

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

April, 2024



EDITORS NOTE

The Spring Model Railroad Open House is about two weeks away and we are in need of workers for the event. Please set aside some time for this important event. It will be the first time the public will have the opportunity to see all the hard work we have completed over the Winter months!

The NMRA meeting went well, members were impressed with our progress on all three layouts. More on this subject will be detailed at the April business meeting.

Work sessions continue on Sunday afternoons for O gauge, Monday evenings for the N scale and on Tuesday afternoon for the HO scale layout. All members are welcome to come and help during these work sessions. Remember these are your new model railroads, so come on out and help! Get your hands dirty and enjoy the fun with your fellow members.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the March 7, 2024 Business Meeting

President Richard T. called the meeting to order at 7:01pm with 5 officers and 8 members in attendance. VP Ken C. could not attend.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Jon H. moved that the minutes be approved as published in the March Society newsletter; motion seconded by Rich H. Approved without discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)

The Society remains in solid financial condition and continues to meet obligations.

Publicity: (Rich H.)

The Society Facebook page now has 1,356 followers, including 17 new since last month. New layout construction photos generated likes and comments. Flyers for the April 20th and 21st Spring Open House are now available for distribution by members. Public Service Announcements are ready to be sent out to some 36 regional radio stations. Letters for schools and PSAs for local television stations will be sent out in April.

Fundraising :(Richard T.)

An informal group of members continues to pursue cost estimates

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**April 4, 2024
Business Meeting**

**April 20 & 21 2024
Spring Open House
Workers Needed!**

**May 2, 2024
Business Meeting**

**June 6, 2024
Business Meeting**

**July 4, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 1, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 23 & 24, 2024
Back to School
Open House
Workers Needed!**



Minutes continued from Page 1

for heating improvements as well as potential grant proposals for funding these improvements.

Membership: (Rich H.)

Keith D. moved that prospective member Ken K. be accepted into the Society with a second from Gary D. Members voted unanimously to accept. Welcome aboard, Ken!

Donations: (Keith D.)

Dr. Philip Comer and his wife of Suncrest, Morgantown passed recently and the Society will receive some of Dr. Comer's Lionel and other model train equipment with more to come. Other donations include a small amount in the caboose as well as sales table income and a substantial gift from Rich H. toward lighting improvements. Thank you Dr. Comer and Rich!

Speaking of lighting, Jon H. updated the group on the cost of ceiling panel drop-in LED lights and Richard T. covered updating can lights to provide better illumination from existing bulbs. The Society may expect significant lighting improvements gradually over the next year or so.

Old Business:

None reported.

New Business:

Rich H. suggested that the Society explore a bus tour approach to encouraging visitors to the layouts patterned after the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club's partnership with the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. The membership provided a positive response.

Richard T. urged members to form a nomination committee in light of the upcoming election of officers. The committee should consist of

three members and must report nominees at the April 2024 business meeting. Jon H., Wally V., and Bob T. answered the call and will begin canvassing current officers and members immediately.

Bill H. reported the donation of the following equipment from Dr. John B. of Johnstown, PA: a bulk quantity of Kadee #158 couplers; DCC fascia mount receptacles for the N scale layout; motor control decoders for Athearn locomotives. Thank you, Dr. John B!

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge : (Rich H.)

More hills received paint, grass and weeds. Portions of the inside main received ballast, and yard tracks were isolated using insulated connectors in preparation for future switching operations.

HO Scale: (Keith D.)

Fascia installation began on the upper level along with a discussion about its eventual color. Samples areas will be painted for members to consider and comment. A sample area of the upper level above Chiefton yard now displays advanced scenery elements as a demonstration of "standard" colors and techniques to be followed throughout the layout. Eric H. plans to continue the construction of the cardboard strip scenery support lattice on the east flank of the Valley Crossing peninsula.

N Scale Layout: (MaxMcD.)

Infrastructure for the first truss bridge, including 3D-printed abutments, is now in place. Workers made progress on the upper line to the mine and staging. The N committee seeks the assistance of Richard T. in the matter of preparing and painting backdrops. Wally V. reported progress on a second bridge, company houses, a one-room school house, and a coal tipple.

For the Good of the Order:

Rich H. reported that several of last year's memberships remain unpaid and reminded members that the deadline for renewal is March 31st, after which a lapsed member will be required to seek sponsorship and apply as a new member.

Richard T. reminded members visiting the Society to be mindful of properly securing the doors when leaving.

Jon H. reported rainwater leakage in several places indicating that attention is needed on the roof to clear drain clogs and seal holes.

Richard T. reminded members that the Society will host the NMRA Division 2 / Keystone Division monthly meeting on March 17th. Keith D., Richard T., and Mike H. will open their layouts to visitors from 9:30am – 1pm (Keith); and 10am – 1pm (Richard and Mike). Members attending the work session on the Thursday before the meeting should plan on cleaning up in anticipation of the visit.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm following multiple motions to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRHS*



***Mon Valley Railroad
Historical Society
OFFICERS***

President

Richard Turton

Vice President

Kenton Colvin

Secretary

Eric Hopkins

Treasurer

Keith DeVault

Membership

Rich Henderson

Immediate Past President

Gary Deavers

Our Society Website:

<https://MVRRHHS.org>

Our Society

facebook page:

[https://www.facebook.com/
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