
THE DESERT WIND

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Spring 2003

Train Mountain Ramble Preparations Under Way

Steaming bays being added.

-- from Rudy van Wingen

In preparation for the June 12 TM'03 Ramble that the JT&S RR Museum is hosting, the Team Ratliff (Allan, Brian and Greg) has started the addition of steaming bays.

They have poured footings for 5 additional bays, extended the retaining wall to the southeast to extend the length of the two new bays on the east side of the existing bays. They also relocated the air compressor to the power station, and rerouted the water flow from the wash underneath the Highline Bridge. All this was done on a rainy, cold and blustery weekend; it rained almost all day Saturday!

In addition, their plan calls for removing the switch in the current main line turntable lead and changing the current car barn track into an additional lead branching off at the curve to the mainline switch and placing a gauntlet track in the westernmost roundhouse track. This will allow a locomotive

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Campground Beautification Project Moves Forward

Several areas receive a "make over".

- - From the Editor.

If you have wandered through the campground area recently, perhaps you have noticed a pleasant change in the looks of certain areas.

Landscaping added.

The duo of Kevin and Liza Kane have been busy creating a desert tableau in several locations around the campground area. These improvements greatly enhance the "first impression" new visitors will come away with when first setting foot on the property.

A recently completed project by the Kane's is the "Baggage Cart Garden" located between the depot and the lower loop, visible to the left as you drive onto the grounds. Included are a new rock retaining wall, plantings, and one of the Santa Fe baggage carts that formerly resided near the picnic shelter.

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The Kane's newest addition- The Baggage Cart Garden!

Ramble preparations

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that is ready to depart for the mainline to leave the turntable while a locomotive inbound from the main can be approaching the TT.



Allan, Greg and Brian Ratliff take a break after stripping the forms.

The three bays to the west of the existing bays will all eventually be roundhouse bays, and are laid out so as to allow substantial work space between the tracks in the roundhouse. These bays will be on ground level until they reach the roundhouse doors and will then be elevated inside the roundhouse, allowing the construction of a scale model structure with full adult headroom.

Team Ratliff has taken some of the "scrap steel" such as that used in the original bays to their shop down in the valley and will be assembling the bays there preparatory to bringing them back up for installation on the work weekend of April 11th - 13th. Bill Shepherd is also planning on being at JT beginning on April 8th to do additional work on the car barn foundation and pit.

That will leave one work weekend in May to complete the preparations for the Ramble. I plan on being at JT from Thursday, May 22nd through Monday, May 26th if any of you care to plan to join me for that weekend to help out.

It has been proposed to add a passing siding on the mainline from the caretaker's grade crossing to the steaming bay shed irrigation valve box. This will greatly ease operations between the two loops and will reduce waiting time at the loop switches. There should be time between now and June 12th to get that siding in if we can get enough people out to help

in grading and track laying. Let's see more of you out there enjoying the great spring weather and healthy exercise so that we can show our guests from the East Coast and Midwest what a real mountain RR is like! ☐



Moving rocks – the constant JT&S struggle!

G-Scale Expands Empire

Don Gage is at it again!

- - From the Editor.

Don Gage was seen at the Presidents Day Meet trudging back and forth over hill and dale moving tons of rock and sand. His diligent efforts produced yet more trackage for the JT&S G-Scale layout, providing a longer run and better viewing opportunities for his spectators. Don has gone above and beyond incorporating interesting rock and plant features. I encourage one and all to visit next time you see the layout in operation, and enjoy his efforts and the outstanding G-Scale models circling the cholla. ☐



CHANGES AT THE JT&S-

AT THE SPRING 2003 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, THOSE IN ATTENDANCE VOTED TO DROP THE "CLUB" PORTION OF THE ORGANIZATION FROM OUR IDENTITY. THIS ACTION ALLOWS US TO FOCUS MORE ON OUR NON-PROFIT EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETATIONAL MISSION. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHEN DUES TIME ROLLS AROUND IN JUNE, MEMBERS WILL NOW WRITE ONLY **ONE** CHECK INSTEAD OF TWO SEPARATE CHECKS AS IN THE PAST. THIS IS A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR EVERYONE, AND GREATLY SIMPLIFIES OUR BOOKKEEPING.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

SPRING FLING WEEKEND.

APRIL 12TH & 13TH

GRAND SCALE DIVISION MEET (15" GAUGE)

APRIL 26TH & 27TH

RAMBLE PREP WEEKEND

MAY 22ND - 27TH

TRAIN MOUNTAIN RAMBLE

JUNE 12TH.

FALL MEET SPECTACULAR

NOVEMBER 6TH — 11TH

SATURDAY NIGHT- **DINNER IN THE DINER**

Logon to WWW.JTSRR.ORG

and click on the **Calendar of Events** page for updates.

Visit our online gift shop at: www.cafepress.com/jtsdiningcar

Campground Beautification

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Rudy has also completed a desert garden around his recently purchased trailer, complete with native flora and rock "plantings". Understated pathway lighting also adds a nice touch during the evening.

Thanks to Liza and Kevin for spearheading this effort! This dynamic duo has inspired us to take on other areas of the property in need of a bit of "sprucing up". ☺



Grand Scale Division Report

Footings under way.

-- **From Chris Allan, GSD chairman**

As momentum picks up, more and more is being accomplished by our intrepid band of folks.

President's Day Meet 2003

Over the course of the President's Day Weekend Meet, a temporary "tramway" was laid in the dry wash to facilitate the movement of materials to bridge footings. This effort was lead by Rick Mugele, GSD Chief Engineer, along with Ken Pimlott, his son Nick Pimlott, and Ken Eells. Jack Sessums and Lars Templin joined in on Sunday to help finish the tracklaying. The first lift of concrete was poured on the west pier using 60 pound rail driven down to bedrock to help shore it up.

Rick's hand grading efforts have produced fifty feet of new grade, as well as a fine start on the spur line down across the wash turning up toward the second crossing upstream. This spur line will eventually tie into the main line, and gives access to the 15" and 7 ½" interchange area adjacent to the SP caboose. Rick has been instrumental in creating a Master Plan for the trackage of both gauges by helping to develop the new wye and runaround tracks at the depot for the 7 ½" gauge, as well as his fabulous plan for the GSD 15" gauge. Thanks Rick!

Work progresses ahead on other fronts as well, including the turntable fabrication, headed by our "Roundhouse Foreman" Ken Eells, and the re-gauging of the Coffey Shay to 15" gauge (it was 14 ½") by master builder Ken Kukuk.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST "REGULAR" MEMBERS!

THE FOLLOWING ANNUAL MEMBERS WERE HONORED WITH
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP AT THE SPRING 2003 BOD MEETING
DUE TO THEIR OUTSTANDING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE
JOSHUA TREE AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD MUSEUM:

Greg Ratliff

Don Gage

Paul Lavacot

Chris & Rita Allan

NEW BULLETIN EDITOR

I, Chris Allan, have taken on editing of the "Desert Wind" as
of this printing. I hope to live up to the example of past
editors such as Rudy and Tom, which will be difficult!
Please let me know what you think, Thanks! -ed.



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GSD Report

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This year's Grand Scale Division Meet is scheduled for April
26th & 27th. Activities will include forming, concrete
pouring, (perhaps) some tracklaying, as well as a BYOM
BBQ Saturday night, followed by movies deemed
appropriate to the occasion. Any questions may be directed
to me via email: wsflco@earthlink.net. Hope to see y'all
there! ☺



Rick Mugele and the Pimlott Gang laying the tramway.