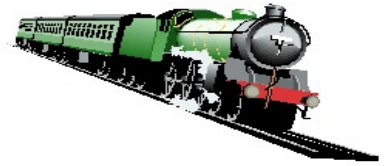


Barry County Commission on Aging

# Iron Rails

Newsletter



**DECEMBER  
2010**

## Iron Rails Christmas Open House and Display

Iron Rails Model Train Club will be holding a Christmas Open House and display December 20 & 21 (Monday and Tuesday) 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM. Adults and children are invited to join us at our Christmas display at the Commission on Aging building at 320 West Woodlawn in Hastings.

The club will have a model train display in "O" scale. The display will have working locomotives for all to watch.

The display is presently "under construction" at our weekly meetings being held on Fridays at 10 AM at the Commission on Aging building.

Santa Claus will be there to visit with the children, and there will be candy canes and cookies for treats.

We hope you will come and visit with us and, as time goes on, watch the

building of a railroad empire to celebrate a vital part of our history.

## "HO" Scale Layout Will Be Next Project

Iron Rails also owns an "HO" scale layout that is partially constructed and will become its next work project after the Christmas season. This layout was donated by a former member, Barry



Frost. It is constructed in modules to enable it to be easily moved to other locations. This construction type gives opportunity for club members to construct additional modules to enlarge the total display and allow for increased operations.

The layout is designed to replicate a mining operation. It has a large hill area and a river bed. Some scenery has been added, although much more is needed. Mining buildings need to be modeled as well as railroad operation buildings.

*The "HO" layout has a bridge that crosses over a river yet to be named.*



*This hill area, to the south of the mining operation, needs repairs before it can have scenic materials added.*

*The "Iron Rails" newsletter is published by the Iron Rails Model Train Club of Barry County Commission on Aging, 320 West Woodlawn, Hastings, Michigan 49058*

*Editor: Larry Poort*

## Iron Rails Model Train Club's Purpose and Mission

**The mission of the Iron Rails Club is to provide an opportunity for men and women interested in model railroading to get together with others to share their skills and interest in modeling and operating railroad layouts.**

**It is our purpose to work on and operate model layouts, as well as to have special events such as field trips, a train flea market and swap meet, as well as educational demonstrations. We are also planning to have seminars on train modeling information and techniques.**

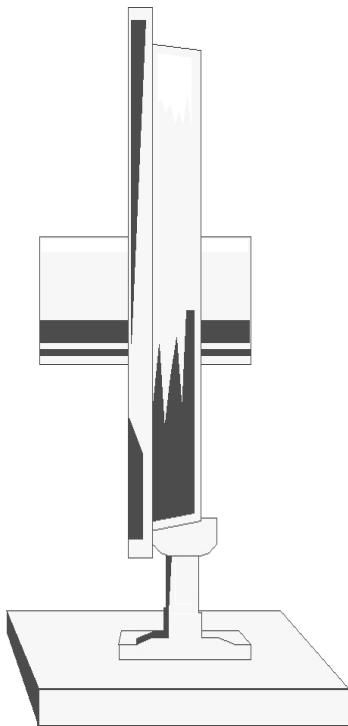
**The Club meets on Fridays from 10 AM til 2PM at the Commission on Aging Building at 320 West Woodlawn, Hastings, MI.**

*(Seniors who wish may join other seniors for lunch at the COA for a small nominal fee. Lunch is served from 11:30 AM until 12 noon.)*

For further information contact:

**Jerry Proctor  
269 792-3592**

**or Barry County  
Commission on Aging  
269 948-4856**



## June Field Trip

This past June several club members went on a field trip to Mattawan and visited the “HO” layout of David Vinci.

Jerry Proctor arranged the trip since Dave is a friend of his.

The layout operates with steam power locomotives. The



scenery is all hand constructed by Dave and includes a

foundry, downtown area, passenger service, a hobo camp, billboards, autos, trucks, people, animals, a repair shop and many other assorted buildings. An airplane is also found, in flight, over the layout and looks great.

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### Did you know?

*The song about the man who has become the most famous railroad engineer in American history, John Luther ‘Casey’ Jones, wrongly refers to his locomotive as a ‘six-eight wheeler’. In April 1900 Jones, an employee of the Illinois Central Railroad, boarded his locomotive, which was in fact a 4-6-0, in Memphis, Tennessee.*

*Christopher Chant,  
\_The History of  
North American Steam*

## Iron Rails has a New Workshop!

The Iron Rails Model Train Club has obtained an additional location that will allow the club to expand its abilities to work on its layouts more often without causing inconveniences for its fellow COA group’s meetings and special events.

The Iron Rails Club will continue to regularly meet on its usual day and time, Fridays at 10AM, for its general business meetings and work

on or operate it’s “O” scale layout. Members who wish to have lunch at the COA will continue to do so.

The club has moved its “HO” scale layout to a former one-room schoolhouse located a couple miles south of the City of Hastings at 1284 E. Brogan Road.

The move will give the club greater flexibility for working on the “HO” layout without creating

difficulty for other COA events and activities.

The additional facility will also enable members to be able to work at times other than the normal meetings (which will continue at the COA building). It also allows for room to increase the size of the layout through the addition of new modules that can be created. It also will allow for increased operations of the layout.