

Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club Newsletter

November-December, 2025

Building off the momentum of a very successful Fall Train Show, our club enters its busiest time of the year with a full head of steam.

MOVMRC welcomed 287 guests at the annual **Fall Train Show** (a 17% increase from last year) and is now preparing for the annual **Christmas Open House**, set for **December 6**. Please note, the hours for this event are 10 am to 6 pm to coincide with Downtown PKB's Winterfest celebration, the Parkersburg Christmas Parade and the Parkersburg Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. There is a sign-up sheet for door workers posted on the bulletin board. **Clean-up** is set for **December 4** at 5 pm with **Todd Noland** in charge. **Jonathan Insley** is working on the acquisition of back-up drawing prizes in case the Polar Express sets do not arrive in time. Jonathan has secured Polar Express golden tickets for distribution to children at the open house.

Following the open house, club members will gather at Western Sizzlin' in South Parkersburg for the annual **Christmas Dinner** on **December 9** at 6:30 pm. **Tom Ratkovich** is heading up this event and there is a reservation sheet posted on the bulletin board.

The final event of 2025 is the annual **Belpre Industrial Parkersburg Railroad Christmas Train Open House** on **December 14** from 3-7 pm. The train is expected to appear near the Sixth Street crossing just after our open house concludes. Clean-up will be right after the December 11 club meeting. Speaking of the December meeting, the final nomination and election of officers for 2026 will be conducted at that time.

General Club News

- No nominees for officer positions were brought forth at the November meeting. The ballot remains **Jonathan Inley** for president and **Todd Noland** for vice president. **Kelly Offenberger** has another year remaining in the treasurer position and **Wayne Batten** has completed his training to become the secretary/publicist.
- **Jeff Boggess** of Davisville, WV was accepted as a probationary member at the November meeting. Jeff is a woodworker interested in model railroad scenery and track laying. "Whispering Willie" will be working in O scale and is sponsored by **Jonathan Insley**.
- Members who've not yet paid their 2025 dues are reminded **December 1** is the deadline to pay. After that, members who've not paid must re-apply for membership at the probationary member level. Dues payable before December 1 will be \$100 per member, which included five months worth of \$10 per month late fees. Dues must be paid directly to **Kelly Offenberger**.
- **Joe Stephens** had the honor of Life Member bestowed upon him at the November meeting, in recognition of his many years of service to the club as an officer, board member and sole proprietor of the G scale layout. MOVMRC now has eight living and four deceased Life Members.

General Club News continued

- Two carbon monoxide fire extinguishers are now in place in the layout room. The club thanks **Wayne Batten** for handling this project and providing training.
- MOVRC's HO scale modular layout was sold at the Fall Train Show and delivered to a model railroader in Zanesville, OH. The club thanks **Wayne Batten** and **Parker Atkinson** for heading up this effort.
- Members who'd like a name badge are asked to contact **Todd Noland**, who is seeking a new supplier for these items.
- The board of directors considered five possible improvement ideas for next year's Fall Train Show at the November meeting and approved a “thank you” gift for **Whitney Hess**, who does a great job with the club website.
- Members interested in a **club logo shirt or cap** are asked to contact **Tom Ratkovich** by the end of the day on **November 17**. Tom has secured a selection of different styles and colors of shirts and prices vary by type and size.
- **Todd Riffle** will be talking with folks at The Pizza Station and Jimmie John's, both located in downtown Parkersburg, about food options for the Christmas Open House. A decision will be made at the clean-up. No one offered to take charge of food for the open house at the November meeting.
- **Mike Hupp** prepared, and sent, a nice thank you card from the club to the family that served as our food vendor for the Fall Train Show.