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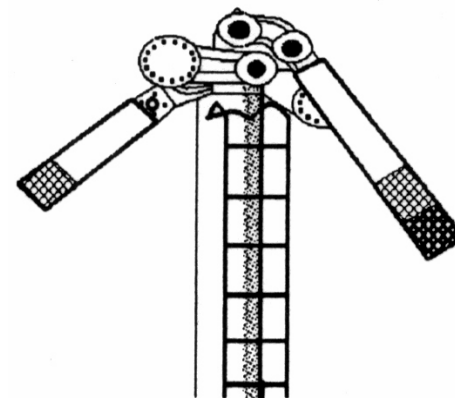
Clearboard Deadlines:

January 2010 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is December 26, Publication on or about January 2.

February 2010 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is January 30, Publication on or about February 3.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE CLEARBOARD
PO Box 1146
Union, NJ 07083-1146



The Clearboard

The official newsletter of The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Issue No 493

December, 2009

ANNUAL LIGHT AND SOUND SHOW



"That train doesn't leave for another forty-five minutes. That gives you enough time to catch the show upstairs."

The CLEARBOARD

EDITOR: Roger Oliver
COPY EDITOR: vacant

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Eric Callender, Martin Harriss, Carlos Langezaal, Bob Nalbone

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION: Bill Jambor

Unless otherwise attributed, all photographs were taken by the staff photographer: Roger Oliver.

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES & EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editors of *The Clearboard* welcome articles and photographs submitted by members. Submitted articles will be given due consideration and may be edited for content as well as spelling and syntax. Articles edited for content will be reviewed with the author prior to being published. When submitting an article for publication in *The Clearboard*, we ask that you follow these procedures:

- The Board of Director's requires all articles to be bylined. Anonymous submissions will not be published.
- We prefer computer disk files to typewritten or handwritten pages. All typewritten and handwritten submissions must be double-spaced with one-inch margins on all sides.
- If you submit an article by disk or thumb drive. We prefer MS Word 2000 or MS 2003 format, but we can use submissions saved as text files.
- A hard copy of the article should accompany your submission just incase we destroy your disk.
- You may email articles to:

TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCi.org.

Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit your photographs to *The Clearboard* editor's mail box in the Club office.

- All editorials are the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Club or the Board of Directors

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Please...
do your part to keep the building and grounds CLEAN(er).

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please make sure you keep your contact information current. Any address changes or other updated information should be written legibly on a piece of paper and dropped in the mail slot in the lobby of the Club building, attention "Roster Clerk." Thank You.

Bill Jambor, Roster Clerk

Reports from the Departments

Webmasters Report:

Thursday, December 03, 2009

-- Site Summary --

Visits

Total	32,533
Average per Day	93
Average Visit Length	2:13
This Week	649

Page Views

Total	119,591
Average per Day	199
Average per Visit	2.1
This Week	1,395

show. Perhaps a folded loop that would allow us to have a couple of trestles, some buildings, and maybe even a water feature. We want to be mindful of the upkeep that will need to be done on a weekly basis so as not to have all out work effort used up keeping the display layout presentable. It will, after all, be the first thing our guests will see and it will make a lasting impression one way or the other.

The track on the current outside layout seems to have held up well in spite of a lawn mower strike and a kink on one of the curves. These need to be replaced. The switches are more problematic. Greater attention to their ballasting and protection from the elements will need to be considered. We may well have to replace the three that are outside now. Finding sturdier replacements will be another project.

If you know of an upcoming event which may be of interest to the other members of the club, please let the Clearboard editor know about it so that it can be included here. Please include contact information.

Campaign21SM

Funding a New Century of Excellence
Have you made your contribution yet?

END OF YEAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The deadline for changing your Activity Department affiliation is Wednesday, the 9th of on December. Forms are available from the Office Manager.
2. Dues payments for credit in 2009 will be accepted until NOON on Thursday the 31st of December. Payments received after that time will be credited in 2010. Late fees on delinquent balances will be charged that afternoon as though it were already January.
3. Annual locker fees of \$10.00 per locker for 2010 are due in January, and will be added to your dues balance on the first. If your dues are already delinquent at that time you risk a late fee. Satisfaction of late fees and locker fees takes precedence over credit towards dues.

Only members whose fees and dues are paid through or beyond December 2009 are eligible to participate in Activity Department elections on the 9th of January and the Annual Membership Meeting on the 23rd. Please pay your fees and dues promptly to avoid the embarrassment of being excluded from these meetings. The Office Manager

Calendar of upcoming events 2009

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Dec 11-13 | Annual Show |
| Dec 19 | BOD Meeting 4:30 PM |
| 2010 | |
| Jan 9 | Garden Railroad Dept Annual Meeting 12:00 PM at the Club / Jan 16 Alt. date |
| Jan 9 | N Department Annual Meeting 1:00 PM at the Club / Jan 16 Alt.date |
| Jan 9 | HO Department Annual Meeting 2:30 PM at the Club / Jan 16 Alt. date |
| Jan 9 | BOD Meeting 4:30 PM |
| Jan 17 | NMRA Garden State Division; 12 noon Annual Business Meeting at the Ramapo Valley Railroad Club Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Jan 24 Alt date |
| Jan 23 | Annual Membership Meeting 1:00 PM at the Club / Jan 30 Alt. date |
| Jan 30-31 | W. Springfield, MA Show Amherstrail.org |
| Mar 13 | Garden Railroad Dept. Spring Meeting 1:00 PM at the Club |
| May 20-23 | MFMR/NER Convention St. John, New Brunswick tracksandtides2010.org |
| Jul 11-17 | NMRA National Convention Milwaukee, WI nmra75.org |
| Sep 9-12 | 2010 NER Convention Burlington, VT www.greenmountainmra.com/ChamplainFlyer |

EX · LIBRIS

By Roger Oliver, club librarian

Some of you no doubt, have noticed that the pile of boxes, magazines and other items that obstructed the aisle between the members' lounge and the workshop has been cleared. Between the lolly-columns there are new heavy duty shelves upon which are somewhat neatly stacked files and bound volumes of magazines and other items. This, for the moment, is the Club's library. There are shelves build into the backs of members' lockers and there is an enclosed librarians' desk with a computer, as well. The library is currently funded through donations to the water bottle in the lobby. Please feel free to give often and generously. Currently there are three Club librarians; Roger Oliver—Magazine collection, Russ Fiero—Book collection, and Bruce Gottlieb—Research librarian.

As things slow down after the Annual Show and outside work is precluded by the weather, we will be focusing on locating the Club's paper assets. There are piles of books, magazines and related materials all over the building. Some of the more valuable and fragile items have been found and properly secured for safe keeping. Others have yet to be located. By the February issue of the CLEARBOARD a listing of magazines will be published for those of you who want to clean out your attics and closets. A few members have already brought down their donations and while we have gratefully accepted them they make it difficult to process what we already have. Another problem we have is the members' use of the member lounge to just grab a bunch of magazines or whatever else is around and read it. Please check with a librarian or look for a sign on the pile you are going through to make sure that we aren't working with it. It will make it much easier to work with if we don't have to redo everything each week.

The final intent of the library is that it will be a closed stack library. That is, the average member will not be able to just go down the shelves and pull out whatever looks interesting and browse to his/her heart's content. You will need to ask a librarian to get what you want and they will make a copy of it or show you a place where you can work with the material you have requested and when the day is done it will go back to its place on the shelves and be secured for the next person who wants to use it. Please help us with this huge task. The end result will be worth everything we have put into it.

Under the Spreading Maple Tree

by Roger Oliver

With the Annual Show opening and the weather just turning decent a week before we really didn't get a chance to refurbish the outdoors layout. Some areas that we did reballast appear to have washed out. We'll be looking at these areas to see if indeed that is the case. Regardless, with winter upon us there isn't going to be much more done on the outside layout until spring and warmer weather.

The next big item on the agenda is approving our department's proposed bylaws. Letters were mailed to all registered Garden Railroad Department members with a copy of the proposed bylaws and a request for them to get back to the department head either with a letter or an email with their vote: yes or no. We are hoping to be able to tally the votes by the end of December prior to the January 9th Annual Departmental Membership Meeting.

At our departmental meeting we will be voting to fill all of the department's administrative positions as listed earlier in the CLEARBOARD. Nominations will be taken from the floor as no slate has been prepared. If anyone is interested in a particular position they should sent me a note or email before hand and I will add their candidacy to the meeting's agenda.

I do not know what shape our proposed budget will be in when we have our meeting. I proposed a budget that would cover most of the costs I projected for building a new outside layout in the area where the picnic tables are currently located. This area measures about 18 feet by about 28 feet. It receives much more sunlight than the present layout's location under the tree. We also won't have the issues of the tree's roots pushing out track up there.

I would suggest that we keep this layout's plan simple as its main purpose is to be a display to entertain our guests of Saturdays and during the

Clearboard Commentary

By Roger Oliver, Clearboard Editor

By the time that you receive this issue of the CLEARBOARD the annual show will be all but over. At least there will only be the last weekend remaining at best. So, if you haven't come down yet and pitched in, well maybe you should.

I've been a member of The Model Railroad Club for over a decade now. I realize that compared to some of you I'm a new comer. But all the same, there are some things which always seem to come around as regularly as a train on a circle of track under a Christmas tree. One of them is that we always say that we are going to do things differently next year but we never seem to get around to doing it.

The mailings didn't go out as planned, the public service announcement was a flurry of activity during the last month, people worked to get the layout ready and we appreciate the work they did and the scale of the job but it really wasn't what it should have been. The signs are showing their age and though some new ones were made to replace missing ones they all really need to be redone. There's a lot that needs to be done to really get ready for the Annual Show. In spite of all the notices and articles, the speeches at department and board meetings, we just don't seem to take it to heart that we can do so much more, that we can WOW our visitors, but we have to start doing it almost as soon as we finish up the show this year.

Soon the Winter Olympics will be all over the television. The athletes who will take home the gold medals this time are the ones who started preparing before the last Winter Olympics ended.

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Founder: Paul Mallery (1918-2004)

Board of Directors:

President:	Carlos Langezaal
Vice-President: <i>Development Dept.</i>	Bob Nalbene
Treasurer:	John Wilkens
Secretary:	Gene Mikijanic
Director: Building Department	Thomas Voytac
Director: <i>Membership Department</i>	Russ Fiero
HO Department.	Martin Harriss
N Department.	Eric Callender
Garden Railroad Department	Roger Oliver

Club Functionaries:

Government Liaison:	Bill Franklin
Office Manager:	Bill Jambor
Club Librarians:	Roger Oliver
	Russ Fiero
	Bruce Gottlieb
	Ed Majury
	Rich Cornell
	vacant
	John Morris
	Paul Preuss

Activity Dept. Functionaries:

HO Scale	
Layout Design Committee Chair:	Rich Cornell
Scenery Committee Co-Chair:	John Morris & Ira Deutsch
	Bill Franklin
	vacant
	Russ Fiero
	Pete Ezzard
	Neil Petillo
	Jeff Peal

N Scale

Master Mechanic:	John Cicero
Electrical Dept. Chair:	Mark Juchniewicz
Scenery Chair:	Claude Kelsoe
Bench work Chair:	vacant

Garden Railroad Department

Master Mechanic/Electrical:	Russ Fiero
Layout Design/Track work:	vacant
Construction/Horticultural:	vacant
Community Outreach:	vacant

Club Mailing Address:

PO Box 1146
Union, NJ 07083-1146

Telephone: (908) 964-9724

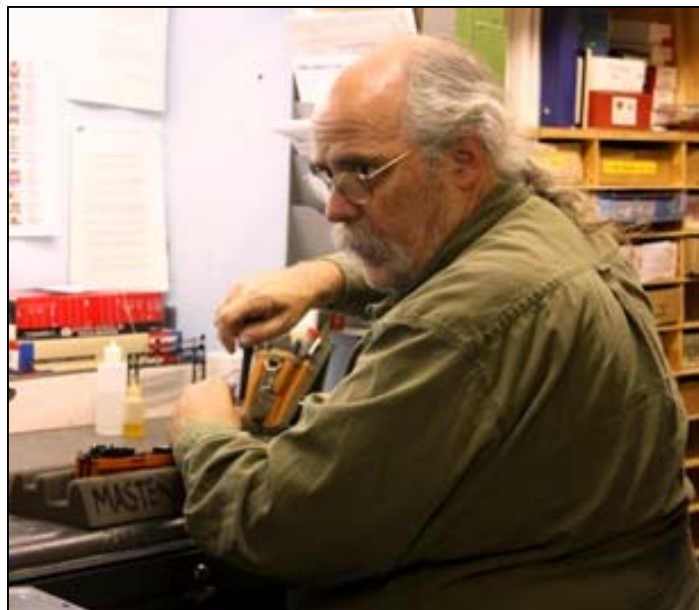
Website: www.tmrcl.org

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Webmaster:	Webmaster@TMRCi.org



The crowds wait patiently for the show to begin on our first weekend for the show.



"Let's just see if this coupler ever sags again!"



Our intrepid engineers Bill, John, Joe, and Frederick man the throttles ready for any challenge, miscued light or schedule change.



"Oo" and "ah" whispered over the N Scale layout with all the blinking lights and trains running.



Rich, Neil, Pete and Bob confer with Ron and Paul.



"He did it!" "I saw him with my own two eyes." Joe and Ira explain track laying and the progress in Gilberton.



Ken and Jeff; "Santa's little helpers".



Honestly, He thinks I believe everything he tells me.



I think that I can fit some more lights in over there.



Spiffy clean up and redecoration job courtesy of Bob Nalbhone et al.