



## *Susquehanna Valley Garden Railway Society*

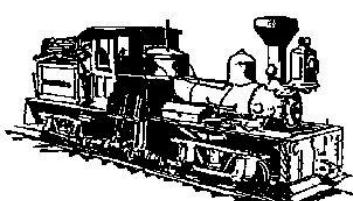
## Central Pennsylvania's Garden Railway Club



# SVGRS Newsletter September 2020

## **2020 Calendar of Events**

- |             |  |                                       |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Sep-19      | 1:00am - General Meeting #3/Club Picnic                              | CANCELLED                             |
| Oct-4       | 2:00pm Trailer Inventory, Clean inventory items and repack           | CANCELLED                             |
| Nov-6       | 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup up ;                                  | CANCELLED                             |
| Nov- 14     | 9:00am - Rocky Ridge Complete Setup                                  | CANCELLED                             |
| Nov-27      | 5:00pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day                                 | CANCELLED                             |
| Dec- 13     | 4:30pm - General Meeting #4/Christmas Party (Hanover Railside Dinner | Still Pending . We hope to have it !! |
| TCA (York)  | Fall train show (October)  | Cancelled                             |
| Bunker Hill | train show   | Cancelled                             |





## **Message from our President**

I have to say that with all the things going on that are bad right now, model railroading seems to be alive and well for all scales. While we continue to not see much happening in Large scale, at least model trains are running everywhere. With our scale, it's all about the increased costs.

As for our club, some events were cancelled. The board decided to ask the membership for their opinion on the club picnic. We made the attempt to contact members and asked them how they felt about having events. Rob sent out a survey and only received 15 responses. The majority was NO and so the picnic was cancelled. Now we have to decide about our Christmas Party. Again, we will send out an email and hope we get better results.

The park service at Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic informed me that they were going to cancel the 2020 Christmas show, so we would be not doing the layout for the first time ever. I later found out that they are going to open on a limited basis but with no vendors. Not sure I believe that, but who knows. So we will NOT be participating in Christmas magic. It's sad, but everyone will get a break this year so you don't have to hear from myself and Rob nagging to fill nights.

Bob Wenger has asked members if they would like to have a video or short chat on video. He would be glad to come out and do it. We would then put this out in a newsletter link for all to enjoy. Quite a few model Railroaders are doing this with a lot of participation. Having a Zoom meeting may be coming in order to keep the club members informed. I know we all feel like this year is a washout. Hopefully next year will be better. I know that the ECLSTS is still on the agenda according to Dan.

Take care and be safe!      Turk

## **More Train news**

Unfortunately, we did see more train company's closing their doors. I was sad to see that **Hartland** trains thru in the towel. Not surprising though. They did a lot of promo trains that were sold in stores all over the world. If the stores are closed, they can't move product. The big surprise was Mike Wolff announcing that **MTH** would close in 2021. It's a shock since they have over 50% of the O scale business + other scales. While they did announce that the electronics portion of the train company will stay in business, the rest is unsure. Most of my O scale friends were surprised that he did not sell or offer to hand the company down. I know that the employees may try to keep the company going if details could be worked out.

**Piko and LGB** Trains continue to announce new a long list of train products which are a good sign. Starter sets are also coming back. Both companies are now offering basic trains for a much lower price.

**Bachman** which in my opinion has been lagging their tails for quite some time announced a remake and upgrade of the the Aristo Dash 9 diesel locomotive. While this may not be the choice engine of many G scalers since it's huge, it's a start. But its money driven. Dash 9s pricing on certain road names has climbed to well over \$800.00. I am happy they we are finally getting something more than Thomas products. Hopefully in the near future Bachmann will produce some other locos and cars that fit a majority of Garden railroaders needs.

**Accucraft Trains** is continuing to release engines and cars. Like Piko, they have a strong Euro market with helps sales all around . They also announced new streamlined passenger cars. This seems to be a hot thing since USA trains released theirs earlier this year. There is a growth in more modern train modelers. Also there is a growing market with Butane fired locos. For years this was 2% of the market, but not anymore. I guess guys like to get their hands dirty and burnt!

**USA trains** which has been a main stable for G scalers continues on which is great. This summer they followed in Aristocraft's footpath to offer a free caboose with the purchase of certain locos . Wish they had done this earlier on .

Hopefully these train companies can figure out a way to keep the costs down so our hobby will live on.

Funny thing, I just realized while writing this article. Bachmann's remake productions of Aristocraft locos went from small to large. First the Eggliner and now the Dash 9.

Submitted by Turk Russell

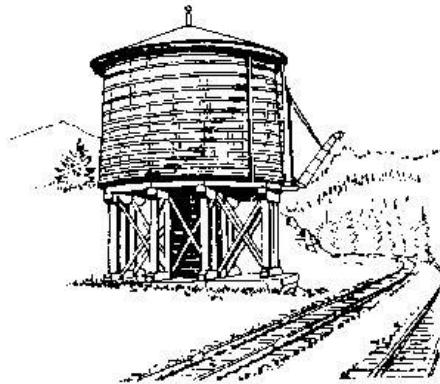
## More News

Barry Zeigler is selling his layout as well as some trains. You can contact Barry at 717-259-7176 or e-mail [loiszeigler@icloud.com](mailto:loiszeigler@icloud.com). His address is 16 Howard Drive, East Berlin, PA 17316



## Open House

Phillip Shoop is having an open house Saturday, October 10th from 1-3pm  
Phillip's address is 1918 Lyndon Ave. Lancaster, PA17602  
Phone 717-390-0406.



## **East Broad Top RR. Reopens**

**submitted by Turk**

I have attended EBT functions forever. My parents took me and friends there when we were kids. It was the only railroad town with almost everything still intact east of the Mississippi. In addition, where else could you see 2-4 narrow gauge steamers running in the 70s,80s and 90s . Jeff Shubert and I went to almost every special event or fall spectacular and always had a good time .

Now after setting idle for 8 years, the new EBT and its owners have put on more than a fresh face. What they have accomplished with the help of their volunteers in less than 6 months, is more than most railroads get done in 5-10 years. The place had been ailing for years and the Kolalchicks could not find owners for all sorts of reasons, mainly \$\$ , but that's another story . It's a new beginning. With all the new found fame and work that is going on; finding tickets to

any event is tough. Rob and I were lucky to get tickets from an old acquaintance Dave Brightbill; who has been a conductor on the EBT for decades.

Buildings have been stabilized and painted, yard track/ switches have been replaced, cars are being upgraded or repaired. It's amazing at all the work that is going on especially during Covic 19. Track work has been on going to restore back to the picnic grounds, with plans to go south to Robertsdale. We were told that in the future if things work out, they would like to run the trains down to the Roberstdale station. That would be an awesome train ride.

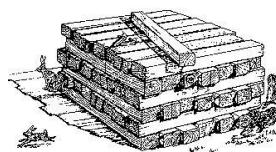
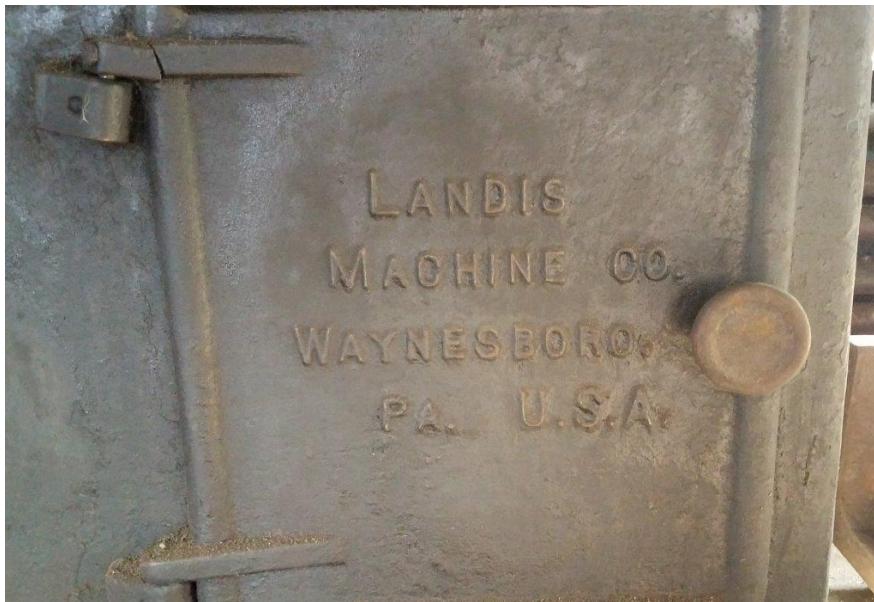
The shops even had the overhead pulley system working with the Big Steam wheel running a few turn of the century machines in action. If you follow Facebook you can see all the efforts being put forth. A massive amount of cars and equipment was out on display for all to enjoy. This place will be like a Smithsonian museum within a few years.

Locomotives 16 and 14 are already tore down and getting assessed so that steam will be back by next year. As most of you know, getting a Form 4 steam loco running is more than a 1472 day tear down. I actually believe these guys can pull it off. They have a plan in action. #16 is designated to be done first.

The one thing that I noticed that is a fresh welcome was how friendly and helpful folks now are. They are much more willing to give out information. Most of us know how the old EBT curmudgeons were. This is a definite improvement all around. I recommend a visit.







### NOTE:

The National Train Museum(TCA) in Strasburg Pa has now re-opened with limited hours. They like a lot of other places were closed for a few months.

Most days open will be Fri , Sat, Sun . 10am to 5 pm . Check their site for updates <http://nttmuseum.org/visitors/calendar-admissions.shtml>

# **Members News**

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## **Bob Wenger**

Has started the building of an indoor railroad in his basement. It will be approximately 14x22 ft when completed.

So far, I have only been working on the bench work, so there is not much to see.

Pictures will follow once I have started laying track.

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## **Rob Segessenman**

This is a crossover I recently built to access what will eventually be a patio area inside the loop. The steps are composite railroad ties, that didn't work out as well as expected. Apparently in the extreme cold of the North East, they get brittle and trains would snap 'em in half. There loss is my gain. Don't think I'll have any issues with weight or rot. I also mounted a PRR caboose brake wheel my Dad had collected and set a stone from the barn foundation at his farm. Makes a nice handrail for stepping over. I'm pleased with the look and that I've been able to repurpose so many things. The caboose wheel can be lifted out of the mount and stored for the winter.



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## Joe Mower

I about doubled the size of my Garden Railroad in 2020, My train tracks are all elevated to eliminate pulling weeds from between the rails. The train is track powered using power from a 18 volt Dewalt battery and a Aristo-Craft Train Engineer

I scratch built the Chew Mail Pouch barn, the Produce stand and the Covered Bridge





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Note: new e-mail address for Joe Mower [jhmower@comcast.net](mailto:jhmower@comcast.net)

### **SVGRS Club Officers**

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