



# TIES AND RAILS

February 2026      The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

## From the President:

Welcome to a new year. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. I remember the 200th anniversary in 1976. It was the year my wife Arlene and I started our lives together.

Being a new year also means that your membership dues need to be paid. Please get them to our treasurer as soon as possible.

We are getting closer to our new home. Excavation is scheduled to begin this week. Keep your fingers crossed.

Just a reminder, that based on our agreement with UCRS, all donations submitted towards the construction of the new building needs to go to UCRS. They are the ones paying the bills for its construction.

See you at the February 9th membership meeting.

Bruce D Herring-President  
Crossville Model Railroad Club

### Officers

Bruce Herring	President
Al Barnes	Vice President
Richard Morris	Secretary
Mike Durnwald	Treasurer
Jim Grogitsky	Director
Tom Shallcross	Director
Marcus Simms	Director

### Scale Coordinators

G Scale	Ann Grogitsky
HO Scale	Marcus Simms
O Scale	Bruce Herring
N Scale	Jan Novack

NMRA      Art Landrigan

### Committees

Membership	Tom Shallcross
Public Relations	Ann Grogitsky
Marketing	Ralph Watson

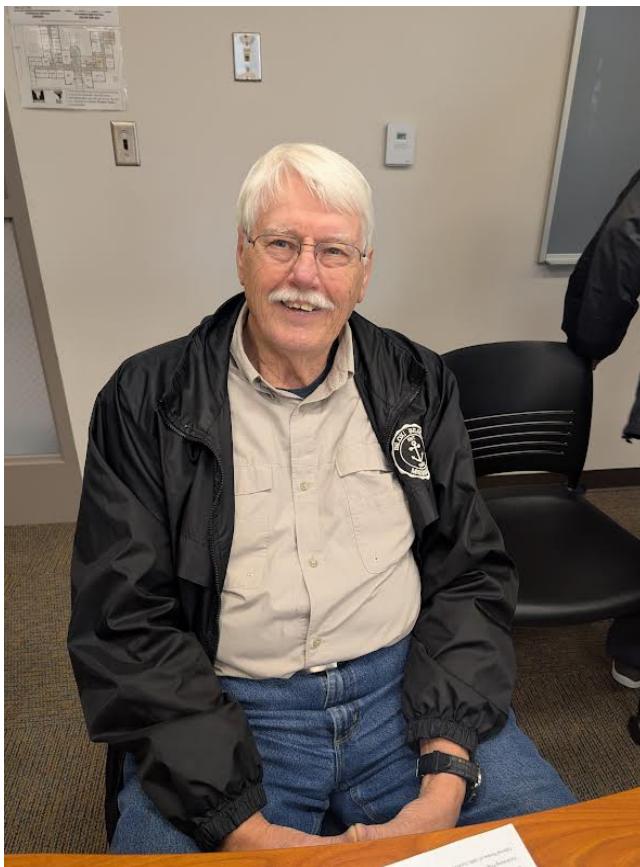
### In Memoriam:

A long-time member, Jack Holland, passed away early Monday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, at home in Georgia. He was active in the club before he moved south before the club left the mall.

## NEW MEMBERS

Three new members were approved at the January Board meeting.

First is **Adrian Dark**. He models in HO (and OO) and O scales. He is interested in Operations, Construction, Scenery, Kit building, Layout design and general activity. Lots of good interests there as we start rebuilding.



Next up is **Larry McNamara**. His scale is HO. He is interested in Operations, Kit building, Maintenance and General activity.

Finally we have **Thomas Reigle**. He doesn't have a scale he models in—but he made the wooden trains that were on the wall at the display at the mall.

## Marketing Committee News

For those who were unable to attend the Membership meeting on January 13, here is a summary of my report and a look at our upcoming plans.

Our committee—consisting of Sharon Shallcross, Steve Pacheco, Bill Bly (remotely), Bruce Herring, and myself—is focusing on the following objectives:

- Public Relations: Partnering with PR to promote our new location and provide updates on building progress through newspapers, radio, hobby magazines/websites, and billboards.
- UCRS Coordination: Defining our role in supporting fundraising efforts contrasted with the acceptance of unsolicited gifts, and determining appropriate content for our PR materials and website.
- Designing and printing a new tri-fold brochure.
- Donor Recognition: Designing and posting a donor appreciation "wall" on CMRC.org or UCRS.org.
- Membership Outreach: Connecting with former members to understand their concerns and encourage them to renew. Ralph will handle these as private, one-on-one discussions; no statistics will be kept and details will remain confidential.
- Social Media: Appointing a new Facebook page manager. Is Instagram appropriate for CMRC?

If you have questions or would like to join the Marketing Committee, please contact Ralph at [rxalph@gmail.com](mailto:rxalph@gmail.com) or 931-248-4263.

**All trains delayed until further notice!**



## NMRA NEWS

The National Convention in 2026 is being held in Chattanooga starting Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 2. The National Train Show will be Saturday and Sunday, August 1-2.

The following is a rough, tentative schedule of events as they are set at this time.



### **Sunday, July 26th:**

Layout Open Houses in surrounding cities from all directions on the way to Chattanooga (Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, Northern Georgia, Birmingham, and Huntsville). Tours will be self-driving, and layouts will be open during the daytime.

Possible afternoon steam excursion in Nashville pulled by NC&StL 576 (not part of convention).

7" gauge Eagle Point RR will have afternoon op session near Dayton TN (not part of the convention).

Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the evening.

### **Monday, July 27th:**

Convention Check-in opens.

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.

Clinics start after lunch.

Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the evening.

Possible Industry Tours.

Non-Rail Events.

**Tuesday, July 28th:**

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.  
Clinics all day.

Morning and afternoon operating sessions on three layouts onsite. Open to convention attendees.

Possible Industry Tours.

Non-Rail Events.

Dinner train at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM).

Several Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the evening.

**Wednesday, July 29th:**

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.  
Clinics all day.

TVRM steam Missionary Ridge Local pulled by Southern 4501 and Backshop tour.

Morning and afternoon operating sessions on three layouts onsite. Open to convention attendees.

Non-Rail events.

Dinner train at the TVRM.

Night photo session of TVRM steam at the museum.

Several Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the evening.

**Thursday, July 30th:**

TVRM All-day steam special to Summerville GA pulled by TVRM Southern 4501.

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.  
Clinics all day.

Morning and afternoon operating sessions on three layouts onsite. Open to convention attendees.

Non-Rail events.

Possible Industry Tours.

Several Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the

evening.

**Friday, July 31st:**

TVRM all-day Hiwassee Turn through the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.

Clinics all day.

7" gauge Eagle Point RR will have afternoon operating session near Dayton TN (not part of the convention).

Morning and afternoon operating sessions on three layouts onsite. Open to convention attendees.

Non-Rail events.

Possible Industry Tours.

Several Operating sessions in Chattanooga. Sessions will be held in the evening.

**Saturday, August 1st:**

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC all day in the Chattanooga Convention Center. Show open to convention attendees prior to the public opening.

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.

Clinics all day.

Morning and afternoon operating sessions on three layouts onsite. Open to convention attendees.

**Sunday, August 2nd:**

NATIONAL TRAIN SHOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC all day at the Chattanooga Convention Center

Chattanooga 2026 T-TRAK Awards Breakfast Buffet.

Layout Open Houses in the Chattanooga area. These are self-driving.

Layout Open Houses in surrounding cities from all directions on the way home (Atlanta, Nashville, Knoxville, Northern Georgia, Birmingham, and Huntsville).

Tours will be self-driving, and layouts will be open during the daytime.

Send any submissions for future newsletters to Richard Morris at:  
[rmorris52@twlakes.net](mailto:rmorris52@twlakes.net)

**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!**

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

## **Member Assistance Needed!**

I will be attending this show and I have rented four tables which is more than I have ever done before. I am looking for someone who is willing to help me at this show. My wife, my normal trusted assistant, has a conflict for that weekend. The show staff unloads the car and reloads it at the completion of the show on Sunday.

Set up on Friday afternoon. I need help setting up and manning the booth during the show. You get two night in a motel in your own room and all meals are included. During the show you will have plenty of time to shop.

We would leave Crossville around noon on Friday the 13th and return at approximately 6:30pm on the 15th. If you are willing to help please call me at 937-533-0897. Pat Taylor

**Save the Date!**

**Central Railway Museum's**



**Model Train  
Expo 2026**

**Fri – Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00 – 6:00 pm**

**Sat – Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 3:00 pm**

**Rock Springs Church – Impact Center**

**207 Rock Springs Road**

**Easley, South Carolina 29642**

**Admission \$10.00 Adults**

Under 10 **Free** with adult

Admission good both days

**8+ Operating Model Railroads**

**KidZone**

with Thomas & Brio

**180+ Dealer Tables**



**COMPLETE INFO AT: [WWW.CRMHA.ORG](http://WWW.CRMHA.ORG)**

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Scott Unger – (412) 491-4655 [scott.d.unger01@gmail.com](mailto:scott.d.unger01@gmail.com)