



# TIES AND RAILS

The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

February 2025

Just a  
friendly  
reminder

*Happy*  
**VALENTINE'S**

to keep  
you out of  
the dog  
house!

▶▶▶ DAY ▶▶▶

You are welcome



**New Meeting Location**



**Enter Here**

## FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

Monday, February 10th, Social hour 3:30pm

Membership at 4:00pm BOD After Membership meeting

See Page 3 for Location and Directions

## President's Message

# WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK

I know things are not going as fast as many would like. Getting a new home is complicated. Please be patient.

If you have not paid your 2025 dues, I hope you are planning to pay them by the February meeting. If you need assistance paying your dues the club has a way to assist. Please contact our Treasurer as there are members that have donated to a fund to assist with dues. This fund has been in place for many years and the Treasurer is the only person that knows who gets this assistance.

Please come to the February meeting at Roane State Campus on February 10 @ 4PM for updates on our progress. Your attendance is strongly encouraged. I will be presenting important information and your input, as a CMRC Member, is needed on where we go from here.

Our General Meeting will be first with the Board Meeting to follow. You are welcome to stay for the Board meeting as we will be discussing things that effect how we proceed forward on this Joint Project.

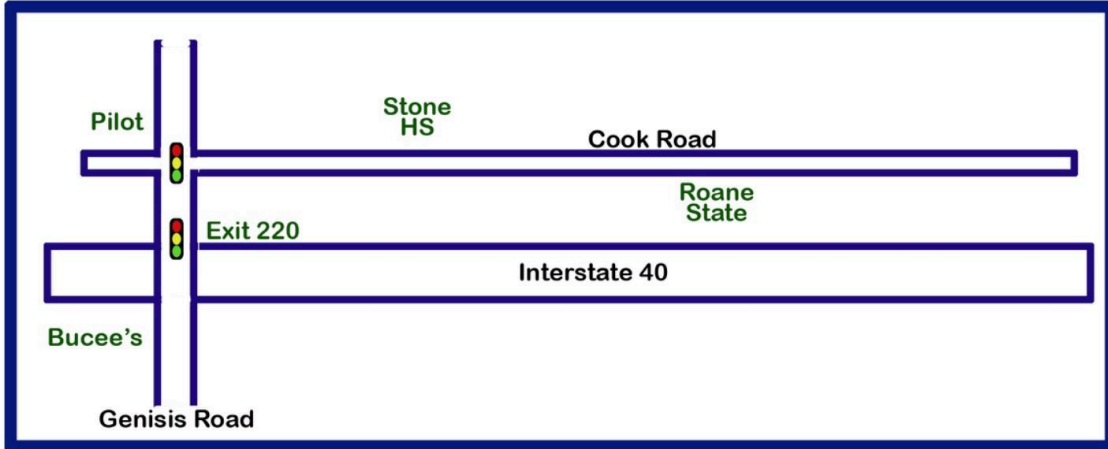
### **MEMBERSHIP DUES are DUE!**

*This is just a reminder that 2025 dues are due no later than our business meeting in February. They can be paid in two different ways. First by attending the meeting to pay or you can send a check to Mike Durnwald at this address:*

*CMRC 45 Cedar Ridge Circle, Crossville TN 38558*

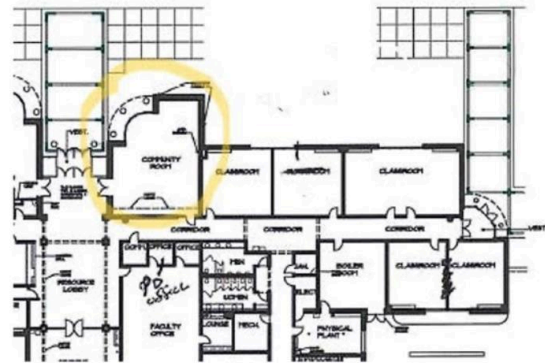
Knowing that some of our valued members have financial limitations, the club has done two things to help with dues payments. One, we have kept dues at just \$30 a year. We also have a fund created by other members paying more than their dues for the purpose of helping other members needing assistance. You can use these funds with a simple and private phone call to Mike Durnwald at 931-484-9529.





**If you are on I-40E from Nashville**  
 Take I-40 East to exit #320 (Genesis Road Exit).  
 Turn left on Genesis Road.  
 Go over interstate to Cook Road  
 Turn right onto Cook Road, which is located by the Stonehaus Winery. Follow Cook Road for less than one mile to the Cumberland County Center which is located on the right side of the road.

**If you are on I-40W from Knoxville**  
 Travel I-40 West to exit #320 (Genesis Road Exit).  
 Turn right onto Genesis Road.  
 Travel a short distance to Cook Road.  
 Turn right onto Cook Road, which is located by the Stonehaus Winery. Follow Cook Road for less than one mile to the Cumberland County Center located on the right side of the road.



### Do You Have Skills

As the scale coordinators prepare for the construction of our new layouts they will need a great deal of help in planning, design and ultimately construction.

If you have skills or experience it will be needed during the reconstruction of our displays. If you have skills which you feel may be an asset to the club please contact any of the coordinators:  
 N Jan Novak, HO Paul Falk, O Bruce Herring and G scale contact Ann.



## Firecrown buys EnterTrainment Junction

In a move that promises to reshape the landscape of transportation-themed attractions, Firecrown has acquired the railroad assets from EnterTrainment Junction. The company plans to relocate the beloved train exhibits to Chattanooga, Tenn., as part of an ambitious new transportation museum.

Craig Fuller, CEO and founder of Firecrown, sees this acquisition as a perfect fit for the company's vision. "The Chattanooga Choo Choo is a world-famous train town, and so we think this fits perfectly in the Chattanooga story but also preserves the legacy built here in Cincinnati," Fuller stated.

The transition from EnterTrainment Junction to the new Chattanooga-based museum underscores a broader trend of reimagining traditional attractions for modern audiences. By expanding beyond trains to include various modes of transportation, Firecrown is betting on the enduring fascination with mobility and technological progress.

### HO scale locomotives



- **Chicago & North Western "Yellow Jacket" 4-6-2 steam locomotive.** Chicago & North Western (1942, 1944, and 1952 versions) and two fantasy schemes (Chicago & Eastern Illinois and Seaboard Air Line). Brass boiler, cab, and tender body. Heavy, die-cast metal chassis. Factory-applied parts, including handrails, grab irons, ladders, piping, whistle, bell, and markers. Synchronized puffing smoke with chuff sound. Equipped with rubber traction tires. Minimum recommended radius, 18". Direct-current model, \$699.99. With DCC and sound, \$799.99. Brass-Hybrid series. Broadway Limited Imports, 386-673-8900, [broadway-limited.com](http://broadway-limited.com)



- **Electro-Motive Division SD60 diesel locomotive.** Conrail, Burlington Northern, Canadian National, Norfolk Southern, Soo Line, and Union Pacific. Three road numbers per scheme. All-new tooling. Prototype-specific fuel tank, trucks, and anticlimber. Separate, factory-applied wire grab irons; detailed cab interior; and Celcon handrails. Light-emitting diode lighting. Direct-current model, \$269.99; with DCC and sound, \$369.99. Genesis series. Athearn Trains, 800-338-4639, [athearn.com](http://athearn.com)



- **General Electric ET44-series diesel locomotive.** CPKC, BNSF Ry., Norfolk Southern, and Union Pacific. Four road numbers per scheme. Light-emitting-diode illuminated headlights, front ditch lights, number boxes, walkway lights, rear ditch lights, and red DPU lights as applicable. Road-name-specific details. Traction motor detail and rotating bearing caps on all six axles. Direct-current model, \$249.95; with Digital Command Control and sound, \$329.95. Inter Mountain Railway Co., 303-772-1901, [intermountain-railway.com](http://intermountain-railway.com)
- **Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe-rebuilt CF7 diesel locomotive.** All-new tooling. Two body shells and five cab variations. Separate, factory-applied detail parts; etched-metal windshield wipers; and metal knuckle couplers. Ditch lights as appropriate. Direct current and DCC with sound versions to be offered. Road names and price to be announced. 2025 release. Master Line. Atlas Model Railroad Co., 908-687-0880, [shop.atlasrr.com](http://shop.atlasrr.com)

### HO scale rolling stock



- **Chicago & North Western International Car Co. bay-window caboose system.** Chicago & North

### In Memoriam

Dr. Gerry Albers, 1944-2024

Dr. Gerry Albers, 80, died of cancer on Oct. 13, 2024.

Gerry was a pioneer in developing realistic train control systems for model railroads. He designed and installed a novel computer-based system on longtime friend Allen McClelland's first layout. Gerry's model railroad, the Deepwater District of the Virginian Ry. (*Great Model Railroads 2014*), was fully signaled with logic controlled by the "Signals by Spreadsheet" software that he developed. He gave numerous presentations and clinics at conventions and meetings to share his layout and many techniques.

In addition to his own modeling, Gerry was an active supporter of the hobby. He was a life member of the National Model Railroad Association, served as treasurer and trustee in the NMRA's Cincinnati Chapter, and was chair of the long-running Cincinnati Model Train Show.

He is survived by his wife, Jenny. — *John Burchnell*



John Burchnell photo

Mike Brestel, 1951-2024

Mike Brestel, president of the National Model Railroad Association from 2006 to 2012, died on May 22, 2024. He was 73 years old.

Mike joined the NMRA in 1967. He served the group at the national, regional, and divisional levels in many different capacities over the years.

In addition to the NMRA, Mike was a member of the Cincinnati Model Railway Club and Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society, among other groups.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter, Rebecca; and two granddaughters. — *Frank Koch*



Don Phillips photo



# Marketing Meeting of 2-3-2025 some of the topics discussed

Stephen Pacheco - Response to call for CMRC Marketing Meeting -- Feb 2025

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## Purpose Of Marketing for CMRC

I will attempt to respond to Ralph' email. The key piece from his email is as follows:

focus on what - who - how to reach targets between now and May or June.

I think the first question is "WHO", I say this because I believe the "WHAT" and "HOW" are dependent on "WHO". There is also a question of "WHEN".

I also believe that we should focus on community awareness at this time. Then membership, but donors are likely later.

## Who Should We Be Thinking About Right Now

### New Members – Community Awareness

We might consider a general type of campaign right now. Here are some thoughts:

1. In the library room we could have videos or large pictures on easels of the mall layouts and do some presentations and a Q&A session. The presentation could talk about various aspects of layout building and operations.
2. Presentations for awareness and general audiences need to be less technical than ones targeted at new members.
3. Not sure where, but have a more upscale presentation where we talk about plans to engage the public and get new members. Talk about what the building possibilities are for both outside and inside. Who knows what we might learn.
4. New members represent an interesting challenge. Older / retired folks have more control of their time. Younger members, e.g., teens have a problem in that their time is likely constrained by their school or family commitments. For these people it will likely be necessary to get buy-in from the parents. So, any presentation targeting younger folks should include invitations to parents.
5. Chamber of Commerce organizations often have regular meetings with guest presentations. We should develop a pitch and see about getting on their schedules.
6. We can also look at nearby locations, e.g., Fairfield Glade and Lake Tansi as possible presentation locations. We should include easy "show and tell" items appropriate for the particular audience.
7. Certainly, at any presentation we should collect contact information.
8. Regarding presentations, posters and flyers it would be good to start collecting materials: pictures and videos from the mall layout. If possible, it would be good to make a sketch/drawing of the outside of the new building as there are some interesting proposals being floated. These could be used to start making mock-ups of marketing materials.

## Longer Term Thoughts

Model train club marketing involves promoting the club, its mission, and its events to attract new members, raise donations, and build community awareness. (*This is from an online search.*)

- **Posters:** Put up posters around town, especially in coffee shops. Could use shots from the mall layout at this time.
- **Flyers:** Post flyers at universities and high schools, but check with administration first.
- **Social media:** Create a Facebook group or use an app like Meetup to set up a meeting page. Obviously, we already have a social media presence, but do we need to make changes or promote it better?

- **Local news:** Contact a local news station or paper or school paper to promote the club.
- **Events:** Organize events and activities to promote the club. For now, we need to be cognizant of our building state.
- **Open house:** Have an open house for people to check out the club's model railroads. We can make plans but can not do anything until there is a better idea of the building schedule.



We need to think about younger people and how to reach them. For example, having a QR Code on flyers or posters to get to the club website. *(This was done using a free online service and actually works.)*

At some point we might want to accept smaller donations from people visiting our website or facility. I suggest that we have a VENMO account and associated QR code to allow for those donations.

For now, the goals of the club marketing should be to attract new members and build awareness of the club and its mission.

Some thoughts on membership types from other organizations:

- **Individual membership:** For people who are interested in model railroading
- **Family membership:** For people who want to share their interest in model railroading with their family
- **Junior membership:** For younger people who are interested in model railroading
- **Trial membership:** For people who want to try out the club before committing to a full membership
- **Friend of the Club membership:** For people who want to support the club's mission but aren't ready or interested in full membership. These people might just be interested in seeing us succeed. Could have an occasional social gathering for these people.

## Donors

I believe there are some interesting plans in the work for the new building, in particular the outside, that would provide some interesting opportunities for exposure to donors.

I would suggest that we think about an event where we would invite people to attend a social-type affair and talk about our plans. It would be good if we could have some renderings for the exterior.

We should also have some pictures or videos from the mall layout to show.

I believe that all of this is focused on exposure and not direct solicitation, that to be left to other people to schedule.

It is my opinion that we can make plans, prepare pitches or materials, but cannot actually do anything until asked by those in charge of handling donations.