

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

July, 2026



EDITORS NOTE

Happy Fourth of July! I hope everyone has a good and safe holiday.

Work continues on all three model railroad layouts. I know this is vacation season and everyone is busy, but please try to make some time to come help us build your layouts.

Member, Mike H. is working hard on the stone arch bridge for the HO layout. Some of you may have been at the society to see him testing various parts to see how they will fit into the mountain/river scene. If not, the pictures have been posted on our facebook page. Great work Mike!

Have a Great Summer and come see us!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the June 11, 2026 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:00 pm with 9 members and 5 officers, for a total of 14 attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Wally V. moved to approve the minutes from the May business meeting as published in the June newsletter with a second from Dave E. The motion was approved unanimously without further discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
The treasurer was absent and no report was provided.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Facebook followers now number 1,724 with many likes on recent photos, including the new lobby display cabinets and layouts.

Fundraising: (Richard T.):
Richard submitted the Your Community Foundation grant application for review. Any funds awarded will be used to renovate the back room for meetings, clinics, etc., and would cover basic materials such as drywall and ceiling tiles, along with lighting and receptacles. Finishing this work will require additional funds. The recently awarded Walmart Spark

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SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**July 2, 2026
Business Meeting**

**August 6, 2026
Business Meeting**

**Back to School
Open House
August 29 & 30, 2026**

**September 3, 2026
Business Meeting**

**October 1, 2026
Business Meeting**



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Fundraising:(Richard T.):

Grant will also be helpful for achieving infrastructure goals.

Membership (Rich H.):

Nothing new to report.

Donations (Rich H.):

Bob T.'s brother donated books for the Society to use or sell. Keith Lucas donated Plasticville items. Scott and Alex C. delivered trains, numerous scenery materials and track from Dr. Walt and Lori Owens.

Facilities:

With the installation of the additional display cabinet and shelving in the lobby area it's a good time to revisit how memorabilia are displayed. Sets of items may be used to tell stories from railroading history. These sets may then be rotated out to storage to keep them fresh, and new sets may be added on a longer-term basis, perhaps five years or so. A committee of museum curation will benefit this effort by making suggestions to the society and organizing displays, recruiting members to assist as appropriate. A budget should be provided to allow for the purchase of display materials, printing of posters, etc. An email request for participation will be sent out. In the meantime, several members volunteered to serve on the museum curation committee: Wally V.; Rich H.; Gary D. (offered to serve as chair). Gary suggested that the recently donated Gilbert HO set might serve as a starting point for a history of the hobby display.

Train Show: (Richard T.): It isn't too soon to begin planning for the 2027 edition of the Mountaineer Train Show. Some vendors expressed a preference for a two-day event next time. Purchasing tables may be more cost effective

than renting. The Society currently owns 14; a total of around 70 are needed. Richard suggested 40 as a possible target number to buy and make available to other Mall vendors. The Mall management offered to store tables for us.

Old business:

Reminder of the Back to School Open House scheduled for August 29th – 30th.

New business:

Rich H. related the possibility of having the far back room cleared of old restaurant tables and equipment to make it available for Society storage.

The Union Pacific Big boy No. 4014 passes through Western Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 11th. The planned route includes crossing the Monongahela River at Homestead, PA, crossing the Ohio River at McKeesrocks, a 30-minute stop in Leetsdale, PA, then on through Conway, PA and westward. By the time these minutes are published, some members will have already vided No. 4014 at scheduled stops on its eastward journey.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

Rich H. reported progress that includes ballast in the yard, trees and shrubbery around the engine house as well as an oil storage tank and wooden tool boxes. The final section of yard track was laid and a boat dock and cat tail reeds were added to the pond.

HO Scale: (Richard T.):

(Richard T.): Work continues on the Valley Crossing peninsula with progress on the first of two stone arch bridges that cross the stream under the bridge / viaduct. Tree planting continues while an overhead crane kit is under construction as part of a planned metal fabrication facility on the east

end of the Decker Run industrial area. Signals section (Gary D.) reports progress on Davis Street projects with tasks moving ahead more quickly. Rich H. offered deer and bear figures for HO use.

N Scale Layout: (Max M.):

Max M. reported that the staging yard is now wired. Some turnouts may need to be replaced. The turning loop now functions properly. Max constructed improved DCC plug mounts.

Concourse O Gauge Display:

Richard T. expressed the need to prioritize getting the concourse layout moved by Mall staff, per their offer. Bob T. suggested getting it moved and operating in time for the Holiday Open House.

For the Good of the Order:

Nothing reported.

Adjournment:

7:28 pm following a motion by Gary D. and a second by Rich H.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric H., MVR RHS Secretary



**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/
MVRRHHS](https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHHS)

**From the Desk of Gary
Deavers**

JULY

This was one of three images that stayed with me over the years. I was always fascinated by trains at night, and the brightly lit cab, flood lights, and shops as seen here were probably responsible for part of that. The inbound crew looks happy to be going off duty, and the one fellow in front of the nose has a “grip” just like Grandpa carried. There was an armchair just inside their front door and the grip ALWAYS went behind it, right up until he retired in November 1975. The lines of the GP30 are pretty nice as well.

