

**Upcoming
events**

**MAY 25 & 26
Midland Model
Railroad Show
Midland Sports
& Rec. Complex**

**May 26
Open House at
the LeForestier's**

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

**JUNE 23
Open House at
the Fraser's**

**JULY 21
Open House at
the Rozema's**

**JULY 27
Open House at
the Mooney's**

See more inside

Backyard Railroaders

10th YEAR

Issue # 5

MAY 2013



Maintenance crew preparing for the upcoming 2013 season on the Metropolitan at Aurora Station.

LAST OF THE WINTER MEETS-OPEN HOUSE SEASON BEGINS

The last of the winter meets was held April 21. It was a great day, the weather ahead is looking good. A good group again this month. We had a few clinics. Three members showed and explained their methods of using Styrofoam board for making walls, tunnel portals, and gates. See the following photos. Also John showed a unique way of building small tip cars for a narrow gauge railway out of Corn Flakes boxes. The man has a lot of patience, as this is very meticulous, but undoubtedly will turn out great. His open house May 26 will be a work party. I hope he's not expecting us to build these cars.



Werner's tunnel portable using 1" Styrofoam carved and painted. It's been outside for several years and looks like it was just made.



Ian brought samples of 2" foam he used for his large wall. It was made using several layers of foam, each layer cut individually and then glued together and carved and painted.



Above is a shot of the finished project .



Julie's method uses 2" Styrofoam cut and carved with foam cutting tools. After carving the foam is covered with "Foam Coat" which makes it look and feel like cement. It's very durable for outdoor use.



John found a picture of a tipper car used in the far east on a small narrow gauge steam railroad, that hauled rocks from a river to the main line. The car seemed simple enough in it's construction, that it challenged John's creative instincts to create a G scale replica to run on narrow gauge track (O gauge). It will be interesting to see the finished product.



This car is a similar car to the one John is building.



Let's see!!!!!! Do I have all the parts in the right order???????????



John has set all the steps in order. The only metal used are the Lionel O gauge wheels.



THE GANG and REFRESHMENTS



TRAIN CEMETERY BOLIVIA

One of the major tourist attractions of southwestern Bolivia is an Antique Train Cemetery.

It is located 3 km outside Uyuni, and is connected to it by the old train tracks. The town served in the past as a distribution hub for the trains carrying minerals on their way to the Pacific Ocean ports. The train lines were built by British engineers, who arrived near the end of the 19th century, and formed a sizable community in Uyuni.

The rail construction started in 1888 and ended in 1892.

The trains were mostly used by the mining companies.

In the 1940's the mining industry collapsed, partly due to the mineral depletion.

Many trains were abandoned thereby producing the Train Cemetery.

There are talks to build a museum out of the cemetery.

Most locomotives in the graveyard are the highly unusual "Meyer-type", which was designed to run backwards, which is of considerable historical significance—one of steams strangest 'evolutionary branches' of development, which worked very well in South America.

These engines represent the 'beast' which suited the toughest possible railroading conditions of Chile, Bolivia and Argentina.



OPEN HOUSES –continue from page 1

August 11– David Lloyd

August 18– Earl & Marilyn Graves

August 25—Werner & Eunice Amsler

September 15—Julie & Jim Barber

If anyone else wants an Open House please advise date.

THANKS

Arizona Garden Railroading

Below are a few pictures of one Garden Railroad in Arizona taken by Russ Rose this spring. Russ is a member of “Arizona Big Train Operators” and the Railroad below is owned by Dennis Busby who lives about 30 minutes from Russ’s house. It is track powered and DCC command. The model is of the “Flagstaff Station” and has won awards. Russ has taken more photos of other railroads in this Arizona club. We’ll try and put together a DVD of them for us to see. Desert railroading poses a different set of problems than we encounter here in Southern Ontario.



Recipe of the Month

From York Central Railways Dining Car

Red Velvet Cupcakes

WARNING NOT YOUR HEALTHIEST BUT GOOD!!

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/4 cups Mazola VegPlus (canola & vegetable oil blend)
- 1 cup buttermilk (at room temperature)
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 bottle (30 ml) red food colouring
- 1 tsp. white vinegar
- 2 tsp. Spice Islands
- 100% pure bourbon vanilla extract
- Frosting, for spreading
- Sprinkles, coloured sugars, candies, fresh berries, chopped nuts, etcetera for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS;

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line 24 muffin cups with baking cups; set aside. Mix flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl of electric mixer. Whisk together oil, buttermilk, eggs, food colouring, vinegar and vanilla in a medium bowl until thoroughly mixed. Add wet ingredients to dry, mixing well, until smooth and thoroughly combined. Distribute cake batter evenly into cups of prepared pans, filling each 2/3 full. Bake 22 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool 8 to 10 minutes in pan. Remove cupcakes from pans; cool completely. Frost and decorate each cupcake as desired.

Enjoy

NOTE THIS IS NOT A JULIE RECIPE



Sorry for the short and late newsletter this month, **BUT**, good warm and dry weather finally arrived and outdoor chores called. We're almost ready to start running trains and playing golf. Another week should do the trick. I hope your all able to work on your yards and railroads. We'll see how everyone is doing at the Open Houses.