

## Upcoming Events

**Oct. 27, 2009**

Club Meeting  
7:00p.m.

At the Clubhouse  
5259 Washington Road in  
Albany, Ohio

**Nov. 10, 2009**

Work Session  
7:00p.m.

At the Clubhouse  
5259 Washington Road in  
Albany, Ohio

**December 12-13, 2009**

Rail Fair 2009

At The Market on State  
1002 E State St  
Athens, OH

## Upcoming Birthdays

November 5 - Jason DePeel

November 11 - Keith Morrow

## Notices

As stated in the Code of Regulations, Article XIV - Amendment to Regulations, this is your written notice that there will be a vote at the October Club Meeting to make changes to Article II of the bylaws about membership to the Club.

## Need Your Help

We needed your help with railroad stories, tips, how to, jokes, or anything else you can come up with for your newsletter.

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**Early 2009 Raffle Table picture, which will be raffled off at Railfair 2009. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.**

## *Our First Open House by Walter Parks*

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September arrived sunny with a chill in the air. It would probable not be a good day for soda sales.

At the clubhouse on Washington St. in Albany, 8 members were already present preparing for the show. The Club's raffle layout had been moved outside in front where it was highly visible to the public. Inside the club layout was running as well as Kirk's N-scale layout. Don's switching layout was on hand but not running. Tony showed up and got the two inoperative n-scale layouts running. We were in pretty fair shape for our first show.

Outside Kirk and Jason were operating the raffle layout and I had begun making popcorn. By 10:30a.m. – 11:00a.m.

## *August Meeting and News By Roger Crigger*

Because there were not enough members that showed up at the meeting in August, there was not a meeting. However I thought I would give you a head ups of what we need to cover at the next meeting.

The Website is due for renewal in November and we need to vote to keep it. We did sell an ad to the

People were beginning to take an interest in our presences. Many had questions about the club and our activities. We talked with a good number of people that day that showed some interest in our activities. Hopefully this will lead to increased membership.

At about Noon the Albany parade came by, the sales of soda and popcorn picked up a bit, but interest shifted from us to the parade. By 1:00p.m. The parade was over and most of the crowd had diminished. We closed up at about 3:00p.m. All in all it had been a pretty good day.

We would like to thank Dave Pinich for his contribution of railroad memorabilia's to the club. Thanks Dave

Smoke Stack that will last until this time next year. If we decided not to do the website anymore then we will need to give them the money back for the ad, which is \$15.00.

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### **Looking Back -- The Coldest Day of the Year, Part 2** By Kirk DePeel

Here is Part Two of Kirk DePeel's The Coldest Day of the Year Story that started in the September 2009 newsletter.

We drove off to find another spot on the old NYC line (now NS) that cuts across the northwestern side of Ohio. This line runs from Toledo and crosses into Indiana before heading toward Chicago. In this area the double track cuts through farmland, which is barren and covered with snow. About every two-railroad miles there is a

highway crossing protected by gates, despite the lack of auto traffic on these roads. NS runs about 80 trains a day on these tracks usually at 70mph or faster. One of the compromises for faster speeds was they had to protect each crossing. Yet, despite their efforts, we still see plenty of crosses, and in one case a big billboard sign, indicating that someone had met their death here. It's hard to believe people could die at these crossings when visibility in both directions can be measured in miles.

As the day went on, it got warmer, sort of. The temperature rose up to balmy 10 degrees but the wind didn't let up. That meant every trip out of the van, and every second you stood there waiting for the train, was pure misery. By the time early afternoon came around we were happy to head back to Crossroads Park in Deshler.

Come back next month for part 3 of Looking Back – The Coldest Day of the Year.

### **August Meeting and News Continued** By Roger Crigger

Also we needed to get organized for Rail Fair. This should have been started a few months ago, but it was not. Because we our starting later, things like the Photo Contest might have to be dropped this year. I have already started doing posters and Promotional handouts. However I cannot do everything and we need help from all members to try to make this one of our best Rail Fairs. With us having a Clubhouse now, Rail Fair is best way to promote ourselves and try to get new members that we need. So I am asking everybody to help. Come up with ideas for things we can do at the show. Help with promotion, setup and teardown. Come and help at Railfair itself this year. You don't need a layout to be at Railfair and you don't need to be there the whole time if you can't do it. Maybe you can do a couple of hours each day. In the end I am just saying take an interest in the club

besides coming to meeting.

The last thing we need to start to do is preparing for next year. In my opinion this club does not have a communication problem, but an organizing problem. Because of help and other reason that I will not go into details with, this club likes to put things off until the last minute. We need to stop during this if this club is going to grow.

Things that need to be done included:

- Preparing for the election in January.
- Pick dates for open houses.
- Coming up with other events that we can do.
- Create a budget for the club.
- Start working on other aspects of railroading besides modeling.
- Continue to work on the

project list handed out this year.

These are just a few of the things that needed to be done.

Before anybody starts complaining, remember this famous quote "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it". This club has been doing the same thing year in and year out and look where we got. It was not until we stood as a group and finally said this club needs to do something and we did it. We have a home. Now lets get together and get organized and finally do what this club needs to do to grow.

**"United we stand,  
Divided we fall"**