



The Second Section



Minutes from the August 2017 Meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the August 17, 2017 membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the railroad equipment display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA. The meeting was moved into the caboose when it began to rain.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Chris Manning, Mike Lynch, David Ellis, and Terry Martin.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin's monthly financial report included balances, income, and expenses. Income was from donations, dues, and the sale of merchandise. Expenses were state sales tax on sold merchandise, property tax on the lot, and a fee for the Charitable Business Organization.

Committee Reports

Budget / Finance

The grant application to Trains Magazine has been sent in and accepted. The grant, if received, would be to defray expenses of moving the snowplow to Meadville.

Jim Lasiek of Over the Hill Trucking will be sending his quote to move the snowplow. Mr. Lasiek uses a "dolly" system to move equipment with his truck.

The board is still waiting for a rate quote from the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad freight agent to move the snowplow by rail.

Membership

We welcome two new members as of this meeting: Patrick McHale and Cheryl Corp. Welcome aboard!

Sadly, we must say goodbye to Mrs. Elaine Bingham. Elaine passed on July 29. She and her husband Bob, also departed, donated a sum of money for which a fund was named after them. We thank Elaine and Bob for all their support of the FCVRRHS, and our thoughts go out to the Bingham family.

Fifteen members have not renewed their memberships as of this meeting. Treasurer Ed Cronin will send out second notices on September 2 to those that have not renewed by then.

Model Railroad

The large HO model railroad may end up being moved back to the U. S. Bronze if the Downtown Mall needs to lease the vacant store that the layout

currently is in. If that happens, we may need to find another place to display the layout during the latter part of the year. It had been in with the Local Artisans group the past two years, and was very successful in that location. Now, Heeter's Haven has moved into that store from the vault at @ the Bank.

Property / Equipment

The status of the DL&W snowplow is still pretty much the same. Specifications on the snowplow were sent to the Wellsboro & Corning Railroad freight agent. Under the STCC code, it is listed as "Snowplow, not on its own wheels". It would rest on a 60 foot flat car, standing 18'6" high off of the rails; the flatcar deck being 3'9" off of the rail. The snowplow is 42 feet long. The total weight, snowplow and flat car together, is 161, 500 pounds.

The restoration of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar is nearing completion. While we wait for Olan Wood Products' schedule to clear to mill the remaining boards, Stan Niwa has been steadily working on the catwalk on the boxcar. He has a couple of boards to install, then paint them. After the milled boards return, crews will prime, paint and install them. That would



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leave the rebuilding of the door as the last thing to do. It is expected to be completed before the end of summer.

The Erie Lackawanna caboose was given a coat of wax and buffed the previous three weeks. That chore was completed on Tuesday, August 15. The underframe and wheels were given a coat of black paint with Scott Royer doing the spray painting. The caboose hasn't had a shine on it, as it has now, in years.

Rick Rowlands, president of the Youngstown Steel Heritage Museum, stopped during a work session with the president of the Mahoning Valley Railroad Heritage Association, Carl Jacobson. Rick donated a brake control for the 518. It will help restore the interior of the Erie S2 to what it once was. All cab components on the #518 were removed for the AC&J to use on its S2 before being shipped to Meadville.

A seat pedestal was installed in the cab of the #518 just recently. The seat that Rick had donated will be sandblasted, painted and reupholstered. Carl Timko has acquired a partial mannequin that may be used as an "engineer".

Our newest installation is the Union Switch & Signal three-color signal once used by the Nickel Plate Road. It is the same type of signal that the Erie

Railroad that guarded the rails east of Meadville. The signal was lifted into place with crews and Terry Martin and his backhoe. It will be wired up and show different indications. The mile marker and ladder have still to be mounted to complete the project. The signal and mast were donated by the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA.

The Pennsylvania Railroad tool car, formerly a class B60b baggage car, will be a future project. Plans are to repair the sides and paint it in PRR maintenance of way yellow, with black lettering.

Board member Jack Sheets will interview four contractors for surveying the property lines of the lot across from the display. One bidder's price is nearly double of the first surveyor, who never returned Jack's calls. The survey will determine the exact boundaries of adjacent properties, in the interest of purchasing at least one parcel for the purpose of expanding our display.

A work session is planned to install the fifth flood light and readjust the other four. The lighting isn't quite even on the display, as seen from the French Creek Parkway.

Public Relations / Education

The railroad equipment display is now open to the public on Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed to tend to the display site, guide our visitors around the premises and answer any questions the visitors may have. Volunteers will also be selling merchandise that is now in the caboose. Instructions for members is on the conductor's desk in the caboose. At least two volunteers are needed each Sunday. If you are available, contact Carl Timko at 337-3710 or email him at blebuddy@yahoo.com.

Special Events / Programs

There are several train shows scheduled that may interest members. On August 27, the Painesville Railroad Museum will have a railroad memorabilia show at the museum, located at 475 Railroad St., Painesville, Ohio, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5. Most of the show is display only, but a few vendors were invited to sell their wares. On September 9, 10, the Buffalo Central Terminal Train Show, located at 495 Paderenko Blvd., Buffalo, NY is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On September 23 the Canfield Train and Toy Show will be at the Canfield Fairgrounds, located off of Oh



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Rte 46 and US Rte 224 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5.

The Penn-Ohio Model Railroad Club is planning its fall train show for September 24 at the VFW at 439 E. State St., Sharon, PA. Admission and hours are not yet known, but will be forwarded to the membership when it is known.

The Independence Train & Toy Show is scheduled for September 30 at Elmwood Park in the Elmwood Recreation Center, located on W. Pete Wisniewski Parkway, off of the I-480/I-77 Rockside Road exit. There will be 50 vendor tables to visit.

Area train excursions start off with Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum's Steam Weekend on August 26 and 27 at Rush, N.Y. Featured will be the American Viscose 0-6-0 #6. This is the same locomotive that visited Titusville two years ago. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Rides are \$20 for adults and \$15 for seniors. The 11th Annual Steamtown Railfest in Scranton, PA is September 2,3, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be visiting equipment, caboose rides, trolley rides, hand car rides and excursions between Scranton and Moscow, PA. There is a \$7 entrance fee. Rides are extra. On September 16, the Everett Railroad will run a 27 mile excursion from

Hollidaysburg to Martinsburg, PA powered by ALCO 2-6-0 #11. Tickets are \$29.

The Rochester & Genesee Valley RR Museum at Rush, N.Y. Is having its Diesel Days on September 16 and 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10, \$7 for seniors.

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad will have Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 #765 hauling excursions on September 16,17,23 and 24. Saturday trains depart from Independence, OH at 9:30 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Sunday trains depart from Akron Northside on at 11:15 a.m. and 3:15p.m.

Ticket prices are coach: \$25, open air coach: \$30, deluxe: \$38, 1st class: \$40 and dome: car seats are \$50.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society will be Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA, weather permitting.





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