



Ties and Rails

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

March 2020

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

At our February meeting, we just barely had enough attendance to maintain a quorum. I try to keep the meetings on point, and I shoot to have it over within forty minutes when possible. But I also need to balance that time frame to make sure you are up to date on Club functions and business.

I mentioned in January that I wanted some input from the membership regarding the Casio Night planned for March. Although I had three wives who expressed their disappointment that the event showed no signs of support from those in attendance at the February meeting.

The By-Law committee, comprised of Doyle W., Vince D. and Ken B., submitted their suggestions on possible By-Law changes. After the Board discussed their suggestions, there was additional input from the Board regarding editing. It should be presented for a membership vote in March or April.

Our newest Board member, Bob Houser, has been assigned the Utility duties as developed by the Board. Bob has already cleaned and organized the office and will oversee refreshment sales from the office fridge. He has other duties as well. At the Board meeting, Bob, trying to develop some additional income options, offered two suggestions. First, he was hoping to reinstate the sale of popcorn and soft drinks on Saturday. Then he thought that a two-day Flea Market in the Community Room at the Mall might also create some additional income for the Club. Both suggestions will be discussed in March.

I also want to thank members who bring their own locomotives and their personal rolling stock. This allows us to display longer and more diverse trains and makes for a more interesting display.



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in. Let's discuss how to have DCC locos run without the annoying pauses & hiccups that can occur when running. Interruptions of power from the track is the culprit. These can be caused by dirty wheels, dirty pick-ups on the loco truck, dirty track, turnout frog issues and others. More often than not, a combination of them. These problems cannot be avoided. We have all had illuminated passenger cars that flicker going down the line. Same issue with them.

We are not alone in these issues. We can tell that because manufacturers are providing devices to maintain power to the decoder to maintain speed and sound, if available. Some examples include TCS has Keep-Alives, Broadway Limited has GoPack, Digitrax has Power Xtenders, ESU has PowerPack, Soundtrax has Current Keeper.

Most of these keepers come in two types. A two wire connection or a three wire connection. Two wire styles are the simpler technique and can be used in a variety of installs and often need to be custom soldered into the loco's wiring. Three wire types are the better choice and most often matched to a particular decoder and offer a simple plugin. This is a decoder type that is said to be aware of the keep alive circuitry and can provide some additional features. For example, when the track power is not available, the decoder is no longer receiving the encoded command information from the track and will automatically stop after a given time/distance. Useful to not

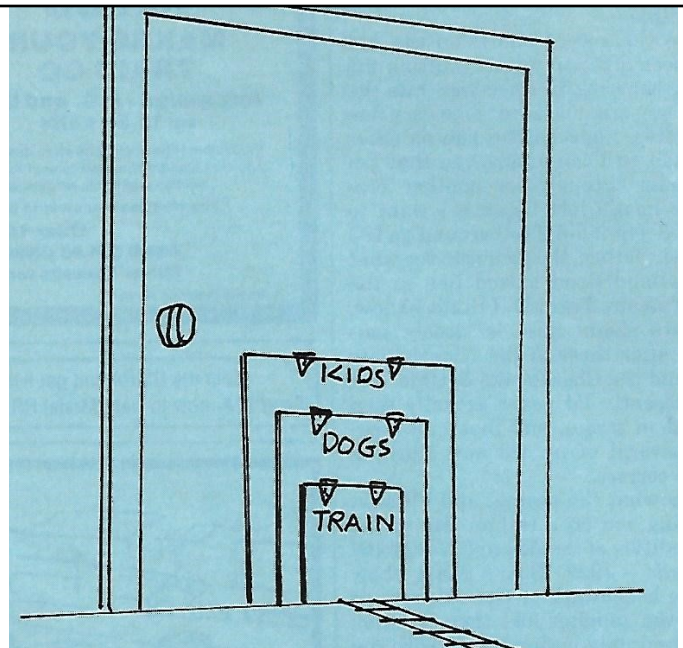
run through a closed turnout. After all, with no control you may want to only run for a couple seconds, not 30 seconds.

Keepers also have programming implications. Two wire keepers need to be disconnected for most programming efforts. The keeper aware decoders (normally three wire) have an advantage when programming. They normally have the ability to manually turn-off or ignore the keeper's influence on the programming information being sent during programming.

Every scale has similar options for AC, DC and DCC types. An internet search will yield many options and opinions.

By the way, there are keepers and keeper plans for the passenger cars mentioned above.

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 - Jan Novack

N Scale continues to 'Roll Along' with track cleaning and engine maintenance being performed by Bill Bly while Jan is away on an extended trip to AZ.

If you hadn't noticed, additional lighting has been added just prior to Jan's departure (see photo below). These are in the town seen while walking toward the 'Subway' wall, with additional plans for

specific spotlights on the new USA Flag, and another in the Crossville Industrial area installs upon his return, with items on hand.

A little more lighting is on schedule, and then the plan is to schedule some Tortoise installations to improve several specific problem areas.

Stay tuned, as we try to continue our improvement plans.

(Submitted by Art, in Jan's absence)



HO Scale News - Paul Falk

At the present time, plans are for the upgrading of the other half of Pier 4 to start on Monday, March 2nd. At that time, a new base will be installed for the area that will be the future home of the new joint use passing siding and the relocation of the main lines adjacent to the rock quarry.

As part of this upgrade, we will be installing a new signal system that will respond to the way the turnouts are set. Presently the controllers are not available so there will be a slight delay in their installation.

The installation of the new DCS240 is being put on hold until the new section of Pier 4 is installed and tested, hopefully to insure there are no problems.

The realignment of the leads going into the circus compound has been completed and is currently undergoing testing before the project can be chalked up as 'completed'.

The new power supply for the Ferris wheel on the first pier has been installed and the general comments heard is that the new power supply produces a more realistic operation of the wheel.

Special Notice

Just a reminder that the HO group is having a meeting in the Mall Community Room at 4 PM on Monday, March 2, 2020.

One of the main topics of discussion is the changes to the 4th Pier and we will be looking for ideas as to what to do in the area where the old lumber company was.

HO Signals - Tom Shallcross

As we are installing some signals on the HO layout, several members have made inquiries as to what the various indications mean and how do they work. Starting this month, I will be addressing various aspects with hopes that we all will be learning and will be able to incorporate the signals in the daily operation of the trains.

As many of you have noticed, the type of signals are what is called a Type D signal which displays the three colors (green, yellow and red) in a vertical row mounted on a pole on the right side of the track.

There are two variations of this signal that we will be using in addition to the basic signal. One of them is the dwarf signal which looks just like the basic signal but is mounted at ground level. These dwarfs will be used on signalized tracks that are diverging off the main line.

The other variation of the basic signal is what is called a double headed signal with the two heads mounted one above the other. When these signals are used, the upper head indicates to 'condition' of the main line and the lower head indicates the 'condition' of the diverging route.

For example, if you approach a two headed signal with the upper head showing a green indication and the lower head showing a red indication, it means the turnout is set for the train to proceed straight through. If the upper head shows a red indication and the lower head shows a yellow or green indication, the turnout is set for the diverging route.

We will be signaling passing sidings where the leave/approach the main line. The signal on the

Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee held a brief meeting on Feb. 6, 2020 as there were only three folks present (Art L., Paul F. and Bob H.). Other members had notified Art that they would not be present.

Due TO Lack of attendance, most of the distributed Agenda items were not discussed.

Large signage Update: The large poster sign has been installed (see photo below) and received very well by all folks who made comments.

The loco sign that Paul had designed for the

hall stanchion, was discussed. Paul and Art test fitted the sign but the results were less than good, due to all the other items in the background, the sign had little, if any, impact on views from either end of the hallway. Paul suggested that we might place it in the front window, and potentially add a few items (cars) to make a window train. This will be discussed further at our next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

The next Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020, at 4 PM. The meetings are open to the Club membership, so feel free to attend and assist where you can.



Membership

John Conor

As of the deadline for this newsletter, there are no applications pending.

I've been told several applications have been passed out to what seemed like very interested prospects recently, so we may have people to introduce at the business meeting. See you there, to find out what has developed.

In the mean time, keep up the good work on recruiting new prospects.

Thank you for your effort.

G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

Just a friendly reminder — make sure that BOTH engines are stopped in the resting position BEFORE you shut G scale off.

Did You Know

That the Club has a refrigerator in the office that is stocked with water and various drinks. Water sells for \$.50 per bottle and the drinks sell for \$1.00 per bottle.

The drinks are available to all Club members.

Please donate for the drinks you take by putting your donation in the cup in the refrigerator.

Shynee Rayals Sez:

The Technician's Rule Tool thieves be warned. Be sure to carry your ID so your body can be identified and your next of kin can be notified.

HO Signals *cont. from page 4* - siding will be a dwarf signal to reduce the possibility of confusing the siding signal with the main line signals.

There will be occasional main line signals where there is no junction in the track. These are called Intermediate Signals. They will be installed in areas where there is a long stretch of track with no junctions so there are signals that will change as the train passes.

Help Needed

NGRC2020.com is looking for volunteers to help out for the National Garden Railroad Convention 2020 at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville.

Help is also needed in the Greater Nashville area along Fiddlers Grove in Lebanon, TN

The convention runs from May 31st through June 6th, 2020.

For additional information, please contact Ted Polczynski.

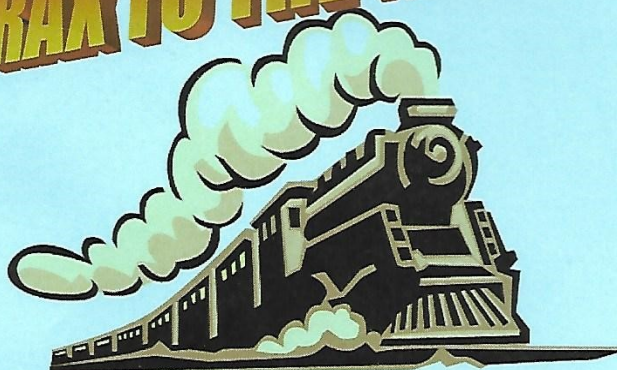


"That's the 'simple, one-evening project' he's been building for the past 6 months."

2020 SER CONVENTION

June 19-20, 2020
Cartersville, GA

TRAX TO THE MAX II



The **PIEDMONT DIVISION** invites you to save the date for the 2020 Southeastern Region Convention!

PIEDMONT DIVISION



Convention and Train Show at
Clarence Brown Conference
Center

Convention Hotel: Hampton Inn—
Cartersville for \$159/night

Clinicians and Speakers:

- Jim Gore MMR
- Brian Marsh
- David Popp
- Sam Swanson MMR
- Peter Youngblood MMR
- More to come!

Railfanning at Locust Grove and
Dalton Train Watching Platforms

Prototype Tours:

- Trinity Rail Servicing Facility
- Georgia Power's Coal and Gas
Fired Power Plant Bowen

For your travel enjoyment, there
are Pre- and Post-Convention
layout tours along the routes to
Cartersville, GA:

- Steve Austin's On30 Elkhorn
Iron & Timber Company RR
- Ted Yarbrough's G-scale
Denver & Rio Grande Western
- Alan Keller's HO Bluff City
Southern
- Dave Houseman's HO Chicago
Denver & Pacific

SERTraxToTheMax2020.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.

Mar. 2020	Clean Up	Club	O/G Scales
3/2/20	HO Work Sess.	Club	10:00 AM
3/2/20	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	4:00 PM
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

Apr. 2020	Clean Up	Club	HO/N/Z Scales
4/6/20	Ops Session	Club	4:00 PM
4/9/20	O Meeting	Club	10:00 AM
4/9/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
4/11/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Watertown—Easter Bunny Excursion Trip
4/12/20	Holiday	Club	Easter—CLOSED
4/13/20	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
4/13/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
4/18/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Watertown—Spring Mile-Long Yard Sale Trip
4/25/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Carthage Jct.—Muddy Roots Excursion