



January 2026 The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

Greetings From Our President,

We are about to leave one of the most difficult years in the history of the Crossville Model Railroad Club. We have lived through two plus years without a home. Hopefully, due to the efforts of the previous administrations, that is about to change in 2026. We are close, but there is still a long way to go. We are still tens of thousands of dollars short of what is needed to complete that goal.

Based on a signed Organizational Agreement between the Crossville Model Railroad Club (CMRC) and our sister organization Upper Cumberland Railroad Society (UCRS), the UCRS (based on their tax exempt status) will lead the fund raising efforts. The reason for this is that they are the organization that can issue tax deduction documents to donors who request them. The CMRC cannot do so based on its 501c7 status.

Now for the gorilla in the room. Initial on-line research seems to indicate that CMRC cannot solicit public donations in excess of 35% of what members contribute. With 60 members paying just \$30 a year, member contributions would total \$1,800 a year. Then 35% of that total comes to a mere \$630. Obviously, the club cannot survive on that. Your Board of Directors will need to engage outside professional help to advise us on what we can do to continue operating as we have in the past. There is no easy answer and saying we always did it that way will not hold up in any court.

In the time honored words of John F Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." I say the same to you, "Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club." There are many committees out there and few names assigned to them. Please take a look on the members only page and see where you can help. There is an unlisted group that consisted of all of the scale coordinators charged with allocation of space and setting standards for the layouts. I am looking for someone to head this group and will open it up to any member wishing to be part of that process (but no more than two members per scale). A representative of UCRS should also be part of that group.

Lastly, for those of you who attended this year's Christmas dinner, I want to thank you for coming. Your generosity of gift donations for door prizes made it possible for everyone to go home with something. We actually had more gifts than people and had to dip into the 50/50 tickets to give out the last four items. To be honest, this years bill of fare fell short of previous years. The restaurant is under new management and I attribute it to that lack of history. We may need to seek a new location. Let me know what you thought.

I wish you good health and good cheer now and in the coming New Year.

Best Wishes,

Bruce Herring - President
Crossville Model Railroad Club



On the coldest day of the year, we held a successful frozen ground breaking on our lot at 87 West Ave. The event was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Pepe Perron who are our major donors of the \$100,000.00. Also in attendance were our contractors and a city council member who is also our insurance carrier. Thank you for all the members who braved the cold to support this very important project.



ATTENTION MEMBERS
Just a reminder that membership dues are due by the January meeting. They can also be mailed to :
Mike Durnwald at
45 Cedar Ridge Circle
Fairfield Glade, TN
38558



Club Christmas Tree Display at FNB of TN

Each year for many holiday seasons the club has participated in the annual decoration challenge at First National Bank of Tennessee.

This year we were placed next to the Taylor Swift tree. Hard to compete against but our crew did the best they could and the tree looks good.

Special thanks to Ralph and Bruce for taking their time to get us some more FREE exposure for the club.





The annual Holiday Party was held on December 9th at the Lake Tansi restaurant. A little over forty people were in attendance.

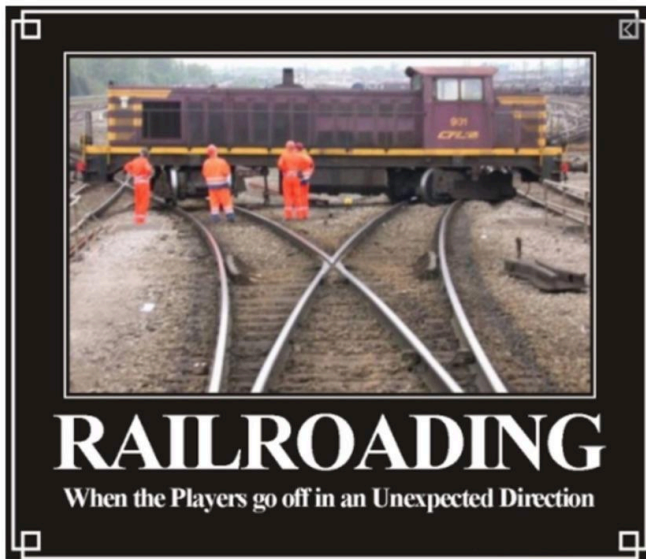
Bruce did another great job of organizing the event. He also spend a great deal of time creating the Christmas Song trivia game. He stumped a lot of people with his skillful fill in the blank test.



Both Ralph Watson and Mike Durnwald were presented with the 2025 Presidential Awards for service to the club. Both have displayed a great deal of extra effort for the direct benefit of the club. They both deserved their awards.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE?

A few months ago when fundraising by club members was discussed only two members stepped forward to announce they would donate above and beyond membership dues and to donate additional funds. The two were Al Barnes who offered 10K and Pat Taylor who offered 5K including an alarm systems and four years of monitoring as part of his donation. We need to raise a lot of funds just in order to finish the building. Its time to step up and show your support.



Christmas Songs - Name That Tune

SCIC TT	<u>Santa Claus is Coming to Town</u>		<u>every street corner</u>
ISMK SC	<u>I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause</u>	1. Where will you hear Silver Bells?	<u>Frosty the Snowman</u>
JB	<u>Jingle Bells</u>	2. Who danced with a silk hat on his head?	<u>on the Housetop</u>
IDOAW C	<u>I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas</u>	3. Where would you find Reindeer Paws?	<u>Christmas day, in the morning</u>
RTRNR	<u>Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer</u>	4. When did I see those three ships come sailing in?	<u>me turkey and some Mistletoe</u>
CROA OF	<u>Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire</u>	5. What is it that helps to make the season bright?	<u>VIN!</u>
DYHWIH	<u>Do You Hear What I Hear</u>	6. Who still wants a hula hoop?	<u>little town of Bethlehem</u>
AIAM	<u>Away in a Manger</u>	7. Where do the hopes and fears of all the years meet?	<u>you really hold me tight</u>
FTS	<u>Frosty the Snowman</u>	8. What would keep me warm all the way home?	<u>I can wish you a Merry Christmas</u>
O CAYF	<u>O Come All Ye Faithful</u>	9. Why does the child want his two front teeth?	<u>me Figgy Pudding, bring it right here</u>
ICUAM C	<u>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear</u>	10. What will entice the carolers to leave?	<u>Je</u>
OLTO B	<u>O Little Town of Bethlehem</u>	11. What color is Christmas without you?	<u>erson Brown</u>
JTTW	<u>Joy to the World</u>	12. What is the name of the parson in the meadow?	<u>on Miss Fanny Bright</u>
SN	<u>Silent Night</u>	13. Who will soon be sitting by my side?	<u>e ox and lamb kept time</u>
LIS	<u>Let it Snow</u>	14. Who kept time with the little drummer boy?	<u>iel</u>
WCIT	<u>What Child is This</u>	15. ABCDEFGHIJKMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ	
TTDOC	<u>The Twelve Days of Christmas</u>		
GRYMG	<u>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</u>		
HTHAS	<u>Hark, The Herald Angels Sing</u>		
WWYAM C	<u>We Wish You a Merry Christman</u>		

Continued on page 6

The next membership meeting location, date and time will be announced soon. Watch your email for details.

**YOUR DUES
ARE DUE
by the January
meeting.
See page two for
mailing instructions**

Departed Member

Have been notified that Frank Pica has passed away December 26 in New York City from the effects of leukemia. He was being treated at Sloan-Kettering. This was his second bout with cancer.

No details are available yet as to funeral or memorial services. His name will be added to the 911 responder memorial in Manhattan. He was a Police officer in Hartford Connecticut. Frank modeled enthusiastically in HO scale. His home layout has beautiful BLI steam power, operating signals, and excellent scenery work. R.I.P.

Christmas Parade Attended by Thousands



Again many thanks go out to Ralph and Henry for building the sign stand.

Thanks to Pat for paying for the new signs and car magnets.

The Christmas Parade crew consisted of Ralph W, John K, Marty K and Pat T.

Literally 1000s lined the route.

Match the Quote to its Movie

Movie

- Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer
- It's a Wonderful Life
- The Christmas Story
- A Christmas Carol
- National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
- Miracle on 34th Street
- A Charlie Brown Christmas
- How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- Home Alone
- The Nightmare Before Christmas
- The Santa Clause
- Elf
- Christmas With The Kranks
- The Polar Express
- Frosty the Snowman

Quote

- | | |
|----------|--|
| H | A. He puzzled and puzzeled til his puzzler was sore? |
| L | B. You'll put your eye out kid. |
| B | C. Merry Christmas, ya filthy animal. |
| I | D. Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see. |
| M | E. I'll only stay inside for a minute. Besides, I've been meaning to take off a little weight anyway. |
| O | F. You sit on a throne of lies. |
| N | G. How Horrible our Christmas will be. |
| A | H. Bumbles Bounce! |
| C | I. I forged these chains during my life. |
| G | J. How come you clothes are so baggy? Because Santa is watching his saturated fats. |
| J | K. You're Skipping Christmas! Isn't that against the law? |
| F | L. When a bell rings an angel gets its wings. |
| K | M. Their not twinkling Clark. |
| D | N. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket. It's run by a big eastern syndicate, you know. |
| E | O. Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind. |

This letter was sent to out major donor after I met him and his wife at the ground-breaking. Our paths crossed about a week later at the library board room where he told me in front of other club members it was the best letter he has ever received,- further endearing him to the CMRC where future donations will likely be needed.



The
Crossville Model Railroad Club
87 West Avenue, Crossville TN 38555
Est. 2001

December 5, 2025

Mr. and Mrs. Pepe Perron
759 Camp Nakanawa Road
Crossville, TN 38572

COPY

Dear Pepe and Ann ,

It is a quite common practice when greeting someone for the first time to say, "It's an honor to meet you." It is hopefully always done with sincerity. But in this case, I truly could not have been anymore sincere, and you might say I was even somewhat in "awe" meeting the couple who literally saved the railroad club from becoming extinct. And that is by no means an overstatement. Your contribution we hope will preserve the club for future generations to enjoy and what you placed such value on and enjoyed sharing with your grandson.

It is my hope over the next many years we will attract more dedicated hobbyist who will keep this club alive and active so even your grandson will be able to bring his children to enjoy "the trains."

Even with the genius foresight of Jim and Ann in securing the lot for our use, the groundbreaking and the new building would not have been possible without you and Ann. You both have supported what can only be described as amazing assets to our community. To think that you felt our contributions needed to be preserved gives us the encouragement to forge on to re-establish our presents in this great community.

With sincere thanks and heartfelt admiration,

Patrick Taylor, President, Crossville Model Railroad Club

Copies to: CMRC Board

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Upper Cumberland Model Train Show

⇒ Public Show Saturday June 13th 2026 9:00 am to 4:00 pm ←

Sponsored by:



Central Tennessee Model Railroaders

Vendor Information	Location
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set-up and Vendor Swap Meet Friday June 12th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm• Friday at 5:30 pm: Vendor met-Up at Logan's Roadhouse at:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1395 Interstate Dr, Cookeville, TN 38501• Several Hotels such as Baymont, Quality Inn, Days Inn are \$50-60 per night with free breakfast, if reservations are made early• Make checks payable to: Central TN Model Railroaders• Mail the below to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CTMRR % Marti Foster 3760 Brookwood Dr Cookeville, TN 38501	 <p>Heavenly Host Lutheran Church 777 South Willow Ave, Cookeville, TN 38506 Directions from I-40 in Tennessee Get off at Exit 286 for Willow Ave If approaching from Nashville turn left on Willow If approaching from Knoxville turn right on Willow Drive north around 8/10ths of a mile Enter Parking Lot just past the church</p>

For table availability call: (931) 544-3411 General Questions Call: (931) 239-5066

Vendor Registration Form

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Email: _____

8-foot tables: 1 @ \$25 + _____ additional @ \$20 each = Total: _____

Last day for refund: May 30th 2026

**THE
PIEDMONT DIVISION**



MODEL TRAIN SHOW

Saturday March 14, 2026 10-5

Sunday March 15, 2026 10-4

The Clarence Brown Conference Center
5450 GA Hwy 20, Cartersville, GA

Celebrating 5 years in Cartersville, GA!

Piedmont Division has been hosting 2 day Model Train Shows for 28 years!

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

Early Bird Tickets are available this year!!!

Early Bird tickets are \$25 to admit you at 9am on March 14th for the Model Train Enthusiasts to get first picks at the vendors and White Elephant!!!

Early Bird Entry, \$25, 9-10 AM on Saturday March 14th, 2026

General Admission - \$10 for regular show hours Saturday 10-5, Sunday 10-4.

Kids 9 and under are FREE

Tickets are good for both show days!↓

Purchase tickets on line!!!

<https://ThePiedmontDivisionModelTrainShow.com>



Sponsored by the Piedmont Division of the National Model Railroad Association.
www.Piedmont.Div.org