



The **CMRS** *Whistle Stop*

Fall 2011

Issue No. 29

The picture below is of our Farmers Market on the outskirts of town on the main platform downstairs.



CMRS Annual Banquet

The Society is having its eighteenth annual dinner on Saturday, January 7, 2012. The banquet will again be 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, potatoes, 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 \$18.00 each which includes tax and gratuities. We had 24 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 17, 2011 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 the 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.

A New "Booth" for the Palmerton Community Festival

As you recall, the CMRS has been attending the Palmerton Community Festival for years. In order to display our portable platform we have been erecting a temporary shed to secure the platform and keep it out of the weather. A few years ago we replaced the portable platform with a larger one and therefore had to make the shed bigger and naturally make it more work to handle and re-handle the sections from where they are stored, transport them to the Palmerton Borough Park, construct the shed and then after the festival take it all down again and return it to the storage site.

It appears that we are all in favor of continuing to attend the event for the public relations value in addition to the sales of new & pre-owned model railroad items, tee shirts and a useful tool for the sale of our Carbon County Cars. So we have decided to build a new building on a trailer to be used in future years. This way we would only have to tow it into the park, position it and place it on jacks so that it is stable. We have been watching for a suitable sized trailer at little cost to the club, but hadn't found one yet. That is up until a few weeks ago. An older, large camper was being discarded at the local resort where member Larry Engle has his summer employment. A few of us checked it out and although it would be a little more work to prepare it for our use we accepted it as a gift. The previous owners were delighted to give it to us when they found out what we planned to do with it. It will take some time to do, but we plan to make the new trailer resemble a caboose. More to come.

Railroad Film Night

At this time we do not have our next Railroad film night on our scheduled.

The Carbon Train Meets

It is time for our annual fall Train Meet. This is the third year that we are having the show at the Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall. This year the show will be held on Sunday November 6th. The move to Jim Thorpe still appears to have worked out well for us. We had a better turn out last year with more dealers, more customers than the first year at Memorial Hall. As always, we will have our own "N" and "HO" scale operating displays. Sheldon Endy will once again bring his "HO" scale circus display. 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. As always, 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.

The next spring show will be at Palmerton on March 25th 2012 in the High School Gymnasium.

Open House

The 2010-2011 open house season went well. The Christmas in July Open House went way better than the first year. Work continues diligently on both the main platform and the modular display. We updated the website with some new and current pictures but just enough to make the visitors curious. Our Holiday Open House schedule is posted on the last page of this newsletter.

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 of the New Jersey Central Railroad Station in Palmerton. This shirt comes in a variety of color combinations and is available 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 listed on it and can be purchased with or without Carbon County, Pa. under the engine.

Order forms and representations of what is on the shirts are available on our Website (www.cmrs.info).

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 2011. 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 2012 membership's renewals.

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 Lehigh and Jim Thorpe coaches are all sold out, but there are still a few Nesquehoning cars still available. At present there are about 340 of this year's F7-A Diesel engines sold. Orders continue to come in and quite a few of these new sales happen during our train meets and open house. With the addition of the F7-A engine this year the passenger train is complete.

As for the trailers on the flat cars, quantities of the older cars, the Prince Mfg., Kovatch Mobile Equipment, Blocker Enterprises, Hiles Brothers, Pencor Services trailers are still available. This year we produced Weatherly Casting and Machine with the flat car showing the Borough of Weatherly. Sales are in line with the sales of any car during its first year. Next year we are building a TOFC for Siberline Manufacturing with their plant in Lansford.

All that remains of the older freight cars is the Palmerton centennial boxcars. The centennial cars are still for sale and are priced at \$10.00.

Oddly enough, the car was produced to help celebrate the founding of Palmerton in 1898. The events included a parade, and a celebration in the park including a huge birthday cake. As it turns out, in 2012 the Borough is gearing up to celebrate the actual incorporation of the Borough in 1912. Yes we are building a new 40ft. Box car for the event. The car will be blue and white of course with a copy of the new Palmerton banners on the side of the car. These banners are already hanging through out Palmerton for everyone to see. Palmerton's most important days are also listed on the side of the car. Club Members and our car customers will have the right of first refusal but there will be a dead- line. After this time they will then be made available to the general public.

We will undoubtedly start another train when our passenger train is complete The Carbon County car project has been doing well for us and we would like to continue with some sort of similar project. We have been collecting ideas from some of car customers and would also like to hear more from our members. Let us know what you think.

The Club House Building & Grounds

It appears to be time to paint the front doors and shutters on the building. In fact we have been talking about it most of this summer but the weather hasn't given us too many opportunities. We still may get to it this fall before the weather gets too cold.

Still in the plans is the winterizing of the two second floor windows in the front of the building and installing a sump pump in the basement to help with the water problems we have after a hard rain.

The discussions we have had about improving the back yard for parking have been tabled. We have never been convinced that the alterations to the yard would not have made more problems than the occasional mud we get from a partial frost and rain situation. Sometimes the cure is a bigger problem than the problem itself.

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 our 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. Probably the largest, at least in size, donation to date has come to us as the camper we are planning to turn into a caboose. Thanks to Steve and Yvette for donating the camper to us.

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

The Carbon Model Railroad Society officers for 2011 are as follows:

President	- Garry Mack
Vice President	- Bruce Shafer
Treasurer	- Lloyd Ziegenfuss
Director	- John Tanczos
Director	-Larry Engle
Co-Secretary	- Maryann Ziegenfuss
Co-Secretary	- Jan Mack
Website Administrator	- Joan Lesko

Membership Categories

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

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

Membership Dues for 2012 are due By March 31st.

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 – mackgjit@ptd.net. or call 610-826-6636.

Visit us at: www.cmrs.info