



MRHS MAINLINE

The Official Newsletter of the
Muskegon Railroad Historical Society
Volume 20, Issue 2: February 2005

Prez Says! ***Tom Anderson,*** ***MRHS President***

Welcome to the New Year! My last article neglected to comment on the December open houses, and for that, I'm sorry. They were, as usual, a roaring success and were really enjoyed by all that attended. A HUGE thank you goes to all the members that worked them. Additional thanks go to Robert Jackson for making up "Polar Express" cars and to Bob Kersh for the use of his Berkshire Engine for the open house. Kids of all ages enjoyed the displays and layouts.

We approved the budget for this '05 year at the January general meeting and we show it balancing! If you were not there you missed Burt Apple's special sweatshirt. Most wanted one like it. The layout reports were; "gOOd" to "running good" to "Nchanting." I'll let you figure out the scales. And the building is 'still here'.

We are in the process of establishing committees in the club so no one person has too much work and not enough fun. You too can help.

Matt Kolbe resigned as newly elected Director because of a job and moving to Traverse City. Just when we were going to get him to work! According to the bylaws we must vote in a new replacement at the March meeting and are asking for members to throw their names in for the position no later than the February meeting. All those that meet the requirements (member in good standing) will be listed in the March newsletter.

A special thanks to Stan Murray for the January program even though he could not find his Dennison tape. What he did show kept everyone captivated and it was enjoyed.

At the January board meeting we had 6 guests. Thanks for attending, and some may want to consider running for the open board position. The layout reports were as follows; "nothing new, just switch work," to "fine, meeting of the committee to discuss possible

rebuilding of the layout," to "everything fine, nothing to report."

The building had some work done by an energetic group taking down the Christmas decorations. Seems that big bump on the side of the meeting room was mistaken for a decoration and was torn out. Now to just fix it up! We do have volunteers that have offered their time and skills to fix it up and you can help by letting Jim Funnell know. We are still looking for a donation of a toilet that can be trusted.

The spring show has had a change of command as Kent McFaden and Jim Funnell will be co-chairing it. Plans are also to contract the arena for our fall show. The January 29th Modelers group meeting at our club and member's layout tours also now has Burt Apple at the helm. These last minute resignations place a burden on members so please volunteer to help. We will need members at the clubhouse on the 29th to run layouts, answer questions, and just be hosts. It will be our time to shine!

The board has also accepted an offer to purchase all of the old plastic chairs and that is being pursued.

Every day that goes by is one day closer to spring, and then we can get out there and chase trains again. We are here for the fun of TRAINS; we just ask that you do have FUN.

Prez Tom

New Items In Our Library

Photo slides of the MRHS trip to Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum from August of 2003 and four (4) fair tokens for the Muskegon Traction and Light Company and the Peoples Transit Company were donated by Andy Busard.

Thanks Andy for these wonderful donations!

STOLEN

On or about December 30/31, 2004 from the storage/box car at the Pere Marquette 1223 Preservation Committee site, Grand Haven, Michigan

Two (2) Locomotive
Classification Lights- used on
Pere Marquette 1223

Three (3) Kerosene burning
caboose lamps- used in the
interior of Pere Marquette
Caboose A-986. (Note- these
items are still in their original
boxes. One or more lamps will
be stamped "Rock Island" on
the black metal frames or some
other railroad other than Pere
Marquette.)

If you are offered the above
items, you will be receiving
STOLEN MERCHANDISE.

If you have any information on
the above, please call the Grand
Haven Department of Public
Safety at 616-842-3460 and
refer to case #04-9481.

Horse Cars, Cable Cars & Electric Cars in Grand Rapids: 1865-1935

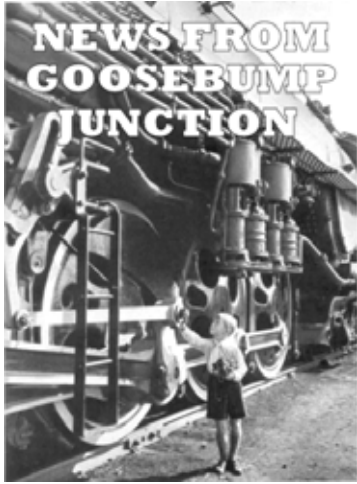
Presented by Carl Bajema
At the February General
Meeting!
DON'T MISS IT!

February 1, 2004

MRHS Officers

President: Tom Anderson	H: 744-9782
	W: 777-6411
V. Pres: Stan Murray	853-5089
Treasurer: Andy Busard	755-6298
Secretary: Thomas Van Bruggen	767-8177
Director: Allen Anderson	755-6791
Director: Kent McFaden	726-2606
Director: Open	

allllllllllllz
999999



By: Robert Jackson

I believe building a finely-crafted model railroad is every bit an artistic creation as a masterpiece painting, a classical musical composition, the most stirring drama, or writing heartfelt poetry. Every model railroader longs to build the *Mona Lisa* of the rails, and avoid the fate of another classic example of artistic engineering, the *Titanic*. And this is why it's so valuable and important to join a model railroading group. The combined experience, encouragement and enthusiasm of people who value what we love are priceless advantages for the construction of our dream layout.

I've begun this monthly column, *News From Goosebump Junction*, that I hope will inspire all of us to achieve the best model railroading experience possible. This will not be a how-to column. You can find all that and better in the hundreds of books and magazines in our peerless library. My objective is to celebrate the hobby and commemorate the contribution of all those who have improved and enlarged our hobby; both the national and historical advocates, but mostly the achievements of our own layouts, both in our homes and the three at our meeting place, built and operated by our members.

The Christmas open house was a success, if we judge by the faces and words of our visitors. I was flattered by the enthusiasm and comments by some of the children about my *Polar Express* train. I rushed it into operation with a quick paint job and passenger car names printed on my computer. I got really lucky with this, matching the car color perfectly with my printer ink on the second try. My purpose was to interest and encourage young people (and their parents) to become new members of the MHRS.

My grandsons viewed the layouts with expressions of awe that

confirmed my wish that they would enjoy model railroading as much as I do. When Scott is a bit older, I will pay for his membership in the MRHS. Andy, his brother, is much too young yet. When Scott was just two years old, he sat on my lap watching a train video for forty-five minutes and only once did he look away from the TV image. You should hear his voice imitating the sound of a steam loco chugging and its whistle. He makes his grandfather very happy.

I'm working on collating my collection of railroad pictures so I can burn two CD's and contribute them to our library. The work of years of searching the internet and newsgroups, the pictures include hundreds of steam locos and diesel locos, both North American and foreign—modern and historical. Also there are pictures of freight cars, passenger cars, yards, mainlines, scenic views, maps and structures. I hope you enjoy them. Please feel free to copy them.

Member News

MRHS Member Rhett Sease was scheduled to have surgery on January 25. Let's keep Rhett and his family in our thoughts and prayers, and hope for a speedy recovery. We wish you well Rhett.

Dues and Membership

It's a new year, and that means membership dues are due again! To date, we have a total of 65 paid memberships. Last year we had 138 paid memberships. Let's surpass last year and help the club by getting your membership dues paid soon!

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 29, 2005 at 9:30 AM
 NMRA Division 4 Visits MRHS and
 3 Member Layouts. Come and enjoy
 Tuesday, February 1, 2005
 MRHS General Membership Meeting
 Program: Carl Bajema about
 Horse, Cable, and Electric Cars
 Tuesday, February 15, 2005
 MRHS Board Meeting
 Nominations for Director Due Today!
 Tuesday, March 1, 2005
 MRHS General Membership Meeting
 Program: TBD
 Tuesday, March 15, 2005
 MRHS Board Meeting
 Sunday, March 20, 2005
 MRHS Spring Train Show!
 Don't Miss Any of these Great Events!

From the Secretary's Desk... ***Thomas Van Bruggen*** ***MRHS Secretary***

As the new MRHS Secretary, I thought I would take a few lines of this, my first newsletter, to fill you in on some of the efforts I am undertaking in my new roll. Previously, as an At Large Director, I thought I could sit back, give my input at a couple of meetings per month, and then enjoy the hobby of working on and running the N Scale layout. Boy was I wrong in that assumption. While I certainly do enjoy "playing trains," my own desires to better the club led me to take on a couple of projects.

With my organizational and computer skills in hand, I began working on two (2) projects for the club: creation of a master database and developing a web site.

First, the database; I am pleased to say that I have condensed what was about 30 or 40 spreadsheets, documents, printed lists and databases into a single database of all MRHS members, train show visitors, train show dealers, and the library book and video inventories. This club had a wealth of data available to it, and now it is in a format that will be readily accessible.

Secondly, I have also created a preliminary web site that is under construction. I am collecting data and pictures, and hope to roll out the web site in the next month or two.

I now find myself finishing up my first editing of the newsletter, and I have found it quite enjoyable. I was not sure what to expect, but in my first month as secretary, I have already talked with several members willing to submit articles and help out where they can.

I would like to thank Robert Jackson and Tom Anderson for their contributions to this month's newsletter, and additional thanks extend to Kent McFaden, Andy Busard, Jim Funnell and Fran Lensky for their years of dedication to the records of the club. These people have worked hard to keep this club in shape, and have done a wonderful job. Let's give them a hand: a hand of applause and a hand of help.

THE MRHS MAINLINE

Published Monthly by the
 Muskegon Railroad
 Historical Society
 561 W. Western Ave
 P.O. Box 765
 Muskegon, MI 49443-0765
 (231) 726-3657