



The Official Publication of the Southeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association



# *The* **SOUTHERNER**

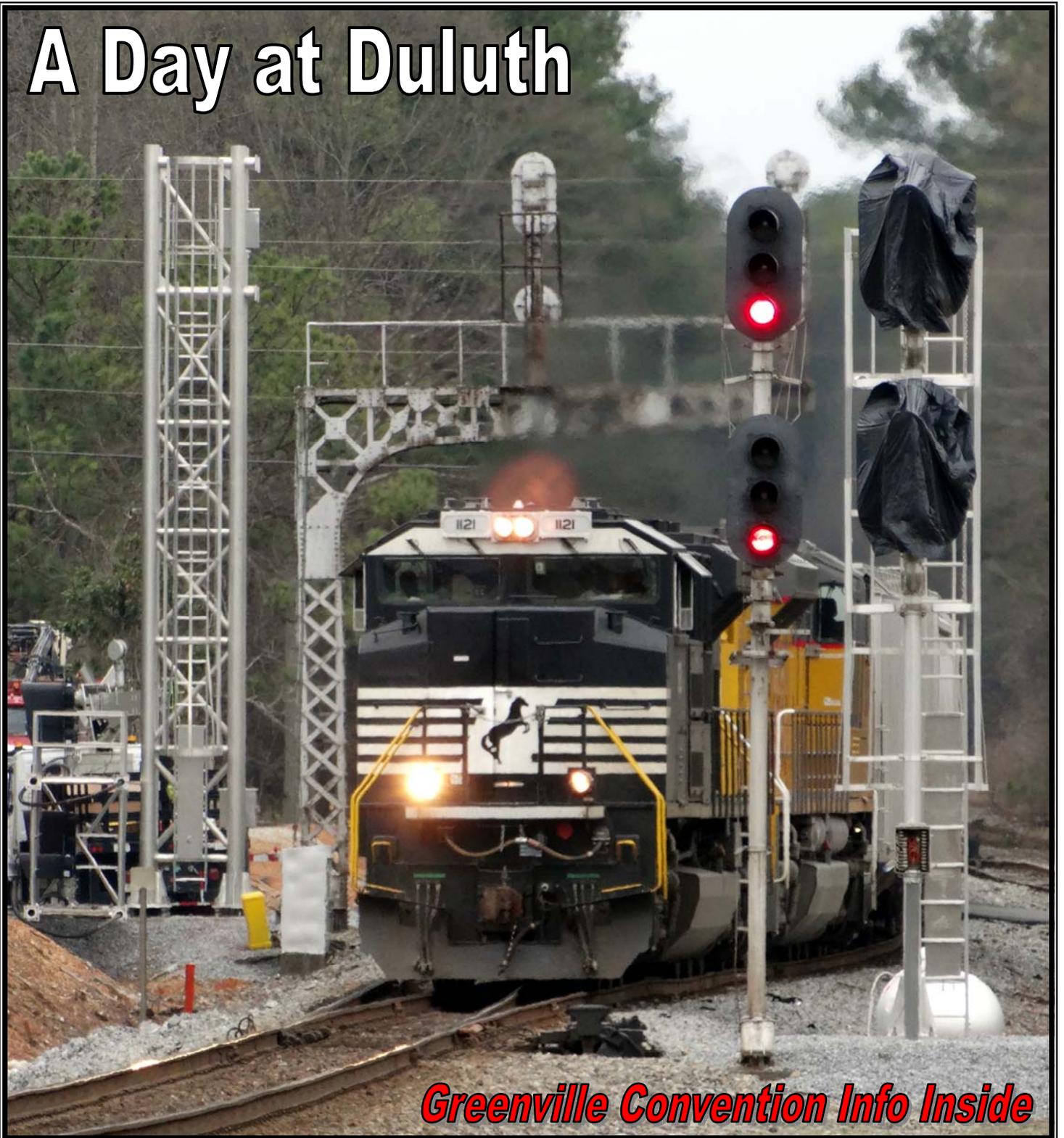


Volume 56 No. 2.5

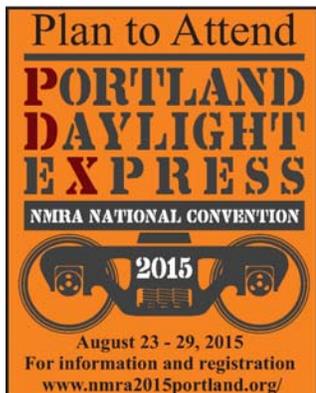
*E-SouthErner*

Spring 2015

## A Day at Duluth



*Greenville Convention Info Inside*

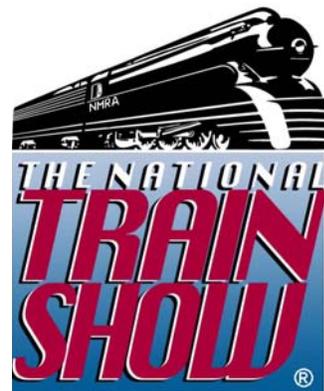


# Portland 2015

**P**ORTLAND **D**AYLIGHT **E**XPRESS

**80<sup>th</sup> NMRA National Convention**  
**August 23 – 29, 2015**

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Portland at Lloyd Center  
1000 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232



**The National Train Show**  
**August 28 – 30, 2015**

Portland Expo Center, 2060 N Marine Drive, Portland, Oregon 97217

## Getting to Portland:

**By Air** - Portland's PDX airport is served by all the major US air carriers.

**By Road** - Interstate Highway 5 from Washington State and California passes a few blocks from the convention hotel. Use exit 302A, east on Weidler, South on NE 9<sup>th</sup> the 4 blocks to Multnomah.

Interstate Highway 84 from the East joins I-5 a few blocks from the hotel. Use Exit 1, North on NE 13<sup>th</sup>, West on NE Multnomah to the hotel.

**By Rail** - Amtrak serves Portland from the North with several Cascades Talgo trains each day. From the South Cascades and Coast Starlight from Southern Oregon and California. From the East the daily Empire Builder from Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul plus North Dakota, Montana and Idaho cities.

**By Bus** - Greyhound serves Portland within its vast network.

**Light Rail** - Tri-Met's MAX Light Rail passes immediately to the South of the Double Tree Hotel on NE Holladay. The stop is Lloyd Center/NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Station. MAX serves Portland International Airport to the East, Downtown Portland, Amtrak at Portland Union Station, Greyhound to the West on frequent schedules.

## Convention Features:

**Clinics** - Six Clinic rooms with seven sessions per day provides more than 200 clinic sessions and more than 125 topics.

**Modeling with the Masters** - Master Model Railroaders lead several sessions of 28 each, guiding participants in constructing a project, which they can take home.

**Contests** - The usual NMRA National Model, Photography and Craft contests offer opportunity for you to have your best creations evaluated against your peers.

**Auction** - The Silent Auction attracts all kinds of hobby items including models, books, prototype historical gems. We expect about 3000 lots. Following Cleveland's lead in 2014 we plan to offer early online registration of lots for sale. It saves time on the day.

**Tours** - We have a great selection of Prototype, Industry, General Interest and Layout tours. Many of these facilities are rarely open for public visitation.

**Non-Rail** - A full schedule of activities and tours, including a lunch, is planned for the non-rail family member.

**Weather** - The convention week in 2014 was fine every day with light winds and temperatures in the 80s F.

**Our website will be updated as details of tours and other scheduled features are firmed.**

# Basic Registrations are open now!



The **SOUTHERNER**



# WAYBILL

Volume 56, Number 2.5



Spring 2015

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**ON THE FRONT COVER:** The signal at Duluth, GA was due to be replaced the following Monday, so I sat trackside and captured several trains as they passed this soon-to-be-gone old cantilever signal.

**ON THE OTHER FRONT COVER** (See pages 10 & 11): The Walters signal bridge at the north end of Buford, made from old box-car underframes, is cut up and removed. Both photos by the Editor.

The SouthErner

Official Publication of the Southeastern Region, NMRA

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# JUNE 1st DEADLINE!

December 1st (Winter)  
 March 1st (Spring)  
 June 1st (Summer)  
 September 1st (Fall)

## ADVERTISING RATES

Page Size	Number of Issues			
	1	2	3	4
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3/4	\$ 90	\$180	\$270	\$300
1/2	\$ 60	\$120	\$180	\$200
1/4	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 90	\$100
1/8	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 60
Crawler	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40

Pike Registry : \$16 for 4 issues

## ADVERTISING:

Rates are for electronic-format or scanner-ready ads. Preferred formats are Plain Text, MS Word and JPEG. Include the company name, address, email address and/or a daytime phone number (email preferred). All ads must be prepaid before publication.

Make checks payable to: **SER-NMRA**

The SouthErner is mailed to members of the Southeastern Region & interested parties who have paid the subscription rate of \$10.00/year. Material for publication is welcomed! Please send materials to the proper Editor.

All submissions become the property of The SouthErner unless otherwise contracted. Do not send previously printed materials please!



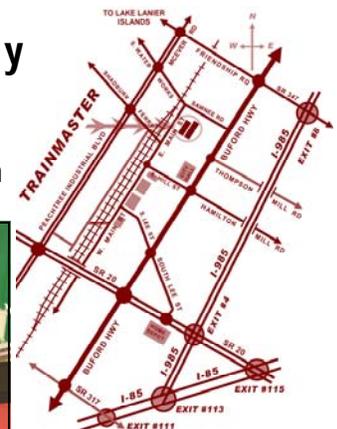
601 East Main Street  
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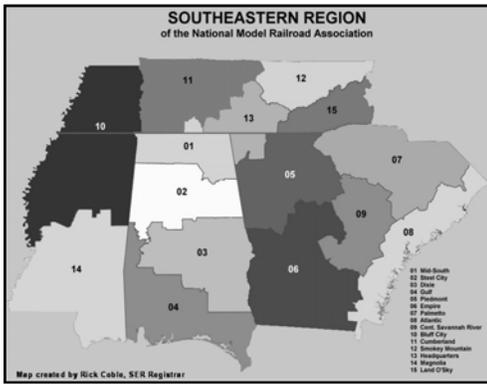


- WALTHERS
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- LIONEL
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Monday thru Saturday  
 11 am to 6 pm

Sunday - 1 pm to 6 pm





# DIVISION NEWS



Convention in Huntsville, AL, another excellent program you won't want to miss. Wrapping up SER Convention news was Steel City Superintendent John Stewart's proposal that Birmingham, (Bessemer) AL should be the 2017 Convention site. His proposal was approved unanimously.



## Division 5 – Piedmont News

**Peter Youngblood, MMR**  
**SantaFeRailway@aol.com**

Hard to believe this is being written for the Spring edition of the Southerner with snow on the ground outside my window. Yes, I know it will have melted come tomorrow, but for us living here it's a big deal while it lasts. I'm sure our friends well to the north laugh at us and the anxious attention we give it.

It was even on the cool side recently in Panama City, FL were several Piedmont Division members drove to attend the SER Winter Board of Directors meeting. Thanks to advance planning by host and Gulf Division Superintendent Buddy Black, it was a most enjoyable experience. Friday afternoon Dave Chaney held an operating session at his HO layout. This was followed by dinner at Sonny's BBQ and a tour of the CMRX clubhouse and the new layout they're building. Most of us were amazed by one of Buddy's laser cutting machines being used to cut intricate benchwork structural I-beams and future highway substructures from 1/8th inch Masonite. We also gawked at a from-benchwork-to-almost-ceiling height multi-turn helix designed by a NASA engineer made from,... you guessed it... laser cut Masonite!

Saturday morning's SER BoD very full agenda was completed in time for lunch. Worth special mention is June's Palmetto Excursion SER Convention in Greenville, S.C. which is guaranteed to be a great one. Prototype tours are already booked at 50% capacity, so don't delay registering if you intend to go. You might also care to know that Tom Shallcross, Headquarters Northern Division Superintendent, will be hosting a Mini-Meet in Crossville, TN this coming November. Sandy Warrington, Mid-South Division Superintendent, presented a progress report on 2016's SER

Randall Watson was given the green light to have Accurail produce the next region car. A kit in HO scale only, it's a 1970's ACF built 4650 cu. ft. Englehard covered hopper, a common conveyance for transporting kaolin in the south. More information will follow.

January ushered in another busy year for the Division. The first BSA session in Kennesaw had 28 Scouts earn their Railroad Merit Badges under the direction of Howard Goodwin and John Stevens. Next was the annual "Trains! Trains! Trains!" day for kids and parents at Kennesaw's Southern Museum. Paid attendance was over 2,000, a new and astounding record for this one day event. The last day of the month held the first of three 2015 "Train In' Camps." 16 members attended a class on "Weathering with PanPastels" taught by Perry Lamb and yours truly. Members provided their own freight cars in scales from O to Z which they weathered on site.

On Feb. 10th, the Piedmont Division held its first meeting to a packed house at its new meeting location, the Holy Innocents' Church in Sandy Springs (Atlanta) and set a record 160 members in attendance. A modern facility, members enjoyed watching Dan Mansfield's "Camak Quarry" clinic on three HD screens and were shown how he models it in O scale.

Piedmont Pilgrimage Chair Gary Jarabek, handed out certificates of appreciation to all who hosted layouts during the 2014 Piedmont Pilgrimage. Over 5,300 visitors viewed 80 plus Atlanta area layouts on the 12th anniversary of this ever popular event.

I close this report hoping you enjoyed the Division's March 14/15 "The Train Show" at the Galleria Convention Centre. I know I always do.

Banks also earned his Golden Spike.

The Panama City, Mobile, and Pensacola Sections all sponsored operating session events during the quarter. A number of members attended each event.

The Pensacola Section will participate in the West Florida Railroad Museum Swap Meet on Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Mobile Section will participate in the Railroad Weekend on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### Charitable and Educational Activities

We continuing to work on a Railroading Merit Badge kit that will contain a complete set of the material and equipment a counselor will need to complete a merit badge for a small number of scouts.

### Achievement Program Activity

Golden Spike – Pete Banks

### Future Directions

The division is considering offering to host a mini meet in 2016.

## Division 4 - Gulf News

**Buddy Black - black@novatechnologies.com**

The division officers meet briefly during the Region Board meeting Feb 6. Membership continues to hold steady.

### Division Events

The Division hosted the Region Board of Directors meeting in Panama City on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. 45 people attended the opening dinner on Friday night. There were 30 attendees from the Region and 15 from the Division. After dinner, the group moved across the street to the Consolidated Model Railroad Club (CMRX) to view the layout construction. The layout features laser cut subroadbed and high intensity LED lighting. Bench work is complete and some track is laid. Saturday morning the Board met at the Marriott Courtyard and completed its agenda. After the meeting members toured Dave Chaney's and Rodney Allen's home layouts. A number of folks returned to CMRX for AP judging of a number of modules, structures, cars, and motive power. Pete Banks and Buddy Black earned merit awards. Pete

## Division 11 - Cumberland News

Bob Hultman - hultman@bellsouth.net

Cumberland Division will host its 34th consecutive Spring Division Meet on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the Tennessee Central Ry Museum at 220 Willow St in Nashville TN 37210. Time is 9 am to 3 pm Central Time. The Division Meet is in conjunction with TC Ry Museum's Spring Open House. New this year is the addition of Dixie Model RR Club to the list of model RRs on the afternoon self-guided layout tour. We will also have at least 1 live clinic by Peter Burr on building trackwork using the Fast Tracks system. Admission is \$4 adults, \$1 children under 12, \$10 max per family.

A Tennessee Central Ry Museum member, Russ Schneider, has donated a 20' module group (HO scale) to Cumberland Division since he will be shortly moving to San Diego for a nice career opportunity (and take advantage of the model RRing opportunities in the area). This module group is a representation of a MILW through passenger station where Russ had built the Walthers model of the Milwaukee Rd's Milwaukee WI station. Russ has elected to keep the structures; however, the module group includes 2 double slip switches and over 20 each of track turnouts and Tortoise electric motors to align the switches. Many thanks to Russ for this most generous donation!

## Division 15 - Land O' Sky News

Ken O'Brien - kobrien1600@live.com

We kicked off the first meeting of the New Year with elections and our annual business meeting at the Deerfield Retirement Community Center on January 17, 2015. We had twenty two NMRA members and no guests present. Clint Smoke, our host, gave a short orientation of the facilities for everyone and Superintendent Ken O'Brien began the meeting at 9:30.

We had a number of models for Show and Tell. Jace Kahn showed two On3 Class A Climax locomotives. Shannon Swanger showed a 1937 Nason OO scale baggage car, featuring an aluminum body.

Next, we had some club reports. The Apple Valley Model Railroad Club will be featured in the March 2015 *Model Railroad* magazine. They have completed the installation of a non-operating, full sized, train order signal on the track side of the depot. The Apple Valley is also building a garden railroad out behind the depot using all plastic components to raise the railroad up for better viewing. The Western North Carolina Model Railroad Club will be hosting their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Train Show on March 6 and 7. They will commemorate it with 25 separate train related raffles during the two day show. They are also working on a scale model of downtown Black Mountain, NC for a display there. The Division will be staffing a recruiting table at the train show. The Piedmont Garden Railway club built and ran a garden railway at the North Carolina Arboretum over the Holidays. It was well attended by the public. Future plans for the Arboretum layout are unknown at this time.

In NMRA news, the Palmetto Division, in South Carolina, will host their semiannual meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March. They will also host the *Palmetto Excursion*, the 2015 SER Annual Convention on Jun 5 and 6 in Greenville. Sign up on their website. The 2016 SER Convention will be held in Huntsville, AL.

In the AP, we have a new MMR, Joe Norris, number 546. Congratulations for a fine job, Joe. Dan Lang has earned his Civil



## Division 12 - Smoky Mountain News

Larry Burkholder - labtexan@chartertn.net

At our quarterly meeting in November the following officers were elected for two year terms:

Superintendent -	Larry Burkholder
Assist. Super. -	Brooke Gunning
Secretary -	Brooke Gunning
Treasurer -	Dean Odiorne
Dir. at Large -	Paul Locher

A video about repairing and servicing a steam engine was presented.

A new year kick-off dinner with spouses was held in January. About twenty people attended.

Our next regular quarterly meeting will be on March 12th, 2015, at the Bass Pro Shop of I-40, Exit 407.

The "Great Train Show" will be in Knoxville March 14th & 15th. We will have a table there promoting the NMRA and SER

Engineering certificate. That makes five for him. Our host, Clint Smoke, has six certificates and is working on Cars for number seven.

On a sad note, long time member Mike Smith passed away after a long battle with cancer, on Christmas Day. He will be greatly missed.

We conducted our annual business meeting. The Paymaster reported we had \$564.33 in the bank. The Clerk reported our meeting minutes are on line. The election slate consisted of Chuck Place running for Assistant Superintendent and Gordon Fewster running for Clerk. Since they were the only candidates, a motion was made and passed to re-elect both candidates.

There were two clinics presented. Ken O'Brien did one on *Model Railroad Paint Options, Life after Floquil and Polyscale*. It was a review of the numerous paints, both solvent and water based, available to the model railroader. Dan Lang presented a clinic on using Fastracks tools to build turnouts and other track items. The meeting adjourned at Noon.

The OpSig activities continue. A number of layout owners continue to host ops sessions in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee. Another Saluda Rails operations meet will occur in the Fall, dates to be determined.

Due to a family emergency, our newly elected Clerk, Gordon Fewster, had to step down in Mid-February. His replacement is Dave Simmons. He will be a good replacement for Gordon.



# SOUTHEASTERN REGION DIRECTORY 4/2015

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**SOUTHEASTERN REGION**  
*of the National Model Railroad Association*

**Around the NMRA and Southeastern Region**

### National News

The new [NMRA website](http://www.nmra.org) went online during the National Convention. The new site has a modern design, usable on smartphones and tablets as well as computers, updated navigation, and members restricted service areas throughout. Visit the new website at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org).

Steel City's **John Stewart**, Central Savannah River's **Steve Prevette**, and Piedmont's **Peter Youngblood**, MMR and **John Stevens** are presenting clinics at the Cleveland NMRA National Convention. **John Stewart's** four clinics are available

**SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION BANQUET**

The following individuals were honored for their service to the hobby and the NMRA. Congratulations to each of them!

**Honorary Life Membership (HLM)**  
Clark Kooning  
Eric Schneebelen

**Distinguished Service Award (DSA)**  
William Bowers  
Jens English

**NMRA Fellow Award (FA)**  
Martin Boyask

**President's Award**  
Tim Lupfer

**2015 Election Update**

Nominating Committee Chair Tony Koester's report was presented to the Board of Directors at the Annual BOD Meeting in Cleveland. Unfortunately, about a week after the Convention Banquet, the only candidate for At-Large-North American Director (ALNAD) withdrew his name from consideration. There is no procedure in the Executive Handbook to cover such an occurrence.

**Contact membership chair Rick Coble:**

**rvcoble@yahoo.com**

**To be added to the SER & NMRA mailing lists!**

**Stay connected to the SER & NMRA!**

# THE CLUB CAR

This is a list of clubs and organizations in the South Eastern Region. Most have some NMRA members. If you have a club that is accepting new members or visitors, please send the information to the editor at: [voelkerpv@msn.com](mailto:voelkerpv@msn.com). Please note, you must provide a contact name and phone number! If you have a website you can send us the URL as well! 5/2015

**Atlantic Division 8** Johns Island, SC **Carl S Blum 843-559-3757**  
Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone, (912) 354-2606  
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**Charleston Area Model Railroad Club**, Citadel Mall in Charleston, SC  
<http://www.chamrc.com> or Phillip E. Euper [peuper@comcast.net](mailto:peuper@comcast.net)  
**Golden Isles Model Railroad Club**, Brunswick, GA  
Helio Valdes 912-261-2478 [t29b52f4@comcast.net](mailto:t29b52f4@comcast.net)  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GIMRRC/>

**Bluff City Division 10** Bartlett, TN, **Mike Fleming, (901) 467-7138**  
The Memphis N-Scale Road Railers  
The Memphis Society of Model Engineers—The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Night Group meets at the Highland Street Church of Christ, at 7:30 PM contact Ned for additional information at: [nssavage@juno.com](mailto:nssavage@juno.com)

**Central Savannah River Division 9** Graniteville, SC, **Steve Prevette (803) 392-7684**  
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**Cumberland Division 11** Brentwood, TN, **Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158**  
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<http://www.nashvillentrak.org>  
Nashville Garden Railway Society, Nashville, TN., Ross Evans (615) 292-6555  
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN,  
Terry Bebout, (615) 244-9001 FAX -2120 [terry.bebout@earthlink.net](mailto:terry.bebout@earthlink.net)  
<http://tcr.org>

**Dixie Division 3** Prattville, AL, **Brett Scott 334-799-3096**  
Central Alabama Model RR Club, Montgomery/Prattville, AL  
Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933  
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS  
2800 Graham Rd., S. Mobile, AL Call Dave Miller (251) 645-2296 for information  
MGB Model Railroad Club, Prattville, AL Visitors welcome. Meetings every Thursday evening and every other Saturday afternoon. Brett Scott (334) 799-3096  
[www.mgbr.org](http://www.mgbr.org)  
Southeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Dothan, AL  
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Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL  
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**Empire Division 6** Bonaire, GA, **Bill Attaway 478-954-9200**  
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Flint River Model Railroad Club, Albany, GA, Jimmy Swinn (299) 883-3517  
MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club, Warner Robins, GA  
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CGMRC - Central Georgia Model Railroad Club, Macon, GA  
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MGRA - Middle Georgia Railroad Association, is a railroad history group that meets in Macon and Gordon, GA Bill Jones, [wrjones845@aol.com](mailto:wrjones845@aol.com)  
[www.trainweb.org/mgr](http://www.trainweb.org/mgr)  
Thomasville Model Railroad Club, Thomasville, GA., Ben Strickland (912) 465-3730

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Caboose Club, Foley, AL Charles Ebert  
Consolidated Model Railroaders (CMRX), Panama City, FL  
Contact: Buddy Black 850-624-6240 [black@novatechnologies.com](mailto:black@novatechnologies.com)  
Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club monthly meeting usually on third Saturday of the month at Noon in the Diner Car of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton FL, Jack Grill (850) 994-7226 [www.ecgrc.com](http://www.ecgrc.com)  
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL Ray Follacchio 850-865-8822  
<http://miraclestripmodelrrclub.com>  
Mobile Society of Model Engineers. Dave Miller (251) 645-2296  
Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL  
[www.PMRC.us](http://www.PMRC.us) HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona (850) 384-3206  
N Division - Terry Tucker (850) 723-5390; Z Division - Glen Hall (850) 982-2795  
Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL  
Glen Samuel (205) 914-0693 [Gasamuel@aol.com](mailto:Gasamuel@aol.com)  
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL Tom Augustine (850) 944-0471  
West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton, FL [www.wfrm.org](http://www.wfrm.org)

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Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club, [www.camrc.org](http://www.camrc.org)  
Ed Juaire (423) 598-9925 [railfan@ejpj.com](mailto:railfan@ejpj.com)  
Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN  
<http://csme.livesteamtrains.com> Andy Morrison (423) 344-8502  
Crossville Model Railroad Club, Crossville, TN, Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565  
[chipmonk4@comcast.net](mailto:chipmonk4@comcast.net) [www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org](http://www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org)

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Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC, Ben Bartlett (828) 883-2799  
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French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Henderson, NC <http://www.fbe-ntrak.com>  
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1396 Spicer Cove, Hendersonville, NC 28792  
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Mississippi Ag and Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson MS 39216  
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Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL

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Clark Gregory 803-781-7912 [www.amroc.org](http://www.amroc.org)  
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Jim Reece 864-855-3379 [www.crmha.org](http://www.crmha.org)  
Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC  
Michael Offik 864-884-2165 [www.piedmontnsouthern.org](http://www.piedmontnsouthern.org)  
The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular club)  
Andrew Gillette (803)-316-8128 [amn\\_a\\_gillette@yahoo.com](mailto:amn_a_gillette@yahoo.com)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carolina\\_on30conspiracy/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carolina_on30conspiracy/)  
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If you're at all like me, the nightly news is a constant reminder of how lucky most of us are as we go about our daily lives concerned mainly with work related, family, or personal issues. That being so, model railroading and our layouts provide enjoyable opportunities to temporarily escape whatever are the burdens of reality. Mind you, I'm not making light of the daily challenges that confront all of us, but even so it's important to realize there are always others less fortunate who can use our help. The "escapism factor" of our hobby is what I'm talking about; for example, ones mind focusing on the pleasurable task of assembling a kit, perhaps engrossed in the pages of a soft cover "how to" book, or maybe fixated while watching a model railroad DVD. All have a way of letting us forget our troubles, even if just for a short time. Can model railroading therefore be therapeutic? You bet, and that's where reaching out comes into play.

Starting this year, my local Piedmont Division is expanding its community involvement by reaching out to civilian and military rehabilitation facilities. It is currently developing a relationship with Atlanta's Shepherd Center which specializes in spinal cord injury, brain injury and neuromuscular problems. Their SHARE program welcomes volunteers who want to work with their patients. Several of our members will bring simple model railroad kits and help patients assemble them, and we're donating magazines, DVD's, etc. The local Ronald McDonald House has welcomed our help. There we can provide occasional after dinner "show & tell" demonstrations and entertainment. We're also in touch with the local Wounded Warrior Project chapter to see how we can lend a helping hand to our nation's injured military service personnel, and in 2016 we're planning to help our Wounded Warriors by donating all proceeds to the Project from Raffle Lay-out tickets sold in March at the Piedmont Division's annual "The Train Show."

As information, you should know SER Executive Advisor Bob Beaty, MMR, and yours truly, proposed the NMRA grant a one time 10% annual dues discount to our current military personnel. Presented to the National Board at their winter meeting in Phoenix, AZ as a motion introduced by Western District Director Jack Hamilton, MMR, it was unfortunately rejected. This doesn't impact any positive support we can offer at SER Division levels no matter membership size, and if you're not already doing so, check into your community's facilities to see what reaching out opportunities exist where you can become involved.

An obvious potential side benefit is recruitment of new NMRA members. On the topic of member recruitment and promoting the model railroading hobby, the National Board did approve a proposal made unanimously by the SER Board to fund and create a short video/DVD as a marketing tool available to all members in good standing. Currently under development by Gerry Leone, MMR, NMRA Nat'l. V.P. Special Projects Mgr. assisted by Norman Lundin and myself, it will be available by year's end. Watch for announcements in the coming months and click on the SER web site periodically to check on our Region's news.

I'm looking forward to "Palmetto Excursion," this year's SER Convention June 5-6 in beautiful Greenville, SC, and to "Portland Express," the NMRA National in Portland, OR, August 23-29. Both are lining up to be great events and are most certainly worth attending. I hope to see you there.

Peter Youngblood, MMR  
SER Education Program Mgr.



## The President's Car Glen Hall, MMR



I hope by now everyone has thawed out! Wow, what a cold snowy and icy winter, even down here on the gulf coast. Hopefully you stayed indoors and played with your trains. Let me tell you our board meetings are far from boring. We met in February at Panama Beach, Florida, home of the Gulf Division Super Buddy Black. These meetings are becoming family gatherings as more and more wives attend. It was a busy weekend with lots of other activities besides the board meeting. Be sure and read the Gulf Division report for more details and a big Thank You to Buddy and the Gulf members.

This is the Spring issue and includes all you need to know about the up and coming Palmetto Excursion Convention in Greenville, South Carolina. Besides what info is printed herein don't forget to also go on line to the official web site. If you haven't registered yet, do so. You can do it on line with Paypal. Looking at the scheduled clinics it is going to be hard to pick the ones to attend as they are all outstanding. Layout tours are a must thing to do. Having visited four of the ones listed, you will be impressed by all. How about a floor to ceiling collapsed dog bone in a double wide! This is going to be a great convention!

Be on the lookout for SER logo patches for sale soon as well as a new run of rail cars. Our treasurer, Sally Bando, has been working with CafePress setting up a SER on-line clothing store. Check it out at:

[www.cafepress.com/serclothing](http://www.cafepress.com/serclothing)

Summer is upon us and we are planning vacations, weekend outings or maybe a staycation. Attendance at Division activities is going to go down hill, but keep in mind not everyone leaves at the same time. So, keep having meaningful and interesting meetings so everyone will show up in the fall.

See you in Greenville!

Keep a steady hand on the throttle and your eyes on the track

Howard Goodwin Superintendent

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## ARMED FORCES MEMBERSHIP DONATION

Piedmont Division member Ed Delattre and his wife Alice have made an extraordinary financial donation to the Southeastern Region for the express purpose of purchasing full introductory annual memberships to individuals currently serving in our country's Armed Forces and who express interest in joining the NMRA.

The generosity of their donation is \$1,000 this year and an additional donation of \$1,000 in 2016. The first year donation is in the SER account, an earmarked line item accessible to all SER Divisions via SER Treasurer, Sally Bando.

Preferring donor identity to anonymity, the Delattres home telephone number is (678) 880-3034 as a direct contact for any SER members having questions about donating to the same cause.

Their extraordinary contribution has given the SER a remarkable opportunity to recruit new NMRA members while sincerely expressing our appreciation and gratitude to our current military personnel.

Peter Youngblood, MMR  
Superintendent Piedmont Division

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**Editor's Note: This is how the back cover appeared on the Print Version.  
Go to the next page to find out why!**



**IN with the NEW**

**OUT with the OLD**  
*Norfolk Southern Walters Control Point*

Volume 56 No. 2.0 [www.ser-nmra.org](http://www.ser-nmra.org) April 2015





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# *The* **SOUTHERNER**



Volume 56 No. 2.0

[www.ser-nmra.org](http://www.ser-nmra.org)



April 2015

## *Norfolk Southern Walters Control Point* **OUT with the OLD**



## *IN with the NEW*

The previous page shows the “other” front cover that came on the print version. This is how it appears right-side-up and in color. This was my “April Fool’s Day” joke for the region and I have to wonder how many people realized that or just thought the Editor had gone mad? Other than appearing upside down, the words “April 2015” (instead of “Spring 2015”) along with the little Stegosaurus from the TOC page should have been hints! Unfortunately the signal bridge *really is* gone!

# Editor's Soapbox



## OUT with the OLD — IN with the NEW

When I moved to Buford, Georgia 35 years ago one of the things that really caught my eye was these Southern Railway signal bridges made out of old box car underframes. I had always thought of modeling one but, like so many other ideas I've had, I never went ahead and did so. Fortunately if I were to decide to build one, I have several detail photos of this particular signal at the Walters control point on the north end of Buford.

I am guessing that when this signal was built, it was probably assembled using steam-powered cranes to do the lifting. Today Norfolk Southern uses highway truck-mounted cranes with retractable railway wheels. Getting these photos I got a little bit lucky here as I'd gotten out of work earlier than planned, and I decided to pass by Trainmaster Models on my way home, AND I had my camera with me! NS shut down the railroad while this work was being done. The signals at Duluth would follow suit a few weeks later but I was able to capture several photos of this work on Walters and some video as well. With the signal bridge gone taller railcars will be able to travel along this route, some of the double stacks were only just clearing the bottom of these signal bridges.

Time marches on and change comes slowly to the railroads. I can remember when there were telegraph poles along this line that




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Two workman secure a hook from the hydraulic truck-mounted crane to the last remaining piece of the old Walters signal bridge while two other workman watch from below. This is the north end of the NS passing track in Buford, GA.





Now with everyone on the ground and the last leg of signal bridge secured to the crane, a workman uses a cutting torch to burn off the bolts securing the leg to its concrete base. To the right of the small equipment shed above, and the workman in the green vest, you can just make out the other parts of the signal bridge lying next to the right of way. These were removed the next day.



Now with the leg free of its base, the crane can slowly move it across the right-of-way to its temporary resting location on the other side of the tracks. Notice two of the four long bolts protruding above the concrete base that the green vested workman is standing on at right.





The remaining leg of the Walters signal bridge has almost cleared the second track. Once it is hovering over the outside of the right-of-way it will be turned so as to lay beside the tracks & next to the new signal for the passing track, as seen in the two photos below. Meanwhile the torch crew cuts off the last bolts.





The temporary last resting place of the old Walters signal bridge rests beside the right-of-way between the Walters block sign and the base of the pole-mounted signal that replaced it. I had planned to walk over to it the next day and take some close-ups as it lay on the ground but by then it was gone. Notice the track appears to have at least one, ahh "dent" in near rail which is accentuated by the telephoto lenses in the photo below.



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*Be on the lookout for SER logo patches for sale soon as well as a new run of rail cars.*

*Our treasurer, Sally Bando, has been working with CafePress setting up a SER on-line clothing store. Check it out at:*

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# A Day at Duluth

Photos & Story by Paul Voelker



With the old signal at Duluth being scheduled to be cut up and replaced the following Monday, I got off work early and spent most of the day on Monday March 9th train watching and taking photographs. The first train of my day (above) was train 119 pulled by three units with NS #7624 in the lead followed by #26xx and #6913 which can also be seen in the top right photo on the next page.

After 119 passed, train 172 which had been holding in the siding headed northbound with NS #9301 leading a pair of Union Pacific units. Being a UP fan this was a real treat for me! Then following soon after was a highballing unit grain train 50A (top middle photo) which had also been routed through the siding with NS #9845 leading and

#9695 and a sister trailing. Next up was Local P68 with NS GP38-2 #5202 leading and GP38-3 #5825 trailing plus a few cars. A few hours later they returned after doing work in Buford.

Next up were a pair of northbound trains, first up was Train 238 with NS #8810 leading and #9254, an Operation Lifesaver unit, trailing with a double stack train in tow. Next came train 118 with NS #1121 and UP #8858, which I was told is a SD70AH. (SD70AH? I really do need to catch up on these locomotive designations!) And finally my last train of the day was train 153 southbound with NS #9457 leading #8438 seen at the Georgia State Road 120 grade crossing on single track approaching the Duluth signal.





The Local P68 (above) outbound from Atlanta north to Buford and returning southbound (below) passing the Duluth signal control point.



Southbound train 119 meets train 172 waiting in the hole at Duluth.



Following soon after train 172 had left was a highballing unit grain train 50A which had also been routed through the siding with NS #9845 leading and #9695 and a sister trailing.



After waiting in the hole for train #119 to pass, train 172 departs northbound with NS #9301 leading UP #4675 & #4920.





Above My last train of the day was train 153 southbound with NS #9457 leading #8438. Here it is seen at the Georgia State Road 120 grade crossing in downtown Duluth on single track approaching the Duluth signal.

Right Don't you just hate it when the camera focuses on the wrong thing? Unless of course that was your intent, which in this case it was not! Number 5202, a Norfolk Southern high nosed GP38-2 which appears to be piloted here by my old friend Ken who usually does this run of the local.

He also appears at the bottom of the next page piloting 5202's mate, NS #5825, a low nosed GP38-3 upgrade on the return trip back to Atlanta.





Train 118 with NS #1121 & UP SD70AH #8858 passing the Duluth signals.



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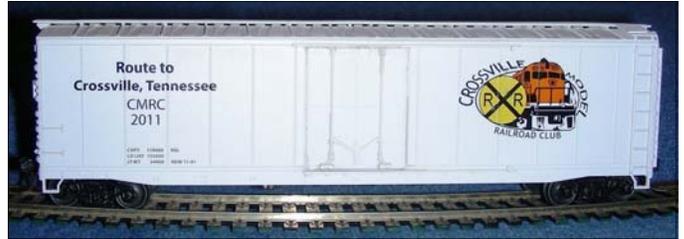
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# Tennessee Club Car



The Crossville Model Railroad Club has produced this unique car in 3 road numbers. It is assembled weighted to NMRA Standards with Steel Wheels and Kadee #5 Couplers. Road numbers are 2001, 2002, 2006.

1 Car Ready To Run: \$25 plus \$5 Shipping (lower 48)

For information on multiple car sets, road number availability and to order contact:

**Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565**  
**chipmonk4@comcast.net**

For more information on this car, go to our web site at:  
<http://www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org/cmrc/>

**ORDER NOW!**

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY!**



## NMRA / SER Membership & Subscription Application

Please accept my application for membership Renewal or for New Membership in the National Model Railroad Association, which includes the SouthEastern Region and my local SER Division.



New  Renewal  NMRA #  SER #

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Scale \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

NMRA Membership and/or Subscription Type (Circle the Option(s) of Your Choice)	One Year	Two Years	Total
<b>Member</b> - All rights and benefits - does not include <i>NMRA Magazine</i> .	\$44.00	\$88.00	
<b>NMRA Magazine subscription</b> - Must be an NMRA member to subscribe.	\$22.00	\$44.00	
<b>SER The SouthErneR subscription</b> - Must be an NMRA member to subscribe.	\$10.00	\$20.00	
<b>Family</b> - Spouse or minor child of above member in good standing. No <i>NMRA Magazine</i> or voting rights. Provide family member's name and date of birth here: Name: _____ DOB: _____	\$8.00 (each member)	\$16.00 (each member)	
<b>Student</b> - any person 18 yrs and under or student between the ages of 19 - 25 yrs possessing valid student ID. All rights and benefits and <i>NMRA Magazine</i> .	\$32.00	\$64.00	
<b>Sustaining</b> - Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Associations, Businesses). All rights & benefits & <i>NMRA Magazine</i> .	\$110.00	\$220.00	
TOTAL DUES & SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYMENT ENCLOSED (Make checks payable to NMRA)			

Credit Card:  Master Card  VISA  AMEX  Diner's Club  Discover  Check

Card #     CV #  Expiration

Issued To (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION, INC., PO Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328

# Welcome to the NMRA InfoNet News

## National News

Portland Express, the 2015 NMRA National Convention, provides updates through its mailing list. Visit the Portland Express website to sign up. <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/> Updates are also available through its Facebook page and Twitter account.

## Register for the NEW NMRA Website

Have you registered on the new NMRA Web Site yet? The completely rewritten NMRA web site ([www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)) has "members only" items that are only available if you have logged into the site with your new member account.

While there is much to see on the site for non-members, NMRA members who are logged in have access to NMRA Data Sheets, past editions of the NMRA eBulletin and the NMRA Bulletin, the President's Car column and many other items that may be of interest to you.

There is also a page that shows you information that is currently held in your NMRA Membership record, with a button to send an email to the staff with any corrections you wish to make. However, you cannot make any changes on the web site; the information is "view only."

If you have not yet registered for your NEW account, some things to keep in mind:

1) No other NMRA logins or passwords will work on the new site - meaning, your Company Store account information, the account you may have created several years ago on the old NMRA web site, or any other NMRA login you may have will not be recognized on the new site. You must create a new account.

2) In order to create your new account, the email address you wish to use for the account must match the one in your membership record in the NRMA database. If this is not so, please contact the NMRA office and update your email address.

3) The registration process will send an email to the address we have in your membership record that provides a one-time login. You need to make sure that your email system does not send the password email to your junk folder or trash!

Once you have logged into the site with your new account, please change your password to one you can remember - you can always change it later.

Ben Sevier, NMRA IT Manager

## Southeastern Region (SER) News

The SER Winter 2015 meeting of the Board of Directors was held February 7th, 2015 in Panama City, FL. There was more to the trip to Panama City than the Board meeting including an operations session, layout tours and GREAT fellowship.

The Steel City Division's request to host the 2017 SER Regional Convention was approved. If you have input or ideas that you want to share please send them to the Editor ASAP. June, 2017 seems like a long time away, but it will be here before we know it. Steel City members have led the way to develop a Regional Convention Handbook which is available on the SER Website. If you want to read about putting together a Regional Convention check it out on the region's website: <http://www.ser-nmra.org/> Conventions can be exciting trips with clinics, layout tours, proto-

type tours, train shows, and family focused events. Birmingham has a lot to offer as a convention site and a family vacation site as well.

## SER Fundraiser

The SER's next fundraiser will be a CD of some of the best clinics presented by SER members. Clinics on any topic are welcomed, preferably with pictures. Electronic format is preferred but hard copy can be scanned. **If you are interested in contributing, contact Bob Beaty, MMR at:** [rabeaty@bellsouth.net](mailto:rabeaty@bellsouth.net)



## SER 2015 Convention

Registration is open for **Palmetto Excursion**, the 2015 SER Convention, hosted by the Palmetto Division. Make plans to attend the **2015 Regional Convention in Greenville, SC**. The convention is set at the Greenville Marriott - One Parkway East, Greenville SC 29615 - 864-297-030. Check out the information on the Palmetto Excursion at <http://www.palmetto-excursion.org/>

Greenville is about a 4½ hours from Birmingham or 2½ hours from Atlanta and the convention committee has a lot to offer.

## SER 2016 Convention

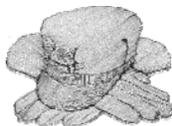
The 2016 Regional Convention is planned to be held in Huntsville, AL (Mid-South Division 1). Be looking for more information in the coming months. It will be great to have two Regional Conventions close to home, so plan to attend.

Each year the NMRA sponsors many conventions around the country. Typically, there is a Regional Convention for most areas as well as one National Convention. The Regionals are typically held in May or June in our Southeastern Region. The Nationals are typically held in July or August. Both the Regionals and National rotate to various cities each year. These conventions are a great way to have fun and to learn more about our hobby. The 2015 National Convention is scheduled for Portland, OR. <http://www.nmra2015portland.org/> (See their Ad on page 2.)

## SER 2017 Convention

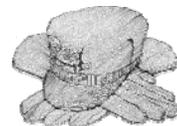
The 2017 Regional Convention has been approved for Birmingham's Steel City Division. Stay tuned for more information on this upcoming convention and Train Show.

## Achievement Program



### GOLD SPIKE

Gulf Division 4  
**Peter L. Banks**



### Association Volunteer

Piedmont Division 5  
**Stephen D. Funsten**



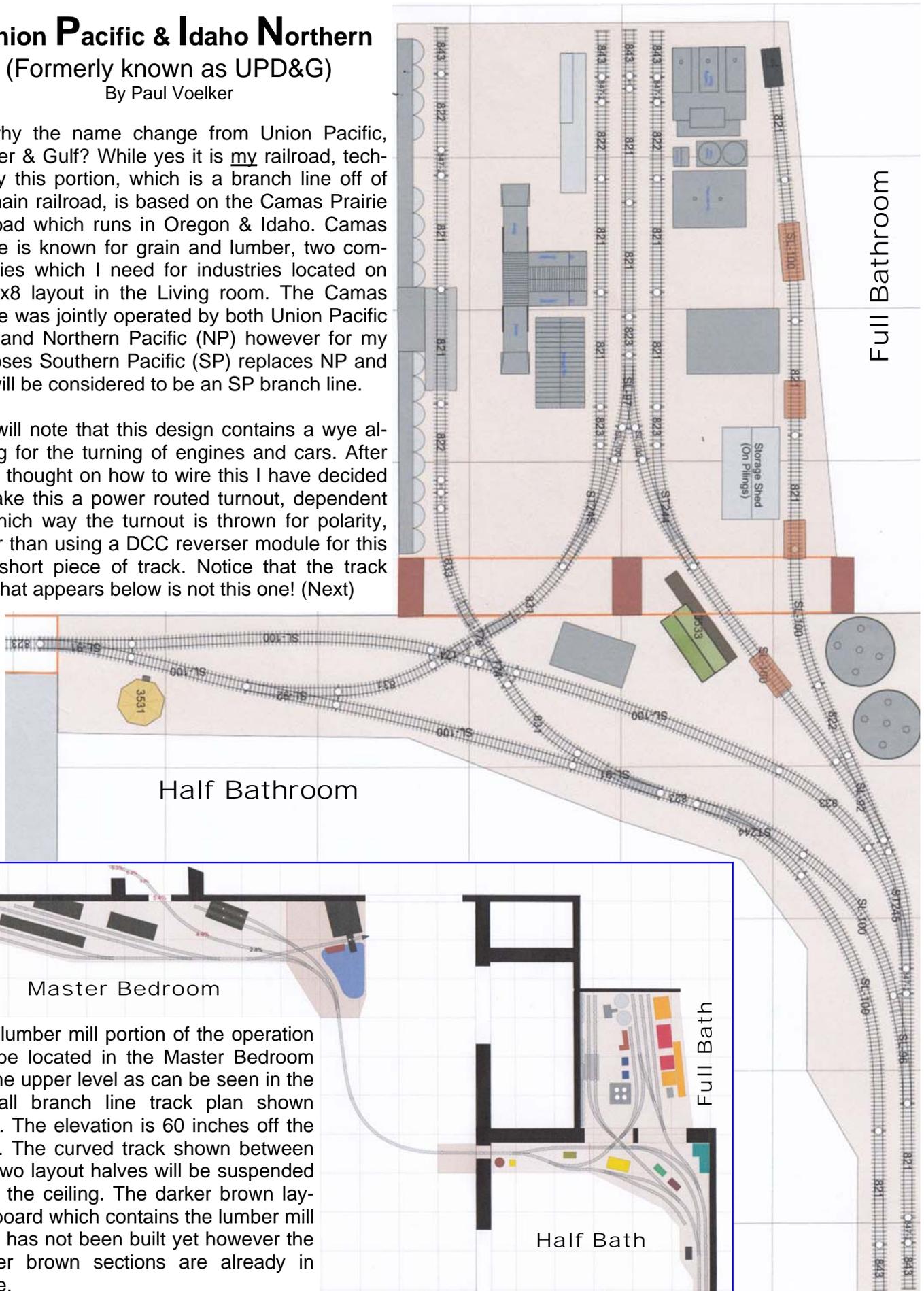
# Union Pacific & Idaho Northern

(Formerly known as UPD&G)

By Paul Voelker

So why the name change from Union Pacific, Denver & Gulf? While yes it is my railroad, technically this portion, which is a branch line off of the main railroad, is based on the Camas Prairie Railroad which runs in Oregon & Idaho. Camas Prairie is known for grain and lumber, two commodities which I need for industries located on the 4x8 layout in the Living room. The Camas Prairie was jointly operated by both Union Pacific (UP) and Northern Pacific (NP) however for my purposes Southern Pacific (SP) replaces NP and this will be considered to be an SP branch line.

You will note that this design contains a wye allowing for the turning of engines and cars. After much thought on how to wire this I have decided to make this a power routed turnout, dependent on which way the turnout is thrown for polarity, rather than using a DCC reverser module for this very short piece of track. Notice that the track plan that appears below is not this one! (Next)



Half Bathroom

Full Bathroom

Master Bedroom

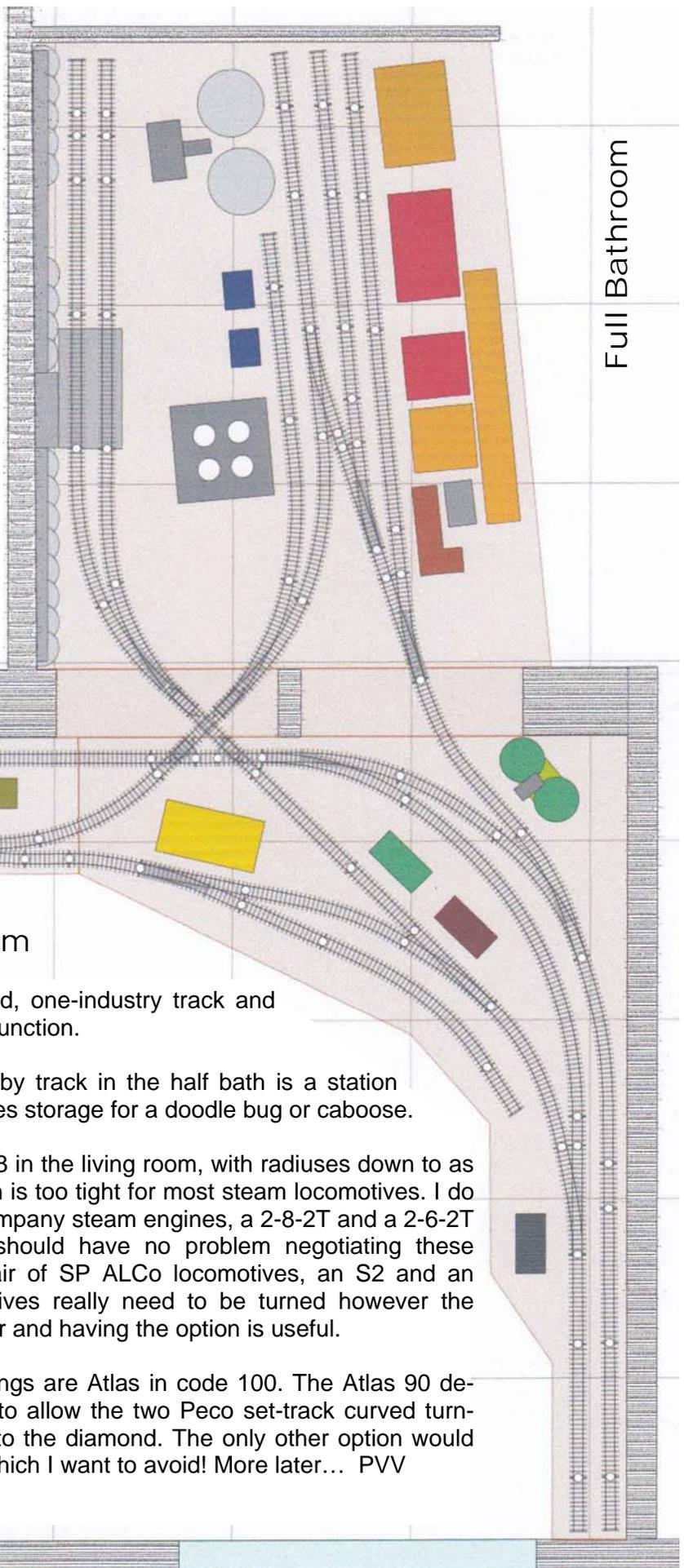
The lumber mill portion of the operation will be located in the Master Bedroom on the upper level as can be seen in the overall branch line track plan shown here. The elevation is 60 inches off the floor. The curved track shown between the two layout halves will be suspended from the ceiling. The darker brown layout board which contains the lumber mill itself has not been built yet however the lighter brown sections are already in place.

Full Bath

Half Bath

So why did I redesign the previous track plan? Well the primary reason for this change is the 60 inch drop-off to the tile floor for any cars that derailed on the edge of the layout in the Full Bathroom. This new design puts the track at least six inches further back and also adds a track for the large grain elevator on the backdrop while the oil facility has changed to a smaller design with fewer buildings.

Structures from several Walthers kits are being combined to create the row of structures along the edge of the layout following a picture I have of a prototype. The red buildings are from a Farmers Coop Rural Elevator (933-3036) while the orange are from a Valley Growers Elevator (933-3096) kit. The scale from the latter will serve both elevators. The scale from the former will serve a pair of large Butler bins (933-3123) and a Conveyor (933-3124). The green building in the corner of the half bath is a Faller Dual-Silo kit (272-120260) which is small enough to fit here and will hide the corner.



## Half Bathroom

The fuel track is still a dedicated, one-industry track and the leg of the wye serves a dual function.

The yellow building surrounded by track in the half bath is a station and the siding in front of it provides storage for a doodle bug or caboose.

Curves are tight here, like the 4x8 in the living room, with radiuses down to as little as 15 inches in places which is too tight for most steam locomotives. I do however own a pair of lumber company steam engines, a 2-8-2T and a 2-6-2T from Pacific Fast Mail, which should have no problem negotiating these curves. For diesels I have a pair of SP ALCo locomotives, an S2 and an HH660. None of these locomotives really need to be turned however the doodlebug may be another matter and having the option is useful.

All turnouts are Peco and crossings are Atlas in code 100. The Atlas 90 degree crossing is being modified to allow the two Peco set-track curved turnouts to be as close as possible to the diamond. The only other option would be a custom, hand-built design which I want to avoid! More later... PVV

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Please send info on your event to the **SouthErneR** at least 6 months prior to the next deadline for it to appear in time or before your event takes place.

## LOCAL SHOWS & EVENTS

### Alabama

April 18th Gadsden

**Coosa Valley Model Railroad Association Train Show**  
Gadsden Convention Hall, 344 First St., Gadsden, AL 35901  
Hours: 9am to 4pm  
Admission \$5.00; Kids under 12—FREE

March 14th Hoover

**L&N Historical Society Annual Meeting**  
October 1-3, 2015  
Embassy Suites, Hoover  
John Hawkins Parkway, Hoover AL  
<http://www.orestod.com/LNHS/Default.aspx>

### South Carolina

June 5th & 6th Greenville

**SER Greenville Convention - "Palmetto Excursion"**  
Greenville Marriot, One Parkway East, Greenville, SC 29615  
(864) 297-0300 (Convention Registration Form is on page 21)  
Say you are with the **NMRA** for special convention rate!  
For more info: [www.palmetto-excursion.org](http://www.palmetto-excursion.org)

## DIVISION MEETS

### Steel City Division 2 - Regular Meeting

Steel City Division meets the 3rd Thursday of every month (except December), at 7 PM in the Hoover Public Library. Call (205) 744-0758 for meeting information

### Smoky Mountain Division 12 - Regular Meeting

1st & 3rd Sunday of every month

### Land O'Sky Division 15 - Regular Meeting

Quarterly, third Saturday of January, April, July & October. Locations vary. Call (828) 696-9436 for program information and directions.

\*\*\* NEW LOCATION \*\*\*

### Piedmont Division 5 - Regular Meeting

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church  
805 Mt. Vernon Hwy. N.W., Atlanta, GA 30327  
Board of Directors Meeting—6pm; Regular meeting—7pm  
See website for directions: [www.piedmont-div.org](http://www.piedmont-div.org)



**Palmetto  
Excursion**  
Destination Greenville 2015

**www.palmetto-excursion.org**



The *FastTracks Bronx Terminal* Display set up at the Cleveland 2014 NMRA convention with the terminal building in place.



The Palmetto Division of the SER-NMRA invites all NMRA members to join us in Greenville, SC on June 5-6 for the 2015 SER Regional Convention (<http://palmetto-excursion.org/>).

The convention will be held at the Greenville Marriott, located just off I-85 at the Pelham Road exit #54. The address is One Parkway East, Greenville, SC 29615. Please make your hotel reservations at the Greenville Marriott and enjoy the convenience of a single destination. The convention website has a direct link to the hotel reservation site or you can contact the hotel directly and state that you are with the SER-NMRA convention. We have contracted a very reasonable rate with the Greenville Marriott and the rate is good from 6/2



to 6/9; so come early and or stay late and enjoy all the Greenville area has to offer.

The convention will feature about 40 clinics, 25 home layouts, 2 prototype tours, Contest Room, OPSIG sessions, non-rail activities, a raffle room, company store, and a banquet. OPSIG sessions start on Thursday, 6/4 and end on Sunday 6/7. The website for the OPSIG sessions is <http://www.opsigsergreenville.org/>. A link to this site can be found on the convention web-site as well. June 5-6 will be packed with clinics, home layouts, a great prototype tour to Republic Locomotive, and end with a wonderful banquet. Two (2) prototype tour trips to Republic Locomotive on Friday morning 6/5 are scheduled. One leaving the hotel at 9:00a and the second at 11:00a. Each tour can accommodate about 40 conventioners so register early and sign-up for the tour. You can



choose either the 9a or 11a tour at the registration desk, based on availability. Check the convention web-site for tour status. The Republic Locomotive tour will give every participant the opportunity to operate a locomotive from either the cab or a remote control throttle. We also plan to provide "motor car" rides for those interested. This tour will also include a history presentation of what was called "River Junction". The industrial tour includes the new Norfolk Southern "Inland Port" intermodal facility, the wye connection to the BMW manufacturing site, and more.

The clinics cover a wide variety of topics and will be held Friday morning, afternoon, evening, Saturday morning, and afternoon. The up-to-date clinic schedule can be found on the convention web-site (and perhaps here in **The SouthErneR**). We are allowing up to one hour maximum for a clinic with a 15 minute change-over between clinics to give plenty of time for Q&A and clinic

change-over. Refer to the convention web-site for the latest and most accurate clinic schedule.

Non-rail activities will be offered during the same times. These activities may include on-site activities in the hospitality room, group trips (provide your own transportation) to the many attractions downtown Greenville to offer, or trips to the local shopping mall. A listing of possible activities, hours of operation, and cost can be found on the convention web-site.



The "contest" room will be available for your models, photos, paintings, and arts & crafts. Our theme contest is "heavy loads". A heavy load is a load that requires special rolling stock and or handling for rail transportation. A load of coal is not considered a heavy load! Standard SER judging will apply to all except the "Heavy Loads" entries. The Palmetto Division will judge these.

Twenty-five or so home layouts will be on schedule for visitation. The schedule, along with photos/owner/description, is on our web-site. We will have a few maps available, but are counting on you to use your GPS device to locate a layout of interest and to get the directions there from your current location. What appears to be the same road may change names a number of times so printed directions could be hard to follow. Most GPS devices do a good job directing you to your destination.

We have now added a Raffle and Company Store to the activities. Raffle tickets will be on sale in the Raffle Room (Registration/Company Store/Raffle Rm). Raffle ticket prices are: \$5 for 6, \$10 for 14, \$20 for 32, and \$50 for 85. Company Store items will have a set asking price. There may be one or more items you'd like to go home with. On the front end of the raffle is the donation of items to be raffled. We are getting items from various manufacturers and plan to have them listed on the web-site. We also welcome your donations. Have 2 of the same thing, something not being used any more, etc.? Then bring them with you and let us find them a new home! (or send them in advance to: 2015 SER Convention Headquarters; 226 Piney Mt. Road; Greenville, SC 29609-3008). Items you wish to sell can be done through the Company Store. These should be the higher value items that you'd like some money from. The Division and Region will each take 10% of the selling price as commission for helping you sell the item.

Saturday evening is dedicated to Banquet activities. We will start at 6:00p with a "cash bar" reception. A time to visit with friends, talk about what a great time you had, etc. Dinner will be a buffet with items you will surely enjoy. After dinner there will be a special presentation by Loraine Garner telling us her side of being married to a master model railroader! Contest awards will be presented by the SER and the special "Heavy Loads" theme contest by the Palmetto Division. The highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Mr. Steven Hawkins. Steven is a life-long rail fan and fellow model railroader. But he has taken the next step up and is the owner, president, and CEO of the Greenville & Western Railway. A profitable and growing short-line railroad in the South Carolina Upstate area. His GP9, #3751, was the cover photo on the June 2012 edition of "Trains" magazine and he was featured in the "from the editor" article on page 4.

[www.palmetto-excursion.org](http://www.palmetto-excursion.org)

# Clinic Descriptions

1 *Bando, James*

## **Modeling with Balsa Foam (Part 1)**

Do you want to model a specific stone or brick building, but there are no commercial walls that closely match the prototype? Do you want to model a specific stone bridge, but there are no commercial castings that look exactly like the prototype? Have you ever tried carving plaster or wood and all you got was frustrated? If you answered, "Yes," to any of these questions, then carving balsa foam might be what you are looking for. Balsa foam is a manufactured product that is easy to carve and emboss. In this clinic, I will show you how to carve and emboss custom structures from balsa foam, how to glue balsa foam pieces together, and what paints work best on balsa foam. This is a hands-on clinic with attendees carving and embossing on balsa foam.

2 *Bando, James*

## **Modeling with Balsa Foam (Part 2)**

Do you want to model a specific stone or brick building, but there are no commercial walls that closely match the prototype? Do you want to model a specific stone bridge, but there are no commercial castings that look exactly like the prototype? Have you ever tried carving plaster or wood and all you got was frustrated? If you answered, "Yes," to any of these questions, then carving balsa foam might be what you are looking for. Balsa foam is a manufactured product that is easy to carve and emboss. In this clinic, I will show you how to carve and emboss custom structures from balsa foam, how to glue balsa foam pieces together, and what paints work best on balsa foam. This is a hands-on clinic with attendees carving and embossing on balsa foam.

3 *Bartlett MMR, Ben*

## **Working with Styrene**

This clinic will discuss materials and tools the author uses for constructing styrene models. The author will then show how he applied these materials and tools to the construction of a scratchbuilt station.

4 *Barnes, Don*

## **Layout Design from a Prototype**

The concept of layout design is along the lines of how to go from a prototype to an operating model railroad which reflects the prototype to some degree. Issues addressed for this topic include: 1. What prototype railroad to choose? What portion? 2. Where can one get the information for that railroad, particularly for a prototype railroad that no longer exists? 3. How does one deal with the mass of information that one is likely to acquire? 4. How to go from notebooks full of information to a working track plan? 5. What about track planning tools such as 3rd PlanIt? 6. Structure building. 7. Staging Yards... hidden or open?

5 *Beaty MMR, Robert*

## **Make Rocks out of Cushion Foam**

The "SOFT ROCKS" that are covered in this clinic were made of Foam Rubber, the type used in sofas or over stuffed chairs. It was first introduced to me about 5 years ago by a group of Australian Modelers. After a few years experimenting with this brilliant technique, I have introduced it to my Port Townsend and Southern narrow gauge (Hon3) railroad, and would like to share it with you. You don't need much in the way of materials, all easily purchased from a hardware/home improvement store.

6 *Benezra, Steve*

## **Introduction to Model Railroad Operations**

This clinic will explore the why and how to simulate prototype railroad operations on your layout. Topics will include layout design, era specific operations, car forwarding, dispatching as well as other fundamentals of model railroad operations. Since model railroad operations can run the range from simple to complex, the goal of the clinic is to give you a starting point on how to have model railroad operation sessions.

7 *Black, James*

## **Computer Generated Backdrops**

How to use commercially available computer programs and data to generate high quality custom backdrops for your layout. The steps include terrain height generation, overlaying available satellite imagery, adding trees, vegetation and other natural features, adding cultural features (roads, bridges, buildings, etc.) and printing the finished backdrop.

8 *Carlton, David*

## **The Art of Soldering**

Tips and Tricks to Improve Your Soldering Skills

9 *Duncan, Geoff*

## **Automating Model Railroad Operations Using Train Controller Software**

Based on the popular Train Controller© PC software this clinic will present a variety of topics important to successful automation of operations of a DCC model railroad layout. These include hardware selection, creating switchboard diagrams, blocking considerations, occupancy detection and feedback, signalling, creating schedules, automated dispatching, routing, train tracking, and the profiling of locomotive performance.

10 *Farwell, Art*

## **Operation Planning in Big Scale, Small Space**

The presentation purpose is to share the design, construction and operational planning of a large scale, small space layout. Pender Street Mills is a 4-foot by 2-foot G<sub>n</sub>15 scale micro layout that was designed to keep two engineers enjoyably engaged in operations. We will discuss the initial design criteria, the evolution of a track plan, construction issues, and the development of an operating plan. The operating plan then drove rolling stock and cargo load requirements. While a space challenged layout may not be your primary interest, the presentation should provide ideas and/or inspiration for your own layout.

11 *Fewster, Gordon*

## **Decals for Your Railroad**

This clinic will begin with a short review of what decals are and how to apply them. Then we will describe ways to make at home. With the home computers available now there are fairly simple ways to make decals unique to your modeling, limited primarily by your imagination. The clinic will include examples from the author's model railroad.

12 *Freeman, Henry*

## **Designing the B&O Chicago Terminal RR Thinking Outside the Box**

How do you model a railroad that served 500 industries with 60 switch crews a day in a 560 square foot space? A look at the thought process that went into selectively compressing elements of the 1956 prototype and the creative solutions to maximizing the space available for this HO-scale design. This clinic will also look at the signature scenes, structures and equipment of this urban railroad, as well as the prototype research that went into understanding the railroad's operations.. Presented by Henry Freeman, VP/Operations of the B&O Historical Society,

13 *Garner MMR, Howard*

### **Laser Kit Design Considerations**

Follow the ins and outs of the design of a laser kit: Some the issues involved from selection of the prototype to the end release of the model. We will be following the construction of a Burlington, Cedar Rapids and Northern depot that was commonly constructed in the 1880's. Some were remodeled in the early 1900's. Some are still in use today. Others are museums. And many are long gone.

Pit falls in material selection and initial prototype parts. Checking the first draft, and on to the final released parts. Working up the instruction sheet, how detailed, paper or ? Packaging? Pricing? Advertising? How many need to be sold to break even?

14 *Gardner, Craig*

### **Adding a Bridge and Creek Scene to Your**

How to use various structural and scenery components and techniques to create a visually interesting scene where a railroad bridge crosses a small stream or creek. It also talks about preparing the scene area and how to choose the right type of bridge and stream for your layout.

15 *Goodwin, Howard*

### **Ballasting 101**

Often overlooked, but sometimes most often overdone is the simplest of track treatment, Ballast. How many times have we seen a very nice layout with beautiful scenery, good looking motive power and rolling stock, only to be overshadowed by a poor or non-existent ballasting job? There is a way however to obtain good looking ballasted track if you are willing to be as patient as when you are putting together a fine craftsman kit or other scenic detail that you want to call attention to.

16 *Gordon, Tom*

### **Modeling Basic Signaling Principles**

This clinic will cover basic signaling principles, and how they can be applied to different model layout situations. Applicability to particular situations will be discussed, along with the necessary trade-offs during implementation and design. This will be technology agnostic; however, some examples based on available layout signaling systems may be used.

17 *Illes, Les*

### **Rock Making and Scenery Techniques on the Santa Fe and Eastern Railroad**

: Making realistic rocks using silicone caulking and Hydrocal plaster. The pitfalls and techniques developed over many years and many the mistakes. Scenery with Hydrocal plaster and the coloring of rocks and scenery.

18 *Johnson, Sherri*

### **3D Printing Meets Model Railroading**

An introduction to a relatively new technology, 3D printing, that allows anyone with the knowledge and patience to design, create, and then produce items made from plastic. We will show one way in which 3D printing has impacted the model railroad industry by showcasing CatzPaw's line of 3D printed accessories, figures, animals, and vehicles.

19 *Lamb, Perry*

### **Detailing Modern Diesel Locomotives - A Practical Approach**

The clinic will describe general techniques anyone can use to detail locomotives. I model a modern class 1 railroad and these are the techniques I use, following prototype railroads, when I detail my locomotives.

20 *Lang, Dan*

### **Automating Model Railroad Operations Using JMRI and DCC**

A brief discussion of downloading and interfacing JMRI and your command station as a lead into a discussion of using that JMRI interface to run your railroad using commercially available WiFi aps. on i-pods, i-pads, i-phones and google based smart phone operating systems designed to operate a model RR. How they can be set up and how they work, the upside, the downside, and what it can add to your operating experience for DCC users should be of interest to many modelers.

21 *Ledford, Jerry*

### **Logging in the Smokies**

The Great Smokies to the west of Ashville used to buzz with the sound of sawmills and narrow gauge logging lines. Companies owned by legendary names like; Kanawah Hardwood, Norwood, W.M. Ritter, W.S. Whiting, and Champion Fibre seemed to be in almost every "holler" in the years prior to WWII. Jerry's family came from West Virginia to log the Smokies. He has spent decades interviewing men who worked for these companies, collecting pictures, and actually hiking on rights-of-way in the Smoky Mountain National Park.

22 *Leonard, Mike*

### **Transporting Heavy GE Turbines**

- Verbal descriptions of our Gas Turbines
- Photos of our Gas Turbines loaded on various RR cars
- Explanation of what a dimensional load is
- Laser Load measurement
- Process of obtaining dimensional load clearance
- Video & photos of the 9HA.01 (HArriet) move from Belfort France to Greenville, SC – The world's most powerful Gas Turbine

23 *Liles, Walt*

### **Modeling the Sandersville RR and Kaolin Cars**

My presentation will give you a glimpse at the area we call Kaolin Country in and around Sandersville and Gordon,GA. My growing up in Ga has given me a great respect for this mineral coming out of the ground. It's a huge economic impact for the state and many industries rely on it worldwide. We will discuss the many railroad cars being used to transport the product to the different industries. I love trains and love talking about this area of railroading. We will have fun.

24 *Little, Steve*

### **Railroad Convict**

Forthcoming

25 *Morton, Larry*

### **The Saluda Grade Story**

The steepest mainline railroad grade in America is a 3 mile stretch of track that climbs from Melrose to Saluda in North Carolina. Built in 1878, its Z shaped layout claimed the lives of 28 railroad men, not to mention massive losses of locomotives and freight cars. Here is its story.

26 *Norris, Joe*

### **Have You Been LED On**

Modern LEDs are a long-lasting ,versatile and economical replacement for incandescent lamps. This clinic demonstrates practical examples of using modern LEDs for structure and module lighting, including installation and providing the correct electrical power. Examples will be on display.

27 *O'Brien, Ken*

### **Head End Cars**

This clinic will cover common classes of baggage and mail cars, also known as head end cars. Cars discussed will be sorted out by their Association of American Railroad classification and usage by the railroad. Availability of kits and operation on a modeler's layout will also be covered.

28 *Prevette, Steve*

### **Design for Operations - Water Flow vs. Rock Logic**

Description This clinic will overview design considerations for the model railroad, and the operating sequence. A difficulty many model railroads have is they were designed as discrete Layout Design Elements, without necessarily planning for how traffic will flow between these elements. If your model railroad op sessions degenerate into clogged yards and/or all traffic on the main comes to a screeching halt, or want to avoid this affliction, this is the clinic for you.

29 *Sartore, Bill*

### **Structure Lighting with LED's**

Learn the ins and outs of structure lighting with LEDs. The basics are covered without a lot of electronic theory. Then learn how to work out a lighting plan using different types of LEDs and wiring methods. Finally, see how to make working prototypical gooseneck-style lamps.

30 *Seel, Robert*

### **Beyond the Roster Shot: The Artist's View in Railroad Photography**

Railroads, rolling stock, and their environs make great subjects for art. Seeing things and places in a new way can not only add to your house décor, but also inspire your modeling. Rob is a professional artist and architect, as well as an HO modeler.

31 *Silcox, Pete*

### **Bridges on Railroads**

The clinic will present the following topics: Brief history of bridges and how materials changed their designs and strength. Types of bridges that have stood the test of time. Methods of Construction, new, rebuilt around existing bridges, and modified to strengthen design. Unusual Bridges, big, small and different. Model ideas and mistakes.

32 *Smoke, Clinton*

### **Modeling the Abingdon Branch**

Started in 1890s, the line extended from Abingdon, VA to West Jefferson, NC, and became the Abingdon Branch of the N&W in 1918. The branch was only 56 miles long: Its brevity and beauty make it a good candidate for modeling. This clinic will review the history and the modeling of this famous moment of railroad history.

33 *Stanley, Allen*

### **Enhance Your Modeling Using Primary Source Data**

Whether you are a rivet counter or running a fictional road most model railroaders want some degree of accuracy in the way things look and operate. Some items are known about but difficult to find, others things are not known about or not considered useful, and many things are hiding in plain site if we knew what to look for and where to look for it. This seminar will hopefully open some doors to much of this information

34 *Stewart, John*

### **Moving the 4018 Locomotive**

The 4018 is a Frisco Mikado built in 1923 and retired to display in 1952 until the cutter's torch threatened in 2009. This presentation will show the move of this 300 ton "heavy load" by street, train and crane from the Birmingham Fairgrounds to the Sloss Furnace National Historic Landmark.

35 *Stewart, John*

### **Car Loads for Less**

With a growing hopper fleet, John Stewart needed to have car loads for iron ore, coal, coke and limestone. But with a budget and a variety of hopper car makes and sizes, he decided he could make his own carloads for his industries – come see how it is done.

36 *Traxler, Edward*

### **Structures using CAD, Paper, Foam Core, Strip Wood and Styrene**

Using CAD, paper, foam core, strip wood and styrene and to create custom structures easily that can very well match craftsman buildings. The foam core provides the support for the structure, the paper/card stock the graphic portion with the strip wood and styrene windows and doors to finish it out.

37 *Westerfield, Al*

### **Progress On My IRT Elevated Line**

Modeling the IRT Pelham Elevated Line. Using the information and techniques developed in the previous clinic Al will detail building the rolling stock to prototype modeling standards. He then will show building the structures down to the last rivet. Finally, he will place the structure in context to a specific area, modeling that at a chosen era (Spring 1948) down to the exact placement of fire hydrants and manhole covers. This is the first time anyone has attempted to model a specific time and place of an elevated mass transit system.

38 *Westerfield, Al*

### **History of the Bronx, NY Interurban Rapid Transit Pelham Elevated Line**

The History of the Bronx, NY Interurban Rapid Transit Pelham Elevated Line. Through street plans, plot plans, general arrangements, prototype photos, Sanborn maps, aerial and satellite photos, company data, operating rules and virtual tours Al will describe the development of the structures and rolling stock on the elevated portion of the Lexington Avenue subway from it completion in 1920 to date. The techniques used will be of use for anyone choosing to study or model a particular time and place.

39 *Winn, Bill*

### **Scratch Structure Building from Photographs and Other Clues**

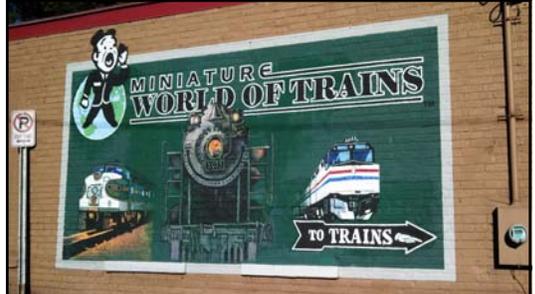
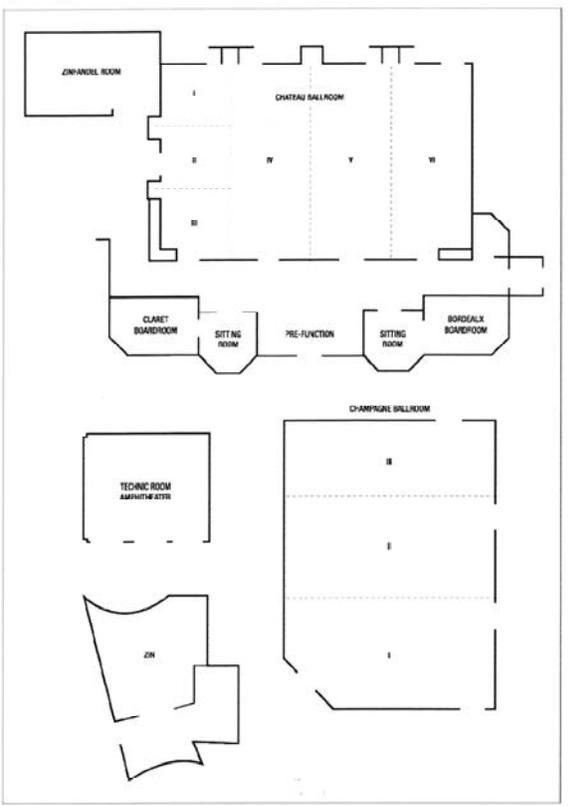
Scratch structure building is best accomplished with scale diagrams of the structure of interest. Often such diagrams are unavailable, although the modeler may produce such diagrams from photographs and other clues. Techniques for accomplishing this will be presented, along with the modeling of example structures.



# Convention Schedule June 4th-7th

# Hotel Floor Plan

	Activity	Registration, Co. Store, Raffle Room	Clinics	Clinics	Clinics	Contest Room	Hospitality Room / Non-rail Activities	Prototype Tour	Home / Club Layout Tours	Op Sig Sessions - 9a-1p, 2p-6p, 7p-11p	BoD Meeting	Reception / Banquet	
	Location	Champagne 1	Champagne 2	Champagne 3	Technics	Zinfandel	Claret Board Room	Off Site	Off Site	Off Site	Chateau 1,2,3	Chateau Ball Room	
Thursday June 4th									12p - 6p (HO) : MWOT - Downtown Greenville	9a - 1p: Allen Keller - Talbot, TN			
									6p - 9p (N) : Myton Pennyl - Simpsonville, SC	2p - 6p: Don Steen - Flat Rock NC			
									5p - 9p (HO) : Jack Varadi - Greer, SC				
	5:00-9:00	Registration Open				Contest Room Open for Drop-Off	Meet&Greet		6p - 9p (HO) : Jon Judd - Greer, SC				
Friday June 5th	8:30 - 9:30		Operation Planning in Big Scale, Small Place - Art Farwell	Introduction to Model Railroad Operations - Steve Benzera	Have You Been LED On - Joe Norris			Republic Locomotive - Tour A. Departs Hotel at 8:00a	9a - 12p (N) : Myton Pennyl - Simpsonville, SC				
	9:45 - 10:45		Detailing Modern Diesel Locomotives, A Practical Approach - Perry Lamb	Layout Design from a Prototype - Don Barnes				Republic Locomotive - Tour B. Departs Hotel at 11:00a	9a - 2p (HO) : Jon Judd - Greer, SC	9a - 1p: Ron Hale - Hendersonville, NC			
	11:00 - 12:00		The Saluda Grade Story - Larry Morton	Modeling the Sandersville RR and Kaelin Cars - Walt Liles	Car Loads for Less - John Stewart				10a - 4p (On3) : Chris Elliott - Marietta, SC				
	LUNCH												
	1:15 - 2:15		Design for Operations - Water Flow vs Rock Logic - Steve Prevette	Decals for your Railroad - Gorgan Fewster	Modeling with Balca Foam (Part 1) - James Bando				10a - 4p (G) : Bruce Gathman - Easley, SC				
	2:30 - 3:30		3D Printing Meets Model Railroad - Sherri Johnson	Working with Styrene - Ben Bartlett MMR	Modeling with Balca Foam (Part 2) - James Bando				10a - 4p (HO) : Les Illes - Travelers Rest, SC	2p - 6p: Wally Brown - Asheville, NC			
	3:45 - 4:45		Transporting Heavy GE Turbines - Mike Leonard	The Art of Soldering - David Carlton	Make Rocks out of Cushion Foam - Robert Beary				10a - 4p (HO) : Peter Mader - Greer, SC				
	DINNER												
	6:30 - 7:30		Balancing 101 - Howard Goodwin	Laser Kit Design Considerations - Howard Garner MMR	Scratch Structure Building from Photographs and Other Clues - Bill Winn				10a - 4p (G) : Jim Pitts - Travelers Rest, SC				
	7:45 - 8:45		Enhance Your Modeling Using Primary Source Data - Allen Stanley	Head End Cars - Ken O'Brien	Structure Lighting with LEDs - Bill Sartore				7p - 9p (HO) : Jack Varadi - Greer, SC	7p - 11p: Myton Pennyl - Simpsonville, SC			
9:00 - 10:00		Bridges on Railroads - Pete Silcox	Layout Design from a Prototype - Don Barnes	Adding a Bridge and Creek Scene to Your Layout - Craig Gardner				12p - 6p (HO) : MWOT - Downtown Greenville					
Saturday June 6th	8:30 - 9:30		Beyond the Roster Shot: The Artist's View in Railroad Photography - Robert Seel	The Art of Soldering - David Carlton	Modeling the Abingdon Branch - Clinton Smoke				9a - 2p (N) : Jim Stowe - Moore, SC				
	9:45 - 10:45		3D Printing meets Model Railroad - Sherri Johnson	Computer Generated Backdrops - James Black	History of the Bronx, NY Interurban Rapid Transit Pelham Elevated Line - Al Westerfield			9a - 2p (O) : Herb Lindsay - Spartanburg, SC	9a - 1p: Herb Weiss - Moore, SC				
	11:00 - 12:00		Logging in the Smokies - Jerry Ledford	Railroad Convict - Steve Little	Progress On My IRT Elevated Line - Al Westerfield				10a - 2p (HO) : Glenn Nasworthy - Easley, SC				
	LUNCH												
	1:15 - 2:15		Bridges on Railroads - Pete Silcox	Automating Model Railroad Operations Using Train Controller Software - Geoff Duncan	Structure Lighting with LEDs - Bill Sartore				10a - 2p (HO) : Apple Valley Model RR Club - Hendersonville, NC				
	2:30 - 3:30	Company Store and Raffle Closes at 2:30	Modeling Basic Signaling - Tom Gordon	Automating Model Railroad Operations Using JMRI and DCC - Dan Lang	Designing the B&O Chicago Terminal RR - Thinking Outside the Box - Henry Freeman				10a - 4p (On3) : Chris Elliott - Marietta, SC	2p - 6p: Jon Judd Greer, SC			
	3:45 - 4:45	Raffle winners posted at 4:00. Winnings can be picked up 4:00 - 6:00	Moving the 4018 Locomotive - John Stewart	Structures using CAD, Paper, Foam Core, Strip Wood and Styrene - Leonard Traylor	Rock Making and Scenery Techniques on the Santa Fe and Eastern Railroad - Les Illes				10a - 4p (G) : Jim Pitts - Travelers Rest, SC				
									10a - 4p (O) : Bruce Gathman - Easley, SC				
									10a - 4p (HO,3) : 4 layouts - CRM/KHA - Central, SC				
									10a - 4p (O) : Harry Kelley - Walhalla, SC				
								12p - 6p (HO) : MWOT - Downtown Greenville					
	6:00 - 7:00											Reception	
	7:00 - 10:30											Banquet	
Sunday June 7th		All items in rooms must be removed by 12:00p				All entries must be removed by 12:00p			9a - 2p (HO) : Gordon Fewster - Hendersonville, NC	9a - 1p: Central SMM Club - Central, SC			
									9a - 2p (On30) : Sandy Lustin - Columbia, SC	9a - 1p: Joe Dunn - Asheville, NC			
									9a - 2p (HO) : Bob Foltions - Central, SC	2p - 6p: Linda Roberts - Canton, NC			
									9a - 2p (HO) : Terry Ketcham - Etowah, NC	2p - 6p: Dave Houseman - Kodak, TN			



# Layout Descriptions



## Gerald Meyer's Blacktail & Mystic RR

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 40' x 12'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: BN & UP  
Locale Modeled: Midwestern Mississippi Valley  
Era: 1970s and 1980s  
Layout Style: Around the Wall

## Peter Mader's Castle Rock and Western

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 12' x 23'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: ATSF, BNSF, UP, NS  
Locale Modeled: Western  
Era: Circa Late 20th Century

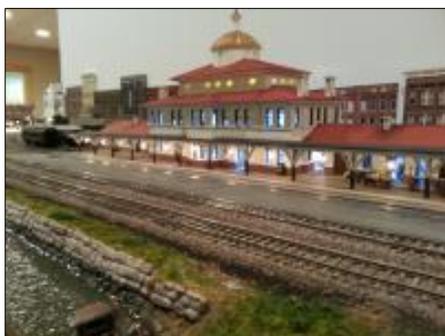


## Chris Elliott's Big Sandy Railroad and Timber Company

Scale/Gauge: On3  
Overall Layout Size: 15' x 25'  
Prototype Modeled: Freelance Southern Logging  
Locale Modeled: Blue Ridge Foothills  
Era: Circa 1940's  
Layout Style: Walk-in Double E

## Miniature World of Trains

Scale/Gauge: HO/HOn3  
Overall Layout Size: 45' x 40'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: Variety of diesel and steam  
Locale Modeled: SC, NC and Rocky Mountains  
Era: Modern



## CRM&HA's American Flyer Layout

Scale/Gauge: S  
Overall Layout Size: 15' x 8.5'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: American Flyer Lines  
Locale Modeled: N/A  
Era: 1950s

## Layout Style: Traditional Childrens

## Jack Varadi's Greenville and Ohio Railroad

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 13.5' x 23'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: Southern Shortline Railroad  
Locale Modeled: OH, TN, VA, NC, SC  
Era: Circa 1940's and 50' Layout Style: Walk-in E-shaped

## Gordon Fewster's Ontario Southern Railway

Scale/Gauge: HO Standard  
Overall Layout Size: 32' x 20'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: Coal Hauling Shortline  
Locale Modeled: Pennsylvania  
Era: 1950s

## John Judd's Colorado Joint Line

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 38' x 38'  
Prototype Modeled: ATSF, DRGW, BN  
Locale Modeled: Denver to Colorado Springs, CO  
Era: Circa October 1987  
Layout Style: Linear Walk-around

## Ron Hale's Blue Ridge and Allegany Railway:

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 42' x 24'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: Southern and Western Maryland Railways  
Locale Modeled: Appalachian Mountains  
Era: Circa 1952  
Layout Style: Around the Wall

## Glen Nasworthy's Spartanburg & Clemson Rwy

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 12' x 14'  
Prototype(s) Modeled: Atlantic Coast Line Railway  
Locale Modeled: Upstate South Carolina  
Era: 1940s to 1955  
Layout Style: Walk-In

## Apple Valley Railroad

Scale/Gauge: HO  
Overall Layout Size: 100' x 20'  
Prototype Modeled: Southern Railway  
Locale Modeled: Western North Carolina  
Era: Steam to Diesel Transition

**Bruce Gathman's Eldorado Timber & Mining Co. RR**  
*Scale/Gauge:* 1:20.3 and 1:13.7  
*Overall Layout Size:* 56' x 27'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Narrow Gauge Logging and Mining  
*Locale Modeled:* Western  
*Era:* Steam

**CRM&HA's Norfolk Southern Rwy (portable)**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 35' 8" x 17'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Norfolk Southern Railway  
*Locale Modeled:* SC and GA  
*Era:* Modern  
*Layout Style:* Sectional Portable - Loop to Loop

**Myron Pensyl's Albany/Schenectady Divisions of the D&H and NYC Railroads**  
*Scale/Gauge:* N  
*Overall Layout Size:* 9' x 6'  
*Prototype Modeled:* Delaware & Hudson and New York Central Railroads  
*Locale Modeled:* Albany and Schenectady, NY  
*Era:* 1970's  
*Layout Style:* Point to point with continuous running

**Robert Folsom's Norfolk & Western**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 23' x 35'  
*Prototype Modeled:* Norfolk & Western Railway  
*Locale Modeled:* Roanoke, VA  
*Era:* 1954  
*Layout Style:* Folded dog bone with two helixes

**Les Illes' Santa Fe Railroad**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 23' x 35'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* ATSF, BNSF, UP  
*Locale Modeled:* Cajon Pass area  
*Era:* 1950's to present

**Herb Lindsay's NYC and PRR Branch Lines**  
*Scale/Gauge:* O Hi-Rail  
*Overall Layout Size:* 25' x 26'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* New York Central and Pennsylvania  
*Locale Modeled:* Northeast  
*Era:* 1955  
*Layout Style:* L-Girder

**Harry Kelley & Bob Springs' Loganville Local**  
*Scale/Gauge:* 1:29  
*Overall Layout Size:* 40' x 40'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* CSX-NS Freelance Shortline  
*Locale Modeled:* Knoxville, TN  
*Era:* Current Times

**Bob Springs' Bountyland Railway**  
*Scale/Gauge:* 1:3.2 / 7.5"  
*Overall Layout Size:* 100' x 100'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington  
*Locale Modeled:* Alna, ME

**James Stowe's Rock Island Lines – Illinois Div**  
*Scale/Gauge:* N  
*Overall Layout Size:* 20' x 20'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Rock Island Railroad  
*Locale Modeled:* Illinois Plains to Denver  
*Era:* Late Steam to Diesel  
*Layout Style:* Around the Wall with Inner Island

**CRM&HA's Dambridge Loop**  
*Owner's Name:* Central Railway Model and Historical Association  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 3' 10" x 6' 10"  
*Prototype Modeled:* Pennsylvania Railroad - Freelance  
*Locale Modeled:* Hunterdon County, NJ  
*Era:* 1980's to Present

**Terry Ketcham's West Virginia & Southern Railway**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 14' x 39'  
*Prototype(s):* N&W Railway  
*Locale Modeled:* Southern West Virginia  
*Era:* 1950s

**Jim Pitts' Southern Steam Trains**  
*Scale/Gauge:* 1:32, 1:20.3, 1:13.7  
*Overall Layout Size:* 66' x 23.5'  
*Prototype Modeled:* US, UK and World-wide  
*Locale Modeled:* Non-Specific  
*Era:* Circa 19th and 20th Centuries  
*Layout Style:* Raised - Live Steam

**Sandy Eustis' Arcadian Coast Eastern**  
*Scale/Gauge:* On30  
*Overall Layout Size:* 14' 4" x 12'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Maine 2'  
*Locale Modeled:* Downeast Seacoast  
*Era:* 1930s

**CRM&HA's Central and Southern Railways (Museum Layout)**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO/HOn3  
*Overall Layout Size:* 5 Room House  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Southern Railway  
*Locale Modeled:* SC, NC, GA  
*Era:* 1958  
*Layout Style:* Walk-In, Double Deck

**Dan Lang's Boston & Maine Fitchburg Div**  
*Scale/Gauge:* HO  
*Overall Layout Size:* 38' x 19'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Boston & Main Mainline  
*Locale Modeled:* Central MA and VT and Eastern NY State  
*Era:* 1940s - 1970s

**Piedmont 'N Southern Modular N-Scale Club**  
*Scale/Gauge:* N  
*Overall Layout Size:* 22' x 12'  
*Prototype(s) Modeled:* Freelance

# OPSIG SCHEDULE

Thursday, June 4th  
Morning 9am-1pm

Allen Keller  
Talbot, TN

Friday, June 5th  
Morning 9am-1pm

Ron Hale  
Hendersonville,  
NC

Saturday, June 6th  
Morning 9am-1pm

Herb Weiss  
Moore, SC

Sunday, June 7th  
Morning 9am-1pm

Joe Dunn  
Asheville, NC  
  
Central ~~MRR~~ Club  
Central, SC

Afternoon 2pm-6pm

Don Steen  
Flat Rock, NC

Afternoon 2pm-6pm

Wally Brown  
Asheville, NC

Afternoon 2pm-6pm

Jon Judd  
Greer, SC

Afternoon 2pm-6pm

Linda Roberts  
Canton, NC

Dave Houseman  
Kodak, TN

Evening 7pm-11pm

Evening 7pm-11pm

Myron Pensyl  
Simpsonville, SC

Convention  
Banquet

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No OPSIG  
Scheduled

**The NMRA Palmetto Division presents  
 Palmetto Excursion—Destination Greenville 2015  
 at the Greenville Marriott  
 One Parkway East, Greenville, SC 29615**



**June 5th – 6th, 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NMRA # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Name on ID Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Other Attendees \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to attend OPSIG events?  YES  NO

<b>NMRA Member Registration</b>	Postmarked before 4/15/15	\$65.00 x _____ = \$ _____
	Postmarked after 4/15/15	\$85.00 x _____ = \$ _____
<b>Spouse/Children</b>	Postmarked before 4/15/15	\$45.00 x _____ = \$ _____
	Postmarked after 4/15/15	\$55.00 x _____ = \$ _____
<i>Note: The Banquet is included with all registrations</i>		
<b>Extra Fare Tours</b>	Inland Port & BMW Spur Tour	\$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____
	Loco Shops & Motorcar Tour	\$25.00 x _____ = \$ _____
<b>NMRA Membership</b>	Rail Pass	\$ 9.95 x _____ = \$ _____
<b>Convention T-Shirts</b>	S, M, L, XL	\$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____
	2XL, 3XL (Please circle your choice)	\$18.00 x _____ = \$ _____

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



Make check or money order payable to:  
**SER CONVENTION 2015**  
 Mail check or money order & registration form to:  
**Palmetto Excursion 2015**  
**250 Vinland Farms Drive**  
**Easley, SC 29640-6738**

## CONVENTION FACILITIES

The convention hotel is located just off I-85 at exit 53 - Pelham Road.  
 There will be three clinic rooms, a contest room, a hospitality room, and of course banquet facilities.



**Greenville Marriott**  
 One Parkway East, Greenville, SC 29615  
**(864) 297-0300**

*For the special convention rate,  
 use group code: SER2015*



**SOUTHEASTERN REGION  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2015 AT PANAMA CITY, FL**

**MINUTES**

The following Board Members were present:

Glen Hall, MMR, President; Alan Mole, Vice President; Sally Bando, Treasurer; George Gilbert, Secretary; Peter Youngblood, MMR, Director; Jason Parham, Director; Bob Beaty, MMR, Executive Advisor.

The following Division Superintendents were present;

Buddy Black, Gulf Division; Tom Shallcross, Headquarters Northern; Peter Youngblood, MMR, Piedmont; Sandy Warrington, Mid South; John Stewart, Steel City; Steve Prevette, Central Savannah River

The following Committee Chairman were present;

Howard Garner, Contest Chair; Randall Watson, Achievement Program Chair; Peter Youngblood, MMR, Education Chair; Buddy Black, Asst. Education Chairman; Rick Coble, Membership Chair; Randall Watson, Car Project Chair; Fred Coleman, Convention Chair; Howard Goodwin, Boy Scout Merit Badge Coordinator.

Other Notables:

Joe Gelmini, MMR, past SER president, NMRA E. District Director; Joe Nichols, Sr, Historian; James Bando, Member

A quorum was determined to be present so president Glen Hall, MMR opened the meeting at 9:02 am and welcomed all attending. In opening Glen noted that Troy Hight had stepped down as Magnolia Division Superintendent for family reasons. Glen has talked with Roy Oliver as a potential replacement in the Magnolia Division. Roy is still undecided. Glen also said he has talked with Danny Lewis about replacing Phil Hutchinson as the Dixie Division Super. But during the talks Danny encountered health problems so Dixie is still undecided.

An introduction of the BOD and attending members was dispensed; all present were already acquainted.

## **Officer & Committee Reports**

### **Secretary Report** – George Gilbert

In response to a call for a reading of the September 27, 2014 BOD meeting minutes a motion was made by Alan Mole and seconded by Fred Coleman to accept the minutes as distributed electronically by Secretary George Gilbert. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer Report** – Sally Bando

Sally Bando opens saying that we have both the final 2014 Financial Results to look at and approve and we have the new 2015 Budget to review and approve.

Bob Beaty recommended that we review the 2014 Financials before considering the 2015 Budget. Sally agrees.

Discussion of 2014 Financials proceeded with a request for any questions. This produced a bit of discussion from the floor with the following information provided in answer to the discussion.

At 2014 year end:

total balance	\$18,800
total assets	\$50,556
life subscribers	\$44,810
1 check outstanding (now cleared)	

Treasurer noted that NMRA national withholds 5% for subscriptions paid by credit card or PayPal

Memphis Convention produced a \$2,018 profit share to SER. There was a question about placing this in the general account or the convention account. It was decided to place it in the general account since Memphis did not use any funds from the convention account.

The convention account was reported to contain \$2,000; enough to support the next convention.

Fred Coleman moved and Bob Beaty seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Discussion turned to the 2015 Budget.

Sally Bando opened with a question about the Southerner. She noted that the 2014 Southerner expenses were less than the budgeted amount. Glen Hall asked if we were under any minimum obligation to the Southerner publisher. Alan Mole noted that we only pay for what we use. Alan Mole asked if Sally was suggesting that the budget be reduced; she stated she believes it should stay as in the 2015 Proposed budget.

Steve Prevette made a point that we are not delivering all the Southerner's promised and noted that is not fair to members. Sally

noted it is also not fair to advertisers in the Southerner. There was further discussion with Bob Beaty noting that we promise members 4 issues/year but have not delivered. We must publish and mail out the election issue.

Alan Mole asked if we should table the Southerner Discussion until the Editor, Paul Voelker, was present. Glen noted that we would discuss this matter during the Editor's report section of the meeting. He stated we should keep the budgeted amount of \$5,500 for 2015.

Glen Hall asked a question about the funds in the budget for Division Support. Alan Mole noted that previous use of the division support funding had been minimal. The budget for 2015 is \$1,450.

Motion made by Alan Mole and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

### **Vice President Report** -- Alan Mole

Alan Mole opened the VP Report by asking Division Superintendents present to give their Division Reports.

**Mid-South:** Sandy Warrington: Sandy noted that most of the Division activity has been work on the 2016 convention and that he will later under convention reports.

**Dixie:** Noted to be not present and no report

**Steel City:** John Stewart: John reports that the Division continues monthly meetings with renewed focus on modeling subjects. Last spring they changed the venue with good results. And the Division has extended their newsletter with a new Editor.

**Gulf Division:** Buddy Black: Buddy noted that most recent activity was preparing to host this BOD meeting. He said that most division activity is in the four major clubs in the Gulf Division cities. (The BOD attendees had visited the Panama City club the previous evening). Alan Mole asked how often the club was open; Buddy answered twice a week. Fred Coleman asked about the Panama City membership and building ownership. The answers were 23 and the building is owned by Buddy Black.

Bob Beaty asked how the long (geographical) division was working as it is split into subdivisions. Buddy that the principal activities were all locally centered on each of the 4 major clubs ( in Panama City, Fort Walton Beech, Pensacola, and Mobil). And that the NMRA served as an overlay and communication link between them. He noted that in the area the clubs are more important to the modelers than the NMRA. But the NMRA offers programs, such as the AP program that touches all.

**Piedmont:** Peter Youngblood: Peter noted that he had sent out a lengthy Division report and went on to say the division has held 37 separate activities in the year just ended. A most recent event was held at the Kennesaw Museum. That event hosted 2060 paid attendees (plus kids, they get in free). The Division had a recruit table set up at this event where they recruited and gave Rail Passes to 3 people.

A Digression occurred: Peter asked why is it that we have 15 divisions and usually get only activity reports from about seven. This opened a general discussion with Steve Prevette and Bob Beaty, among others chiming in. One thread of the discussion seemed to be that we have too many small divisions. That we need fewer, but bigger, divisions with subdivisions forming where there are activity centers. This idea was expressed enthusiastically by some but others did not agree. It was, however, noted we need to continue with the Division Reports.

**Empire:** noted not present and no report

**Palmetto:** Ron Lown: Ron was not present due to illness Alan Mole noted that Ron was getting better. Ron had submitted a report; division activity was on mainly 2015 Convention prep. Alan did not have convention registration numbers but Sally Bando did; to date (of this BOD) there were 25 registrants and 11 guests with \$3,728 collected. Bob Beaty noted historically most registrations occur after March 1.

**Atlantic:** not present and no report

**Central Savannah River:** Steve Prevette: Steve noted that his division was the smallest with 27 members. He noted that his division was highly displeased with the reception to their proposal to host the 2017 convention. He stated his belief the smaller divisions did not have sufficient resources to do the things a division needs to do. He states he would like few but larger divisions.

**Bluff City:** Mike Fleming: not present and no report

**Cumberland:** Bob Hultman: not present but report was submitted.

**Smoky Mountain:** Larry Burkholder: not present but report was submitted.

**Headquarters (N):** Tom Shallcross: Tom will later under Mini Meet topic

**Headquarters (S):** Hal Crossland: not present and no report

**Magnolia:** Troy Hight; not present and no report

**Land of the Sky :** Ken O'Brien; not present but report submitted.

**Communications** – Rick Coble: Rick stated that he and Scott Pavlov prepare and e-mail the Newsletter ever six months. He noted that the percentage of members without e-mail has dropped a bit to about 15% without e-mail. Rick noted that people who joined prior to 1994 were more likely to have no (or an out of date) e-mail address. He stated that they are trying to improve their e-mail lists. Sally Bando offered to share information she has available in Piedmont Division.

Rick noted that Scot Povlot is available to add information to the SER Web Site.

**Membership** – Steve Prevette: Steve noted that the Region had seen about a 200 member drop in membership in the past year.

But that drop is largely explained by the number of number of people who took a 6 month RailPass membership to go the 2013 National Convention in Atlanta. These are people who did not renew NMRA membership then the RailPass membership expired. Steve said that with the 200 drop explained then the membership is holding pretty steady.

Steve noted that as assistant Web Master he can help with Web Requests.

**Editor's Report** – Paul Voelker Paul was not present at this meeting so Glen Hall led the discussion about Southerner issues. Glen noted that we have missed Southerner issues; only 3 were published in 2013 and 2 in 2014. We promise our members 4 issues for their yearly subscription fee. Glen opened a discussion to see how can help get the Southerner back on a schedule. Rick Coble said that he has talked with Paul Voelker and Paul does recognize there is a problem. Rick suggested that Paul could accept help with the tedium of getting to press. (For example he mentioned that Alan Mole could "hound" the Div Supers for reports and relieve Paul of that chore.) Rick also said he recommended Paul set his deadlines and not change them to accommodate slowpokes. Bob Beaty made points that all agreed with. The first point is that the Board's concern is about our promised service to the membership. There is no concern about our Editor's performance; we know our Southerner is excellent. Bob then noted than anyone offering to help Paul must follow through and actually be there to help. The discussion closed with the Board asking Rick Coble to work Paul and within Piedmont do find out where we can help get the Southerner on schedule.

Peter Youngblood asked a question about a loss of Southerner Subscribers. He had a number indicating a loss of 24 subscribers. The answer was that some was from loss of Life Members and some realizing that they could get the Southerner online without subscribing. This then led to a discussion of why we have a print Southerner, why not just the online. Randal Watson then noted that we are obligated to provide a print Southerner to our Life Members; they have already paid for it. However, Randall suggests, we could meet that obligation by simply printing the Online Southerner from the Web page and mailing it to Life members.

**Education Report** – Peter Youngblood Peter noted the report has been submitted; there is nothing to add.

**Achievement Program** – Randall Watson Randal reported the following:

Issued Gold Spike or Certificates	15	(incl. 1 MMR)
Outstanding Certificates	4	(of the outstanding one is Peter Youngblood's #11)

**Boy Scouts:** Howard Goodwin Howard reports that the Boy Scout program is still doing well in Piedmont with a total of about 900 scouts having been through the program. Recently Peter Youngblood had Howard put on a class in association with the Kennesaw project that saw 29 more scouts. As a future project Howard would like to get videos of the Boy Scout presentations made available for others to use.

Bob Beaty, of Steel City, reported that Birmingham high level Boy Scout leadership showed no interest in a RR Merit badge program. However John Stewart has found interest in local BS Troups. He is plotting to see if he can get the program started in one troop and then see if it can grow from there.

It was noted that there is a problem in that adults must get appropriate Youth Certification to work with the boys. There was some discussion of programs to get that certification.

**Good & Welfare:** Dave Anderson: Dave has submitted a report.  
Following notable milestone Birthdays: 4 at 80; 2 at 90, and 1 at 95

**Other Committee Reports** There were no other committee reports.

## **Old Business**

**2015 Convention Report** – Fred Coleman

Fred noted that as of this meeting date Ron Lown was back in the hospital. However, the convention planning was proceeding OK. As noted in Division Reports there are currently 25 registrants. Fred noted that of those registered 50% had signed up for the prototype tours. He noted that based on past experience registrations could be expected to pick up after March 1. Bob Beaty interjected that the early spring boom in registrations is probably prompted by reminders of the upcoming convention typically published in the Southerner. However, with the delayed Southerners some people may not be getting this reminder. Continuing discussion recommended that the SER Newsletter should tout the convention with links to the SER Website and the Convention Website. There was a question about when the Clinic Schedule would be published. Fred stated that the information from the Clinic Chairman, Terry Ervin, indicated that they were waiting for confirmation from 4 clinic presenters. When they got that confirmation the clinic schedule would be published.

**2016 Convention Report** – Sandy Warrington

Sandy opened by providing handouts of the planned Huntsville Convention. He noted that they now have a logo; a 4-8-4 with a rocket shaped Boiler & Cab (humm, wonder if that would have saved steam). A convention budget has been prepared and shared

with the Treasurer and Convention Chairman. Sandy discussed the costs for buses and the cost of the Train Ride. He asked if his assumption of registration count was reasonable and if it could reasonably expect tours to sell well at the proposed costs. There was a discussion about tour costs and probable count of tour participants. Consensus was that Huntsville's estimates were OK. Bob Beaty noted that convention registration had historically been right at 10% of total SER membership. Sandy noted that the banquet was included in the registration fee.

Bob Beaty asked if the BOD had provided any Seed Money to Huntsville. Sandy answered no at present but they may require some funds.

**2017 Tabled Convention Proposal:** Steve Prevette

At an earlier time Central Savannah had submitted a proposal to host the 2017 Convention. That proposal came up for discussion at the September 27, 2014 BOD meeting. There were questions about the proposal but, since Steve Prevette had been unable to attend that BOD meeting, the 2017 Proposal was tabled in September. Subsequent to the September BOD meeting there appeared to have been miscommunication between the BOD and Central Savannah Region. The net result was that Central Savannah withdrew their 2017 convention proposal.

**2017 New Convention Proposal:** John Stewart

John Stewart said that at the prompting of a "still, small voice" (i.e. Bob Beaty) and with the encouragement of Tom Custer he is proposing that Steel City host the 2017 SER convention. John shared a sheet showing the reasons why Steel City would be a good choice. The convention site will be the Bessemer Convention center where previous conventions have been held. There is convenient highway access and many hotel choices. There are many local rail and non-rail attractions in the area, many summarized in the hand-out. Steel City is an active division with 120 members and a good active core group. There are 4 clubs and 15 home layouts in the area. There will be a train show.

Randall Watson asked how the train show profit would be distributed. Alan Mole stated that that profit normally belonged to the division. John noted that prior experience with train shows in Birmingham led them to expect the train show profit to pay for the venue.

A motion was made by Alan Mole and seconded by Sandy Warrington to accept the Steel City proposal. The motion carried.

**SER Support of Local Fund Raising Initiatives** – Alan Mole

There have been no new requests for funds submitted to the Region.

**SER DVD Project** – Bob Beaty

Bob had been soliciting clinics done by SER members for inclusion in a Clinic DVD. To date he reported he has collect three potential subjects (not including his material). That is not enough for a DVD. He had also tried to find material that had been published in the Southerner that could be included; unfortunately that material is not readily available. Peter Youngblood asked just SER contributors. Bob answered that the idea this time was to produce an SER Clinic DVD, so we needed to stay with SER contributors. The was a period of discussion and the resulting consensus was that this project should continue searching for content. The project should continue. No BOD action was needed at this time.

**SER Car Project** – Randall Watson

Randall noted that the last BOD has directed that the search for a TAG cease since no suitable car was available. The search changed to finding an ACF 4650 Engelhard covered hopper and a Sandersville 14 panel 3 bay covered hopper. And the project is now HO only. He reported the 14 panel hopper could not be found with any vendor but the ACF 4650 was available. Randall distributed a report showing several possibilities (and costs) for acquiring the cars. After discussion Option 6 in Randall's report attracted the most favor.

Bob Beaty moved and Fred Coleman seconded a motion instructing the car project to proceed with the Option 6 as indicated in Randall Watson's Car Project report.

Finally Bob Beaty noted that narrow gauge was again left "out in the cold". Glen reminded all that N and Z scale were also left out.

**Superintendents Handbook** – Glen Hall

**Mini-Meets** – Alan Mole

Alan handed the discussion to Tom Shallcross to talk about a Crossville, TN Mini meet.

Tom Shallcross offers Headquarters (N) as the site of a Mini Meet and the Fall 2015 BOD meeting. They propose using the Crossville Club as a venue. They are also planning that the Mini Meet be open to the public so that it can be used as a recruitment tool.

Tom stated that Roan State is available for Clinic and Meeting rooms. He noted that hotels are nearby but no arrangements have been made yet.

Alan Mole moved and Bob Beaty seconded a motion to accept Crossville's Mini Meet proposal. Motion carried.

Alan Mole remarked that he believes that Mini-Meets are an excellent thing to do, but he questioned what do we do in the area as follow up to a Mini-Meet. Does the area see a boost member's activity or even an increase in membership? Maybe the area conducts a train show. Alan asks that we all think about what kind of follow-up we could do; he notes that the SER does have funding to sup-

port follow-up.

With a Crossville Mini-Meet just approved it was noted that the Crossville club has a large non-NMRA population. Randall Watson suggested that having the SER BOD and associated activities in Crossville might attract some people into joining NMRA. Bob Beaty noted that the SER would have to do a better job of promoting NMRA than NMRA does. Following on the idea of how to bring in member Peter Youngblood talked about the approach Piedmont uses to fund a RailPass to help nudge a person into joining NMRA. Peter also asked if it would be worthwhile to do a presentation about NMRA at a mini-meet, like Crossville, where there are a large number of non-NMRA club members. Consensus was positive, yes it should be done.

The discussion continued talking about how SER resources (money and people) could be used to help divisions. Could we do more than one mini-meet in a year? Could we combine a mini-meet with a local (possibly non-NMRA) train show? Could we go back and do a second mini-meet in a location? On that thought Steve Prevette noted the Aiken, SC would like to have a second mini-meet. That idea was well received; Steve agreed to see if his group wanted to do another mini.

Glen Hall encouraged all to consider Alan's request that we all think about possible follow-up activities and closed the discussion of Mini-Meets.

#### **SER Shirts/Clothing** Sally Bando

Sally reported on the SER clothing program that CafePress.com currently has. Currently they have items with 2 logos at a price of about \$20. This is currently to provide SER with \$1.00 return per item although Sally reports we have the option to change that if desired. CafePress holds the SER return until \$25.00 accumulates then sends a payment to SER. Sally also stated that CafePress's designs are screen print but they have a sister company that can do embroidery. To find the clothing online use [www.cafepress.com/serclothing](http://www.cafepress.com/serclothing). Bob Beaty noted that the web link needs to be in the Southerner and on the SER web site.

Glen Hall mentioned that consider doing their own shirt business. There was some discussion of the various concerns with running such a business (inventory, receipts, etc. ). The discussion faded with no proposal to go into the shirt business.

A question was asked, can we get SER patches. Those patches could be applied to any clothing. Sally answered that SER patches were already available from an established business that does patches. Bob Beaty moved and Alan Mole seconded a motion that the Treasurer be authorized to purchase 500 patches to have available for resale to members. Motion passed.

The discussion returned to the Cafe Press Shirt program. It was decided that the links to Cafe Press be published in SER communication channels so members could find and purchase the shirts. The matter of the \$1 per item return to the SER was considered asking if we should increase the amount to get more return to SER. George Gilbert suggested that we could consider the shirt program as "service to members" and do not increase the \$1 return amount. Glen Hall expressed agreement and the group present concurred. So the Cafe Press shirt program remains as is with the intent to publicize it more widely.

#### **SER Long Range Plan** – Glen Hall

Glen Hall stated that one of his goals as SER president was to develop an SER Long Range Plan. To that end he has asked Jason Parham to put together a draft plan. That draft was sent to BOD members for comment. Peter Youngblood responded with comments on the format and Bob Beaty with comments on the content. With the comments received Glen proposed that he and Jason revise the draft and present it to BOD and Superintendents for review. Bob Beaty proposed that Glen form a committee to prepare the proposed Long Range Plan. Bob further volunteered to join with Jason on the committee. Alan Mole also agreed to join the committee. Glen agrees to form the committee of three persons (Jason Parham, Bob Beaty, & Alan Mole) to prepare a draft plan. Glen further says that he is looking for a 4 year time frame (not longer) and is hoping plan recommends things that can be accomplished in that time frame. Bob Beaty then discusses some of the things the plan needs to cover including both goals and some metrics to mark how we meet the goals. Glen noted that he would like to see some draft plan before the 2015 SER convention.

#### **Electronic Voting** – Alan Mole

Alan Mole has conducted a simple test of the "electronic voting" software he has found. The test was two questions related to the proposed Crossville mini-meet. He reported the software was easy to setup and use and easy to review the results. Alan then talked about applying it to an SER electronic vote. He then discussed some ideas about how to set up the software to be an SER ballot. At this point he asked Bob Beaty (in Bob's role as electoral manager) for input. Bob noted that to verify electronic ballots we would send them to members e-mail and the returned ballots should have the members name and NMRA number entered by the voting member. It was noted that we would also need a way to combine mail in ballots with electronic ballots. There was also a question of would SER ByLaws need to be changed to allow electronic voting.

At this point in the discussion Glen Hall tabled this discussion.

#### **By-Law Changes Re: Term Limits for SER Officials:** Bob Beaty

Bob Beaty begin by noting that the President had asked him to look into term limits as incorporated in the SER ByLaws. The rational for looking at this is that prior to the NMRA changes the SER president had been an SER Trustee. So the term of office rules for the

president had been set to match National's requirements. Now we need to consider changing the rules. Bob had circulated a December 27, 2014 letter outlining his proposed ByLaw changes. Bob read his proposal to this assembled meeting and proposed changes to the ByLaws; Article VII, Section 3. Summary of the proposal is as follows:

President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer to serve for 2 years

Directors to serve 4 years with terms staggered so only 1/2 of the Directors are up each 2 years.

No person shall be elected to the same office for more than 2 consecutive full terms

No person who has served 2 successive terms in an office may run for another office without waiting 1 election cycle.

It was noted that this change constituted a "housecleaning" change that could be approved by the current BOD. So Alan Mole was asked to set up electronic voting on this question.

At this point Joe Gelmini asked why doesn't the BOD just go ahead and vote on this matter now. It seemed to dawn on all present that voting now was a good idea. Glen Hall asked if all the BOD understood the proposal and getting an affirmative he asked for a motion.

Alan Mole moved and Peter Youngblood seconded the following:

Moved that Article VII, Section of the Bylaws be changed to read:

**ARTICLE VII  
ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE**

3) Terms of Office.

(a) The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected to serve for two (2) years. Directors shall be elected to serve for four (4) years. The terms of office of the Directors shall be staggered so that two Directors are elected each two years.

(b) No person shall be elected to the same office or as a director for more than two successive full terms. Nothing in this section shall prevent the election for up to two full terms of a person who has been elected to serve the unexpired term of his predecessor, nor the election to an office or as a director of a person who has, more than one term previously, formerly served in that position. No person who has served in a position of Officer or Director for the above stated successive terms may run for another Board position without a waiting period of one election cycle.

Glen Hall called for a vote and the motion carried.

**Realignment of Boundaries of Div 8 (Atlantic) & 9 (Central Savannah River)** -- Howard Goodwin

Glen Hall opened this topic by recalling that he has promised the Division 9 superintendent that he would try to find an answer to problems Div 9 (and others have). Division 9's problems are caused by a small number of NMRA members in a large geographic area. Glen directed Director Howard Goodwin to develop a plan to help. Howard had prepared a Directors report in September 2014. In this meeting he review many of the points covered in that report. He noted that he found small groups of members located in pockets within the larger area of a division. By seeing that these large areas contain small pockets of activity, Howard concluded that simply re-aligning boundaries will only move the problem to another division; it will not solve the problem. He liked the mini-meet concept for creating model railroading excitement in the various pocket locations.

Steve Prevette added that his division (#9) has come to the conclusion that they would like to merge with another division (probably #8). Steve had had discussions with Carl Blum, super of div 8; Carl was interested. Steve stated he was concerned about getting the division large enough to have enough people to take on various division rolls (a newsletter author, division AP chair, etc). He thought a merge of Div 8 & 9 (and maybe #7) could produce a division with about 100 members. Then the division could plan and execute activities in the various locations where they were pockets of activity. Steve stated he intends to continue with the plan to merge divisions; he has support of Div 9 members. He understands that such a merger would require BOD and Member approval. Glen Hall confirmed that members of all divisions affected by a proposed merger would have to vote on it. Bob Beaty noted that there would be 2 votes required; one where the affected members agree to merge and a second vote to approve the ByLaw changes the merger would require.

Peter Youngblood asked if the electronic survey/election software could be used to survey Div 8 & 9 members to determine their feeling about a merger of divisions. Alan Mole said the software could certainly do that.

Bob Beaty noted that Divisions are Created by Regions, and directed a question to Joe Gelmini about what, if any, input NMRA national would have if we changed divisions. Joe's answer was the SER could change its divisions.

Howard Garner added that if Division 7 should probably be considered if 8 & 9 merge. In fact, he stated, we should probably include South GA in the areas considered for merging or changing divisions. Howard noted that with the exception of strong divisions like Piedmont and Steel City we should probably take a good look at our overall division structure. (As a historical aside Howard noted that Division 9 was created largely because Roy Tritt did not want to travel far.).

There was a discussion of a piece of free software available that could be used to visualize the population density of members. This software could be a help in looking at our division structures.

There was discussion about problems in other areas. Inability to find a Super for Dixie although there are some strong clubs in the division. A question about whether Gadsden would be better served to be part of Steel City vs. Mid South. It was noted that at the time division boundaries were originally drawn there was undoubtedly a reason. That reason may no longer be valid. We now have better roads, towns and cities have grown differently, and we now have electronic communication.

Alan mole suggested that Steve Prevet continue with his investigation of merging and let's see what opportunities this opens. It was stated that we could certainly use survey software to collect member ideas. Action items from this discussion are that Steve Prevet will distribute the "push pin" maps that show grouping of members. Alan Mole will work to help use the survey/election software to conduct surveys of members. Bob Beaty and the Long Range Plan Committee will consider service to member concerns.

**Letter to National re: promotional video:** Peter Youngblood

Peter distributed a report to the Board describing actions taken to request NMRA develop a promotional video that is accessible to all members. A memo has been sent to NMRA National expressing SER's support for this promotional material.

**Military Membership Discounts:** Peter Youngblood

NMRA National Presidential candidate Jack Hamilton has taken this idea "under his wing" and will promote to the NMRA Board.

## **New Business**

**SER Clothing:**

The idea of an SER clothing program was discussed, by Sally Bando, in Old Business under the SER Clothing topic. Glen Hall summarized the conclusions that an SER managed clothing program was not feasible.

**Division Recruitment Material:** Rick Coble

Rick related a personal experience. Stating he is not a "joiner", he told of walking up to a membership booth at a Piedmont event where a conversation with an individual got him to join NMRA. Rick stated that the best recruitment tool is a one on one conversation. He noted that our divisions do not always have good membership "booth" at events but they should.

Rick suggests that division should have the materials to create a professional appearing membership table and should staff it with people who are good at talking about NMRA benefits for modelers. Things that make a good booth are a professional looking visible banner, presence of NMRA material for distributions including old NMRA magazines (and old Southerners).

It was noted that a suitable banner can be purchased from NMRA (Division assistance funds are available to help if needed). Brochures can be printed locally and material is available from the NMRA. There was a discussion about immediately purchasing banners for Smoky Mtn and Palmetto divisions for upcoming events. Glen Hall stated that the Super's could purchase the banners and SER Treasurer would refund the costs. These two Supers will be contacted directly about this (earlier discussion indicated that possibility of SER support was probably not well decimated.).

Peter Youngblood noted that it would be good if divisions had a card that they could hand out with division and NMRA information on it. Bob Beaty noted that Vista Print can make such cards for a reasonable fee (< \$10).

Joe Gelmini added that a possible good approach to get someone interested in NMRA take the approach of offering help on "How to get Started in Model Railroading" or "How to get better at Model Railroading". This offering a service to the modeler. And in the course of offering this help it can be mentioned that the NMRA is a good organization to help with budding model railroading interest.

**Items for BOD and/or Members-at-Large**

Glen asked if there were any more items to be considered:

**Alan Mole:** Alan noted that an SER NMRA member pays about \$44 for membership plus \$10 for the Southerner. We get about 600 of the about 1,000 NMRA members subscribing to the Southerner. That is an income for SER of about \$6,000. The rub is that if we fail to produce the Southerner as promised we could see that revenue going away. This is incentive for getting the Southerner back on schedule.

**Glen Hall:** Glen inquired why the SER BOD does not own a Digital Projector. In response George Gilbert moved and Alan Mole seconded a motion to purchase a projector. Motion Carried. Peter Youngblood was commissioned to purchase said digital projector.

**Next BOD Meeting** – Glen Hall

Glen Hall then noted that the next BOD meeting will be at 9am June 6, 2015 at the Greenville, SC convention.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Alan Mole and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Adjourned at 12:50pm.

# SOUTHEASTERN REGION

## ***CLOTHING LINE***



*Be on the lookout for SER logo patches for sale soon as well as a new run of rail cars.*

*Our treasurer, Sally Bando, has been working with CafePress setting up a SER on-line clothing store. Check it out at:*

**[www.cafepress.com/serclothing](http://www.cafepress.com/serclothing)**