

## **Meeting summary for RMCA Business and Train discussion meeting (03/04/2025)**

### **Quick recap**

The group discussed the progress of the club's building project, the recent O Scale South event, and the potential for educational outreach. They also welcomed a new member candidate, Marty McGarian, and discussed Ovidiu's appointment as Treasurer. The conversation ended with plans for setting up and manning an upcoming train show and a discussion of the layout's design progress.

### **Next steps**

- Chase will arrive early (around 8-9 AM) on Saturday to help set up the modular layout at the Hiram location.
- Darrell will arrive at 10 AM on Saturday to help set up the modular layout at the Hiram location.
- Dan will send Darrell the Google Meet invite for the operating session with the address details.
- Darrell is to post accurate information about the upcoming operating session to maintain continuity in publicizing sessions.
- Brad will schedule a meeting next week with Darrell, Chase, Morris, and Bruce to discuss layout planning.
- Ovidiu is to contact Joe Congemi about the train show schedule for Sunday.
- Dan will share the electrical installation diagram and generalized mezzanine area with Brad.
- The layout planning team will consider using the mezzanine area for a potential helix in the layout design.
- Dan will provide updates on the mezzanine plan from the builder as soon as possible.
- Members will help check on the building site during the week of March 16th while Dan is in Chicago.

### **Summary**

#### **Monthly Business and Training Meeting**

The group is gathering for a monthly business and train discussion meeting. Dan, the president, conducted a roll call to ensure enough members were present for voting. The meeting was recorded, and Dan is preparing to provide an overview of the agenda before asking for assistance from others.

#### **Guest Speaker Shares Model Railroading Experience**

Dan reported that a guest speaker from the New York Society of Model Engineers, Bob Labzi, would be visiting to present about their layout and provide suggestions. In April, Dan planned to discuss with the Oklahoma City model railroaders. Dan welcomed the new member candidate, Marty McGarian, who has experience in O scale railroading and drive

mechanisms. Marty introduced himself as a long-time O scale enthusiast with a background in dentistry and a history of running O scale in his dental office. He is building a Southern 2,12+2,6,2 locomotive and is the chairman of Prototype Rails. Marty also shared his excitement about attending the Chicago meet and his experience with O scale trains. Dan also introduced Ovidiu, who is recommended for the Treasurer position, as he has experience in supply chain and has been involved with the club for a while.

### **Nonprofit Club Discussion and Outreach Plans**

Dan, Morris, Darrell, Ovidiu, and Bradley discussed the club's potential non-profit status and the need for educational outreach. Ovidiu agreed to discuss the non-profit status further with Dan. Dan emphasized the importance of public contact and education in building the club's case. Bradley mentioned the inclusion of educational plans in their operational plan. The group also discussed the appointment of Ovidiu as Treasurer, which was voted in unanimously. The club is also considering a CPA for tax purposes. The conversation ended with a discussion on the club's building status, including the progress of steel placement and concrete pouring.

### **Building Project Progress Discussed**

Dan discussed the progress of the building project, mentioning that the concrete foundation has been tested and is expected to be completed in a week or two. He also noted that the general contractor would handle the building erection, using his team for the foundation and specialized crews for other parts. Dan expressed concern about the trees near the building and asked for opinions on whether they should be trimmed or removed. Morris suggested an aerial photographic survey of the site, which Bradley offered to help with. Dan also shared updates on the project's cost, stating they are now \$10,239 above the original contract price. The following steps in the project include building erection and paving.

### **O Scale South Event Success**

The club discussed the recent O Scale South event, which was a success. Members praised the smooth organization, strong club participation, and the church venue provided by Steve Kerr. Dan thanks various members for their contributions, including the front desk crew, Morris for security, and Darrell for his display. The group acknowledged Chase's leadership in organizing the modular layout assembly and disassembly. They discussed the need to form a committee for next year's event and improve publicity. Richard Mohart, who missed the event due to an accident, announced his intention to donate valuable locomotives to the club to raise funds for the layout construction. The group also welcomes Bob Lavesi, a long-time O scale modeler since 1963.

### **Bob's Railroad Model Building Expertise**

Bob shared his expertise on designing and building model railroads. He recommends creating a point-to-point railroad with loops at each end for continuous operation and passing sidings for switching and industry. Bob described his experience as a commercial layout builder for 30 years and his involvement with the New York Society of Model

Engineers, which has existed since 1926. He detailed the club's layout, which models the old Erie Railroad from Jersey City to Port Jervis, New York, including its features and construction methods. The club's layout is operational, capable of time-based operation on a fast clock, and is currently transitioning to a DCC system using the Tsunami system to avoid extensive rewiring.

### **Bob's Club Model Railroad Layout**

Bob described his club's model railroad layout, which features 350 feet of track with a minimum radius of 72 inches. The layout includes three passing sidings and various industries and can accommodate most engines and long trains. Bob recommends using plexiglass barriers to protect the layout from visitors, especially children. He suggests setting the layout height at 40 inches for comfortable viewing and working. The club's annual budget is around \$32,000, covering property taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance for their 45 by 110-foot building, which houses both O scale and HO layouts and a machine shop.

### **NY Society of Model Engineers Meeting**

At the meeting, Bob from the New York Society of Model Engineers shared information about their club's activities and layout. The club has 67 members, operates on three weekends from 1 pm to 6 pm, and generates about 40% of its annual budget from public viewing. They also organize a show at Christmas time, which varies in timing. A significant portion of its budget comes from donations and member fees. They have a 49.5x75 feet layout with two restrooms, a shop, and office space. The suggested entrance fee for public viewing is \$8 per family. The club also has a partner show at St. Joseph's Church twice yearly, generating about \$10,000 each time. Bob offered to give a seminar on building train switches. The group expressed interest in visiting the club's layout.

### **Train Show Layout Setup Plans**

The group discussed plans for manning an upcoming train show on Saturday and Sunday. Dan requested help from members to set up the layout at a new location in Hiram on Saturday morning, starting around 9-10 AM. Several members committed to helping, including Chase and Darrell. They also discuss scheduling for manning their table at the show, with Ovidiu offering to cover Sunday afternoon. The group plans to use the space in Hiram for storage and work on the layout over the next few months while waiting for their permanent building to be ready. Brad provided an update on the layout design progress, noting they are waiting on the final building plans before proceeding further. Dan says he will share available building diagrams soon, but full mezzanine details may take a few more weeks.