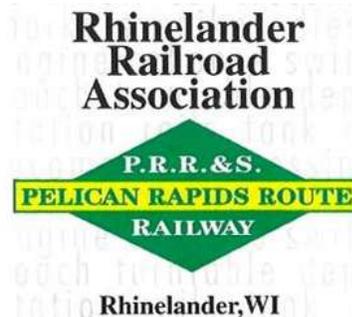


Warrant



April 2014

Presidents Message: Greetings from the "Old Man."

Well now, it's been a while since I have put out a message. It's also been a long winter and at the time of this writing, I am looking outside and it appears it's not over yet! At least it disappears quick.

If you haven't had time to get down to the depot, now is the time to do it! The layout electrical project and track work is really something to see. Things are running like it has never run before! Much time and effort has been put in by devoted members under the direction of our electrical genius Brendan Marquardt. The updates are really great! Now, it looks like operating and running sessions are going to be a reality. If you have any DCC ready locos, bring them down and have some fun!

We need to have a cleanup work session at the depot in order to get ready for the summer opening. I am looking at Saturday, May 17th, starting at 9:00am. Any help we can get will be appreciated.

The next regular business meeting of RRA will be held on Wednesday, May 14th, at 6:00pm. There are upcoming issues to discuss including the scheduling of workers for the summer months at the depot. Hope to see you there!

*Take care,
Jim Brown, President, RRA.*

Depot Spring Cleaning

The spring cleaning date has been set at the depot for Saturday, May 17th, 2014 at starting at 9:00 am. Please come help us get our depot in tip-top shape for the 2014 summer season. On this day, we also have to start taking down the Christmas lights that were put up on the engine.

There will also be much to work on this summer, in and outside of our museum. Our car restoration will continue again this year as it had last year. The goal is to have the business car restored enough so people can view the inside of it. We also have to finish painting of the caboose and business car yet, along with many other odds and ends that need paint: outdoor signal, luggage cart, scale house.

Stop on down to find out how you can help. There is always more to be done, even if all you can do use a paintbrush.

Summer Raffle

The club has purchased another Lionel O-gauge train set to raffle off over the summer months, given to us at a great price from The Choo Choo Store. Anyone can enter and the drawing will be held at the close of the museum. Raffle tickets cost \$1 for one or six for \$5.

Rhinelanders Railroad Association 2013

Layout Update

I keep telling you that the wiring is almost done on the layout in the depot, but I have great news! The wiring is done! We can now play trains all throughout the layout, from town to town, into the back room on both the upper and lower level, over and under, it all works! The reverse loops are even runnable!



The switches are finished to the extent of the electronic switches we have. Of course there are still kinks and headaches of a 20 year old layout with the turnouts and track. To date, six turnouts that aren't throwing reliably as we would like, however we have 35 turnouts operating as they should. Overall this is minor stuff that we can work around until time and manpower is available for repairs. There are also few places, on and off mainlines, of track that should be repaired.

The hidden wiring under the layout still needs to be cleaned up and labeled; from the track buss wire to the switch wire. There are quite a few places under the layout that have extra wire hanging down that could be shortened up so no one accidentally snags it when crawling underneath. Our goal is to create a very clean and organized power system that is protected. We also have to label the wires every 3-4 feet, so in the event of a problem, we don't have to crawl around trying to find where that wire goes.

So this brings us to: What Next?

The layout can be called the pride of the RRA. We have a spectacular showpiece that, as with anything, can be added to. The list of projects of things to be done can go on and on, it all depends on what we would like to add to it.

So the question now is: What can you do? Well the projects vary from what needs to be done: track work/repair, switch and switch motor repair, engine repair and cleaning, to what folks would like to do, ranging from dusting, painting and repainting, re-blasting track, adding more details, adding greenery, adding lights and lighting effects, placing and painting people, devising animation and other amusements, and countless other things.

In a sense, there is no limit to what we are able to do and I would like to invite all from the club, from inexperienced to experienced modelers to join in and alleviate the cloud of dust that seems to have formed over the layout.

Along with the work on the layout, there is much work to be done on the rolling stock. Many couplers need to be adjusted and replaced/repared, air hoses repaired/reshaped, and rolling stock weighted and balanced. All rolling stock will now be weighted equally following NMRA standard of 1 oz. + 1/2 oz. per inch. So a 5 inch long car would weigh 3.5 oz. I would like to have all cars on the layout balanced so when the time comes for operations, we can run anything we choose effortlessly.

Northern WI Model Railroaders Yahoo Group

Paul Wussow has created a Northern WI model Railroaders group on Yahoo. Please see: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NWMR/>. He invites everyone to join so as this group becomes larger, we can all share what's happening in the model railroad world of Northern WI. This group is also useful as you can post questions that other members in the community can answer, along with thoughts and happenings related to model railroading in Northern WI.

Rhinelanders Railroad Association 2013

Handicap grant

In our depot, we have an excellent model railroad display. However, to a few of our museum visitors, this display is not accessible to the disabled or handicapped public as the only access to the basement is a rather large set of stairs.

There was a ramp running behind the depot that has previously been used for handicap access with much great assistance from the group of people that have accompanied these handicap folk. However this ramp is not up to state code as the grade is very steep and cannot safely accommodate wheelchairs, or any disabled people for that matter in the condition it is in. There are also no proper railings for people should they try to use it.

A grant is being written up by our excellent improver John Nevins, the very same, that has been working on restoring our outdoor rolling stock.

The purposed grant would fund a ramp to be built from the deck Wisconsin Conservation Corps built us off of the rear of the scale house, overlooking the scale. The ramp system would then run down behind the shed and the outhouse toward the back of the building to the rear basement patio of the depot, formally used only as an emergency exit.

Once at the back patio by the basement door, a slight ramp would need to be built to get over the door jam. The viewing stand would then have to be extended to match the height of the door jam. A small ramp could then be built to allow access for any potential disabled members to get to the back room.

This ramp would also help draw attention to the scale and scale house. A display is being put together for the interior of the building.

John Nevins is also working on a grant for a handicap ramp going into the museum schoolhouse.



Antique Suitcases

We have recently been donated two antique suitcases in excellent condition for our displays by a gentleman by the name of Mr. Monthey from Madison. He visited Rhinelanders during our October NMRA meet last year and upon viewing our museum, he was very impressed. He came across the travel cases in a lost attic and decided to donate them to add to our travelers display. They fit well in the museum and show some of the higher quality pieces of that era. Thank you Mr. Monthey.

Fair

The year of 2014 is flying by as we're already heading into May. Ever fast approaching is the annual Oneida Country Fair, held in the beginning of August. Last year, we had the great opportunity to raise money for the restoration of the railcars. This year, July 31st-August 3rd, we have the same opportunity to raise money for the RRA along with the railcars again.

We are planning to once again sell "Monkey Tails" otherwise known as frozen bananas on a stick. This year however, we are looking for another easy to make, preferably pre-prepared, item to sell. So if you have any ideas, please let us know.

There is much planning to do for this and staffing volunteers will be needed, so please plan to attend our monthly business meetings to find out how you can help.

Rhineland Railroad Association 2013

Operating Sessions

—By Brendan Marquardt

On our membership form, one of our new members made a note when they noticed a line stating the things the club does. One of these things if you haven't noticed or haven't seen a membership form in 10 years is "Operate on the Layout". He made a note asking when and where. This got me questioning... is he wondering about operating sessions? Or is it just referring to being able to play with the layout?

Being he asked when and where, I assumed he meant operating sessions. And this got me thinking. To my knowledge, the club has never hosted an operating session. Keep in mind my knowledge goes back the many years that I have been with the club. The only extent of our "operating sessions" is done by one or two people, which consist mostly of cleaning track and making slight adjustments to make sure our coin-op classic C&NW passenger and Soo Line freight keep making their loops.

I question why more is not often ran. Is it that people do not know how to operate the Digitrax DCC system or do they know how and are they afraid to use it because they're afraid to break it? Do people not want to run things because they don't feel like cleaning the mostly unused track? Or is it something entirely different?

Honestly speaking, I do believe it is something different, as it is rarity for me to be one of those operators that does do more than clean track. And I'm one of the few people that enjoy the challenge of running multiple trains. Odd isn't it? Only once in a while do I consider pulling out the 50 car ore drag or the Soo steamer with nice sound and a passenger consist or any other train for that matter. This is not because these trains are a headache to run; I once left the ore train running in place of the usual Soo freight for coin-op for a few days and it ran flawlessly due to some forgotten member who spent countless hours fiddling with the cars till they ran perfect, but because there is rarely any enthusiasm from other members in "playing trains."

In a way, this is almost upsetting. We have a layout many modelers would dream of with thousands of options of different sidings and routes to run with more equipment than we could ever need and the system to support it, but most of it is just not utilized.

I will say that we couldn't make much use of a lot of the layout in the past year and a half due to the seemingly never ending re-wiring project. But at the same time people could've been preparing for an OP session and create the un-created routes, timetables, etc., yet none have.

I personally would like to start putting together and having operating sessions now that the layout is fully operational. We first however need to learn a bit more on OP sessions; as I personally have never participated in one and I don't believe many club members have much experience either. Then timetables need to be decided, rosters written, schedules created, trains built, cars placed, and who knows what else.

But with all this work, I see a great challenge and learning experience. In this challenge, I see something that we as a club could benefit greatly from. This is a fantastic opportunity to design something great to our own liking. I do believe that this would be good for the club to re-associate ourselves without layout and finally make use of it, along with give our club more appeal to current and future members.

OP sessions ultimately are something very new for the club. There is nothing to start off of or anything remotely related. We have an open field to play with here and right now we are able to create something entirely new and done to our own liking. But the big question now is: Who wants to help?

Rhineland Railroad Association, Monthly business meeting held every 2nd Wednesday, 7 PM at the Logging Museum Depot. Operating/maintenance any Wednesday 6 PM same location. See www.rrahome.org

The Warrant is published monthly by the RRA. Questions comments or concerns, or article wishing to be published please contact Editor Brendan Marquardt at brendan.marquardt@gmail.com or P.O. Box 801, Rhineland, WI 54501.