

The Willow Creek Gazette

Special points of interest:

- Work Days:
Every Saturday
- Call for reporters
- Skagen's Run
- For Sale

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Since 1975

Spring 2005

What has been Happening?

There have been two scheduled work days and a lot has been completed.

Mark Adelblue headed up a track gang. The "gang" replaced the ties at the west grade crossing and the inside grade crossing. The crossings now have "Trex" ties.

The new ties are 2 inches longer than the old ties and are also spaced closer together. The result of this improvement should be more track stability.

Mark also had a smaller track gang replacing the broken ties out on the mainline. Those ties were replaced with our standard wooden tie.

There has been hard work invested in the maintenance of the grounds. It has been a hard job but the results will be worth the time invested.

The track and grounds

has been surveyed and mapped by Frank Lertora. This map will aid in future planning and giving visitors an image of the layout.

Alan Shifley has been using the



map to aid in the design of additional track signaling.

Many people have been hard at work on the car barn project, but more on that later.

Repairs and modifications have been made to the lift. A big thank you goes to John Adelblue. He picked up the lift Saturday. Made some structural modifications, plus wiring in the new controller. Then he returned the lift Sunday, WOW.



An Invitation to Run at Skagen's

Dave Skagen is having a meet at his track in Shelton, Washington, on May 21, 2005. Anyone in the club is welcome to attend and bring their equipment.

Dave's track is about a mile long and runs through the woods on his property. The track includes two stations with sidings for

train parking, three bridges, and one tunnel. Also there are several steaming bays, a turntable, and unloading facilities.

Weather permitting you should also be able to see Dave's 3.75" scale equipment in action.

His track is about a 2-1/2 hour drive from Portland. If anyone

would like to come, e-mail or phone James Folk for directions at folksales@comcast.net or call (360)458-9419.

Member Profile - Fred Werbin *By Garry Johnson*

Back in 1993, Fred heard through the grapevine that I had a locomotive for sale. You see I was trying to put together capital for the construction of the 700. He very much wanted a locomotive and I very much wanted to sell him one, which resulted in now almost a 13-year friendship. Fred joined the club at that time and has been a great contributor ever since. I sometimes get strange looks from his family, like I was the one that got him going (maybe a little crazy?) with this railroad stuff. Let me set the record straight, he was already there; I just showed him the tunnel with the light at the other end.

It didn't take long, Fred and his wife Thelma had lumber for ties and loads of flat bar delivered to their home. Both were focused on building a railroad, and that is exactly what they did. The Werbin's had their own construction company, so excavating and hauling of materials was not a problem. Neither was ambition, I think something about Thelma holding a flashlight while Fred laid track after dark, or maybe it was Fred that held the light for Thelma? Before we new it the track was in place and the running of Trains was a regular occurrence.

Fred soon realized the faults

connected with having a steam engine for use to give rides when guest's would appear at their doorstep. Can you wait 45 minutes while I get her steamed up? This led to the purchase of the SW 1500 and was shortly followed by a calf. Then came the quest for more rolling stock. One fifth of the cars used in the long train last year belonged to Fred. Once Fred asked me how many cars I had? I think at that time I had a dozen or so. The next thing I new Fred had placed an order for four more cars bringing his consist to fourteen.

One time I was busy in the shop starting some new cars for myself, when Fred and Thelma stopped by for a visit. Who are those for? Me I said, stating that I wanted more variety in my consist. Hmmm, how about building some for me he asked? I think he was nervous about me catching up with him?

Fred was very instrumental in the first phase of our new railroad. Fred, Red, dump truck, track hoe, grader and roller prepared the grade for the new roadbed. If you ever get a chance? Ask Fred about his encounters with the weigh master? Fred has been kind enough to leave the roller on site for

our use. It has been used to build a lot of goodwill throughout the AMPA organization.

Fred's latest endeavor is the building of the 4-4-0 the club had for sale a couple of years ago. At my urging, he decided to power it with an electric motor. It will have the look of a steamer and be up and moving with the flip of a switch. It is now disassembled and going through the painting process. I expect to see it on the tracks before too long.

(Please see photo's in the back shop section prior to disassembly.)



Club Work Day

WCRR is increasing the scheduled work days. Every Saturday will be a scheduled work day. As always volunteers are welcome on other days as well. There is always something to do. We have a lot of work to complete the car barn before Steam-Up.

Sometimes we get to play a little.

Car Barn Up-Date

The car barn project is moving to the stage of sheetrock sanding. Then the interior will get a coat of white paint. Work continues on the exterior trim.

Work to do includes anchoring the track panels to the floor, building switches, and building track panels for the lead tracks.

There is still a lot of work to be completed on this project before Steam-up. But with your help we can get it done.



For Sale

Please submit items for sale to Frank Lertora. The sale is between the seller and buyer. This listing is a service to the membership.

Honda 5.5hp Engine, electric start and charging system, runs great with only 10 hrs run time on it, \$300. James Folk, folksales@comcast.net or call (360)458-9419.

Silicone Bronze Bill McCready Couplers, various shank styles, contact Garry to see the couplers, \$50 per pair, Bas Pasco.



Call for Reporters, Photographers

In order to make this a true "club" newsletter, I am asking for your help. Send me articles, pictures with captions, short updates describing things that you think would be of interest to the members.

Send information about your home railroads, projects you are working on, even trips you have been on or planning.

You can mail submissions to :
Frank Lertora
35162 Kee Ln.
Astoria, OR 97103

Or email to:
webmaster@willowcreekrr.org

Or:
elk_hunt_1@hotmail.com



The PRPA and Willow Creek Railroad *By Terry Kimzey*

Several years ago I was privileged to join a railroad preservation group known as the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association (PRPA). The PRPA operates and maintains several pieces of historic railroad equipment, the primary piece being the steam locomotive known as the Spokane, Portland and Seattle #700. The SP&S 700 is the third largest operating steam locomotive in the country.

Not too long after joining the PRPA I was introduced to an interesting fellow known as Garry Johnson, who is the president of Willow Creek Railroad at Antique Powerland. I found out that WCRR was a group that runs 1/8th scale (7 1/2 inch track) railroad engines and cars. I also learned that Garry was having an exact replica of the 700 built to run at WCRR. Whenever we took the big 700 out, Garry and his wife Bev would drop by and show us pictures of the progress on his 1/8th scale model. It was, to say the least, VERY impressive.

As time went on, my wife, Patsy, and I became involved with the PRPA concessions team. We found that we would be at the Great Oregon Steam Up at Antique Powerland, and we would be in a space next to WCRR. That was my first major function working with Garry and the WCRR people. I was very nervous, because I had heard stories about how other people had done something wrong and was now on Garry's "black list." As time went by I came to know Garry and found out we had a lot in common. Garry discovered that apparently we had some things we could offer WCRR, and I discovered that Garry (and WCRR) had some things they

could offer the PRPA. A strong alliance has been formed, and WCRR along with the PRPA now have a "good thing going." Every year we look forward to being at the Steam Up, and thanks to the generosity of Garry and WCRR we have what I personally think is the best spot for our concessions in the whole complex.

Because of the fun we have, and the friendship that developed, the next logical step was for some of our group to join WCRR. At first, WCRR was skeptical and wasn't sure they wanted "real" railroaders in their organization, but my persistence and charm finally won them over, and we were allowed to join WCRR. Thanks Garry, and all the rest at WCRR.

The PRPA is very involved in a railroad safety program called Operation Lifesaver. It is an international program, supported by the railroads, that teaches people, mostly youth about safety around railroads and their equipment. The program has helped save many lives, and we continue to do our best to help promote railroad safety, especially since both groups work around railroad equipment. Last year, at the 2004 Steam Up, the PRPA and Willow Creek had a canopy with Operation Lifesaver volunteers handing out information about the program. Because of its popularity and the interest it generated, Willow Creek asked the PRPA if we could arrange to have the Oregon Operation Lifesaver trailer at the 2005 Steam Up. A call was made and the deal was done. Since then, the PRPA has become the custodians and caretakers/operators of the Oregon OL trailer. The trailer is set up with a TV/video

display for railroad safety, plenty of literature and information, plus there is a console with real diesel locomotive controls out of an old Southern Pacific diesel for people to touch and see how a locomotive operates. I think the trailer will be a real highlight to this year's Steam Up, and of course will be a major attraction for Willow Creek RR and the PRPA.

The PRPA also wishes to let everyone know that we will have the REAL #700 out on display on May 14th at the A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village for a one day Safety Faire, and everyone is invited to come visit us and say hi. Plus, you'll get to see the big #700 up close and personal. Then when you see Garry's #700 you can really appreciate the craftsmanship and detail that went into the making of the "Young Lady" as we like to call her.

The "Village" is located at 116 Marion St. NE, Salem OR, just under the Marion St. bridge on the riverfront.

Hope to see you all there, AND at WCRR for this year's Great Oregon Steam Up.

Check us all out at:

www.sps700.org
www.oregonol.org
www.willowcreekrr.org



Bozeman Hill, MT,
Oct 14, 2002 photo by
Joel King



***"The SP&S 700
is the third
largest
operating steam
locomotive in
the country."***



Memorial Day Plan

Once again the Memorial Day weekend will be the official kickoff for the run season at the park. Also this has become a very popular weekend over the last couple of years for the members to break out the tents/campers, and new rail equipment and come stay the weekend.

It's a good opportunity to get some work done, play trains, and visit with fellow members. Last year we got a lot of work done because of the turnout. This year we should have a "new and improved" fire pit courtesy of the Kimsey's.

We will plan a potluck dinner for Saturday evening @ 6:00. Burgers will be provided. If the weather is bad Saturday, then we will plan it for Sunday night. Sunday and Monday will be the official open days for giving rides to the public 11-3. Hope to see everyone sometime during the weekend.

Dates of Interest

May 22, Car & Motorcycle Museum High School Car Show

May 28, 29, 30, Memorial Day

June 10, School Field Trip

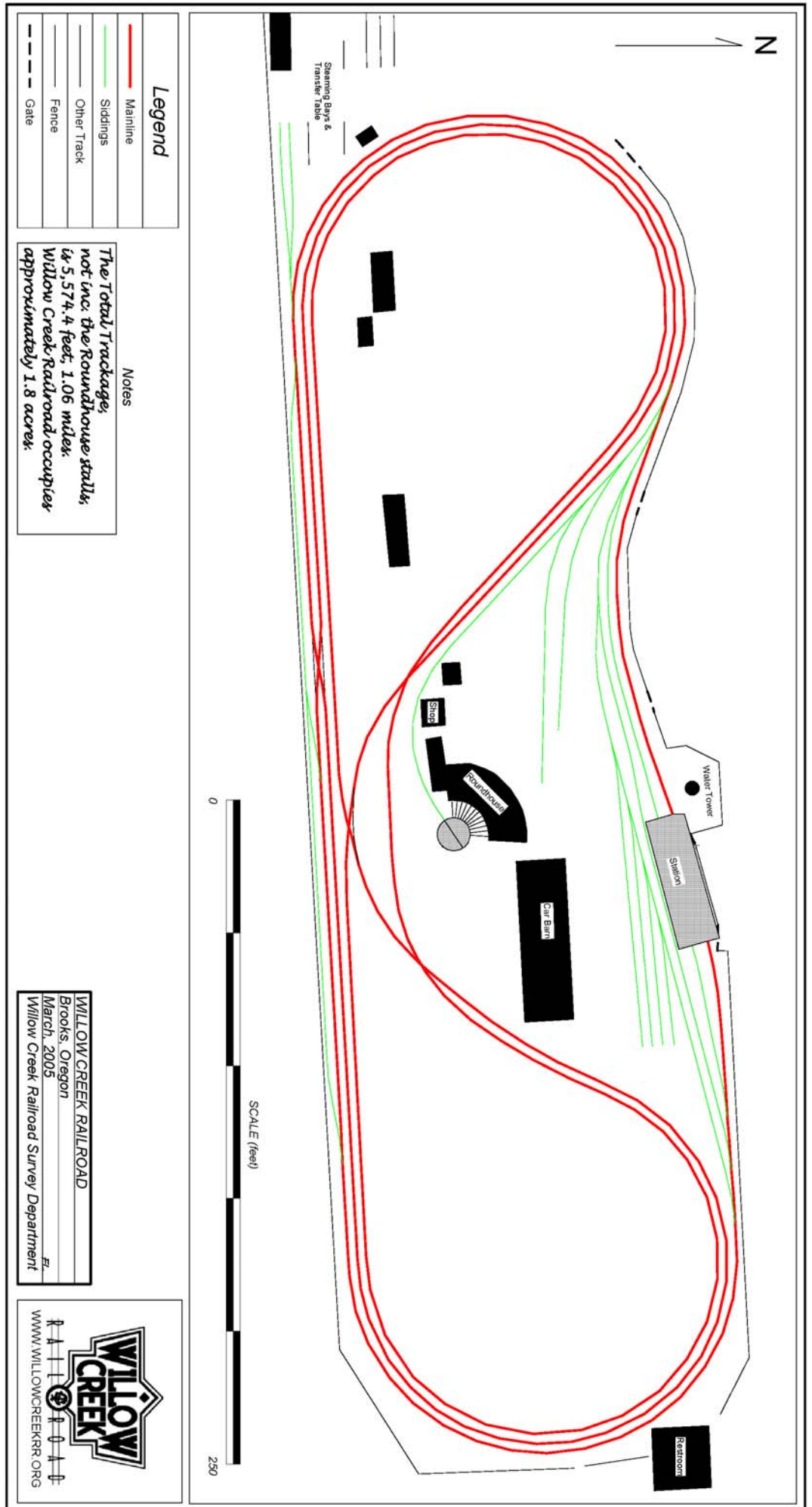
June 19, Father's Day

June 25, 26, Swap Meet

July 30, 31, Aug. 6, 7, Steam-Up

Starting in June we will be going back to the monthly e-mail listing upcoming dates.

One date of interest right now is Friday June 10th. This is the annual field trip by Beaverton 5th graders to Antique Powerland. We will be giving rides, and a brief presentation on that day from 10-3.



We'er on the web
willowcreekrr.org



"The Back Shop"

Here is what members have been working on:



New member, Bob Wolf on his Rail Systems SW7 and flat car he built. This was the first run of the year.



New car barn for the Soggy Sod Railroad, built by Frank Lertora. Will have 4 tracks, to store 12, six foot cars.



Fred Werbin and his 4-4-0, "American."

Fred and the tender with controller.



President Johnson's Rant

Wow, here it is again, a column just for me to vent my frustration! Would it do any good? Probably not and would end up one of those "Open mouth insert foot" things I am famous for.

In the last issue, I talked about the great weather and we were up and running making progress. As it turned out Mother Nature was just teasing us. Soon after I made that statement the rains came and have made the grounds keeping difficult at best.

The grass has been growing at a rate of 4 inches a week and that is without fertilizer. When a week is missed due to a

downpour, you end up with 6 to 8 inches of growth, which was the case last week. We had 2 riding mowers, 2 walk behind mowers and 1 weed eater going most of the day.

A big thanks to the "Get R Done" helpers. Without you, I would never get any work done in the car barn. At least the rain hasn't bothered the work going on in the car barn. In fact it helps, the last place I would want to be on a sunny day is inside a building.

Since the last writing we have three new members. Bob & Pat Wolf and Ralph Jachens. Welcome Aboard...

Thanks to all of you that have been getting your dues paid now. It is a big help and will reduce the confusion at the Steam-Up. Unlike gas and diesel, our prices remain the same.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frank Lertora for all his help getting me set up with computer programs to track and record club business. If I can keep up with the data entry these should prove to be a great help down the road or should I say "Track". I might also add he is doing a great job as web master and now as editor of the Gazette. He has proven that you can "Get R Done".