

# RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



**Grand Scales**  
Quarterly

DECEMBER 2009

**G**reetings from sunny California! Ok, so it hasn't exactly been sunny! You can see one of our boys standing in our front yard a week ago... a bit of ice, no? Yes, even here in the golden state, it can get a wee bit chilly! Sure hope the steam engine was carefully put away last time it was used...



Good news for those who have been waiting for the **2009 Train Mountain Triennial DVD**. It is now SHIPPING! You can order your copy directly from us or from the TM gift shop. We both have DVDs in stock and ready to ship.

The DVD is titled "Living Quentin's Dream", which seemed fitting with the passing of the railroad's founder last year. Quentin fought to make it to the triennial but the illness got the best of him. He died several months before. Nonetheless, the triennial was a smashing success, which says a lot for Quentin, the staff of TM, and all the many volunteers.

Everyone worked hard to make it an event that Quentin would be proud of.

In the issue of the **Riding Railways Newsletter**, you will find an interesting article from **Walter Whiting** on building a rotisserie for the shop... curious? See page 2. And **Ken Olsen** provides some helpful photos on tender parking brake design. That article, with a helpful diagram, starts on page 3. Oh, if anyone is interested in a railroad that is already built, check out the ad on page 6.

We certainly hope that the coming year is filled with much happiness for you and your family.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan".

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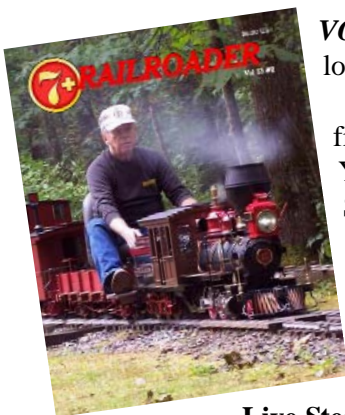
**VOL 13#2** of the **7+RAILROADER** is now available for downloading. If you haven't yet downloaded your copy, please visit <http://www.7plusrailroader.com/>.

**Colin Fleetney** will transport you back to a grimy engine shed in the 1940's. You'll feel your fingers getting greasy as you join him as wiping down rods and scraping crud off the drivers. You'll cringe as junior crew members are given assignments between the drivers among the Stephenson valve gear. Such vivid imagery will surely make your enjoyment of the live steam hobby that much richer.

**Tony Windsor** from down in sunny Florida really enjoys making the rounds with his tank engine. We'll join him as he runs through his operating procedures and shares his thoughts on enjoying various tracks.

**Benjamin Maggi** really appreciates the benefits of being a member of the **Adirondack Live Steamers**. While giving us a look at the club itself, he makes some excellent points about why a newcomer to the hobby might want to consider joining a club. His photography draws you into the scenic location of this welcoming railroad, and his enthusiasm is contagious. Plus hobby news and more!

NEWS, PHOTOS, ARTICLES and DRAWINGS are ALWAYS WELCOME.



# Rotisserie For The Shop

by Walter Whiting

I am in the process of building two large diesel locomotives and have reached the point where it is getting difficult to turn the chassis over during welding. I needed an easier way. The result? A rotisserie!

I wasn't sure if it would work given the size of the engines, but I gave it a shot. Turns out (pun intended) they work great. The chassis are top heavy so you still need the engine lift to guide things, but they are easily turned.

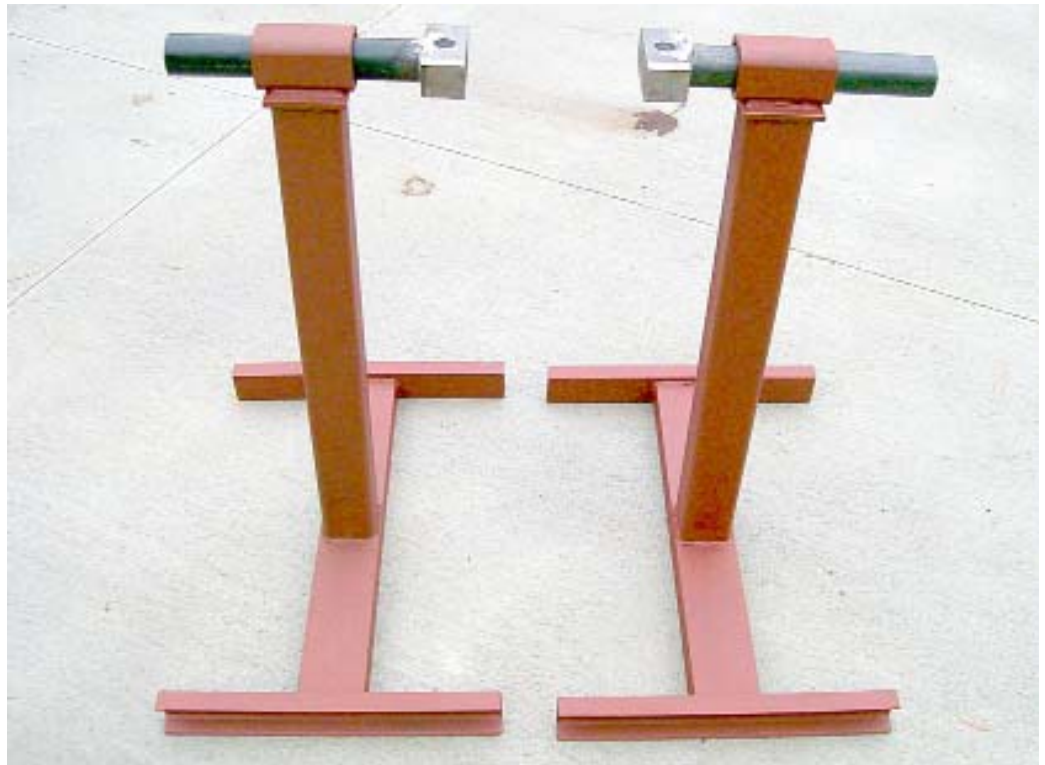
All the material came from stock I had on hand. There are no drawings, but I'll give the dimensions that I used.

The feet are 1 x 2 channel cut into four equal pieces 15" long. The base is 3" channel cut in half 20 1/4" long. The upright legs are 2 1/2" square 1/4" wall tubing 23 1/4" long. The top cap 1/4" x 3" HRS cut in

half 3" long. The top is 2" square x 1/4" wall tube cut 3 1/4" long. The pivot pins are 1 1/2" dia. HRS 9" long. And the square blocks are 1 1/2" square CRS 3" long. I drilled a 3/4" hole through for the coupler pin. On the side I drilled a 1/2" hole 1/8" deep to accept a 1/2" dia x 1/8" long stub I milled on the end of the pivot pin.

Makes aligning a lot easier. I ground the welds at the top and bottom so they would slip into the coupler pockets easily. All the cuts were made with an abrasive chop saw and all the welding done with Interweld 80T AC+ rod using 170 amps. Try to keep everything square when assembling so no side loads are induced. A coat of Rustoleum primer and they are done. First photo shows finished rotisserie. Second photo shows in use. \*\*\*

*Walter is the owner / builder of the 15" gauge Tall Pines Scenic Railroad. <http://www.tallpinesscenicrailroad.com/>*



# Tender Parking Brake Lever Assembly

Reader Kenneth Olsen sent us a note about car brakes since there has been a great deal of interest in the steam forums about them recently. He referred to a diagram that appeared in Vol 7#4 of the *7+RAILROADER*, which is found on the next page. "It would be a great addition to your web page *Articles*" (see [www.grandscales.com/articles/articles.html](http://www.grandscales.com/articles/articles.html)), he said. "I have installed one of these on my tender and it is great. Both vacuum and air brakes do not work very well when parked or if

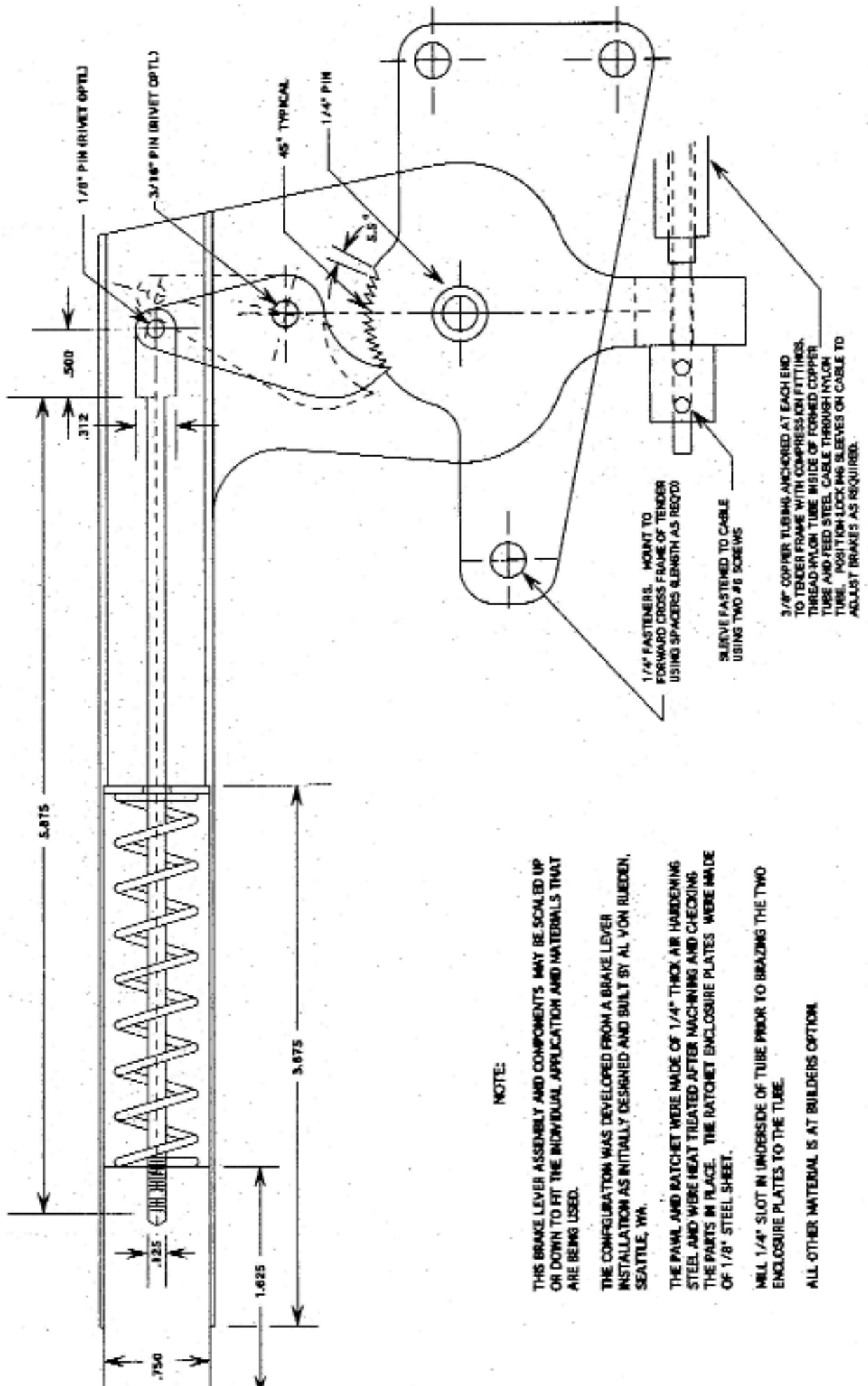
*Continues on pg 5*



Al Von Rueden of Seattle, WA, making a set of trucks.



# TENDER PARKING BRAKE LEVER ASSEMBLY (SHOWN FULL SIZE)



## NOTE:

THIS BRAKE LEVER ASSEMBLY AND COMPONENTS MAY BE SCALED UP OR DOWN TO FIT THE INDIVIDUAL APPLICATION AND MATERIALS THAT ARE BEING USED.

THE CONFIGURATION WAS DEVELOPED FROM A BRAKE LEVER INSTALLATION AS INITIALLY DESIGNED AND BUILT BY AL VON RUEDEN, SEATTLE, WA.

THE PALM AND RATCHET WERE MADE OF 1/4" THICK AIR HARDENING STEEL AND WERE HEAT TREATED AFTER MACHINING AND CHECKING THE PARTS IN PLACE. THE RATCHET ENCLOSURE PLATES WERE MADE OF 1/8" STEEL SHEET.

MILL 1/4" SLOT IN UNDERSIDE OF TUBE PRIOR TO BRAZING THE TWO ENCLOSURE PLATES TO THE TUBE.

ALL OTHER MATERIAL IS AT BUILDERS OPTION.


Continued from pg. 4

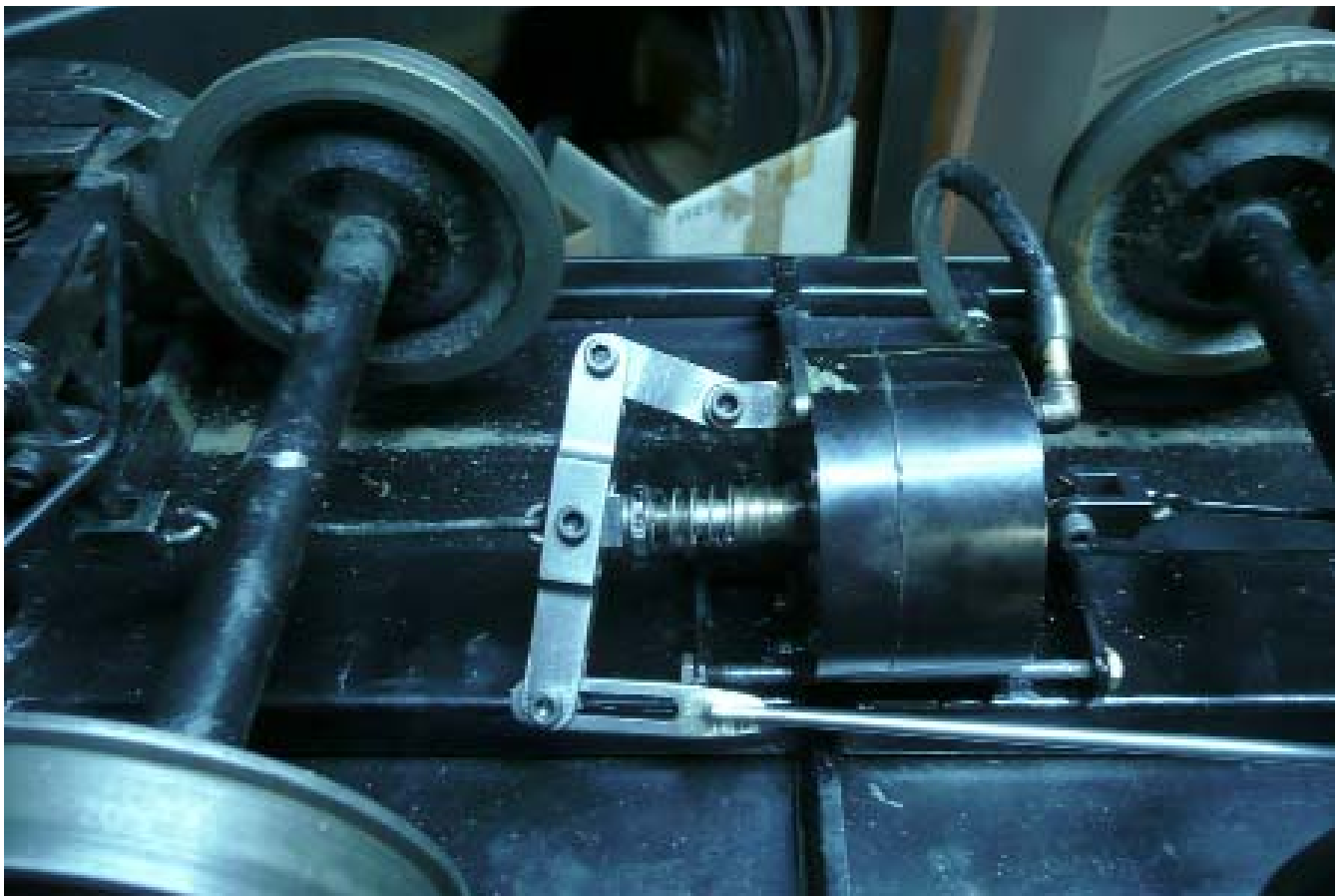
those systems fail! I have some photos of how we connected the manual brake cables to the braking cylinder on my tender [to share].

We certainly appreciate Ken taking the time to contact us. And he's right, the diagram would be a useful tool for our readers. We are happy to reprint it here.

As for Ken's brakes, he writes further: "Here are the photos showing how the hand brake was installed on my tender and one of my friend Al Von Rueden making a set of trucks for my riding caboose."

"The hand brake drawing as noted on the hand brake plan was designed by Al. Al is now 86 years old and still active in the hobby. Please give Al all of the credit."

Ken, we are pleased to share these photos and are especially pleased to hear that Al is still active and happy in the hobby! 





# 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.

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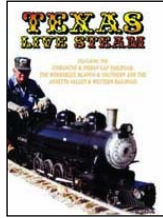


## TRAIN MOUNTAIN 2009 "Living Quentin's Dream"

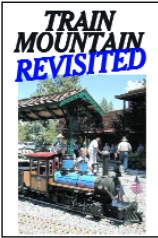
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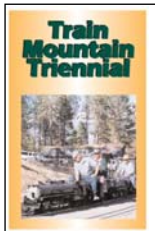
## TRAIN MOUNTAIN REVISITED



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**

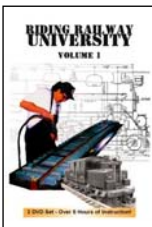
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Enjoy one of the largest live steam meets ever held in the world. See the superpower double and triple headers! Learn from interviews with those who have built Train Mountain (7.5", Chiloquin, OR). Trace the development of Train Mountain into the largest 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**



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**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**

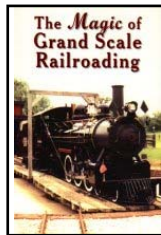
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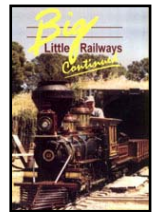


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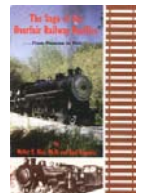
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