

The Telegraph



Dateline: May 2017

May CIGRS Meeting Held at the Nelson's

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

When we arrived shortly before 1:00 PM several members of the Cedar Rapids Club were visiting and checking out all of Larry's latest visions that had come to life on his railroad. The finished mansion/hotel looked stately sitting up on the hill next to the operating car lift and the Sky Burger joint perched high on a tower above the raging white water river flowing below. The burger on the top of the Sky Burger sign was custom painted by master painter, Julie Nelson. It looked yummy even close up but with the "ten foot rule" it looked like the real deal including a sesame seed bun. Nicely done Ms. Julie!

Larry had all his other additions working as well. The grist mill was humming away as the water passed through the wheel. His new elevator was set into a perfect spot along the rails creating one huge industry for the railroad to serve. He explained that next year we would see two more bridges spanning water toward the upper side of the layout with more trains running too. There is always something in the works on Larry's railroad.



CENTRAL IOWA
GARDEN RAILWAY
SOCIETY





Upon further observation, one could see some rather large and colorful garden creations that were shimmering in the sunshine to catch your eye. One would also see an Airplane flying with the wind. A huge pastel colored whirligig softly rotating in the wind. I also experienced a large prayingmantis and caterpillar lining walkways and bushes. Even a ceramic lizard sunning itself keeping its distance from onlookers. A new steel swing with a rope you could pull to create a smooth gentle ride that overlooked the railroad too. Due to a pair of Robins trying to start a family all visitors were redirected to enter their home on the lower level verses the north entry way. Talk about being sensitive! ☺ I mean there was just a lot to see and experience along the meandering pathways. Strong work Nelson's. Always a treat!





**Dedicated to the Men & Women Serving in
our Armed Forces. CIGRS Salutes you!**

CIGRS Business Meeting

Text By: Ole Olsen

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM with a small group in attendance. Joe Hall and Rex from the Cedar Rapids club stayed for the meeting too. Thanks to Gene Pritchard's daughter for bringing dad over to Cedar Rapids for the afternoon. We have enjoyed seeing her over the past couple of months assisting her folks with their transportation needs.

Howard gave a stellar financial report spouting that we had our strongest balance in over a year with just a little over \$6000 in the kitty.

Old business was brought up and there was a brief conversation about considering some form of more permanent layout for club members. Finding a suitable location, club investment and sustainability were discussed. Gene Elphic told us that their HO club up in Hampton has solicited sponsors to help with sustainability and expansion from year to year by advertisements posted on rolling stock and billboards on their layout. More discussion and exploration needs to happen in this area before any serious action would take place. On the way home Howard threw out a suggestion about connecting with one of the RC plane clubs in the metro that has space suitable for building a very nice outdoor layout. So, great minds at work will bring back more information at a future meeting. Share your ideas with Ole with an email anytime. Your thoughts and ideas are always appreciated.

This discussion is about taking a look five years down the road and envisioning what our club will look like and where their interest in garden railroading would be in that timeframe and beyond. If we are going to provide meaningful opportunities for members to continue in their hobbies in our later years after we have dismantled our own garden railroads then we should be thinking about this kind of issue soon. Lots of possibilities are out there. It is refreshing to see the formation of a Modular Special Interest Group take shape in 2016-2017. We have embraced education, modeling, gardening and running trains for quite a while now. Our lives are changing as well as our interests. Please step up and voice your opinions. They matter!

UP Next: CIGRS Annual Tour

Text By: Ole Olsen

The month of June leads us to our 9th Annual Garden Railroad Tour on Saturday, June 24th. Please contact any of this year's hosts to volunteer. Let me encourage you to support our hosts by attending the tour this year. A great labor of love is going on to get these layouts "Tour Ready". You know what I'm talking about!

Please show your appreciation by checking out each one by visiting with a car load of club members, family or friends. This year there are 4 layouts that are within 10 minutes of each other and all layouts are within 20 minutes for sure.

Have lunch or dinner when you are finished and make a day of it. There is no greater form of appreciation than to be recognized by your peers. Help make this the best tour ever with your participation. Thanks everyone!

Boulder Creek Railroad

Stop 1: John & Pat Olsen - 361 NW 58th Place - Des Moines

S&J Trestle Ridge Railroad

Stop 2: Gordon and Kathy Cox - 445 NW 65th Lane - Des Moines

Deer Creek Railroad

Stop 3: Mike Meston & Family - 1075 NW 67th Place - Des Moines

Reindeer Pass Railroad

Stop 4: Mike & Renee Kidman - 5220 NW 8th Street - Ankeny

BCG&O Railroad

Stop 5: Joe & Andee Vocelka - 6659 NW52 Ct. - Johnston

Callajet Railway

Stop 6: Mike & Mary Armstrong - 9582 Wilson St. - Des Moines

After That: CIGRS Upcoming Meeting Details

Text By: Ole Olsen

Our next CIGRS meeting will be held up in Hampton at Gene and Jane Elphics. Note the date is changed for the **July** meeting. It will be on Sunday, July 30th so we can all celebrate Gene's birthday. Eating cake is a really big deal, so don't miss it! Check our website for more details. Gene announced they will have a Potluck for this meeting. The meal time will begin at noon. So please bring a favorite dish or dessert or something to share and join in the party. Gene's layout has track power so if you want to run a train on a fantastic layout, bring it!

August meeting will be at Howard and Kay Hoy's in Altoona. Howard is letting no moss grow while constructing his new railroad. A must see for sure.

See you along the tour!

Have a great summer everybody.



More Photos of Nelson's Layout

Photos By: Ole Olsen



Balloons, Helicopters, Planes...



The aforementioned Swing!



and yes there is even a garden train layout in there somewhere complete with track, bridges and of all things trains!

Back by Popular Demand

(Actually back because my wife knows I can never remember our anniversary without this)

CIGRS Birthdays and Anniversaries

MAY

Birthdays

Nancy Fusco (Website Guru) 5-8
 Barbara Deats 5-19
 Marilyn Kirkpatrick 5-19
 Cheryl Evans 5-19
 Grant Boes 5-20
 Andee Vocelka 5-24

Anniversaries

Elizabeth & Eric Kamp 5-2
 John & Barb Kilmer 5-2
 Gordon & Kathy Cox 5-5
 Dave & Elaine Dunn 5-13
 Dick & LaVonne Isard 5-14
 Hillary & Lou Miner 5-22

JUNE

Birthdays

Sandra Bickel 6-18
 Ione Edlen 6-20
 Sheri Godfroy 6-24

Anniversaries

Bill & Connie Joy 6-12
 Jay & Cheri Nugent 6-16
 Eric & Sandra Bickel 6-18
 Paul & Karla Gunzenhauser 6-21
 John & Pat Olsen 6-21
 John & Lori Myers 6-28

Let Ole know if we are missing yours

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About Our Organization...

The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meeting at which we discuss one another's current project, 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 locomotive, includes electric operation, battery-powered and trains that actually run on live steam.