



The

CMRS

Whistle Stop

Fall 2009

Issue No. 26

Open House

We are once again approaching the open house season. Most of the work on the platform is coming to an end for this year and now we are in a cleanup mode for the entire building. Cleanup means, re-organize the area around the platform, dust the woodwork and walls and mop the floors to make the building presentable. After this is done we will set up the second floor sales tables and modular displays as the final touch. The picture below is of the stripping pit that helps supply the coal breaker that John Poko has been building. In the foreground is the road from the breaker to the town.

For a reference point, the breaker you saw in the last letter is off to the left. This continues your tour around the platform. Dale Steigerwalt has been working on the completion of the engine service area and Terry Younkens and John Weigand have been finishing the canal and lock at the front of the platform.



The Carbon Train Meets

It is time for our annual fall Train Meet. This year the show has been moved to the Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall and will be on Sunday November 1st. The hall is a beautiful banquet hall located on the East Side (Mauch Chunk) next to the Jim Thorpe High School. We had been unable to get a large crowd at the Saturday show that we held in Lehighton in previous years. In addition the operating cost at Lehighton had been high so the profit margin had not been what we were hoping for. Hopefully we will do better under the new plan. As always, we will have our own N and HO displays operating. Sheldon Endy and his son will bring an additional HO display and an O gauge train to run. We always feel that it is a good idea to have operating displays at the shows. I'd like to thank everyone who has come out to help each year. This year, we will not be able to set up the day before so anyone coming to help should be there for 6:00 AM the morning of the show. The staff at Memorial Hall will be serving food all day. It is expected that they will serve through the supper hour and then refreshments starting around 5PM for the Railroad Film night that follows after the Meet.

The next spring show will be at Palmerton on March 28th 2010 in the High School Gymnasium.

Membership

I would like to thank each of our members for either renewing their memberships or the new members for signing up. The memberships continue to total just under one hundred for the year 2009. We continue to look for new members at every opportunity. We thank you all for your continued support. Since this is the fall newsletter, we have included a form for your 2010 membership's renewals.

Raffle of Starter Set

Terry Younkens and John Weigand both from Weatherly have built a 4 foot by 5 foot operating layout for the purpose of raffling it off as a fund raiser. The track plan is basically a figure eight with a partial extra outside loop to run one train. The platform comes complete with folding legs, power pack, train and building. Tickets will be sold starting at our open house this Holiday season and continue to be sold at any opportunity until next fall, unless all tickets are sold out prior to then. The winner will be announced at the fall train meet in 2010 and we will then start selling tickets for a new operating layout for the following year.

Breakfast with Santa

The Lioness' of the Lehighton area once again invited the CMRS to setup a display for their "Breakfast with Santa" event this coming Christmas. We will once again borrow some "G" gauge trains from members Garry and Jan Mack to set up a simple loop of track to entertain the guests. The Mack's and member Larry Engle who is also a Lions club member will be on hand to help. The location is being moved this year to the Lehighton Community Park building and will occur on December 12, 2009.

This "N" That

Member Ben Davis has asked if we would be kind enough to exchange his name and email address with others in the club who may be dabbling in G gauge. Ben 's e-mail address is: bjd1Lake@ptd.net.

The Carbon County Cars

The Carbon County Railroad of Pa. (the fictitious railroad we created) continues to meet with great success. The Palmerton Baggage cars along with the Leighton and Jim Thorpe coaches are all sold out, but there are still a few Nesquehoning cars still available. At present there are about 360 of this year's Weatherly Observation cars sold. Orders continue to come in and quite a few of these new sales happen during our train meets and open house. Next year we will announce the locomotive power to pull the passenger train. Although we were hoping to arrange for a steam locomotive to pull this train we found that almost no-one anywhere is making any new production. Between the poor economy, the escalating prices and the lack of interest by our younger generation the store shelves are too full to warrant new production so we could not get ours made either. We did however arrange for an F7 A/B combination diesel engine. In order to keep the cost down, we are selling the two units over a span two years since many of our customers are buying multiple units each year. We will offer the unpowered B unit in 2010 and the powered a unit in 2011 as well as the trailer on the flatcar series. The F7 A unit engine is the same make and model that customers bought at the end of the first freight train but with a different paint mask. Naturally they are still in the green and yellow colors.

As for the trailers on the flat cars, the Prince Mfg., Kovatch Mobile Equipment and Blocker Enterprises trailers are still available with about 325 Hiles Brothers trailers sold so far. The next TOFC car in 2010 is planned for Pencor Services (owners of Palmerton Phone Co, Blue Ridge Cable, Times News newspaper, TN printing, Penn's Peak and many more), with the flat car showing the Borough of Palmerton.

All that remains of the older freight cars is the Palmerton Centennial boxcars. The cars are advertised for \$15.00 but are sold for \$10.00 during the open house as a special purchase. We will extend this special price to any of our members if you are interested.

CMRS Annual Banquet

The Society is having its sixteenth annual dinner on Saturday, January 2, 2010. The banquet will again be at held in the banquet room of Bert's Restaurant in Palmerton. The meal will be country style and start serving around 6:30 PM. I am sure members will start arriving around 5:30 after we close up following open house that afternoon.

The main foods are ham and beef, filling, corn, string beans, tossed salad and vanilla ice cream for dessert. Coffee, tea and soda provided at the tables. There is never any formal entertainment but usually by the time we get done socializing the evening is over. This evening is an opportunity for you to meet some of the other members who support us financially and spiritually if they are not avid railroad modelers. We will try to make you feel as comfortable as possible while you are making new friends. This banquet is for all members and their families at a cost of \$16.00 each which includes tax and gratuities. We had 29 attendees at last year's banquet. There is handicapped parking close by with easy access to the building. If you are interested in attending, please respond by December 20, 2009 by calling 610-826-6636 or send a note to the CMRS at 335 Boulder Oak Dr. Palmerton, PA 18071. Please feel free to call if you have any questions. Once we confirm a number attending the banquet with Bert's we will need to pay upfront for the food and cannot refund money to those not in attendance

Railroad Film Night

We will be having our second Fall railroad film night on November 1st, at Memorial Hall right after the train meet. Once again Pete Terp is coordinating the presenter and since we had the hall for the day it was decided to have the film presentation starting around 5PM. JTMH will serve the refreshments during the show. We will have our things along with our operating display, and a display of our cars and tee-shirts. This presentation gives us another avenue to promote our club. And of course, what would model railroading be without railroad history.

The following advertisement appeared in all the local newspapers.

RAILROAD FILM NIGHT
Looking at CARBON COUNTY
& the Gorge then & now
Presented By Paul Carpenito
SUN. NOV. 1, 2009 approx. 5 PM
JIM THORPE MEMORIAL HALL
101 EAST 10TH STREET (OFF ROUTE 903)
JIM THORPE
ADMISSION FREE
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
SPONSORED BY
PUFFERBELLYS RAILROAD GIFTS
JIM THORPE
AND
CARBON MODEL RAILROAD SOCIETY
BOWMANSTOWN

INFORMATION CALL 610-824-7730 Email (trolleys@ptd.net)

The Club House Building & Grounds

We did manage to get the air conditioning system finished this spring. Member Bob Silliman who now works for ABC Heating and Air Conditioning and one of his coworkers finished the installation. Although the furnace blower is only single speed blower and not well suited for moving cool air. The cool air was a welcomed relief.

During the installation Bob noticed that the air circulating blower was blowing back into the firing chamber. This means it is cracked and needs to be replaced. It was originally checked before we installed it but must have failed after we put it back into service after a long time in storage at its previous owner. Dale Steigerwalt is in the process of specifying and obtaining a price for a new furnace through the company he works for. We will try to get it replaced as soon as possible.

Contributions and Donations

Although this subject doesn't come up often, contributions and donations are a very important part of how we exist. In addition to the dues we collect each year which we have kept relatively low compared to other clubs, we manage to continue only due to the hard work of its members. We have several fund raising projects that continue to be successful and either host our two train meets or attend others that give us exposure and/or bring us additional income.

The part that doesn't get mentioned often is the contributions that come our way. On an almost weekly basis members are volunteering some supplies and materials that they have at home that we could make use of on our display. Part of the fun of creating scenery on a model railroad platform is to use real materials. These materials can be rounded up with a little effort and no money spent. These kinds of donations are almost too numerous to detail. For example, when we added the lighting to the basement or needed some up-grades to electrical equipment for the Palmerton Community Festival shed, some of the materials were donated including a set of cordless power tools. As I mentioned in the clubhouse update, the air conditioning unit along with the furnace we are now using had been donated.

Jeff Fisher of Efforts Station has donated a display case of bottles of paint the he no-longer need after the closing of the store.

Our heart felt thanks go out to everyone who contributes large or small to our efforts.

Annual Business Meetings

Our annual business meeting is scheduled for January 21st 2010. This is usually the one and only regular evening long meeting we have every year. We review in detail how we did for the year regarding our income and expenses. Most of the plans for the rest of the year are made at this time including what we hope to accomplish of our long-term plans. A review of the officers and directors positions will take place and a re-organization will take place if needed. With the exception of a few 10-15 min. standup meetings when some new business has come up, this is the only real meeting we have. We spend all the rest of the time model railroading.

The CMRS Line of Tee Shirts

Since there are always new names on the membership list, this reminder will probably always be in the newsletter

We continue to stock our special tee-shirts. They are available at any of our displays and we will mail them to interested persons who want to place an order. The first shirt is the one of the New Jersey Central Railroad Station in Palmerton. The shirts come in a variety of color combinations. They come in adult sizes only. The second shirt is a picture of a steam engine as it sits in the Chestnut Ridge Railway yard. The engine has no road name on it. It can be purchased with or without Carbon County, Pa. under the engine. The shirts are either white or ash with black lettering and come in adult and children's sizes.

A representation of both is on the bottom of the order form as well as the shipping and handling charges. The costs for the shirts are \$7.00 for the child's size, \$10.00 for the adult sizes up to XL and \$11.00 for 2XL. Order forms and representations of what is on the shirts are available on our Website (www.cmrs.info).

Although the sales and marketing committee would like to move ahead with another design for yet another shirt we will pursue this project as time permits. Other projects have been getting this attention.

Since this newsletter goes out to potential members, the following information is included in all issues.

The Carbon Model Railroad Society officers for 2009 are as follows:

President	- Garry Mack
Vice President	- Tom Scharpf
Co-Secretary	- Maryann Ziegenfuss
Treasurer	- Lloyd Ziegenfuss
Co-Secretary	- Jan Mack
Director	- John Tanczos
Website Administrator	- Joan Lesko

Membership Categories

Active	
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Non-Active	
Social	\$15.00

Student members are those who are attending a school or college.

Active members are entitled to vote. All members receive a membership card and the newsletters.

Don't forget, you will find us at 529 Ore Street in Bowmanstown from 7-9 PM on Thursday evenings.

We try to send out a newsletter to our members twice a year. The newsletter reads kind of like a book. Those of you that have been with us the longest have the advantage of being able to better follow our "story" and our progress. I also thank the new members who are just learning about us and hope that you continue your membership and stay with us.

Send any correspondence to CMRS C/O Garry Mack, 335 Boulder Oak Dr. Palmerton, Pa.18071.

e-mail – info@cmrs.info or call 610-826-6636.

Visit us at: www.cmrs.info