

RIDING RAILWAYS NEWSLETTER



Grand Scales
Quarterly

SEPTEMBER 2006

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What is in a name? I ask because I have lately discovered how difficult it is to name a railroad. A family that we know quite well recently built a 12" gauge layout around their property. They need a name for the line but are having a very difficult time coming up with one. Some people name them after existing railroads, others after the cities they live in or near. One family that brought their train to Train Mountain named their railway M.S.Y. The reason? M.S.Y. stands for "Mom Said Yes". So, my question to you is why did you name your railroad the way you did? How does one decide on a good name? Would love to hear your thoughts.

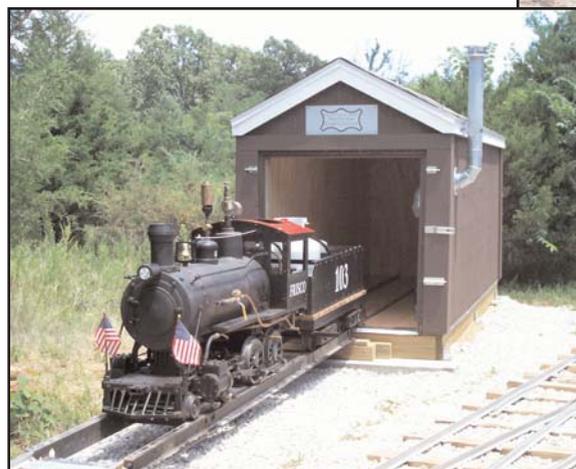
Regards,

Susan



James Pekarek has been working hard on his **Northview & Frisco Railroad**. He sent in some photos of the structures he has recently finished. Here are the new car barn and engine house at the northview end of the railroad. "I also included an overall picture of the Northview yard area. The buildings are not truly to scale, but they should be close to the right size for the

trains. The car barn is 24' long, with two tracks. The engine house is insulated and soon to be heated so I can run the steamer in the winter without worrying about winterizing it." If you would like to learn more about James' railroad, please visit his web site: www.nfrailroad.com.



SKUNK TRAIN CELEBRATION



The Skunk Train is hosting a special steam engine event September 22-24, 2006. While



riding aboard the Skunk Train is considered one of the ten best train excursions in North America, the Skunk Steam Celebration is unique for its route, schedule, guest speakers, amenities and the addition of a second steam locomotive.

The Skunk Engine No. 45 normally operates out of the Fort Bragg Station on

the western end of the Skunk's 40-mile railroad. The Skunk No. 45 is a Mikado-type 2-8-2 super-heated Baldwin steam engine. During the event, the No. 45 will relocate over the coastal mountain range to the Willits Station for the first time in years. The No. 45 will be joined by a second steam engine provided by Roots of Motive Power for unique "double-header" steam trips. A third diesel locomotive will be added for dynamic braking.

At several scenic locations the passengers will be allowed to de-

board the train for photo opportunities. These photo run-bys are noteworthy since one of the charms of the Skunk is that its route is accessible only by train and guests are rarely allowed to de-board to take photos of the train in motion. The resulting photos should be rare.

Visit their web site to learn more: <http://www.skunktrain.com/steam-old45.html>



RAILROAD FOR SALE

This train was built in 1963 by the Allan Herschell Company of Buffalo, NY and is powered by the original Willys-Jeep L-4-134 60 hp gasoline engine. The train ran in an amusement park in the northeast until 1985 when it was purchased by a private investor on Maryland who installed it at his home near Baltimore. I purchased it in the winter of 2005 and moved it to my northern Maryland farm for use as entertainment in conjunction with our pick your own pumpkin and chose and cut Christmas tree farm where it has been hugely popular. My wife and I have decided to retire from farming and are selling the complete railroad so that others may enjoy it.



The components are: "Iron Horse" locomotive, 4 passenger coaches, 1 flat car, approximately 8000' of 12 lb. rail, 5 switches, an electric traffic signal, scale model water tower, all manuals and some track tools. This is a complete railroad (except ties) that is in excellent condition and currently operating under Maryland State Inspection. Asking price is \$199,500 f.o.b. Whiteford, Maryland. **Interested parties should contact Brian Adelhardt at 410-836-1140 or e-mail applewoodfarm@earthlink.net.** Pictures at www.applewoodfarm.org



GATORLAND

In 1957 Owen Godwin began mulling over the idea of adding a train-ride to the attraction. The ride would allow guests a closer look at the awesome reptiles, and give Gatorland a distinct advantage over other attractions blossoming throughout the state.

Children were asked what they thought of the idea and in December the plan began to take form. Hal Martin, a young boy of nine at that time, remembers his visit and the question asked by the man in the large safari style hat: "Real tracks or a side walk with painted tracks?" Martin announced that real tracks were the only way to go!



Debuting in 1961, the small-scale railway began its journey some three-feet above the alligator pond. "All Aboard" was announced and visitors were ushered on a short quarter-mile voyage. Once on board the steam-powered locomotive, guests marveled at reptiles and native birds lounging on nearby islands and everything from exotic to farm animals in the petting zoo on the journey back to the station.

In 1991 another half-mile of track was added. The journey then allowed for a glimpse of the world famous Gator Wrestlin' Stadium. This and the aroma of home-style cooking at Pearl's Smokehouse made the trip even more popular with park guests.

By the year 2000, the train had logged over 200,000 miles, and started

to show the effects of the Florida sun and long-lines of smiles waiting to travel deep into the Florida swamp. With all possibilities for repair exhausted, the decision was made to retire the replica Iron-horse locomotive and look towards the future.

One year later on July 1, 2001, the "Alligator Capital of the World" ushered in a new Iron horse locomotive pulled out of the train station at Gatorland for its inaugural run. The path of the new small-scale railway allows trailblazers to explore the untouched beauty of some of the theme park's more picturesque areas including the ten-acre breeding marsh and the all-

new Jungle Crocs of the World exhibit.

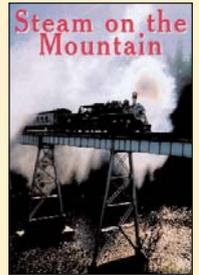
Gatorland is a 110-acre theme park and wildlife preserve, combining "Old Florida" charm with exciting, new exhibits and entertainment. The park opened as a roadside attraction in 1949. Today, it provides family fun with thousands of alligators, crocodiles, aviary, breeding marsh with observation tower, petting zoo, nature walk, educational wildlife programs, gift shop, restaurant, and much more. One-of-A-Kind reptilian shows include: the Gator Wrestlin' Show, Gator Jumparoo and Snakes of Florida.

To find out more, call 1-800-393-JAWS or visit them online at: www.gatorland.com.

GIFT IDEAS

STEAM ON THE MOUNTAIN DVD

There aren't many places left where a steam engine can be seen working on the very rails it did when it was brand new. In Steam on the Mountain you'll see a 1914 Baldwin Mikado working the same grades in the shadow of the same mountain it saw over ninety years ago. You'll ride in the cab with the engineer and the fireman as they reign in the power of a loud, bucking "iron horse". You'll see close-up shots of the powerful 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. \$19.95 plus shipping.



TEXAS LIVE STEAM DVD

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**. A must for Texans and for anyone interested in seeing how live steam railroading should be done. \$29.95 plus shipping



530-527-0141

VENDOR NEWS

SCALED PLUS

A new company in Canada is producing battery powered steam replica locomotives. Their American 4-4-0 is shown in the ad below. They also have a NYC Hudson in development. The locomotives are currently available in 15" gauge but I believe they are considering other gauges as well. A web site will be available soon. For more information, please contact Scaled Plus directly.

will add trains and tracks to the watercooler conversations when they bring their favorite locomotive or other hobby artifact to work.

Model Trains: the World's Greatest Hobby enjoys support across the model railroading world—from large manufacturers and hobby shops to local clubs and individual hobbyists. Whether you are a beginner or a lifelong enthusiast, interested in classic toy trains or the latest digital innovations,

the World's Greatest Hobby can put you in touch with your inner conductor. Even if your models are larger than most, we still encourage you to tell your friends and co-workers about your railroad hobby.

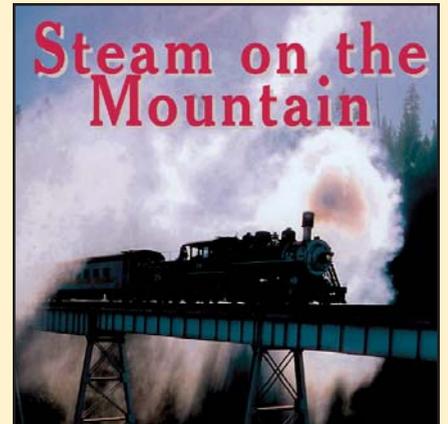
Railroad Conductor

"How to Get a Railroad Job and Make up to \$75,000 per Year" is the title of Sean Martin's e-book. Martin is a conductor on one of the largest railroads in the United States and

is using his experience to teach others how to begin careers working with the various railways.

"The railroad industry needs to hire more than

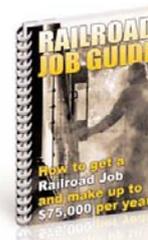
WIN "STEAM ON THE MOUNTAIN" AUDIO CD!



We are giving away three copies of our Steam on the Mountain audio CD to the first three people who e-mail us after receiving this newsletter. It's that simple. Send a note to mainline@sunset.net and, if you are one of the first three to reply, you receive a free CD! It's our way of thanking you for reading **GSQ** and the **7+RAILROADER** magazines.

60,000 new workers within the next five years due to massive retirements" said Martin. "My goal is to increase people's awareness about the excellent benefits of working for the railroad industry, assist those who become interested to actually get hired and help the industry through this tough transitional period." Martin sells his e-book for \$37.97.

For more information, visit www.getarailroad-job.com. Martin also offers a free five-part e-mail series regarding the subject.



BATTERY POWERED STEAM REPLICA LOCOMOTIVES

American 4-4-0 1/4 scale - 15" Gauge

Performance
Locomotive weight 1900 lbs
Maximum tractive effort (start up) 450 lbs
Running tractive effort (7.5 mph) 175 lbs

\$82,500.00 USD

If you would like to view actual product please contact us to make an appointment.



Slide rail system for easy access to motor and control components.

- Professionally engineered from years of experience designing locomotives in the mining/tunneling industry
- Proven DC drive technology utilizing an industrial flooded cell lead/acid battery and solid state controller
- Clean, efficient and cost effective (8 hours of actual run time at \$0.20 per hour based on \$0.08 per kWh)
- Batteries fully recharged in 13 hours
- Realistic Sound System
- Easy to operate and maintain

SCALED+Plus

37 Knox's Road, Redbridge ON Canada P0H 2A0
705-663-1546 • smds@onlink.net

NYC Hudson 4-6-4

(currently in development)

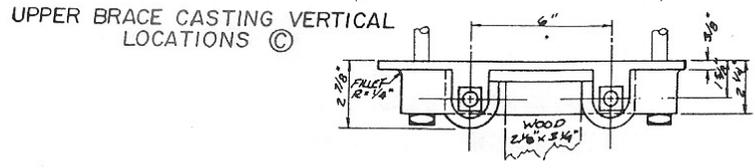
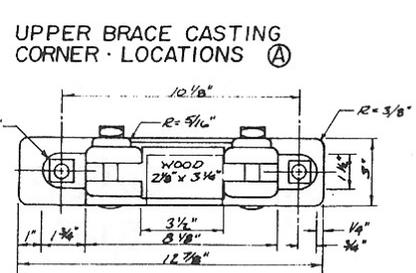
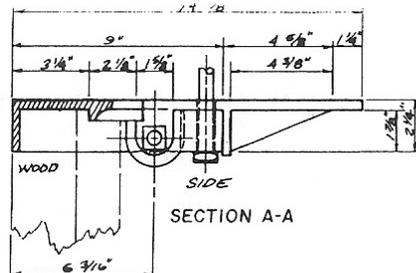
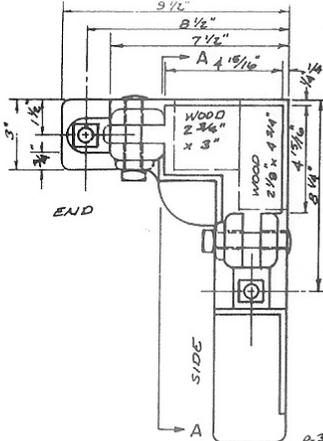
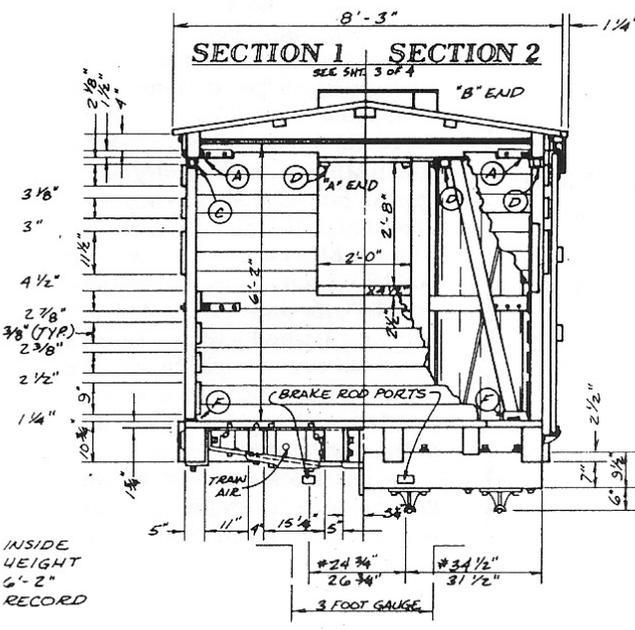
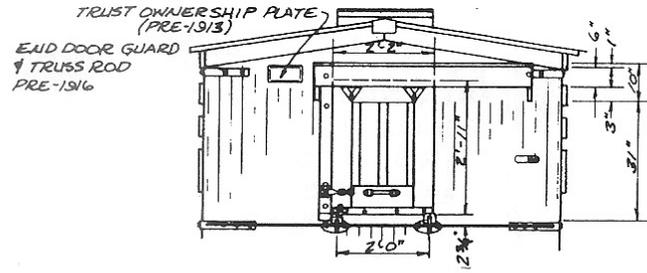
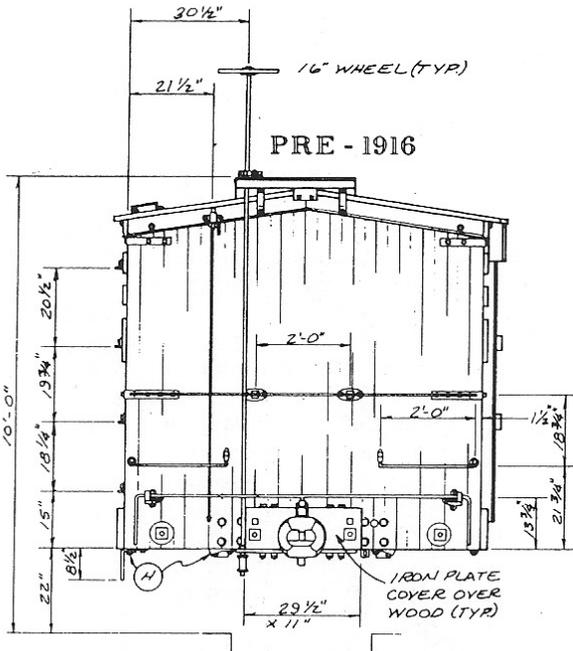
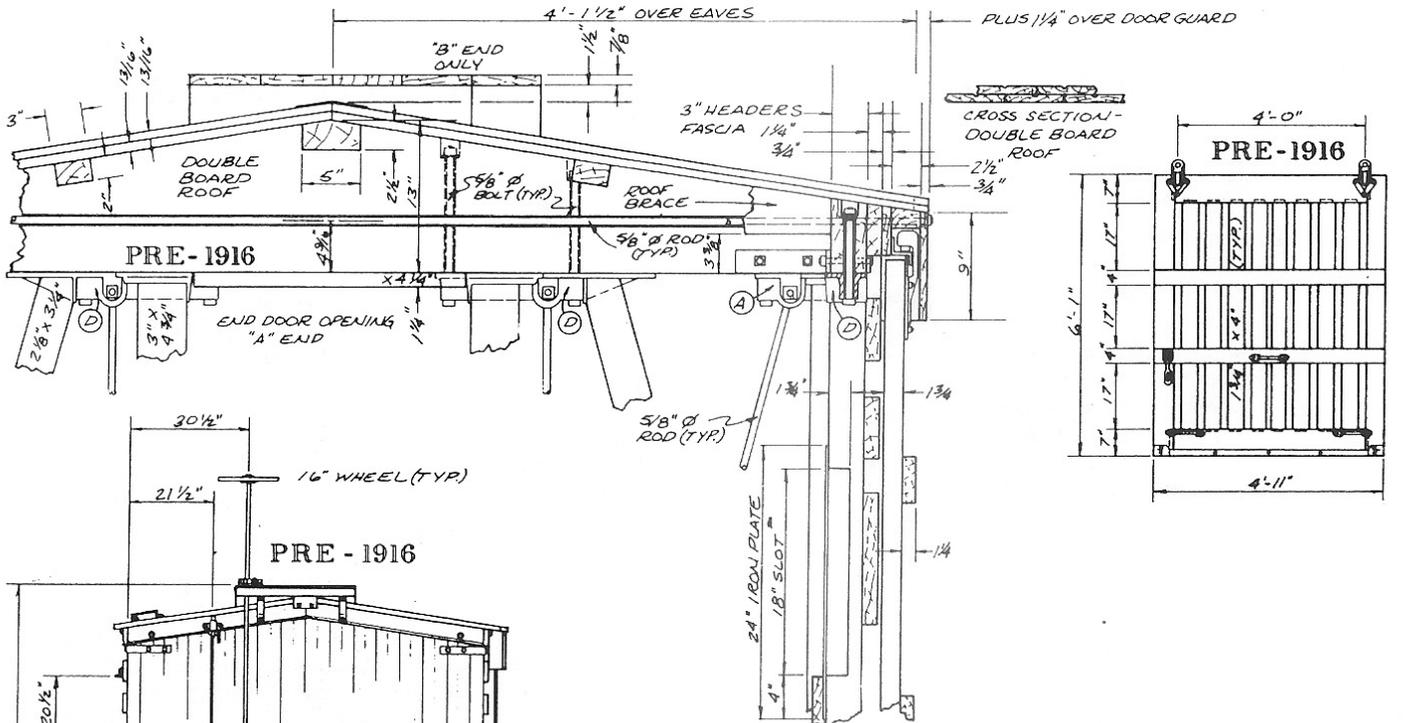
1/5 scale - 15" Gauge

\$98,500.00 USD

Performance
Locomotive weight 3800 lbs
Maximum tractive effort (start up) 900 lbs
Running tractive effort (7.5 mph) 325 lbs

Sixth Annual "Take a Model Train to Work Day" On November 10

On Friday, November 10, 2006, model railroaders across the country



MAIL BAG

Just a quick note to say how much I enjoy your new *Riding Railways Newsletter*, and how much I appreciate the consistent publishing schedule. It's fun to be kept up-to-date on what everyone else is doing. Also, thank you for sending RRN in PDF format. Many of us have Apple computers, and a universal file format is a good idea.

Sincerely,
Richard, Sleepy Hollow Railway

I'm looking for information on this 7.25" locomotive that I recently acquired: Does anyone there recognize it? I would like to find out who made it and then hopefully acquire

documentation showing motor ratings, etc.

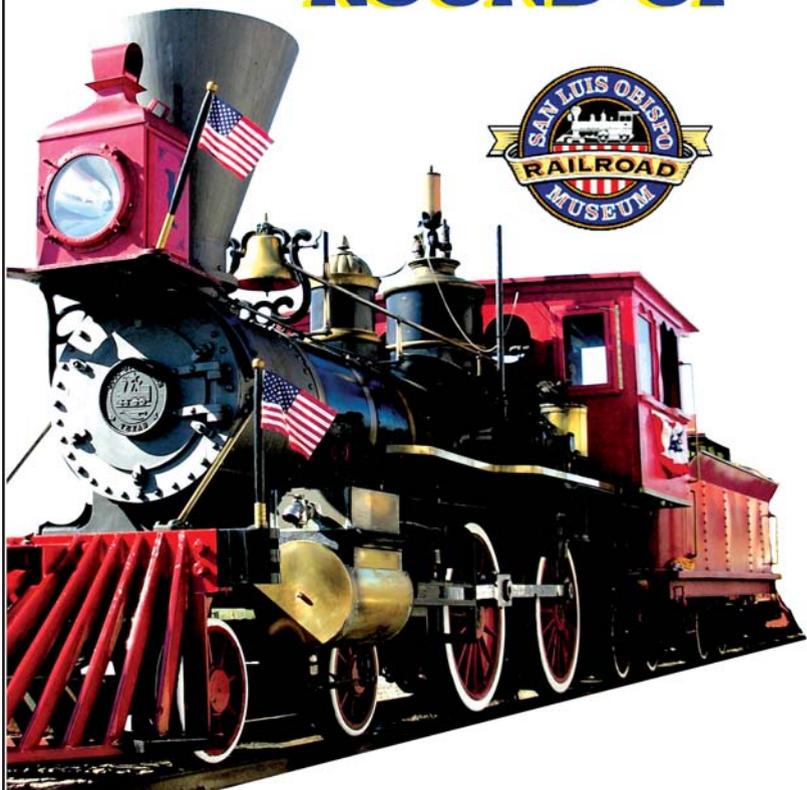
Any clues you might have to offer would be greatly appreciated.

Brad S. Lomazzi



(Send replies or letters to the editor via mainline@sunset.net. Thank you!)

THE PACIFIC COAST RAILROAD ROUND UP



THE PACIFIC COAST RAILROAD 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

Only \$19.95 plus \$4.50 s/h
(California residents please add
\$1.45 sales tax)

530-527-0141