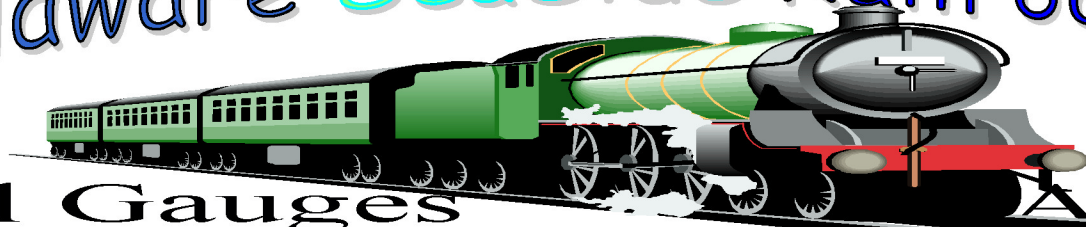


# Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club



All Gauges

All Fun

Newsletter Issue # 70

John Hodges, editor/writer

P.O. Box 479, Ocean View, DE 19970 Phone 302-682-4652

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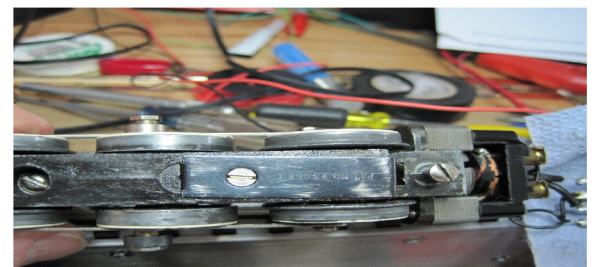
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## North Georgetown School Finishes Layout

This year was an added challenge in many ways. The winter weather school closings and special testing schedules meant 4 weeks in which the after school program was canceled. The students from North Georgetown Elementary, with support from Principal Belinda Waples, were also challenged by the club mentors to create a Wild West Theme for their layout. Centered around an American Flyer #21088 Franklin steam locomotive and matching Frontiersman passenger cars, the group crafted town buildings, a large canyon, an Indian village and a fortified US Army outpost, complete with soldiers, wagons and dusty horses. Their efforts on applying western terrain effects blended very well with the theme. The layout is now in the school, but will be showcased at the June 19th Trains at the Beach show at Rehoboth's Convention Center. All students involved in the program will receive free admission for themselves and one parent to come and visit the layout at the show. Great job to all involved in our 5th annual school project.



Our club volunteers gather for a photo with this year's class of 4th and 5th graders. In back row from left are: Dave Lawrence, Bill Mixon, Lynne Hooker, Bill Ziegler & Fran Corbin.



### Where Has All My Power Gone?

Have you noticed a decrease in performance in your Lionel or Flyer Post-War locomotive? Ever wondered why the train stops sometimes passing through a switch or grade crossing? The answer might be as simple as cleaning the wheels. All toy trains have a pre-disposition to attract a black substance on to their metal wheels and it has something to do with the metal on metal action of wheels against track and the magnetic properties of the motors in the trains. In any case, cleaning the wheels of your trains will help restore power, or at least eliminate that as a possible cause. The picture shown here is of an American Flyer #290, and actually this engine gets its power from the wheels in the tender, and the locomotive wheels are electrically isolated from the frame. But a Lionel engine uses the drive wheels as a return path for the AC voltage picked up by the center rollers in the locomotive. For that reason, pay particular attention to cleaning the center pick-up shoe or roller, and well as the main drive wheels on those Lionel and Marks treasures of yours. I like to start with some denatured alcohol, and for stubborn dirt, I will use a dremel or other high-speed rotary tool with a wire wheel attachment, or maybe just use some #250 grit wet/dry sandpaper. --->



## Club News

Our May 11 meeting was attended by a total of 23 members. John Hodges reported on the health issues of member and friend Jay Bestpitch. As an update, Jay is at home now and feeling much better, but is under doctor's orders to limit his activities. Bill Ziegler reported on two recent articles about trains in the April and May issues of Delaware Beach Life magazine. Bill Mixon reported our current checking balance at \$3,834.71, and that our membership now stands at 69. Dave Lawrence requested anyone who would wish to receive newsletters by E-mail to get in touch with him, and to keep him apprised of any E-mail address changes you might make. He hopes to show a collection of pictures from club projects at a meeting in the future. Many club pictures will also be posted on the new web site: ([www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com](http://www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com)).

Lee Horn is well into the process for posting ads for the June Show in many local papers. So far, we have spent \$698 of our \$1000 advertising budget. Lee is also interested in getting articles by the Coastal Point and The Wave papers. We will be sending them details and pictures to use as background for such an article. As seen on page one, the school program has reached its conclusion despite many cancellations for weather.

The HO committee is planning to have their new corner modules completed in time for the show on June 19.

We went over the intended schedule for the show, with a setup day of Friday, June 18th, meeting at the Convention Center at 1 pm, unless you are helping with layout pickups in Georgetown, at Doug Hornberger's, or at Jean Layton's. Many people signed up for helping at the show and at the refreshments stand also, but we need others to help and we ask anyone available to call John Hodges at 302-945-1627 or 302-682-4652. Table sales have gone quite well and we are about 90% sold as of this writing.

The club announced that they intend to offer a follow-up class this fall at the Southern Delaware Academy of Lifelong Learning (SDALL). This offering will be 10 classes of 1-1/2 hours each, and we will have many new topics as well as a reprise of a few topics from our spring class.

In response to a question from a member, the Millsboro Hobby Shop plans to reopen after their building is rebuilt. We adjourned at 8:02 for presentations by several members.

## Calendar of Events

June 4&5, S-Helper Service Annual Picnic in Cliffwood, NJ

June 8, 7 pm, Meeting, South Coastal Library, Bethany Beach

June 18, 10:30 am Pick up School Layout at N. Georgetown ES.

June 18, 1:00 pm, Setup layouts at RB Conv. Center, All Hands

June 19, 7 am, DSRC Host Train Show at RB Conv. Center.

July 13, Annual Club Picnic, 6 pm, @ home of Bob & Kathy Hodges

## 12 Trains of Christmas

It's that time again to start selling the TWELVE TRAINS OF CHRISTMAS raffle tickets. This year, we are not pressuring any member to sell tickets. We increased the dues to make up for the shortfall of money usually raised by the sale of the raffle tickets. However, we still need to sell 690 tickets to make our budgeted amount. of \$3,450.00.

We have two new Chairpersons to head the raffle this year: Fran Corbin ( 226-1794) and Lynne Hooker (945-6551). They will be at the meeting in June to hand out tickets.

We plan to sell 190 tickets at our train show and the Hartly train Show. We will still need members to sell the other 500 tickets. If you sold tickets last year, we will send you the same amount again this year.

IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE TICKETS, let us know by e-mail : [francorbin@comcast.net](mailto:francorbin@comcast.net) or [l.hooker@mchsi.com](mailto:l.hooker@mchsi.com) or phone . If you did not sell tickets last year, we will not send you any tickets to sell.

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On those S gauge Flyer locomotives, take a cleaning rag and possibly your dremel tool to those tender trucks. You will notice the rear truck has metal wheels on one side and plastic wheels on the other. The front truck will have metal wheels on the opposite side. The metal wheels will of course conduct electricity from the track rail on that side only. The trick is to make sure those wheels are nice and clean, and also inspect the copper strip that rests under each axle. If that spring loaded copper strip is not touching the axle, you will have poor performance, or the train may not run at all.

Passenger cars and action cars, cabooses equipped with lights, all need to pass electricity through their wheels at some point. So check these also and clean in the same method. If you see dirt build up on the plastic wheels of your locomotives or other rolling stock, be careful when cleaning these wheels. The denatured alcohol will still help loosen the caked on dirt, but I sometimes find a small, flat-blade screw driver is needed to 'peel' the dirt off. Don't try to use a dremel tool on plastic wheels, as you have a very good chance of burning the plastic wheel and ruining it forever.

While working on cleaning your train's wheels, why not use the opportunity to apply a small drop of lubricating oil onto the axle bearing on the ends of each axle. Use an oil approved for plastic models. I don't use 3 in 1 because the can does not state that it is safe for plastics, and it is far too easy to accidentally drop a small amount of oil onto a car's body. Most hobby shops will carry the correct oil in easy to use tubes. Have fun!