



Ties and Rails

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

May 2020

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Our World Has Changed and some of these unwelcome changes may be here for months and possibly longer. The one thing which will not change is the Board of the CMRC is committed to keeping every member safe and healthy.

The Board met today (April 27) to evaluate our situation and address many of the questions we need answers to. Unfortunately, in many cases, those answers are just not available now. So, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone up to speed as soon as we know what to do. What we can all do is use **COMMON SENSE** in this uncertain world.

Here is a list of what was approved by the Board: Suite to open to **MEMBERS ONLY** on May 1st. No personnel guests and do not open the front door for anyone. We remain closed to the public until at least June currently, but that date remains flexible. We will remain self-distancing and encourage members to wear a mask, but that is your option. One thing that is not an option is you need to sanitize anything you touch when in the suite. We have an extremely limited supply of sanitizers, so each member needs to bring their own and is responsible to sanitize your work and any common areas you touched.

If you are sick, please stay home! In fact, the order to stay home is still in force, so non-essential travel is still being advised. Not sure if or when Subway will open so if you will be in the suite for a prolonged time, it is advisable to bring your lunch from home. The common restroom is a place you need to avoid if possible.

The kid's stickers, the Thomas candy jar and all 'counter items' will be removed from service at this time. It is also under consideration that when we open to the public, our open days likely will be limited, and we will minimize the staffing needed per shift. That will be determined at a future date.

As you can imagine, we have lost a significant amount of donations in March, April, and now May. In order to try to get back to normal, the Board is asking any member who could contribute \$30. to please do so. This is **NOT MANDATORY**. Contribute if you can.

We will be contacting both the City of Crossville and Cumberland County for grants. We are also going to contact VEC with another request.

Keeping the membership and your families healthy is the prime concern of the Board. *Cont. on page 10*

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

2020 Garden Railway Convention

The Nashville Garden Railway Society regrets to announce that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 36th National Garden Railroad Convention has been postponed by the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center until 2021. The convention has been re-scheduled for May 30th to June 5th, 2021 in Nashville, Tennessee. We have been working with the Denver and BAGRS clubs and both clubs have agreed to slide their scheduled conventions back one year to allow the Nashville club to host the convention next year.

There are many details associated with the cancellation of the convention we need to work through over the next few days. If you want to transfer your reservation and apply it to the 2021 convention, please send an email message using the convention email address: ngrcnashville@gmail.com telling us this is your desire. If you prefer to cancel your registration instead, we will need to issue refunds back to you by sending you a check. We are unable to refund to your credit card due to the length of time that has elapsed. Please request funds by sending us an email to ngrcnashville@gmail.com email address and include your name, order number and mailing address. In the subject line of the email, please indicate Cancellation Request. We ask your patience as we work through the refund requests.

The members of the Nashville Garden Railway Society are disappointed the convention had to be postponed, but the health and safety of all people associated with the convention is of utmost importance to us. It is our sincere hope you continue to follow recommendations to stay healthy during the pandemic and we look forward to seeing you in Nashville in 2021.

submitted by Ted Polczynski

O Scale News - Kenneth Bailey

During February and March, we had 3 Lionel engines donated to the scale by scale members, Joe G., Bruce H., and myself. We also purchased 3 Thomas engines for the Thomas layout.

We did an inventory of current engines and found many do need repair. Some have been repaired and are available for service. There are other older engines that heat up and slow down on the plateau line and, at times, stall out, causing the motor to overheat or burn up.

I think some of these common, older engines, could be candidates for the disposal counter. There was also a large donation of which a lot of track and miscellaneous items were disposed of.

I'd like to thank Joe and Bruce for donating 2 new engines to the scale. They will be put to good use.

Thanks to all for helping out with the engine round-up and disposal of a good portion of the large donation.

I hope you're all doing fine. We are. This, being shut up/down/in, is for the birds. Stay alert and don't let your guard down. Hopefully this will be over in the next few weeks.

Ah!

**Toilet paper hoarding explained:
Some people are eating their own
cooking for the first time!**

Important Dates in Railroad History

From NMRA calendar

5/1/1971—Amtrak begins operations

5/6/1994—The Chunnel opens between Great Britain and France

5/7/1960—Last Norfolk & Western Railway steam operation

5/26/1934—CB&Q Pioneer Zephyr runs nonstop, Denver to Chicago

When you thought you had heard it all!

About a month ago, I was talking with one of our members and he told me of an incident that had recently happened to him.

He was at his church one evening assisting with the cleaning of the church. Because of the virus that was going around, the members were split up with the men cleaning around the outside of the church as well as the various entrances.

Whenever they changed assignments, everyone would go in and wash up. It was during one of these 'washes' that he was talking to an 80 year old gentlemen.

This gentlemen made the comment, "you know, I haven't washed my hands this much in a very long time. It is getting to the point that the answers to my 9th grade Algebra final exam are starting to come back on the back of my hand".

There may be more truth to this than some of us would like to admit to. Think about it!

Editor

G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

The 10 buildings that I bought from Roy's outdoor layout - Jim took them all apart and re-glued them and replaced windows that fell out or were gone. I painted them before he glued them together, then I put window dressings in. They are ready to be placed on the layout and lights put inside.

We were in the process of finishing replacing the brass track on the main line with stainless steel when we received orders to stay at home (although I think it is much safer at our Club with 3 or 4 people present than at the grocery store), I plan on continuing to work on the layout starting May 1.

Think About It

You're not really old

Till you pick up the Remote Control,
Hold it to your ear and wait for a Dial Tone

Membership

John Conor

Hey guys, we had over fifty thousand applications for membership this month!

Unfortunately they were all Chinese and none spoke English which wasn't the issue. The problem was they all had the China virus so they can't enter the country from China and therefore can't fulfill the shift requirements so I had to reject the applicants.

We have to hope they will resubmit if they live thru the virus!

Wish next month's applicants better luck.

In the mean time, stay healthy, keep the faith and remember. This too shall pass.



Remember when. . .

Remember how they used to take old heavy-weight passenger cars and use them on maintenance of way trains? I barely do but NS is still recycling passenger cars for this use. Check this one out from somewhere in Bristol.

Probably rebuilt from a postal-baggage or straight baggage car for the Southerner or the Tennessean.

Richard Morris

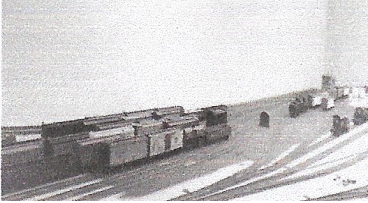
Very cool!

We had a visitor about two years ago who talked about something like this on the last train she cooked on for NS up around the northeast part of TN. It was a train that replaced track. She was on her way to Memphis and stopped at the Mall to take a break, and spotted our Club while visiting Subway.

She ended up staying about an hour, relating several stories about the appetites of the work gang and the facilities. She loved her job, for sure.

Art Landrigan





Operations

Richard Morris

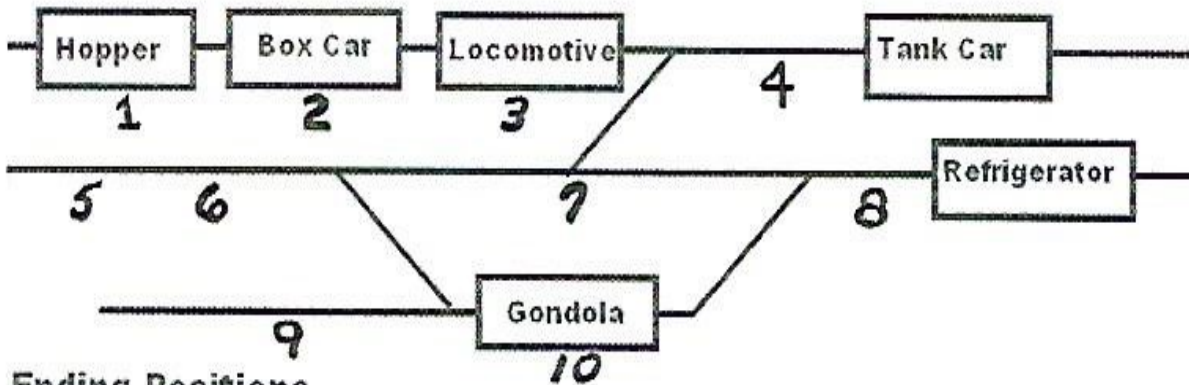
This month I want to try something a little different.

For those of you that like switching as part of your operations, below is a timesaver challenge that is presented to the Boy Scouts as they work toward their Railroading Merit Badge.

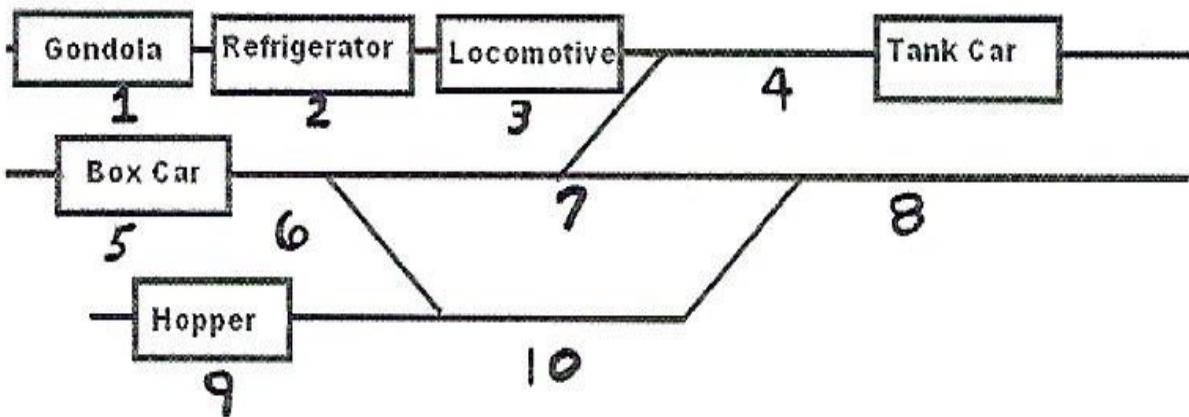
Can you come up with a few possible solutions other than the old standby—the 5 finger locomotive?



Starting Positions



Ending Positions



See one possible solution on Page 8

Wind Storm - March 2020

During March, we had a severe wind storm that did damage to the Crossville Outlet Center's roof and some A/C equipment. It also caused some leaks in the roof and, although the water damage was minimal, G scale suffered damage to their layout. There was a building and a tree blown over (see pictures).



If you are wondering why the construction on Genesis, see recent article below.

WORLD'S LARGEST CONVENIENCE STORE COMING TO CROSSVILLE, 116 GAS PUMPS

Many who were driving on Genesis Road near I-40 today noticed the demolition of a former Shell Station. The company that has purchased the land and several other nearby parcels is a store chain known as Buc-ees, which is like a convenience store on steroids. Most locations include 67,000 **square feet** of retail sales space. You could fit 22 average-sized 7-Eleven convenience stores inside a **Buc-ee's**.

We have not learned of the exact size planned for the Crossville Buc-ee's. Sources tell us the primary reason for choosing Crossville as a Buc-ee's store is based on being approximately halfway between Nashville and Knoxville.

Buc-ee's is a Texas chain of convenience stores and gas stations located in the Central, North, South, and Southeast regions of Texas as well as locations in Southern Alabama, and Florida. The company is owned by Arch "Beaver" Aplin III and Don Wasek and has its headquarters in Lake Jackson, Texas. The chain is known for its very large-format stores and a large number of gas pumps.

Negotiations have been in the works for more than a year with local officials and property owners to build the Texas-based store on Genesis Road. Reportedly, it will be another year before the store is totally up and running. Buc-ees is not a truck stop that serves tractor-trailer rigs. It caters only to automobiles such as cars, pickups, etc., provides 116 gas pumps and a huge store that will cover many acres.



Solution to switching problem on Page 5

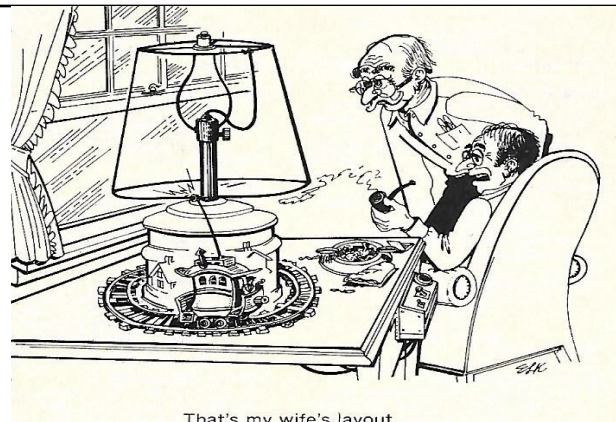
1. MOVE Loco (3) & Box Car (2) to (5-6)
2. MOVE Box Car to (9) & Leave Box Car (need to SHOVE Gondola (10) to (8) to make room)
3. MOVE Loco BACK to (1) & PICKUP Hopper (1)
4. MOVE Loco & Hopper to (9) & LEAVE Hopper Car
5. MOVE Loco to (10) & PICKUP Gondola (8)
6. MOVE Loco & Gondola to (10) & LEAVE Gondola
7. RUN AROUND Gondola (10) via (7) & PICKUP Gondola at (10)
8. MOVE Loco & PUSH Gondola (10) to (1) & LEAVE Gondola
9. Move Loco to (8) & PICKUP Refrigerator Car
10. MOVE Loco & PULL Refrigerator Car to (7) and LEAVE Refrigerator Car
11. RUN AROUND Refrigerator Car via (10)
12. MOVE Loco & Refrigerator Car to (2) & LEAVE Refrigerator Car
13. Move Loco to (9) and PICKUP BOTH Hopper & Box Car
14. Move Loco and Both Cars to (5-6) LEAVE Box Car at (5)
15. MOVE Loco & Hopper to (9) and LEAVE Hopper
16. Move Loco Back to (3)

If you want to try an interesting solution, try doing the switching with the assumption that the tank car **cannot** be moved as it is hooked up to a standpipe to be unloaded.

Did You Know

Supplies of paper towels, trash bags and other cleaning supplies are kept in the office (just inside the back door) on a large rack on the right side.

Feel free to use whatever you need.



That's my wife's layout.

Life is a Journey on a Train

Life is like a journey on a train... with its stations... with changes of routes... and with accidents! At birth, we boarded the train and met our parents. WE believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station, our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant: our siblings, friends, children, and maybe the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize that they vacated their seats!

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers...requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way - love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty - - we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank **God** for the journey!

Lastly, **I thank you very much** for being one of the passengers on my train!

Submitted by Bill Bullard



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in.

This is the first in a series about detailing the DCC systems used on the N scale and HO scale layouts at CMRC. This series will delve into what components are in use, what function they provide, how they are inter-connected and communicate to perform the activity desired by you, the operator.

No doubt you have heard the DCC jargon freely spoken. (*Guilty as Charged*) Command stations, mobile decoders, stationary decoders, loconet are among the terms frequently heard.

Just last month we spoke at length about troubleshooting a device called a PM42. Yep - more jargon.

Model Railroading, like any profession or group has its collection of special terms or expressions, the Jargon, that is unique to understanding details of our hobby. Our goal is to demystify this DCC jargon, and provide a greater understanding and appreciation of what happens when you command your DCC loco to move forward.

So next month...(LOL, you just have to wait!)

Stay Well!

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

With the Club closed these last few weeks, there was nothing new to report on for the newsletter. So, with time on my hands, I started reminiscing about my grandsons' visit last summer. The first day they were here was a Thursday so they came to the Club with me for my shift.

Paul and Art set each of them up with a DCC engine to run. Braden, the older one, was curious as to how the engines got their power and how exactly they worked remotely. He has always been that way, not just playing with toys, but how did they work. So he and Art went off for a long conversation.

Both boys said they enjoyed walking around the layouts following the engines they were controlling. Caleb, the younger one, said he enjoyed the different scenery as his engine passed through. Braden said he liked studying the track plans as he followed the trains running that day. Caleb did the scavenger hunt, and ended up helping young visitors that day do the same.

At the end of the day, I asked them how they enjoyed their day. Both said it was a really fun day. Braden also said DCC was really neat because you weren't restricted to one location where the control panel was, that you could control your engine from different vantage points. He liked learning how DCC worked (thank you, Art), and decided it wasn't that complicated (smarty pants).

What a great hobby we enjoy that brings the older and younger together for a fun experience. And while the Club is closed and we can't get together right now, sometimes it's just fun to just reminisce.

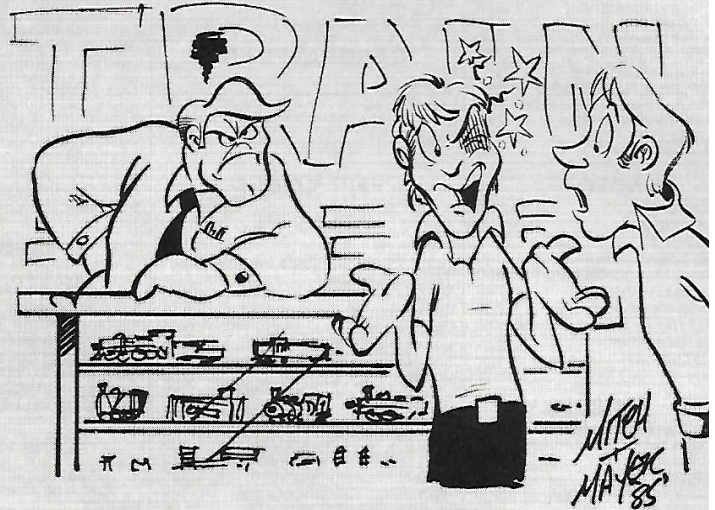
Jan

The Prez sez: *Cont. from page 1*

If you do not feel safe when asked to return to work a shift, please, please only return when you feel confident that doing so will not compromise your health.

The Board will meet again on May 19th at 9AM in the Community Center at the Mall. Hopefully, by then, we will have many of our questions answered.

STAY SAFE!!!



"All I said was, 'Let me see that Geep dummy.'"

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

Just to give you some insight regarding the plans when we reopen. First on the agenda is to complete the upgrade of the street lights on the first pier.

Tom and I then plan to start addressing the problem we have been having with 'shorts' shutting down the whole system, especially during operating sessions. Hopefully the re-programming of the PM42's and realignment of the base station and the installation of the booster will solve the problem. Keep your fingers crossed. Ours are!



UPPER CUMBERLAND RAILROAD SOCIETY

With all the new CMRC Members who have joined us in the past few years, it was suggested to me that I might want to present a little background on the UCRS, its founding and activities over the years, as well as its purpose both now, and hopefully, in its future.

The Upper Cumberland Railroad Society was founded as a Chartered Domestic Non-Profit Organization in the State of Tennessee in August 2011. The structure of the UCRS was established with three major areas of emphasis: Education, Historical Preservation Display (Museum), and Operations.

As an educational entity, one of its first projects was to create a curriculum for local folks (member and non-member of CMRC alike) to learn some of the basics of railroading, both in the prototype world, and especially in the world of Model Railroading. The subject matter for the first series of classes was entitled, "How to Build a Model Railroad". It consisted of about a dozen classes led by several of our CMRC membership, during the late winter into the spring on Saturday mornings. As the classes improved over time, this series was shortened to about 6-8 classes, and continued for several years. Once the interest waned, the instruction changed to only specific areas of interest, as demand requested.

The Historical Preservation Display was centered around the rear room within our CMRC suite in which many artifacts of railroads are displayed, along with a fairly extensive Library of Railroad interests, including both printed and video presentations which may be viewed in the UCRS Training Room, or in some cases, may be signed out for review at home. Many thanks to Tom Shallcross for taking on the creation, documentation, and maintenance of the Library to this day.

The third arm of the organization was labeled: Operations. This role is performed by the local Crossville Model Railroad Club (CMRC). It operates a public display of various model railroad scales and includes one of the finest displays of not only operating models, but 'exquisite scenery building techniques' (in the words of numerous suite visitors over the years), as well as various technological improvements made over time. *Cont. on page 12*

cont. from page 11 One of the future goals of the organization was to not only remain a State of Tennessee Tax-exempt organization, but the expansion of this Non-taxable entity status to its composite 3 part or organization at the Federal level. Since CMRC itself had already been designated as a 501(c)6 (Membership Entity) in previous years, it did not, in and of itself, qualify to be considered for a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt status. A request with all the necessary paperwork and payment was filed with the IRS in 2013. The IRS was engulfed in tumultuous times during that period with tax exempt organizations, and apparently lost the application, our check (never cashed), etc., and following numerous unsuccessful efforts to work with them on resolving the matter over a 6 month period, we ceased to continually work the project. During subsequent years, the IRS apparently resolved the Tax-Exempt issues it had formerly experienced and initiated a 'Short Form' application which could be used by small organizations, such as us. However, during the years 2014-2019, the TN organizational status had lapsed, and therefore needed to be reinstated using the process initiated this March 2020. In the interim years, CMRC initiated an attempt utilizing a professional office to resubmit the request during 2019. This request was disapproved once again by the IRS for the same reasons as described above.

The BOD of both the CMRC and UCRS agreed to initiate the reinstatement of the former TN State status, and once approved, we will once again attempt to submit a request for IRS 501(c)3 status for the UCRS. Once approved, its Federal Tax-Exempt status would then apply to all three of its organizational arms. Following a month of non-receipt of status from the TN Secretary of State's office, we began to inquire as to its status (approval). Following some weeks of not being able to contact the individuals in the proper office, we finally succeeded on April 24, 2020, and received verbal notification of the Approval. They apologized for our non-receipt of a formal approval in writing, but immediately sent us an approved copy of our request by E-mail (Attachment) which showed that our request had been approved on March 16, 2020.

We now face the task of initiating a 'Short Form' request to the IRS for approval of the UCRS as a 501(c)3 Tax Exempt organization under the Educational Category, once we regain operations following our current closure status.

For further information, feel free to contact Art Landrigan, UCRS Chairman.

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**So much bang.
So few bucks.**

*RailPass offer is for new members and those who haven't been NMRA members for two years or more. Individuals can join at RailPass rates only once. Membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. RailPass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office.

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.

May 2020	Clean Up	Club	O/G Scales
5/2/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Watertown—Train Robbery Excursion
5/4/20	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	CANCELLED
5/7/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	CANCELLED
5/11/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	CANCELLED
5/16/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Baxter—DelMonaco Winery Excursion
5/19/20	BOD Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	9:00 AM
5/25/20	Holiday	Club	Memorial Day—CLOSED
5/31-6/8/20	G Gauge Conv.	Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN	Rescheduled for 5/30/21 to 6/5/21

June 2020	Clean Up	Club	HO/N/Z Scales
5/31-6/8/20	G Gauge Conv.	Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, TN	Rescheduled for 5/30/21 to 6/5/21
6/1/20	Ops Session	Club	4:00 PM
6/4/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
6/8/20	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
6/8/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM
6/19,20/20	NMRA Conv.	Cartersville, GA	CANCELLED
6/20/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Baxter—DelMonaco Winery Excursion

July 2020	Clean Up	Club	O/G Scales
7/6/20	HO Meeting	Suite 112, Crossville Outlet Center	10:00 AM
7/9/20	Marketing Mtg.	Club	4:00 PM
7/11/20	Train Trip	220 Willow St., Nashville, TN	Murder Mystery to Watertown
7/13/20	BOD Meeting	Club	4:30 PM
7/13/20	Member Mtg.	Suite 112. Crossville Outlet Center	6:00 PM