

Nice Mug...



11oz. White ceramic coffee mug with Club logo printed in blue on both sides. Dishwasher and microwave safe.

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Clearboard Deadlines:

February 2010 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is January 30.

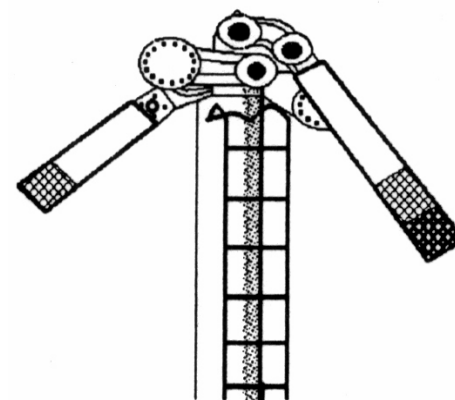
Publication on or about February 6.

March 2010 Issue: Deadline for all submissions is February 27

Publication on or about March 6.

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 494

January, 2010



“Should old acquaintance be forgot....” On the afternoon of November 27th, just a few minutes before we began the first performance of the 2009 Annual Light and Sound Show, the ‘trailer’ which had occupied a niche at the Club for so long, left the property. “We’ll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne.”

The CLEARBOARD

EDITOR: Roger Oliver
COPY EDITOR: Still 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 Anonymous submissions will not be published.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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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

Membership Department Report 2009

The membership has stayed fairly constant in count for the past year. Our additions and loses have nearly equaled each other. We started with eighty six members and applicants and enter this year with eighty one members.

We had a total of eleven new applications submitted of which nine have remained. On the other side of the issue are the members we lost. The reasons vary from people moving away, health, no shows after application submitted, resignation, & the saddest is death.

Comment on our show this past year is I want to thank all that helped with the setup and presentation of the show. We did well with this past years show and will be planning to make next years the best we ever had.

Plans for the future:

To grow our membership. Keeping the membership at the same level isn't bad but with growth we can accomplish more.

Restart the activities outside of the club, such as visiting other clubs, personal layouts and group trips to the big swap shows. Make our presence known.

Get the clinics up and going. We may be get some interest from people outside the club to join us.

And last to make this club a world class operation! Show the Model Railroad community what we have done what we can do!

Respectfully submitted,
 Russ Fiero

Reports from the Development Department and the Treasurer, being very lengthy are not being published here. These will be available at the Annual Membership Meeting for your inspection. The President has also opted to present his report at the Annual Membership Meeting instead of publishing it here.



The picture above is from the website of The Model Railroad Shop 290 Vail Avenue Piscataway, NJ, and shows the store at a much earlier time in its history judging by the 48 star flag. Their web address is <http://themodelrailroadshop.com>. The Model Railroad shop has been in business since January 2, 1933 and may well be the oldest businesses of its type in the country.

While working on the stacks of magazines in the Club's library I came across the following letter which was published in the Railway Post Office column, page 20 of the January 1995 Model Railroader Magazine:

"While reviewing old issues of MR, I came across a comment from the editor that there had been only five advertisers in the Vol. 1, No. 1 issue in 1934. Of these five only two were still active in the hobby, Wm. K. Walthers and the Model Railroad Shop in Dunellen, NJ."

"In business today it's less and less common to find such long term commitment and service to the customer as is exhibited by the Model Railroad Shop. With today's all-inclusive, sell everything, service little hobby stores, this shop stands out as special to the model railroad enthusiast." - Richard H. Wells.

Besides being a full service hobby shop for the model railroader and its unique place in the model railroading hobby, The Model Railroad Shop has also been a generous supporter of The Model Railroad Club, The Garden State Division of the NMRA and you. Check them out before shopping elsewhere, I do.
 Ed.

HO DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Let me start off by thanking all members of the Department who contributed their time and skills during 2009. While we maybe did not accomplish all that we hoped to during the year, we nevertheless did make quite a lot of progress that I think we can be proud of. Let's all try to keep the momentum going in 2010!

During 2009 the Department held the three meetings required by the Department constitution, in January, May and September. Additionally, the Department was represented at all the Board of Directors meetings, either by the Department Head or by his proxy.

One of the main construction projects that has been ongoing for some time is the Gilberton yard. During 2009, a considerable amount of track has been laid with the primary object of getting the turntable in operation. In addition to this trackage, much additional roadbed has been placed in the yard, ready for laying ties and rail. Track laying is usually a lengthy and somewhat tedious task and it will still take a considerable amount of time before the yard is anywhere close to complete – hats off to all that have worked on this project.

Closely associated with the yard track project is the project to construct the Gilberton roundhouse and backshop. Kudos to Ira Deutsch for his dedication and skill in working on this project.

Another project completed this year was the temporary helix. This will allow operations on the Hoboken “trench” trackage and allow for thorough testing of this trackage as well as providing additional operating capabilities while other construction proceeds in the new building. It is planned to place the helix in serve in early 2010.

Also completed during 2009 was the first section of the west end staging. Slated to be placed into service early in 2010, this trackage will allow for the staging of trains west of Pittsburgh, and in particular will allow space for more trains that can be accommodated currently.

On the operations front, things have been rather bumpy during 2009. Tuesday night operating sessions have not been well attended and most operating nights have been operating with what amounts to a skeleton crew. A big “thank you” to those operators that have attended regularly; a Department goal for 2010 should be to improve attendance at operating sessions.

During the month of June, the Club held its 10th invitational operating session. The session was attended by about a dozen visiting operators and a good time was had by all. A marathon six hour session was held, followed by a barbeque.

In other operations news, I am pleased to report that Bill Jambor and Bob Nalbene have been hard at work painting new waybills. This project, which has been in the planning stage for some time, will ultimately result in a new set of waybills that will be appropriately coded for the layout as it will exist after all construction in the new building has been completed. Needless to say, this project will continue for some time, but for now an excellent start has been made on this task.

As per custom, at the end of November the Club ran its annual show. There were the usual minor problems with the HO layout, but by and large everything ran as it should have. As in the two previous years, a streamliners program was run at various times during each day. I am pleased to say that many members of the Department pitched in to help with running the show, and there always seemed to be members ready to fill needed positions.

Finally, I am sorry to say that for various personal reasons I have decided that I will not be running for Department Head in 2010. I would like to thank all the Department members for their support and encouragement during the last four years. It has been my pleasure to serve as Department Head and I wish every success to whomever replaces me. I shall, of course, continue to work on various Department projects over the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Harriss
HO Department Head

(continued from page 12)

not including receipts of the Light and Sound Show, and I forwarded the prescribed records to the Treasurer and to other interested functionaries. I participated in the preparation of the deposits of Show revenue, and deposited the receipts from every Show.

I prepared monthly reports of dues activity for the BOD, updated the member roster information as required, and otherwise assisted the Membership Department Head in his duties. I made myself available to receive deliveries of material and services to the Club building at times the responsible functionaries were unavailable. I assisted in the administration of the Annual Light and Sound Show.

Finally, I made and maintained the required records and prepared various annual summaries and reports to the BOD and to specific functionaries.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Jambor,
Office Manager

Clearboard Commentary

By Roger Oliver, Clearboard Editor

There's an old story about a smart-alecky kid who wanted to make a fool out of a wise man. He caught a small bird and held it in his hands so no one could see it. He then asked the wise man if he could tell him if the bird was alive or dead. The wise man saw through the kid's thinking and realized that if he said the bird was dead the kid would let it go. If he said that it was alive the kid would squeeze ever so little and then display its lifeless body for all to see. Either way, he would show the wise man to not be so smart after all. The wise man responded with a sad look into the young man's eyes, "It will be whatever you want it to be."

Reading the reports, and writing my own, there is a common theme that you will hear again and again. You've heard it many times before and it is the observation of the wise man. This Club will be what you want it to be. If all you want out of the Club is a place to lounge around and read a few old magazines, then that is what you will do. If you want it to be a place where you can show off you skills as a modeler, businessman, or craftsman and your talents in writing, photography, construction, and administration; it can be that as well. The choice is yours. Too many people over the years have tried to motivate you to do more, to do your best, to shine as only you can to no good end. They have worn themselves out trying to encourage you. The Club is and it will be whatever you want it to be. Look around you. Is our Club what you want it to be?

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

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

Security Chairman:	Ed Majury
Civil Engineer:	Rich Cornell
Club Architect:	vacant
Club Architect Emeritus:	John Morris
Club Construction Supervisor:	Paul Preuss

Activity Dept. Functionaries:

HO Scale	
Layout Design Committee Chair:	Rich Cornell
Scenery Committee Co-Chair:	John Morris & Ira Deutsch
	Bill Franklin
Electrical Committee Chair:	vacant
Operations Committee Chair:	vacant
Master Mechanic:	Russ Fiero
HD&O Superintendent:	Pete Ezzard
TN Superintendent:	Neil Petillo
Rahway River Superintendent:	Jeff Peal

N Scale

Master Mechanic:	John Cicero
Electrical Dept. Chair:	Mark Juchniewicz
Scenery Chair:	Claude Kelsow
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.tmrcki.org

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Clearboard Editor:	TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCi.org
Webmaster:	Webmaster@TMRCi.org

Summary of the Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for November 7, 2009

Present— Carlos Langezaal, Bob Nalbhone, Eugene Mikijanic, Martin Harriss, and Russ Fiero. Tom Voytac and Roger Oliver arrived during the meeting. **Absent:** Eric Callender and John Wilkens.

The minutes from the October 3, 2009 meeting were read and accepted as was the present t meeting’s agenda. A reminder was given again to the members of the board that monthly reports are due on the designated schedule and a template was distributed. The December meeting was scheduled for 5:30 PM on December 19, 2009 to accommodate Carlos arriving from Europe on that date (this was subsequently changed because of an impending snow storm to 12:00 Noon.)

N-Scale Summary Report for 2009 Calendar of upcoming events 2010

In brief, a summary of the N-Scale department activity for 2009 shows:

The membership is 13 Senior and 2 Junior members; we lost a couple who will be sorely missed. As a group, we attended numerous train/hobby shows, visited layouts as part of club functions, provided staff for public display of our layout for 49 Saturdays, and provided staff for the Holiday Show.

Progress on the layout included the partial re-wiring of the lower section of the mainline [Harrisburg yard to the Helix peninsula], replacement of track behind the peninsula, partial restoration of service to the helix, partial restoration of service to the Newark yards, and partial restoration to scenery in Lebanon. My thanks to all the members who did this work and who worked on the layout and equipment to keep trains running for the public.

Work for the 2010 year is planned to include rewiring of the lower section [Harrisburg yard to the over-stair peninsula], replacement of switches at crossovers, restoration of work on the CTI system for detection-signaling-turnout control, replacement of scenery in Lebanon area, and further restoration of service in the Helix.

Our Budget for 2010 was matched to F.Y. 2009, with the contingency for more if very necessary. However, due to the continued “tight overall” finances we will strive to be thrifty and careful with our spending.

Our members are asked to continue operating with the HO department on Tuesday nights. Finally, I must remind all members to keep their dues responsibilities current.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Callender

Report of the Nominating Committee
These members have indicated in writing a desire to be nominated for election at the Annual Membership Meeting this month to the offices shown, and are willing to serve if elected.

President	Carlos Langezaal*
Vice President	Peter Ezzard
Secretary	Eugene Mikijanic*
Treasurer	John Wilkens*
Director	Russell Fiero*
Director	Thomas Voytac*

*incumbent in that position

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Ezzard, chairman

- 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
Greenburg Show Somerset, NJ
www.trainshow.org
- Jan 23** **Annual Membership Meeting**
1:00 PM at the Club / Jan 30 Alt. Date
- Jan 23/30** **Board of Directors Reorganization Meeting directly after the Annual Membership Meeting.**
Train-O-Rama Dover NJ
- Jan 24
Jan 30-31 **W. Springfield, MA Show**
Amherstrail.org
- Feb 6 Super Saturday Streetcar Festival XVII
Philadelphia, PA NRHS call Steve Barry
For Info: 973 383 3355 9am—5 pm
- Feb 27-28 Spring Thaw Train Show Allentown, PA
www.allentowntrainmeet.com
- Mar 13** **Garden Railroad Dept. Spring Meeting**
1:00 PM at the Club
Train-O-Rama Dover, NJ
- Mar 14
Mar 20 **EASTRAIL 2010** [URHS] info@urhs.org
Warren Hills Regional HS
Washington, NJ (info tel) 732-928-7758
- May 20-23** **MFMR/NER Convention**
St. John, New Brunswick
tracksandtides2010.org
- Jun 22-26 NRHS Convention at Steam town
Scranton, PA
www.endlessmountainrails.com
- Jul 11-17** **NMRA National Convention**
Milwaukee, WI nmra75.org
- Aug 1 Train-O-Rama Dover, NJ
- Sep 9-12 **2010 NER Convention** Burlington, VT
nernmra.org

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.

Campaign21SM

Funding a New Century of Excellence

Have you made your contribution yet?

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.

2009 Annual Report of the Vice President

During the course of the year ending December 31, 2009, I discharged the duties of Vice President as prescribed in Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution of The Model Railroad Club, Inc. Specifically, I attended meetings of the Board of Directors and, when required, substituted for the President in presiding over these meetings. Additionally, as a duly authorized officer of the corporation I signed checks during the course of the recently completed year as part of regular business activities necessary for the organization's daily operations.

As Vice President, I was assigned the duties of Development Department Head. I fulfilled all requirements of the department as specified in the appropriate sections of the Bylaws, including the submission of written reports to the Board of Directors outlining the activities of the department. A separate annual report for the Development Department will be prepared and submitted to the Board of Directors, and made available to the membership. All other specified requirements were also met.

I also served as a voting member on the Dues Advisory Committee. This committee met twice during 2009, as required by the Club's Bylaws.

Roger Oliver and Russ Fiero continue to make good progress on the Club library. Additional shelving was purchased and many of the magazines have been sorted. I thank them for their ongoing efforts. Organizationally, the library is under the office of the vice-president. Its funding is entirely through cash donations.

Continuing a theme I first wrote in my 2006 Annual Report, the Club's corporate structure remains in serious need of reorganization. Last year I thought that this had finally become an action item for the Board of Directors; however this has not been the case. I again repeat my call for the creation of a new Education Department that will have the responsibility of furthering and administering the Club's educational activities. If I remain on the Board, and if I am part of the senior leadership team, I will continue to actively lobby for this in the reorganization. The membership is once again reminded that becoming an educational organization was the basis for our application to the IRS as a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization.

I also wrote in 2006, and repeat emphatically here (as I did in my previous report), that more membership mentoring and involvement in Club administrative tasks must be priorities for the Board of Directors. Office and

business functions are essential to the competent management of the Club.

I am sorry to report that the membership has yet to embrace internal cultural changes necessary for the Club to properly present itself to the public as a 501c(3) tax-exempt public charity. I sincerely hope that this changes quickly, because the long-term viability of the Club requires it.

I thank the membership for the privilege of serving the Club in this capacity and thank my friends and colleagues on the Board of Directors for their assistance and consideration. I also thank all who provided me with assistance in 2009. I look forward to serving the Club in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert L. Nalbone, Jr.
Vice President

Annual Report of the Office Manager for the year 2009

The mission of the Office Manager is to assist the members of the Board of Directors and other senior functionaries in their activities by performing certain routine tasks in accordance with established policy, under supervision of the BOD member or members being assisted. The Office Manager is expected to perform these tasks punctually within reason, accurately, and reliably within the context of a volunteer organization. These tasks include collecting US Mail from the Post Office and routing it to its recipients, accepting and recording dues payments, reporting to the proper functionary other revenue received by mail or deposited at the Club, depositing Club revenue to the Club bank account, maintaining the membership roster and dues record, preparing mailing labels as needed, assisting in the preparation and mailing of *The Clearboard*, and preparing monthly reports for the BOD.

During 2009, I visited the US Post Office to collect mail from the Club's lock box every Tuesday and Saturday morning, and on most Wednesday mornings. I made additional visits during the period of the Annual Light and Sound Show, a total of more than 150 visits. I made perhaps twenty additional trips to mail *The Clearboard*, dues notices, and other material. Most of this additional activity occurred Tuesday and Saturday afternoons.

I recorded 278 payments of dues and fees from members. I mailed 60 dues notices to delinquent members. I also received and processed more than 28 letters and notes from members addressing dues or membership issues.

I prepared 54 bank deposits totaling 385 items,
(continued on page 15)

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Annual Membership Meeting Year-end 2009 Proposed Agenda

(Constitution Article V- Section 1)

Scheduled - January 23, 2010 / Rain Date – January 30, 2010

Meeting time 1:00pm EST

Quorum Required to conduct business: 20 members

(Constitution Article V- Section 4)

Roberts Rules of Order to Govern

(Constitution Article V- Section 7)

1. Review/approval of the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on January 24, 2009, and published in the January, 2010 CLEARBOARD.
2. Reports of the Officers 2009/2010
 - President - C. Langezaal
 - Vice President - R. Nalbone
 - Secretary - E. Mikijanic
 - Treasurer - J. Wilkens
3. Reports of Departments / Committees (Constitution Article VI)
 - Building Department - T. Voytac
 - Membership Department - R. Fiero
 - Development Department - R. Nalbone
 - Standing Committees:
 - Security Department
 - Auditing Committee
 - Workshop Committee
 - Dues Advisory Committee
 - Activity Departments - 2009 Chairpersons:
 - HO Department - M. Harriss
 - N Department - E. Callender
 - Garden Railroad Department - R. Oliver
4. Auditing Committee Report
5. Old Business
 -
 - Other -
6. Report of the Nominating Committee
7. Election of Officers and two Directors-at-Large
8. New Business
 - 2010 Budget Report
 - 2010 Show Committee
 - Honorariums - Membership
9. Adjournment

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting Year-end 2008
January 24, 2009

Quorum Required: 20 members
Roberts Rules of Order to Govern

Meeting was called to order by the President (Carlos Langezaal) at 13:06 (EST) with quorum being present. An attendance sheet was available for all attendees to record their presence. At the start of the meeting there were 25 members present. During the meeting additional members (9) joined the meeting and signed in. Additionally, proxies (3 / 4) are detailed at the end of this report. Time of receipt by the Secretary is noted therein. Time references herein are per the Secretary.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership to open the meeting.

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting

The minutes of the January 2008 Annual Meeting were made available to the membership present in printed format and were also published twice in the Clearboard. Printed copies were available for those who required them. D. Kern motioned for acceptance and P. Ezzard seconded. All present approved motion to accept the minutes by the lack of abstentions or nay votes.

Agenda was made available to the membership in printed fashion.

Additional items raised from the floor included:

- Change in Audit Committee name from P. Ezzard to R. Cornell
- Emergency Response Program

Note of change of date at the top of the agenda to reflect 2009 dates not 2008.

Motion to accept updated agenda –by Jambor and seconded by Kern – there being no Nay votes, nor abstentions the motion carried.

Reports of Officers

President's Report – C. Langezaal -

Carlos presented an address to the membership gathered this date for the year 2008-2009. Highlights are: Recognition of certain Board members and the activities they performed during the year. Bob's PSA efforts which resulted in a wonderful Annual Show, Gene's activities relative to the website and John's fiscal stewardship were included in these comments. A reminder that all members of the Club are part of the efforts in presenting ourselves to the general public. Other topics included the enhanced security as provided by the County via the live camera feeds to the Police Department HQ building. Directional comments for 2009-2010 were included and highlights centered on continuing the small business model as implemented this year. Certain growing pains in the 2008 version of this effort were noted, and plans for 2009 remediation of these and other activities were noted.

Plans for updating the Constitution and By-Laws to reflect a more modern non-profit structure were noted as well. Strategic handling of the BOD by the Officers was noted as an element of the address also. The Dues Committee membership and meeting dates was reviewed. Annual Show support and building maintenance comments were included in the closing comments of his address. This reminder was offered as a solicitation for additional help from the general membership. He requested that all persons take a lead without being asked to do their part in maintaining the interior and exterior of the building. Every week everyone should *do something*. Lastly he touched on the Emergency Response and Preparedness manual which would be addressed later in this meeting.

Questions from the floor following his address included “will there be fire drills to be held during the year” – to which Carlos indicated Yes, and these would include both announced and unannounced drills.

Vice President's Report – R. Nalbone -

Report presented at the meeting in hardcopy available for the membership. Bob highlighted a number of the items covered in his printed report. Library related comments were also included.

Secretary's Report – E. Mikijanic -

Report presented in writing with copies available at the meeting. No other questions arose from the floor.

Treasurer's Report – J. Wilkens -

Report presented in writing with copies available at the meeting. Verbal summation of the report was made for those who didn't have an opportunity to read the available report. Emergency fund discussion and other areas of dedicated funding were discussed.

Question from the floor centered on the contrast of plans to build up the emergency fund while we are running a deficit in the budget. This was discussed in that expenses were considered on the conservative side when assembling the budget for 2009. No other questions arose from the floor.

2009 Building Department Yearly Report

Since taking over the Building Department in June, work has progressed steadily on a number of projects. While not all of those jobs originally planned for this year have been achieved, a few of the larger jobs have actually been completed. Brush and small trees have been cleared, the trailer is gone, parking lot lights have been installed, and Wheezer is back to life just to name a few of the most visible changes. The end of the show, coupled with the arrival of winter in force, has moved work indoors and in the next month or so I hope to make progress steadily on that front.

2010 holds the promise of an active and successful year. With that in mind I have ambitious plans and projects scheduled throughout the year. Rounding out the top of the list is the repair of the roof, building/buying an outdoor shed, and a club wide cleanup program inside and out. Eric Callendar has mapped out the under layout storage area and in the next few weeks we will begin to go through the items stored there and what value, if any they have for the club. A dumpster will be on hand in March for those items deemed non-essential. Look for more details on this in the February Clearboard.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me during the last six months; I couldn't have done it alone. I am excited for the New Year and the progress we will be able to make together. Please let me know if there is a project you would like to get involved with, as well as continuing to offer your thoughts and ideas. Remember, it is OUR club, and it is only going to be as good as WE make it!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Voytac, Building Department Head

NOTICE

The following are authorized to pickup, move, carry or handle engines and rolling stock in non-emergency situations:

The owner of the equipment

A member of the Board

The Master Mechanic

The inspection team which includes:

**Ed van Savage, Neil Petillo, Jeff Peal and
John Cicero. HO Dept.**

2009 Annual Report for the Garden Railroad Department

This year saw the re-establishment of the Garden Railroad Department at The Model Railroad Club. As much as this was a major achievement we were able to begin work on areas under the bench work of Gilberton Yards for a workshop and storage space for the Garden Railroad Department. This space had been designated several years ago when the department was last active but nothing had been done since except “storing” a variety of boxes and other materials between the studding.

We secured, framed and paneled an area over the Show Sign storage for the 'G' gauge track which had been donated. This is now secured up and off the floor. We hope to frame out and enclose a workshop area between the framing so that we have a dedicated space to store essential tools and materials to work on and repair Garden Railroad trains.

We were able to work on the outdoors layout stabilizing and reballasting a portion of it in an effort to get it up and running again for display on Saturdays and during the Annual Show. Only about a 1/3 of the track was able to be worked on before the weather turned too cold. A dual-rail bending tool was bought and has been used successfully on the outdoors layout to straighten rails. It was also used in the rebuilding of the 'G' gauge layout at the Union Plaza Diner over the summer.

Our priorities now are to build our work/storage area, rehabilitate the outdoor and indoor layouts, adopt bylaws for the department and increase our membership.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Oliver

Reports from the Department Heads

Webmasters Report:

Thursday, December 31, 2009

-- Site Summary ---
Visits

Total 33,861

Average per Day35

Average Visit Length 2:15

This Week 244

Page Views

Total 122,644

Average per Day 89

Average per Visit 2.6

This Week 626

Annual Report - 2009

Office of the Secretary

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

December 31, 2009

The following represents a summation of activities conducted on behalf of The Model Railroad Club, Inc. (herein the Club) by the Secretary, Eugene Mikijanic, during the office year 2009.

As in all prior years of my service to the Club as Secretary, various elements of internal and external correspondence continued to be handled on behalf of the Club in a normal and timely fashion. These letters included correspondence of various types in hardcopy as well as web-based correspondence to or from various parties. Copies of the hardcopy correspondences are filed in the permanent records of the Club in a monthly basis organized by transaction date, with specialized folders for unique, confidential or repeating topics.

The Corporate Seal continues to be secured during the reporting period as well as during all service years rendered by this Secretary. The Corporate Seal was only applied to documents as approved during BOD meetings which included bank documents, and/or Corporate records issued on behalf of the Club.

Copies of the Club Constitution and By-Laws as maintained by the Office Manager on behalf of the Membership Chairperson were posted to the website. Copies are available from the Membership Chair as stipulated in Article III Section 4 of the Club By-Laws. Copies are also available via the Club website accessible via the internet at <http://www.tmrcl.com> or <http://www.tmrcl.org> which continues to draw plaudits from visitors from around the world.

Minutes of all monthly or special BOD meetings were produced, distributed and filed in accordance with the Club Constitution. Electronic copies are available as well. Draft and approved versions of these minutes were routinely delivered to the editorial staff of The Clearboard or to the Membership Chairperson for inclusion in issues published by the Editor on behalf of the membership as soon as humanly possible.

Expenses for the Club office were handled under the general office expenses and are no longer the direct responsibility of the Secretary. No budget was deemed necessary for the coming fiscal year.

It has been my continued honor and privilege to serve the membership this past year and during the nearly 12 years that I've been in this position. I have enjoyed the opportunity to challenge the other BOD members and Officers, to continue acting as the "devil's advocate", representing all Activity Departments of the Club equally, and to actively challenge the processes used and decisions made during various meetings I've attended as an Officer of our Club. I hope that I have performed to the pleasure of the membership and hereby thank you for that opportunity.

In closing I'd just like to say that I've agreed to have my name submitted as a candidate with hopes of continuing to serve for you as Secretary for the upcoming year. I will continue to volunteer to handle the Webmaster duties of the Club as well. We've experienced some service issues with the site recently and the entire BOD continues to work to resolve them. Content of the site continues to be lacking a freshness – your photos, articles, and calendar events continue to be sought. Every issue of the BOD minutes continues this plea – so please help.

As I recommended last year, don't sit back and watch others work to keep your Club in the forefront of the hobby, get involved! It's a wonderful feeling to help this organization grow.

I'd like to thank all the members who voted to return me to the office of Secretary year after year, or by allowing me to stand for election uncontested. As stated before, I thank all for the opportunity to serve the Club for the last year, and hope to continue serving in this role in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene A. Mikijanic, Secretary 2009

Locker Fees are due and payable during the month of January. Fees are \$10/locker/year

Reports of Departments/Committees

Building Department –

Summation of the report presented in hardcopy by Carlos included the following highlights. Briante was thanked for filling the position during the majority of the year. HVAC and Security activities were recognized – naming Jeff, Ed and Ed specifically. John Morris was thanked profusely for cutting the grass outside the building during the hot months. A request was made of the younger members to take over these specific activities in place of the more senior member(s). Plans for 2009 include the concrete pipe, the old trailer, and especially the installation of the crossing gate(s) were included. Replacement of Little Fred and the roof & siding, outside lighting and the attic fan in the N-Scale area.

Question from the floor included a request for further info on Little Fred. Information relating to the air volume flowing thru that portion of our overall system was provided. Efficiency was also touched upon as it relates to the unit.

No questions came from the floor.

Membership Department – D. Kunig -

Dick thanked all for being able to be the Membership Chair for the past year and summarized that Membership attempted to assist all other areas of the Club. The report for this area was previously printed in the Clearboard. Emergency Preparedness was touched upon as an area of recent activities. Plans for 2009 were included as a discussion point.

Development Department – R. Nalbhone -

Report presented in writing with copies available at the meeting. Verbal summation of the report was made for those who didn't have an opportunity to read the available report. A quotation from Yogi Berra opened Bob's comments for the year. Fund raising was concentrated upon as a deficiency, while recognizing the financial environment the country in which it finds itself. Total revenue was down about 14% from prior year. A surplus of about \$12k was returned to the Club after departmental expenses. Annual Show attendance exceeded 3400 visitors for \$21.6k. gross or \$14k net – this compares to \$14k gross for last year. A significant improvement attributed to both the PayPal home run and PSA grand slam efforts.

Question from the floor included: "Was any direct mail sent out" – about 6700 mailings were sent out via hardcopy and was about \$2k. "Wasn't the US Mail tickets the same" – yes, but the e-tickets were new this year. Additional questions regarding the Courses that were not offered, and also a question about any e-mail addresses that may have been captured during the e-ticket sales. Flyers, and Where did you hear about us, were also asked. Friend membership count (25) and a comment about the PSA driving people to the website were also noted. No other questions arose from the floor.

Standing Committee Reports:

Security Department -

Ed Majury was not present at the meeting. Carlos asked for any questions of which there were none.

Auditing Committee Report –

Report will be presented later in the agenda as noted by Rich Cornell.

Workshop Committee -

Workshop topics were covered in the Development Department Report. There were no specific questions at this time of the agenda.

Dues Advisory Committee -

Carlos summarized that the Committee did not meet this year. He solicited to have an HO member and an N member to join – Tom Voytac for HO and Geert Marien for N volunteered. Bob Nalbhone cited the tasks charged to this committed seeing as neither volunteer knew what they were responsible for.

Activity Departments:

HO Department – M. Harriss -

Martin summarized the written report previously made available. Ed Majury was recognized for his DCC related activities that were not included in the HO Annual Report. No questions were raised from the floor.

N Department – E. Callender -

Report presented in writing with copies available at the meeting as it was not made available for publishing in the Clearboard. Verbal summation of the report was made for those who didn't have an opportunity to read the available report. No other questions arose from the floor.

Auditing Committee Report –

Rich Cornell summarized his activities in reviewing the books for 2008 and noted that nothing seemed amiss. There were no abnormal expenses noted. Utilities related expenses were noted as our primary set of costs. Rich cited that he felt all was in order and nothing seemed abnormal.

A question came from Roger surrounding a standard set of tasks or points to review as part of the Annual Review – the answer being that no, there wasn't a standard set – but Rich described his activities which equaled to what normal people do related to their own checking accounts and balancing the books. Income and expenses were in order. Based on questions from the floor relating to cash flow recording, bank statement reconciliations and check approvals were reviewed by John Wilkens in

satisfaction of the membership. Following the description which included preparation of our annual Tax submission done by a professional CPA, Bill Franklin who raised the question indicated he was fully satisfied as to his concern and the response offered.

OLD BUSINESS

Other –

There being no other items to be recorded, a biological break of “5” minutes was so ordered at 14:25 hours.

The meeting was resumed at 14:36.

Nominating Committee –

Nominations for all positions were presented by the Nominating Committee co-Chair, Tom Voytac. They were as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
President	Carlos Langezaal
Vice President	Bob Nalbone
Treasurer	John Wilkins
Secretary	Eugene Mikijanic
Director-at-large	Dick Kunig
	Bill Jambor
	Russ Fiero
	John Cicero
	Don Magee

Elections to the Officers and two Directors-at-Large -

President – Candidate presented by the Nominating Committee was **Carlos Langezaal**.

From the floor, the following nominations were made: None

Harriss motioned closure of Presidential nominations and **R. Cornell** seconded.

Therefore the candidate elected to the office of President is **Carlos Langezaal**.

Vice President - Candidate presented by the Nominating Committee was **R. Nalbone**.

From the floor, the following nominations were made: None

Ezzard motioned to close nominations and seconded by **D. Kern**. Therefore the candidate elected to the office of Vice

President is **Bob Nalbone**.

Secretary – Candidate presented by the Nominating Committee was **E. Mikijanic**.

From the floor, the following nominations were made: None

Motion made by **Kern** and seconded by **Cornell** to close nominations.

Candidate elected to the office of Secretary was **E. Mikijanic**.

Treasurer – Candidate presented by the Nominating Committee was **J. Wilkens**.

From the floor, the following nominations were made: None

Cornell moved to close nominations seconded by **J. Cicero**.

Candidate elected to the office of Treasurer was **J. Wilkens**.

Director (2) – Candidates presented by the Nominating Committee were:

Dick Kunig, Bill Jambor, Russ Fiero, John Cicero & Don Magee.

Jambor withdrew his nomination. John Cicero withdrew his nomination.

No nominations were placed from the floor.

Dick Kunig, Russ Fiero and Don Magee are the three candidates.

Kern motioned to close nominations and **Nalbone** seconded.

Discussion followed where each of the candidates were asked to address the members with their interests as well as other questions that were posed from the floor. Details of the extensive discussion relating to both Membership and Building role possibilities are not detailed herein due to the rapidity of the questions and answers and to them.

Following sufficient time for discussion, rebuttal and Q&A the elections were held. The results of the elections for Director the results were as follows from a possible of 66 votes (33 for each director position):

Dick Kunig - 17

Russ Fiero - 21

Don Magee - 26

The elected Directors who received the majority of votes are **Russ Fiero** and **Don Magee**.

Secretary note: BOD for 2009-2010 is now:

President – Carlos Langezaal

V. President – Bob (Robert) Nalbone

Secretary – Gene (Eugene) Mikijanic

Treasurer – John Wilkens

HO Department – Martin Harriss

N Department – Eric Callendar

Director at large – Russ Fiero

Director at large – Don Magee

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Budget Report –

Previously addressed initially in the Treasurers Report noted in Reports section above. HO and N scale budget dollar amounts were identified. No specific questions were raised relating to HO/N.

Water bill was discussed as part of the questions from the floor. Residential rate was applied previously detailing a past due balance of \$8900 paying for the privilege of having a connection for potential use. Discussion by the Treasurer with the water company got the due balance to one year back-due and ongoing expenses (\$3000). A discussion on the potential of for the County paying for the water bill – discussions are ongoing and more information will follow.

2009 Show Committee – C. Langezaal

Carlos described the new aggressive tact we need from this group. Eric Callender and Martin Harris, the (to be designated) Membership Chair, and Bob Nalbone are members – chairperson is Nalbone until the committee names their own chair. Additional members are Bill Jambor, John Cicero, Tom Voytac and Jeff Peal. Organizational meeting Feb 21, 2009 at 3:00pm.

Honorariums – Membership

Roger was recognized for two AP awards from the NMRA, and is 1/3 of the way to Master Model Railroader.

Merit Award – Award was \$100 Visa gift card and is presented to Jeff Peal.

Special Service Award - Award was \$50 Visa gift card and is presented to Ed Figler.

Mallery Award – There were no candidates for this award this year.

Other –

Emergency Response Program – Dick Kunig discussed the document that was distributed to all members present today. Concentration on certain pages/elements were highlighted. These included pages 3, 7 and 10 and items such as qualification and proficiency levels were discussed. Page 13 detailing charts/maps of the facility and the alarm system paperwork needs were discussed.

General Building Access - Bob indicated that on several occasions over the past year several instances of an unlocked building, including once with Count officials only present, happened. Please lock-up.

Delaware II Award – Roger highlighted the NE Region handing over the award and it’s future use as a NE Region award. The original award recipients and the newly designated award use were highlighted along with how to apply for consideration were discussed.

Good & Welfare – Kunig cited history of the Good & Welfare activities and current availability of offerings.

BOD Transition comments – Carlos thanked all 2008/9 BOD members, welcomed the new 2009/10 members and reminded those of required transition period.

Emergency Preparedness - Discussion from the floor was raised about sign-offs on receiving the document, as well as passage of a nominal test pertaining to the contents of the document and continuation of building access. Non-passage, or not taking the test will result in revocation of building access. Timing to be determined by the BOD once the document is finalized and accepted by the BOD.

Adjournment of meeting –

Harris seconded by **Kern**. No nays or abstentions. **Meeting adjourned at 15:57 EST.**

Proxies - Submitted prior to the start of the meeting:

Proxies received by the secretary before the start of the meeting; **James Mikijanic** held by Eugene Mikijanic, **Ray Russell** held by Bill Jambor, **Ed Majury** held by Bill Jambor, and **Joe Marateo** held by Eugene Mikijanic, received before the start of meeting for exercise following his departure from the meeting anticipated to be about 2:00 PM.