

2022 NRHSA Expo: Garden Railway Tour

The popular Garden Railway tour returned to the Expo schedule this year after an absence of several years. Märklin/LGB Trains sponsored the event for the Expo.

Two Las Vegas Garden Railway Society members opened their homes and impressive rail layouts to attendees for tours. The LVGRS, founded in 1991, has more than 100 member families across the region.

The first stop was the Sierra Nevada & Chardonnay Railroad, a G-scale layout that began in 2002. The lines wrap around the back of the yard behind 290 feet of retaining wall, winding around the pool, putting green and barbecue pagoda that's been turned into a workshop.

As you look at the layout from left to right, you move through time as well. The left, or south end, features a town from the 1950s, then a Western town from the 1880s. Lines connect to a mining encampment with its own train from the 1920s.



The main line on the lowest tier features a 1950s-era Pennsylvania Railroad passenger line. The right end supports freight and passenger service. A 1940s-era steam barn has pass-through tracks for coal burners. One line leads to the covered train barn and repair shop where rolling stock is kept in working order.

It all adds up to more than 2,000 feet of track, featuring 27 powered DCC switches and six spring switches. There are more than 20 steam engines, two electric locomotives, nine operating diesels, trolleys and a few switchers to keep things moving.





Bill Thornhill and his wife, Lynn, welcomed visitors to their Las Vegas home and the B&L Railway.

The second stop featured the B&L Railway, built with a stunning view of the Las Vegas skyline and Red Rock mountains in the distance. The layout features five tracks. The main line features two tunnels, a water fall, a bridge and eventually winds its way to the replica of the Canadian hamlet of Mossleigh, with three grain elevators and buildings for 69 residents. The ghost town loop features the historic 1875 Eureka & Palisade Line locomotive pulling a mixed freight load. The backyard operation also includes a depot that houses the shop, controllers and railroad memorabilia. The railroad operates the last Sunday of every month, and the owners host regular club meetings. **HM**

