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**April 2021**

**President's Message**

The board of directors met in March and approved several items of interest to the members.

**A new computer** has been approved and acquired for train show management and other club administrative purposes. Our thanks to new member Tom Shurmur who arranged for the donation of the new machine.

**Pandemic.** Many of our members are fully vaccinated and Covid restrictions may be relaxed soon, as appropriate. Visitors continue to be prohibited at the present time. The limitation of four persons in the depot has been lifted. It is anticipated and hoped that these restrictions can be removed sometime this summer as permitted by the authorities.

**Acknowledgements.** Many improvements have been completed to the depot that you may not be aware of.

First, the "basement" has been dug out enough to allow for the storage of donated items awaiting sale our annual train show. This has greatly reduced the clutter in the layout area. Thanks to Fabian, Harold, Bryan, and Bruce.

Next, intake and exhaust piping to the furnace has been rerouted to improve reliability and to address roof leak issues. Heating ducts in the crawl space have been repaired and rerouted where needed. Also, 120 volt wiring has been improved. Thanks to Bryan.

The layout has benefited from wiring maintenance and improvements, track realignment, and new crossing flashers. Thanks to Bruce and Harold.

**Dues.** The board has approved the relaxation of dues for the first half of 2021 because the pandemic forced limited access to the depot. That is, no dues are due for the period of January 1 through June 30 of this year. However, many members have not submitted dues payment for 2021. A dues payment form is included in this *Rusty Rail* for your convenience. Payment is required by June 30<sup>th</sup>. If we don't hear from you by September 1<sup>st</sup> you will be dropped from the membership. If you have already submitted payment for 2021, please accept our thanks; please ignore the payment form.

**Electrical Upgrade and Rewire**

The electrical upgrade is nearing completion and the remaining work should be able to be done while keeping the layout operational. Some work remains in Detroit and Jackson as well as the lower levels. See Bruce Amrine if you are interested in helping out and learning about the club's electrical system.

## **Work Projects – Some are Stay-At-Home**

There's plenty to do if you are interested. Do you have skills to share or would you like to learn something new? Do you have an idea that you would like to propose?

Repair the **Jackson depot**. The roof has been repaired and straightened thanks to Nick Rose. There is additional repair work and painting that needs to be done and additional scenic details can still be added. It's the first thing visitors see as they enter the building and a great place for a well detailed scene.

Finish the A&W in Dexter. It's partially completed and needs to be finished and painted.

**Chelsea depot, Jiffy Mix**. These will be new scratch-built structures. See Kevin for details.

**Scenery, ballast, trees**. Join the scenery committee. There are numerous places where small ballast repairs are needed. You can never have too many trees and we have the makings for many more foreground trees. There are lots of opportunities for scene details. Use your imagination and propose a scene.

**Rolling Stock**. Check and adjust couplers, wheels and car weight. Scott has been working on this for some time and is a master. He'll teach you the ropes and how to weather the cars. Repair **club locomotives**. Install sound decoders and speakers in club locomotives. We have quite a few blue engines that potentially run well but just need some TLC. We need to start installing occupancy detection resistance in all end-of-train cars and cabooses so they will be detected on the lower loop.

*Harold Link and Davis Kasper have been working on our locomotives. Thanks guys.*

**Trackwork**. There are a few places where track and switches cause frequent stalls, shorts and/or derailments. Any of these need to be identified and corrected.

**Plastic Layout Screen**. This can be extended in several places. See Bruce for details.

**Paint the floor** in the train room. This is planned for some time this spring. See Bryan Joffe if you can help.

**Club Historic Archive**. We have many historic pictures, drawings, documents and other artifacts relating to railroading history and the Dexter Depot building that should be catalogued and preserved in accordance with our mission as a historical society. We need someone to take responsibility as the **Club Archivist** to insure the preservation and proper care of these items. This would be a good opportunity for someone with a special interest in railroading history.

**See Fabian or Dave Mohler if you're interested in any of these projects.**

## **75th Anniversary**

2021 will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. If you have any ideas for how we might celebrate, please bring them to a board member or meeting.

## **Welcome New Members**



**Judy Conger**

## **Weekly Work Sessions**

We are continuing regular work sessions on Monday, 2:00 – 5:00, and Friday, noon – 5:00. All are welcome. Covid restrictions continue as appropriate. The layout is generally operational during work sessions and trains can be run to “test and evaluate” the state of repairs.

## Annual Dues Recap

Because of the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions your Board of Directors has decided to waive membership dues for part of last year. As a result, 2021 dues will cover the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 and will be due on July 1.

Any member who has already paid dues shall have the payment credited to the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 period for the full amount paid.

Any member who has not paid dues in full, or otherwise responded requesting hardship consideration, by September 1, 2021, shall be dropped from membership.

If you need a written invoice as a reminder:

## **DUES PAYMENT FORM**

July 1, 2021 Thru June 30, 2022

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Name

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Address

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Phone

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Email

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Amount Enclosed (\$60 Regular, \$25 Associate)

Dues are due (pun intended) by June 30, 2021.