



# TIES AND RAILS

May 2026 The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

## From the President:

A quick status update on the building project. We have created a new organization called the Crossville Railroad Historical Society and have applied to the IRS for a 501c3 designation. That will allow us to construct the building, and provide a home for the Crossville Model Railroad Club. This may take a few months, so bear with us a while longer. Thank you,  
Bruce Herring

## From the Marketing Committee

I have been exploring the possibility of CMRC hosting a train show in August at the local National Guard armory. The facility offers a good-sized room with 35 tables and is conveniently located on the main roads (Sparta Hwy and West Ave) near landmarks like Kroger, Rural King, and KFC. There is also plenty of parking available.

The currently available dates are August 21–22 or August 28–29. Scheduling the event during these weekends would help us avoid the distraction of football games later in the fall.

While my next meeting with the representative in charge is after the newsletter deadline, I wanted to share these details now so we can begin discussing how to make this happen.

Ralph Watson

### Officers

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

### Scale Coordinators

G Scale	Ann Grogitsky
HO Scale	Marcus Simms
O Scale	Bruce Herring
N Scale	John Isham

NMRA Art Landrigan

### Committees

Membership	Vacant
Public Relations	Ann Grogitsky
Marketing	Ralph Watson

## Help Request!

Calling all **strong** train fans.

My HO layout is in the “put the pieces back together” phase. I need some help with lifting, shoving, aligning and fastening the various tables together.

This layout is upstairs (15 steps) and some of the sections are. If you don't have a cardiologist and orthopedic surgeon on speed dial, please let me know what days between May 3 to 9 we can get this done.

I also want to get a group together to start making track repairs and rewiring the layout.

Text me.

931-248-4263

rxalph@gmail.com

## NMRA News

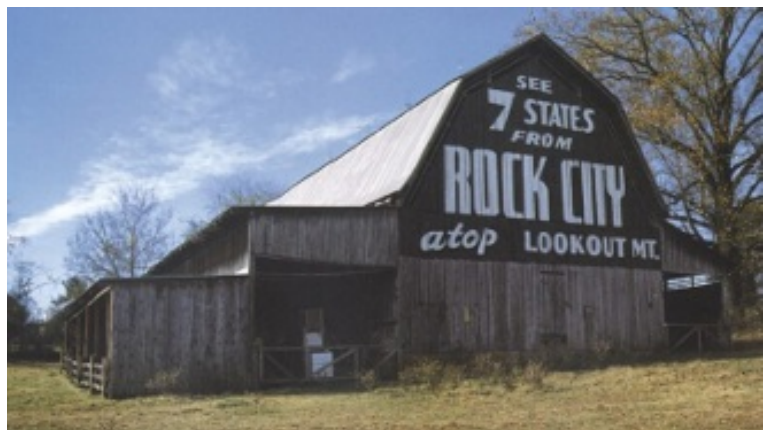
As you hopefully have heard, the NMRA is holding this year's convention in Chattanooga. Go to <https://www.nmra2026.org/> for all the info on the meet.

They are having a special modeling contest. Here are the details.

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## Rock City Barn Modeling Event

With the first NMRA national Convention to ever be held in the State of Tennessee in July 2026, we are excited to announce the Rock City Barn people's choice modeling event. We are encouraging new modelers and first-time scratch builders, along with modelers of all experience levels to research, plan and build their own iconic Rock City Barn. While outside of the



standard National Model Contest and AP judging that will of course be held at the

2026 Chattanooga Convention, the committee will offer positive and encouraging feedback on all entries. Prizes will be awarded that are related to the theme of the event.

Why have this unique event at the Convention? Starting in the heights of the great depression in the mid-1930s, Clark Byers initiated an ingenious marketing campaign to promote the now famous Rock City atop Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga. Clark continued his work painting his signs on barns for 30 years, and by his retirement he had left his work on some 900 barns in 19 States. Only some 60 odd of the original Rock City barns remain, most of which are in Tennessee.

A highway beautification act in 1965 caused many of these iconic signs to be painted over and many of the barns have fallen into disrepair. But to the millions of people that travel through the South during the last 80 years – the Rock City barns remain a timeless view of the rural South and a treasured symbol of Americana.



So please consider participating in this unique opportunity to celebrate this slice of American history. There will be information to support your efforts on the 2026 Convention website with a detailed history and photos to consider. You can research a specific barn, freelance or even use a commercial kit. We are investigating opportunities to have decals produced in various gauges and signage types and will include information on the site as soon as we can. A follow up article is planned for how the people's choice event will be conducted with all the information you will need. So, start thinking about your Rock City barn, and enjoy the modeling! We look forward to seeing and displaying your work at the Convention!



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Please send anything for the newsletter to Richard Morris

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