



SVGRS Newsletter February 2025

2025 Calendar of Events

Jan-26	Executive Board Meeting (new year planning schedule)
Feb 10	First Quarter Newsletter
Mar 23	General Meeting - New Oxford Train Station 3:00pm
Mar-31	Deadline to pay 2025 Dues
Apr 6	Equipment Clean Up - National Apple Museum (2:00 pm)
May 3	NELSTS Train Show Day 1 (No club display) West Springfield, MA
May 4	NELSTS Train Show Day 2 (No club display) West Springfield, MA
May 8	The Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo (Ohio) Set up
May 9	The Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo (Ohio) Day 1
May 10	The Great Lakes Large Scale Train Expo (Ohio) Day 2
May 26	Second Quarter Newsletter
July 20	Open House – Rob & Penny Segessenman 1:00pm (521 South Queen St, Littlestown, PA 17340)

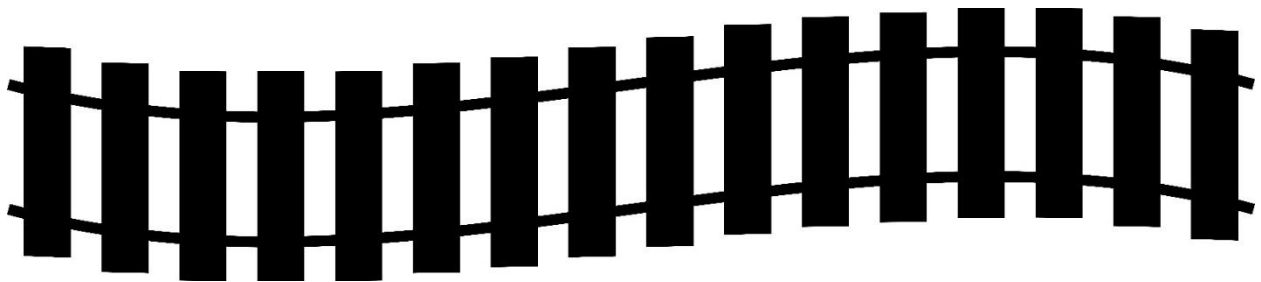
Sept 21	General Meeting /Club Picnic, 1:00 pm National Apple Museum Pavilion followed by Equipment Repack for Rocky Ridge 3:00pm
Oct 13	Third Quarter Newsletter
Nov 10	Rocky Ridge Pre-Setup, Track & Platforms (10:00 am)
Nov 15	Rocky Ridge Complete Setup (10:00 am)
Nov 28	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Opening Day
Dec 30	Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic Ends
Jan 10	General Meeting /Christmas Party - National Apple Museum (12:00 pm)
Jan 17	Rocky Ridge Tear Down (10:00 am)

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

President's Message Feb 2025

As I reflect on my first year as President it was both easier and harder than I thought. Easier because I can't thank the board and our members enough for stepping up when it counts. It was harder in the sense that I feel the weight of carrying the club forward. That's no easy task for any of us given the social, generational and financial pressures we're all feeling. It really made me proud of our club seeing the help we had with big events like setup and tear down. Especially tear down for Rocky Ridge this year. I love seeing our new members become more engaged and gaining the experience I hope we can lean on for the coming years. We're about to attempt something a little new. It's not so much building a Spring layout but doing it at a distance. Given the interest expressed and support we have thus far, I'm encouraged that we'll have a positive experience. Please watch your email for coming important events such as trailer repack, and layout test fit or dry run. This will come before the show dates in early May. Watch also for open houses! I hope we have at least two lined up for you!

-Rob Segessenman



Great Lakes Large scale train expo - May 9th -10th

submitted by Turk Russell

The Club will be attending as well as building a display at this new show. It is located near Youngstown Ohio. Dates are May 9-10, 2025, Friday and Saturday 10am - 4pm both days. There will be all kinds of activities with modeling contests, give aways, food vendors, building models with kids, ride-on trains too. So far there are 106 tables sold.

Turk has made the arrangements for this show. Setup will be on Thursday May 8th at 10am till whenever. We will be putting together a display much like the old East Coast large scale show in the main entrance foyer. Some plants will come from our own Mark and Mary Jane Reiff. All other materials will be provided by Executive Landscaping/Colonial Gardens. A logging display will also be included. Our layout size is approx. 12' x 20'.

Rob Segessenman will be towing the club's trailer and Turk and Bob will be towing the other two. Please contact me with questions. If you are interested in participating, attending or staying overnight. I have secured a great deal at the Comfort Inn which is 1/2 miles from the show. Thus far we have 10 members attending. Hope to see you there!



GREAT LAKES LARGE SCALE TRAIN EXPO

National Train Day 2025!
Sponsored by: MrPictovid, 4 Track RR & Riverside Railroad Club
Formerly the North East Ohio Large Scale Train Show

Join us for two spectacular days of large scale train fun!

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Vendors, Vendors, VENDORS!
Find new & used G Gauge and Larger models trains, parts, accessories and MORE!

Operating Large Scale Layouts
Explore the multiple operating G gauge layouts setup by various clubs!

Clinics & Workshops
Learn from others in the hobby!

Modeling Contest
Enter Your Model To Win A Prize!

Kids' Activities
Fun activities for kids including hands on clinics!

Door Prizes
Multiple door prizes given away on the hour!

Food & Refreshments
Enjoy a variety of food options available on-site.

Admission Available At The Door!
\$8 One Day, \$14 Two Day
Kids 12 & Under Free

For Early Bird Admission, Updates, Hotels & MORE visit our website!
www.greatlakestrainexpo.com

Interested in being a Vendor or Exhibitor?
Preferred method: Visit our website to fill out the request form.
Alternate Method: Call or email us.

18,000+ SQ FT of Large Scale Model Trains!

G Gauge & Larger up to 7.5" Gauge Ride On!

METROPLEX EXPO CENTER FRIDAY MAY 9 SATURDAY MAY 10
1620 MOTOR INN DR 2025
GIRARD, OH 44420 10 AM - 4 PM

Free Parking & Onsite ATM!



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www.GreatLakesTrainExpo.com

2024 Annual Christmas Party

The first Sunday of December at the National Apple Museum in Biglerville PA has become our Christmas standard, and this year was no exception. Rob and Penny Segessenman hosted our event with a special report from Turk Russell. We had a smaller group this year with just 24 family/members in attendance. Barry McNew gave the blessing before we all dug into dinner which was provided by Uncle Eddies BBQ. Penny provided yet another new selection of jokes and Keann sold our 50/50 tickets.

The board considered this year's Christmas Party attendance and acknowledging the same basic calendar timing this year in 2025 as last, we took a member poll offering the first Saturday in December before Christmas or the second Saturday in January. We are also moving the time from evening to midday to allow our older members more option to attend. The poll results show the January date to be favored. Watch this on the club 2025 calendar and details as we get closer the end of the year.

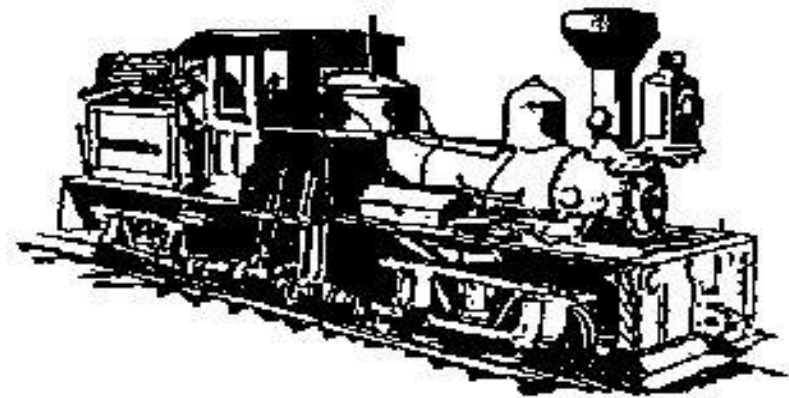
A short business meeting was held, and all officers gave reports with much discussion surrounding the Christmas Magic display at Rocky Ridge. We also provided some preliminary details on the 2025 Great Lakes Large Scale Train Show to be held in North-East Ohio in early May. Finally, as with the last two years, the club will not be creating a layout at the Annapolis East Coast Show as the show size does not justify it. This will also be the third year for the Northeast Large-Scale show held in Springfield Massachusetts at the "Big-E" facilities in late April. This show is hosted by the same folks that do the huge all-scale train show in January.

Like with the picnic, prizes were drawn from your ticket choices! This seems to be a fun twist on our efforts to give back to the members.

The evening wrapped up with a slide show presentation by Kirk Slenker detailing the move of his layout to a new location and much of the building and space prep. Kirk has done a wonderful job and continues to give back to his community and the community's youth with this endeavor.

Thanks to all that attended!
Submitted by Rob & Penny





2024 Rocky Ridge Christmas Magic round up

Submitted by: Rob Segessenman Jr.

I want to start this year's round up with a few major thank you's. Thanks to my wife for supporting me, to our VP for being present and learning more of the ropes. To Dee for taking on most of the communication and for Turk troubleshooting several issues over the course of the event especially when I was unavailable.

The 2023 Rocky Ridge season started with the trailer repack held at the National Apple Museum where the club now stores the trailer and additional items. This was held on Sunday October 6th from 2:00-4:00pm. We had nine folks present with Turk and Penny taking the lead on sorting and repacking much of the Rocky Ridge display items.

This year's Rocky Ridge Pre-setup was held Monday November 4th from 10:00am till 2:30pm. We had four workers attending and we succeeded in getting the platforms set and fastened together, closing in and insulating the barn door, and setting the track loop for Thomas and the main Christmas Tree. This time we also put down, shimmed and secured all the track loops, inside and out!

The main setup day fell on Saturday November 16th, and we were able to take the chill off with the park service heaters. Dee and Bill Simmons and Mary Jane Reiff provided refreshments. That was greatly appreciated by all! Although we had a slightly smaller than expected crew of 18 members their families, we were able to complete the bulk of the setup between 10am and 4:00pm.

As in 2023 the Park Service stepped up and made the full payment in advance which was increased by \$200.00 this year. The 2024 calendar afforded us just 30 run days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, but as mentioned we also had six days of closure due to weather leaving us only 24 days to build on the base payment with donations and raffle. A full financial report will be made at the March meeting.

With just 24 days open, overall attendance was roughly 10,000 less guests compared to 2023 with a total of 36,952 attending according to the park service. This was a big factor in our bottom line.

As we've done for a few years now, seven trains ran on the layout, which along with the revamped amusement park, is a lot of motion. A new smaller roller coaster, Round Up and Rocket ride performed well during the show.

New items this year was a Whoville provided by Dee and Penny and a rotating base for Hogwarts castle provided by Barry McNew. We also implemented a recommendation which popped up at the picnic in the form of a back-and-forth train on a shelf behind the relocated raffle table.

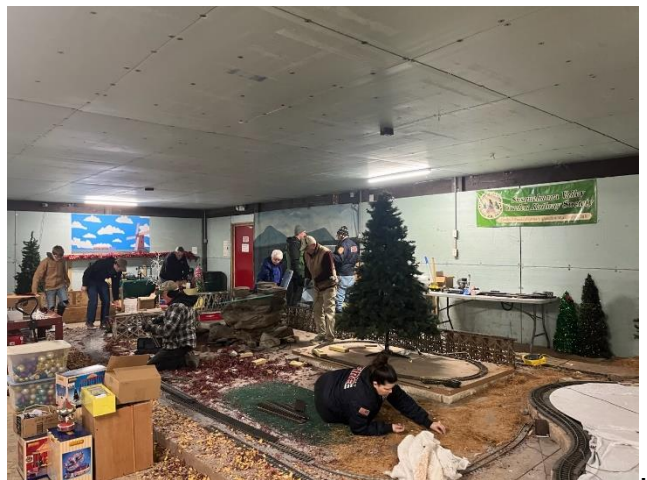
Kudos to Dee for pressing everyone to start the signup process at the club picnic. The Bachmann C-19 Consolidation and the USA-Trains GP30 (with Rob's matched GP30) started the show, but we then subbed in the F3 A/B set about halfway through. Turk and Barry will be performing maintenance, and all the engines will be serviced through the winter and this spring.

Tear down saw another reasonably mild day for the 23 helpers on January 11th insuring we got cleaned up and packed up in record time. The "found" coins on clean-up day was a nice bonus of \$135.97 along with another \$48.97 from the pond.

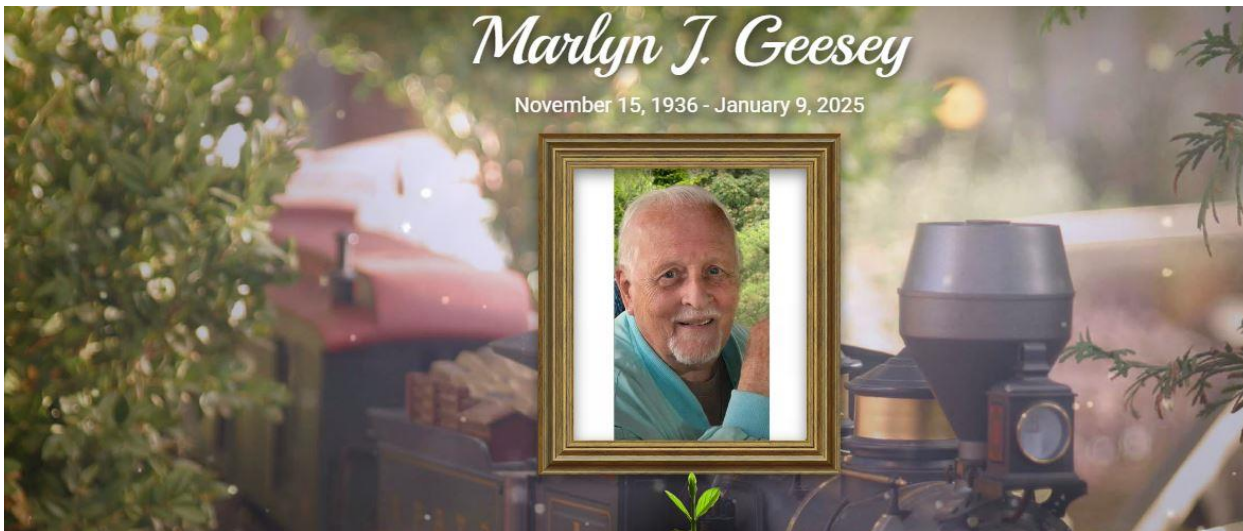
Raffle Roundup: This year raffle chances were way down for a total of 578 tickets sold. I must give a shout out to Turk for once again convincing Bachmann to send us this a train set for free meaning that was all profit! This year's winner was Kayla Miller from Thomasville Pa. I hope all our monitors got to see and enjoy the happy faces!

Final Note: Thanks to everyone who helped make this a success for this club. It's our lifeblood and while we added a few new features to a tried-and-true formula, I don't want to rule out further changes, so please let me know your thoughts!

Thanks, from myself, Bob and Dee for another successful event!

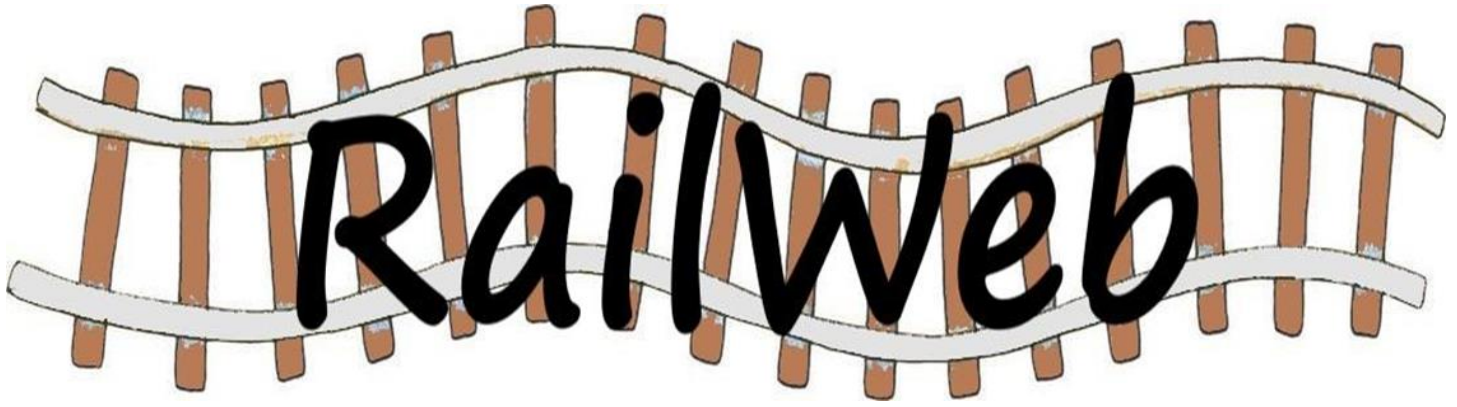






Our club lost one of our most popular members. Marlyn Geesey and his wife have been involved with all sorts of trains as well having a huge G scale display in their back yard. Maryln was a member of the SVGRS for over 20 years and helped build our layouts and keep trains running. He also had a very detailed HO display in their basement. His wife Doris was always with him participating in our events. He will be missed!





Videos and Websites

Saving America's small railroads)Includes the EBT)

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/narrow-gauge-railroads>

History of the Heisler factory in Erie PA

<https://oldtimeerie.blogspot.com/2013/08/heisler-locomotives-were-made-in-erie.html?sref=pi>

The Heisler Geared Locomotive

https://www.railwaywondersoftheworld.com/heisler_locomotive.html

Info about geared locomotives

<http://www.gearedsteam.com/>

Portraits of North American Steam Locomotives

<https://sites.google.com/site/steamlocomotivephotographs/>

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