



Ties and Rails

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

October 2020

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

For those who have been staying safe at home and for those who continue to work your sessions, there are some important changes, carry overs and other details everyone needs to know to stay current.

As you may have heard, we have changed the business meeting time to 4PM on the second Monday. The BOD will meet at 3PM.

We will remain at the three days a week operation until reevaluating in January/ All members, with visitors in the suite, need to wear a mask. You also need to take your contact free temperature as you start your shift. Misting the composites needs to be done prior to opening.

At our October meeting on the 12th, we will be voting for the VP, Secretary and Director-Front End. Lee will be there with twenty two requests from the House of Hope. This is an annual event for the Club and we have been remarkably successful in making sure no kid is forgotten on Christmas.

Also, at the October meeting, we will discuss lease renewal, which is also an annual event. We have tried over the years for multiple year leases, but with Covid and our limited operational hours, I think we need to keep the lease on an annual basis as well. Your opinion is important to the Club.

We will discuss in detail our 2020 Christmas party along with looking into 2021 for ideas to promote our anniversary. The calendars, which the Marketing Committee have put together, will be available for sale. They feature photos from our layouts and will be \$10. each. Our initial printing will be for one hundred copies with hopes for a reprint when we sell out.

The Volunteer Energy Cooperative has awarded us a \$1,000. grant to help support our anniversary events. On Monday, October 12th, at noon at VEC, they will present us with a check. They also would like to take a photograph of the presentation. All members are invited to be in the photo if you wish.

A reminder that your 2021 dues can be paid at any time by placing an envelope with your name and marked dues in the cash box.

We have had a spike in positive Covid test here in Cumberland County and today we had visitors from Michigan to Florida and many places in between. We must remain extremely vigilant in *Cont. on page 2*

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

Important Dates in Railroad History

From NMRA calendar

10/6/1866—Reno Gang robs first train, Jackson County, Indiana

10/9/1863—U. S. Congress sets RR gauge at 4'8-1/2"

10/16/1964—Norfolk & Western Railway merged with Nickel Plate Road and leased Wabash Railroad

10/27/1904—First New York subway opens

The Prez sez. *Cont. from page 1* maintaining a safe environment while working our shifts. Wearing a mask, taking your temperature and maintain social distancing when possible and practical are all ways to protect yourself and our visitors. If you cannot work a shift, please try to get your own coverage from others in your scale. Tom spends far too many hours every week doing all sorts of important work for the Club. Make an effort before asking Tom for a member wide request. I am sure he will appreciate it.

STAY SAFE!!!

Great News!

With the covid-19 virus disrupting local businesses and some closing permanently, it's nice to find out that one local business is actually expanding.

In the empty Subway suite adjacent to our suite, the Cheesecake store (from the other end of the mall) is moving in and is expected to be operational by November 3rd. They plan to remain open in their 'old' location through October 31st and move on 11/1 and 11/2.

The main reason is that the former Subway facility is 50% larger than the store they now have and is better suited to their needs.

If you decide to visit them, be sure you mention that you are with the Train Club and they offer a 'Mall Discount' on some of their food.

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

At the September HO meeting, OP{S session frequency and times were discussed resulting in the following changes:

Operating sessions will be held the first Monday of each month.

The even numbered months (Feb., Apr., June, Aug., Oct. and Dec.) will hold their sessions at 10 AM

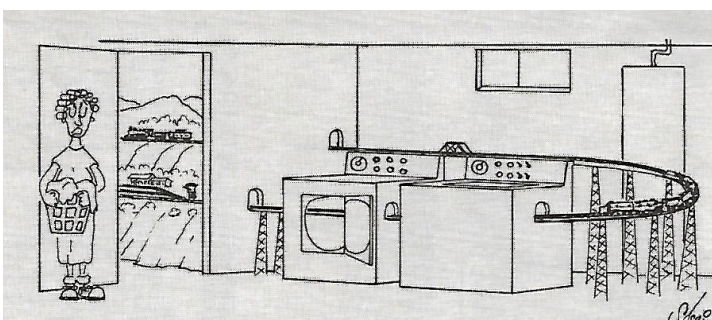
The odd numbered months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sep. and Dec.) will hold their sessions at 3 PM

HO business meetings will remain on just the odd numbered months.

When operating DCC trains, it is imperative that DC locos are removed from any loop that is being run on DCC. A notice will be posted on the tower. Remember to return the loops to their DC default when finished with DCC operation.

Weekly maintenance on the HO Command Station continues to show that many operators are not dispatching/releasing their locos. Please remember to do so.

The signaling project continues on Pier 5.





The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome. Come on in.

Last time we detailed a method of doing a multiple unit (MU) consist with the Digitrax DT402D style controller. That technique creates what Digitrax calls the “TOP” loco. In our example, we simply use the front loco cab number. When adding the additional locos, the command station is being told which locos are to be included and sets configuration variables, or CV’s, in the decoders in each loco so that is now to respond to commands issued to the TOP loco. This is why it is so important to release each loco from the consist when you are finished. Failing to do so can leave a loco unable to run correctly by itself. This consisting technique provides a very efficient method to command locos with just one command to run the four locos in the consist. However, the Command Station is the only place that “knows” which locomotives are in the consist so the release/dispatch step is critical.

A contrasting technique is used by the popular free android application used by many members called Engine Driver. With Engine Driver, after touching on the current loco, you are provided a screen to release that loco or to add a loco to the lead loco.

[See top diagram in next column](#)

In the example shown, either select 225 or enter the numbers at the Address space and select **Acquire**.

The next screen ([second one in next column](#)) allows the newly added loco’s direction to be set.



Then running 1831 will also operate 225 and any other added locos.

Similar to Digitrax in appearance, but much different in practice. With Engine Driver, the software holds the consist and simply *cont. on page 8*

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 14, 2020
10:00 am to 4:00 pm



- 
-  **Children's Activities**
 -  **Craft Vendors**
 -  **Model Railroad Club Displays**
 -  **SAM Shortline Shuttle Train Rides**

CORDELE MAIN STREET
105 E 9th Ave
Cordele, GA 31015
229-276-2902

CMRC Now Accepting Nominations

To All CMRC Members

This year there are three positions to be elected in October, **Vice President, Secretary, and Director - Suite Front End.**

The nominating committee this year is **John McLeod, Art Landrigan and Paul Falk** (Chairman).

The election procedures are detailed in the Club by-laws. The relevant sections are 5.2 & 5.3 and are shown here for your convenience and can be found in the members only area of the Club web site, **Crossvilletrains.org.**

5.2 Nominations

Nominations for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three At-Large Directors, as applicable, shall be accepted and verified by the Nominating Committee starting before the regular meeting in September and continuing through the start of the election meeting in October. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted in the September regular meeting.

5.3 Candidate Eligibility

Candidates shall be Active Members or Life Members in good standing of the Club. Candidates shall be permitted to run for one office only.

Descriptions of the three (3) positions for this election are detailed below.

The Vice President position is described in the by-laws section 3.3

3.3 Vice President The Vice President shall act in the place of the President in the event of the latter's absence, or his or her inability or refusal to act. The Vice President shall immediately succeed to the office of the President in the event of resignation, death or disqualification of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties, and in conducting the Club's business.

The Secretary position is described in the by-laws section 3.4

3.4 Secretary. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence pertaining to the business of the Club and keep the official records of the Club. The Secretary shall also give notice of all

regular, additional, and election meetings of the Club, and keep and publish, within 10 calendar days, minutes of all meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors, as well as performing such other duties as the President may, from time to time, request.

The At-Large Directors position is described in the by-laws section 3.6

3.6 At-Large Directors. The At-Large Directors should consist of: Director of Scheduling and Attendance, Director of Suite Front End, and Director of Utility. A concise description of their duties is located in Policies of Crossville Model Railroad Club.

The Director—Suite Front End Director - Suite Front End position is described in the Club policies Attachment 12(2)

1. Being sure there is an adequate supply of Club tri-folds in the appropriate racks. Notify the Marketing Committee Chairman in the event the supply of tri-folds is low.
2. Being sure there is an adequate supply of the scavenger hunt forms available. Notify Larry Lewer if an additional supply must be acquired.
3. Be sure there is an adequate supply of kid's stickers. Notify the Marketing Committee Chairman if more need to be obtained.
4. Restock the front counter with hats and whistles as needed. Notify the UCRS President if the supply is running low.
5. Restock the map display with appropriate maps. Notify the Public Relations Chairman if the supply is running low.
6. Restock the Visitor's Log Book with forms as needed.
7. Put labels on donated magazines as needed. Restock counter with magazines as needed.
8. Periodically review items on counter for disposal to the public. After coordinating with the Scale Coordinator, reduce donation prices on those items that have been on the counter for a long period (1+ month) to try to move them. Remove those items that are not moving and arrange for disposal (Train Show or dumpster).
9. Review any 'special items' secured for membership acquisition only. If they have been under the counter over a month, set on counter for the general public.
10. Arrange for an adequate supply of plastic bags under the counter for use by the general public.
11. Remove inappropriate items from under the counter that have been 'stored' there.

Respectfully presented,

The Nominating Committee

N Scale News - Jan Novack

Our main line and freight line reconfiguration progressing well .

Both new lines are in with their respective passing sidings complete with a siding added to the main line's passing siding.

The testing went well, so joints have been soldered and power drops started. Once the power drops are connected, installation of Tortoise machines to the turnouts will start.

We started discussing the industrial yard layout by laying track sections down and placing building footprints that had a picture of the building attached to get a visual of what might work. Positions of the track, buildings and a road plan were taken into account. After a couple of sessions, we're getting close to the final plan.



Hopefully these will be regular scenes in the near future!

One can only dream!



The DCC Shed, *cont. from page 4* issues commands to each loco separately. So in the previous example with four locos, Digitrax method would issue one command to the consist, Engine Driver would send four commands. Not as efficient, but not likely to be a problem unless there are many operators with consists. Engine Driver does have an advantage. When you release the consist, all of the locos are automatically released and each loco decoder is immediately available.

Engine Driver has a very informative web page at jmri.mstevetodd.com. The newest version can be found at the play store.

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.

2020 Piedmont Pilgrimage

18th Annual Tour of the Atlanta Area's Great Model Railroads

ONLINE THIS YEAR!



WWW.SCALETRAINS.COM
The Piedmont Pilgrimage is Sponsored by ScaleTrains.com

www.PiedmontPilgrimage.com

Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee held their meeting on Sep. 10, 2020 with 7 members in attendance.

Marketing currently has \$409.22 remaining in our 2020 budget, with no additional expenditures noted since a month ago.

The group finalized the 2021 Calendar with some minor wording change and an additional of a small quarter size logo in a bottom corner of each picture. Pat is working with the printer for a sample of the calendar.

Art brought a sample of a Club Membership card which may be ready for review at the next meeting. He has not yet been able to complete the suggested stickers to be placed on the remaining Club Rack Cards.

The group talked about the previously discussed event for National Railroad month in November, but decided to postpone the event until next year, as it was too late to allow for participating members to design and adequately complete models/dioramas/etc. for the upcoming November time frame.

The Anniversary was discussed and some of the ideas for the Anniversary Committee were that we should have some kind of celebration that we can invite the City and County Mayors, Chamber of Commerce, and others who have supported us over the years. Potentially have both the Chronicle and the Radio Station cover the event, with possibly punch, cake or cookies. It would be at this event that we would announce the winners of the Scratchbuilt dioramas/buildings.

Robert suggested that we place Club Tri-folds in the other restrooms, since they are being used

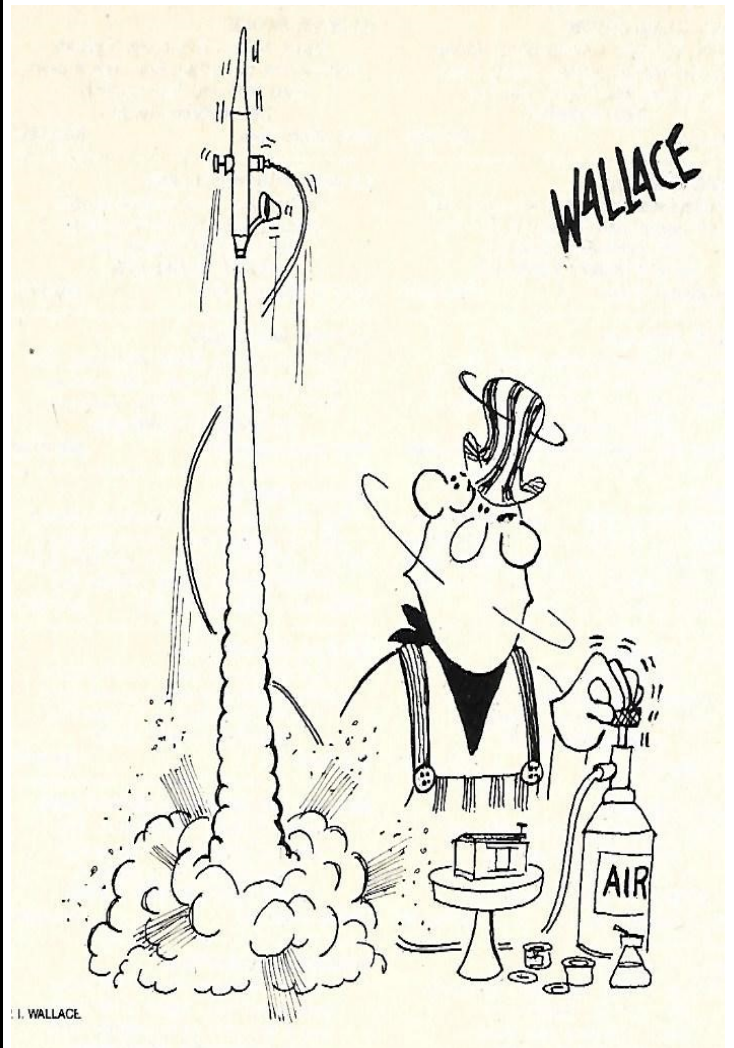
well in the facility near the end of our hall. He will look for a decent buy for 6 of the plastic holders for the Tri-folds.

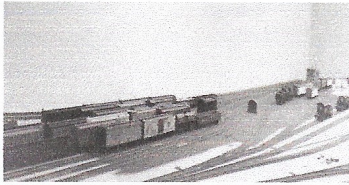
Art asked for a volunteer to take over as Chairman of the Marketing Committee, as he is stepping down as Chair on December 31, 2020

The next Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8, 2020 at 4 PM in the UCRS/ Training Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.

If anyone has any questions, or is interested in the Marketing Committee Chair position, please E-Mail Art at: arcy22tn@gmail.com.





Operations

Richard Morris

The October Operating Session was held Monday, Sept. 28. This was because Richard had a conflict with the first Monday in October!

AS you may have read earlier, we are moving to having Operating Sessions EVERY first Monday. On even numbered months, sessions will start at 10:00 am and odd numbered months, will be starting at 3:00 pm. Hopefully this will allow more members to attend.

This session had a first time attendee, Bobbi! She ran TWO mainline passenger trains from one staging area to the other (well, mostly) and had a BLAST! Another member that has started attending is TJ, who ran a couple mainline through trains,

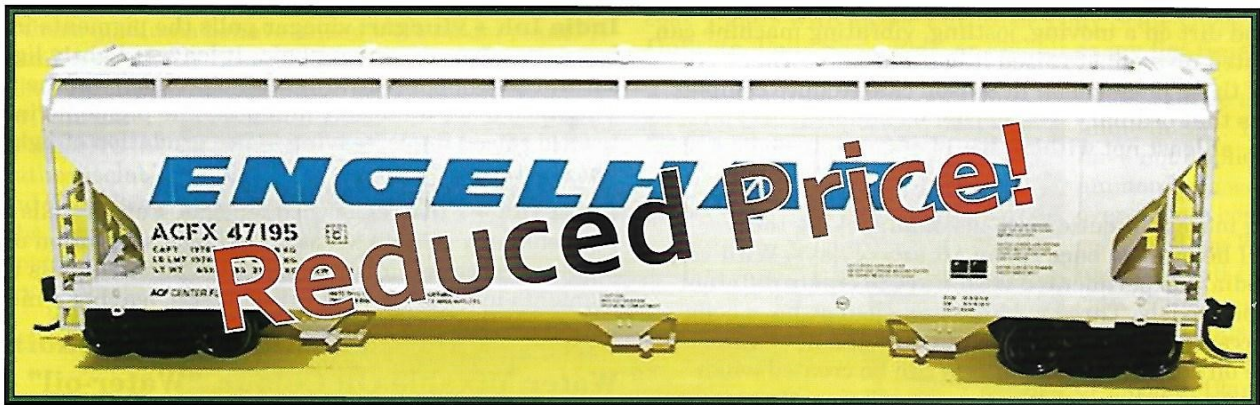
and also had a great time.

If you have not attended an Operating Session, or have not attended in a long time, please come next month (Nov. 2). Sessions generally last 1 1/2 to 2 hours, although you can leave earlier (if necessary). First timers will generally be paired with an 'experienced' operator, or assigned a passenger or through train.

Please come and experience another way to enjoy Model Railroading! And if you are an NMRA member, you can earn hours toward the Chief Dispatcher Achievement certificate.

Calendar

The Ties and Rails calendar has been discontinued with the appropriate Club information included on the monthly work schedule on the Club web page.



The Southeastern Region of the NMRA is proud to announce the availability of a limited number of Accurail HO scale 47' ACFX 4650 cu. ft. covered hopper kits custom made for the SER and lettered for ENGELHARD.

The car, offered in one road number is injection molded plastic featuring plastic wheel sets, Accumate Couplers, Kadee compatible, and separate brake detail. Kit includes detailed step by step directions for quick assembly.

Orders of two or more cars include a free easy-to-install replacement Decal Set of TWELVE (12) different numbers plus END numbers. This is a \$4.00 value -- FREE.

Cars are *NOW AVAILABLE* at \$19.95 each, plus shipping of \$8.00 for one car. Add \$1.00 shipping for each additional car.

Check or money order payable to: SER-NMRA

Mail to: Region Car Project c/o Randall Watson
730 Morning Creek Ln
Suwanee GA 30024

Please support your Region and order one or more cars. For additional information contact Region Car Chairman Randall Watson at: randallwatson1@bellsouth.net.