



Ties and Rails

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

January 2021

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Well, I hope I was not the one who stood on the porch at midnight on New Year's Eve and yelled, "Screw you 2020". I do not think it helped but it made me feel better. 2020 was without a doubt the worse year any of us have experienced. Unfortunately, 2021 will start in "critical condition" and only get worst from there with the Christmas surge projected to still be going strong in late February or March.

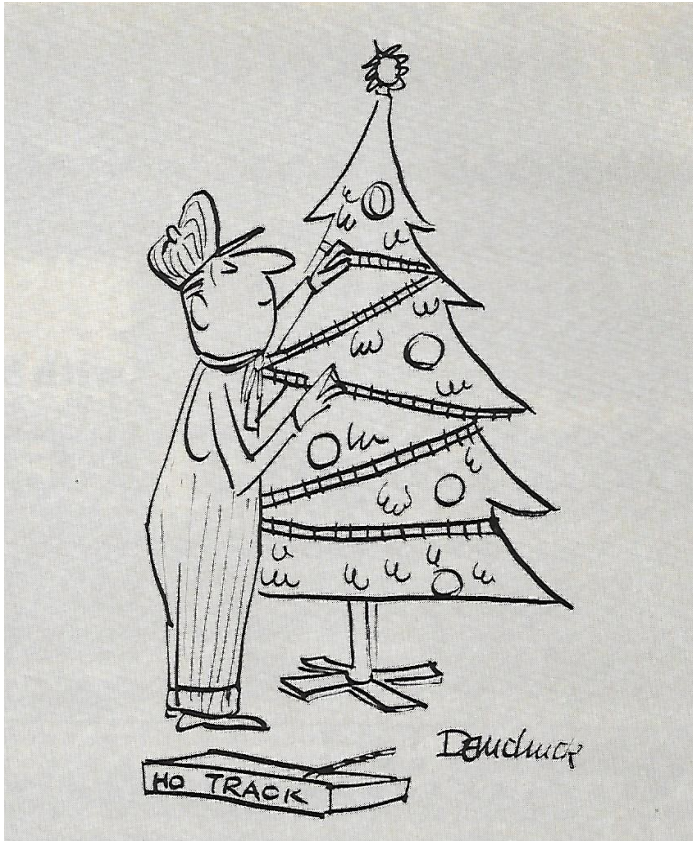
I want to thank every member who has worked hard and often during this pandemic and for using masks to protect yourself and our visitors. We will continue to do so.

I know many members are deeply concerned about the Club's future with the absence of Vanity Fair and that is a valid concern. I believe if we can hold on until June when the vaccines will have had a positive impact on the spread, we may be back to normal operations by the third quarter of 21 and will undoubtedly need a "full team" effort.

We have had members who have contracted the disease and thankfully all, to date, have survived. We do, however, have long term members who still need our thoughts and prayers as they battle other serious health issues unrelated to Covid 19.

We will continue the three-day operation schedule well into the new year. And again, if any member feels unsafe working a shift, please inform Tom or Larry as soon as possible prior to your assigned shift.

Pat Taylor



Marketing Committee

John Conor

Happy New Year to all.

There was no Marketing meeting in December so there is no news to report other than our next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 7th at 4PM.

With all that continues to happen, changes and potential operating updates, our planned anniversary activities, plus any other unknowns, 2021 threatens to make the Marketing Committee a busy group for the Club.

If you are interested in joining the current members, sort all this out, please consider joining us. Our meetings are open to all members.

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

Due to the ongoing pandemic and the desire to keep our members safe and well, we are suspending the regular scheduled Monthly (first Monday of the month) HO meetings and HO operations sessions until further notice.

We will keep you informed with this column and emails as circumstances warrant.

Be sure to check out the DCC Shed article this month about the use of our BLI Address Changer.

Last month we had a failure of a PM42 Quad Power Manager. The failure disabled the Southern Line for a weekend. The failed unit has been replaced from our spares stock and the Southern Line is again available.

G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

G scale has received 2 new donations.

Jim and I went to Franklin, TN in December to pick up a LGB train set and track and a couple of buildings.

This was a result of finding up on the web and calling the Club for further information.

Just this past Sunday, someone brought in a UP diesel engine and caboose along with three other cars and some brass track.

Happy New Year everyone!



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in, it's warm in here.

This month a reminder about the Broadway Limited address changer.

Reprogramming cab numbers on some decoders can be challenging. For the purists, one can always find the instructions for calculating the values required for the specific CV (configuration variables) to be changed in the specific installed decoder and then using a handheld device, like a Digitrax 402D throttle, enter these values in the locomotive's decoder that is sitting on the programming track. Tough job! Or, for a bit of an easier time, you can try and use the laptop running JMRI and try it there. Sometimes that can be difficult as well and still requires a bit of skill with the software tools and knowledge of what decoder is installed.



The Broadway Limited address changer pictured here in its box, is likely the easiest to use. It can be used on any scale that is using a DCC decoder. With a few key presses many locos can have their cab number read or changed. The basic instructions are printed on the back of the unit, Locate the address changer

under the HO tower. Power the unit with its supplied power adapter. Connect the red and black leads to a section of loose track, either HO or N, (also in the box) and place the loco on the track. (Polarity is not im-

portant, just attach one lead to each rail).

If you desire to see what the current address is, simply press the *READ TRACK*. After a few seconds, the result will be displayed.

To set an address, press the four buttons, located below the display, until the number you desire is shown. Each button increments the number above it by one for each key press. When the number displayed is the address desired, press the *PROGRAM* button once. When the programming has completed, the display will show the number that has been set in the decoder. The detailed instructions, including any error messages, can be found in the box or under the HO tower in the black literature rack on the floor. Please return everything to the wooden box for safe storage when you are finished.

WARNING! NEVER connect the address changer to a layout's connected track as the address changer will be **irreparably damaged**. It is always preferred to use a section of unconnected track.

Want more details? Or a video? Try online at www.broadway-limited.com/1020-Address-Changer.aspx

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.

Did You Know

That a great pleasure in life is doing what others say you can't

Public Relations Summary of 2020

As 2020 has been a year full of challenges especially with regards to the Covic Pandemic, our media team has provided articles to local publications, posting regular updates to Social Media.

Facebook would be our main resource for pushing out information using regular campaigns to highlight activities and upcoming events. Posts regularly contain a call to action and provided club hours and location.

Both the website contact page and Facebook page receive information requests. Often requests deal with hours of operation or questions about trains. We have had a number of queries to donate trains or, if we would be interested in purchasing items. In general, requests are directed to the scale coordinators as appropriate.

- * There were 75vposts to the CMRC Facebook Page from January to December
- * There were 22 queries via Facebook
- * The monthly Newsletter was posted to the wesite and shared via Facebook
- * There were 20 queries from the website's contact form
- * Facebook posts ranged between 200-800 however the carnival post reached 2.3 thousand with good support from local media
- * Regular sharing from members could be helpful
- * Minutes and club updates are posted to Members Only section

Articles were published by the Crossville Chronicle and additional local publications. We did not use any funds to promote posts on Facebook due to the club limited activities. Additionally with a lack of events to highlight or promote posts on Facebook due to the club limited activities. Additionally, with a lack of events to highlight or promote our overall traditional and new media had limited scope. However we did highlight Holiday activities and seasonal changes to layouts as an invitation to visit the club when open. Overall feedback from guests has been positive.

We have discussed several ways to promote the club with basic project plans to be

considered in the future which have not been implemented due to current conditions. We continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce and local publications. We provide copies of the Club calendar to our local supporting network. Hopefully during 2021 we will have greater outreach and create additional strategic partners.

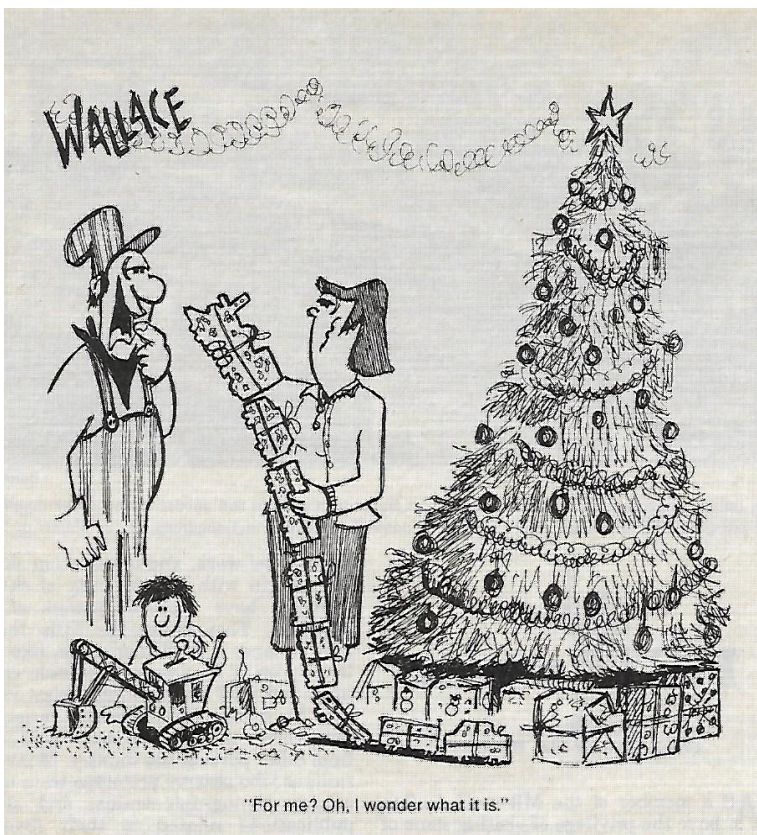
As you know, VEC gave us a donation of \$1,000 to be used for our Anniversary celebration in 2021. They asked us to put a picture in the local papers and that article appeared in the Tuesday, December 8 issue of the Chronicle.

- June 12 After being shut down for 3 months, we put an article in the Chronicle & Glade Sun about our reopening and new hours. Also a notice to the Chamber of Commerce of our reopening and new hours, which appeared on their web page.
- June 16 Did a home interview with a Cookeville radio station
- June 23 An article with a picture of the carnival appeared in all papers
- Nov. 11 We went to Manchester, TN to the Arrowhead Aerospace Museum to pick up a donation of G scale—circus train, Christmas train, 2 LGB engines and 2 transformers. This donation is a result of our webpage being available and our face book being updated often.
- Nov. 15 I sent a thank you letter to Arrowhead for their donation
- Nov. 18 Sent an article with a picture about our donation from VEC to be used for our Anniversary celebration. The article appeared in the papers Dec. 8
- Dec. 9 We drove to Franklin, TN to pick up a donation for a G scale train set including track. This was a result of someone searching for a local club and she called us for further information.
- Dec. 10 Sent an article with a picture of our winter scene to all papers to advertise that our suite is decorated for Christmas and ready for visitors.
- Dec. 18 Jim & I delivered our Anniversary calendar to both county and city mayors, Chamber of Commerce, Radio station 102.5, the Chronicle and the Outlet Center office Manager

I am so excited to tell you that I received the January/February issue of the Cowcatcher

magazine and the Crossville Model Railroad Club and Museum is listed in it. We have been working with them for most of this year, (with the help of Mike Ferry) trying to convince them to list us. They have always had a policy of listing only clubs and museums and train shows west of the Mississippi River. So this is a break-through for them. Jim and I are also hopeful that we can advertise our October train show with them. I have put a Club copy on the counter so everyone can see it. I have also put a few copies on the Rack Card display for anyone to take.

Our Public Relations committee: Bill Bly, Ann & Jim Grogitsky



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 or 770-337-5139 to reserve tables and info

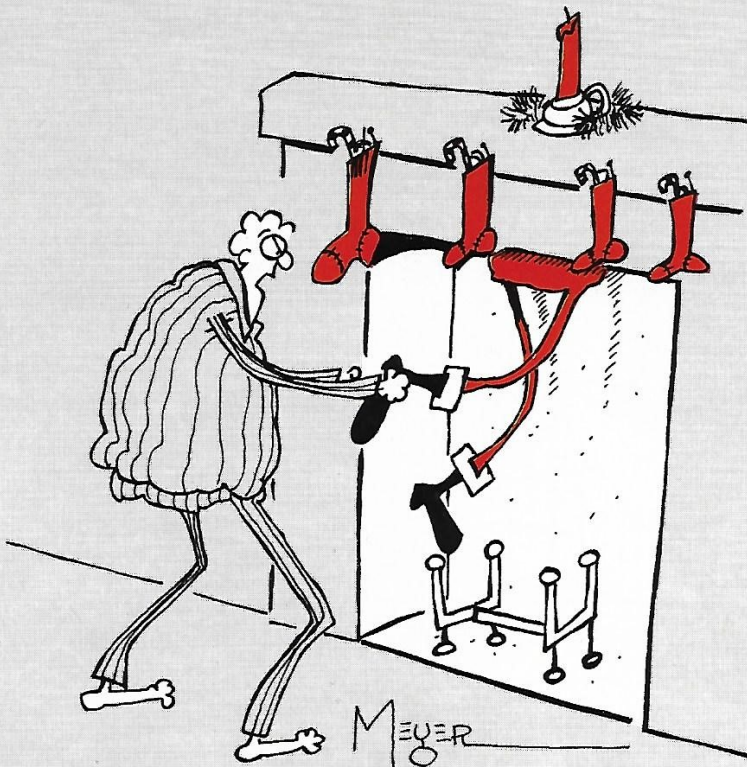
Did You Know

That, following a derailment, one of our members was trying to reassemble his train but was having trouble finding all the pieces of rolling stock, specifically the locomotive.

One of his fellow members suggested that he check his hands whereupon he found the loco in one of his hands.

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).



"Not so fast there, Santa. In my letter I specifically asked for a 4-8-4, not a crummy old GG1!"

Did You Know

That work has started on the expansion of Interstate Drive? In the area between Crossville Hardwoods and the Rocky Top Theaters, the movement of the power lines back from the edge of the road has started.

Rumor has it that Interstate Drive will be expanded to 4 lanes between North Main Street and Genesis Road, presumably to accommodate the anticipated traffic associated with the new Buc-ees.



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Enjoy many model, layout, prototype,
and non-rail activities at the

**Swamp
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www.swamprabbitexpress.org

N Scale News - Jan Novack

The switch lanterns and bumper lights have been installed in the new yard. Club members are encouraged to try a mini OPS session in the yard with an engine and car(s) to test the track and turnouts during their shift. Ballasting and scenery will be done after we get the buildings constructed and placed. The redesign is looking good.

The new passing sidings on both the main and freight lines are wired the same. When the turnout is aligned to the passing siding (from either direction) it activates the power to the passing siding. When the turnout is aligned to main track operation, the power to that passing siding is cut off.

So if a Club member wants to run their own train, merely pull the Club train into the passing siding, then realign the turnout to the main track. The Club train can be parked there while the Club member then runs their own train. At the conclusion of the session, merely run the Club train back onto the main track, ready for the next day.

The N scale computer and wifi have been disconnected. Club members wanting to run DCC engines must use hand held devices now, no phone or I-pad use.

For those Club members wanting to program their DCC engines, use the Broadway Limited address changer that HO uses (see DCC Shed article). An N scale track will be added to the HO one for that purpose.

Operating Note: While I clean the track and engine wheels every week, sometimes by Sunday's shift, the engines are not running as smoothly as they should. I've noticed some swapped out for the backup engine lately. When I check it after the weekend, I try two things. I run the engine over the Trix wheel cleaning tool that's in the box next to the power packs, and/or try the engine in the opposite direction. Cleaning the wheels has mostly done the trick. During your shift, if an engine begins to sputter a bit, try cleaning the wheels with the Trix tool. It may be just the improvement needed.

