

# Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club



All Gauges

All Fun

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July, 2011  
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## SeaSide RR Club Hosts 8th Annual Train Show

Every summer since the club began, we've hosted a train show in Sussex County, and this June we continued that tradition with a fantastic show at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center. With a paid attendance of nearly 400, and a steady crowd of young children, we filled the isles of 75 tables with visitors of all ages, and after the troubles of this May, it was a welcome sight to see the level of support from the membership and the local community. The donations of food and supplies from many local merchants topped \$150, the Pepsi Distributors in Salisbury donated 40 cases of soft drinks and water, and Kathy Hodges donated a beautiful quilt she made herself, which we raffled off at the show along with a Thomas O gauge train set, which survived the fire at the Georgetown Station. In a tremendous show of support, the First State Model Railroad Club of Dover, Delaware brought their wonderful HO layout to the show. The layout depicts many towns in Kent County. The picture to the right shows the First State President, Jim Thompson, presenting back to our club the check they would normally receive as a stipend for a show. We also received \$165 in cash donations. As President, I am moved by the outpouring of support from everyone who attended the show, and most importantly to all those members and family who contributed so much of their time to help make the show a true success. It should also be mentioned that the sales of items donated by Mrs. Rose Bell of Dover made a big impact on our fund raising, and the club posted a certificate to this affect on our O gauge modular layout, as shown in the photo at lower right. Additional items donated by Scott Stedman were also sold to help our total income from the show, and additional trains donated by Mr. Gary Freniere of Felton, DE were used to entertain the children on a small O-27 layout.



The crowd at 11:30 was very good indeed, as seen in the photo at top.



The ladies at the refreshments stand did better than last year as well, and while final costs are still pending, this show provided the club with just the financial boost it needed!

The meeting on June 15th was attended by approximately 30 members, The Conductor, Miles Potter, reported a current membership of 65, and also indicated he had a number of donations to acknowledge. Ticket Master John Martin provided a month ending report for May, 2011 indicating the expenses paid out for the upcoming show, and leaving balances of \$2,898.73 in our checking and \$1,916.07 in the Money Market Savings. His concern was for income from the show to offset the outlay of advertising and room rental recently paid out, so that our checking balance can be brought back up. John also reported donation checks received from Mr. Tilghman of Dover for \$250 and from the First State Model Railroad Club for \$100. John Hodges reported a very busy month in phone calls, many of which were from newspapers and officials seeking information about the fire. Many other calls were folks reaching out to donate items or money. We received a donation of O-27 trains through a contact with George Tavenner, another donation of Trains by Mr. Gary Freniere of Felton, DE, a large donation of Marx train equipment and antique phones and locks from former member Scott Stedman. However, the contact made through John Hodges by Mrs. Rose Bell of Dover surpassed any expectations. More about this donation in another article. We also discussed a donation of tickets for the Baltimore and Ohio Museum in Baltimore, MD, compliments of member Jim Ross. We are still trying to decide how best to use these tickets. The proposal to hold a 'Basket Bingo' event sometime in September or October of this year was approved. It was suggested the event would be more successful if it was held in lower Sussex County. Planning for this will begin soon. We went over the details for the planning of the show that was to be held that coming Saturday at Rehoboth Beach, and our usual list of volunteers had grown to a respectable sampling of our membership. As is our custom, we had a little time to do a show and tell at the end of the business meeting, and John Hodges had brought in a quantity of trains from the fire, some melted, warped and charred, and some in pretty nice shape. We were about to discuss whether or not we should let some members have some of the warped plastic cars that were club property to use on their home layouts, but we had not gotten to the point of getting a consensus when the meeting was interrupted with a procession of ladies carrying in a cooler full of cold water, and also carrying a Birthday Cake! Seems someone -->>

July 12, 6 pm- Picnic- Bob & Kathy Hodges - BYOB  
Side dish or desert contribution welcome, 231-8722

Mrs. Rose Bell had been wondering what to do with a large train layout in her basement for months, since her husband John passed in March of 2010. This spring, two events occurred that gave her a sign as to how to handle her dilemma. First, she experienced a plumbing failure in her kitchen, with the unfortunate side effect that the water rained down on the train display in the basement. Her children were quick to rescue the trains and buildings off the layout table. Then the news of our Train Station fire caught her attention, and she felt like she had a good omen and a direction to take. She called the Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club! I went to visit her and surveyed the layout, a large, well crafted display of 16ft by 24ft size with very nice landscaping and plenty of bridges and tunnels. I explained that we had no place to move a large layout such as this. Rose had not considered that we could move the layout but just hoped we could make good use of many of the trains and buildings. I could see a storage room with many boxes of trains, and Dept. 56 buildings. When we returned with 6 members, we inventoried approximately 50 boxes of trains, buildings and scenery items, track, and complete G gauge train sets. We took the entire train layout apart, saved 95 % of the 1 x 4 lumber and the foam panels used as table top, but sadly discarded most of the scenery material. As it turns out, this extensive collection has helped the club with a considerable inventory of ready to run rolling stock, and also lumber and track equipment, bridges and such for future use in rebuilding the O gauge layout we had been working on in Georgetown. We only hope that the simple plaque we are planning to purchase for display at future shows etc. will go a little way to show our level of appreciation for such a generous and well timed donation. Thank You Mrs. Bell.

-->> contrived to surprise your President and Editor on his Birthday...And Thanks for that.