

Meeting summary for RMCA Monthly Business Meeting January 2025 (01/07/2025)

Quick recap

The team discussed various personal and professional topics. They also planned for upcoming events, including a train show and a visit to Steve Austin's impressive home layout, and discussed the construction of a mezzanine level above the new layout area. The conversation ended with a focus on the importance of everyone's attendance at O Scale South and the need for volunteers to perform various tasks.

Next steps

- All members to email Joe which days they will be helping at the Trains, Trains, Trains event.
- Joe to determine how many modules to bring each day for Trains, Trains, Trains based on member availability.
- Joe to organize a module tear down and pack up on the January 18, 2025, with 2-3 volunteers.
- James Watson to call Dan with his vote for the officer elections.
- David Gaines to send his vote to Joe for the officer elections.
- Darrell to continue working on the RMCA Facebook group page and website development.
- Joe to make Darrell an administrator for the O Scale South Facebook page.
- Morris to take and share photos of the work being done on Richard Morhard's layout.
- David Gaines to work on scenery for the module layout on Friday before the Trains, Trains, Trains show.
- Dan and team to set up a table for the club at the Gas South train show on January 18th.
- All members to consider bringing items to sell at the Gas South Train Show table.
- Dan to call Ken and follow up on his attendance for the Trains, Trains, Trains event.
- All members to email or text Dan their table requirements for O Scale South.
- Bill Heaton to conduct a resistance soldering workshop at O Scale South.
- Darrell to prepare a dead rail demonstration for O Scale South, including bringing materials and locomotives.
- All members to attend O Scale South on February 22nd, with setup on February 21st.
- Joe to organize time blocks for clinics at O Scale South.
- Joe to confirm with Brad and Bruce about opening Ray DuVarney's layout for tours.
- David Gaines to send a link to the video of Steve Austin's layout and post it on the club's Facebook page.
- Dan to ask Steve if setup can start at 9 AM on February 21st for O Scale South.

- Joe to arrange Phil Stead's layout open house for Saturday evening after O Scale South.
- All members to try to sell more tables for O Scale South.
- Dan to organize a field trip to Steve Austin's layout in Jasper for the club to view before potential donation.
- All members to bring trains and equipment for running at the Trains, Trains, Trains event.
- Chase and Joe to handle Darrell's L-105 locomotive for demonstration at the events.
- Darrell to bring charger for dead rail demonstration on January 18th.
- Dan to schedule a field trip to Steve Austin's layout in early February.
- Morris to share the YouTube link for the "Elkhorn Iron and Timber" video of Steve Austin's layout.
- Dan to ask the builder about including a chairlift in the mezzanine construction plans.
- Thomas to update the budget projections including the mezzanine construction costs within the next couple of weeks.
- The Board to review updated budget numbers and make a final decision on the mezzanine construction.
- Dan to coordinate with the builder on the mezzanine placement along the firewall.
- Joe to send out information about free entry, T-shirts, and lunch for those working at the Trains, Trains, Trains event on January 25th.
- Philip to host an open house on Saturday, February 22nd, from 4 PM to 8 PM.
- Joe to inform Brad and Bruce about rescheduling their operating meet from February 8th to February 22nd.
- Dan to send Joe a list of members planning to work at the train show.
- Club members to help with setup on January 24th and teardown on January 26th for the train show.
- Joe to review and send out the AI-generated summary of the meeting.
- Joe to send the AI-generated meeting summary to Darrell for review.
- Dan to send Joe the list of workdays for train-related activities.
- Joe to inform Josh about the members' planned workdays.
- All members to mark February 8th in their calendars for the next meeting or event.
- All available members to help out on February 18th for train-related activities.

Summary

Personal Stories and Zoom Meetings

Chase and Darrell discussed their experiences with model railroading, with Chase sharing his transition from HO to O scale and Darrell mentioning his early experience with Lionel trains. The conversation ended with Thomas and Matt sharing their experiences with Zoom meetings, and Matt showing his workbench and work area.

Voting Process and Upcoming Train Shows

In the meeting, the team discussed the voting process for the upcoming year's officers. They noted that they had received 8 votes, with all voting for the existing officers. However, they needed more votes to reach the required majority. The team also discussed upcoming train shows, with one scheduled for January 18th. They discussed the need for volunteers to help with the shows and the module tear down and pack up. The team also discussed the possibility of adding items for sale at the shows.

New Members' Progress and Layout

In the meeting, Dan expressed his appreciation for the efforts of new members Darrell, Morris, and Matt, who have been actively involved in various club activities. Darrell was elected as the club's secretary and also took on the role of managing the club's social media presence. He reported on his progress in setting up a Facebook group and working on the club's website. Morris shared his experiences working on Richard Moorhead's layout, highlighting the challenges faced due to Richard's health issues and the fluctuating temperatures in the layout room. The team agreed to continue working on the layout and to document their progress for the club's website. Joe also reported on the improvements made to the layout during a recent working session. The team ended the conversation with plans for further work on the layout and scenery.

O Scale South Attendance and Tasks

In the meeting, Dan emphasized the importance of everyone's attendance at O Scale South, with a focus on setting up on Friday, the 21st, and working through the weekend. He also highlighted the need for volunteers to perform various tasks, including security and registration duties. Dan requested that everyone confirm their attendance and any specific roles they can fulfill. Joe mentioned that he had received responses for T-shirts, but those who hadn't responded before New Year's might not receive one. The team also discussed the need for a cordless vacuum for cleaning the track and the importance of sufficient drying time for the track cleaning fluid. Dan also mentioned the need to follow up with Ken, who was not present in the meeting.

Workshops, Demonstrations, and New Member

In the meeting, Darrell inquired about the possibility of conducting workshops, to which Dan confirmed that Bill Heaton would be teaching resistance soldering. Darrell expressed interest in participating but needed to know the workshop's mechanics. Dan suggested that Darrell could bring his own track for a demo, and also suggested that he could use the module for demonstrations. Darrell agreed to think about it. Dan also confirmed that Morris would be setting up for the O Scale South Show and Matt Coleman would be present for both days. Finally, Phil Stead was welcomed as a new member of the club.

Event Schedule and Layout Setup

Dan proposed a plan for the upcoming events, including a dinner on Saturday night instead of Friday night to accommodate the layout setup and tear down. The layout setup was scheduled for 9 am on the 21st, with the open house on Friday evening and Sunday

afternoon. The dinner was moved to Saturday night, and the open house was moved to Sunday afternoon. The team agreed to these changes, with some reservations about the impact on out-of-town attendees. The team also discussed the logistics of the train show, with Chase and Joe offering to bring their trains and layouts. The team agreed to send out an email to confirm the details and to ask Steve for permission to start setup at 9 am on the 21st.

Operating Session and Building Update

The officers discuss planning an operating session at Steve Austin's impressive home layout in Jasper, Georgia, which he has offered to donate to the club. They decided to visit on February 8th and also plan to attend the open house event during the upcoming Hostel South show. Thomas provides an update that they are still waiting on permits for the club's building project. Dan mentions he recently met with someone, likely about the building, and was asked a question he wants to address at the next meeting.

Mezzanine Construction and Layout Planning

The group discusses building a 16x62 ft mezzanine level above the layout area for \$40,000. Matt argues it's important to do now as it will be much more expensive later. Thomas agrees and suggests placing it along the interior firewall to minimize interference with bathrooms and utilities. There is discussion about including a chairlift for accessibility. The majority agrees the mezzanine should be built now before starting on the layout benchwork and track to avoid future obstructions and higher costs. There is a goal to have at least the main lines operational within 18 months to retain member interest.