



SVGRS Newsletter August 2026

2026 Calendar of Events

August	3rd Quarter Newsletter
August 16	The Adams Family Open House 375 Providence Drive, McSherrystown PA 17344 1:00pm to 5:00pm
September 19	Randy Mower GC&E Railroad Open House 5218 Eton Place, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 1:00pm to 4:00pm
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

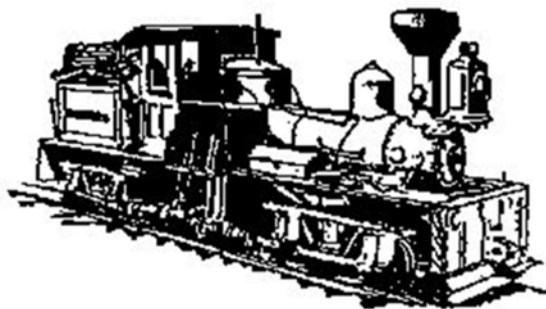
President's Message

Members -

Can you believe it's already August? I myself have struggled with getting/making time for running trains this year. Partially because it's been either too hot or too wet but mostly because it's so easy to find other things to do. I can totally cop to being lazy at times! I applaud our members putting time into the hobby. I especially applaud those who have had or plan to have open houses for friends, family and our members. Speaking from experience, it's a lot of work. It's also a fine reward to see trains running and others appreciating your hard work. Certain events in the twelve inches to the foot scale (real size) can also trigger interest at home.

Who amongst us took the time and opportunity to see "Big Boy" up close? The number of quality pictures and videos on social media is staggering. I took a day off work and camped out in the Lehigh Gorge above Jim Thorp to see it pass through on the way from Scranton to Philly just ahead of July 4th. Truly amazing! That was a long trip for the crew and I'm sure UP is pleased with the success although there certainly were many "close calls" with folks just being idiotic and risking their own lives to get a pic. I dare say there are a few smashed drones as well. Most folks were extremely gracious, and I had fun chatting with folks I've never met and may never meet again.

Bottom Line? Find that thing that spurs you on! Might be seeing real railroads - steam or diesel - in action, or it could be seeing what other folks have done. Could be social media pics and videos. Whatever that is, let's find it and keep the hobby going!



Meeting minutes, which include a copy of the new by-laws, were sent out by email on June 23rd by Kevin Adams.

Bob Hyatt Open House and Business Meeting

On Sunday July 28th a quorum of club members gathered at Bob and Janet's house in the Upper Strasburg area for an open house and club business meeting. Bob's layout never fails to impress. There are several independent loops with the inner one folded over on itself along with several industrial sidings and scenes. Bob has some pretty mature shrubbery but keeps the layout pretty open and accessible. Because the weather was threatening to rain at any moment, he didn't have as much set up and running as normal, but still, lots to see as you can tell from the pictures. Bob runs mostly battery powered engines with a variety of controls from RCS to Airwire and now RailPro. It all comes together very nicely. Many thanks to Bob and Janet for opening their home and yard for our invasion. Also, for the drinks and snacks!

In addition to the open house, we had enough members and board present to declare a voting quorum. The new bi-laws were reviewed, questions addressed and they were ratified. This then followed that the new 2026-2027 budget was proposed and ratified as well. All of this was email to members. The biggest changes are shifting the fiscal year to cycle on July-1 vice January-1. We'll have all of this for the larger group of members to review at the picnic!

-RFSJr.















Rocky Ridge 2027 Round Up

Submitted by Rob Segessenmen

Following our 2026 efforts at Rocky Ridge, we had numerous ideas and comments on how we could reduce the night-to-night burden on members. The general theme was to simplify where possible and that will mean at least one less train running nightly.

The York County Parks clearly understands we are integral to the Christmas Magic success and over the course of several discussions with the show coordinator Nancy, we have come to an agreement that I think and hope we can all live with. Come hear all about it at the club Picnic September 27th!



Industry News

Submitted by Turk

Bachmann trains:

1. Announced that they will be re-introducing 12 wheel E8 diesels. These locos will be re-productions and improved versions of the Aristocraft locomotives.

2. Also coming soon will be the reintroduction of the famous Long Steel caboose produced by Aristocraft trains. In the G scale market, these cabooses were the most detailed, affordable and widely used by lots of garden railroaders.

3. Bachmann will also be bringing back the 2 bay belly hoppers. Aristo produced these for years and are still popular. This will be a good addition for rolling stock fans.

Bachmann continues to offer 1.29 trains. While happy to see more new items Most fans are still yearning for some narrow gauge and steam locomotives.

MTH trains:

Mikes train house continues to jump back into the large-scale market or as they call it Gauge One. The promise of a UP Big boy in several versions as well as the 4014, they are to be delivered by November 2026 Street prices said to be \$1489.00 which is a bargain for an engine of that size.

With last year's release of the big diesel ES44AC aka dash 9 versions has had some success already. Rolling stock will be added soon as well as Union Pacific smooth side passenger cars.

Piko Trains:

Coming soon will be the ever popular little 25-ton diesel as the Reindeer Flyer. It will include RC/ TCS options with lights and sound and also a remote control. Delivery expected in Oct/ Nov.

In addition to the Christmas theme, all sorts of rolling stock will be added as well.

The re-release of the 2 pack shorty ore cars in White Pass livery. They cars are super popular with LGB but will be more affordable from Piko

Also coming will be Pennsy passenger coaches along with Sinclair and Texaco tank cars.

LGB Trains:

While lots of euro trains are being released, the big news is that

LGB will be bringing back the G scale class 3 truck shay. LGB produced these back in the late 90's and they had some issues. As a new updated premier offering, the shay will be built as a 120.3 Fn3 narrow gauge, New metal tooling with dcc decoders as well as lights sound and smoke . Popular road names such as Roaring camp and big trees and West side lumber, the only thing holding it back will be the price. Get ready for sticker shock! \$5250.00 list price available now for \$4999.99

Split Jaw:

They will be offering new folding aluminum bridges as well as single track tower supports in various sizes. See the website for pricing at www.splitjaw.com

Accucraft Trains

They will be releasing an HK porter 2-6-0 Fn3 scale. Price \$1995.00 extra options include ESU sound and Blunami control sound with phone controls

As most of you know, Accucraft is back in the Ride On business starting with a Plymouth diesel loco kit in Yellow. Also offering larger engines a SP GP 40 or Emd Gp 38 undec. versions are available as well. List price \$12,995.00

Member Health Updates

Member updates:

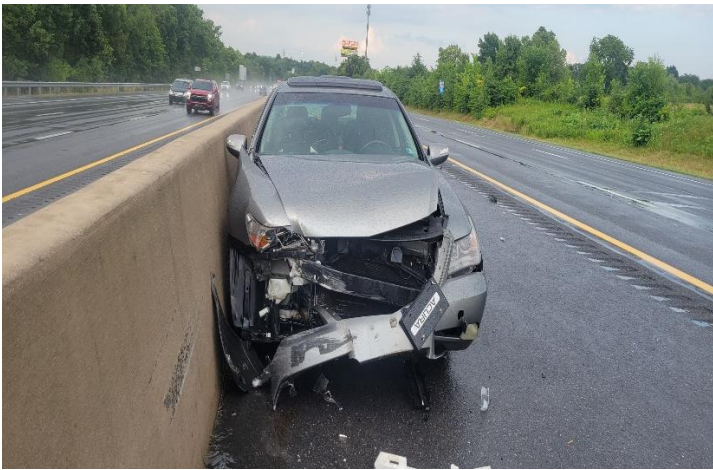
I don't normally write much about our members detailed health issues unless informed; but these 2 guys have become "Miracle men"

Turk Russell

As some of you may know, I had another Heart issue in June. I spent 3 days at one of my favorite places. UPMC's heart lab in Harrisburg Pa. What started as a possible artery issue turned out to be A flutter. My heart was racing at 175 bpm, and all I felt was some chest pain. After some Dr panicking and then some good meds with 3 IV's ,3 hrs. Later I was up and about. My buddy Dr Hubbard (head of the Artery dept) and I had some discussions and decided to do another heart echo to double check me before performing a possible Cath number 9. I had been good for 6 years with no issues. Anyway, the Echo came back bad. I had lost 25-30% of my heart muscle and my luck had run out after 2 heart attacks. Even one at the East coast show and no heart damage. So, Cath number 9 was done and turned out I was perfect. So now, new meds were added and EKGs every day with my new home wireless machine. Keann does a great job and after 1.5 months; I already healed 95%. Dr Hubbard senses that this had been on-going and I was asymptomatic and did not know the interval issues. Again, another miracle for the 9 lives guy. In the end this caused some issues for my long-awaited 2nd wrist surgery. After Keann and I worked with OSS to get past the Anesthesiologists worries, we were set to go July 31st. Then my surgeon has a bad car accident and is now for months. Enter a new surgeon who trained at the Curtis hand institute, and he is sending me back there to see the Top Dr who I saw a year ago in Baltimore. So, with postponed Surgery, a new procedure with Nerve work and robotics will happen in the near future.

In addition, Keann and I were involved in a car crash a 70mph on Rt 81N coming home from our river retreat. We spun 270 degrees in a rain storm after a driver cut us off and we slammed into the inside barrier wall. Keann is good with a sore neck, and I am slightly injured around my new hip replacement, but all of us including Fred our dog were able to get out and walked away 5 min after the crash. The medics and police could not believe it. I was helping the rollback driver load up the car. Go figure. But the next few days, we both felt the pain.

The Russell saga continues, but I continue to work. Even water skied 3 weeks ago. Nothing is going to keep me down other than hurting hands for working on trains.



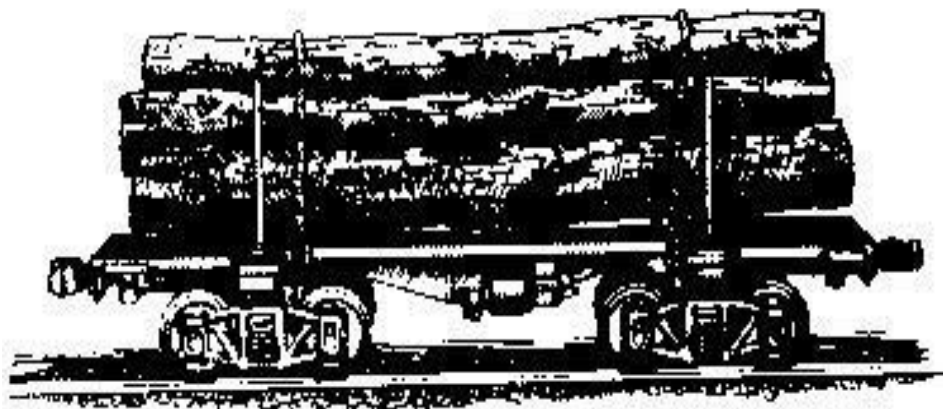
Walter Plank

Most of you may not know unless you follow me on Facebook, Walter took a very big dive in his health and his body shut down. He was admitted to UMPC Carlisle 2 times

and we discussed end of life. Blood pressures were extremely low. The amazing part is, at age 91 he never had any loss of mind and what's going on and conversations. We would talk about cars and trains like it was 10 years ago. He was alert and even looked damn good! Keann and I helped him with his medical portal and such with daily check ins each day. MaryJane and Mark Reiff also helped out a lot. Thanks to Keann and her knowledge of meds, she spoke to may Drs and nurses to help possible jump start Walter back. None of us knew if he would make it or not. Walter was discharged to the old Church of God nursing and rehab facility in Carlisle. After 1 week he made good strides but still needed lots of assistance. By week 2, I was shocked that physical rehab was coming along so well. After 3 ½ weeks. I arrived for a visit with the usual ice cream and was told by PT he had walked 140 steps and progress was amazing. As the comeback moved forward, we met with leaders to have a plan to send him home and he walked 240 steps with a cane. We had him discharged to back home and setup with one of my friends' CNAs to look after him a few days a week as well Mary Jane who filled in from time to time. He is back to driving and getting around 95%. He met me in Carlisle last week after my successful heart echo and drove to lunch at the diner with no issues. Another Miracle man who will be turning 92 next month.

Congrats old buddy!



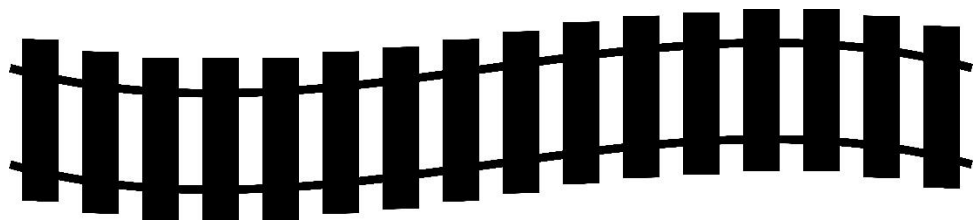


SVGRS Member Passes Away

On July 4th, 2026, Bill Simmons passed away at the York North nursing home. He would have been 70 years old on July 6th. Dee was by his side for the past year as he fought cancer. Bill was very active in the train club, helping build our displays and run them as well. You could always count on him to do almost anything necessary when it came building club displays for our events. His nickname was “Big Bill” because he was tall and towering. Along with Dee they built a beautiful Garden Railroad at the home in Abbottstown Pa. They had many open houses and provided a food spread like a buffet! He is survived by his wife Dee (newsletter editor) 2 sisters and his dad who is 94. He also had 2 children and 3 granddaughters, grandson-in-law and 2 great grandchildren. Bill had a love for trucks and trains. After discharged from the Army, He was a truck driver for over 40 years. He will be missed, Rest in peace buddy,

Submitted by Turk Russell





The struggle is real 🤔🚂🔥



2027 Open Houses

If you have a garden Railroad layout, we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2027. 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

SVGRS Secretary – Kevin Adams (717) 465-5852 captain49a@mcaster.net

Treasurer – Jeff Shubert (717) 729-0267 shube@comcast.net

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