

# TRAIN OF THOUGHT

## MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

### January, 2026

#### EDITORS NOTE

Winter has set in with a vengeance! But, you all know that, so on to more important things. The January OP session is over, more details at the business meeting.

Membership dues come due in January. There will be an email sent to all members & a copy of the current roster. Please pay your dues as soon as you can. It will help your Officers/BOD members figure out our financial future for the rest of 2026.

Planning for the March 15 Train Show is proceeding on schedule. We will need every members help to make this event a success!

Finally, this is an election year for our Society. A Nominating Committee will be appointed in March and will report at the April business meeting. The election will take place and results will be provided at the May meeting. New officers will take their places on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



#### SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**January 8, 2026**  
**Business Meeting**

**February 5, 2026**  
**Business Meeting**

**March 5, 2026**  
**Business Meeting**

**March 15, 2026**  
**Train Show**  
**10am til 4pm**  
**Workers Needed!!**

**April 2, 2026**  
**Business Meeting**

**May 7, 2026**  
**Business Meeting**



*Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2*

**Donations: (Rich H.):**

A family member brought in HO equipment, including some potentially collectible A.C. Gilbert HO, on behalf of Dennis Chambers. Additional donations of N and HO equipment noted for the month.

**Facilities:**

Jon Hebb reported progress in constructing new display cases in the lobby.

Richard T. suggested converting the unused restroom into a spray booth to carry fumes outside. Jon H. will look into the feasibility. A warming cabinet for paints may be needed.

**Train Show** (new topic): Flyer needs corrected and re-printed: Hours: 10am – 4pm; Regional T-Track layout will be on display. So moved by Keith D., seconded by Gary D. Approved unanimously.

One participant is already signed up with 6 tables. We're gradually accumulating tables and will need to hustle in February to gather as necessary to meet demand.

Max M. suggested that we reach out to Scale Trains and invite them to display. Jon H. will take the lead on this. They have attended smaller shows in the past.

**Old Business:**

Richard T.: "Do Not Touch" signage. Jon H. will work on if he's given text to include.

The Society received a "fair number" of visitors and some donations during the November Eloquence Flea Market.

Members-only operating session reminder for Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 5pm to 8:30pm.

**New Business:**

Eloquence Open House, December 6<sup>th</sup>: with regret, unable to participate due to existing commitments.

Preparations ongoing for the annual New Year's Day invitation  
Operating Session: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 9am to ???

**LAYOUTS:**

**O Gauge : (Rich H.)**

More scenery, terraforming (Sculptamold) and painting done last month.

**HO Scale:** (Richard T.):

Gary D. read an email report from Mike H. regarding progress on the bridge / viaduct complex for Valley Crossing: Piers and abutments are nearly done with wood ties to be added next. The rock formations along the main, east of Coal Junction tunnel are ready for final gap filling and painting. Mike envisions a combination of gray and red strata similar to Sand Patch. Gary also reported progress with interlocking detectors and west end loop automation. Eric H. planted finished trees near those ready installed on the peninsula with additional trees being processed. Keith D. thanked Jon H., Bob T. and Gary D. for working with him to get new duplex DCC receptacles installed throughout the layout. Jon H. installed a new chip / firmware in the DCC system that should reduce some of the errors and down time experienced recently. Finally, Eric M. installed a switch at Center Point to facilitate the development of a gas loading spur between Center Point and North Bend.

**N Scale Layout:**

(Max M.): Track work is nearing 98% completion with additional progress on controls and scenery expected soon.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Keith D.: Materials in the back room not claimed immediately following the January 1<sup>st</sup> Op Session will be tossed out.

Jon H. suggested removal of the old (non-functioning) hot water heater, which requires input from Mall Management,

Rich H. provided a generous financial gift that also includes his 2026 dues.

Jon H. mentioned the difficulties in mounting the large wreath donated by Ward P.

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Gary D. seconded by Bill H, Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Eric H., MVRRHS Secretary*



**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: trainman430@comcast.net Please allow two (2) weeks before the next newsletter is published.

**Mon Valley Railroad  
Historical Society  
OFFICERS**

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Keith DeVault

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Gary Deavers

**Our Society Website:**

<https://MVRRHS.org>

**Our Society**

**facebook page:**

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

**From the Desk of Gary  
Deavers**

It's January 2026 / 1970! I was five and six years old in 1970, and my grandfather had this calendar hanging in their kitchen. Well, not "this" calendar, but a copy of the same. After 1970 ended, he gave me

the calendar for the pictures and over the next few months, it disappeared – probably one day while I was

at school and Mom figured my room needed a good cleaning. In any event, two or three of the pictures

would come to mind over the decades. In 2019 I ran across one of the prints (the one featured next month) and my interest was rekindled. I went to my good friend eBay and started searching for "UTU

Calendar circa 1969 / 1970" and there it was: a copy in decent condition for about ten dollars. All I had to do was wait for a year when the days and dates lined up to share it in the MVRRHS Newsletter. I hope you enjoy these pages as much as I did some 56 years ago. You can even print off the page and use it in your train room.

January – I vaguely remember this one. At five, I didn't know how miserable it could be to work outside in the winter like the switchman, and I doubt that window enclosed office was warm enough for short sleeves. I thought my Grandpa had the "most funnest job in the world" as I watched him go to his car bundled up with grip in hand to report for another twelve hour tour on the B&O lines around Fairmont.

