



THE FIREBOX

APRIL 2026

April Club Meeting

Place: Carillon Brewing Company

Third Wednesday, April 15

Last chance to discuss opening run and picnic on Sat April 18.

A reminder: We have arranged with the Carillon Brewing Co. to hold our monthly meetings in a side room at the brewery. We have the room from 6 to 9 PM with meeting start still at 7PM. Come early and have dinner or snacks beforehand. You can bring your food into the meeting if your not done by meeting start.

April 18 run day and picnic

Saturday April 18 is our first public run of the summer season and also NMRA Div 3 "training" day at the park. Expect a good crowd of railroad enthusiasts. At the March meeting we decided to hold a club picnic on the "training" day run at our picnic shelter. The Schwenkes will be bringing sloppy joes & buns, Iced tea and lemonade. See the following website to sign up to bring other goodies to share:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4EA8A822A5F94-63177560-opening>

7695 REPAIRS

Larry Wassell has continued to work on the front truck to engine 7695 and repairs are now complete. The truck was transferred from Yoder's shop to the track on Saturday April 11 workday. Truck was installed and test runs around the track were completed successfully and 7695 is ready for service on the 18th.



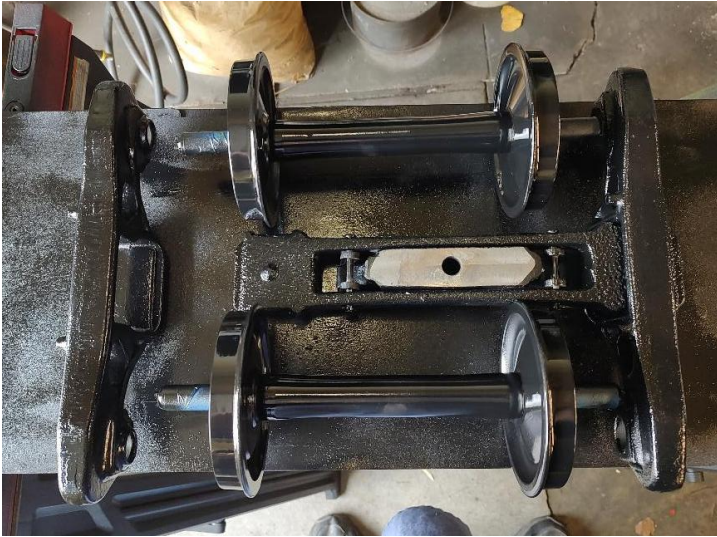
What's been happening

Home School Day

Thursday April 2 was Home School Day at the park. This was not a public run day, but we did commit to support the park and run the rail road. We remembered this commitment with only a week to get ready. A crash program was conducted to clean up the track and find out what route we could use. Winter freeze and thaw cycles left more track alignment problems than we could fix in a week, but we found the original 800 ft loop from our loading area around the clock tower to be serviceable. With 7695 out of service, planned to use 9615 for the run. Tried to start up 9615 for a test run on the work day, but it wouldn't start. Seems to be some kind of electrical problem that we couldn't find. With both big engines out of service, the crew ran switcher 652 with 3 cars and Jim Helmbold's electric with 2 cars. It was a challenge to run the 2 trains on such a short track, but the crew did a fantastic job. We had over 500 happy riders. Thanks to Ken, Bob H, Eric, Landon, Craig and Mike.

RIDING CAR REFURBISHMENT

Work continues on the two of blue riding cars that have been moved to Yoder's shop. The car bodies have been degreased, cleaned and painting has been started. Larry W has updated the electric wiring in the cars. One pair of trucks has been disassembled, degreased, cleaned and painted and is ready for reassembly.



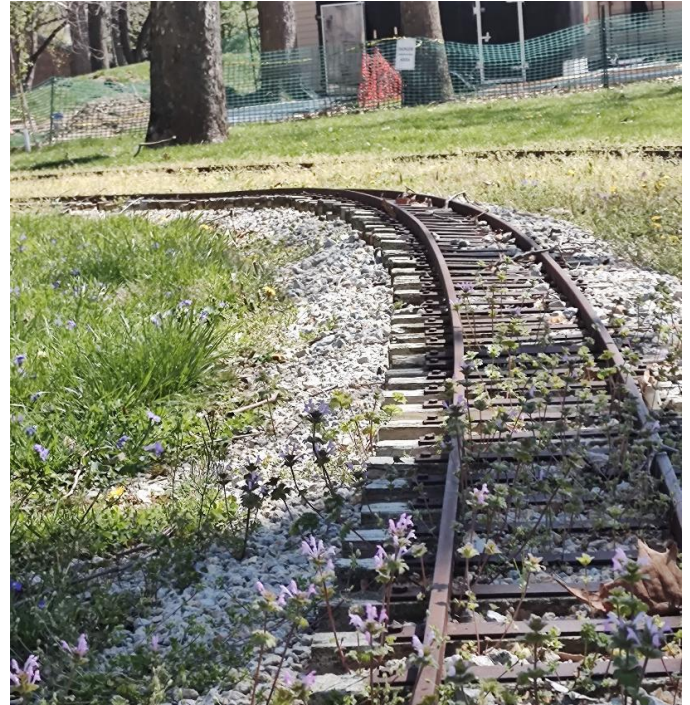
The other pair of trucks is waiting for disassembly, cleaning, painting and rebuild. We can use help with Truck refurbishment and car painting. Three or four people at most, before we start getting in each other's way. If you are interested in helping, text (937-572-3411) or email: rbschwenke50@aol.com. BobSchwenke will contact you to coordinate times.

Track Condition for opening day

As noted earlier, Winter freezing and thawing cycles have done a number on track alignment and level. Eric Summers and grandson Landon working on ballasting & leveling:



Most of the track is serviceable. The main exception is on the inside track in the grove near where we used to load. The track is heaved up and twisted. It is worse than the condition the picture shows. Riding over it with the work train almost dumped the engineer on the ground.



Excess ballast needs to be removed and the track leveled. Work has started on ballast removal but don't know yet what will be needed to level the track. For now, the inner track loop in the grove is closed. For the April 18th run day we will probably use the rail fest route.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

March 31 is annual membership renewal date. If you haven't paid your dues yet, you can do it at the April meeting on the 15th or mail to Bob Schwenke:

4227 Alleghany Trail, Jamestown, OH 45335.

MEMBERSHIP Data base

Norm Schetzer is working on a project to build a comprehensive club member information base. When you pay your dues please include as much of the following information as your comfortable providing:

Address

email address

cell phone number

home phone number

preferred communication type (email, text msg, phone, other)

Special Skills: welder, machinist, electronics, carpenter, plumber, etc.

Items for sale

Long time club member and locomotive builder John Baker is selling his 2-4-0+0-4-2 Garret type steam locomotive. It has run at our track in years past, but John has reached the point in life that he can no longer run it. Some details about the engine:

Length: 7ft + (under 8ft)

Gauge: 71/2"

Fuel: propane fired

Assembled weight: 650 Lbs.

Southern valve gear. One lever controlling fwd & rev. to both sets of cylinders.

Single axle propane trailer car

Accessories include:

- winch & frame to lift units,
- storage dolly 10ft long, 30" high
- Prints and sketches of components & assembly

Also for sale a 2009 Town & Country Van w/ carry board to transport locomotive. (if wanted) 179000miles, new tires, runs OK.

Price is negotiable.



For more information contact John at 513-543-1946