



Spring 2015

Issue No. 30

The picture below is of the renovations we are presently doing to the second floor decking. We are raising the original floor, which was part of the Choir loft to match the rest of the second floor level that was installed when we bought the building. Recently, the difference in height has become a safety concern. We have had several guests fall off the end when they wandered into a restricted area. The change in height also gives us more flexibility when setting up for our Open House events.



The Carbon Train Meets

Since the last issue of the whistle stop, we have had two Meets. The Fall Train Meet was held on Sunday November 2, 2014 and as you recall we now have the show at the Diamond Fire Co. Bingo Hall in Walnutport. The Jim Thorpe Memorial Hall had put their rent up to an hourly rate that basically doubled our rent for the show. Since we did not want to afford this and before we burned our bridges with Jim Thorpe we decided to re-visit the Diamond Fire Company's several year old invite to have it at their hall. Now, with the new management at Diamond willing to better meet our needs we felt that it was the time to move.

All things considered, the show went well especially considering it was the first time there. We helped the fireman set up the hall Saturday evening after Bingo was over at 10 PM. We moved our supplies and displays into the building at the same time but waited until Sunday morning to set them up.

Sunday however at around noon, someone saw smoke coming from the fire company's building right next to us. We started moving our cars and then there was the siren. We were effectively held hostage in our building by fire trucks and hoses. At this time the meet was effectively over for the day, since no one else could get to the show. Fortunately we weren't involved to the extent that we had to evacuate the building, lose anyone's inventories or have anyone get hurt. After a time we figured out how to get the dealers past the fire hoses and away from the building to go home. We did however get as many people in the door by noon as we would usually get all day at the Jim Thorpe show. Thankfully the Fire Company's building is in the process of being restored. The firemen were ecstatic about having us there and everyone is talking about the show that had the fire. We made new friends and everyone is looking forward to the November 1st show.

We have also had the spring 2015 Show in Palmerton. The table rental was basically sold out. We once again had some new "dealers" rent from us so our list of dealers has grown. The new dealers have come some distance to participate in the show. Sheldon and Bob Endy have taken their displays to Timonium MD a few times now and always take some of our flyers along to hand out down there. We know that these efforts have brought us some new dealers and customers. The show's outcome was at least average which still is very good show. We raised the table rental this year to help us with our margin but kept the admission charge the same.

CMRS Annual Banquet

The Society had its twenty first annual dinner this past January. We had less than 20 persons so we were required to pick off the menu. The dinner continues to be held at Bert's Restaurant. As always, the dinner was scheduled in the evening just after we closed up the clubhouse from open house that day. It is always good to see and visit with some of the less active members who live out of the immediate area unfortunately the weather wasn't good so a few of our members who have to drive a distance could not make it. Better luck next year.

Open House

The 2014-2015 open house season went well and the club members all had a lot of fun visiting with our guests. The winter was tough on us again this year. It is this kind of winter weather that makes me happy that we started the Christmas in July open house. Still we never know what or who the day will bring. One afternoon the weather was so bad that we weren't even sure that we would stay open past 2:00pm, but we did have guests stop by anyway. One of the perks to having open house is to draw the interest of some of our guests and have them sign up as members.

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 as well as hosting our two Train Meets or attend others that give us exposure and/or bring us additional income.

The Club House Building & Grounds

As indicated on the front page, the members had a discussion about the problems that the change in floor elevation on the second floor has become. We have had a member or two forget where they were and stumble off the end of the floor that makes up the ceiling for the downstairs. Also we have allowed some of the children to wonder to the end of the platform since they love to look through the window at the end of the modular platform and this is close to this drop off. Members who operate this same platform are also sitting on a stool right next to this drop off. Sooo...It was decided to raise the floor to alleviate all these problems and give just a little more space to the sales area on the second floor. This also gave a good opportunity to add some permanent lighting to the guest reception area under the balcony that was discussed over the years. The committee was asked to come up with a plan and estimate and as you can see it is well underway. It was promised to be completed in time for the house cleaning period for the Christmas in July open house. Oddly enough the project would cost only as much as the money we saved in fuel oil costs this year. Yahoo!!!

The Carbon County Cars

No, unfortunately there is still no Carbon County Car on ordered as this time. We have been working toward an engine and a caboose for the Trailer on Flatcar Train set since we felt it was important to complete the set. If you have been keeping up with the story, we checked out Bowser in Montoursville who flat out couldn't help us. We have been working with Bachman Trains for over year now and although the quantity was not what we wanted it we did have a price and design on the table. The price was good to the end of 2014 and all we needed was a delivery date to tell our members and customers. And although the need for a commitment was discussed for some time, the factory would not commit to a production date. My contact at Bachman then tells me that they would make the engines and have them to you within another year. I said fine is the price still good? As It turns out, the price went up 68% at the beginning of 2015 and even though we got an apology for the surprise increase it was still firm with no room for negotiations. I haven't gotten back to Bachman since that time. Although we would like to finish this project, we have to be very smart about our decisions. We are talking about a lot of money hanging in the balance. As you are reading this, we have contacted yet another company to get another price. I gave them some information to get them started on a price and they have not gotten back to me, at all.

There are still a few of the Lansford, Summit Hill and Weatherly passenger cars in inventory along with some of the F-A and F-B units. As for the trailers on the flat cars, varying quantities of the cars, the Prince Mfg., Kovatch Mobile Equipment, Blocker Enterprises, Hiles Brothers, Pencor Services, Weatherly Casting and Machine, Silberline of Lansford and the Jim Thorpe Market trailers are still available. We continue to take every opportunity to sell our cars.

All that remains of the freight cars that were produced before the passenger cars is the Palmerton founding centennial boxcars. We still have the 2012 Palmerton Incorporation centennial cars and are selling one of each as a set for a special price for those that are still interested in them.

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 under one hundred for the year 2015. We continue to look for new members at every opportunity. We thank you all for your continued support.

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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).

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

The Carbon Model Railroad Society officers for 2015 are as follows:

President	- Garry Mack
Vice President	- John Poko
Treasurer	- Lloyd Ziegenfuss
Director	- Sheldon Endy
Director	-Larry Engle
Co-Secretary	- Maryann Ziegenfuss
Co-Secretary	- Jan Mack
Website Administrator	- Joan Lesko

Membership Categories

Active	
Regular	\$25.00
Family	\$35.00
Non-Active	
Social	\$ 20.00

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

Membership Dues for 2015 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.

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