

Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club

All Gauges

All Fun

Newsletter Issue # 76

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A Favorite Time of Year for Trains and Memories

Not surprisingly, this season always reminds me of favorite activities of my family when I was a youngster. Everyone has memories of their Christmas's past and our current club activities will remind me once again of many happy Christmas days playing with a new game or even a new train or accessory. In fact, with a new grandson in our family, a chance to revisit those same memories will present itself. I sure hope he likes the trains he is bound to be getting.

What other favorite toys do you remember getting for Christmas? I can remember getting a new football once, and also a BB gun. Those were as easy to remember as the trains. My family had a Marx train under the tree that I remember being fascinated with until it broke and no one spoke about putting it under the tree one year. I was eight, and was really surprised to find an American Flyer set under the tree when we awoke on that 1954 Christmas. I don't know how I knew it was mine, probably had a label on the engine or something. Over time, more items for the train were wished for and some were found as birthday or Christmas gifts. A favored Aunt and Uncle were willing participants in this giving.

So although much is written about this time of year and we always relate the season to getting together with family and enjoying their company, give in to those thoughts of a Christmas past that holds special meaning for you, and share that with someone.



Above, as chairman of the group conducting our second class on toy trains and model railroading, Dave Lawrence also had a few classes to teach. Dave provided very thorough coverage of his topics with plenty of items for the class participants to examine. Below left: Bill Ziegler provides narrative for visitors on Return Day in Georgetown. Crowds for this event were much reduced from previous experience due to problems with access to the town center. Below right: This picture from the February Seaford Train Show reminds us that this show will be coming around before we know it. Hopefully the weather will smile on us again.



Club News

A group of 22 members attended the meeting of November 9th at the home of Bill and Diana Ziegler. John Hodges reported that he had submitted a grant request to the Georgetown/Millsboro Rotary Club for assistance with the next after school enrichment program. Bill Mixon reports a sum of \$3,073.97 in the checking account after transferring funds from the money market. The club still has about \$4,000 in the money market account. The Georgetown Library hopes to have their water damage repaired in time for our display in January. Guide books with maps for the Christmas Train Tour have been printed and are available at SeaSide Hobbies and at the Train Station in Georgetown. The bus trip to Baltimore's Railroad Museum has been cancelled, but interested members will car pool up on Dec. 3rd instead. The dates for Open Houses in Georgetown were discussed, and Hartly Show volunteers were again briefed on plans for that show. The December 14th meeting will actually be a Christmas Party at the home of Bill and Diana Ziegler, 849 Glen Court, Bethany Beach Delaware. Bill's number is 537-0964 and Diana would like to know if you are coming and what desert or appropriate side dish you can bring to share. Thanks to the Zieglers for opening their home to us. The club is placing a small layout at Seaford's Museum for the rest of the year. Inventory of club assets continues.

Under New Business, we discussed the field trips for the local elementary schools. Since the Georgetown Elementary School had no funds for the bus, meaning they would need to cancel, we decided to pay the \$30 for the bus and they are back on schedule for December 7th. We will have a 2 hour open house special for the first graders of North Georgetown on Thursday morning Dec. 9th, and we will have all of the 2nd graders on Tuesday, Dec. 14th from 8:30 until 3:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help usher the children on those dates. We had a request from Kathy Hudson to co-host a Basket Bingo night as a fund raiser. This item was tabled until January meeting. We will send the O gauge display to Dover for the State Archives Railroad History exhibit in Early January. Dates are Jan. 4th through 7th. Election of officers will take place at the January meeting. Please call Miles at 302-854-0279 if you would like to serve on the board.

Calendar of Events

Dec. 3, Car pool trip to Baltimore Railroad Museum
Dec. 4, Open House, Georgetown Station, 10 am - 2 pm
Dec. 7, School Field Trip, Train Station 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Dec. 9, School Field Trip, Morning only 9 am - 11 am
Dec. 11, Railroad Christmas, Georgetown Station 10 am
Dec. 14, School Field Trip, Train Station 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
Dec. 14, Christmas Party, Ziegler's Home, 6 pm
Dec. 18, Open House, Train Station, 10 am - 2 pm

Membership Renewals begin in January

With this mailing you should find a renewal form for your use next year. Dues are \$25 due in January. Please indicate any change in your address or E-mail information, as many of our members E-mails are no longer working. If you would like to receive your Newsletter by E-mail, please indicate on the form.

Raffle nears Close

If you have not already done so, please send in the money for any outstanding raffle tickets. The closing date for the raffle is November 30th. We cannot honor any ticket that has not been paid for.

With the close of this raffle, and the lack of sales of the tickets to our normal standard, we will be looking closely at what direction we need to go in for future fund raising. We have heard comments about the raffle trains not being things that our members can use. However, the members are not the ones that are buying most of the tickets, it is the general public we are trying to cater to in offering mostly O gauge starter sets. We can look into the suggestion of including a premium engine or set of cars in maybe two gauges (maybe O and HO) to provide added incentive for model railroaders and remove a couple of the cheaper sets from the raffle.

Any additional feedback will be welcome as we expect to discuss this over the next couple of months, and set our plans in place for 2011.

I hope everyone enjoys a safe, healthy and Happy Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year.

John Hodges, Engineer