

# telegraph

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## Southland Express Railway

Dick, Lavonne and Rick Isard hosted the September CIGRS members at the home of Dick and Lavonne in Cedar Rapids. Prior to the meeting, Rick and Dick had the trains running on the extensive series of loops of their railroad in the back yard that was started in 2006. Dick explained that his son Rick and another friend brought in a backhoe and dug out the first two ponds that now are home to many large fish. Rick says even in the winter, the fish continue to thrive and none has been lost since the ponds were stocked. Dick stated with brass track but switched to stainless steel because he was running on track power. They have since switched to battery power and have built a thriving business selling their innovative ideas that promotes battery-powered operation .

The railroad has expanded to double the original size since these early beginnings. Grandson Grant Boes accompanied the band man to the meeting and quickly investigated the

layout to exclaim that the track winds around and over itself along the back wall around the ponds to complete a very interesting series of loops. Club members were impressed with the "control center building" that resembles a caboose and that is was air-conditioned! Dick commented that the mountain was not rock, but really a large block of foam that he and Rick bought from a manufacture in Washington, Iowa.

They carved it to the shape they wanted then applied latex paints to make it fit in a landscape setting that one might see in the southwestern part of the country. Once members perused the railroad, Lavonne ordered the bell to be sounded for lunch.



Photo by Ron Mash

### Upcoming Events

- October 13th Next CIGRS meeting at Kidman's Reindeer Pass
- November meeting at the Library in Perry, IA
- Master Gardeners & CIGRS Holiday Project opens late in November at the Des Moines Botanical Gardens.
- Albia's Victorian Stroll the first Saturday in December

### Special Thanks

To Lavonne, Dick and Rick Isard for hosting the club meeting in September . More Pics on pages 2 & 3

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Attendees were treated a large spread of great treats to include BBQ sandwiches, Dicks famous soup, various side dishes and deserts. Thanks Lavonne, and all club members who brought dishes to share, for provided a wonderful luncheon.

President Myers was not able to attend the meeting, so Vice President Mike Kidman called to order at 1:05 pm. Dick Isard talked about the building of his railroad and explained how they got into battery power. Mike followed up with a testimony as to how their venture has revolutionized the use of batter power as means to both run the locomotives as well as the ability to operate switches with their remote controllers. Mike added that their batteries and chargers are well received by G Scalers.

**Old Business**

At the August meeting Bill Joy asked for member to help set up the modular for the “Trains, Planes and Automobile Celebration” in Perry. Ole Olsen and Lou Miner took on the project. A number of club members showed up that morning to set up. The modular was located behind the Carnegie Library Museum. It was not the best location for drawing viewers, but it was a very pleasant location for the layout that included some shade. As a result of our club volunteering to set up for the celebration, the library has offered to let CIGRS use the Library for our November meeting at no charge. Thanks Bill and to all who helped that day.



**Photos by Ron Mash**

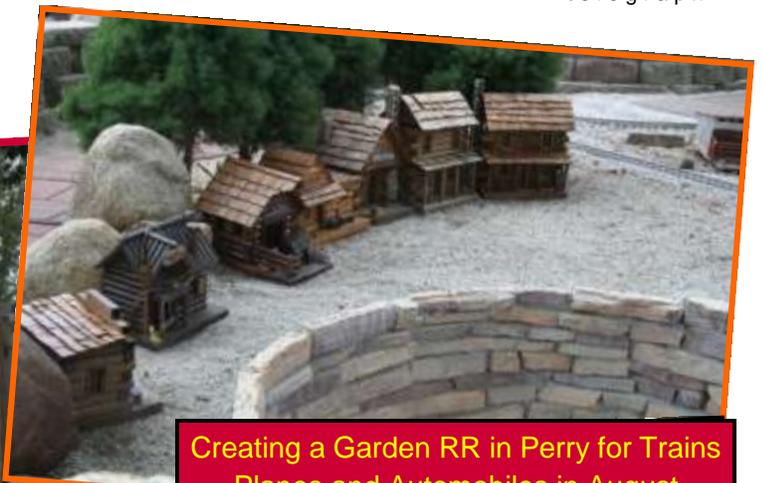


**Lavonne's Green House**



**Dick's Work Shop Caboose**

**More Pictures of Isard's Southland Express**



**Creating a Garden RR in Perry for Trains Planes and Automobiles in August**



**Crowd Control in Perry**



**Photos by Ron Mash**



**Photos by Ole Olsen**





**Club Meeting  
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### **New Business**

Mike moved on to new business. Due to the success of the club display at last spring's Flower and Garden Show at the Fair Grounds, the Home and Remodeling Show has approached the club about setting up a display this coming January for their event. After considerable discussion members concluded doing only one big display well, rather than taking on two and risking not doing it well, was best. Rob Renes motioned and Janet Moser seconded to not participate in the January event. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was further discussion about purchasing a new trailer with the thought of purchasing of carts to ease the un-loading and loading. Discussion followed, but it was noted that we did not have enough information as to prices, etc, to make a decision. Jay Nugent motioned and Joe Godfroy seconded that President John Myers be instructed to bring hard figures regarding cost for trading in the present trailer for a new one as well as the cost of carts to the October meeting. Motioned passed.

Discussion then turned to the need for more track since the club has been given a much larger space for the Flower and Garden Show in March 2014. Rob Renes estimated he would need at least 300' of additional track. He noted that the club will also need additional track for the Christmas display at the Des Moines Botanical Garden Center which also coincides with

Richard Burkman's and Ron Honeke's display for the annual Albia Christmas Stroll. After further discussion Jay Nugent motioned and Howard Hoy seconded that \$2000 be budgeted to purchase additional track and split-jaw clamps for the club layout. Motioned passed.

Bill Joy brought up the fact that the two engines the club own get a hard workout. He suggested we authorize Mike Kidman to check them over and have Mike add sound. Mike said he would not charge to check out the engines to ensure they run properly. As a result of this discussion, Rick Isard said he would donate an engine with sound, controller and equipped with battery power to the club at no cost. Bill Joy motioned and Julie Nelson seconded that the club accept Rick's generous gift with "**Great Appreciation**" and that the club secretary so note this in the minutes. Motioned passed with applause!

Bill Joy turned back to the sound installation project for the club engines. Discussion centered on how best to install the sound systems (either in the engines or in a trailing car). Bill Joy motioned and Joe Godfroy seconded that the club authorize Mike Kidman to install sound in two trailing cars (one diesel and one with steam). Motioned passed.

### **Announcements, Thanks and Adjournment**

Howard Hoy noted that we are in good shape financially. Mike Kidman reminded club members that ***we are still in need of sites for the January and February meetings.***

*Then CIGRS members joined in to thank and applaud **Dick, Lavonne and Rick** for hosting the meeting. Meeting adjourned.*

Submitted by: **Jay Nugent**, Secretary



Just my opinion . . .  
by Bill Joy  
*kinda like E. F. Hutton*

Now that summer is ending and fall will soon change our weather, I start thinking about the CIGRS' monthly meetings that move inside to shield us from the Iowa winter.

For years the club met at the West Des Moines Police Station and started with a business meeting, where new and old business, officers' reports, show and tell, show and sell, and door prizes were presented. An important part of the meeting followed where members or guests presented programs on a wide variety of interesting topics. At the conclusion of the program and after any questions had been answered, the meeting was adjourned.

Last year the club experimented with ending our winter meeting at the conclusion of the business meeting so that those who were not interested in the program that followed would not have to attend it. I believe this experiment has produced some unfortunate results and I suggest that we return to our old meeting schedule which includes programs as a part of our meeting. Here is why I suggest this.

For those who have ever presented a program to a group, remember the effort you put forth in planning and organizing a presentation which would interest and be of some value to the audience.

**Bill Joy is a CIGRS Charter member and now is recognized as the Club's Treasurer Emeritus.**

Our presenters do the work getting ready for the presentation, then wait until the business meeting is over to be able to proceed, only to see a part of the audience get up and leave or move to another part of the room so that they could visit. The disappointed presenter leaves with a bad impression of the courtesy and respect showed by our club and its members.

And for those who wanted to stay and listen to the program, they had difficulty hearing the presenter because of the visiting being carried on by those who weren't interested in the program.

This is *just my opinion*, but I think that when someone is asked or volunteers to present a program to our club, we, the members have an obligation to that presenter to be courteous and polite - to attend the program and make the presenter feel welcome and appreciated. This is what we did for years and can easily be done again by making the program part of the overall meeting.



***Joy Loco by Gary Edlen with very sweet sound!***

Important Dates and  
Observances  
In October 2013

**October Birthdays**

Renee Kidman	10-1
David Elbe	10-6
Denis Biechler	10-12
Bryan Anderson	10-27

**October Anniversaries**

Dick & Marilyn Shellenberg	10-1
Denny & Sandy Glick	10-9
Karl & Nancy Swessinger	10-13

**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

**Show and Tell -**

Karla G's soda fountain is coming right along. Love the b/w checkered flooring. **Strong work Karla...**



## ***CIGRS Meeting at Reindeer Pass***

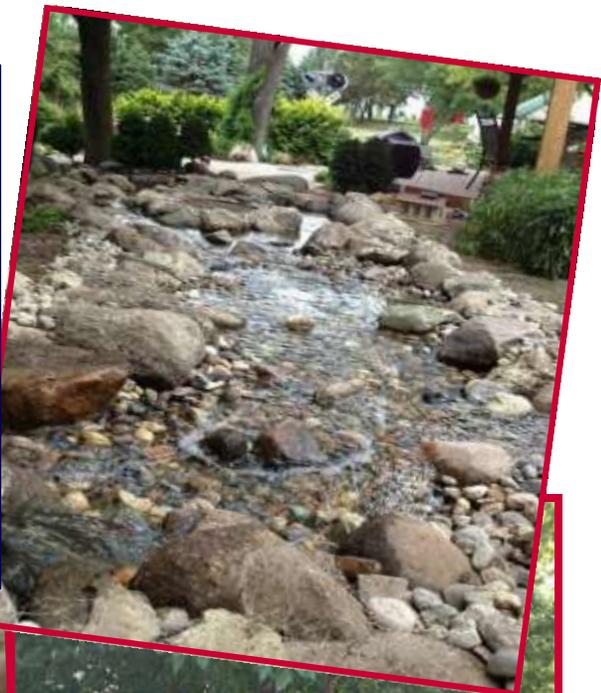
**3665 NW 98th Ave. Polk City, IA 50226**

***Hosted by Renee & Mike Kidman***

**October 13 2013**

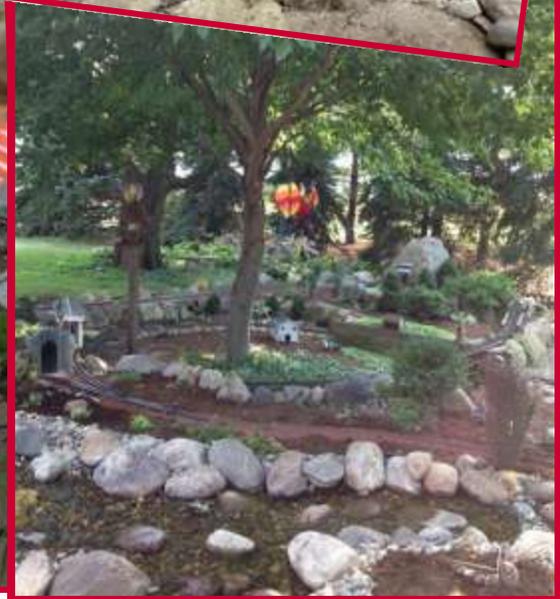
***Potluck at Noon. Meat, buns, plates & silverware will be provided. Bring your own beverages & a dish to share.***

***CIGRS Meeting at 1:30 PM***



### **Directions to Kidman's-**

For a map go to:  
**[www.cigrs.net/](http://www.cigrs.net/)** and click  
on October Meeting under  
Upcoming events.



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

