



## **SVGRS Newsletter January 2022**

### **2022 Calendar of Events**

- Jan- 19**                    **Executive Board Meeting (new year planning schedule)**
- Feb- 1**                    **First Quarter Newsletter**
- Mar-9**                    **7:00 pm General Meeting - New Oxford Train Station**
- Apr-1**                    **ECLSTS Train Show Day 1 (No club display) Annapolis. MD (9:00 – 5:00)**
- Apr- 2**                    **ECLSTS Train Show Day 2 (No club display) Annapolis. MD (9:00 – 5:00)**
- Apr-23**                    **Equipment move from farm to National Apple Museum**
- Mar-31**                    **Deadline to pay 2022 Dues**
- May-1**                    **Second Quarter Newsletter**
- June-19 or 26**        **Open House (Bob Hyatt – Upper Strasburg), Short meeting to be held as well**
- Sep-18**                    **1:00 pm- General Meeting /Club Picnic, Southampton Township Park, Southampton Junction Pavilion, 200 Airport Road, Shippensburg, PA**
- Aug-28**                    **1:00 am – Open House (Bill & Dee Simmons – Abbottstown)**
- Oct-2**                    **2:00 pm Trailer Inventory, Clean inventory items and repack for Rocky Ridge**

**Oct-17**            **Third Quarter Newsletter**

**Nov-4 or 7**        **9:00 am – Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup (Track & Platforms)**

**Nov-12**           **10:00 am - Rocky Ridge Complete Setup**

**Nov-25**           **5:00 pm - Christmas Magic Opening Day**

**Dec-4**            **4:30 pm - General Meeting /Christmas Party (National Apple Museum)**

**Dec-31**           **Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends**

**Please print or cut out and put on your refrigerator for reference**



## **Reminder**

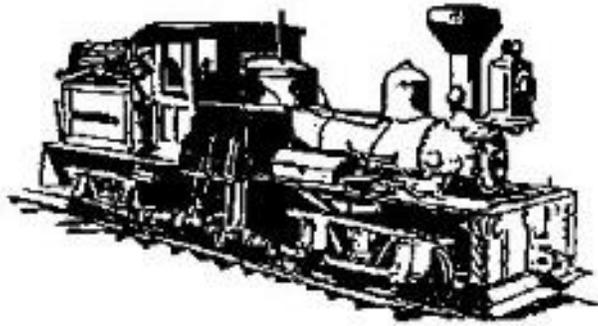
**SVGRS DUES:** Dues are \$25.00 per year. Your membership funds support the costs of insurance, website, picnics, and storage for our equipment. The funds also help contribute to cover costs of railroad displays, maintenance, and acquisition of equipment as needed.

**Dues need to be paid by March 31<sup>st</sup>. We encourage everyone to mail them in this time and not wait for a show to pay Jeff or Turk.**

**Please mail your check to:  
Jeff Shubert  
258 Chestnut Drive  
Shippensburg Pa 17257**

## **2022 ECLSTS Updates**

**The East Coast Large Scale show will not be held at the Timonium Fairgrounds. They have decided to have it in Annapolis Md. next to Star Hobby store on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am – 5 pm. At this time, the club has decided not to participate in setting up a display. Stay tuned for more info as we receive it.**



## **2021 Annual Christmas Party**

Submitted by Turk Russell

**This year's Christmas party was moved to the Apple Museum located in Biglerville Pa. It was held Dec. 5, 2021, at 4pm. Our own Bob Wenger helped organize this event as he is an active member and their past President. If you came early, Bob provided an in-depth tour of the history of apple production in the lower and upper areas of the barn. There are tons of artifacts and photos to document how apples were grown and produced in the area.**

**Penny and Turk did the announcements. We had 46 sign up but due to sickness only 39 were able to attend. Our usual caterer (Sunnyway) could not provide the meal this time due to covid. We had Turk's client Stan Flenner of Stan's catering provide slow cooked brisket meal with all the fixings. It was fantastic! We had the usual great stories and jokes**

told by Penny Segessenman. She provides lots of enthusiasm to our program! After a short business meeting and some announcements, we drew tickets for prizes.

Keann and Barry sold 50/50 tickets and we netted \$70.00. Fred Wendling was our winner. Phillip Shoop was the grand prize winner of a yellow Powered Hartland Mack locomotive. Entertainment was a Movie/story of the Canadian Pacific Holiday train. It was a fun filled night with lots of information. Please join us again next year.

Thanks, Turk Russell





## **2021 Rocky Ridge Christmas magic round up**

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

**This was a year of changes and new records. After a COVID year off in 2020, the York County Parks decided to make a go of it in 2021. There were some changes, such as taking the sides off previously closed pavilions and other things where we were unsure of the impact. In the end, none of this deterred the crowds. After a year off, milder temps (on average) and a mostly outdoor environment, the lights and trains attracted a new record total attendance. I need to specifically thank my wife Penny and co-coordinator Turk Russell for making this show viable. Their support and involvement were a huge part of our path to success. Speaking of success, this year the club nearly \$1,000 additional dollars of income than any previous show! Here is this year's run down...**

**The 2021 Rocky Ridge season started with the trailer repack held at Locust Hill Farms where the club has stored the trailer and additional items. This was held on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-4pm. We had nine folks present with Penny taking the lead on sorting and repacking much of the Rocky Ridge display items and Turk taking the lead on loading the trailer for the show.**

**This year's Rocky Ridge Pre-setup was held Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 12:00pm. The club trailer was transported along with the waterfall and most everything we needed except the large roller coaster. We had six workers attending and we succeeded in getting the platforms set and fastened together, closing in and insulating the barn door, hanging the mural and setting the track loop for Thomas and the main Christmas Tree. We did**

not, as we started in 2019, set any of the other loops such as the main loop or the indoor/outdoor loop. In retrospect, this was a tactical error on my part and something we'll resume in 2022!

The main setup day fell on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>, and it was cool, but not terribly cold. We offset that with Jason Scott's heater, and it was quite comfortable even with both doors open much of the time. Barry & Linda McNew and Mary Jane Reiff provided refreshments. That was greatly appreciated by all! Although we had a slightly smaller than expected crew of 18 members and various family members, we completed the bulk of the setup between 10am and 3:30pm. Things were looking pretty good when we locked up that afternoon. Not quite ready, but good! A small group of us made a return trip to address the final few items before opening night.

As in 2019 the Park Service, recognizing we are a huge part of the draw, stepped up and made the full payment which was slightly increased by \$200.00 this year. The 2021 calendar afforded us 33 run days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, and we had only two days of closure due to weather leaving us only 31 days to build on the base payment with donations and raffle. A full financial report will be made at the March meeting.

With 31 days open, overall attendance was up from 2019 over 15,000 guests with a total of 51,162 for 2021. Clearly this blows away the 43,000 plus we've seen in year's past, and it seems like the ticketing scheme the park service now uses is here to stay. Given this record, and the more predictable evening endings times, it's hard to complain.

We ran sevens trains on the layout, which with the amusement part, is a lot of motion. We also did make a few changes this year to include a longer full passing siding making it extremely easy to switch trains on the main "money" loop versus a simple siding. Penny added a few new characters to include Mario and Waldo. Elvis and his pink Cadillac returned for another year. We continue to contemplate a double track mainline, but we just can't ignore that it would consume too much room and create havoc for the various scenes we place in the layout. Unless the Park lets us increase (even just 16 inches) the size of the platforms, we just can't pull it off. We already have issues with kids "touching" the trains, so we can't really go closer to the fence.

Although it seemed tougher to set the schedule of volunteers in 2021, in the end we had a nice mix of newer members working with our experienced operators and Turk was able to fix small issues, mostly over the phone. Overall, I think we had less problems this year so my thanks to ALL! The custom Lionel Consolidation and the USA-Trains F3 A/B set ran much of the show with our GP38/GP-9 sub'ed in for roughly 8-days. Turk and Barry performed maintenance on the F3 A/B set, the LGB Mogul and the Bachman 0-4-0 as well as servicing all our trains following the show. This maintenance both during and after the show is critical. This stuff is just too expensive to replace all the time and we've really run a lot of miles on these tried-and-true engine lash-ups!

Tear down saw a cold day with snow still on the ground and a large group of 25 helpers on January 15<sup>th</sup> insuring we got cleaned up and packed up in record time. This was made possible because we did a “pre-tear-down” trip where we removed the fence and most figures and details. Many thanks to Barry and Linda for help on that trip. The “found” coins on clean-up day was a nice bonus of \$72.38.

**Raffle Roundup:** As I mentioned at the top, this was a year of records with a total of raffle 1,146 tickets sold. I must give a shout out to Turk for once again convincing Bachmann to send this Percy set for free meaning that was all profit.! This year’s winner was 8-year-old Wyatt Smith from New Freedom PA. His picture as well as Jeff handing over the prize are included here. Love to see the young kids excited about trains and I can really say there was a lot of that throughout the sessions. I hope all our monitors got to see and enjoy the happy faces! Once again, Deb Scott wins with the most tickets sold (126) on Dec 4th! Keann and Penny came in second selling 113 tickets Dec 18<sup>th</sup>. Randy Alleman had the record donation night at \$152 and the Russell’s and Segessenman’s had the overall combined night record of \$235!



**Wyatt Smith from New Freedom. PA**



**Wyatt was very excited to get his Percy train from Jeff.**

**Final Note: Thanks to everyone who helped make this a success for this club. It's our lifeblood and while I still think there is room for some improvements, I think we have a tried-and-true formula for success. We have all those leaders before me to thank for that! I just carried on what's been proven to be great! Still, it doesn't mean there is no room for improvements, so please let me know your thoughts! Each of you in the club who helped setup, monitor and or clean up needs to understand we do something great in this show!**

**Thanks, from myself and Turk for another successful event!**

### **Pictures from Rocky Ridge 2021**



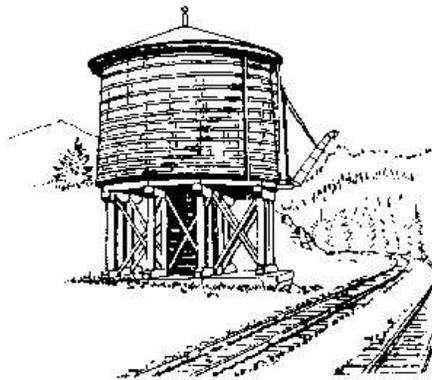


## **2021 Rocky Ridge After Thoughts**

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

I wanted to take a quick minute to ask our membership (and family members) what ideas they have for Rocky Ridge going forward. You are certainly welcome to send them to me via email or call or however you wish to convey them. We'd like to have a discussion on this at the March 9<sup>th</sup> General meeting. Here are a few of the ideas passed along to me already!

- Put down all track with Platform setup or as a distinct setup trip before the main event. We did this in 2019 and will do it again going forward.
- Permanently create pre-made 5ft and 8ft 90-degree corners. Four of each. We'd need to devise a safe transport structure.
- Build another Thomas loop, with a solid base, that would stay at Rocky Ridge like the Christmas tree loop.
- Cut the remaining tabs off the blocks we use to elevate the Thomas loop and get a few more so it's a solid base all the way around. At least where visible.
- Build a structure under the Christmas Tree Loop to elevate.

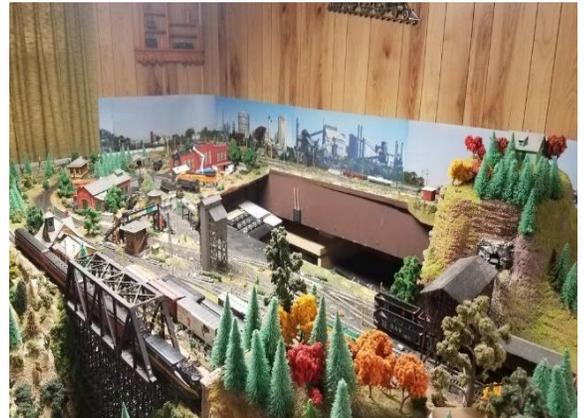


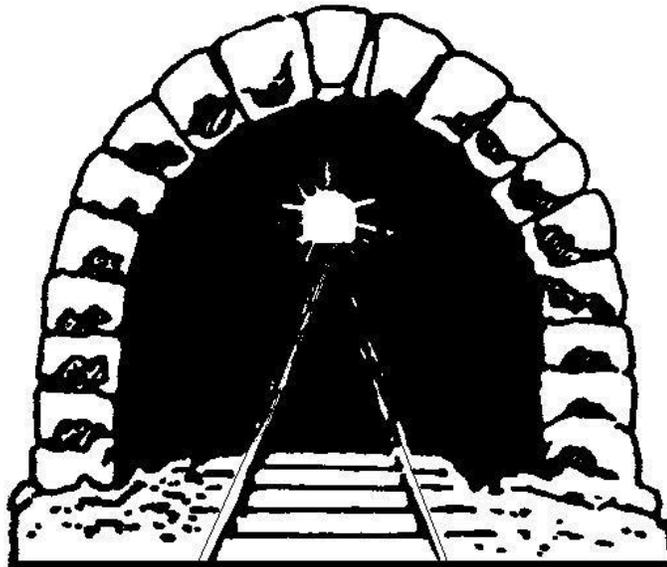
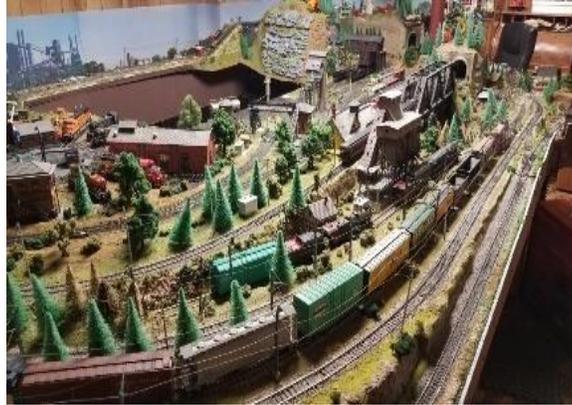
# Marlyn Geesey, Our tough train guy!

submitted by Turk Russell

While some of you may not know, Marlyn has been undergoing throat Cancer treatments. In early December he made it to number 14 out of 28 and got sick and had to be admitted into the hospital the week of Christmas. He came home and was doing better, but then had to go back in again. Eating and swallowing food has been the hardest issues. Doris is grinding up food and doing the best she can. His spirits are good, and he is expected to make a full recovery. His last treatment was completed on Jan 12. We all wish him well.

On a brighter note, the Geesey's are noted for their huge outdoor G scale layout, but Marlyn has continued to expand his very detailed HO layout located in the basement. With no more room to grow, he came up with a neat idea of a movable extension that can be rolled in out of the way where you enter the room. This 2 ft by 5 ft long add-on yard gives him tons of room for more sidings and buildings to complement the layout. If you would like to see it sometime, feel free to give them a call.





## **2021 Hanover Fire Museum holiday display**

submitted by Turk Russell

**Each year I try to visit different holiday displays. One that stands out with more than just trains is the Fire Museum located in Hanover Pa. They offer a mammoth of historical items that span 100 years and cover every aspect of firefighting and its equipment. For the**

past 3 seasons, the members setup a variety of trains encompassed into their building. Lead by our own Kevin Adams, it's a must stop for all to see.



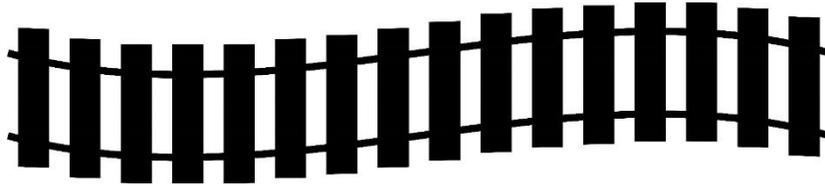


## Blue Ridge Summit, PA

submitted by Turk Russell

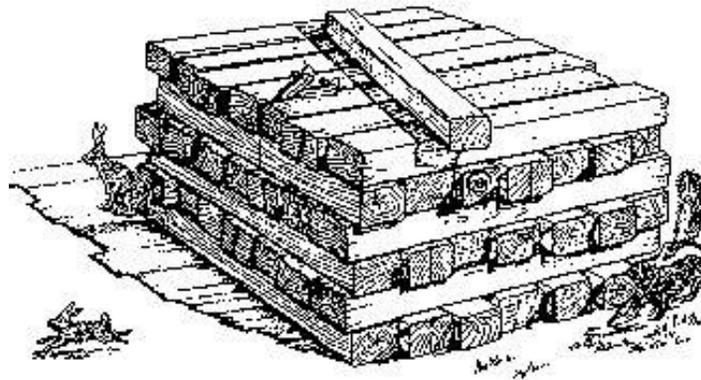
**CSX exchange hoppers at Blue Ridge Summit, Pa. with Genesee & Wyoming (formerly Maryland Midland RR). Took this photo during the January snowstorm. The caboose is a restored Pennsy. It is a metal sided unit but has been wood sided with T111 for appearance.**





## **2022 Layout Tours – Volunteers Needed**

**If you have a garden Railroad layout we would appreciate if you would consider having an open house in 2022. This is a good way for members to get ideas and provides good comradery among our members. If interested contact Robert Wenger, [weng308@yahoo.com](mailto:weng308@yahoo.com) to set up a date. Sunday afternoons seem to work best for most members.**



**Thanks to Joe Mower**

Submitted by Turk Russell

I wanted to give out a "big thanks" to Joe Mower for his many years of dedication to our club as news editor. Joe has been writing for well over 10 years. It's not an easy job to take info from everyone and get it all organized. Joe had many years of experience in G scale long before I came along in this hobby. His son Randy and him participated in many shows even in St Louis. Joe was well versed with LGB trains and had a beautiful large layout at his home in Carlisle before moving further north and downsizing. A lot of members do not know that Joe is also an expert carpenter / model builder and produced many pieces for the club and myself. I helped him downsize his collection a few years ago. A year later he was back building a new small layout outdoors and enjoying the hobby at his new home. I guess some of us will always play with trains. He is retiring out of the club at age 83. The board has voted to offer Joe Mower lifetime membership status.

A special Thank You to all who have contributed to this edition of the newsletter. If you have information that may be of interest to the club members feel free to forward it to me and I will include it in our next edition.

### SVGRS Club Officers

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