

Dec 2021 Operating Status

Operations Summary

- Our second op session this year has come and gone. It went better than the Nov session but still not without issues. We are still experiencing electrical issues with some modules and had some significant wifi connection issues with the JMRI server on Saturday. We are tracking the various issues in this [defect log](#). The defect log is a constant agenda item on our monthly Exec meetings and will remain so until all items are resolved. Almost two years of inactivity is having its effect on the modules. We had a larger layout from Nov and you will see from the stats that many trains were run.
- Ops started on Sat at 10:30 as we had to complete some outstanding issues from Friday night and waited for the test train to run successfully. Both wifi and Digitrax duplex users experienced intermittent connectivity for some unknown reason. These issues weren't nearly as evident on Sunday thankfully.
- One of our newcomers, Colin McCallum, successfully completed his check ride so he can run trains independently now. Well done.
- Ops on Sunday seemed to go fine.
- If you didn't run FL8 be aware that Vaughan's turnouts are all remoted now and cannot be thrown manually.
- Likewise, Three Bridges' turnouts are also remoted now but can be thrown manually. We need to come up with a method to communicate the turnout addresses on Three Bridges. A diagram or a tablet.

Set up summary

- Set up had less people than the Nov session and it showed in the timings. While we were just above the minimum required, we weren't close to optimal. We started with 7 people at 3pm and it took 40 mins to unload the storeroom. Once the storeroom was unloaded, we had a team dedicated to the yard. Everyone else worked on modules to the east and west of the yard. By the time we broke for dinner at 5:50pm there were still modules that needed to be unpacked.
- More people arrived after 5pm which helped but we could have used a few more.
- **I recognize that it is difficult for non-retired folk, but please come out even if it is after 5pm. Every extra person helps.**
- One of the mainline modules didn't arrive until 8:00 pm. Both the Nov and Dec sessions had missing mainline modules which didn't arrive until later. To mitigate this issue we will build some simple filler frames that can be used temporarily until the actual modules arrive.

- This module delay combined with less than an ideal number of people meant that all of the modules weren't connected until 9:30pm. My goal was to have it set up by 8:00pm.
- With the yard set up, I had Jim and Gregg start their freight ops right after pizza. This worked out very well as they finished their work at 9:30pm instead of 11:00pm and they had company too.
- **For all future set up foreman, this procedure will be the standard: Immediately after locker unload, prioritize yard setup and have the freight designers start their work right after dinner.**
- We ran short of yellow legs because M&O Junction was set up with club yellow legs. The original M&O Junction legs were unmodified and we exchanged them for long legs with a club member. The solution is to move up the gussets of modules with short legs and build more standard length legs. Paul has already bought the lumber for more legs and I will be buying the hardware.

Disassembly summary

- We started at 3pm and it seemed to go well.
- The storeroom is full now with the Welsh modules and M&O Junction. I asked Joe about a 4' extension to the storage locker and he was open to the idea. So, we will go ahead with developing a construction plan and get formal approval from St. Anthony.

Op stats

If you are interested check out the full [stats file](#). Here are the highlights.

- Members ran 86 trains for almost 113hrs.
- 53% of the runs were freight and 47% passenger.
- FL 3 and 5 had the most runs at 8 each.
- By far the most popular passenger was PT
- 54% of the runs were on Saturday
- Jim Graham and Robin Allardyce had the most number of runs at 8 each. Followed closely by Brandon Bourdon.
- Robin had the most running time while Jim had half of Robin's running time. Someone needs to work on their efficiency, lol.

OVAR update

- The Jan session will be in the Dart room. The Ballroom is managed by a third party now (not St. A staff) and they pay a hefty monthly rent. According to Joe they are booked most of the time. It would be prohibitively expensive to rent for two and a half days. Unfortunately the Ballroom is no longer an option