

# TRAIN OF THOUGHT

THE MON VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB OF WV, INC.  
NEWSLETTER - HOLIDAY NOV/DEC 2010



## EDITORS NOTE

Fellow members, as I write this Christmas has ended and the new year is just around the corner. I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday. Our pre-Christmas Open House was a total success! We had good crowds on both days and the club took in around \$400 before expenses. Many thanks to all who provided hotdogs, buns and baked items for sale. Our next event will be the Winter Open House on Saturday, January 15, 2011. This will be a one day event only starting at 10am running thru 6pm. Please consider helping out to make this day as great as it can be. Hopefully, the weather will be good and many more visitors will come down to enjoy our layouts. Also, don't forget that on Saturday, January 1st we will have our Operating session for all members that wish to attend. Make sure that your loco has been tested on the layout before you come to the Op session. Lastly, don't forget dues are now due, there has been a slight increase for Regular membership. More on this can be found in the Update section of this newsletter.

Sincerely, Rich Henderson



## MINUTES of the NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

Nov. 11, 2010

Regular Business Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Frank as Gary Deavers, President couldn't make it. There were no guests, 4 officers and 7 members were in attendance.

The minutes of the Oct 7, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved by vote from a motion made by Mike and seconded by Greg.

The Treasurer's Report for October was presented in detail by Keith. The report was motioned to be accepted by Rich, seconded by Greg and approved unanimously.

### Committee Reports:

**Caboose committee:** No action

**Pulpwood car Committee:** 2 more cars are painted.

**Ad Car Committee:** All but 3 cars have been renewed and we have 1 new one: Remax Reality. Current count is 21 cars

**DCC Committee:** No action

**Lighting and maintenance:** No action

### Modular layout:

Modules are back and need to be assembled. Discussion ensued about detailing some of the modules. Any one who wants to do a module should contact Gary.

**Publicity Committee:** Rich is preparing information for the Christmas open house.

**Non-profit status:** We can apply online. Discussion on the concept and filing the paperwork. Ken moved that we make application and John seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**Membership Committee:** No new members

### Old business:

**BSA Railroad Merit Badge** Jon requested that we move this to November's meeting so he can do more research. [From October: we should discuss a proposal for helping the BSA administer Railroad Merit Badge. There is an interest from the BSA and possible funding from NMRA Region 2.] Jon Hebb didn't show up so the issue is postponed until December.

**Mountain Lair:** November 4<sup>th</sup> was set-up. The show ran November 5, 6 and 7, 2010. Tear down was Sunday afternoon. Rich prepared a hand-out. The club generated about \$160.00 and several membership enquiries.

Frank thanked all the veterans for their service.

*November Minutes continued*

**Mon Valley RR Club shirts** were requested at the October meeting, a sign up sheet was passed around. Shirts will be ordered from the company soon (if you want one, contact Mike or Rich ASAP)

There was considerable discussion at the meeting for the printing of M&K shirts for Rowlesburg in 2011. Jon described several designs and there was considerable discussion. Jon will research details and bring the info back to the next meeting. Jon Hebb didn't show up so the issue is postponed until December.

**New Business:**

New Year Day will be the next operating session.

January open house will be on Saturday (only) Jan 15, 2011, 10 am to 6 pm.

Starting January 1, Ad cars will be \$35.00. The rest of the current cars will stay at \$30.00 until next year, then all cars will be \$35.00. Motion made by Keith and seconded by Mike, then passed unanimously. Ken made a motion that new cars will be available for three years at a flat rate of \$75.00, seconded by Shawn, passed unanimously. (Rich explained that every time there is a club activity, the ad cars owners receive a letter inviting them to the activity and thanking them for advertising with us.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 30.

**Addendum:**

The Club open house is scheduled for December 11 and 12, 2010. The second open house date in January is Saturday, Jan 15, 2011 from 10 am to 6 pm.

The November-December issue of Model Railroad Hobbyist is available and can be downloaded for FREE. Check this out at <http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/> Railroad Model

Craftsman is now available off the rack from the Barnes and Noble book store at the Mountaineer Mall They also carry Model Railroader, O scale Modeler, O gauge Modeler, Great Layouts and other model railroad related periodicals and magazines.

The Mon Valley RR Club will host the NMRA Div 2 meeting on June 26, 2011, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

January 1 will be an all day operating session.

Lew Matt, Secretary



***NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT***

November 1, 2010

Beginning Balance	
October 1, 2010	\$1403.75
Expenses:	
November Rent	\$ 265.00
Allegheny Power	\$ 70.39
Total Expenses	\$ 335.39
Income:	
Boxcars	\$ 90.00
Lantz Dues	\$ 29.00
Total Income	\$ 119.00
Ending Balance	
October 31, 2010	\$ 1,187.36
Certificate of Deposit	\$1,803.67

Keith DeVault, Treasurer

***PRESIDENTS NOTE***

The wonderful season of Christmas is here, and with it lot's of club activity. We just wrapped up a successful weekend of Open House and are now turning our attention to the annual New Year's op session. I know on some level we all do a lot of reflecting at this time of year. Let us pause to be thankful for our many blessings and remember the true meaning of the season.

Odds and ends from the President...

Finally, it will happen! I am speaking of the Operator's Class. This will take place at 7:00 pm Thursday, December 30. I am limiting this first class to eight persons, and you must sign up so I can have material ready. Train order operation, communications, and use of interlocking machines will be covered. Even if you have previous tower experience, this will be valuable instruction. My goal is to have a pool of operators who can handle A, AG, and RW/WG towers, plus a yard clerk / assistant. The timing will allow the knowledge to be fresh for January 1<sup>st</sup>.

It is time to start getting the layout ready for the op session. This means track cleaning, adjustments, and getting engines ready. Engines must track well and be capable of pulling a reasonable sized train. Please, don't drop an engine on the rails January 1<sup>st</sup> without us checking it out first (unless it is an engine that has a good history with us).

Our next visit to Rowlesburg will be somewhat different, at least from a railfan perspective. The tower was closed December 08, leaving no active towers in this state. The closing coincided with the change-over from B&O signals to tri-light signals. Apparently, this and most of the other abandoned towers on the West End are coming down as well. By my count, WB Tower at Brunswick is the only former B&O tower left in operation, although there may be still a B&O CT tower or two left in Chicagoland.

## ***Presidents Note continued***

Get well wishes go out to Jim Kubanick, who is still rehabbing from rotator cuff surgery.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gary Deavers

## ***MINUTES of the DECEMBER BUSINESS MEETING December 2, 2010***

Regular Business Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Gary Deavers, President. There were 0 guests, 4 officers and 8 members in attendance.

Gary made a motion to defer the reading of the minutes until the January business meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Hines and was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer's Report for October was presented in detail by Keith. The report was unanimously approved by vote from a motion made by Rich Henderson and seconded by Don Henderson

### **Committee Reports:**

**Caboose committee:** No action

**Pulpwood car Committee:** Mike finished 4 more cars

**Ad Car Committee:** Current count is 22 cars. Old Colony may not renew while Mainstreet Morgantown and Kay, Casto, & Cheney have been contacted to renew.

**DCC Committee:** No action

**Lighting and maintenance:** No action

### **Modular layout:**

Gary expressed his strong desire to have the modular set up following the meeting. The Amtrak train to be raffled off should be run on the inside track during the Open House. Rich reported that if we include the full layout we'll have one less table to use to sell raffle tickets which will then need to be sold at the same table as the White Elephant sale.

**Publicity Committee:** Rich reports all publicity is out including 50 flyers to Fairchance Pharmacy and Dave's Hobby Stop.

### **Non-profit status: To be discussed at the Board Meeting**

**Membership Committee:** No new members

### **Old business:**

**BSA Railroad Merit Badge** Gary requested that we move this discussion to January's meeting.

**Mountain Lair:** A success.

**Mon Valley RR Club shirts:** Mike called Beasley and Flowers. He reports they have different styles of shirts that he will follow up on for next business meeting.

**M&K shirts** Discussion deferred until January.

### **New Business:**

Open House December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 10-5 and 12-5.

January Open House will be from 10-6 on January 15, 2011

### **December Open House:**

**Clean Up:** We will be ready for visitors next week. Members will come down the club on Saturday. There is a lot of HO "stuff" that if not used in the White Elephant sale, needs to be thrown out. Floors need to be vacuumed and mopped. Dave Hines

will help with the clean up committee.

**Food:** Frank and Keith will get Hot dogs. Gary will get the sauce. Mike will take care of condiments. Greg will get bottled water and soda. John Lindsay and Gavin lance will furnish baked goods (cookies). Lou Lamelle will get Hot Dog buns. We have plates and napkins.

**Workers:** Are needed for both days. Rich will take care of a reminder and sign up sheet.

### **January Op Session:**

We need to have trains staged.

Trains are not to exceed 15 cars including caboose.

Helpers should not be a last resort. Every freight train should have a helper when the caboose reaches the signal at CPNM before attempting the grade.

Mike will check with Eric about an email list for invitees.

**Operator's class:** Gary would like to have 5 more qualified Tower Operators. He will conduct a Train Tower Operator's class at 7pm on December 30<sup>th</sup>. Rich will email the group.

**Programming Track:** Keith brought up concerns that the programming track extended farther and took up more room on the bench than we realized when the club voted to approve its construction. Presently, it is difficult to work at the bench. Mike made a motion the track be moved closer to the main layout, but at different level so not to interfere with normal operations. Don Henderson seconded the motion which was voted on and accepted.

Rich Henderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Dave Hines. Voted, approved and adjourned at 8:18pm

Thanks to Greg Malnikoff for taking the minutes of the December meeting while Lew was ill.

Addendum:

The Club open house is scheduled for

**December Minutes continued**

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January 1 will be an all day operating session.

**DECEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT**

December 1, 2010

Beginning Balance	
November 1, 2010	\$1,187.36
Expenses:	
December Rent	\$ 265.00
Allegheny Power	\$ 30.32
Total Expenses	\$ 295.32
Income:	
Boxcars	\$ 60.00
Mt. Lair Donations	\$ 167.00
Total Income	\$ 227.00
Ending Balance	
November 30, 2010	\$ 1,119.04
Certificate of Deposit	\$1,803.67

Keith DeVault, Treasurer

**CLUB UPDATES**

First, Jim Kubanick injured his shoulder while working down at the club and had to have surgery. Get well soon Jim!

Second, is the increase in dues for 2011. This increase was approved several months ago and was seen as the part of the solution to the clubs financial health.

Regular membership	\$60.00
Family - above Regular	\$10.00
Associate membership	\$50.00
College Student	\$36.00
Youth - separate of family	\$24.00
Initiation Fee	\$ 5.00

**SCHEDULE**

January 1, 2011  
OP Session  
begins 9am at the club

January 6, 2011  
Business Meeting

January 15, 2011  
Winter Open House  
10am til 6pm

February 3, 2011  
Business Meeting

March 3, 2011  
Business Meeting

**Mon Valley  
Railroad Club  
OFFICERS**

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**Member at Large**

Rich Henderson  
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Our club website:

<http://www.mvrcc.org>

Our club Yahoo site:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MVRRC/>

Our club facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mon-Valley-Railroad-Club/170554807503>