



DELAWARE SEASIDE RAILROAD CLUB

www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com
dsrc@delawareseasiderailroadclub.com

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Editor - Bill Mixon

302-945-1627

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ENGINEER'S TWO CENTS



When one of our Semi-annual Train Shows comes around, I always get a bit of an uneasy feeling, with both hopes of success and fears of poor results occupying much of my thinking. It's not about the money, but about whether or not it is worth all the trouble if only a small number come in to see the show. In fact, if the rental of the facility and the advertising was all free, we could let everyone in for nothing!

This past weekend we hit a great mark for the second time in a row, with a paid attendance of 420. This show likely ranks among the top 5 shows we've done in our 14 years of doing this, and it is very rewarding for all those concerned to see that it was well supported. For our locale here in southern Delaware, that is a great showing. For hosting the show in Roxana, away from the beach, that is a great showing. And because of some positive comments expressed by attendees leaving the building, we feel secure in the fact that we are providing a fine service to the public and the train-loving community.

Permit me to recognize Bill Ziegler for his outstanding management of the show, from handling dealers' table rental and space assignments, to team organization and interfacing with the Roxana Volunteer Fire Department, and also arranging advertising which is done months in advance of the event. Also, Frank Mack has once again managed the food concession in what always appears effortless, although I know that is far from the truth. Doc Dougherty did a great job once again with our merchandise sales, and his craft in preparing the donated 'N- gauge layout for sale netted another nice donation for the club. There are another dozen or so members who deserve our thanks, but my space is limited, and we all know who they are.

The O gauge layout was once again a big hit, and the newly completed 'Trains Across America' Theme was very well received. For those who have not yet seen it, hopefully you'll be able to catch it in Georgetown this Holiday Season when we display it at the Library there. We had once again just a handful of members who built scenes for the display, but we would love to have more members involved in this, so check with Bill Ziegler. I must applaud Bill Mixon for his ideas in the new theme, and Dave Lawrence for the loan of so many accessories.

Finally, we recently inducted four "Junior Members" into the club: Austin, Eric, Noah and Jaxon. They are very frequent visitors to our clubhouse, and Jaxon and Noah especially know how to run every layout without supervision. We are also soon to induct a young man into a Sponsored Member program, with the membership paid for by a special donation for one year, and the candidate was nominated by the staff of the Indian River High School. We are all very excited to launch this program, and hope we can continue it in the future.

John Hodges



....The Delaware Seaside Railroad Club will hold the annual Holiday Party on December 15 at the Salt Pond Clubhouse. Details to follow.

....Our annual Christmas Raffle sales got underway with a great start. We sold 90 tickets at the train show. Those members who haven't picked up their tickets will get them in the mail this week.

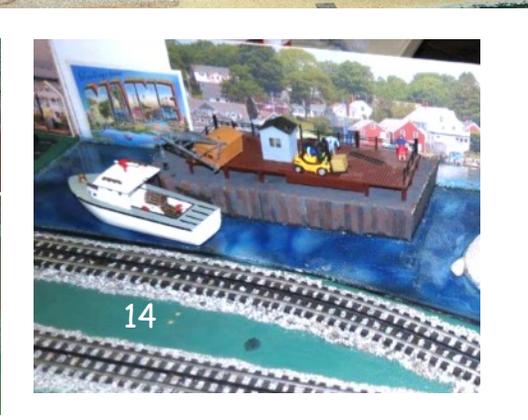
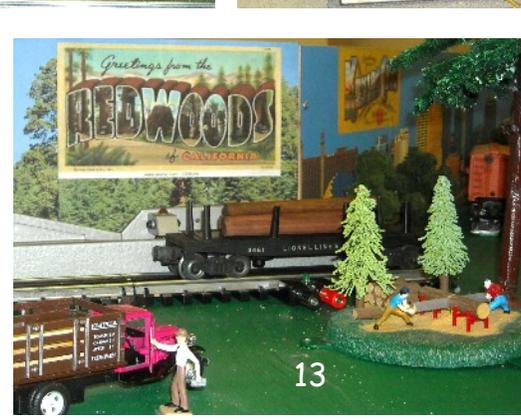
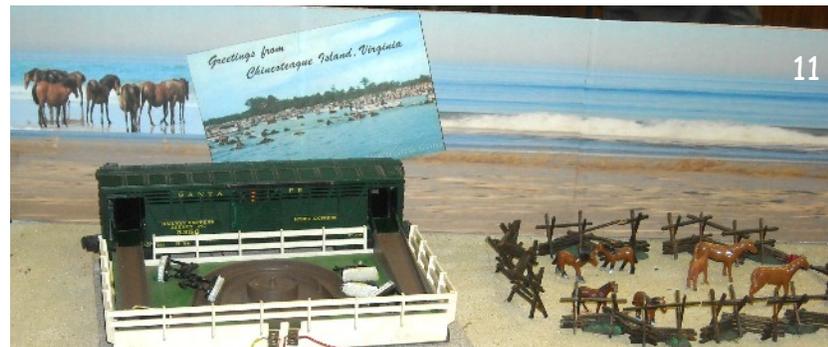
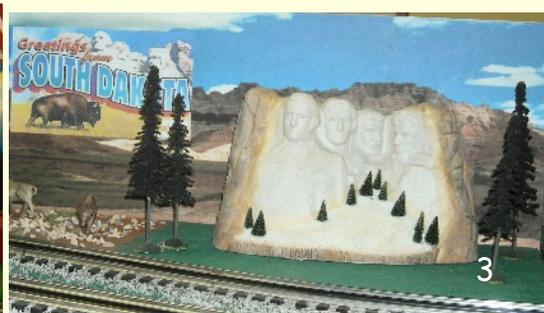
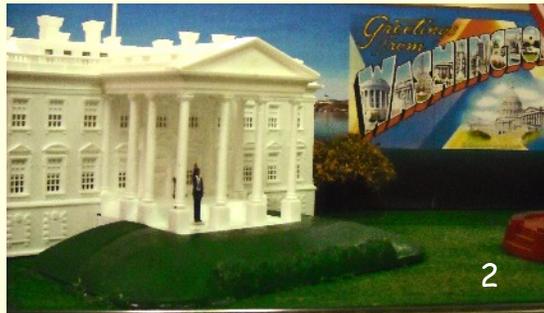
....Congratulations to the winner of the door prize - Bob Albert of Coal Township, Pa.



DAVE'S PHOTO ALBUM



O-Gauge Committee New Dioramas: RAILS ACROSS AMERICA



Can you guess who made which dioramas...John Hodges (2), Bill Ziegler (2), David Lawrence (3), Jim LeGates (2), or Bill Mixon (5). I will give a prize for the first three who email the correct answer to bmix425@aol.com Diorama builders are not eligible.