



A View from the Cab

Greetings for 2023 Happy New Year!

We are sending out this Engineer's Report from Sunny (though a bit chilly) Naples, Florida.

As discussed at our December 14th meeting, the year-end financials will reflect what a great effort our entire membership put forth to help us meet our expenses for 2022. And we recognized the outstanding work done by the new Fundraising Committee, and especially the leadership of Bill Mixon. As a result, we have cut in half the deficit I was sure we would see in our first entire year at the Selbyville location. That, combined with other plans in the works for 2023 and beyond, are strong indicators that we will be able to stay open to the public free of charge.

Once again the club partnered with the Georgetown Library to present Christmas In Georgetown train displays this year, including four Saturday Open House dates and also four special week-day events for other groups including many classes of young children, this event has become a signature mark for our club, and one which we hope to continue for many years to come.

We voted to adopt an expansion to our sponsorship program, making it possible for businesses and/or individuals to sponsor individual special events, like the Georgetown Library Christmas Display event, a train show, or even sponsor a particular layout display at the club. Details on the donation levels for these sponsoring programs will be included in a revised edition of our Sponsorship Flyer to be released in the new year.

We also voted to re-elect our incumbent officers for a new two-year term; John Hodges (Engineer), Frank Parrino (Conductor), and Bob Schadewald (Ticket Master), are all staying on. I think I speak for Frank and Bob in thanking all the members for their support through the year 2022.

We met some significant challenges over the past 12 months. Unexpected costs related to heating and cooling our building, rewiring and repairing the O gauge Modular layout, and recently repairing damage to the HO display that resulted from a furnace problem which will continue to require many hours of cleaning and repairs to equipment. We are sure the members will continue to pitch-in where needed to complete this project.

With that, and with great expectations for a successful 2023, we, on the board, wish you all a Happy New Year.

John Hodges

A special THANK YOU to all members who sold and purchased raffle tickets. After expenses^,we made a profit of \$3,950.

The winners:

December

- 1 - 055 - Vernon Becker - Train set - Millsboro
- 2 - 035 - Anthony Stephani \$100 - Millsboro
- 3 - 399 - Ralph Gellura - \$100 - apply towards membership
- 4 - 571 - Kristin Rivituso - \$100 - West Chester, Pa.
- 5 - 954 - Barbara Terry - \$100 - Annapolis, Md
- 6 - 458 - Lee Horn - \$100 - Sayville, N.Y.
- 7 - 225 - not sold
- 8 - 280 - not sold
- 9 - 022 - Susan Lyons - \$100 - donated back to club
- 10 - 193 - Ed Tudor - \$100 - Bishopville, Md
- 11 - 128 - Gerry Winnington - \$100 - Dagsboro
- 12 - 240 - Robert Bayles - Train Set - Millsboro

*The two train sets were donated by member Bill Lannon

At the December meeting, the board approved the 2023 budget which includes expenses of \$52,513 and income of \$44,414. As you can see, that means we will be \$8098.00 short of meeting our expenses. The Fund-raising Committee has been introducing new ideas in order to meet the deficit. One of the new efforts is the addition of EVENT SPONSOR and PARTNERSHIP to our Sponsor and Patrons Program.

Sponsors and Patrons: We are looking to increase the number of sponsors who contribute larger amounts. The fund-raising committee recommendation was passed by a vote of the membership. This includes the following new levels of sponsorship:

- Parade sponsor, \$250
- Georgetown Library display sponsor, \$500
- School program sponsor, \$500
- Community events sponsor, \$350
- Clubhouse sponsor, \$350
- Partnership, \$5000

Making a Winter Scene



This is a scene from my Pre-war Lionel "O" Gauge layout. (Photo courtesy of Dave Lawrence) Follow my "Dos and Don'ts" to add a Winter scene to your layout.

DO - Add snow. You can build the scene first and then sprinkle snow. This can easily be removed with a vacuum cleaner.

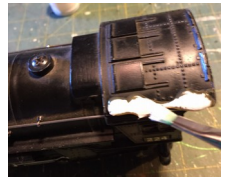


DON'T - Don't use spray snow. While it looks nice, it is very hard to remove from everything.



Note - you don't have to create a blizzard, just enough snow to make it look like Winter

DO - Add snow to your trees and buildings. Trees can be painted with white acrylic paint. If you want to remove the snow from your buildings or trains, try using this trick: apply a bead of hot glue along the roof and windows and paint it white. The glue can be easily removed leaving the buildings without snow. This also applies to train cars.



DON'T - If you are running trains, DO NOT use a Buffalo Snow blanket. At some point in your operation, the "snow" WILL rap itself around your wheels and motors.

DO - If you want to start with a snow blanket, use one made of cotton.

