



April 2024

TIES AND RAILS

The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

President's Message

April marks our first anniversary of being homeless. However, I truly feel, because of the outstanding job of our Building Committee, we are getting closer each month to finding our new location. Just stay positive.

I have meetings set up with investors who know our club, respect what we did and stand for, and are willing to help us. At what level and what if any restrictions I will be finding out likely by the time you receive this newsletter. So now is indeed the time to stay positive, motivated, and committed to finding and rebuilding our well-loved layouts.

I sincerely appreciate all of our members who have stuck with us in this trying time. It is that dedication you continue to display that encourages others in the club.

One thing this club takes great pride in is our organizational structure which has served us well for twenty-three years. Our bylaws, policies and procedures and Roberts Rules of Order have guided us through some very trying times with great success. An important factor in our years of operation is the fact that after debate, the majority rules. We should never lose sight of that fact.

Approved Bylaw Changes as of 3/11/2024

New terminology indicated in **RED**

5.2 Nominations for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three-at-large directors, as applicable, shall be accepted and verified by the Nominating Committee.

The membership will be notified electronically a week in advance of the regular meeting that is held prior to the election. Nominations can be accepted from the floor of the regular membership meeting that is held prior to the election meeting for which there is no nominee previously submitted. For any available board position that is being voted on, candidates shall be introduced at the regular membership meeting that is held prior to the election. Candidates will be given an opportunity to express their reason(s) for seeking office and provide any information for the position they are seeking.

3/11/24

6.1 We should have a meeting or function monthly, the place and time to be determined by the Board of Directors. 3/11/24

Ann Grogitsky Chairperson
Bylaw Committee

**NEXT CLUB MEETINGS APRIL 8th 3pm BOD 4pm Membership
at Pastor Dave's church**

Public Relations Working to Keep Local Officials Aware of Our Needs

On March 14, Jim & I attended the Business after Hours, We had some interesting conversations with several people there. Spoke to Randy Graham from First National Bank, he told me that the building across from the Palace was once a bank back in the 1920's, 2 robbers attempted to break into the safe that was bolted to the floor--so they had to go to the basement (which had some water in it)and tried to drill through the floor and safe. So that building has had water in the basement for a long time. I'm glad we didn't pursue the purchase of that building.

I also got a few tips from Randy that I will follow up on.

City Mayor Crawford was there for a short time, I spoke to him but he was no help. I am looking forward to introducing myself to the new City Manager, Valerie Hale and let her know of our situation.

Several local people that we spoke to want to see us downtown and don't know why we can't locate in the depot. (Mayor Crawford told us that the city would't lease it out because that was the only place to rent for meetings, parties and showers etc) I am going to discuss this with the new City Manager.

Ann

Model Railroading Facts

The Single Most Expensive Model Train

In 2006, a Lionel Train was sold at auction in America for \$250,000.00. Other trains have been sold for \$150,000 and a home with a model railway in it sold for \$6 million.

The World's Biggest Model Railway

The clear winner by a long way is Miniature Wunderland in Hamburg. It has 1,300 trains made up of over 10,000 carriages, over 100,000 moving vehicles, 500,000 lights, 130,000 trees, and 400,000 human figures.

The Most Model Trains Made By One Person

According to Guinness World Records, the largest collection of model railway vehicles made by one person is the James P. Richards Collection owned by the National Railway Museum in York, UK. There are 610 models in the collection handmade to scale.

The World's First Model Railway

The first model railway was built in 1859 for the 3-year-old son of Emperor Napoleon III at Château de Saint-Cloud.

For Your Information

The Club's Website is crossvilletrains.org

Ralph Watson is our web master
931-248-4263

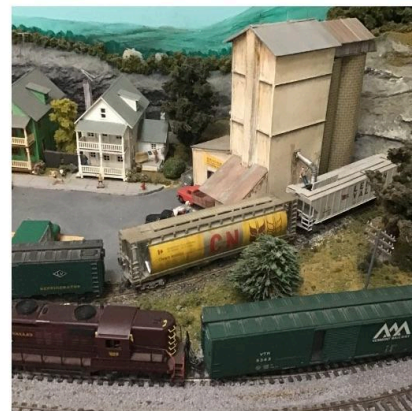
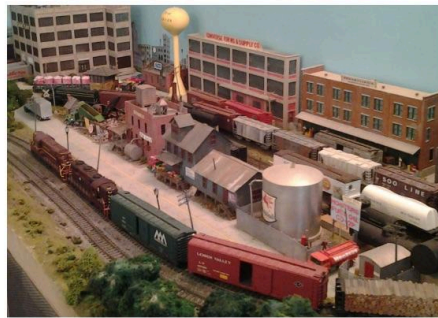
Facebook Page
crossville model railroad club presents

Pat Taylor is our site manager
937-533-0897

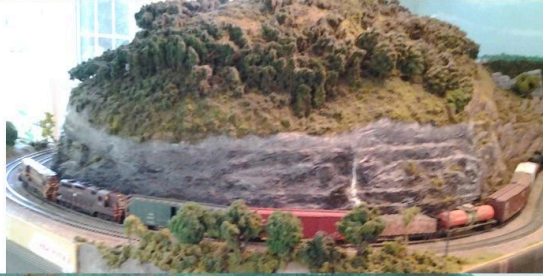
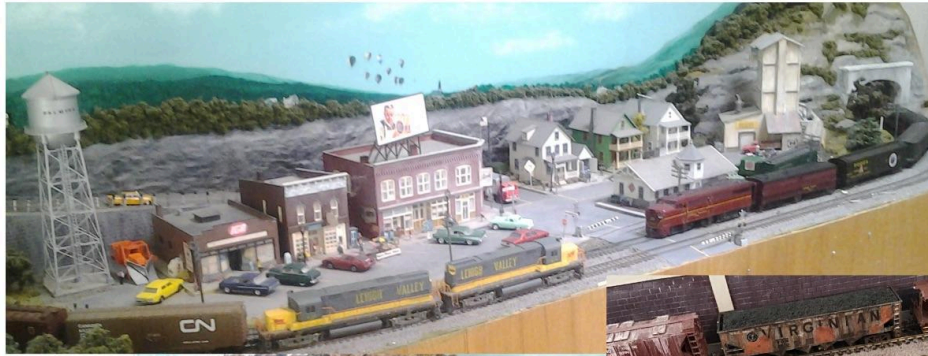
My Train Story

by Mike Stoelb

Anyway I started on my HO layout in Oct, 2003 and finished it in March 2004. It is in the shape of a U on it's side. Half of the bottom portion of the U is in my sun room and the rest is in my enclosed sun porch. The portion in my sun room is a portion of the city of Palmyra (Pa) and the portion in my sun porch is in the city of Lehigh (Pa). This includes a small yard and the industrial area as well as the rural area surrounded by Mt Pisgah. It is completely double tracked and represents the Lehigh Valley Railroad. I just like to watch the trains and do not use the sidings but change the cars on them every once and a while. It is DC controlled and I run two trains at one time on the westbound track and one long freight train on the eastbound track. I use two MRC railpower 1370's to run the trains and another older MRC power pack to supply the lights etc. Unfortunately I had no room for staging tracks and when I made the track plan I realized it would not fit in one room so I had to put two holes in the walls of the rooms to connect them together for the track plan to fit. I started out by using LV locomotives only but recently started using some of the 35 locomotives from 17 railroads that I specifically used on our railroad club's HO layout that I brought with me when I worked it on weekends to power the long freight on the eastbound track. What else to do with them. So that's it. Any questions, ask me. Mike



ATTENTION VETERANS
FREE Pancake Breakfast
April 18, 8-10am Guest \$5
American Legion 127S



Mike Stoelb Layout

Continued
Mike a member since 2003 is also very active in our community volunteering at the hospital, a member of the Fairfield Glade Fire Department and in his church.

Former CMRC Member Assists Taylor at Cartersville Train Show

Jack Holland, a long time contributing member of the CMRC, moved to Cartersville a couple of years ago to be close to family. He joined the Piedmont Division of the NMRA and is active in that division's programs.

Jack was a fixture on Wednesday shifts at the mall and worked on installing new track, switches and repairing old sections of track. It was a skill he was very proficient at doing.

He volunteered to help current member Pat Taylor who was setting up a sales booth at this annual show. Pat added that "Without Jack's help in setting up and working the booth I would not have been able to do it."



"You and your toy trains...."

In our conversations Jack indicated that as soon as we find a new home he will rejoin the CMRC just so he can run his trains again.



Pat Taylor Jack Holland

Mike Stoelb's Collectibles
showing only part of my antique collection of electric trains located on shelves in my kitchen. I have about 20 or so ranging from 1929 to 1950.

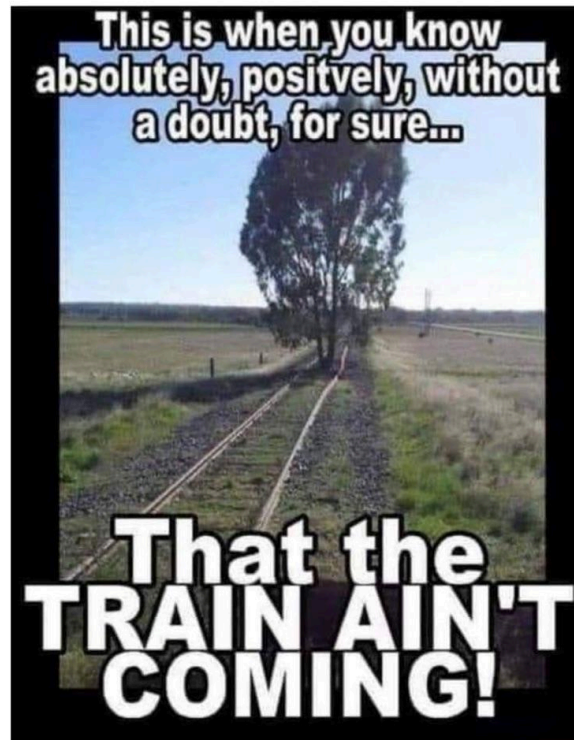


The DCC Shed @ CMRC by Paul Falk

Ten years ago a man named Gregg Berman wrote some software designed to operate on a tiny Italian microprocessor called Arduino UNO. He wrote this code in a language called C++ and he called his creation DCC++, because it was capable of running model railroad locos that have a DCC decoder. He released his creation into the public domain and in the last ten years with the help of many it has matured into several very competent methods of using off-the-shelf components to fabricate a DCC Command Station. The parts for DCC++ command station based on a Arduino UNO are under \$30. The public domain software to operate it is free. When paired with the free JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface) and an old computer locos can be easily programmed and operated. Spend a bit more, say \$50 and the system will improve to become a DCC-EX command station with built-in WiFi. This allows you to operate trains with your cell phone/tablet without the need for a WiFi router or computer.

Sounds interesting? A quick demo of the DCC-EX command station will be available after the monthly CMRC meeting on April 8th. See you there with more information. The DCC Shed @ CRMC

MEMBER BILL BULLARD
is recuperating at a rehab facility after a illness. He has to postpone his sale of G scale and other items until he returns home. Date TBA



Marketing Committee Looking to Prepare for Our New Home

The Marketing and Public Relations committees are making plans so that when a new location becomes a reality we will be poised to strike. Think about the finale of the 1812 Overture. With that many things going on at once, we will need some help with the grinding cellos, resounding trumpets, cannon volleys, swelling chorus, and vibrant church bells leading to the final crescendo. **WE ARE BACK. TAKE A LOOK AT ME NOW!** To do this will involve our own web page, Facebook, Instagram (a new thing for us), media, posters, signs, billboards, Chamber of Commerce, TN tourism, and lots of boots on the ground. Plenty of opportunities for all types of talents.

So far we have commitments from:

Mike Ferry

Bill Bly

Ann Grogitsky

Pat Taylor

Bill Eber

Ralph Watson

More faces are needed in these places. There won't be long boring meetings or short 'why did I come all this way for this crap' meetings either. Most of what needs to get organized can be done on the phone or zoom. Please consider saying 'YES' to this call to action. Contact Ralph or Ann to sign on.

All CMRC members are asked to look over all the many pages of crossvilletrains.org and fact check all the postings. There have been some Board member changes and meeting schedules revised with the latest Bylaws updates. Send an email to crossvilletrains@gmail.com or rxalph@gmail.com if you find something amiss. **THANKS!** (Roster corrections go to Tom Shallcross)

Please let me know if you will be sending in something you would like to be published

Ralph Watson

Your Railroad Story Goes Here!

Since our club operations are on hold and we are not generating a lot of information which our daily runs sessions would generate I really need all members to step up and add your train story so you can share it with your fellow members. So please consider taking a few photos of your current or past layouts and share your experiences with the club. It is easy to do. Just call me Pat 937-533-0897