



Ties and Rails

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

March 2021

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez: At our next general membership meeting, there will be a discussion on adjusting our days and hours of operation so we need a good turn out of members to get your input. We need to maintain the days and hours we set. With the lack of foot traffic in the Mall, maintaining our hours is very important as many visitors sole purpose for coming to the Mall is to see us.

The Train EXPO Committee met on Thursday, February 12 in the Museum. We covered many issues and made decisions on key elements of the show. Below is the status and relevant information for review by the membership. All comments and suggestions are welcome. We will need volunteers from the Club to greet visitors, help with the setup and tear down. We will need more volunteers to sell popcorn.

Title: Crossville Model Railroad Club 20th Anniversary Train Expo

Show Dates: October 30 and 31

MVMR Schedule: Arrive on 28th, setup on 29th, tear down on 31st

Vendor Setup: Friday 1-4PM, Saturday 8:30 to 9:30AM

Hours of Show: 10AM to 4PM, both days

Budget: \$1,000., will need funds from Marketing and the Club at some point, plus any Corporate sponsors?

Educational Programs: None

Vendor Tables: \$20. each and members get first chance.

Promotional Material: Newspapers, Posters, others to be decided

Recruit Volunteers: Would like one more for the Planning Committee and will need a lot of members to work the Show.

Admission Charge: Free to all. Donation jars at show.

Food Service: Food Trucks (2). We can sell popcorn. Pop and water

Halloween: We will be planning a Trunk & Treat event at the Fairgrounds on Sunday, from 1 to 4PM. Will be requesting traffic control from City and County and participation from churches and social clubs.

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

Christmas Party

At the general membership meeting on Monday, February 8th, we made the award presentations that normally would have been done at the Christmas Party.



(Above) - Bruce Herring was awarded the 2020 Volunteer of the Year Award for his contributions to the upgrading of the O scale layout and its operation.

(Left) - Tom Shallcross was awarded the 2001-2021 Founding Fathers Lifetime Achievement Award for his commitment to keep the club at its highest level of operation.

(Right) - Nathan Barger was presented the 2020 Attendance Award for most shifts worked.

The award was presented by scheduling coordinator, Tom Shallcross, later the same week.





The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome, come on in and get comfortable.

This month, a new topic in the shed. Reversing loops with DCC. A reverse loop can be as simple as the circle of track attached to both ends of a turnout. Think dog bone layout. Or maybe a simple wye. Or it can be a large section of track that will result in returning to a track in the opposite direction. Since these track sections don't have matching polarity, both rails must be insulated from the rest of the layout. That is called double gapped and is always needed for reversing operations.

Let's start with DCC first and a simple dog bone. One rail is always positive and the other rail is always negative. Electricity flows from the negative rail, through the loco, to the positive rail. Change the direction button on the power pack and the polarity swaps and the loco moves the other way. Simple. Here is why reversing sections are a problem: if the reversing section is set to match the entry rails, then on the exit end your positive rail connects to a negative rail and the problems start when your loco hits that point. Short! So a simple arrangement for DC is a two pole double throw switch (DPDT) to swap the layout polarity while the loco is traveling the reversing loop. Changing the turnout is required to allow the loco to reenter the turnout.

DCC does still have polarity, with one rail you can think of as A and one as B. The important change is that polarity reverses rapidly, on the order of 8 to 10 thousand times per second. But for any (and even-

ry) one those fractions of a second, the normal rules still apply, the A and B rails cannot be connected together. If they do, same problem. Short! You could still use the DPDT switch here but there is a better way, the **Automatic Reverser**.

So what the **Automatic Reverser** does is sense a short circuit which occurs when a locomotive's wheels bridges the gap between the loop rails and the rails which exit the loop, and changes the track polarity so the train doesn't cause a lasting short circuit. It does this so fast that no breakers or fuses can blow. These units are available from many companies with the simple units (about \$20.) to more complicated and talented units at several times that price. Look for offerings from Azatrax, Digitrax, MRC and others.

Next month: Remember the turnout above that needed to be manually changed? Solution? Next month. Stay well!

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.

Layout Video

Recently Bill Bly was online doing some research and found these videos posted by Need4life trains of the HO layout,

<https://youtu.be/jkcliYVSpRc>

<https://youtu.be/RWLMYb7leCO>

Bill thinks they did a nice job with this and seem to be popular on Youtube and good PR for the club.

What Presidents Day Means

During this past month, we had the pleasure of celebrating the birthday of our Presidents. Rather than setting aside an individual day for each President, it was decided a number of years ago to do just one day for all of them.

Many Americans have no idea what the significance of that day is so a grandfather who was taking his granddaughter on a cross country train trip one day was sitting in the dining car and he decided to ask her if she knew.

“I was eating breakfast with my 10-year-old Granddaughter one day and I asked her. What day is tomorrow?”

Without skipping a beat she said, “It’s Presidents Day!”

She’s smart, so I asked her, “What does Presidents Day mean?”

I was waiting for something about Obama, Bush or Clinton, etc.

She replied, “Presidents Day is when the President steps out of the White House, and if he sees his shadow, we have another year of Bulls_ _ _.”

You know, it hurts when hot coffee spurts out of your nose.

Did You Know

That the Club phone can be placed in the cradle, upside down, and not charging.

Please check the phone when you hang it up to make sure that it is charging.

Thank you!

Marketing Committee

John Conor

This Committee is just getting started on this year’s challenges and there are several projects we’re just starting on. Looks to be an interesting year.

The Committee is open for new participants, so feel free to sit in on a meeting or two to discover if it’s something you might wish to be a part of.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd at 10:30 AM in the Club museum.

From the Locomotive Backshop

Many HO diesel locomotives are using split wheelsets that press into a plastic gear. Two problems can occur there.

If the metal axles touch inside the gear, you will have a short that can really baffle you. To check this, remove the wheelset from the truck and check for continuity from one wheel to the other. If you have a short, remove one wheel from the gear and place a small drop of Bondic on the end of the axle that goes into the gear, cure the Bondic, and replace the wheel in the gear and use your NMRA gauge to set the gauge.

Recheck for continuity—nothing? You’re all set! Repeat for every axle on the engine, just to be sure.

Those plastic gears have been known to split. This can cause the gears in the truck to jam, or cause rough running. It will also allow the metal axles to slide back and forth, putting the wheels out of gauge. This may also cause the short mentioned above.

Richard Morris



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



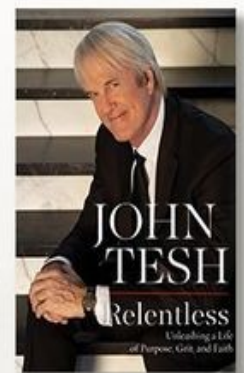
Sponsored by the Piedmont Division
of the National Model Railroad Association

www.piedmont-div.org

With all the stress involving the virus, government and other issues, I have found that a day can be very stressful and tough on an individual. My sister passed this to me and, thinking it to be very appropriate, I decided to pass it to the members. *Editor*

When you're done with work for the day,
go ahead and put on your pajamas!

The *University of Texas Health Science Center* says that can *reduce your stress and anxiety!* Because **putting on your PJs** signals to your *parasympathetic nervous system* that it's **time to wind down.**



N Scale News - Jan Novack

The roads for the industrial yard have been outlined. We plan to pour the roads and parking lots on the right side of the yard where the buildings are in place and then finish the landscaping. Once Craig finishes the last two buildings, we'll do the same for the left side. Lighting plans are being discussed.

Taking a break from Tortoise machine installations, we're doing a little finish work from last year's lighting project of the larger town scene.

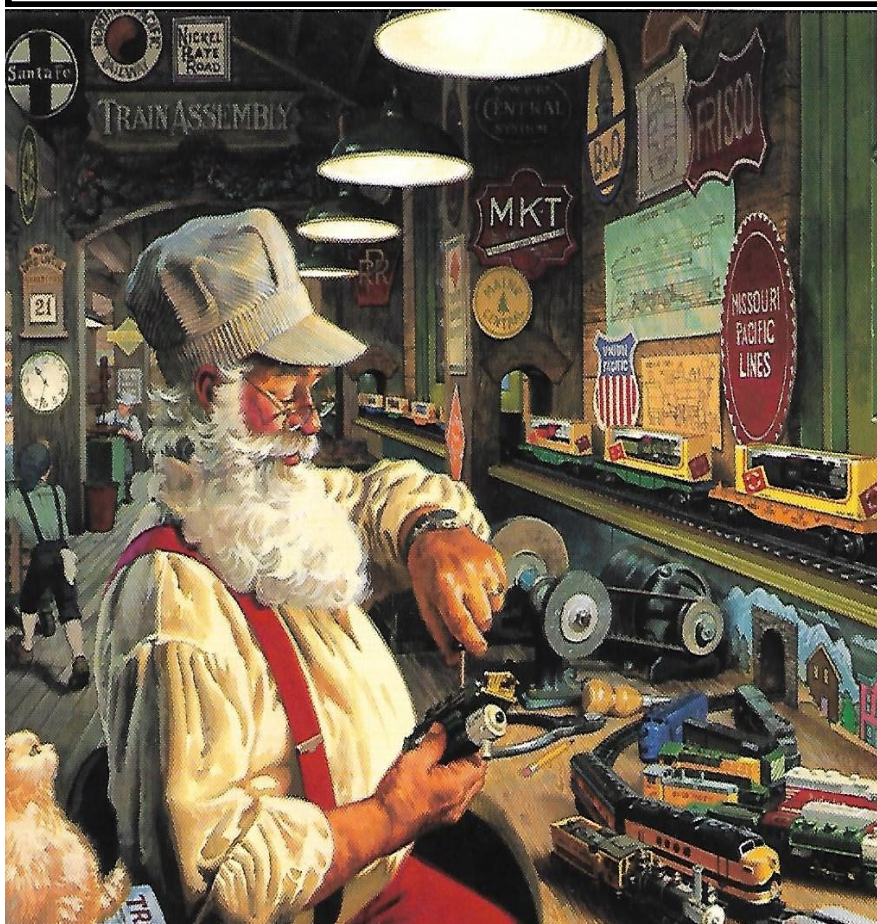


Membership

John Conor

Well, I'm back taking care of membership again after the departure of John Isham. There are no new applications pending at the current time.

There is an opportunity for someone to step up and take this position on. The OJT is not hard and if you like people, especially train people, it's fun. Please consider being involved in the growth of our Club.



Art

Many of our members have been asking how Art is doing in his recovery.

Art says he is making progress in getting his strength back and is getting around with the use of a walker. He is receiving PT on a regular basis and is hoping to get out and about in the near future.

He thanks everyone for their well wishes and appreciates their concern for him.

He says that he is receiving visitors on a limited basis but cautions anyone that wants to visit him at home, please call ahead of time to insure there is no conflict with other visitors or medical personnel.

Did you know?

Thousands of people shop on Amazon.com, including model railroaders. But did you know that when you, your family members, and friends make purchases there, Amazon could make a donation to your favorite non-profit charity such as the NMRA? Did you also know that the NMRA qualifies as your favorite non-profit (We hope you do!)

Amazon has introduced a program called "AmazonSmile" to help community non-profits such as the National Model Railroad Association. Simply log into your regular Amazon account using the website <http://smile.amazon.com> and then select National Model Railroad Association, Inc. as your chosen Non-profit. It's that easy. Then, just shop as you normally do.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You'll see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. For those products, Amazon will donate 0.05% of the purchase price to the NMRA. What's great is that the donation is not added to your final purchase price or added to the seller's cost. And item prices are exactly the same as Amazon.com.

So, remember to sign up at smile.amazon.com. You only have to sign up once and all future AmazonSmile purchases will benefit the NMRA, helping us continue to develop programs that benefit model railroaders.

Amazon will donate 0.05% of a purchase to the NMRA.

