

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club

March-April, 2020 Newsletter

Our model railroad club has become a busy place, what with the recent **Harold Shive Memorial Open House** and our Clinics and Pro Series Workshops underway, not to mention all the work going on with regard to the HO scale layout track upgrade.

MOVMRC added \$360.25 to its coffers from the February 22 open house. A big thanks goes to all those who completed promotion and clean-up duties ahead of the event as well as those who ran trains and interacted with our visitors. We had more than half the club involved in the open house. Special thanks to **Roy Highman** and **Dudley Hardesty** for a great job they did in cleaning the parking lot, particularly the dumpster area. Many thanks, also, to **Tom Ratkovich**, **Barry Powderly**, **Parker Atkinson**, **Roy Highman**, **Ed and Rhonda Baranoski** and **Dave DeLong** for working the front door and hawking raffle tickets. We thank **Mike and Sueette Hupp** for providing chili and thank **Tami Nutter** for the extras.

Our **Clinics** and **Pro Series Workshops** schedule is off to a good start with six persons participating in “Introduction to Model Railroading I and II” earlier this month. The Pro Series Workshops are set for April 4, April 18 and May 9 in the club meeting room, but may need to be postponed because of the COVID-19 situation. MOVMRC members **Jimmie Bee**, **Mark Suek**, **Joel Kachel**, **John Scohy**, **Ed Baranoski**, **Steve Vicars**, **Kevin Highman**, **Zach Kessler**, **Jonathan Insley**, **Chris Reynolds** and **Joe Stephens** and guest expert **Larry Linger**, are serving as instructors.

MOVMRC’s next open house is the annual **Spring Open House** on **May 16** from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the club facility. Clean-up will be **May 14** at 5 p.m. Club leadership will make a decision on whether or not to host the open house (because of COVID-19 precautions) as time draws nearer.

A big addition to our events schedule for 2020 is the **Parkersburg Bicentennial Open House**. This will take place over three consecutive days. Operating times are 4-7 p.m. on **June 18**, 5-8 p.m. on **June 19** and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **June 20**, which also happens to be West Virginia Day. Clean-up will be **June 17** at 5 p.m. As with the May open house, COVID-19 precautions may affect this event.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, **Jimmie Bee** has stated members are to visit the club facility at their own discretion and are asked to wipe down and disinfect surfaces when you first arrive. Also, club spending has been curbed to only the bare essentials.

Long-time member **Eugene Spencer** was granted a life membership at the March meeting by a unanimous vote. Eugene is best known as the operator of the HO Doodlebug layout. **Tom Ratkovich** and **John Scohy**, with help from **Jimmie Bee**, are going to purchase the layout from Eugene and donate it to the club. Eugene's health prevents him from being able to attend club functions. **Doug Unsold** will take over operation and maintenance of the layout.

General Club News

- **Bee Line Trains** has expanded and now has a location in the Sol's Kit-n-Kaboodle store in Berlin, OH. Sol's is one of the largest crafts retailers in Ohio and sits in the heart of Amish Country with three stores. Bee Line Trains also maintains its local store inside Peddler's Junction Antique Mall in Belpre, OH. Our own **Jimmie Bee** is the proprietor and recently acquired two nice Gilbert American Flyer S gauge sets from 1949 and 1957, respectively.
- The **Board of Directors** recently completed review and revision of the **MOVMRC Rules and Regulations**. The signed, official copy resides in a black notebook atop the filing cabinet in the meeting room. See your Board representative for a hard copy. The most notable changes were a reduction in the minimum time period for probationary membership (now six months) and including the expectation that every member participate, in some way, on at least one committee.
- Eligible members interested in a membership upgrade should review the Rules and Regulations (under Membership) for the proper steps to take to apply for an upgrade. We had five members upgrade to full member at the March meeting, including **Doug Unsold, Chris Massey, Jonathan Insley, Joel Kachel** and **Rodney Toothman**.
- As a reminder, check the MOVMRC roster for a list of Board of Directors members. These are our representative "go to" folks for many club topics. Each scale is represented by a person on the board and HO, since it is our largest group, has two reps. An up-to-date roster is always posted on the bulletin board.
- Great to see the HO layout track upgrade coming along nicely with lots of members involved and committees set up to keep the momentum moving forward.
- **Mark Suek** has a feature story on American Flyer Texas & Pacific diesel locomotives in the current issue of *Classic Toy Trains* magazine.

General Club News (continued)

- According to **Josh Lee**, MOVNRC's coffers contained \$8,894.51 on March 13. We also have \$110 in petty cash.
- MOVNRC's welcomes new member **Josh Poe** of Washington, WV. Josh is in HO scale and sponsored by **Chris Reynolds**.
- Good to see **Mike Mutz** on the mend and able to return to the N scale group. **Eldon Young's** health is improving and he hopes to be back at the club soon.
- **Insley Plumbing (Jonathan Insley)** has graciously offered to purchase, and donate to the club, a train set for an upcoming open house.
- It was nice to see **Glenn, Susan and Casey Shive** at the February open house, in memory and honor of Glenn's father, Susan's father in law and Casey's grandfather- the late **Harold Shive**.
- Did you know, C&O cabooses were red until 1956, when the color was changed to yellow? This lasted until 1968, when the color was changed to blue in anticipation of a merger with N&W, which never happened. The Chessie System paint scheme was applied to C&O cabooses in 1972 and ran until 1985, when CSX took over.
- Check the bulletin board for a newspaper story about CSX leasing its lines in Parkersburg, Belpre and Marietta to the Belpre Industrial Parkersburg Railroad. There is also a newspaper account posted on the bulletin board about B&O operations in the Parkersburg area many moons ago.
- **Chris Reynolds** has initiated a contest to determine which photo appears on MOVNRC's Facebook page for a given month. **Bee Line Trains** has chipped in with a sponsoring \$15 gift certificate, to be awarded to each month's winner.