

April Update

The big news this month for the area is that Kalmbach is sending a photographer here in order to take pictures of the Aiken Train Station's museum display layout at the end of April. The photographer is slated to be Paul Dolkos. Hopefully this will mean we'll get a little coverage for the area in a future Model Railroader or Great Model Railroads. If you haven't visited the Aiken Train Station, it is well worth doing. The layout runs along the walls on the second floor, and there is handicapped access.

My latest project on my Burnt Hills and Big Flats N scale railroad was the addition of train order signals. I really didn't want to invest in a full blown block signal or CTC system, but wanted some communications to the train crews. Since my time frame is 1970, train orders would still be appropriate. I have one panel that the dispatcher (or a station operator) may control for all seven train order stations. The signals are red / green searchlights on one mast, each head offset to the right hand side. Saw a photo of such a prototype signal in an operations book, so figured it would be good enough for the BH&BF. I did use Custom Signal Systems and have been pleased with the result.

The Tuesday night operating group (OFRRA) continues. We've instituted a social night once a month and have been doing clinics and other get togethers in rotation with the operating sessions. Don Barnes' big project is Brunswick yard on his B&O railroad. The Westbound Yard is nearing completion, still has the engine terminal and the Eastbound Yard to go. This complex will be bigger than most home layouts I've seen!

I hope I'll see some of you in Gatlinburg at this year's regional convention. I've signed up for both operating sessions on Thursday (the day before the convention gets underway). Convention information is available at <http://ser-nmra.org/conventions>, and there is even information on next year's NATIONAL convention to be held in Atlanta.

Steve Pevette
356 Ashely Ct
Graniteville SC
803-392-7684
