



SVGRS Newsletter May 2026

2026 Calendar of Events

- May **2nd Quarter Newsletter**
- June 28 **Open House 2:00 pm** Bob and Janet Hyatt – 10260 Shives Lane, Upper Strasburg, PA 17244
2nd Quarter General Meeting during the open house (Final By-Law & 26/27 Budget Approval)
- August **3rd Quarter Newsletter**
- September 27 **3rd Quarter General Meeting & Club Picnic – 2:00PM**
(Nomination of Officers Open)
South Hampton Township Park, 180 Airport Road, Shippensburg, PA 17257
- November **4th Quarter Newsletter**
- November 9 **Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track & Platforms (10:00 am)**
3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA 17406
- November 14 **Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)**
3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA 17406

- November 27 **Rocky Ridge - Christmas Magic Opening Day**
3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA 17406
- December 6 **4th Quarter General Membership Meeting & SVGRS Christmas Party-**
2:00pm
(Election of Officers)
National Apple Museum, 154 West Hanover Street, Biglerville, PA 17307
- December 30 **Rocky Ridge - Christmas Magic Ends**
3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA 17406
- January 9, 2027 **Rocky Ridge - Tear Down**
3699 Deininger Rd, York, PA 17406
- January 2027 **2027 Board Reorganization Meeting**

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

President's Message

Many of you have noticed, and commented, that we missed getting the first quarter newsletter to you and this would have been helpful in the run up to the GLLSTS. My apologies as we're all adjusting to our new realities in the club. Much of the delay is on me and underestimating just how busy we all get.

Time is something precious, and I am always thrilled when folks in the hobby, and especially our members, choose to spend it on each other. The Ohio trip for the GLLSTS was a great example. For those able to continue to support the club, we'll see some changes this year. Nothing too major, but our board feels it's all aimed at making it better. By the time this newsletter is published, all members should have seen a new fiscal year cycle/plan. Our next opportunity to get together will be in conjunction with the open house graciously hosted by the Hyatt's. Check the calendar (attached) and watch for email reminders.

Despite that darned Ground Hog, Spring is here and recent warm days have been a real tease. I've started the fun task of cleaning up from winter and making my track usable for the year. I hope you have too, and if you don't have track of your own, then I encourage you to reach out and set up a day to come and run with those of us fortunate enough to have track. Again, time is precious, and I think sharing it with another member is commendable!

Also, for those of you planning to try and catch railroading history in the making by attempting to see and photograph the Union Pacific Big Boy while it's in PA in June and July, please be careful. Almost every site will be mobbed and unfortunately as we've seen with folks chasing the R&N 2102, the "foamers" can be a new level of crazy. Be safe out there, but if you do go, and get picture and experiences, please share!

As you're reading this, our second GLLSTS is now in the rearview mirror. The show continues to grow as does the appreciation for what we've been able to do in their lobby. Our time lapse video has been passed around and we're including some pics here especially for those not able to attend. The 2025 event was a real learning experience, and I believe we've addressed many of the membership's concerns over cost in our 2026 effort. A full accounting to be shared soon, but this year's club investment was less than half of last year and still a huge success!

2026 Great Lakes large scale train show round up

Submitted by Turk

May 13-17th 2026

This year's show proved to be bigger and better than last years. So, the show is growing and based on how many clubs attended with displays, it was obvious. Andrew was pleased that we had just shy of 1400 attendees.

As the coordinator, most of you know I have had some hand, and finger issues this year that have plagued me pretty badly in the past few months. I will be heading for another 2 surgeries in July. That being said I was thrilled to have Kevin Adams help this year. This year's show was designed by Kevin Adams and featured coal and cattle. Together, we managed to get all the items we needed to make this event happen. Kevin transported his buildings and structures as well as a few of mine with the turntable. The plants were provided by Mark and Mary Jane Reiff as well as Newburg Markets owner Sam. Our buddy Walter Plank delivered all plants to my house and Keann, and I took care of them for 4 days. Tom and Fern McCloud were able to secure moss and the large plants needed for the raised part of the display. Jeff and Melody Shubert came down to my house the day before and helped me get 20 flats of plants and moss plus my locomotives and structures needed for the event into a pare trailer, provided by Heather Segessenman.

Kevin, Aaron, Rob and Turk and Jeff and 3 trailers departed Waynesboro on Wednesday May 11 at 10:30 am. We arrived in Youngstown Ohio at the Metroplex around 3:45pm. Everyone helped unload some items and I set up the selling booth as well. Fred Wending, Bob Kluk and Bob Wenger met us there as well.

Andrew planned an Ice Cream social before the clinic which was a new addition to the show. Kevin and Aaron Adams then gave a detailed presentation at 6:30pm. This seminar included designs and "how to" on buildings and wood structures along with how to make custom signage. There were over 60 attendees for this event. Kevin knocked it out of the park with his power point presentation.

May 14th Thursday, we built the layout from 10am till a bit after 5pm. Kevin had the track plan all set using our computer software which made it nice for assembling track. We took a break at 12:30 for lunch and had Long John Silver's which was delivered by Bob Kluk. It was awesome! Tom then went to town on flowers and landscaping and did his magic the way he does with what I provided him. Even I helped him with plants this year.

Friday May 15th the show offered an early bird opening at 9am for Pre registers and officially opened at 10am. It was a mad rush for the first 2 hours. Our layout to no one's surprise was

fantastic. Lots of discussion by attendees and congrats on a great job done. Jeff Shubert did a great job talking to attendees and giving vital information on garden trains since I was so busy this year.

For the evening event, we were invited to a buffet dinner and program at the former B&O station nearby. The station has been fully refurbished and is now a large event center. We were seated up in the side balcony which made for some nice photos. Everyone talked and had a good time. Even had some trains pass through during the event.

Saturday May 16th. The show opened at 10am and was a bit slower than Friday. We finished up at 3:45 and started on teardown. Everything was completed and packed up by 6:15. A few guys went to a late dinner and some of us just crashed at the motel. Myself with ice bags on my hands!!

Sunday, May 17th. After a much-needed rest, we all departed for home at our own times. But the work is not over when you arrive home. Kevin had to unload all his buildings, trains and then deliver the trailer to me the next day. On Monday, we unloaded the remaining plants and the rest of the train items. Luckily, Tom and Fern were able to sell quite a bit of the plants at the show. I believe we only brought home 8 flats, and the plant money. The money made from the plants that were sold was given to our supplier friends. They were both surprised and happy with having a good bit of the inventory sold. Thanks to Tom and Fern for setting up a table and selling the plants at the show.

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated on this project.

As most of you know, we had some folks pass away in the club which made for a lot of trains to be sold off. This is the most trains (all most 400 pieces) I've had to deal with. I had 7 trains packed to the top from our deceased member and friends. Only 4 were my own.

The club has already received some cars, a WM caboose and some buildings. There will also be a cash donation of \$250.00

Needless to say, 80% of the trains sold. Thank God!! Special thanks to my wife Keann, her brother Karmon and Rob for all your help. 29 hrs. of prep and planning wore me down this year, but it was a success!! Thank you to everyone who helped and participated on this project.

Below is a link to the time lapse video of the clubs build and tear down of the 2026 Great Lakes Large Scale Layout. Special thanks go out to Treasurer Shubert who put this together for us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usPzepu9kRM&t=1s>





















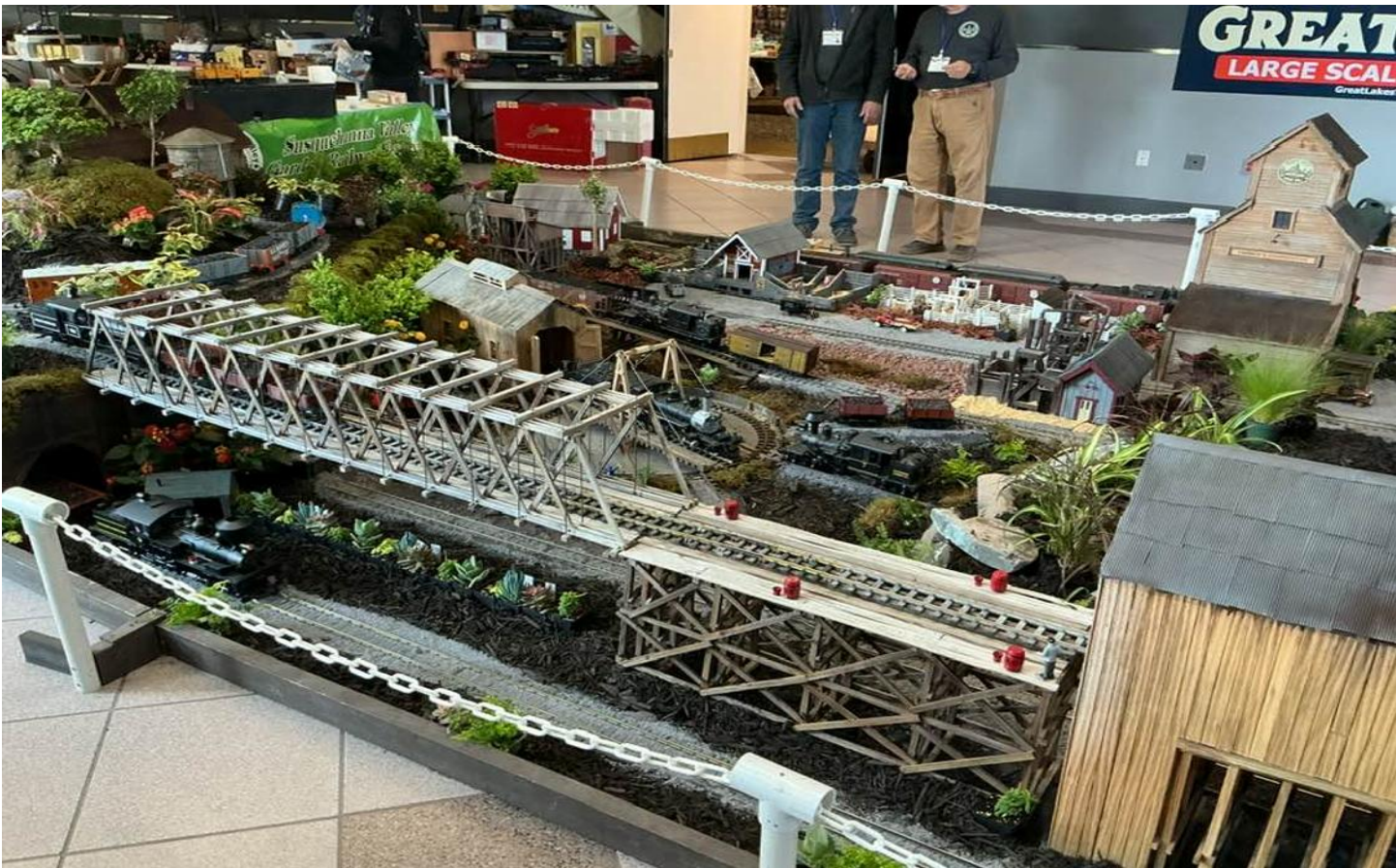
















This is from the rolling car stock modeling contest. Rob took first place with his EBT car and Turk took second with his custom-built crane car



In the locomotive modeling contest Walter from me love trains took first with an awesome Jack Daniels locomotive. Turk came in second with his Piko trains Western Maryland custom loco.



Industry News

Submitted by Turk

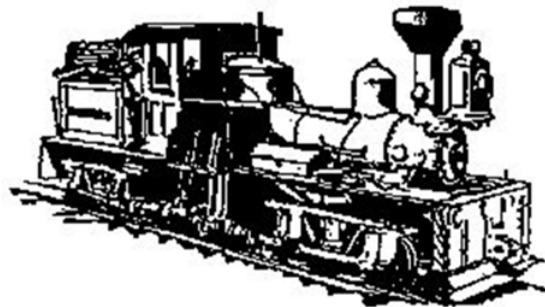
GR News

As many of you may have read or heard, the GR News bi-monthly digital publication is sunsetting. However, the GR News website will remain intact. We are in discussions of how we can continue to support this awesome hobby. Mick Spilsbury will continue to maintain the social media sites and is always looking for videos of garden railroads with trains running to post on the Facebook page. If you have a short video you would like to have shared on Facebook, please contact Mick at marketing@grnews.org. The list of clubs on the website will be maintained to help newcomers to the hobby and be able to find a local club in their area. Therefore, I would appreciate your help by letting me know if your club has a new president or new contact coordinator that we need to update. Currently Turk is our contact. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Malinda Jungst GR News - Central Regional Advisor

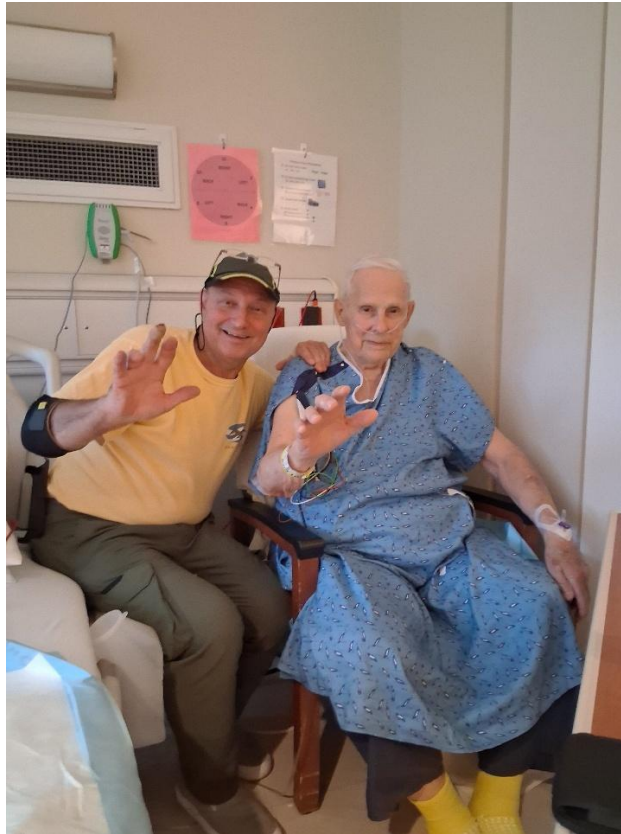
Bachmann Trains

The new Bachmann update Trolleys have arrived in the past months. They now have brass gears. Hold on though, after receiving the new sample model, the engineers decided to keep the same small motor and idler gears(plastic) but have added a new improved wheel set with a brass gear on each. So, it is a half and half. Test runs show it is improved however; we'll have to see about the longevity of this motor block. Plus, the price is up \$100.00 like everything. Available only in Christmas and Blue United Trolley Co.



Member Health Update

Walter Plank was recently hospitalized at UMPC in Carlisle. While visiting with Turk and Keann Russell, Keann noticed Walter had swollen legs and other excessive fluid in his body and recommended he go to the hospital to get checked out. He remained in the hospital for 4 days being treated for congestive heart failure. We are glad to report that he is home now and feeling much better.



SVGRS Member Passes Away

Submitted by: Turk Russell

Larry Nowak of Quincy Village Waynesboro Pa passed away on January 9th, 2026, at his home.

Larry was a professional music teacher and a member of the Shippensburg Community Band. Larry and Helen were avid RVers and loved camping. He loved woodworking, model planes and of course model trains. Larry was a member of the Quincy Village Model Railroad Club. He, with the help of me and others, built an outdoor G scale train display in front of the QVMRC train building.

For the past 2 years, health issues prevented him from being involved with his favorite past time. Keann and I kept in contact with him regularly. I helped him as he got older to keep his trains running. He was also friends with one of our former (now deceased members) Jake Middour. Jake talked Larry into Battery conversion locos which made things easier for him to run and not maintain track.

He is survived by his son Mark and daughter Sonia as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Larry had a wealth of knowledge, and I always enjoyed our conversations. He will be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

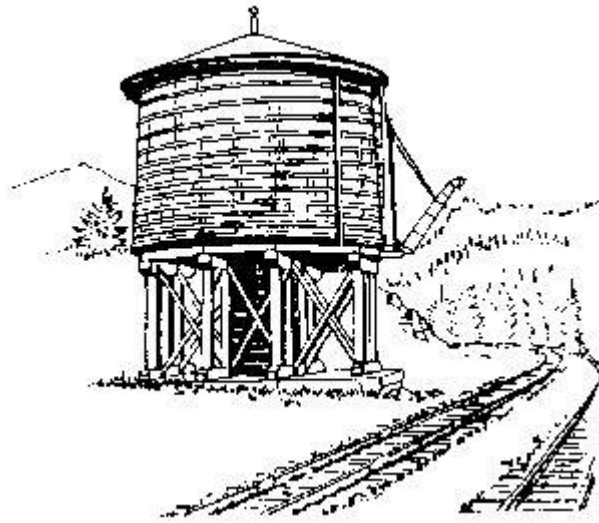




Thanks to Larry Novak who recently passed away, here are a few items from his collection that have been donated to the club through Turk

2026 Open Houses

If you have a garden Railroad layout, we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2026. This is a good way for members to get ideas and also provides good comradery among our members. If interested, contact Rob Segesenman or Kevin Adams to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.



SVGRS Club Officers

President - Rob Segessenman (717) 359-8515 rob@robtronics.com

Vice President - Robert Kluk (440) 364-8385 jokatson@msn.com

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