



Happy New Year 2025!

A VIEW FROM THE CAB

If you read my Christmas letter to members a week or so ago, you might notice some repetition in my message for this Newsletter piece.

We will get our Year end financial wrap up very soon, but with the success of the Eastern Shore Train Show in Ocean City, we will finish 2024 in good financial shape. But what is in store for us in 2025?

I think the plan by our G gauge team to start over on their layout in the museum is a good idea, and with new benchwork, will give them a lot of flexibility in design that they did not have with their trestle table concept, which served them and the club very well. Thinking about the other layouts, I believe the continued effort to improve, or just alter certain scenic sections will improve the visitor's experience.

We will likely need to do a 'facelift' on the parade trailer. This can be done at the club house when the weather permits. I'll look for a few volunteers to undertake that project. Some have suggested we consider making the trailer look like a Thomas the Tank engine. That entails a lot of design work before we can consider it, but I am sure it would be a big hit.

Several of our team has been thinking of changing the O gauge traveling layout. One of the weak points on the existing modules is the track is very easily damaged during loading/unloading of the modules from the cart they travel on. Going back to tubular O gauge track might be the only solution. We will discuss this. Another problem has been the walk-through section we call "the Bridge". It does not sit firmly in place, and we might just install another full 4 foot module in it's place.

All these projects will take time and when considering the O gauge traveling layout, we cannot do anything to that until after the Seaford Show in February; we will then have about 3 months until our Spring Show at the Hope Center in Ocean View.

It looks like the year will be a busy one once again.

John Hodges



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