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Quarterly Insight into the Magic Valley Model Railroaders – 1th Quarter 2024 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 County 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.

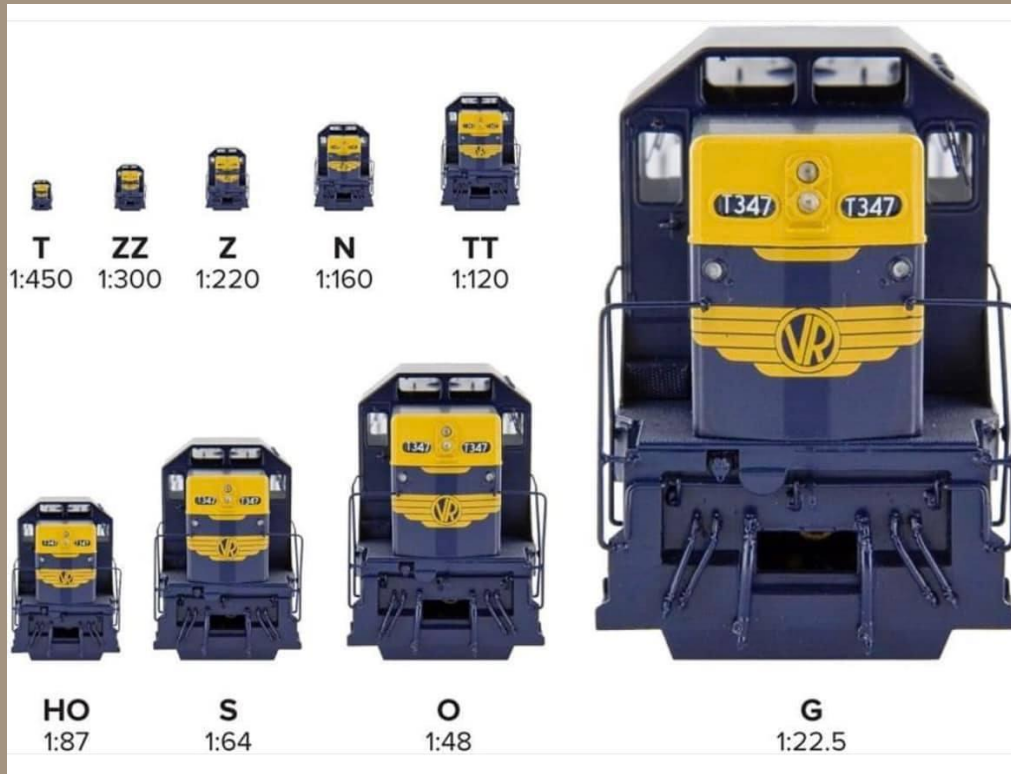
If you would like further information, you can email us at mvmmodelrailroaders@gmail.com.

Thanks Jack Pretti

Jack Pretti has stepped aside from our club. Jack was the driving force for much of the club activities and especially the G Scale area outside. Unknown to most of you, Jack spent many hours working on the G scale layout to bring it to the place it is this day. Due to being outside, the track always needed cleaning even to include several times a day during the fair days of September. And then there was the temperature thing. Under the metal roof of the G Scale, the temperature many days would be in the hundreds which caused a small problem. Due to the heat, the track would expand and the trains would derail leaving Jack to be continuously adjusting. Besides his work on the G Scale, Jack put in many hours as treasurer and was also president for a time. During 2023 alone, Jack put in 600 hours working on the G Scale and other club work. Jack and Sylvia, his wife, donated much time, talent and treasures to the club. Jack, you will be missed and we know we will see you somewhere down the track someday.



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.

N Scale Modifications - WOW, what a layout

Since the close of the county fair the N Scalers have been hard at work.

On your next visit you will notice many new features on the N scale. The residential area is alive including a hot tub party. The logging mountain is now complete. At the time this was published, the new railyard is almost complete. In the picture to the right is a nickel against the porch of a house to give you an idea of the size. The lake will have canoers, a dock and fishermen trying to catch the big one. Great work.



Meet Gene Conley, HO Scale

Gene is the longest serving member of the Magic Valley Model Railroaders. He is also probably in the top two percent in age being born in 1942. Gene started in the Magic Valley Model Railroaders club in 1979. Gene has witnessed the progression of sharing a building with the photography folks to our present location in the current Railroad Building. His personal involvement in model railroading started when he was ten years old. During high school and college, he put aside model railroading for other areas of interest. After college he slowly came back to the good life of modeling and currently is building an HO layout in his home. He has over 30 locomotives and 150 pieces of rolling stock. One of his prized possessions is his Mexican train consisting of locomotives and cars from Mexican railroad companies. Gene has loaned the club his HO "Big Boy" locomotive which is on display. Gene has now realized the fascination of N Scale and has been caught running the "little" trains lately. In his non-modeling time Gene is the College of Southern Idaho Instrumental Music Librarian.



Gene Conley

To join Gene as a member of the Magic Valley Model Railroaders, you can go to our web site at 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, March 9 – Club Meeting at 11 and Open House from noon until 3, at the Fairgrounds.

Saturday, April 13 – Club Meeting at 11 and Open House from noon until 3, at the Fairgrounds.

Saturday, May 11 – Club Meeting at 11 and Open House from noon until 3, at the Fairgrounds.

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 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.



**Our trains run
on donations,
Thank you for
yours.**



finalthoughts...

From Marvin Barnes, Editor, Magic Valley Model Railroaders

We have been blessed with several visits from groups and families. In one case, we had a call from a lady who wanted to bring her 18 family members who were visiting from out of state. About the same time, we had a gentleman call and he had family members he wanted to bring out. After a couple of conversations, we discovered we were talking to a brother and sister who were not talking and thought the family would like to see the layouts. Like the brother and sister, if you have family from out of town, give us a call and let's see if we can get a time and engineers to run trains for you.

The fair this September will be the last for Fair Manager John Pitz. For those of you who do not know John, you would be amazed at what he does for all of us, visitors and model railroaders. The new Pastoor Event Center has John's actual hands-on work all over it; walls, roof, paint, heating, tables, chairs, all of it. John is responsible for the southern part of our HO layout as it came from one of his kids in Wyoming. There is nothing we have asked for help with, that John didn't make it happen, be it use of the man lift or disc plates to weigh down the new N scale layout. We will miss John.



coming up>>>

In The Next Issue

Meet Kathy Barnes, Scenery

Builder/ Secretary

Are the layouts taken down after the fair?

Current Projects



Magic Valley Model Railroaders
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Twin Falls Fair Foundation Dinner, Auction and Music

February 3, 2024 was the night for the Foundation event in the new Pastoor Event Center. As members of the Foundation, Kathy and Marvin Barnes submitted an auction item on behalf of the club members. Clarence Kerley and Randy Geisick built a three-foot square N Scale layout with an operational train. The layout sold for \$275.



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

