



Ties and Rails

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

June 2021

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

As we continue to try and climb out of the deep hole created by Covid19, we are working to return to a full six-day operation. On June 1st we are adding Thursdays to the schedule and at the June meeting, we will evaluate Tuesdays and Wednesdays options and manpower availability.

If you missed the May meeting, you may be unaware of our tenuous position at the Mall. What I and others believed when the ownership change took place was incredibly positive and we had high hopes that a local owner would appreciate the foot traffic we bring to the Mall.

Unfortunately, a complete reversal of our positive relationship has taken place and the Board feels our time here is likely coming to an end within the next two years if not sooner.

Club members are actively searching for a new location with hopes of finding a venue where we could retain all the scales we currently have. Some of the possible locations will be discussed at the June meeting.

I hope all members will make a solid effort to attend the June meeting as we are trying to just operate as a Club and not a business.

Special Operating Day

On Thursday, June 10th, From Noon to 4 PM, HO will be having an evaluation session while we are open to the public.

The primary purpose of the session is to evaluate the new DCC system we have installed. You can operate your own equipment or Club locos.

All members are invited to participate.

G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

We have the carnival up and getting things cleaned up anticipating people coming to CMRC before and after the G scale convention that is in Nashville.

The convention is June 1 thru June 5.

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

Atlas buys select MTH O scale tooling

Atlas Model Railroad Co. has purchased a selection of tooling from MTH Electric Trains' Premier O scale locomotive and rolling stock lines, as well as the company's RailKing accessory line.

According to a release from Atlas, the company acquired molds for more than 20 freight cars and 15 diesel locomotives; heavyweight, lightweight and Amfleet passenger cars; as well as figures, lights, and other accessories from the RailKing line.

In addition, Atlas also acquired a license for the MTH ProtoSound 3 sound and control electronics boards. Part of the license will give Atlas the option to sell Digital Control System (DCS) components, as well.

Jarrett Haedrich, chief operating officer of Atlas Model Railroad Co., said, "We will be working closely with the existing supplier to ensure that the models are produced and delivered in a timely fashion."

The Atlas deal is the latest in the wrap-up for MTH. In February, ScaleTrains.com announced the purchase of MTH's HO scale and S gauge tooling and designs.

MTH president Mike Wolf will be retiring and closing his company in May. The company's electronics department will live on as a separate entity, continuing to manufacture and provide support for DCS hardware and the Wi-Fi app.

Hal Miller, editor, Classic Toy Trains

Railroad Oddities

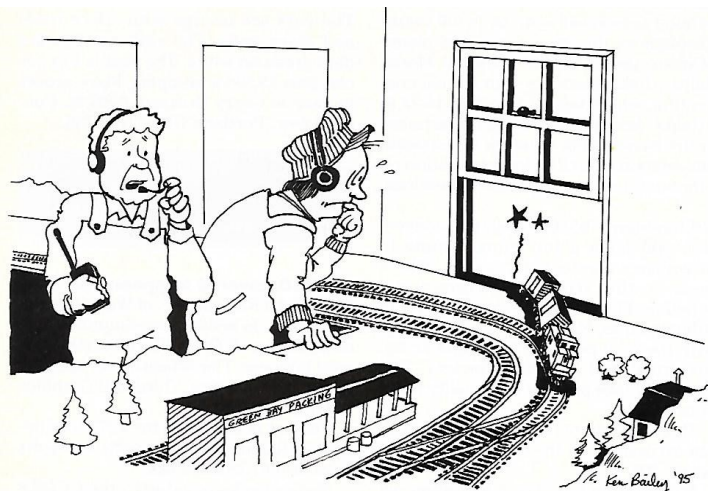
In 1955, a conductor on a Pennsylvania train honored a ticket presented by a lady whose father had purchased it in 1872.

Did You Know

On May 2nd, we had the pleasure of a visitor from the country of Russia.

Dariia Skoroidumova of Nichny Novgorod, Russia 'walked in' with her friend from Green Creek, NJ and spent a fair amount of time looking over our layouts and made several favorable comments.

To the best of anyone's recollection, this is the first visitor we have had from Russia.



"Mr. Dispatcher? Are you finished downloading those switch lists yet?
Well, um, we just downloaded the train!"

Membership

John Conor

As of this posting for the newsletter, there are no new applications for membership pending.

Although several members have reported having interested prospects pick up applications, when they come through the suite and being impressed by our layouts.

Thanks for reaching out to all our visitors and speaking about membership. It's important for the Club!

So see you all at the meeting for our progress toward new members.

A Couple of Thoughts

Recently, Vince D'Alessandro provided the following couple of thoughts regarding the operation of many of the pieces of equipment on our layouts. Originally the thoughts were in reference to the O scale Thomas train but, as you can see, they could also apply to many of the other pieces of equipment. Please read then through and give them some thought.

"Just a couple of thoughts. This may not apply here, but as a general rule, it isn't wise to leave the remote "on" while an engine is sitting on a powered track. Frankly, an engine should never be left on a powered track unless it is actually in use.

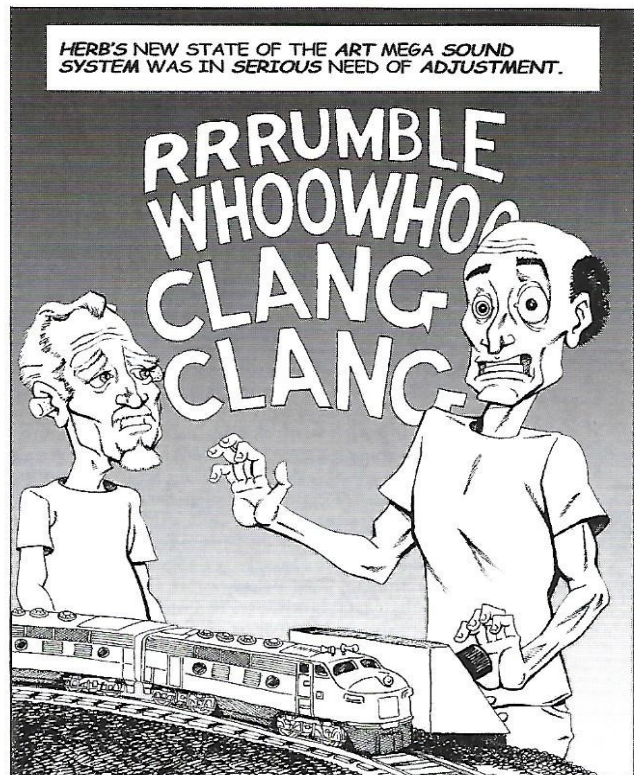
This still keeps the electronics engaged, and leaving it on will shorten the life of the myriad of components in the unit itself. And the same goes for the remote. If it's left "on", even at the zero position, power is still present and we're shortening the life of the unit, not to mention the batteries.

Also, in order to lengthen the lifespan of our equipment, my personal practice is to leave Thomas "off" until and unless a child is present. Even with multiple visitors to the suite, I don't run Thomas at all unless there's a kid there. Adults couldn't care less what's running. And the same goes for the Lionel track on the Thomas table - I seldom run that if I have both the Mountain and Plateau lines in operation.

Another "equipment-saving-practice" I employ is that even with many visitors, if many have already seen the O-scale layout but have moved on to other areas of the suite, I usually shut down either the Mountain or the Plateau line and just leave the other one running. At least something is moving. If

the layout gets more attention later in the shift, I then re-engage the line that I had previously shut down.

All of this is simply a means of prolonging the life of the equipment. Same thing with the G-scale layout. When people have "moved on", I shut it down. I see no reason to have everything running with no one paying attention."



Mall Improvements

For those of you that have not been in the Mall during the past week, the Mall maintenance personnel have recently completed the installation of new LED lights in the hallway in front of our suite.

By removing the 'old' lights, the amount of light in the hallway is greatly increased and by using LED's, the energy used has been reduced and the length of time the tubes lasts has been increased.

The plan now is to 'relight' the entire Mall as time permits.

1-3-5 Planning Committee Bruce Herring

The 135 committee held a meeting with Art Landrigan at his ARCY Hobbies store to discuss the history of the Club's tax filing status. By IRS rules, the Crossville Model Railroad Club (CMRC) is properly classified as a 501c7 organization. However, a new group was organized some years ago names Upper Cumberland Railroad Society (UCRS) that was a registered 501c3 organization. That organization was required to file an annual report with the state but failed to do so and its status was suspended. Paul filed the required reports for the lapsed years and UCRS has renewed its filing status. There is more that needs to be done by the Directors of the UCRS. Those Directors are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, June 8th. More information will follow after that meeting takes place.

Train Story

Part 1

I got into the toy train hobby shortly after getting married in 1976 when my doctor told me I needed to find a hobby to reduce my stress levels.

We were living in a one bedroom apartment at the time so the only thing I could do was to create a temporary railroad on the living room floor. Most of the time, however, they lived in the hall closet. At that time, I was introduced to the Toy Train Operating Society (TTOS) and attended my first convention in Hartford, Connecticut. That started a frenzied buying spurt that continued for several years, mostly from a toy train store in White Plains, NY.

We adopted our first dog, Brandy, about that time. She was about the size of a small German Shep-

herd. She had very nimble feet and could navigate through my train yard without so much as rubbing against any of the boxcars sitting on the sidings. This went on for several years, then we were told they would not renew our lease for another year. We needed to find another place to leave.

We looked at other apartments but no one was willing to let us have a dog. We needed to buy a house and for what we needed to have a down payment. I sold all but two sets of my trains to come up with the money. I kept the Bicentennial Set and my New York Central passenger set.

We moved into our first house in 1985. It was an old summer cottage that someone converted into year round use. It needed a ton of work and that took a ton of money so trains took a back seat for all of the years that we lived there.

Then in 2001, I took a risk and put my resume out on the internet. After months of nothing, I got a call from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City asking me if I would come out for an interview. I was an excellent match for the job they were trying to fill so I left my job of 27 years and moved to Kansas City in July 2001.

I sold my New York home in one of the several yard sales we had, left my wife behind to handle the final details, packed up my Toyota, and went west. She followed me out in late August after we closed the deal on our KC area home.

She was at home on 9/11 when the attacks occurred and the towers fell. As our house was in the direct flight path of KCI airport, she watched as dozens of planes flew overhead when ordered to land at the nearest airport.

A tragic day that was also her birthday.





Ties and Rails







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

Did You Know

That the following communities still have stations/freights houses built by the NC&StL RR

Centerville

Chattanooga

Columbia—restored

Cordova

De Rossett—Moved to Crossville

Dresden

Hohenwald

Jackson, used as a NC&StL Museum

Jasper

Kelso

Kingston Springs

Lebanon—used as a business

Leeville—used as a business

Lyle

McKenzie

Murfreesboro

Nashville—used as a hotel

New Johnsonville

Paris

Pegram

Quebeck

Rock Island

Sewanee

Shelbyville—used as a museum

Smyrna

Somerville

Sparta—used as a business

Talley's Station

Tucker's Gap—moved to Lebanon; used as a museum

Tullahoma

Union City

Victoria

Westport

Winchester

Yuma

Swap Meet

The Club will be sponsoring a Swap Meet on June 12th at the Mall.

The cost of the individual spaces is \$10.00.

If you want a space, contact Jim Grogitsky. Jim wants the \$10.00 given to him asap.

Home Layout

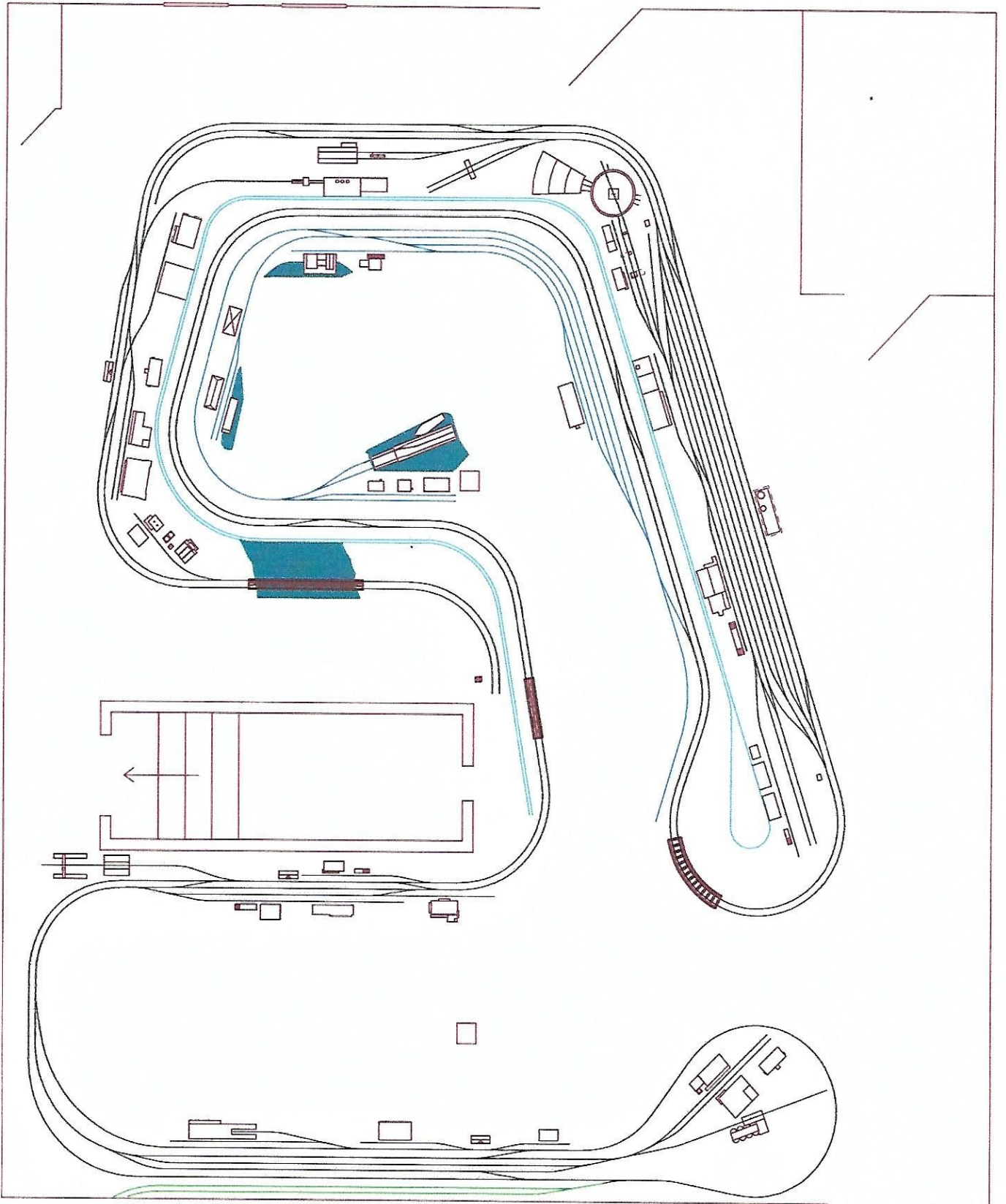
I'm not sure if this would be of interest but I am attaching a copy of my layout plan. This is the visible portion of the plan.

So far I have started on the hidden staging area which is not shown here.

Lou Nigro

Please see the schematic of Lou's layout on page 11 of this newsletter.

Ed.





RETURN OF THE **BIG TRAIN SHOW**

**Friday - Saturday
June 3-4, 2022**

To be held in the ETSU Mini-Dome with more than 64,000 square feet of display space.

Hours

Friday: Noon - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission

\$6 per day

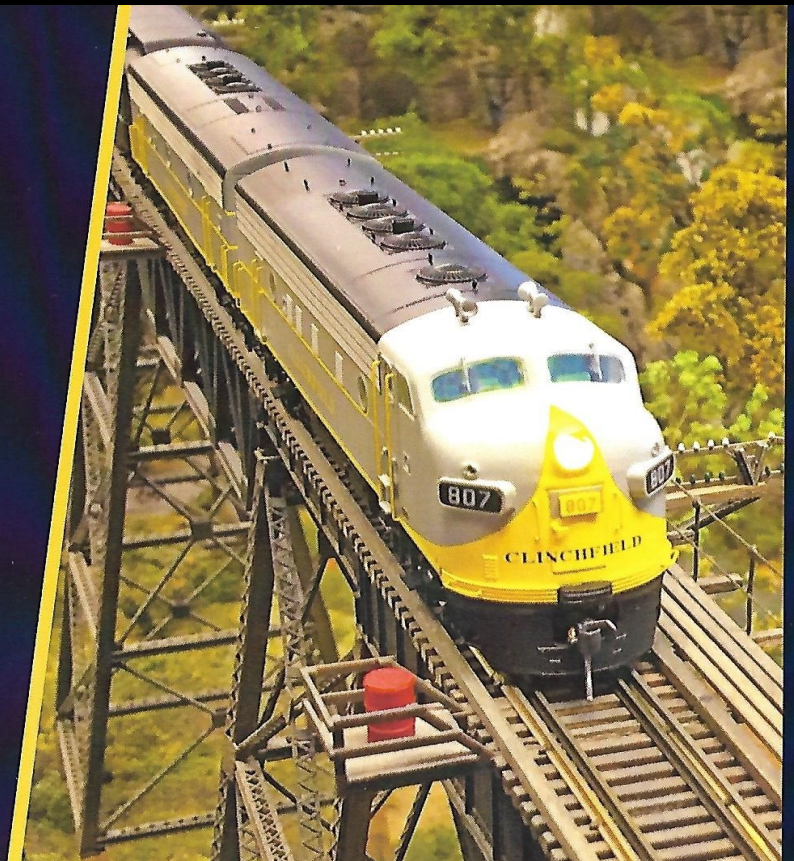
Children under 12 free

FREE Adjacent covered parking garage

Food booths will be open in the Mini-Dome

Lodging available at the Carnegie Hotel right across the street from the ETSU campus.

For information, call Roger Teinert, 423-791-4937, or Gary Emmert, 903-452-5012



Directions:

Coming from the north, south and west, use I-81.

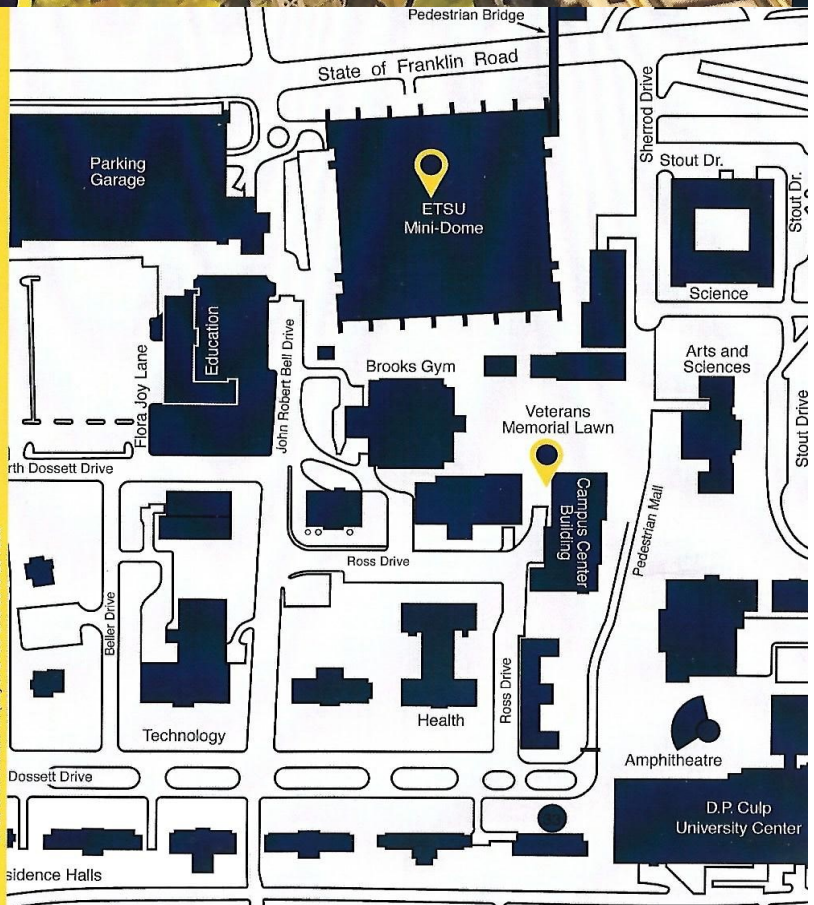
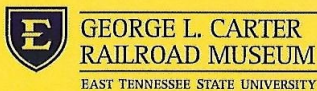
- Take exit 57-A onto I-26 east to Johnson City.
- Take exit 24 onto University Parkway and follow the signs to campus.

Coming from the east, take I-26 from Asheville, N.C.

- Take exit 24 onto University Parkway and follow the signs to campus.
- When you approach State of Franklin Road (McDonald's should be on your right)
- Turn left onto State of Franklin
- Past the Mini-Dome and Parking Garage turn left onto Jack Vest Drive.
- The Parking Garage will be on your left.

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum is located in the Campus Center Building at:

**176 Ross Drive
Johnson City, TN 37614**



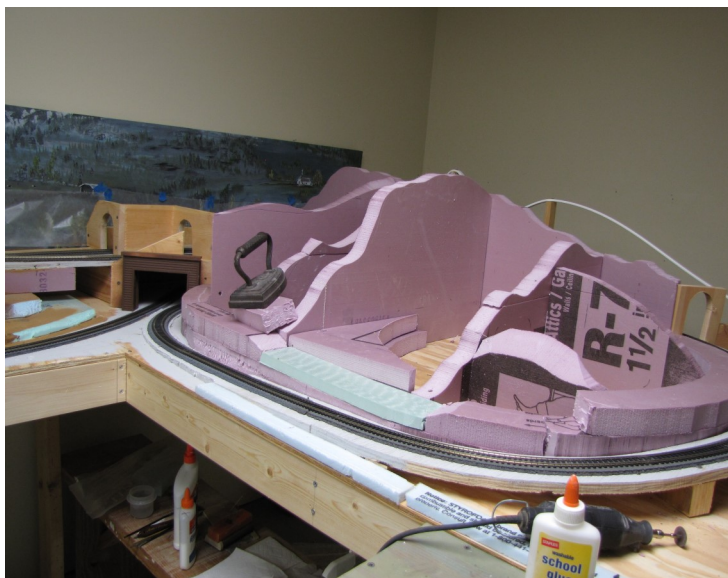
ETSU is an AA/EEO employer. ETSU-CAS-0019-20 7000

Grogitsky's On30 Layout

Construction has started on Ann and Jim's On30 layout in their basement. It is taking the place of their recently departed N scale layout.

Looks good, Ann and Jim.

Is it going to be operational in time for the picnic????



8 things to remember when going through tough times.

1. Everything can - and will - change.
2. You've overcome challenges before.
3. It's a learning experience.
4. Not getting what you want can be a blessing.
5. Allow yourself to have some fun.
6. Being kind to yourself is the best medicine.
7. Other people's negativity isn't worth worrying about.
8. And there is always, always, always, something to be thankful for.

For Sale

Sam Goldkopf has announced that he has approx. 20 engines, 250 various freight cars and 50 passenger cars in HO for sale.

He also has approx. 20 engines, 125 freight cars, 25 passenger cars and 10 buildings for sale in O scale.

He also has a Z4000 transformer for sale.

Anyone who may be interested in any of these items, please contact Sam.

Strange But True Facts

One Pullman porter stripped a berth and found a diamond ring worth \$120,000.

Tweetsie Time Celebration

The George L. Carter Railroad Museum, ETSU, in Johnson City is having a Tweetsie Time Celebration on June 4-6.

All the information is listed on the website:

<https://www.etsu.edu/railroad/>

HO Scale News - Paul Falk

Last month, on May 20th, we held a layout stress test to determine if some wiring diagnoses and repairs had corrected the layout shorting problems most noticed at OPS sessions. The results showed the repairs to be successful. Thanks to all who gave up some time to help. It was appreciated.

As a result, we are now able to install the new DCS240 command station in the tower and use the DCS200 as a booster. This will allow us to double the available power to the DCC track.

This upgrade will likely take a couple of days and will require the layout to be unavailable on June 7th & 8th as the tower wiring will be upgraded to support the new booster. More details can be found in this month's *DCC Shed* article. Hoping for another stress test the afternoon of June 10th.

We have completed the rewiring of the lights in Camp Swampy, just in time for Memorial Day. We will be addressing the 'brightness' of some of these building lights as well as the 'bleeding' of light from under the buildings in the weeks to come. We will also be installing some floodlights covering the Army compound.

If anyone has any problems or concerns regarding an operating issue, please talk with either Paul or Tom so we can address these issues.

36th National Garden Railroad Convention

May 30 to June 5, 2021

Nashville, Tennessee

ALL ABOARD!! The train is about to leave the station for Nashville, TN and the 36th National Garden Railroad Convention (finally). Members of the Nashville Garden Railway Society are eagerly anticipating the arrival of our fellow garden railroaders and hosting the National Garden Railroad Convention for the first time.

It has been a long time in coming, but the convention will soon be here!

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Davidson County Health Department has lifted the mandatory face mask requirement and venues can return to seating at full capacity.

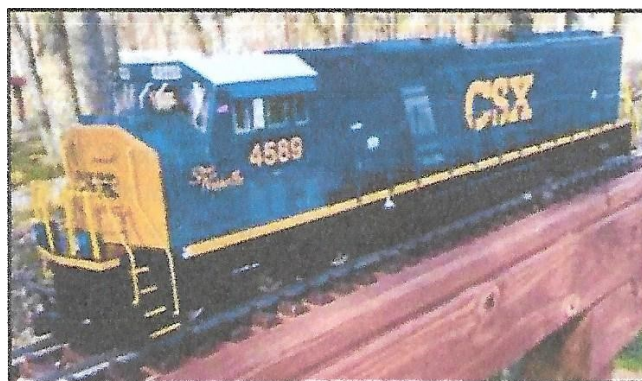
Some venues, including the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, **are still** requiring face masks when inside their facilities. Other venues allow freedom of choice about wearing a mask.

Our suggestion is to bring along a mask or two, just in case one is needed.

We will have some bottles of hand sanitizer available.

Spirit of Nashville USA Trains SD70 Locomotives

The Nashville Garden Railway Society contracted with Fred Tennyson to have USA Trains SD70 AC locomotives custom painted in the CSX "Spirit of Nashville" livery. Shown below is a photo of the first locomotive fresh out of the paint booth. During the 36th National Garden Railroad Convention, you will have **three** opportunities to win one of these locomotives.



Below is a copy of the advertisement that is appearing in the convention brochures. Hopefully with this advertisement, we may see some of the conventioners stop and visit our displays.

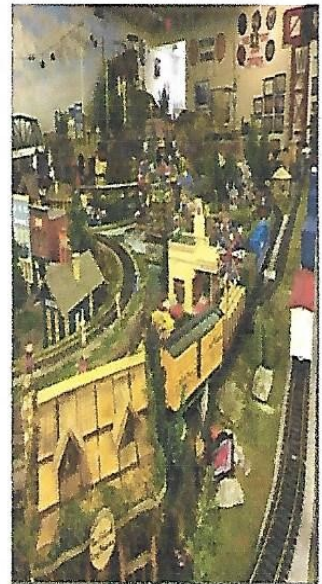
Crossville Model Railroad Club

This 26-foot x 34-foot layout has 608 feet of brass and stainless-steel track with three trains running on three different elevations plus a trolley line. There are 55 buildings, over 230 figures, four tunnels, mountain climbers, a train wreck and a new feature, Mount Rushmore display. The layout located inside the Crossville Outlet Mall also has model railroad layouts in the other major model railroading scales.

Pre-convention Dates: May 28th 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (CDT)
May 29th 11:00 am to 4:00 pm (CDT)
May 30th 12:00 am to 4:00 pm (CDT)

Post-convention Dates: June 4th 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (CDT)
June 5th 11:00 am to 4:00 pm (CDT)
June 6th 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm (CDT)

Owners: Crossville Model Railroaders
Street Address: 361 Sweeney Dr. Crossville, TN 38555
Telephone Number of Owner: (931) 210-5050



For additional, complete information, including complete schedules, please visit the convention website, www.ngrc2021.com.

Mall Improvements

We have a new restaurant in the Mall located in the space formally occupied by Dress Barn.

Abuela's Restaurant will be open from 11 AM to 8 PM, Wednesday thru Saturday and from 11 AM to 4 PM on Sundays. They will be closed Monday and Tuesday.

Reports are that their Cuban cuisine is well received by the general public.



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Come in and get comfortable, we have good news about the HO layout. Some real progress in the last month.

The HO layout has for some time experienced some annoying traits. In spite of the installed PM42 circuit breakers, a single short using DCC could shut down the whole layout. Also, after a few hours of continuous DCC running with multiple locos, the DCC command station, a DCS200, would turn off and require a reset to restart.

A quick reminder of what a PM42 does. The Digitrax PM42 is a device for power management that provides for the creation of multiple power districts with one booster. Each power district then can be protected with an auto-resetting electronic circuit breaker. This breaker will contain a short (or over current) to that district to allow the booster to continue to power the other districts.

The PM42 issue was caused by a couple of problems that together made finding the cause difficult to discover. First, several track sections that previously been divided into districts were mistakenly connected together through track replacement or wiring errors. Second, because of the auto-reset nature of the PM42, the power is returned to the shorted segment every second to see if the short has been cleared.

This works very well if the short is momentary like a metal wheel bridging the tiny gap on a turnout.

With two segments connected and shorted, two breakers trip. If each breaker was set for 6 amps, essentially the current would rise to the critical level for the DCS200 to protect itself and shutdown all DCC power. In one case, there were three of the districts connected in this manner making this a more critical issue.

Correcting the district wiring, fixing the track gaps and reducing the trip sensitivity to 3 amps has proved to be the solution to the shorting shutdowns. The layout stress test on May 20th confirmed the proper operation of the PM42's.

The layout shutting off with just heavy running is easier to diagnose. The DCS200 will shutdown when the unit reaches a temperature that opens an internal over temperature protection circuit. That circuit is only reset by a power off cycle. Going forward, the over temperature problem is best solved by adding a booster to provide more power.

The HO layout has a booster installation planned for the week beginning June 7th. We expect to be able to hold a stress test of the upgraded power system on Thursday, June 10th.

Next month we'll report on the progress.

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.

Paul



Model Train Swap Meet

June 12th 10am-4pm

in the Crossville Outlet Center Event Room

FREE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SPONSORED BY THE

CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

June 12, 2021 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM.



A happy young shopper was able to make a good deal haggling on the price of passenger cars.

Bring in your trains, accessories and or memorabilia. Snacks and refreshments will be available. We will try to have test tracks and offer basic troubleshooting. This event is open to the public and free of charge to attend. We will be inviting regional clubs to attend and participate. The event will be held at the outlet conference room. This can be a fun activity for members to get together and offer to swap equipment and stories.

Do you have trains or accessories that you no longer use? Perhaps you have changed your focus or would like to thin your inventory?

The Public Relations committee has been reaching out to the local community and model railroad clubs to visit our swap meet. The initial post on Facebook reached over 1400 users, which is a lot. Thanks to Pat Taylor for the nicely designed ad which we have distributed as fliers, posted to the web, social media,

and at the mall.

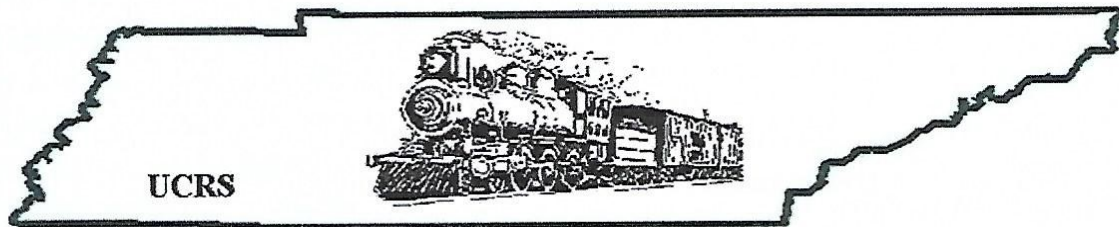
There was a train show in Niota and another at the club in Oakridge where members had a few tables and had a good time networking with other modelers.

Let us know if you would be interested in a spot for \$10.

Bill Bly 919-434-7927 bbly1956@gmail.com

Club Picnic

At the last membership meeting, we voted to have our Club picnic this year. It will be Aug. 9 at the Grogitsky's. Save the date.



UPPER CUMBERLAND RAILROAD SOCIETY

2021 – Our 10th Year

For those of you who are new to our area, and organizations, within the past 10 years, I have been asked to present a short history surrounding our UCRS organization.

Established in 2011, the UCRS is a registered and approved tax exempt corporation within the State of Tennessee, established to enhance our efforts in the educational and historical areas of railroading in middle TN, as well as education in the Model Railroading arena nationwide. Our physical plant includes a museum, library and educational material to accomplish our goals, which are located in the rear room of the Crossville Model Railroad suite.

One might ask: Why establish a new organization to support our educational and historical efforts? The answer lies in the fact that the CMRC was classified as a 501c 7 (Membership) organization, by the Internal Revenue Service vs. the 501c 3 requested category following it's inception. This categorical difference impacts the ability of the organization to accept donor tax-exempt donations. The IRS was very specific in the reasons related to it's ruling, thereby virtually blocking any effort to get the designation changed. In order to satisfy the educational needs, the UCRS was formed and organized to expand the educational efforts, supplemented by our extensive well-documented railroad library, and our collection of railroad memorabilia in the museum portion of the UCRS. Our first series of classes explored the methods and historical background supporting various successful rail operations, both in the real world, as well as the model replication of same. This series was presented in several formats over the

first 5 years of presentation, with plans to attempt another presentation later this year.

Over the years, several efforts were attempted to obtain the desired 501c 3 designation, but as yet have been unsuccessful. The first application was lost by the IRS or USPS, with a following effort by an experienced consulting firm which was inappropriately filed for the CMRC vs. the UCRS organization. The UCRS is currently in the process of preparing a follow-on effort both with the State and Federal levels to obtain the desired designation. A special group is meeting on a regular basis to ensure a properly designated and justifiable set of documentation to meet existing State and Federal requirements.

We encourage all interested parties to actively participate in the current organizational efforts, and most importantly the enhancement if it's educational offerings.

Any questions should be directed to Art Landrigan, UCRS Chairman, or Bruce Herring (UCRS effort Recorder).

Submitted by Art Landrigan, Chmn.

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.

