

**Upcoming
events**

**April 15
Meet at the
Barbers**

**April 21
Ontario Narrow
Gauge Show
10 am to 4 pm
Schomberg Com-
munity Hall
325 Main St.
Admission \$15.**

**May
Meet—Date,
Place to be set**

**June
Meet— Date and
Place to be set**

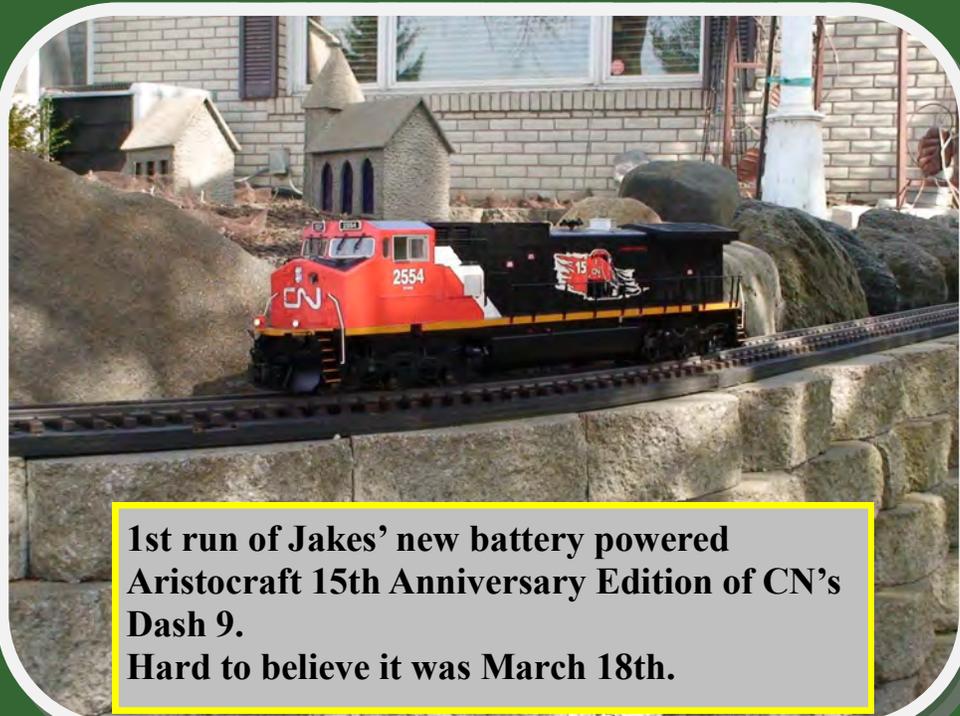
**August 14 to 19
2012 National
Garden Railway
Convention
St. Charles, Illi-
nois (Chicago)**

**September 8
Open Houses
Brian Pinkerton
in Picton in a.m.
Russ Rose in
Kingston in p.m.**

Backyard Railroaders

Issue # 4

APRIL 2012



**1st run of Jakes' new battery powered
Aristocraft 15th Anniversary Edition of CN's
Dash 9.
Hard to believe it was March 18th.**





Jakes' "used" track powered Dash 9 on its first run.

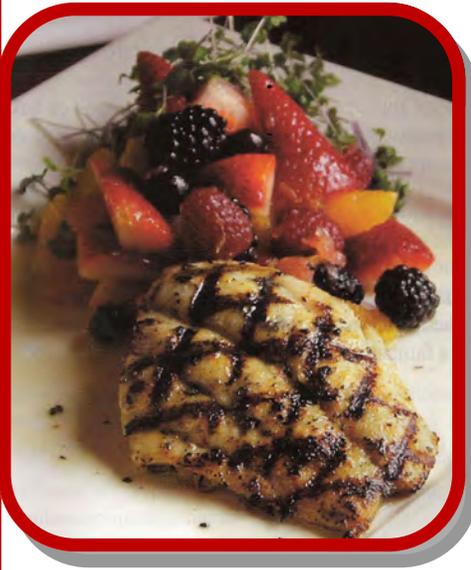


March 18 and it was almost to nice to go inside!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The March meet was held on the 18th, the afternoon temperature reached a high of 21 degrees. Many of the members were down south escaping the cold, those of us stuck here (!!!) were really suffering as you can see in the photos above. Spring cleanup has been completed a month earlier than usual, golf courses are open, and many plants are beginning to stir. We had an exceptionally good winter at least here in Newmarket. The largest snowfall was 2 inches, we had two or three others of almost two inches the rest was mostly a trace (no need for a snow blower). We had very few sub zero temperature and frost in the ground was only inches deep instead of feet. Driving was great and cars didn't need a weekly wash to get rid of the salt. We finally went inside and previewed Julie's second Garden Railway video, this one was of Joan & Ian Mooney's "Maple Rock Garden Railway".

David Lloyd was here this month so we showed Julie's first video which was of David's "Magestic Waterfall Railway". We have more to come but it takes time with editing film that was not necessarily intended to be used to make a video, plus add music and commentary. It's hard not to want to start some projects as your afraid reality with return. As I write this newsletter we had an April fools joke of a light flurry of snow and plus 2 degrees. Let's hope we don't pay for the mild winter somewhere down the road.

Recipe of the Month
From York Central Railways
Dining car



*Red Snapper with
 Orange Beurre Blanc*

Ingredients:

- 2 Red Snapper Fillets 8 oz
- 1 tsp fresh chopped basil, rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano
- 1/2 tsp fresh minced garlic
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- Salt pepper to taste
- 1 orange segmented
- 1 grapefruit segmented
- 2 oz blueberries
- 2 oz raspberries
- 4 large strawberries
- 2 cups baby spinach or 1 cup micro greens
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 oz orange juice
- 1/2 oz white wine
- 1 oz cold butter

Preparation:

Rub all fresh herbs, garlic and 1 tsp of the olive oil on the fish. Place skin side up on a hot grill for 5 minutes. Turn over carefully and grill for another 3 minutes, or until fish is flaky. Combine orange juice and white wine. On high heat, reduce this mixture by 1/4 and then whisk in butter. In a separate bowl, combine all fruit, lemon juice, sugar, and 1 tsp olive oil, and toss together. Lay greens on plate, then top with fruit. Place cooked fish on top, and drizzle sauce over fish.

Serves two.
enjoy

*This Months attempt at
 HUMOUR*

Back when I was a teenager my family used to take driving trips to the west through Canada and northern USA.

Along the way on the side of the roads were “Burma Shave” signs. These make nice little additions to your railroad even along side the tracks. Here are a few.

**CAR IN DITCH
 DRIVER IN TREE
 MOON WAS FULL
 SO WAS HE
 BURMA SHAVE**

**SAID FARMER JONES
 WHO’S BALD ON TOP
 I WISH I COULD
 ROTATE THE CROP
 BURMA SHAVE**

**HE SAW THE TRAIN
 HE TRIED TO DUCK IT
 KICKET FIRST THE GAS
 THEN THE BUCKET
 BURMA SHAVE**

**SCHOOL AHEAD
 TAKE IT SLOW
 LET THE LITTLE
 SHAVERS GROW
 BURMA SHAVE**

**FOLKS WOULDN’T FEEL
 SO MUCH DANGER
 IF WE STILL HAD
 THE OL’ LONE RANGER
 BURMA SHAVE**

**AROUND THE CORNER
 LICKETY SPLIT
 BEAUTIFUL CAR
 WASN’T IT?
 BURMA SHAVE**

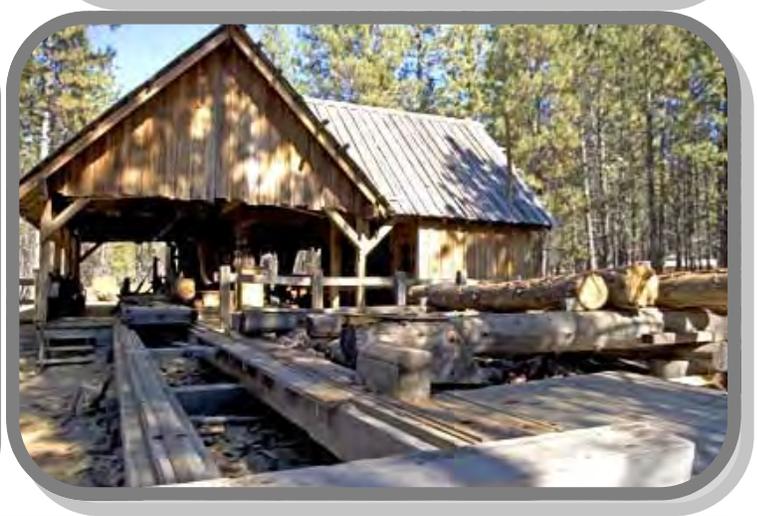
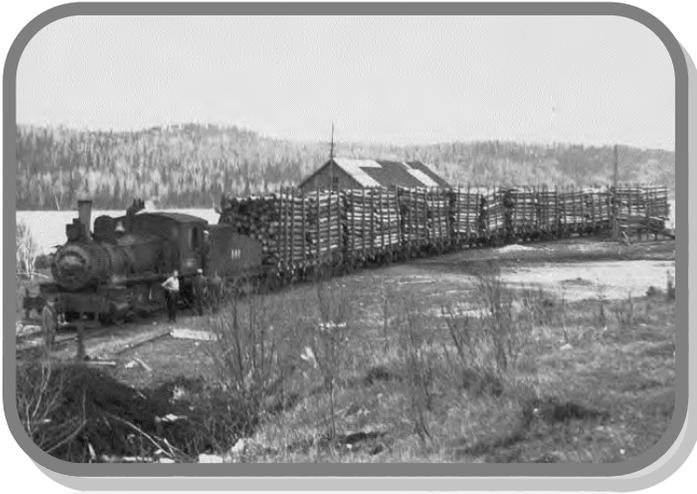
**DRINKING DRIVERS—
 NOTHING WORSE
 THEY PUT
 THE QUART
 BEFORE THE HEARSE
 BURMA SHAVE**

**AT A QUIS
 PA AIN’T
 NO WHIZ
 BUT HE KNOWS HOW
 TO KEEP MA HIS
 BURMA SHAVE**

**DINAH DOESN’T
 TREAT HIM RIGHT
 BUT IF HE’D
 SHAVE
 DYNA-MITE!
 BERMA SHAVE
 ONE LINE PER SIGN, ON POST OR
 FENCE, WILL SHOW, YOUR HU-
 MOUROUS, SENSE
 JIM BARBER**

SMALL RAILWAYS WITH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

Not a lot of room for a Garden Railway or want a small feeder railway added to the rest of your larger railroad? Why not model a railroad that has a specific purpose such as lumber. These railways were usually built in areas where standard railways could not operate due to the geography. They were also constructed so that they could be moved and relocated easily, therefore not requiring heavy roadbeds etc. A few samples of equipment used (engines and cars) and saw mills are pictured below. The Shay was specifically developed for this purpose with almost never two exactly the same.



EARLY LUMBER & PAPER MILLS in Southern Ontario



TODMORDEN MILLS

In 1794-5 Issiah and Aaron Skinner built a sawmill and grist-mill near this site. A third share in the mill property was held, 1799-1805, by their brother-in-law, Pashall Terry, a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, who had moved to this area by 1798. Terry lived nearby until his death in 1808. Later the mills were jointly owned by Colin Skinner and John Eastwood. By 1823 Thomas Helliwell had built a brewery and a distillery in the immediate vicinity and within four years Eastwood and Skinner had constructed the second paper mill in Upper Canada. A village called "Todmorden" after the English home of Helliwells grew up to the north-east of the mills.

©Harold Silver

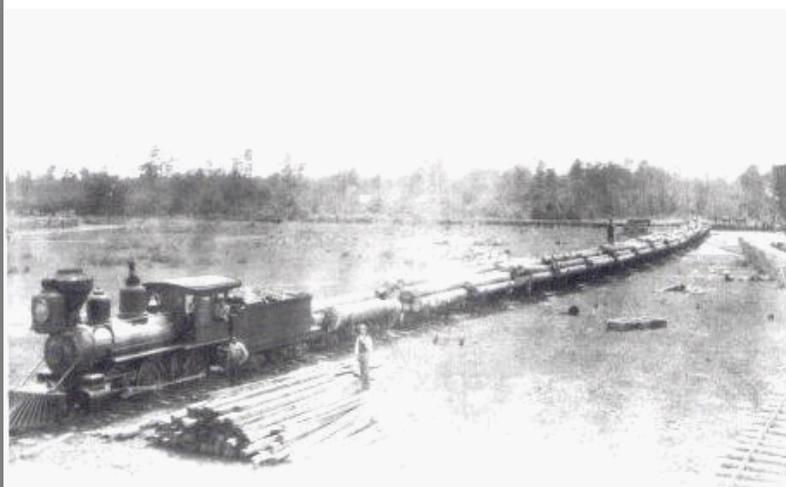


Rayonier Inc. #14 at Sekiv, WA May 9, 1949 Al Farrow photo, Martin E. Hansen Collection

**Rayonier Inc. #14 at Sekiv,
Washington**



**Nova Scotia Sawmill
Ghost Town
The whole camp was
moved to the next
location.**



**Surrey Lumber Co.
Surrey B.C.**



**Skagit Valley R.R.
2 truck Shay**

Geotag Your Photos Today for Tomorrow's Memories

How often have you taken a photo of something, only to forget later exactly where it was taken. Years later. Even the best of memories can stray from reality. Sometimes there may be something in the photo to help you identify the location, but wouldn't it be great if you could save more precise information with the photo forever. Using a device to Geotag your photos with today's digital cameras does just this. Geotagging involves adding geographical identification data to files including photos. Generally, this is in the form of latitude and longitude data but can include other information such as altitude as well. A lot of digital cameras today will automatically record mode speed such as AE at 1/160th of a second at f5.6 with an ISO of 125 at 9:59 a.m. Central Time on January 26, 2012. The camera will do this for every photo taken. This is known as Exif data, which stands for Exchangeable image file format data. It is an industry standard for the formatting of all file tag information. Using Google Earth, you can determine that the photo was taken at the specific longitude and latitude. Using software such

as GeoSetter, you can add this information manually to the Exif file. Once stored, the information can be used to show the exact location where the photo was taken on a map. Of course adding the information after the fact and manually is a lot of trouble. You can buy a unit that attaches to your camera to record the Geotag information as each picture is taken but this will require a financial investment of up to \$400 or more. (A limited number of digital cameras have GPS recording built in). There is another way to record the information and link it to your photos if you have a smart device such as an iPhone, iPad or iPod Touch. With say an iPad you can download an app known as Geotag Photos Pro (\$3.99 or free for the lite version). This application uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) capability of your device to record trips by location points recorded at frequent intervals from start to finish of the trip. Before starting your trip, you synchronize the time on your camera with the time on your smart device. At the end of your trip and your picture taking, you stop the recording of the GPS locations and upload the trip file to the server at Geotagphotos.net. You must have an account set up

through your PC at the Geotag Photos web site, but there is no additional cost for this. You then follow the simple on screen instructions and information from the Geotag file matched to your photos by using the time data. Each photo that was taken within the time of the trip has the Geotag information added to the Exif data. You also have a map and record of your trip. It all sounds a bit complicated and very "techie", but it works and it's actually very simple to use and very accurate. Perhaps you may think it unnecessary when you're shooting photos around your home town. Regardless, by Geotagging your photos, you ensure that location information is recorded for as long as the photo exists. After all, the other Exif information is already recorded. Make it complete by adding your location.



NATIONAL
RAILWAY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

“WESTERN
STAR EX-
CURSION”

SP&S #700
&
SP #4449
JULY 2005

Stuff to have on hand

One of the fun parts of Garden Railroading is building your own communities and industries for your railroad to serve. Fortunately many resources are available, including kits, building supplies, and things you can scrounge to use on your buildings.

If your life is like mine, however, you only have a limited time to work on your hobbies, so you need to be able to make the best use of the time you have once you get started on a project. The last thing you need is to get into the middle of what ought to be a 1-hour project, then realize you need to make a trip to the store for something else you didn't realize you needed. One way to avoid that is to pick up a few dollars' worth of supplies to keep on hand, and to start collecting other things you'll need sooner or later when you come across them. In fact keeping those supplies together in one place wouldn't hurt either. So, the next time you see those clear plastic bins on sale (the 48-quart or larger ones), pick up one (or twenty, if you need to clean out your workshop or attic), and start collecting things you know you'll need soon or later. This way, if you get a few minutes to fiddle with a new building kit, you'll be able to make some progress in the time you have, instead of opening the box and then remembering that you forgot to pick up something you needed.

Stuff You Will Need or Find Useful Anyway So You Should Probably Pick Up Soon—The following list describes stuff you should keep on hand so you don't have to make a run to the store every time you have a chance to spend twenty minutes on some structure project.

- **MASKING TAPE**, in several widths
- **SPRAY PAINT**, when used properly, can provide a fine coating that neither obscures details nor shows brush-strokes. For Gray Primer, Rust (Red) Primer, Flat White, and Flat Black, the house brands at Wal-mart, etc are just as useful as the expensive brands. Flats cover better and look better than shiny.
- **CHEAP HOBBY PAINTBRUSHES**, get the kind that come ten for a dollar at the Dollar store. Use

only good brush for doing very fine work, for everything else use the cheapo. They can be disposed of rather than cleaning.

- **GLUE**, some people use one all-purpose weatherproof glue such as the water-resistant Liquid Nails product. I prefer to have at least a couple on hand (model cement, by the way, is not usually the best choice for garden railway structures, so it's not on my list): Superglue a cyanoacrylate adhesive will let you pop the pieces of a structure together in a few minutes, so you don't have to clamp the thing and leave over night. That said I usually go back and use another product to reinforce the joints after everything else is done. Buy cyanoacrylate glues in small containers, no matter how you try these will usually dry up between projects after they been opened. Liquid Nails or clear silicone also help reinforce joints from behind. Silicone also is good for fastening things that may have to be removed at a later time and can be peeled off with no damage to the items.

STUFF TO COLLECT FOR USE LATER, this list includes stuff you should hang onto when you come across it.

- **PLANT AND VEGETABLE TRAYS**, the things that you bring home strawberries or seedlings in often have a "hash" pattern that can used for window mullions when you are building your own buildings or dressing up buildings you got from other sources. Of course the "mullions" will need to be painted (most of the plastic isn't UV-resistant), and you should probably put Lucite or something behind them to reduce the risk of someone punching through one by accident when moving the building. But making "windows" this way is fast, attractive, and cheap.
- **LUCITE AND PLEXIGLASS**, never pass up Lucite or Plexiglass if you can come by it free. These sturdy, weather-resistant materials can be used in many ways when you are building structures. **THIN, CLEAR STOCK FOR WINDOW PANES** the type used

in storm windows or replacement windows (1/8") are good for use as windows in buildings.

HEAVIER STOCK FOR STRUCTURAL USE—Heavier grades of Plexiglass and similar material are expensive to buy but possible to scrounge. Old office "carpet protectors" that had gotten scratched up and being replaced, sign shops disposing of old signs or scrap pieces. These can be cut and used for walls and roofs of buildings, for strength, and then add a veneer. Most building kits don't come with a base so Plexiglass can be used as a base for the building and related accessories .

STUFF YOU'LL ACCUMULATE ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS, this list includes products you will pick up on a project-by-project basis but are worth keeping onhand once you have them.

- **Other flat or satin Outdoor Finishes**
- **Acrylic Paint**, acrylic craft paint is good if you need special colours in small quantities, you'll probably start collecting a few of these. They clean up with water, but they do fine outside if you spray them with a light coat of matte or satin UV-resistant finish.
- **LEFTOVER PARTS**, many kits have a few extra parts, especially things like extra window frames or shutters that you'll be able to use to dress up other projects. Keep them together in a "spare parts box" so you know where that are when you need them.

Remember always look at things for what they could be as opposed to what they are or came as.

Good luck collecting.

This article was inspired by one written by Paul D. Race





A light snack, a chat, a beautiful spring day. Bruce was heading out to Miami for a cruise all packed and ready to go later in the day. We wished Ruth and Bruce a great trip.

SHOW AND TELL

I FORGOT TO MENTION EARLIER, THAT IN ADDITION TO THE TWO VIDEOS, WE HAD OUR FIRST SHOW AND TELL IN A WHILE. BRIAN HAD BROUGHT TWO OF HIS HAND MADE (LAID) SWITCHES. ONE A RIGHT HAND TURNOUT AND THE OTHER A “Y”. HE HAD CUT THE CEDAR TIES AND CUT AND FORMED THE ALUMINUM RAILS (POINTS AND FROGS) AND ASSEMBLED WITH SPIKES. HE DID A REALLY GOOD JOB. HIS LAYOUTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE WITH HAND LAID ALUMINUM CODE 225 TRACK, AS HE RAN EITHER LIVE STEAM OR BATTERY POWER. HE’S GEARING UP FOR THE START OF RE-CONSTRUCTION OF HIS RAILROAD THIS SUMMER, AS HE HAS THE REST OF HIS PROJECTS ALMOST COMPLETED. I HOPE MORE MEMBERS WILL BRING PROJECTS THEY HAVE DONE FOR A SHOW AND TELL.

Sorry I don’t have more for this newsletter, “BUT”, with the early spring, outside jobs and renovations (to both the railroad and patio) are calling. I hope to do better next month.

NOTE: Anyone who hasn’t yet paid there 2012 dues, please forward to me as soon as possible. THANKS

ANYONE PLANNING AN “OPEN HOUSE” OR ABLE TO HOLD A MEET THIS SUMMER PLEASE ADVISE. WE HAVE NOTHING BOOKED FOR MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER (just the open houses in the Kingston area).

A shot of the Pinkertons’ in Picton

