



Ties and Rails

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

November 2020

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

As the end of 2020 rapidly approaches, I am sure, like all of you, it cannot get here quick enough. However, I am sure our current schedule for three days a week will continue well into 2021. We have been and we must continue to make sure we have a safe environment for our members. I have yet to find any member working a shift without a mask and I thank all members for that fact. We are up to twenty-seven deaths due to Covid in Cumberland County, and the numbers, both state and nation, continue to grow.

The calendars are in and can be obtained for a contribution from our members and the public. If you preordered calendars, please make sure you pick yours up as soon as you can as we have over seventy of the calendars already reserved. There is a set of instructions both on the counter and on the box which holds the calendars. There are also plastic bags in the same box which the calendars fit in nicely.

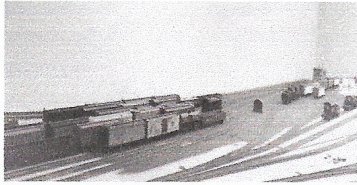
Thanks to the efforts of John Conor, we have scheduled our Anniversary Train Show, the last weekend of October 2021. The Miami Valley Modular Railway will again set up their giant layout. We hope to have a private session for Club members only to run trains and participate in operation sessions.

There are a few things which need to be addressed:

1. Remember to take your temperature prior to starting your shift or anytime you visit the suite,
2. Please make sure you mist all the common areas, also before the start of your shift,
3. We have been doing a great job on placing trains at the end of the shifts. But double check that all of the trains are visible for the next shift,
4. Thanks to the members who use our cold drinks in the office refrigerator and Robert Houser has done a great job of supplying a wide variety of brands. However, on both of my last shifts, there have been empty or half full cans left sitting around. Please police the suite prior to leaving at the end of the day, and

Lastly, I would again remind the members that having a pile of money sitting on the counter with visitors in the suite or both doors not locked, should not be done. Our donations at this time are our life blood. It is not a matter of being concerned about theft but rather more of a public relations consideration. Generally we close the right door at ten of four. At five of four, if no visitors are in the suite, it has been acceptable to lock both doors. When that is done, it is time to empty the donation boxes and count the money. Remember two members need to sign the envelope strictly as a double check of the amounts.

Have a great and safe Thanksgiving and remember to stay safe and wear a mask in public.



Operations

Richard Morris

November OPS session:

Just a reminder that on Monday, Nov. 2, we will have an operating session on the HO layout.

If you have not participated in one of these sessions, please come and see what it is all about. We run through freights, passenger trains and locals. We are keeping sessions relatively simple as we re-configure the layout into a point-to-point railroad with portions of two mainlines.

If you have not participated in a session, we will pair you with an experienced crew member to help you understand our railroad.

By the way, participating is a way to earn another NMRA Achievement award!



Membership

John Conor

This is a mixed report with what seems no news at first.

First, there are no pending applications to report. But there is still news for this department.

Second, I have accepted a new position as Chairperson for the Marketing Committee and I am looking for a replacement for what I have done in membership for the past 5 years.

If you might be interested, please contact Pat or me. I plan on continuing this roll until a replacement is up and running, even though this year has been very slow in new applicants due to the China virus.

That will change, I'm sure when things return to our 'new' normal. I will be glad to share what and how I did (being a mentor to whomever accepts this position) that about half of you experienced when you joined the Club.

I have enjoyed that role, It is rewarding and it helps keep our Club growing and vibrant

So, if you are a people person, love the hobby and the Club, help make a difference and step up.

Thanks!

Important Dates in Railroad History

From NMRA calendar

11/1/1980 - CSX Corporation formed

11/18/1883 - U.S. and Canadian railroads first use Standard Time



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome back, come on in.

Interesting question from a member with a Digitrax Zephyr who wants to run more than one loco at a time without any additional throttles. The answer is yes, it can be done.

One way would be to consist the two or three locos you would want to operate and they would all respond to whatever command you give. But that is not what they wanted.

He wants a passenger loco doing loops while he is doing operations with a switcher in the yard. We have maybe seen how that can be done.

Have you ever put a DCC loco on the track and, as soon as the track power is turned on, the loco starts moving? That is because the last command the decoder saw was maybe to move forward at speed 25. It's the end of the day and without commanding the loco to stop, you simply turn off the power, packed up the loco, and went home. Next time you put the loco on DCC powered track, it will resume the last command — move forward at speed 25.

We can use this decoder property “of continue till I get new instruction” to our advantage. So we start loco #1 at some speed. Without stopping loco #1, change the Zephyr to control loco #2. We can now use loco #2 without disturbing loco #1.

In theory you can keep adding more locos until the Zephyr doesn't have enough power to run any more locos.

Interesting? Yes? But you need to remember to go back to the other running loco(s) and stop them or you will have them start on their own the next time you place them on the track.

If you just turn off the track power, the little decoder will not forget it's last command. Sneaky little decoder!

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.

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

The November HO meeting will be at November 2nd at 2PM followed by the OPS session at 3PM.

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 10:00 AM.

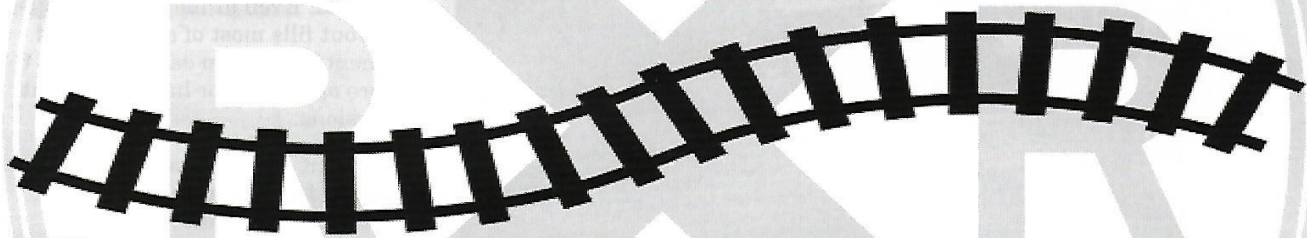
The odd numbered months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., and Nov.) will hold their sessions at 3:00 PM.

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

The November meeting will deal with the upcoming budget for 2021. Please endeavor to attend so you can voice your ideas.

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

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**

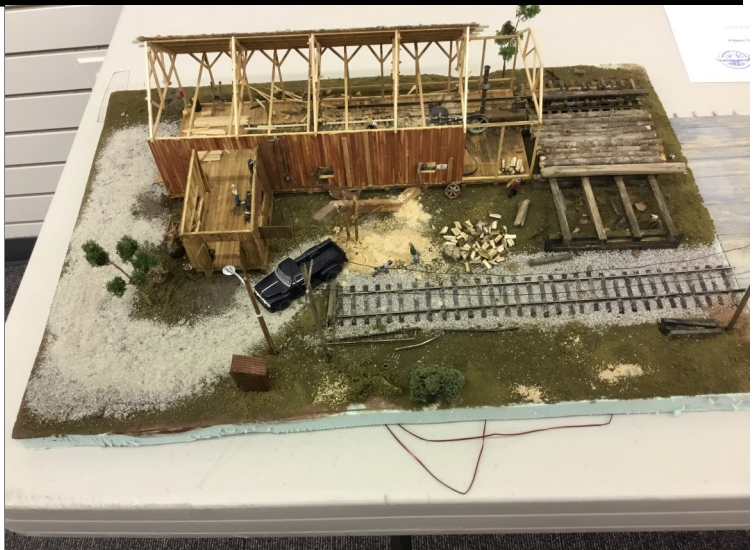
CORDELE MAIN STREET
105 E 9th Ave
Cordele, GA 31015
229-276-2902

News from the NMRA

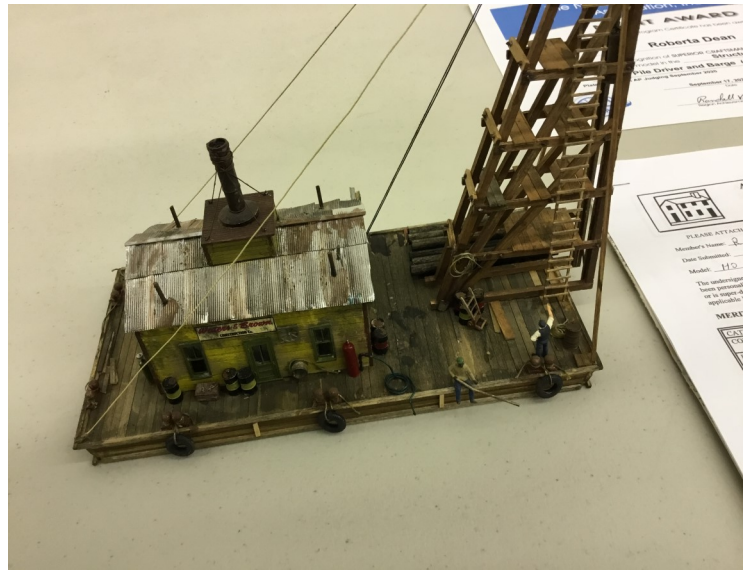
For those of you that were unable to attend, you missed an excellent presentation of three Merit Awards to Bobbi Dean for three scratch built structures she recently had evaluated by the NMRA.

On this page and the next page, you will see some photos (taken by Paul Falk) of Bobbi's efforts on this area of the hobby.

These are a sample of the types of displays the Club is looking for to be shown during the Club display during our anniversary next year.



Ties and Rails



Thursday's Crew's new logo



N Scale News - Jan Novack

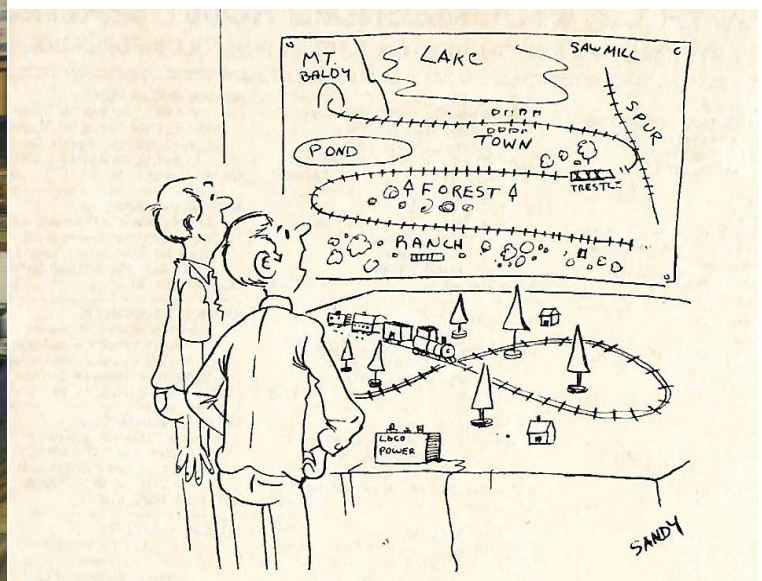
With the installation of one more switch lantern, the main line track reconfiguration will be complete. The passing siding is working and I believe will prove to be very useful.

The freight line Tortoises are next up, then the new yard. We have a plan for the yard, and some of the buildings, that will be in the yard, are already being put together.

A big thanks to Art, Craig, Tom and Paul for their help in making this happen.

We are planning a change to the yard near the wall for next year. It will involve some track reconfiguration for both the main and freight lines, creating a new passenger station area for the main line, and revision to the freight yard. Presently the freight yard isn't even wired for operation. We are presently reviewing track revisions to come up with a blueprint to start.

With the changes being made, hopefully in the near future, N scale can have its own OP-session!



"That? Oh, it's my original plan. You may notice I simplified it a bit as I went along."

If it's November, it must be...

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD MONTH!



Jim and Ann Grogitsky share information on the N scale layout built at home.

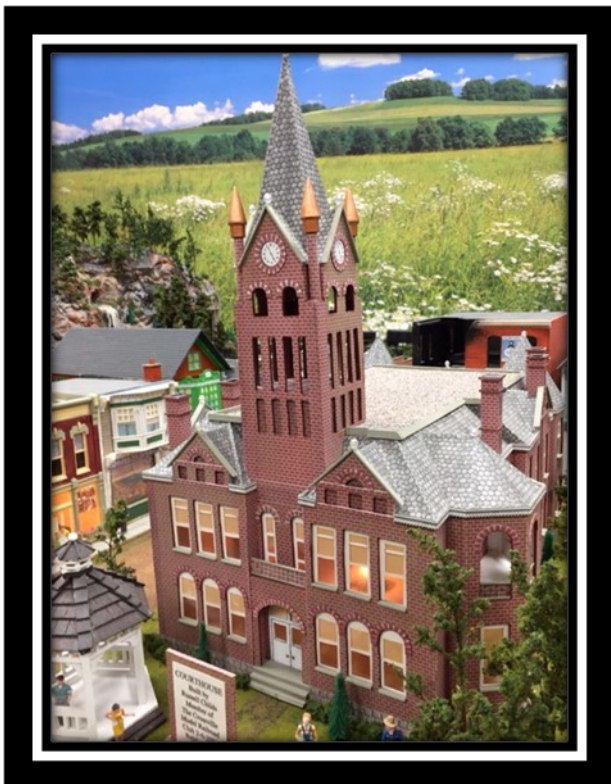
According to the National Model Railroad Association, “This is the time for you to promote our hobby by showing non-model railroaders what it’s all about, and how much fun it is. Here are a few idea starters:

- Have a layout open house for your neighbors...just distribute flyers to several dozen houses near yours telling them you have a model railroad in your home. And this would be a great opportunity to sneak a peek.
- Take a train to work—bring a model to your workplace and put it in a spot where your co-workers can get a good look at it. If you’re really ambitious, bring a different model every week...or every day!

- Hold a clinic or two at your local public library. Contact the library, tell them what you're doing, and book a time on a weekend or evening. Then hold a "How to get started in model railroading" clinic by showing pictures and having models that they can see and touch.
- Take a few dozen photos of your layout with your smartphone, then show them to your friends and co-workers. Tell them it's easy to get started in model railroading, and explain how much fun it is.

Those are just four ideas to get you started—you can undoubtedly think of more. The point is, if you want to see our hobby flourish, you've got to help it grow. And November is the month to do it. So get started!

Actually some of us have been able to visit each other to view layouts or work on repairs. A few of us made visits to view models on display. Below are images from the White County Heritage Museum which features a scale layout that depicts the region and industries.



Marketing Committee

Art Landrigan

The Marketing Committee held their meeting on October 8, 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 Pat's assistance and authorized the purchase of 200 calendars since the initial reservation from members had already topped 60.

Update: As of October 25, 2020, the calendars are available for a donation at the front counter, with a number of members obtaining theirs.

The group approved the Committee's Budget Request for 2021 and it was delivered to the Treasurer.

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, and others who have supported us over the years. Potentially have both the Chronicle and the Radio Station cover the event, with possible punch, cake or cookies. It would be at this event that we would announce the winners of the Scratchbuilt dioramas/buildings.

The group suggested that the PR Committee put out a press release for National Model Railroad Month in November, and possibly a separate release announcing that our 20th Anniversary Calendars are now available for a \$10. donation.

Art had previously asked for a volunteer to

take over as Chairman of the Marketing Committee, as he is stepping down as Chair on December 31, 2020. Following the meeting, John Conor has agreed to step up to the Chair position. Thank you, John.

The next Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2020 at 4 PM in the UCRS/Training Room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.

If anyone has any questions, please E-Mail Art at: arcy22tn@gmail.com.

Did You Know

Alan Mole, former President of the NMRA-SER has a couple of planning suggestions.

In planning, always follow the one arm rule.

If you cannot reach everything on your layout with one arm, standing flat footed, then you must have a way to reach everything such as a lift out.

Then whether you have lights in buildings or other electrical things on what you are lifting out then you will need quick electrical disconnects.

A building takes up much more space than just the building itself.

There is scenery around the building, there may be a road, there may be vehicles and people that need to be positioned.

A fence for a building or a pasture has to be further away from the track than you think or your locomotive or cars will hit it. These space needs require PRIOR PLANNING.