



October 2024

# TIES AND RAILS

The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

## President's Message

**WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF TRAINS**

Sponsored by the

**Crossville Model Railroad Club**

&

**Upper Cumberland Railroad Society**

Well, a lot has happened in the last 30 days and it looks like we will have a new home soon. I understand that a very POSITIVE meeting was held while I was out of town on 23 September. We need to build on this Positive atmosphere.

A building site has been identified thanks to Ann & Jim. The land has been surveyed, our Anonymous Donor has agreed to fund the Basic Building and an Architect has been consulted, the new Financial Advisory Committee presented a very rough report of the funds needed. The club is working with the Upper Cumberland Railroad Society to initiate a way to get Tax Deductible Donations started. The Club members are needed to assist with fund raising and the Manpower to finish the inside of the building and build the new layouts.

There is still a lot to do. Both CMRC and UCRS boards need to meet and work out a written working agreement. By- Laws of both organizations need to be modified to reflect how we will support each other in this cooperative adventure.

I am looking forward building new layouts, running trains, interactions with club members and the general public, teaching the how to build model train layouts, train history and answering general question. **SO GET INVOLVED AND HAVE FUN!**

Ed Potts, President

**Next Club Meeting Monday Oct 14th**

**BOD meets at 2:30 PM**

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

**Location: Oaklawn Baptist Church**

# CMRC 2024 Ballot Announced for the October General Meeting

At the CMRC September general meeting, final nominations for the 2024 elections were solicited and the ballot was then set when nominations were closed. The ballot is as follows for the three positions to be elected:

Vice President: Patrick Taylor

Secretary: Bruce Herring (incumbent)

Director-at-Large: Thomas Shallcross (incumbent)

Without a contested position, section 5.4.1 of the By-Laws (shown below) will apply and the secretary will cast the required vote for each candidate.

**Bylaws of the Crossville Model Railroad Club Effective May 13, 2024**  
**Section 5.4.1** In the case where there is only one candidate for an office, the Secretary shall be directed to cast one vote for the candidate and that candidate shall be considered elected for that office.

The Nominating Committee, Paul Falk (Chair)

## Lunch on the Lawn (or Fairgrounds)

On a VERY hot Friday 9/20 the CMRC popcorn crew was at the Cumberland Community complex greeting old friends and making new ones. Through the efforts of Henry, Ann, Bruce, Jeff, and Dodie with an assist from the Weichert Realty group unloading the heavy stuff, many participants at Habitat for Humanities Lunch on the Lawn fundraiser enjoyed popcorn and many asked when (where) are you going to rebuild?... I always bring \_\_\_\_\_ when they come to visit... We hope to see you back running...

Jeff set up a Lego train but the sun was so hot the lithium batteries shut down. It was a well attended and fun event.





The below listed statement made by Art Landrigan, Jr., President of the UCRS, at the special meeting held on Monday, September 23rd, details the process both the CMRC and the UCRS need to follow to work towards the needed merger of both separate organizations. **THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INFORMATION** which all members need to read and understand as we move forward. Should you have any questions, concerns or recommendations be sure to attend our next monthly meeting on October 14th. at 4pm. Social hour 3:30 pm.



September 23, 2024

Upper Cumberland Railroad Society  
A Chartered Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation, IRC 501(c)(3) designated

As requested by the CMRC, during the Sep 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 CMRC Membership Meeting, the undersigned agreed to hold a special UCRS Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting at our first opportunity. This meeting was held in the morning of Sep 12, 2024. The following represents the UCRS unanimous determination to support the assistance requested by the CMRC to accomplish the timely purchase of the referenced land and builder's donation of the described building for future occupancy of both organizations representing the Crossville Model Railroad display, providing that we follow all legal and ethical guidelines and considerations as outlined below, and in any future additional facts not available at this time.

We agree that the offer presented by Jim & Ann Grogitsky and their Building benefactor is a once in a lifetime occurrence, despite the location drawbacks, and as such, deserves the best we can all offer to make that possible. The way forward will include some varied events, most of which can be agreed to fairly early on. Other items will take some time to occur, plan, evaluate and consider.

Probably the largest and earliest event to occur would be the written Agreement of the CMRC & UCRS regarding the future issuance of a Federal Tax deduction form to the Builder from the UCRS. In order to do this the UCRS must certify that the donation benefits the UCRS activities and operations as defined in our Articles of Incorporation, State of TN Charter, and as referenced in our efforts presented to the IRS in obtaining our IRC 501(c)(3) determination letter in 2021. The CMRC would be required to become a part of UCRS, as was originally agreed to on Sep 18, 2011 as referenced in the UCRS Minutes of that date as put forth by the then acting Recording Secretary (also the CMRC President at that time) Neil Ferency. The CMRC would become a separate 'Operations' Division within the UCRS organizational framework. CMRC could maintain their separate corporate identity as a corporation and designated IRC 501(c)(7) organization maintaining most, if not all of its current Bylaws, as is necessary, maintaining its current Board of Directors for the effective management of CMRC operations within the framework of the UCRS organizational structure with the CMRC President at the time also serving as a designated BOD member of the UCRS to represent the CMRC organization in all matters that come before the UCRS Board. It should be noted that most of the administrative work will fall on the UCRS, as it will have to modify its current Bylaws, as was described to both the current and past President

of the CMRC, since the current UCRS Bylaws were approved based on it remaining a single operating entity at the time of their Approval.

The next most important issue to get moving on, is the utilization of the UCRS ability to solicit donations per the State of Tennessee regulations. Once the written Agreement of both organizations exists, UCRS efforts to solicit donations to assist it's 'Operations Division' in obtaining additional required funding for building completion and related efforts beyond the contractor's requirements.

Limitations to this positive effort would include the satisfactory environmental testing results of the former fuel tank removal from the property, concurrence of the CMRC Financial Planning Committee as to the financial feasibility of the UCRS/CMRC joint plan, etc.

The remaining details of the joint organization's efforts related to the details of finances and day-to-day functional operational procedures can certainly wait until these following efforts are required.

Respectfully,

*Arthur W. Landrigan*

Arthur W Landrigan Jr.

UCRS President

**CMRC members have been extremely generous in their support of this very worthwhile organization's annual drive to help children in need.**

## **House of Hope**

For the past 16 years, the Crossville Model Railroad Club has supported the House of Hope Annual Christmas Drive. This benefits approximately 600 to 800 children in Cumberland County that otherwise would not have anything to celebrate the holiday. This year we have asked for the names and needs/wants of 22 children and we can always get more. We ask for your continued support by taking a child and helping provide some enjoyment. This may be the only gifts they receive. I will be at the October 14 meeting to hand out the forms. Thank you for continuing to have a positive impact on a child's life.

**Lee Goldkopf**



## Modular Layout Assembly by Bruce Herring

As many of you may know, my wife and I were certain that our house was sold. The buyers were very enthusiastic, so we put a bid on a house in Lakeland Florida. Certain that we were moving, I took apart my static layout and disposed of it because it was going to be too hard and too expensive to move it. After destroying years of work clearing the shed for the “new” owners, they backed out of the sale. We already transported all our train items and put them into storage in Florida. It costs well over \$12,000 to get it all back to Tennessee. I only mention this because it was a major factor in how I was going to run those trains going forward.

Like the modular layout I donated to the club, I decided to build a new one using the Lionel Collectors Club of America (LCCA) standard. Here is the link to the document:

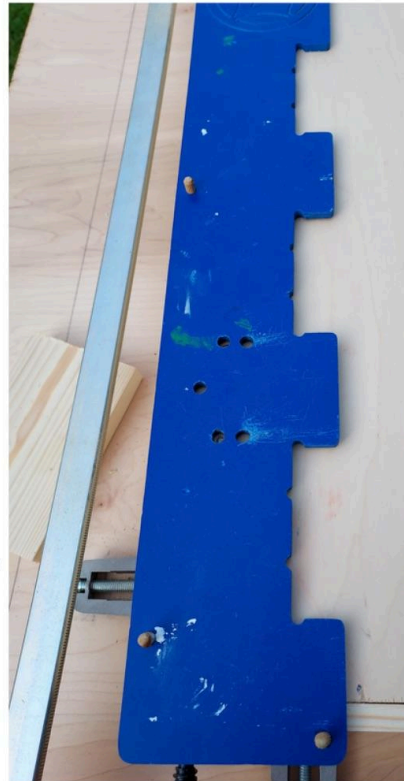
<https://www.lionelcollectors.org!/userfiles/Modular%20Raroad/FasTrack%20Modular%20Railroad%20Manual%20Ver%202.pdf>

You do not need to be a member to download it, but it is a great organization to belong to. One other thing you will need is the LCCA Template Tool.

You can purchase one from Lionel here for \$30.

<https://www.lionel.com/products/lionel-fas-track-modular-railroad-template-6-37150/>

The template defines the placement of track on all the tables. It also defines where you will need to drill the holes for the roto-locks that hold the tables together. This ensures that your tables will be able to be connected to any other LCCA standard tables anywhere in the country. I took tables I donated to the club to two different conventions last year. They also made a trip to a Christmas event in Pikeville. Let's get to the building process. Continued on page 8



LCCA Template

# **FOTT** FRIENDS OF THE TRAILS

Tax ID: 47-5540088

Website: <https://crossvilletrails.com/>

September 21, 2024

Crossville Model Railroad Club,

Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the Cumberland County Hiking Marathon. The marathon has been very successful in its goal of encouraging county residents to get some exercise by exploring hiking trails throughout the county. Participation in the marathon continues to grow each year.

Your sponsorship helps cover the organizational costs so that we can keep it a free event for the hikers.

We are very fortunate to live in such a beautiful location on the Cumberland Plateau and as we develop more trails we get more opportunities to get up close and personal with this outstanding natural beauty.

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your support and we hope that you personally will enjoy our growing number of wonderful trails for many years to come.

**John Conrad**  
President, Friends of the Trails

(931) 287-2432

## **Special Request for New Members**

**If you have joined the club within the last two years, we have a problem. No one knows your name. We may recognize your face, but since we moved out of the mall we have not had regular contact with members and therein lies the problem. In order to fix this, I am starting to work on name badges for our new home. In the meantime, can you take a selfie or have someone do a head shot of you so I can get you your new tag. Send them to me at [pattaylortn@gmail.com](mailto:pattaylortn@gmail.com), or be at the October meeting and I will take some then.**


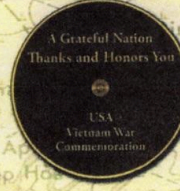


If you served in the US Military anywhere in the world during the dates listed below, you are eligible to receive the Lapel Pin. If enough members are eligible and are interested. we can arrange presentations at one of our monthly business meetings. Contact Pat at pattaylorntn@gmail.com.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

## Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

*"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"*

**Front**  **Back** 

The **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin** is presented on behalf of a grateful nation to living United States veterans who served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service. Each veteran is eligible to receive one lapel pin.

**Symbolism:**

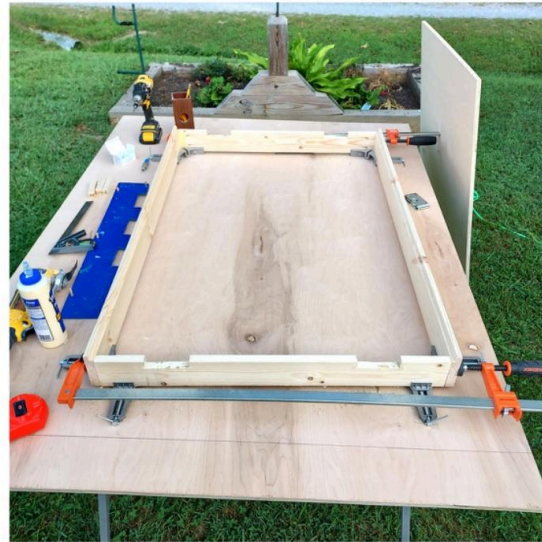
- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our Nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the Nation's lasting memento of thanks.

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The straight tables measure 30 inches wide by 45 inches long. The length was set so that each straight section of track would consist of a 30 inch and 10-inch piece of Fastrack leaving 2.5 inches of space at both ends. The template tool makes this process very easy as that is the setback on the tool.

The reason for the setback is, when assembling the tables, you will need a 5-inch piece of straight track to complete the assembly. Here are a few pictures of the straight table assembly process.



### **Straight Table Framing**

The side rails are routed to a depth of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to hold the plywood top. The end rails are cut down  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and then notched for the installation of the two roto-locks.

The plywood top is cut to  $28\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide by 45 inches long and installed onto the frame. The template tool is used to drill the holes for the roto-locks. When standing in front of the table, the male part always goes on the right-hand side with the female section to the left. I have messed that up a couple of times myself and needed to redrill new holes and patch the incorrect ones.



### **Installing the Table Legs**

The manual shows the original method of installing the table legs using metal brackets. There is no good source for those brackets, and I tried a couple of metal fabrication shops in the area to

see if they could make them for me. No such luck. The set of tables I donated to the club used notched 4x4 pieces of wood to hold the 2x2 legs with a bolt to hold them in place. This was a painful process that I did not want to repeat, so I contacted the LCCA Modular Liaison and asked if there was a better way. He pointed me to some amazing compression clamps that he started using on his tables. They work very well, indeed.

The legs themselves have adjustable leveling feet on the bottom. This allows for installing the tables on unlevel floors and adjusting them to ensure the tops of each table meet evenly. If they are out of level, it will be difficult to install the 5 inch connect sections of track.

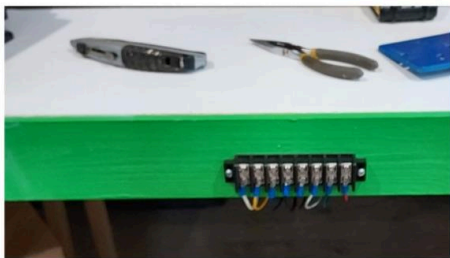
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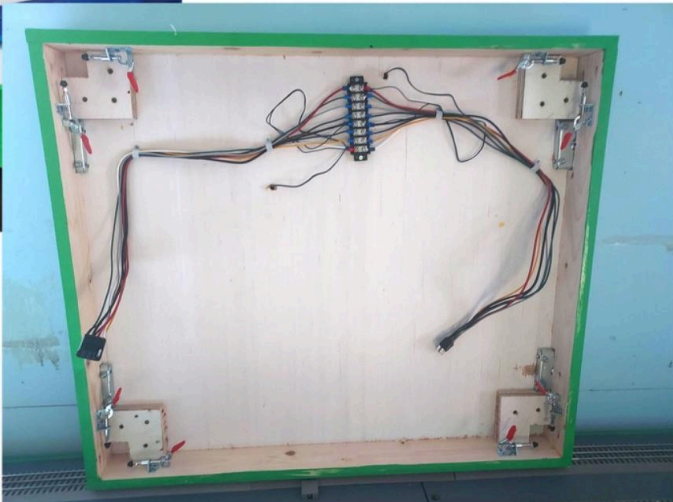


### Electrical Connections

Every table is electronically connected to its two adjoining tables via an 8-pin cable. The cable comes as a single 60-inch-long unit with a male connector on one end and a female connector. The cable needs to be split in half, the cut ends stripped, and spade connectors added to each wire. These are then attached to an 8-gang terminal block and mounted under each table. The wires are connected according to the manual. The purpose of each wire is also defined there. Here is a picture of a modified table showing the installation. As with the roto-locks, the male end needs to be installed on the right and the female end to the left.



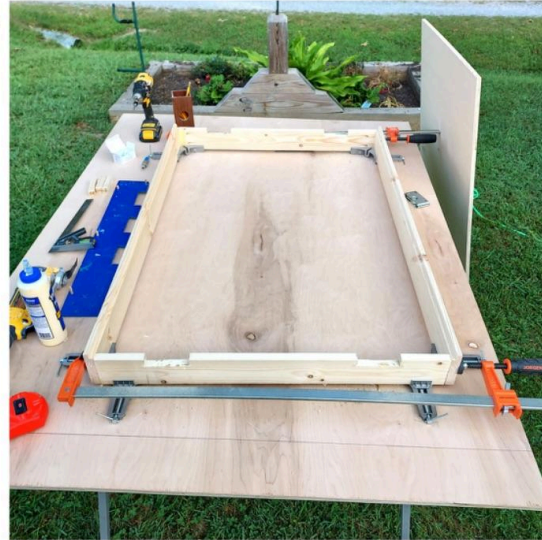
The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 25th of the month prior to publication.





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Continued on page 12



## Can you use power tools and not hurt yourself?

Then the Crossville Model Railroad Club and the Upper Cumberland Railroad Society would like to know. Can you do plumbing, build stud walls, hang drywall, tape and sand drywall, run electrical wire and any other skills you might have to help finish the building,

### **Crossville Model Railroad Club TRAIN SHOW & SWAP MEET**

**OCTOBER 25 -26 2024 10 AM to 3 PM**

**OAKLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH 3977 US 70 EAST CROSSVILLE TN**

Many vendors in multiple scales of model trains + more. Visiting Modular Free-mo HO layout from Central Railway Museum of Central SC AND Chattanooga Modular Modelers layout. **FREE ADMISSION**

Plenty of parking, concessions and snacks available. Just minutes from I-40 exit 322 TN 101 (Peavine Road)

Vendor tables \$15 for your own table(s) any size, \$30 each if we provide per 8 foot space. Contact show coordinator at [crossvilletrains@gmail.com](mailto:crossvilletrains@gmail.com) for reservations and details

Ralph Watson  
[rxalph@gmail.com](mailto:rxalph@gmail.com)



Plan now for the 2024 CMRC Christmas Party

*December 10th, Dinner at 5:30 pm*

*at the Lake Tansi Restaurant*

*Fellowship, Door Prizes, Bar Available*

*Cost is \$10 per person*

*Donated door prizes appreciated*

## Corner Tables

The LCCA manual gives directions on how to build corner tables out of wood. I can tell you from experience that it is very hard to get these tables right. Each corner table is designed to be 45 degrees and some of the angle cuts required to build one (11 ½ degrees) are not defined on a miter saw.

My LCCA contact came up with an ingenious method of making the corner tables out of plastic using a 3-D printer. It is a slow process and can take a whole day to complete each section.

Even though he gave me the friends and family price, it is very expensive to do it this way. The end result is fantastic, so I feel it was worth the price. You do need eight of them to complete the layout.



## Geezer Gate – What a Drag it is Getting Old

To get into and out of the center of your modular layout, you can either get down on all fours and crawl under a table or you can build a lift bridge. This is lovingly called a Geezer Gate because the older you get, the harder it is to crawl under those tables. There is no standard design or published plans yet on how to build one. Therefore, you are basically on your own. Some things to keep in mind.

1. Since the lift bridge is replacing a straight table, it needs to be 45 inches long.
2. Likewise, it needs to be the same height as the other tables for proper connection.
3. It should have adjustable feet just like the tables for leveling.
4. There needs to be a method to get power to the lift piece.



5. You want to kill power to the adjoining tables whenever the bridge is lifted.  
6. Don't forget to remove the jump wire from the center rail of the block track.  
The length and height are easy to determine, just don't forget to account for the width of the plywood covering when constructing them. Start with framing the base. At a minimum, it needs to be wide enough to support the two main track lines. I built mine wide enough to support three tracks. I have a pass-through fully connected power cable that connects one side of the bridge to the other for an uninterrupted power loop. To kill power to the bridge and the adjoining tables track, the power lines are connected to compression switches. The switches are held closed when the lift bridge is down, allowing power to pass to the tracks on the bridge and to the adjoining tables. The adjoining tables must both have their track isolated from other tables using a block section of track. Be sure to remove the jumper wire from the center rail (yeah, I forgot to do that).



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### Power Table

This is not necessary, but I added a terminal block to the outside frame of a straight table to make it easier to connect and disconnect power units. Again, why crawl under tables if you don't have to.

### Painting

I chose to paint my table frames with a color that matched the color of the plastic corner tables. I think I came pretty darn close to getting it right. The track base area is dark gray, the adjoining road is black, and the landscape area is white. The lift bridge is painted to resemble Santa's boots and pants. I am just a big Christmas guy. What can I say.

### Ready to run

The tables are connected, track power has been applied and tested, and lift bridge functionality tested successfully after fixing a few issues. I have attached Lionel's new Base 3 control unit and getting the layout set up for Halloween. Give me a call if you would like to visit.

The End

Looking for your train story for the November edition of the Ties & Rails.

**DEADLINE**

**10/25**