



VIEW FROM THE CAB

At the release of this Newsletter, I should be back in Delaware.

During the month of January the Board of Directors had to deal with a couple of issues. First, and most important, was the report from Treasurer John Martin that our end-of-year financial report showed an increase of over \$10,000 in our bank account over that of January 1st, 2020! This was a tremendous result from a year that was loaded with uncertainty. I must applaud our hard-working board and those guys that did the heavy lifting at the club driving sales literally through the roof. An interesting note: When the Covid-19 crisis hit us, we had just started paying rent on the additional 1,000 sq. ft suite at our club building, and Doc Dougherty was hard at work putting in shelving and cabinetry to fit-out the space. We knew the closing of many local businesses meant our sponsorship income would go right down, and I ordered an immediate halt to any solicitations because I knew these folks, especially hosting businesses, like bars and restaurants, would find themselves in tough financial shape.

And through most of the spring, this was what we were looking at. No May Train show would be allowed, the September show was in doubt. Where was the rent money going to come from? But then the Federal Stimulus Bill was passed, and I decided to hold a "Members Challenge" (to match any donation of over \$25 up to a total of \$1200). We met and exceeded that challenge! Than another member issued another Challenge for the same amount. We exceeded that challenge as well! Combined we raised more than \$4800. So this was obviously a great help, as we contributed enough from just our members' donations to exceed the 2020 budgeted amount for sponsorships and patrons.

Next we looked at an accumulation of donations in our new sales area that far exceeded our normal inventory, and came up with the idea of holding a "Train-Load Yard Sale". Our first one in August was a big success, with about 12 other vendors selling items in the parking lot, and our club merchandise selling from the new section of our club. The second one in October was just slightly better in sales for the club, and although we had fewer vendors, the weather was okay and we had a great day. Finally, In December our last Yard sale was also great for our income and this one was held indoors, using space provided by our landlord for a few vendors. As I've stated before, the generosity of many folks in our area donating so much un-needed train equipment has made this all possible.

We put this all together during a time that most people will never forget. The results were quite an achievement and I appreciate everyone who contributed to this effort.

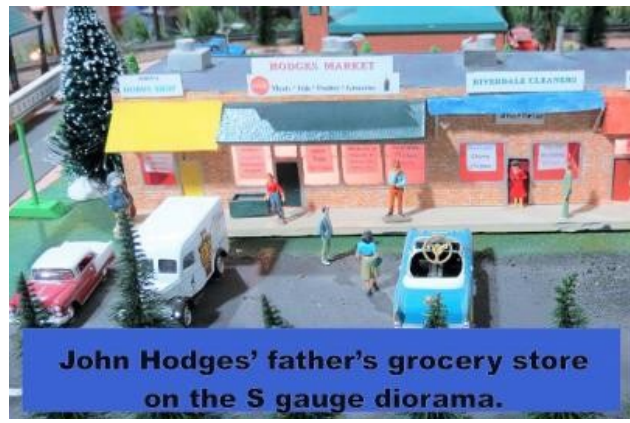
We also had to deal with an identity theft issue, involving an illegal purchase under the name and address of our club. We were able to clear this with the company involved with no outlay for the club. And most recently, our membership E-mail addresses has been hacked, and so spurious messages, sometimes with a virus attached, have been received. The message looks like it comes from a fellow member, but a closer look at the actual sender shows a unique address that you likely will not know. Don't open any attachment unless you know the sender. Our meeting coming up this month will once again be restricted to board members and committee chairs. I hope we will see the Library open its meeting rooms sometime soon, but when warmer weather returns, we'll try the parking lot for a monthly meeting this spring.

We'll plan to build at least one new layout for a fundraiser this spring. I have several track-plans in hand for O gauge or HO in several sizes we can consider.

Come on Spring!

John Hodges

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The Delaware Seaside Railroad Club is well represented on the national stage. We had two members with articles in the January issue of the Train Collectors Quarterly. President John Hodges' article appeared on page 15 in the American Flyer Fan section, and founder Bill Mixon's article, "A Train Journey", can be found on page 39.

Hello Chip, I really enjoy your articles in the Quarterly magazine. It is a great addition to a very fine publication. We are all pretty sad that our semi-annual trips to York for the Eastern Division TCA Meet have been cancelled for 2020. It's a year we'd all like to forget, save for the birth of our latest grandchild. I'm currently President of the Delaware Seaside Railroad Club, located in Sussex County, Delaware. We are an all-gauge train club and have been incorporated as a 501c3 educational charity since 2007, but we formed the club in 2004. We have had our own facility since 2015 in Dagsboro, DE. Our rent is not cheap like some clubs enjoy, so we host train shows and other fundraising events to make the rent. This year, with our usual venue for the shows unavailable, we've held two very successful "yard sale" events focusing only on model train items for sale. This has been a tough year, but we seem to be weathering it very well.

I've been repairing trains since around 2003. In 2009, I was trained as a Lionel Independent Service Station, and in 2010 I received training at MTH on their electronic systems. While working from my home as a hobby business, I get repair jobs from a local hobby shop, Seaside Hobbies in Ocean View, DE, and many trains find me each year as a result of our club activities. As a lifelong repair person for thirty years working for IBM as a mainframe computer specialist in Washington, DC, I get a lot of personal satisfaction from fixing things. Thanks to a host of independent parts fabricators, the old prewar and postwar trains can almost always be brought back to life. But among my fondest memories of doing this is the look on one gentleman's face, at about 80 years young, when I ran his repaired Lionel engine that was over 95 years old! One thing I keep in mind when I work on something that is a cherished keepsake is that these items are not just old toys; they are memories of childhood, parents long ago deceased, and siblings near and far away. Making them come alive again brings back memories, and for many of us, those memories are sometimes what we cherish most.

From Chip: John, thanks for checking in. John's phone number is 302-448-5654 and his e-mail address is jhodges46@verizon.net if anyone would like to get in touch with him.

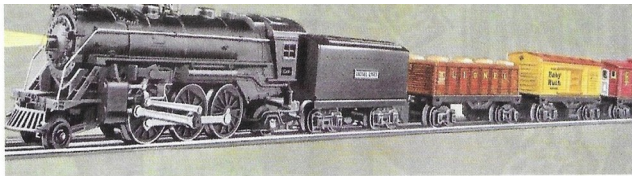
**AMERICAN
FLYER
FAN
CORNER**

WORLD'S SMALLEST MODEL TRAINS



T-gauge is about one half the size of Z-gauge.

BR Inter-City 125 HST Model Railway Starter Set with loop of grey raised bed track included. This set features 120mm radius curves which fit directly inside the 132.5mm radius track that comes as part of the R-042 set or as separate packs. The 120mm loop included in this starter set will cover an area of 253mm x 372mm (10" x 14 3/4").



A Train Journey

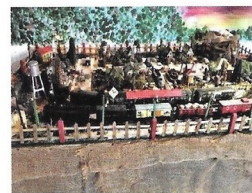
by Bill Mixon 99-48896

My Lionel Outfit 1089 was offered for sale at \$12.75 at a hobby shop in Chester, PA. My brother, John, was 7 years old at the time, and received this set for Christmas in 1940. I was 11 months old. My brother and father put this train on a platform every Christmas that I can remember. I can remember as a four year old, seeing this train running with soldiers, tents, and jeeps on the layout. I can also remember lying on the floor next to the Christmas tree and layout, with all the lights turned off, while my father went outside wearing his CD (Civil Defense) helmet.

John was a generous brother who allowed me to play with his train while he was not there. My family and the train set moved to Linwood, PA, in 1945. When John entered the service in 1952, he was stationed in Alaska and gave me

the train set. I kept the set and ran it on the platform every Christmas. John and his new wife Mary had two children, so I gave the set back to him. The train outfit stayed in Trainer, PA, for a while, then my brother took it with him on to Claymont, DE, Grand Island NY, New Martinsville, West VA, Boothwyn, PA, and finally Trexlertown, PA. John passed away in 2012, and the train came back to me in Milton, DE.

It is now displayed as a permanent winter layout with me. When I leave the station, the train will then pass to my grandson, Dylan, in Kennett Square, PA. The outfit is now 80 years old and will have traveled 1,862 miles, counting mileage from the factory in Irvington, NJ, to the distributor in Philadelphia, the retailer in Chester, PA, and now through our family.



SCAMS and VIRUS

Our DSRC club members have been inundated with scams. Every day lately, many of us have received multiple messages in e-mail from what looks like club members .BEWARE!! They may contain a virus, especially if you open the attachment. How can you tell if it a legitimate e-mail? It's very simple. Place your "pointer" over the name of the person sending the e-mail. That will show you where the message comes from. If it is from an e-mail source that you don't recognize, DON'T OPEN IT



. You have a list of member's e-mails in your membership list provided by our secretary Frank Parrino. If you need another list, contact Frank. at fparrino@verizon.net