



DELAWARE SEASIDE RAILROAD CLUB

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ENGINEER'S TWO CENTS



Did you ever notice that we can go straight from 11 days of rain and temperatures hovering around the 50's, to 85 plus degrees and bumper to bumper traffic in less than a week? What has happened to our spring?

Through the course of May's mostly wet weekends, we anticipated big crowds at our Dagsboro open house dates, but the visitor totals remained quite low. However, our teams of model railroaders have been very busy and the results are there to see on your next visit. The G gauge "Empire" has increased it's trackage to a third full loop mainline, and the elevated line is a big additional attraction. The team continues work on wiring up the turnouts for access to the additional sidings also installed.

Our O Gauge team has been equally busy, and ballasting the track is now the focus as most of the wiring for the track power is complete. Tests have been run on both loops, and wiring switches here as well is the next task.

Our regular plan of no meeting for July and August will be repeated this year. We do plan an anniversary opening for the clubhouse in the middle of July. I am happy to report that the objective for sponsorships for 2016 is met, and probably exceeded. We'll plan a special Welcome Party for all our sponsors to take place in July also.

I am still looking for a member to volunteer for the Clubhouse Manager position. In case you missed this in our meeting minutes, we need someone to be the go-to person for issues directly related to the clubhouse facility. With the great team of regular volunteers we have, keeping things tidy and presentable has not really been a problem. However, having someone responsible for checking on supplies, reporting to the board of potential problems, and sitting in on executive board meetings will be the principal duties for this position.

We hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer.



John Hodges

NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....

SPRING FLING TRAIN SHOW -RESULTS::

- Paid attendance - 338
- Gate - \$1,690
- Merchandise sales - \$1,102
- Kitchen - \$318.50
- Raffle - \$210
- Donations - \$118.79
- TOTAL - \$3,439.29
- plus two new members,

Robert Mericsko and David Poore

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THE FUTURE OF OUR HOBBY

This past Spring, as I was wearing down at the York meet, I was looking over the crowd in one of the halls. What I saw was a bunch of "old white men" (including myself of course.) There were a few women, a few African Americans, but, no young men and no children. I'm not even sure I saw anyone of Hispanic descent, who make up about 20% of our population. If we wish to continue this great hobby, some action is surely required.

Joe "Doc" sent me an article about this a few months ago. Here are some excerpts:

"If it's not a hand-held device or something free on the Internet, it's of very little value to them," said Charlie Getz, 67, president of the National Model Railroad Association, which calculates that the average age of its nearly 19,000 members is 64, up from 39 in the mid-1970s.

Toddlers still adore Thomas the Tank Engine, of course. Nostalgic parents still buy train sets to trundle around the Christmas tree. Yet today's younger set generally isn't taking up model railroading as a lifelong mission.

Once thought of as every boy's dream toy, model trains have become a domain mainly for old men. At clubs devoted to the hobby, members below 60 years old are the young bucks.. Sound familiar????

What we are offering in our clubhouse is the most important aspect of our endeavors. We are offering young adults and children the opportunity to see the fun and importance of model railroading as a hobby. Remember our mission:

"...to preserve and promote the history and hobby of model railroading."



DAVE'S PHOTO ALBUM SPRING FLING TRAIN SHOW, 2016



And the winner is ...