

# Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club



All Gauges

All Fun

Newsletter Issue # 77

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January, 2011

## Happy New Year To All Our Friends

As we all prepare to meet a brand new calendar year, we often look over our shoulder to review the past twelve months, and I'd like to recap our the 2010 from the viewpoint of the DSRC. The fifth project involving the North Georgetown Elementary school got off to a great start, but several members were also in the midst of a 5 week class on toy train history with the Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning. Both of these efforts were very successful, as was another outreach effort for a small group of senior citizens at the Easter Seals facility in Georgetown. Of course, the club displayed the now familiar O gauge layout at the Seaford Train Show, also in February. The "Wicked Winter Weather" played havoc with our school program once again, pushing the conclusion of that class until late April. During most of the spring, the HO group was busy rebuilding the corners of the modular layout in anticipation of our June Train Show. Our continuing efforts at the Georgetown Train Station restarted in early July, and resulted in 12 open house dates for the year. We also opened for Return Day 2010 to a very nice crowd. As a close to our year of display activities, we enjoyed our trip to the Hartly Train show in November and prepared for field trip events for 3 school groups, totaling over 450 young train fans, at the station. A visit from our own Santa made this year's school visits a special treat. Wow, what a year!



A picture (above) taken early in the day on December 11th, our 6th year involved in the Railroad Christmas. A nice crowd but might have been a bit fewer than previous years. All around, most of our Open House dates were well attended this year, and naturally the last one, December 18th, was one of the best crowds of the year. Below left, Bill Harkim, Bob Hodges and Miles Potter are wondering whose house is big enough to handle the track for this 1:8 scale model of an EMD E8 locomotive with a cutaway on one side showing all the internal workings of the engine. Below, Santa is greeting the students as they enter the train room at the Georgetown Station. This is just one group of 3rd graders from Georgetown ES.



## Club News

On December 14th, as has been our custom over the past several years, about 36 of us were welcomed to the home of Bill and Diana Ziegler for an evening of great food and warm hospitality. It was great to see so many old friends and new, and it was also very nice to hear that so many decided to answer the call by Doug Hornberger to help him assist two local families. Doug, or should I say Santa, learned of the needs of these two families when one of our school groups included a child with no winter coat. His inquiry with the teacher and school administration resulted in his decision to help by buying some coats for the children and also connecting with the local Toys for Tots group for some help in that regard as well. I must say that Santa's visits to the Georgetown Station during so many of our activities this Christmas season was a big hit and added another dimension to the field trips and open house events. Doug wanted to tell everyone a heart-felt 'Thank You' to all his "Little Helpers" who donated to this cause.

In other news, our January meeting will include voting on a new budget, electing board officers for 2011, and discussion on the topic of new fund raising ideas. With our Twelve Trains raffle not reaching our income objectives this year, it may be a time to look toward another way to meet our income needs.

On an entirely different subject, several of us are planning to build a permanent O gauge layout for the Georgetown Station. The chore of moving the modular display in and out of Georgetown for shows elsewhere, two or three or often four times a year, is getting more difficult for our small band of volunteers.

Building a permanent display in O gauge, to go with the HO project already well along in planning and execution, will make a better impression and save our energy for other projects.

The club is looking for the loan of the track planning software called CAD\_RAIL. If anyone has this program, perhaps they would loan it to us to help plan the new display track arrangement. One final note: I feel that one of the most worthwhile events we provide the public is our Open House activity in Georgetown. The gratitude we receive from visitors, from kids that we talk to, and community leaders we meet, makes it all very rewarding. ----->>>

## Calendar of Events

Jan. 3, 10 am, Train Station, take S layout to library.  
Jan. 4, 10 am, Train Station, Pack O gauge for Dover.  
Jan. 5, 8 am, @ Dover Archives. Set up and run trains.  
Jan. 6-7, 10 am to 4 pm. Run trains at Dover Archives  
Jan. 8, 10 - 4, Dover Archives, Run Trains and Pack-up  
Jan. 10, 10 am Seaford Museum to pack up the display and return layout to Jean's garage.  
Jan. 11, 7 pm Meeting 7 pm. South Coastal Library.

## A Nice Day at the Museum

On December 3rd, four of us decided to head up to Baltimore to the B & O Railroad Museum. Although it was a cold day, we had a great time. The Baltimore Area S gaugers were there with their very large display that must have measured 40 feet by 30 feet. They showed us a very cool turn table operation they recently installed, and they also have included an example of a Walt Disney MonoRail system that fit in very nicely over their S gauge trackage.

The museum invites many different clubs in during the Christmas holidays to display model trains, and there was a nice N gauge layout from a DC group, as well as an MTH O gauge display. The museum also houses a permanent HO layout in a former passenger car outside along one of its many sidings, and also has a quite large G scale installation outside in the main concourse between their many venues. The last time I visited the museum, the public had no access to the coach shop building, but that building is now open and they have about 8 locomotives of many types to inspect and in some cases you can climb up into the cab to see the workings of the engine. There is certainly plenty to see inside the main round table building as well, and there is a very extensive collection of models of locomotives of many different scales on loan from the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. All in all, a great outing!

If you have never had a chance to come up to the Train Station in Georgetown on a Saturday morning, you are really missing out on something. If we don't have too many visitors, we may talk a bit and maybe fix something on the various layouts. When people come in, they may like to talk about their own trains or memories, and you often learn a little something in the bargain!