



The CLEARBOARD

The Official Publication of The Model Railroad Club, Inc

Hudson, Delaware & Ohio Railroad
Trenton Northern Transportation & Light Company
Rahway River Railroad
Mauch Chunk Terminal Railroad
Jersey Shore & Western Railroad
Public Service Interurban Rapid Transit Company

"Information and Ideas, By and For Our Members."

Issue # 483

October, 2008



'Ties the Season: The Community Playhouse in Jim Thorpe is advertising a train show. Photo by Carlos Langezaal.

2008 TMRCI Annual Sound & Light Show

Dates: November **28, 29, 30**;
December **5, 6, 7**; and December **12, 13, 14**

Show Times:

Fridays: Nov. 28 noon - 10 pm, Dec. 5 & 12 7 pm to 10 pm;
Saturdays 10 am - 8 pm;
and Sundays 11 am - 6 pm

Tickets on sale now

The CLEARBOARD

EDITOR: Joe Santomauro
COPY EDITOR: Carlos Langezaal

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Eric Callender
 Martin Harriss
 Carlos Langezaal
 Bob Nalbone

PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION: Bill Jambor

The Clearboard is published 12 times a year by The Model Railroad Club, Inc. P.O. Box 1146, Union, NJ 0783-1146.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES & EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editors of *The Clearboard* welcome articles and photographs submitted by members. We will try to publish articles in a timely manner. 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. No anonymous submissions will 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 either side.
- If you submit an article by disk, we prefer Word 2000 format, but we can use submissions saved as text files.
- Include, if possible, a hard copy of the article. If we destroy your disk, we are willing to put in the effort to retype your article if we have something to type from.
- You may email articles to:
 TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCI.org.
 Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit photographs in *The Clearboard* editor's mail box .
- All editorials are the opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Club or the Board of Directors

©2008 The Model Railroad Club, Inc.
 All Rights Reserved.

CONTENTS

From the Editor

3

Departmental News

N-Scale News

4

HO Scale News

4

Club Information

Oct, '08 BOD Meeting Summary

5

2008 Show Preparations

7

Breaking News:

Club Now Has PayPal™ Account

7

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please make sure you keep your contact information current. Write (legibly, please) any address changes or other updated information on a piece of paper and drop it in the mail slot in the lobby of the Club building, attention "Roster Clerk." Thank You.

*Bill Jambor,
 Roster Clerk*

Clearboard Commentary

By Carlos Langezaal, President

As I am writing this editorial, the Annual Show is less than three weeks away. We open the doors on Friday, November 28 at noon and there is still so much to do.

We need to do our very best and make certain our Club lives up to the standard for which it has become famous. In the upcoming weeks, when you visit the Club, there is no more building. Our attention should be focused solely on the show. A list of tasks is posted at the Club. If you have any questions about what needs to be done, please contact Martin Harriss, Eric Callender or Bob Nalbone.

Late September, a video producer came to the Club and shot a considerable amount of footage of both layouts. The result is a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) promoting the Annual Show and the Club. This PSA has been released to Cablevision and Comcast for airing on select cable channels. Following the show, a PSA promoting our Saturday public hours will air.

We need all members to help promote the show by distributing flyers and posters. Distribute them in your neighborhood, post them on public announcement boards in local grocery stores, libraries, at work, etc. The better the show is publicized, the better the attendance will be, thereby helping us balance our budget for next year.

Thanks to the efforts of John Wilkens and Gene Mikijanic, a PayPal™ account has been set up and can be accessed on Club's Website. This is another promotional tool. Visitors to our Website now have the opportunity to buy Club merchandise, buy show tickets and make donations. In addition, members many now pay their dues online.

In September, a group of members visited two well-known HO layouts in New Jersey. It is always fun to see the efforts of other modelers and learn from them. I expect that the Membership Department will organize some more trips of that kind next year.

The library project is also moving full steam ahead. With a new computer available, the librarians have started to catalogue our vast collection of research material. A lot of work is still to be done, but a good start has been made. Thank you to Roger Oliver and Russ Fiero!

The Model Railroad Club, Inc.

Founder: Paul Mallery (1918-2004)

Board of Directors:

President:	Carlos Langezaal
Vice-President:	Bob Nalbone
<i>Development Dept. Head</i>	
Treasurer:	John Wilkens
Secretary:	Gene Mikijanic
Director:	Open (as of 8 Nov)
<i>Building Dept. Head</i>	
Director:	Dick Kunig
<i>Membership Dept. Head</i>	
HO Dept. Head:	Martin Harriss
N Dept. Head:	Eric Callender

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:	Mike Briante
Club Architect Emeritus:	John Morris
Club Construction Supervisor:	Paul Preuss

Activity Dept. Functionaries:

<u>HO Scale</u>	
Layout Design Committee Chair:	Rich Cornell
Scenery Committee Co-Chair:	John Morris & Ira Deutsch
Electrical Committee Chair:	Bill Franklin
Operations Committee Chair:	Open (as of 8 Nov)
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 Kelsoe
Benchwork Chair:	Stephen Lawler

Club Mailing Address:

PO Box 1146, Union, NJ
07083-1146

Telephone: (908) 964-9724

Website: www.tmrcl.org

E-mail Addresses:

<u>Board of Directors:</u>	TMRCi_BOD@TMRCi.org
<u>Clearboard Editor:</u>	TMRCi_Clearboard@TMRCi.org
<u>Webmaster:</u>	Webmaster@TMRCi.org

Jersey Shore & Western Railroad Company News

By Eric Callender

On-going work in our Department includes completion scenery in the Buffalo Steel Mill area, completion of scenery in the Palmyra/back side of Lebanon area, work on upper level, Elmira scenery, repair and relocation of the PSIRT trolley service, repair of scenery in Port Reading, and completion of the N-Track module. The bus system is 100% complete and work is progressing with the Hewlets and ballasting for the Buffalo waterfront area. The water is 'dried' in Port Reading and the ships will be berthed there soon! Installation of grade crossing protection devices has begun.

I would like to thank John and Brian Cicero, Mark J., Don, Pete, and Claude for their work on the layout and for running trains for the general public and for the video-taping session for the county Public Service Announcement; and of course for other work around the club.

Find below a general schedule for proposed N-Scale activities:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Fall 2008 | - | Possible Fall Foliage Trip to Port Jervis, NY. |
| October 2, 2008 | - | Club trip to Strasburg Museum |
| November 14, 2008 | - | Completion of Show preparation and Local NJT- MTA – Light Rail- NJT trip. |

Finally, I must remind all members to keep their dues responsibilities current.



The Jersey Shore & Western is leasing some surplus GO-Transit equipment to help deal with a surge in commuter ridership, as evidenced by this photo by Carlos Langezaal.

HO Department News

By Martin Harriss

The HO Department held its regular quarterly meeting on October 25' and the minutes of that meeting have been published elsewhere. Rather than rehash the reports from that meeting, I will just mention that the Annual Show is nearly upon us and much work needs to be done. I would ask all HO Department members to help get the Club and the layout ready for the Show. A list of jobs has been posted at the Club; if you have any questions about what need to be done, please contact either myself or Bob Nalbhone.

Summary of the October 04, 2008 BOD Meeting

The BOD meeting was opened by Vice-President Robert Nalbone @ 3:08 pm with quorum present. Guest attendees: Don Magee – Motion by Mikijanic, seconded by Kunig to recognize the listed guest(s) as attendees with voice. No dissenting votes were cast.

The minutes of the Jun 28, 2008 BOD meeting were read by those present today. Motion was made to accept those amended (see below) minutes by Wilkens and seconded by Callender. There were no dissenting votes from those present at the subject meeting and at the time of the vote today.

Reports –

Building Department Report –

No written report was available – comments from the floor included:

- The trailer – Gene spoke to one of the drivers outside of Home Depot on 9/30, who recommended calling a wrecker service who might come out to look at it, and take/scrap it themselves for the value of the scrap metal. Dick approached the State who indicated that based on the means of our obtaining it renders it an abandoned vehicle and we should go thru Union PD for disposal.
- Building department – Building fan in N-scale area (attic) seems to have a seized motor based on the noise and lack of air movement. Building needs to attend this.
- Fire System Compressor – No news.
- Fire Drill SOP – Kunig had reported that he has completed approximately 80% (still) of an SOP on how to react to a Fire Alarm activation. This will not include the actual system manual. No finalization of this topic yet even this month due to a lack of feedback from anyone who rec'd a draft copy.
- Concrete pipe / Site clean-up – Still needs to be broken-up - Briante to coordinate.
- City Fire – Missed inspections have not been rescheduled by City Fire.

Development Report –

Reports were delivered by Bob Nalbone. Updates are contained in the report. Highlights were shared with the attending members. No significant items needed discussion. Despite the turndown, we are still up about 24% compared to last year.

Treasurers Report –

Treasurer John Wilkens delivered a report for the period. There were no specific questions from the floor. The Board continues once again to remind all that times are very lean and that excessive spending should be avoided at all costs. Income for the month was down \$1300 and ytd down \$4900 (net loss). Expenses are expected to go up significantly for gas and electric due to rises passed to us from the Utility Company. On the plan, our rate went up \$130/mo. Our make-up bill (plan v. actual) was approx. \$2k. Preliminary 2009 budgets were discussed with HO and N scale with both numbers being received in a non-negative atmosphere.

N Scale Report –

Eric Callender filed a report for the subject months. Updates for the N-Scale web pages are still absent. For example, the Master Plan document is still totally missing from the site. Missing web items were discussed with the Chair by the Secretary.

HO Department Report –

Martin Harriss discussed the activities of the periods passed as covered in his printed report. No outstanding issues were noted. Detailed information is available directly from the HO-Scale reports.

Updates for the HO-Scale web pages are still absent. Missing web items were discussed with the Chair by the Secretary.

Membership Report -

Dick Kunig filed a copy of his report for the month. Included was a dues report as prepared by Bill Jambor for review by the BOD. Statistics are available directly from the Membership report. No notable highlights were identified. Updates to forms, reports, etc. need to be addressed – for example the Building Access form.

Old Business -

Club Calendars and more - Gene reported that no items were submitted. Still!

Server donation – Activities are happening. John spoke w/Ed M. about a license number who will mail the number to him.

Personal Storage – Martin presented a draft document as a Policy on Personal Storage. E-responses were due to Martin by eom-July 2008. No responses were sent / received. Eric and Martin will survey what is here, where it is stored, and the functionary of the individual to whom it belongs.

Crossing Gates – One and a half units are here! Installation is now needed. Coordination is needed with the County. Volunteers should see the usual candidates, including Bill Franklin and Mike Briante. It needs to be protected from the elements ASAP if not installed prior to ground freeze.

Credit Card Merchant Account – Wilkens will reactivate efforts in this area based on the approaching need especially seeing as the Annual Meeting is approaching.

Annual Show – Membership addressed the following items:

- Local Newspaper Coverage – Bob reported that the Press release is written, and will be mailed/faxed tonight. Our Backgrounder document is being updated and will similarly be posted to the website. Video PSA being produced as per prior conversations and e-mails among the Board.
- Reversed-print Shirts for Public Sale – Kunig asked about the ability to print blue text on white shirt for sale to the general public. Primary topic relating to costs and timing when competing with the other items requiring more attention.
- Show Flyers – Show flyers are needed within the next few weeks – with Carlos seeking about 1000 for his personal distribution efforts. Others are encouraged to get their quantities as soon as the flyers are available and aggressively distribute them.
- Task List – updated task list will be posted on the lower level under the “old stairs” beneath the HO Pitts. aisle.

New Business -

New Members/Actions – No candidates were presented for consideration for membership, although two are on file and will be acted upon next month.

Exterior Lighting – Don Magee raised a serious concern about the lack of lighting on the exterior of the building. Persons with reduced visibility especially have problems with the level of lighting currently installed. This item needs to be addressed ASAP. Building needs to address this with industrial level high intensity lighting. John indicated that we should investigate loaner of lights from the County. This is a safety issue and needs rapid attention.

Campaign21SM

Funding a New Century of Excellence

Have you made *your*
contribution yet?

Please...

**Do your part to help keep the
building and grounds clean.**

Upcoming Activities - Annual Show

By Carlos Langezaal & Bob Nalbhone

Several activities and events are scheduled in the upcoming months. Preparations for the Annual Show have already begun. There are a number of tasks that need to be completed before now and the opening of the show on November 27. Your help is needed to accomplish these tasks.

As we all are aware, the show is a very important fund raising activity for the club and one area that is always a challenge is staffing. It is important to have as many members participate as possible. This year we are trying to get a head start on this critical area. Please fill out on the special form that will be posted soon at the club your availability for the show. We're counting on your commitment to the Club to help make it a success.

In addition, distribution of flyers, posters to businesses and other public areas to make the public aware of our upcoming annual show are available. We encourage all members to distribute this as wide as possible, including on posting boards, at work etc.

We like to institute some basic guidance for the annual show.

First, the people who come to our show are our guests and must be treated as such. We should be as accommodating as possible when they're in our building. We should always be aware of them in the building, asking them for example "May I help you?" or "Do you have any questions I can answer for you". We should strive to do this when our guests are anywhere in the building other than in the layout

room while the show is in progress.

However, once that music starts, the trains begin rolling, and the show is underway, the membership should almost become "invisible" to the public and the layout and the trains should now become the focal point for our audience.

Second, if you have no business being on "the stage" while the show is in progress, then don't go there. All you're doing is attracting attention to yourself and away from the layout and the trains. We will have enough trouble shooters on hand.

Third, as an engineer in the balcony, if something happens to the train you're running or you see something happen on the layout during the show, don't shout down to the troubleshooter from the balcony. Simply, pick up a radio (that's what they're in the cabs for in the first place) and tell the troubleshooter as calmly and directly as possible what the trouble is.

Finally, realize that there are some problems that are going to come up that are not possible to be completely resolved during the show. These problems will need further attention after the show is over and before the next show starts. It is inevitable that this will happen at least once during the three weekends of the show so don't worry about it, just do what you can for the remainder of the current show and let the troubleshooter(s) deal with it between shows.

end

Breaking News - Club PayPal™ Account Now Active

By Bob Nalbhone

After much hemming and hawing and literally years of inaction, the Club finally has its own PayPal™ account. Visitors to the Club's Website can now make secure online purchases and donations. Members also benefit from being able to pay dues online.

It has long been argued by several Board members that the Club was failing to take advantage of the tools made possible by technology and the Internet, and was missing out on show ticket sales and public cash donations. The addition of this feature will help the Club maximize its revenue potential.

Thanks go out to Club Treasurer John Wilkens, along with Club Secretary Gene Mikijanich, for bringing this important enhancement to the Club's operation.

end

Nice Mug...



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

MEMBER PRICE: \$5.00

(Price includes 7% NJ sales tax.)

Get Yours Today!

Clearboard Deadlines:

November 2008 Issue: November 15. Publication on or about November 29

December 2008 Issue: December 13. Publication on or about December 27.

THE CLEARBOARD

PO Box 1146

Union, NJ 07083-1146

FIRST CLASS MAIL