



SVGRS Newsletter March 2023

2023 Calendar of Events

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| Jan-31 | Executive Board Meeting (new year planning schedule) |
| Mar-6 | First Quarter Newsletter |
| Mar-15 | 7:00 pm General Meeting - New Oxford Train Station |
| Apr-14/15 | ECLSTS Train Show Day 1 (No club display) Annapolis. MD (9:00 – 5:00) We will have a few members attending. If anyone would like them to take items to sell for you, please contact Turk. |
| Mar-31 | Deadline to pay 2023 Dues. |
| May-21 | Equipment Clean Up- National Apple Museum (2:00 pm) |
| July-9 | Open House (Short meeting to be held as well) – Bill & Dee Simmons - Abbottstown, PA. (1:00 pm) |

- Sept-17** **General Meeting / Club Picnic, (1:00 pm) Southampton Township Park, Southampton Junction Pavilion-, 200 Airport Road, Shippensburg, PA**
- Oct-2** **Third Quarter Newsletter**
- Oct-8** **Trailer Inventory, clean inventory items and repack for Rocky Ridge (2:00 pm)**
- Nov-6** **Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track & Platforms (10:00 am)**
- Nov-11** **Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)**
- Nov-24** **Christmas Magic Opening Day (5:00 pm)**
- Dec-3** **General Meeting / Christmas Party - National Apple Museum (4:30 pm)**
- Dec-30** **Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends**
- Jan-13** **Rocky Ridge Tear Down (10:00 am)**

Please print or cut out and put on your refrigerator for reference.



A Message from your President

For those of you who do not have Facebook, I wanted to share a collage that I did last week . Trains and model railroading have been a big part of my life for over 50 years. My parents introduced me to trains at a very early age. My dad had O scale trains and super O which he carried and survived with him through the war and multiple moves. He and mom then started with two, 4 x 8 platforms and built a HO display. That got me hooked and my nerdy friends and I spent many days working on our own display which was even larger in the basement. Gilberts in Gettysburg was first, but when Paul Wagner started his 2-train car hobby shop in New Oxford, that became a family bi weekly trip for us. My dad who had traveled and spent many years in Germany and spoke it fluently easily became friends with Mr. Wagner. He ran more than a hobby shop; he was a friend to all railroaders and all scales.

I remember seeing my first LGB Stainz running outside his place and thought, that's neat but not affordable. I was HO scale all the way at that time in my life. Who would have thought 51 years later I would own many LGB products. After high school trains were not as important but in my 3rd of college, I became interested in the real trains, especially Steam locomotives.

Soon After that, Jeff Shubert moved back to Waynesboro, and we started working on a layout in my basement. We had been friends since 7th grade and always hung out when he was around. My Dad had taken me to quite a few railroads including seeing the Freedom trains.

Then we started chasing trains. I was lucky because my buddy Randy Kuhn had opened 2 LA Cameras stores, and we had access to all the film you could want. (Yes, back in the day we used film) The good news was we only had to wait 1 day for developing. So, photography became a new hobby along with seeing those soot burning steamers in action. From EBT to Gettysburg, Strasburg, and Altoona; We were always up for a trip if it also involved eating! Then came photo shoots hosted by professionals. That had us spending more time and money on trains! But we met new trains folks along the way. We are lucky that Railroads have made such a comeback in restorations. I have been able to see more trains in the last 20 years than most see in a lifetime due. Mainly due to more restoration programs than ever across the USA.

Through the years, I have added some new train buddies such as Rob and Barry. I always say that a good hobby can bring you good friends and lots of comradery. G scale is the same exact way. If it were not for Jeff, I would have never known a G scale club existed. So, wherever you travel, always check to see if there are trains or clubs nearby. It has sure given me a wealth of knowledge and fun. So, from 33 years ago to now, thanks for all the fun Jeff! Here's to friends in Railroading.

Turk Russell Pres/coordinator

2023 Industry News

Submitted by: Turk Russell

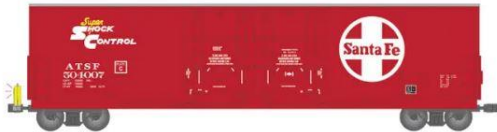
Bachmann

Home > Bachmann 93551 G Evans 53' Double-Door Boxcar with End-of-Train Device Santa Fe #504007



BACHMANN 93551 G EVANS 53' DOUBLE-DOOR BOXCAR WITH END-OF-TRAIN DEVICE SANTA FE #504007

☆☆☆☆☆ Write a review



\$168.99

PRE ORDER
SKU#: 93551

Following the lines of the former Aristocraft trains products. Bachmann is offering the big 53 ft cars in a variety of road names. This new car will come standard with the Fred (flashing rear end device) which will have the upgraded trucks and metal wheels.

Arriving the end of March 2023



Bachmann's GE Dash 9 locomotives have finally arrived. The long-awaited remake of Aristocraft trains big diesel engine will be shipping on March 1, 2023. The new locos will include upgrades such as: LED lighting, paint schemes, plug and play electrical gear to accept battery and DCC setups. Extra weight for better pulling power. They will also have Aristo AAR couplers. Recommended 10ft diameter curve track. 10 road names will be available. Other good news is that Bachmann is finally listening to us Hobbyists. They are producing spare motor blocks. For most folks, the gears and motors were obsolete so now you will be able to fix your old Aristo Dash 9. Parts should be available by the end of March. See Bachmanntrains.com for more info.



Last year Rob and I were able to see and get our hands on a prototype of this new device at the large-scale show. It's a great addition to large scale especially for modern train lovers. Thanks god it did not take as long as other large-scale items do these days.

Bachmann trains announces a Flashing rear end device built into a complete truck for large scale. You will now be able to add a prototypical modern-day end-of-train protection to select Large Scale rolling stock. The End of Train Device with Flashing LED is Compatible with 1:29 scale rolling stock items with modern roller-bearing trucks. Works on track or battery power.

MTH Trains

MTH trains to continue operations.

I have been informed that new products will be coming.

In 2021, M.T.H. owner Mike Wolf retired and sold off the HO and S gauge product lines as well as some O gauge tooling. The company transitioned into three smaller companies and relocated into a smaller facility in Elkridge, MD.

M.T.H. continues to churn out new products every month with a smaller staff and a few outside contractors, many of whom worked directly for the firm for two or more decades.

R Ducks Locomotive Works

I stumbled across The R Ducks Locomotive Works while searching for parts. This manufacturer produces G scale kits of certain models from locomotives to rolling stock. They are unique to today's world. Established in 2021 You Can Read All About It.

<https://www.rducklocomotiveworks.com/about-1>

MRC



MRC has released a new G scale power pack with 5.5 amps of power. Throttlepack 9900 replaces MRC's Trainpower 6200 (AA222) with a complete revamp and new circuitry. The new pack operates more efficiently and under cooler temperatures. Rated at 80 watts (5.5 amps) vs. the Train power 6200's 60 watts (3.5 amps) the new design provides much more power. The Throttlepack 9900 has a mode switch to increase the voltage from smaller scales (HO & N), making it perfect for G gauge locomotives. The 9900 also offers an optional walk around control as well.

- 80 watts (5.5 amps)
- Braking switch
- Direction switch
- Momentum switch
- Runs all scales of DC operated trains
- HO or G selection button

2022 Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party saw us back for a second time at the National Apple Museum in Biglerville PA the first Sunday of December 2022. Special thanks to Bob Wenger for letting us use the Museum for our parties. Turk Russell and Penny Segessenman hosted our event once again keeping everyone entertained and informed. We had 28 family/members in attendance. Keann Russell gave the blessing before we all dug into dinner which was provided by Uncle Eddies BBQ. Penny provided yet another new selection of jokes and Keann sold our 50/50 tickets.

Tim Crider's family, working under the "Uncle Eddies BBQ" name are the folks that we used many years ago for Summer Pig roasts. The meal consisted of Roast Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn and salad. They provided an awesome Train photo cake for dessert. Everybody went home full!

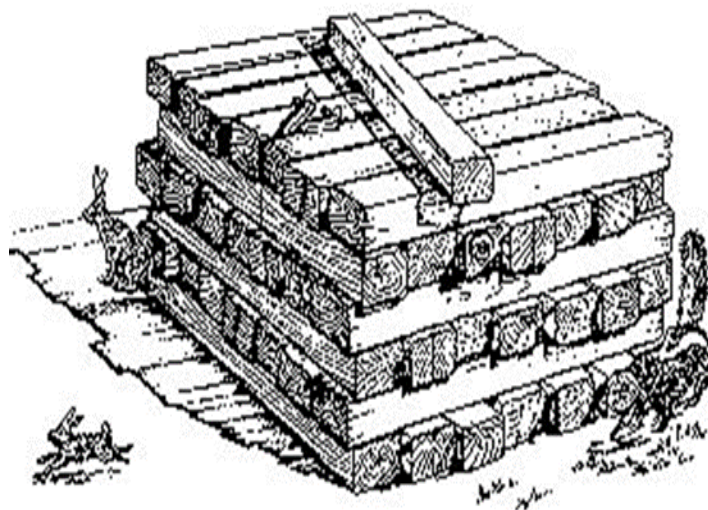
A short business meeting followed, and all officers gave reports with much discussion surrounding the 2022 Christmas Magic display at Rocky Ridge. We announced the 2023 East Coast Large Scale Train Show is once again being held more as a swap-meet adjacent to Star Hobbies in Annapolis MD April 14th and 15th. The club will not be creating a layout as this is just too far away and the show size does not justify it. This year there will also be a new Northeast Large Scale show held in Massachusetts at the "Big-E" facilities April 28th and 29th. This show is hosted by the same folks that do the huge all-scale train show in January.

The event then proceeded to the giveaway prizes phase. Doris Geesey was the 50/50 winner of. We also gave away over a dozen door prizes.

The evening wrapped up with a couple of layout tours and a Reading and Northern video of the newly restored 2102 in action by Rob Segessenman.

Thanks to all that attended!
Submitted by Rob & Turk





2022 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic round up

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

Each year seems to bring new experiences and new records with Christmas Magic at Rocky Ridge. This year was no exception although every record is not always a solid plus. This is our second year back since COVID, and it was a more “normal” level of attendance. Last year’s changes remained in that sides were still off previously closed pavilions and there was no Santa Clause or holiday music. One record we broke this year was the total number of days off. The seven weather cancellations certainly impacted attendance and income. I want to specifically thank my wife Penny and co-coordinator Turk Russell along with his wife Keann for making this show viable. Their support and involvement were a huge part of our path to success. Speaking of success, this year’s show, although netting fewer dollars than 2021, it has kept our club well within budget...

The 2022 Rocky Ridge season started with the trailer repack held at the National Apple Museum where the club now stores the trailer and additional items. This was held on Sunday October 23rd from 3:00-4:30pm. We had thirteen folks present with Turk and Penny taking the lead on sorting and repacking much of the Rocky Ridge display items.

This year’s Rocky Ridge Pre-setup was held Tuesday November 8th from 10:00am till 2:30pm. The club trailer was transported along with the waterfall and most everything we needed except the large roller coaster. We had ten workers attending and we succeeded in getting the platforms set and fastened together, closing in and insulating the barn door, hanging the mural, and setting the track loop for Thomas and the main Christmas Tree. This time we also put down, shimmed, and secured all the track loops, inside and out!

The main setup day fell on Saturday November 12th, and it was a very mild. We never used a 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 their families, 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!

As in 2021 the Park Service, recognizing we are a huge part of the draw, stepped up and made the full payment in advance which was increased by \$200.00 this year. The 2022 calendar afforded us 34 run days between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Eve, but as mentioned we had seven days of closure due to weather leaving us only 27 days to build on the base payment with donations and raffle. A full financial report will be made at the March meeting.

With only 27 days open, overall attendance was down 10,000 guests in 2021 with a total of 41,944 for 2022. This was still the fifth highest attendance year, so not so bad.

As we've done for a few years now, sevens trains ran on the layout, which along with the amusement park, is a lot of motion. Unfortunately, we could never get the large roller coaster to work, and parts are not currently available. This year the trolley line crossed the pond as it's done going back a few years.

Kudos to Turk for pressing everyone to set the schedule of volunteers in 2022, in the end we had a nice mix of newer members working with our experienced operators. The custom Lionel Consolidation and the USA-Trains GP38/GP-9 started the show, but we then subbed in the F3 A/B set and our Bachmann C-19 in SVGRS livery. Turk and Barry performed maintenance on the Christmas Tree engine and the Lionel Consolidation during the show, and all the engines will be serviced through the winter and this spring.

Tear down saw a cold day with a touch of snow still on the ground and a large group of 25 helpers on January 15th insuring we got cleaned up and packed up in record time. The "found" coins on clean-up day was a nice bonus of \$64.43 along with another \$105.25 from the pond.

Raffle Roundup: As I mentioned at the top, this was a year of records with a total of raffle 1,1236 tickets sold. I must give a shout out to Turk for once again convincing Bachmann to send us this a train set for free meaning that was all profit! Many folks liked that the giveaway wasn't a Thomas set. This year's winner was Gina Davis of Camp Hill Pa. Rob and Penny delivered the train set in awful weather so that the Davis family kids could take the set on their Christmas trip to their grandparents' home. We all love to see the young kids excited about trains and that's a big part of what makes the effort worthwhile. I hope all our monitors got to see and enjoy the happy faces!

Keann and Penny set an all-time raffle ticket record selling 150 tickets Dec 17th. The Shubert Family had the record donation night at \$82 and the Russell's and Segessenman's had the overall combined night record of \$208!

Final Note: Thanks to everyone who helped make this 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! Still, it doesn't mean there is no room for change, so please let me know your thoughts! Next year is the 40th anniversary and the park service is asking for something special. If we were ever going to change things up, this would be it!

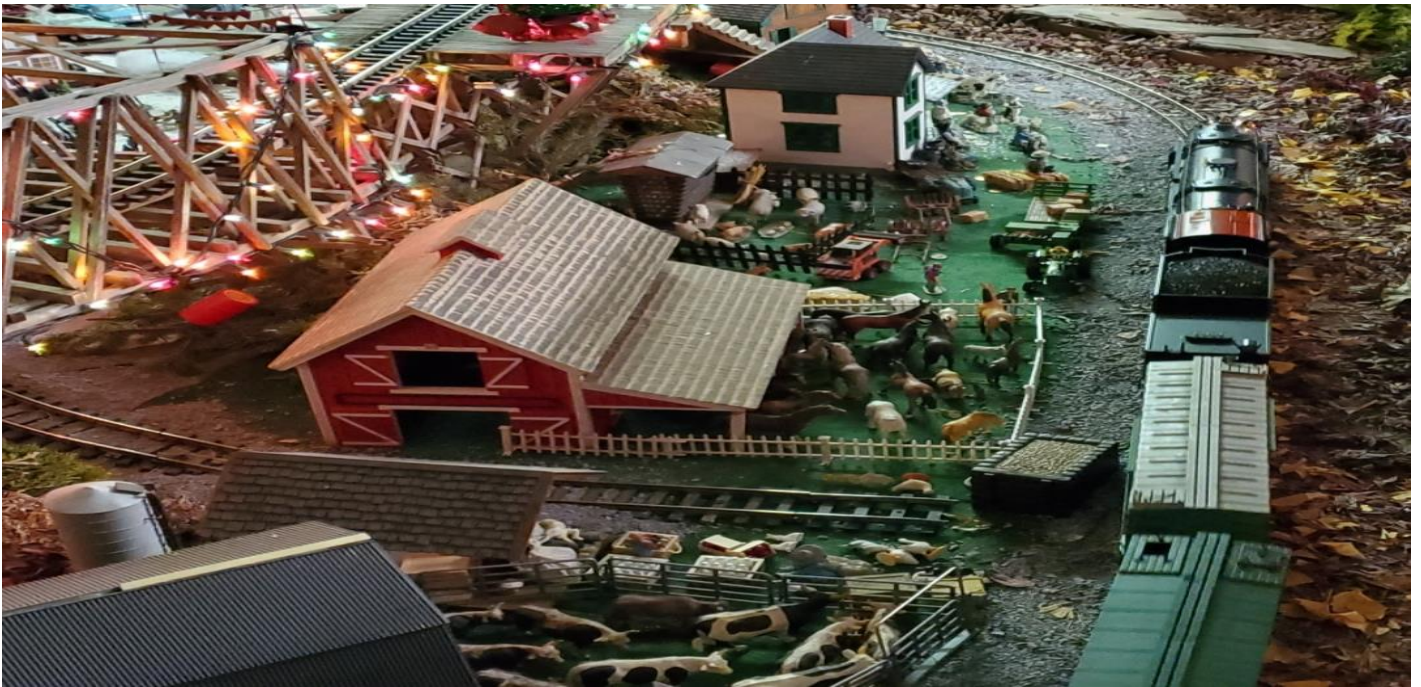
Thanks, from myself and Turk for another successful event!





















Winner of raffle

Steam Returns to EBT – 2022 Winter Spectacular

Submitted by: Turk Russell & Rob Segessenman Jr.

Unless you've been living under a rock, it would be impossible not to have encountered, pictures, articles, or videos of the first run of East Broad Top RR newly restored engine #16. This engine last ran in freight service some 60 years ago and never saw duty in the tourist years which finally ended in 2012. It's been stored in the round house all this time and only occasionally drug out for display. Although there was no snow, and the weekend was mild for February. Turk Russell, Jeff Shubert, Randy Alleman and Rob Segessenman Jr. acquired tickets and made the pilgrimage to Orbisonia PA Sunday February 19th, 2023.

In addition to the newly restored steam engine, the new EBT owners have purchased four brand new built narrow gage passenger cars. Build to look vintage, they have steel frames and roller bearing trucks. These cars will be used in the regular tourist season runs so that the original cars can be properly restored and used on special occasions.

EBT's Winter Spectacular is a long-standing tradition from the tourist years under the Kovalchick family often saw unparalleled access to the building and equipment with multiple engines in use. This year started with a private fun for the new owners and special guests on Friday February 17th. Saturday's event started with a freight run for photographers followed by four runs of the passenger train and the M-1 diesel powered railcar. All trains ran to Colgate Grove, turned, and returned to Orbisonia running over tracks also recently restored. Trolleys ran all weekend as well.

The staff as well as volunteers has made huge strides with improvements from track to buildings and trains. The work they have performed in less than 3 years would take most Railroads up to 20 years. Next up for rehab will be locomotive #15. EBT still has 6 locomotives intact. The staff has also said they want to expand the track lines back down to Robertsdale. This will take some monumental work but can be done. Rehab and refurbishments are continuing every week.

If you've not ever been to EBT, and haven't been in a long time, this summer's Steam powered passenger services are due to start in May. Make a point to travel and take in this amazing site and unprecedented collection of narrow gage equipment and roundhouse, machine shop and other facilities.









A few group pictures there from 2008



Trains Return to Hagerstown Maryland

Submitted by: Turk

Hitachi Rail reveals Designs for new Maryland Train Factory

Factory located in Hagerstown, Maryland, will be capable of manufacturing trains for railways across North America, beginning with new fleet for Washington DC Region's Metro



Not since the Western Maryland Railway has there been trains built or refurbished in Hagerstown. This is a huge addition for manufacturing for the area. Hopefully they will consider offering tours.

The site will sustain 1,300 jobs in the region and be capable of building trains of all types to serve North America's growing rail market.

Hitachi Rail revealed the final designs and images for its new \$70M train factory and 800-yard test track, built on a 41-acre site located in Washington County, Maryland.

When fully operational, the factory will sustain 1,300 jobs, with up to 460 working directly for Hitachi Rail on site. The new jobs will command total earnings of \$350 million per year and bring major economic benefits to the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region.

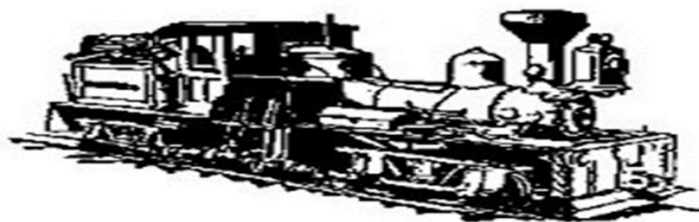
About the 8000-Series Metrorail cars first order to be built

The 8000-Series will increase reliability, offer modern on-board technology and an improved passenger experience. The Metro trains will have popular features that include:

- On-board Wi-Fi
- Digital screens to provide improved journey information.
- High-definition security cameras
- Ventilation system improvements
- Stringent cybersecurity requirements
- Heated floors throughout
- Improved regenerative braking.

The all-electric vehicles, with 130 seats per pair of cars, will be a major upgrade when they replace the 2000- and 3000-series fleets, which have been in service since the early 1980s. For Metro, the new fleet will help improve the service for passengers, be easier to maintain and reduce costs.

Hitachi Rail's \$70M factory investment represents a continuation of its commitment to improve passenger and freight rail transportation in the United States. Across North America, it already employs more than 1,400 people and has its headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. While the factory in Maryland will focus on building trains, Hitachi Rail is delivering programs across the entire transportation sector; from major signaling systems to building completely new railways and supporting rail.





Interesting Videos and Websites

This column is dedicated to sharing some interesting items that I have found on the Internet and thought I would share with club members. Please send me any interesting videos and websites you have found so that I can share them in future newsletters.

Enjoy!

Bob Wenger

In commemoration of the reopening of the East Broad Top, let's watch some videos of the EBT that you might not have ever seen:

Here's a vintage film of the East Broad Top sometime before 1956 when it was still in daily operation. A little fuzzy and grainy, but interesting...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmYU7JomkSs>

One more vintage EBT video; this one is clearer and in color. Shows the RR just before abandonment and during the Rockhill Furnace (Orbisonia) bicentennial in 1960.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf5wIoOsiuA>

Next is a well-made 16-minute documentary by students of nearby Juniata College on the re-birth of the EBT.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBTiScO1gyk&t=958s>

Finally, here's a YouTube video of the speeder ride south out of Robertsdale during the Friends of the East Broad Top Fall Reunion on October, 2022. FEBT members cleared about a mile of track that had not been used since abandonment.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zpr41Je3bXU&t=537s>

Modelling:

And one (actually two-parts) last video for those who like to weather their models to look like they are used and abused:

Rusting models, (This is a 2-part video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wICLW5IKvYk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=W3GONwlrkTg>

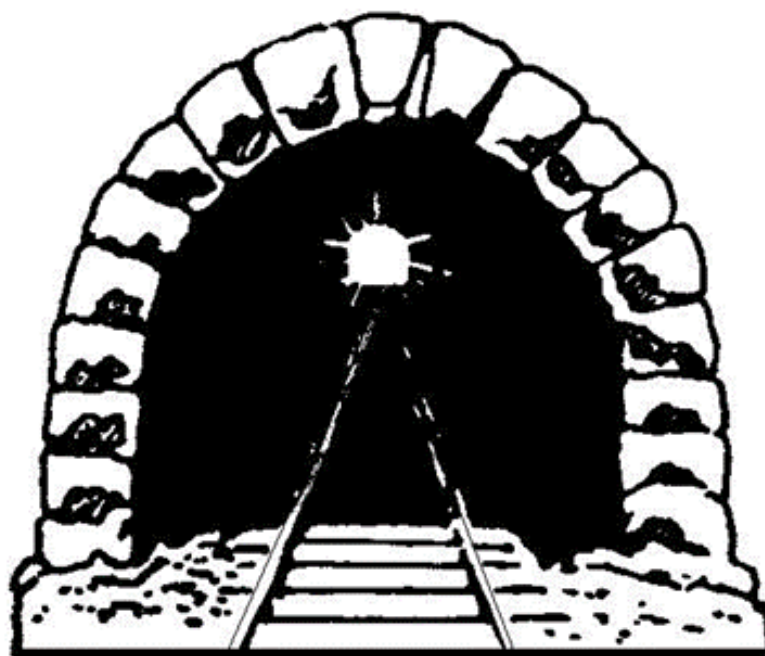
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Clinics

We have had some people express interest in learning more about G scale trains. We would like to see who would be interested in attending clinics in the future. What subject matter would you like to see covered? Also is there anyone in the club who has a particular skill or knowledge and would like to teach a clinic.

We are most likely looking at doing the clinics on Zoom.

If you are interested, please contact one of the board members. Our email addresses and phone numbers are listed at the bottom of this newsletter.



2023 Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed

If you have a garden Railroad layout we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2023. This is a good way for members to get ideas and provides good comradery among our members. If interested contact Robert Wenger, weng308@yahoo.com to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.

A special Thank You to all who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. If you have information that may be of interest to the club members feel free to forward it to me and I will include it in our next edition.

SVGRS Club Officers

President – – Turk Russell (717) 762-8873 turkruss@gmail.com
Vice President Robert Wenger (267) 644-7836 weng308@yahoo.com
SVGRS Secretary - Rob Segessenman (717) 359-8515 rob@robtronics.com
Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 shube@comcast.net
Newsletter Editor – Dee Simmons (717) 424-0610 dustydeemk@yahoo.com