



Ties and Rails

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

August 2022

(931)210-5050

www.crossvilletrains.org

The Prez. Sez:

Welcome to summer!

Thanks to all the members who signed up for the annual picnic. I want to thank Ann and Jim for letting us have the picnic at their place again. It is a spectacular place for those who have never been there. When you show up, don't forget to thank them.

We have three positions on the Board of Directors coming up for election in the fall to be effective January 1, 2023. They are the Vice President, the Secretary and the Director—Utility. Ed and John will be running for re-election. Jan can no longer fill the Vice President position due to his many other obligations. I want to thank him for his considerable time given to the Club.

If you are interested in running for a position, please contact Bill Kirkpatrick, the Nominating Committee Chairman, or Ralph Watson, a member of the Committee. We will have elections in October.

I have been in contact with Owen Maddox about our possible change to 501c3 status. He is researching what we need to do.

See you at the picnic!

From the Scheduler

Recently we had an incident where we had to get in touch with a member regarding his schedule. Unfortunately we were unaware that he had his land line disconnected and was only using his cell phone. I ended up driving to his residence to give him the message.

This brings up an interesting point. I'm going to ask every member to review their personal information on the posted roster to determine the accuracy of the information.

If you see any information that is not accurate, please send me an email with the correct information so we can get in touch with you in the event it is necessary.

Thank you for your help in this project.

Railroad Oddities

The capitol of North Dakota was changed in 1873 to Bismarck when the Northern Pacific thought that by naming it after Otto von Bismarck would entice German settlement (and money) into the territory.

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

Accountants and Engineers on a Train

Three engineers and three accountants are traveling by train to a conference. At the station, the three accountants each buy tickets and watch as the three engineers buy only a single ticket.

“How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?” asks an accountant. “Watch and you’ll see,” answers an engineer.

They all board the train. The accountants take their respective seats but all three engineers cram into a restroom and close the door behind them.

Shortly after the train has departed, the conductor comes around collecting tickets. He knocks on the restroom door and says, “Ticket, please.” The door opens just a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor takes it and moves on. The accountants saw this and agreed it was quite a clever idea.

So after the conference, the accountants decided to copy the engineers on the return trip and save some money (being clever with money and all).

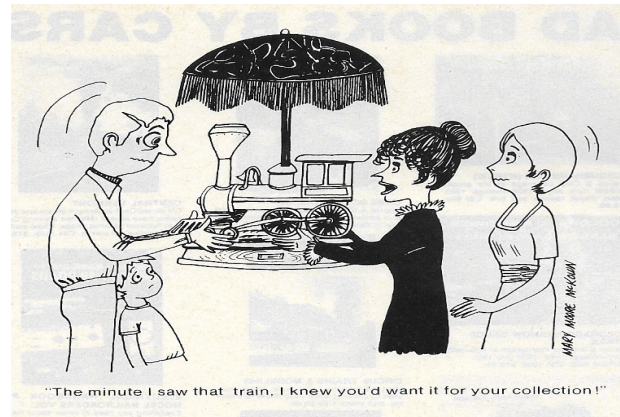
When they got to the station, they buy a single ticket for the return trip. To their astonishment, the engineers don’t buy a ticket at all.

“How are you going to travel without a ticket?” says one perplexed accountant. “Watch and you’ll see,” answers an engineer.

When they board the train the three accountants cram into a restroom and the three engineers cram into another one nearby.

The train departs. Shortly afterward, one of the engineers leaves his restroom and walks over to the restroom where the accountants are hiding. He knocks on the door and says, “Ticket please.”

From Fairfield Glade Funnies

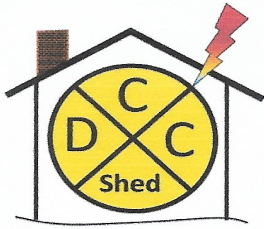


N Scale News - Jan Novack

While working on the Tortoise installation, we ran into an electrical issue. After the power had been turned off for an extended time, upon startup, some Tortoises would change settings, directing the train into a passing siding or a stub siding. The switch lanterns would be in the red position. We think we have solved it, but upon startup, make sure those Tortoises on the main tracks are in the green position before starting up N scale for the day.

The balance of the Tortoise installation in the area being worked on should be completed during August. The two stub sidings are complete. The tandem set for the freight line shorter run is next, with the passing siding on the main line left to complete.

Later in August, final planning will be drawn for a “passenger central” area and a revision to the freight yard in the area by the wall. Much of the freight yard and turnouts were never wired for operation. We hope to correct that and add some new interest in the main tracks running through that area.



The DCC Shed @ CMRC

Paul Falk

Art Landrigan

Welcome to the second (of 3) articles designed to be of assistance to many of our newer members over the past year or so, many of whom have expressed an interest in the 'DCC World', but have little or no experience, in some of the need-to-know 'basics'.

As stated last month, there are a number of ways to determine the manufacturer and status of an undocumented loco. The most obvious method is to check the bottom of the loco for a manufacturer name/symbol/etc. or other identification printing—'DCC-On-Board' etc. The experienced eye may help to identify coupler pockets, truck mounting. Electrical wipers on axles, etc. Although removal of the locomotive shell may be a good method to determine if a decoder has been installed, it is not a fool proof method (in my opinion), as many factory replacement light boards with decoders installed are difficult for the novice to tell apart from the standard light board present in a non-DCC locomotive.

Two other forms of decoder sockets also come to mind:

9-Pin sockets commonly used in Athearn HO locomotives.

6-Pin sockets found in a few N scale locomotives, Fox Valley comes to mind, (however this may change with the new ownership of Fox Valley by Scale Trains).

Barring these types of physical attributes being present, electronic methods can be employed.

These may be in the form of free PC based software called JMRI (Java Model Railroad Interface), requiring the free download of JAVA operating system software as well. This very powerful tool allows the user to run diagnostics on the locomotive in an attempt to identify the manufacturer, decoder type, address and other CV (Configuration Variable) values. This is likely the most technical and complete method available for both the identification, as well as providing programming assistance for DCC decoders.

Another less complicated tool, manufactured by Broadway Limited Imports (BLI), is their 'Address Changer' which is designed to identify the address of a decoder, if installed, as well as the programming of the decoder address to that of the user's preference, normally the loco cab number. The Address Changer can be used on the wheels of the loco, with alligator clips, or the track on which the loco is placed, and may also be used on 8-pin decoders directly inserted into the 8-pin socket on the face of the Address Changer. If the loco does not have a decoder installed, the display will not return an address. The Address Changer is noted to be the easiest and fastest way to program an address into a decoder. The ability to reset a troublesome decoder is also easily accomplished. The Address Changer does not however identify the installed decoder's manufacturer.

There are likely other methods, tools and hardware available in the ever-expanding world of DCC. But these are generally the most common, at least to this user.

Next month we will devote the majority of the article to the recently expanding world of ESU Loksound decoders (21-pin), their current and future uses, and most importantly for our subject, their added difficulties imposed on the everyday DCC user. Stay tuned.

We will also attempt to respond to any specific inquiries received for the last of our three articles on this topic, so let us know.

Remember, one on one training and help is always available. If you have any questions on the information contained in this article, please feel free to contact either Art Landrigan at (arcy22tn@gmail.com) or Paul Falk at (pfalk1@gmail.com) , and stay tuned for next month's continuation of how to determine what you have, and what tools are available to help.

Picnic Reminder

Our 17th annual Club Picnic will be held on Monday, August 8th beginning at 5 PM and we will eat at 5:30. It will be at the Grogitsky home, 5841 Taylors Chapel Road, Crossville.

You need to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board and let us know what dish you are bringing (it should serve 8-10 people) and include a serving utensil. You must also bring your own drinks and lawn chairs. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and plates & forks are provided by your Club.

If you have any questions, call Pat at 1-937-533-0897 or Ann at 337-4831. We would like to know if you are coming by August 2.

We hope all our new members for '22 can come. This is an excellent time to get to meet your fellow members and their wives. So far we have 8 new members this year: Stan Bank, Phil Buck, Stephen Pacheco, Albert Scala, Jeffrey Self, Marcus Simms, Kenneth Walsh and John Linton.

Railroad Superstition

Getting the wrong ticket at a railway station foretells that your train will meet with an accident.

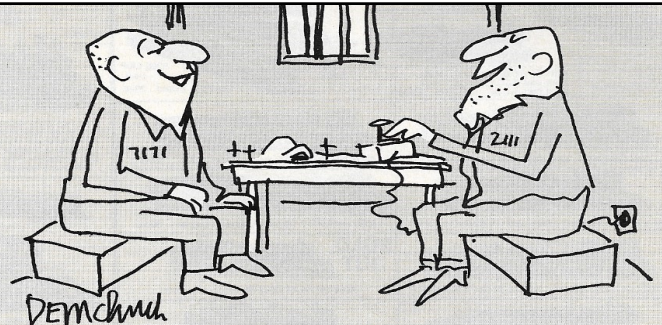
Marketing Committee

Ralph Watson

Marketing and Public Relations are working toward holding another Swap Meet in November. Almost all the Saturdays in October have Vols home games so pushing back to October 8th or November 5th looks like the way to go.

We will be asking Mall Management to use an empty suite space larger than the event center to relieve the cramped aisles and let sellers have as many tables as they may want. The round tables did not go very well so we will be looking at rentals for those that don't provide their own.

Many hands will be asked to help with the registration table, set up, popcorn/drinks sale, publicity, and traffic control. Please, everybody, volunteer before you are asked.



Visitor's Log

Tom Shallcross

We have had a busy month with the opening of Buc-ee's and a couple of conventions in Nashville. We have had 434 visitors sign our Visitor's Log, including a former member, Wayne Lokey, from D.C. The visitors visited us from AL, AZ, CA, CO, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, KY, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, and WI.

Out of the 2,323 visitors we had for the month, we also had some from Nova Scotia, Canada, Honduras, and the United Arab Emirates.

Progress!



On Thursday, July 28, we were pleased to see that we were finally able to get our sign moved to a new position over our back door. With its new visibility from Buc-ee's, hopefully we will be able to attract additional visitors as they pass through our community.

Crossville Outlet Mall Changes Ownership, New Name On the Way

Posted by: Benjamin Armstrong on Wed., July 27th

The Crossville Outlet Mall is set to get a new name and website: Landers Crossroads.

Chris Landers, who owns Landers Trade in Monterey, now owns the facility. He said it has been in the works for several months, but he officially took ownership last month.

"The destination of Buc-ee's being in place is a big deal for Crossville and the Upper Cumberland," Landers said. "Across the street sits the outlet mall, so my vision for the mall is to keep it intact, keep going and grow it."

Landers said he wants to bring more tenants to the shopping center while also keeping the existing stores. Landers said the mall is a staple for many in the community that needs a face lift.

"For the community, it is going to be big," Landers said. Over the next couple of weeks, we can be more open about the fact of what's happening and how we will continue to grow and help the tenants and bring people into the mall."

Landers said people can expect the outside of the mall to get a new look and logos soon. Landers said he even wants to get creative and possibly incorporate an event center in the future.

"We've already had some interest in some new tenants," Landers said. "Just in these subtle small steps we have taken this far, it has already been noticed. People are interested in some of the spaces available.

Landers said there is also a "very good chance" that a Landers Trade location is established at the mall.

"In my mind, I've already found the spot that we want to grow into," Landers said. "My son is heavily involved in Landers Trade, and I have a task ahead for him. He's digging into a product list that would be very beneficial for those on that side of town."

Landers said he got the idea for the new name based on a store at the location many years ago. Landers said included the word "crossroads" so he decided to combine his name with it.

Strange Railroad Laws

Michigan Law makes it illegal to board a moving train.