



TIES AND RAILS

September 2026 The Monthly Publication of the Crossville Model Railroad Club

From the President: Greetings,

Summer is just about over. The kids are back in school. The temperatures are beginning to cool off a bit. It is time to start planning our Halloween home displays (even if the stores are already doing Christmas). Speaking of Christmas, come visit our booth at the "Lunch on the Lawn" event at the Community Complex on Friday, September 4th and enjoy a small North Pole train display. We will also have our traditional free bag of popcorn for you to enjoy.

You may have noticed some activity at the 87 West Avenue site. The owners have moved ahead with some preliminary groundwork at their own expense. The club has had a bit of a setback as we were just informed that our IRS paperwork we thought was already in the works was never submitted. The agency doing the work for us found the application buried in a stack of papers on a former employee's desk after that person left the company. That is four months we will not get back. We are sad but determined to keep moving forward with our goal of a home that we will own. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Happy Fall Y'All
The Officers and Members of
The Crossville Model Railroad Club

Officers

Bruce Herring (27)	President
Al Barnes (26)	Vice President
Richard Morris (26)	Secretary
Mike Durnwald (27)	Treasurer
Jim Grogitsky (26)	Director
John Kessberger (28)	Director
Marcus Simms (27)	Director
(xx) term expires	

Scale Coordinators

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

NMRA Art Landrigan

Committees

Membership	Martin Kruiuzenga
Public Relations	Ann Grogitsky
Marketing	Ralph Watson

FROM THE MARKETING COMMITTEE

Our next opportunity to meet the community and promote our getting trains running is coming up on Friday, September 4th, at the Habitat for Humanity "Lunch on the Lawn" fund raiser. We will be operating our popcorn machine at the Fairgrounds from approximately 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We need strong back/leg volunteers who are able to assist with heavy lifting to help move the machine and support gear. If you have a pop-up tent canopy please bring it with you.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- 9:00 AM: Meet at the storage location (Central Ave and Livingston Street, behind the furniture store) to load the equipment.
- After Loading: Assist with setup at the Fairgrounds.
- HAVE FUN
- make popcorn and be friendly with the public and other booth personnel
- After 2:00 PM: Assist with teardown and returning the equipment to storage.

I have reached out to many of you individually and currently have commitments from a couple people, but we still need additional help with the physical lifting and carrying.

Please let me know if you are available to assist.

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NMRA National Convention

Even though not all of us are members of the National Model Railroad Association, I wanted to share my impressions from the recent NMRA National Convention and Train Show, which took place right in our backyard in Chattanooga.

It was an incredible event that brought together nearly 1,500 modelers of all skill levels, collectors, authors, photographers, vendors, and media representatives from across the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia. The packed schedule featured 50

clinics on various subjects, layout tours, operating sessions, and an impressive world record size 10,000-square-foot layout with over 700 T-Track modules. The convention center itself was excellent, offering six large exhibit halls and over 20 meeting rooms. The National Train Show opened to the public on Saturday and Sunday, drawing a massive crowd to the many booths with familiar names, some not so familiar (Ralph's trains!) and the T-Track layout.

Some of the major highlights included:

- Train Trips: We took trips on the Tennessee Valley Railroad (TVRM) behind the Southern 4501 steam engine, beautifully repainted in green and gold. Options ranged from three-hour rides to all-day excursions. There was also a dinner train, though I would not recommend it due to unappealing food and scenery.
- Exclusive Tours: Visiting the enlarged ScaleTrains headquarters in Cleveland which included lunch. At TVRM, we were allowed into the shop for an up-close look at the shop space and tools featuring the Southern 630 2-8-0 and the E8 Southern 6914, which is in the final stages of rewiring to return to service for The Southern Crescent.
- Great Company: On one of the train rides, I sat with Stephen, the owner and operator of Caboose Industries. I also reconnected with old friends from South Carolina and met new friends from all over.
- Layout Tours: Tours from Dalton, GA to Jasper, TN showcased a variety of scales, eras, regions, and stages of completion. All the hosts were happy to share the smallest details.
- Operating Sessions: Sessions were held on local area layouts and a large Freemo N layout in the convention center.

The logistics were handled wonderfully. The host hotel and support staff were professional, pleasant, and helpful. While parking in Chattanooga is quite expensive, the free downtown shuttle bus system made getting around very easy.

My feet are definitely tired, but it was a marvelous week. For those interested, next year's convention will be in Tacoma, WA, and the 2028 convention will be in Rochester, NY.

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Some shots from 87 West

Ralph took some photos of our future home to show how the site prep is coming.



