



March, 2022

The 2022 Train Show was great!

There were about 85 sellers or dealers occupying about 250 tables. Exhibits included 5 operating layouts including O scale and LEGO trains. The paid attendance was roughly 1,100, and this does not count the many youngsters who attended.

Many thanks to Andre Torres, the show manager, and to all the members who contributed. There were so many parts of putting this show together and everyone did their jobs flawlessly.

From the Membership Chair, Bruce Amrine

Dues are due. Dues are past due. Please do pay your dues so we can quit asking.

If you have not paid because you no longer want to belong, please let Bruce know so he can take you off the membership list.

Interviews of the Month

This past Wednesday I was able to catch several members who were willing to share their stories about joining the train club.

New Members: Boris Joffe and Andrew DeWindt

Boris Joffe



Judy: How old are you, where do you go to school, and how long have you been a member of this club?

Boris: I'm 13, I go to Honey Creek School, and I've been a member of the train club for two or three years.

Judy: How did you become interested in trains and model railroading?

Boris: I used to watch Thomas the Train, and when I was in 3rd grade a friend of mine had lots of trains. This got me started. I have other hobbies too. I'm interested in meteorology, and I like to watch weather shows and track the weather.

Judy: How did you like the train show?

Boris: It was great; there were lots of good vendors and lots of people came.

Boris went on to tell me that his younger brother Vinnie also comes to meetings, and that their father accompanies them.

The whole family is an asset to this train club!

Andrew De Windt



Andrew was working on a box car next to where I was perched, and I hemmed him in and started asking questions.

Judy: Tell me a little about yourself and what brought you to this club.

Andrew: I grew up in Holland, MI, where all of my dad's family is living. We are Dutch. My mom's family is also Dutch, and they live in Iowa.

I'm a graduate student at Eastern Michigan. My field of study is Historical Preservation. My favorite time period is the Civil War.

I was a history major as an undergrad, and I love museums. I worked at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum as an historic interpreter, both in the lighthouse and the gift shop.

I've always been into trains. I spent time at the Coopersville Train in Coopersville, MI. Coopersville is south of Grand Rapids.

As a student at Eastern, I was looking for nearby clubs where I could run trains. I'm especially interested in rolling stock. I build rolling stock from styrene. I like the time frame of the 1920s or older. I have built 3 boxcars out of styrene from Athearn Kits.

Andrew and I concluded our conversation at this point. He is a great source of information for building models and I suspect he would gladly share his expertise.

**Long-time member
Bill Smigielski**



Judy: What got you started with your interest in trains?

Bill: It's a long round-about story that I'll be happy to tell. Back in the early 1900s my dad's dad lived in a small town in Poland. He

had three good friends. They all wanted to come to America but didn't have enough money. The young men made a pact that they would pool their money and send one to America. They drew straws. My grandfather was last.

After the first man went to America, he worked and sent money back for the second one. The two still in the village did the same. So the second man went, and the third, and finally my grandfather. No one broke the pact.

My grandfather had a round-about journey of his own, but he ended up working for the New York Central in Jackson, Michigan. He worked in the back shop for decades.

Judy: What is the back shop?

Bill:

There's a lot of maintenance on a railroad. They did all kinds of things. They could turn one kind of engine into another kind. They replaced all types of running gear. They could change the speed or power of an engine by changing the drive wheel.

I had this heritage, and then as a child I was given a great Lionel train set.

Since then I have never NOT been interested in trains. I currently have a home set I am experimenting with regarding the size of the engines and the track.

I've become somewhat of a collector of Bachman engines. I have nine or ten of these which I really enjoy.

My main interest is scenery. I built the Gandy Dancer on our train layout.

Judy: What do you enjoy most about the Train Club?

Bill: Trains give us a chance to connect with others. The social aspect is very important. This club is somewhat like the theme from the old sitcom Cheers. Where everybody knows your name.

It's not just about the trains. It's about the people and the connections.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COME ONE COME ALL

Just a few ideas:

Create a flyer to advertise our club, meeting times, open house dates.

Distribute flyer to local stores. (Lots of people for this. Maybe everybody.)

Work Day: Help clear out old junk from the basement so we can use the space for storage (new junk). Must be able-bodied. A sense of humor would help. Once we get a few volunteers we will set the date.

Ebay: Set up ebay account to sell some of our larger pieces..the bridge, the trestle etc.

Please let Bruce Amrine or me know.

If you have any news you'd like to share, send it to me at judithconger@gmail.com

