



# Ties and Rails

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

March 2022

(931)210-5050

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

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

Welcome to March! I am writing this as the rain is pouring down. As of Thursday, we have gotten close to 3.5 inches of rain near the airport. I think the Spring Showers have arrived a little early. It is a good sign as the temperature is warmer than last month.

Our swap meet is coming up and we need a few volunteers to help set up on Friday, the 11th, from 4 to 7PM. Please come and help if you can.

The Swap Meet is Saturday, 3/12/22, starting at 10 AM. Vendors can set up starting at 9 AM.

Hopefully it will be a good time for all and be as successful as the last one.

This time we are going to have the popcorn machine going and sell sodas and water.

I hope most of you can stop by. You never know what you might find that you cannot live without.

See you at the March meeting. Stay safe!

## ***Did You Know . . . .***

That representatives with Puy du Fou, a historical theme park company based in France, are planning to meet with the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians in the near future to discuss the possibility of establishing a project at the 407 exit of Interstate 40.

Puy du Fou has been nominated twice for Los Angeles' "Best Theme Park in the World" Thea Classic Award and once for Orlando's Applause Award. The theme park features shows where visitors are immersed in programs of history.

Interstate Exit 407 is planning to include the first ever Buc-ee's Family Travel Center featuring 120 fueling stations, Electric Vehicle charging stations and a 250-foot-long car wash.

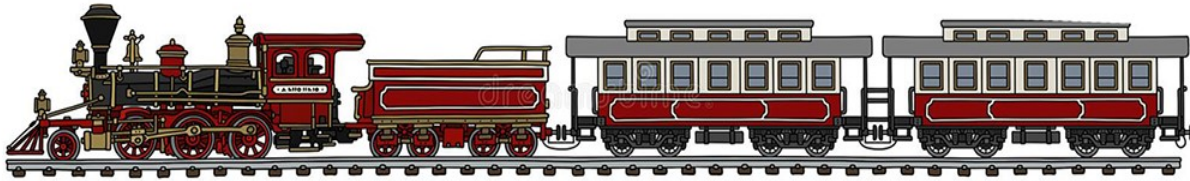
For those of you that are not aware of the significance of this Exit, it is the main exit off Interstate 40 for the three cities of Sevierville, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg.

## **Public Relations**

**Bill Bly**

As of this writing, we have 15 vendors for our Swap Meet on March 12. Please come out and support this Club activity even if it is just to visit and have a bag of popcorn

## SAVE THE DATE



# MODEL TRAIN SWAP MEET

## March 12th 10am-4pm

# FREE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SPONSORED BY **THE CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**  
**in the Crossville Outlet Center Event Room**

### Membership

Tom Shallcross

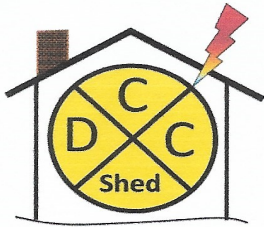
During the past month, we, unfortunately, lost a couple of long time members, one to some ongoing health issues and the other due to moving from the area. We wish Doyle Winters and Robert Houser success in their future endeavors.

So far this month, we have not had any new applications, partially due to, I believe, our lower visitor counts than in past months. All members are asked to keep promoting the Club to our visitors. Please keep up the good work!

### *Did You Know . . . .*

This past month, the Editor heard from a former member, Al Westerfield, who said he enjoys reading about some of our programs and 'problems'. He said he has been unable to work on his layout due to 7 procedures on his back and his hand tremors.

For those of you that don't remember Al, he is the past owner of Westerfield Models and resided in the Lake Tansi area.



**The DCC Shed @ CMRC**

**Paul Falk**

**Art Landrigan**

Welcome All. Settle in and get comfortable.

Responding to some complaints from operators that their new cell phones and tablets are refusing to use either of the available WiFi sources for the HO & N layouts. This is a function of the operating system of the phone or tablet.

Typically the WiFi is used as the source of an internet connection for gaining access to the larger world wide internet.

The layout WiFi sources are isolated to only the layout. When the phone or tablet connects to the WiFi and checks and checks for internet connectivity, it finds it is not usable for internet use, it will provide an error message. Look carefully at the error message. There should be an option to either **ignore the error** or **connect anyway**.

If you did not respond to this option correctly the first time, you will need to turn off your WiFi, then turn it back on to select it again. Future sessions should work without issue. Please note this may happen after your device has had an operating system update. If so, just pick the option to allow again.

Remember, the Club's Digitrax various walk around throttles are available if you can't use your device to connect via WiFi.

Remember, one-on-one training and help is always available, 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

## **B N S F**

A federal judge in Omaha, Nebraska, has extended an order preventing the two largest unions at BNSF from going on strike over a new attendance policy the railroad imposed this month.

The judge ruled that a strike by the unions that represent 17,000 BNSF workers would violate federal law because the issue is a minor dispute under their contracts.

The unions argued that the new rules that took effect Feb. 1 discourage workers from taking sick time during the pandemic and penalize employees for missing work for any reason. But the judge's ruling Tuesday means they will have to address their concerns through arbitration or negotiation.

Judge Mark Pittman said a strike would arguably hurt "every single American" because of the damage it could do to the economy and all the businesses that rely on BNSF to deliver their products.

The presidents of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineer and Trainman, and the Transportation Division of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation unions said in a joint statement that they were "infuriated" by the ruling and will consider appealing it.

The railroad said the ruling will help it serve its customers and deliver the nation's goods.

BNSF is one of the largest railroads in the United States, and it operates 32,500 miles (52,300 kilometers) of track in 28 western states.



Pat Taylor reported that, on a recent Thursday, we had 13 visitors, had donations of \$7 and got a buck in the Dollar Box.

## The First Headlight

The earliest light bulb was invented around the same time as the first steam locomotive. But that “light bulb” was really just a wire glowing very faintly while scientists hooked it up to several zillion volts. If you wanted a light bulb that actually worked well, you had to wait many decades more. So, for much of the 19th century, you had trains without electric lights.

That raised the obvious question: What do we do with trains at night? Which prompted an obvi-

ous answer: Nothing. Leave them stationary. We don’t run factories at night, so there is no need to run trains at night either. The night is a good time for sleeping, not driving trains.

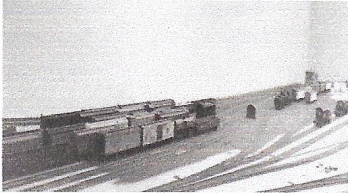
As the years ticked by, however, the demand for transport grew, and it gradually made more and more sense to schedule night trains. The problem was that if a bunch of deer were chilling on the tracks, or some villain had tied up a maiden and left her there, the driver wouldn’t be able to see, and catastrophe would ensue. They needed some way to illuminate the path ahead of them, and in 1932, a railroad pioneer Horatio Allen had the answer.

He hitched two cars in *front* of the locomotive that normally led the train. These were flatcars—no seats and no walls. On the first car, he laid down a bed of sand then piled a bunch of wood on top and set it on fire. On the second car, behind it, he set up sheets of iron so they’d reflect the fire’s light forward. As the train moved ahead, the huge fire would light the way and warn track loiters to flee.

The first train headlight suited Allen’s purpose fine (to create a giant train fire, because he thought this would be fun). But other people looked at it and said, “Uh, Allen, we know it’s the 19th century and all, but we’ve already figured out how to direct light without uncontrolled open flames.” And so, when night trains became more common in the years right after this, people built headlights using a much more practical method. They [hung lanterns](#).

## G Scale News - Ann Grogitsky

If you haven’t been to the Club in the last two weeks— the winter scene was taken down and now we have spring— let’s hope that Mother Nature known it’s here!



## Operations

Richard Morris

Our last few operating sessions have been disappointing. No, not problems running trains; the problem is having more trains to run than engineers and conductors to run them!

We tried having the session the same Monday as our regular monthly meeting, starting at noon or at 10 AM. That does make for a long day but cuts down on separate trips to Crossville for those living further away.

For March, we are going to have the session on the **FIRST** Monday, and trying an afternoon session, starting immediately following the HO meeting. We will have our normal slate of trains to run, passenger and through freights, local freights (turns) to various industries on the layout, yardmaster and dispatching.

If you have never tried operations, don't be afraid to come and try your hand. We can pair you with one of our experienced operators until you are familiar with the line. It is a LOT different from when we are open to the public with four separate loops running. We convert the layout into a point-to-point line, running from one staging yard in the back room, all around the layout and to the second staging yard in the back room. We aren't using car cards or switch lists, and do provide "Train Sheets" with detailed instructions for each train.

We do run DCC for the session. If you are not familiar with how the throttles work, or how to use an app on your phone, we have people that will guide you!

Try it—You'll like it!

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### Operation Session Survey

I would like to know what the membership thinks when the best time and day to have the operating sessions.

We have generally scheduled them on Mondays, since we are closed then.

We can have a session in the morning before one of the days we are open, or we can have a session during one of our open days. We would just need to have some non-operations operators to talk to the visitors.

So, please share your thoughts with Richard Morris or Paul Falk.

### **HO Scale News - Paul Falk**

Meeting Reminder—March 7th & Ops Session

The HO meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. A modest agenda that will include update to startup procedures, plans for future updates and review of the member ideas and suggestions.

The Ops session will begin soon after the HO meeting.

Remember all Club members are invited.

### **Visitor's Log**

**Tom Shallcross**

During the month of February, we had 1,049 visitors, 154 which signed in using the Visitor's Log.

These visitors came from AL, AS, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, MD, MI, MN, ND, NV, NY, OH, OK, PA, TN, UT, WI and from Ontario, Canada and Italy (3 families).

Keep encouraging visitors to sign Visitors Log.

# ALL ABOARD! THE 2022 PIEDMONT DIVISION



## MODEL TRAIN SHOW

**March 12 & 13**

**Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4**

### The Clarence Brown Conference Center

5450 GA Hwy 20 – Cartersville, Georgia  
Easy access from Hwy 41 and 75.

A Courtyard by Marriott hotel is adjacent to the Conference Center.

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**Operating Model Railroads to Enjoy,  
150 Tables of Model Train Dealers,  
“White Elephant” tables**

**Admission is just \$10 per Person**

**Kids 9 and Under are Free!**

**FREE PARKING**

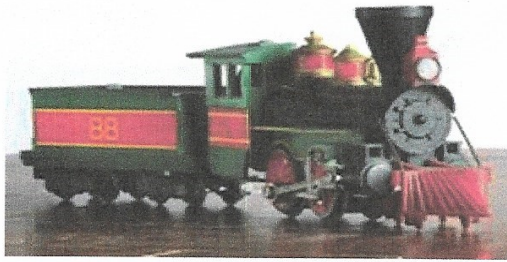
**Masks & Social Distancing are Encouraged**



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division  
of the National Model Railroad Association

[www.themodeltrainshow.com](http://www.themodeltrainshow.com)

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HOME OF THE OLDEST  
STANDING TRAIN DEPOT IN  
TENNESSEE

AND

HARRY T. BURN  
AND THE  
19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT



## NATIONAL TRAIN DAY AND SHOW APRIL 30 and MAY 1, 2022

### Show Contact Information

Lois Preece, Mayor P.O. Box 515 Niota, TN 37826  
Phone: 423-506-9413 email: loispreece@tds.net FAX: 423-568-3026

### SHOW HOURS:

Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> SETUP Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### IF YOU ARE SETTING UP A MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Display: \_\_\_\_\_ Size of Display: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need Electric: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Please bring extension cords )

Displays will be in either the Depot or the Community Building across the street from the Depot. You will be informed which location prior to the show.

#### IF YOU ARE SELLING AT THE SHOW

Name of Organization/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Vendor Tables \$20. How Many tables do you want to reserve?: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need Electric: \_\_\_\_\_ ( Please bring extension cords )

Vendors will be in either the Depot or the Community Building across the street from the Depot. Make checks payable to the City of Niota

Completed Forms can be Mailed, Faxed or Emailed to the contact information above.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS FRIDAY, April 22, 2022**



## Cumberland County Community Band

# SPRING CONCERT

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17 • 7 P.M.**

STONE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL  
2800 COOK RD., CROSSVILLE, TN

**FREE ADMISSION**

**SPONSORED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TENNESSEE AND  
ANONYMOUS IN MEMORY OF MURRAY KIDWELL**