



# Ties and Rails

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

December 2020

(931)210-5050

[www.crossvilletrains.org](http://www.crossvilletrains.org)

## ***The Prez. Sez:***

First, I hope everyone had a safe and Covid free Thanksgiving. For those members or their family members who traveled, I hope everyone got home safely and continue to be healthy.

Hard to believe that in less than thirty days, 2020 will be history. A year that we all hope never to repeat in our lifetimes. The entire world has suffered and will likely continue to deal with this pandemic for months if not years to come.

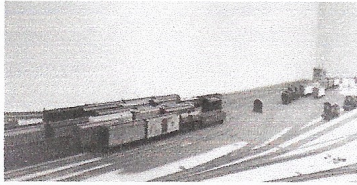
Regarding the impact caused by Covid, it is highly likely we will need to keep our current three-day operating schedule well into 2021. In addition, as the disease continues to spread faster than a California wildfire, the possibility of a mandatory mask mandate may be the next step. If that does not curb the spread then an order to all non-essential individuals to stay home would likely follow. You and your family's health remain the highest priority for the Club.

I would like to encourage all members to please try and attend our Christmas party on December 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 4pm. There is a signup sheet in the back hallway or call Ann directly to make a reservation. We will, of course, require a mask except when eating and self-distancing will be enforced. The menu is pizza, drinks and some desserts provided by our better halves. There is NO COST to attend and I hope to see you all there. **This is for members only!**

If you will be unable to cover your assigned shift, please call Tom or Larry as far in advance as possible. Our medical leave list continues to grow so please be as considerate and timely as you can with a replacement request.

I hope everyone's remaining holiday season remains uneventful and we all stay as healthy, careful and practice all the safety guidelines the experts say we need to follow to keep safe.

God Bless!



## Operations

Richard Morris

Just a brief reminder to everyone that the December OPS session will be on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 10AM

If you are interested in trying something new, why not come down and see what OPS is all about.

## Membership

John Isham

Hello everyone! I am so excited to be moving into the role as the new Membership Chair for the Club. I am relatively new to the Club, going on three years now, but I have truly enjoyed being a part of this group.

I have some big shoes to fill following the outstanding job that John Conor has done in this position for the last few years (he interviewed me when I first came on board).

One of my goals as Membership Chair is to continue to see this Club grow and reach out to our Middle and East Tennessee train enthusiasts.

To tell you something about myself for those who do not know me: I am from Wartburg in Morgan County. I am married to my wife, Dana, for the past 36 years and we have one daughter, Erin. I am a US Navy veteran.

My dad, who worked for the Southern Railway for thirty-six years, got me started with trains when I was born, buying me a collection of five American Flyers. In 1979, my sister, Janice, got me started col-

lecting HO trains. Then in 1987, while stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, my wife, Dana, got me hooked on N scale.

Other than teaching school at Wartburg Central Middle School in Wartburg, I work teaching Adult Ed to residents at the Morgan County Regional Recovery Center helping former drug abuse addicts earn their high school equivalency diploma.

## G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

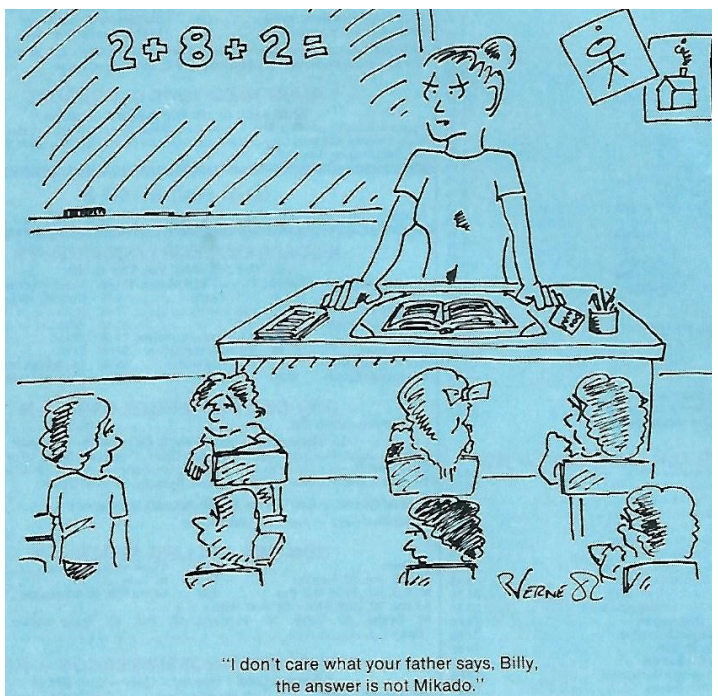
The mountain loop is motion activated and will have only 1 engine running.

The Christmas scene is up. A lot of time was spent on setting up the Christmas scene

It is a treat to our visitors to see the layouts with the overhead lights out.

The Christmas train was a donation from the Arrowhead Aerospace museum in Manchester and will be a static display at this time.

Merry Christmas, everyone!



"I don't care what your father says, Billy, the answer is not Mikado."



## The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in.

DCC operations are a bit more complex than the DC operations and, because of that, some DCC gremlins can pop up. One is the case of a runaway loco. Let's discuss some reasons for runaway locos.

One type is the loco starts as soon as placed on the track. This can be from the user, often the loco was not stopped by the throttle the last time it was run. If the DCC power was simply turned off instead of setting the speed to zero first, the loco will auto start when the DCC power is restored.

Another type occurs when the loco is running well and will now not respond to a throttle command. Look here for the handheld throttle to have lost its connection to the command station.

In the case of the Club's HO layout, there are three walk around wireless options. The simplest, most straight forward and reliable are the Digitrax handheld units, like the DT402D or DT500 and the like.

The use of personal tablets and smart phones is very popular because of their versatility, but that comes with more complexity and are therefore less reliable.

There are two available WiFi networks to use. The first labeled, Dtx1-CMRC\_HO1\_08B4-7 is using a native Digitrax WiFi device and is the more reliable of the two WiFi options. The network named CMRC-HO is operated through a wireless router, the HO laptop with JMRI and adds even more complexity and makes troubleshooting this network the hardest. So for the most trouble free operations. Keep it simple and enjoy.

Oh, an easier one to troubleshoot. If the DCC loco won't start, verify the loop switch on the tower is set to DCC and the DCC power is on. (the red meter will be illuminated)

Okay, not forgetting the DC operators who have read this far, here's one for you. Member running DC was upset, said the loco kept going even after the control knob was turned all

the way to zero. How's that even possible? Well, our Tech III power packs have a momentum option. It was selected on. When that's on the voltage, up and down, change rate is very slow. Try it sometime, just watch how slowly the voltmeter moves.

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.

Happy Holidays! Stay Well!

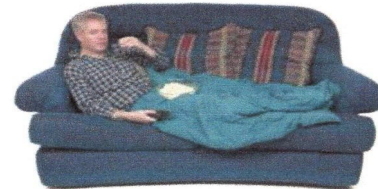
## *Did You Know . . . .*

That a Christmas Miracle came early this year for a member of the O scale.

On Thursday, November 19th, an O scale work crew was cleaning up under their layout and found a box stored there.

Upon further inspection, the 'missing' New York State car was found after more than two years since it went missing.

Bruce is a very happy person.



### **HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.**

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



**We make it even more fun.**

Then, get that popcorn ready.

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)



Thanks to the generosity of Volunteer Energy Co-op and their Customer Share Program, we have been awarded a grant worth \$1,000. to assist with our twentieth anniversary celebration. This is the second time in the past three years we have been lucky enough to win their support, especially with the current limited operating hours we are following to keep members and visitors safe from Covid. This grant is greatly appreciated and will indeed help make our 2021 anniversary celebration a success.

I would ask all members to look at your VEC bill closely. There is a place where you can “Round Up” your monthly statement to the next higher dollar amount. This rounding up generates the funds for the Customer Share Grants and I encourage all members to participate in this program. This month,

rounding up cost us \$.02 which is an investment in any future grant request we might submit. I would appreciate it if all members joined the program.

Thank you!

Pat Taylor, Pres.

## O Scale News - Kenneth Bailey

**ALL TRAINS DELAYED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**



## Christmas

T'was the month before Christmas,  
And all through the town  
People wore masks,  
That covered their frown.

From March to July  
We rode the first wave  
People stayed home  
They tried to behave.

And just around the corner -  
The holiday season,  
But why be merry?  
Is there even one reason?

The frown had begun  
Way back in the Spring  
When a global pandemic  
Changed everything.

When summer emerged  
The lockdown was lifted.  
But away from caution,  
Many folks drifted.

To decorate the house  
And put up the tree,  
When no one will see it,  
No one but me.

They called it corona,  
But unlike the beer,  
It didn't bring good times  
It didn't bring cheer.

Now it's November  
And cases are spiking,  
Wave two has arrived,  
Much to our disliking.

But outside my window  
The snow gently falls,  
And I think to myself,  
Let's deck the halls!

Contagious and deadly,  
This virus spread fast,  
Like a wildfire that starts  
When fueled by gas.

Frontline workers,  
Doctors and nurses,  
Try to save people,  
From riding in hearses.

So I gather the ribbon,  
The garland and bows,  
As I play those old carols,  
My happiness grows.

Airplanes were grounded,  
Travel was banned.  
Borders were closed  
Across air, sea and land.

This virus is awful,  
This COVID-19.  
There isn't a cure.  
There is no vaccine.

Christmas is not cancelled  
And neither is hope.  
If we lean on each other,  
I know we can cope.

As the world entered lockdown  
To flatten the curve,  
The economy halted,  
And folks lost their verve.

It's true that this year  
Has had sadness a plenty,  
We'll never forget  
The year 2020.

*Thanks to Jim Grogitsky  
for submitting this beautiful  
poem for our enjoyment.*

*Editor*

*Did You Know . . .* That our website keeps you informed with the latest information on when we are opened or closed or any changes in hours for special days.

I also has our By-laws and our monthly schedule if you want to know what day you are scheduled. It has our newsletter link.

All you have to do is go to the MEMBERS ONLY page, type in the password (which almost anyone can give you if you don't know it).

Check it out!

## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

We continue to expand the signalized territory with some additional signals on the Tennessee Central area of HoSu yard.

The current project being worked on is the additional turnouts in "the back room" having Tortoise turnout machines installed. The one Tortoise on the East end of the Southern RR yard enables us to have a functioning passing siding adjacent to the main line. The other machine is installed on the N&W main line at the entrance to the yard on the upper level. Unfortunately these upgrades require us up rewire the entire system in the back room.

Just a reminder to all operators. If you experience a problem with the HO layout, please advise both Tom Shallcross and me as to what the problem is. Please be very specific as to what the problem is and its exact location. Use mile post markers wherever possible. It is very difficult to duplicate a problem when the only information you have is "the train on the Southern RR just stopped and wouldn't start up again"

Don't mind me...just picking up this year's Christmas tree...



## O Scale South 2021

7th Annual Atlanta O Scale 2 Rail Meet



9am- 2pm on Saturday February 27, 2021

at the  
Cross of Life Lutheran Church,  
1000 Hembree Road, Roswell, GA, USA



Swap Meet & Modular Layout Display  
Layout tours information at the meet  
\$5 admission (spouses and children free)/\$25 per 8ft table (includes admission)

<http://www.oscalesouth2021.com>

On3, On30, On2, Proto:48, and 3-Rail Scalers Welcome!



SOUTHERN O SCALERS

Sponsored by the Southern O Scalers and  
the Railroad Model Club of Atlanta

Contact Dan Mason @ [daniel@southemoscalers.com](mailto:daniel@southemoscalers.com) or 770-337-5139 to reserve tables and info

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## N Scale News - Jan Novack

The first part of our configuration project, the main tracks and passing sidings is working well.

The second part, the new yard, now has the track and roadbed in place. Tortoise installation and power to this area is next up.

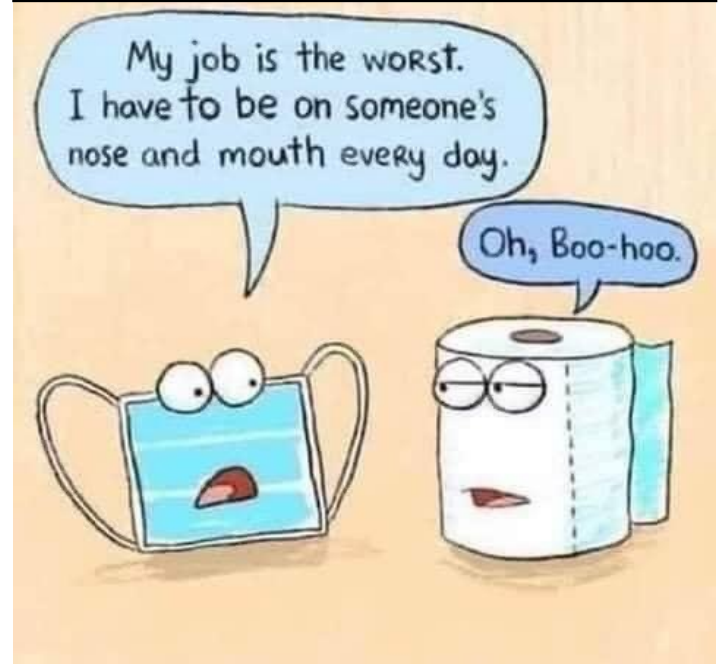
Craig Lacey is working on part three, buildings and scenery, as we have one building complete (power and light company) and another is in process.

We are pleased with the outcome thus far, and think the trains really look good in this area.



## *Did You Know . . . .*

*That no matter how annoying the masks are in our everyday life, there is always something that has a worse job than the mask.*



*Submitted by Martie Novack*



## **Christmas Tree**

The weather didn't stop us from decorating the suite.

Thanks to Jan, Bruce, Marilyn Affinito, Sandy D'Alessandro, Roberta, Connie & Pat Taylor and Ann, we had all the decorations up in about an hour.

## **2021 Dues**

Just a brief reminder. The dues 2021 is still \$30.00 and is due no later than the General Meeting in January (1/11/21).

## **Public Relations**

**Bill Bly**

Facebook and the paper had our extended hours for Black Friday.

We submitted an article to all papers about our VEC donation.