



Ties and Rails

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

December 2019

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Here is wishing all our members, their immediate and extended families, a very Merry Christmas and the Happiest of Holidays with a prayer that all those traveling reach their destinations and return home safely.

The annual Christmas party is fast approaching and it would be great if everyone came to share the celebration, the great food and the comradery this Club displays all year long. Please do your best to attend. There will be great desserts and lots of door prizes. Trust me, you will be missed if you are not there as you might be one of the winners of our annual awards for outstanding contributions to the Club.

A few weeks ago, I submitted funding requests to the City of Crossville, Cumberland County and VEC. We will need to wait until the new fiscal year for the political subdivisions but we did get a grant from VEC for \$250. I will have a "Thank You" letter on the front counter that I would like all members to sign.

Thanks to all for another year of unwavering commitment, dedication and volunteerism on behalf of the Club.



Tw was three weeks before Christmas
and all through the house

The Air Conditioners are running because
we live in the south

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

This month a few quick procedural reminders from the N \$ HO groups.

First. When you are finished with a loco, it is important to remember to release or dispatch the DCC address or cab number from the system. When you dispatch a locomotive address, you make it available to be acquired by another throttle. Additionally, this makes the Command Station address slot available for new locos. This helps avoid the dreaded "SLOTS FULL" error message.

The method to do this varies with the controller you are using. The four common ones are shown below. Others would be similar.

Using a Digitrax UT4: To release, or dispatch, a loco

under current UT4 control:

1. Unplug the UT4 from the LocoNet port.
2. Press and hold the DISP (Dispatch) key.
3. Plug the throttle briefly back into a LocoNet port.

Using a Digitrax DT402/DT500

1. Press the LOCO key to enter address selection, browse to the address you want to dispatch.
2. Press the DISP Key to dispatch it to your LocoNet system.

Using Engine Driver (an Android App)

1. Press the Loco number you are releasing.
2. Press the Release Button shown on the next screen.

Using WiThrottle (an Apple App)

1. Press the Loco number you are releasing.
2. Press the Release Button shown on the next screen.

Second, please remember to return the loop(s) to the DC default position, (switch position up for HO scale or switch position down for N scale) when you are finished with DCC.

Last month we promised some new DCC features for the HO layout. Well stay tuned, after a minor setback, the changes are still coming.

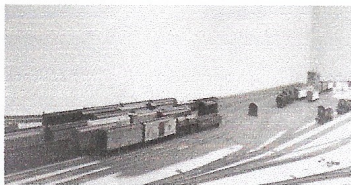
Remember, one-on-one DCC training is always available, so let us know. We are here to help. If you experience any unexplained issues with the current DCC installations, HO or N, please document what you have encountered in an E-Mail, or a note to Paul and Art. We welcome your interest and comment. Feel free to contact either Paul or Art with comments



Time Change

The upcoming Operations Session scheduled has had a time change.

It will still be held on Monday, December 2nd but will be held at **4:00 PM** instead of the originally scheduled 10:00 AM



Operations

Richard Morris

We have added “mile markers’ along the Southern line on the HO layout. These are little res map tacks every five feet (a “mile”) and numbers along the fascia corresponding to them. We didn’t start at 1 so there is some indication of the railroad extending further than just the staging in the back room.

These mile markers will be used in operating sessions to make instructions clearer as to where locations are on the layout.

Trains planned for the session are east and westbound passenger and freight trains, yard work, locals to Pine Ridge Junction, Lyall, Crossville and Golden Valley.

If you haven’t come to one of our sessions, come try it out. We will attempt to pair experienced operators with those with less experience.

N Scale News - Jan Novack

A recent incident came up with derailments, so I offer this explanation to help.

Some of the turnouts on the three lines only

TREE IS UP



work well if the trains operate in a certain direction. It shouldn’t be that way but is. I hope to address that sometime in the future. For now, trains will operate better if they run counterclockwise on the mail line and clockwise on the freight and mountain lines. If you pull the Club train to run your own, at the end of the shift, make sure the Club train is put back on in the proper direction.

The Crossville “Industrial Park” is nearing completion. Just needs the lighting and some trees and landscaping. Plans are being made for additional lighting throughout the layout.

Big thanks to Bill Bly for cleaning the track while I was on vacation. His efforts in repairing locomotives are also much appreciated. Our N scale roster is in good shape

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

In the past month, we have completed the installation of the 'night lights' that are located on the underside of the fascia surrounding the HO layout.

These lights will shed some light on the floor around the layout so that our members and the general public will be able to see where they are walking when we are operating with the room lights off. This is a safety issue.

The installation of the floodlights in the HoSu yard has been completed. This will make it easier to identify various cars in the yard during ops sessions.

As part of the Suite LED Lighting Project, an auxiliary light has been mounted above the tower to make it easier to see various controls, etc. when we are operating in a 'reduced light' atmosphere.

Are you depressed because of the 'bad' weather we have been experiencing lately? Are you looking forward to the coming of the Spring weather? Try stopping by the 'County Park' on the HO layout where you can relax and listen to the birds that call the park 'Home'.

Some of you may have noticed red map tacks along the Southern main line as well as small stickers on the fascia with an indication like "MP 34". These are temporary mile post markers that will be used during the operating sessions. Permanent ones will be installed as soon as they can be made.

Shynee Rayals Sez:

The Dispatcher Rule Communicating with the Dispatcher is equal to the square root of fibs, times mistakes, times contradictions, divided by confusion.



Elections

During the recent Division meeting on October 28th, the annual elections were held for the Division effective 1/1/20

Art Landrigan was elected as the new Assistant Superintendent. Art has resigned his present office as Director effective midnight 12/31/19.

Mike Durnwald was re-elected as the Paymaster.

Carl Nordeen and Vince D'Alessandro were re-elected as Directors.

With the election of Art as the new Assistant Superintendent, a vacancy was created as Director effective 1/1/20. Pursuant to the Division By-Laws, I have appointed Ralph to fill the remainder of Art's term.

Welcome aboard Ralph! I'm sure you will add so new insight to the Board based on your past experience.

Tom Shallcross, Supt.



Railroaders Are Great People

The 'Post' shown below recently appeared in a Facebook account and it appeared to be right on target for our role when we fill a shift in our Suite. I thought I would print it here for all our members to reflect upon.

"Tonight we were supposed to have ridden the Polar Express. Sadly our son had other plans. You see he is autistic. He was so excited that he became overwhelmed and has an atomic size meltdown. He beat me and his dad up pretty badly. A wonderful woman helped us by holding our stuff while we tried to keep Ty from smashing his head on the bricks. The staff of the Grand Canyon Railway tried so hard to help. They even held the train. Finally, I had to say let's go back to the room. I cried all the way back. My heart was shattered. I wanted this so badly for my son. He loves trains and he loves the Polar Express. This was a dream come true. But it didn't happen.

We got to our room and I went into the bathroom and silently cried. My heart ached. Then there was a knock on the door calling out "maintenance!". My husband answered the door and slipped outside. He came in and said, "They said they would like to do something". I stepped out and there was one of the gentlemen that tried to help us and a police officer. They said that they felt horrible about what happened and wanted to know if they could do something special for our family. I started crying again and asked if I could hug them. The poor policeman looked terrified but I didn't care, I hugged anyway sobbing "Thank You" over and over again. I ran into the room and tried to get our son up but he refused so my husband said he would go tell them.

While they were gone, I curled up next to my

son and read him his favorite book, "The Polar Express". I had just finished when my husband came back in and said that there was someone special that wanted to visit. Ty and I shook our head yes and in walks the train conductor. He sat next to Ty's bed and chatted with him. Ty was star struck. He was so excited and happy. Then the conductor gave Ty his pocket watch!

After the conductor left my husband told me that the hotel and railway offered to reschedule our visit special accommodations! They said that they want everyone to experience something special and magical.

They succeeded. We may not have gotten to ride a train but we got something even more magical.....We got the gift of human kindness!

Thank you to the woman that stayed with us and helped. Thank you to the entire staff at the Grand Canyon Railway and Hotel. You have truly made a difference in our lives.

Please share this so everyone knows what an amazing place this is!!

****Update**** The conductor came back and gave Ty a bell from the North Pole. He then whispered to us "Tomorrow stop by the station for a refund". My goodness, this is a special place filled with amazing people!

****UPDATE 11/17/19****** The conductor reached out to us today and said that the Grand Canyon Railway wanted us to come back! They are giving us dinner, a hotel room, train tickets and breakfast all on them! To top everything off The Conductor will be having dinner with us and take Ty on a tour!!! They

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Railroaders....continued from page 5

want Ty to experience his dream of riding the Polar Express!!

My head is so happy. I can't thank the Grand Canyon Railway, the Conductor and the entire staff enough!

We have never experienced a company that cares so much.

Spread the word to the world, Williams, AZ and the Grand Canyon Railway/Polar Express is the world's most magical place that is filled with the most magical people!"

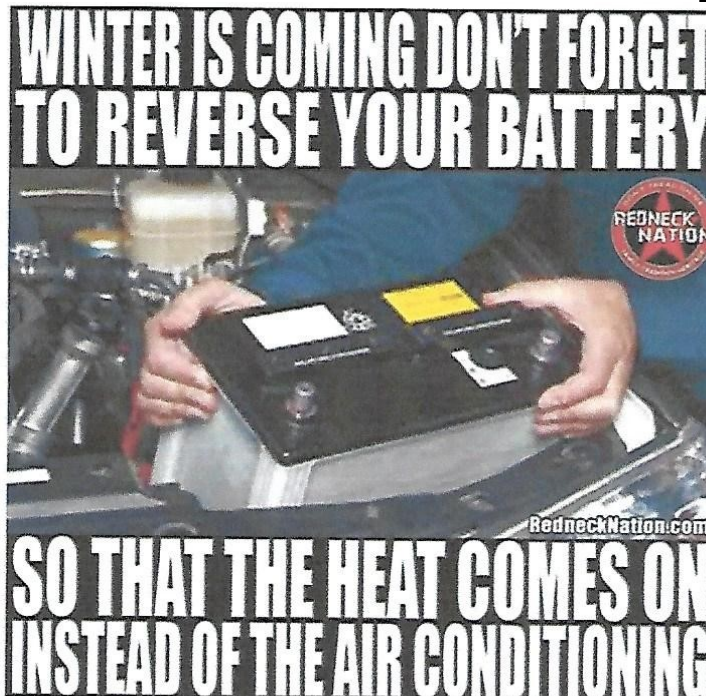
While we are not in a position to do something of this magnitude for some of our visitors, our positive interaction with our guests can produce a positive impression that they will treasure for years to come.

Whether it is a small gesture (such as helping a young mother by pushing our cart around with an older child while she carries an infant) or whether we decorate the Suite (as we did for Halloween) to give our visitors a positive experience of their visit, they will remember their experience and project their experience to those they come in contact with.

Quite often these positive experienced will be reflected in the boxes mounted on the kiosk.

Shynee Rayals Sez:

The 'Do-it Yourself Repair' Principle For the successful completion of any DIY locomotive repair requiring tools, the person doing the work will draw blood at least once.



N Scale Drive-In Start Procedures

As we have many new members and because of the long period of time since we last posted these procedures, we thought it may be appropriate for all to review them.

To start the operation of the theater, follow this procedure:

1. Once the track power is turned on, press the "Red On" button on the remote. Be sure the remote is pointed at the DVD player located beneath the Drive-In. Be sure the curtain is pulled back to give you a clear path between the remote and the DVD player.
2. Push the "Play" button and wait until the movie starts.
3. Push the "Repeat" button three times slowly and "Title" will appear on the top left of the screen.

This allows the movie to continue repeatedly until you turn it off at the end of the shift.

Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee met on November 7, 2019 with Art, Paul, Pat, Ralph, John and Ann in attendance.

Historical Booklet for our 2021 Anniversary update: Bill B. stated that for the time being, he will use the title, "CMRC Anniversary Booklet" for the 20th Anniversary Booklet. Some of the title suggestions received were: 'CMRC 2001-2021', 'CMRC Fast Clock', 'Still on the Rails: a 20 Year Journey', or 'Still on the Track: 20 Years of Scale Adventures'. Bill will be gone for 2-3 months beginning Thanksgiving week.

Large signage update: The BOD approved the use of existing Marketing funds for the procurement

and installation from Martel. Design of the sign is ongoing with draft to be reviewed by the BOD once approved. We have recently received approval (Nov. 21st) for the replacement of the 'Dress Barn' sign with our CMRC Logo Banner once it is received. Chip stated that the new owner gave his permission to install as soon as we are ready.

Paul is finalizing the LED Suite Lighting project, and it was agreed that this project no longer falls under the Marketing Committee.

John C. continues to work (E-Mails) with the Guinness Book of Records in England on receiving details for a potential Self-Directed record application. More to come.

The current year's budget remains at \$830.64, sufficient to cover the cost of our outdoor signage.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:25 PM.

Barring any need for E-Mail discussion items, there will be no scheduled Marketing Committee Meeting in December.

Our next scheduled meeting will be January 9, 2020 at 4 PM. Come join us as we 'Market' our CMRC.





Membership

John Conor

Currently there are no applications for membership to be processed.

Maybe by the Board meeting we will have something.

Happy Holidays, one and all!



My children ask me each year the same question. After thinking about it, I decided to give them my real answer:

What do you want for Christmas?

I want you to keep coming around.

I want you to ask me questions.

Ask my advice. Tell me your problems.

Ask for my opinion. Ask for my help.

I want you to come over and rant about your problems, rant about life.

Whatever, tell me about your job.

Your worries. Your classes. I want you to continue sharing your life with me.



Kelly's Treehouse

Come over and laugh with me, or laugh at me. I don't care, hearing you laugh is music to me.

I want you to spend your money making a better life for you. I have the things I need. I want to see you happy and healthy. When you ask me

what I want for Christmas I say "Nothing" because you've already been giving me my gift all year.

I want you.



Christmas Decorating

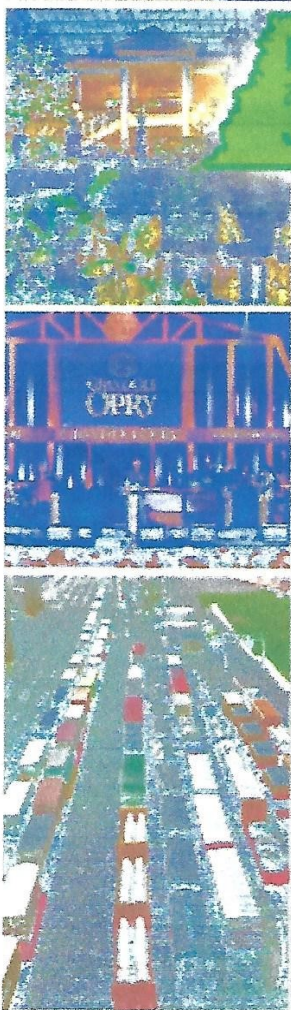
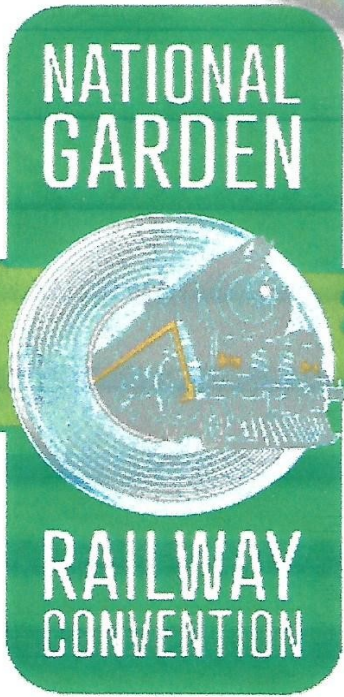
What a great turnout to decorate the Christmas tree and the suite.

Marilyn Affinito, Roberta Dean, Sandy D'Alessandro, Priscilla Sutton, Bruce Herring, Jan Novack, Gavin Moffat, Jim Piersol, Ann Grogitsky and Jim Grogitsky participated.

We had all the decorations up in an hour and the new owner was there to see it.

A good time was had by all!





*"Hindsight is 2020.
Don't miss out!"*

Nashville, TN
Gaylord Opryland Resort
May 31– June 6, 2020

36th National Garden Railway Convention
Presented by the Nashville Garden Railway Society

ngrc2020.com

Registration opens June 1st

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.

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
12/7/19	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
Jan. 2020	Clean Up	Club	O/G Scales
1/1/20	Holiday	Club	Closed—New Years Day
1/6/20	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	4:00 PM
1/8/20	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
1/9/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
1/13/20	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
1/13/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
1/27/20	NMRA Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	10:00 AM
Feb. 2020	Clean Up	Club	HO/N/Z Scales
2/3/20	Ops Session	Club	4:00 PM
2/6/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
2/8/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Watertown—Valentines Day Murder Mystery Trip
2/10/20	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
2/10/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
2/13/20	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
2/22/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Baxter—Muddy Roots DeIMonaco Winery Trip