



Ties and Rails

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

February 2020

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Hope everyone enjoyed that brief summer we had a couple of weeks ago as old man winter has returned with a vengeance.

The Board of Directors had a wide variety of subjects to address in the January meeting. One thing that will be very noticeable and will hopefully attract more visitors, are four new ground level signs directing the public to the rear entrance (Door D) where our new large outdoor sign will be prominent.

The By-law committee was assigned the task of creating a new membership for people who can not perform the duties of a regular membership but who want to support us financially. They have already developed their first draft and, of course, this will be discussed at our February meeting.

March 16th, the third Monday in that month is when we will hold our evening event in the suite. The social event went well the first couple of years, but was cancelled due to lack of participation in 2019.

To increase interest and add a little fun to the night, we will be hosting a Monte Carlo Night for members and their wives that night, beginning at 6:30 PM. The games will include Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Poker and other types of gaming fun. Each attendee will be given \$1,000. in chips to spend as they like as no real money will be allowed. The Big Winner of the night may win the Grand Prize, whatever that may be. A used 1981 Yugo is about all we can afford. There will be a sign-up sheet back on the bulletin board.

If you have or know of a person or organization which may have these types of games, please let me know ASAP. If we can borrow poker chips you may have. Please let me know.

After the February meeting, Art will make a presentation on creating and maintaining an inventory of your equipment. That list would be very helpful in case of a loss or theft. Bring a jump drive to receive a free copy of the program.



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

This month we have an example of programmers trying to keep up with the changes in the android operating system of a smart phone. Popular with many members is the Engine Driver application for operating DCC.

The Club layout wifi connections like CMRC-HO have no internet connection and some android versions will try and “help you” by finding and connecting to your phone providers data plan to provide you an internet connection. This essentially turns off the wifi connection you need for Engine Driver.

The Engine Driver site at <https://enginedriver.mstevetodd.com/wifi> has published a workaround if you experience this difficulty using the various club wifi connections. For your convenience, it is copied below.

WiFi Issues

Recent versions of Android have a very confusing “feature”, sometimes called “Smart Network Switching”, that will ignore a connected WiFi network if that network cannot reach the Internet. The network shows as connected,

and EngineDriver server discovery works, but clicking on the discovered server or Connect button does not work.

EngineDriver will show a message “Using MOBILE network, not WiFi, check WiFi settings”, when this mode is encountered.

Some devices have a setting to turn off this feature, some do not. Some provide a notification that “WiFi has no internet access, Tap for options” followed by “This network has no internet access. Stay connected?” that can be used to disable this feature and remain connected to the wifi. If you missed the prompt, you can “forget” the network, and reenter your wifi credentials to get the prompt again.

Workaround: *If you are unable to turn off the feature, you can enable “Airplane Mode” , then enable ONLY WiFi, and then connect your wifi.*

~~~~~  
Hope this helps, if you need more assistance, use the contacts below.

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

## N Scale News Flash

The Crossville buildings section of the layout has been completed. The lighting was connected (Thank you Tom S. for the assist), parking area lines and vehicles added and the landscaping finished. A spotlight will be added at a later date that will shine on the water tower illuminating the Fairfield Glade name.



## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

The N&W line has received an operational 'facelift' in that the upper mainline coming out of the back room has had its radius increased to better accommodate the longer cars. This is in response to a few members that like to run long circus cars, passenger cars and double stacks. If anyone continues to have problems, please contact Richard Morris and discuss the problems with him as he is the primary general contractor.

Recently, Paul has appointed a "Signaling Committee" to follow up on the installation of a signal system. This committee consist of Tom Shallcross (Chair), Paul Falk, Mike Durnwald, Richard Morris (Operations Chair), Art Landrigan (Supply) and Jan Novack (Visitor from N gauge).

At this point the primary focus of the committee is to develop guidelines regarding which system to use, what type of signals to use, financing, installation plan and timeline for completion.

At the initial meeting, a review of various systems was discussed and the final determination was to use the system supplied by Azatrax as it will accomplish everything we want at the best price.

It was also determined that the best way to go was to use signals with LED lights as the older version with grain-of-wheat bulbs are getting hard to find and don't last as long. This will also allow us to better utilize various signals that we have had donated.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed system, please contact one of the committee members.

Work has started on the 'west' side of the fourth pier with the construction of the 'modified'

fascia in preparation for the installation of the additional base prior to the installation of the new track.

Within the next couple of weeks, a new and more reliable power supply for the Ferris wheel will be installed which will permit us to better control the speed of the wheel.

### Shynee Rayals Sez:

**The 'Do-it Yourself Repair' Principle Corollary** The person doing the locomotive repair will end up with oil or grease in unlikely areas on themselves and their clothing.

### News from the NMRA

On Monday, January 27, 2020, the Plateau Division held their quarterly meeting in the Community Room at the Mall.

After reviewing all reports and the report from the Audit Committee, all reports were accepted as presented.

At the end of the meeting, Paul Falk presented a clinic on the uses of Bondic. As part of the clinic, a demonstration was held where numerous pieces of equipment were repaired.

### Important Dates in Railroad History

*From NMRA calendar*

2/12/1934—Union Pacific M-10000 begins coast-to-coast tour

2/14/1855—Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad formed

2/28/1827—Baltimore & Ohio Railroad chartered

## Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee held a short meeting on January 9, 2020 with most members present.

Large signage update: We are still awaiting the installation of our new Billboard Sign on the Outlet Center building. We expect installation any day, hopefully before you read this report.

Significant discussions followed the presentation of smaller signage presented by Pat for installation near the entrance driveways to the Outlet Center. The Committee was in favor of the sign design, but concerns were expressed on the durability of the framing to be used, with Pat to check back with Martel for options prior to the Board of Directors meeting on the following Monday. (Update: Board of Directors agreed that the rigid frames were the best option regardless of the increased pricing.)

The next Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020 at 4 PM. The meetings are open to the Club membership, so feel free to attend and assist where you can.

## Snowstorms

### *Division superintendent, Buffalo, winter 1966.*

Big storm, two feet on ground, still falling. New York calling, help on the way, snowblowers, plows, dozers, loaders, extra manpower, advice galore, just ask for more.

No wind, no big problem, cleanup quick, soon back in business.

Following week: another storm, another two feet, plus 50 mph blast off Lake Erie — visibility nil, switches plugged, hump shut down, passenger trains tied up in Central Terminal, operation at standstill. Help wanted. Help needed.

“HELP!” No answer from New York. Forty-two inches at Dewitt. Buffalo - where's that?

## N Scale News - Jan Novack

### Upcoming Projects

With the completion of the Crossville section, the focus will be to install lighting to the town area. Street lighting will be installed along with random building lighting. An illuminated American flag will be put in the park area replacing the oversized flag there now.

Once complete, street lighting will be installed in the trolley town. Lighting may be extended down the road to the drive-in theater. I'm still studying how to approach lighting the industry area around the corner from the trolley where the three lines run parallel.

When we get the N scale lit up a bit, the task of fixing turnouts will be next, replacing ones that do not operate correctly and installing tortoise controls.

WITH THIS NEW SOFTWARE  
I CAN DESIGN A LAYOUT FOR  
THE ENTIRE HOUSE.



## Membership

John Conor

This year is starting at a fast pace as time seems to speed by. It's been almost 3 months since our last new member applicant was voted in. It goes that way sometimes. I believe it's not due to lack of effort. Please keep up the effort and, as before, it will pay dividends in the future.

We have lost a couple of members recently and that's a shame. The reasons they gave for leaving were similar. As with any club, there are times when maybe it's not you hoped it might be or whatever the reasons. I know some members that join are looking to start new relationships because they are new to the area, Maybe they want to learn a new hobby. Maybe they just love trains and want to celebrate that with other folks who feel the same way. Maybe it's something else entirely.

We can't make this Club all things to all people. But!!!! We can work together to help each one of us get what we need from it.

You have to speak up... you need to voice your thoughts! We don't know a lot of our members well enough to read their minds. You haven't been here long enough and we don't all get to see enough of each other without you stepping out of your comfort zone to let someone know you want or need more of something.

We all need friends and relationships that are meaningful. If you share those needs with a Club officer or myself, I am confident that things can happen to have the Club grow into a device that can nurture the desires that encouraged you to want to join our little group of train nuts in the first place,

I hate to see people just fade away. Neither party learns anything from the passing. We can grow together but it is a two way street! Please give the Club the opportunity to grow with you. We will all be better for it.

In the mean time, thanks again for putting our best foot forward to all our visitors and letting them know we are a membership Club with a passion for trains!

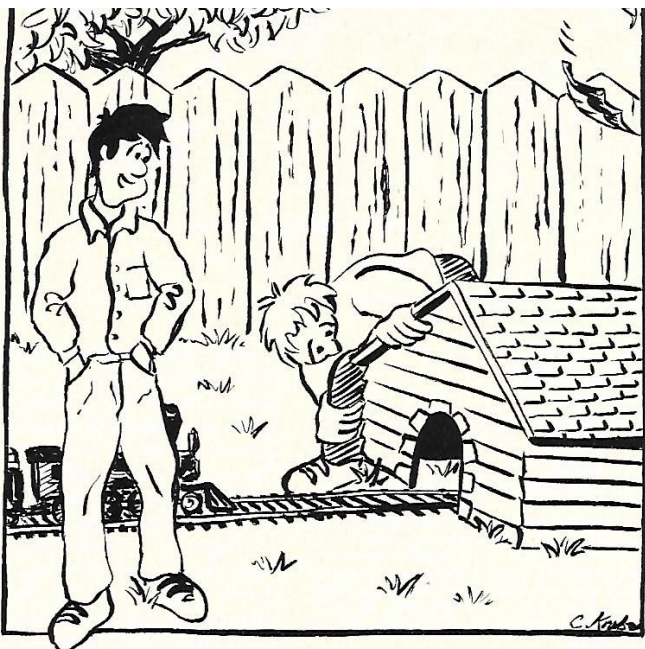
## Bean Track

*Little sadder, little wiser assistant trainmaster; Toledo, fall 1962*

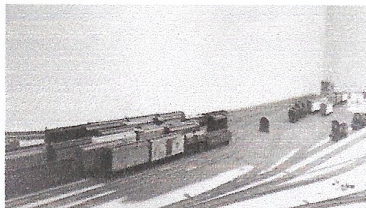
On line, Norwalk branch, Bellevue, Ohio. Call from superintendent: "Jerry, why does local take so long at Bellevue?"

JT: "Well, using today as example, crew has 32 cars to switch, six classifications, main and bean track only ones available." Superintendent: "Oh."

Month later, bean season over, highrailing Norwalk Branch, passing rusty bean track at Bellevue. Superintendent: "Jerry, why can't we take up this track?" JT: Sigh.



"For some reason, our dog doesn't like Dad's new garden railroad."



## Operations

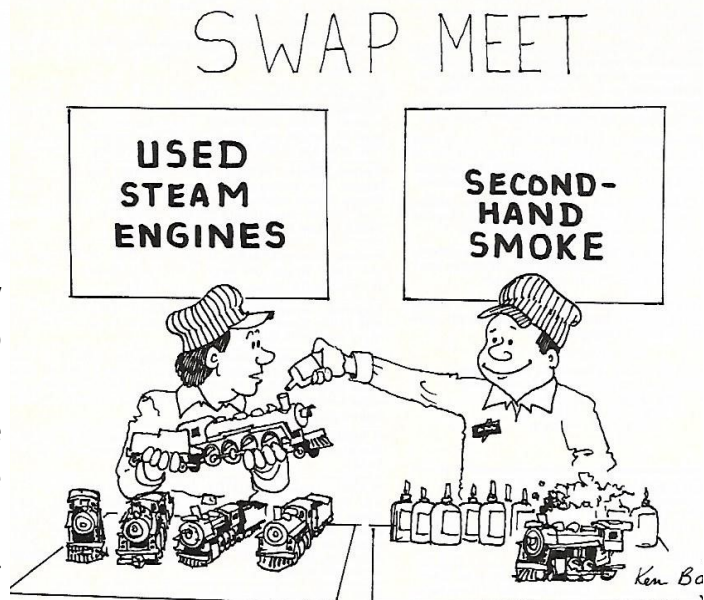
Richard Morris

I have reworked a couple of the jobs/way freights that may make them easier. I have also changed the order of working Pine Ridge Junction, making arrangements for the eastbound mainline freight to drop off empty ore cars and to pick up the cars from the industries. The westbound freight will pick up the ore cars and drop off cars for the other industries.

We might swap the order later so that the freight cars originate and end up in HoSu Yard (after the shared passing siding is in place).

I have prepared a list of trains we can run at the ops session next week:

Westbound Passenger - Makes stops for 3 to 5 minutes at all passenger stations.



Eastbound Passenger - Makes stops for 3 to 5 minutes at all passenger stations.

Eastbound Mainline Freight - Drops off empty ore cars at Pine Ridge and picks up other cars on siding.

Westbound Mainline Freight - Drops off cars for industries at Pine Ridge and picks up loaded ore cars.

LN2 Way Freight - Departs HoSu Yard, eastbound, and works Hoffa Cement and industries around Crossville. Returns to HoSu Yard.

TC Way Freight - Departs HoSu Yard, eastbound, and works industries around Emory. Returns to HoSu Yard.

Golden Valley Way Freight - Departs HoSu Yard, westbound, and works industries in Golden Valley. Returns to HoSu Yard

Pine Ridge - Works industries at Pine Ridge Junction, prepares cars for pick up by mainline freights and spots cars delivered by mainline freights.


Lyll Way Freight - Departs HoSu Yard, eastbound and works industries around Lyall. Returns to HoSu Yard.

**Check out  
6,000 train books.**

Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything - it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

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# 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>Feb. 2020</b> | <b>Clean Up</b> | <b>Club</b>                            | <b>HO/N/Z Scales</b>                                                   |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2/1/20           | Train Show      | 7400 Highway 70 South, Nashville, TN   | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; \$5.00 Adm.                                        |
| 2/3/20           | Ops Session     | Club                                   | 4:00 PM                                                                |
| 2/6/20           | Marketing Mtg.  | Club                                   | 4:00 PM                                                                |
| 2/7,8/20         | Train Show      | 207 Rock Springs Road, Easley, SC      | 1:00 PM—7:00 PM (Fri.) and 10:00 AM—4:00 PM (Sat.) - \$8.00 Adm.       |
| 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 DelMonaco Winery Trip                               |
| 2/28,29/20       | Train Show      | Western NC Ag Ctr., Asheville, NC      | 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM (Fri.) and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Sat.) - \$6.00 Adm. |
| <b>Mar. 2020</b> | <b>Clean Up</b> | <b>Club</b>                            | <b>O/G Scales</b>                                                      |
| 3/2/20           | HO Meeting      | Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center    | 10:00 AM                                                               |
| 3/5/20           | Marketing Mtg.  | Club                                   | 4:00 PM                                                                |
| 3/9/20           | BOD Meeting     | Club                                   | 4:30 PM                                                                |
| 3/9/20           | Member Mtg.     | Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center    | 6:00 PM                                                                |
| 3/11/20          | O Meeting       | Club                                   | 10:00 AM                                                               |
| 3/21/20          | Train Show      | 3938 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY | 10:00 AM—3:00 PM; \$6.00 Adm.                                          |
| 3/21/20          | Train Trip      | 220 Willow St., Nashville, TN          | Baxter—DelMonaco Winery Trip                                           |
| 3/28/20          | Train Trip      | 220 Willow St., Nashville, TN          | Baxter—Muddy Roots DelMonaco Winery Trip                               |