



# Ties and Rails

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

November 2022

(931)210-5050

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

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

Hi all, it's definitely fall. We have had a few cold days but we are back to normal for Crossville this time of year.

Ann is writing a piece about Channel 10 News coming down from Knoxville. They did a hometown segment on Crossville and the Club was featured on their channel. They took video of the Club and interviewed Ann and myself. Great public relations for the Club. Nice work, Ann.

We need as many members at the next meeting as possible. We have three positions of the Board of Directors to vote on. We cannot do without your help. The last meeting we did not have enough for a quorum. Please come to the next meeting on November 14.

We still need more members to sign up

for the Christmas Party. It is a great meal and only \$10.00 for each member and \$10.00 for the spouse/partner. The sign-up board is at the Club. Bright yellow; you can't miss it.

The Swap Meet is coming up the weekend of November 5th. It should be a great place to buy yourself that Christmas gift that you didn't know that you needed.

Again, please come to the next meeting on November 14th. We need you there so we can have a valid election of officers.

Long live the fighters

## *Did You Know . . . .*

That on November 18, 1883 both the United States and Canadian railroads both started using Standard Time?

## **ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RESERVED TABLES FOR THE SWAP MEET**

The room is fully booked with 41 tables reserved.

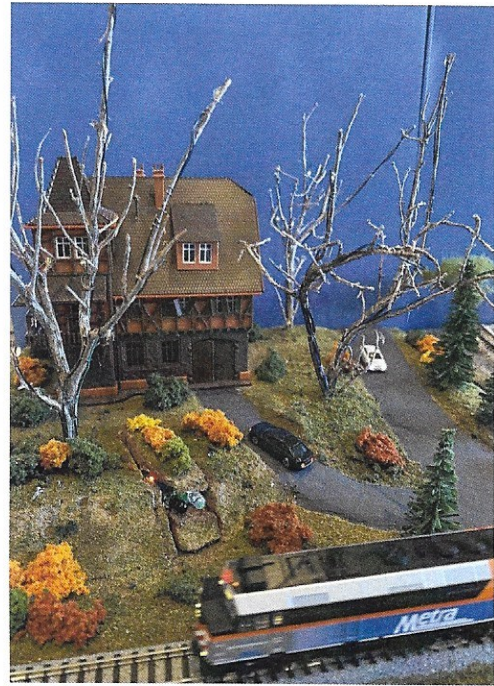
A waiting list has been started.

If you want or need to drop out, please notify me no later than 7 PM Wednesday, 11/2, so I can offer your spot to the listed hopefuls.

Ralph Watson 931-248-4263 [rxalph@gmail.com](mailto:rxalph@gmail.com)

## Train Show

**GA. ATLANTA** Scott Antique Markets (featuring Anton's Antique Toy and Train Show), November 10—13, 2022, Atlanta Exposition Center, 3650 Jonesboro Rd., Atlanta, GA 30354. Thursday 10:45am—6pm, Friday & Saturday 9am—6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm, Admission \$5., good all weekend, contact Anton 937-397-3499 or email [tweissmann6@gmail.com](mailto:tweissmann6@gmail.com)



## Railroading on a Table Top!

- Membership open to all 16 years and older
- Virtual meetings
- Regional participation
- Learn more at [tennttrak.org](http://tennttrak.org)



Tennessee T-Trak Associates

[tennttrak.org](http://tennttrak.org)

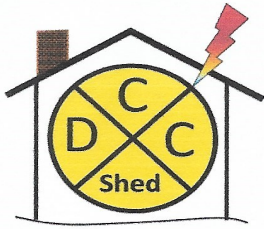
a 501(c)(3) organization



"On the other hand, perhaps you'd rather NOT discuss how I kitbashed my reefer car at this time."

## Did You Know . . . .

A pilot friend for USAir often said to his passengers on the approach to Washington, DC, "Welcome to Washington, DC, a work free drug zone." He got called into the chief pilot's office over that one more than once.



**The DCC Shed @ CMRC**

**Paul Falk**

**Art Landrigan**

Welcome to the Shed. Step in, have a seat and chat about DCC with special attention to our new members. Back to basics.

An advantage of DCC equipped locomotives on the same section of track is that, each can be independently controlled via a digital system. They can also be run together just like prototypical railroads. Within Digital Command Control jargon grouping locomotives so they all respond together to throttle commands is called consisting. There are three popular published methods of consisting locomotives, and they have their advantages and disadvantages.

On the prototype, railroads use multiple unit hookups called MU to run several locomotives from one cab. Digital Command Control lets us do the same on our model railroads, using a process called consisting.

The first and easiest is called simple/basic consisting or address consisting. Simply program each loco to the same address. Say for example 4. It's easy to do, and you can take all your number 4 locomotives from one layout to another and they will run together regardless of the DCC system being used, and

they'll continue to respond to the same lighting and sound commands. Only the lead or front locomotive should do that. Also without some other programming they will all have to face the same direction.

The second is called command-station-assisted or universal consisting. This method tells the DCC base station which locomotives are to be treated as part of the consist. Each DCC system has different methods for setting up universal consists. Consult that system's manual. With universal consisting, you can individually set each locomotive's direction and how it responds to commands (turning off the headlight, horn, and bell for trailing units, for instance). The biggest drawback here is that it's tied to the DCC system, not the locomotives, so it's not portable. If you take your locomotives to another layout, you will have to reprogram your consist on that system.





The third is more talented and is called advanced consisting. It is more complicated than the other methods, but it gives you more capabilities. Some older decoders may not support advanced consisting. This method changes CV settings in the loco's decoder. With advanced consisting, the same consist address (a number from 1 to 127) is set into CV19 of all locomotives in the consist. All locomotives will then respond simultaneously

Continued on page 6

# SAVE THE DATE!



## November 12 2022

-  Children's Activities
-  Craft Vendors
-  Model Railroad Club Displays
-  SAM Shortline Shuttle Train Ride



## CORDELE MAIN STREET

105 E 9th Ave  
Cordele, GA 31015  
229-276-2902



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

that the annual Nashville Christmas train show will be Saturday, December 10, 2022, at the Nashville Fairgrounds.

This show usually draws vendors covering over 200 tables and approx. 800 visitors.

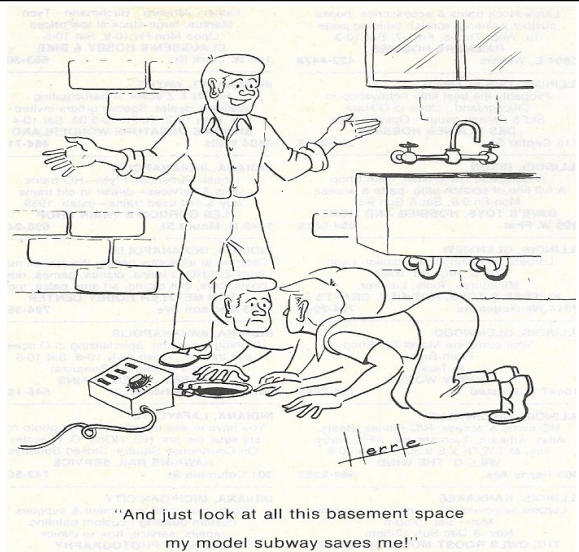
Anyone wishing to sell, please let me know by the end of October and I will get a bock of tables so we can be together.

Tables are 8 foot and are \$35.00 per table.

I have done this show for the past 8 or 9 years and have done very well. Although this is a TCA show, all scales are represented and, if we apply as a group, you don't need to be a TCA member.

Thanks, Sam Goldkopf

[zoep16@comcast.net](mailto:zoep16@comcast.net)



## Visitor's Log

**Tom Shallcross**

October turned out to be a very interesting month. Of the 1,841 visitors we had, 275 signed the visitor's log. They represented AL, AR, AZ, CA, DE, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, VT and WA as well as Australia, England, Hungary, Italy, Scotland, South Africa, and the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.

Some of our visitors had some interesting comments:

A family from Melbourne, Australia said, "Wow, happened on your display by chance. Excellent."

A lady from Budapest, Hungary said, "Feeling like a kid!"

A young lady from Virginia said, "My dad had trains for us kids."

A family from North Carolina said, "Great set-up; very friendly."

The family from South Africa said, "Fantastic, well worth the visit, friendly and inviting."

A family from Indiana said, "Allen (son) loved it and interviewed by NBC".

The family from Hawaii said, "Nice museum! Thank you for the display."

58 of the families were "walk-ins" with

8 of the families finding out about us through Google. 6 families found out about through Trip Advisor. 10 families found out by word of mouth from a friend.

Recently we had a visitor from Budapest, Hungary who was visiting a friend in Lake Tansi. When they stopped in, they spent a good amount of time speaking with us and trying to take some photographs.

Due to the short stature of our visitor, the picture taking was fairly difficult until it was suggested that she "take a ride on Jan's Taxi" so she could get a better view of the layouts.

Jan ended up giving her "the grand tour".



*Did You Know . . . .*

That on November 1, 1980 the CSX Corporation was formed?

## HO Scale News **Richard Morris**

Everyone has been pretty good about writing up problems on locomotives. Remember, the more details, the better. What the engine is doing, or not doing and where it happened.

But sometimes, all the information provided is “Engine stopped running”. When tested later, the problem cannot be reproduced. Had the engine been running for a while and gotten hot? Did it hit a dead spot in the track? Something else happen?

Remember you cannot provide “too much information”. We always try to fix the loco so you don’t have to send it back.

The Shed—cont. from page 3

to commands sent to the consist address. By programming different values into CVs 21 and 22, you can control which direction each locomotive moves, as well as which function keys they respond to. A drawback is the complexity of programming CV21 and CV22. Luckily there are tools that help you with this, like Digitrax’s online calculator and the Consist Tool in JMRI DecoderPro software. Taking these locos to another layout will require undoing the setups. It is most often easier to reset the decoder and then reprogram the cab number.

Now for a 4<sup>th</sup> very easy method using

the free Engine Driver software on an android phone or tablet. Here the consist only resides in the Engine Driver software. You add locos by their individual cab number to the consist controlling the direction of each. As you change speeds, it will simply send individual commands to each loco. When you release the locos or turn off Engine Driver, the consist is gone. This does require the layout have a wifi connection.

Whatever method you use to consist your locomotives, it is important to make sure that they all respond to speed steps in the same way. You don’t want one locomotive holding back the consist while another grinds its wheels. But that’s a process a bit too complicated to explain in this space.

This is just a brief overview of techniques, always refer to the appropriate documentation for whatever system and decoder in use.

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 or Art. We welcome your interest and comments. Please contact either Art Landriگان ([arcy22tn@gmail.com](mailto:arcy22tn@gmail.com)) or Paul Falk ([pfalk1@gmail.com](mailto:pfalk1@gmail.com)) with questions, comments, or ideas.

## November

**Ralph Watson**

Noun: **November**; plural noun: **Novembers**

1. the eleventh month of the year, in the northern hemisphere usually considered the last month of autumn.

2. a code word representing the letter N, used in radio communications.

Old English, from Latin, from *novem* 'nine' (being originally the ninth month of the Roman year).

Also the time of year for all things pumpkin. And leaves to rake. And rake again.

BEHOLD! CMRC offers a respite from the deciduous debris and oversize orange vegetables. This coming weekend there are multiple opportunities to participate in social camaraderie, minimal light labor, and even find that elusive final piece to complete your collection of arcane railroadians.

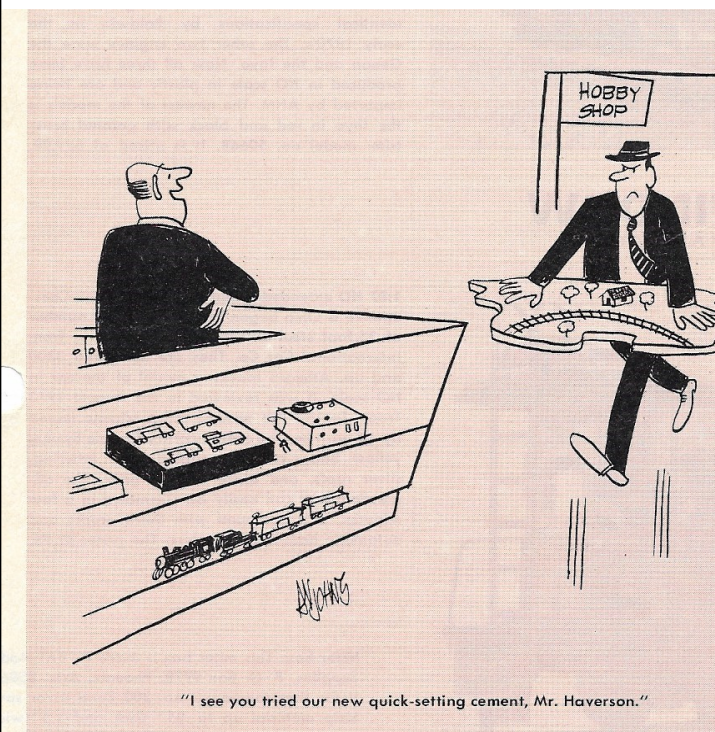
On Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 7 helpers are needed to set up tables in Suite 121 because on Saturday and Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 20 sellers are offering all sizes and gauges of model railroad products. Even G and S scale! As a result of our extensive, broad reaching publicity {well done Ann G.} one half of the 38 reserved tables are non-members of CMRC and some are coming from

Murfreesboro, Sevierville, Knoxville, Oak Ridge and north Georgia. The public is, of course, invited and admission is, as always, free free free.

Please come spend the day buying, trading, selling, chatting, selling popcorn, and having a good time with like-minded hobbyists. Anyone [everyone?] should take pictures for our archives and to post on our website and Facebook pages.

There will also be some work to do on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, to take down tables, eat pizza and do a debrief on what could have been done another way.

Our swap meets are on the way to becoming an annual or even bi-annual event and a powerful tool for promoting CMRC to other modelers and the general public.



**ALL ABOARD**  
**THE 2023**  
**PIEDMONT DIVISION**  
**25<sup>th</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**  
**MODEL TRAIN SHOW**



**March 11 & 12**

**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**

**Pre-show on-line ticket purchases  
are Available Online at  
[www.themodeltrainshow.com](http://www.themodeltrainshow.com)**

**Kids 9 and Under are Free!  
FREE PARKING**



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division  
of the National Model Railroad Association  
[www.piedmont-divorg](http://www.piedmont-divorg)





## **N Scale News**

**Jan Novack**

This “Hot Metal Car” is a recent donation to N scale given by William Mueller of Lebanon, TN. It has a light on the top to reflect the ‘heat’ from the metal in the tank. It was created on a 3D printer.

The installation of Tortoise switch machines at the intersection of the L-shaped addition and the original table has been completed. We’re working now on some lighting

changes in the town where the trolley runs and checking other lighting ensuring all is working. The prep work for the major change in the large yard near the wall will be started soon. The engine inventory is in great shape as Bill Bly has resurrected some engines from the retired list. He just doesn’t give up.

A reminder to Club members running N scale, please keep the speed slow and steady. We think that some of the recent problems came from running the trains too fast.

## G Scale News

**Ted Polczynski**

Problems are abound in the simulated world of "G". Tongue Towns Historic Area Commission has required the removal of solar panels from the roofs of the buildings designated as historic. In compliance with the historic commission, the panels have been relocated to the solar tree on the town's courtyard.

The Greens have gone a hiding with the onslaught of the Yellows and Golds along with the Deep Reds hot on the trail of the Greens. Or just maybe it could be that new haunted housing project, with cauldron's a-cooking in our twilight-zone area.

Thus ends another month in the make believe world of "G" TRAINS.

## Television Special

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Channel 10 WBIR TV came to our suite and interviewed Bobbi and me. They took a lot of video of all scales and interviewed a little boy that was visiting us from Indianapolis. It aired that same day at 3:00 PM CDT.

If you didn't catch it (most of you probably didn't even look at your email until it was too late) you can go to wbir.com and click on "as seen on tv" Home Town Spotlight. There was also a longer segment on Facebook.

What a great opportunity for the Club to have free advertisement.

A SIDE NOTE: Our President, Roberta Dean, will be the Grand Marshall in the Veterans Parade on Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>.

Way to go, Bobbi! Come out and support the veterans and Bobbi.

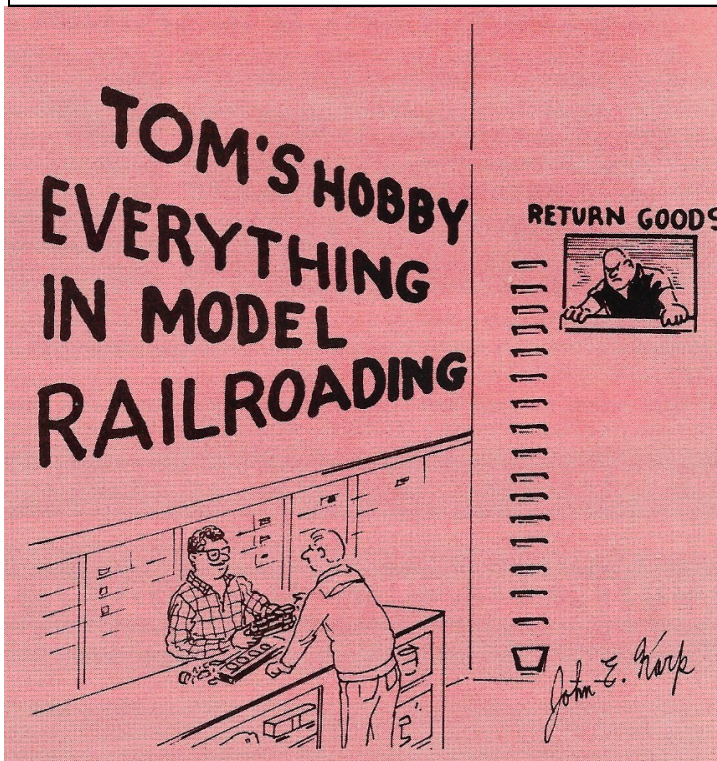
*Ann Grogitsky*

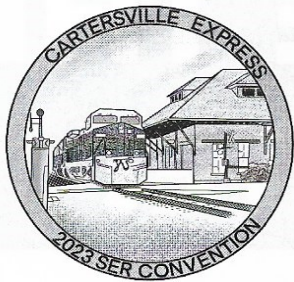
## Operations

**Richard Morris**

The break from Operating Sessions will continue for one more month since there are a number of distractions in November.

In the meantime, I will continue to refine some of the train sheets and work towards a rough schedule to follow.





# **CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS**

## **2023 SER CONVENTION**

**SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2023**

Come have a fun time at the

## **Clarence Brown Conference Center**

**5450 Georgia Highway 20, Cartersville, GA**

Don't miss these great activities, including  
an NMRA Model Contest and Photo Contest, Clinics,  
White Elephant Table, Raffle Items, Prototype Tours and more.

**Keynote Banquet Speaker  
Todd Stennis - Amtrak**

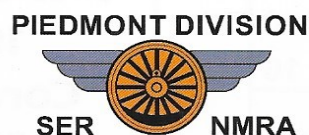
**Self-guided Layout Tours - Friday through Sunday  
Operating Layout Sessions - Thursday through Saturday**

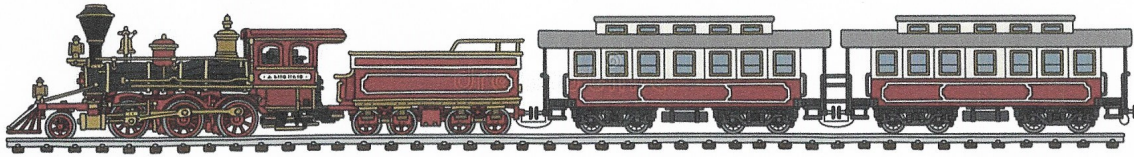
**Non Rail Activities include  
Gibbs Garden - Lunch - Big Door Vineyards  
Booth Western Art Museum - Lunch**

Information is subject to change. Please watch for updated info and register at

**[2023serconvention.org](https://2023serconvention.org)**

**Hosted by the Piedmont Division, NMRA**





# Model Train Swap Meet

**NOV. 5th & 6th 10am-4pm**

**Saturday Sunday Set-up Nov 4th 3-7pm**

**Located in the Lander's Crossroads**

**Exit 320 off I-40 Behind BUC-EES**

**Table Rental \$15 per 8'**

To Reserve Space Contact

Ralph Watson 931-248-4263 [crossvilletrains@gmail.com](mailto:crossvilletrains@gmail.com)

**FREE Admission**

**SPONSORED  
BY THE**

**CROSSVILLE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB**

## **Public Relations Ann Grogitsky**

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended a breakfast put on by the Chamber of Commerce. I spoke to the County Mayor, Alan Foster, the President of the Chamber, Ethan Hadley, and his Secretary, Melanie Graham, along with several others in attendance.

What a spread we had, scrambled eggs, bacon, biscuits & gravy and homemade cinnamon rolls along with some wine. I have never had wine with breakfast before, but it was all good and worth the \$10.00.

I talked to Bill Bly and got him active

again in Public Relations. I submitted an article with a picture for the swap meet. I have checked with the Chamber, Big South Fork Visitor Center and the Gazebo by the Chamber for Trifolds.

## *CMRC Treats . . . .*

*From: Recipes of the Great Northern Railway*

1 c. shredded pineapple

1 c. whipped cream

1/2 c. English walnuts

1/4 lb. marshmallows, cut up

Place on ice and serve cold.