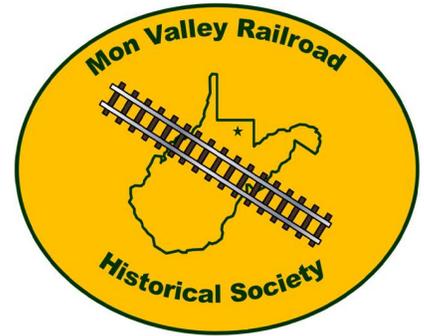


# ***TRAIN OF THOUGHT***

## **MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**

### **APRIL 2017**



### ***EDITORS NOTE***

Model Railroaders listen up! In this newsletter you will find an article written by our very own Keith DeVault. The article was published in the NMRA Division 2 Keystone Flyer newsletter and Keith sent it to me and gave his permission for it to be published here since many of our members are not NMRA members. What's it about you ask? Well, it has to do with Model Railroaders and that's all the hint I will give you. Let's just say it caused me to think and I hope it causes you to think too.

The annual Cumberland Train Show is on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 9am til 2pm at the Allegany County Fairgrounds, near Cumberland. It is sponsored by the MD-WV Model RR Association. I will have two tables and Ken Colvin will have one. Both of us will need help and we can get two or maybe three members in for free as our helpers. This is usually a nice show. Admission is only \$4. Let me or Ken know if you want to help. I will have room in my car for one or two. You will have to ask Ken about riding with him.

Happy Training,

*Rich Henderson, Editor*



### ***Minutes of the Business Meeting April 6, 2017***

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Vice President, Ken Colvin with four (4) officers, ten (10) members present. Minutes of the March 2017 meeting were printed in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes by Rich Henderson, Second by Bill Hudak, Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Keith DeVault gave the report for March. All bills paid, new income from membership dues & Boxcar ads. Keith explained that electricity expenses were higher because of the electricians working and due to the fans and de-humidifier as de-watering was going on. We are in the black. Approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Modules:** Mike Hohn asked that his modules be moved from behind the post or put inside the layout, because they can't be seen well. He said that the empty module should be moved. We all agreed. We discussed the new modules and Mike said we need to set them up somewhere and get working on them. Two are wired, the others are not. Need to finish wiring and get some scenery completed so they are ready for Kid's day and/or the Mountainlair show.

*Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2*

### ***SCHEDULE of EVENTS***

**May 4, 2017  
Business Meeting**

**June 1, 2017  
Business Meeting**

**July 6, 2017  
Business Meeting**

**July 15, 2017  
Kid's Day Open House  
10am til 3pm**

**August 3, 2017  
Business Meeting**

**August 26 & 27, 2017  
Back to School  
Open House  
Saturday 10am til 4pm  
Sunday 12 noon til 4pm**

**September 7, 2017  
Business Meeting**



*Minutes continued from Page 1*

Rich reminded everyone that two years ago the new modules were placed in the modular layout at the Mountainlair, the room is long enough.

**Main Layout:** Work continues on the new coal mine scene. Jim Kubanick & Eric Hopkins are ready to start on some scenery at the end of the long siding. Marty Knouse gave us one of his coal mine dioramas, with minor modifications it will fit nicely. Thanks Marty.

**Publicity:** Facebook page has 401 Likes. Rich posted pics and video from the Open House. Larry Linger made a new video of our layout, also a video of Gary giving a presentation on how the dispatcher's board works. It received 415 hits on our page. Rich suggested we have next years Spring Open House latter in April when the weather is better. Keith suggested we coordinate our events with Downtown Morgantown to piggyback when they have events.

**Ad cars:** Eric Hopkins took several cars around to the business that haven't paid. A few expressed interest but none have paid yet. Total cars paid is twelve (12).

**Membership:** The membership renewal period is over. Rich said we now have twenty-seven (27) members and three (3) prospects.

**Donations:** None

**Old Business:**

Rich reminded us of the presentation at Mapleshire Retirement home for Monday, April 10, 2017, starting at 2pm. Approximately 25 or so folks. Keith will give a shortened version of his M&K presentation and we will bring two small layouts, one HO the other O gauge. This is good

for our Community Outreach. Anyone wishing to help please let Rich know, we will need four or five people.

Rich said he has purchased his new computer and is in the process of cleaning up the old one. It will be here in a week or so. It includes Windows 10, monitor and printer. The DVD part is not working but the CD-rom is working, so we can add programs.

**New Business:**

Rich told us of a new business in Westover with 3D printing services. They offered their services to the society and its members. They can make models of freight cars, locos, buildings, etc. Rich has the particulars to contact them.

Facebook has extended a "donate" program for Non-profits that qualify as 501(c)(3)'s. It would allow us to place a "donate" button on our page and/or on any post where we wanted to get donations for the society. There is a long form to fill out with specifics like business license, bank accounts, etc. Keith suggested if we do this we should have a separate bank account for the donations. Rich said that is one of facebook's recommendations also. Ken Colvin asked that we get more information. We all agreed that Rich should get more information and come back with it in May.

Mike Hohn said that he wanted to go with the members to see Ward Paine's building and that he was not informed of the date and time. Rich and Ken pointed out that it was discussed at several meeting and that the date and time were published in the newsletter. Mike asked that the members be better informed in the future.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Ken Colvin is having another OLLIE

class starting on April 17, 2017. It will be a three (3) week class on Coal mining and railroad transport. He reminded us that every class he has done on the railroads, the Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society has been credited. Thanks Ken!

Motion to adjourn by Frank Benders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm  
Respectfully,

*Dave Edwards, Secretary, MVRHHS*



*Here is the article from the  
Keystone Flyer  
written by Keith DeVault*

We just finished a successful RPM meet in Greensburg, where the committee showed a forty per cent increase in attendance from the last time the meet was held here in Western Pennsylvania. I would like to commend Chairman Steve Ross and his entire committee, who stepped up to take over the reins of leadership. Our division sponsors this event and it shows how successfully Steve and his committee put this venue together. I would be remiss not to acknowledge Dick Flock and the late Larry Kline who got this RPM started years ago, and how they helped it grow to the success it is today.

This brings me to a running discussion I had with an attendee at this meeting. The discussion centered on how you want to model your layout. There was a difference of opinion about those people that tend to pursue model railroading to be comforted by history, and those who tend to pursue model railroading to understand history.

I explained to the person that both will work on building a layout. I discovered history behind building my layout and I am comfortable understanding the history behind the railroad. In this hobby, either one will work, it is up to each individual and no one should tell you how to model or build your layout.

These differences in approach to the hobby are often the cause of tension in general model railroading forums amongst those who feel threatened by the other. We name the others as rivet counters, static modelers, freelancers, prototype modelers, etc.

In general, there is plenty of room for different pursuits in modeling railroads, and it is unproductive to discount any of them simply because one does not subscribe to the same pursuits. In the end we are all some form of a model railroader. This is an issue of concern at the national level where people have splintered away from the NMRA for feeling like they do not belong.

I would like to make anyone in our Division feel welcome at the RPM meet, whatever their pursuits are in the hobby. I want everyone to enjoy themselves, enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that each one of us brings to the table. We need to learn from each other because no one in model railroading knows everything.

In my discussion with this individual I told him that I model after a prototypical model railroad operation, rather than freelance, but I also very much enjoy "just running trains". I enjoy putting together a manufactured kit, doing some scratch and kitbash building, or buying something just because I like it. In my view, there is room to escape and engage in whatever pursuit we wish, in this hobby. We should support each other in whatever way helps us enjoy the

hobby on our own terms. Making a model railroader feel bad about their kind of pursuit and disenfranchised from the hobby is simply the wrong thing to do. In other words it is your layout built it to whatever suits your needs.

See you all at the Jamboree!

*Keith DeVault*

### **A Personal Note by Rich Henderson**

The above article by Keith has personal meaning for me as a model railroader. Why, because I fell in love with "Toy Trains" many years ago. I did build an HO scale model railroad as a teenager and enjoyed it for several years but the toy trains of my childhood kept pulling at me. So during college I got rid of all my HO stuff and started buying the "3 Rail" O gauge size trains. Even there I found persons who disliked my choice of trains. You see, I had chosen Louis Marx trains and Lionel was the "King", any other train was seen to be lacking in comparison. Why would I want that trash from Marx.

When I joined our group in 1988, I got a little bit of the same thing. After all the group was an HO scale organization, however, I felt I had much to contribute. I think I have proven over the years that it doesn't matter what scale you model or whether you model a certain prototype or freelance, we all love trains, railroads and enjoy each others company. Here's to Model Railroading, the Worlds Greatest Hobby!!

### **ARTICLES WANTED**

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about a any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to: Rich Henderson, Editor at: [trainman430@comcast.net](mailto:trainman430@comcast.net)

Please allow two (2) weeks before the next newsletter is published.

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### ***Our Society Yahoo site:***

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group/MVRRHS/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MVRRHS/)

### ***Our Society facebook page:***

[http://www.facebook.com/  
MVRRHS](http://www.facebook.com/MVRRHS)