

2011

Summer Tour Layout Descriptions

1. Underground Railroad

This large Garden railroad is partly outside and partly in the basement of the home. It is one of the oldest garden railroads in our club. Entering this phenomenal scene under the Chesney home, you are confronted with a virtual stage effect as controlled lighting picks out scene after scene in this natural hillside. Off to the left a staging area is reminiscent of turn of the century railroad stations. Trains then travel outside through a hole in the wall.

The Outdoor portion includes a water feature, a mine, and bridges. This layout is loaded with details and is a favorite of return Summer Tour attendees. Mostly handicapped accessible

2. Colorado Southern

This is a steam railroad set in the 1930s built for operations with 60 switches. The layout is a single track requiring 5 passing sidings so trains traveling in opposite directions can pass each other. The Northern division climbs to the summit of a 5 foot birm. The rocky mountain landscape, forest, lake, and a 50' long white water river and waterfall that moves 250 gallons of water per minute challenged the engineers to find a 2% grade route to the future town at the summit. To accomplish this feat, they employed 3 tunnels totaling 90 feet in length, and several bridges on the way to the summit.

The Southern Division is the large lower loop and contains many industries to which freight cars can be switched. Connecting the Northern and Southern division is a large 10 track switching yard with a turntable, coal tower and sand house for servicing the steam trains before they head out on another run.

Trains are controlled by wireless remote control that sends signals to radio receivers wired into all engines. The mainline is 450' with 750' of total track. Construction began in 1997. Bathroom is available. Handicapped Accessible.

3. Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad

This narrow gauge branch represents the fictional Summit Branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad in the late 1950's to early 1960's. The main motive power consists of a fleet of 2-6-0 steam engines, which you will see today. We also use some Alco DL535's, You may see one of these when we run a very long freight train. Seven

towns are arranged along the 100 by 150 foot "L" shaped layout. Landscaping is mostly mature, with a wide variety of plants, ranging from miniature ground cover and plants, miniature trees, to larger azaleas, rhodies and evergreen trees. While it generally follows real towns along the D&RGW, it also has some whimsy built in, such as the town of old "Auntie Em's" which comes from the "Wizard of Oz" – check out the farm house and see Dorothy oiling the tin man's arm joints! Mostly NOT handicapped accessible, but part of the railroad can be viewed from the road.

4. Partytown and Farmdale Railroad

This is an indoor whimsical no. 1 scale (1/32) railroad, with lots of lights, sound and animation. It is a tourist and freight railroad, serving the raucous Partytown and the quieter Farmdale, which are towns on a mainline between larger cities. Residents and visitors cover a wide gamut, including Alexander Graham Bell, Sherlock Holmes and Watson, Laurel and Hardy, Popeye and Olive Oyl, and Jack and Jill. This year the carnival has come to Partytown and the circus has come to Farmdale. An extension has recently been added creating a new branch line loop. NOT handicapped accessible

5. Lone Pine & Western Railroad

Planning for the Lone Pine & Western RR started in the summer of 2009. Several different track plans were evaluated before the one was selected. Ground was broken on the project in July of 2010. Starting with a 100ft x 60ft basically flat back yard, we added over 18 truck loads of gravel, 5 truck loads of top soil, 42 miniature trees, over 70 small bushes, 13 varieties of ground cover and over 1,200 man hours of work to create an 80ft x 36ft railroad with 6ft tall mountains, 7 tunnels, one of which is over 35' in length, a stream with 3 bridge crossings and over 600ft of mainline track. The railroad starts at the town of Lone Pine and winds its way up through the hills and tunnels to arrive at summit station. The railroad you will see today is not completed. We have yet to get all of the plants in place and none of the planned structures have been installed. This railroad is still a "work in process". This is the first time this layout has been on our Summer Tour. Handicapped Accessible

6. Little River Railroad

The 11 year old Little River Railroad represents a mountain and logging short line in the period around the 1930's. The layout has two ponds and a nice stream and waterfall. It begins in the town of Leeville in the mountains, journeys over a curved trestle, past a pond and sawmill, crosses the river and follows the river up Bryce Canyon. It crosses the river again near the waterfall and into a tunnel, around Chase Mountain and through a second tunnel. From there it follows the backside of the mountain and across another trestle, through another tunnel into town. The 35' x 50' layout has 260' of mainline track with 4' radius curves. All bridges, trestles and buildings are scratch-built. The 24:1

steam locomotives are battery powered and controlled by Locolink. The first place photo in Garden Railroad magazine in December 2003 was taken on this beautifully detailed layout. Handicap Accessible

7. Quail Hollow Short Line

This railroad is located at a home in the Quail Hollow retirement community. There are three separate viewing areas:

1. An automated trolley line that runs back and forth from one end of our small town of Fairview to the other.
2. This layout has a motorized passenger car running on a track with a loop at each end nestled in a raised flower box.
3. The main railroad is a 250 foot oval layout with a 20 ft. tunnel, passing tracks and freight sidings. The switches are air-operated by wireless remote control. Diesel and some live steam locomotives should be running during the Summer Tour.

These are all test layouts for Split Jaw Products Inc. They make many products, but are best known for their rail clamps, that hold the track together, and electronic products used in automating layouts. This is the first year for this railroad to be a part of the summer tour. It is not handicapped Accessible.

8. Baker and Grande Ronde Railroad

The Baker & Grande Ronde Railroad is a fictitious 1:24 narrow gauge railroad that connects with the Sumpter Valley Railroad at its terminus in Baker City, Oregon. Circa 1890, at the glory days of mining and lumber in the Oregon Blue Mountains, this small railroad ambitiously crossed the Elkhorn Range with its western destination as Ukiah and beyond. The 24:1 scale trains traverse six trestles and bridges that cross three rivers with running water. A twenty foot long, five foot tall curved trestle near the summit transverses Freezeout Creek. There is 480 feet of mainline on this 120' x 35' point to point railroad that is in its 7 year of existence. The forest of dwarf Alberta Spruce is pruned to represent large mature conifers, herbs and succulents create a lush forest floor, and locally gathered rock complete the landscape. All track is hand-laid on redwood ties, all structures and bridges are scratch-built (original and not made from kits). All engines are battery or live steam controlled by Locolink. This is a "must see" railroad. Handicap Accessible over gravel.

9. Trout Lake & Cumberland Railroad

The TLC is a railroad in a garden. The 1950's era, 200' Trout Lake and Cumberland is a fictitious, narrow gauge, folded dog-bone that bridges streams, circles a pond and goes through a 6' tunnel. It travels among miniature plants, flowers and ground covers while mostly in the shade of an old Elm tree.

The original track is of hand bent aluminum rail. The more recent addition of brass flex track around the perimeter ties to it through a complex double crossover, allowing trains to operate on either section, or move from one to the other. Recently created passing sidings give even more flexibility to the operation.

Extensive replacement of walkways now permits easy wheelchair access.