



TIES AND RAILS

The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

March 2025

Project Manager's Report

As project manager, I thought I would bring you up to date. I have been very frustrated with waiting for people to return my calls just for an estimate. Our Architect is working on our project and in early February he informed me that the city requires an Engineering & Civil survey. This survey will give us the specifics on the property, like where we can hook up to the water, sewer and gas and where the building will be placed among other things. The architect said that his guy is charging \$12,500. Jim & I thought that was high, so after contacting companies that we knew that did this kind of survey, it took over 2 weeks for them to get back to me. Environmental & Civil Engineering Services came in at \$8750. The owner of ECE told me that he came down considerably because of hearing of our situation and being supportive of CMRC. This email came to me on Thursday, February 20th after some emails back & forth, I was informed that if they could get the signed agreement and a down payment by Monday, February 24, they could get us on their schedule for the next week to 10 days to start. I plan on meeting with Jan at the environmental & Civil Engineering Services office first thing Monday morning.

In the mean time, I have met with the general contractor (and texting several times) and he knew the owner of ECE, has done several jobs with Blake Construction, (our contractor) and they do good work and has worked with the contractor on many occasions. They also have worked with the Crossville Codes Department often.

I'm sure I will have a further update for the March meeting, which is March 10 at Roane State.

Ann Grogitsky

Remember New Meeting Location

Roane State Campus, Cook Rd

Just past Stone Memorial High School

Board Meeting March 3rd, 10am at Shoney's

March 10th, 2025

Social Hour 3:30 Membership at 4pm



Saturday March 8, 2025 10-5
Sunday March 9, 2025 10-4
The Clarence Brown Conference Center
5450 GA Hwy 20, Cartersville, GA

**8 Operating Layouts, 180 Vendor Tables,
"White Elephant", Raffle Layout and Train
Set Give a way and loads of fun!**

Early Bird Tickets are available this year!!!

Early Bird tickets are \$25 to admit you at 9am on
March 8th for the Model Train Enthusiasts to get first
picks at the vendors and White Elephant!!!

Admission is just \$10 for regular show hours,
Kids 9 and under are FREE
\$25 for Early Bird Entry, 9-10 AM on Saturday March
8th, 2025

Purchase tickets on line!!!

<https://ThePiedmontDivisionModelTrainShow.com>



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division of the National Model Railroad Association

www.Piedmont-Div.org

EDITOR'S NOTES: On February 19th, President Ed Potts and myself had a meeting to clear the air in the matter of how best to continue our journey forward for the club and the UCRS. Hoping to continue the cooperation we have enjoyed for the last ten plus years. It was a very honest and open exchange of many of the points on which we differ, with a goal to address those differences and come up with a plan which protects both the club and our sister organization, the UCRS.

I am sure some members feel they need to blame one group or the another for what seems like endless delays. While we continue to struggle with a workable lease/rent agreement, the major stumbling block now is that the we need to get all the legal inspections and we do not have a site plan as yet or a proposed floor plan (as of 2/28). Without that drawing, trying to plan building space usage is pointless. We need to know where the rest rooms and the storage areas are to be located so we can determine our five layout placements, UCRS display area and aisleways .

Step one for us is creating the agreement in which we can financially afford to secure the land.

When reviewing repayment options and discussing ten to fifteen year financial obligations, it would be shortsighted if we do not consider the club's longevity with so many older members who have been the backbone of the organization dating back to the club's creation. Personally I believe at least one or two of the plans under consideration are very doable. And since we have been around for twenty-four years and survived the last two, I am confident we can make this work. But we need to promote younger members to the club.

Pat Taylor, Vice President
Newsletter Editor

The MARCH 10th meeting will be one all members should make plans to attend. Its YOUR CLUB!



87 West Avenue





City of Niota



MAY 4, 9AM - 5PM & MAY 5, 10 AM - 4PM

IF YOU ARE SETTING UP A MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____@_____

Type of Display: _____ Size of Display: _____

Will you need Electric: _____ (Please bring extension cords)

Displays will be in either the Depot or the Community Building across the street from the Depot.. You will be informed which location prior to the show.

IF YOU ARE SELLING AT THE SHOW

Name of Organization/Business: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____@_____

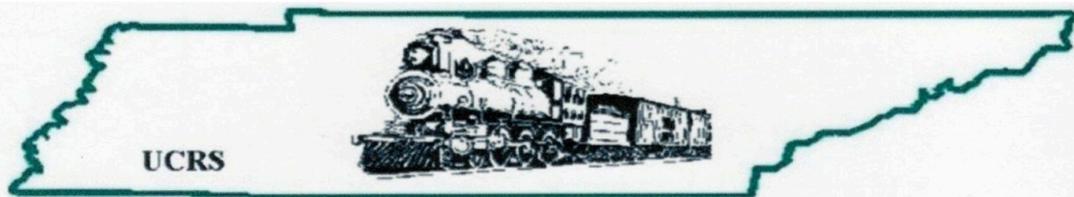
Vendor Tables \$20. How Many tables do you want to reserve?: _____

Will you need Electric: _____ (Please bring extension cords)

Vendors will be in either the Depot or the Community Building across the street from the Depot.. Make checks payable to the City of Niota

Completed Forms can be Mailed, Faxed or Emailed to the contact information above.

Deadline for registration is FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2024



Upper Cumberland Railroad Society

A Chartered Tennessee Non-Profit Corporation, IRC 501(c)(3) designated

UCRS Clinic - (No Charge)

Model R/R Electrical—Special Circumstances

Location:

**St. Francis of Assisi Church (Sheehan Hall)
7503 Peavine Rd., Fairfield Glade. TN 38558**

Date & Time: Mar 15, 2025, 9AM to Noon

This Clinic explores the world of special circumstances surrounding the electrical wiring issues and techniques associated with turnouts, reverse loops, etc., which require knowledge pertaining to special wiring for that particular Mfg., Code and model of track being used.

**Call (931-788-0455) or E-Mail Art Landrigan
(uppercumberlandrailroadsociety@gmail.com)
to reserve your place today.**

My Journey Through Model Railroading by Ralph Watson

My first train was a Lionel set that was purchased when I was just over three years old. I think it smoked and whistled, and it went backwards and forwards and special cars unloaded things. I beat the heck out of it. Later my sister and I ran it at full speed around a folded figure 8 up and over on trestles built on a sheet of Homasote. I still have it now. It has a different tender and a different shell on the locomotive but it's still MY train. Still have the cars, but no track or accessories. With some cleaning and lubrication, it will run again. During my late 20's working in Orlando, I got a Tyco HO set and built a 2 track main line oval and placed it on plywood over sawhorses in the dining room for the kids(!) to play with. I used the 2 handle power pack from the Lionel and made a bridge rectifier from Radio Shack parts to convert the current to DC. It was fun and ran reasonably well. Then the two year old burned her hand on the light-bulb because I had the shade off when I was underneath the layout. That was the end of that and we got dining room furniture.

Many years (2008) later after moving to Seneca, SC, we joined a Newcomers organization that matched up people who shared interests and hobbies. There was a guy about my age sitting at the Model Trains table with a 12 inch piece of pink foam with some track and a Western Maryland Loco and box car. We got talking and I joined the Central Railway Model & Historical Association. It was a lot of fun, and very educational. I met some amazing modelers who are still my friends. Check CRMHA.org to get an idea of what they are up these days. This is where I started fiddling with ON30 modules. Retirement brought us to Crossville in 2018 and the opportunity to continue to have fun running trains and make new friends. The upheaval and expenses of moving (owning houses) followed by the remodeling of the current abode, has me in a good place to "just run some trains". My layout room is finished. I have 7 On30 modules set up and connected. Ready to start running some new track and basic wiring. Scenery and advanced electronics are also on the to do list.

There are also 10 pieces of a 15 x 30 HO layout in my garage that need to be carried up the 15 stairs and rebuilt into a working railroad. Several CMRC members have been to the house. All are welcome almost any time. Call/text to 931 248 4263 or email to rxalph@gmail.com and we can have some fun.

Photos on next page

Lets Feature Your Layout in the Newsletter

If you would like to have your layout both present or past, I would love to visit your layout and takes pictures. Then, discuss your handy work be it in the process or well on the way to being ready to run trains. If you are interested, all you need to do is contact me to setup an appointment to tour your layout.

Reach Me at 937-533-0897 or pattaylorntn@gmail.com.

Message about Land Use.

Camp Nakanawa is a girls camp on over 1,000 acres with a 150 acre lake near Mayland, TN. This camp is owned by Pepe and Ann Perron.

In 2013, Pepe and Ann asked the Crossville Model Railroad Club to build a diorama of Camp Nakanawa. It took us almost a year and over 800 hours. We measured every building and scratch-built all 59 structures. We continue to go there 2 or 3 times a year to clean and check up on the layout. We had a dedication on July 12, 2014

To show their appreciation for this project, they are donating \$100,000. to the Crossville Model Railroad Club. They both feel that by owning our own building, we would not be faced with the problem that we are in now.

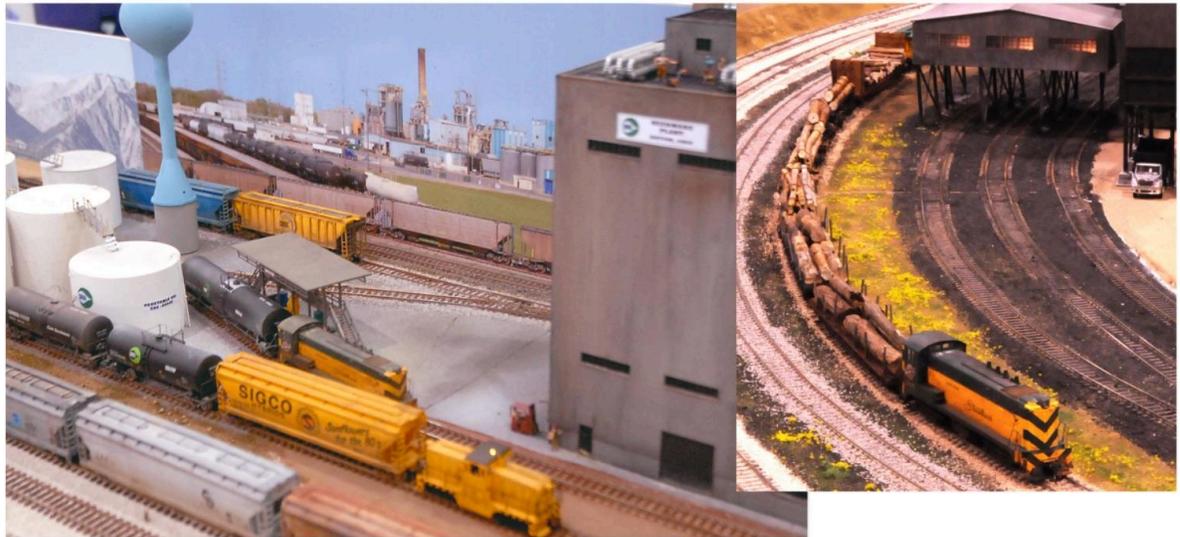
Because of our relationship with Wayne & Suzanne Smith and their dedication to the Crossville Model Railroad Club, they sold us the property on West ave. at about \$40,000 less than the actual retail value.

With our relationship with Cameron Sexton, he was able to put me in touch with someone who was willing to donate \$10,000 toward a new building.

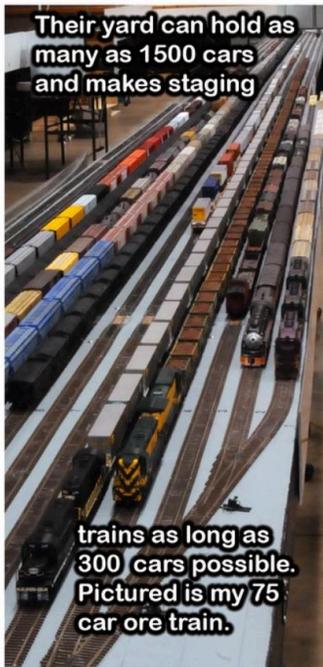
For these reasons, Jim & I strongly believe that the deed to the property including the building should be in the Crossville Model Railroad Club's name.

Ann





This page contained one of my modules with the Miami Valley Model Railway (MVMR) who have come down to Crossville four times in support of the club. It features a Cargill plant serviced by both train and truck. The rusty abandoned Purina mill next store is being rehabbed by Cargill. Upper right is my log train.

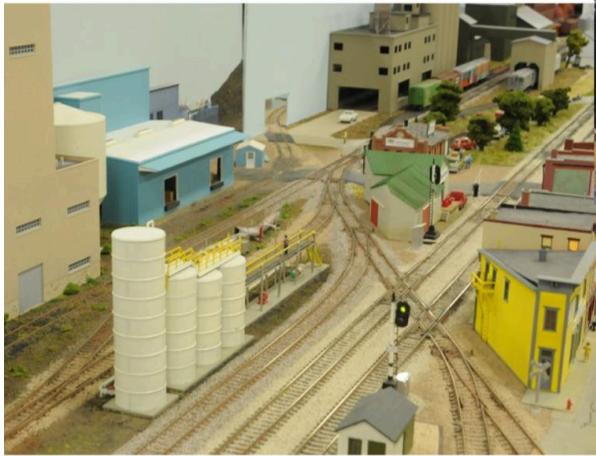
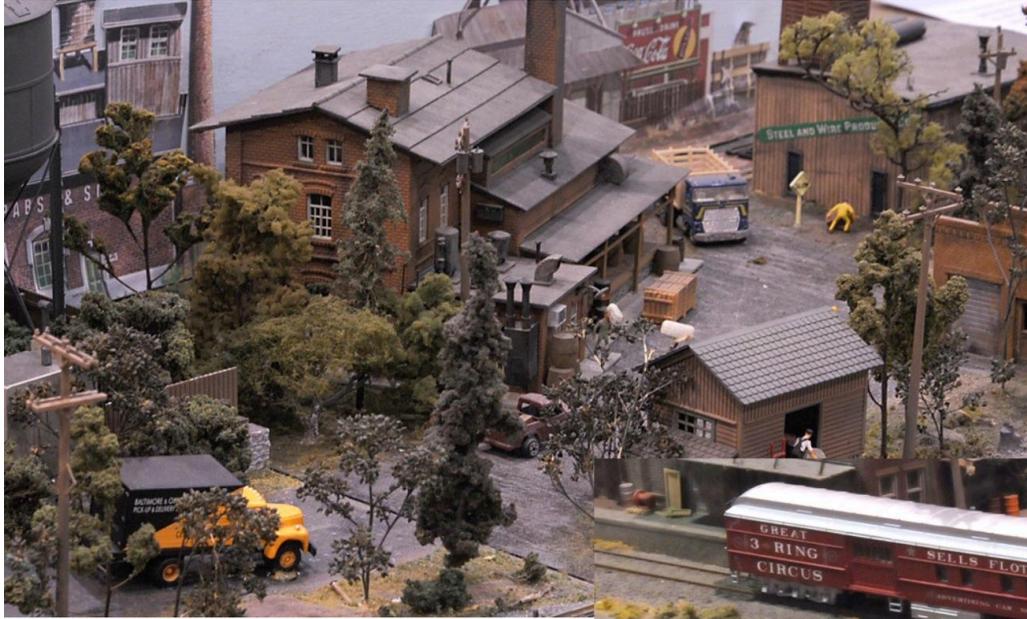


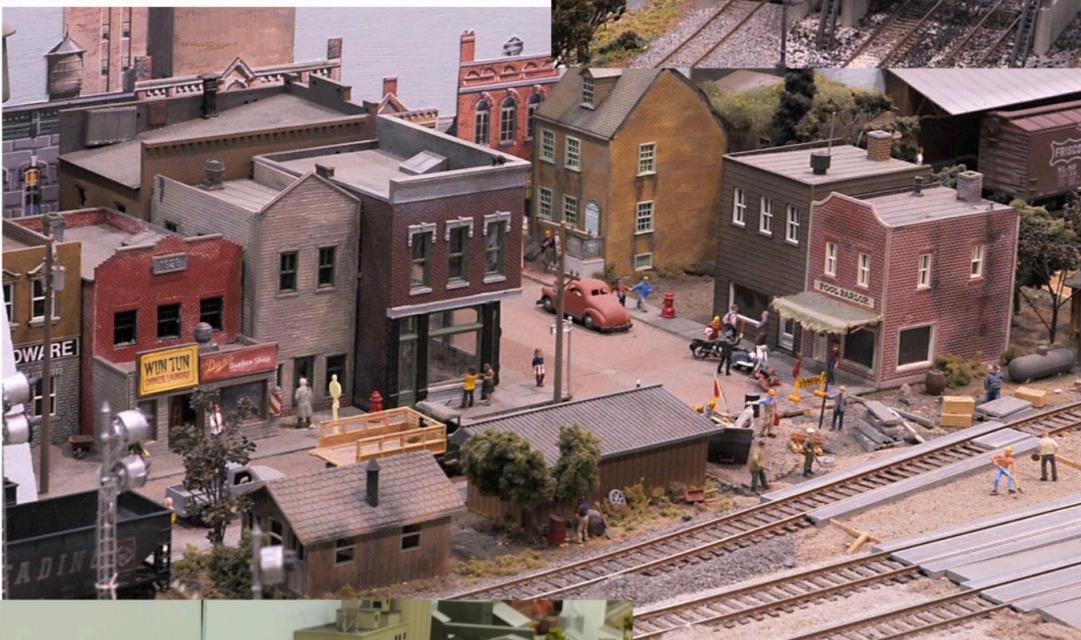
Their yard can hold as many as 1500 cars and makes staging

trains as long as 300 cars possible. Pictured is my 75 car ore train.

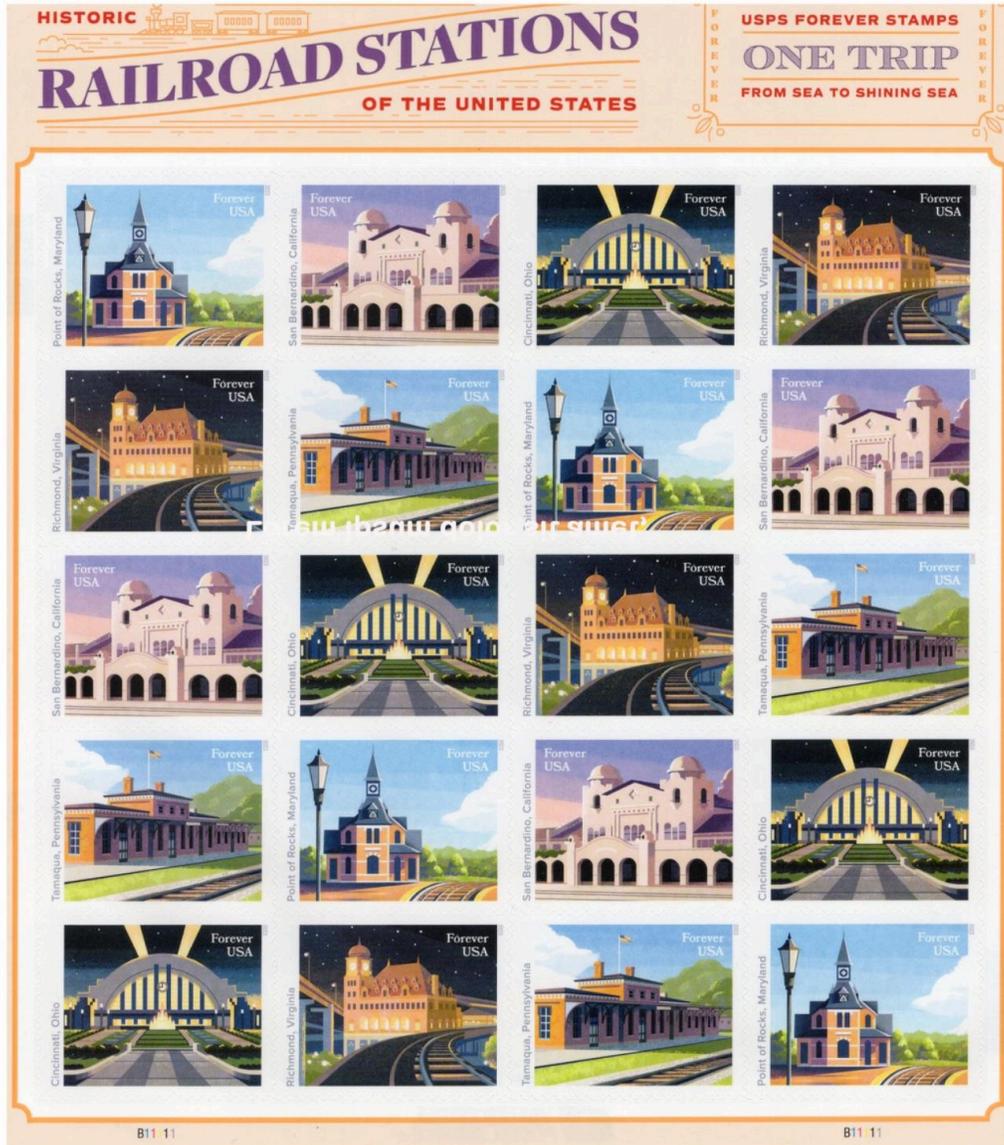


The images on the next two pages were taken in Crossville at one of their four visits.





New Historical Stamps featuring famous train stations throughout America.



ATTENTION MEMBERS

During our meeting very few members ask questions, not sure why but your opinions and questions need to be heard and addressed. I understand not all people are comfortable speaking in public but you are entitled to be heard. If you would like your opinions and questions answered, contact any board member by phone or email to have your concerns heard.

MEMORIES



**From
the
Mall!**

