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# THE DESERT WIND

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Fall 2007

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## Fall Meet Coming Up.

November 9th - 11th 2007

### Don't Miss the Meet!

Make plans now to attend Fall Meet 2007 at the JT&S, Friday November 9th through Sunday the 11th. Come on out and enjoy the high desert and see what has been accomplished over the past year, you won't be disappointed.

Dinner Saturday night is provided again by Rita Allan and her capable staff. This year will be savory pulled pork sandwiches with slaw and beans. Cost is \$15 per person, BYOB. Of course anyone wishing to bring their own food into the dining car is more than welcome. Payment by cash or check will be accepted the night of the dinner only, but if you are planning on attending please e-mail an RSVP to Rita at:

[troop138@earthlink.net](mailto:troop138@earthlink.net)

Camping reservations are now being accepted. Make yours today to insure that you get your favorite spot. E-mail Camping Coordinator Tom Arnold at:

[tommailbox-jts@yahoo.com](mailto:tommailbox-jts@yahoo.com)

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Meet. I hope all had a wonderful and safe summer, and I wish each of you a happy Holiday Season - ed. ☀

### Inside This Issue

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- 1 JT&S goes to the Bitter Creek and Western.
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### JT&S Involvement in the BCW Narrow Gauge Meet.

- From Brian Ratliff

August is a wonderful time of year on the central coast of California. Especially if your not trying to find a spot on the beach. But at Karl Hovanitz's little pike the Bitter Creek Western the weather and the people make for one fabulous weekend.

Bill Boller dropped off a trailer full of equipment on Wednesday around noon and then down south for a family function, Mom and Dad Ratliff pulled into town around 4:00 and the Burns boys showed up just after dark so the place was hopping early. I left Corona at 4:15 am and was there by 9:30 Thursday morning.

The trucking firm of Moseley and Schmidt arrived early as well with a gaggle of freight cars and

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Allan Ratliff at the throttle of his Artzberger narrow gauge GE 47 tonner with the family Westside flats in tow. Bitter Creek Western Narrow Gauge Meet August 2007.  
Brian Ratliff photos.

## *JT&S at Bitter Creek, continued...*

D&RGW 464 and 278. Ken and Chris had RGS 41 in tow, as well as their consist of RGS cars. Al Ratliff was showing off the new paint on his #17, a 47 ton GE. Richard Uhlin came in from Colorado with his new C&S 70 and two more stock cars for the rail baron "Commodore Schmidt". I just brought flat cars and dads caboose, with dads load of cars we had a total of 13 cars for a nice train of Westside equipment. Thursday afternoon turned out a pretty impressive assortment of engines and rolling stock as well.

Friday brought more trains out of the woodwork. Becky and Ray Bjerrum arrived from Fresno with his C&S Mogul and a full compliment of cars as well. Mike Thompson arrived with his C&S Mogul #13 Thursday evening too, with his Westside cars in tow also. Bill Dobb's drove all the way across country to



be apart of the fun too, a K-36 and a plethora of stock cars as well. Paul Lavacot arrived for the weekend with his personal rail craft, the goose #6.

Saturday saw the return of Bill Boller and the trailer was unloaded of his Westside Lumber Shay #15. After a few hours of fiddling and timing it traversed the layout with a first; a full string of 14 Westside cars and a Westside caboose, impressive to see as well as to hear.

The Colorado narrow gauge boys had a train to haul around too. There was a stock rush on and everyone got a chance to pull around eight stock cars and D&RGW caboose #0578. It looked real good all day long with different engines pulling the train throughout the day. There

was plenty of narrow gauge rolling stock to enjoy behind all the other engines as well.

Ray ran his Mogul all day Saturday as well as a long time on Sunday; it sure is good to see Ray and #18 learning to get along. Mike and Nathan staked out a great tent site in the corner over by the orange grove and they learned first hand that roosters don't own an alarm clock, or can't read it they do. Mike's Mogul had a few different engineers over the weekend and she ran wonderful as usual. Sunday the Shay made a trip up the high line with her train in tow; needless to say, no problems there. RGS 41 finally got to double head with Karl's #20 and they pulled everything they could find, clearing out the yard to make the two girls show their stuff.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and loading time on Sunday come too soon. By twilight Sunday evening all was winding down and people were heading there way home. Counting down the days when we can do it again. Well the Rudy Run is coming up in November, and it is at Joshua Tree. For a few good shots of the weekend look up Bitter Creeks website at [www.bittercreekwesternrr.org](http://www.bittercreekwesternrr.org) check out the 'events' car on the train across the top. ☀





## Calendar of Events

### •*Workday Schedule*

*October 27, 2007*

*December 8, 2007*

*January 12, 2008*

### •*Fall Meet Spectacular:*

*November 9-11, 2007*

- *Rudy van Wingen Memorial 7 1/2" Gauge Run (aka the "Rudy Run")*

- *Grand Scale (15" Gauge) Workmeet*

*Annual Dinner Saturday Night - \$15 at the door.*

Email [tomamailbox-jts@yahoo.com](mailto:tomamailbox-jts@yahoo.com) for more info and member camping reservations.

*Logon at [www.jtsrr.org](http://www.jtsrr.org) for all the latest!*

## Grand Scale Railway Update.

*-from Chris Allan, Grand Scale Coordinator.*

The 2007-2008 work season was kicked off on the September 8th workday. Having not been on the property since May, we were happy to find that nothing had been disturbed. My thanks to those of you who stopped by the property over the Summer to check things out. Hopefully one day we will have a caretaker again, and the angst will not be necessary.

The always energetic Brendon Hilton trailered up the remainder of our rail from Saugus and Anahiem, thanks to him we now have our entire supply on hand. Much of it is in panel form, and needs to be cut apart, but it is finally home.

I was able to acquire a 90# pneumatic jackhammer over the Summer, and together with the Hilton diesel air-compressor, we should be able to take care of that nasty bit of granite left in Brendon's Cut. The plan is to drill it

## *Grand Scale Update, continued...*

and try out some Dexpan® non-explosive controlled demolition agent, which will hopefully work for us, as we have few other alternatives at this point.

Lars Tenpas has been providing pressure treated 4x4's for use as switch ties on the turnouts being built for the new yard ladder coming off Jack's Gap. We appreciate his generosity. ☀



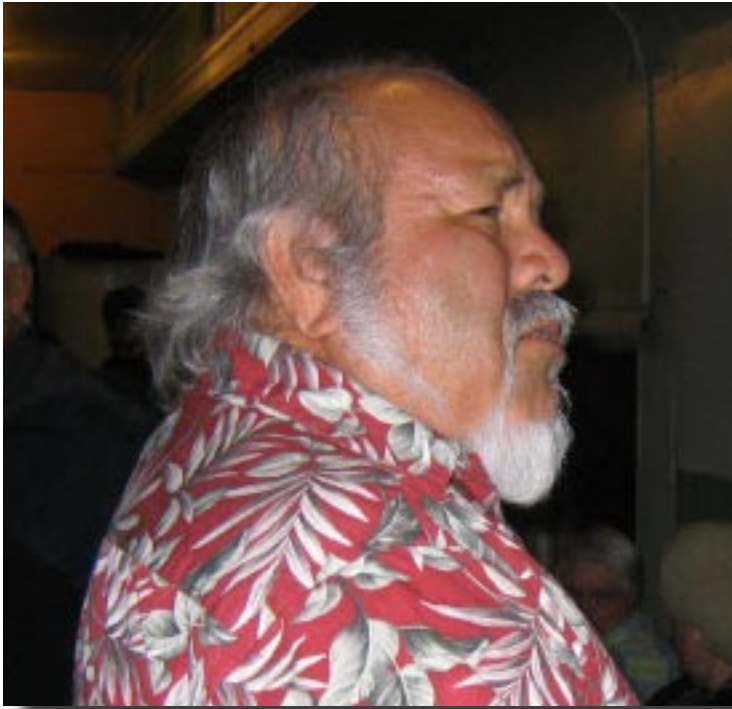
*The Hilton Family goes for a spin.*

## **Bonus Workday Added at the Hilton Hesperia Compound.**

Saturday, October 6th saw our rag-tag group of Heroes descend on the Hilton home and shops in Hesperia for a turnout fabrication party. Yours truly was not able to attend due to family matters, but according to Brendon, two complete left-hand turnouts were substantially completed for the yard ladder. A third equilateral turnout will be constructed later in the month. This will become the loop switch on the west end of Jack's Gap. The goal for tracklaying this season is to complete the loop, and get the turntable lead up to the pit. Additional trackage will be a bonus.

Thanks to Brendon for leading the charge on the tracklaying front, and to everyone who has graciously gave of their time to help out. - ed. ☀

**Notice:** Rita Allan is looking for an old-fashioned wood cookstove/oven for use at the Pullman picnic shelter . If you have any leads please contact her at: [troop138@earthlink.net](mailto:troop138@earthlink.net)



*Our good friend and fellow member Dick Pantoja suffered a heart attack earlier this year. Not letting it get him down, he came back for the September work day after taking the Summer off to recover. Good to have you back Dick! - Peter Moseley photo.*



*Hammering rock in the Grand Scale Railway loop.  
-Tom Arnold photo.*



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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