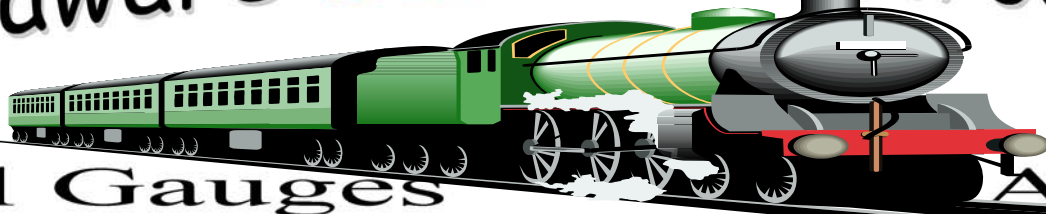


# Delaware SeaSide Railroad Club



All Gauges

All Fun

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Visit our web site at

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## SeaSide Railroad Club Plans September Train Show

With the summer winding down, we begin looking forward to many road trips in October and November to visit train shows in Pennsylvania, but our club will first host its second train show of the year. On September 24th, we'll all be at Roxanna Fire Department for what we hope will become a regular event in our annual fund raising efforts. The coming club meeting on September 13th will help to finalize the volunteer list and assignments of duties.

This show will be a "Toy and Train Show", meaning we will not restrict the vendors to offering only trains for sale. We expect to see lots of trucks and other toy and scale vehicles, as well as other kinds of toys and from the vendors list I have seen, we will have a nice variety of things to see and purchase. I personally look forward to the show and hope we can assemble adequate volunteers for this event. If you cannot make the meeting on September 13th, but want to help at the show, please call Bill Ziegler at 302-537-0964 or Bill & Gladys Mixon at 537-5557. We will likely need helpers for setting up the O gauge layout, and that activity might occur on Friday afternoon if we are allowed to get in early. We may also have a need for tables to be borrowed for use as vendors tables or places for folks to sit and have a snack from our refreshment stand. Bill Ziegler is also coordinating the tables and will be happy to take any referral for tables that are available.

As you might be able to tell from the pictures included to the right, taken during our June train show in Rehoboth Beach, our volunteer team has a lot of fun at the shows we host. Since Roxanna is a new location choice for us, we are expecting a nice turnout for this event. In the middle picture, your editor is showing some visitors several examples of trains that survived the fire in Georgetown. The Dorfan trains from the picture on the right are referred to in the article on page two.





## Calendar of Events

Sept. 6, 7 pm Executive Board Meeting.

Sept. 13, 7 pm, Meeting, South Coastal Library, Beth. Bch.

Sept. 23, Potential setup date for Roxanna. un-confirmed.

Sept. 24, 9 am Roxanna Toy and Train Show. Roxanna VFD

## Club News

We are in the time of year when we host guests visiting here to enjoy our local beaches, and in some cases such as mine, we are traveling around the country doing our various volunteer activities. Therefore, as has been recent custom for our club, we did not have a meeting in August. We are making preparations for the Roxanna Show on September 24th, and our committee of fund raisers is also planning the Basket Bingo in Millsboro fire department for Tuesday, October 18th. These two events will require the help of as many members as possible, and we look forward to these activities to help up raise much needed funds to support our rebuilding efforts for the coming months.

The S gauge team of John Hodges, Bill Mixon and Tom Koerner have constructed 10 new modular tables for a replacement S gauge modular layout. They will be deciding soon on the track style and ballasting application to apply when that effort begins, and Bill and John hope to start building new scenes for the layout over the coming winter months.

We are looking to have HO and O gauge folks gather to decide their budget requirements for rebuilding the HO modular layout, and also which are the most urgent needs for equipment replacement, prioritized for the first items needed to the least needed items.

Due to several board members not being available for the September 13 meeting, the board will meet on Sept. 6th for an Executive meeting to discuss a couple of key items and present an agenda for September 13th. The main issues being covered at the September 13th meeting will be the Roxanna Show and the Basket Bingo. Currently 54 of the 64 available tables have been sold, and this is very promising for our first effort at the Roxanna location.

We have heard very little about the ongoing progress for the Train Station rebuild. From rumors and the obvious lack of physical progress on the building, it appears everything seems to be on hold for reconstruction at the present time. Although I will miss the September 13 meeting, I hope to see everyone at the Show on September 24th at Roxanna fire hall.

## Dorfan

This Article was paraphrased from an article by Case Kowal which appeared in the June 1953 issue of Toy Trains.

In 1924, Julius and Milton Forceheimer began to stir up the peaceful toy train world with their take-apart or 'LocoBuilder' sets built in their Dorfan factory in Newark, New Jersey.

These Dorfan engines were as different from conventional toy locomotives as could be imagined. There was no separate motor unit or even an under frame. The engine depended upon the two large accurate-fitting die-cast halves of the body to serve as receptacles for the motor field mount and as bearings for the wheels, gears and armature. Everything was held together by two pins which were the die-cast headlights with steel rod extensions on both ends of the body. Any school boy could take apart the engine in less than a minute as there were no solder joints or loose wires.

One of the greatest problems in the long chain of Dorfan products was the brittle, weak die-cast metal which was then being used, a mixture of zinc and copper.

The Dorfan engines boasted such refinements as high gear ratios, die-cast sides and ball bearing wheels. These engines were loaded with traction power. They could climb a 24% grade with a load of cars. During the Christmas season, their display consisted of a spiral track layout which always attracted a crowd.

Both ends of the cab of a Dorfan engine were V shaped. The body sides had heavy bold rivet detail, air tanks, window and doors, cowcatcher, pilot, and steps, all in one casting. The engines were usually finished in black, green or red colors. While other manufacturers were using rubber stamped lettering or brass nameplates, Dorfan was the first to use decals.

The wheels of the cars were somewhat large, but, except for the oversized handrails and door handles, the number 700 series cars were well scaled and harmonized with the number 3930 engine.