

Home / Valley Life / Recreation / Recreation

Model train travels to 'Deadwood'

- Story
- Discussion

Model train travels to 'Deadwood'

By Julian J. Ramos/Staff Writer jramos@syvnews.com Santa Ynez Valley News | Posted: Thursday, November 17, 2011 12:00 am | (0) Comments

Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

• 0

• [Share](#)



[Buy this photo](#)

Daniel Dreifuss/Staff

Miniature people wait at the train station in the miniature town of 'Deadwood' at Wayne Asbury's home in Vandenberg Village, where he has built a miniature city in his backyard with trains, structures, tunnels and miniature people.

Wayne Asbury doesn't mind having a railroad running through his Vandenberg Village backyard - after all, he put it there.

Still a work in progress after 2 1/2 years, Asbury's outdoor model railroad, backing up to the Village Golf Course, features 600 feet of track, two levels, four tunnels, and many scale-model buildings.

Up to three model trains can run at once on the layout, shaped like a curved dog bone, that was part of the Central Coast Railroad Festival earlier this month.

A model train collector since he was 5 years old, Asbury, a retired teacher, has had several setups "but nothing this big."

The garden-railroad-scale display, commonly called G-scale, is meant to replicate narrow-gauge railroads running through the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, where he and his wife attended the University of Colorado in Boulder.

There is no electricity on the track; the trains are radio controlled. For model train fans, the track is 1 gauge and the trains are 1:24-scale.

Along the tracks there is a rail yard, the town of Deadwood, and a white church on a hill with a cemetery. A gorilla, and a golfer standing alongside a golf cart, are among the quirky features. All of the small trees and plants are real.

More than 1,700 concrete blocks were used to built the set. The tunnels, one of them several feet long, were completed over the summer along with most of the railroad layout.

The elaborate display is full of details, but it's not yet complete.

"There's always some little thing," Asbury said. "Another building to add."

The cost to put it together has been "priceless," he said.

Asbury and his wife, Kathy, both natives of Palos Verdes, had long teaching careers in the Lompoc Union School District before retiring three years ago. They have lived at their home on the golf course for 34 years.

"It's been a fun project," Kathy said.

Married for almost 40 years, they have three children and five grandchildren.

The grandchildren are particularly fond of trips to grandma and grandpa's house.

"They like to come out and visit the train," she said.

About six months into retirement, a family Christmas newsletter announced that Wayne and Kathy had begun building a garden railroad before the first shovel of dirt was turned, and long before the first piece of brass track was laid down.

Wayne's former Sunday school teacher in Palos Verdes, Al Sorensen, built just about all of the buildings, and sold many of them, to Wayne including train engines and cars and tracks, when he moved to a smaller home.

A friend in Colorado who owns a quarry there supplied many of the large slabs of rock the Asburys hauled back from Colorado.

Linda Newberry, a friend of the couple's from their teaching days, said she has seen the railroad take shape since it was only a pile of dirt in the backyard, and has watched the Asburys spend countless hours putting it together.

"A lot of work," she said. "Oh my gosh."

Watching one of the trains go around the track made Newberry wonder what it would be like to ride around on the tiny rails.

"Almost makes me wish I could shrink and go on," Newberry said.

George Shyavitz of Atascadero, a member of Wayne's railroad club, saw the railroad for the first time recently. Shyavitz, who has yet to start building his own garden railroad, said he is inspired by the natural appearance of the setup.

"That's the way I want to go," he said.

Wayne took notes for his own project on visits to other garden railways.

His plans for the future include another level of track.

"I understand these things are never really finished," Kathy said.

Copyright 2011 Santa Ynez Valley News. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Recreation on *Thursday, November 17, 2011 12:00 am* | Tags:




Share This Story

Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- St. Mark's to end annual Book Faire
- Avant Tapas and Wine Bar holding juried wine-related art competition
- Places to go; Things to do
- 30 Valley art studios open for annual tour
- Places to go; Things to do
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden holding Holiday Marketplace

Sponsored Links

 <p>KOHL'S Love to give these top gifts.</p>		<p>Thomas & Friends Playset SALE \$46.99 reg. \$69.99</p>		<p>Fisher-Price® Dora the Explorer™ Doll SALE \$24.99 reg. \$39.99</p>		<p>Tonka® Mig End Loader SALE \$49. reg. \$69.99</p>
--	---	--	---	---	---	---