



TIES AND RAILS

The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

August 2024

President's Message

I hope everyone is having a Great summer with family and friends. Just a reminder that we are having our annual summer outing at Ann & Jim's. If you have not signed up yet please contact Ann.

The board is evaluating the possibility of raising our annual dues at the current time. We have received input from some of the members and wish to get your input. The comments have been mixed so far. I have paraphrased several comments to combine similar comments.

We should be raising them higher than we proposed (\$120.00/ year)

We should raise dues but at a lesser amount (\$80 -\$90)

I have no problem with increasing the dues

No increase until we have a new home.

We will lose members if we raise the dues now.

Have a separate fund to assist members who financially can not afford the raise in dues. (This fund would be paid by donations specifically for assistance by other members)

Raising the dues is not a good idea.

What happens if the club dissolves?

Why increase the treasury just to give it away to another non-profit if we dissolve.

If we vote to raise without a new location I will not renew my membership.

Continued on next page

Next Club Meeting Monday Sept 16th

BOD meets at 2:30PM

Social Hour 3:30 PM Membership at 4:00 PM

Location: Oaklawn Baptist Church

Last Call for Club's Annual Picnic

Our annual club picnic is on August 12, it will be at Jim & Ann Grogitsky's house, 5841 Taylors Chapel Rd beginning at 5 pm. We will plan on eating at 5:30. There is plenty of parking. The club provides hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, plates and silverware. You need to bring a dish to pass (serving at least 8 people), your own drinks and lawn chairs.

We have an outdoor G scale layout and and indoor On30 layout.

This is a great time to meet the newer members and visit with the people we haven't seen in a long time, but that means that you have to sign up so we know how many burgers to get.

You need to call me Ann, 742-1824 or email me at anngrogitsky@gmail.com to let me know what dish you are going to bring. We need main dishes like Potato Salad, cole slaw, beans etc., salad of all kinds and desserts.

President's Message continued

**If we vote to raise without a new location I will not renew my membership
Raising our dues would not cover the cost of Rent increase or Utilities that
would come from visitor monetary donations.**

I'll pay for another member's increased dues to keep them a member

I have no issue with the board's effort to cover monthly expenses

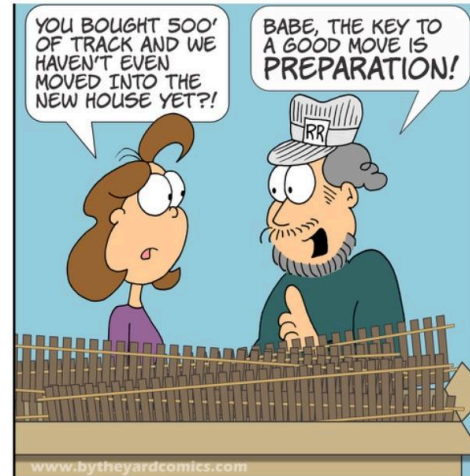
I would quit the club and join another train club

**So if you have not made comments please do so by contacting a board
member about how you feel on this issue.**

Hope to see you at the picnic

**Ed Potts
President**

No Committee Reports Submitted this Month



Crossville Model Railroad Club SWAP MEET-TRAIN SHOW

Friday October 25 & Saturday October 26

9 AM - 3PM

OAKLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH 3977 US 70 EAST

Many vendors in multiple scales of model
trains + books and railroadiana

Visiting Modular layouts in HO and N from
Central Railway Modeling and Historical
Association of Central South Carolina

Vendor tables available \$15 for your own
table(s), \$30 ea for 8 foot we provide

Contact Show Coordinator at:

crossvilletrains@gmail.com
for reservations and details

Ed Potts Train Story

I started model trains on 25 December 1954 when my brother Jack and I got a Lionel Train. This train was on a 4 X 8 foot layout that was put across the railings of the staircase coming up to the 3rd floor of our apartment . I still have this original train and it still runs very well including the old pellet smoke. Many years later as an adult this train and 2 others were expanded to a layout that was on pulleys that was brought up to the ceiling in the 2 car Garage when not in use.



Being in the military my family and I moved 22 times so we downsided to HO scale as space was limited.



My current layout is a 12 X 8 foot HO layout that is constantly being modified. It has a Round house with a turntable and can support 5 trains operating at the same time. It has 41 DCC controlled switches and multiple train lines.



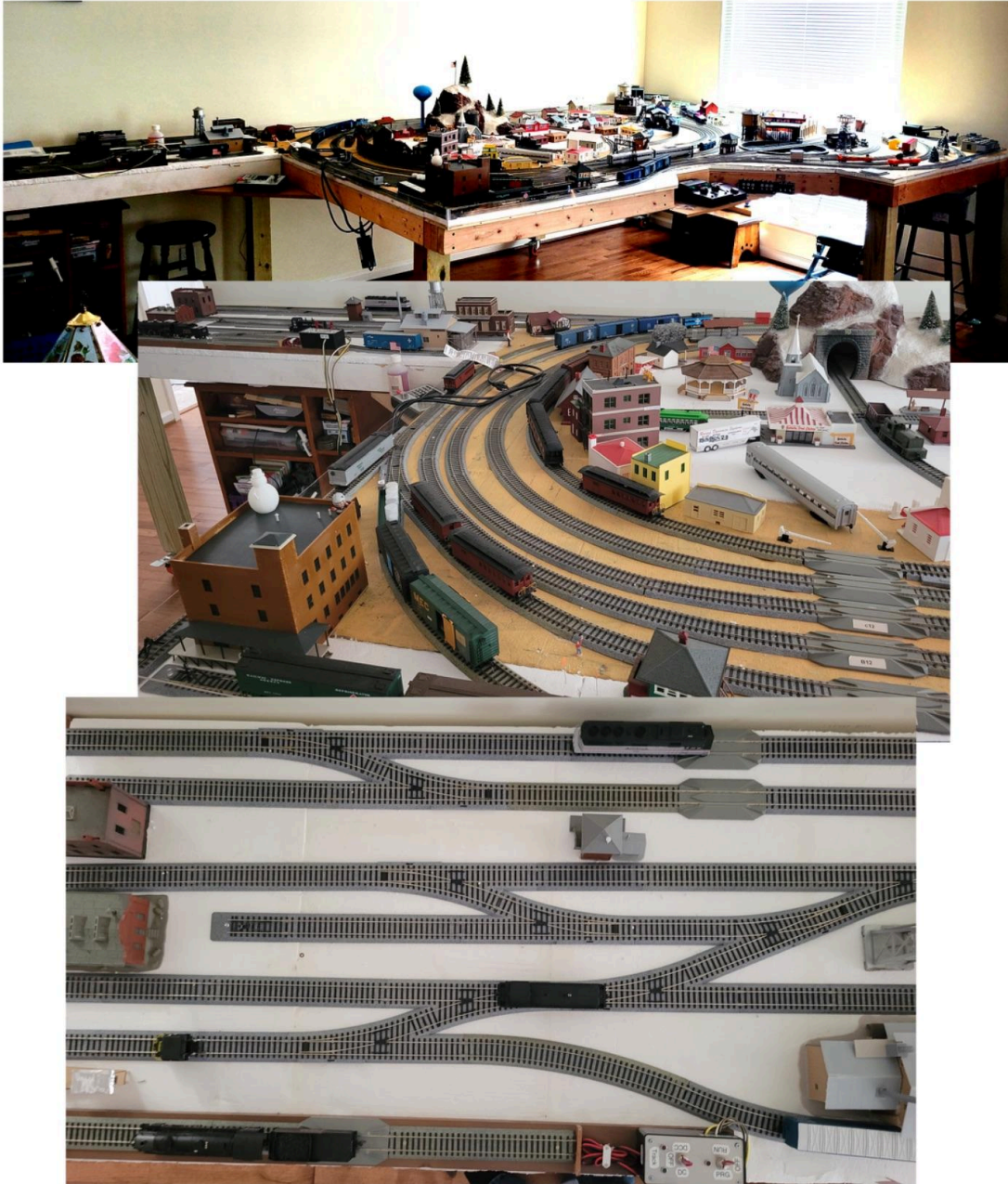
Through the switches I can deliver passengers or freight to anywhere on the layout. The layout was made with the idea of running operations exchanging cars at warehouses and factories along with Passenger service throughout the layout.



Ed's Train History Continued on next page

Ed's Train History Continued

Part of the layout is DCC and the other part is conventional DC. I placed it on 3 inch casters so that it rolls out of the way when not in use or when I need to get to a section to make a change or repair.



CMRC Now Accepting Nominations

To All CMRC Members

It is that time of year again when we accept nominations for the various club positions that are due for election. This year there are three positions to be elected, Vice President, Secretary, and Director – Scheduling.

The nominating committee this year is Ralph Watson, Ed Potts & Paul Falk (Chair). Please contact anyone on the committee to place yourself or other club member in nomination no later than the September 9, 2024 general meeting. At the end of the meeting the ballot will be established for the October 14, 2024 election. The nominations procedures are detailed in the club by-laws. The relevant sections are 5.2 & 5.3 and are shown here for your convenience and can be found in the members only area of the Club web site, Crossvilletrains.org.

Nominations for the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three At-Large Directors, as applicable, shall be accepted and verified by the Nominating Committee starting before the regular meeting in September and continuing through the start of the election meeting in October. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted in the September regular meeting.

5.3 Candidate Eligibility Candidates shall be Active Members or Life Members in good standing of the Club. Candidates shall be permitted to run for one office only. Descriptions of the three(3) positions for this election are detailed below.

The Vice President position is described in the by-laws section 3.3

3.3 Vice President

The Vice President shall act in the place of the President in the event of the latter's absence, or his or her inability or refusal to act. The Vice President shall immediately succeed to the office of the President in the event of resignation, death or disqualification of the President. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of the President's duties, and in conducting the Club's business. (11/03/03)

The Secretary position is described in the by-laws section 3.4

3.4 Secretary. The secretary shall conduct the correspondence pertaining to the business of the Club and keep the official records of the Club. The Secretary shall also give notice of all regular, additional, and election meetings of the Club, and keep and publish, within 10 calendar days, minutes of all meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors, as well as performing such other duties as the President may from time to time request.

The At Large Directors position is described in the by-laws section 3.6

3.6 At Large Directors The At-Large Directors should consist of: Director of Scheduling and Attendance, Director of Suite Front End, and Director of Utility. A concise description of their duties is locate in Policies of Crossville Model Railroad Club.

Nominating Proceedures continued

Policies Attachment 12(1)

Director – Schedule/ Attendance

The member serving as Director – Schedule/Attendance is responsible for accomplishing the following tasks. Other members may assist when available or required.

- 1. Preparing a coordinated monthly schedule which combines the schedule submitted by the HO/N/Z group and the schedule submitted by the O/G group.**
- 2. Post a copy of the coordinated schedule on the bulletin board located outside the suite office.**
- 3. Forward a copy of the schedule to the Secretary to be forwarded to all Club members.**
- 4. In the case where there is an inadequate number of members to staff the suite for a day, ask the secretary to send out an email to all members asking for additional help for that particular day.**
- 5. Report unusual situations to the Board of Directors.**
- 6. Provide a 'notebook' where members working an assigned shift in the suite will be able to 'sign in'.**
- 7. Will periodically take the sign in sheets and record the information on an "Annual Cumulative Attendance Report".**
- 8. Monthly, review the information on the Annual Cumulative Attendance Report and, applying the guidelines in the Club Policies, make appropriate contact with various members to determine the reason for any absences and report this information to the Board of Directors for further action, if any.**
- 9. Such additional duties that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.**

**Respectfully presented,
The Nominating Committee**



The Fat Lady has not sung!

An editorial by Newsletter Editor Pat Taylor

It has been 520 days since we were unceremoniously set adrift from our home for twenty three years and began our exodus. But we are still aggressively searching for a new Home Port. No one is more frustrated by our prolonged search but remember, we have not given up on our search and will continue to keep looking for as long as needed.

Since less than half of our members attend meetings on a regular basis, it is very difficult to understand as not all the details makes the meeting minutes. You need to attend so you can hear everything firsthand and determine which way the club is leaning because YOU ARE THE CLUB!

Roberta's decision to give up the position of President was not an easy one. However, with the death of her mother, trying to settle an estate long distance and taking care of her roommate who is legally blind. She was overwhelmed and had to do what was best for herself, her situation, and the club.

Ed Potts, who was the VP stepped up to the President's position as required by the club's bylaws and procedures. Ed has a much different management philosophy. It is one which gives every member a voice in club decisions and many more members are assigned to our club's committees to be more inclusive for members who have not served in the past. His meeting rules are to ensure no one is talked over and no one just yells out. Thus far it has worked very well.

Another topic I still hear comments about is are we staying open to the public or going to being a private club." It was near a unanimous vote of the membership to stay open to the public. So, let us just move on from that subject.

The current "Hot Topic" is of course relating to dues and the potential of an increase. Simply put, there are very good "PROS" and "CONS" to both directions. You can tell by reading comments as listed by Ed in his President's Message.

The two proposals are based on two strong and reasonable arguments. A very simple comparison of each is following.

Currently we are spending approximately \$525 a month for storage and phone. So the proposal to raise dues is based on reducing the monies coming out of our savings each month and preserve as much of our savings as possible for the rebuilding of the club.

The basis for the next option deals with our IRS 501(c)7 and the restriction it presents the club. God forbid, should the club cease to exist, but should that happen, we are required to distribute our funds and equipment to a 501(C)3. So, some members do not think adding to our savings account and then just have to give it away makes any sense.

As stated, dues are controversial no matter which option we choose, and we must make a member wide decision. At the September meeting dues, nominations for expiring board positions and other current issues will be discussed. You all really need to be there.