



SVGRS Newsletter May 2022

2022 Calendar of Events

May-15	Second Quarter Newsletter
June-19	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Open House (Bob Hyatt – Upper Strasburg), Short meeting to be held as well
Sep-18	1:00 pm- General Meeting /Club Picnic, National Apple Museum (154 West Hanover St, Biglerville PA 17307
Aug-28	1:00 pm –4:00 pm Open House (Bill & Dee Simmons – Abbottstown)
Oct-2	2:00 pm Trailer Inventory, Clean inventory items and repack for Rocky Ridge
Oct-17	Third Quarter Newsletter
Nov-4 or 7	9:00 am – Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup (Track & Platforms)
Nov-12	10:00 am - Rocky Ridge Complete Setup
Nov-25	5:00 pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day
Dec-4	4:30 pm - General Meeting /Christmas Party (National Apple Museum)
Dec-31	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends

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



A Message from your President

Suncoast Fine Scale Modeling Institute closing

If any train buff has been given the chance to visit the Fine Scale modeling institute in Odessa Fl, they would be in awe. It is by far the best of the best when it comes to showcasing the modeling of trains, scenery, civil war figures and dioramas. Dave and his group of loyal artisans/ modelers have shown what can be built or produced when it comes to sparing no time or expense yet having extreme talents. I had never met someone who counted shoelaces or buttons on a shirt till I met Dave. His figures are the best done in the world. These folks are the true “rivet counters”. They could take a photo from almost any era and challenge themselves to replicate it on a scale of 1:10-1:20 and produce it. A lot of the cars, figures, tractors, trains, and such were all hand built. All buildings were hand built and some right to scale. I had been there 5 times and every time I went back there was always something new or different to see. My buddy Capt. Jack and I were always amazed and wished we could go to work with them and learn 3 days a week as a retirement. The building included a stage and “hangout area” to have learning sessions or just watch videos on a big screen in some vintage aircraft chairs. If you liked Shays and K’s it was heaven for train nuts like me

I was fortunate enough to get to know most of the guys from my winter trips to Sarasota Fl. I made this a regular event to take friends and family to visit on private tours. Most folks could not say the words other than “Awesome”. The group loved to share how to make or fabricate something and would take you back to the shop and give you examples. This was so informative.

I was even more lucky that I was to be invited to join them a few years back. I am far from a master modeler. More like a master organizer. But they knew I had been planning to possibly get a place down there and stay a few times a year. That was not meant to be. Sad!!

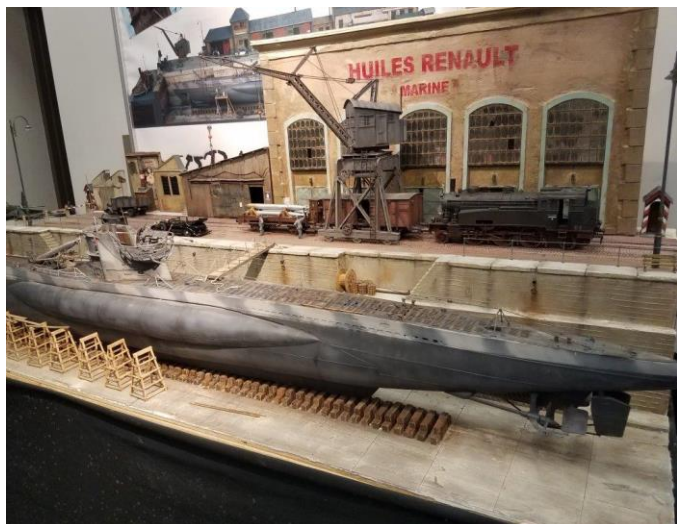
The group featured many different layouts in their building but the Sundance Central was known as the cream of the crop. Most folks do not know that the guys use to pack it up and travel the display to different areas of the country and special shows. That was a

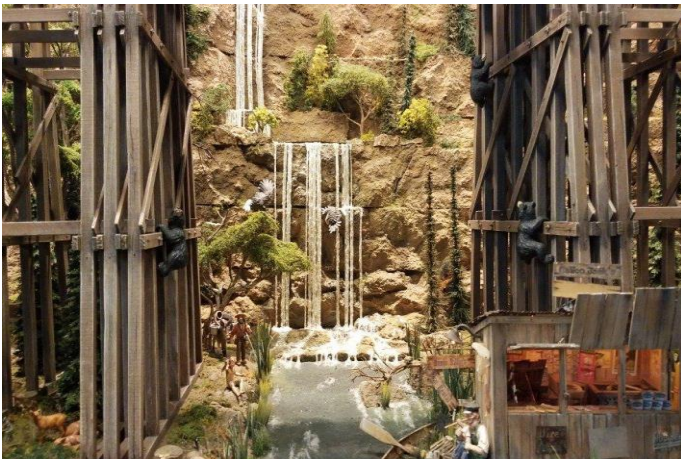
task with using a tractor trailer. I am sad to see this go, but it will always have great memories for me and my train friends.

As with a lot of our large-scale friends, time is against us, and the manufacturers do not support G scale like they did 10 years earlier. Younger folks do not have the patience or desires to enjoy a hobby like most of us were given in life, either thru a parent, uncle or grandparent. So, I say, you better enjoy it now because it could be gone before you know it.

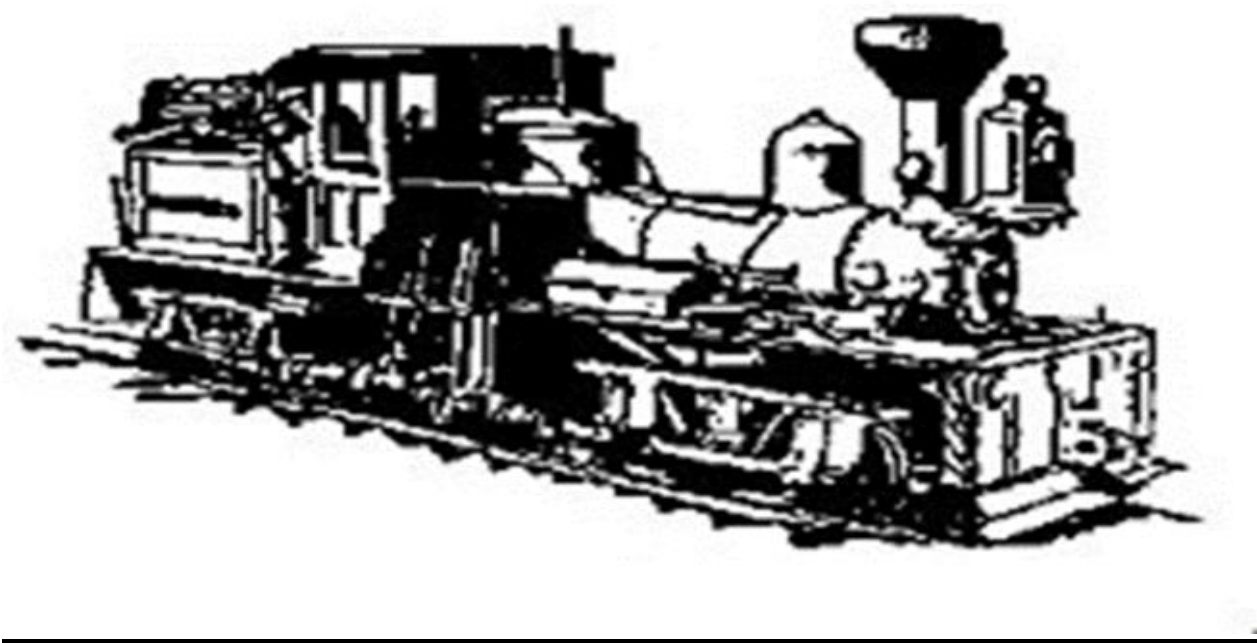
Happy Railroading! Hope to see you all this summer sometime.

Turk Russell









2022 ECLSTS

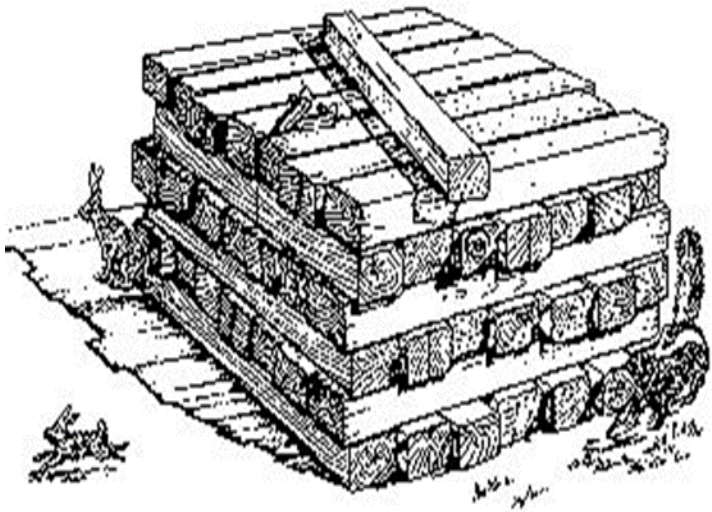
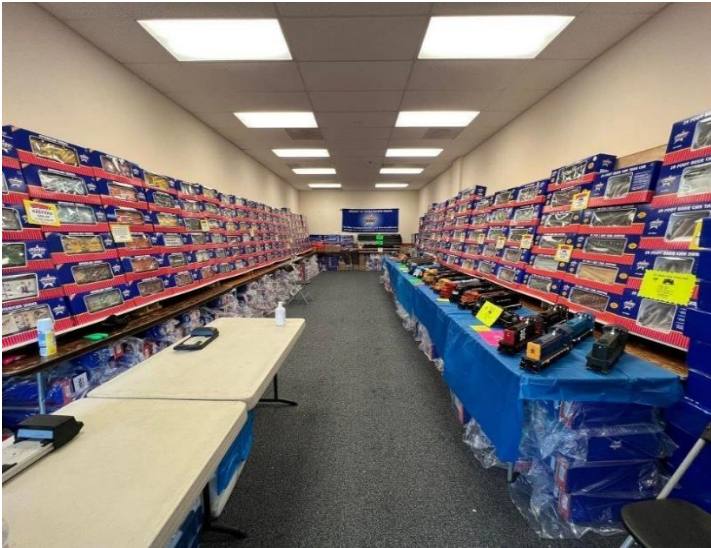
Submitted by Turk

As most of you know, the 2022 East Coast Train Show (ECLSTS) has been downsized since its move from York Pa, and the “pandemic edition” at Timonium in favor of the Annapolis area. For a second year in a row, the show was held in the plaza where Star Hobby has their store on April 1 & 2 2022. There were 13 vendors and 3 train displays plus one outdoor live steam club. Our club chose not to participate, and I feel it was a smart decision based on the area and space available. Although larger than last year, the show was still very basic.

The Southeastern Garden RR club brought a scaled down module display, while the Washington club built their layout on the floor as usual, and the Chesapeake Allegany Train Runners brought a two-track small table display. The Chesapeake Live Steamers setup their display in the parking lot. Just one week earlier, and they would have been soaked in sleet and snow. Rob Segessenman, Turk Russell, Barry McNew, and Fred Wendling had booths set up to sell and disperse train collections. We did very well selling trains, but the reason was because all other vendors train items were priced so high. Some were off their rocker on asking prices.

Unfortunately, this show needs to improve, because as it stands it’s little more than a swap meet. We feel they need to move back to a better location with more room and food vendors, plus an ATM machine. A food truck was supposed to come but backed out. The show no longer provides the entertainment that the old shows used to, although there were two small seminars this year. A larger venue would also offer room for us to build even a small display, which would show folks how a garden RR can really look. That is our forte! If attendees cannot see the real deal, then it cuts down on participation. Hopefully they will revisit and revamp it for next year.





SVGRS Equipment Relocation

As most of you know the club was fortunate to have the late Bob Segessenman Sr. let us use his place for storage of the club trailer and all materials. It was a fantastic place provided to us for years. We were also able to build of all sorts of club projects, including the Rocky Ridge platforms as well as pre-building several years' worth of ECLSTS designs. We knew this day would come that the club would have to move out and consolidate things. The homestead has been sold and on Saturday April 30th, we have moved on to our new location 5 miles away.

While we were disappointed that we did not have more members show up, we did have 11 members and 2 spouses, and we appreciated it. Using a combination of two trailers, a van and several trucks and SUVs, we moved 98% of the clubs' items to the National Apple Museum located in Biglerville Pa. It was hard and heavy work especially moving all the landscape stones and the rolling wood shelf built for the club. Thanks to our VP Bob Wenger who secured us a viable storage place with 1-1/2 bay garage space and work area for \$30.00 a month.

Late last year Turk, Rob and Bob cleaned, pressure washed and wired up the new garage area so it could be ready for the spring move. We started around 9:30am and were completed by 2:30pm. Next, we will be planning a re-organization day to clean out the club trailer and get rid of additional items no longer needed. This will be in the summer sometime.

**Thank you for the dedication of our old and new members,
Turk & Rob**







Trains Magazine Western Maryland 1309 Photo Special

Submitted by Rob Segessenman

Many of us have been following the trials and tribulations of the Western Maryland's refurbishing of the famed C&O Mallet 1309 ever since it was purchased from the B&O Railroad Museum in 2014. It's been seven long years of fits and starts, but in the fall of 2021, Western Maryland RR was able to get the engine to pass its boiler test for the FRA, and in Dec of 2021 they demonstrated it moving under its own power for the first time since 1956! With the engine finally ready to go, or so it would seem, Trains Magazine who has been reporting on the progress all along, announced a February 2022 winter Photo Special.

I was committed to getting on this train and plunked down a sizable investment to get some quality time and access with the engine, crews and pretty much every section of the 16 miles of trackage they run across from Cumberland to Frostburg MD. The three-day event started Friday February 25th with 1309 pulling the WM RR's dinner train consist to Frostburg and back. I have to say, the hors-d'oeuvres and food, really all weekend, were rather impressive. We had two rounds of breakfast, lunch, and dinners onboard WM's diners over the weekend. Eating a sit-down meal on a train is always interesting and it was dark by the time we reached Frostburg where we were treated to some nighttime photography. WM even brought their SD-35 painted in traditional speed lettering, for the event with lighting provided by the fire department. They also watered 1309 for her return trip. You'll see a couple of shots I got.

The rest of the weekend, Saturday, and Sunday, we rode the dinner train consist pulled by the WM diesels with 1309 coming along behind us pulling an 11-car freight train. We would disembark at multiple spots along the railroad and then be treated to multiple run-bys from 1309. Some spots, like Helmstetter's Curve, we did multiple times from multiple angles at differing times of day. While 1309 is an immensely impressive engine, and a lot of time and money has been spent, I wish I could say it was anywhere close to the restoration Reading and Northern just completed on their T-1 2102. I do hope they resolve all the nagging little issues, and don't just run it back into the ground.

Ultimately, I was very glad I made the trip, and very glad to see "history" like the first time a compound steam engine has hauled freight up the mountain from Cumberland since the 1950's. I hope you enjoy the pictures. I got to meet some fantastic railfans and professional photographers and videographers along with the WM crew and staff. Overall, it was an amazing adventure! Now to get something similar with 2102!



Waiting at the station for our Friday night dinner train departure.



Friday night photography in Frostburg MD



Waiting for a ride further up the mountain.



Saturday morning run-by. It was overcast, and they were hard on the throttle despite track restrictions making for a great shot!



Saturday lunchtime break in Frostburg.



Helmstetter's Curve Saturday afternoon



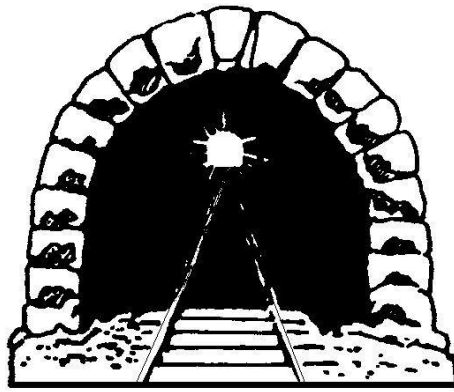
Sunday as the sun peaked over the mountains.



Serious blow down!

2022 Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed

If you have a garden Railroad layout we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2022. 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.



Rob found the following website and found some interesting items on it. Thought it would be worth sharing with the group.

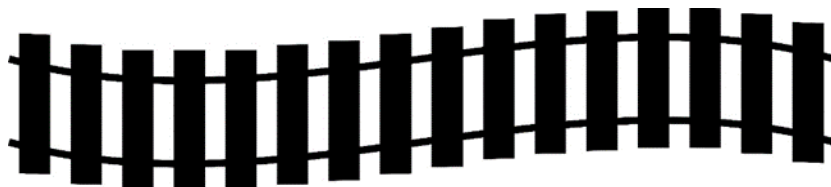


IRON CREEK SHOPS

F SCALE

Standard Gauge &
Narrow Gauge Products

<https://ironcreekshops.com/shop/>



Great news! Thanks to Turk and Rich Janyszek from Bachmann Trains we have secured a Bachmann train set for Rocky Ridge.

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

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