



A VIEW FROM THE CAB

I really enjoy writing a brief summary of our club's activities each month, but this month is an especially fun one to put together.

Let me start by saying it's not supposed to be about the money. I say this a lot, because the reason I joined this club 20 years ago (Happy Anniversary-by-the-way) is because of the stated mission of the club: "To preserve and promote the history and hobby of Model Railroading".

In the first eleven years of our existence as an entity, we did not need to raise a lot of money because we were homeless---we had no permanent facility to conduct business. Our efforts were to show our traveling layout(s) at train shows and special events, conduct workshops in Libraries, and share space for a while at the Historic Georgetown Railway Station.

So, when we decided in 2015 to rent commercial space at \$1,200/month in Dagsboro, some of us thought we were crazy! How were we going to generate that much income to pay \$14,400 a year, an amount two times our annual budget? Well, we were crazy, but somehow, with a lot of help from equally crazy but dedicated volunteers, we did make all rent payments for 6 years, even with programmed increases and renting an extra 1,000 sq. feet in the adjoining suite. We held special events, our regular two train shows, Movie nights at Clayton Theater, and Basket Bingos, thanks to Bill and Gladys Mixon and their Longaberger connection.

So after that long introduction, why am I so happy to write this report. This May was going to be busy month for us. Our First Train show in the new venue at the Hope Center in Ocean View was a complete success, raising more than \$3,700. Next, there was the Quarter Auction on May 23rd in Millsboro, which raised an estimated \$4,054, and finally, we just concluded our first Yard Sale of 2024 on Saturday the 25th with a combined gross income for all sales of club merchandise of \$1,780. These events raised a combined \$9,534, or nearly 4 months rent. **OUTSTANDING!**

Now, I am still looking for a new volunteer to take over as Sponsorship Coordinator. Our goal for 2024 was to raise \$6,800 from Sponsor and Patrons. From the start of May, we are at \$1,750 of that target. Some of the shortfall is that we have not been following up with former sponsors to get their renewal for 2024. I have been trying to build a spreadsheet showing the names and addresses of businesses who have not renewed since 2022. I hope to get that out soon, and if someone can take on the job of mailing my cover letter and a flier to each one, we should be able to close the gap on this important income sector.

We're looking forward to a great summer and continued success for our club and our passion of model railroading.

John Hodges

FUNDRAISING RESULTS

- Iron Hill Restaurant - \$382.87
- SpringFling Train Show - \$3,654.00
- Quarter Auction - \$4,104.00
- Yard Sale - \$1,780.00



Anniversary hats are now available, \$15



SPRING FLING TRAIN SHOW, May the 4th (be with you)



Memorial Week-end Yard Sale

