

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

September, 2026



EDITORS NOTE

As I write this note our Back to School Model Railroad Open House is just one day away. I hope that it will be a Great success and I know it will because of all of you, our members! Thanks in advance for helping. Full details will be talked about at the September business meeting.

Our next open house will be in early November to honor National Model Railroad month.

Work continues on all three model railroad layouts. Come check it out and give us a hand. These are your model railroads that members are building for your enjoyment. Please think about helping out where ever & when ever you can. Building them is half the fun!

Lastly, we've added a few new members. Welcome to Jennifer, Jeremy & Blake, a Family membership and to Drew Mellon, a college student!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the August 6, 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 in attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Wally V. moved that the minutes of the July 2nd business meeting be approved as published in the August 2026 newsletter; second by Rich H. Motion approved unanimously with no discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
Expenses exceeded income for the month of July but the Society remains in good financial condition.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Radio PSAs were delivered to local stations. Newspaper announcements go out on August 17th. Letters and flyers to schools went out on August 2nd. Photos published on the Society Facebook page received many likes and shares.

Fundraising: (Richard T.):
No new developments, but Richard T. will attend the YCF reception for award recipients coming up on Monday, August 10th.

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

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

**September 3, 2026
Business Meeting**

**October 1, 2026
Business Meeting**

**November 5, 2026
Business Meeting**

**National Model
Railroad Month
Open House
November, 7&8, 2026?**



Membership (Rich H.):

Keith D. moved to approve the new membership of the Jeremy Bennett family, who have participated in Society activities over the recent several weeks. Gary D. seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. We also have one prospective student member.

Donations (Rich H.):

The Society received monetary contributions in the donation Caboose as well as funds from equipment sales in July. Society members Keith D. and Eric H. will assist a local family in dismantling their basement HO scale layout. The family plans to donate buildings, cars and engines to the Society.

Facilities:

Max M. supplied a catalog of carpet square samples. The carpet is competitively priced but the adhesive is expensive. Max also offered to contact a potential supplier of tempered glass for the doors and shelves needed to complete the lobby / museum area cabinets.

Concourse Layout (Richard T.):

Richard contacted Mall management about moving the concourse layout and was assured that it is "on the list."

Train Show: (Richard T.):

No progress so far on acquiring tables but the Society continues to seek sales or auctions of 8' tables for vendors.

Old business:

Richard T. reminded the membership of the need to clear out the spaces in back for potential renovation. The Society will fund this work in part with the recent award from Your Community Foundation. We will need to prepare and submit a plan to the Mall management. Keith D.

mentioned the possibility of expanding further.

Rich H. and Wally V. discussed the need to develop forms and procedures for museum items.

New business:

Gary D. provided details of the planned Op Session at the Society on August 10th. The session runs from 6 – 9 pm (Mall management approved our presence after normal hours.)

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

The engine house now has doors as well as figures and other details added. The pond has been detailed and the inside main track now has direct power leads – no more staling!

HO Scale:

(Richard T.): The massive forestation effort continues on the Valley Crossing peninsula. Meanwhile, Keith, Bob T. and Gary teamed up to complete the fascia at the main yard. Gary reported that signal work also continues, including a majority of the connections leading to the future interlocking machine.

N Scale Layout:

Track work is proceeding and some significant milestones were met recently. Switch control refinements are in-progress and scenery work should resume in the near future.

For the Good of the Order:

Keith D. reminded the membership that he will present his Morgantown and Kingwood Railroad talk at the Village at Heritage Point on August 12th.

Rest in Peace, E. Roy Ward. The Society and the regional rail fan and railroad modeling community mourns Roy's sudden death on August 5th. Roy was a consummate

modeler as well as a talented and published photographer. He will be missed by all.

Keith moved that the Society make a \$100 memorial donation to the Monongahela River Railroad and Transportation Museum. Rich H. seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Max M. displayed his recently acquired West Virginia Coal Express car and train set connecting the state to model railroading. The promotional scale model car and train set were distributed under former governor Jay Rockefeller during 1978 – 82. Both the car and train set are in their original boxes with their respective certificates.

Adjournment:

Rich H. moved to adjourn with a second from Max M. and unanimous approval

Respectfully submitted,

Eric H., MVRHS 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

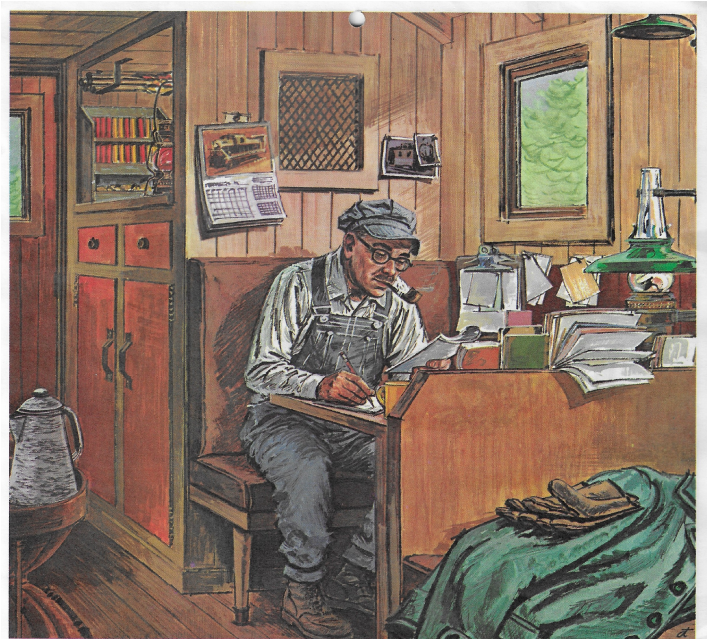
Our Society Website:
<https://MVRRHS.org>

**Our Society
facebook page:**
[https://www.facebook.com/
MVRRHS](https://www.facebook.com/MVRRHS)

**From the Desk of Gary
Deavers**

September

This is the ONE. It stuck with me for fifty years and confirmed that the calendar I found on eBay was the right one. Grandpa was a conductor, and although the fellow here looked nothing like him, I could picture him sitting there doing his paperwork and enjoying a pipe. The detail is good here, with his coat and gloves on the bench ahead and the coffee pot on the stove, but I do wonder about the VERY deep shelf over the cabinets behind him. It was probably sometime in 1970 he took me to the caboose track in the yard and showed me what the inside of a “hack” looked like. I remember being interested in the overhead water tank with the small green hose.



THE CONDUCTOR		AUGUST 1970							SEPTEMBER 1970						
		SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
											1	2	3	4	5
									6	7	8	9	10	11	12
									13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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