



# Ties and Rails

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

July 2021

(931)210-5050

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

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

We have four great scale coordinators who do an outstanding job managing their systems. Impossible to even guess how many hours they put in every week but it is significant. I need to include Tom in that indispensable category as well.

Financially, we are doing great. The last time I worked, we had 38 visitors and \$214. in donations. Those larger donations calculated by each visitor have increased from the \$.50 we used to hope for to over a dollar now and the generosity of the visitors continues. I believe making a welcoming contact to each visitor and the follow up of asking them questions like where they are from and if they have their own questions contributes to the larger donations.

There is no doubt that some people procrastinate when the goal they need to achieve would be difficult or time consuming to do. The Club, as a whole, is guilty of that. We have been kicking this subject down the road for many years concerning applying for the 501c3 non-profit status which we desperately need now. It may take six months after applying, to be approved but this needs to be the highest priority objective for the Club right now.

## **Club Picnic**

Our annual Club picnic is on Aug. 9 at Grogitsky's (5841 Taylors Chapel Rd.) from 5 PM to dark. We will be eating at 5:30 PM.

You need to sign up so we know how many are coming. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. The Club provides the hamburgers and hot dogs, plates and plastic ware.

You need to bring a dish to pass (serves 8-10) lawn chairs and your own beverage.

I am looking for 2 people to grill.

If you have any questions or cannot make it to the Club to sign up, please call Ann at 788-2613 or 337-4831

If you have something you wish to put in the newsletter, contact Tom Shallcross at [chipmonk4@comcast.net](mailto:chipmonk4@comcast.net)

## My Train Story - Part 2

After we settled in our new home in Smithville, Missouri, I decided that I would try and rebuild my collection of Lionel trains and get back into the hobby. First I needed to finish my basement which took, due to heavy traveling, the better part of three years to do. My new job had me on the road for three and sometimes all four weeks in a month. My wife said that I was her college student since I was only home on weekends and that was just to wash my clothes, repack my suitcase and head back to the airport on Monday morning. I visited 24 of the 42 FRB offices to train their staff on how to use the new software that was being implemented across the FRB system. Some offices required many multiple visits.

One day, by accident, I discovered that there was a group of people who had formed the Kansas City Lionel Club and who maintained an operating layout at Union Station in Kansas City. I joined the group and started rebuilding my collection. I started out the rebuild process by attending several WGHOT (World's Greatest Hobby on Tour) train shows. It was there that I discovered the "I Love" state cars and started that collection. Little did I know that, at the time, it would take ten years to complete it.



Back to the basement. It was built to be a multi-functional space. It was an entertainment center with a dry bar. It was part media room with a large screen TV. I was a woodworking shop for my other hobby, carpentry. It was not built to be a permanent space for a train layout. It would be very large temporary space for a massive multi-track, multi-table, holiday train display. In the end, I had ten 4x8 foot tables that needed to be portable and removeable.



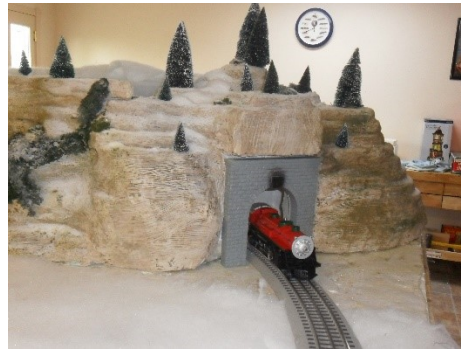


You will notice the many ceramic buildings scattered throughout the layout. This was also the time that I found out about Department 56 at a Christmas Shop in Branson, Missouri and at a local Hallmark Gold Crown Store. Now, far too pricy for my pocketbook. I found cheaper versions made by Lemax that were suitable for my temporary display.

I also wanted to note the mountain/tunnel in the right rear of the two pictures above. This was my first landscape project I ever attempted. Here are a few pictures of that process. Lots and lots of rigid foam insulation cut with a saber saw then glued and screwed together.



Then covered in many rolls of Woodland Scenic's plaster cloth, colorized with their earth tones, and landscape materials applied.



This was my solution to covering up the high portion of the dry bar. It was built in three sections for easy removal. Every November, it would go up and every January it would all come down and go into storage for next season. It all got given away to a fellow modeler when we moved.

The only other thing I would note about my time in Missouri was that I found and joined the Train Collectors Association (TCA), The Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) after they merged with the original Lionel Railroad Club (LRRC), and the Lionel Operating Train Society (LOTS). I was a founding member of the Heart of America Chapter of TCA. You couldn't miss us at a train show with our bright banana yellow golf shirts.

Approaching age 65 in 2017, I began thinking about retirement. With the reduced income that would entail, we could not afford to do that and stay in Missouri. We began our search for a place that we could move to with space for our dogs. We found one through a long internet search, then we loaded up the trucks and moved to Tennessee. Pikeville, that is. I worked one year three months more in a remote status before putting in my retirement papers. What about my trains? That is Part 3 of "My Train Story".

**Bill Drasal Memorial** - A memorial service has been scheduled for Bill Drasal on July 7, 2021. There will be an Honor Guard ceremony at the VA cemetery in Chattanooga at 10:00 AM, our time, 11:00 AM Chattanooga time. Everyone who knew Bill is welcome to attend.

I will be checking out local restaurants for a luncheon to follow the service, but I need to know if anyone will be attending ahead of time so I can plan, You can reach me at my home #931-456-6799.

*Submitted by Terri Curran, Bill's daughter*

## 2021 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Madison Train Show

Friday July 16th, 2021

2:00 PM-6:00 PM

Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Adults \$7.00

Model Train Vendors

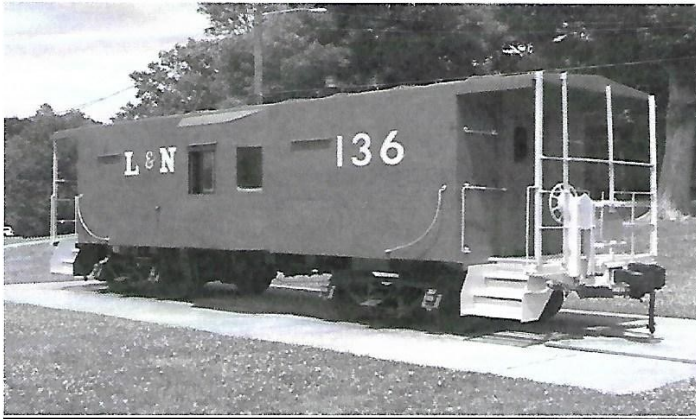
Operating Layouts

Food

Door Prizes

Kids \$2.00 Under 4 Free

Please bring at least 1 non-perishable food item per family to donate  
to the Christian Cooperative Ministries



City Road United Methodist Church

701 Gallatin Pike, Madison, TN, 37115

Across From Madison Square

For show information, or to be a vendor  
please contact:

Nathan Baker / 615-612-3324

[nathanbaker@comcast.net](mailto:nathanbaker@comcast.net)

### Train Show

August 28, 2021

Atlanta Model Train and

Railroadiana Show

Deluth, Georgia

### Train Delay Quip

A passenger train is creeping along, very slowly. Finally it creaks to a halt. A passenger sees the conductor walking by outside.

“What’s going on?” she yells out the window.

“Cow on the track!” replies the conductor.

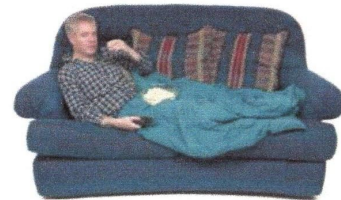
Ten minutes later, the train resumes its slow pace.

Within five minutes, however, it stops again.

The woman sees the same conductor walking past again.

She leans out the window and yells, “What happened? Did we catch up with the cow again?”

*From the Glade Vista*



### HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



**We make it even more fun.**

Then, get that popcorn ready.

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

## Buc-ee's

6/15/21 - Steve Rosenstein, John Conor and I attended the ground-breaking of Buc-ee's.

There were quite a lot of people attending, including Mayor Mayberry, Mayor Foster, Senator Bailey and Representative Cameron Sexton.

Instead of presenting the president of Buc-ee's, Mr. Aplin, with a key to the city, Mayor Mayberry gave him a Tennessee orange and white pen made here locally.

After the ceremony, there were plenty of give-a-way items, including the famous Buc-ee's nuggets, muffins, snack bags and bags of cookies. The Buc-ee Beaver was also there.

Mr. Aplin indicated that one year from this day, June 15, they should be open.

*Ann Grogitsky, reporting*



## Swap Meet - 6/12/21

The swap meet was originally Bill Bly's idea for more than a year. Bill, Jim and I had a meeting with Sam and Jim Affinito to get their opinion on whether they thought it was a good idea to have a swap meet.

From there, this group planned the event. It was advertised in the Chronicle, along with a picture and on their website, the Chamber of Commerce on their weekly calendar that goes to all Chamber members and on their webpage, the Sparta paper, WOW102.5 mentioned it several times on the radio and it was on their website, The Glade Sun, Glade Vista, our facebook and on our own webpage and on our TV screen.

Those members who bought tables were Bill Bly, Jim Affinito, Jim Grogitsky, Mike Hill, Mike Ferry, John Kessberger, Bruce Herring, Bill Kirkpatrick, Pat Taylor, Jack Holland, Sam Goldkopf and 3 outside vendors.

We estimated that approximately 200 people attended and we spoke to at least 4 people about memberships with 2 to attend the Club meeting on Monday.

Jim and I also talked to a man from the George Carter Railroad Museum in Johnson City, TN that volunteered to come here and talk to us about his time working for the railroad. He has a lot of stories.

*Ann Grogitsky, reporting*



Bill Bullard sent the following 'article' for your amusement:

Someone asked the other day.....

"What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?"

I said, "**We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,**"

I informed him, 'All the food was slow.'

'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'

'It was a place called **'at home,'** I explained!

'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, & if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

**By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table.**

**Here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood, if I figured his system could have handled it:**

Some parents NEVER owned their own home, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and had only one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 11, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God. It came back on the air about 6 a.m. And there was usually a locally produced news and farm show on, featuring local people.

**I never had a phone in my room. Our only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.**

Pizzas were not delivered to our home...But Mike was & so was bread.

All newspapers were delivered by boys and *all boys* delivered newspapers — my brother delivered a newspaper, six days a week. He had to get up at 5 AM every morning.

Movie stars kissed with their mouths shut. At least, they did in the movies! There were no movie ratings because all movies were responsibly produced for everyone to enjoy viewing, without profanity or violence or most anything offensive.

*If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. **Don't blame me if they bust their gut laughing.***

**Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?**

## Train Show

August 7, 2021 9 AM to 2 PM

Kentucky Railway Museum

Train Show and Sale

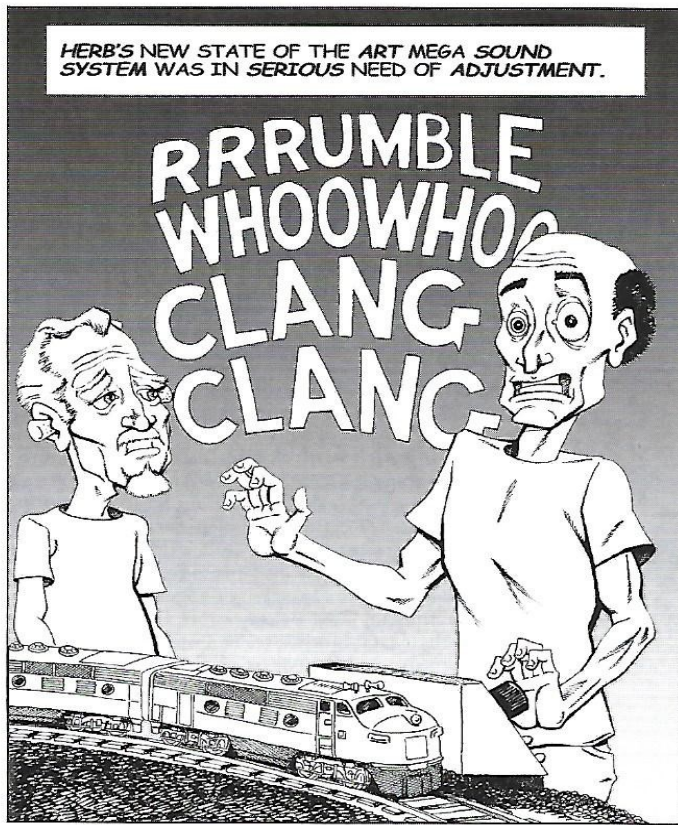
413 First St., New Haven, KY

Layouts, displays, vendors and sales

Admission - \$5.00



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## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

In June, the install to include the DCS240 command station in the tower was successful. The former DCS200 command station has been reconfigured to be a booster. Additionally, the HO tower wiring was upgraded to allow for easier reconfigurations going forward.

The layout is currently configured with the DCS200 powering the Southern RR loop (aka Red Line) with the DCS240 powering the other three. There is no way to connect the RR ammeter to both power sources. The meter is now only showing the Southern power usage.

The layout has been stress tested with 8 DCC locos (2 on each loop) without any overheating issues. Please report any DCC power issues you may experience. Only one so far has been reported and we were unable to reproduce the problem.

## Membership

John Conor

Hey guys and gals. Great news! Things are picking up on the membership front.

It looks like we will have a new member this month and a returning member also! Some of you may remember seeing a visitor at last month's business meeting. Well Terry has applied for membership. He is an "N" scale modeler with leanings toward "O" scale, too. He can't make it to our July meeting for a formal welcoming but we'll start seeing him in the near future.

John Isham is trying to rejoin our ranks now that life is returning to a new normal for him.

So plan on welcoming them both.

What a a great way to kick off July!

Keep up the effort to share the benefits of membership to the Club to all!

*John Conor*

**Additional info:** Terry was present at the suite on Thursday, 6/24/21, and had his orientation on "O" scale, spent some time with Jan on N scale and spent a lot of time interacting with the public regarding various railroad topics.

*Editor*

The DCC changes did not impact how the layout is operated. DC is still the default condition when powering down at the end of the shift. All loopswitches should be in the up (DC) position and the DC power packs should be off before the main power is turned off. Remember to park the trains near the tower.

The repair of the crossover on pier 2 behind the Army base has been completed. Thanks, Jack.

The frogs in the crossover turnouts will be powered in July.



Train Collectors Association - Music City Chapter

## *Nashville Summer Train Show*

**At Volunteer State Community College Gym**

**August 14, 2021 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

**Table set up times are 7:00am to 8:45am**

**Business Meeting starts 8:45am ends 9:00am**

**Admission:** Adult with current TCA membership card - FREE!  
Non-members: \$5 per person  
Children 15 and under with accompanying Adult are FREE!

**Volunteer State Community College - 1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, TN 37066**

**Directions from Nashville:**

Interstate 40 - from Nashville: Travel east (toward Knoxville) and take the Gallatin exit onto Highway 109. Keep straight for approximately 15 miles to the Gallatin By-Pass (there is a "To Hendersonville" directional sign). Turn left onto the By-Pass and continue straight. Take the Hendersonville exit. At the bottom of the exit ramp, turn right onto Gallatin Road (Nashville Pike). Turn right at the traffic light at Gap Blvd then left onto Loop Road. Gym is on your right, park in lots F or G.

If traveling Interstate 65 - from Nashville: Travel north (toward Louisville). Take exit 95 onto Vietnam Veterans Blvd to exit 14 (GreenLea Blvd). Make a right off the exit and go a half mile to Nashville Pike. Take a left onto Nashville Pike. The college will be on the left. Turn left at light on Gap Blvd then left onto Loop Road. Gym is on your right, park in lots F or G.

**Meet Rules:** Per CDC rules and guidelines in effect on day of show, use of face masks may be mandatory before entering the trading hall in addition to proper social distancing guidelines.

Door prizes awarded during the show by drawing. Must be present to win!

Only paid table registrations will be accepted!

All vendors *must be a current member of the Train Collectors Association.*

**Mail payment to: Vic Petrone, 7600 Indian Springs Dr., Nashville TN 37221**

**Make check payable to: Music City Chapter TCA**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TCA # \_\_\_\_\_ 8ft--Rectangle tables \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For information call: 615-646-2232 or email at: [petrone.v@comcast.net](mailto:petrone.v@comcast.net) August 14, 2021

## Grogitsky's On30 Layout

Ann submitted the following 4 pictures showing the progress they are making on their home On30 layout.

The remaining 2 pictures are on page 12.







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



## The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Come on in and get comfortable as we have more good news about the HO layout. June continued May's successful progress improving DCC operation. The HO layout's booster upgrade is complete and the results are promising. Overheating has not recurred and the previous PM42 issues described in last month's DCC Shed have not reappeared. Only time will tell if the HO gremlins have left the building. Wish us luck! Please note and abnormalities you might experience and report those via emails as described below.

Big thank you to everyone who is remembering to release or dispatch locos from the systems as you finish with them. Doing so eliminates the annoying message to "steal a loco" and reduces the system maintenance to keep the slots available avoiding the "slots full" message.

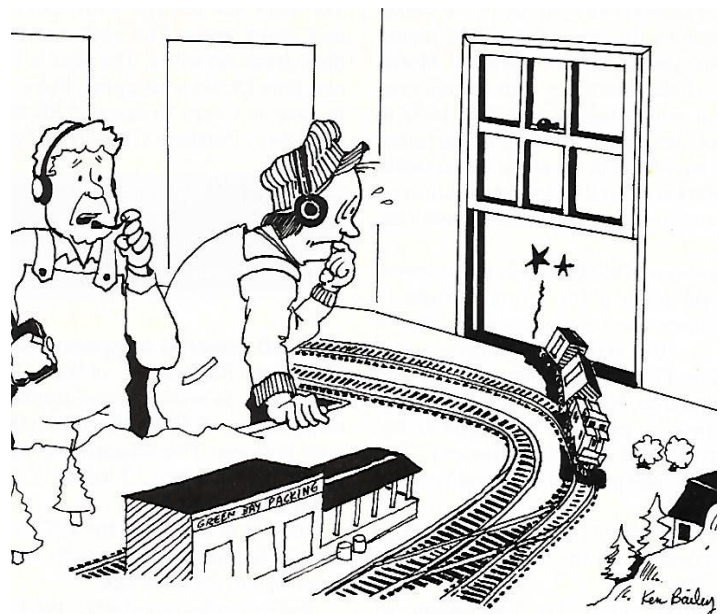
A correction to the published LNWI name on the Club's HO layout. The correct name is

***Dtx10-CMRC\_HO1\_08B4-7.*** The passcode is unchanged, digitrax1234

A quick update on the BLI address changer.. In the January DCC Shed the address changer was announced with some operating instructions. The unit has proved successful with HO, N and On30 locomotives. The changer has also allowed setting cab numbers on ESU brand decoders. Normally, ESU decoders require an ESU specialized programmer for changes. ESU decoders are used exclusively in Scale Trains

brand offerings.

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.



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

## *Did You Know . . . .*

That an Industry Track is defined as any side track where freight cars can be spotted so a railroad customer can load or unload them.