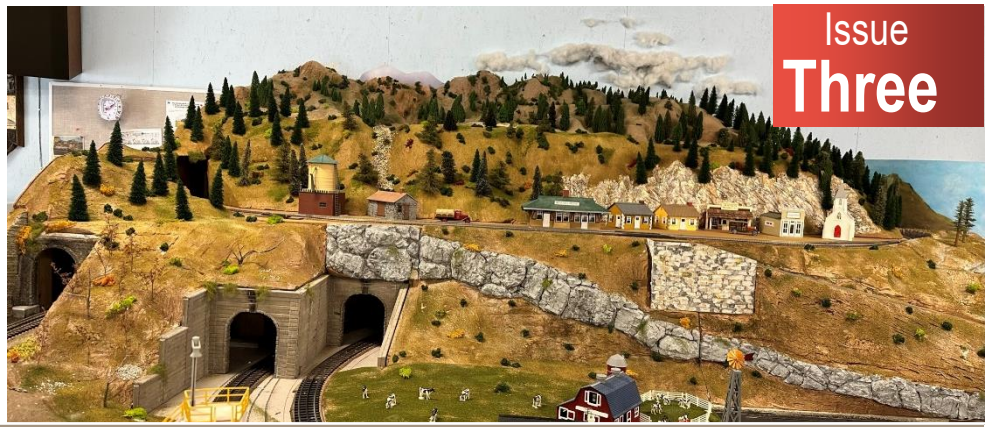


## *in this issue >>>*

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Quarterly Insight into the Magic Valley Model Railroaders – July 2023 Edition

# On The Rails



## **Who We Are**

### *Magic Valley Model Railroaders*

The Magic Valley Model Railroaders is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization housed in the Railroad Building on the Twin Falls Country Fairgrounds. The club officially moved from a house-to-house model railroaders club to the fairgrounds in 1989 at the request of the then fair manager Cindy Demoney. We have grown into four active model railroads, G, O, HO and N scales. The club is comprised of volunteers who put in hours of work and funds to keep the trains moving.

Drop by the second Saturday of the month at noon to enjoy the trains, scenery and realism of the model railroads. And if you have a train you would like to run on one of our layouts, bring it out and give it a run on the rails.

Information about how we operate and an application can be found on our website at [www.mvmrr.com](http://www.mvmrr.com).

If you would like further information, you can email us at [mvmmodelrailroaders@gmail.com](mailto:mvmmodelrailroaders@gmail.com).

## **Here comes the fair! Here comes the fair!**

As of this printing of the newsletter, there are only 59 days until the Twin Falls Country Fair opens. The very first fair was in 1916. And no there wasn't the Magic Valley Model Railroaders. This year will be exciting for us. We have made several improvements. The most noticeable will be the outside G Scale layout. Not only is it now easier to open and close but we will be providing shade to watch the trains roar by and we mean roar. Most of the locomotives are now wireless and have sound in them.

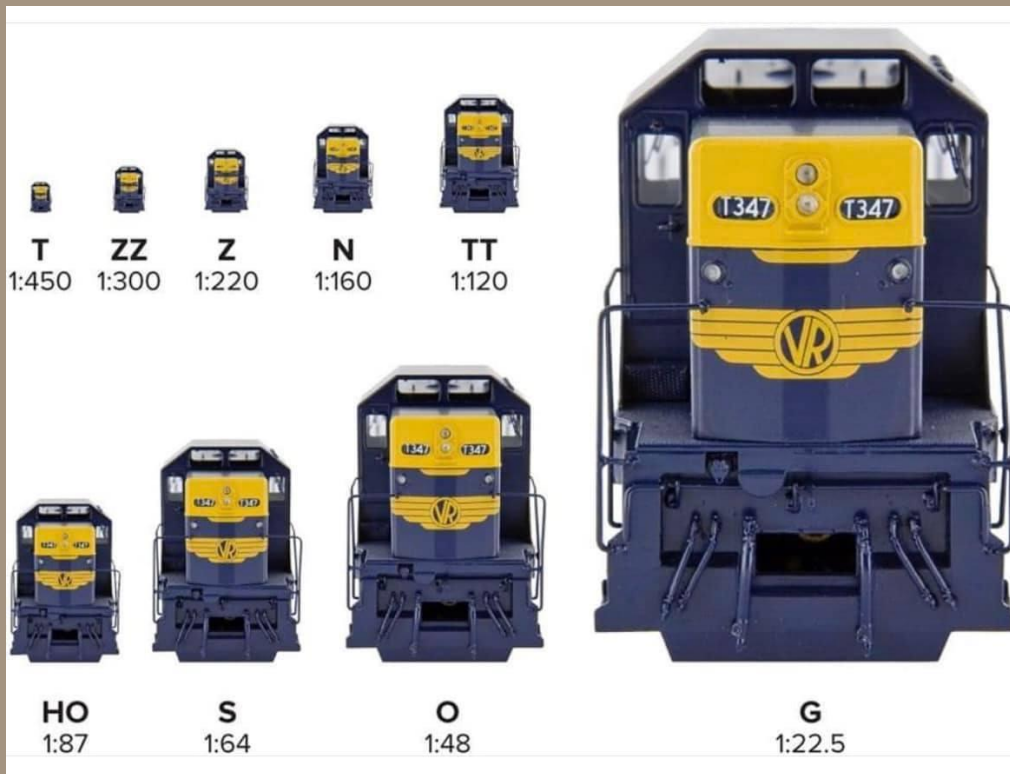
On the inside, the O Scale logging mountain is now complete and even has a logging train that circles the mountain and the crossing signal comes on automatically to warn the residents of the small village that the train is coming.

The HO Scale has a new farm scene to include the farmer working a plot of what appears to be some type of grass. The beet dump is filling up with the pile of beets growing. One of the farm houses even has an apple orchard behind the house.

N Scale now has a residential area. The unusual part of the area is most of the houses are not plastic or wood but printed from a computer printer and assembled. The detail is amazing. Check out the hospital that is a close replica of the one in Greeley, Colorado where one of our modelers was born.

In addition to financially contributing plus purchasing materials and equipment for the club, our members contributed over 5,300 hours of time this past year to create new and keep all we have up and running. To help us continue to upgrade locomotives and rolling stock, upgrade track and create more scenery for your viewing pleasure we have a raffle at the fair each year. This year's raffle will be a 50/50 raffle. It is so hard to guess what would be popular with you for a raffle item so we selected one everyone seems to like; money, cold hard cash (or a cashier's check if you live out of the area). You will be able to purchase tickets online at [www.mvmrr.com](http://www.mvmrr.com) or in person at the fair.

So, what are all the sizes of model railroads?



### When the Crossing Lights are Flashing....

When the crossing light by the caboose is flashing, someone is in the building running trains. Come on in and see what is going on. There is never an admission charge to watch the trains. We are here for the enjoyment of the Magic Valley communities. Who knows, you might find something interesting.



### G Scale Will Be Showing Off

The project is now complete. Rather than having to move the panels to the caboose and bring them back, we can now simply raise them to show off the G Scale and the new “wireless” control system.

The wooden supports have been replaced with metal poles to hold the panels up. Come on out to see more of the G Scale and the new control system.

### The train running on the layout

## Who owns all the trains that run?

*As the club was developed in the beginning in the 70's and 80's, members went from home to home to run their personally owned equipment on each other's layouts. In 1989 the members were invited to consolidate in a facility at the county fairgrounds. The policy that members would run their own personal trains continued. It was not until 2016 that the club would have ownership in locomotives or rolling stock.*

Today the policy that members run their trains on the club provided layouts continue. We do have rolling stock and locomotives that are club owned via donations on all scales. G scale has moved completely from the personally owned items to entirely club owned locomotives and stock. A vast majority of HO Scale is privately owned. N Scale has only one engine that is club owned. O Scale is half club and half personally owned equipment. All control and power equipment are club owned except for the O Scale which is on loan from a member until we can raise the funds and purchase a club owned control system.



Several of the club O Scale owned units.

Depending on the scale, locomotives cost from \$150 to in excess of \$700.

# Meet Tom Upchurch, O Scale

Tom joined the club in 2015. He was instrumental for construction of the current O Scale layout. Tom acquired his first Lionel train in 1946 and still has it today and it runs! While living in California, he owned and operated a hobby shop from 1996 until 2006 explaining his vast collection of buildings, accessories, locomotives and rolling stock. Tom is a “railfan” (meaning fan of the railroad) and has ridden several full-sized railroads. He is also a member of the Train Collectors Society and the Toy Train Operating Society. The greatest gift Tom brings to the club and those visiting is the role of conductor or engineer. Tom has put together a “conductor’s” podium for the kids to announce the arrival and departure of trains. If the kids are so inclined, they may find themselves blowing the locomotive’s horn to warn townsfolk of an incoming train. As the engineer, Tom has set up a live crane operation on the layout for kids to load a car with old rail. If you are an older kid, talk to Tom about joining the O Scale group to run trains. He would love to have you.



Tom helping a novice crane operator on the O Scale yard.

To join Tom as a member of the magic Valley Model Railroaders, you can go to our web site at [www.mvmrr.com](http://www.mvmrr.com) and click on “Application”.

The Club exists both for the enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading by its members as a place to run trains and for providing service to the community by presenting the concepts of railroad history and operations in an educational and entertaining manner.

Magic Valley Model Railroaders is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is governed by by-laws. A copy of the by-laws is available on our web site. The building is appropriately located next to the railroad caboose. There are four model train scale layouts. Inside of the building is N, HO and O. Outside is the G scale.

Membership is based on the desire to be a part of the club. Being part of the club would include an active involvement in one or more of the scale areas.

*Don't own a train?  
Come on out.*

*You don't have to own a train to be a member. Our club has a limited number of trains you can run. Besides, not everyone who is a member runs trains. Some may build scenery or provide electronics support.*



## What's coming up?

Below is our calendar as of the day this newsletter was published.

**Saturday, July 8 – Club Meeting at 11 and Open House from noon until 3, Fairgrounds.**

**Tuesday July 18 - Open house for Sagecrest Retirement Village and the general public from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., Fairgrounds.**

**Saturday, August 12 – Club Meeting at 11 and Open House from noon until 3, Fairgrounds.**

**August 30 – September 4 – Twin Falls Country Fair. Trains run from 10:00 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day of the fair, Fairgrounds.**

**The September open house after our club meeting is cancelled.**

We are attempting to open the doors to the public more often. Working with the fair staff, we will track activities going on at the fairgrounds and try to have volunteers available to run trains on the day of the event.

To get updates as the calendar changes, email us that you would like to be added to our email list.

*Want a special train visit? >>>*

*If you are a school, club or other organization and would like a special visit, please email us or call us.*

If your group would like to come out at a time other than when we are normally open, please let us know. We will do our best to accommodate you. Send us an email at [info@mvmmodelrailroaders.com](mailto:info@mvmmodelrailroaders.com) telling us who you are, the date and time you would like to visit, how many would be visiting. In the case of youth groups, we expect the group to have sufficient adults to monitor the youth. Due to some of the volunteers living away, we ask at least ten people in a group and three days' notice for a visit.

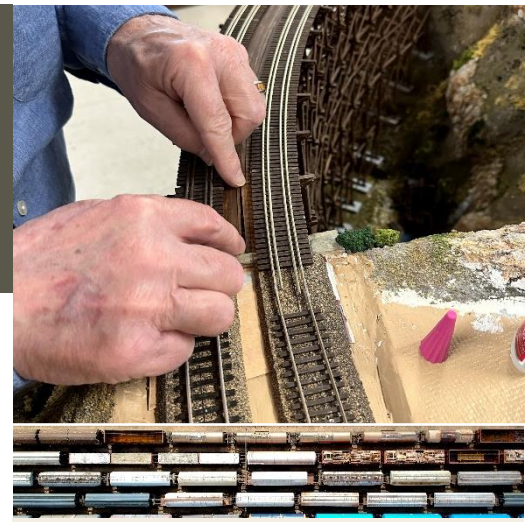


# finalthoughts...

*From Marvin Barnes, President, Magic Valley Model Railroaders*

The fair is our next major event to show off. The guys and gals have been working to get the locomotives and rolling stock ready. Then there is the hundreds of feet track that has to be cleaned. And then someone says, "What do you think about a mountain right here?" and off we go. We have been asked many times why do we do what we do and spend the time we do on the railroad? The answer is very simple. It is the smile on the six-year-old as she tried to pronounce the cities on the O Scale conductor platform or the 86 year old man who is remembering his childhood

and the Lionel he had as a kid. Or maybe it is the son or daughter of a long-time railroader who has passed who has come out to see some of Dad's trains run. Whatever the motivator is, it is a high for life. Sure, it is tough on your back on the G Scale dirt floor on a hot day but the smile or tear of happiness makes it a piece of cake. Or maybe you cannot find the short that has the entire N Scale stopped and there are only 87 more to check and you don't fit under the layout like you used to. But suddenly the train takes off and you hear the horn announce the departure. It is all good. Blessings...



*coming up>>>*

## *In The Next Issue*

*Meet Clarence Kerley, HO Scale*

*How we build scenery*

*What about track maintenance?*

*Are the layouts taken down after the fair?*

*Can women become members?*



**Magic Valley Model Railroaders**  
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**www.mvmrr.com**  
**208-934-7787**

## **Thank You**

Unknown to the general public is a group of individuals who claim employment as Twin Fall County employees. They are not your normal run of the mill county employees but a class of their own. The employees we are referring to are the Twin Falls County Fair employees.

As of this printing, they are and have been getting ready for this year's fair for several months. As the Fair Manager, John Pitz is not your "sit in the office" manager. John is hands on as they come. Mike Case, the assistant is right there with him. In the office is Lydia Buffington the Office Manager with Carolyn Jennings getting vendor contracts finalized. In the Premiums Office is Laura Gines who has been at work for months making sure all the goat and cherry pie premiums are in order. Out on the fairgrounds is Nick Schroeder doing maintenance on everything from trucks to loading chutes. The one planting flowers, keeping the area, bathrooms, showers, and us inline is Maria Ragains. All who we owe a large THANK YOU for all you do for us!!

**When the crossing lights are  
flashing, trains are running.  
Come on in!!**

