

# The Roundhouse



The newsletter of the Lancaster & Northwestern Railroad Club

August 2004

## Bulletin getting back on track

By Doug Arnold  
Editor

The club bulletin has returned!

First, I would like to thank Revell Walker for tackling this. Bulletins are a lot of work. He has gotten so busy with working, his shop and his family that there just aren't enough hours in the day.

Bulletins, although challenging, are a lot of fun to do. My background is in newspapering, so I have always enjoyed these challenges. I already edit the bulletin for Victor Valley Gem and Mineral Club and was able to fit this into my schedule so I will enjoy doing the bulletin and the web site.

## It's time to build your railroad

By Doug Arnold  
Editor

"I've been working on a railroad"

Like the song, most of us have been or will be.

When I had to take my medical retirement from the newspaper where I worked railroads were the furthest thing from my mind. When I was younger I built HO layouts but I always enjoyed the outdoor layout at the Los Angeles County Fair.

I never realized I was looking at my future. We own 2 1/2 acres in Pinon Hills so I have plenty of room for my layout. Many people are not as

See **RAILROAD**/Page 3

The bulletin and web site are something that needs everyone's input. Your ideas and comments are a needed item. Feel free to send me a note at P.O. Box 720466, Pinon Hills, Calif. 92372, or e-mail me at [oldjasper@verizon.net](mailto:oldjasper@verizon.net)

Over the next few months I'll publish a multipart article on beginning G scale railroading. My background was in HO but since we had the space here on the desert and I have poor eyesight, I was attracted to G scale. I am thoroughly enjoying it.

I plan to publish the bulletin after our club meetings for a couple of reasons. It is after I produce the gem and mineral club bulletin and I since we decide on much of the schedule at our meetings this will help us get the word out.



ART-23002 Burlington Northern Santa Fe



*One of the many decisions you might need to make when building a layout is whether you want to have diesel or steam? If you are making that decision, you have a lot to choose from. Top photo is from Aristocraft and the lower photo is my LGB engine in our front yard.*

# Time to build a bridge

Learn to build a bridge.

That topic will be explored by Revell Walker on Sunday, Aug. 22, beginning at 1 p.m. at Area 51.

For information on the nominal cost of materials, etc., call Revell Walker.

The shop is located at 616 Lancaster Blvd., in Lancaster.

## Club member passes away

Some sad news was reported at the August meeting.

Club member Doug Boyle passed away July 3.

Club members attending the meeting voted to send a card to his widow and donate \$50 to the Heart Association.

## Some TV stations have train programs

Can't get enough trains? Then you might want to watch *Machines of Iron*. It is currently running on RFD TV, on Channel 379 at 6 a.m. on Saturday mornings.

At least it is out here in Pinon Hills.

If you see or hear of anything of interest to train buffs, please let me know.



*The Carson and Colorado trains ran from near Mojave through to Round Mound, Nev. Here a steam engine is on the home stretch to Keeler. This photograph is from a very nice website that can be explored at:*

*[http://www.owensvalleyhistory.com/carson\\_n\\_colorado/page50.html](http://www.owensvalleyhistory.com/carson_n_colorado/page50.html)*

## Railroad swap meet just the place for train buffs

On Saturday, September 18, the Fall Railroadiana Swap Meet & Model Trolley Meet will be held at the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris.

Railroad antiques, collectibles, art, books, photos, model and toy trains will be sold. Plus, it's the annual Model Trolley Meet, featuring the Southern California Traction Club's incredible HO scale modular trolley

layout. The Swap Meet runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the model trolleys until 5 pm.

Admission is \$4; or included with an all-day pass for trolley and train rides, \$8 adults, \$6 ages 5-11. Exhibitor fee is \$8, includes one admission. Set up starts at 7 a.m., bring your own tables and chairs.

Visit their web site at: <http://www.oerm.org/>

## Having a problem with your switches?

“The Upland GRS has received reports of trouble when running USA Trains on the new 18050 and 18150 Manual Switch (R5) from LGB. It appears the electrical pickup shoe on the locomotive falls into the frog of the switch as it is passing over. This causes the train to derail. LGB will be notified, but first you can help by leaving any information you know or questions about this issue in the guest book.”

This information came from the Upland Garden Railroad web site at: <http://mysite.verizon.net/res7x0fi/>

# Railroad

## /from Page 1

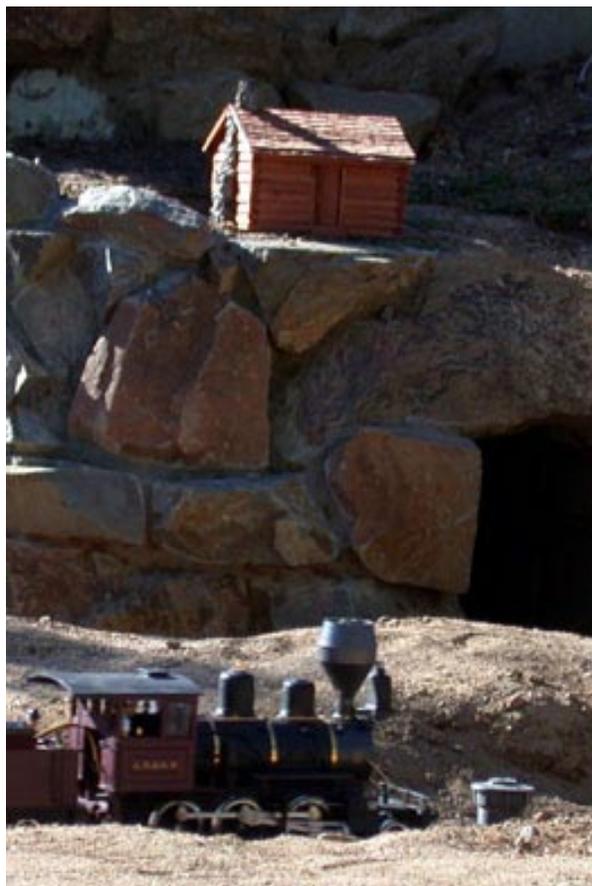
---

spoiled as I am and fitting in a layout may take a little more planning. Some people may want to build their layout indoors and that can certainly be done and many have. Others may have to squeeze it in their smaller yard. Their trains will snake around their current yard. Many do. Even though my train has plenty of room it will still travel around our fruit trees, a Joshua Tree and a pine tree. There are always limits.

When you launch into G Scale there are many things to consider or not consider. There are no real musts in this hobby or almost none. When you build layouts in other scales the cars, etc., tend to be in one size. In G Scale there can be a variance from 1:20 (1 foot to 20 feet) to 1:29 or more. If you want to keep in one size, do it. If not, don't do it. They all run on the same size of track. The same applies to whether it is narrow gauge or standard gauge. There can even be differences in the size of track but the trains will still fit on them so we won't even get into that here. You may or may not want to consider these factors. We all have our own opinions.

The next factor you may or may not want to consider is the time period. Will your layout be occupied by steam trains or diesels? Or do you even care? Personally I enjoy steam trains and tend to model that era. But if you enjoy all time periods, go for it. Pick what you like.

Something else to think about. Do you want to think about



*A lot of trains got a chance to run at the recent open house held at the home of Phil and Jan Schreier's in Quartz Hill. Get prepared. There will be a barbecue and open house at the home of Bob and Patty Frozina in Lancaster on Saturday, Oct. 16. The event will begin at 2 p.m. Bring a friend. (Photos taken by Sara Arnold)*

buying a power pack and wiring your layout or setting up your layout with remote control? I have gone with remote control (RC) and battery because I like to walk with my trains due to my poor eyesight and I like to be in on the action. Wiring a layout is not a

tough job. With remote control it would actually be possible to have a head-on train wreck, not a pleasant experience.

Where are those tracks going? I'll look at that in the months ahead. This is enough to think about this month