



Ties and Rails

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

November 2019

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Here we are just two months until the beginning of 2020. Where did 2019 go? It seems the older we get, the faster the calendar moves and the slower we and our memory works. I forgot the point I was trying to make! Never mind!

2020 will bring some exciting changes to our layouts. Hoping that "O" scale, under the leadership of Ken, and the continuing efforts of all the members involved, the completion of the rebuild will be within sight.

Jan is doing a great job on "N" scale and, while he is on vacation, members have stepped up to help maintain their layout's continued successful dependability operation.

Paul and his "HO" work crew have made a great deal of progress with the new yard on finger four. Installing lights in buildings continues to expand and, of course, the 'blue' night effects will really enhance the displays when all are installed and programmed.

"G" scale under Ann's tender loving care, with help from Jim and Ted, have worked hard to make sure the scale continues to be the one button start up and shut down we all have come to be thankful for.

"Z" scale continues to present a challenge to keep it running. It would be great, with minimal effort, for someone to step up and be the coordinator. This would, most likely, eliminate many of the constant problems which plague it. An easier coordinator's job could never be easier.

2020 is, of course, the year we need to prepare for our twentieth anniversary in 2021. Our Marketing Team, public relations and historian have a sizeable challenge ahead of them. Having a couple more volunteers would be a major assistance in the year-long celebration.

Our November meeting is on Veteran's Day and I am requesting that veterans wear something that represents their branch of service to the meeting.

If you have something you wish to put in the newsletter, contact Tom Shallcross at chipmonk4@comcast.net



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Come on in, we're talking about installing decoders. We are often asked about adding decoders to locomotives that are already in your roster. Should I add a decoder? Can I do it myself? Where can I buy decoders? What's the best decoder? How much do decoders cost? What can a decoder do? Are there different kinds of decoders? Will a decoder make my loco run better? Are decoders hard to install? The questions are numerous.

These questions are valid. And the questions are welcomed. As with most things in this hobby, and in life, there is a learning curve. It is good to ask and hopefully satisfying answers can be found.

Our answers are pretty simple...and to start with are usually questions too. What features are you t to add? What kind of locomotive are you talking about? What manufacturer built the locomotive? Does the loco claim to be DCC ready? Does the loco run well on DC? Do you want to add sound too? What is your budget? Do you like to kit-bash?

Just the questions from both sides give you an indication how complex this can be. Ask google, **"converting old locomotives to dcc"** and some 475,000 results are provided.

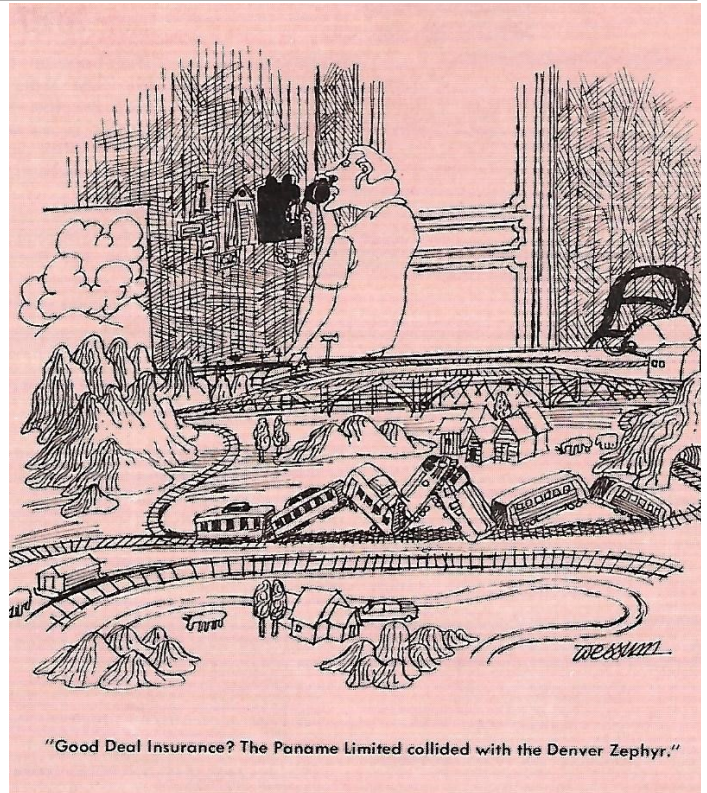
Some conversions are very easy and some are very difficult. Easy does not always equate to inexpensive. A decoder supplier might have a complete kit for a particular locomotive. Likewise, difficult might be cheap if you have to put lots of time and

tweaks into the change over to use a simple decoder.

So ask your questions and together we can find answers.

A sneak peak at next month, big DCC changes for HO at the club.

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 Falk (pfalk1@gmail.com) or Art Landrigan (arcy22tn@gmail.com) with questions, comments or ideas.



"Good Deal Insurance? The Paname Limited collided with the Denver Zephyr."

Shyne Rayals Sez:

The 'Do Not Bother A Technician While Working' Rule To avoid personal injury while technicians work on your locomotive, do not tell them how to do their jobs.

My Type of Engineer

A Norfolk Southern Engineer, who just moved to Georgia from Chicago, walks into a bar and orders three mugs of Bud.

He sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more.

The bartender approaches and tells the engineer, "You know, a mug goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time..."

The engineer replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is an engineer for the BNSF Railway and the other is an engineer for the Union Pacific. When we all left our home in Chicago, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The bartender admits that you are a good brother, and leaves it there.

The engineer becomes a regular in the bar, and always drinks the same way. He orders three mugs and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and only orders two mugs. (I know, a tear is coming to my eye too) All the regulars take notice and fall silent.

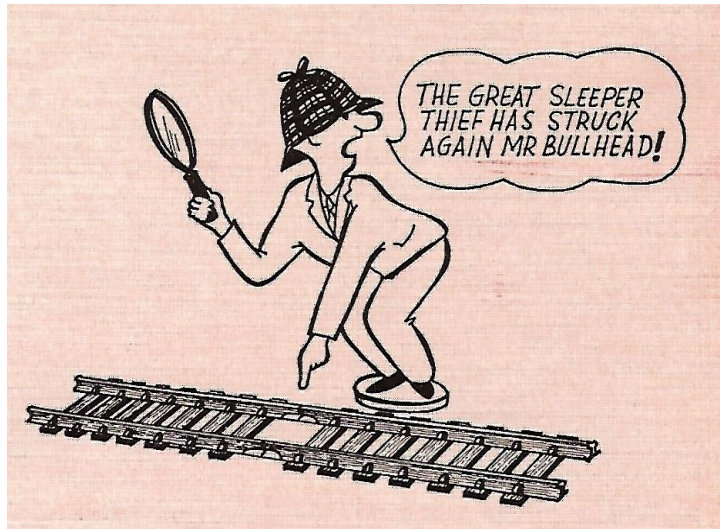
When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The engineer looks quite puzzled for a moment, then the light dawns in his eyes and he laughs.

"Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains,

"It's just that my wife and I joined the Baptist Church and I had to quit drinking."

"Hasn't affected my brothers though..."



HO Scale News - Paul Falk

Work continues on the 'nameplate' project as additional plates showing the original designers of the various sections are put in place. As time on the 'machine' at Roane State becomes available. More will be made and installed.

We continue to upgrade our locomotive fleet with the addition of two new SD70ACe's from Walthers. This will give us a chance to 'retire' a couple of the older locos that are constantly taken out of service for repairs before they 'die' altogether.

We have installed the 'white busses' and the controller for the floodlights in the yard on finger 4. Hopefully we will be able to start to install the light towers in the next couple of weeks.

'Blue Landing Lights' have been installed on the roof of Ferry Medical Center for the safety of the helicopter's landing at night. They should be 'activated' in the next week or so.

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

11/1/1895 - Southern acquires control of Alabama Great Southern Railroad

11/1/1980 - CSX Corporation formed

11/11/1895 - Asheville & Spartanburg Railroad acquired. The line featuring the famous Saluda Grade.

11/18/1883 - U.S. & Canadian railroads first use Standard Time

11/22/1915 - Milwaukee Road first electrified Pacific Extension train

11/27/1897 - Andrew Beard patents Jenny Coupler

11/29/1906 - Southern president Samuel Spencer and seven colleagues tragically killed near Lawyers Station, VA when a following train runs into his office car.

Elections

Congratulations to the following members that were elected to offices in the Plateau Division for the upcoming 2 years:

Assistant Superintendent—Art Landrigan

Paymaster—Mike Durnwald

Directors—Vince D'Alessandro

Carl Nordeen

Because Art was elected to the Asst. Supt. Position, he will be vacating his Director's position, effective 1/1/20. I will be looking for a replacement to serve out the remainder of his Director's position.

Tom Shallcross

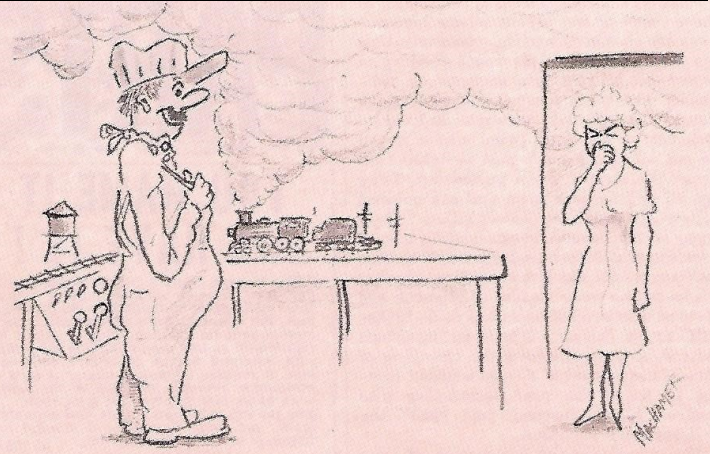
Membership

John Conor

As of now, there are no membership applications pending. As we have seen so many times before, you have to wait for the next business meeting to see what develops with any pending new applications.

I know of several members who reported passing out membership applications this month.

As always, thank you all for putting our club's best foot forward to all of our visitors. Your efforts do make a difference.



"I beat the energy crisis, dear --- switched to coal!"

Reminder

There is an HO meeting at the Suite at 4:00 PM on Monday, November 4, 2019.

There will be a review of the HO budget and recent purchases. Existing projects on piers 2 & 5 will be reviewed as well as proposed projects on piers 1 & 4. Lighting with Buck Converters will be discussed.

We will be discussing the training and mentoring of new HO members.

Please arrange to be present as your ideas are important to all of us!

Paul Falk

Golden Spike Recognition

Congratulations to Bobbie Dean on receiving her Golden Spike recognition from the National Model Railroad Association.

The Golden Spike recognition is the first step as an NMRA members enters the Achievement program. It provides an opportunity for the modeler to learn some of the basic skills utilized in the construction of a model railroad layout.

Congratulations Bobbie.



Our Latest SER Fund-Raising Car Kit



No layout can have enough of these cars!

The Southeastern Region of the NMRA is proud to announce the availability of a limited number of Accurail HO scale ACF 4650 cu. ft. covered hopper kits custom decorated for the SER. The car built date is 5/68 and is lettered for Engelhard.

The car, offered in one road number, is injected-molded plastic featuring plastic wheelsets, Accumate couplers and separate brake detail. Orders of two or more cars includes a free easy-to-install replacement decal set, twelve numbers in all.

Cars available at \$23 each plus shipping \$6.00 for one car.

Shipping: Two cars \$7.00; Three or Four cars \$8.00.

COST BREAK - when ordering four or more cars only \$20 per car plus shipping of \$8.00. Orders of more than four cars add an additional \$1.00 per car for shipping.

Check or money order payable to:
SER-NMRA c/o Randall Watson SER Car Project
730 Morning Creek Lane
Suwanee, Ga 30024

For additional information contact Region Car Chair Randall Watson at: randallwatson1@bellsouth.net

Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee met on October 10, 2019 with good attendance.

2021 Calendar Update: (POC: Pat T.) A series of target dates for the preparation of the 20th Anniversary 2021 Calendar has been developed. Club Member picture take—Apr/May 2020, Final Calendar draft—July 2020, Draft to printer—Aug. 2020, Final draft on hand for approval—Sept. 2020, Calendars available for sale—Oct. 2020. Calendar selling price will be: \$9.99. NOTE: Pat suggested the addition of a separate page in the rear (elongated with a composite Calendar for the following year (2022)), which would contain appropriate club contact info on the extended bottom for use by all for a two year period. The Committee unanimously concurred. (Great idea, Pat.)

Discussion planning for our Anniversary Booklet covered various areas for consideration. Booklet will likely be an 'On-Line' version, with a minimum of 2 printed copies (Library & Historian). John suggested a list of Club Officers from 2001 to present be included, which was agreed to by the Committee.

Historical Booklet for our 2021 Anniversary Update: Bill B. needs stories on our CMRC Club history and will be contacting members for their assistance. He may put an article in an upcoming issue of our newsletter. Pictures and stories of interest over the past 20 years is the focus for the input to Bill. If you have writing, administrative skills or other helpful skills and would like to assist Bill, please contact him directly. I'm sure Bill could use the assistance, especially since he has no personal knowledge of the events which have occurred over the past 20 years. Let's offer to give Bill a hand in

his efforts.

Large Signage Update: With the Board's approval, Art has contacted several Signage companies in the area to obtain quotes for the design and installation of a vinyl stretch sign to replace the 'Dress Barn' sign at our Northeast corner of the Mall. The Board approved an amount to be used from the Marketing Budget for this purpose. As of Oct. 22nd, two quotes have been received, which will be presented to the BOD in November once again, as both were higher than the originally BOD approved amount. (In the meantime, appropriate design efforts have been initiated).

Interior Sign: Paul has been busy with the lighting installations as everyone can see, and has not had a chance to update the interior loco signage at this time. Many thanks to Paul with some assistance from Bob Houser for the continuing installation of our new lighting capabilities within the suite. Folks love the effect, is the added lighting capability for members who enter the suite in the evenings who can enjoy the added safety of having lighting available for their walk up to the front of the suite. A separate control for the new lighting is kept in it's holder which is mounted on the side of the fire extinguisher box using Velcro. Just be sure to **ALWAYS** replace the On/Off control back on it's Velcro attachment when you are departing.

John C. had suggested that we might try something unique to set us apart for our 20th Anniversary. With the Committee support, John is continuing to seek the specific requirements to embark on a potential 'Guinness Book World Record' event for the Anniversary celebration.

The meeting was adjourned approx. 5:25 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 at 4 PM. The meeting is open to the Club members; feel free to attend and assist where you can.



Photos by Paul Falk

Halloween - 2019

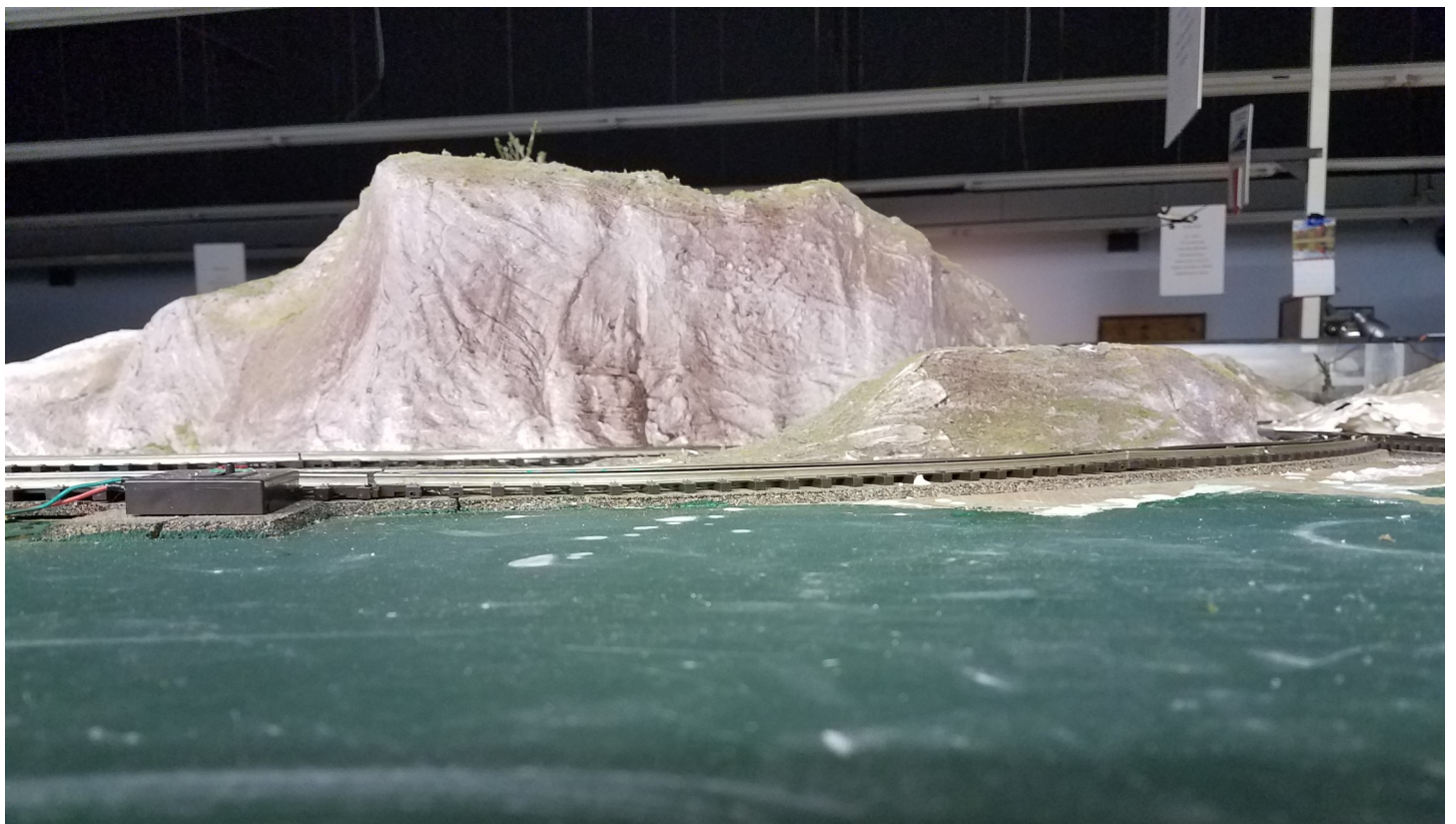
Last night (10/31/19) seven Club members and three spouses maintained the Suite to the delight of 815 children and parents. We were open from 4:00 to 7:00 PM and the line to get the treats was continuous, as you can see by the photos.

The best information we could get was that we were the only store type facility that did not run out of candy, thanks to Larry Lewer for 'planning ahead'.

Marilyn Affinito, Robert Houser and Lois Carmack were our 'Official Greeters' and were assisted by Mr. Pumpkin and Ms. Broomstick to the delight of the children.



Updated "O" scale Layout Pictures



CMRC Public Relations



A recent visit to the Cookeville Depot provided a close up view of these historic trains. This visit was to do a bit of networking. Next trip we will take a closer look at the model railroads and other features at the Depot and Museum. Rail fans and modelers alike should try to visit. <https://cookevilledepot.com>

As a result, the manager of the Depot will be sending visitors to CMRC and they will share our rack cards with their guests. We will be visiting other locations to set up similar relationships. If you have a suggestion on a location let us know.

Bill Bly

CMRC Public Relations



We are continuing to post on Social Media. The recent HO operating session had a lot of interest. We would like to thank Pat Taylor for sharing photos and videos taken of visitors to the Suite. It would be great if staff could share photos of your trains in action. Photos of guests are also appreciated please ask permission, we have releases available at the front desk.

Thank you to those helping to gather information for the anniversary publication we are working on. It is a big job to go through the archives. We appreciate the offers to supply articles, photos or stories that you may be able share. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions. Bill Bly

Cumberland Division SER-NMRA

<http://www.tcry.org/cd/index.htm>

Fall 2019 Division Meet

&

Model Train Show

9 am to 3 pm Saturday, November 2nd, 2019

Location- TC Ry Museum at 220 Willow St Nashville TN

**Admission – Adults \$4, Children under 12, \$1
Families \$10 max, Scouts in Uniform- FREE!**

- **NEW!! Guided Tours to NC&StL Ry Steam Locomotive #576**
- **Dealer Tables**
- **Operating Digitrax DCC with Sound on HO and N Scale Model Railroads**
- **Company Store**
- **Food Service on the Dining Car**

A great family event for everyone!

For more information, contact Cumberland Div/TCRM at 220 Willow St Nashville TN 37210-2159 Phone 615-244-9001 FAX 615-244-2120

E-mail hultman@bellsouth.net

Directions- From the east follow I-40 westward, take Hermitage Av Exit 212 to Hermitage Av, turn left & go about 1 block to Fairfield Av, then follow the TCRM signs to the Show. From the west, follow I-40 eastward to Exit 212 Fesslers Lane, turn left onto Fesslers Lane, go a mile or so, turn left onto Lebanon Rd, go about 2 miles to Fairfield Av and follow the TCRM signs to the Show.

**Sponsored by
Cumberland Division SER-NMRA & TC Ry Museum
A Non-Profit Tennessee Corporation Donations Tax-Deductible**

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.

Nov. 2019	Clean-up	Club	O/G Scales
11/2/19	Train Show	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Adm. \$4.
11/4/19	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	4:00 PM
11/7/19	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
11/9/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Baxter—DelMonaco Winery Trip
11/11/19	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
11/11/19	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
11/13/19	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
11/16/19	Train Show	3938 Poplar Level Rd., Saffin Center, KY	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM; Adm. \$6.; NMRA members FREE with card
11/23/19	Train Show	Ragsdale Old Building, Lake City, SC	9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; \$5. Adm
11/28/19	Holiday	Club	Closed—THANKSGIVING
11/30/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Watertown—North Pole Express Trip
Dec. 2019	Clean-up	Club	HO/N/Z Scales
12/1/19	Train Show	11728 Ambassador Dr., Kansas City, MO	9:00 AM to 2:00 PM; \$5. Adm.
12/2/19	Ops Session	Club	4:00 PM
12/5/19	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
12/7/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Lebanon—2 North Pole Express Trips
12/9/19	X'mas Party	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	TBA
12/12/19	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
12/14/19	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Lebanon—2 North Pole Express Trips
12/14/19	Train Show	Expo 2 Bldg., Nashville TN Fairgrounds	9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; \$7. Adm
12/25/19	Holiday	Club	Closed—CHRISTMAS