

Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club

All Gauges

All Fun

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Visit our web site at www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com

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DSRC Springs into Action at Georgetown Station

Even though the wind has been pretty fierce this winter, and more than a few ice/snow storms have kept schools closed and folks reaching for their snow shovels, the hard working members of your train club have been busy transforming the displays normally seen in Georgetown's Train Station. First, the HO team has begun the building of the bench work for their permanent layout, and they are meeting on a regular schedule each Tuesday (about 11 am start time). Meanwhile, having met on February 8th about the general plan, a team has formed to reinstall the S gauge layout in a new configuration along the east wall. As our newsletter goes into the mail, the bench work for the new O gauge layout is well underway. The anticipated track plan is to build a multi-level display with two main lines on the base level, an elevated second level with one track only, and two smaller train loops with designated themes, such as a coal operation and possibly an inner-urban line. These top level trains might be activated by visitor involvement. Final track plans are currently under review.

When I say that 'teams have been formed', I do not mean that there is not room for more members to help. In fact, the reason we wanted to set two "work days" per week is so more members can get involved. Right now, the schedule is to work most Tuesdays, and the first and third Saturdays each month. The O gauge team will usually start at 10 am on those days, and we will start the Saturday schedule on March 5th. Normally, we will work about 4 hours, with a break for lunch. We have a goal to get both the HO and O gauge railroads running trains by July 1st, when we will once again open to the public on the first and third Saturdays. Light carpentry, track work, electrical wiring, roadbed filling, and basic scenery are the principal jobs ahead. We will build a good sized mountain, and include at least one water feature. There will be plenty of chances to share your skills and ideas during these two great projects, and it may be a while before we build any new layouts, so come on board!



The display at the Seaford Train Show was certainly up to our normal high standards, including the redesigned left bridge with scratch built superstructure by Bill Mixon. With the current modifications the bridge now swings up to allow operators access to the center of the layout without crawling on the floor. Below is a picture of the S gauge layout which was at the Georgetown Public Library for 3 weeks in January.

The Reopening of the facility was highlighted by the History of Railroading Exhibit and our display.



Club News

The February meeting was well attended with approximately 24 members present. The Ticket Master reported income of \$1,849.00 and expenses of \$1,680.61 for a net of \$168.39 income. A review of the insurance coverage resulted in an understanding that we have adequate board and general liability coverage. The Conductor reported 45 paid members at the start of meeting. Bill Mixon (Dispatcher) presented an advertising budget for this year's train show. This budget was moved and approved. The Georgetown Library display event went very well, the layout is to be returned to the station on Feb. 9th. The board reported that, due to lack of after school program funds for this school year, the Train Station After-School workshop would be canceled for 2011. On Tuesday morning, Feb. 8th, a group met at Georgetown to discuss changes to the S layout and a new O layout to better accommodate the space we have available, and to eliminate the need to routinely transfer the O gauge modular display up and down the station stairs. We canvassed the members present to see who would prefer a week day over a weekend work schedule. After seeing the response we have decided for now the weekly scheduled work days to construct the layouts will be Tuesdays at 10 am, and every first and third Saturdays until the trains are running, at which time we will once again open on that same Saturday schedule. Under New Business, we discussed options for alternative fun raisers. Mike Dorothy had done some inquiries with the Roxanna Volunteer Fire Company about using their facility in September for a Toy and Train show. The fire department has 40 tables available included in the \$450 hall rental for the day, and we have a contact that can borrow 20 tables from their church. We will need to borrow or rent an additional 20 to 40 tables to make the event successful. The discussion was very informative and a motion was passed for DSRC to host a second train show on September 24th. Details to follow. We then discussed plans for the setup and operation of the modular O gauge layout at Seaford, and sign-ups were taken for that event. Car pools for the trip to Allentown on Sunday, Feb. 27th were also discussed. Finally, a decision was made to raffle off the extra (3) train sets we have left over when we did our last Twelve Trains raffle, which includes an S gauge set donated back to the club by our members John and Jessie Pieplow.

Calendar of Events

Mar. 1, 10 am Work day at Georgetown (HO at 11:00)
Mar. 5, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
Mar. 8, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
Mar. 8, 7 pm Meeting South Coastal Library.
Mar. 15, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
Mar. 19, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
Mar. 22, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
Mar. 29, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown

DSRC to Host a Second Show in 2011

Due to a popular response to our inquiries on how best to generate additional funds to continue many of our club's ongoing outreach programs, the members have elected to try a different approach to host a show here in Sussex County, Delaware. The Roxanna Fire Company recently completed a new building which includes a large hall and also areas where the fire trucks normally park. They have an equipped kitchen if we want to offer a food concession, and the members felt opening this show to sellers of toys as well as trains would be a big hit and enlarge our base of dealers to rent the tables available. The agreed date is September 24th, there is plenty of free parking on site, and easy loading/unloading access. We will likely be restricted to only one layout due to space limits.

New (lockable) Display case available in Georgetown. Any member who has a significant piece of toy train history and wants to safely display it to the public, we have a nice glass display case, which we can lock, and we plan to rotate various gauges and scales of toy and model trains on a 3 month or 6 month basis. Call 302-682-4652.

Additional Tips and Information

The club web site was expanded a few months ago, and is a great source of information, including a schedule of club activities.

www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com will allow you to see pictures from many club activities and, even some of our member's layouts. Members can also use their "Secret Password" to access the 'Members Only' pages, where the monthly financial report, membership listing and other vital information, can be found. If you do not remember how to access the Members Only Pages, contact John Hodges at 302-682-4652, or Bill Mixon at 537-5557.