



# **SVGRS Newsletter October 2023**

## **2023 Calendar of Events**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>Oct-2</b>  | <b>Third Quarter Newsletter</b>  |
| <b>Oct-8</b>  | <b>Trailer Inventory, clean inventory items and repack for Rocky Ridge (2:00 pm)- <b>CANCELLED</b></b> |
| <b>Nov-6</b>  | <b>Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track &amp; Platforms (10:00 am)</b>   |
| <b>Nov-11</b> | <b>Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)</b>   |
| <b>Nov-24</b> | <b>Christmas Magic Opening Day (5:00 pm)</b>   |
| <b>Dec-3</b>  | <b>General Meeting / Christmas Party - National Apple Museum (4:30 pm)</b>                             |
| <b>Dec-30</b> | <b>Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends</b>  |
| <b>Jan-13</b> | <b>Rocky Ridge Tear Down (10:00 am)</b>  |

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



## A Message from your President

This has certainly been a challenging year for me since late February. Keeping up with my regular job which has seen tremendous growth the past 2 years. I have advanced osteoarthritis and broke some tendons in my foot earlier. We are all getting old and it's a lot to take care of us! Taking care of Keann with her autoimmune disease and traveling so much, had put me back in the caregiver position which many of you know I have done plenty in years past. Then keeping up with an abundance of train repairs added to my already busy life.

I like people and I enjoy making them happy fixing their items. During covid, model trains became a huge and popular Hobby again. I did not see the demand for repairs back then. I did see a lot of crazy prices and junk trains brought to us for repairs. But this year has been amazing. Barry McNew and I normally work every Tuesday evenings on trains. Keeping up with the demand for repairs, parts, and sound systems and as well as total rebuilds, which has now become a big deal and it takes extra time, parts and \$\$\$. The last 3 months we have been averaging 15 trains a month. That is way above normal. With a lack of products and a diminished used market, large scale is growing again, but in a different way. The new models are quite expensive and big diesels are the “in thing” for “newbees.”

Most Trains are getting older and sourcing parts has even gotten tougher for me. I used to be able to get just about anything and everything I needed to get a locomotive running. If I didn't have it, I have known somebody that did. Those days are fading fast. Cost factors have risen as well. I get a lot of complaints that Bachmann has a nice website for parts but doesn't have a lot of the demanded parts in stock. We also get complaints that USA trains have poor customer service, and you can never get anyone on the phone for help. They still have a lot of repair parts and produce some great locomotives, but it is a slow fix. I say it is a roll of the dice to see if you're going to get your Service Parts in 2 weeks or 3 months.

We are lucky any of these manufacturers are even producing parts because really all they want to do is sell their product. It's not like it used to be where almost all trains were fixable or updatable within reason. Times are tougher and I still try to buy trains or small collections just for the parts and to keep my clients and members still running. But the cost of buying used trains has another factor. G scale Items are getting old! The first LGB train came over here in 1968. Bachmann brought us the 4-6-0 in 1989. Aristocraft trains brought us the first diesels in 1991. Some models are now 25 to 35 years old and are worn. I tell folks these trains are not like old Lionel or American Flyer where they can run 75 years +. A lot of large-scale has become almost obsolete. The economics of repairs now brings the value of these trains way down and sometimes it is not even worth it. I know folks do not like to hear that. Sometimes it is best to just move on and we put it in the junk bin. We enjoyed it and now find another replacement.

If any members would like to sell any of their train items, please let me know as I am willing to help you get them sold.

We all have an oldies or favorite item that sometimes becomes a “shelf queen.” So, remember to take care of your trains. Get them serviced and hopefully they will last for future generations.

Submitted by,  
Turk



# 2023 Industry News

## Another Aristocraft re-make product

**News from Bachmann Trains**

submitted by: Turk Russell

**Another Aristocraft re-make product will be coming soon (1:29) EMD GP40 Diesel**

The GP40 is one of EMD's most successful 4-axle road switchers. Initially entering service in 1971, production lasted through 1986 when, after construction of almost 3000 units, the final GP40-2 was rolled off the production line. Today, the GP40 series continues to remain crucial to the switching and branch line needs of class one railroads, in addition to short lines and industrial operators. The Bachmann Large Scale GP40 arrives in 1:29 scale with realistic detail, a non-proprietary plug-and-play circuit board for the control system of your choice, and four authentic modern-era paint schemes.

### FEATURES:

- Advanced non-proprietary plug-and-play circuit board to accommodate the control system of your choice, including conventional DC power, NMRA/NEM DCC, and/or RC operation
- One motor per truck with low amperage draw
- Operating diesel smoke unit
- White LED directional headlights, front and rear
- Lighted front number boards
- Interior cab lighting and interior cab details
- Solid-metal railings and lift rings
- Opening side windows
- Windshield wipers, see-through steps, and MU hose detailing
- Operating AAR knuckle couplers
- Factory-installed speaker with wire p
- pigtail to allow easy installation of optional aftermarket sound

**Bachmann is now starting to embrace the 1.29 scale**

A full array of cars such as the ever-popular Power and Light hopper car. Evans box cars are already here and there will be more rolling stock to come in the future.

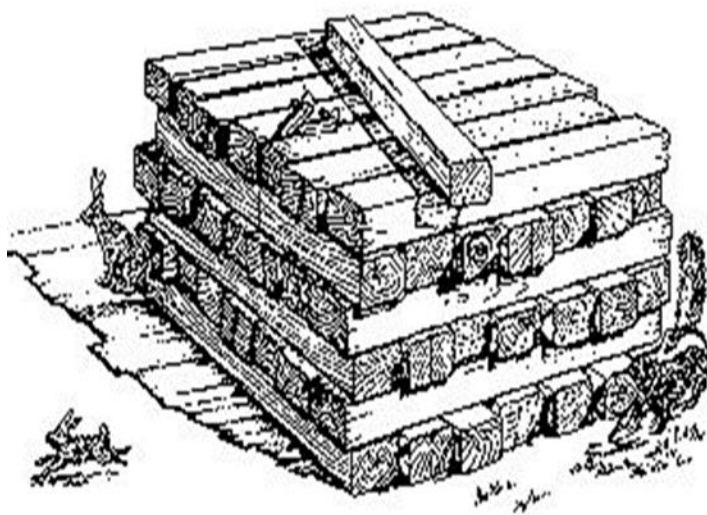


# Simmons Open House

**Bill & Dee Simmons hosted their first open house on Sunday, July 16, from 1-4pm. A total of 22 people attended throughout the day. It was a warm day but there was plenty of food and cold drinks for all. The trains were running well, and everyone was enjoying the company of the other club members. We also got a chance to meet some of our newer members and their families.**

**Here are some pictures from that day.**







# Larry Nowak

Submitted by Turk Russell

**Larry and Helen Nowak missed our picnic this year. Larry ended up breaking his femur due a fall after a concert. At age 87 he is doing well and will soon return back to his cottage home in Quincy. We look forward to when they have their open house for all the trains at Quincy Village. It's pretty impressive and Larry offers a g-scale display as well.**



# **2023 SVGRS Annual Picnic**

**Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.**

**With just one open house and the club clean-up day this year, it had been a while since many of us had seen each other, and the rainy weather didn't dampen a nice crowd attending at the Southampton Township Park just outside of Shippensburg on Sunday September 17th. Festivities kicked off at 1pm, but many showed up early for extra time to socialize.**

**It was nice to get back to this venue and Norfolk Southern even provided a mixed freight to kick it off. The catering was provided by an offshoot of Crowder meats whom we used many times when the picnic was at Shubert's. Our blessing was provided by Keann Russell and then all 37 members and families tucked in for a great meal. Dessert was a sheet cake decorated with a print from Trains Magazine photo special trip Rob took on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad shortly after 1309 returned to service.**

**The obligatory story and or joke was provided by Penny Segessenman and the officers held a relatively short business meeting focused primarily on Rocky Ridge and a new Vice President. Bob Kluk has stepped forward to fill the role. Thank you, Bob! We did a 50/50 raffle which netted Lorretta Wendling \$48. The club also provided a range of prizes given out by random drawing ranging from gift cards, to live plants to a small selection of G-scale cars. Our outgoing vice president won the final drawing for a rare Western Maryland Caboose that was part of an ECLSTS series.**

**Because of the weather, the traditional drone photo was impossible, so we ended our day with an indoor group photo of our club provided by the Shubert girls. Unfortunately, a few members had already left, but it was still a great way to commemorate the event. A good time was had by all. It was great to "see" everyone in person after another long gap.**













# **2023 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic round up**

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

Folks, for those who were not at the club picnic, and as a reminder, this year's Rocky Ridge is the 40th anniversary and the York County Park Service asked us to do something "special," so we brainstormed on this and took ideas since last year. The basic track plan is going to remain as we always have it because this is tried and true, but some of the scenes and details are going to be changed up. We have new animated rides for the amusement part, but they are going to be much smaller. The Frozen Castle is going to be joined by a Lego Hogwarts castle/scene and the Christmas tree farm expanded to be a sort of miniature lit walkway through the trees. I am also working on a house which will have Z-gauge trains around it looking like a small ride on display. This will be non-functional as that is just too much to worry about even though it could be made to run with figures riding it.

Our first scheduled support to Rocky Ridge was set for next Sunday Oct 8th, but I am going to cancel that because we did such an excellent job with the club clean-up day back in May.

The first scheduled date for Rocky Ridge is Nov 6th for pre-setup where we put down the platforms, close in the sliding door and put all the main track down. If you're available to help on this Monday right before election day, that would be awesome. That is a 10am start at Rocky Ridge.

Our main set up is Saturday Nov 11th, and this is where we really need help and support as we set up the scenes, add details and get trains running. Please mark this on your calendar if it is not already there. This is also a 10am start at Rocky Ridge.

Opening Day is Nov-24th, which is Black Friday directly after Thanksgiving Thursday. We will have sign-up sheets at the main set up day for Rocky Ridge, but I will take requests starting now!

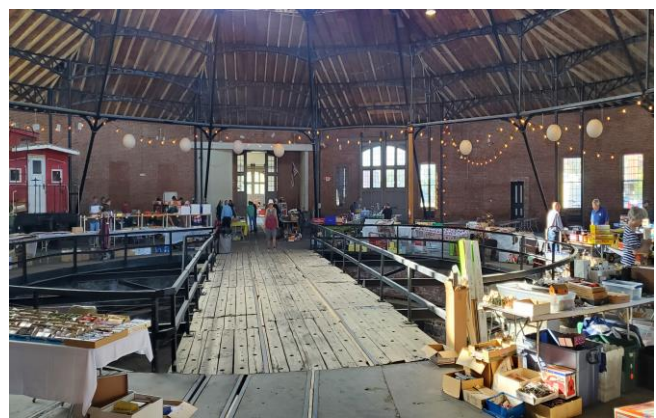
Let's make this another great year supporting the club and our main financial source and do it up right for the 40th anniversary!

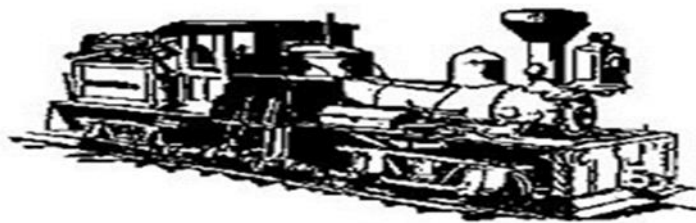


# Bunker Hill Open House Train Meet

Submitted by: Turk Russell

**This past weekend we were invited to The Bunker Hill open house train meet. Barry McNew persuaded us to go at the last minute. Keann decided she was up for it. They have a super neat venue inside the old B&O Roundhouse. Neither of us sold much G scale, but it was still an enjoyable day with lots of History.**







# East Broad Top

Submitted by Turk Russell

A Sunday afternoon trip to East Broad top even though it was raining was still a nice time. Locomotive number 16 ran flawlessly, and they are currently working on number 15 now instead of 14. If you haven't been up there, I highly recommend it because the progress is amazing.









## **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!**

**This will be my last column before my wife and I move to State College, PA. I hope you enjoyed it.**

**I am sending my website list for future issues to Dee...hopefully she can find someone to continue this column.**

**Enjoy!**

**Bob Wenger**

**In case you didn't see this on Large Scale Central:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQkHsp\\_rIXc&t=291s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQkHsp_rIXc&t=291s)

**Model train plays classical hits on 2,840 wine glasses – This made the Guinness Book of World Records**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNvZY6cOiJo>

**And how it was done.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W9Rk-VhEZc>

**The history of the Heisler geared locomotive**

[https://www.railwaywondersoftheworld.com/heisler\\_locomotive.html](https://www.railwaywondersoftheworld.com/heisler_locomotive.html)

And a little bit about the Climax locomotive

<http://www.douglas-self.com/MUSEUM/LOCOLOCO/climax/climax.htm>

**Lots of tools and techniques for kitbashing and scratchbuilding**

<https://paulbudzik.com/tools-techniques/index.html>

**How-To Model Realistic Weathering - Simple Method and Budget Supplies**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGI5e3yXd\\_4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGI5e3yXd_4)

**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 at 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 in 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=wICLW5lKvYk>

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

**I am happy to announce that the RailWeb section of the newsletter will continue for some time as Bob Wenger was gracious enough to send me many of these videos and web-sites. I am grateful to him for all his contributions to the newsletter since I have taken over as editor. Best of luck to you and your wife on your move.**

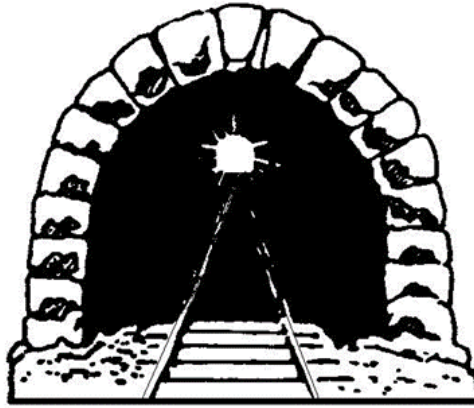
**Thank you, Dee Simmons**

# **Officer change**

**Submitted by Turk Russell**

**Bob & Sue Wenger will be moving to State College in late November. Bob will be stepping down as our VP of the club. I will miss them. Bob has personally helped me with lots of computer issues and schedules. He also has been a great contributor to the newsletter.**

**Bob Kluk has been approved as our new VP.**

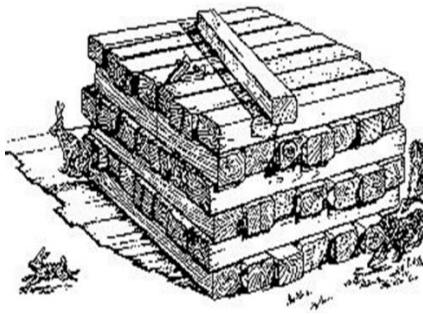


## **2024 Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed**

**If you have a garden Railroad layout, we would appreciate it if you would consider having an open house in 2024. This is a good way for members to get ideas and provides good comradery among our members.**

**If interested contact Robert Kluk, [jokatson@msn.com](mailto:jokatson@msn.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](mailto:turkruss@gmail.com)**

**Vice President Robert Kluk (440) 364-8385 [jokatson@msn.com](mailto:jokatson@msn.com)**

**SVGRS Secretary - Rob Segessenman (717) 359-8515 [rob@robtronics.com](mailto:rob@robtronics.com)**

**Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 530-0561 [shube@comcast.net](mailto:shube@comcast.net)**

**Newsletter Editor – Dee Simmons (717) 424-0610 [dustydeemk@yahoo.com](mailto:dustydeemk@yahoo.com)**