

RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



Grand Scales
Quarterly

JANUARY 2010

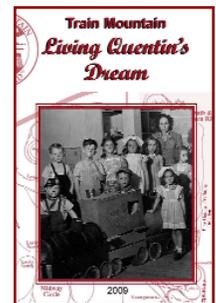
Hello again! Here it is, the end of January - the year is already 1/12th over! I know the coming months will fly by! So many projects to complete. So many trains to run and tracks to visit! Spring is on it's way. Even with the storms we've had the last couple of weeks, we are seeing signs of the spring to come. Thankfully, we have received some much needed rain ... so there should be plenty of water available to fill our tenders!

This issue of **Riding Railways Newsletter** features a brief article by Tony Windsor of Florida. He gives an explanation of various railroad gauges - a nice article for those new to the hobby. If you're looking for a steam engine, check out Jeff Badger's beauties in the ad on page 3.

Issue number 30 of GSQ will, hopefully, be ready to download by early next week. We had to wait on a couple of articles but I think you will agree they were worth the wait. Subscribers will receive an e-mail when it is ready to download.

Thanks to every one who took the time to tell us what they thought of the new Train Mountain DVD (**TM 2009 - Just Living Quentin's Dream**). Your feed back is always appreciated and welcome at any time. (If you haven't obtained your copy yet, you can use the order form on the last page or call 530-527-0141 to order. Or visit <http://www.grandscales.com/giftshop/2giftindex.html> to order on line. The DVDs are in stock and ready to ship.

One last note, renewal notices for the **7+RAILROADER** are mailing out this weekend. We sure appreciate your continued support.

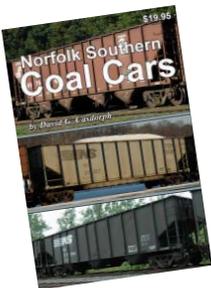


Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan', is written below the text 'Warm Regards,'.

NEW DIGITAL BOOK AVAILABLE FROM HIGHLANDS STATION

NORFOLK SOUTHERN COAL CARS



This 440-page book is an entirely new work by David Casdorff that provides an in-depth look at Norfolk Southern's current coal car fleet, including those from predecessor railroads that were still on the roster as of late 2009 (Conrail, Norfolk & Western, Reading and Southern). With over 200 high-resolution color photos and extensive historical data, this book provides a comprehensive examination of Norfolk Southern's coal car fleet. David documents the physical characteristics

and dimensions of all of the various types and classes of NS coal gondolas and hoppers. Also included in a brief overview of available HO and N scale models that can be used to model NS coal cars. This CD book is a valuable research tool for both modern-day Norfolk Southern modelers and rail historians. Presented in PDF format (Adobe® Reader® 5.0 or later required), all text is fully searchable, and all high-resolution color photos can be zoomed in on for close examination of every detail. ***

Available for \$19.95 from Highlands Station, http://www.highlandsstationllc.com/html/NS_Coal_Cars.htm.
Randy@HighlandsStationLLC.com

ADULT MODEL RAILROADING

By TONY WINDSOR

Let me start with my definition of the title, the majority of model railroading is "table top". This is defined as trains that have a track gauge from .5" to 3.5" between the rails. The larger gauges are usually installed outside of home and referred to as Garden Railroading, or large-scale railroading. The trackage can be installed at ground level or elevated from 18" to 48" above grade for ease of accessibility and preventing frost, snow and water heaving the trackage. The electrical systems can be run under the elevated tracks as you expand the layout.



The author's 3.75" scale, 7.5" gauge, British narrow gauge live steam locomotive "Wren".

I have seen carports, awnings and pole sheds over the central portions of the layouts, like the freight yard. Much of the tabletop railroading is electric motor powered. Live steam powered locomotives are popular on outdoor garden railroads... but you can't ride on them as they are too small.

Adult model railroading, as I call it, has track gauges from 4.75" to 24" (also known as live steam and Grand Scale railroading). The most popular gauge seems to be 7.25" and 7.5". West of New England states, is predominately 7.5".

There are about fifteen railroad clubs listed in Florida, and over four hundred clubs listed in the U.S.A., not including many private lines that don't advertise their whereabouts. (See http://www.7plusrailroader.com/links/clubs_frame.htm.)

In my experience, about one third of the locomotives in the clubs are live steam powered (either by coal, wood, propane or oil). Another third are gas or hydraulic powered and the rest electric battery powered. Each has their own advantages. My Plum Cove Studio's locomotive is battery powered. Many trains have interesting sound systems installed to add to the realism.

Clubs have varying lengths of track - running from around one mile to three or more. Train Mountain, in Chiloquin, Oregon, has over twenty miles!

Track gauges larger than 7.5" aren't found as frequently but are still very popular. They tend to cost more to get into, with prices higher than that of their smaller cousins. Building the railroad can be more labor intensive and it isn't as easy to haul the equipment to other railroads for events, though it is often done.

7.5" gauge locomotives weigh, in my experience, anywhere from 200 to 2,500 pounds. Freight cars run from 80 to 200 pounds. And locomotives, with tenders, run from \$2,000 to well over \$100,000.

Of course, like with many things in life, the costs can vary depending on how much work and effort you wish to expend building your own equipment or buying one ready to run.

But to me, the REAL FUN is the we RIDE on our trains, sitting on the tender or flat car behind the locomotive, instead of sitting on the sidelines watching them run. ***

FOR SALE

3" Scale 15" gauge
3 Truck Shay Steam Loco
\$75k or make offer

Contact Jeff Badger
831-212-5545
btflco@juno.com



Parts were cast beginning in 1964; completed in 1980. A new, non-code boiler, built by Ed Perry (Fresno, CA) was installed Oct. '95. Locomotive was sold in 1998 and stored in N. CA. When I purchased it in Nov. '08, it was dismantled and had not operated since arriving in CA. At that time, there was a problem with pistons / valves. Engine set was removed and sent to Ken Kukuk of Westside Locomotive Works. New pistons, rings, valves were installed. I have replaced all the plumbing and fixtures, converted it to fire oil with a Von Bodden style burner from the Billy Jones 2 Spot, and made other repairs. Fully restored and an excellent runner. **Also included is a restored caboose w/ new interior featuring a pot belly stove and lighting.**



FOR SALE

Crown 15" gauge
4-4-0 Steam Locomotive &
Tender

Contact Jeff Badger
831-212-5545
btflco@juno.com

Purchased in 2004 from the Heritage Railway (Ontario, Canada) for use at Camp Wawona, a church youth camp. It is currently set up as an automatic diesel burner using a small gas operated generator. It has a code boiler which was recently certified to 150lbs of operating pressure. With the automatic system, the burner has a high limit set at 140psi (low limit is 120psi). Locomotive has a 3/8th in. Penberthy and a 2N Metropolitan for injecting water. A manual lubricator injects oil into the cylinders. This locomotive has been tested and is ready to go. Included is a new stack and misc. paperwork. Sold As-Is, Where-Is.

HOW TO CARRY EQUIPMENT TO MEETS

A Photo Essay



Photos on this page were taken at the **2009 Train Mountain Triennial** in Chiloquin, Oregon.

All photos: **Robinson & Associates**

A wide variety of vehicles are utilized in the transportation of railroad equipment.



One gentleman camping near us traveled with his equipment inside and on top of his station wagon. Unfortunately, my camera wasn't available when his vehicle was being loaded. It proves though that you really don't need special trailers or trucks to visit other tracks.



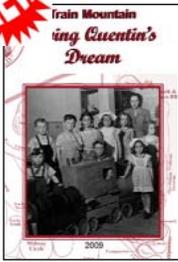


Transporting the 7.5" equipment is well and good but what about the bigger stuff? It too can be loaded up. The 15" gauge *Sonoma*, above, was transported to the **Reedley Railfest** in 2006 by the crew from the **California State RR Museum** in Sacramento. At right, you can see the **Hillcrest** crew loading up at 15" box car in St. Louis, Mo. No matter what the gauge, you can take it with you! 🚂





Gift Shop

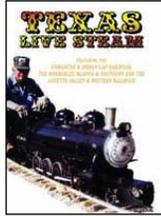


TRAIN MOUNTAIN 2009 "Living Quentin's Dream"

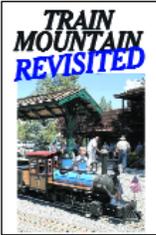
NOW SHIPPING - New DVD featuring all the trains, the fun and excitement of the 2009 Train Mountain Triennial. **\$29.95**

TEXAS LIVE STEAM

Come on y'all and visit three of the nicest 7.5" gauge railroads in the glorious state of Texas! You'll be impressed with the size and quality of Nick Edward's newly built WIMBERLEY BLANCO & SOUTHERN. You'll learn about large scale Operations at Roy Pickard's down-home COMANCHE & INDIAN GAP. And you'll really enjoy the welcoming atmosphere at Terry McGrath's ANNETTA VALLEY & WESTERN. **\$29.95**



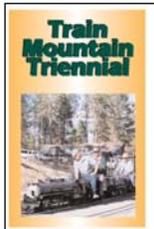
TRAIN MOUNTAIN REVISITED



Enjoy one of the largest live steam meets ever held in the world. See the superpower double and triple headers! Learn from interviews with those who have built Train Mountain (7.5", Chiloquin, OR). Trace the development of Train Mountain into the largest miniature railroad to date. Trains, trains; more trains! **DVD (with bonus features): \$29.95**

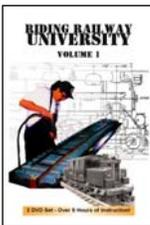
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Enjoy one of the largest live steam meets ever held in the world. See the superpower double and triple headers! Learn from interviews with those who have built Train Mountain (7.5", Chiloquin, OR). Trace the development of Train Mountain into the largest miniature railroad to date. This is THE DVD for those who want to know the history behind the railroad. Trains, trains; more trains! **DVD: \$29.95**



RIDING RAILWAY UNIVERSITY

Each DVD set contains over 5 hours of instruction on 2 DVDs.



This is your chance to learn from men who, together, have hundreds of years experience in the hobby. Well suited for the experienced railroader and the newcomer alike.

VOL. 1: Track panel construction, Designing and building of the world's largest hobby RR, Hydraulic drive design, Brakes, Injectors, Switching, Steam engine design. **\$39.95**

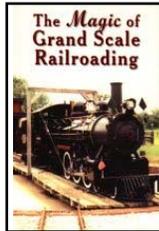
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VOL. 4: "Curves You Can Bank On", Steel Car Construction, Machine Shop Tips, Updated Operations at Train Mountain, Details Details -From On30 to 2.5" Scale **\$39.95**

ADDITIONAL VOLUMES OF RIDING RAILWAY UNIVERSITY COMING THIS SPRING.

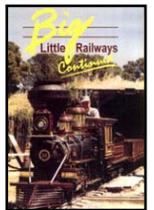


THE Magic OF GRAND SCALE RAILROADING

Features the **Whiskey River Railway** at Little A-Merrick-A (16", Marshall, Wisconsin), the **Milwaukee Zoo** (15", Milwaukee, Wisconsin), the **Hesston Steam Museum** (14", Hesston, Indiana) and the late Jack Sessums' **Live Oak Canyon Railroad** (15", Redlands, California). **DVD \$29.95**

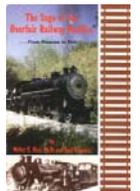
BIG LITTLE RAILWAYS

CONTINUED - features updates of the 11 railroads on the original BLR, as well as full features on the **Orland Neville & Pacific**, the exclusive **Hetch Hetchy & Yosemite Valleys**, the beautiful and private **Paradise RR** and the pristine **Michigan AuSable Valley Railway**. Over 70 minutes. **DVD \$29.95**



SAGA OF THE OVERFAIR

RAILWAY - 30 page booklet - Numerous color and black & white photos, with insightful text, will take you on the historical journey of this famous 19" gauge railway equipment. **\$9.00**



LOCOMOTIVE HAT PIN

Beautiful pins - small gift that is appropriate for all of your train buddies! (Even the wives like these!) **\$5.00**



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California residents please add 8.25% sales tax
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MORE DVDs AVAILABLE ON-LINE
<http://www.7plusrailroader.com/>



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