

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

December, 2022



EDITORS NOTE

Christmas is almost here! Our Holiday Open House is on December 17 & 18, 2022. It will be very busy especially on Saturday as Santa & Mrs. Claus will be there from 1pm to 4pm. I hope every member will set aside some time to be there. It's a wonderful & busy time of the year!

There's a lot of work to do beforehand. Cleaning, putting up the tree & decorations. Please, please help, I can't do it all by myself.

Construction of our new HO scale, O gauge & N scale layouts continue, however, we need more of you to help. It seems we have the same few members working tirelessly to build the layouts and they could really use your assistance. Please contact Keith or me (Rich) to see where you can help.

Happy Holidays & Hope to see you soon. Remember Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the November 3, 2022 Business Meeting

President Richard T. called the meeting to order at 7 PM with thirteen members, including all five officers, attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Jon H. moved that previous meeting's minutes be approved as amended via email discussion and published in the November 2022 newsletter, with a second from Rich H. Approved.

Treasurer's report (Keith D.):
Keith D. reviewed financial status and transactions for the month of October, 2022. MVRHRS remains financially sound.

Publicity (Rich H.):
Rich H. requests that members respond to his email to sign up to crew the upcoming Open House on November 5th. The Fairmont News published an article, and we have a presence on the WBOY TV website. Facebook followers are up to 1,200 and our Open House flier received numerous likes and shares. Recently published photos on Facebook received likes, comments and shares.
The Alzheimer's Walk fundraiser took place in the Mountaineer Mall

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**December 1, 2022
Business Meeting**

**Holiday Open House
December 17 & 18 2022**

Workers Needed!
**Santa & Mrs. Claus will be here
on Saturday from 1pm til 4pm**

**January 5, 2023
Business Meeting**

**February 2, 2023
Business Meeting**

**March 2, 2023
Business Meeting**

**NMRA Div. 2 Meeting
March 19, 2023**

**April 6, 2023
Business Meeting**

Spring Open House ??



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on October 16th from 1 – 4 PM.
Rich H. donated \$20 on behalf of the Society.

Holiday Open House (December 17th – 18) publicity public service announcements, newspaper articles and draft fliers are all ready to be sent out or printed.

Business Express Ad Cars (Eric H.):

No new patrons to report.

Membership (Rich H.):

No new memberships or membership changes to report.

Donations:

\$146

Old Business:

Richard T.: The geographic place naming committee WILL present a report with established names for key layout locations at the December business meeting.

Ken Colvin reminded members of the class he is teaching for OLLI titled "Model Railroading" on Saturday December 3, from 10 AM to 12 PM. The first hour is lecture at OLLI classroom and the second hour will be at the Society to view modeling in various stages. Wally V. has signed up to attend the class. However, he'd like for 1 or 2 more members to be available in the Society space that morning to answer questions.

New Business:

(Keith D.) With the unfortunate passing of a well-regarded Division II member, his family is offering his NCE brand DCC system for sale. The system includes throttles, as well as the main control unit and power boosters. The MVRRHHS membership agreed that Keith should make an offer on the Society's behalf. Richard T. pointed out that a firmware update may be

needed, while Gary D. felt that the system should be in good condition given the previous owner's reputation for equipment care.

Christmas Open House

considerations for Santa's visit:

Keith D. moved that we use the operators office to house Santa's chair during his visit. Ken C. seconded the motion. Discussion: Keith D. will find out the size of the chair to confirm that it will fit in the OP space. Motion effectively tabled until size is known.

Richard T. suggested that visitors be directed to a queue to visit Santa with a separate pathway for those visiting the layouts or merchandise tables.

Jon H. expressed interest in setting up a garden scale layout in the Centre Court area.

Gary D. urged members to emphasize the positives regarding our new Society space, including wheelchair accessibility, among others, and to avoid sharp criticism of our previous location. We're lucky to be in our new spot, but we also had many years and positive experiences in the old.

LAYOUTS: O Gauge (Rich H.):

O Scale (Rich H.): Progress is being made with the mountain and the inside main line, with grade risers in place. Two lines should be running by the Christmas Holiday Open House.

HO Scale:

(Gary D.): Many or most power drops are in, switches are painted or will be soon, track completed will enable operation from end to end, with a possible run-around to enable return from east staging. The western staging loop was shortened to allow access to the inside of the loop peninsula.

Jon H. suggested that we install descriptive cards or signs to mark layout geography and relate historical aspects of real locations that inspire our models. He also suggested rotating part of our displays in the lobby area to interest repeat visitors.

Richard T. recommended that members focus on the narrative basis for our layout design. We're building model railroads that accurately depict real world situations, past or present. As we represent history we should convey our higher aspirations by, for example, displaying prototype photos and descriptions adjacent to the layout features the inspire.

N Scale Layout (Greg M.)

Progress was slowed recently but should be picking up momentum. Michael H. will help with rendering a track plan in layout CAD software. Others with licensed software could also assist as needed. Richard T. advised the committee to complete a track plan before beginning any track work. He also pointed out Eric M. experience in N and his potential value to the committee.

The Kato track used for the last open house will be used again for the November 5th event.

For the Good of the Order:

David E. indicated that the concourse O gauge layout is running well.

Keith D. related that John B. of Johnstown is downsizing his collection and plans a substantial donation to the MVRRHHS of HO structures, materials and rolling stock.

Eric H. reminded members that the Greenberg's Toy and Train show takes place November 5th and 6th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHHS*

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