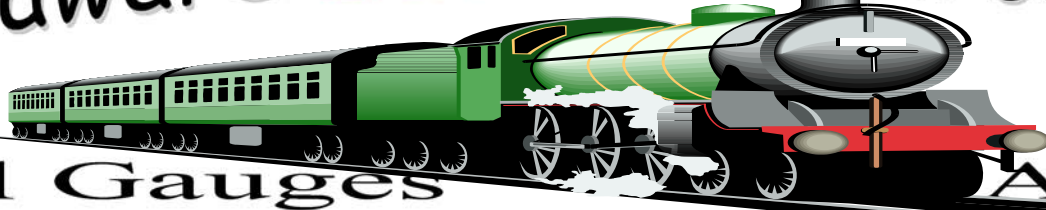


Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club



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Sun, Pool, Shade, Great Friends and Cool Breezes?

Sounds like the perfect conditions for a summer picnic doesn't it? Well .."4 out of 5 ain't bad!"..., so they say! The weather may have been hot, and we didn't see the cool breezes, but the hospitality and fellowship made up for any minor discomforts. Bob and Kathy Hodges had done a wonderful job of setting up their back yard for a great afternoon, and with all the terrific variety of side dishes and desserts, the afternoon slipped into evening and everyone enjoyed the party. In fact, some ventured into the pool earlier in the day for a refreshing soak before the main festivities began. Many thanks to Bob and Kathy for once again hosting the picnic, and thanks also to Doug Hornberger for volunteering to cook the burgers and franks. All in all, this was one of our best picnics.

As most of you already know, we will not hold an August general club meeting. I know we have a little work to do to prepare for the Roxanna Toy and Train Show on September 24th, but there is enough time for most of that, and much of the planning is already in the works or has been done.

We will bring just a couple of layouts to this event due to some space limitations. We will still need a good complement of morning and afternoon volunteers to help set up the layouts, and work the kitchen, run trains, etc..I think as of this writing, we will have the O gauge modular, the small Table top S gauge, and a new N gauge layout being built by Bob Hodges as we speak! Table sales for this show were slow at last tally, but we expect later table sales and we are also getting support from SeaSide Hobbies for this show as well.

On another front, the progress on work at the Train Station in Georgetown is at the stage where the interior stripping down to bare walls is nearly complete. While there have been some incorrect statements circulating about the cause of the fire, officially the fire was classified as accidental electrical with no distinct point of origin.



Club News

While we had no business meeting in July, things have been moving along on a couple of fronts. We have a committed group which is seriously engaged in creating a fund raiser for the club, in the form of a "Basket Bingo" night sometime this fall. The group is looking for a venue and is looking at the third week in October.

This is a great opportunity for our club to make a little extra income for the rebuilding effort of our HO and S Gauge modular layouts. This is also a diversion from our normal fund raising efforts, so it requires open minded thinking on everyone's part. Since this measure was voted on and approved in a formal club meeting, we expect full support for this activity as we would all club activities. On another note, we had a chance to chat with Mr. Jim Blackwell, who is our contact at the Seaford Museum. Jim not only was very generous in dropping a donation in our jar at the June Train Show, he also emphasized his hopes that we would be able to provide our smaller modular layout from Thanksgiving through January 1st once again this year. Jim said his theme would be Pre-War trains this year, and I was wondering if anyone from our membership would like to display any pre-war O gauge equipment on the layout, perhaps on the un-powered siding. I would not expect anyone to offer to run pre-war trains, as the trains do tend to get quite a workout during this display season.

On this same topic, the club will need to look into replacing some of the key pieces of rolling stock in time for the Christmas season. Namely, the Polar Express passenger cars set and tender. We still have the engine, but the tender and cars are gone. It is likely cheaper to just buy the entire set.

One of our members recently suggested we get a group from each gauge together to begin making wish lists for replacing equipment. I think this is a great idea, and welcome anyone who wants to form each team to do so, and begin making their lists. Keep in mind, that track and tables for building modular sections lost in the fire should take priority, then probably transformers and control systems as requires, since many members can still bring in their private rolling stock for occasional shows and display events.

Recently, the club has received several donations of trains and train equipment. Mike Dorothy collected HO, O and S gauge trains from one donor, Bill Ziegler picked up 2 N scale layout boards with track. --->>

Calendar of Events

No Meeting scheduled for month of August

Sept. 13, 7 pm, Meeting, South Coastal Library, Beth. Bch.

Sept. 24, 9 am Roxanna Toy and Train Show. Roxanna VFD

Looking for a New Home

With no clear understanding of the expected completion date of the Georgetown Train Station, it seems logical we should consider looking for temporary locations where we might set up our existing layout and perhaps offer limited public access for the coming months. I would like to form a committee to make inquiries with local businesses to see if any accommodation can be made for us at a vacant building or retail suite in a strip mall or similar location. Our requirements are minimal, provided we can get the location rent free, and be responsible only for insurance and utilities. We will naturally provide the property manager or owner adequate documentation regarding the donation of the rent based on our 501(c)3 status, so they can claim a charitable contribution. One of the places we have already checked on includes the old school building adjacent to Best Ace Hardware at 5 Points in Lewes. We can also explore putting up a display over Christmas in the Georgetown Library, and maybe set up our school field trips while there. Another place I thought about was the Rehoboth Mall, which has a lot of closed and available store suites. I will likely contact that property manager soon. I would welcome others who would like to join me on this committee to search for a temporary or permanent location, maybe one that is closer to our larger active members population in the Bethany/Ocean View area. The important thing is climate controlled storage space and comfort for members and visitors as well. If you would like to get involved, or have a contact for us in this regard, please let me know at 302-945-1627. We do need to be active now to look for some accommodation to continue the mission of our club

We were are pleased to accept a nice donation of HO trains and lumber from Fran Corbin, and Bob Hodges went over to Fran's to pick up those items.

These donations are going a long way toward helping us rebuild several layout lost in the fire. S gaugers will soon be assembling new modules for the layout based on the National S Gauge Standards.