

READING SOCIETY
MODEL ENGINEERS

THE **RSME**

TIMETABLE

The News Bulletin of the READING SOCIETY of MODEL ENGINEERS

WWW.RSME.ORG

FALL OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 6TH AND 7TH!

Hello everyone! By all accounts the Summer Open House was another success for the RSME. We were able to show many new people what we do, and we saw many return visits from others. This shows we are doing well as return business is a sign of success also. Over the next few newsletters you are going to see a concentration of articles on the RSME 60th Anniversary which is in 2008. The following article is from the club president and it outlines the near future for the RSME and also some long term initiatives. You will also note an article from our Open House Coordinator that depicts exactly what goes into a successful Open House. Finally there is notification of the RSME Annual Picnic from our President. As always, everyone's help for the upcoming Fall Open House is needed and appreciated. Please see Nate Kline or email him with your availability for the open house.

RSME NEWS

A few quick reminders to the members of the RSME:

After the Business Meeting on September 8th, the RSME will be having a picnic for all the members, their families, and guests. (See notice elsewhere in the newsletter.) We haven't had a picnic for a few years, so it is time to have one again. Plan on coming to the meeting and stay for the picnic. This is an opportunity for all to get to know each other and our families better on a social basis. Please contact Bill Ingham (phone: 610-944-7113 and/or email: william_r_ingham@yahoo.com) if you are coming, and how many, so we can have enough food available. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The Fall Open House is scheduled for October 6th & 7th. The first two Open Houses this year were quite successful. Please sign up and/or contact us regarding your availability and come out to help before (clean up the property, prepare and set up for the Open House), during (operations, parking, informing guests and visitors about the RSME, directing guests and visitors around the property, food preparation and serving, baked goods, recruiting new members, etc.), and after (clean-up and put stuff

away properly). Open Houses are the RSME's interface with the public, an opportunity to share our hobby, and the primary source of RSME funding. Yes, there is some work involved; but it can be fun work and it is beneficial to the RSME. Let's all help make the Fall Open House a success. Don't forget to bring baked goods to sell! Many members, guests, and visitors have favorable comments about them and are a major contributor to the Open House revenues.

The annual meeting of the RSME will occur at the October business meeting. This year, the election of officers will include President and Treasurer. We look forward to your presence and participation.

During Memorial Day weekend of 1948, several former members (most now deceased) of an informal group called the Reading Society of Model Engineers started laying 15" gauge track on land owned by James Ziegler (one of the former, now deceased, members) to operate a 15" gauge Cagney steam locomotive he acquired. In October of 1949, several members of the informal Reading Society of Model Engineers signed incorporation papers to buy said land from James Ziegler (more details about this and pictures of the Cagney steam locomotive can be found in the historical section of the RSME website: www.RSME.org). The next two years, 2008 & 2009, mark the 60th anniversary of the above occasions. Those of you out there that can provide additional historical information about the RSME are encouraged to do so. We hope to publish some, if not all, of these contributions in upcoming newsletters and add them to the historical archives of the website so the history can live on into the future.

Gene & Phyllis Pyle have been spearheading and coordinating much of the clean up on RSME property. (See related article in the newsletter.) Please help out and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts. Thank you.

Thank you to all for making 2007 a successful year at the RSME.

William Ingham, RSME President

Open House

By: Nathan Kline

Scheduling and running an RSME Open House, pretty easy, right? I'd like to share my open house thoughts with you and let you decide. Despite what you might think, open house must be taken quite seriously to put on our best show to the public. It is not a time for testing things or making unnecessary major adjustments to equipment or the like. Open House is a *JOB* every member should participate in to support our club. It is an extremely important event dealing with the donating general public that funds our club, and without them there would be no RSME.

However, this does not mean that Open House can't be fun for everyone but it must be taken seriously. It is also important to remember that we must be at our absolute safest during Open Houses and Run Days. This also includes other events such as scheduled picnics/birthday parties. We must ensure the public's safety at all times to prevent any incident involving the general public as this could result in skyrocketing insurance costs or even legal action.

As for scheduling an event such as open house, it is very important that every available member be there to help. No matter what the job may be, every job at an open house is extremely important since our open houses pay the bills to keep our club alive. We should all be aware of when our open houses, run days, and other events are and be willing to help whenever possible. Members must let the person in

charge of the events know if you are available to help or not.

Come open house time it is very important that... 1) No matter what you may think you will be doing, never assume and *ALWAYS* get a copy of the schedule as soon as you arrive. The schedules have always been placed on the meeting room desk prior to our opening at noon. If you don't see them, ask someone where they are or to see their schedule to see where you will be needed. 2) If you say you will be available to help and when, you will be put on the schedule for those times. *PLEASE* give as much notice as possible if you are unable to attend at that time. 3) *PLEASE* show up with plenty of time to spare, by 10 am at the absolute latest, to help setup and prepare for the open house and for a possible "morning meeting" to discuss what must be done. 4) When present at the open house *PLEASE STICK TO THE SCHEDULE!* What is the point of making a schedule if it is not followed? If any changes need to be made, the person in charge will make them. 5) *PLEASE* do not make changes in the schedule on your own because it will just cause problems elsewhere, see item #4. Keep in mind that the people qualified for major areas of the open house (i.e. Laurel Run RR, station, Lite-Rail, upstairs) will be assigned to those areas and may not be available for the other jobs, especially since we are limited on the amount of qualified people and also since we have been extremely limited with the amount of available open house help for the past couple open houses. This makes scheduling extremely challenging. Add to that trying to run the open house and watch over everything and make sure the items listed above were followed, which they usually aren't, and that things run as smooth as possible is the job of the person in charge.

Making sure the public has a safe and enjoyable experience is our first priority, not having to listen to members complain about how or where they were scheduled, or chasing down people to do their job or to fill holes where someone didn't do their job. It's quite challenging trying to juggle all those issues, provides for major open house headaches, and is also not fair to some of the other members that are participating in a cooperative manner. Being in charge of open house is not as easy a job as you might think.

Now that Summer Open House is behind us I would like to thank all the members that have helped in a cooperative manner at the Summer Open House and the past open houses and public events. Your help is greatly appreciated and I hope to have your continued help at future open houses and public events. Thank you.

-Nathan M. Kline
Open House Operations

Cleaning Up the RSME Grounds

Submitted by Gene Pyle, Treasurer

If you have visited RSME recently, you have certainly noticed that the club grounds are looking much better. In the past year we have started major cleanup to improve the appearance, to resolve safety issues, and to comply with local ordinances.

The following are some of the items we have addressed and accomplished with the help and cooperation of fellow club members:

- (1) We got rid of the unsightly burn bin and the rotten materials and junk in the

yard upper parking lot along with the rotten ties lying around the loading platform and area.

- (2) The old, rusted dump truck was sold for scrap metal. It was not licensed and had not been used for a number of years.
- (3) The six lawn tractors in the lawn tractor graveyard were removed for junk. None of the mowers worked and most of them didn't have motors or decks. Dennis Tiley purchased for the club a nice used Cub Cadet riding mower with which to keep the grounds looking in good shape for many years.
- (4) The rolls of fencing in the upper parking lot were moved down near the pond where they can be installed around the pond.
- (5) Lite Rail moved their sizable brick pile up in the woods out of sight. They also sold the pile of soda cans and other aluminum items which had been an eyesore for quite some time.
- (6) Briars, weeds and brush were removed from around the electrical pole and we found some yucca plants trying to survive. More plants were added to balance and improve the appearance. The piles of wood chips were utilized for mulch in this area and also in the flower bed.
- (7) A former member's personal property which included a wood chipper, grasshopper, a backhoe tractor and a break press, have all been removed from the property.
- (8) The clubhouse's aluminum roof, which was leaking badly, has been repaired.
- (9) The old trolley, which had sat out in the weather for many years, was moved to my barn last month. Since I have a woodworking hobby shop and the tools needed, I volunteered to restore it to its original condition. It will be up to the club if it is to be powered up later, pulled around like a caboose, or just be put on display.

The following is a list of what still needs to be done:

- (1) Remove the orange hazard fencing, fill in and grade the hole between the lower drive and the roundhouse. Building an addition to the roundhouse is not possible given that Met Ed has a 10 foot right-of-way around the electrical line. Move the stacks of concrete blocks to a less obvious location until it is decided what to do with them.
- (2) Paint the clubhouse to match the station. A few pieces of shrubbery on the front side would add beauty to the building.
- (3) Restore the original old engine house. Replace the walls and roof on the lean-to and paint it to match the ticket station.
- (4) If it is possible, restore the old kitchen at the picnic pavilion. If it has deteriorated to the point of no return, then it needs to be demolished.
- (5) Renovate the pavilion so it is an appealing attraction for parties and other income producing activities at the RSME. Install fencing between the pond and the main line at the pavilion. Do general clean-up around the picnic pavilion.
- (6) Install safety railing on the bridge at the pond.

In conclusion, this may seem like quite an undertaking. We need the help of all club members if we are to achieve our goals. In addition to manpower needed on designated work days, we are also in need of funds and we are asking for your donations.

As soon as we begin receiving donations, we will set up a fund called the "Restoration & Cleanup Fund". Remember that all donations are tax deductible. You can make your check payable to the RSME and designate that it is for this fund. Mail it to the club address: RSME, P.O. Box 13011 Reading, PA 19612

With the 60th anniversary of RSME just around the corner in 2008, it would be fitting that we turn the RSME into a club we can be proud of. With your help we can accomplish this!

Did you notice the freshly painted railings?

We would like to thank Doug Waltman's wife for painting the railings used around the clubhouse during Open House to direct our visitors around the property.

From the editor

I hope all of you have noticed the absence of pictures in this edition of The Timetable. This was not purposeful, but necessary due to the large amount of contributions for this issue. I point this out as I was very happy to see so many contributions that I didn't have room for any photos! Of course, in the future I would like all issues to have photos as I think we all would agree that the newsletter is more entertaining with them than without.

However, for this one issue I made the exception. Most of the articles are from members of the BOD and/or myself. I would still like to see some articles submitted by members of the sub-groups within the RSME. The newsletter will be as useful and informative as we all make it.

On the last page you will notice the inclusion of a listing of the BOD, and their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. I was asked to include this for contact purposes, so here it is!

The Timetable is going from a six editions per year schedule to a four editions per year schedule. There are several reasons for this change. (1) Less editions will provide high quality material for each edition. (2) The cost of preparing and mailing the Timetable via the US Post Office, while not of monumental cost, does use our precious funds. (3) Lastly, going to four editions will allow us to draw attention to the organization at key times in the year. The four edition will be published as follows: one prior to each of the three Open Houses, and one in December to keep in touch around the Holidays and to remind everyone of the upcoming yearly membership drive. You can stay involved with the RSME through our website where we will post information and events between issue of the timetable.

Finally, Since this is the last issue before December's Timetable, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Timetable this year thus far, keep the articles coming! Also, thank you to everyone who has donated their ***TIME*** to the RSME this year at open houses and just general work needed around the club. Remember to get involved in the Fall Open House and our renewal/restoration projects. Make plans now and make the RSME a success!

RSME CALENDAR

The following is the RSME Schedule of Events. If you have any additions or corrections, please let me know.

Membership Dues	Due each January
Monthly Meeting	Second Saturday of each month
Annual Meeting / Elections	October Monthly Meeting
Spring Open House	May 19th and 20th 2007, 12 PM-5 PM
Summer Open House	July 21st and 22nd 2007, 12 PM-5 PM
Fall Open House	Oct 6th and 7th 2007, 12 PM-5 PM
Laurel Run Operating days	First Sunday of Month (June - September)
2ND Floor Meeting	Monday Evenings (7:30)
HO Venture Crew Meeting	First and Third Mondays (7:30)

RSME BOD CONTACTS

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Don't forget to visit WWW.RSME.ORG for more information and additional content!
(Any submissions, comments, or corrections can be emailed to the editor at tweetiebird94@yahoo.com or see me directly at a club function. You may also mail the submission to the club address C/O Newsletter submission: RSME P.O. Box 13011 Reading, PA 19612)