

NMRA Southeast Region Division 9 (Central Savannah River)

Annual Newsletter for 2011

August 14, 2011

Steve Prevette, Division Superintendent

This newsletter is being sent by email to those Division members who have current email addresses on file. If you are receiving this letter by postal mail, it is due to either the NMRA does not have an email on file for you, or your email address on file is not valid. If you would like to supply an email address or change your email address, please send me an email at prevette@atlanticbb.net. This will allow you to receive the monthly email newsletters that I write for the Division.

Division Activities

Since the business meeting held last year at my house, there have been no formal Division activities. Many Division members are also members of the OFRRA Tuesday Night Operators' Group (a.k.a. OFRRA). Operating sessions continue on a weekly basis at three Aiken area layouts. OFRRA has room for new members. Contact me if you are interested in joining in with OFRRA. There are no dues or fees.

I have represented the Division at all three Region Board of Directors meetings this year. There is a definite challenge for the smaller Divisions in the Region, and we remain the smallest at 25 members.

Business Meeting October 22 at 2:30 PM

The Division will hold its annual business meeting at the Aiken Railroad Depot (<http://www.aikenrailroaddepot.com/Information.html>). The address is 406 Park Ave., SE. Aiken, SC. Don Barnes, who led most of the project, has offered the Depot for our use after closing hours. He will be on hand to offer a short tour of the displays. I expect the meeting and tour will run to 4:00 PM.

There is a HO model railroad series of dioramas of the Charleston to Hamburg railroad line as of 1916 in the second floor. There are photos of the dioramas at <http://www.cmrtrain.com/cmr-train-aiken.html>.

I just saw the interior of the depot for the first time yesterday, and it is well worth the visit. Don has quite his share of stories of the origination of the project, finding two old Pullman cars in the woods of Tennessee, and acquisition of the model railroad dioramas.

Please bring ideas for what you would like to see the Division do in the next year. The question of realigning Divisions within the Region is still on the table. I do believe that a

Division of less than 100 members is very difficult to gain a “critical mass” of interest within the group.

Palmetto Division Tour of Aiken held August 13, 2011

The Palmetto Division arranged for a day trip to visit us in Aiken. A total of 27 people attended. Most of the attendees were from Greenville, SC, but we also had NMRA members from Columbia, Greenwood, Hendersonville NC, and even the Region Secretary, Rick Coble, came over from Atlanta. The group met at 10AM at the Aiken Depot and Don Barnes provided a tour and stories of the project. The group went to lunch, and split into two groups. One headed to Don Barnes’ HO Scale Baltimore & Ohio model railroad and the other headed to my N scale Burnt Hill and Big Flats. At 3PM, the two groups swapped locations. The group was impressed with Don’s historical research, the buildings he is having constructed, and his operations. I provided a talk on moving my layout cross country, scenery, and that tack on car operating system for my layout. I did not have any formal operations on my layout for the tour, just had the PA-1 diesel running the continuous loop (yes, there is one, well hidden during operating sessions) during the visit.

I believe we will have return visits from some of the group for operating sessions. Also, we now have several contacts if we as a group would like to take a road trip to Greenville or Hendersonville.

Other Notes

I’ll be heading out Labor Day Weekend for the NC Rail Run, sponsored by the NMRA Operations Special Interest Group. OPSIG has listings of many operating weekends across the nation that are open to any OPSIG member.

The SER Board of Directors will meet in Gatlinburg TN on October 8. I will represent the Division at the meeting. If anyone has any questions or issues for the Board, please let me know. I will report about the meeting at our Business Meeting on October 22.

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