MMRM Newsletter February 2025

Contents:
Message from the President - Dale Shipman
Spring 2025 Train Show
Preserving the Legacy of Railroading
Tails from the Rails Series
Kids Depot
Construction News and Updates
Fundraising
Events

Message from the President - Dale Shipman

With the new year, January was just unbelievable. We started the “Tales on the Rails” event and it was a hit with all the visitors and volunteers who attended. Work continues with our member/volunteer staff on so many different projects which our visitors will really enjoy. February is off to a fast start with visitors coming into the museum and viewing the different displays and exhibits. Thanks again to all our member/volunteer staff. The passion and dedication is what drives our museum and is making a dream come true.

Spring 2025 Train Show

Booth Spaces are filling up and we are so excited to host a train show here at the museum. From 9:00 am till 3:00 pm in our theatre will host the following vendors:
Missouri Model Railroad Museum
Brian Stone
Mike Duncan
Doc’s Caboose and Red’s Train Repair
Caleb Dula
Rob Minor

We are adding more and more vendors each week! We will have a raffle and a small snack station. Admission is $5.00 for 12 and up - Free admission for members of MMRM.

Missouri Model Railroad Museum:

Preserving the Legacy of Railroading - Darrell Swofford

MMRM is all about telling the captivating story of railroading, a story that spans Missouri and extends across our entire nation. The narrative is one of progress, connectivity, and

innovation. It is a tale of the transformative power of railroads on the social and economic fabric of our state, our region, our country.

Education through showing exhibits and telling stories is at the heart of any museum, and MMRM is driven to educate, but we want to entertain as we educate and educate as we entertain. It is possible to enjoy learning.

As you know, one of the key features of MMRM is a large model train layout intricately designed to give the most layout possible for the space available, which is a large space.. Hopefully, you're keeping track of the progress our great volunteers are making in the construction of the layout. This fantastic layout will serve as a dynamic and interactive storytelling medium, bringing the history of railroading to life.

While trains will be a part of our storytelling, trains don't talk. Helping the trains in storytelling will be didactic wall panels along the walls of the big gallery, as well as parts of the layout itself. These panels will feature a rich collection of photographs, along with narrative writings, offering insights and explanations into the layout, rolling stock, and photographs, as well as other exhibits we'll have spaced around the museum. The photos will capture the essence of the railroading era, showcasing images of trains, tracks, depots, equipment, and workers. Accompanying these visuals will be carefully curated narratives that tell the stories of people and events that shaped the railroading industry.

Here's where you come in. To help us in the gathering of some items we feel to be key to interesting, entertaining, and educational didactics, we are reaching out to the community and beyond for contributions of historical items. We are in need of old photographs and railroad artifacts that will enrich our exhibits and provide an authentic glimpse into the past.

We are seeking photographs that capture the essence of the railroading era. These images should include:

- Railroad trains of various types and from different periods.
- Railroad tracks winding through diverse landscapes, and particularly Missouri landscapes - cities, small towns, and countrysides.
- Railroad depots – small or big, old or young, active or abandoned, farms or towns.
- Railroad equipment, showcasing the technology of the times.
- Railroad workers, including family members of generations past, engaged in their daily tasks or posed by the work project or work equipment.

These photographs will be a vital part of our didactic wall panels, providing visual context, sometimes enlarged to serve as backdrops, in any case enhancing the storytelling experience for our visitors.

We are also seeking railroad artifacts for display in our museum. We especially need small items for display cases placed around the museum. These artifacts may include:

- Telegraphs and teletype machines, illustrating the communications of the times.
- Message hoops used by train crews to exchange information on the move.
- Surveying equipment that played a crucial role in the construction of railroad tracks.
- Other smaller items that reflect the daily operations and innovations of the railroading industry, including pocket watches, hats, pins, badges, ID, time books, schedules. Use your imagination, what would interest you?

These artifacts will provide a tangible connection to the past, allowing visitors to see and appreciate the tools and technologies that served the railroads over the years.

Our model railroad museum is more than just a collection of miniature trains and historical artifacts. It is a tribute to the ingenuity, determination, and hard work of the countless individuals who built and operated the railroads crisscrossing the land that we love. By telling the story of railroading and sharing photos and artifacts, we aim to honor their legacy and inspire future generations to appreciate railroading and perhaps make it a part of their future.

You are invited to join us in this endeavor by contributing photographs and artifacts that will help us tell the story of the amazing adventure we call Railroading. Together, we can create a museum that not only educates and entertains but also pays homage to the enduring legacy of the railroads and the men and women who built them and operated them in helping make America great.

Tails from the Rails - Monthly Series

Once again Andrew Osborne engaged the group with his personal experiences working with AmTrak.

Kids Depot - Kathy Shriver

The Kid’s Depot is proving to be a great area for all ages. Grandparents, parents and kids all enjoy the hands-on toy train displays. Saturday, we added signage for the “Choo - Choo Coloring Station”. In addition, we updated the Kid’s Depot board with a list of

“Rules” for safe & respectful play. Sales from the gift shop allowed us to purchase a wooden toy train set for a table train layout. Wooden train sets are available for purchase in our gift shop.

Construction News and Updates - Buck Neulinger

From the overall photos in the last MMRM Newsletter you could see the four peninsulas, for the HO layout, have been framed up with ¾” thick plywood legs, beams, and joists. Most of the backdrop posts of 2 x 4’s have been installed, used to separate views. They will have hand painted trees, shrubs and clouds applied. The ½” plywood surface has been applied around three quarters of the first peninsula some of which is at a higher elevation for the Sedalia Sub while the River Sub is at the lower elevation at the edge of the layout.

Trackwork also progressed around that peninsula as well as installation of cork roadbed, including plastic strips on curves to obtain “super elevation” for perfect train operation. Trackwork has passed Independence, MO, including the Pixley Industrial Lead which dead ends in a tunnel. By the time this newsletter goes out trackwork should extend to Warrensburg, or maybe even beyond.

Phil has some new volunteers interested in helping with scenery: bushes trees and rock carved from purple foam board, which is actually very easy if you follow his technique. The HO layout is going to require an immense amount of scenery.

Work has begun on the electrical portion of the HO layout. The locations of the 3 Digitrax® digital command control (DCC) power supplies; command station, boosters and power management devices have been decided. The command station, booster, and power management equipment for the Kansas City Yards, main lines and diamond have been put in place. The buss wires for the main and passing siding have been run along with drops from the rails. This section is now open to limited train traffic.

Infrared (IR) sensors are being placed under the tracks currently. These will be hooked into the Bruce Chubbs C/MRI computer model railroad interface (C/MRI) for signaling on the layout. This will then be interfaced into JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface) to give the layout a fully automated feature if desired. The sensors are used to detect the train’s location and send signals back to the control board which in turn will change the aspect of the signals to their correct state.

A dispatch area will be wired for manual operations of all the signals and turnouts in the future. Planning for that has also begun. Thanks to all that are assisting with this portion of the project.

On the G scale switching layout the Allis Chalmers model structure is being scratch built from thin plywood, and track ballasting is proceeding with chicken grit. Phil has added a wash to the plastic brick he has glued to Truman Depot to create the brick joints and he has also came up with a roof truss prototype he is going to use to make casings as required to support the roof, to match the building. Brian is going to 3D print the fencing found at Truman Depot too.

Janet is adding clips to the bottom of the layout skirt to keep the panels closed. She will also add these to the HO switching layout and the Lionel layout
David and John are proceeding with plaster repair on the ON3 layout where broken out sections have been re-installed. It is very detailed work.

Fundraising - Gina Gerdel

We have had several new members and more memberships keep rolling in. Just a reminder that 100% of the funds from memberships goes directly to the building of the museum and are tax deductible for the members. Also, please do not forget that with your membership you receive free admission to the Tales from the Rails, our clinics and more events that we are developing.

Meet & Greet - Kathy Shriver

MMRM hosted our first Meet & Greet for 2025. We have so many opportunities for our volunteers, just to name a few, there were 3 tables; scenery, electrical, structures and track work. We had a small turn out, however, it was more than successful, we had 3 people sign up. One of those eager new volunteers went straight to the Train Room and ran Loco net cable after the presentation. Cookies, cheese tray, crackers and bottled water was offered.

We have volunteer forms at the front desk if you are interested in volunteering! Stop by and pick up a form.

Upcoming Events

Tales from the Rails Lecture Series
Saturday, March 15, 2025, 1:30 to 3:00
Speakers to be announced
MMRM Members - A free event benefit
Non MMRM Members - Admission $5.00

MMRM Spring 2025 Train Show and Swap
Saturday, March 22, 2025, 9:00 to 3:00
We still have Vendor space available for $25.00. Please contact Gina at gina@showmerails.org for a Vendor Form.
General Public Admission $5.00 for adults and youths 13 and up

Tales from the Rails Lecture Series
Saturday, April 19, 2025, 1:30 to 3:00
Speakers to be announced
MMRM Members - A free event benefit
Non MMRM Members - Admission $5.00

National Train Day
Saturday, May 10, 2025
More exciting information will be coming soon.

Check our website for all of our events https://showmerails.org/events/

Museum Hours:

Thursday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Just a note: Our Theatre is available to rent for your events. Email Gina at gina@showmerails.org for more information. MMRM members receive discounts. If you are a not-for-profit organization, we extend greater discounts for event rentals.