



The Official Newsletter of the Prince William County Model Railroad Club

THE MANIFEST

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New Locations and New Venues Keep Show Interest High



PWMRC'S Layout set up inside the B&O Roundhouse in Martinsburg, West Virginia. Photo by R.Rodriguez

PWMRC has expanded it's show locations in the past year. Last year the club participated for the first time at the Manassas Freedom Museum's Freedom Festival in October. The event brought model railroading along side real World War II aircraft. Our presence at the Freedom Festival was a big hit and we'll return again this Fall. In July we headed to the hills of West Virginia, namely Martinsburg, West Virginia for a weekend of model railroading at the Martinsburg Raildays. The event was held at the old Baltimore & Ohio railyard in Martinsburg. PWMRC's layout was assembled inside the turn of the century roundhouse. The festival was filled with numerous layouts, mainly O and G scales. The PWMRC layout was the only HO scale pike in attendance. In addition to model trains, there were many vendors selling arts and crafts, antiques, food and of course, model railroad products. There were civil war re-enactors, a kiddie train, and 1:1 scale trains next door on the CSX mainline.

See New, Page 6, Col.1.

The Prince William County Model Railroad Club is a non-profit 501(c)(7) Corporation.

We provide a forum for model railroaders to learn and enjoy the hobby of model railroading. But more importantly, we are an organization who likes to have *fun!*



THE CORPORATE OFFICE

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Secretary

Ernie Little
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Membership Officer

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2004-2005 ELECTED OFFICERS!!!

MODULAR SHOW SCHEDULE

2004

July

14-15 Martinsburg Rail Days, Martinsburg, WVA

August

7-8 Greenburg Train Show and NTRAK Convention
Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia

September

11-12 Central Library Show – Manassas, Virginia

October

14-17 Manassas Freedom Festival – Manassas Airport

November

13-14 Chinn Park Library Show – Woodbridge, Virginia

December

11-12 Bull Run Library Show – Manassas, Virginia

2005

January

No Shows Scheduled

February

5-6 Great Scale Model Train Show – tentative

March

19-20 7th Annual Boy Scout Train Show – Dale City, Va.

April

16-17 Great Scale Model Train Show - tentative



FROM THE CAB

By John Huntzinger

What's a train club and why did you join?

I originally joined a train club because I wanted to learn more about the hobby--how to do things from someone who had done them, because reading about it wasn't enough. I will say that it took me a couple of years to finally join that first train club primarily because when I visited their Open Houses, everyone was too busy "running trains" to talk with me. Two years later I joined the Club inspite of their "friendliness" at their Open Houses and found them to be a group a lot like us--friendly and willing to offer help you with a problem. I joined PWMRC at my first meeting because of the people--you were friendly to each other and to me.

But back to why did you join PWMRC, and even more importantly, are you getting what you came looking for? For many it's the friendships and camaraderie. For others it's the technical information. For a some it's going to train shows and other venues to share the enjoyment of the hobby. For many it's the friendships we've made because of the hobby. Take stock in why you joined the Club and work with us to make sure each of us gets what we came looking for. Since we're a group of friends, if you have an idea for something you'd like to see done, chances are we have someone in the Club who either knows how to do it (and is happy to help you) or knows someone who does and is willing to get you hooked up. Conversely, if you sense that someone isn't getting what they expect from the Club please get with them, figure out what needs fixed, and work with us to get things out. Similarly, if there's something you'd like to see happen, feel free to "make it happen".

Bob has recommended that in my first article that I address my ideas, goals, and observations of the Club, so here goes:

Ideas--have as many (model) train related minutes in the meetings and outings as possible (I never wanted to join an argument Club).

Goals--I still have modeling skills that I'd either like to learn or get better at. For example, I still love Matt T.'s engine and car weathering, I'm not nearly as good at it as he is. I still have to build my first "craftsman kit" for a building. I'd love to do some painted background scenes like Brion did on the old Rip Track layout. Water too...the list goes on and on.

Club goals--I'd like to see us keep finding new (and interesting!) venues for our layouts. Freedom Festival and Martinsburg were great times. I'll bet there's more to be found (or started?? Quantico Rail Fest?).

I'd love to see more new modules and refurbishment of older ones--we need to keep refreshing ourselves.

PWMRC have a layout or be part of a layout at the 2006 NMRA convention in Philadelphia--we've already gotten the invitation, what can we do to show ourselves off? (Can we get some folks together to start working that--it's not too early now).

More involvement in Prince William County--we're starting to get contacted by the local press, so people are starting to realize we're here. Need to both publicize ourselves better (any public relations volunteers?) and seek out new venues for layouts (we've started trying with the Marine Corps Base Quantico folk) but how about Senior Citizen's homes, Walter Reed Medical **SEE CAB, PAGE 6, COL. 1.**



BOARD BRIEFS

A Summary of Club Business Meetings

MAY

Quantico Update.

Discussion of meeting with Supervisor Caddington, Mayor Raftelis, and representatives from VRE. Meeting was positive in nature and we are awaiting notification regarding RFP's for the spaces in the station. Station should be ready for occupancy in December, 2004.

Treasurer's Report

The audit for 2003 is done.

Membership

The roster was updated recently.

Discussed items of information that could be provided to new members.

Bylaws Committee

The new by-laws will be done by June for distribution.

Module Standards

Suggested May 22nd as a module repair and touch up of modules.

Club modules

Club yard & throat modules need turn outs moved.

Discussed work needed to and addition of some scenery to the club yard.

Excursion Trip

Railfan trip to Winston Link museum in Roanoke was finalized.

Nominating Committee

Presented the slate of candidates for offices for the 2004-2004 year:

- President- John Huntzinger
- Vice President- Walt Neubauer
- Treasurer- Tim Barr
- Secretary- Ernie Little
- Membership- Russ Rusynko

All were voted and approved by the membership preset.

Activities

Railfest

Railfest Breakfast will be in Manassas, as is tradition, that morning.

Martinsburg, WV show

Have 20 modules at this time but need more participation.

Potomac Library

The recent show at Potomac Library drew over 200 folks (212).

JUNE

Membership committee report

One member voted into Active membership.

Loco pull 2004

The second annual locomotive pull will take place on September 28th.

NTRAK convention.

Reported no contact with of from the NTRAK group or Greenberg.

NEW BUSINESS

Rail fanning opportunity

Reported a possible rail fanning opportunity on June 26th at to tour the Acelea yard.

Civil War Railroad group

An HO group and would like to make a presentation on civil war railroads to the club. An attempt will be made to get a suitable location for a meeting with the group large enough to allow PowerPoint presentation.

New website update

New material on the Railfest has been placed on the club's website. The website is taking 45,000-50,000 hits a month as of late.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JULY

Discussion of member behavior in using the club internet webpage

Discussion of a possible show at Quantico

Discussion of the need for a public relations person for the committee.

Discussion of the need to fill the data custodian position.

Discussion of a need for a club historian to keep pertinent articles that appear in the media concerning club activities.

Discussion of club finances took place.

Discussion of the need to encourage members to get modules completed to a state they can be used in a show.

Discussion of the need for clinics after meetings. It is felt that clinics should take place every other meeting.

Discussion of the need for a master calendar for 2005 to show all club activities and actions needed regarding club matters.

Discussion of the need for show after action reports.

Discussion of a need for an activities coordinator to provide a mechanism for the club to have outings.

Discussion of Honorary membership for several members.

Discussion of the need for a new trailer to allow all of the club's property to be stored in one place.

Discussion of the club newsletter. No action was taken on this item.

Due to time constraints the BOD did not review the revised by laws and will take up this action at a future meeting.

JULY

Membership committee report

Reported one member is up for permanent membership. Motion Passed.

No new members.

Layout Gate

Reported that the design incorporates a hidden hinge.

Audit Committee

The audit process is still ongoing regarding the 2002 books. 2003 is OK.

Communications Committee

Provided a copy of the committee's recommendations on directions to meeting hosts.

NMRA convention- Seattle, Wa

One member provided a detailed synopsis of the NMRA convention held in Seattle, Wa., earlier in the month. ☒



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Railfest Goes On Despite Downpour!

It seemed unbelievable, but it was happening all over again! The 10th Annual Manassas Railway Festival was going to be rained on for the second year in a row. Last year's event was cancelled because of the torrential downpours that caused rivers of water to flow through the tents. The morning of June 5th looked like a repeat of 2003. Despite the wet weather and cool temperatures, staff and model railroaders alike held their ground, determine to open the festival despite the wrath from above.



Club President, Hohn H. reports for sea duty! Photo by R. Rodriguez



John and Tim roll out plastic for the show. Photo by R. Rodriguez

Manned with rolls of plastic, towels and tape, PWMRC members erected a plastic curtain to keep out the foul weather. After a brief discussion, it was decided to shorten our layout to provide a weather barrier in order to keep our modules dry. Several members willingly pulled their modules in order to accommodate the overall needs. Other clubs followed similar tactics and in record time all model train layouts were up and running. The rain tapered off in the late morning and except for a few periods of misty or light rain, the sky stayed dry. Cool temperatures made coffee the drink of choice. Sweaters, sweat shirts and jackets were mandatory. Who would have thought that it would be in the fifties in June in northern Virginia!



Don & Tim batten down the hatches during rainy gusts. Photos by R. Rodriguez
Below: Tim draws the "short" straw and does the electrical plug in!!!



SEE RAILFEST, PAGE 6, COL. 1.

QUANTICO UPDATE

Information about our Future Home



Photo by J. Connal

Things are moving forward towards the renovation and reoccupancy of Quantico Station. In the Spring, the Virginia Railway Express put out a Invitation for Bid to rehabilitate the vacant train station. That process is expected to end with a bid awarded to a contractor by September of this year. Once the contract is awarded, the contractor will obtain the necessary permits and begin the renovation process.

The next phase is a solicitation of potential vendors for the space. This should occur later in the Fall. PWMRC is on the bidders list and will be notified when bids are to be requested. The Board of Directors for PWMRC has worked on a fine proposal which will be redrafted and submitted to VRE when the time comes.

If all activities line up, PWMRC will be in the Quantico Station by the end of 2004! Stay tuned for more updates in this column. ☒

SMALL RAIL NEWS

Info from our members' railroad empires

THE NEW AND IMPROVED OREGON COAST

Mat T's Oregon Coast Railroad (OCR) opened it's doors to PWMRC and the Piedmont Railroaders in May. Mat's new empire is significantly larger than his former OCR. The layout encompasses about 60 percent of the overall basement and has able lighting and walkways for both groups to comfortably tour the layout.



Spacious area makes operating the OCR a real pleasure. Photo by R. Rodriguez

The surrounding walls and support posts have been painted sky blue with clouds added. Although mostly without scenery, the track work is nearly complete. Guests were able to run several trains on the pike without any difficulty. The generous curves (30+ inch radii) allowed for gentle transitions through the layout for any size train.

Mat has finished one section of the layout near his work bench and has placed many of his finely detailed structures around the OCR where their future homes will be.



This industrial area is almost finished on the OCR. Photo by R. Rodriguez

PWMRC members had a great visit and look forward to future running time on the OCR.

D&J Railway renovation complete.

Ken M's D&J railroad underwent major renovation of its Division yard this summer. The East and West ends of the yard were redesigned and now provide better functionality for train operations.



The new D&J Division Yard. Photo by K. Meade

NICKEL CITY LINE ADDS COMPUTER CAR ROUTING

Bob R's Nickel City Line is testing Abion Software's ShipIT Version 5.0 car forwarding software. The software will set up and route cars over an unlimited number of operation sessions. Once the base information is loaded (trains, schedules, cars, industries, etc.) the program will run through the list of suppliers and consignees, assign cars and route them automatically. The program will print switch lists, train schedules, starting and ending car locations. This automation will make the set up of future operation sessions faster and easier than the manual method used up until now. ☒

New, From Page 1

Live entertainment was provided by a local Bluegrass band, a folk singer and the main headliner group, the Drifters. The food and music as well as the public brought the abandoned engine yard to life!

Getting to and from the festival was easy for everyone. The average drive time equaled similar trips to Timonium, Maryland. The only difference wasno traffic! There were no I-95 bottlenecks or accidents. The drive was peaceful and easy, traveling up I-66 and I81 across the Shenandoah mountains.

Everyone had a wonderful time and the club looks forward to participating again next year. ☼

Cab, From Page 2.

Center, etc.?

The recent Greenberg Show with the huge N scale layout--why couldn't one be done in HO scale? (Wouldn't the shopping be great for that one!). Better stop on the ideas and goals for now.

Observations: We are a group of guys who are really friends, and it doesn't get any better than that. We can take and give "observations" (constructive criticism) and while it may rile things up for a short period of time, we get over it and are better for it. We love to shop, we could probably do a better job at "taking care of business" back at the layout though. We like to eat breakfast--thanks Lou for starting us on that. We're pretty darn good at getting ourselves into a show place and doing the setup. We're (sometimes) frustrated with Digitrax. We enjoy letting the younger set run some of our trains. We're darn good at breaking down, packing up, and clearing out. Oh yeah, we write a few e-mails. Did I say we enjoy each other?

Parting shot--have an idea for something you'd like to see done? Chances are no one else is as interested as you in seeing it come true. This doesn't mean that you have to do things solo, because we have other people who've done similar things. Ask any of us for help or ideas, you'll get more out of it by being the person who made it happen.

The fall schedule is fast approaching--lot's of fun things will be happening--hope you can enjoy them with us. ☼

Railfest, from page 4.



Despite the weather, we were up and running (and dry) at show time!
Photo by R. Rodriguez



Don does a table dance during set up. What's the tape for Don?
Photo by R. Rodriguez



A happy crew at the end of the Railfest.
Photo by R. Rodriguez

The crowds, though smaller in number still made a good show. The exhibitors and vendors did make sales and the entertainers went on as scheduled. It was a good day to run trains, enjoy the company of fellow railroaders and share our hobby with the public. OK, next year we are due for some sun!!! ☼



Official Use Only	
Date Received	_____
Member No.	_____
Dues received	_____
Approved	_____ Denied _____
Reviewed by	_____

Membership Application

Membership Applying for:	Active \$60 Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate \$18 Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior** \$12 Year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>					
Address	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>					
	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>					
City	<input style="width: 40%;" type="text"/>	State	<input style="width: 20%;" type="text"/>	Zip	<input style="width: 15%;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 10%;" type="text"/>
Date of Birth	<input style="width: 30%;" type="text"/>	Home Phone	<input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>			
		Work Phone	<input style="width: 60%;" type="text"/>			

Questionnaire

Do You Have A Layout? Yes No Scale(s)

What are your particular interests in model railroading? (rolling stock, scenery, etc.)

Other railroad interests?

Railroad Affiliations?	NMRA#	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	NMRA Div#	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	NMRA Local #	<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
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Other Club / Organization Affiliation:

Other Information:

****PARENTAL CONSENT (For Minors under 18 years of age)**

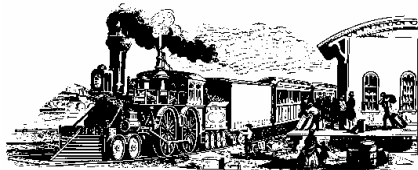
I give my permission, as the parent or legal guardian, of my son / daughter to become a member of the Prince William County Model Railroad Club.

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

PWMRC Application fee is \$9.00. Make checks payable to "PWMRC". Please complete this application and attach the application fee. DO NOT SEND CASH IN THE MAIL. Mail Application and fee to PWMRC P.O. Box 4801, Woodbridge, Virginia 22194.

All new PWMRC members have a 90 day probationary period. The application fee is refundable if membership is declined by either party within the 90 day period. Membership dues for the membership position applied for are due at the end of the 90 day period if accepted for full membership.





THE TIME TABLE



July 13 (Tuesday)

Club Meeting -
Woodbridge, Virginia



July 17-18 (Saturday - Sunday)

Martinsburg Raildays - Martinsburg, WV  


July 27 (Tuesday)

Club Ops Session -
Stafford, VA.  

August 7-8 (Saturday – Sunday)

Greenberg Train Show and NTRAK Convention
Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia  

August 10 (Tuesday)

Club Meeting – Good Sheppard United Methodist
Church – Civil War Railroad Presentation 


August 26 (Tuesday)

Club Meeting –
Woodbridge, Virginia

September 11-12 (Saturday – Sunday)

Central Library Show – Manassas, Virginia  



September 14 (Tuesday)

Club Meeting –
Dale City, Virginia 

September 25-26 (Saturday-Sunday)

Club Excursion – Mainline Hobbies Open House and
Layout Tours – Summit, Pennsylvania



September 28 (Tuesday)

2nd Annual Loco Pull Contest – Arcola Fire House
 



October 12 (Tuesday)





Club Meeting – **Host TBA**

October 14 – 17 (Thursday – Sunday)

Manassas Freedom Festival – Manassas Airport
 

October 26 (Tuesday)

Club Meeting –
Manassas, Virginia  

Key:  =Home Layout, ^{DCC} =DCC equipped
 =DCC Radio/IR  =DCC Infrared
 = Clinic Scheduled

The PWMRC News

Published Quarterly and is the official publication of the Prince William County Model Railroad Club. PWMRC News is distributed to the general membership of the Prince William County Model Railroad Club and affiliated organizations.

Articles from members are welcome. All articles should be submitted at least one month prior to publication dates as listed below:

- December for Winter Issue
- March for Spring Issue
- June for Summer Issue
- September for Fall Issue

Views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by PWMRC.
Bob Rodriguez, Editor e-mail editor@pwmrc.org

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