

Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club

All Gauges

All Fun

Newsletter Issue # 74

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Seasonal change means more time for Trains!

With a long hot summer behind us (wasn't it about 96 Degree yesterday?), our club will shift its focus to the schedule of activities leading up to Christmas displays in Georgetown. While a few of us are teaching once a week in Lewes, the HO team will begin constructing the base bench work for the HO layout in Georgetown. Once that framework is in place, we will place our traditional Winter Village display using the nice Dept. 56 buildings the club owns, on the top of the HO bench work for the holiday season. We have an opportunity to conduct additional field trips in October, and the date for that is still unknown. We will also be taking the O gauge layout to the Hartly show on Nov. 20th, and bringing it back to Georgetown in time for the First Open House on December 4th. I will consider canceling the Nov. 20th Open House in Georgetown, considering the fact the O Gauge layout will not be there. We will be Open in Georgetown for three Saturdays, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18. We expect the HGA and Chamber of Commerce will once again have a "Railroad Christmas" day set aside on one of those Saturdays.

In January, we have been invited to move our S gauge layout to the new Georgetown Library, to help them celebrate Railroad History month there, with a special traveling exhibit from the Delaware Archives. All in all, a very busy time ahead.



Above Top: Howard Gregory and Miles Potter are populating the trackside village on the HO modular layout. The HO team did a great job with recent changes to the layout, and this was a big hit at our train show in June. George Tavenner (above) is smiling like he knows what he's doing as Jim Legates, Dave Lawrence and Lee Horn (I think?) are assembling the O gauge modules in Rehoboth Beach's Convention Center. At Left: I think Bob Hodges is happy to have a seat, especially next to the N gauge layout he finished for the club. This unit was bought by the club at auction over 18 months ago, and Bob volunteered to finish the track work and decorate the layout with plenty of buildings, trees and scenic detailing. Bob's wife Kathy was the scenery queen we hear, adding her own personal touches to the project.

In Memoria

This month's newsletter, and its mailing, is sponsored by Walter Heinlein and Unicorn Construction, in remembrance of Don Murphy, long standing member and friend.

Dear Friends and Members

I hope you will allow me a small space in this month's newsletter to speak about one of our charter members, Don Murphy, who passed away on September 22nd.

Don Murphy had membership number 12 in our club, and this early involvement only begins to shed light on Don's love of trains. Don hardly ever missed a meeting, and was the key figure in the creation of our current O gauge modular layout. He investigated the standards for the modules, built the new tables, crafted the switch configurations for the wiring of the switches and track, and formed the track into flawless, gentle curves and precise straightaway. He was a perfectionist when it came to nearly anything he crafted, and it was a real pleasure to have assisted him, albeit briefly, when Bill Ziegler was helping to create an 8 foot long passenger terminal on Don and Bobbie's home train layout.

I'd like to copy here a brief piece of what his family wrote about their 'Paw':

"Aside from his family, Paw loved trains. He was also a Scout Leader, a train lover, a coach, a train aficionado, an electrician, a train connoisseur, a craftsman, a train expert, an eagle collector, and a train collector. He loved square dancing, trains, blue grass, trains, red suspenders, trains, chewing tobacco, trains, baseball caps, trains, York peppermint patties, trains, Roxanna chicken dinners, and trains."

I am sure there are many of us who will share their own fond stories of times they had with Don. I will remember him every time I am near our O gauge layout. Thanks Don..... John Hodges

Calendar of Events

Oct. 2nd Open House, Georgetown Train Station 10 am to 2pm
Oct. 12th Meeting, South Coastal Library, B. Beach, 7 pm
Oct. 14-16 York TCA Train Meet. Car pools on 14th and 15th.
Oct. 16th Open House, Georgetown Train Station 10 am to 2pm
Oct. ?? Date to be announced School Field Trips to Station
Nov. 9, Note: Location Change for Meeting. 7pm

Location=Bill & Diana Zieglers Home. 849 Glen Court
Bethany Glen , Bethany Beach, 537-0964

S-Scale Railroading

By Bill Mixon

While doing research for the class in Lewes, I found the following information about the "scale" names:

STANDARD SCALE - Basically the same size as #1 scale, but Lionel announced in their catalogs, that their trains were the "standard of the world".

In America, the scale became known as 'standard'.

"O" SCALE - At the time this scale was introduced, the common scales were #3,#2, and #1. Since this was a smaller scale, the designation of "0" (zero) was used. It has since become known as "O" (oh).

"S" SCALE - When A.C.Gilbert bought American Flyer, the trains were O-scale. After WWII, Gilbert decided to manufacture trains that were true to scale. He then called his trains S-scale.

"HO" SCALE - HO means "half O". They are roughly half the size of O-scale.

"N" SCALE - N-scale trains were first introduced by the Arnold Company of Nuremberg, Germany. The scale became known as N (for Nuremberg) scale.

"Z" SCALE - Introduced by Marklin in 1972. The name "Z" was chosen because it was thought that there would not be a commercial scale smaller than Z, the last character in the English and German alphabets.

Note: John Hodges located something on the internet about S gauge. It appears the very first 3/16" to the foot scale model ever built (1/64 scale) was a card stock model built by an English youngster of 14 years of age in 1896. After WW 1, Charles Wynne created 3/16" scale models of 2-4-0 and 0-6-4 English locomotives. His first working model was built in 1919. In 1943, a Model Railroad Convention naming committee named 'S' for 1/64 scale trains because of the repetition of the letter 's' in the terms 'three-sixteenths' and 'one -sixtyfourth'.