



Ties and Rails

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

May 2021

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

We Will Need Increased Volunteerism

With the current rate of losing members, the burden needs to be shared by those of us left to carry on the Club's sterling reputation and maintain as full an open schedule as we can. The expansion of hours may be here soon which means our obligation to the Mall to be open more may put a strain on our resources.

For those who are quick to respond to Tom and Larry's request for coverage, thank you.

Our next big project will be our anniversary celebration the last weekend in October. The Expo committee is joining forces with both the Marketing and Public Relations Committees to put on a show which we hope will be a significant benefit to our financial future.

That will only happen if we get more members to participate in the planning, preparation and the program itself. We are just seven months away and if you consider advertising and other event promotion and pre-event needs, we need more team members to get involved. Aside from monetary rewards for the Club, if we pull this off the way it needs to be, it will prove that we are an asset to the Mall itself. Please be ready to step up when asked.

News from the NMRA



At the membership meeting on April 12th, Bobbie Dean was presented with her “Master Builder - Structures Certificate of Achievement” by the Plateau Division AP Chairman, Richard Morris.

Congratulations, Bobbie, for a job well done.

1-3-5 Planning Committee John Conor

We will be sharing the survey results at the business meeting. Don't miss this meeting! See and hear what our Club members have as common thoughts and aspirations. Hear some of the committee's thoughts and recommendations for the Club's future.

Marketing Committee John Conor

We will be presenting ideas at the Expo meeting. Then we will start putting ideas into action.

We can always use extra input on ideas and tactics so if you would like to be involved with this committee, consider joining this group at our next meeting on Thursday, May 6th @ 10:30 at the Club.

All members are welcome.

Membership

John Conor

We have had no new applicants yet, but, as we all know, that can change with just one person.

If you are working shifts, please remember that you can make that best first impression on our next perspective member.

So maybe we could have someone to meet at our next business meeting. Come and find out.

Thank you for your effort.

Hope to see you there.

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.



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan



Come in and get comfortable.

This month we are talking about Digitrax DT402D hand held throttles. The HO division has three of these and some readers are sure to have one as well. Some operators have inquired about some functions so a review might be worth it.

The Digitrax DT402 throttle series was sold from 2009 until 2016 and was available in three versions that used different communication techniques with the layout's receiver. The DT402 featured Infrared Wireless Capability, the DT402R provided Simplex Radio Capability, and the DT402D has the Duplex Radio Capability. The three versions all have the same permanently attached loconet cable and offer the identical functionality.

A few simple steps are required to begin operation.

First, install a nine volt battery while observing the correct polarity.

Second, after the DT402D display has finished it's power startup, plug the DT402D into any available loconet socket. This step joins the DT402D to the layout's loconet duplex group. This is always recommended as the throttle might have been used on the N scale layout. Each layout has an independent duplex group. Now you can unplug the DT402D.

The throttle is capable of operating two different cab numbers simultaneously, building consists of multiple locos, programming locos, operating powered turnouts and much more. The details of these are extensive and to help with that, there is an 86 page manual under the HO tower for your use. Please refer to the manual for these operations. The online version can be found at www.digitrax.com/media/apps/products/throttles/dt402d/documents/DT402.pdf

Troubleshooting. Three questions are often asked.

The display reads "IDLE". Idle can be fixed by simply plugging the DT402D into an available loconet socket found around the layout on the fascia.

If an unplugged DT402 operating as a tether less throttle detects no user throttle activity for about 3 minutes, it will enter power save mode. **R-ps or Power Save.** Press and hold the **PWR** key to bring the throttle out of power save mode without making any changes to throttle settings. Any key strokes or movement of the throttle knobs will also bring the DT402/R out of power save.

If nothing seems to be working, look for a button stuck in the down position. Failing that, restart the DT402D by removing the battery and start over.

When you are finished with the throttle, remember to remove the battery as the DT402 series has no "off" button for the throttle. If using the Club's unit, return it to the drawer under the HO tower and place the rechargeable battery in the charger.

Next Month: We're collecting ideas. Let us know. Stay Well!

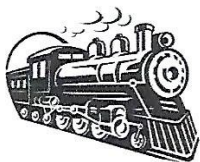
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Knoxville Area Model Railroaders

Along with the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

Present

The Secret City Train Show & Club Open House



Saturday, May 22, 2021 10am to 4 pm

Attendees: Use "Admissions" Entrance (toward the left)
Vendors: Use the center front entrance (labeled Bus Entrance)

Table Fee: \$10 (Proceeds benefit the museum)

(This museum has fantastic displays of WWII Secret City events)

To reserve a table email Keith at elrod73@gmail.com

461 West Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Look for the Big Red Caboose Outside



CDC Guidelines in place ... Masks are Required



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

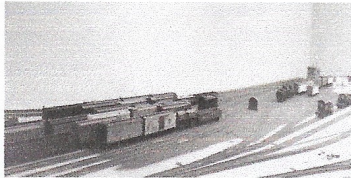


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of the National Model Railroad Association

www.piedmont-div.org

The DCC Shed. *Cont. from page 3*

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.



Operations

Richard Morris

I came across this comparison of ways to give authority of trains to proceed. It's interesting that he is putting Extra 1 West into the siding, rather than making it the superior train by direction.

Let's look at how a meet between Extra 1 West and Extra 2 East is handled. Let's say they are meeting at "Midway", For CTC, I set up the signals for the two trains to come at each other at Midway. Once they are both at Midway, I have to set up the continuation of their trips, which may just be another meet.

In "Mother May I" or "Track Warrants" I order Extra 1 West to proceed to Midway and hold the siding. I order Extra 2 East to Midway and hold the main. Once the dispatcher gets confirmation they are there, then a whole nother round of orders.

For TT&TO, I give Extra 1 West an order to run extra from Begin to End, and an order to Extra 2 East to run from End to Begin. At the same time, I give

both trains a meet order—"Extra 1 West take siding and meet Extra 2 East at Midway".

Now both trains can meet at Midway, and continue on with their runs as they determine the meet is complete. The dispatcher can set up as many meet orders as they dare (in case things get fouled up) and doze off for an hour. Or run a train. . . Depending on traffic demands, which have been less on my reduced crew-size operating sessions.

FROM THE TREASURER

A number of people have expressed concern about our financial well-being.

Let me assure you that the Crossville Model Railroad Club is financially sound.

In a comparison of 2021 to 2019, January thru April, There are two reasons that our year to date income was less in 2021.

1. We were open 6 days a week in 2019
2. Counter donations were more in 2019.

The Board and the scale coordinators have done an excellent job in controlling our expenses. Keep up the good work!

Jim Grogitsky, Treasurer



N Scale News - Jan Novack

We had a problem with some of the Tortoise switch machines not holding their last setting. With the help of Paul and Tom, the problem was identified, tested and corrected.

The landscaping is progressing on the new yard. About half of it is almost finished (see pictures).

Ballasting on the main line reconfiguration is done.

The freight line's main track will be next with work on the new yard to follow.



Earlier this month, Denny Conley, a past HO member of the Club, submitted the article below for the enjoyment of our members. Enjoy!

Editor

Seenager

I **JUST** discovered my age group! I am a **Seenager** (senior teenager).

I have everything I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared. And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a **Seenager**. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear. Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names, so please forward this to your friends.