

**Upcoming
events**

**February 16 &
17
43rd Allandale
Model Train
Show @ Brad-
ford Greenhouses
Barrie**

**February 17
Meet at the Bar-
ber's**

**March 17
Meet at the Bar-
ber's**

**June 5-9
29th National
Garden Railway
Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio**

Backyard Railroaders

Issue # 2

February 2013



New Toys





The day of the January meet saw a light dusting of snow. Winter reminding us it's a while before Spring. So still time to plan and get supplies.



We had a nice group at the January meet with Earl watching his new (to him) Sumpter Valley locomotive pull a string of loaded hoppers, and Jake bringing one of his three new USA Trains auto carrier for us to see. This unit is a few inches shy of 40. He'll have to make sure all his curves will accommodate the overhang of these cars. Get detail and a beautiful car. As you can see below everyone enjoys the food. The recipe of the month will be one of the dishes.



The Sumpter Valley loco is equipped with a decoder and sound and was acquired from the Richard Huppige collection.



This car has nice weight empty and should track very well. It looks like it would take 1/32 size cars but I don't know how

EAST COAST Large Scale Train Shows

Dealer, Manufacturers, Layouts and more...

March 22 & 23, 2013—Every year near the end of March, Large Scale fans in the Northeast flock to York Pennsylvania for the largest show of it's kind. Almost all suppliers of G scale equipment and materials are there. In addition several local clubs have displays of operating railroads. Check out their web site at “www.eclsts.com” for more details and admission.

While at York take the short drive to Strasberg less than an hour east to see the sites listed below. I would recommend the ChooChooBarn as I didn't get to see the others.



CHOO CHOO BARN

Traintown, U.S.A.

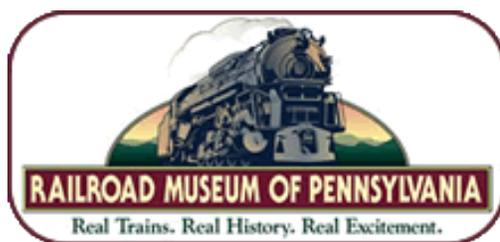
Since 1961, people from the US and around the World have visited this truly unique attraction. The display at the Choo Choo Barn is 1700 square feet of action, with over 150 hand built animated figures and vehicles and 22 operating trains. Most trains are O gauge Lionel & MTH. It's different than anything you've ever seen. Adult admission is \$7.00 and open 10 am—5 pm

STRASBURG™

SINCE 1832

RAIL-ROAD

Founded in 1832 the Rail Road celebrates it's 181st anniversary of it's railroad charter in 2013. In 1957 a series of storms caused destruction of tracks and owners were unwilling to invest in the needed repairs. Petitions to abandon the railroad were being considered, but a group of influential and enthusiastic rail-fans formed a group and saved the railroad. See their site at “www.strasburgrailroad.com”



This museum houses one of the most significant collections of historic railroad artifacts in the world. It displays over 100 locomotives and cars from the mid 19th and 20th centuries. It's open Saturday from 9 to 5 and Sunday 12noon to 5. Check their site at “www.rrmuseumpa.org” .

This Months Recipe from
YORK CENTRAL RAILWAYS
Dining Car

Served at the January meet.

Stuffed Mushrooms

20 plus 10 mushrooms medium size for the filling
8 maple cured breakfast sausages
2 stalks celery minced
6 green onions minced
1/3 cup bread crumbs
1/3 cup dry sherry
1/4 tsp dried thyme
1/2 cup finely shredded swiss cheese + more for topping the mushrooms
Salt and pepper
3 tbsp canola oil
1 egg

If you buy 20 mushrooms for stuffing, buy 10 extra to mince and add to your stuffing. I like Portobello mushrooms but you can't use the stems of these for your filling, so I just buy white button mushrooms for the filling.

Clean the mushrooms very well with a soft brush or paper towel. Do not wash under water. Mushrooms are extremely porous and they will steam in the oven! You don't want that!

Remove the stems with your fingers, if you have trouble , use a melon baller to make the job easier.

Brush the outside of the 20 mushrooms with canola oil.

If you used white mushrooms dice the stems finely, and mince the 10 extra mushrooms. add the mushrooms to a fry pan with the 3 tbsp canola oil. Add the minced celery and green onions.

Add the thyme and fry on medium high heat until no liquid remains in the pan.

At this point deglaze the pan with the sherry and cook until it has evaporated and you see very little liquid in the pan. Do not add salt and pepper at this point.

Fry the sausages in a pan with a little canola oil

Process in a food processor to a fine mince or mince by hand.

Add this to the bowl

Add the fried mixture to the bowl. Add the bread crumbs, swiss cheese, salt and pepper and 1 egg.

Mix well and stuff your mushrooms

Add a little shredded swiss cheese to the top and Bake for 20 min and 400.

Cool a minute and serve.

You can double or triple this recipe.

Enjoy!



For Sale



If you are interested in the above or have items you wish to sell, or there are items your looking for, contact Jim.



**Wednesday June 5th to Sunday June 9th
Great Wolf Lodge Mason (Cincinnati) Ohio
Earl Bird registration date March 15th
To register on line go to www.ngrc2013.com**



**Special rates apply at Great Wolf Lodge for accommodation.
\$139.00 +9.99 per day.
To book at Great Wolf Lodge
[Www.greatwolf.com/mason/](http://www.greatwolf.com/mason/)
Use Group code# 1306GARD**

Gravity Race at NGRC 2013

Ian has suggested that as we have enough engineers in the club, we should construct a car for the "Gravity Race" at this years convention. The object of the race is for a gravity only powered unit to go the greatest distance on a gauge one single track with a downhill start. The start is much like the soapbox derby race, only distance travelled is more important than speed. I think we should attempt to find out what the track layout is going to be. It is not or wasn't in the past just a slope to a straight run of track, there are sometimes several curves, which means a car has to have a low center of gravity in order to stay on the track going around sharp curves.

It sounds like a good idea, anyone want to head it up?

Ready for testing The first buildings using the Don Wells “cement formula” are assembled and now ready for testing outside. Earl has taken them home and exposed them to the elements. In the meantime production continues with the previous method of using “sand-mix concrete”. We have buildings made of this method that have been outdoors continually for over ten years. Most of these have required little or no maintenance.

The house below is approx. 8”x 10”, the stores are approx. 8” x 11”. This model of a store has no windows in the sides so they can be placed together as shown to make a Main Street. They can also be placed separately and signage could be placed on the sides. The stores do have windows and doors in the rear. Provision has been made for the installation of low voltage lighting. The windows are real glass.

The texture of the buildings will vary from simulated stone, brick and block, to various wood finishes. The roofs will also have a variety of styles. Further reports will appear in subsequent newsletters.



2013 OPEN HOUSES —At our February Meet we should start to schedule for dates and times of this years open houses, so choose your day. Ian advises that their open house will be on a Saturday in the hope of more CN traffic.

2013 WORK PARTIES —Several members are under construction and could use help this year. We have some willing helpers so please review your needs and suggest some dates. A lot of us don’t work any more so week days are sometimes better than weekends. The only cost is the steak dinner for all of us after!!!!!!!(just kidding).

OTHER CLUB EVENTS SUGGESTED

- TRIP ON THE SOUTH SIMCOE RR OUT OF TOTTENHAM
- TRIP ON THE YORK DURHAM RR BETWEEN UXBRIDGE AND STOUFFVILLE
- DAY TRIP TO PORT McNICOLL ON GEORGIAN BAY
- DAY TRIP TO PORT STANLEY TO RIDE THE PORT STANLEY TERMINAL RR AND ELGIN COUNTY RAILWAY MUSEUM IN ST. THOMAS.

Johnnychuffchuff at the Christmas Train Show

At the show John sets up two things side by side—an Inglenook switching puzzle, basically for older kids and adults, and a roundy-round for the youngsters and for grownups who just want to veg. for awhile. He hopes to be at the Allandale show in Barrie on February 16 & 17. Our February meet is the 17th so maybe we can see him at the show on the 16th.



Backyard Railroader Johnnychuffchuff gives new generations of children the rich experience of running electric trains. At train shows he sets up a simple layout for younger children to operate themselves, and an Inglenook switching puzzle for the older ones.



The basic track plan for the little kids' loop. It's a fairly simple oval with a couple of twists to get round a hill and through a tunnel at the far end. The right back corner is the site of a small town. The branchline winds through a forested area in the middle. The available space at the very back will be taken up by the Inglenook yard lead, located behind the town area.



This year the Christmas Train Show was combined with the Toy and Doll Collectors' show. Johnnychuffchuff thinks the combination worked well. There was a good crowd in attendance all day.



Overview of the hall as viewed from the back of Johnnychuffchuff's display.



This gives a good overview of Johnnychuffchuff's display at the Train show at the International Centre on Nov. 18. On the left, the main layout, a roundy-round for little children, at the rear, the Inglenook Switching puzzle, and in the foreground, one of our two display and flea market tables. The little person at the front corner is getting a close-up look at the cattle loading dock.



Ricky, johnnychuffchuff's volunteer, in white t-shirt, helps the younger children learn the controls.



At the back of the display, there was an Inglenook switching layout where older children could learn about real railroad operations. Johnnychuffchuff's home switching layout contains several switching puzzles, one of which is an Inglenook like this, identical to the one he sets up at shows.



At the front, Ricky explained things to parent and child alike. The little kids' train has three gondolas and no cabooses. There is a collection of passengers and freight that children put in and take out of the train. Some children bring their own toys from home to give them a ride on Johnnychuffchuff's trains.



We were kept very busy all day long. We actually couldn't see the tables for awhile, with kids lined up one side, and parents opposite, all taking video or still pictures of their children with the trains.



From the back you can see the tunnel on the right, made of boxes. There is a proper wooden tunnel portal around the viewing side. The two people in the foreground are busy working out the Inglenook switching puzzle, sort of...



This grandfather and his two boys were fascinated by the switching puzzle. Johnnychuffchuff just thought it made a nice picture.