



## A VIEW FROM THE CAB

Wow!

I am really exhausted, as I am sure many of you are. Jean and I had our two daughters and their families with us from Monday evening of Thanksgiving week, and of course we had the Eastern Shore Train and Toy Show at the Ocean City Convention Center. The three-day event was a huge success from our club's income standpoint. Final figures will be disclosed at the December 11<sup>th</sup> club meeting but by all accounts, we raised at least \$10,000 for our club with this event. That makes this the best single fundraiser in our club's history.

The two layouts we are displaying there through the end of 2024 are still for sale. The attendance was over 1,700 paid, and I believe the number of kids under 10 was over 500. I hope the vendors did good business. When word gets out about our attendance this year, I think we will sell more vendors tables. The venue was superb by every measure.

The Georgetown Library kicked off its Holiday Train Display on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November with an estimated 200 visitors. "Probably the busiest Saturday we've seen in our 14 year history of putting this display on here in Georgetown", Dave Lawrence commented when we spoke. The club installed 4 operating layouts there on November 19<sup>th</sup>

Our annual Holiday Raffle, "The Twelve Trains of Christmas Raffle" has just begun awarding winners as of Sunday the First of December. Winners will be contacted directly by Bill Mixon.

Since we knew the Ocean City Train Show was going to tax our regular volunteers to a great extent, we opted not to participate in the local Christmas parades this year. Our people were spread very thin, during a season which many often are traveling to be with family for Thanksgiving.

I must take a moment to commend Skip Lee for a great idea he had and developed that idea to include our club in the plan to promote a train show this fall in Ocean City. First, he has built a fantastic O gauge train display in the DockSide Hall at the Convention Center. It looks like he is running about 10 trains at once. Second, he is having this display open Free for four hours each evening, Wednesday through Sunday, from 5:30 until 9:00 pm, from Thanksgiving until December 29<sup>th</sup>. He has invited the club to help run trains and we have organized 4 or 5 nights on which our members will man the displays. There is a large G gauge train layout on the floor, next to a huge Sand Sculpture, and our HO and S gauge offerings which are also looking for a permanent home to some lucky buyer.

This effort is there to benefit (through donation jars) the Ocean City Beach Patrol, of which Skip is a vested member. We applaud his efforts and hope the patrol will benefit well from them.

*John Hodges*

