



# Ties and Rails

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

September 2021

(931)210-5050

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

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

Where has 2021 gone? Here we are in September already and a new year and new direction for the Club is approaching.

Our stay at the Mall continues to be a month-by-month situation. I believe the ownership is betting that Buc-ees will bring new life to the outlet mall. All we can do is wait for them as the "ball is in their court".

Covid continues to plague the nation, the state, and Cumberland County. The testing sites are back up just as they were a year ago and the number of infections in the county continue to rise. Wearing a mask remains a personal choice but us older bodies need to be as pro-active as possible. I have already gotten my booster.

As the election of new officers and directors approaches, we still have positions needing to be filled. Even after the election, many of the current officials will be changing positions on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the vacancy they leave behind will need to be filled. It is time for members, old or new, to step up for the benefit of the Club.

### **Membership**

**John Conor**

As of this date, we don't have any new applications pending.

As you well know, that can change at a moment's notice. Please keep informing our visitors about membership opportunities and let's continue to grow our Club.

Your effort to grow our Club is more important than ever and, with the Expo coming, there are plenty of duties to enjoy and share so we can all get the most from this event!

See you at the next business meeting to meet any new applicants.

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

## Club Picnic

We had a nice day for a picnic and enjoyed a pleasant afternoon visiting with our friends. We welcomed Teri Newbern, Jay & Rose Sabine and Lou & Maggie Nigro for their first time. 22 members attended and a total of 35 enjoyed the afternoon. The trains ran smoothly. With all the effort that is put into this event, it's a shame more members couldn't attend. Thank you to Lois Carmack and Marilyn Affinito for helping with the food, Steve Rosenstein for getting the hamburgers and hot dogs, Bobbi Dean and Al Barnes for cooking and John Conor for bringing the tables and the fan.

*Submitted by Ann Grogitsky*





## *Did You Know . . . .*

that South Carolina Trade Shows will be having a show on September 11th at the Simpsonville Activity & Senior Center, 310 W. Curtis St., Simpsonville, SC.

The show is from 9am to 3pm.

For further information, contact them at [SouthCarolinaTradeShows@gmail.com](mailto:SouthCarolinaTradeShows@gmail.com) or 843-621-5531

## *Did You Know . . . .*

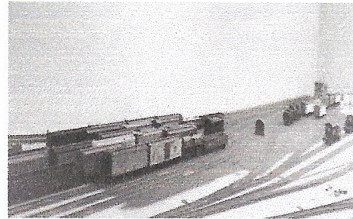
that during the month of August, we had 1,247 visitors at the Mall. One family was from Austria. 165 of those visitors signed our guest registry with visitors from AL, CA, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, NC, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VA, and WI

## *Did You Know . . . .*

we had a situation in HO recently where the 'engineer' was unable to get one of the lines to operate. He had checked the power pack and it was producing track power but there was no power to the track. A quick repair was completed by turning the DC/DCC selector switch to DC. It was in the neutral position.

The sad thing was that the line was out of service for the entire weekend even though 7 other HO scalers had been operating the equipment.

The lesson is that when something doesn't work, GO BACK TO BASICS! Check everything to make sure it is turned on and ready to operate.



## Operations

Richard Morris

We will be having an operating session on the HO layout on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. We will be finished around 2 so that we will not interfere with the other meetings scheduled later that day.

We will be running a mix of trains, including passenger, through freights, locals serving various industries along the line and work in and around the yard.

Passenger trains are pretty straight forward, starting at one end and moving to the other with stops at the appropriate locations.

Through freights will start at one end, possibly stop at various interchange locations to set out or pick up cars there, and stop at the yard for additional work before proceeding to the other end.

We may experiment with a timetable and a fast clock to see if we can handle scheduling trains easier.

We will have a sign-up sheet at the counter or on the bulletin board, or email me at

[rmorris52@twlakes.net](mailto:rmorris52@twlakes.net). If you have a particular job you would like, let me know.

### Strange Railroad Laws

In Indiana, locomotives must have glass windows. In Michigan they must have curtains.

In Arizona, it is illegal to let water from the locomotive fall on the tracks.

## Autumn Rails 2021

### ALL ABOARD!

#### All Scales Model Railroad Show

[www.fbe-nscale.org/autumn-rails/](http://www.fbe-nscale.org/autumn-rails/)

Friday Oct 1, 12 to 6 pm and Saturday Oct 2, 10 am to 4 pm

WNC Agricultural Center, Expo Building

785 Boylston Hwy. (NC 280), Gate 5

Fletcher, NC 28732

Admission \$6 Adults for both days of the show

Kids under 12 and scouts in uniform FREE

Railroading merit badge class starts at 10am Sat

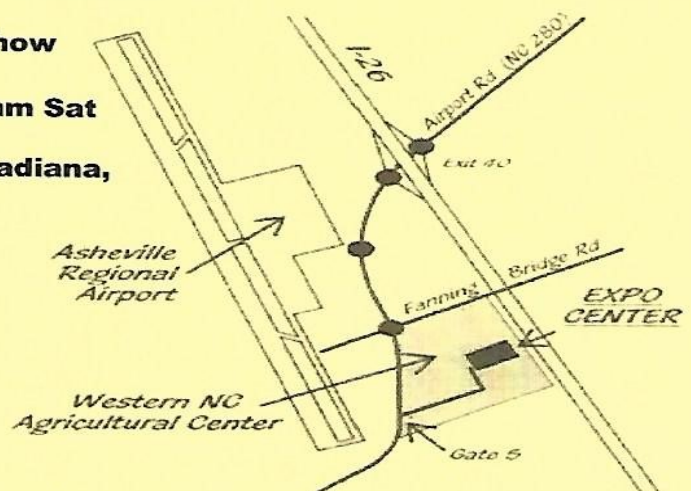
Dozens of new and used model train, railroadiana, hobby and toy vendors.

Operating layouts from Z to #1 scales

**FREE PARKING**

**Door Prizes**

Dealer tables \$35 for both days. Contact:  
Ray Baldwin, 327 Running Briar Rd  
Fletcher, NC 28732  
607-727-9694 or [FBEAutumnRails@aol.com](mailto:FBEAutumnRails@aol.com)



Presented by the  
**FRENCH BROAD e'N'pire NTRAK CLUB**





**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)





# ATLANTA TOY & MODEL TRAIN SHOW

## SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

V.F.W. POST #5408

4764 Cobb Parkway NW | Acworth, GA 30101

**Operating Train Layouts**

**New and Antique Toy & Model Trains**

**Parts • Appraisals**

**OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

**ADMISSION: TCA Members - \$5.00/person**

**( Accompanying Spouse FREE )**

**General Public - \$7.00/person**

**( Accompanying Spouse FREE )**

**Children 17 and under with accompanying Adult: FREE**

**Show Hours: 9am-2pm**

**OVER 100 TABLES OF TRAINS!**

**\*\* Portions of the proceeds benefit Atlanta Area Ronald McDonald Houses \*\***

**For more information, visit:**

**[www.terminuschaptertca.com](http://www.terminuschaptertca.com)**

**V.F.W. Post 5408 • 4764 Cobb Pkwy NW, Acworth, GA 30101**

**Directions From ATLANTA:**

**I-75N to EXIT 277, turn LEFT onto GA-92S. Turn RIGHT in .3MI & follow GA-92S.**

**Drive 3.7MI & turn RIGHT onto US-41N/COBB PARKWAY & VFW is 2.2MI on RIGHT.**

**Train Collectors Association - Terminus Chapter**





**The DCC Shed @ CMRC**

**Paul Falk**

**Art Landrigan**

Come in and get comfortable.

Let's talk about decoders that seem to have a mind of their own. In some ways they do have a mind of their own...they have memory chips. Losing its mind does not necessarily mean the decoder is defective, it is more likely misconfigured. Something has changed and a CV (Configuration Variable) needs to be properly set again. Decoders often have dozens of CV's, or hundreds in some of the very talented decoders (think sound decoders). This makes finding the CV that needs to be "fixed" very difficult. The easier way is to reset the decoder. Resetting is a technique that is built in to the decoder to return it to its as-new condition.

There are standards from the NMRA DCC Standards that allows us to operate the many different manufacturer's decoders together on a DCC system. All DCC decoders that follow the standards for voltages and communications are compliant and will respond to the various DCC command systems like NCE, Lenz and Digitrax.

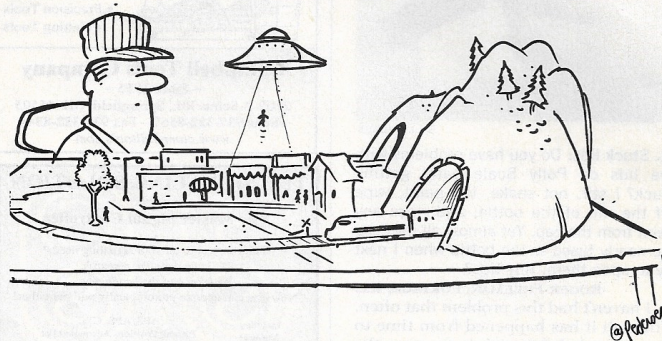
However, the NMRA standards do not include any mention of how to reset a troublesome decoder. Many decoder manufacturers have elected to involve CV8 for the reset procedure. CV8 has been defined in the NMRA Standard as the location to hold the manufacturer ID. CV8 cannot be modified as it is a read only CV. Examples would be TCS #153, Digitrax #129 and Tsunami is #141. The ID is important because different companies use different techniques and the

ID can lead you to the method required. So if your ID in CV8 is #129 (Digitrax) you send the decoder a 08 while on the programming track and it is reset. Easy? Well, not always. Some will need a power booster. Others will need a power off cycle. Some, like NCE CV8 #11, you set CV30 = 2. Okay, still pretty easy. But wait, there is more, some QSI decoders need a "magic wand", okay not magic, just a magnet to flip a reed switch under the shell. Some other QSI have a multiple step process; (1) Place engine on main track if it is still responding to its address. If not responding, you may need to use the program track...(2) Set CV49 to 128...(3) Set CV50 to 255...(4)Set CV56 to 113. As the engine resets, you will hear the 3 toots.

The good news is many times this will return your decoder to a faithful servant. Oh, there is one more step after this process. The cab number will be 3. But test the loco at 3 before setting the cab number desired.

So it is important to know what decoder is in your loco. Remember the reset is back to factory new so any customizations you have done will be undone. Maybe say a sound or lighting function.

These steps can be accomplished with any method at your disposal on the command station you



are using. At the Club's HO layout you can use a Digi-trax handheld like the DT402d or the attached JMRI connected laptop.

Next month-an easier way. Stay tuned.

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.

## Marketing Committee

John Conor

At the Marketing Committee meeting, we outlined a few promotional approaches for our upcoming Expo. Please join our next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Club museum/library to see whats next and how you might help make this event really shine!

Thank you in advance for your help.

## Operations Session Update

We will have an operating session on the HO layout on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> beginning at noon. The session should not last more than two hours so it will not run into the Board meeting that afternoon.

As usual, there will be a mix of passenger trains, through freights that will be doing some setouts and pickups along the way and several local turns to various areas of the layout. AND, we will have the Golden Valley local, everyone's favorite — not!

We will also need a dispatcher to try to keep everyone moving and on some kind of schedule, and a yardmaster to prepare the locals and add and remove cars from the freights.

We will try to have a rough schedule to use and possibly a 'fast clock' to pace the action.

If anyone has a burning desire for a particular job, email Richard Morris at [rmorris52@twlakes.net](mailto:rmorris52@twlakes.net)

## Toy Trunk Railroad

by Erik Sansom

