

telegraph

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Crooked Creek RR full of life

The September CIGRS meeting was held at Sam and Julia Mora parent's (Arturo and Hale) home in Grimes. Sam and Julia's S & J Crooked Creek RR is a product of both Sam, Julia and their Grandfather Gordon Cox. Club members were welcomed to the Mora backyard to view the 16' X 30' pike that features a mountain with water fall and running stream along with a number of well detailed scenes complete with people and a total of 13 dogs to look for among the buildings. Sam told the club that the layout was started in June of 2013 and completed this past spring just in time to be the lead-off layout for the annual Central Iowa Garden Railroad Tour in June. The pike includes two separate loops that featured Sam's favorite train "Big Sam". Not to be left out, Grandpa Gordon had a Bachman

Emily repainted pink and decals made for the #4 "Princess Julia" engine. The layout is neat as a pin and was well received by all in attendance.

After a wonderful lunch to include Arturo's pulled pork and/or BBQ Chicken on freshly baked buns and a large variety of side dishes and desserts, President John Myers called the meeting together at 1:30 pm. When asking for visitors, club member Ron Huntimer introduced his wife Kay (who was attending her first club meeting). President Myers then introduced new club member John Chadwick who lives in Johnston and is in the planning stages of a layout for his back yard.

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Upcoming Events

- ***October 19th CIGRS Meeting will be hosted by Ron Huntimer in Ankeny***
- ***November CIGRS Meeting & Election of Officers location still to be determined***
- ***Build out at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden in November***
- ***December CIGRS Year in Review***

Special Thanks

To Sam, Julia, Hale and Arturo for hosting the September CIGRS Meeting

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Business Meeting

The President then asked Sam to talk about his and Julia's railroad prior to moving on to committee reports. Treasurer Howard Hoy said he had no report due to the fact that he took in no additional membership dues and had no bills. After asking if there were any additional reports, John moved on to Old Business.

Old Business

The Botanical Gardens are still planning on our club setting up a display for the coming Holiday Season. We will set up the weekend before Thanksgiving and take the layout down the weekend after January 1st. Club volunteers will be needed to run trains each weekend of the event. President Myers said he expects to meet with the Master Gardeners in the near future to finalize plans for the event. Mike Kidman talked about the National Narrow Gauge Convention that was held in Kansas City earlier in September. He said the convention included modelers of all scales who are interested in Narrow Gauge Railroads. He said a number of operating layouts of various scales were set up for viewing, but the most interesting to him was the Sun Dance G Scale layout that is based in Tampa Florida. Six modelers have constructed this portable layout (it also occupies a permanent site in the Tampa area) that is extremely accurate in detail, and obviously constructed by master modelers.

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*Business Meeting
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New Business

President Myers said the club needs to book in a place to hold the winter meeting starting in November and continuing in January and February of 2015. He asked club members to contact him if they had a potential site to recommend. One site mentioned was returning to the Hotel Pattee in Perry for a January meeting.

Ben Handcock said he would check and see if the club could hold a meeting at the restored Freight House in Chariton. John Olsen spoke about the up-coming Boy Scout Camporee that will be held next May at the Boone Fairgrounds. He indicated there will be about 1000 scouts in attendance accompanied by 500 leaders. CIGRS will be setting up the modular and help the boys who are working on their Railroad Merit Badge during the event.

Show and Tell

Larry Nelson brought a picture of a very unique garden bench he has constructed using full size railroad wheels for the frame. Another winner Larry. **Ron Huntimer** brought a model of a Saw Dust Burner that would be located close to an 1800's Saw Mill on his layout. It was built out of various items found around the home to include: a plastic cup, a strainer, Popsicle sticks and rubber bands. Very creative Ron!

Gene Elphic announced the 3rd Annual Model Train Show & Sale hosted by the North Central Iowa Model Railroad Club at the Franklin County Fair & Convention Center on Sunday, October 26, 2014 from 8 AM to 3 PM. In Hampton Iowa. For more details: ncimrrc@hotmail.com or www.franklincountyfair.com

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Note one prize winning dog in fore ground of the Cafe



Ron Huntimer's Dust Burner-

Photos by Ron Mash

**Business Meeting
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Show and Sell

John "Ole" Olsen brought a 1 to 1 Railroad sign and also a cross buck signal complete with lights. **Karla Gunzenhauser** brought a couple of her Whirly Gigs and **Mike Kidman** brought some T-Shirts and mugs that say "I Grow Trains in My Garden." **Steve Evans** said there was full sized restored baggage cart for sale in Knoxville.

Prior to the door prizes, Mike Kidman's sister **Patty and her husband Tom Hunt** along with their grandchildren arrived to view the layout. Tom is a retired railroad man. Both he and Patty help out at the Tree Farm, especially during the weekends prior to Christmas.

Special Gift: **Joe Godfroy** brought one of his original Cartoon Drawings that was given to Fred Loverage the first year we had a CIGRS Garden Railroad Tour. Joe had John auction this framed drawing and Joe gave the proceeds to CIGRS. Thanks Joe for your thoughtfulness and generosity.



Photos by Ron Mash



Karla's latest whirlygig



Door Prizes

A nice selection of door prizes were made available by club members. Thanks to all who brought door prize items.

Submitted by **Jay Nugent**, Secretary

**Restored baggage cart
photo by Allen Furney
furney@iowatelecom.net**





Donna & Gene Pritchard
“Rock Island & Madison Co. RR”

By the Band Man

Gene and Donna were involved with full sized trains long before G Scale trains were on the market. In 1955 as a 17 year old, Gene went to work for the Rock Island Railroad. He would continue in this profession until retirement in 1996. More as to how Gene got the job and he and Donna moved to Des Moines later in the article. Donna and Gene are long time CIGRS members, best known among fellow club members for their work at the Madison County Museum in Winterset. It was here that Gene and Donna set up the Rock Island & Madison County RR at the restored railroad station on the museum grounds. A few years ago, Gene removed the layout from the museum, but hopes to set it back up at their home in Winterset.

Gene had a Marx wind-up train as a child and later had a Lionel electric train. His first venture into G Scale came about in the 1990's when he spotted a Rock Island FA unit at the Hobby Haven store in Des Moines. Gene says it became a “shelf-unit” for two or three years until he could not stand it setting on a shelf any longer. He took it down and set it on some track and began having fun running trains. When asked what Gene enjoys most about the hobby, he replies: “I like to run trains, build cars and structures.” He has shared his scratch built or kit bashed projects with club members over the years to everyone's delight.

As mentioned earlier, Gene is retired, and has a long history with railroad, eventually working up to become an engineer. This brings us to Donna's version as to how Gene started work on the Rock Island at 17 years of age. While in high school, Donna and Gene met through a mutual friend. About a year later, Donna then 18 and Gene 17 decided to get married. Gene being under age had to get his mother permission. They were married on a Friday evening and spent their first night as a married couple in Des Moines. The next morning, Gene decided that he needed a job to support them so he went down to the Rock Island to apply. In the interview, he was asked if he was married and he said yes, then when asked for how long, he said about eight hours. The manager said “Then why are you here?” Gene said he needed a job so he could support himself and his wife. So there you have it, in September of 1955 was the beginning of 59 years of marriage, starting a family two years later, and a long career that eventually led Gene to working up to be an engineer with the Rock Island Railroad.

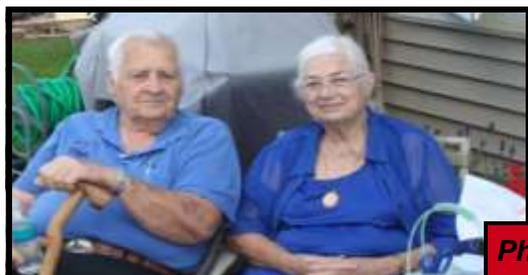


Photo by Ron Mash

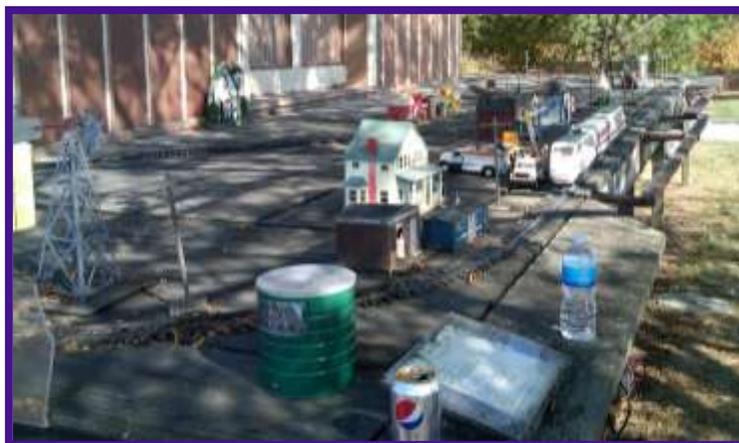


Photo by Ole Olsen

Important Dates and Observances In October 2014

Birthdays	
Renee Kidman	10-1
David Elbe	10-6
Denis Biechler	10-12
Bryan Anderson	10-27
Anniversaries	
Dick & Marilyn Shellenberg	10-1
Denny & Sandy Glick	10-9
Karl & Nancy Swessinger	10-13

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Photo by Ron Mash

Chief Engineer Sam Mora at the command center on the Crooked Creek Railroad.

"IRON HORSE RAILROAD"

CIGRS Meeting October 19th

at Kay & Ron Huntimer's,

"Iron Horse Railroad"

In Ankeny, IA

Club Meeting will begin at 1:30 PM

For Directions ...

go to: **www.cigrs.net/** and click on October Meeting under Upcoming Events.

1318 SW 3rd

Ankeny, IA 50023

515-964-1851 — Home Phone

I became interested in garden railroading after having been on a couple of the train tours. I had always loved to model as a kid and garden with my Mom and Dad. So I decided that Garden Railroading would be a perfect fit for me now that I am retired and have two grandsons and I love gardening. I am a Certified Master Gardener, Master Conservationist, and a Rainscaper. That being said, I wanted to use those skills in addition to my modeling skills to build my garden railroad. I joined the club last fall and built a small layout in the house to start stratifying my need to get started in the hobby. I am using all battery powered trains. My 5 year old grandson Lucas is already becoming a pro engineer. Come see all the detail going into this garden railroad at the October 19th CIGRS Meeting.



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:

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We're on the web:

www.cigrs.net/