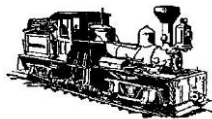




SVGRS Newsletter April 2020

2020 Calendar of Events

- 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 repack 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** **2020 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends**



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

The Virus and our Trains

For all of us , this is a time of serious concern. Be safe, stay home and keep yourself sanitized. Hoping that we can get this Corona virus under control and get back to some normalcy. For others it's more work and hours and their business has changed or even worse; closed. Others are not even working and those times are tough. I feel for those laid off or cut. No matter what, our world we be changed after this pandemic.

Myself , I am very busy being down 2 employees during these trying times. I wish I could be working on my own Train projects. But, it is what it is ! I now get calls every couple days on trains, whereas before it might go 2 weeks. Barry and I keep busy on Monday nights repairing, installing sound and rebuilding locos and rolling stock so folks can enjoy their hobby now that they are stuck at home.

I have spoken with many of you as well as other Railroaders from all over and it's good to hear that some folks are making good use of their time and working on their trains and layouts. I know that members Kevin Adams and his son have been hard at it expanding their awesome layout. While Bob Wenger has just started building his long wanted indoor layout. Others tell me they are just cleaning up and reviving their old displays. Most of us all have spring cleaning and reading up to do . We all have a "want to" list and now is a good time if your schedule permits to take advantage of it. Our trains can create a great distraction from the outside world now. The benefits of building a new setup or adding more track will prevail in the end. As for now, Thanks to the world of Facebook and YouTube, we can see your progress or results. From New Hampshire to Florida, projects are starting to get done and updated. So from a bad situation that we face in our world, these are positives that we will all be able to benefit from later. I; as well as others look forward to visiting your displays; while seeing the progress that you've completed. Model Railroading of all types can bring out the best from young to old

Take Care and be safe

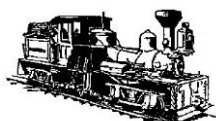
Turk Russell



2021 National Garden Railway Convention news

Important update:

The Nashville Garden Railway Society regrets to announce due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 36th National Garden Railroad Convention has been postponed by the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Resort until 2021. **The convention has been re-scheduled for May 30th to June 5th, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee.** We have been working with the Denver and BAGRS clubs and both clubs have agreed to slide their scheduled conventions back one year to allow the Nashville club to host the convention next year.



For those not familiar with jig stones they sell latex molds that are used to make modular castings made out of hydraulic cement that can be glued together to make structures for your garden railway. They have been around for quite a while and I built several buildings for my garden railway that have been outside for over 20 years. One of the first buildings I made many years ago was a small shed in a stone pattern. Over time the wooden roof had deteriorated so I decided to refurbish the building with a new corrugated iron roof made from Precision Products styrene sheets. I also gave the building a new paint job and applied some dry brush weathering. As I was working on it I was trying to decide where I was going to put it on the layout and it occurred to me that a sturdy stone structure like this would be a good place for my HyLow coal mine to keep their blasting explosives. Mine would often keep explosives in concrete or stone structures the idea being in case of an accident the walls would help contain the explosion and the roof would blow off the building to direct the force upwards. I added a few warning signs to the building to make the explosives shed complete, placed it by the mine so we would have a safe place to keep the dynamite.

Article by Randy Mower



East Coast Large Scale Train NO SHOW 2020!

Well I would like to say that our first year at the Timonium Fairgrounds went off without a hitch, but that would be such an understatement. As most of you are aware with the Corona Virus epidemic breathing down our neck the show organizers tried to squeeze in the show before everything was shut down. All the vendors and clubs made their way to the fairgrounds on Thursday and were able to get everything set up and ready only to be told later Thursday evening that the Governor of Maryland had shut down all large events. The organizers tried, with no success, to get a waiver to run the show in a limited capacity. With that being said on Friday several of the club members went back in the morning and ran the layout for a few hours so the other clubs could enjoy it before we took it all back apart again.

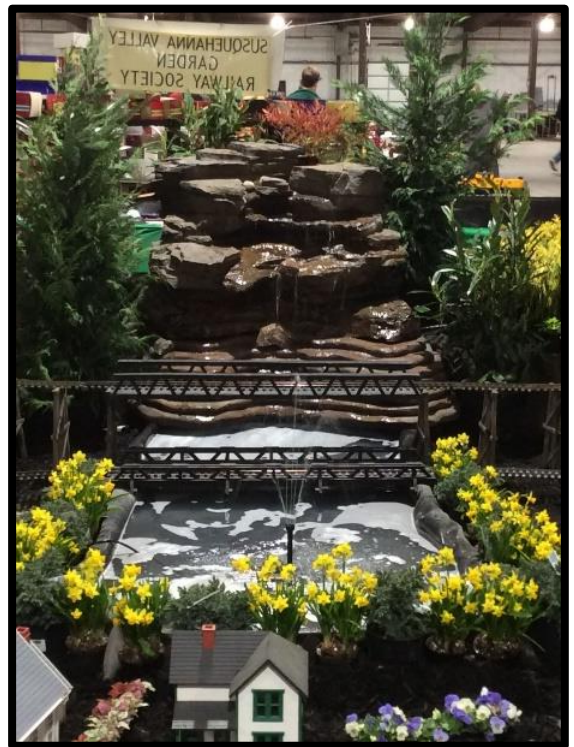
The final product was fabulous as always and received many compliments from the few individuals that were able to see it. I would like to thank all the club members who assisted with either set-up or tear down of this year's layout. Also, thanks to Jeffrey Johnstonbaugh for making the long trip from up north to lead our landscaping. Set up went fairly well being this was our first year at Timonium. Access to the area where we set up was much easier than the area at the York Fairgrounds as we were able to bring the trailers right into or right next to the building close to the layout, cutting down many trips back and forth from the parking lot to the trailer. Special thanks to Stauffer's of Kissell Hill and Mary Jane Reiff for providing plants. Also special thanks to Walter Plank for making arrangements and delivering them to the fairgrounds for us to use in this year's layout.

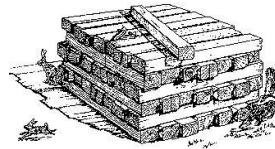
In closing I would like to say It was my pleasure to serve as the 2020 East Coast Large Scale Train Show layout coordinator and look forward to working with everyone on similar projects on the future.

Thank You,

Kevin Adams







East Broad Top Railroad to reopen this fall under new ownership



Pennsylvania's storied three-foot gauge East Broad Top Railroad has a new owner, a non-profit foundation organized by a small group of prominent rail-industry figures and long-time fans. The new organization will offer several public events in 2020—the 60th anniversary of the start of tourist service—and will work to resume regular operation in 2021. The non-profit EBT Foundation Inc. will take ownership of approximately 27 miles of the line, from just below Mount Union to Robertsdale. The sale includes the railroad's historic shops at Rockhill Furnace, as well as all remaining rolling stock and equipment (with the exception of EBT 0-6-0 no. 3 stored at Mount Union). Initial plans call for reopening the railroad as far as Colgate Grove, with further expansion possible in 2021.

“This is the best possible outcome for the railroad, which has been in my family for two generations,” says Joseph Kovalchick, whose father Nick Kovalchick purchased the East Broad Top Railroad & Coal Company after its mines closed down in 1956.



Steve Barry photo

New General Manager Brad Esposito says the new organization will immediately begin work on several fronts. East Broad Top has been closed since the end of the 2011 season, and the railroad will need to overhaul track and equipment, including locomotives and passenger cars, before regular service can resume. A modern fire-suppression system will be installed in the historic machine shops and roundhouse, and several structural stabilization projects will be undertaken. “The East Broad Top is a unique national treasure unmatched anywhere in the United States.

The volunteers of the Friends of the East Broad Top will be close partners with the new non-profit organization. “They have contributed countless hours of work and significant amounts of money to help preserve the historic fabric of the EBT since 1983.” The railroad also looks forward to working with the Rockhill Trolley Museum, which dates back to 1960 and operates standard gauge trolleys on track constructed on the roadbed of the former Shade Gap Branch. “This will be an exciting opportunity to promote and further develop tourism in the area.”



Steve Barry photo

August 13, 2020, will mark the 60th anniversary of the East Broad Top's first reopening, which took place during the bicentennial of the founding of what became the twin boroughs of Orbisonia and Rockhill Furnace "At that time Nick Kovalchick could not have imagined the possibility of reopening the entire line, but fortunately our industry's renaissance has helped create an environment in which this important and audacious project can succeed," said Posner. "We are honored to follow in the footsteps of two generations of the family that has made this all possible."

Levin notes that the EBT runs through a bucolic landscape almost unchanged since the early 1900s. "The railroad's historic fabric is an important component of the region's industrial archaeology, and the educational possibilities here are almost limitless."



Steve Barry photo

Opened in 1874 to haul coal to a new iron furnace in the center of the state, the 33-mile-long East Broad Top survived the collapse of the local iron industry at the turn of the 20th century because the top-quality coal it carried had found other markets, thanks in part to close cooperation with the Pennsylvania Railroad. When the last of the coal mines closed in 1956, the property was purchased by the Kovalchick Salvage Co. of Indiana, Pa. Despite being in the scrap business, the company left the railroad intact and in 1960 reopened a portion of the line for steam-powered tourist trains that proved widely popular. EBT is the only original narrow-gauge railroad surviving east of the Rocky Mountains, and it is well known as one of the world's finest examples of a preserved railway.

Stored in the roundhouse are six narrow-gauge steam locomotives built for the EBT by Baldwin Locomotive Works between 1911 and 1920. They share the building with the unique M-1 gas-electric, constructed at the railroad in 1927 with plans and parts supplied by J.G. Brill Co., a leading streetcar manufacturer, and Westinghouse Electric. Other EBT equipment includes several passenger cars believed to date to the 1890s and numerous steel freight cars built in the EBT shops. The East Broad Top was the only American narrow gauge to convert to an all-steel freight car fleet.

“This will be a monumental undertaking,” says Esposito. “I encourage anyone interested in helping us to join the Friends of the East Broad Top and come work on buildings, track and equipment.” Announcements of future public events and excursions will be posted to the railroad’s new website can be found at eastbroadtop.com.

Note: The club had a motion made by Barry Zeigler to donate \$500.00 towards the Friends of the EBT or such organization to help with the restorations. This motion is being reviewed by the board and will be re-discussed at a later meeting date.



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