



Greetings 2026!

A VIEW FROM THE CAB

I love to look back at this time of year to gather up all the ups and even some of the downs for our organization over the past 12 months. But first, I need to give thanks.

I am thankful for the family that supports my efforts in trying to guide this club.

I am thankful for a Board of Directors who are committed to the success of this organization and the hard work they do every month to make it happen.

I am thankful to so many members who continue to bring fresh ideas and show up for meetings and to help at special events.

And, I am very thankful to the group of leaders who continue to step up and execute to make things happen. Terry Wildermuth, John Harrigan, Richard Lyons, Samantha Bianca, Steve Cawunder, Skip Lee, Craig Stephens, John Raleigh, and Earl Michael. Whether it is coming up with an idea and then taking on the point position to make the event happen or being at the club virtually every day we are open year after year, all these folks have made outstanding contributions.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Doc Dougherty in this group as well. On top of being our “Fireman” and my Vice President, he took on building layouts, fabricating shelving and benchwork at the club, moving the layouts in 2021 from Dagsboro to Selbyville, and then this year, arranging for the transfer of thousands of dollars of donated merchandise to our facility from Dover, DE. Does anyone think we could have moved this club with the success we did without a ‘Doc’? His countless hours at the club are a true testament to his level of dedication.

So, from my position, I can say that for every one of our events, from our Spring Show, through two Yard Sales, to the Fall Show, the Eastern Shore Train Show in Ocean City, the Georgetown Library, and Winterfest, and all of the library displays in lower Sussex County, we will look back on 2025 and say we had a very good year.

I am canvassing the membership with a little challenge for 2026. The idea stems from several involved members who are helping me ‘Read the Tea Leaves,’ so to speak. One suggestion is to create Members Only nights at our Club House. Or a separate night once or twice a month or maybe closing to the public on two Wednesdays per month. These would include offering a pizza night or such each month, but otherwise just a chance to talk, run trains, or hold small classes on topics related to our hobby.

John Hodges

**Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy,
and Prosperous New Year!**

Georgetown, Delaware Public Library Holiday Display

2025 marked the 14th Annual Holiday Model Train Display at the Georgetown Library. This event is jointly sponsored by the Georgetown Library and is our foremost community service outreach project. Our four operating displays plus the Brio set and coloring tables occupied the entire 1,800 ft² of Meeting Rooms A & B. The displays opened to the public on November 29th and continued on consecutive Saturdays before concluding December 20th. In addition, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays during the Holiday Season, the displays were operated for prearranged groups of school children and senior citizen organizations. Again, this year hundreds of Kindergarten and First Grade students from the nearby Georgetown Elementary School bundled up in their winter clothes and marched over to the library to see the trains. And this year, three Easter Seal Society groups, three Cheer groups, a Homeschool group, the Sussex Tech afterschool group, Manor House, and Delaware Bay Rehabilitation attended by special appointment.

We continue to update the displays to make them more user friendly and interactive to the young visitors. This year the Polar Express layout was completely rebuilt, and a new remotely controlled engine was purchased for the S-Gauge Sussex County Historical Layout to allow the kids to run the trains themselves. Plans are already underway for more improvements for the 2026 event. Attendance was the highest on record with 472 children and 403 adults for a total of 875. We received very positive feedback from the visitors, supported the Library's Mission, and gained great public exposure for the DSRC. Thanks, and congratulations to Frank Parrino and Craig Stephen, Event Co-Chairs and to Rachel Culver, Georgetown Library Director and Meghan Palazzo, Assistant Director for producing a such a successful event.

Thanks to all 2025 Georgetown Library Volunteers who helped to set up, operate trains, and dismantle the exhibits: Michael Bonczewski, Steve Callanen, John Harrigan, Charles Heck, John Hodges, Ted Ibex, Mike Karas, Chris Karr, Phil Longo, Robert Mericsko, Earl Michael, Bill Mixon, Frank Parrino, John Pieplow, Craig Stephen, Bill Ziegler, Bob Zappaterrini, Dan Forsyth, Harry Witmer, Ray Henberger, and Dave Lawrence. I hope that I have included everyone. You made it all happen.



Upcoming Events of the Delaware Seaside Railroad Club

- January Members Meeting Canceled
 - February 11th Next Members Meeting: 6:00 p.m. In the Clubhouse
 - February 28th Seaford, DE Volunteer Fire Dept. Train Show
 - Trailer Loading Wednesday February 25th
 - Display Setup at Seaford, February 27th
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Georgetown Public Library 2025 Picture Portfolio

*Record Attendance of 875 Children and Adults Enjoyed Thomas the Tank Engine, The Polar Express, Sussex County Historical Landmarks, Brio, and Our Flagship Interactive O-Gauge Layouts in Continuous Action!
Fun for All Made Possible by 21 DSRC Volunteers.*

