

# Warrant



July 2015

## Hello All:

It is a long time no message from our end. We would like to sincerely apologize for the breakdown in communication. This is just a quick update of what we've been up to.

## Firstly: Business

New monthly business meeting dates will be the second Wednesday of each month; with the first being August 12th. However, we will also be having a working session from 4:30 to 6:30 on with projects on the layout. This will consist of scenery, electrical, and modeling work, along with teaching essential skills for any model railroad enthusiast. The Monthly business meeting will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 following work sessions.

We already have some exciting fall menus for model railroading enthusiasts. The details will be provided in our following newsletter, or you can watch for updates on our website: [RRAome.org](http://RRAome.org).

## Rejuvenating The Old—A Better Viewing Experience

Over the past winter, one of the goals for the Rhineland Railroad Association was to improve the experience of those viewing the layout at the depot, both visibly and physically.

To do this, we reviewed what we had, a wonderfully built and operating layout, measuring around a grand 50 by 20 feet, with nearly 20 scale miles of track. However it was realized that only being able to see the front 20 feet was becoming unacceptable. The existing viewing stand was quite useful, but did have its flaws. Built as a riser for children and adults alike, it offered not only a bird's eye view across the layout, but a protective barrier to keep hands off.



The new viewing area.

However this stand was quite limiting. Being 4X8', it did not allow for a good viewing experience for the amount of visitors our museum serves. It was just too small. It also held people back from the true, up close view of the layout. Only after many lengthy discussions, we chose to remove the entire stand and existing barrier.

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The stand was replaced with clear polycarbonate plastic sheets that serve as a barrier to anyone interfering from the train's operation – but allows the viewer to be right at the edge of the layout. The sheets free form around the layout, following the bends in the fascia. The biggest advantage of this is it is now possible to walk entirely around the outside of the layout. This opens up the back of the display to the public for the first time – and the

view looking down the Soo mainline going through the yard is fantastic from the corner! The entire viewing area was also given a bit of a facelift as the floor and walls were repainted, as well as the fascia on the outside of the layout and a new curtain to serve as a visual barrier across the bottom.

The scenery on the layout received both some rejuvenation and some renovation as well. Many hours were spent in cleaning, repainting and updating scenery. Around 200 additional trees were added throughout, including some colorful spring flowering trees. Many tracks received new ballast, more rock was put around river and many new people added, helping to add character and life to the layout.



Some bent and warped track pieces have been replaced and we are tirelessly working on putting in and making operational 50 remote powered turnouts using Digitrax controllers.

Two new tunnel entrances have been added to the right of the paper mill, replacing an odd fitting lift-out and dark decent into the forest. This also created a hill that added a fitting separation; thus hiding the “subway” depths going directly under.

Future plans are in motion to add movement and motion to the display, along with elements that make the layout more interactive.

The most extensive renovation came with the narrow gauge line, as a 9 ½ foot trestle was added, along with 35 feet of additional track. This addition converted the existing point to point line into a full loop enabling the trains to make a full circle across the layout. Now up to three trains go into action when a visitor drops a coin in to operate the system.



### ***Rhineland Railroad Association 2015***

Thanks to everyone who helped with this renovation that has been very well received since the depot opened again for the summer.

### **A Thank You to The Choo Choo Store**

We would like to say thank you to the Choo Choo Store in Three Lakes for donating an HO scale train set to be used as a fund-raising raffle this summer. It is great to have a local store that supports the greatest hobby on earth!

### **Increasing Our Visibility**

In an attempt to let people know about the depot and our layout, we are putting a small static display at the Rhineland Chamber of Commerce that will hopefully whet the appetite of those looking for things to do in the Northwoods this summer (especially on a rainy day). This will be in place by the middle of July, so stop in and look for it.

**Rhineland Railroad Association**, business 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30 PM at the Logging Museum Depot, operating / maintenance any Wednesday 4-7 PM same location. See [www.rrahome.org](http://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 [RhinelandRailroadAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:RhinelandRailroadAssociation@gmail.com). This Warrant was co-written by Rod Ankrom & Brendan Marquardt.