

Telegraph

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August 2015

Newsletter of the Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

August Gathering at the Rocky Creek Railroad

Those who gathered on Berry Rd in Cedar Rapids were warmly welcomed by Larry and Julie Nelson. What a treat to re-acquaint ourselves with the Rocky Creek Railroad. On pulling in the drive, guests saw a bench made of two train wheels sitting under a tree in the front yard. Larry explained at the meeting, the wheels weigh 3000 lbs each and that the bench sets on 12,000 pounds of gravel.

Larry and Julie kicked off the afternoon with a potluck. Following lunch, members toured Larry's hillside layout. Larry began hauling rocks in the 1990's using a wheelbarrow, a shovel and lots of sweat. Larry estimates he has 300,000 pounds of rock in the layout. His water feature is powered by a Berkeley 2 Hp pump. The pump weighs around 138 pounds and pumps 420 gal of water per minute. Larry advised he is done with lifting and hauling rocks and is focusing his attention on completing his layout. He plans to run 5 tracks in the final layout. Larry has lights that came from Usher's Prairie and a gate from Dick Tender (Joe said Dick got it from him). Chinese Elms are interspersed throughout the layout.



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Several enjoyed the panoramic view of the layout from the roof of the sunporch.

Thanks to our hosts for their hospitality. We certainly enjoyed our visit.

Meeting Highlights

Howard Hoy, Treasurer, reported the net balance for the month is \$4610.48. Ben Hancock, Secretary, read the July minutes. As follow-up on Old Business, Joe reported he had made contact with the Botanical Center to notify them we would not be setting up a train display next Christmas.

Howard Hoy reported there was an article in the Sunday Register today about a train layout Reiman Gardens is adding. The article mentioned Mike Kidmann and CIGRS had planned and built their original layout.

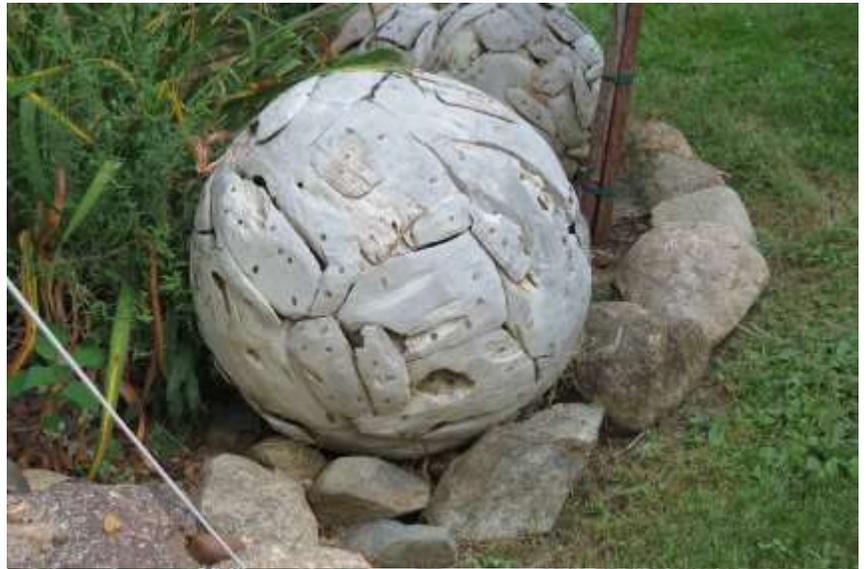
New Business

Joe asked if there was interest in securing a speaker for one of our meetings. Proposed topics were

Switching-Rick and Gene indicated they would be available to present

Retaining Walls and Drainage-Ben Larry and Ron

There was discussion of presenting one as a Workshop/Special Event and charging a fee for non-members to attend. This would require additional planning and follow up. No decision was made.



Show and Tell

Carla shared her latest creation—a Mill with a working water wheel and millstones. The walls were constructed of pre-formed panels from John Carl in Newton. The roof was removable and there was a working hopper and two grindstones.

Carla also shared her idea for creating inexpensive telephone poles out of old ballpoint pens. The poles were complete with green bead insulators.

Show and Sell

Joe had colored wire “free to a good home” and is selling reconfigured controller boards for Shay Engines.

Adjournment

Joe announced he does not plan to serve a second term as president and encouraged everyone to be thinking about who could fill this role. Meeting adjourned.





Save the date:

September Meeting Showcases the TKCMA Railroad

You won't want to miss seeing Jean and Jane Elphic's layout in Hampton, Iowa in September. Gene started his Railroad in 2011. Era is late steam to modern. The layout includes a water feature, a rail yard and 21 trees. He just laid a second main and has approximately 450 feet of track. He is focusing his attention on buildings and adding switches.

2015 CIGRS Meeting Hosts

September 20 – Gene and Jane Elphic, 1410 Olive Ave, Hampton, Iowa.
Potluck prior to meeting.

October 18 – Janet Moser and Ron Mash, 21667 Minburn Rd, Minburn, Iowa

November — Open — Election of Officers

Wedding “Do Over” for Gene and Donna Pritchard

September 12

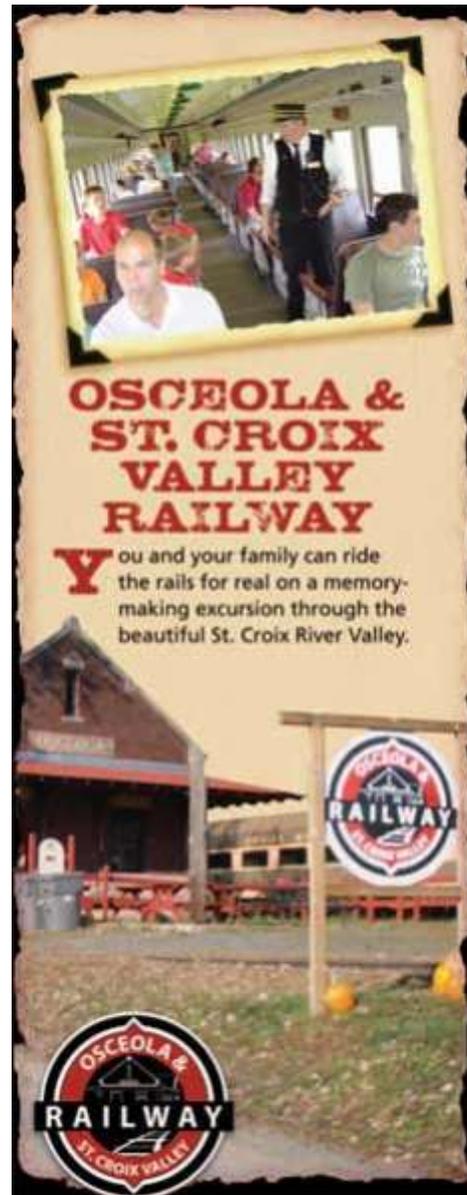
Two CIGRS charter members are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary Saturday, September 12th at the Methodist Church on East Jefferson in Winterset. Donna said they would renew their vows at a ceremony complete with bridesmaids and groomsmen at 1:30 (Gene referred to this as a “do over”). There will be an open house to follow at 2:00. Hope to see you there.



Osceola Railway St. Croix Valley

On a recent trip to Wisconsin to visit family, Richard and I had the pleasure of riding on the St Croix River Valley Railway. The train features diesel-powered trains with vintage cars. We departed from the Osceola Depot, a fully-restored, 1916 SOO Line Depot at 11:00. The 20-mile journey took us along the sandstone bluffs of the St. Croix River, crossed into Minnesota on the Cedar Bend Draw Bridge, stopped in Marine on St. Croix, then returned to Osceola. The train runs May to September. We were privileged to ride in the engine on the return trip. The engineer regaled us with stories from his career as a Railroad Safety Engineer. As we approached every road crossing, the engineer signaled a warning with 2 longs, a short and a long signal. The engineer went on to explain this was a signal adopted from the English. This is the signal used in England to let everyone know the Queen was on the train. It is the telegraphic signal for the letter "Q". Best of all, the cost was only \$20 each!

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AUGUST

Birthdays

Barb Kilmer	8-8
Sam Mora	8-11
Connie Joy	8-12
Jay Nugent	8-16
Lori Ziegenhorn	8-17
Lavonne Isard	8-23
Hillary Miner	8-24
Kathy Cox	8-25

Anniversaries

Larry & Julie Nelson	8-8
Doug & Cindy Doggett	8-31

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays

Connie Biechler	9-7
Michael Kidman	9-9
Gene Pritchard	9-12
Dick Tinder	9-19
Joe Vocelka	9-20
Dick Shellenberg	9-23
Richard Roemer	9-25

Anniversaries

Gene & Donna Pritchard	9-9
Peter & Sandra Paeth	9-14

Central Iowa Garden Railway Society

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September 20

Gene and Jane Elphic

1410 Olive Ave

Hampton, Iowa

Potluck starts at Noon

Meeting starts at 1:30



The Central Iowa Garden Railway Society has regular monthly meeting at which we discuss one another's current project, hobby news, and the latest products on the market.

Programs are presented at some meetings, either by one of our members, or by someone brought in from outside the organization. The programs generally cover some element of the hobby, from the history of local and other Railroads, to rolling stock to track work, to locomotive, includes electric operation, batter-powered and trains that actually run on live steam.

Most of our members have, or hope to have, gauge G, or gauge 1 railways in their gardens or back yards.

Meetings are generally held on the third Sunday of each month. Specific dates and times, as well as program topics, are announced in the CIGRS Telegraph. Club members are encouraged to involve themselves in any of a variety of functions, including special model railway exhibitions that are staged in the area.

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