



# Ties and Rails

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

January 2022

(931)210-5050

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

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

I want to thank all the members for having faith in me to be the new Club President.

I will be new at this so I may make some mistakes along the way. Members feel free to help me along our journey into the future.

We do not know what will happen with our position in the Mall but, as a Club, we will make it through whatever is thrown at us. We are in a strong position financially.

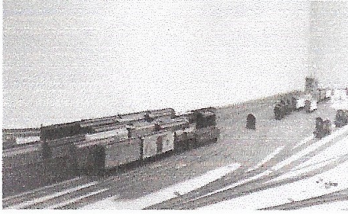
Some of the things I would like to see in our future are to increase our membership, increase our visitors, have more Club activities and make being a part of the Club more interesting.

I want to thank all those that made our Christmas party a huge success. Maybe we can do this more often. I was so impressed with the quality of the food and the fun things that were a part of the party.

I want to remind all Club members that you are the Club and it is up to all of us to make it a great place to spend our time.

Welcome to the New Year!

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



## Operations

Richard Morris

We'll have an OPERATING SESSION on the HO layout on Monday, January 10 starting at noon. Come early and enjoy lunch with the crew next door, great burgers and hot dogs.

We will have our usual mix of mainline passenger and freight trains, local turns, maybe some yard work and, as always, the Golden Valley job.

If you have a preference on an assignment, email Richard Morris at [rmorris52@twlakes.net](mailto:rmorris52@twlakes.net).

Time you work will count towards the NMRA Achievement program.

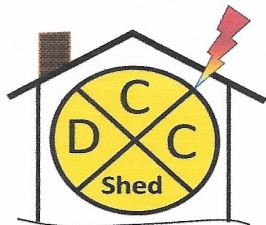


This year "Santa" was on the receiving end as he continues to be a "good little boy".

For those of you that know Art, you know he is in the process of building a home layout in his basement but you also know that he is not a big fan of the Santa Fe RR.

The sign was secured at the Nashville Train show and Jan thought it was appropriate





**The DCC Shed @ CMRC**

**Paul Falk**

**Art Landrigan**

Happy Holidays! Come on in.

Welcome to 2022! Happy New Year! Let's step outside this month and jump in the weeds. The DCC weeds that is. Which DCC system is the best? The easiest? The most talented? The most inexpensive? Many system manufacturers (and their \$\$\$) come to mind for those answers. NCE, Lenz, Digitrax are but a few. How about a new manufacturer. A do It Yourself one.

Using two small inexpensive off-the-shelf components one can assemble the parts required to create a basic DCC command station. It has connections for both a running track and a separate programming track. All for under \$38.00. Sounds too good to be true? Well a bit of fine print here. You need a couple bits of 20 gauge wire, a USB cable, a 2 amp. 12 volt DC power supply and a computer running JMRI. You need those things too if you just purchased a brand named command station.

Just simply shopping at Amazon, the Arduino microprocessor Uno Rev 3 is \$20.00 and a L296P ShieldcRev 3 DC Motor Driver is \$17.99. Others may even be less expensive.

The software to make it all work is Free!

If this sounds interesting to you and you would like to build one for yourself, let The Shed know and we can do some together. Maybe a clinic or two. And best yet, no soldering required.

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/or 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.

## News from the NMRA



NMRA Plateau Division Superintendent demonstrates celebrating our Division Christmas Brunch on December 13, 2021 with his lovely wife.

## 2021 Pubic Relations and Media Summary

- May For the swap meet in June, we put articles in the Chronicle, Glade Sun, Glade Vista, the Sparta and Cookeville papers. It also appeared in the Calendar of events in the Chronicle, Glade Sun, Vista, Chamber website and Herald-Citizen site and on talk radio 94.5 site.
- June Article and picture appeared in Chronicle, Glade Sun, Glade Vista for our seasonal change into the Carnival.
- Sept. We purchased an ad in the “Welcome to Cumberland County” magazine put out by the Chronicle.
- We also started working on articles for Calendar of Events in the following: Cow Catcher magazine, Chronicle, Glade Sun, Glade Vista, Cumberland Life paper, Expositor, Herald-Citizen, Chamber of Commerce, talk radio 94.5 and WOW 102.5
- Oct. Put picture and article for the Expo in all local papers, the Expositor and Herald-Citizen.
- We also attended the City Council meeting to receive a proclamation from the City Mayor proclaiming November 2021 as Crossville Model Railroad month.
- Submitted a picture and caption about the proclamation.
- Submitted a 1/2 page article to the “Lifestyle” magazine for 2022, which the Chamber sends out to visitors and people relocating here.
- Nov. An article with picture of the Expo appeared in the Chronicle.
- A picture of the Proclamation appeared in local papers.
- Dec. A picture and dates appeared in the Events section of local papers twice for our “Lighting our way to Christmas” event.

At least 8-10 pictures of our club and activities appeared in local papers this year. Plus a 3 page article and a front page picture appeared on the cover of the Cumberland Way

magazine.

Below are the posts made to the CMRC Facebook Page. Regular posts are the newsletter.

- 12/11/2021 (Photo) Santa Claus is coming to town. Visit the Christmas displays at the Crossville Model Railroad Club
- 12/01/2021 (Link) The December edition of Ties and Rails is available here: <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Ties-and-Rails-December-2021.pdf>
- 11/26/2021 (Photo) Lighting our way to Christmas—December 17 & 18 4:00 to 6:30
- 11/03/2021 (Photo) Here is a link to our website. Below are videos from the expo with very cool trains including an extremely long coal train. <https://crossvilletrains.org/20th-anniversary-model-train-expo/>
- 11/02/2021 (Link) Our November Newsletter is available now. Please read and enjoy. Plenty of news and information on upcoming events. <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Ties-and-Rails-November-2021.pdf>
- 10/30/2021 (Photo) Crossville Model Railroad Club host 20 year Anniversary with a train Expo. Here are some photos from Saturday, the event will also be open Sunday with activities for Halloween. There are plenty of vendors selling trains, a food truck and fresh made popcorn and soda available. Stop by and enjoy the huge layout from Ohio and meet the club members. There is also a raffle.
- 10/29/2021 (Link) It is now easier to send Crossville Model Railroad Club presents the Wonderful World of Trains a message.
- 10/24/2021 (Status) Just a reminder of the 20th anniversary expo next weekend for the CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB at the Cumberland County community center. Saturday 10 to 5. Sunday 10 to 4 and on Sunday between 2 and 4 PM will have a Halloween costume parade. FREE AD MISSION. Hope to see you there.
- 10/02/2021 (Link) The October 2021 Newsletter is available here, check out the latest news and updates. Our expo is coming this month on the October 30-31. Location is: Cumberland Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN. <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Ties-and-Rails-October-2021.pdf>
- 09/07/2021 (Video) Two SD40-3s pulling a consist of tankers at the Crossville Model Railroad Club last Sunday.
- 09/07/2021 (Photo) Crossville Model Railroad Club members enjoyed a picnic at Jim and Ann's home. It

was held on a Monday while the club is closed. A treat is for modelers is to see the train memorabilia and Garden Layout.

- 09/01/2021 (Link) The September 2021 edition of the Crossville Model Railroad Club newsletter, "Ties and Rails", is available here, <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Ties-and-Rails-September-2021.pdf>
- 08/31/2021 (Photo) 20th Anniversary Model Train Expo 2021 Train Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 30-31 at the County Complex. There will be a huge HO layout set up by the Miami Valley Modular Railway Club from Cincinnati, Ohio. The layout is 45' x 96'. Oct 30 from 10-5 and Sunday, Oct 31, 10-4. Location is: Cumberland Community Complex, 1398 Livingston Road, Crossville, TN. Email for the Anniversary is [crossvilletrains@gmail.com](mailto:crossvilletrains@gmail.com)
- 08/01/2021 (Link) The August 2021 Crossville Model Railroad Club newsletter is available. Check out the club news <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Ties-and-Rails-August-2021.pdf>
- 07/23/2021 (Video) A consist of two Scale Train SD40-3s pulling a coal load to the coke plant at the Crossville Model Railroad Club's 5000 sq. ft. display at the Crossville Outlet Center, open six days a week, closed Mondays.
- 07/03/2021 (Link) Crossville Model Railroad Club presents the Wonderful World of Trains updated their business hours.
- 07/03/2021 (Shared Video) Enjoy the celebration.
- 07/01/2021 (Link) The July newsletter available now. Check out the latest news from the club. Members have been busy. <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Ties-and-Rails-June-2021.pdf>.
- 05/31/2021 (Link) June newsletter available here: <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Ties-and-Rails-June-2021.pdf>
- 05/28/2021 (Photo) The Club will be open on Memorial Day from as noon to 4PM. Stop by and see the layouts.
- 05/15/2021 (Photo) Model Train Swap Meet—June 12, 10AM-4PM at the Outlet Center. Free admission to the public. Vendor tables available.
- 05/11/2021 (Status) This content isn't available right now.
- 05/02/2021 (Link) Here is the May 2021 Club Newsletter. Check out the latest news. <https://crossvilletrains.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Ties-and-Rails-May-2021-1.pdf>

**Save the Date!**  
**Central Railway Museum's**  
**Model Train**  
**Expo 2022**



**Fri – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 6:00 pm**  
**Sat – Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Rock Springs Church – Impact Center**  
**207 Rock Springs Road**  
**Easley, South Carolina 29642**

**Admission \$8.00 Adults**  
Under 10 **Free** with adult  
Admission good both days  
**Operating Model Railroads**  
**KidZone with Thomas & Brio**  
**160+ Dealer Tables**



**COMPLETE INFO AT: [WWW.CRMHA.ORG](http://WWW.CRMHA.ORG)**

Contact Eddy Crowe – (334) 435-2220 [elcrowe53@gmail.com](mailto:elcrowe53@gmail.com)

Or Sandy Eustis – (513) 325-8850 [seustis13@gmail.com](mailto:seustis13@gmail.com)

## HO Scale News - Paul Falk

The issue with the laptop not responding at the start of the shift continues. A work around is coming soon where the laptop will be off as the default and can be started if you need to use the CMRC-HO WiFi connection.

Look for new procedures to be posted soon on the HO tower. This will mean the Dtx1-CMRC\_HO1\_08B4-7 wifi network will be the primary.

There is an Ops session planned for January 10 at noon. Remember all are invited.

DC will continue to be the default condition when powering down at the end of the shift. All loop switched 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.

## Visitor's Log

Tom Shallcross

During the month of December, we had visitors from 21 states (AK, AL, CA, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OH, OR, TN, TX, VA) and from 2 foreign countries (Canada and Germany).

We had 112 visitors sign our registry out of the 1,540 visitors that stopped in to see us.

Please encourage our visitors to sign the Visitor's Log whenever they stop to visit.



## Dues

**A reminder that your 2022 dues of \$30.00 are due by the January Club meeting.**

## Membership

John Conor

Happy New Year fellow members! I pray it's a happy, healthy and safe New Year for us all.

As of now there are no new membership applications pending. As we have seen time and again, that can change between now and the next business meeting. Please stay focused on putting the Club's best foot forward to all our visitors as we never know who that next new member may be.

Thanks again for all your efforts and don't forget to welcome and introduce yourself to all our new members.