



THE FIREBOX

March 2026

March Club Meeting

Place: Carillon Brewing Company

Day changed to Wednesday, March 25

Apologies to all for the change in date. Mark is working in Texas, Mike Desch had a schedule conflict and Bob Schwenke was recovering from COVID and couldn't chair a meeting on the 18th, as originally planned.

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.

WORK AT THE TRACK

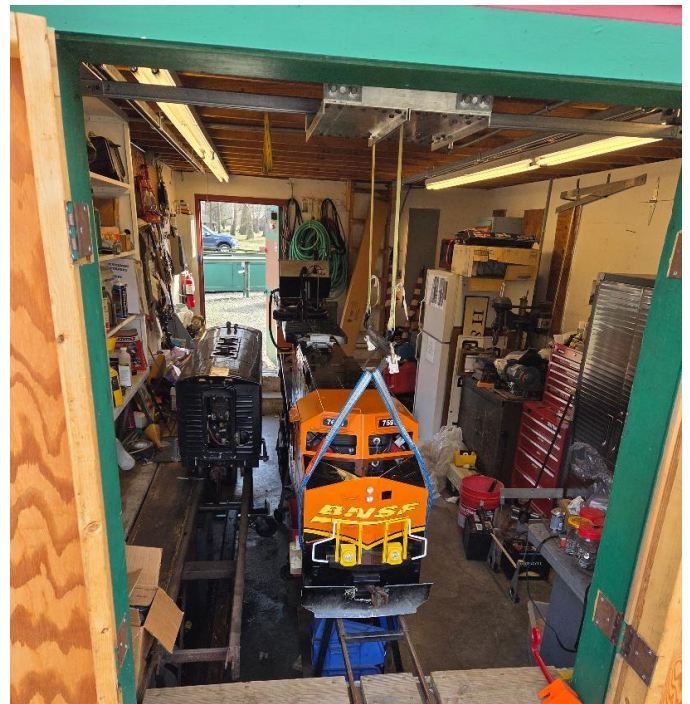
Jan and Feb cold and snow cover made work at the track impossible. Recent moderation in weather has allowed us to resume some tasks. All the extension cords for the Christmas lighting have been picked up and placed in storage.



About half the lights wrapped around the trees in the grove have been removed and stored. The remaining tree lights will be removed by the Schwenke's. At the next workday that weather permits, we will need to start taking down and packaging for storage the lights on the fence to the clock tower, lights on the engine house, MOW bldg. and picnic shelter and in the boarding area.

With all the high winds there is debris everywhere on and around the track. Thanks to members that have made a 1st pass at cleaning up. With all the additional wind storms we have been having, debris clean up will probably have to be done more than once.

After the big snow melted, Larry W and Bob S. came down and removed the damaged front truck of 7695 to Yoder's shop for repairs.

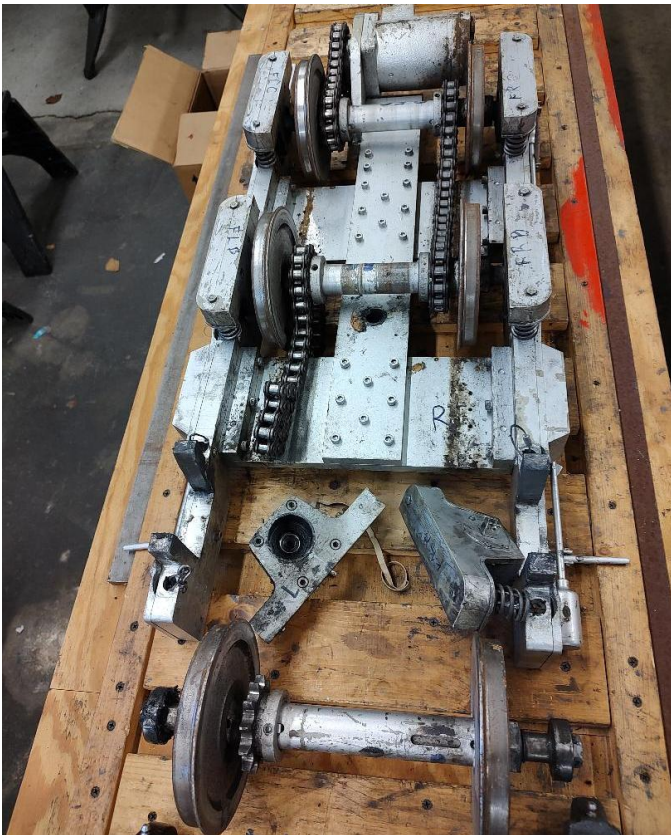




They also took 2 of the blue riding cars to Yoder's to be refurbished.

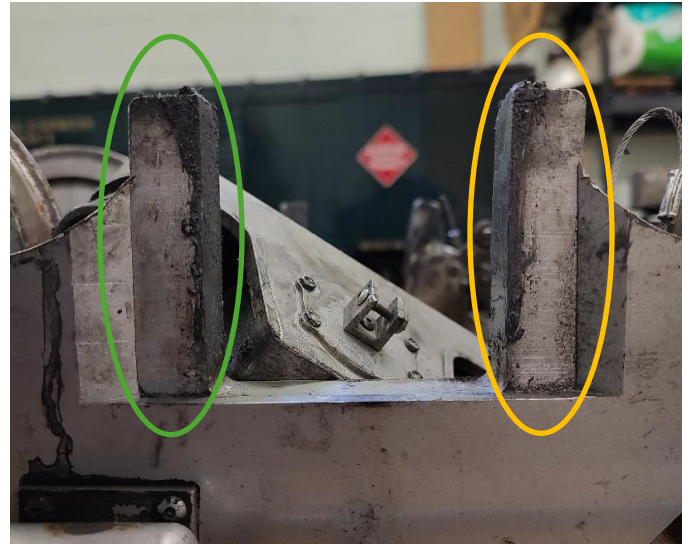
7695 REPAIRS

Larry has completed disassembly of the front truck and assessed the damage from the derailment:

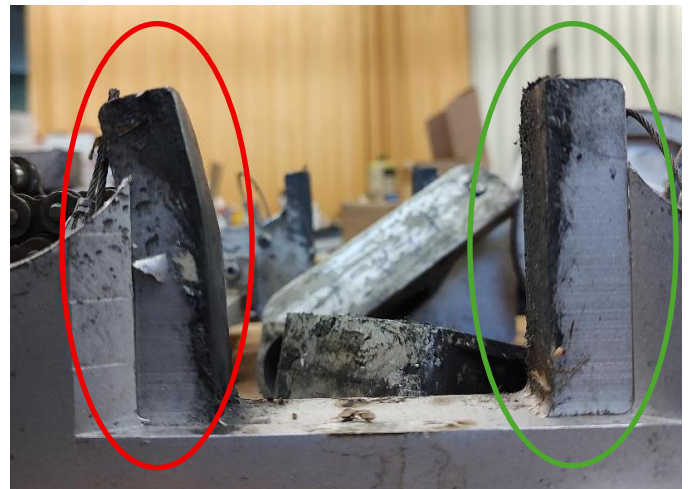


The axle, wheels, bearings and bearing blocks are not damaged. Bearing block guide post on one side of the frame has been bent. The picture below is the bearing block guide posts

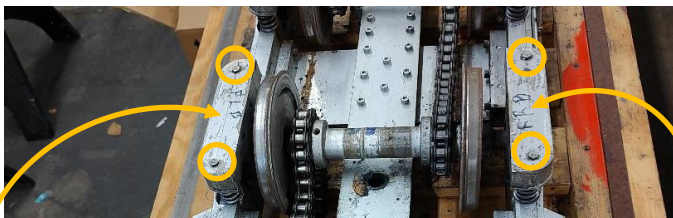
on the left side frame. They should be straight and parallel to each other. (Note: close to parallel, but the right hand post has what appears to be a slight bend)



The picture below shows the bearing block guide posts on the right side frame:



The side frames are one single cast/machined aluminum piece. The bearing block posts are an integral part of the frame and straightening them risks fracturing the metal. Fortunately, Larry was able to successfully correct the slight bend in the post pictured at top. The badly bent post pictured above is another matter. To put 7695 back in service as soon as possible, we have ordered a new side frame from Titan trains. We are still going to try to straighten this bent post but risk cracking it in the process. If successful we will have a spare sideframe.



The bearing blocks are kept from falling out of the side frame by small bolts with nuts on the bottom of the blocks. The nuts are in an exposed position and can be broken off in a derailment. That is what happened this time and allowed the front axle to fall out of the frame. To prevent this from happening in the future, we have designed and Ken Hemmelgarn has fabricated guard plates that should protect the nuts in a derailment. These will be installed on all the bearing blocks on both trucks.

RIDING CAR REFURBISHMENT

Two of the blue riding cars have been moved to Yoder's shop.



The trucks have been removed and set aside for disassembly, cleaning and rebuild. The car bodies have been washed and degreased. Next step is painting. While the cars are in the shop, Larry will be working on updating the electric wiring and pin connectors. We can use help with Truck refurbishment and car painting. Two people at most, before we starting getting in each others way. If you are interested in helping, text (937-572-3411) or email: rbschwenke50@aol.com. Bob Schwenke will contact you to coordinate times. Bob is currently recovering from a bout with COVID so will be another 5 -7 days before this will happen.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

March 30 is annual membership renewal date. Bring your dues to the meeting on the 25th or mail to Bob Schwenke:

4227 Alleghany Trail, Jamestown, OH 45335.

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.