



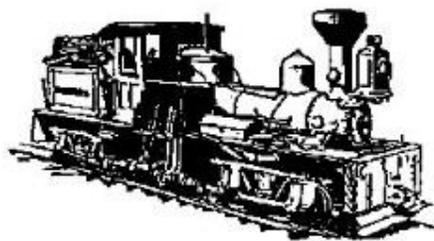
## SVGRS Newsletter November 2019

### 2019 Calendar of Even

- Nov-29      5:00 pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day
- Dec-8        4:30 pm - General Meeting #4/Christmas Party (Hanover Railside Dinner)
- Dec-31      2019 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends

**Note: The SVGRS 2020 dues have been increased to \$25.00. This was voted and approved at the September 2019 picnic.**

You can pay dues at the Christmas Party or mail them to:  
Jeff Shubert, 258 Chestnut Drive, Shippensburg, PA  
17257-9493



## Message from our President

It is now confirmed that the 2020 ECLSTS will be held in Timonium at the Maryland state fairgrounds. March 13-14, 2020. We will be voting at the Christmas Party to see if the membership wants to do a Garden RR layout at this event.

**NOTE: I have track and buildings from two layouts for sale: Contact me for your garden railroad needs.**

Turk Russell



## 2019 Rocky Ridge Magic Christmas

November 16 was the big Rocky Ridge setup and I wanted to thank everyone who came and helped. I want to especially thank my wife, who puts up with a lot, and the families who brought food and drinks to keep us fed. It was all really good stuff! Thanks also to everyone who brought leaves.

Attached below are two pictures showing how things looked when we started and pretty close to how it looked when we finished. I think everyone present signed up for at least a few monitoring sessions, and that's great! Watch for the calendars in your email inbox real soon as we strive to fill in the blanks and double up especially on weekends.

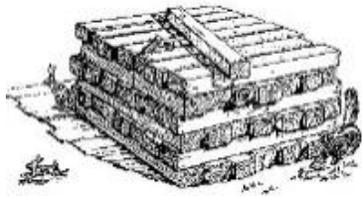




## One other item of interest:

Kevin Adams is involved with the Hanover Fire Museum and does their G scale trains for Christmas. They have multiple scales of trains as well as historic fire equipment. It's super nice and informative. It takes about an hour, depending on what you like, to make the tour. The location is just 5 min from Hanover Railside diner where our Christmas party is held. They will be open that weekend and specifically from 12 - 5 Dec 8th, so if anyone wants to go early before the Christmas party, we would recommend it. The address for the museum is just below!

Hanover Area Fire Museum  
134 East Hanover street  
Hanover Pa 17331



## Geesey Open House

Doris & Marlyn had their Garden RR layout open for all to enjoy Saturday Sept 28, from 12-5pm. We had a total of 49 visitors attend our “Open house/ Open Yard.

What a wonderful day they had with our friends, family, new and old neighbors who enjoyed the day as much as we did. We had folks from our neighborhood, out of town and even from Mexico, and I don’t mean Mexico, Pa. Ages ranged from 4 to 80+ years old.

All of the trains both indoors and outdoors ran well and kept everyone entertained.

The children were especially excited to see Thomas running and watched as he ran through his tunnel past the barn, by the station and even the water tower. We did not have enough wind to get the windmill to be working.

We had wonderful volunteers that pitched in and helped make out time with the trains especially successful.

Thanks to all volunteers. Visitors and Mother Nature for cooperating.

### Marlyn & Doris





## More news from Turk

Steve Blubaugh and I made a Sunday trip to see trains and do a pickup. 1st stop; Shartlesville Pa; for Roadside America. We had not been there in almost 20 years and it still smells and looks about the same. The trains are all O scale and the layout is HUGE!

They have made some improvements with scenery, but the trains are not good and not many running which was a shame. It's still a worthwhile stop along the way to see what started in 1959 and still lives on today

Next, it was on to the Reading and Northern RR. Lower station near Hamburg Pa. No Pacific #425 steamer today, but they have an array of vintage diesels and awesome facilities. We plan to ride one of their Christmas specials with the big Pacific loco running .

Last stop, Bill Orf's home. Bill has been a SVGRS member for many years; but most members would never recognize him. He is very active as minister, writer and

car enthusiast. We took down most of his layout and brought home many nice items. Some are good and some are worn out. He donated a good bit to our club and we appreciate that greatly other items will be sold within.

Thanks Bill!



## Roadside America Pictures



# Readig and Northern Railroad Pictures



# NS to dispose of executive F units, other roster oddities



Dan Cupper

ALTOONA, Pa. – Norfolk Southern has put its A-B-B-A set of executive F unit locomotives up for auction, according to an assets-disposition bidding sheet distributed on Nov. 6 and obtained by Trains News Wire.

Regularly assigned to NS's office car train, the quartet was acquired in 2006 and rebuilt to GP38-2 standards by the railroad's Juniata Locomotive Shop in Altoona, Pa. Since then, they have been based in Altoona, along with the company's 20-plus office cars. The locomotives wear a version of the former Southern Railway black-and-gray F unit paint scheme, with an image of the railroad's thoroughbred horse on the nose of each A unit. The cars wear the Norfolk & Western's classic Tuscan red paint with gold lettering.

Southern, which merged with N&W in 1982 to create NS, was an early convert to diesel power, acquiring the demonstrator set of FT units that ran an 8,700-mile tour around the United States in 1939-1940. That performance widely proved the practicality of diesel-electric power in heavy freight service. Up to that time, it had been confined to lighter-duty passenger and switching service.

Built by the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors Corp. in 1952, the two A units, Nos. 270 and 271, began life as Baltimore & Ohio F7 locomotives. Rated at 1,800 hp, the A units were previously used by MARC, the Maryland Area Rail Commuter service. The B units, numbered 275 and 276 and rated at 2,000 hp, were built by EMD in 1950 for the Chicago Great Western.

The four were acquired during the administration of CEO Wick Moorman, along with three other Fs of Chicago & North Western, Canadian National, and Canadian Pacific heritage, which were stored for use as parts sources.

When NS acquired the units, it numbered the A units 4270-4271, as the highest-numbered Southern F7 unit was the 4269. The B units were numbered 4275-4276. Within the past year, the digit 4 was dropped from all four when NS's program to rebuild standard-cab General Electric C40-9 DC-powered units into 4000-series wide-nose AC44C6M AC-powered units grew to reach into the 4200 number series.

The A units featured a camera mounted in the windshield, to provide a closed-circuit signal to TV monitors back in the train. They are also equipped with positive train control.

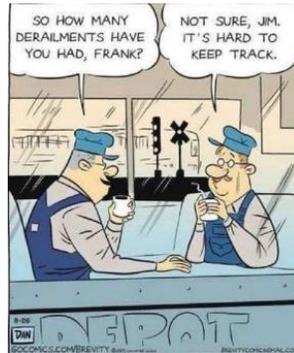
The F-units led office car trains across the 19,500-mile, 22-state system, reaching New York, Chicago, and NS's headquarters city of Atlanta. They regularly made trips to the Masters Tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., each April, and to the Kentucky Derby in Louisville each May. During each event, the parked train served as a hospitality suite.

They also pulled "Blue Ribbon Special" employee appreciation trains in 2011. In addition, they proudly represented NS at events and celebrations such as "Norfolk Southern Days" at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, and the four-day "Streamliners at Spencer" gathering in 2014 at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, N.C.

The disposition is not a complete surprise. In September, an NS office car train operated from Altoona to Atlanta behind NS 8099, the company's Southern Railway green-and-gold heritage unit. It was the first time since the F-units made their 2007 debut that such a train ran without them. The office-car fleet includes a power car to provide head-end-power, so it can be led by a non-equipped freight unit.

Other locomotives up for sale at the same time include former Reading Co. EMD SW1001s Nos. 2104-2105; six former-Southern Railway EMD MP15s Nos. 2362, 2386, 2393, 2398, and 2403; modified EMD MP15E No. 2423; Rail Power RP20BD gensets Nos. 100-101; RP20CD genset No. 3830; NS BP4 No. 999, a bat-

tery-powered experimental unit built by Juniata in 2014; and partially disassembled SD40-2 No. 3463 (former BN/CEFX No. 7083).



## Holiday Train Experiences

There's just something magical about trains during the holidays, so try one of these great Maryland railroad experiences to get the season on track.



There's no place like Maryland for the holidays! Get into the spirit of the season at Parades and Festivals,



## **1**Christmas at the Roundhouse, Hagerstown

November 15 - February 2, 2020

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 1- 5 pm

Also open December 26-27

Newly renovated "Trains of Christmas" includes favorite steam and diesel trains operating on four levels over a winter landscape. The layout grows as the season progresses. Santa visits on selected dates in December 2019!



## **2**The Polar Express Train Ride, Cumberland

November 22 - December 23, 2019 - Weekends

Embark on a magical re-creation of the classic children's story on board a real train. During a trip to the North Pole, passengers are served hot chocolate and a treat by dancing chefs, enjoy a reading of the book by Chris Van Allsburg, and receive the first gift of Christmas (a silver sleigh bell) after Santa boards the train to greet families. Attendants lead passengers in caroling and fun holiday activities on the return trip to Cumberland.

**You told me you  
had a lot of money  
invested**

**Yeah...  
In my  
Trains!!**



## **Product News Looking for EGG Haulers**

<http://store-egg haulers-com.3dcartstores.com/>

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