



The Willow Creek Gazette

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NOTICE

Annual General Meeting:
December 9, 2006
1:00 PM
In the Dezotell Building
(the new office building,
near the Main Gate) at
Powerland, Brooks, OR.

Since 1975

Spring/Summer 2006

What a Gift *By Frank Lertora*

This year at the WCRR Steam-Up dinner, we were surprised with a gift. Roy Anderson was given the "floor" to address the members. He made a very moving tribute in memory of his wife, Cecilia, with the help of his granddaughters.

Garry Johnson then pulled a plaque from his pocket and read the inscription out loud.

Roy purchased a Dash 8 locomotive from Backyard Engineer and donated it to Willow Creek Railroad.

Roy, what a wonderful gift. Everyone at Willow Creek Railroad send our thanks to you and your family.



2006 in Review By Garry Johnson

Record number of Parties:

Once again the party info link on the website saw an increase in hits. Do to the rainy spring, 4 birthday parties had to be canceled but that's the way things go when you live in Oregon. When the weather finally broke we made up for lost time, sometimes getting more than 1 party at a time. One day this fall we had 4 parties in one day. I was able to book them so one was leaving when the next arrived; it worked really well, but made a very long day. Many parties were people that have had them at WCRR before; in fact I think it was the 5th time for one! We did 13 parties for the general public and squeaked in a handful of member parties as well.

Something a little new for us this year was the addition of hosting company picnics. It's a lot like a birthday party on steroids! We survived three such events and with the 13 birthday parties made a sizable deposit in our bank account.

We also participated in a few field trips as we have done in the past. In some cases we receive a small donation for our efforts. These also give us an opportunity for us to pass out information provided by Oregon Operation Lifesaver.

Cars built for club train:

One thing the club lacked was cars owned by the club. That problem was changed this winter/spring. Knowing that we were to receive a brand new shiny club engine, the decision was made to build 6 gondolas. This took place in my shop over a 3-month period. Several members came and helped out during that time. Dave Chuculate put in many hours and learned just how much work goes into building them. Steve

Piggott wins the long distance award, coming all the way from Oak Ridge to help out. Others that helped with the construction were Jeremy Johnson, Scott Johnson, Frank Lertora, Darin Golden, Ernie and Bryson Hellman and Jack Chapman.

Once the construction was done Kurt Shelton took them to his place of employment and powder coated them.

Thanks to everyone's efforts we ended up with a very well built and colorful consist. During this next off-season we hope to get the floors sealed and the seats upholstered. We are still looking for sponsors to offset the expense of the car, so if you know of someone please have them get in touch with us. It doesn't have to be a business; an individual with \$1000 wanting to help out the club will do also! In return we will letter the car per their instructions.

Storm Clean-up

As reported in the winter issue, we had a great deal of storm damage during the first months of the new year. Before any of our ongoing projects could get underway we had to address all the debris. Several hearty members came out with stocking caps and chain saws and made firewood out of the fallen trees. Some of the trees that had not been uprooted were pulled upright and staked in hopes they would be ok when the ground firmed up? Once the ground firmed up another work party proceeded to remove the stumps and roots so work on Coyote Ridge could take place.

Coyote Ridge

Named for the home railroad of Dick and Rita Hofsheier, Coyote Ridge saw a real trans-

formation this year. Last year phase one took place, installing a small water feature and more dirt to the area between Gillespie Forest and the track. This year Dick and his tractor got busy on phase two. The first task was, to place two dump truck loads of large boulders, creating a wall along the track-side of the ridge. Dick had a great crew helping and by the end of the day they had placed all the rocks and topped them off with several loads of dirt. The next task was to plant 33 Rhododendrons that Dick had purchased from a "Farmer Friend". Once these were in place a drip irrigation system was installed to keep them watered. A fresh layer of bark was put on top and Presto! What a huge visual improvement this made. So you are thinking Coyote Ridge is complete? Wrong! Plans for next spring include the planting of a ground cover and increasing the size of the waterfall feature.

The Ridge is a multi-purpose project, the most obvious is to screen the tent camping area and provide a nice view from both sides. Since our railroad is built on flat farmland, the Ridge in conjunction with the arborvitae along the fence provides a feeling of traveling through a cut.

The ride is more interesting now and the reason for the signals has become obvious. This great improvement, sparked many positive comments from riders.

Thank you Dick, Rita for your donation of time and materials and to the crew that helped you. This shows what a little positive effort can accomplish.

"Trivia Fact"... Coyote Ridge now stands on the mainline of the previous layout.

Things to watch For

Some new adoptions have occurred... Stay tuned for stories about "Hellman Gulch", which was recently started.

Ground Breaking on round-house track.

Steam-Up 2006

Thank you again to all the Committee Heads and members who volunteered for Steam-Up duties. We would like to especially thank Marcia Lauseng, for making our dinner a true fund raiser, once again.

A full Steam-Up report will be in the next issue and at the Annual General Meeting.

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2006 in Review Pictures

Storm Clean-up



Coyote Ridge



A Note from Bev

I want you all to know how happy it made me to spend a day at the park, Labor Day weekend.

It was so nice to see and talk to everyone and see all the beautiful flowers and plantings. Coyote Ridge is looking great and the grass has never been nicer.

Terry Kimzey gave me a train ride and I finally saw the much talked about "New Club Engine".

I was able to return the following weekend to celebrate our grandsons 5th birthday. This time Trevor gave me a train ride and then told me he was going to run the 13 a little later. That made my day, to see him sitting on the engine with his dad, his hand on the throttle, I was so proud of him.

I really miss being at the railroad. I hope to spend more time next year?



Love to all, *Bev*

WCRR Library *By Garry Johnson*

As mentioned at earlier gatherings throughout the year, last December we received a truckload of catalogs and magazines from the estate of Louie Lettiere. Most of the catalogs were recycled, since suppliers have new ones every year. The collection of magazines was quite extensive, all railroad related, some dating back to the 1960's. They range from "N" scale to "Full" size, model and real railroading.

All the magazines have been cataloged by date and title and are currently being kept on the back wall of the car barn. Hopefully we can provide better access in the future? This is set up as a lending library and anyone wishing to check out magazines is welcome to do so. A book is provided to list what you take and bring back.

I'm sure Louie would be happy to

know that this info is being used to further the hobby of model railroading, as we know it. (More on Louie in future issues).



WCRR Makes Appearance at the Train Mtn. Triennial *By Frank Lertora*

Wow, what a showing we made, with over 35 WCRR members. Some members camped at Train Mountain and others stayed in the surrounding area. The camp in the South Meadow served as a base for everyone. There was the traditional pot-luck dinner followed by evening train rides.



The Triennial welcomed over 500 visitors. There were many familiar faces to get reacquainted with.

The Train Mtn. Staff once again hosted a wonderful event.



SPS 700 Makes a Run to Salem *By Terry Kimzey, PRPA/WCRR*

Hello from the PRPA. I've been asked to do a short article about the 700's trip to Salem, so here goes.....

On September 9th and 10th, the PRPA and the 700 were asked to come to a community event in Salem, a Safety Faire put on by the Salem Downtown Partnership. This was a repeat event from a year ago in May, 2005. The 700 left Brooklyn Friday evening on the 8th and spent the night in Tigar on the P & W railroad. Saturday we rolled in to Salem for the event. The PRPA also had our concessions trailer and the Operation Lifesaver trailer in Salem at the event as well. The event went over well, with a crowd of around 1500 that came by to tour the engine. This is down from last year, but we think that being on Labor Day weekend, the state fair going, and an antique car show next door (plus it was HOT...98 degrees) may have had an impact on our turnout. All in all though, it was still worth going.

One thing we noticed, as last year, when we pass by Brooks (Antique Powerland), there always seems to be a group of "foamers" hanging out by the tracks waving and taking pictures as we go by. It's nice to know we have our "groupies", and they were safe, staying well back from the tracks (if they hadn't, I'd given our "hoghead" orders to open the cylinder cocks as they went by). Good work guys and gals! Safety First.....!

Over the years the PRPA and Willow Creek Railroad have enjoyed a wonderful relationship working with each other. Thanks to WCRR, the PRPA is able to set up our concessions booth

in what is arguably the best spot in the entire park. A BIG thank you to WCRR for that honor. PRPA is also heavily involved with the Operation Lifesaver railroad safety program. Along that line, WCRR has also become a partner in the OL program as well. Something that we have tried, and has worked very well, is to have the OL trailer at the Steam Up each year, and have all the people who want to ride WCRR go by the trailer to get brochures and a safety lecture before entering WCRR. Another great example of two great organizations working together for the good of all. WCRR also fills in on occasion to help with Operation Lifesaver when the PRPA can't be on hand. A good example of that is the annual Agriculture Show at the Expo-

sition Center. Last year Garry graciously hauled the OL trailer to the show and manned it for the days the show was open. His report totally surprised us.....almost 3000 people came by the trailer during the event. We would have never expected that. Good job, Garry!

Once again, the PRPA thanks WCRR for the opportunity to work together and be a team.



THE NEWSLETTER
OF WILLOW CREEK
RAILROAD

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**We're on the web
willowcreekrr.org**



"The Back Shop"

Here is what members have been working on:



Bas Pasco



Jef Wood



Frank Lertora

President Johnson's Rant

As I sit here looking at my lawn covered with bright yellow, orange, and red leafs I guess we can officially say we have one more running season behind us. I'll leave the polar bear runs for others who just can't get enough running in the summer.

This is the time of year when we change modes and get back in our shops to make that new piece of rolling stock or fix all the little things that gave us problems this season. I know I have a box of parts that came back from Train Mt. that need

to be put back on the engine...

It appears like my shop will see a lot of action again this year? Not only do I have ongoing work to complete, I'm told we need to make a operator car for the club engine, construct several more switches to access the roundhouse, cut and stock pile Trex ties for work next spring. Then just in case I find a minute or two Dick, Frank and I are working on a project involving a new brake system for cars. Actually Dick has done the entire preliminary

work and design, I'm just jumping on the bandwagon!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who worked so hard to make this a stellar year. We do ... "What we do" ... Well, and it shows! I hope we can keep it up, because that's what makes the difference between "Brand X" and us.

**Happy railroading,
Pops, or (Grumpy) as some like to call me!**

