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Issue
Seven

Quarterly Insight into the Magic Valley Model Railroaders – 4th 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.

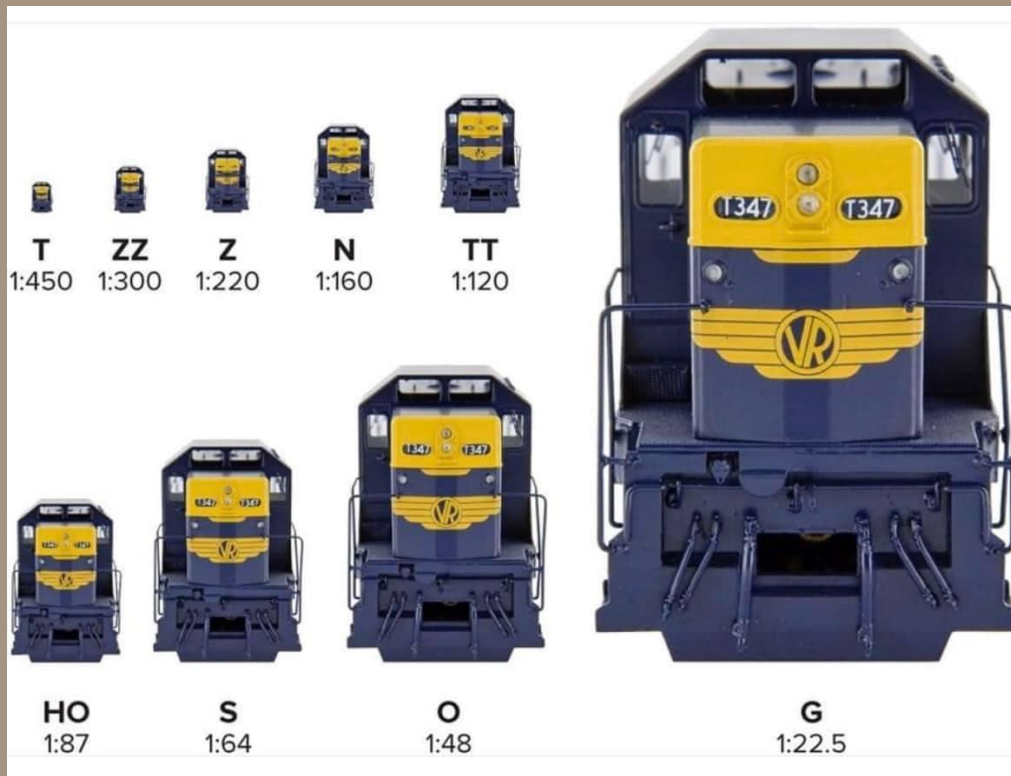
If you would like further information, you can email us at mvmmodelrailroaders@gmail.com.

Christmas Train Show

Thanks to all who came out to visit us. Here are scenes from around the layouts. The pictures tell the story better than words.



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.

Getting Ready for Winter

So, what happens to the trains during the winter months?

Basically nothing. Well, almost nothing. The outside G scale is secured for the winter winds and snow and the items on the outside G Scale layout are covered with sheets to protect them. The rest of the club is basically business as usual. We spend time repairing and adding to the layouts as needed. This winter the HO Scale town will be completed and settled in. The HO round house should be installed. O Scale will be repairing broken switch machines and N Scale will be finishing up under track wiring and controls. The track around the O Scale logging mountain will be replaced to allow us to run some of the "older" (1930's and 40's) locomotives. The heat in the building is kept to around 55 degrees to keep all; metal somewhat stable. We will still maintain our second Saturday of the month open house and will run trains during that time. During our Christmas show we discovered an idea; "Some come to find an old memory and some come to create a new one."

Buttoned up for winter.



G scale all snuggled in....



G Scale security patrol tracks.



Meet Randy Geisick, Building Maker

If you have visited our club, you have seen some of Randy's work. You see, Randy likes to build houses, barns, hospitals, fire stations and other various buildings. These are not your typical buildings. In our tiny world of 1:160, Randy's buildings are made mostly of paper and construction insulating foam. Randy has found and downloaded many of these buildings from the internet, printed them on cardstock, and glued them to foam block. Others are inspired by actual buildings. His first "custom" build was of the hospital where he was born in Greeley, Colorado. Randy found old photos of the hospital online. He printed out pages of N-Scale bricks, windows, and doors and in the end, provided a replica of the hospital. Another fun build was that of Twin Falls new Fire Station #2. This was more of a challenge. Since the building was so new, it required a different approach. Randy took more than 50 photos of the actual building. Using photo editing software, he was able to recreate the exterior of the building and print it out on card stock and donated it to TF Fire Department.



Randy Geisick and "his" hospital,
Building Maker Extraordinaire

Randy would love to help you learn how to build buildings as he does. To join Randy 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.

Want a special visit to see the

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 mvmmodelrailroaders@gmail.com or call us 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.



So, who owns the trains?

90% of the O "Lionel" and G Scale locomotives and rolling stock are owned by the club. As for the N & HO Scales, a small percentage is owned by the club. Most of what you see running on those layouts are owned by the members.



What is coming up?

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

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

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

Saturday, March 8 – 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.

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



finalthoughts...

From Marvin Barnes, Editor, Magic Valley Model Railroaders

Our fair season this year was great. You the people of the Magic Valley came out and supported us with your visits. We enjoyed every day with great weather and the opportunity to show off to you and yours. We have not found a way to count all of you yet but we saw a lot of you and thank each one of you for dropping by. And those who came out to see the Christmas trains run in the not-so-great weather, you blessed us and helped us start off our Christmas Season. The little locomotives are from Operation Life Saver. Rember, "See Tracks, THINK trains". Next year will be another year for us to show off the trains.

If during your visit, you got a twitch to find out more, please contact us and we can help with that desire. You do not have to own a train or have ever been involved in model railroading. All of us who are currently members at one time or another knew nothing about model railroading. We can help you.

And if you do not want to run trains or wire track, one area we need help in is with the scenery. Maybe you have a flair for painting scenes or want to learn how or just want to work around the layouts, please contact us. How about building a city, houses, businesses all of that. We need you!



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coming up>>>

In The Next Issue

Meet Matt Fisher, O Scale Engineer, and Equipment Repair Guy

What has changed since Christmas?

What's next?

So, who funds the club and who does all the work?

The club is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization under Idaho law. At the fair we run a 50/50 raffle to raise funds along with the donations dropped in our "donation" boxes. We have also received financial donations from individuals from time to time. Our dues are \$10 per month. In the year 2024 the members have personally donated \$4,553.34 in actual funds or items purchased and donated. In 2023 members donated over \$6,000.00 in funds or items. To date in 2024, members have logged in over 3,600 hours of volunteer time keeping the trains running. This is not only running the trains but doing maintenance on the layouts. If you would like to help financially, we have a donate button on the web site (www.mvmrr.com) or you can mail your check to us at 215 Fair Avenue, Filer, Idaho 83328.

Thanks in advance for your donation.

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

