



# Ties and Rails

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

February 2021

(931)210-5050

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

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

As we continue to forge ahead with our three days a week schedule, there continues to be concern about the Covid Virus mutating into a much stronger bug.

Currently Cumberland County is still trying to work their way through the residents over 75 and there are literally thousands and many Club members who are in the age bracket as well. Please make every effort to get your shots at your earliest convenience.

We still have a month-to-month lease with the Mall owners. There are many positive signs that indicate we are still welcome at the Mall. However, there are some members who feel we should move to another location. I personally do not know how practical, or even feasible that would be.

I have requested those thinking it is the thing we need to do, to answer questions of the Board and membership.

I strongly encourage every member to make this meeting as I am sure many of you have questions of your own dealing with the future of the Club. Your personal input is needed as the Club makes critical decisions on our future.

Hope to see you there.

## *Did You Know . . . .*

That the Operating Session originally scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2021 has been

### **CANCELLED**

due to concerns for the safety of our members.

However if a small group of Club members wish to get together for some fun, please go for it!

## **Marketing Committee**

**John Conor**

The focus to start our 20th anniversary year, will be focusing on promoting our Train Show / Anniversary event in October. Any members that wish to help are invited to our next meeting, Thursday, Feb. 4th at 10:30 AM in the suite's library/museum room.

This is a special event that we would like to shine for an impressive impact on our community and the past, present and future members. Any ideas and support is welcomed. Join us!



## News from the NMRA

With the closing down of many of the activities we have all learned to enjoy, it gives NMRA members an opportunity to work on various projects for their own layouts.

One good example is Bobbi Dean who has just finished the last three structures needed to complete all the requirements for her "Structures Certificate of Achievement".

For each of these three structures, she was awarded a "Merit Award". In the structures category, you have to construct 12 structures, one of which

must be a bridge. These must be six different structure types and six of the structures must be scratch built. Six of the 12 structures must be awarded 87.5 points out of 125, thus earning a Merit Award.

In a recent conversation with Bobbi, she indicated that she has started construction of some rolling stock as she works toward her "Rolling Stock Certificate of Achievement".

Congratulations Bobbi on the completion of these structures and the requirements for the Structures certificate.

Tom Shallcross, Supt.



## The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in and get comfortable. This month an old friend is back. DCC operating scheme and troubleshooting.

Our HO environment: When operating in DCC, the DCC system on the HO layout is based on a Digitrax DCS200 command station. The command station is the source of DCC track power that is encoded with the information to command decoders in the locos. The command station is also the source of a layout network Digitrax calls Loconet. The Loconet is a six wire network that allows layout devices to communicate. One of those devices is Digitrax handheld controller like a DT402d or a UT4. These devices can connect to the Loconet via the front panel connections located around the layout. These handhelds communicate with the command station and the command station issues commands to the loco via the track power. Using these Digitrax handhelds, located under the HO tower, will always be the most **reliable** control method. Manuals for these handhelds are under the tower in the black rack.

Using personal handhelds like smart phones and tablets using WiFi add another layer of complexity. As complexity increases, reliability decreases.

The first and simplest is **Dtx1-CMRC\_HO1\_08B4-7** wifi network. Select it on your connections menu of your device. After selecting it, you will be prompted for the passcode, **digitrax1234**. This network that uses a Digitrax wifi device, called an

LNWI, that provides a direct connection between the Loconet and the DTX WiFi it produces. The tower laptop is NOT needed or used for this connection.

The second and more complex CMRC-HO WiFi uses the laptop computer, a separate WiFi router and a connection to the Loconet using a usb cable to a device called a PR3. Because of this using the CMRC-HO WiFi can be the most problematic. Issues with the windows operating system and JMRI programs & features are harder to troubleshoot and are beyond the scope of this document. If you can operate with either a Digitrax handheld or a personal device connected to the DTX WiFi, and the CMRC-HO WiFi will not, please leave a note for the HO Coordinator.

Remember that both of these two WiFi connections **DO NOT** have internet connections. Your cell phone or tablet might warn you of no internet connection. Dismiss or ignore the warning. This was done purposefully to eliminate other complexities external to the Club. This is a true air-gaped computer and system that is physically isolated from the internet.

### PROBLEMS?? THINGS TO TRY

- \*Using DT402d with fresh battery, try running loco. This is most reliable method of operating DCC.
- \*Assure the loop you are using is set to DCC
- \*Assure DCC track power is on. The tower display (top left side) should show 12 volts minimum.
- \*Cycle the power on DCC power supply. Green switch on PS2012, shelf under tower-right side. Leave off for 10 seconds.
- \*When using smart phone or tablet, assure device is on correct WiFi network.
- \*Cycle power (REBOOT) your handheld device
- \*Will loco run on DC? Does loco have a decoder?



\*Has loco been programmed to cab number? If not, try using 03 as cab number.

\*Try using known good loco on same track.

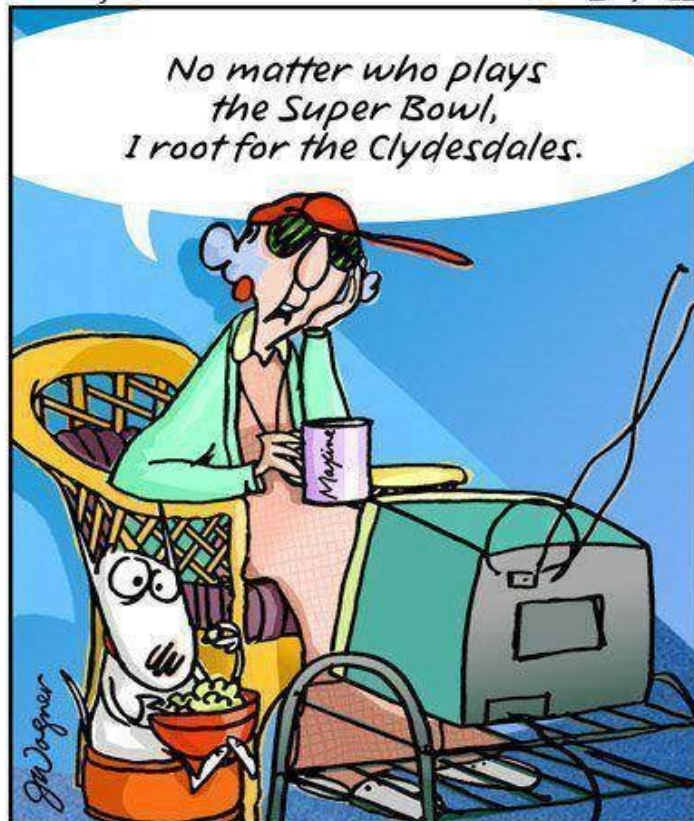
\*Do you have any control? For example, can you turn lights on/off? Sound horn? If so, the problem rests with the loco. Maybe decoder programming or loco wiring.

Remember, one-on-one DCC training is always available, so let us know. We are here to help. If you experience any unexplained issues with the current DCC installations, HO or N, please document what you have encountered in an E-mail, or a note to Paul and Art. 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.



Crabby Road

2-4-12



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## O Scale News - Kenneth Bailey

As you can see by the above photo, we have finally moved forward toward getting 'plastered' in preparation for the addition of landscape materials as we continue to work on the layout.

## Did You Know . . . .

That the Club maintains a refrigerator in the office section that is stocked with water and various soft drink.? These are available to all Club members and we ask for a donation of \$.50 for each bottle of water and \$1.00 for each container of soda.



**ALL ABOARD!**  
**THE**  
**PIEDMONT DIVISION**  
**MODEL TRAIN SHOW**  
**2021**



**AT OUR  
NEW  
LOCATION!**

**RESCHEDULED!!**  
**The Clarence Brown Conference Center**

5450 GA Hwy 20 – Cartersville, Georgia  
Easy access from Hwy 41 and 75. Hotel available next door.

**October 2nd & 3rd, 2021**  
**Saturday: 10-5, Sunday: 10-4**

**Six Operating Layouts to Enjoy**  
**150 Tables of Model Trains Dealers**  
**“White Elephant” tables**  
**Raffle Layout**

**Admission is just \$9 per Person**  
**Kids 9 and Under are Free!**  
**FREE PARKING**



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of the National Model Railroad Association**

**[www.piedmont-div.org](http://www.piedmont-div.org)**



## *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@southernoscalers.com](mailto:daniel@southernoscalers.com) or 770-337-5139 to reserve tables and info





## N Scale News - Jan Novack

Buildings are starting to appear in the redesigned yard.

The final siding has been completed.

All Tortoise switch machines are operational.

While the remaining buildings are being constructed, we will continue to test the track to insure a smooth operation before ballasting.

We have moved onto the sawmill siding and have installed three Tortoises.

WE have also lengthened the passing siding in the process.

The wiring is now underway.

When completed, all turnouts near the control panel will have been converted to Tortoise control.



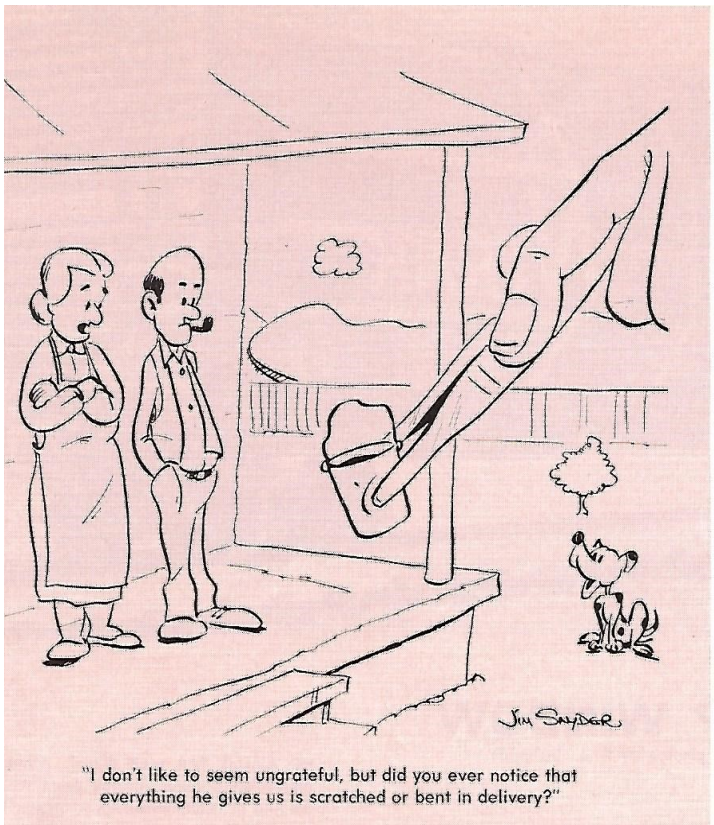
## Train Show Update—2021

Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, we have been forced to suspend all operations. Our offices are closed, our staff have been furloughed and we will be performing a corporate reorganization to rationalize our limited resources.

Our current expectation is to resume operations of the Great Train Shows, Greenberg Train and Toy Shows, and Great Midwest Train Show in the Summer of 2021. We plan to resume the World's Greatest Hobby on Tour shows in 2022.

Since our offices are closed and our staff has been laid off, further communications are not possible at this time. In an emergency, the owner of the company, Randy Bachmann, may be reached at [Emergency@trainshow.com](mailto:Emergency@trainshow.com).

Please check back at this website in the Spring, for the next update.



## Did You Know . . . .

That members are welcome to come into the suite whenever we are closed to the public and run their own trains on any of the layouts?

Get a few of the other Club members together to have a "mini-OPS" session or just run your own equipment. It's very relaxing and can be a lot of fun!

## N Scale Drive-In Start Procedures

As we have many new members and because of the long period of time since we last posted these procedures, we thought it may be appropriate for all to review them.

To start the operation of the theater, follow this procedure:

1. Once the track power is turned on, press the "Red On" button on the remote. Be sure the remote is pointed at the DVD player located beneath the Drive-In. Be sure the curtain is pulled back to give you a clear path between the remote and the DVD player.
2. Push the "Play" button and wait until the movie starts.
3. Push the "Repeat" button three times slowly and "Title" will appear on the top left of the screen.

This allows the movie to continue repeatedly until you turn it off at the end of the shift.

*Thank you Art for this information. It will answer many of the questions that the Club members have. Ed.*