



# Ties and Rails

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

February 2023

(931)210-5050

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

## Special Notice

Many of you have been hearing 'stories' regarding changes with the "Cheesecake and More" restaurant located next to our suite. Most of what is floating around is not factual.

I spoke with the owner, Sharon, and found out that there will be some minor changes starting around the first of February.

She asked that if there is anyone interested in the changes, will they please stop in and discuss the changes with her. She is more than willing to sit and talk with anyone.

She did emphasize the fact that they are going to stay in business here in the mall with some minor changes in their menu.

Please stop in and see her!

Tom Shallcross, Editor

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

Welcome to a new month, Groundhog Day is upon us. Hopefully it is a sign of a quick Spring.

We still have not heard about our position in the Mall, so we will continue to pay the

rent we have been paying since the new owners bought the Mall.

There was one store that had their rent go up drastically, but upon further checking, it seems that they had been paying an extremely low amount of rent. The only thing to do is go with our Club as usual and see what happens.

Ann and Ralph are working on the Marketing of our upcoming Spring Swap Meet. It may have to be moved into April.

We need volunteers to help organize and run concessions (soda and popcorn). Please get in touch with Ann or Ralph to volunteer.

On other news, the Club is still in great shape, financially, and we continue to have a great mix of members, age wise. I am happy to see new younger members. None of us are getting any younger.

I want to thank Ted for doing a great job as the temporary G scale coordinator.

See you at the next member meeting on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM.

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

## Special Guest at CMRC

### Meeting in February

All members are encouraged to attend the upcoming monthly meeting of CMRC on February 13. A special presentation by author/historian Ralton Wagner will get into the research behind his just released this month book entitled *Tennessee Central, the First 50 Years*.

For over 60 years, the Tennessee Central Railway spanned 296 miles, linking western Kentucky with middle and east Tennessee. Visionary businessman, Jere Baxter, consolidated several railroads over the course of five years. By 1904, his new railway was serving numerous coal mines on its eastern end. The colorful, regional road was loved and revered by citizens in the cities it served. The scrappy, homespun railroad would spend most of its existence fighting for survival as it faced aggressive competition from other railroads and fended off bankruptcy on several occasions. (Excerpt from Barnesandnoble.com).

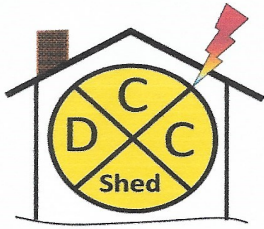
As an author and historian, Wagner has been an avid railroad enthusiast all his life. He started researching the history of the Tennessee Central more than 50 years ago. For this volume, he has selected rare archival images from several historical groups and from

his own collection, most having never been published. Wagner has written articles for national historical magazines and is the author of *Nashville's Streetcars and Interurban Railways* and *South Nashville*. He is a member of the TCA Music City Chapter Board of Directors. He lives in Nashville.

Some of our members do not attend the monthly membership meetings due to travel time and distance; this is one that IS worth the effort. Get your Christmas, Birthday, and Father's Day shopping done early as copies of the book will be available. Mr. Wagner will be making a copy available to CMRC for our library.

He will be staying in Crossville for dinner so there will be a social or Q&A time also. Make a point of being there on February 13. You really don't want to miss this.





**The DCC Shed @ CMRC**

**Paul Falk**

**Art Landrigan**

Welcome to the Shed. This month we start a little journey into a less expensive method for operating slow motion switch machines. In 2022 Digitrax discontinued its DS64 quad stationary decoder replacing it with a DS74 quad stationary decoder. Similar in function to the DS64 packaged with new features, it is not a simple plug-in replacement. Because of this, it does not integrate easily on an existing layout. Oh and by the way, it is considerably more expensive.

On the heels of the DS74 comes a new DS78V Eight Servo LocoNet Stationary Accessory decoder for turnout control. This unit is designed to use a new Digitrax DSXSV9 9G Turnout motion control servo instead of the very common Circuitron Tortoise.

The Digitrax DSXSV9 9G Turnout Motion Control Servo is roughly one third less cost than the Tortoise. The DSXSV9 does not have the two internal switches so it can be cheaper. A DS78V Eight Servo decoder and eight DSXSV9 servos would be a little less than \$200. Not a bargain but less than eight Tortoises and two DS74's at nearly \$400.

But wait, there is more! Digitrax has

also introduced the DS44 Basic Quad Stationary Decoder. Less than \$40. No fancy case. No option for push button operation. It can only be controlled via Loconet commands that it receives via the rail power it is powered from. (No power supply needed) So this is only an option for DCC only layouts.

Now some turtle background. Since their introduction in 1984, the Circuitron Tortoise switch machine has been a stalwart performer in many layouts. Since 2019 they have seen a few major improvements. A new motor supplier and new printed circuit type with a new industry standard connector spacing that is built from a fire-retarding printed circuit material called FR-4. There have been few competitors, most notably of late is the Cobalt iP Digital from DCC Concepts originally in Australia. The Cobalt is a very similar design to the Tortoise. Both of these manufacturers incorporate two switch circuits into their designs that can be used to provide power to the frog of a turnout, to implement power routing or to power a trackside signal or panel lights.

This is just a brief overview of the topic, always refer to the appropriate documentation for whatever decoder you use. For more info, see:

<https://www.digitrax.com/products/stationary-decoders/>



## News from the NMRA

At the Club General Meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Art Landrigan presented Jan Novack with his Golden Spike Award from the NMRA.

Congratulations, Jan! This is well deserved.

Art also announced that Jan had accepted appointment as the new Assistant Superintendent to finish out the remainder of Art's term as the Asst. Supt. Art vacated this position when he was elected as the new Superintendent.



## *Train Show . . .*

On 2/25/23—Northwest Arkansas Model Train Show; Batenton County Fairgrounds, 7640 SW Regional Airport Blvd., Bentonville, AR; Hours: 9am—4pm; For more information, visit [www.nmra-scwd.org](http://www.nmra-scwd.org)

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## RAILROAD DINER LINGO

- A mogul with two headlights: Ham 'n eggs
- Blanket the headlights: Eggs over easy
- Running orders: Wheat cakes and coffee
- A smokin' hotbox: A steak well-done
- A wreck on the mainline: Scrambled eggs
- Switch list: Menu
- Cut the cow car off the java train: Black coffee
- Life preservers: Donuts
- Murphies on the main line: Fried Potatoes



*The DCC Shed cont. from page 3*

<http://www.circuitron.com.index.htm>

<http://www.dconcepts.com/>

One-on-one training & 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, Please contact either Art Landrigan ([arcy22tn@gmail.com](mailto:arcy22tn@gmail.com)) or Paul Falk ([pfalk1@gmail.com](mailto:pfalk1@gmail.com)) with questions, comments or ideas.

## HO Scale News

**Paul Falk**

Next HO Meeting - MONDAY, MARCH 6 at 2 PM CT. Look for an agenda in a couple of weeks. There is much to discuss between maintenance/repairs, procurement and remodeling. If you have any topic/ideas, please contact me to get them on the agenda.

Next - HO Tower reminder. Please, if you eat while at the tower, you must clean up after yourself. The maid and butler quit many years ago. Don't leave your trash, food containers and crumbs for others. Continued problems will make the tower off limits for food. Do your part and police your area. This also includes rolling stock. If it is broken, tag it so and put the item in the bad order drawer under pier 2.

## CMRC Treats . . . .

*Submitted by Barb Ferency for CMRC Cookbook*

### Hummingbird Cake

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 2 c. flour                               | 2 c. sugar                        |
| 1 tsp. salt                              | 1 tsp. soda                       |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon                          | 3 eggs, beaten                    |
| 1-1/2 c. oil                             | 1-1/2 tsp. vanilla                |
| 1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained | 2 c. nuts<br>2 c. chopped bananas |

Combine dry ingredients. Add eggs and oil. Do not beat. Stir in vanilla, pineapple, bananas and 1 c. nuts. Bake 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes (3 layers, 9" pan.) Spread frosting and sprinkle with remaining cup of nuts.

## CALL TO ACTION

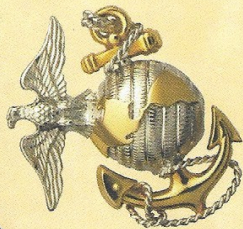
Thousands of railcars including both new and historic fallen flags have been vandalized with graffiti over the past decade. Help stop this crime. *Report any suspicious trespassing to the railroad or local police.*

NS (800)453-2530  
CSX (800)232-0144  
UP (888)877-7267  
BNSF (800)832-5452  
CN (800)465-9239  
CP (800)716-9132  
KCS (877)527-9464

## Train Show . . .

On 2/11,12/23—Great Train Show; Indianapolis State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, IN; For more information, visit [www.greattrainshow.com](http://www.greattrainshow.com)





# Certificate of Appreciation

Presented in gratitude to

*Crossville Model Railroad Club*

For Outstanding Support of the  
United States Marine Corps Reserve  
Toys for Tots Program



2022 Campaign Crossville TN

January 14, 2023  
Date

Coordinator – US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program  
Sgt. Morgan W. Strader Det. #1467 Marine Corps League  
Crossville, TN



## N Scale News

Jan Novack

This is the track plan for the revision to the N scale layout that we are making to the area by the wall. The main line will split into four tracks that will pass by a passenger station area. Two lines will be main track options, and two lines will be passing sidings. Tortoise switch machines will control the power to each line so that multiple passenger trains can be staged and switched during our days we are open if desired.

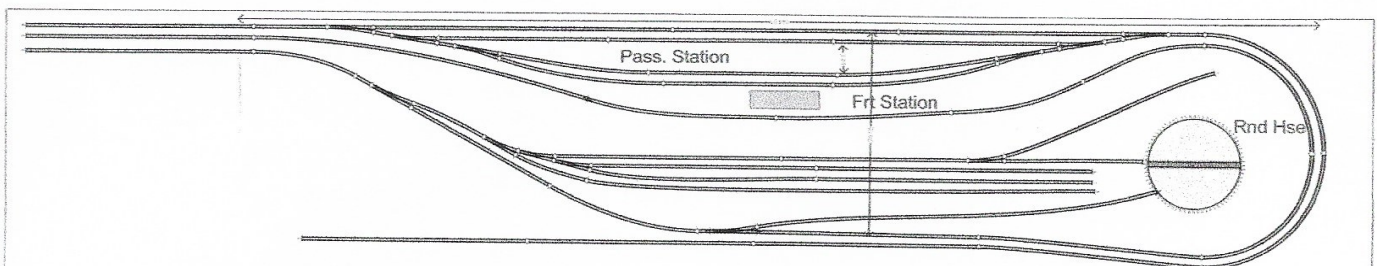
The freight line main track will swoop below the passenger area before returning close to its present track. Entries into the

smaller freight yard will come from two new turnout positions.

The turntable and roundhouse will be reinstalled and a diesel engine house will be added.

All turnouts will be tortoise controlled and will control the power to the various sidings.

This change allowed us to increase the radius of the curve on the main line in the corner to 18 inches (from 15). The freight line will see a comparable increase (from 14 inch radius).



## N Scale (Project update)

The first part of the main line track revision (runs along the perimeter of the layout) has been completed. The Tortoises to control this passing siding have been mounted, but not wired yet. A temporary buss line bypass is in place so we can operate the main line for our visitors.

The first week in February, the freight line track will be pulled up so the main line expansion can be continued. The freight line

will run 'short' (around the original part of the table before the L addition) for the next few weeks while work continues on the main line.

The first main track option on the main line will be installed next with Tortoises, and then wired and tested for possible adjustments before we continue.

Progress will probably be more noticeable from now on as the different look takes shape.



N Scale continued from page 7



**DCC Shed, Jr.**

Jan Novack

A follow-up to the DCC Shed article I wrote in December as guest contributor.

I stopped into the Club recently on an off-day for me, and the Club member I showed how the N scale DCC worked was running his trains and one engine was DCC.

He had a big smile on his face, loving how the locomotive ran and looked. He said he was looking for another locomotive of a specific road name to add to his collection'

He has definitely been bitten by the DCC bug.

Great to see one more advancing along with the direction the hobby is going.

## Visitor's Log

**Tom Shallcross**

Now that the holidays are over, we enter into the slow period of the year. With that in mind, we had 874 visitors to the suite this past month. 198 of our visitors signed our Visitor's Log, representing the states of AL, CO, FL, GA, IA, IL, KY, MD, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, WA, WI, as well as one of the providences of Canada.

A family from Denver, CO said, "Loved it, loved ya'lls hospitality. Thank you for the conversation. Be blessed".

A family from Belfast, TN said, "Amazing place to see the workmanship".

A family from South Dakota said, "Thank you for the memories".

**Save the Date!**  
**Central Railway Museum's**  
**Model Train**  
**Expo 2023**



SERVES THE UPSTATE

**Fri – Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 6:00 pm**  
**Sat – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Rock Springs Church – Impact Center**  
207 Rock Springs Road  
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**COMPLETE INFO AT: [WWW.CRMHA.ORG](http://WWW.CRMHA.ORG)**

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

Or Tom Langdale – (803) 960-1246 [tlangdale@lowcountry.com](mailto:tlangdale@lowcountry.com)



## *O Scale South 2023*

8th Annual Atlanta O Scale 2 Rail Meet



**9am- 2pm on Saturday February 25, 2023**

at the

**Cross of Life Lutheran Church,  
1000 Hembree Road, Roswell, GA, USA**



**Swap Meet & Modular Layout Display**

Layout tours information at the meet

\$5 admission(spouses and children free)/\$25 per 8ft table(includes admission)

<http://www.oscalesouth2023.com>

On3, On30, On2, Proto:48, and 3-Rail Scalers Welcome!



# SOUTHERN O SCALERS

**Sponsored by the Southern O Scalers and  
the Railroad Model Club of Atlanta**

Contact Dan Mason @ [daniel@southemoscalers.com](mailto:daniel@southemoscalers.com) or 770-337-5139 to reserve tables and info



## Marketing Comm. Ralph Watson

Marketing Committee Notes from discussion on 1/24/23.

Set monthly meeting date of 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 in Suite 109.

The need for actively involving new and recent members in our programs was agreed upon. See above meeting date/time.

A number of events were proposed.

Swap meets in the Spring and Fall are being planned. Many members are going to be out of town in February and March so the next event will be in April after Easter.

The Miami Valley Modular group has us on their calendar for the first weekend in October. This is a bye week for UT football however we will be dependent on being able to use the Vanity Fair space as the Fairgrounds is not available.

There is little support for the idea of day trip excursions and none for overnight trips.

Guest speakers should be sought out. ETSU has asked in the past if we are interested. Feb. 13 author Ralton Wagner is coming to CMRC to do a presentation about the research behind his new book; *Tennessee Central; The First 50 Years*.

Having clinics at monthly meetings

would help CMRC and UCRS fulfill education goals. One example would be to request Al Scala to explain what the different combinations of trackside signal lights indicate as he was a railroad rules guy for 40+ years.

Member home layout tours within short travel distance can be done this summer. A list of available layouts can be generated.

There has been a suggestion to hold an open house, 'Got Trains?' event for members and the public to bring in the trains kept in the attic or shed to be evaluated and simple repairs by Club members. Not to include appraisals.

Set up 'Steam Day' (or Week) when there would be publicity that all our layouts were operating steam locomotives exclusively.

Christmas lights nights should be carried forward.

Holding 'Build a Layout in 6 Weeks' aka "The Joy of Model Railroading" is on hold until Ralph can get his workshop reconstituted. Would this be available to the public and what would the fees be/include?

Roane State had asked us many months ago to work with them on a presentation. Nothing has been done.

The visit to North Cumberland Elemen-

*Marketing Committee Continued from Page 11*

tary School for the S.T.E.A.M. program was a good way to get our Club out of the mall and into the community.

Advertising in various media, internet, press releases, road signs, and billboards was brought up.

The signs on I40 need to get done no matter the cost. Pat has started the process with TN Logos.

The video spots at the movie theaters were not very effective.

Radio ads are high \$.

Ralph has begun discussions with Flynn Advertising about the costs of the digital bill-

boards on Main Street/127 and Lantana Road. The numbers look good at around \$400. a month depending on which plan is selected. Because of the digital format, changes are easy to make for updating info or special events. This should be pursued. Surveying current advertisers for their opinions of the benefit is the next step.

**BROTHER ENGINEER**

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**Burma Shave**



# Wild Mountain Rails Tour 2023

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