



DELAWARE SEASIDE RAILROAD CLUB

www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com

ISSUE # 111

NOVEMBER 2013



ENGINEER'S REPORT

P.O. Box 479, Ocean View, DE 19970

November will be a very busy month for the club. Besides members refurbishing two HO layouts, the Thomas the Train Modular Layout is being completed with scenery and is operational.



HO gauge layout being repaired. Thomas the Train Layout in transition.

Maintenance of Way Volunteers Needed

The work begins on November 16 at Hartly at 6:00 A.M. to set up the O gauge modular layout.

Volunteers are needed for setting up all five of the modular layouts at the Georgetown Public Library on Wednesday, November 20th, at 10:00 A.M. We will be using the G, HO, O, S, and Thomas Layouts on the same occasion. The trains on all five layouts will be run from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Saturdays, November 23rd and 30th. The S gauge layout and the G gauge layouts will emphasize the Xmas season while the O gauge modular layout will feature many different model railroading manufacturers at the Georgetown Public Library.

Signup sheets will be available at the club meeting on Tuesday, November 12th.

A Christmas tree decoration contest for a cash prize is being entered at Grotto Pizza Restaurant in Ocean View on Monday, November 25th, 12:00 P.M. We are asking members to loan train related ornaments to the club to place on the tree.

This year we will set up the original O gauge modular layout with the S gauge dioramas depicting scenes around Sussex County at the Seaford Museum on Monday, November 26th, at 9:00 A.M.

Last, but not least, is the set up at Cadbury in Lewes, 17028 Cadbury Circle, Lewes, DE 19958, Phone: 302-645-6400, for the HO gauge layout display on Monday, December 2nd, at 1:30 P.M.

Engineer Volunteers Needed

Run trains at the Georgetown Public Library on Saturday, November 23rd, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Run trains at the Georgetown Public Library on Saturday, November 30th, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Club Meeting

The next club meeting will be at the South Coastal Public Library, 43 Kent Avenue, Bethany Beach, DE 19930, 302-539-5231, on Tuesday, November 12th, 2013 at 7:00 P.M.

The program will consist of the following:

1. Nelson Davison's postlude for the Fall Foliage Trip with the derailed Diesel engine on the Wilmington and Western Railroad on October 12th, 2013.
2. Scenery demonstration by Jessie Pieplow on the Thomas Layout
3. Demonstrate the newly finished Thomas the Train Modular Layout and the running of the Lionel Lion Chief Remote Control Engine Train Sets.

Future Train Events

Camden Train and Toy Show, Camden Wyoming Family Center Moose Lodge, 760 Moose Lodge Road, Camden, DE 19934, on Saturday, November 2nd, 2013 from 9:00 A. M. to 3:00 P.M.

Allentown First Frost Train Show on November 9th and 10th, 2013

TCA Philadelphia Train Meet, Plumbers Union Hall, Philadelphia, November 17th, 8-12:30 P.M.

David Lawrence, Engineer

NOVEMBER 9 - First Frost Train Show, Allentown, PA

NOVEMBER 12 - Club Meeting

NOVEMBER 16 - Hartly Train Show, 6:00am

NOVEMBER 20 - Set-up at Georgetown Library - 10:00am

NOVEMBER 25 - Tree decorating- Grottos, Bethany Beach

NOVEMBER 26 - Seaford Layout set-up, 10:00am

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

...GEORGETOWN LIBRARY - we will be setting up and operating the following layouts in the Georgetown Library: O-gauge modules, S-gauge modules, G-gauge modules, HO-gauge platform, and the new Thomas Kids Layout. Much help is needed to set-up and run trains. Sign up at the club meeting.

...XMAS TREE - our club will be decorating a Xmas tree in the Grottos on Route 26, Bethany. Stop in and vote for our tree, donations are also accepted. Tell your friends about it. We could use some train related ornaments

...TRAIN SHOW UPDATE:

Pd. Admissions -	\$1,400
Donations ----	181
Kitchen -----	497
Train sales ----	572
Vender Fees.....	1,080
Raffle.....	360
Gift Certificates...	<u>185</u>
Total Income.....	\$4,285
Expenses.....	<u>1,472</u>
NET INCOME...	\$2,813

Editor - Bill Mixon



The Great Railroad Adventure of '13

The Great Railroad Adventure of '13 really began four days before the trip: Delaware was hit with a classic Nor'easter. The group coordinator, Bill Mixon, promised a sunny day for the Fall Foliage Train Trip. We left Delaware about 11:45 a.m., with several cars following each other to Newark and the Wilmington and Western Railroad. When we arrived, we had blue skies and sunshine.

Everything looked great for a wonderful ride. The club had sold out the entire Parlor Car. There was a small glitch in that we sold 40 tickets and there were only 34 seats. The Railroad quickly solved that problem by bringing in 6 comfortable folding chairs. There were two tables set up for the snacks. It was a great spread and everyone was enjoying the hor'dourves and drinks. There was even talk of singing the club's theme song.

Soon, the train was rolling. We had an eight car consist being pulled by an Alco steam engine, which was built in 1909. Some of you older members probably remember that. There were two cabooses behind the passenger cars. The entire train was pushed by a RS-2 diesel. The diesel would "pull" us back home. It was a beautiful, leisurely train ride. The scenery and homes along the track were spectacular.

And then, we came to a screeching halt. The first words from the Conductor were "we hit a squirel", which is train talk for "Oh, S__T, we're in trouble." Of course, the passengers didn't know the code. There was a lot of speculation: we hit a log, a sign fell on the tracks, we are being attacked by redskins (not the football team). It was about 15 minutes later that we discovered the real reason for the stoppage: the diesel came off the track. Most of us are model railroaders and know that a solution is to run the front engine as fast as possible, and the rear engine would "jump" back onto the track. They didn't try that, probably because the steam engine couldn't pull more than 3 cars at a time.

It took about 30 minutes for the train crew to decide that the problem wasn't going to solve itself. They asked all passengers to crowd into the front three cars, the rest of the consist was uncoupled, and the steam engine slowly pulled the train into Hockessin, a small town in Northern Delaware. That was their entire plan. There were no provisions made to transport all of us back to the train station. The front two cars were populated by groups who came to the station on a tour bus. Those busses were called and were on their way to pick up their customers. I asked the Conductor about getting busses for the rest of us. He said he would try, but it is Saturday afternoon, and when this happened before, it took over two hours to get busses here.

Mike Boteler walked across the street to the Hockessin Fire Dept to get some information. One of the fireman called for a van to take some drivers back to the train station where we could pick up our cars and then come back for everyone else. At the same time, John Martin called for a taxi, but was not reassured that a taxi would even find us. Four drivers returned to the stranded passengers and drove them back to the train station. As we were preparing to make a second run, we were informed that two buses were on their way to pick up everyone else.

When everyone was back, we proceeded to the restaurant, Hunter's Den for dinner. While we were waiting for our food, a woman came into our room and asked if this was the group on the train ride. It turns out that she and her husband were also on the train, and he was performing that night in the restaurant. She went and got him, and he brought his saxophone and played several songs for us. Dinner was wonderful and we all left the restaurant in a good mood after The Great Railroad Adventure of '13. The good news is: we can all do this again. The Wilmington and Western Railroad is giving all of us a free pass for a future adventure.

