

# Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club

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## Joni McDermott

Bobbie Dorner and Stephanie Carrington said it best:

“It is with a sad heart that we must tell you that one of our members, Joni McDermott, passed away at 1:30 am on July 25. Dennis was with her along with a few friends. Dennis is holding up pretty good.

Joni is being cremated and her ashes will be spread in the ocean at a later date.

Dennis is asking instead of flowers, a donation be sent to American Cancer Society, Heart Association, or Lung association. Her obituary is listed on the web sit for Faith Chapel Funeral Home south.

There will not be a funeral.

She will be greatly missed.

There are no words.....

Please, everyone take care of each other.....”

Bobbie and Stephanie

*Joni was a frequent attendee at the many Club events such as the Fairhope Train Show and the Pensacola Fair not to mention the Depot events.*

*Joni and Bobbie Dorner were also very busy attending many arts & crafts fairs in the area with their handcrafted jewelry items. We all will miss Joni's spirit and quick humor. - ED*

## Track Going Down

This past Saturday, 25 July, the relentless and tireless crew of Orlando Gomez, Frank Paine, Keith Rapley, Bob Berhgage, Ethel & Ed Couturie, and Ed Dice started the permanent install of the track on the outer loop (Loop #1). Orlando got some nice gravel that works well as ballast. With careful sculpting of 2-3 inch deep track side trenches especially by Frank and Bob, Orlando and Keith set up, positioned and connected the outer loop track with lots and lots of Split Jaw track clamps. Ed laid out the wiring and connected the loop track feeds so that the track power works well. While the work went all day long in terrible heat conditions, only about 2/3 of the loop was set in place.



Sweeping curve - pic by Orlando Gomez

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At the end of the day, Keith ran his GP-40 over the portions laid down after diligent ballast sweeping and sculpting and a careful track wipe down for the rock dust. It ran great without any track power problems that persisted our previous temporary set ups in times past.



Keith's GP-40 - pic by Orlando

Much thanks to George Wilson for his donation of wire for the underground wiring. That #10 wire will work out well. That is until one tries and bend it into a tiny hole and tight quarters (grumble-grumble). Bigger Drill, Bigger Hammer!!!!

## President's Message

From the Club President, Keith Rapley: We need to think about "...Stuff like building 2 big picnic tables for "out back", Maybe building a permanent outdoor grill, Time to start thinking about structure placement before Tina goes crazy with plants. Art knows someone at UWF that will donate ground cover, catch is we have to go fetch. I'm making 150 scale telephone poles to put on the inside of loop #1. Already have the fishing line for the "wire". Need someone to build a really big signal bridge that can span 6 tracks. More later Rap"

## Hadji/NMRA Train Show

### Another G-Great Train Show

This past 12-13 June, we set up and displayed at the annual Hadji Train Show hosted by the Pensacola Model Railroad Club. This was held in conjunction with the annual SouthEast Region Convention for the

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

The stage set up on Friday was greatly aided by an early set up. Thanks to the PMRC and Hadji folks for that. Also much thanks to all of those who came and helped put down track, set up scenery and hauled in all of that G scale track, rolling stock, buildings and everything else we needed to put on a G scale railroad exhibit.

Reports from the PMRC folks are that the Train Show was a great success and they plan to do it again in June 2010.

<<No pictures acquired/provided of the Hadji Train Show>>

Over at the Jordan Lot, the G Railroad was set up Saturday morning with the single outer Loop #1 set up. It was a very, very hot day and it was hot early on, hence only one large loop. Eventually, the Penalty Box Loop was also set up and running for a total of two loops operating on Saturday. The three tents, picnic table and back corner shade were welcome retreats from the broiling sun.



Sidings and resting crew folks in the shade

Milton weather was reported at 91°F with heat index 101°F. Thus, the Jordan Lot at 95°F equated to an index of 105°F. Folks helping at the Jordan Lot with set up and operations included Orlando & Angie Gomez, Ed Dice, Bob Cope, Bob Berghage, Ed Courturie, Tom Augustine, and Steve Addicks. Thanks to Angie for the pizzas. Yum-yum! We had 4 NMRA convention folks on Saturday and several on Sunday. For Sunday, only the Penalty Box Loop was set up and running.

At the Jordan Lot G RR, we ran several trains including battery and Revolution systems. Steve ran his PRR GG1 and brand new string of 7 coaches. Tom ran his PRR E-8. We seem to have an invasion of PRR paint schemes. Much thanks to the stalwart crew at the Jordan Lot G RR and their helping make it happen in spite of the heat and humidity.

## Fence Me In

As Orlando announced several days ago, we are fenced in now at the Jordan Lot with a nice, shiny six foot fence. There are a set of combination locks on the gates and the Train Shed. See Orlando or Keith for the code numbers. The Santa Rosa Fence Company did a great job and we are very appreciative.



“Now, what was that code again??”

Now, this will allow the next stage of work to begin with the final and permanent installation of the track on the G railroad.

## Steel Wheels Rolling

Thanks to lots and lots of hot and humid and long-hours of work by many folks, the Outer Loop #1 is up and running. Most of the track is ballasted in place. Five of 6 power taps are in place and wired (with George Wilson's #10 wire) with a readily available Train Engineer throttle set and ready. The tireless workers during the work days on 25 July and 1 August: Orlando Gomez, Keith Rapley, Bob Berghage, Frank Paine, Andy Sloan, Steve Addicks, Ethel & Ed Couturie, Tom Augustine, Paul Weston and Ed Dice.

There were some pictures taken of the golden spike or the golden track section. But the photos were not yet available to the Club newsletter editorial and photo preparation staff.

Track assembly was a very busy affair with lots of folks doing lots of different tasks. The old rail joiners were removed but not without some challenges and expletives deleted over a stubborn stripped or mangled joiner screw or a stuck rail joiner. The final track rail joints were secured with Split Jaw rail clamps.



The ballast gravel was provided by Martin Marietta Aggregates of Milton. Their first donation provided



Fine grained ballast gravel on Orlando's travel wrapped in tarp

enough ballast gravel for almost the complete Outer Loop #1. We are hoping for their continued support as we move forward on the other loops during the upcoming weekends.



# The Non-Incident That Did Not Happen

The Jordan Lot G RR Worldwide Construction Company Conglomerate, Incorporated adamantly denies several unsubstantiated reports of a trenching cave-in which resulted in massive loss of life and limb. The company spokeswoman, Lolitta Redhead, said there were no bodies left lying around, so, ergo, there was no loss of life. And she went on further to say there were no limbs left lying around and, so also, ergo, there were no loss of limbs. Further, she reiterated that all reporting workers at the construction site had reported in and were all accounted for and had all of their lives and limbs. There were no missing bodies in the workers that reported in. Ms Redhead emphasized that the whole situation was a "non-incident" and thus OSHA and NTSB were not notified since it was a "non-incident". Ms Redhead did not entertain any questions after delivering her prepared statement. However, there were some later reports that a Ms Lolitta Redhead was seen entertaining some of the mainstream reporters at an exclusive resort but no further details were available.



Site of suspected trench cave-in after cover up efforts

The eye witness reports streamed in after a collapse of trench walls while digging and installing massive underground power cables. No fatalities were confirmed by any of the local hospitals nor any of the area law enforcement authorities nor any of the funeral homes or mortuaries. Nor were there any confirmed injuries

resulting from this "non-incident". However, heavily armed company security guards did prevent area reporters from visiting the company hospital and talking with the medical doctors or nursing staff. Undercover reporters did find strange signs of an evident trench wall collapse but most of the area had been covered up by other construction activities related to filling in the trench and reforestation of the area. While no confirmed missing workers can be verified, other on-scene workers speaking anonymously for fear of reprisals swear they saw several workers in the bottom of a trench just before it collapse. The trench walls were not shored up even though the soil was very sandy and loose, despite industry and OSHA standards and requirements. The triggering cause of the trench wall collapse is even stranger still. Other off-duty construction site workers reported seeing a large creature or man something the likes of a Paul Bunyan or Abominable Snowman. One of the off-duty construction site workers also swears that he saw something like a very large blue ox, as he sat on the front porch of Rosie's Bar & Grill.



Typical trench with some massive power cables

Further investigative reports revealed the strange disappearance of the entire company payroll and personnel staff. This huge staff and all of their families have been whisked away to some sequestered and as yet unknown location. What has become of them? Why did they suddenly leave? Why were the families also taken away? Local schools have no information other than the children did not show up for school.

Company officials did not return any of the repeated phone calls. All attempts to visit the work site were met with uncooperative company representatives denying access, refusing comments, and denying any incident happened.

So the questions remain. What really happened at the Jordan Lot G RR site? How many bodies are buried at the bottom of those deep, deep ditches? Is there really a huge man or creature bounding and pounding across the countryside with a big, blue ox? Why is the company so silent? What are they hiding?

## Trains Are Running

Saturday, 1 August 2009, brought out trains running on the permanent tracks at the Jordan Lot G Railroad. Orlando, Keith, Ethel & Ed, and Ed Dice put trains on the tracks. All four trains had the Aristo-Craft Revolution receiver/decoders and ran at the same time with plenty of room between the trains.



Norfolk Southern Long Coal Train

After completing the final track installation prior to lunch, the work crews adjourned to Arby's and took up an 8 chair set of tables for one of the largest ECGRC lunch groups at Arby's. We welcomed the nice cool air at Arby's as we ate heartily. Now if they would only put in a soft ice cream machine...

After lunch, trains were unboxed, track was cleaned and scrubbed of the ballast rock dust. The NS Dash 9 pushed a pair of the Centerline track cleaners around the Outer Loop #1 track for several circuits. Ed Couturie also pulled an Aristo-Craft bobber caboose track cleaner car.



Orlando's CSX train rounding a curve – pic by Orlando

Orlando and Ed Dice kept running until late in the afternoon. Ed closed up about 7 PM. It was very nice not to have to pick up and pack away all of the track. Just put things away and lock up. VERY WONDERFUL!!!!

Orlando and Angie returned on Sunday to run some more. But they did not hang around too long because of the heat and humidity.

## Tuttle Green Thumbs

Much thanks to Tina and Art Tuttle for the myriad of plants that have popped up at the Jordan Lot G Railroad. There is a wide variety such as miniature juniper. Tina and Art spent two days digging and planting. And that was no easy task given the abundant heat and humidity of late.

Now, we will need education on what the various plants are. We are certain to get those questions from the visiting public.

And Tina and Art's efforts were not just on the G Railroad but also along the fence line on the northern side of the

Jordan Lot. They planted numerous plants, including some small style azaleas.

**So a big G Scale**  
**THANK YOU**  
**to Tina and Art!!!!**



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**Trains For Sale**

There are still various G scale trains for sale from a few different individuals in our local area. Terry Tucker and Ed Dice have further info available detailing what all is available. Some of this info has been posted before in this newsletter. One gent lives on the road just across from Reggie's Restaurant in Milton. Another gent lives in Fort Walton Beach area.

This is a great opportunity for a group of folks to join together and get a great bargain on some G scale trains.

Steam engines, track, buildings and people make up the offerings. So if you are interested, contact Terry or Ed for further details.



**Andy's Travels**

Andy Sloan has been traveling all over the area and making great use of the opportunities. One of these included the Denver G Railroad Convention.

"There are over 800 railroaders here this week. We visited 20 private layouts by bus over three days. All were different and many were SPECTACULAR! Many were battery power and a few had live steam. We missed the ones last Saturday and Monday. We'll also miss the Friday and Saturday tours this week. I have a DVD with professional video of all for anybody who wants to see it. Denver was the original GRR Club in the country, over 30 years ago. They now have over 200 members, most with 'home' layouts. Many of the 'homes' sat on several acres. They also maintain the G exhibit at the Colorado Railroad Museum. It's about the same size as the JL Project but fully outfitted with flora and cultural pieces.

Vendors here include St Aubins, USA, Aristo, Accucraft, Bachmann, Phoenix, Bridgemasters, LSOL, Walthers - 54 in all. There were no bargains in rolling stock except at Walthers. I bought, after a long talk with Aristo's booth guy, Scott, the basic Revolution kit. St Aubins had the Rev in a package with the latest Phoenix sound kit for \$439. They had the Rev alone for \$239. I got mine from Walthers for \$199 after a talk with a rep about my Norfolk Southern. He believes that this unit will be plug-n-play. We'll see. Nobody had any of the capacitor cards. I also bought four cars at better than ebay prices but without shipping.

There were clinics every day after the tours. I did one on DCC controls, one on roadbed construction and one on scratch-building wooden structures. Indeed most of the tour railroads had hand-built structures. Some wood, some metal, plastic or ceramic.

I highly recommend this event. There were people from Europe and New Zealand and all the US states. Next year the gig is in Tacoma, WA. There will be tours and train rides, of course, but with a real Grand Finale. The last trainride is on the White Pass - Yukon from Skagway, AK, after an Inside Passage cruise north from Seattle!"

- Andy Sloan

**Jim & Judy's Travels**

Jim Crabb and Judy Lenoir are having a wonderful time in their positions as volunteers on the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, WY. Jim says "Expect to be back in Florida in October after riding my bike in the Lance Armstrong Challenge race in Austin, TX. The purpose is to raise awareness and funds for cancer research."

## Calendar Events

### 15 August - Club meeting & Cookout

Monthly meeting at Noon in Dining Car or Jordan Lot.

POC: Ed Couturie

Cookout for lunch. POC: Lorene Fasnacht

Morning may be a Jordan Lot work session and certainly some train running time.

### 12 Sept – Club meeting

Monthly meeting at Noon in Dining Car.

POC: Who volunteered?

Morning may be a Jordan Lot work session and certainly some train running time.

### 19-20 Sept – Dothan Train Show

Annual train show

POC: Ed Dice

### 11 Oct – Club meeting

Monthly meeting at Noon in Dining Car.

POC: Need volunteer conductor

### October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> - 100th Anniversary of the Milton L&N Depot Celebration

All Hands On Deck – All Hands On Deck

POC: Keith Rapley

### 22 Oct-1 Nov – Pensacola Fair

Annual Pensacola Interstate Fair

POC: Ed Dice

### 23-24 Oct – Ghost Walk

Annual SRHS Ghost Walk

POC: Art Tuttle, Keith Rapley



### 30-31 Oct – Ghost Walk

Annual SRHS Ghost Walk

POC: Art Tuttle, Keith Rapley

## Health & Welfare

Joni McDermott passed away 25 July 2009.

Bobbie Dorner is working through her physical therapy for treating her ankles. We hope she is back dancing again in short order.

Paul Currier is handling his heart surgery recovery, but don't think he is looking at any marathons yet.

Stephanie Carrington is getting better. We wish her continued success and get well wishes.

So everyone keep yourselves healthy. Eat your veggies. Wash behind your ears.

## Birthdays - Anniversaries

OK, Folks, below is the list of Club members' birthdays and anniversaries that we know about. If you have not gotten your info into our Secretary, Bob Cope, please do so. Even if you don't want to tell, let Bob C. know so we don't keep bugging you for it. Bob's email is

[NarrowGauge@knology.net](mailto:NarrowGauge@knology.net) so drop him a line.

### June

3 – Connie Berghage birthday

3 – Bob & Connie Berghage anniversary

15 – Stephanie & Bill Carrington anniversary

23 – Ed Couturie birthday

23 – Keith & Bobbie Rapley anniversary

### July

6 – Stephanie Carrington birthday

7 – Richard Engler birthday

11 – Orlando Gomez birthday

12 – Bobbie Dorner birthday



14 – Bob Fasnacht birthday

24 – Bob Cope birthday

### August

7 – Dee Miller birthday

24 – Bob Berghage birthday



PS – If you got missed, our apologies.

Let Ed know.

## Meeting Cookout

The 15 August monthly Club meeting will be preceded with a cookout at the Jordan Lot. We will have a charcoal grill set up and fired up. So bring your meat entrée for cooking, such as hot dogs or filet mignon wrapped in bacon. Also bring your own drinks. And further, check with Lorene Fasnacht for bringing a community dish like potato salad and deviled eggs.

Ed Couturie is the meeting conductor so get your meeting items to Ed C.

## WSRE Public Service

Recently Keith Rapley sent out a request for folks to participate in a WSRE Public TV fund raising event. This would have entailed answering phones while wearing our Club vests. And there was a better than even chance to get a loop of track set up and run some trains for the TV public. Now, how cool is that.

Unfortunately, Keith got a meager response and cancelled the Club's participation. Keith is still hoping we can make this happen in the future.



How hard is it to answer a telephone, even if it isn't a cell phone? And how hard is it to run some trains for the TV camera?

## Ghost Walk

The annual Ghost Walk is coming to the West Florida Railroad Museum. Given the recent huge downtown Milton fire that damaged the Imogene Theater, the Santa Rosa Historical Society is using the RR Museum and Depot for the base of operations for their Ghost Walk.

Art expects it to bring lots of folks to the RR Museum over the two weekends after the RR Museum Centennial weekend.

Art is working out plans. One idea proposed is having the Jordan Lot G Railroad operating during the days, and especially evenings. Imagine those loco headlights sweeping around the curves and those lighted passenger coaches showing off their peopled interiors.

So get with Keith and Art for further details. This is a great opportunity to get more public involvement for the RR Museum and the Jordan Lot G Railroad.



# Dothan Train Show

In September, we have the Dothan Train Show again. This is a two-day train show and gets lots of public attendance from the greater Dothan, Alabama area. The Wiregrass Railroad History Society is the host of this annual train show and has done this for many years. The current venue is the Peanut Festival Fairgrounds on the south side of Dothan. It has a very large building with plenty of nice and cool air-conditioning. Access is easy and great.



Usually our show crew bunks down at the Dothan National Golf & Convention Hotel. Yes, they have a really nice 18 hole golf course. The rooms are not luxurious but more than adequate and clean. The restaurant is great and available early for us early risers. Right, Ethel?

The usual plan is driving over on Thursday afternoon or evening to get set up at the hotel. That way, we get a decent night's rest before a day of setting up the layout. Then during the morning of Friday we may get to start setting up the G railroad. The early start depends on several factors with the facility, the fairground folks, the train show contract, and the Wiregrass organizer hosts. But in prior years, we have been able to start early on about 9 AM and that gave us lots of set up time.



Friday evening is usually a steak dinner at the Longhorn restaurant. With Saturday evening dinner at the Crystal River Seafood restaurant.



So far this year, we expect to have the same 30'x40' space as we had last year. That was located by one of the roll-up doors and made for very easy unloading and pickup. Contact Ed Dice for further info and if you wish to participate.

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Enjoy the Newsletter – Ed Dice, 850-293-3532  
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