

Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club

All Gauges

All Fun

Newsletter Issue # 81

John Hodges, editor/writer

P.O. Box 479, Ocean View, DE 19970 Phone 302-682-4652
Visit our web site at www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com

May, 2011

Club Makes Progress on Several Fronts

While Spring finally makes itself evident and the weather starts to improve, your club is also busy with preparations for the June 18th Train Show in Rehoboth Beach. Many of our advertising listings have already made it into national publications, such as *Classic Toy Trains*, and the plans for local news print ads are also in the works. We will be soon rounding up the volunteers to help with setup activities on Friday afternoon and take down on Saturday afternoon, running trains during the show on several layouts all day Saturday, and helping with selling chances on two train sets. Also, helping in the kitchen with food sales, assisting dealers with their loading and unloading as needed, and selling tickets at the door.

Sign up sheets will be made available at the May 10th meeting, or you can call Bill Ziegler (537-0964) to help with the train layout or dealer setup and take down, or call Jean Hodges (945-1627 or Gladys Mixon (537-5557), for helping with kitchen activities.

Also, those wanting to help solicit local grocery stores for donations of food items or store vouchers, please call Jean or Gladys to coordinate that so we don't go to the same store twice.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, the club layouts in the Georgetown Station are really taking shape. We have a target to be running trains on both O and HO layouts by July 2nd. This does not mean the layouts will be finished at that time, with scenery details and finishing touches to continue until the fall, but we do want to be able to run trains for visitors by that date, when we will be 'officially' back to the first and third Saturdays schedule for opening the displays. Even during this construction phase, we have had numerous visitors come and look at the progress, either while we are working on Tuesdays, on the Saturdays when we open for extra working days, or during the week when the Chamber of Commerce folks have been escorting folks who just drop in to see the trains. We are building a very exciting set of displays that will serve us well in the years ahead.



Recent S and O gauge displays show progress. The new Indian River Bridge in 'S' scale, O track plan complete. Photos by David Lawrence



Club News

The meeting on April 12th was attended by approximately 24 members.

Miles Potter, Secretary, reported that we have 64 members with dues paid to date. He has mailed 25 newsletters, with the remaining going by E-mail.

Membership cards were mailed out but late renewals that he received recently will still need their cards mailed.

The club's new business account at Staples in Rehoboth Beach means that the club will receive business credit for any purchase made by a member. Just show your membership card, and give them the rewards number (32132331800) to have your purchase apply towards the club's rewards. This will help us keep our expenses down as we will receive store credits towards purchasing paper, and other supplies.

The treasurer's report indicates checking balance of \$2,744 and Money Market of \$2,215. Our expenditures for HO and O gauge layout build have pushed our reserve down as expected, until we begin to receive income from the June train show.

Bob Hodges reported that all the track needed for the first level of the O gauge layout is in place, and skirting for that layout is still being sewed by Kathy. The S gauge layout now has new skirts that look great.

The HO committee report by Tom Bradley included mention that the benchwork was nearly complete, and roadbed would be done in the next two weeks. They already have all the track they need for the next phase of the work.

We mentioned plans for Car Pools for the trip to York on April 14th and 15th. We also recapped June show planning and information about the Roxanna show. Sadly, no one was able to take show flyers to the Hartly show this time. We officially started our Open House Saturdays, on the first and third Saturdays of the month as is our custom, on March 5th. Hardly anyone showed up from the public, but a few members were on hand to do a little work on the O gauge layout.

The members were also invited to try their hand at building a new diorama for the O gauge traveling modular layout, or change or otherwise freshen up their existing unit for the June show. Members are being asked to indicate by E-mail to Miles Potter whether or not they agree to have their contact information posted on our 'members only' web pages. (miles19947@comcast.net)

Calendar of Events

- May 3, 10 am Work day at Georgetown
- * May 7, 10 am to 2 pm Open House at Georgetown *
- May 10, 7 pm Meeting South Coastal Library.
- May 17, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
- * May 21, 10 am to 2 pm Open House at Georgetown *
- May 24, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
- May 31, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown
- * June 4, 10 am to 2 pm Open House at Georgetown *
- June 7, 10 am Work Day at Georgetown

Upgrading a Locomotive to Command Control Part 1

Many of our members and readers of this newsletter will know that I have been in the toy train repair business for a couple of years. I get a great deal of satisfaction from making those old trains come back to life after years of storage. Recently, I have also been involved in conversions of old and new locomotives to Lionel's TMCC (c) Command Control system, with the accompanying Railsounds(c). There is a company called The Electric Railroad Co. that makes licensed and compatible circuit boards and sells conversion kits, and I have a business agreement with them. This makes it possible to control the cost of the conversion, and I pass that along to our members. Since I am editor of this Newsletter and club President, I hope no one takes exception to my plan to run a series of articles about my conversions, the process and the advantages and disadvantages of doing conversions on some products. Mostly, I am providing this service because I enjoy the activity, and want to give our members and local residents a service they might otherwise have to mail their train away to achieve. Please watch this space in future months for articles on conversions, and look forward to some laughs as I struggle to sometimes squeeze 10 lbs. of....well, you know.