



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 # 461

January 2006



*Snow removal equipment in Steamtown, PA, awaiting to be restored to its original glory.
 Picture taken by Gene Mikijanic.*

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The CLEARBOARD

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SUBMITTING ARTICLES and 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 crhlc@comcast.net. Scanning services for photographs are available. Submit photographs in *The Clearboard* editor's 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

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Clearboard Commentary By Carlos Langezaal

With the start of a new year, I like to wish all TMRCl members and their families a happy and prosperous New Year.

With the start of the new year, various annual meetings are upcoming. Departmental meetings were held on Saturday January 7. Minutes of the HO Department Annual Meeting can be found in this issue. Martin Harriss was elected as the new HO Department Head for 2006. Congratulations Martin!

Also the N-scale Department had their annual departmental meeting. Erik was reelected to N scale Department Head. Congratulations Erik!

In this issue you also find the Annual Reports for HO and N Departments, Financial Annual report and report from the Vice President. In addition, the minutes of the HO and N- Departments Annual meeting from January 7, 2006 are included.

All Members are invited to the 2006 Annual Meeting on January 21, 2006 at 1: 00PM. Please remember, you must be in good standing order to be eligible to participate and vote either in person or by proxy. In addition, members must be in good standing in order to be considered for a BOD position.

In recent month's several *Clearboards* and notices from the dues collector have been returned to *The Club* as undeliverable. Please forward any address change or when you suspect your address is incorrect in *The Club's* database to the Director Membership and the Dues Collector. Your cooperation is appreciated.

See you next month with the results of the Annual Meeting and news from *The Club*.

FIRE PREVENTION

Please refrain from depositing trash in the bucket containing sand located outside the building. This should be used for putting out cigarettes only. Your cooperation will help prevent fires. Thank you.

N-Scale Annual Report

By Eric Callender

- Several scenery projects areas of the layout including the street carnival in the new [Dover/Reading] urban area, the [western] period logging scene at the hatch cover, and the lightweight hard-shell construction for mountains for the western Pennsylvania section on the top loop over the Harrisburg (old St. Georges) yard, were completed.
- The increased level of construction on the layout continued until the annual holiday show began.
- The general clean-up of the tracks and the floors of the N-scale area was done in preparation for the holiday show.
- The repaired and extended trolley track and automated control modules provided an enjoyable aspect to the layout.
- The N-scale membership provided service to the annual show with a high percentage of member participation both on our layout and by running trains and the lights for the light and sound show.
- The N-scale department began operations on a limited basis after completion of the annual show.

2006 Projection

- Operations: construction operations on the layout must be schedule around proposed operating sessions. Operations are expected to improve so that the department can participate in the NMRA operation-special interest group (Op-Sig) meeting at our club scheduled for May 2006.
- The inspection and standardization of equipment and trackage on the layout should be performed as soon as possible to speed the improvement of operations.
- Construction on the layout will be scheduled to present less interference with preparations for the annual holiday show began.
- Revisions to the electrical wiring will continue to improve the performance of the layout.
- The remote turnout, signal, and CTC installation will be addressed with more attention to improve the performance of the layout and prevent these (partially installed) assets from languishing.
- The track and scenery installed by the engine service area in the corner of the Harrisburg yard must be re-wired and tested.
- Several scenery projects (including installation of backdrops) will be continued. The construction for the new [Dover] urban area will be completed. The steel mill above the helix will be incorporated into the layout.
- The utilization of the balcony areas will begin upon removal of other dept. Assets from these areas.
- The general clean-up of the floors and organization of the N-scale area will be done to minimize time and energy invested in construction operations.

Submitted by

Eric Callender
N-scale dept. Chairman
January, 2006

HO Department Annual Report

Submitted by Peter Ezzard

I would like to thank all HO Department members for all of the work that they have done at the Club this year. The Department makes up the bulk of the membership of The Model Railroad Club and many HO Department members helped clean the building, staff the ticket window during Saturday visiting hours, volunteer to assist at birthday parties (an important Club fund-raiser), and of course to help out at the Annual Show (the Club's main fund-raising activity of the year). We also found time to have fun this year, not only at weekly operating sessions, but at other activities as well. The Club and the Department hosted its Annual Ops 'Til You Drop and BBQ in May 2005 and again hosted an operating session for the Northeast Region Meet of the NMRA in the fall. The Garden State Division of the NMRA also visited the Club. In addition, Department members visited the Branford Electric Railway in Connecticut, the GATSME layout in Pennsylvania, and Steamtown. Other "unofficial" trips were made by various Department members. All of the activities and work could not be accomplished without the hard work of our members, and, as always, it has been a pleasure working and socializing with all of you. Thanks go to each and every one of you for your contributions to the Club and the Department.

Most of the progress made on the HO layouts this year were "hidden" from first glance at the layout. Emphasis this year was on layout wiring, control panel installations, and track work in the "new building".

- The track west of Pittsburgh was placed into service following the completion of track wiring and switch controls in the area west of Mon Junction. Freight and passenger trains are now being scheduled from points west of Mon Junction.
- The passenger area in Gilberton is just about ready for service, with track wiring, control panels, ballasting and some scenery work just about completed. Rail Service in this area is expected sometime in the first part of this year.
- A new control panel was installed in Auburn/Murray Hill, making this town on the original layout "finished" and fully operational. The new timetable calls for several meets and or passes at this station.
- Trackwork continued in the Orange, Newark, Summit and western staging yards on the "new layout".
- Existing trackwork from Morris to Jim Thorpe was lowered in preparation of its realignment into the "new layout".
- The Balcony Cab area was re-conditioned to be more compatible with DCC operations. The old throttles were removed and a new table-top with DCC ports was installed.
- The original "temporary" Gilberton turntable was replaced with another model and track leads were installed to the turntable from both the freight and passenger side of Gilberton as well as the Gladstone branch. This has greatly facilitated operations in Gilberton.
- The Pittsburgh turntable also saw maintenance. It has been remotored and the troublesome indexing has been removed.
- A new HD&O Timetable was put into effect this past Tuesday, January 3, 2006. It incorporates many of the suggested changes that the Operations committee had recommended.
- An updated Computerized Assisted Waybilling System (CAWS) has been presented for use. It is awaiting feedback from the waybillers.
- The Scenery mavens were busy during the year, with ballasting of rail, Construction of buildings in Pittsburgh, installation of cross bucks and other details that most of us too easily overlook. Not to be overlooked are all the minor repairs, adjustments and tune-ups that were made to keep the present layout operational.

Once again, I would like to thank all HO Department members for the efforts and fellowship over the past year.



*Trenton Northern #401 waiting at Steamtown, PA for it's route to ???
Picture taken by Gene Mikijanic during August 2005 trip to Steamtown, PA.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting

January 21, 2006 with a rain date of February 4
To be held at 1:00 PM

Clearboard Deadlines:

February 2006 Issue: February 11, 2006. To be distributed around February 25, 2006.
March 2006 Issue: March 11, 2006. To be distributed around March 25, 2006.

**OUR SATURDAY VISITORS PAY US.
PAY THEM THE RESPECT AND CONSIDERATION DUE
GUESTS IN OUR HOME.**

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