

39.....for the 1st time...for the right club.

I had a brain fart last month. July was the anniversary (38th) of the First State Model Railroad Club in Dover. I Googled the wrong club's information.

August marks the 39th birthday of the Delmarva Model Railroad Club!!

I apologize for the mix-up.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 7:30pm in the club meeting room. At the church's request, all members are asked to use the parking lot and not the grass area behind the building.

Club News

Crew Call for DMRRClub Prototype

Operating Session

Bill Deeter, HO Coordinator

When: Saturday, August 12, 2023, 12:00pm (please try and arrive around 11:30am to be ready to roll by 12)

Where: Delmarva Model Railroad Club <http://delmarvamodelrailroadclub.org/>, 103 West State Street 2nd Floor (stairs only) Delmar, DE 19940

RSVP to: Bill Deeter Dodge@yaho.com

The Sessions are open to anyone interested in Prototype Operations. Members of the club do have seniority on choice of positions. We get

around 12 to 15 people per session but can easily accommodate twice that amount.

The rolling stock and motive power Is all on the layout and staged. *Please do not bring any rolling stock or motive power.*

We use FRS Radios with telephones at all the yards. The control system is DCC by Digitrax. We have both Simplex and Duplex wireless. We have a few UT 4 Rs and 2 new UT 6 Ds and FRS radios available for those that need them. Please bring your own if you have them.

We use Car Cards and Waybills and a loose TWC / OCS (Track Warrant Control / Occupancy Control System). The Dispatchers panel has full main line occupancy visibility and the main line is partially signaled. Track Warrant Control authorizes the dispatcher to verbally instruct the train to proceed, via radio. This is sometimes called the Mother May I Move Method. The dispatcher selects the stations or mileposts between which the train may move.

We model primarily one sub-division of the B&O (Parkersburg Sub of the Ohio Newark Division) mainline from Parkersburg, WV (PH) to Chillicothe, OH (CH). Parkersburg is fed from the east by a staging yard, Grafton, WV (GR) on the PH Sub of the Monongah Division. There is a small amount of this Parkersburg Sub on the Monongah Division Modeled between GR & PH. Then the West end staging is at Cincinnati, OH

(CI) feeds almost directly into CH. We also model the OR Sub from Parkersburg low yard to Huntington WV. The low yard is feed from Wheeling another **staging** yard.

The time period modeled Is early to mid-70's Chessie System with some modelers license to include passenger traffic based on the mid to late 60's.

We also have a few interchange tracks with the NYC @ Athens, OH and PRR out of Zanesville, OH which are both Penn Central in the 70's. No Conrail or Amtrak in this little part of the past yet.

Library Report

John Huntzinger, Asst. Librarian

We're getting closer to having the library books organized by title. Something to keep in mind as you go looking for a particular book is that if the book's title starts with "A" ([A Book About Trains](#)) or "The" ([The Illustrated Book of Trains](#)), that is disregarded. You'd find "[A Book About Trains](#)" under "B" ([Book About Trains, A](#)). Similarly, the book [The Illustrated Book of Trains](#) would be found under "T" ([Illustrated Book of Trains, The](#)). While we know that alphabetically "A" comes before "B" and so forth. One gotcha is if the book title starts with a number ([100 Track Plans](#)). If the number is numeric such as 1, 2, or 3 or spelled out (one, two, or three) book titles

starting with a number come alphabetically before titles starting with "A".

A surprise for most of us the quantity of duplicate books that we're finding (maybe it's because many of us have similar interests). These duplicate books have been moved from the library to the white elephant tables. Feel free to look through them.

Where are we at on shelving the books? As of July 26th book titles starting with "A" through "R" have been alphabetized and shelved. Looks like there are tall piles of books starting with "S".

Stuff you probably should not buy for your dream layout before it is even started

Bill Deeter

Hmmm long title. I was sorting through some donations to the club the other day and found a large collection of very out dated electronics. Most of it was all in unopened packaging. This is not the first time I have noticed this as I have seen it back in the DC days as well. Therefore, what I am saying is if you are panning on building, a home layout do not buy any electronic control systems and related parts until you are ready to use them.

Why, it is really simple they are expensive and become out dated very fast. It seems to me this is some of the saddest waste of funds I see. Let me explain a bit further with an example. In this

donation were several Digitrax DS54s (stationary decoders to control turnouts) that were **retired in 2007**. They were unopened and listed for around \$80.00 each in the day but they are now two generations outdated maybe three.

They were replaced by DS64s (\$60.00) which were replaced by DS74s which as of 2023 are a current unit and it only lists for \$79.99. The DS74s are not retired yet but there is now an even newer model for Servos the DS78V. The DS54s are so out dated that the club never installed any; our first stationary decoders for turnouts on the club layout were the DS64s.

Now are the early DS54s usable? Of course, but I would not even give 25% of the cost of a new for one at a train show. Why, well to start with does it even work? Electronics are known for out of the box failures. It is out dated so there is no manufacture support. In the case of Digitrax, they are nice enough to have all their retired products manuals on line but this is just one manufacturer, finding info for old electronics is not always easy.

If you never get past the armchair phase of the hobby, you (or your estate) will find all that new in the package electronics of little or no value. Therefore, my advice is simple when it comes to hobby electronics, put your money in a hobby savings account until you can actually put them to use.

Truthfully, the way technologies changes who can even guess where it will be once you start construction on that railroad. That item that looks so cool now may be totally out dated by the time you are ready to use it. Purchase stuff you can at least set on a shelf and enjoy not stuff you but in a box for later. Later does not always come. Why do you think we got this unopened but outdated electronics?

Layout News

HO Report for July

Bill Deeter

Well, there are not a lot of changes to report since last month. The new UR92 is installed but has had only minor testing to this point; the August Operating Session will be its first real stress test. Ravenswood is showing signs of progress. The Wellston slag dump is also moving along. West Union buss separation should be completed before the September OPS Session.

I cannot believe it is already time to start planning for open house already. That being said the last planned main line power separation for this year is the mains through the Grafton Yard. If we can get a few more regular wiring volunteers, it should be doable. In addition, I really hope this is the year that the Cincinnati staging yard has the turnouts wired so that eastbound trains can depart through Belpre VIA

the Zanesville tracks instead of backing out on the Grafton End. That is all I have; I hope to see you at the August Ops Session.

July Dispatchers Report

John A. Nawn

Our HO scale June operations session was conducted on Saturday, July 7th. The session started promptly at noon with the last operator signing off at 3:45 PM.

There were 18 operators present including the Superintendent, the Dispatcher, the Parkersburg High yardmaster (PH) and assistant yardmaster, the Parkersburg Low Yardmaster and assistant yardmaster, Chillicothe yardmaster (CH) and assistant yardmaster and a yardmaster at Midland Steel. This left 7 mainline operators, 2 operators for the Ohio River division and 1 operator on the Weiland and Port Charles.

For the third month in row, we were able to start at the top of the schedule. A total of 47 trains were dispatched on the mainline, 25 westbound and 22 eastbound with 508 cars moved between Grafton, WV, and Cincinnati, OH, including the Portsmouth sub. 139 cars were moved on the Ohio River Subdivision, with 7 trains containing 26 cars moved on the W&PC. This gave us a grand total of 673 cars moved during the session, the most cars moved in any session so far this year. Three trains were annulled, and one Form

19 order was issued for a CH-97 second section.

There were no reported minimal right-of-way issues, bad ordered cars, or reported engine failures. We continued to enjoy a yardmaster and assistant on duty at each of our major yards, and Midland Steel. As in June, operations were very fluid and road crews were able to get over the mainline with minimal delay, hence the completion of the schedule in less than 4 hours. And due to the collective efforts of all our operators, we will again be starting at the top of the schedule for our August session.

It bears noting how well our railroad has been running and how efficiently our crews have been able to get the trains over the road. This is reflected in the higher level of 'fun' that seems to be experienced at our operations sessions, lately. When things run well, I think we all derive more enjoyment from the experience. Our August session will be Saturday, August 12th. All are welcome. I hope to see all our past operators again and, if you have not joined us yet, come out and join the fun! All scales, gauges, interests are welcome.

Member News

An Update...on Me

Jeff Shockley

On July 13, I had surgery to remove a grapefruit-sized cancerous tumor, and my right

kidney, to which it was attached.

On the 14th, the surgeon visited me and said, it appeared to be late stage 1, early stage 2, cancer, but he was VERY pleased by the procedure. All indicators are pointing to me being "cancer free", but he will know more at my August 2 follow up appointment.

I just want to say "Thank You!!" to everyone that send the *Get Well* messages and cards. That was very thoughtful and they all meant a lot to me.

Eastern Shore Threshermen Annual Show

Ed Frampton

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, August 4, 5, and 6, 2023, the Eastern Shore Threshermen & Collectors Association will hold its 63rd annual wheat threshing, steam & gas engine show. Take a journey back in time to see steam traction engines, wheat threshing, steam-powered sawmill and shingle making, a blacksmith shop, antique cars, tractors, and gas engines, and best of all (in my opinion), the Smokey Joe Railroad.

For a nominal fee, you can take a ride on the miniature railroad, powered by a 16-inch gauge steam locomotive, modeled after The General, a 4-4-0 "American" steam locomotive. It was owned by the Western and Atlantic Railroad and served the Confederacy during the Civil War. The General was seized by Union soldiers in 1862,

pursued by Confederate forces, and eventually re-captured. Referred to as the Great Locomotive Chase, it was the subject of the Buster Keaton film, *The General*.

The showgrounds are located at 5806 Federalsburg Highway (MD Route 313), five miles north of Federalsburg, MD. Admission is free.



Railroad News

From Trains

Error During Signal Repairs Led to Rail Disaster in India, Report Says

Investigation says wiring error in work on grade crossing signal malfunction

July 5, 2023 <https://www.trains.com/> Waukesha, WI

Bhubaneswar, India — A signal repair error led to the three-train collision that killed 288 people in June, according to a Reuters report.

The news report cites a report from investigators for the Commission of Railway Safety that says workers trying to address

problems at a nearby grade crossing did not have a circuit diagram, leading to faulty wiring. That caused a malfunction in the automated signaling system that sent the *Cormandel Express* passenger train, traveling at 80 mph, into a stationary train of iron ore. Some cars of the *Cormandel Express* then hit another train, the *Yesvantpur-Howrah Superfast Express*, leading to fatalities on both trains [see “Signal error blamed for fatal collision in India,” *Trains News Wire*, June 4, 2023].



A screen shot of drone footage from *The Guardian* shows clean-up efforts after the June 2 three-train collision that killed 288.

More than 1,000 people were injured in the June 2 collision. The report says there were multiple lapses in Indian Railways’ signal and telecom departments and that standard operating procedures were not followed during the repairs.

From Choo Choo Barn Facebook Page Choo Choo Barn Under New Management

July 10, 2023

Hello Choo Choo Barn fans! My mom, Linda, and I are excited to share our big news with you about the next chapter for the Choo Choo Barn and the Strasburg Train Shop. Our hearts are full from the support you have shown our family business through the years, and we know that Tom is smiling knowing that his legacy will live on.

Please join us in welcoming Gary Russell to the Choo Choo Barn!

With loving gratitude,
Linda Groff and Kristi Largoza

Great news for fans of the Choo Choo Barn in Strasburg, PA – after a nationwide search for a new owner, the legacy will continue after nearly 80 years in the Groff family! Gary Russell of Stevens, PA recently purchased the model train layout along with the adjoining Strasburg Train Shop. With a passion for trains and a determination to preserve the layout and its history, the businesses are in the best of hands.

“A labor of love.” “A lifetime of work.” “One man’s legacy.” These words are associated with the Choo Choo Barn. The 1,700 square foot O-gauge train layout which opened in 1961 by George and Florence Groff soon flourished as a

local Lancaster County, PA tourist attraction. It was the passion for model building, trains, landscape design and animation – all in detailed miniature – that set this display apart from the rest. Largely due to the self-taught talents of their son, Tom, the layout nearly tripled in size over the past 60+ years.

Tom's desire to share the hobby of model railroading with the world turned into a lifelong career, with countless hours spent on custom scenes depicting lifelike realism and intricate animations. His passing in 2019 left a void in the business that his wife, Linda Groff, and daughter, Kristi Largoza felt would be nearly impossible to replace. For several years, they kept the layout going with the dedication of their loyal employees, even surviving through the difficult times presented by a global pandemic.

In mid-2022, it became evident that with the exit of a key employee, it was time to find a new owner for the Choo Choo Barn layout and the Strasburg Train Shop.

The focus was clear – the most important characteristic of the new owner would be a desire to preserve Tom's legacy. The layout would not be dismantled, rather it would find a new life in the hands of someone equally dedicated to the model railroading hobby. Linda and Kristi did not waiver from the idea that the layout would live on – there had to be someone out there with

unique talents such as Tom's – a scratch builder, a tinkerer, a dreamer with the ability to create new and unique scenes for the layout, and someone who loved model trains. This person would understand the importance of preserving what Tom had built, yet have the vision to keep it fresh for future generations.

Linda and Kristi enlisted the help of Rich Melvin, former editor of O-Gauge Railroading magazine who posted the news of the business sale on the O-Gauge Railroading forum, an online gathering place for over 30,000 model railroading enthusiasts. They hoped that just one person would answer the ad. They said many prayers and then they waited. The overwhelming response was heartwarming. "We had almost 20 people who were seriously interested in purchasing the businesses. It soon became not about will we be able to sell it but who will we choose from this pool of candidates? It was an unexpected blessing," said Largoza.

It wasn't the forum that produced a buyer, but a chance meeting at an auction for used trains. Groff approached another bidder who had been outbidding her on LGB trains and struck up a conversation, which led to a meeting 3 days later.

A few minutes into their conversation about the Choo Choo Barn, it became evident that Gary was "the new Tom." His vast knowledge of

electronics combined with his passion for model railroading were a near perfect match for continuing the legacy that Tom had built. Linda and Kristi marveled at how un-intimidated he was by the sheer number of wires underneath the layout. "He rolled right under and started explaining how things worked, how he would fix them, modernize them, etc. He didn't show any hesitation about maintaining the layout, in fact, he was genuinely excited by the challenge. That type of confidence and enthusiasm is exactly what we hoped to find", said Groff. Given their unexpected encounter at the auction, it seemed as if fate had stepped in.

Russell officially took the reins of the Choo Choo barn and the Strasburg Train Shop in late April and hit the ground running. Plans to increase the online presence for the Strasburg Train Shop are already underway, as well as expanding the selection of G gauge trains in the shop. Improvements to the daily operations of the layout have been made, such as replacing the aging trolleys and reviving several non-working animations. Russell is full of ideas: "I want to modernize the electronics currently used for the animations. Many of the motors are becoming obsolete which makes repair increasingly difficult. I'd love to see the fire scene run on a Raspberry Pi and maybe add fireworks to the nighttime scene. The possibilities here are vast

and I'm honored to continue this legacy. Preserving this layout for the next generation is a task that I take very seriously."

The Choo Choo Barn humbly began in 1945 as one train under the Christmas tree. It has resided at its current home at 226 Gap Road, Strasburg, PA since 1961, showcasing 22 running trains and over 150 hand-built animations. A depiction of Lancaster County in miniature, the Choo Choo Barn is a Lancaster County landmark. The adjoining Strasburg Train Shop houses 2,000 square feet of model railroading hobby supplies, featuring trains, track, and scale buildings, and specializing in detail parts and scenery. The model train layout is open for the season – hours of operation are updated at choochoobarn.com.

From Trains

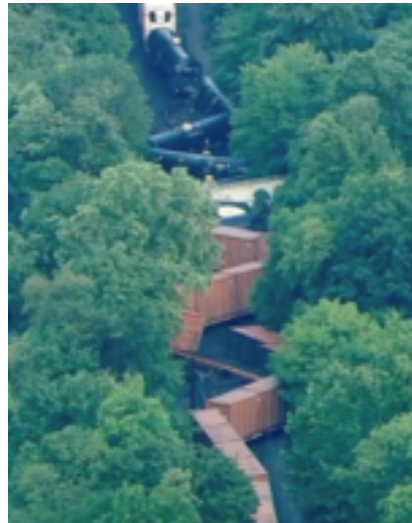
Approximately 16 cars of CSX train derail near Philadelphia

Precautionary evacuations ordered, but no spill of hazardous material reported

July 17, 2023 <https://www.trains.com/> Waukesha, WI
Whitemarsh Twp., PA – Approximately 16 cars of a CSX Transportation train operating on a Norfolk Southern rail line derailed this morning (July 17) near Philadelphia, CSX said in a statement.

The derailment occurred in Whitemarsh Township near the Joshua and Flourtown roads. CSX indicates one car containing hazardous

materials is involved, but says there is no indication of any leak or spill of hazardous materials. The railroad also confirmed an earlier report that there were no injuries to the crew. About a dozen homes were evacuated out of an abundance of caution. The *Washington Post* reports that the hazardous material involved was tetrachloroethylene, a chemical used in dry cleaning, and that the evacuation order was lifted at 9 a.m.



A screenshot of a video from WPVI-TV shows cars of a CSX train that derailed Monday, July 17.

The Whitemarsh Township Police Department initially reported in a Facebook post that the derailment involved a Norfolk Southern train. Police said representatives of both railroads were

on the scene.

WPVI-TV reports the derailment occurred about 4:50 a.m. The station says video from its helicopter indicates 15 to 20 railcars are involved. Police told the station the only material leaking from the derailed cars were silicone pellets "which pose no risk to the community."

From Trains

High winds derail BNSF train in Oklahoma

29 cars of stack train blown over as winds exceed 80 mph
July 21, 2023

Fairmont, OK – High winds are being blamed for the derailment of a BNSF train today (July 21) near the town of Fairmont.

BNSF said 29 cars derailed while the train was stopped because of high winds, according to the Associated Press. The railroad said no one was injured and no hazardous materials were involved.

The train was blown over about 4 a.m., Mike Honigsberg, Enid and Garfield County Emergency Management director, told the Enid News & Eagle. Fairmont is about 10 miles east of Enid on BNSF's Avarad Subdivision, and is about 60 miles north of Oklahoma City. Winds may have reached 90 mph at the time; winds of 84 mph were recorded at Vance Air Force Base near Enid.

Photos on the newspaper's website show a long

string of double-stack container cars that had been blown onto their side. The intersection of Fairmont and Southgate roads is expected to be blocked for a few days while the derailment is cleaned up.



A screen shot from KFOR-TV video posted on Twitter shows the overturned container well cars of a BNSF train near Fairmont, OK.

From *Trains*

Rebuilt Montana Rail Link bridge over Yellowstone River opens to traffic

The bridge, which collapsed on June 24, was put back in service on Saturday July 24, 2023 <https://www.trains.com/> Waukesha, WI

Montana Rail Link's main line was put back into service on Saturday after the rebuilt Reed Point bridge over the Yellowstone River was reopened more than a week ahead of estimates.

The bridge collapsed on June 24, sending 10 cars into the river and derailing an additional seven cars. Asphalt was released into the river from some of the submerged cars, and cleanup

efforts are still under way.

"Montana Rail Link has resumed operations with the completion of bridge construction efforts at the site of the June 24th derailment near Reed Point," MRL spokesman Andy Garland said in a statement to *Trains News Wire*.

"Significant progress was made over the last week of construction, allowing the first train to cross over the newly constructed bridge at approximately 11:30am on Saturday, July 22nd. Construction work was completed ahead of initial estimates, allowing service to officially be restored 28 days post outage. As normal train traffic resumes, crews and contractors will remain on site to remove all equipment and material utilized throughout the process and continuing to restore the area."

MRL crews have been running BNSF Railway detour trains between Laurel, Mont., and Shelby, Mont., via Great Falls. Up to 20 trains per day have been detoured via the BNSF Northern Transcon.

Bridge construction began once the last of 10 derailed cars was removed from the river and remaining cars were removed from the east side of the bridge on July 3, according to a unified command update.

A temporary causeway built to access the damaged span and freight cars was used in the bridge rebuilding efforts. The railroad had

estimated that the bridge would be out of service through the end of July.

From *Trains*

NTSB releases preliminary report on MRL bridge-collapse derailment

Board's investigation deals only with performance of tank cars July 25, 2023 <https://www.trains.com/> Waukesha, WI

Washington, DC – Sixteen tank cars, 15 of them carrying hazardous materials, derailed in the Montana Rail Link incident involving the Reed Point bridge collapse on June 24, the National Transportation Safety Board said in its preliminary report on the incident released on Monday.

The NTSB's investigation is only considering the performance of DOT-111 tank cars in the derailment, and therefore does not address the question whether the derailment caused the bridge collapse or the reverse. The Federal Railroad Administration is leading other aspects of the investigation.

The preliminary report, which sets out basic facts of the incident, says the 55-car train, including 47 loaded cars, was crossing the bridge over the Yellowstone River at 38 mph when the derailment occurred. Sixteen tank cars, in positions 36 through 52, derailed.

Ten of those cars ended up in the water, including nine carrying hazardous materials; all nine of those cars were DOT-111 cars. Cars

carrying molten sulfur and asphalt petroleum liquid were mechanically breached and released into the river; two cars with sodium hydrosulfide derailed but did not release.



From Trains

Vermont Rail System Repairs Continue

Green Mountain, Washington County railroads should be reopened next week

July 27, 2023 <https://www.trains.com/> Waukesha, WI

Rutland, VT – Vermont Rail System continues to make progress in repairs to flood damage sustained by its lines earlier this month, company president Selden Houghton told a local news site on Wednesday.

“Hopefully, by next week, we’ll be 100% put back together,” Houghton said in a phone interview with the VTDigger.

Houghton detailed the widespread damage for *Trains News Wire* on July 12, but felt VRS had been fortunate because the flooding had not caused any bridge failures [see “Vermont Rail

System recovers ...,” *Trains News Wire*, July 12, 2023].



A slope failure on the Green Mountain Railroad at East Wallingford, Vt., is one of the areas where repairs continue as Vermont Rail System recovers from flooding earlier this month.

(Photo by Vermont Rail System)

The hardest-hit portion of the system, the Green Mountain Railroad, still has 27 state-owned miles closed because of flood damage, Joe Flynn, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, told the news site. One damaged

portion of that line, in Ludlow, Vt., where tracks were left hanging 50 feet in the air after a washout, was widely shown in national news broadcasts. Another, in East Wallingford, saw tracks left unsupported by a massive slope failure.

In Ludlow, the washed-out area has been filled in and work to relay the tracks was slated to begin Wednesday. In East Wallingford, work was continuing to shore up the hillside before tracks could be rebuilt.

The Washington County Railroad, which saw two locomotives and 11 railcars stranded by flooding, should also be fully repaired next week, Houghton told the Digger.

From Philadelphia Inquirer

A SEPTA trolley slammed into a historic Philly home, the fifth crash in a week: ‘Everything was just devastated’

“There was a trolley in my living room,” said the tenant and caretaker of the historic Blue Bell Inn, which was built in 1766.

July 28, 2023 <https://www.inquirer.com/> Philadelphia, PA

There was screeching, then a bang, and then the whole house shook violently when the runaway trolley crashed into Delia King’s living room Thursday night.

“I thought the house was going to collapse right then and there,” said King, an artist who was lying in bed on the second floor of her 1766 home on the quiet, muggy Philadelphia evening,

willing herself to head downstairs to work on a painting moments before the collision. "I could hear the wall just crumbling, and I could feel it in the house."

Bolting downstairs, she processed the scene through her shock: "There was a trolley in my living room, and everything was just devastated."

For a Laugh

I'm Tired

I'm tired of people complaining about \$7 beers, \$10 parking and a \$20 cover charge. Don't like the prices, stop coming to my house.

State Laws Still on the Books

1. You cannot collect rainwater in Colorado.
2. In Arizona you cannot let your donkey sleep in a bathtub.
3. You cannot put money on a string in Rhode Island, then pull it away when someone reaches for it. \$500 fine (for fraud.)
4. In Gainesville, GA, it is against a city ordinance to eat chicken with anything other than your hands. \$250 fine.
5. You cannot hunt Bigfoot in Skamania County, WA.
6. In Kentucky, you cannot carry an ice cream cone in your pocket, unless the cone and ice cream are carried in different pockets.
7. You cannot wear a fake mustache in church

in Alabama.

8. You are not allowed to possess Silly String in Southington, CT.

9. Fortune telling for money is outlawed in parts of Maryland.

10. You cannot use radiation technology for shoe-fitting in Nevada.

11. No honking at sandwich shops after 9pm in Little Rock, AR.

12. You cannot hunt whales in Utah.

13. The biting of another person's hamburger is not allowed in Oklahoma.

14. You are not allowed to wrestle a bear in Alabama.

15. You cannot cross into Georgia with a chicken on your head.

16. It is illegal to tie an alligator to a fire hydrant in Michigan.

17. You cannot play Bingo for more than 5 hours in North Carolina, unless it is held at a fair.

18. It is illegal to take selfies with a tiger, lion or other big cat in New York.

Without Problems

I was at the furniture store the other day, just looking. One of the sales people was telling me about one of their couches. She tells me that the couch will seat 5 without any problems.

I replied it would do me no good because I don't know 5 people without problems.

Out of the Mouths of Babes

As the father led his daughter around his office for the annual "Take Your Kid to Work" day, the little girl had tears in her eyes and asked, "But daddy, where are all the clowns you say you work with?"

What Did You Do?

An Airbus 380 is on its way across the Atlantic. It flies consistently at 800 km/h at 30,000 feet, when suddenly a Eurofighter with a Tempo Mach 2 appears.

The pilot of the fighter jet slows down, flies alongside the Airbus and greets the pilot of the passenger plane by radio: "Airbus, boring flight isn't it? Now have a look here!"

He rolls his jet on its back, accelerates, breaks through the sound barrier, rises rapidly to a dizzying height, and then swoops down almost to sea level in a breathtaking dive. He loops back next to the Airbus and asks: "Well, how was that?"

The Airbus pilot answers: "Very impressive, but watch this!"

The jet pilot watches the Airbus, but nothing happens. It continues to fly straight, at the same speed. After 15 minutes, the Airbus pilot radios, "Well, how was that?"

Confused, the jet pilot asks, "What did you do?"

The Airbus pilot laughs and says: "I got up,

stretched my legs, walked to the back of the aircraft to use the washroom, then got a cup of coffee and a chocolate fudge pastry."

Upcoming Events

(www.railserv.com & Mid Atlantic Train Show List)

August 19, 2023 – Rio Grande Volunteer Fire Company 2nd Annual Toy & Train Collectible Show. 1120 NU-47, Rio Grande, NJ (Cape May County). 9a-2:30p. Admission: \$3 individual, \$5 family (2 adults, 1 adult & 1 child over 14), children under 14, free. N – HO – HOn3 – S – O – G - #1 Gauge and Toy Collectibles. Test track on, free parking food will be available. For table availability or more information call Bob, 856-296-9423.

September 14-18, 2023 – Day Out with Thomas at the Strasburg Rail Road. Strasburg Rail Road, 301 Gap Rd., Ronks, PA. Join Thomas the Tank Engine™, a full-sized operating steam locomotive, as he greets friends of all ages.

Thomas the Tank Engine — the famous steam locomotive from the Island of Sodor — will pull your 45-minute excursion ride (4.5 miles east and 4.5 miles returning west on the same track) through the beautiful Lancaster County countryside.

This is the full 45-minute train ride to Paradise, Pennsylvania pulled by the fully operational steam Thomas the Tank Engine.

Tickets: \$27.00 each.

NOTE: June 17 tickets are almost sold out!!

Separate photo opportunities with THOMAS, RUSTY, and MAVIS (& PERCY in June!). Other activities include a visit with Sir Topham Hatt, play pods, a dance party, and more!

The activities for the Day Out with Thomas event are open from 9:30 a.m. each day until one (1) hour after the *LAST* Thomas train returns to the Station platform.

All tickets must be pre-purchased online. The Thomas ticket does not include admission to the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania nor does it include a ride aboard the regular steam train.

Our standard coaches are beautifully restored in authentic Victorian style. Enjoy the comfort of potbelly stove heat during cold days. During warmer weather, open the windows for some fresh air.

October 7, 2023 – Indian Summer Train and Toy Show by the Delaware Seaside Model Railroad Club, Roxana Firehouse, 35943 Zion Church. Rd., Frankford, DE. 9a-2p. For more information, please visit: <http://www.delawareseasiderailroadclub.com/> or contact Bill Ziegler at 302-537-0964.

October 19-23, 2023 - NMRA Mid-Eastern Region “Round the Curve to Altoona” Convention. Altoona Grand Hotel, 1 Sheraton Dr., Altoona, PA. For details, please contact:

Jerry Lauchle via email at gcl1@psu.edu or call (814) 404-6955 or visit: <http://mer2023.org/>.

November 25-26, 2023. First State Model Railroad Club Annual Open House. 624 Horsepen Rd., Felton, DE. 9am-3pm. Free parking & admission. For information, call 302- or visit: www.fsmrrc.org.

November 25-26, December 2-3, January 6-7, 13-14. Delmarva Model Railroad Club Annual Open House. 103 E State St., Delmar, DE. Sat: 11a-4p; Sun: Noon-4p, Free parking & admission. 7 layouts in 10 different gauges. For information, visit: call 302-856-9250, or visit: www.delmarvamodelrailroadclub.com.

<u>Club Officers:</u>	
Charlie Larrimore, President	John Baldwin, Director (2024)
Tim Burlingame, Vice President	Ivan Miller, Director
(2025)Bill Deeter, Treasurer	Rowland Ritte, Director (2024)
Greg Coughlin, Director (Past President)	
<u>Committee Chairs:</u>	
John Huntzinger, Activities	Joe Mueller, Museum
Bill Hudson, House	John Baldwin, Open House
Rommel Miller, Library	Vacant, Publicity
Bill Deeter, Membership	Jeff Shockley, White Elephant Table
<u>Scale Coordinators:</u>	
Tim Burlingame, O Gauge	Charlie Larrimore, Bill Shehan Room
Bill Deeter, HO Scale	Elmer McKay, N Scale DCC
Ed Frampton, N Scale Mod, Z Scale	Charlie Larrimore, Tin Plate
	Charlie Scott, S Gauge