bent track and lighting buildings.
- **March** Craig Chesbro: Engine wiring and battery power.
- **April** Marilyn Allen: Slide show presentation on garden railway plants.
- **May** Tom and Mary Lavelly: Stone and cement modeling – plant swap.
- **June** Craig Chesbro: Soldering
- **September** No clinic – Steam-O-Rama
- **December** No clinic – Christmas Dinner

Clinics Not Yet Scheduled

- Glen Carlisle: Decaling
- Keith Richardson: Hard Shell (mountains – interior and exterior)
- Rick Brown: Making figures from G.I. Joe type army men.
- Dennis Rayon: Magic Sculpt

THANKS EVERYONE FOR VOLUNTEERING

The Gandy Dancer's Trivia Section

The Answer to Last Month's Trivia Question

The term deadhead applies to:

- d. All of the above.

On the railroad, deadhead can actually apply to four different situations. It can be a passenger that is riding for free, a train crew that is being hauled from one point to another, an engine that is being moved from one point to another without any cars, and an empty train car being moved from one point to another. The common denominator is that in all four situations there is no money being made for the railroad.

This Month's Railroad Trivia Question

Telltale means:

- a. someone who runs to the boss to tell on a co-worker who is not doing their job.
- b. an absolute sign or indication of what caused a derailment.

- c. knotted ropes that hang over the track to warn someone on top of a rail car that there is a tunnel ahead.
- d. None of the above.

Did You Know

Train Station Watches Were Just the Beginning

Submitted by Dennis Rayon

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station! Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found.

Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town. It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line.

Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard", who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the east. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them.

So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit.

That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers. It worked! It didn't take long for the word to spread; before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches.

Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders. That was Alvah. And the rest is history as they say.

The business took off and soon expanded into many other lines of dry goods.

Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck!





OGRS OFFICERS

President: Dennis Rayon Phone 417-849-0588 denray4046@yahoo.com

Vice President: Tom DeGeere Phone 417-860-7145 donsproduce@mchsi.com

Secretary: Glen Carlisle Phone 417-489-4001 carlisle02@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Trish Sharpensteen Phone 417-619-8549 psharpensteen@hotmail.com

Membership Chairman: Bob Eggleston Phone 417-368-3831 egglestons@mchsi.com

Historian: Bob Newquist Phone 417-767-2800 bobnjanemo@aol.com