



June, 2022

Hello everyone

There is a lot going on at the Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club! We have many new members and visitors coming to our monthly open house. There seems to be a buzz of activity every time I'm there.

Someone is always running the trains, or working on repairs, or learning the operating system. Members are called into action to teach, show, and keep the whole system in good repair.

Bruce Amrine, our membership chair says, come on out! New members need to feel involved and the older members need to facilitate.

But the big news is this:

According to Dave Mohler, president, there seems to be a growing consensus that the club needs more space. And after many discussions over the past few years, there also seems to be some settling around the plan of building up. We have sketches and ideas for putting a second story over the existing big room, with space for a meeting room and space for a new layout.

Members of the board have met with an architect to discuss expansion possibilities.

We would like to have your input! Just come on out on any Wednesday or anytime Bruce says the clubhouse will be open.

Other news from the June board meeting: We're moving the club cash reserves from CD's into a managed investment account which should improve long term earnings growth.

In other news: from the layout manager. The Jackson turning wye, located behind the steel mill in the North Jackson yard, is again operational after being closed for several years. Our favorite politician, Mr. Mon E. Grubber, was able to earmark a big chunk of gub-mint Covid stimulus money which allowed for the complete rewiring of all the electrical systems in the wye. For a quick tutorial on how to operate through the wye, see Bruce or Harold Wednesday evening.

Bruce

Interviews

New(ish) Members:

Bryan Bunton Sr. and Bryan Bunton Jr.

The Buntons are a father/son pair who joined the club in April, 2020. Bryan Jr. was brought to the club by a friend, and he was immediately interested.



Brian Jr.

He says he is interested in a mix of everything, but especially running the cars and being a collector of rolling stock. He has over 300 cars that he has acquired at train shows.

He and his father live in Belleville, and Bryan Jr. keeps occupied by helping out his mom and working at the 5* store next to Benito's in Belleville.

Bryan Sr. came to the club after Bryan Jr. told him about it. His interest is mainly in repairing trains. He says he has been into trains forever. He has a Chessy Systems CSX car and a J-Class Steam System 484 diesel engine.



Brian Sr.

Long-time Member:

Dave Mohler

Dave is our current president, a role he has held several times over the history of the club. He has been interested in trains as long as he can remember. He got his first train set when he was 3 or 4. Dave says, "After the birth of my 'accidental brother,' the family moved to Ann Arbor. I was a Burns Park kid." Dave went to Ann Arbor High, now known as Pioneer High School. His graduating class was around 800 students. He then went to the University of Michigan where he lived in East Quad, and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering.

He joined the club in April, 1969.



Dave Mohler

Dave and Fabian Beltran joined around the same time, and are our senior members.

Dave recounted the history of the club's locations, from the Dixboro General Store to the Mayflower restaurant, which is now the 1st National Bank Building, to our current location.

Dave still has a home layout and works to keep it in great condition.

He wants everyone to know that he loves to talk to the new members, and he encourages involvement. Involvement by members following their interests, teaching others, giving input on club activities and projects, and just hanging out.

Personal Note

I can attest to the value of just hanging out. It may seem awkward if you don't know anyone, but just grab onto someone who is working on something and ask about it. Or sit down on one of the stools in the work shop and listen or join into the camaraderie.

That's it for this month.

Judy Conger

