

# RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



**Grand Scales**  
Quarterly

DECEMBER 2007

Hello and welcome! This issue of the Riding Railways Newsletter is full of news. Hope you enjoy it. I also hope you have had a chance to visit our newly designed web site for **GSQ** ([www.grandscales.com](http://www.grandscales.com)). I have added a bunch of articles and links and things I hope you will enjoy. Please let me know what you think about it. Like this issue, all future issues of the newsletter will be available there for you to download at your convenience.

We've also added an Amazon store front. You can visit it here:

[http://astore.amazon.com/robinson\\_and\\_associates-20](http://astore.amazon.com/robinson_and_associates-20). Many times people call or ask about other railroad books, many of which we do not keep in stock. Take a peek and see if there is anything of interest there.

I can't believe how fast this year has flown by! We certainly hope that the coming year is filled with much joy and happiness for each of you!

Warm Regards,

PS- I have a new e-mail address. You can still contact me at [mainline@sunset.net](mailto:mainline@sunset.net) for a short while. But in the future, please use [srobinson@theskybeam.com](mailto:srobinson@theskybeam.com). Please make note of this in your spam filters so I can still contact you when future issues of the newsletter are available. Thanks!



Recently ran across this painting by **David Gilmore**. He said: "It was a special moment for me to be present during the 200-th anniversary celebration of the first UK steam locomotive (Richard Trevithick's) at the National Rail Museum, Saturday May 30, 2004. Richard Branson had just completed the purchase of the Gresley Pacific "Flying Scotsman" for the museum and accompanied it to the site in York. It was a proud addition to the festival of steam which lasted one week." His work is available through [www.studio22.ca](http://www.studio22.ca) and the original painting is for sale. More of his work (mostly non-RR) can be found here as well: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dcguk/sets/72157603406977327/> \*\*\*



# MAIL BAG

Whether Grand Scale or Garden railroad, plastic lumber is the definitive answer for track beds. Made from high density polyethylene ( HDPE ), we are essentially recycling milk jugs to create plastic lumber. This lumber won't rot, split, crack or weather like wood. Additionally, it is insect proof for those of you in areas of the country with termite problems. Plastic has much higher compression strength than wood and won't break down



over time like repeated pressure on wood. It also has greater withdrawal strength with fasteners and should help maintain your installation. We can manufacture any color, but stock nine basic colors including black, chocolate brown and redwood which seem to be most popular for this type of application. We are also able to produce custom lengths as we are the factory and this will save you scrap costs. Yes, we are a higher initial price than wood, but if you can recall how wood has increased in price and can predict a future cost it is easy to see how this product pays for itself the first time you have to replace ties. So, why spend time repairing the rails when you could be riding them instead?

David Cook  
V.P. Sales & Marketing  
Engineered Plastic Systems, LLC  
885 Church Rd, Elgin, IL 60123  
Ph: 847-289-8383 F: 847-289-8382  
www.EPSPlasticLumber.com

The photo that I have sent you is a 5" gauge Dj class loco of NZ



Railways. About this class of loco. The Dj loco's were made in Japan in 1967 by Mustubishi Heavy industries, the wheel arrangement are Bo-Bo-Bo and were to be 1050 hp. There are only 6 left in NZ owned by Otago Train Trust. I like the shape and the way this loco runs. The model in the photo is a 5" gauge with myself as driver, motor power is a 31cc Honda 4 stroke with a clutch and a rihgt hand reduction box then chain driven to the axle on the front truck.

I am now making a 7 1/4" gauge Dj loco and I am going totry to make as close to the real Dj. This phot was taken about 2years ago at the C.S.M.E.E. club. www.csnee.org.nz. I have a nother 7 1/4" loco made and awaiting to painted and to have some photo taken. All the best,  
Peter Jackson

**Your letters are welcome!** E-mail me at [srobinson@theskybeam.com](mailto:srobinson@theskybeam.com) or send them to Robinson & Associates, PO Box 8953, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

## **Beginners Train Set – Locomotive, Car, Track**

A Powerful, Fun Exact Scale Model – Not a Kids Toy

### **Locomotive Features -**

- ◆ Completely Painted and Ready-To-Run ◆ Proven Design, Over 70 Running ◆ 1 1/2" Scale
- ◆ Weighs 200+ Pounds ◆ Pulls 4 Adults, Even Uphill ◆ 8 MPH Top Speed ◆ 7 1/2" Gauge
- ◆ Uses Standard Battery ◆ Hand Held Remote Control ◆ Horn ◆ Headlight ◆ 31" Long

### **Car Features -**

- ◆ Painted and Ready to Run ◆ 60" Long ◆ Drawbar ◆ Roller Bearing Trucks ◆ Steel Wheels

### **Track Features -**

- ◆ Complete 20' x 30' Oval ◆ Aluminum Rail ◆ Composite Ties ◆ Simple Screwdriver Assembly



**Complete Starter Set**  
**\$3899.00**  
**Locomotive Only**  
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Some Items Shown Are Optional

*Model Railroads You Can Ride On*

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# NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Allan Weitzman of **Jay-Cee Sales and Rivet** (32861 Chesley Dr., Farmington, Mi 48336) tells me that you can view their new line card on-line. Visit: [http://www.rivetsin-stock.com/line\\_card.pdf](http://www.rivetsin-stock.com/line_card.pdf)



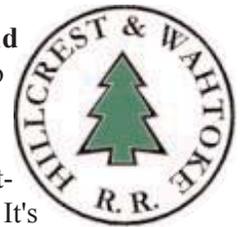
**Scale Products Company** offers two new wall mount signals (above) for train rooms, dens, workshops or wherever. Made from aluminum with stainless fasteners, the signals run off safe 12Volts DC and include a plug in power supply. For more information contact Dennis at 970 946 4180 or [dennis@trainsignals.com](mailto:dennis@trainsignals.com). <http://www.trainsignals.com/>

**Maxitrak of England** mentioned that they have a new locomotive. "Ruston 2 is a larger version of our popular 5" gauge Ruston model. It has a bolt together folded all steel body with moulded detailing, including sand boxes,



exhaust, spring mouldings, radiator with filler cap etc. There are four 80 watt motors driving the two axles with our own electronic control panel. The chassis runs on sealed ball race bearings and has a rubber and spring suspension. Controls come mounted in the cab but can be extended to a remote hand set as an extra. A loud horn comes as standard with a twin tone horn set as an option. Other extras include headlamp, battery condition meter, sound system, and graphics or name plates. This locomotive will pull eight people in standard form on level track and can haul up to double this with extra adhesion weight." To learn more, visit <http://www.maxitrak.co.uk/electriclocomotives/ruston2.asp>

Our friends at the **Hillcrest and Wahtoke Railroad** have much news to share. Sean tells us:



- The first half of the two new 32' riveted steel girder plate bridges is finished. It's two feet tall, and has thousands of hot rivets installed. It along with the other bridge is going into the deep section of the Wahtoke cut.

-The footings are dug and the forms are begun for the footings to these bridges. Hopefully the concrete will be poured before Christmas.

-Ridership on he railroad is up this year by better than 20% and the train is being used to carry the customers and harvest their Christmas trees during this season.

-Four new gondola cars are being built this year for the railroad to accommodate the increase in the numbers of riders.

-5 more acres of land are being purchased to add to the 25 existing to allow more track expansion and to build a bigger #2 shop for Hillcrest shops.

-WE ARE ADDING A NIGHT TRAIN RUN, ONE DAY ONLY THE 22 ND OF DECEMBER. This is a pajama train extravaganza with live music, bon fires chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate and hot food, and of course, night time train rides.

Regarding the Hillcrest Shops:

-We have new 3/4 knuckle couplers available. These are steel slotted knuckle couplers that look like our 5" scale

coupler but are much larger and are true 3/4 size. They couple to older 3/4's used in logging trains and two / three foot gauge tourist railroads.

-Our new steam air compressor is almost ready for testing. It's a 5" scale model of a single lung, Westinghouse 9 1/2" pump. It's 3.5" bore by 4" stroke and will put out allot of air. This will go on the new 5" scale 15" gauge moguls but will be for sale to the home builder as well. Stay tuned for details.

-Passenger trucks will be available soon in both 5" scale and 8" scale. These will be good for anything form 15" gauge to smaller 36" gauge. All the components are finished and the prototypes are in the shops being assembled. More details to come.

To learn more about Hillcrest, visit their site:

<http://5inchsteam.8k.com/>

**Wasatch Railroad Contractors** works with railroad operations of any size, from Class I railroads to tourist lines and amusement parks. In May, a Utah businessman requested WRC to make an evaluation of his 24-inch gauge 4-4-0

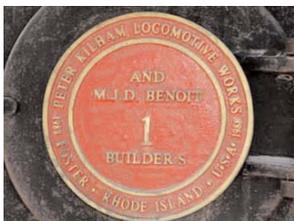


steam locomotive. He had purchased the locomotive from Rhode Island a number of years ago, and now is looking to the possibility of future operation. After a brief survey of the locomotive at the owner's property, WRC presented an estimate of work to be done. The locomotive was then shipped to Cheyenne, WY for work to commence.

WRC now has the locomotive at its home shop in Cheyenne, and work is being done to thoroughly inspect the locomotive. Once this work is completed, WRC will have the locomotive inspected by Utah State boiler inspector and have it certified for operation in Utah.

One more thing: The number plate indicates that the locomotive was indeed built in Rhode Island, however not much else is known about its history. If you think you might have some answers, they would love to hear from you!

<http://wasatch-rr-contractors.com/>



John Buckwalter recently had his gorgeous 15" gauge locomotive for sale on eBay. You can still see the info if you visit [eBay.com](http://eBay.com) and type in the number **300180625740**. It didn't sell but if you are interested in a steamer, you might want to contact John. (Send a note to me and I will get you in touch with John.)



Big news for the **Hermann Park Train** in Texas. They are taking out the existing railroad (above) and replacing it with a new one which is expected to be ready by March of 2008. The railroad has been in the community for 50 years. While it has always been used as a form of entertainment, the Hermann Park Conservancy wants to make the train even more useful. Doreen Stoller, the executive director, said the new train will take visitors to the museum district and other locations via the light rail connections. Stoller estimated that the railroad will profit \$250,000 annually.

The improvements will include wider carriages, handicap accessible cars, and three mini-stations. There will be a new train station, restaurant, restrooms and landscaping too. The Hermann Park Conservancy took over operation of the railroad in June of this year. Previously it was a private concession. If you want to see your name on the locomotive, you can do so for only \$250,000. Or, if a car is more to your liking, you can have your name on it for only \$150.00. enr.com



# GIANT GARDEN RAILROAD FOR SALE

## 24" NARROW GAUGE HOME-BUILT TRAIN

**ENGINE:** 22 ft. long, 60 inches wide, 318 Dodge engine, airbrakes, air horns, 2 axle chain driven.

**FLAT CAR:** 22 ft. long, 60 inches wide, treated lumber deck.

**CABOOSE:** 22 ft. long, 60 inches wide, interior not completed.

**TANK CAR:** 22 ft. long, 66 inches wide, top hatch opens.

**TRACK:** 145 pieces of track (Believe these are 40 lb. rails)

**MISC. ITEMS:** Spikes, ties, tie plates (homemade), spike hammer, spike puller, bars, wrenches, track carriers, track turners.



## LITTLE TRAIN

Tank car, flat car, log car, crane car, and an additional 8 chassis. These cars are 7 ft. long, 3 ft. wide.

HO layouts started but never finished.

PROPERTY NOT INCLUDED. Buyer to pick up items at their convenience.

**\$100,000**

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# WHAT DO THE PROFESSIONALS KNOW ABOUT BUILDING RAILROADS?

Building a Grand Scale railroad requires a great deal of time and effort. And it requires a great deal of knowledge. Wouldn't it be great if there was an affordable way to learn from the professionals — to, in effect, have your own private education? And what if you could receive this education in your own home? NOW YOU CAN! Starting now you will learn:

**Good for private and commercial railways**

Why and how you should pre-bend rail before laying it  
The tools that are most useful for bending rail  
When are plastic ties most useful?  
How to lay rail quickly  
Tips on rebuilding locomotives and machining new parts

You will learn the ins and outs of laying track the way the professionals at the **Hillcrest Shops** do it. **Ed Youngling** will share thoughts on rebuilding locomotives and many of the shop tips he has learned through years of experience and hard work. All delivered directly to you.

## Can you answer these important questions regarding insurance?

- ? Why is it harder to insure your railroad than your home?
- ? Does your club insurance cover you?
- ? What questions do you NEED to ask your agent?

**VITAL ANSWERS FOR EVERYONE!**

**Mike Deeble** can and does answer these tough questions in his information packed seminar! Plus Mike shares many more points of vital interest to railroad owners and operators.

**Paul Garin** of **Roll Models** steps up to share with you knowledge that he uses in his business every day when he teaches you about Fluid Drive Systems. Watch and listen as Paul teaches

- How to plumb hydraulic systems
- How hydraulics work
- How to run a locomotive with a fixed displacement pump system
- What formulas you can use when designing your system

No doubt such an education would be of great value to you. In fact, some might even say **PRICELESS**. If you were to pay each individual for his time and expertise, you would easily pay many thousands of dollars. We are pleased to provide this informative series for a small fraction of that.

Another person who you will learn a great deal from is Cagney historian and mechanical engineer, **Don Micheletti**. Don shares some of his vast knowledge on the history and operation of Cagney locomotives. For instance,

- ☞ When did Cagney begin production and for what reason?
- ☞ What is the difference between a class D and E engine?
- ☞ What gauges did they build?
- ☞ What makes a Cagney unique?

Wouldn't you agree that the information presented here would be well worth owning? And wouldn't it be wonderful to have this information on hand for current and future projects? Fortunately you can have all of this mailed directly to you! Your very own university class in your living room! The **GRAND SCALES UNIVERSITY volume 1** is now available! So why wait? Call **530-527-0141** to order your program today.

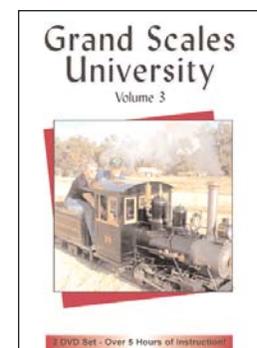
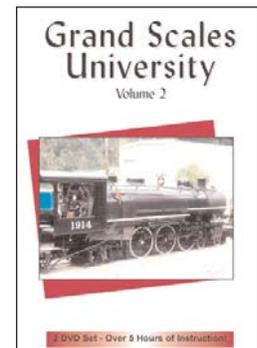
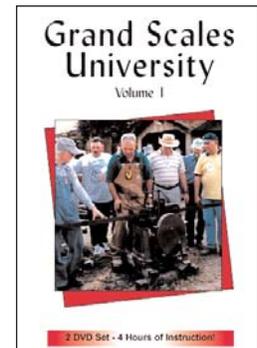
There is even more on the way! In a very short while two other volumes will be available. These will include

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- **Robert Frank of Sonoma Taintown** as he discusses **commercial operations**
- The history of the **Swanton Pacific and Wabash Frisco & Pacific Railways**
- **Boilers with Paul Boschan**
- **Switch Construction with Hillcrest Shops**
- **Sheet Metal Forming** with master builder **Jack Bodenmann**

#### **GRAND SCALES UNIVERSITY volume 3**

- **History of the Redwood Valley Rwy.** by the founder's daughter, **Ellen Thomsen**
- **Automatic Air Brakes** with **Sean Bautista**
- The **Basic 0-4-0** with designer **Chris Allen**



- The **History of the Miniature Train Company** with MTC Historian **L. Andrew Jugle**
- And a fascinating look into Hollywood magic as the late **Jack Sessums** shares how he destroyed trains for the movies.

## QUESTIONS?

Have questions? Send us an e-mail ([mainline@sunset.net](mailto:mainline@sunset.net)) or call **530-527-0141** today. We'll be happy to discuss this useful and entertaining series with you.

Ok, but now you may be wondering how much you would have to pay to have your very own copy the **Grand Scales University** series. Many technical training series cost several hundreds of dollars. And this series would be well worth every penny! But we don't want to charge you that much. We are pleased to offer the **Grand Scales University** series to you for only \$50 per two-disk volume. All three volumes can be yours for only \$150 plus shipping.

When you consider the cost to build or operate a Grand Scale operation, you can no doubt see that \$50 is a VERY modest investment for such information. The entertainment value alone is worth that price! The education is, well, priceless. Don't wait. Order volume 1 today by calling **530-527-0141**, use the attached order form or order on-line at [www.grandscales.com](http://www.grandscales.com).

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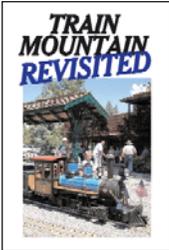
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# GIFT SHOP

## NEW DVDs and More!

### TRAIN MOUNTAIN REVISITED

The 2006 TM Triennial was even larger and more spectacular than in years past. This program takes us back to Train Mountain to enjoy this world class event. Surprise footage features the world record setting operations! **\$29.95**



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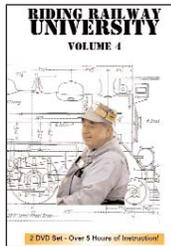
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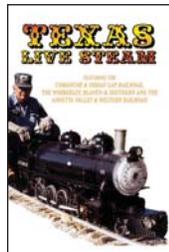
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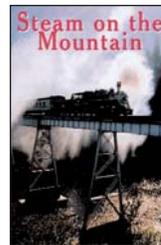


Come on y'all and visit three of the nicest 7.5" gauge railroads in the glorious state of Texas! You'll be impressed with the size and quality of Nick Edward's newly built **Wimberley**

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### STEAM ON THE MOUNTAIN DVD

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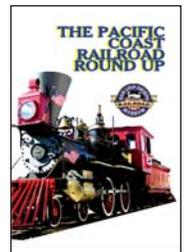
ful drive rods and steel wheels. You'll enjoy the dramatic scenery and hearing the engineer describe what it's like to run a steam engine over a railroad he has worked on for decades. And there is no sound in the world like a lonesome steam whistle echoing through the pine trees.



DVD **\$19.95**  
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### PACIFIC COAST RR ROUND UP DVD

The Pacific Coast is a private railroad on the Central California coast. It is opened to the public only once each year, as a fund raiser for the San Luis Obispo Railway Museum. This DVD takes you aboard the charming narrow gauge train. It features vintage steam engines (including the one that was in the opening shots of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman TV show with Jane Seymour). The coaches are genuine Disney coaches - the first coaches to be used in service at Disneyland. Great for railfans, narrow gaugers, families, Disney enthusiasts and anyone else who would just enjoy a good show. Approx. 1 hour with bonus features. **\$19.95.**



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