

## French Creek Valley RRHS Minutes From 17 Oct. '13 Mtg.

Attendees: Bernie Hanmore, Denny Mead, Tom Stewart, John Snyder, Ed Cronin, Larry Johnson, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Wayne Brown, and Tom Collard.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Ed Cronin, along with copies of the Fall Newsletter for which Bill was later thanked for his efforts. Ed noted that 19 members had not yet renewed their memberships and asked those present to remind acquaintances on the list.

Model RR Club: Tom C. briefed the group on the status of the layouts and attempts to satisfy the wishes of the other lessee by shuffling equipment in their co-leased room upstairs in Shops@thebank on Park Ave. Tom reminded us that membership in the Model RR Club is \$30/yr for adults and that membership in FCVRRHS is not a prerequisite. The club currently meets Wednesday afternoon (HO gauge) and Sunday afternoon (N and TT Scales).

Tom plans on hosting a scenery clinic on Friday after Thanksgiving (Black Friday) with local author Ken Springirth available to autograph his recent book on Trolleys in the area. He estimates that because of space limitations he will be able to accommodate a maximum of 8 persons. Tom's clinic plan is to consider 4 stages in the scenery building process: *vacant layout, plastic cloth, hydro-cal, and finished scene.*

2014 Calendars: The last calendar edition of Stuart Ladner's local railroad themed photography is now available @ \$12.50 plus tax (\$13.25). These collector calendars are available at Tom's Train Terminal, the Market House, CCHS, and Rainbow Gardens Train Show on November 3.

Cambridge Springs Trolley Station: Ed C. reports that the station is essentially ours- needing only a quit-claim from Crawford County Historical Society after Bethesda Children's Home and Penn State sign off. Things needed in the near future include furnace, windows, and cleaning. The Station has a ½ basement, which could be used for storage, etc. Ed feels that the Station would serve as a site for presenting industrial exhibits as well as our HO-scale model RR layout and possibly an excursion trip starting point. Bernie H. and Dan Higham Are keen on the site as well.

518 Engine: Jack S. is investigating window installation costs. Most promising are: (1) laminated glass from Hollabaugh Glass and Mirror, and (2) Plexiglas from Meadville Plate Glass. Both firms would consider a donation to offset part of charges. Jack, Bernie and Denny feel we could install windows ourselves and save a bunch, but at the risk of impacting donations. The Engineer's window needs a frame and all windows need rubber gaskets and caulking. Vibration normally associated with running will not require attenuating. We are in need of a lift-lock for the tapered coupler pin chained to the knuckle.

B&LE Box car: Denny recommends an agreement with Lake Shore to lease the unit pending suitable arrangements to move the unit to Meadville. Tom C. suggested a crane

might pick up the car (17 tons) or even car and wheel sets (25 tons) to place same on a flat car, Wayne B. thought a crane currently operating in the area could fill the bill. Tom reminded the group that CSX charges were cost prohibitive- even to haul to a short way. Tom C. felt CSX might agree to haul the B&LE Boxcar to the Genesee & Wyoming intersection for further transfer to Meadville for a tolerable sum. Further checking will be forthcoming.

Christmas Model Train Display: A display site is needed and Tom C. will ask Ed Fine if the recently evacuated shop area next to Tom's Train Terminal could be used with minimum and temporary railing relocation, resulting in a 2-wall side, 2 railing side display site. If agreeable to Mr. Fine, the layout would require being set up from a week before 'Black Friday' until a week past Christmas.

We may consider having the next meeting combined with a model train layout work session at Shops@the bank.

The decision not to participate in the Clarion Mall Christmas display this year was made based on a reduction in allowable space at the Mall this year and an omission of a "G-scale" display as well as our being preoccupied with Meadville responsibilities.

November Mtg.: The October Mtg. was brought to a close at 7:25PM.

**The November meeting and work session will be held on Thursday, November 21, at 6:30 PM at Shops@the Bank, unless otherwise notified.**

Best,

Bill McComas, acting secretary.