Gauge 1 Live Steam Railroad

Kick-off Meeting
Saturday, February 12, 2022
Welcome

Bob Koury
President, Friends of Auburn Heights
General Manager, Auburn Valley Railroad
Steam Team Anniversary
Auburn Heights
FAH Mission

To educate the public firsthand about an American way of life that flourished at the dawn of the automotive age, preserve the technology of historic steam transportation, and serve as advocate for Auburn Valley State Park.
FAH Staff

- Susan Randolph
  Executive Director

- Allison Schell
  Director of Public Programs
FAH Membership

- Benefits
- What it supports
FAH Membership Benefits

- Early-bird registration for the annual Egg Hunt, with 50% off tickets for members based on membership level
- Free Rides Ticket Admission at all Steamin’ Events
- Free admission to the museum’s weekly open days and Auburn Heights After Hours
- *Auburn Heights Herald*, our seasonal print newsletter, with articles on local history, member activities and more
- Monthly e-News, with updates on activities and reminiscences from Tom Marshall & Events and Happenings email
- 10% discount in the Museum Gift Shop
FAH Membership Levels

$40 INDIVIDUAL  Full membership benefits for one

$50 DUAL  Full membership benefits for two adults

$75 FAMILY  Full membership benefits for two adults and up to four minor children (great for grandparents!)

$30 VOLUNTEER  Family-level benefits for volunteers who logged 25+ hours in prior calendar year (free Parks passes to those logging 100+ hours)
Yorklyn Valley Railroad

Mike Gates
General Manager, Yorklyn Valley Railroad
Yorklyn Valley Railroad (YVRR)

- Outdoor Gauge 1 (1:32 scale, 45 mm gauge) elevated railroad
YVRR Mission

To provide a convenient location to operate Gauge 1 model trains as a way to preserve and share the history of Delaware’s live steam railroads and the industries of the Red Clay Valley at the turn of the 20th century
What has been done so far?

- DE State Parks approval
- Layout plan
- Budget
- Online outreach (Facebook, FAH Gauge 1web page)
- In-person promotion (Cabin Fever Expo)
- Draft Operations Handbook
YVRR Membership

- Must be 18 years or older
- Maintain active FAH membership (any level)
- Pay $25 Annual Maintenance Fee
- Participate in at least 4 FAH events (log 25 service hours)
- Have a love for steam technology!
Phase 1: Site Prep & Base Layout
Phase 1b: Base Layout

Layout plan is not final and subject to change
- Double Mainline
- Code 250 Nickel Silver track
- Inside loop to not contain points, swinging stubs
- Inside loop to eventually be wired for electrics

Layout plan is not final and subject to change.
Phase 2: Long-Range Vision

- Raised planter section (opportunity to model local industries that were fixtures of the Red Clay Valley)
  - Will have a need for skilled modelers & gardeners
- Signage & historical imagery
Budget

- **Phase 1a:** $5,000 (retaining wall & site clearing)
- **Phase 1b:** $30,000 (basic structure)
- **Phase 2:** $10,000 (signage, landscaping, modeling)

$45,000

**Challenge Gift**
First $5,000 raised will be matched dollar for dollar
Where we are now!

$350 in donations, $350 matching funds
Where we are now!

$350 in donations, $350 matching funds

Goal: $35000
Where we are now!

$1,700

($850 + $850 match)

$350 in donations, $350 matching funds

Goal: $35000
## Preliminary Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1, 2022</td>
<td>Train Day – Public Campaign Launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19, 2022</td>
<td>Auburn Heights After Hours (Fundraising Opportunity)</td>
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<td>July 1, 2022</td>
<td>Fundraising Target: $5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer 2022</td>
<td>Clear site and install retaining wall (if $5,000 raised)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2023</td>
<td>Begin construction (if $30,000 raised)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2024</td>
<td>Begin Phase 2 (if additional $10,000 raised)</td>
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What are the next steps?

- We need an identity
  - Name selection: Yorklyn Valley Railroad
  - Final Operations Handbook
  - Logo design
Help us select a logo

Visit AuburnHeights.org/Gauge1 for a link to vote!
What are the next steps?

- **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!**
  - To help with fundraising events and efforts
  - To spread the word
  - To assist with physical labor (building the retaining wall & decking structures once Phase 1a is funded)

Become a **Founding Member** to help make the vision possible!
What is a YVRR “Founding” Member?

- FAH paid membership (any level)
- $50 ($25 YVRR Annual Fee + $25 Founding Donation)
- 25 hours (of YVRR volunteer service in 2022)

= Online recognition (YVRR Train of Fame), plaque on YVRR MOW shed, input into layout... bragging rights!
What is Train Day?

- Public launch of Gauge 1 campaign
- Aikenback Live Steamers (Mike Moore)
- Special 1/8th-Scale Exhibit (Russ Fox)
- Silent Auction benefitting YVRR
- Kids activities & special railroad exhibits
Train Day Volunteer Opportunities

- Silent Auction Assistant (to close out auction benefitting YVRR)
- Helper to hold a 50-50 raffle benefiting YVRR
- 1/8th-Scale Exhibit Attendants
- Parking & Crossing Help
- Train Activities Help
“After Hours” Opportunities

- Entry / admission
- Helper to hold a 50-50 raffle benefiting YVRR
- May 19: Railroad Dining Assistant
Other Activities

- Tabling/promotion at local events (such as the Greenberg Great Train & Toy Show at the Riverfront, Cabin Fever Expo)
- Tabling at our regular Steamin’ Days
- Help with a monthly newsletter
Fundraising

- Monetary donations
- Donate items suitable for auctions & raffles
- Host your own mini fundraisers (sell baked goods, sell on eBay, Facebook Marketplace, yard sales)
- Purchase items benefitting YVRR from our Gift Shop
- Volunteer at our events
Reminder

The Friends of Auburn Heights is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and we will provide a tax receipt acknowledging all monetary donations (as well as all pre-approved in-kind donations) for tax purposes.
Grants & Sponsor Opportunities

- Grants (foundations, railroad organizations)
- Business Sponsors (website & social media recognition)
- Commemorative Donations (In memory/honor of...)

[Image of the page]
Questions? Thoughts?

Gauge1@AuburnHeights.org

AuburnHeights.org/Gauge1
And now for the grand prize...
Thank you!

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