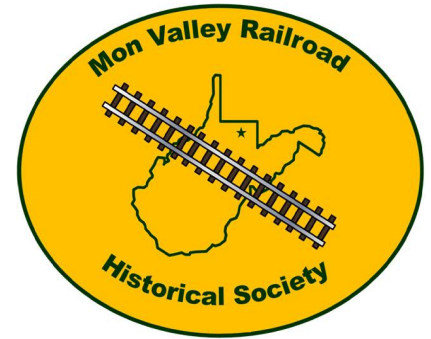


TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

June, 2021



EDITORS NOTE

WOW! June already, Summer is just around the corner and almost half the year is gone. We have made progress at the new Society location at the Mall. Shelves are up and some supplies have been put away. The display cases have been filled with Railroad items and visitors seem to be enjoying seeing these pieces of railroad history.

Now we move on to bigger and Greater things. Keith and the other members of the HO planning committee are hard at work figuring out a workable track plan. Likewise, I have been working on a plan for the "O" gauge layout and President, Lou Lemelle has sketched out a plan for the possible N scale layout.

If you have not been over to our new location, PLEASE stop by soon. Enthusiasm is High and we need your help to make it all come Together! Remember, wear your mask and Stay Safe. Hope to see all your smiling faces soon.

Happy Training,

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the May 6, 2021 Business Meeting

The May 6th 2021 meeting was called to order by President Lou Lemelle at 1900 (7pm) with 4 officers and 8 members present. Donna Allen and her grandson Henry sat in as visitors. After a 20 minute pause, the meeting resumed with Vice President Ken Colvin presiding. A motion was made by Frank and a second by Mike to have the April 2021 Business Meeting Minutes approved. The motion was voted on and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Detailed report was given by Keith DeVault. The society continues to meet our financial obligations. Rich made a motion to accept with a second by Frank. Motion voted on and approved.

Modules: Mike expressed his opinion that we should not put the modules back together before the August event, but we should continue to work on them as we can. "More energy should be spent on the main layout". Mike was happy with the operation of the modular during the Open House adding "Maybe we could work on the gaps".

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**June 3, 2021
Business Meeting**

**July 1, 2021
Business Meeting**

**August 5, 2021
Business Meeting**

**Model Railroad
Display
August 28 & 29, 2021
Center Court
Workers Needed!**

**September 2, 2021
Business Meeting**

**October 7, 2021
Business Meeting**



Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

Minutes continued from Page 1

Main Layout: The layout committee met and are working out details. The time frame for the new main will run from the 1950's to 1967. They also had discussion that suggested possibly extending the era to include the 1970's. The setting will focus on the Mon Valley. Coal, Forestry, Glass, and Aluminum to be some of the featured industries. Western Maryland, Chessie, and the CB&O to be our main carriers. The new layout will include multiple levels and double tracks.

Publicity: The newsletters are being posted to the new website. The old page is down, but a link redirecting to the new site is in place. Facebook page has new historical pictures posted of various stations and hotels and has reach a couple thousand people. We got about half the possible money from the fund raiser. The page continues to grow in popularity.

Ad Cars: Johnson Law and Old Colony have renewed. 12 renewal letters have been sent.

Membership: Nothing new.

Donations: Tom Kirby donated 15 cushioned metal chairs. Rich bought 7 new table cloths (white). Keith bought 4 shelves for the work room. Ken brought 4 stack-able chairs.

Old Business: We are awaiting a mailbox from the Post Office. No new information regarding the finalization of the plumbing issues.

New Business: John Lindsay did the special 25th anniversary logo. Rich contacted John to see if he would do a logo for the upcoming 35th Anniversary Celebration on January 14, 2022. We need to set dates for the August Open House.

Rich made a motion we hold the OH on August 28&29. Greg seconded. The motion was voted on and approved.

Keith formally requested approval to pay the Liability Insurance Premium. Note vote was needed. Keith requested approval to submit renewal to the Secretary of State of WV for us to continue operating as **MVRRHS**. Rich made a motion that was seconded by Bob. The motion was voted on and approved.

For the Good of the Order: Rich suggested we "canvass" the membership for their interests, regarding what gauge they model, what talents or skills they have or desire to learn.

Rich donated an O gauge C&O scale model steam locomotive and passenger cars and gave an informative educational presentation about the model.

The meeting was adjourned by Vice President Ken Colvin at 2025 (8:25pm) after a motion by Keith and a unanimous second.

*Greg Malnikoff
Secretary, MVRRHS*



Hi-Rail What is it?

By Rich Henderson

What is Hi-Rail? Quite simply it is three rail "O" gauge trains placed in a scale setting. While the trains themselves may not be exact 1/48th "O" scale, the scenery, buildings, people, etc. are as close to scale as possible. Many of you may know the term "Toy Trains" and remember them from childhood. Lionel is the most famous name in this type of model train. Some of

these were made to go around a tight 27 inch circle (O27), others were made larger and needed a 31 inch circle of track (often called O31). The larger locomotives and cars were closer to true scale. All had and still have "selective compression", however in today's marketplace the trend is toward full "O" scale models. Today, the only concession is the larger flanges, perhaps a flange-less center driver and the bigger knuckle coupler, but even here many items come with scale flanges and a scale size coupler that the owner can choose to use. Today, as with HO scale it's all about the electronics. Digital whistles and horns have replaced the whistle tender or bicycle horn in the diesel. Sound systems re-create the true sounds of steam locomotives or diesels and Digital Command Control is standard on most trains.

Gone are the days of trains racing around curves at top speed with noisy overly large accessories that don't fit with the real world. The Hi-Railer chooses to make his/her model railroad layout look as much like the real thing as possible. The track usually has extra ties added in- between the three standard metal ties and ballast is a must! Many modelers also darken the center rail and even paint the sides of the other rails with dark rusty colors to enhance the realism. Some operators even go so far as to weather their trains!

As with all model railroaders, it is up to each person to determine the level of scale realism they want. Some will still blend in their favorite accessories, be that a coal loader, milk car, log loader/unloader, etc. Others will say "NO" to any type of non-scale items. Instead they will carefully kit-bash or scratch-build what they want to have on their layout.

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In my opinion, that's what makes this hobby so fun. We all love the railroads and each of us can build the type of model railroad we choose. I have found inspiration for my Hi-Rail layout in many HO scale model railroads. The diversity of this hobby brings us all together.



ARTICLES WANTED

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to: Rich Henderson, Editor at:

[Redacted contact information]

the next newsletter is published.

Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society OFFICERS

President

Lou Lemelle
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Kenton Colvin

Cell [Redacted]
[Redacted]

Secretary

Greg Malnikoff
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Keith DeVault
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Rich Henderson
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Gary Deavers
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Our Society Website:

<http://www.MVRRHS.org>

Our Society facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/MVRRHS>

