



# Ties and Rails

Official newsletter of the Crossville Model Railroad Club  
and Div. 16, Southeast Region, NMRA

September 2019

(931)210-5050

[www.crossvilletrains.org](http://www.crossvilletrains.org)

## *The Prez. Sez:*

First let me thank Ann G, and our great cooks, Mike D, Mike S and Al B. who all did a great job for the annual picnic. The hamburgers and hot dogs were upgraded this year and the taste was amazing. We also learned that cooking on charcoal is a lot harder than propane, but it all tasted great.

It was a beautiful day and the cool breeze off the lake helped to keep the heat at bay. Of course, the wives also all did an outstanding job with the carry in and all of those "fat free" desserts. Be sure to thank your better halves for their contributions. The camp is a great location and many members enjoyed the tour of the custom built and to exact scale model of the camp Jim and Ann built.

Unfortunately, only about half the club took advantage of this wonderful event and simply put, you missed a great time and you were missed.

A major thank you for those who helped get the fair display ready and for setting it up at the complex. For all those who volunteered for to cover a shift your involvement is deeply appreciated by the club.

We will have a brief educational program after the meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Scale Trains and Mark McAlister will be there to answer questions and assist any members with any issues they may be having with their units. There will be time for one on one consultations as well.

We have had new members over the last couple of months so be sure to attend a meeting and meet the new arrivals.

We do have elections coming in November so please contact Paul Falk and his committee if you are willing to serve the club.

If you have something you wish to put in the newsletter, contact Tom Shallcross at [chipmonk4@comcast.net](mailto:chipmonk4@comcast.net)



## The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Come in and get comfortable.

This month, DCC troubleshooting on the N scale layout, a companion to the last month's article for the HO layout.

The Digitrax DCC system on the N scale is based on a Digitrax DSC51 command station, known as a Zephyr Extra. The Zephyr is the source of DCC track power that is encoded with the information to command decoders in the locos. The command station is also the source of a network Digitrax calls loconet. The loconet is a six wire network that allows layout devices to communicate. One of those devices is Digitrax handheld controller like a DT402d or a UT4. These devices can connect to the loconet via the front fascia connections located around the layout. These handhelds talk to the command station and the command station issues commands to the loco via the track power. Using these Digitrax handhelds will always be the most reliable handheld control method

Unlike the HO layout, the N scale Zephyr Extra command station has all the controls needed to operate a loco in DCC. So if walk-around or remote operations are not required, simply use the front panel controls. If handheld control is desired, there are two choices, the Digitrax controllers or a personal smart phone or tablet.

Using personal handhelds, connected via WiFi add another layer of complexity.

1. The CMRC-N WiFi uses the laptop computer. A separate WiFi router and a connection to the

loconet using a USB cable to a Digitrax device called a PR3. Because of this, using the CMRC-N WiFi can be more problematic. Issues with the Windows operating system and JMRI programs & features are harder to trouble shoot and are beyond the scope of this document. If you can operate with either a Digitrax handheld and the CMRC-N WiFi will not, please leave a note for the N scale coordinator.

### PROBLEMS?? THINGS TO TRY

\*If the loco stops periodically, the Zephyr is probably still using that cab number. Press Loco button and then Exit. The display should read "Loco".

\*Using DT402d or DT500 with a fresh battery, try running the loco. This is the most reliable handheld method of operating DCC. Remember to plug the DT throttle to the fascia socket to initialize the throttle to the N scale layout, after initialization, the handheld can be unplugged and used wirelessly.

\*Assure the loop you are using is set to DCC. The three loop selector switches are just above the power packs. Be aware these switches have a center off location and have to be fully up (DCC) or down (DC) to power their respective loop.

\*Assure DCC track power is on. The red track status light on the Zephyr should be illuminated. If not, press the upper left button marked Power.

\*When using a smartphone or tablet, assure device is on correct WiFi network. Use CMRC-N.

\*Cycle the power (REBOOT) your handheld device.

\*Will the loco run on DC? Does loco have a decoder?

\*Has loco been programmed to cab number? If not, try using 03 as cab number.

\*Try using known good loco on same track.

*Continued on Page 8*



*Photo submitted by Ted Polczynski*

## **Club Project**

This is just a friendly reminder, folks. We are ONE Club and we all work together toward a common goal. Occasionally this means that we may have to assist another scale in one of their projects, such as helping assemble a locomotive.





## Picnic

A great day for the picnic - one of the best we have ever had. A nice breeze coming off the lake made a warm day comfortable.

There were 52 people attending with 7 members there for the first time.

A great time was had by all and I want to thank our cooks, Al Barnes, Mike Stoelb and Mike Durnwald.

We learned some things about grilling with charcoal, such as starting it sooner as it takes longer to get hot.

A lot of effort goes into the preparation of having a picnic or a Christmas Party. It's really sad that less than half of our members participate.

*Ann Grogitsky*



*Photos by Ann Grogitsky and Bill Bly*

## Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee met on August 8, 2019, with 6 members in attendance.

**2021 Calendar Update:** Goal to have the calendars ready for sale by August 2000. Pat has a local printer who will print the calendar at a reasonable cost for us. Pat will announce a special photo shoot for the calendar for all CMRC members. This will be on the back cover of the calendar. All members in the photo are requested to wear a Club shirt for the photo. All interior calendar photos will be of views from within the CMRC suite this time around.

Members discussed the idea of considering a CMRC Club vest, which may be more practical than a shirt. Paul has also found a source for consideration. Will discuss further at our next meeting.

**Historical Booklet for our 2021 Anniversary Update:** Bill Bly needs stories on our history and will be contacting members for assistance. He may also put an article in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.

The group discussed large signage for the exterior of the Outlet Center. Since the meeting, Art has met with Chip and obtained approval for us to place a large sign as a replacement for the 'Dress Barn' sign at the northeast corner of the Mall (our location). Once the BOD approval is obtained, we will contact a sign company for a cost estimate of sign and installation. Cost should be minimal, as the sign is merely a vinyl covering stretched over an existing frame. For those not knowing, "Dress Barn" will be closing all their stores by the end of this year.

Art also requested that the Outlet Center return the Parking Lot designations to a post in the designated lots. The removal of the old ones to the entrance doors creates an issue for visiting patrons who

cannot see any lot designations while driving. Chip concurred.

Paul showed us a sample of a steam engine for use on the interior sign on the stanchion in the hall. The group agreed to some minor modifications (details, color, etc.) prior to manufacturing the sign.

Bill reported that our Facebook page has been updated, and has received over 1,000 hits on a recent post.

As we are running extremely low on our Tri-folds, Art authorized Pat to order 1,000 new ones (with a change to our website) to tide us over until Bill provides his ideas for a newly designed Tri-fold for future use. Update: Tri-folds were ordered, received, and are being folded for use at the County Fair, and subsequent uses.

A copy of the Marketing Committee Budget & Expenditures will be provided by Art to the Committee at their request on a monthly basis. Bill B. also requested that an agenda be sent to the members prior to our Committee meetings.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 PM.

The next Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 4 PM. If you haven't joined us in the past, why not come and pay us a visit. The only requirement is to bring an idea, or two, and share your thoughts with the Committee.

## Shyneey Rayals Sez:

**The Law Of 'Not-Now, Not-Here'** Regardless of how well-maintained a locomotive or piece of rolling stock is, it will breakdown at the worst possible time in an out-of-the-way location.

## Media updates: Website and Facebook

We have updated our website <https://crossvilletrains.org> and

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/Crossville-Model-Railroad-Club-presents-the-Wonderful-World-of-Trains-860781674034883/>

*It would be great if members visit our Facebook please like and share posts with friends. This can be a great way to let others know about the club.*

All of our web pages have been updated, we will continue to make changes as needed.

Note: We could use help with content perhaps you have photos or videos to share? Let us know if you can help out.

## Crossville Model Railroad Club Picnic

Crossville Model Railroad Club held its annual picnic Monday August 12 at Camp Nakanawa. A great time with plenty of food. A beautiful day on the lake with a nice breeze. This was a good opportunity to meet and get to know other members especially those that volunteer on different days.

Please visit our Post about the picnic on our website: <https://crossvilletrains.org/2019/08/12/crossville-model-railroad-club-2019-club-picnic/>

There is a photo gallery available on our Facebook Page:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/Crossville-Model-Railroad-Club-presents-the-Wonderful-World-of-Trains-860781674034883/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2310298895749813](https://www.facebook.com/pg/Crossville-Model-Railroad-Club-presents-the-Wonderful-World-of-Trains-860781674034883/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2310298895749813)

## Twenty Year Anniversary

We are in the planning stages to put together a commemorative program featuring photos and stories about the club and its' history. We will create a publication that can be shared online as PDF. We are considering printing hard copies to be made available to members. This would make a nice memento celebrating this anniversary. We will be going through the club's archives for photos and stories. Input from members will be greatly appreciated, including stories, photos, and work on the publication. We think this will be fun to put together and could use the help.

## Directory

Lastly we are updating our club roster to include photo of members. This is available on the web in the members section. If you have a headshot you can share please send it by e-mail? At our next club meeting we will take photos as possible. The photos are helpful especially for new members.

Thanks in advance for your help

Bill Bly

[bbly1956@gmail.com](mailto:bbly1956@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/bill.bly.98>

Cell phone 919-434-7927

### **Membership**

**John Conor**

Membership, as of the deadline for this newsletter, has no applications pending. This doesn't mean we've broken our streak yet. Please keep up your positive interaction with all our visitors. It is each of you that make the difference!





## Important Dates in Railroad History From NMRA and Southern Railway Historical Society calendars.

9/1/1935—NMRA organizes at Milwaukee, WI

9/1/1894—Southern Railway absorbs the Georgia Pacific and Louisville Southern rail properties

9/2/1986—NMRA opens Kalmbach Memorial Library

9/3/1930—Thomas Edison runs first experimental electric passenger train between Hoboken and Montclair, NJ

9/9/1972—San Francisco's BART carries first passengers

9/16/1954—Live Oak Perry & Gulf Railroad and the South Georgia Railway acquires by the Southern Railway

9/20/1850—U>S> President Fillmore signs first Railroad Land Grant Act

9/23/1874—East Broad Top first run

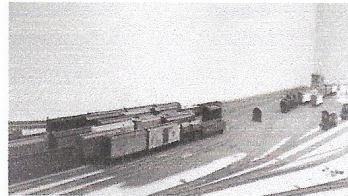
9/24/1939—Southern Railway inaugurates the motor train, *Goldenrod*, trains 19 and 20, between Birmingham-Selma-Mobile

9/26/1903—Southern mail train 97 derails on Stillhouse Creek Trestle north of Danville, VA, due to excessive speed, inspiring the song "The Wreck of the Old 97"

9/28/1873—The Atlanta & Richmond Airline is completed

**Shynee Rayals Sez:**

**The 'Train-Is-Late' Law** You're not late until you arrive there.



## Operations

Richard Morris

While Operating Sessions are open to ALL members of any scale, this is more or less aimed at the HO crew.

I am looking to get a timetable set up, but I have run into a bit of a snag. Locations on the layout don't have names, or we don't agree on what those names are. That will make it difficult to set up a meet in the timetable between two trains if we don't have the location nailed down.

Al Westerfield had several names on the track plan he passed to me, and I have used them during some of the sessions. Other names have become less clear, such as FedUPS. At one point, both of those terminals were in the same location. Now they are on opposite sides a Finger 3. So which are we referring to?

Paul is planning to discuss place names at the HO meeting. Please come and offer your suggestions.

### **HO Meeting Reminder**

**Because of the Labor Day Holiday, Monday's normal HO meeting has been moved to Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4 PM.**

**We have a full agenda that needs our attention.**

**Please try to attend and share your thoughts.**

## Operations



The Cincinnati-Dayton area will again host the SouthWest Ohio OPS weekend (SWOOPS), October 18-20, 2019. We will have 19 outstanding layouts available for operations, many of which have been published in “Great Model Railroads” and “Model Railroader”. Layouts are in three scales, as well as standard and narrow gauge.

Operating plans include CTC, sequential and TTTO, and car forwarding includes car cards and switch lists.

Sessions will begin on Friday evening, with two sessions on Saturday and a session on Sunday. 3 days/2 nights of operating fun, camaraderie, and the chance to gather ideas for your own layout.

SWOOPS is listed on [www.operatingsessions.com](http://www.operatingsessions.com) where you can see the schedule, layout pictures and descriptions. We expect to open registration at the end of August. Please register with [www.operatingsessions.com](http://www.operatingsessions.com)



*DCC Shed -Continued from page 2*

\*Do you have any control? For example, can you turn lights on/off? Sound horn? If do, the problem rests with the loco. Maybe decoder programming or loco internal wiring.

Remember, one-on-one DCC training is always available, so let us know. We are here to help.

If you experience any unexplained issues with the current DCC installations, HO or N, please document what you have encountered in an E-mail, or a note to Paul and Art. We welcome your interest and comments. Feel free to contact either Paul Falk (pfalk1@gmail.com) or Art Landrigan (arcy22tn@gmail.com) with questions, comments or ideas.



## Ride The Rails Festivals

*A Fundraiser to benefit Tri-State Model Railroaders and the Historic Mineral Bluff Depot!*

**When:** **Spring - Sat. June 22 and Sun. June 23, 2019**

**Fall – Sat. Sept 28 and Sun. Sept 29, 2019**

**Trips continuously scheduled from 10am through 3pm**

***FEATURING A LEGO TRAINS DISPLAY THIS YEAR!***

**Where:** Historic L&N Depot, 150 Railroad Avenue  
Mineral Bluff, Georgia 30559



**Motor cars**



**Artist rendering of the Depot**

**Fun to be had:** A five-mile round-trip ride by railroad motor car traveling through the Iron Bridge over the beautiful Toccoa River to the Hogback Road crossing at Murphy Junction, then returning over the bridge back to the Historic Mineral Bluff Depot. Then take a ride on the genuine **Railroad Hand Car!** Fun for all ages. Visit inside the Depot and see the progress being made on our large "HO Scale" model railroad based on the L&N Railroad's "Old Line" from Atlanta to Etowah, Tennessee and the branch line through Mineral Bluff to Murphy, North Carolina. Come see what's new!

### **Suggested Donation:** MOTOR CAR-

\$11.00 Cash for Adults.

\$12.00 Credit/Debit for Adults 13+

\$6.00 Cash or Card for ages 2-12

Under 2 is FREE

HAND CAR - \$ 2.00 Cash per person/per trip.

[www.tsmri.org](http://www.tsmri.org)

[tsmri@yahoo.com](mailto:tsmri@yahoo.com)

**706-455-8903**

**Our sincere thanks to the following, for without their help, these trips would not be possible: Georgia DOT and Georgia Northeastern Railroad/Blue Ridge Scenic Railway.**



## Autumn Rails 2019

# ALL ABOARD!

## All Scales Model Railroad Show

[www.fbe-nscale.com](http://www.fbe-nscale.com)

**Friday Oct 4, 12 to 7 pm and Saturday Oct 5, 10 am to 4 pm**

**WNC Agricultural Center, Expo Building**

**785 Boylston Hwy. (NC 280), Gate 5**

**Fletcher, NC 28732**

**Admission \$6 Adults for both days of the show  
Kids under 12 and scouts in uniform FREE  
Railroading merit badge class starts at 10am Sat**

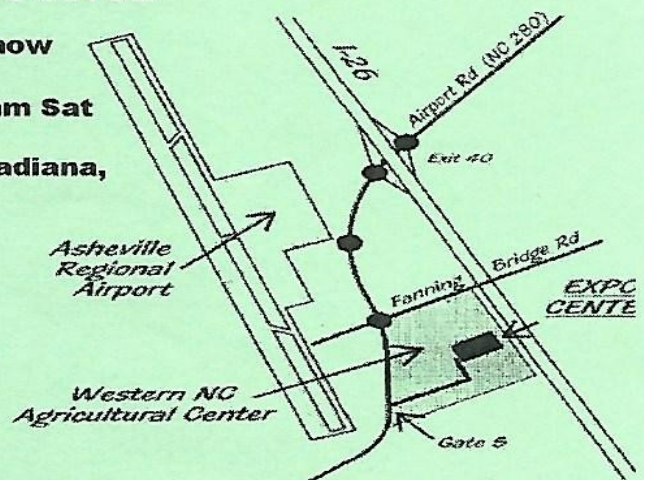
**Dozens of new and used model train, railroadiana,  
hobby and toy vendors.**

**Operating layouts from Z to #1 scales**

**FREE PARKING**

**Door Prizes**

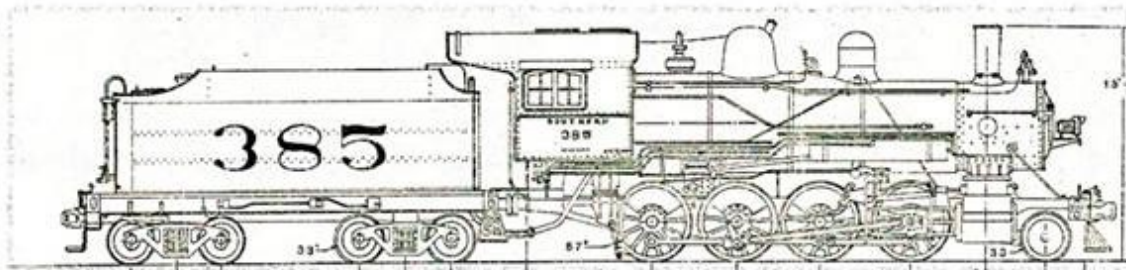
**Dealer tables \$35 for both days. Contact:  
Ray Baldwin, 327 Running Briar Rd  
Fletcher, NC 28732  
607-727-9694 or [FBEAutumnRails@aol.com](mailto:FBEAutumnRails@aol.com)**



**Presented by the**

## **FRENCH BROAD e'N'pire NTRAK CLUB**





KS&E  
Model Railroad Group

## **Smoky Mountain Model Train SWAP MEET**

All Gauges

**Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019**

10am – 4pm



\$2 Admission

\$5 Per Table Selling Fee

(Bring Your Own Table, Limit 2 Tables)

**Model Trains, Accessories and Railroad Memorabilia Only**



**Creative Theater**

**125 Music Mtn. Dr. Pigeon Forge, TN 37863**

For More Info Email Tim Harkleroad at

**[souhotrains@gmail.com](mailto:souhotrains@gmail.com)**



# Ties and Rails Calendar

Tennessee Central Railway Museum, 220 Willow Street, Nashville, TN has numerous excursions throughout the year as listed in the calendar. Contact them at 615-241-0436 for specific information regarding any trip.

<b>Sept. 2019</b>	<b>Clean-up</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>O/G Scales</b>
9/3/19	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	4:00 PM
9/5/19	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
9/7/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	DelMonaco Winery Trip
9/9/19	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
9/9/19	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
9/11/19	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
9/28/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Train Robbery Trip
9/28,29/19	Train Festival	150 Railroad Ave., Mineral Bluff, GA	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; \$11. donation
<b>Oct. 2019</b>	<b>Clean-up</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>HO/N/Z Scales</b>
10/4,5/19	Train Show	785 Boylston Hwy. Gate 5, Fletcher, NC	Adm. \$6; 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM (Fri.) and 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Sat.)
10/5/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Fall Beer/Wine/Art Festival Trip
10/7/19	Ops Session	Club	4:00 PM
10/9/19	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
10/10/19	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
10/12/19	Train Show	125 Music Mtn. Dr., Pigeon Forge, TN	10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Adm. \$2.
10/12/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Fall Foliage Excursion Trip
10/14/19	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
10/14/19	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
10/19/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	DelMonaco Winery Trip
10/18-20/19	Ops Session	See details on website	See <a href="http://www.operatingsessions.com">www.operatingsessions.com</a>
10/26/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Baxter Harvest Festival Trip