



SVGRS Newsletter January 2020

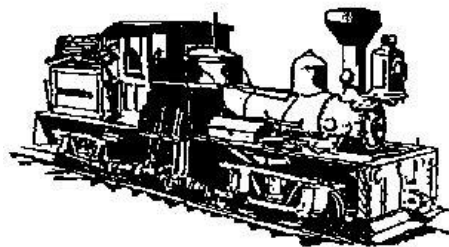
2020 Calendar of Events

Cut out and paste this on your refrigerator

- Jan- 9 6:00pm - Executive Board Meeting (New Year planning schedule)**
- Feb-10 First Quarter Newsletter**
- Feb-25 7:00pm - General Meeting #1 New Oxford Train Station**
- Mar-7 2:00 pm Repack and Organize trailer for ECSLTS train show.**
- Mar-12 10:00am - Setup for Spring ECLSTS**
- Mar-13 9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 1**
- Mar-14 9:00am - ECLSTS Train Show Day 2 Tear Down @ 4:00pm**
- Mar-31 Deadline to pay 2019 Dues**
- Apr-13 Deadline for 2nd quarter News Letter Articles**
- June TBA Open House, Short meeting to be held as well**

- Sep-19 1:00am - General Meeting #3/Club Picnic, Southampton Township Park, Southampton Junction Pavilion, 200 Airport road, Shippensburg, PA**
- Oct-4 2:00pm Trailer Inventory, Clean inventory items and re-pack for RR**
- Oct-14 Deadline for 4th quarter News Letter Articles**
- Nov-6 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup up ; Track & Platforms**
- Nov- 14 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Complete Setup**
- Nov-27 5:00pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day**
- Dec- 13 4:30pm - General Meeting #4/Christmas Party (Hanover Railside Dinner)**
- Dec-31 2019 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends**

Reminder: 2020 Club dues are to be paid by the end of March. Dues are now \$25 if paid by March 31, make payment to Jeff Shubert, 258 Chestnut Drive, Shippensburg, PA 17257-9493



2020 Open House – Volunteers Needed

If you have a garden Railroad layout we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2020. This is a good way for members to get ideas and also provides good comradery among our members.

Please contact Robert Wenger, weng308@yahoo.com to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.



Message from our President

Presidents Message

Well, another year has come and gone and our club continues to prosper. We had a great picnic and Christmas party. Our hobby is now starting to grow after a few years of stalemate. Now if we could just get Bachmann to commit so some of their possible projects, we would have some new trains. They continue to discuss using some of the old Arisocraft trains molds, but no final word on making a production run. The Bachmann SR-VP (Rich Janyszek) has been very good to me and the club over the past 5 years. He has authorized the donation of train sets and rolling stock to me for the club that have almost always been free. This is huge help for Rocky ridge Christmas magic with Bachmann providing the giveaway set and it's no cost to us. The downfall is, it's all Thomas related items. We appreciate them but would love the company to move forward and manufacture us some regular new locos and rolling stock. USA trains and Piko are about the only companies moving forward on new trains. The problem is new higher mfg. costs and import tax issues. A new USA trains heavy weight passenger car is over \$100.00 more in costs than the one produced a few years back. We will all need to save our pennies to get the new improved goodies. We can only wait and see what's next.

I am happy to say that we have also increased our membership. Almost everyone participated at Christmas magic this year and considering the short time frame / shortest holiday month, most days closed; we did very well. Rob and I will have the final report including finances at the early spring meeting.

More important is; we will have to have the 1st SVGRS meeting in Feb at the New Oxford train station Tuesday; Feb 25 at 7pm This is due to the ECLSTS being early in March and no longer in York Pa. Please plan to attend even if you are not going to Timonium. We have other items on our agenda. I hope a lot of members can make it. We have a ton of logistic planning to tackle to build and have this layout function so far away from out home base.

As your president, I am also making some improvements in the clubs Officers duties and our meetings. From now on, members can receive a detailed quarterly finance report sheet that will be presented at the meetings. We will also have the Secretary's notes available as well. There will be printed copies available. Next, I will be having our VP run some of our meetings for better etiquette and rules of order. This is not my strong point. This will relieve me to do what I do best. Planning and organizing for the club future and events. My skillset has always been planning/ logistics, negotiations, recruitment, repairs and finance. We all have something to offer, and as a group we need to continue to capitalize on all of our members skills to make it better for the future.

The 2020 calendar for our new year has been setup and in this newsletter. If you have questions, feel free to contact me on anything. Cut and print out a copy and put in on your fridge or office. This makes for the best reminders! Looking forward to seeing all of you in February and March.

Turk Russell -Pres/ coordinator



New Hampshire Trip & Tour de Chooch



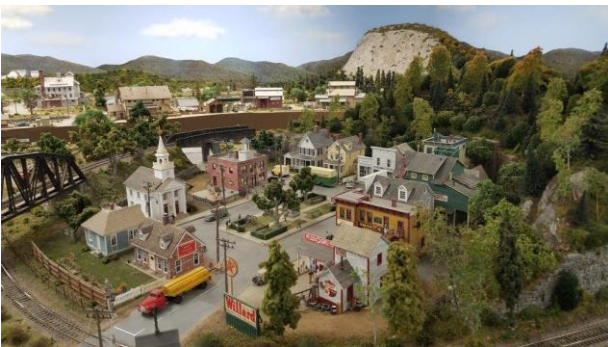
Left to right: Stan Ames(owner) Kevin Rydzewski(NGRS) Turk Russell (SVGRS)

Over Thanksgiving, I had the opportunity to travel north and stay with my buddy Kevin and his family. Taking a tour of trains in November at NH where temps are normally 10-30 degrees was a new one for me. Kevin drove us to a few of the 10 layouts for the fall train schedule called "Tour de Chooch". Our first stop was Stan Ames place. Well known in the G scale industry, Stan has over 3 miles of track running all over his property. Primarily 120.3 running on stainless track, Stan like me is steam engine lover. Tons of locomotives and rolling stock was to be seen everywhere. He mostly uses command control via track power. There are plug in stations all over the display to make it easy for participants to switch and make up trains. He has a main building /office where the trains can be put together or fixed. The grade levels on his layout are incredible with switch backs to help in some areas. I estimated that the height levels were 15 feet of difference from the top to the bottom. He even has in-ground storage area along the layout to keep the trains overnight if snow or rain comes.

We arrived and it was 28 degrees (damn cold for model trains). They had hot chocolate containers placed on areas throughout the layout with cookies. Inside his wife had food for all who came into to get warm. Over 50 folks attended while we visited for 2 hrs. Stan told me he had a total of 70 for the day. It's the first time I saw gondolas carrying ice! My hands kept freezing up from taking pictures and shaking hands to greet folks. It was an awesome time though.

Next is was onto a display in Massachusetts where we visited Master modeler Tom Oxford. His HO display from the 50s was incredible. The kind of detail level you see at the Suncoast Scale modeling institute. Well beyond my patients. He ran several trains and also showed us how he builds some of the cars and locomotives. Lots of led lighting for day and night time simulation. I never saw so many certificates for modeling that day. I can tell you this; Model railroading is still very strong in the New England area. Thanks to Kevin for running and showing me a great time.





Updates of members:

Please send out your prayers for my friend Kevin Rydzewski . He was just diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer 3 weeks ago. This was a shocker to us since he is only 56 years old and in great shape with very little health issues. I met Kevin thru Don Sweet over 5 yrs. ago and we have become great friends. As a soldier with 35 tours including Desert storm and Iraq freedom he has traveled all over the world. He has survived in some really bad/ ugly conditions. Now the tough part in his life begins for survival and we wish him well. Get well soon!



As some of you may or may not know. Our SVGRS Vice President. Bob Wenger has prostate cancer. So far it's not quite as bad as we had first thought. But like all cancers, you never know. Our prayers go out to Bob & Sue for a good recovery His treatments are starting soon. Get Well! We need you.



SVGRS Members Directory

It has been several years since we published a member's directory. The Executive Committee would like to publish an updated directory. We would like to see 100% participation from the club members.

Following is a list of information we would like to list.

Do you have a garden railroad? _____

Do you have an indoor train setup? _____ What scale _____

What is your favorite railroad? _____

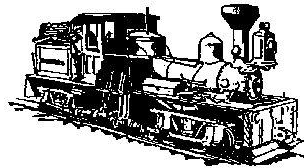
What other hobbies do you have? _____

List of family member's _____

Photo of yourself or family photo _____

Photo of your train layout _____

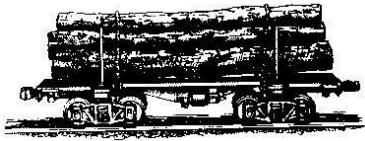
Please email information to jhmower@aol.com. Please send photos as JPEG. Or mail information to Joe Mower, 149 Bellows Drive, Carlisle, PA 17015.



Welcome New Member

We are pleased to announce a new Member to the SVGRS club.
His name is Bob Hyatt, 10260 Shives Lane, Orrstown, PA 17244
Phone 717-477-9322, e-mail ducky2949@embarqmail.com

He has a garden railroad with approximately 425 feet of track. The property is actually in Upper Strasburg, but they get mail delivery from Orrstown.



2019 Rocky Ridge Christmas magic round up

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

This year's event brought a change in leadership with Turk and I swapping rolls. This time I took the lead, and he was my support and backup. Given the shortest cycle possible due to the way 2019's calendar fell, plus nine days of closures, we still did remarkably well for the club. I'd like to thank my wife Penny for a lot of support, the club for once again stepping up, and finally Turk for being a mentor and partner. So let's break this down!

The 2019 season started with the trailer repack held at Locust Hill Farms where the club is still able to store the trailer and additional items. This was held on Sunday October 20th from 2-4pm. We had eight folks present with Penny taking the lead on sorting and repacking much of the Rocky Ridge display items and Turk taking the lead on loading the trailer for the pre-setup. In reviewing the 2018 Rocky Ridge setup process, we decided we would extend pre-setup beyond just the platforms to include putting down all of the major track loops as a way to avoid any delays for the main setup day. This year's Rocky Ridge Pre-setup was held Friday November 8th from 9:30am to 12:30pm. The club trailer was transported along with the waterfall and most everything we needed except the large roller coaster. We had seven workers attending and we succeeded in getting the platforms set and fastened together, closing in and insulating the barn door and setting all of the track loops including the Thomas loop, as well as the indoor-outdoor loop. This effort really put us ahead for the main effort the following weekend.

The main setup day fell on Saturday November 16th and it was cold, but not brutal. We offset that with Jason Scott's heater and it was quite comfortable even with both doors open much of the time. Barry & Linda McNew and Mary Jane Reiff provided refreshments. That was greatly appreciated by all! Although we had a slightly smaller than expected crew of 17 members and various family members, we completed the bulk of the setup between 10am and 3:30pm. Things were looking pretty good when we locked up that afternoon. Not quite ready, but good! A small group of us made a return trip to address the final few items before opening night. Because Steam Into History is now unfortunately struggling, they were unable to sponsor us this year, but the Park Service, recognizing we are a huge part of the draw, stepped up and made the full payment. This year's calendar afforded us only 30 run days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, but we had nine days of closure due to weather leaving us only 21 days to build on the base payment with donations and raffle. A full financial report will be made at the March meeting.

Even with just 21 days open, overall attendance was up from last year by over 3,000 guests with a total of 35,473 for 2019. Clearly this is still shy of the 43,000 plus we've seen in year's past, but it seems like the ticketing scheme the park service now uses is here to stay.

While we still ran the "standard" six trains on the layout, we did make a few changes this year to include a full passing siding making it relatively easy to switch trains on the main "money" loop versus a simple siding. We also added a few new characters to include Frosty the Snowman and Elvis with his pink Cadillac. Incidentally, who brought Elvis? – Nice touch and Thank-you!

We really did contemplate a double track mainline, but it would have consumed just too much room and created havoc for the various scenes we place in the layout. Unless the Park lets us increase (even just 16 inches) the size of the platforms, we just can't pull it off.

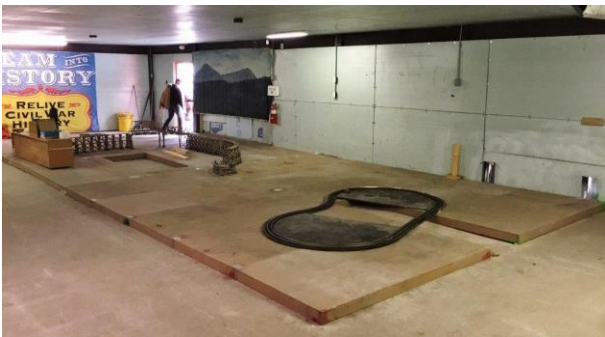
Although I did make a few extra trips to York to help with newer members and to fix small issues, overall I think we had less problems this year so my thanks to ALL! The Bachman Consolidation and the USA-Trains F3 A/B set ran the majority of the duration with our GP38/GP-9 sub'ed in for roughly 10 days. Turk and Barry performed maintenance on the F3 A/B set and Thomas as well as servicing all our trains following the show. This maintenance both during and after the show is critical. This stuff is just too expensive to replace all the time and we've really run a lot of miles on these tried and true engine lash-ups!

Tear down saw an unseasonably warm day and a large group of 28 helpers on January 11th helping us to get cleaned up and packed up in record time. The "found" coins on clean-up day were a nice bonus. Thanks to Turk for "washing" this money and making all our deposits over the course of the display.

Raffle Totals: While not our best year for raffle intake, this year's total is definitely up from last year. I have to give a shout out to Turk for once again convincing Bachmann to send us this Percy set for free. This sure helps the bottom line! This year's winner was Ashley Hilliar and her two kids from Red Lion PA. Their picture is included here. Love to see the young kids excited about trains and I can really say there was a lot of that through out the sessions. I hope all our monitors got to see and enjoy the happy faces! Once again the team of Deb and Jason Scott along with Stephanie Gonos wins with the most tickets sold (104) our very last night of the raffle! Joanne Klunk and Penny Segessenman came in second selling 75 tickets each two different evenings!

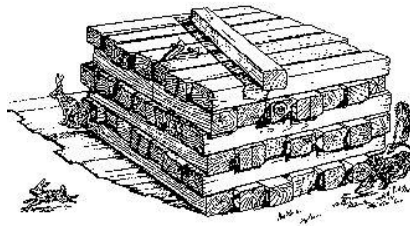
Final Note: Thanks to everyone who helped make my first year "in charge" a success for this club. It's our life-blood and while I still think there is room for some improvements, I think we have a tried and true formula for success. We have all those leaders before me to thank for that! I just carried on what's been proven to be great! Each of you in the club who helped setup, monitor and or clean up needs to understand we do something great in this show! Thanks from Turk and myself.

Submitted by Rob Segessenman





Winner of the Thomas Train Set
13



2019 Christmas Party

As the old adage goes, if isn't broke, don't fix it. When it comes to the clubs Christmas Party formula over the past five years at the Railside Dinner in Hanover; it's been a great run. On Sunday December 8th , we had 43 of our members and families gathered together for good food, good conversation, a few jokes, a lot of prizes. It was all-around good time as usual. Again, this dinner and entertainment was free to everyone because of the hard work and planning throughout the year.

Turk Russell and Penny Segessenman hosted our event once again keeping everyone entertained and informed. Barry McNew gave the blessing before we all dug in to dinner. Penny provided a new selection of jokes and sold our 50/50 tickets.

A short business meeting followed and all officers gave reports. We covered Christmas magic at Rocky Ridge and some preliminary information and discussion of the ECLSTS now being held in Timonium. Turk gave us updates on equipment. The club had many donated prizes by former club member Bill Orf. Bill also gave Turk a like new LGB 2017 loco and tender for the club to own. We did use it around the tree at the Park

Big thanks go out to Bill!

The event then proceeded to the giveaway prizes phase. Beth Alleman was the 50/50 winner of \$48. We also gave away over 20 door prizes with Larry Nowack being the first winner and Randy Alleman the Grand Prize winner of a Hartland Mack engine.

The evening wrapped up with a couple of Christmas themed videos provided by Rob Segessenman.

Thanks to all that attended!

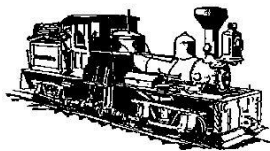
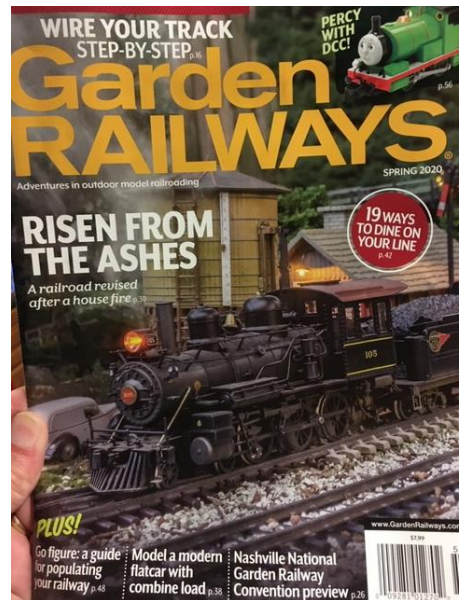
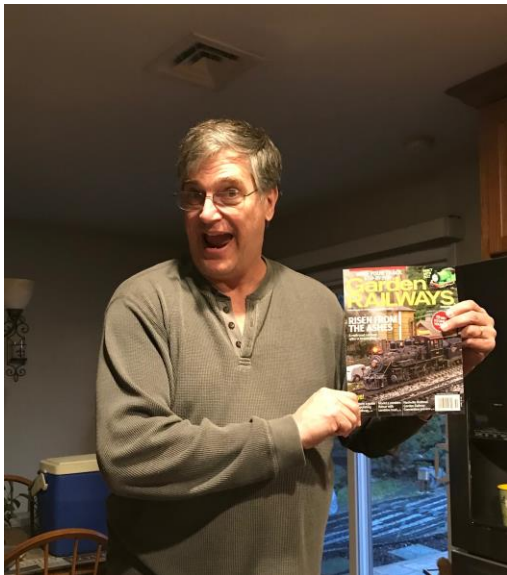
Submitted by Rob & Turk





Garden Railroad News

Randy Mower's Garden Railroad located in Mechanicsburg will be featured in the Spring 2020 issue of Garden Railroad Magazine.



SVGRS Club Officers

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