

RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2009

Grand Scales
Quarterly

Hello from Red Bluff! Good news for GSQ fans and subscribers! We now have issue 29 up and ready to download from our web site. Letters were already mailed so some of you may already have your passwords. If not, you should have them next week. KEEP your envelopes as your password information is printed on them.

If you haven't downloaded it yet, or received your letters, here's what you'll find in this issue:

Number 29 has some articles that we are very excited about. Cliff Corcoran talks about his memories of being a G-16 engineer as a young man, the rumble of the engines, watching out for last minute stowaways, and teasing the pretty girls. Richard Harris tells the story of Bud Hurlbut's legacy in the park train and amusement ride industry (including his friendships with Walter Knott and Walt Disney). Kell Schmidt discusses the importance of considering minimum curve radius in layout design and some factors to consider when coming up with this number for yourself.

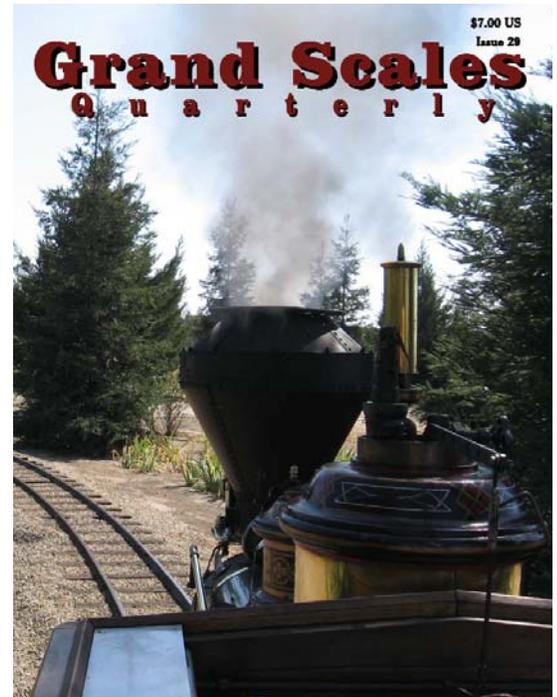
And Colin Fleetney has penned what is among the most beautifully written pieces GSQ has had the honor to run. He recounts the thrills, moment by moment, of one rainy black night in the 1950's when he ran a 15" gauge, 8 ton 4-8-2 at a scale 100mph. Imagine knowing that the rails are wet, you have a fully loaded train with more than 100 passengers, then the station master tells you to pick up five more cars that can fit dozens more, putting you over the rated limit of your engine on that line. And you'll be shoveling coal by hand to move your train down the road. This article is a masterpiece of railroad storytelling. And you are riding in the cab with him, listening to crunch of the shovel in the coal and smelling the hot cylinder oil.

Good stuff! I know you those of you who subscribe to GSQ will really enjoy it.

This weekend we will be heading to Reedley for the Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railfest. If you're able to join us this weekend, please come on over and say hello. Greg will be running the Sonoma again and I will be helping out here and there.... stop us and say hello.

Warm Regards,

PS- Please note that **we no longer use the old e-mail address (mainline@....)** The new e-mail address to reach Susan is srobinson@theskybeam.com and to reach Greg, contact editor@grandscales.com.





NEWS

CENTRAL COAST RAILROAD FESTIVAL IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

Lots of things happening in and around San Luis Obispo, CA, this weekend. The Central Coast Railroad Festival features railroad events for all scales of railroads. Participants can also experience rail travel by boarding the miniature Bitter Creek Western Railroad in Arroyo Grande.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/story/877313.html> and <http://www.ccrf.com/>



DC Abramson, above, and Genevieve Goings are the musically fluent stars of *Choo-Choo Soul*, a Disney video series. Disney Channel

CHOO-CHOO SOUL

Wondering if today's youth will still be interested in trains? Look no further than the Disney channel! According to the Star-Telegram, "The show — a series of music video-style shorts airing between programs — has become a popular part of the Playhouse Disney lineup thanks to its catchy blend of basic skills like ABCs

and 123s and accessible hip-hop beats. The Choo-Choo duo even has a top-selling CD, a self-titled release featuring 13 ditties like the R&B-tinged Blue Zoo Train and a funky groove called The Polite Song." http://www.star-telegram.com/family_day/story/1672196.html

MICKEY MOUSE AT UNION STATION

According to the KCTribune: "Mickey Mouse will pay a visit to Kansas City's Union Station Saturday to unveil a traveling art exhibit that celebrates Walt Disney's lifelong love of trains. The collection captures the history of Walt's and Mickey's love of trains with a nod to life on the railroad in the early 20th century. Introducing visitors to rare animation

sketches and cells, historic photography and some of Walt's personal train-related artifacts, the gallery tells the story of a simpler time when Mickey and friends traveled by rail and Walt himself was building one-of-a-kind miniature railroads in his backyard for friends and family." Read more:

http://www.kctribune.com/article/KC_News_Features/KCTribune/Mickey_Mouse_at_Union_Station_Saturday_to_Begin_LA_Train_Trip/19119

RIDGEWAY MINIATURE RAILWAY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

From the Guardian: "Visitors travelled from as far as Yorkshire to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Ridgeway Miniature Railway in Chingford on Sunday.

The Mayor of Waltham Forest, Cllr Anna Mbachu, took a ride alongside ward councillors and hundreds of visitors arrived, some waiting for up to one hour to board a train."

<http://www.guardian-series.co.uk/news/4669974.print/>
<http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/index/leisure/parksrec/parks-op-spaces/parks-ridgeway.htm>



Double heading on the Boothbay Rwy. Collection BRV.

LEARNING TO RUN A LOCOMOTIVE

Boothbay Railway Village, Boothbay, ME, is offering a two-day steam engineering course October 17-18, 2009. This is a full-scale railroad but good experience none-the-less.

<http://www.railwayvillage.org/steamcourse04.html> ***

October 10&11, 2009

www.hillcrestreedley.com



Hillcrest & Wahtoke

Reedley Railfest

~Pumpkin Patch~



~Tree Farm~

Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railroad presents its fourth annual Fall Railfest. Rent an engine & experience the thrill of operating a live steam locomotive, or take a ride & see the farm. Trains depart the Hillcrest Station from 10am to 5pm.

Tickets are \$4.00 for ages 2 & up.

Enjoy live music, food, train rides, & more

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