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SWAP MEET IN REDFIELD, IA

The April CIGRS meeting was held in conjunction with the Great Mid-Western G-Scale Swap Meet at the American Legion Hall in Redfield. Since the main focus was getting started on the meet itself, President John Myers stressed that the business meeting would be short and to the point.

President Myers opened the meeting at 11:30 am. He stated that we would pass over committee reports, but club treasurer Howard Hoy did pass out a copy of the financial report for members to peruse.

Old Business

Congratulations were extended to Rob Renes and his committee for the outstanding job they did putting together the layout for the Flower and Garden Show that was held in March in the Varied Industry Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. The layout was designed to resemble a garden setting with two separate loops, a tunnel and a simulated water feature and plants. In addition, buildings and structures to placed to represent a town main

street and local industries. The layout drew a great deal attention from and many questions from the public about garden railroading. Club members passed out over 700 hundred flyers (double what is normal in past years) about the upcoming Central Iowa Garden Railroad Tour to be held on July 13, 2013. This year's tour has partnered with Make-A-Wish Iowa where all "net profits" from the tour will go to help their causes. This layout was awarded an **Excellence Award** at the show. Congratulations to all club members who helped put this together.

Upcoming Events

- *CIGRS meets at the Hoys in May*
- *June CIGRS meeting at Moser/Mash's*
- *CIGRS Garden Railroad Tour in July*
- *CIGRS meets at Larry & Julie Nelson's in July*

Special Thanks

Gene Pritchard has enjoyed all of your cards, calls, flowers and visits. He also wanted to personally thank all the members for helping get his RR into the storage unit



Club Meeting
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2013 CIGRS BACKYARD MEETING SCHEDULE

MAY—HOY'S	JUNE—MASH/MOSER
JULY—NELSON'S	AUGUST—GUNZENHAUSER
SEPTEMBER—ISARD'S	OCTOBER—TBD

New Business

John Myers gave a review of how the project at the Botanical Center in Des Moines is progressing. CIGRS is working with the garden club to build a train layout for the Christmas season. The garden club is preparing to purchase some track and equipment, but our club will need to provide some track as well. Discussion centered on the club purchasing additional track. Mike Kidman mentioned that a gentleman approached him who has decided not to pursue the hobby any more and would like to donate his trains and track to an organization that could use them. Mike suggested he get in contact with the Botanical Center. Karl Swessinger said he has about 70' of regular sectional track that he will donate to the club for the Botanical Center project. Bill Joy suggested that the club buy about 200' of track to be used at the Botanical Center as well as for the proposed larger layout that is being discussed for the 2014 Flower and Garden Show. Gene Elphic said that we will also need to purchase some additional rail clamps for the club layout and that he would like to



Horsing around at the SWAP MEET

Announcements

Ole Olsen announced that Nancy and Karl Swessinger had brought a large collection of Garden Railroad magazines that they were giving away and encouraged club members to take advantage of this offer. Larry Nelson said that he had for sale some equipment that was owned by a member of the Cedar Rapids club who had recently passed away, and encouraged members to check out these items.

With all business completed, President Myers officially adjourned the meeting 10 minutes prior to the official start-time of the Swap Meet.

Swap Meet: 12 Noon to 4 pm.

Joe and Sherri Godfroy, with help from additional club members took on the chore of securing the building, getting out advertising and preparing the hall for the meet. Attendees also enjoyed the donuts, cookies and coffee that were made available. The meet drew a number local club vendors, but also vendors from other areas of the state. Some good purchases were made, and everyone had a great time talking trains. Congratulations to Joe, Sheri and the crew who made it all happen.

Submitted by: *Jay Nugent, Secretary*

2013 SWAP MEET PICS



A Huge Thank You to Joe and Sheri Godroy for their leadership to promote, guide and direct this event again in 2013. Everyone I talked to said they found at least one treasure for their railroad.

Life is Good!



We even had a test track



Photos by Ole Olsen



Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

Key Contacts for 2013

President

John Myers

jmyers63@yahoo.com

(515)993-5435

Vice President

Mike Kidman

kidman@att.net

(515)984-6946

Treasurer

Howard Hoy

howardandkayhoy@mchsi.com

(515)236-4267

Secretary

Jay Nugent

jcnugent@dwx.com

(515)251-4578

Club Librarian

Christine Brandenburg

pirate@mchsi.com

(515)278-2789

Club Co-Historians

Janet Moser

janm@netins.net

(515)677-2124

Karla Gunzenhauser

pkgunzy@iowatelecom.net

Phone: (641)877-6226

Friendship Committee

Sheri Godfroy

sigtrail@iowatelecom.net

Phone: (515)480-7701

Donna Pritchard

(515)462-2542

Newsletter Editor

Ole Olsen

olsenj725@me.com

(515)306-9699

Important Dates and Observances In May 2013

MAY Birthdays

Nancy Fusco (Website Guru)	5-8
Barbara Deats	5-19
Marilyn Kirkpatrick	5-19
Cheryl Evans	5-19
Grant Boes	5-20
Marshal Childs	5-20

APRIL Anniversaries

John & Barb Kilmer	5-2
Gordon & Kathy Cox	5-5
Marty & Carrie Cozad	5-12
Dave & Elaine Dunn	5-13
Dick & LaVonne Isard	5-14
Jim & Marilyn Magnuson	5-18
Dick and Betty Lamb	5-20
Richard & Sheila Roemer	5-30

“HOW YOU DOIN?”
LET US KNOW!

Fred Loveridge is back in his castle and taking it one day at a time. He has been home now for a couple of weeks and has been enjoying having one of his daughters up from Texas to care for him. Better look out, as of Tuesday he is on his own once again! :-)

**Need a hand getting trains out?
*Schedule a work day.***

Are you thinking you'd like some help to get your layout ready to run trains? CIGRS has some great gandy dancers and lot awesome Conductors too. Say the word and lets get a date on the calendar and get a workday scheduled.

Contact any club officer to get the discussion started.

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By: *The Band Man*

Trains & more in Arizona

The Band Man and Cheri left Iowa on February 1st for a two month stay in the

Phoenix area. After visiting friends for a week in 2012, we decided to rent a place for two months in Sun City Festival; the newest Del Webb 55+ community located 12 miles out in the desert west of Surprise. The development is nestled up to the north slope of the White Tank Mountains as well as having a nice view of mountains to the west and north of the community.

The Band Man convinced Cheri that we needed to take along a train to run while in Arizona. So, the LGB Amtrak unit was packed along with ample track to fill the patio space of our rental. By the second day of our stay, the train was up and running. I remembered that when Cheri and I attended the 2008 National Garden Railroad Convention in Chandler there was a club layout on the tour in the Surprise area. After some investigating we found the location of the layout in Sun City Grand, another Del Webb 55+ community in Surprise proper. I got the name and phone number of club president Jerry Whitton and arranged for a visit to the layout a couple days later.



About ten Sun City Grand residents started the Sun City “Grand Central Railroad” in 2004. Presently the club has over thirty members who maintain the 1500 feet of track located in the heart of the community next to the tennis courts. The layout came about through the efforts of “Founding Father” Tom Butler who had constructed a layout in his back yard. After getting his trains running and drawing positive comments from the neighbors, the Sun City Grand Home Owners Association informed him that the covenants did not allow for alterations of this type to the landscaping. So, down it came. ***Spotlight continued on page 6***

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But, as part of the negotiations, he and fellow enthusiast convinced the association to give them the area they now possess to build a large club layout that all could enjoy. The initial stage was completed in 2005. In 2008, Phase 2 was started. Phase 2 was completed in 2009 to expand the layout to its present size.



The layout is open to the public on Thursdays and Fridays and some Saturday mornings. All the engines and rolling stock are owned by club members, so there are a variety of trains running at any one session. One visitor told me that he comes every day to see the trains run, and is never bored due to the fact that he never knows what might be operating that particular day. Club members run both passenger and freight trains manufactured by: LGB, Aristo, USA and MTH. Buildings include: Polo, Eagl wings, Pico and some scratch built structures. Everyone was very congenial and quick to give out information about their layout and their future plans.



The following weekend, the Band Man took the opportunity to attend a TCA (Train Collectors of America) meeting in Phoenix. I have been a member of TCA since 2009, and wanted to take in

a meeting of the Desert Division while I was in the area. TCA is a large national club that has members throughout the country. The Desert Division of TCA has been very active to include hosting a national convention, running a large train swap meet and displaying their modular throughout the area. Presently the TCA President-Elect comes from the Desert Division. After arriving at the club meeting, I was immediately invited to attend the open houses that were to be held in Fountain Hills. I went back to our rental and picked up Cheri and then drove to the east side of the valley to Fountain Hills. The open houses included a number of individual homes as well as a jam-packed train store that was opened that afternoon to TCA members only. Burling's Ton of Trains Store was the highlight of the tour for me. The store is packed with vintage O Gauge, Standard Gauge and S Gauge from the late 1920's up through the 1960's. Anyone looking for a hard to find item would have a good chance of finding it at this store. In addition to the above listed scales, there was one room for G Scale and also a large area for HO and N scale. TCA is mostly made up of members who collect 3 rail O Gauge and Standard Gauge trains, but many collect S Gauge and many also operated G scale, HO scale and N scale.

The next weekend, Cheri and I attended a meeting of the ABTO (Arizona Big Train Operators) at the club president's home in Tempe. The club has about ninety members and is very active in the community to include operating a large indoor layout at the Cardon Children's Medical Center in Mesa. They also set up their modular at various community events and host a tour of member layouts each spring. This year's tour had 15 layouts open over the weekend of March 16th & 17th. More details and pictures about this club as well as other events and activities we enjoyed in Arizona will be included in the next Spotlight articles.



That's all for now.

**May CIGRS Meeting at
B&RGW RR**

**Hosted by Howard and Kay
Hoy**

May 19th—1:30 PM



The Boone and Rio Grande Western was surveyed in 2009 and built in 2010. It follows the prototype of the Denver and Rio Grande Western's narrow gauge lines in Colorado and New Mexico. The railroad is built in 1:20.3 scale (aka Fn3) using code 250 rail. The B&RGW has 252 feet of mainline track and another 250 feet of sidings and spurs.

The railroad is entirely battery operated. You are welcome to bring a battery-powered engine or live steamer to operate. Since CIGRS' last visit here in 2011, many structures, spurs, and rolling stock have been added.

Directions to Boone – From US 30, turn at S. Story Street heading Northward; at Park Ave (2nd Stop Light) turn Right, proceeding one block to S. Marshall St; turn Left on S. Marshall St and proceed North approximately two blocks to 615 S. Marshall St, on left.

Parking – The first six to arrive may park in the driveway. Later arrivals may park on the golf course grounds across the street.

Handicap Access – There are steep steps from the drive to the backyard, or there is a rocky ramp from the drive to the yard. Alternatively, the entire railroad may be viewed from the sunroom or deck.



The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meetings at which we discuss one another's current projects, hobby news, and the latest products on the market.

Programs are presented at some meetings, either by one of our members, or by someone brought in from outside the organization. The programs generally cover some element of the hobby, from the history of local and other Railroads, to rolling stock to track work, to locomotives, includes electric operation, battery-powered and trains that actually run on live

steam. Most of our members have, or hope to have, gauge G, or gauge 1 railways in their gardens or back yards.

Meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of each month. Specific dates and times, as well as program topics, are announced in the CIGRS Telegraph. Club members are encouraged to involve themselves in any of a variety of functions, including special model railway exhibitions that are staged in the area.

For more information, contact:

President
John Myers
jmyers63@yahoo.com
515-993-5435

Vice President
Mike Kidman
kidman@att.net
(515)984-6946

