

## "House Rules"

An addendum to  
The By-Laws of the MMRHS,  
Article XIX  
Adopted by the Board on 3/4/84  
Reaffirmed by the Board on 3/2/99

Situation "A": Work sessions ... To be attended by MMRHS members and invited guests (including prospective members) only:

- 1) If the meeting is held in the home of, or on the property of, some person, MMRHS member or non-member, ALL MMRHS members will abide by ALL rules as may be set by the host and provided by the host to the MMRHS Board of Directors
- 2) Bring your own tools in so far as possible. While the MMRHS does own a few tools, and the host MAY provide the use of tools, less confusion and more efficient work can be done if each worker has their own tools available.
- 3) Return all tools and supplies to their assigned location, or to such place as you found them if their correct location is unknown.
- 4) Clean up your own mess! Put supplies and tools away, sweep the floor or workbench as may be needed, and leave your work area neat and clean. Wash out all paintbrushes, and clean, close, and seal all paint cans, glue bottles, etc., as best as possible.
- 5) Dress appropriately for the work being done.
- 6) Wear safety Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as needed! Safety glasses should be worn when working with any power tool likely to throw particles of metal, wood, etc.

Situation "B": While the MMRHS is operating a Public Display:

- 1) COURTESY: You are a representative of our organization, and your actions reflect on the corporation and your fellow members ... keep this in mind at all times.

When dealing with the public ALWAYS be polite, patient, and courteous. Try also to get along with the other members or guests running the layout or helping with the corporation's displays.

If you have a 'beef', please retire from the display area to settle it ... DO NOT SQUABBLE IN PUBLIC NEAR THE DISPLAY!!!

- 2) RESPONSIBILITY: Your first responsibility is to put on the best possible show for our hosting organization. REMEMBER, we ourselves are usually guests, often being paid to put on a good presentation, and should deliver a quality product. Take no actions, and make no statements in public, that will reflect badly on our host's organization or on our own corporation.

- 3) PROFESSIONALISM: Keep the trains RUNNING, and as smoothly as possible. WATCH your train, try to 'catch' derailments and other problems early ... do NOT continue running with cars 'dragging' on the ground. Work cooperatively with your fellow operators. Try to look like serious ADULT hobbyists, not children playing with trains. Have fun, look like you're having fun, BUT DON'T GET SILLY!

4) BE INFORMATIVE: Answer ALL questions from the public as simply and honestly as you can. If you are an 'Engineer', remember to watch your train while gabbing with the public ... better still, pass control of the train to someone else.

5) DRESS CODE: Dress neatly and cleanly. Some railroad 'motif' is desired, but not essential. Avoid sweatshirts (except those with RR heralds or other RR decoration), grungy jeans, shorts, cut-offs, swimsuits, and other ultra-casual attire.

6) LANGUAGE: Avoid use of profanity at all times! Think before you speak, it is amazing how sensitive some persons are to 'everyday' language, even commonly used 'mild' profanity can be deeply offensive to some persons. Talk no louder than necessary.

7) NO NON-MEMBERS INSIDE THE LAYOUT CIRCLE. ... Exceptions to be made only by prior arrangement of the Board of Directors, or to authorized representatives of the host organization, or to government officials (Police, etc.), or to recognized or credential bearing members of the press, and to NMRA/NCR officials.

8) NO NON-MEMBERS INSIDE THE CROWD-CONTROL FENCES. ... Except as noted in item 7) above, or to persons invited by an attending member and under the direct supervision of that member.

9) NO FOOD, DRINK, OR SMOKING INSIDE THE LAYOUT CIRCLE. If you need a 'munchie' or a smoke, get someone to spell you off and retire from the immediate area.

10) NEVER LEAVE THE LAYOUT UNATTENDED when rolling stock or other privately owned items are present and not locked-up or otherwise secured in a safe fashion.

11) IN CASE OF TROUBLE:

a) WITH ROLLING STOCK: If any item of equipment causes a repeated problem, remove the offending item from the layout, and do not put it back until you are confident that it has been fixed.

b) WITH THE LAYOUT: Try to isolate the troublesome section, track-block, or throttle, and shut it down. Try to keep the remainder of the layout running ... the show must go on! Repair the problem as quickly as possible. The general public is NOT interested in our problems, they just want to see trains running.

c) TROUBLEMAKERS: This is the most difficult potential problem. FIRST, ask them to cease the offending actions ... be POLITE! If this fails, good judgment is all you have to fall back on. If the problem is serious, immediately notify the host's security force or the police. Sometimes it is best to just ignore the persons while carefully keeping an eye on them. Shouting matches, insults, and violence are to be avoided at all costs. Physical action must be regarded as the very last resort.