



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



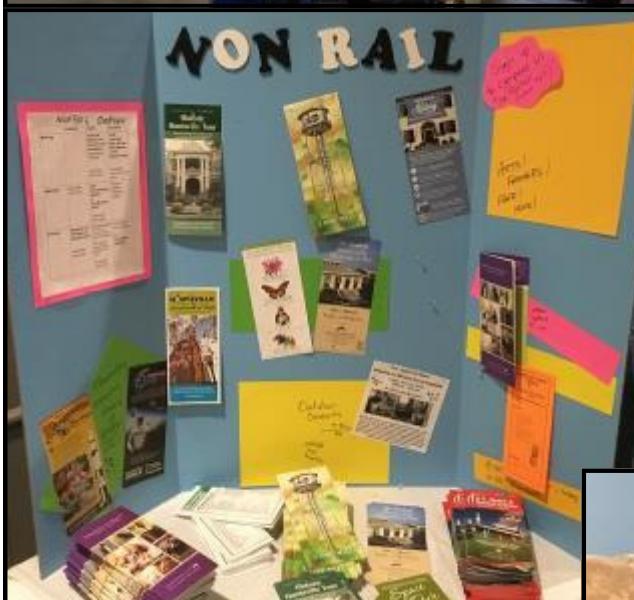
The SOUTHERNER



Volume 57 No. 3.0

www.ser-nmra.org

Summer 2016



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WAYBILL

Volume 57, Number 3.0



Summer 2016

Features:

- 20 2017 Convention Preview & News
- 22 Detecting Industrial Turnouts on a Signaled Layout
Howard Garner MMR
- 24 Bringing Up Operations
Steve Prevette
- 26 From Life Like to Looks Like
Bob Beaty, MMR
- 27 Steel City Division Modeler's Challenge
Woodward Iron Co RR Ore Car
- 28 SER & NMRA Elections Report

Departments:

- 4 Editorial Page
- 6 The President's Car
- 7 Education Department
- 19 Achievement Program
- 8 Awards—SER Convention Contests & Awards
- 11 Upcoming Events
- 14 SER Directory & Map
- 15 Division News & Information
- 30 Club Car

ON THE FRONT COVER: Scenes from the excellent Rocket City Rails 2016 SER Convention in Huntsville held at the Marriott Hotel, Tranquility Base.

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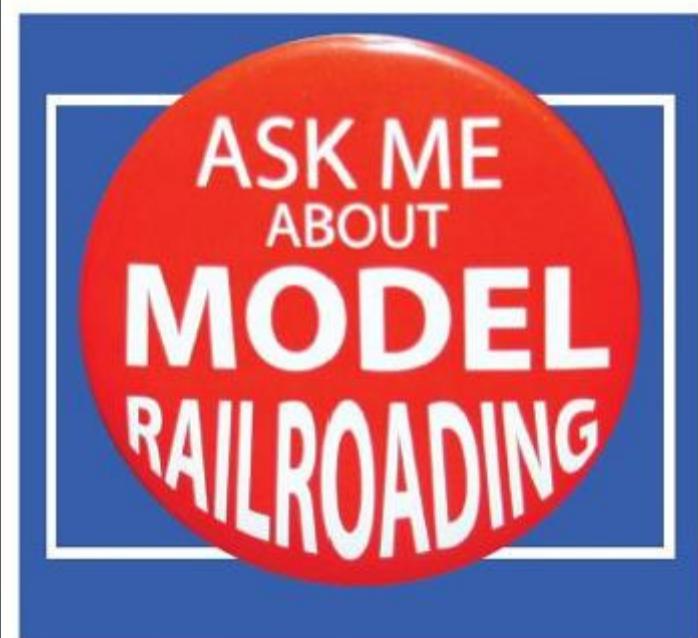
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	1	2	3	4
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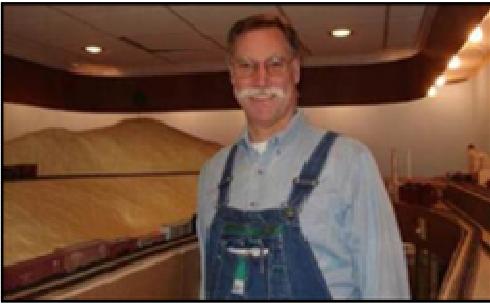


21 Easy Tips to Improve NMRA Member Retention & Recruitment



National Model Railroad Association

This new tri-fold brochure will soon be available for download on the NMRA.org website. Check it out to see tips for gaining and holding new NMRA members for your Division.



Editorial Page

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and are welcome. Please submit your letters to the Editor to John Stewart at jstew@bhamrails.info

While the Editor will use this page for traditional editorial content, we look forward to feedback from our readers. Letters submitted may be edited for content or length.

Hi, I'm John Stewart, your new Editor of the **SouthErneR News-letter**.

First let me say thanks to Paul Voelker for his good work over nearly 15 years. He gave a good summary of the trials of a startup editor's job in the previous edition. Thank you, Paul.

Next, a little bit about me – what kind of critter is your new Editor?

I was born and raised in Nashville, TN until I went away to college at Sewanee and then at Georgia Tech. After getting my Civil Engineering degree in 1974, I worked in Atlanta, GA. I married my high school sweetheart, Nancy, in 1975. In 1977, we transferred back "home" to Nashville and started a family. Three sons and a job change later, my second firm transferred me to Birmingham, AL in 1992. My engineering career included public works and transportation planning and design as well as management and business development.

Nancy and I consider Birmingham home after 24 years. I got retired in the great recession (2010) after 29 years with my second employer. This was not all bad, as it gave me a lot of time to do things that I wanted to do. One of these was to get a commercial driver's license and drive a "big rig" for about 6 months, till I had all the fun I could stand. I am really a homebody, and although driving the big truck through 38 states was fun, being away from home wasn't. My wife had retired as a preschool director, so we both enjoy being homebodies. Today I satisfy my penchant for large vehicles by driving a high school bus here in the City of Hoover, AL.

With that out of the way, let's talk about model railroading. I am 65 years old, a child of the 1950's and the youngest of three boys. My earliest memories include Lionel trains on a layout in our attic bedroom that I shared with my brother. If you're from Nashville you likely recall Austin's Electric Shop, next to the Tennessee Central overpass on West End Avenue. This was where trains came from in my world as a kid growing up. Like many I drifted away from model railroading in high school and through the years into my thirties.

Two workmates and I started a "real" layout in the late 1980's. It was a thrice around "doughnut" 12' x 10' layout with a wrap-around mine spur. It had DC cab control in the doughnut "hole" and fair scenery. We used Atlas code 100 flex track and PECO turnouts. I had no concept of model "operations" at that time, so the fun was building the railroad and getting it to work dependably. Growing up in Nashville, it was an "L&N" layout, more or less. Somewhere in this period I joined the NMRA but wasn't active, letting the membership lapse.

When the move to Birmingham came in 1992, I quickly realized that Birmingham was a railroad and industrial city as Nashville had never been. I wanted to build a layout that would reflect Birmingham's rail and industrial history.

As I researched Birmingham's history, I started a website (www.bhamrails.info) to share materials that would be of use to others, particularly model railroaders. Birmingham has SO MUCH to offer model railroaders!

The first Birmingham layout utilized the perimeter of the garage space and a room under the front porch. Being an engineer, I figured that I could tunnel through two block walls and put a drop-down bridge across the foot of the stairs and greatly extend the right-of-way. I waited till Nancy had gone on Saturday's shopping trip and put the tunnel crew to work. Boy was she "surprised"...

As this railroad was getting started, I went to an Atlanta train show and discovered Digitrax. After the modest 2 cab DC layout, I knew I wanted to go with DCC. I built the railroad in fits and starts as I continued a demanding engineering career and all the other things that invade one's RR Time when you are 40-something and 50-something. So this railroad bumped along, more off than on, from the mid 1990's to 2007 when we decided to move within our hometown of Hoover, AL, south of Birmingham. The new house came with a large unfinished basement. I had the basement finished and planned a new railroad.

Friend Craig Gardner and I started the new railroad in the fall of 2008. This railroad had a Birmingham steam era steel industry theme and I tried to learn from mistakes made on the first Birmingham railroad. By 2010 we had an operational railroad with no scenery that filled two rooms (yep, passing through the walls again).

Friends urged me to (re)join the NMRA so that I could participate in the SER 2010 Convention in Birmingham and participate in the layout tour. I did join, and have been at it since. The railroad is called the Birmingham District Model Railroad; it still doesn't have much scenery.

In all of this railroad building I got interested in Operations – primarily because I was afraid of finishing the railroad with Craig's excellent help and then losing interest in it. Craig and I learned together after discovering JMRI software's Operations Module. I also started looking for opportunities to visit "operation oriented" layouts which reinforced my interest in operations and helped me to learn.

Fortunately, good friend Nicho Young, of Nashville had guided the design process of this railroad. So, it was ready to be formally operated, once we figured out how to implement a scheme and learn to use software. (I had been ready to go with Car Cards at the time that we discovered JMRI "free" software.) We implemented JMRI Operations software on my layout as well as Craig's excellent Birmingham Southern MRR.

After getting my feet wet in NMRA activities related to the 2010 layout tour, and attending Steel City Division meetings for a year or so, I was convinced to stand for Division Superintendent by Bob Beaty, MMR.

So, with all that said, what kind of an NMRA member am I? I have a layout, I like operations, I have some leadership in the Division, and I do a lot of writing and historical research about Birmingham railroads and industry. I am not a skilled modeler, per se, but would like to (learn to) do more. Most of my efforts in "modeling" involve retrofitting what I call "rescue cars" purchased at train shows. Most of my buildings are foam core mockups.

We hold regular monthly NMRA Division meetings, which are mostly modeling focused. I really enjoy the fellowship that comes with the NMRA: that fellowship translates for me into opportunities to make new friends to share my model railroading interests. I subscribe to the old line "Model Railroading is Fun" and if it isn't I don't do it.

I look forward to serving as your Editor for the SouthErneR, just as I enjoy working on the Steel City Coupler Newsletter. I see these newsletters as a form of fellowship, networking and outreach that provides what I believe is the best value of NMRA Membership – spending time with like-minded model railroaders talking about, learning about, modeling and playing with trains.

As you read this, the Southeaster Regional Convention in Huntsville is over. I believe a good time was had by all that I talked to — I certainly enjoyed myself. I urge you to go to the Regional Conventions. They are fun and filled with fellowship and learning opportunities.

Based on our current publishing schedule, the National Convention in Indianapolis will be reviewed as "recent history" in the Fall Issue of the ***SoutheErneR Newsletter***.

So, that about brings you up to date about me. I can write a whole bunch on this page in every issue of the SouthErneR. **But I think it would be more fun if YOU filled up these pages.**

To the Editor,

Two standout OUTREACH programs in the Piedmont Division are the Boy Scouts Railroad Merit Badge sessions chaired by Howard Goodwin, MMR and "Country RRoads," a high quality traveling HO scale modular exhibit chaired by Morris Smith.

Although not functioning as formal committees, Brian Sandburg heads a small team of volunteers who appear at area railroad

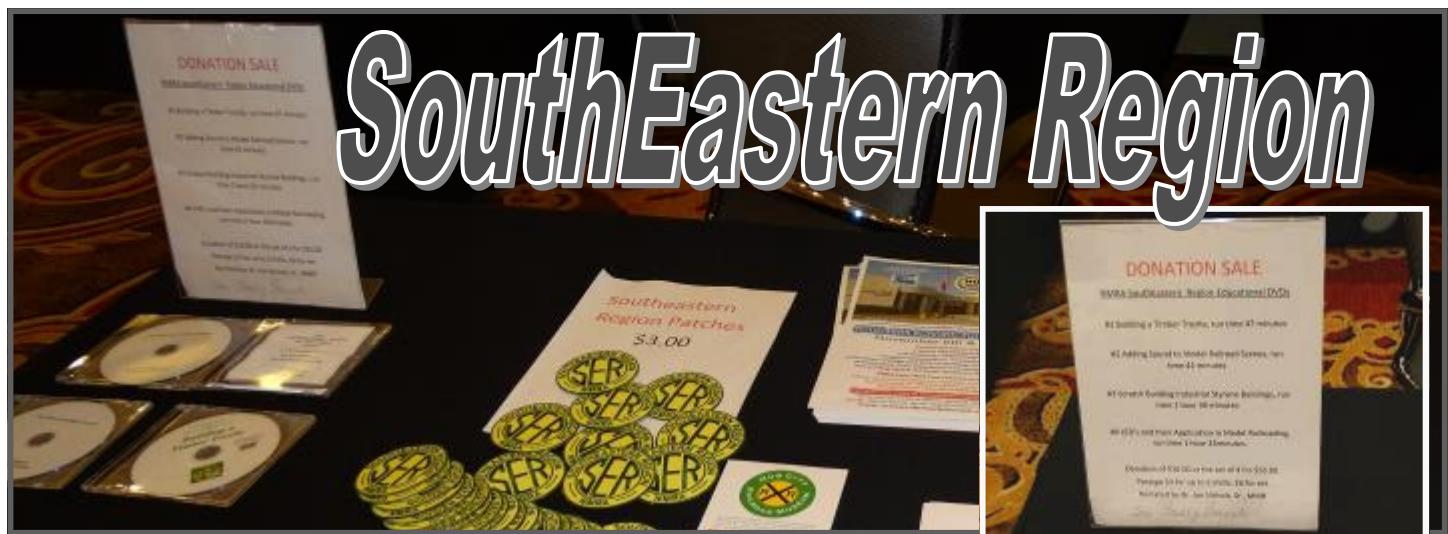
- Send letters to the Editor telling us what is on your mind.
- Send articles about what you are working on — all I need is two or three (or more) pictures and some notes/captions from you if you don't feel that you can write an article. Send it in and the Editor can do the rest.
- Send articles about a new product, tool or model that you have tried out recently. If it is of interest and value to you, then others may find it interesting as well.
- Tell about your division activities — we have regular space for this, but we don't always get content from all the Divisions. Work with your Division Secretary or Superintendent to submit a regular piece each quarter.
- Let the SouthErneR Newsletter know what is being done in your Division for outreach, recruitment and promotion of the hobby of Model Railroading.

I look forward to serving as your Editor. I would like to be just that — your Editor. To that end, I need YOU to submit material for the ***SoutheErneR Newsletter***. This is YOUR Newsletter — fill it up.

events on behalf of the Division.

Peter Youngblood, MMR, is a guest speaker at Civic Organizations where he presents an overview of model railroading as an educational hobby and the ancillary benefits to be enjoyed by joining the NMRA. Thought our readers ought to know.

Francis F Cupola



Seen at right our four instructional DVD videos which cover subjects on:

- + Scratch Building Industrial Buildings out of Styrene
- + Adding Sound to Scenes + Using LED's on your layout

Also available are our Southeastern Region patches which, in addition to the DVDs, are also available for purchase from our treasurer, Sally Bando.

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The President's Car

Alan Mole

Word from the new SER President:



My first contribution to the Southerner will be a note of thanks to all my colleagues on the SER Board, the Committee Chairs and of course the Division Superintendents. As noted by Steven Priest during his speech at the banquet, our success depends on the membership, and its support of the hobby and activities such as the recent very successful convention in Huntsville, AL. Special thanks to Sandy Warrington and his band of merry men who kept everything humming along nicely!

Finally, a big thank you to Glen Hall for his leadership and support over the last 3 plus years.

Alan Mole



Rocket City Rails Convention 2016: How many operators does it take to move a train? There seems to be a lot of head scratching and group discussion among these folks getting started on an evening of operating fun at the Redstone Arsenal Model RR Club layout, the Alabama, Tennessee and Northern.

It is good to see young folks engaged in operations and before the evening was done we had at least one Mom running trains as well. Good fun and a good opportunity to bring new folks into the hobby of model railroading.





Education Department

Peter Youngblood, MMR

Targets of Opportunity

They always come along unexpectedly. I'll explain. A few months ago my local Piedmont Division was helping at "Trains! Trains! Trains!" an annual public event for children

and their parents held in Kennesaw, GA at the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History. I was taking a break from my volunteer duties monitoring kids at the interactive Lionel layout when I was approached by a gentleman who asked if I'd be interested in making a presentation about model railroading to the local Kiwanis Club. You bet I would!

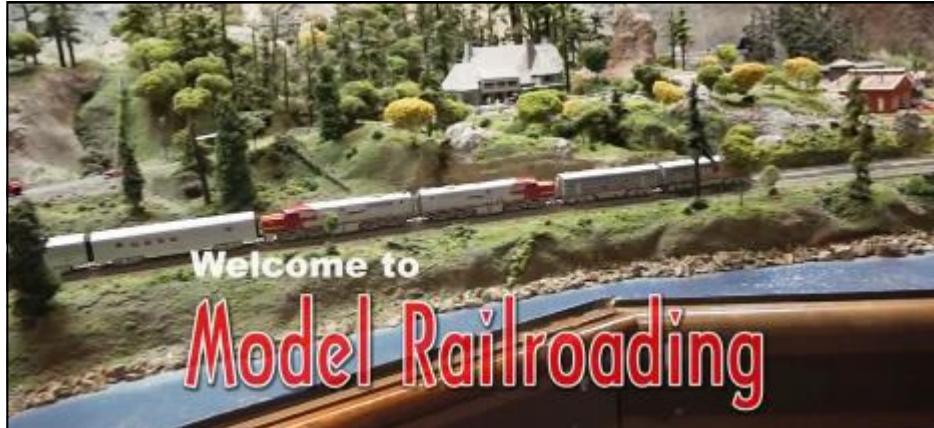
We discussed the kind of presentation his members would enjoy, how long and when best to schedule it. After exchanging business card contact information, I introduced the gentleman to Matt Coleman, then our Division's Director of Operations, the point person who would put the 35 minutes presentation together, be the key presenter while I would assist. Matt created a 10 minute Powerpoint, a concise overview of the hobby in the past one hundred years, its educational value, the multi facets that individualize and sustain our interest, and the enjoyable social aspect of interacting with others with like interests.

Following the Powerpoint, we showed the new Model Railroading/NMRA promotional video after which there was still time left to answer more than a few questions, to pass out handout material and to extend an invitation to attend our next schedule event. Wouldn't you know as we were gathering our materials at the conclusion of the presentation, one of the Kiwanis Club members asked if we would consider repeating the presentation for his local Lockheed Employee Retirement Group! Most certainly we could and a few weeks later we did.

Again the presentation was very well received and we were even invited for breakfast! Next up on the public speaking schedule is a luncheon presentation (more free food?) at a branch of the local Optimists Club. So what we've discovered unexpectedly are new "targets of opportunity" in our own backyard.

The aforementioned organizations, or derivatives thereof, are common to many communities. Most welcome speakers, most are populated by a majority of retirees and community minded members with time on their hands. Not surprisingly many will voluntarily reminisce about the model trains they had in their youth and how much they enjoyed them. Some have grandkids who like trains, yet regret they haven't discovered the fun and the practical skills to be learned by not being actively engaged in model trains.

Therein lies the best reason to give these presentations to these groups. Here's a golden opportunity to inform and reinvigorate interest in model railroading to a captive adult audience capable of re-introducing the hobby to themselves and also hands-on to a much younger generation. Make sure though, that you bring handout material with contact information and an invitation to your next NMRA event. For very little effort you can expect positive results. Who knows, you might even get a free meal?!



Welcome to
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Download video at <http://www.nmra.org/members/promotional-materials>

Alan Mole

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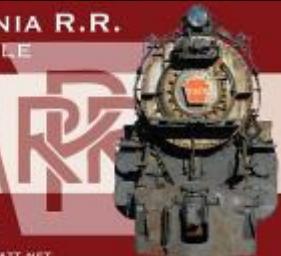


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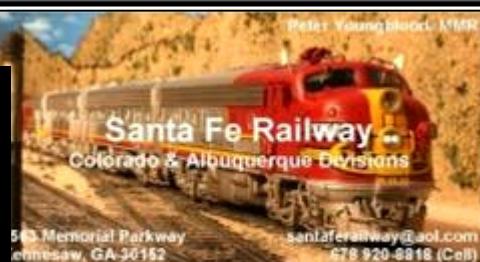
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Achievement Program

Master Model Railroader #575 Piedmont Division John A. Travis

Model Railroading has been my major hobby during my adult life, beginning in 1980. I've always worked with others in building a layout, weekly operating sessions, railfanning, and activities within my local Piedmont Division. Working with others helped me learn faster, provided variety and was more fun. I really became active in the NMRA for our 1995 Atlanta National Convention. We had a great convention, and I soon took an active part in every meeting and helped expand both our membership and fundraising activities.

Like many, I too had a train set as a kid. I did enjoy it but also enjoyed many other activities, especially baseball and basketball. So my background is not train-oriented.

For me, this is a such a great hobby because it encompasses skills in many areas, including engineering, electrical, hands-on construction, computers, art, history, research, and railroad operation. I enjoy sharing my knowledge and experience with others and having a good time. The Achievement Program is good at suggesting many areas to hone your skills from hands-on construction, operation and computer skills. Looking at the list of certificates at the end of this article you can see that your encourages to broaden your view of the hobby.

My wife Gerry has been my major contributor to modeling. She supports me in pursuing my hobby, so I stay active. I think she likes the idea of most of my hobby hours being spent at home.

She also volunteered to assist in my layout construction by using her artistic flare to do excellent scenery. Her quality pushes me to make sure my part is at least as good. Besides my wife, I believe Norm Stenzel and Rick Hemingway provided the most benefit to reaching my goals. From Norm, I appreciate the assistance in layout design and operation. Rick gave me many ideas on electronics and always pushed me further than I had planned. He was the first to give me the idea to eliminate control panels. Both Norm and Rick collaborated on the design of a computer system for operation and dispatching the railroad. I wrote the software, but they did much of the specification. Today, our CARS (Computer Assisted Railroad Signals) is still running just great. It preceded the hardware and software elements used today.

While serving as Superintendent of the Piedmont Davison, I met Ron Gough, now MMR, when he volunteered to head up our first model train show at the local civic center. This event has become a cornerstone of our Division to introduce our hobby to the public and fund many projects. For the past couple of years, Ron has "pushed" me to finish my MMR requirements. I guess this final

push is what I needed. Still another "push" came from our Division open house. We run an annual "Piedmont Pilgrimage" where we open about 50 layouts to the general public during National Model Railroad Month in November. All of us push to be ready for this event each year.

Our local club, the Village at Deaton Creek Model Railroad Club, continues to meet every week where we continue to build, operate and have fun. One of our members, Peter Herman, who lives in the Netherlands most of the year, suggested we share both our layout design and operation technique on YouTube. So we developed one segment on the design of the Johnstown & Gerryville (www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5yN7l_luMM). Note: on YouTube you can also search for "Gerryville". This is a simple example of using our current technology to encourage others to our great hobby.

All these influences helped me enjoy the hobby and finally reach my MMR goal. Of course, now I have a long "honey-do" list awaiting my attention, so I'll end my short note here.

[John Travis's article is from NMRA Magazine, July 2016, Ed.]

Master Builder Structures Gulf Division Peter L. Banks



Master Builder Cars Gulf Division Peter L. Banks



Golden Spike Award Mid South Division James R. Norris



Golden Spike Steel City Division Raymond J. Stewart



Association Official Gulf Division James "Buddy" Black III



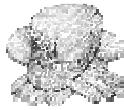
Association Official Land O'Sky Division Ken O'Brien



Model Railroad Author Piedmont Division Alan Mole



Master Model Builder Cars Piedmont Division John A. Travis



Contest Winners — SER/NMRA Convention Huntsville, AL June 11, 2016

Steam Locomotive 1st George Gilbert



Freight Car— 1st J Allen Hicks and Merit Award



2nd J Allen Hicks
3rd Carl Neste

Caboose—1st J Allen Hicks + Merit Award



2nd J Allen Hicks + Merit Award



Structures - 1st Larry Smith (Tie) + Merit Award



1st Greg Williams (Tie)+ Merit Award



Non-Rail — 1st Mike Floyd (Walking Stick)



Diorama — 1st Bob Beaty + Merit Award



Non Revenue — 1st Bob Beaty



AP Judged Only — Pete Banks 4 Merit Awards



Mack Craig – Best in Show— J Allen Hicks
For both his cabooses



Photo Contest Winners SER/NMRA Convention Huntsville, AL June 11, 2016

The Categories and winners are:
(clockwise from top right)

B&W Print: Prototype

Greg Williams, Land O'Sky Division
"White Pass & Yukon River #73"

Allan Sayle, 2nd and 3rd Place



Color Print: Model

Allan Sayle, Piedmont Division
"Dusk on the L&K at Colliery Head"

Allan Sayle, 2nd and 3rd Place

Color Print: Prototype

Greg Williams, Land O'Sky Division
"GE Engine #96"

Allan Sayle, 2nd Place
Greg Williams, 3rd Place



Working on the Railroad

Allan Sayle, Piedmont Division
"Ribaldry at Bridgnorth on the SVR"



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.



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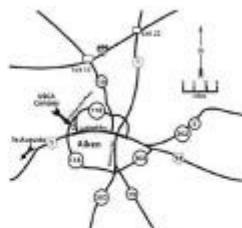
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Howard Goodwin



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Key Awards at the Huntsville SER Convention

Vern Yarborough Award

The Yarborough Award is given for Service to the Southeast-



ern Region of the NMRA. This year's recipient is George Gilbert who is member of the Cumberland Division

David Mueller Award



The Dave Mueller Award is given in recognition for service at the Division level. This year's recipient is Larry Burkholder who is a member of the Smoky Mountain Division.

Chairman's Award



The Chairman's Award recognizes service to the Southeastern Region of the NMRA. This year's recipient is Sandy Warrington, who is Superintendent of the Mid-South Division.

President's Award



To Bob Beaty, MMR, for Long Term Service to the SER Board of Directors

President's Award



To Rick Coble for Outstanding Volunteerism to the SER

President's Award



To Paul Voelker for 15 Years Service as Editor of the SouthErneR Newsletter

Appreciation Award



To Glen Hall for Service to the SER as Past President

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

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

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Our Latest SER Fund-Raising Car Kit



No layout can have enough of these cars!

The Southeastern Region of the NMRA is proud to announce the availability of a limited number of Accurail HO scale ACF 4850 cu. ft. covered hopper kits custom decorated for the SER. The car built date is 5/68 and is lettered for Engelhard.

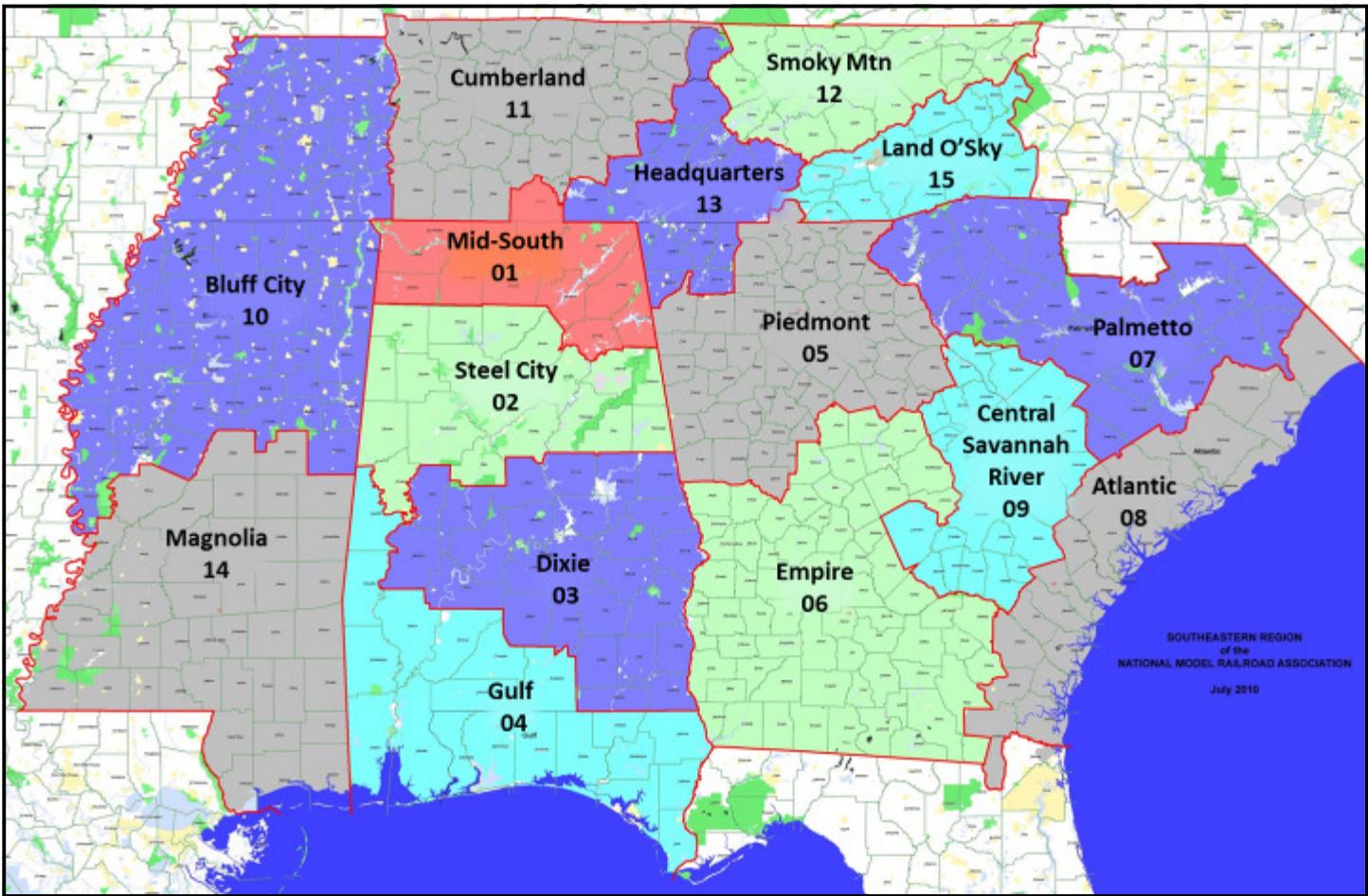
The car, offered in one road number, is injected-molded plastic featuring plastic wheelsets, Accumate couplers and separate brake detail. Orders of two or more cars includes a free easy-to-install replacement decal set, twelve numbers in all.

Cars are available at \$23 each plus shipping \$6.00 for one car.
Two cars shipping \$7.00. Three or Four cars shipping \$8.00.

COST BREAK - when ordering four or more cars only \$20 per car plus shipping of \$8.00. Orders of more than four cars add an additional \$1.00 per car for shipping.

Check or money order payable to:
SER-NMRA c/o Randall Watson SER Car Project
730 Morning Creek Lane
Suwanee, Ga 30024

For additional information contact Region Car Chair Randall Watson at: randallwatson1@bellsouth.net



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Ken O'Brien 828-696-9436 kobrien1600@live.com
550 Patterson Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739



Southeastern Region Division News



Division 1 – Mid South — Sandy Warrington

281 Shortleaf Lane, Harvest, AL 35749

541-922-7489

wewarrington@msn.com

Whew! Thanks to all who attended the Rocket City Rails 2016 SER Convention in Huntsville. Thanks to all my committee persons and volunteers.

We're glad you joined us; we're glad to be finished.

Sandy

In Memory — Thomas Albro, of Huntsville, passed away Friday, June 17, 2016. Tom was an NMRA and Mid-South Division mem-

ber for three and a half years. He served as Mid-South Division Treasurer from January, 2016 until his passing. He also served as the Registrar/Treasurer for the Rocket City Rails Convention 2016. He was a friend to us all and will be sorely missed.

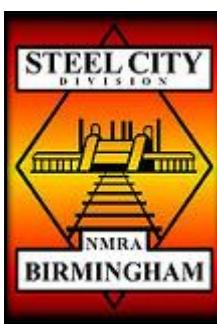


1103 Lake Forest Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244

Division 2 — Steel City — John Stewart

205-901-3790

jstew@bhamrails.info



The Steel City Division in Birmingham, AL meets monthly (except December) on Thursday evenings.

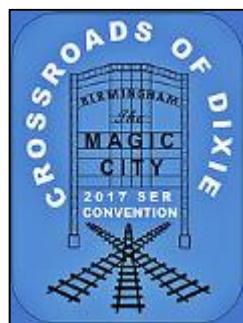
Check our website www.scd-nmra.org for meeting information as well as other information about the Division, its members and activities.

You can also download our electronic newsletter "The Coupler" which is emailed monthly to Division members, friends of the Division and other interested parties.

We welcome visitors to our meetings and other activities including layout tours, operations sessions and other events.

The Steel City Division will be hosting the **2017 SER Convention and Train Show June 9th and 10th, 2017** at the Bessemer Civic Center in metro Birmingham. Plan now to attend. For more information see the convention website for convention plans

www.2017serconvention.com



803 Durden Rd, Prattville, AL 36067-1534

Division 3 — Dixie — Brett Scott

334-799-3096

davidbrettscott@gmail.com

The Dixie Division covers a large area of SE Alabama with groups in the Montgomery/Prattville area as well as the Dothan/Enterprise/Ozark area. There are very active clubs in both of these areas of the Division that support open houses, layouts and a Train Show. Currently the club activities essentially take

the place of formal Division meetings.

See the Club Car page of the SouthErneR for more information, contacts and websites. Visitors are welcome — call ahead.

7622 North Shores Dr, Navarre, FL 32566-8411

Division 4 — Gulf — Reed Ostrander

850-939-1039

drostrander@bellsouth.net

The Gulf Division covers 10 counties in Florida's Great Northwest (Western Panhandle) as well as 10 counties in southwest Alabama. Metro areas include Mobile, AL, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City, FL.

There are active groups in each of these larger communities — see listings on the Club Car page in the SouthErneR. In addition there are active groups at Milton, FL as well as Foley, FL.

3563 Memorial Parkway NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152-2435

Division 5 — Piedmont — Peter Youngblood, MMR

770-966-1661

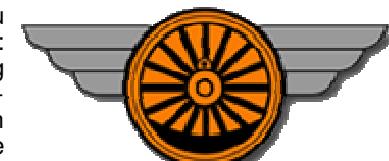
SantaFeRailway@aol.com



<http://www.piedmont-div.org/>

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.

attractive fun stuff. You know what I'm talking about: cleaning wheels, dealing with a turnout causing derailments only during open house visits, removing the clutter that reduced the once spacious workbench to the size of a kitchen cutting board, etc.. Maybe it's a good time to give the layout and the room it occupies an overall overall cleaning. I'm betting we all have a bunch of these. I know I do.



But summer is also a time of model railroad conventions regional

and national. This year's SER Convention in Huntsville, AL, June 9-10 will have come and gone by the time you read this. I hope some of you had a chance to go. Located beside the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the Center was one of several family attractions offered other than specific railroad or model railroad activities.

Perhaps you'll decide on attending the "Highball to Indy" 2016 NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show July 3-10 in Indianapolis, IN. These conventions are loaded with tours extending beyond the convention site. Many are to places the entire family can enjoy (i.e. the Indianapolis 500 "Brickyard" Race Track) and for you to consider incorporating into your family vacation plans.

Next year the NMRA National Convention and National Train Show will be in Orlando, FL. No need for me to mention family attractions there! For us, the hard core model railroaders, these conventions are Mecca and a great resource to further educate ourselves by attending top notch clinics both passive and hands-on as given by many of our hobby's best known presenters. And there's the fun of socializing with friends old and new attending for the same reason we do.

You can enjoy a comprehensive video overview by Gerry Leone, MMR, of "What goes on at a model railroading convention" simply by going to www.nmra.org and clicking on the title displayed on the home page. But even if you can't get away, our Director of Operations has lined up clinicians and open house layout tours that will entertain and educate us as we go through the summer months. The Piedmont Division is always active all year long.

Some Division news: Congratulations to our newest MMRs! Tom Brennison is #571 and John Travis #575. Well done, gentlemen. We now have 12 MMRs in the Division and 32 who've earned the

title in the SER, an outstanding achievement to say the least. I'm sure we'll have more before too long.

Another Piedmont Division milestone occurred on April 16 at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, GA. There 12 year old Carter Weese from Sweetwater, GA, became the 1,000th Boy Scout to have earned the Railroad Merit Badge in BSA sessions given in the Atlanta area. Carter was the lucky recipient of a commemorative Lionel O Gauge BSA Train Set purchased at a discount from Hobbytown USA and an HO scale kit of the SER covered hopper donated by Division member Paul Osman.

Presiding over the celebration was John Stevens, NMRA National Boy Scout Program Manager, who started the Atlanta based programs twelve years ago. He recognized the dedication to the program by all counselors, especially Rick Coble and Howard Goodwin, MMR, two counselors who attended all 39 sessions to date. Each received gift certificates to Longhorn Steak House and a special display containing a rare (!) 50 ft. undecorated box car John assembled and decaled with custom NMRA lettering. Counselor and Division member Perry Lamb videotaped the event for local Fox TV News on which it aired a few days later.

To close this out, a reminder that Division elections are upcoming in November. Although this is months away, consider serving as an elected official. Numerous vacancies need to be filled and your candidacy will need to be published. The pay is non-existent, but the satisfaction of being involved, great. See the Division website under "Officials" to see where you can consider serving or you can contact Nominating Committee Chair, Chuck Hoesch @ hoesch@brmemc.net for assistance.

Have a great summer!

Division 6 — Empire — Bill Attaway
118 Lenox Drive, Bonaire, GA 31005-3604 **478-954-9200** **attawayw@mac.com**

The Empire Division covers a large part of southern Georgia including the cities of Columbus, Macon, Albany and Valdosta.

There are active groups listed in the Club Car page for each of these areas.

Division 7 — Palmetto — Ron Lown
108 Saddle Horn Ln., Piedmont, SC 29673-9184 **864-845-3260** **rrown3260@gmail.com**

The Palmetto Division covers a large part of inland South Carolina including the major cities of Greenville/Spartanburg, site of the 2015 SER Convention and Columbia.

The Division maintains a great website that provides information on activities and meetings. Meetings are generally held on a Saturday during the Fall and Spring. Format includes clinics in

the morning, lunch and layout tours in the afternoon.

Recent Division meetings have been held at Greer, SC midway between Greenville and Spartanburg, SC

<http://www.palmettodiv.org/>

Division 8 —Atlantic — Mark Pruitt
106 N Warwick Trace Goose Creek, GA 29445-7105 **(843) 572-1725** **mark@mabrunton.com**

Hello from your Atlantic Division Our next meet is scheduled for July 9th in Charleston, at the CAMRRC facility in the Citadel Mall

While our next meeting date is undetermined at this point, we hope to hold it either near Myrtle Beach or Savannah.

There will be a short business meeting to confirm our slate of officers and officer appointees, plus we will be planning activities within the division for the remainder of the year and into early 2017.

Mark Pruitt (nee Brunton)
Division Superintendent

After the meeting we'll have a clinic by Don Courtney on weathering freight cars. Club layouts will be open after lunch break, plus one or more of the private layouts in the Charleston area.

The Charleston Area Model Train Club's 5th Annual Train Show to be held November 19 & 20, 2016. See Upcoming Events this issue.

We plan to make this a general template for Division meetings - short business meetings followed by clinics and layout and/or prototype visits to round out a day of activities.

The Atlantic Division stretches about 50 miles inland along the coast of Georgia and South Carolina including the cities of Brunswick, and Savannah, GA as well as Hilton Head, Beaufort, Charleston and Myrtle Beach, SC.

Division 9 — Central Savannah River — Steve Prevette
356 Ashley Ct., Graniteville, SC 29829-3940 (803) 392-7684 prevette@atlanticbbb.net

Mini-Meet Planned

The Central Savannah River Division will host a Mini-Meet in Aiken, SC on September 23rd and 24th, 2016. A notice is included in the Upcoming Events listings in this issue.

This will include two operating sessions on Friday, and the Board of Directors meeting plus clinics on Saturday. The Aiken Train Station will be available for viewing on Saturday.

Several SER members have sent emails for updates on the Mini-Meet, and we will update you through the summer. If you'd like to receive updates, please drop me an email at prevette@atlanticbbb.net

Operating Sessions

Operating Sessions continue on the Burnt Hills and Big Flats, and we had a very successful Saturday session in conjunction with the Division in June with five visitors and five regular opera-

tors. See the bhbfb.weebly.com website for announcement of future Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon operating sessions.

Election of Division Officers

Elections will be held in September. We have the following nominees for positions:

- Robin Riley, Superintendent
- Jack Connors Vice Superintendent
- Don Barnes Secretary
- Andy Chandler Treasurer

Nominations are still open. If you would like to volunteer or nominate another person (with their permission) please contact the nominations chair at prevette@atlanticbbb.net.

Steve Prevette
Superintendent CSR Division

Division 10 — Bluff City — Mike Fleming
2676 Satellite Street, Bartlett, TN 38134-4642 (901) 467-7138 mrfleming@netzero.net

The Bluff City Division is a very large Division covering western Tennessee and northern Mississippi. The cities of Jackson and Memphis, TN are included as well as Columbus, Tupelo and a number of other towns.

Current leadership of the Division is focused in Memphis and centered around the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum (MRTM). Most recently this was the site of the 2016 Train Day Memphis, June 4th, 2016. Activities included:

Iowa Pacific train set: Two E-8 locomotives, two coaches, 2

observation cars, one dome car, all painted in Illinois Central passenger train colors. *Passenger cars open for tours.* This same consist provided an excursion train on Sunday, June 5th, from Horn Lake, MS to Grenada, MS.

R. J. Corman GP-7 with cab open for tours.

Two Canadian National Locomotive one with cab open for tours.

1939 Yellow cab White Tour Bus.



"Speeders" from David Gold and Mike Taylor.

MATA Trolley Bus.

Dudley N scale model train layout from Little Rock.

Representatives from the NRHS, NARP and Operation Lifesaver Memphis Train Days was a great success with about 3,500 persons attending the event.

What a great way to showcase our hobby.



Memphis clubs have a great situation with a "home" at AZO a ed. Many who attended the 2014 convention visited AZO. The local manufacturing site. They make their second floor space available for layouts. We are working with local clubs to organize a fall open house at AZO where the local club layouts are locat-

Division 11 — Cumberland — Bob Hultman

1305 Chestnut Drive, Brentwood, TN 37207

(615) 833-5158

hultman@bellsouth.net

Keep up with activities in the Cumberland Division by visiting their website: <http://tcry.org/cd/index.htm>

I am obligated to start with the sad news of the passing of Jesse "Bill" Griffith, life member of NMRA and Master Model Railroader #376 last week. His funeral was June 7, 2016 in Hendersonville TN. Bill was obviously a very accomplished modeler and always doing more than his share in supporting Cumberland Division's efforts at promoting the hobby. He will be very sorely missed by all in Cumberland Division.

Cumberland Division's Spring 2016 Meet was combined with Tn Central Ry Museum's Annual Open House; held on April 9. This time around the decision was made to charge the general public nothing for admission. This, combined with extra promotional activity, swelled our attendance to well over 500 people. All our dealer tables were sold out and the Company Store did a brisk business all day.

Next is preparation for Day Out With Thomas (DOWT) The Tank Engine the first two weekends in September. This is the 15th

consecutive year that Tn Central Ry Museum & Cumberland Division have hosted DOWT. Part of getting ready for DOWT is also getting our HO modular RR ready for the usual 10-day run at the TN State Fair, our best opportunity to promote the hobby in a short period of time to lots of people.

After the State Fair setup September 9th—18th, it's then time for prepping for the Fall Division Meet, this year falling on November 19th, 2016

I wasn't able to get to the Convention this year and glad that Huntsville was a success.

Bob Hultman
Division
Superintendent



Division 12 Smoky Mt.: Larry Burkholder

206 Coyatee View, Loudon, TN 37774-2172

(865) 408-9903

labtexan@chartertn.net

Our quarterly Division meeting was held Thursday, June 23rd at the Bass Pro Shop near Sevierville, TN. Sixteen people attended including four guests. Reporting on the SER Convention I was pleased to note my election to an SER Board Director seat. I was very honored to be awarded the Dave Muller Award. A big thanks to Mid South for a great convention.

Treasurer, and Director-at-large due to term limits in our by-laws. We do have one candidate for Treasurer so far. (I will have completed over a dozen years as division superintendent!) We voted to hold a Fall local mini-meet, location to be announced. This would be on Saturday, open to the public, with a couple clinics, a company store, a small operating layout, and food. Dates would be in late October or early November.

Chris Starnes gave a clinic about using a drone for photographing prototype railroads. He's a part-time engineer on the Three Rivers Rambler tourist train. He showed a number of impressive pictures he had taken emphasizing the ability to access shots from normally inaccessible locations. He reviewed drone use laws and common sense rules for use around private areas and/or the public.

Our next meeting is Thursday, September 8th at the Bass Pro Shop at 7 pm with dinner at 6 pm. Shane Wilson, President of

Scale Trains, will reprise his clinic from Huntsville about their company's recent entry into the model railroad equipment business and what goes into developing models for the market.



Visitors are always welcome at Smoky Mountain Meetings.

Division 13 — Headquarters — Co-Superintendents

S District Hal Crossland P. O. Box 39, Harrison, TN 37341 423-344-0697 hcrossland39@comcast.net

N District Tom Shallcross 14 Briar Court, Crossville, TN 38558-8810 931-484-7565 chipmonk4@comcast.net

The Headquarters Division is located in the western part of East Tennessee including the Chattanooga metro area in the south (including some counties in North Georgia, as well as the city of Crossville, TN in the northern part of the Division. The Division is divided into two Districts, north and south, with Co-Chairs noted above. Tom Shallcross reports

1. As far as meetings are concerned, we have only had one formal meeting (organizational) and so far have not set up any formal schedule. We are having our second meeting this June 30th and may set up some type of schedule. The last meeting as well as the upcoming meeting are held in the Upper Cumberland Museum in the Crossville Outlet Center.
2. The last meeting was pretty well structured as we had elections and reviewed/passed bylaws. We also planned a social event for the Division. The upcoming meeting we are going to

start developing the program for the 2018 Mini-meet. I am going to propose quarterly meetings with a special activity, such as clinic or evaluation of members models.

3. Our division is rather unique in that all the Division members, except one, are also members of the Crossville Model Railroad Club. Therefore most of the Division activities tend to be Club activities.

4. From our perspective, the two part Division is working well. Because, under the old system, a large majority of the membership lived in the Chattanooga area. The last activity before creating two Districts had only one "northern" member attend mostly because of the traveling distance. We hope that creating two Districts will have an overall positive impact by increasing participation throughout the HQ Division. That has been the short term positive result.

Division 14 — Magnolia — Pat McCarty

3815 Rebecca Ct, Jackson, MS 39216-3719

(601) 955-0510 (cell)

maccars@att.net

The Magnolia Division is located in southern Mississippi and includes the larger cities of Jackson, Meridian, Hattiesburg and Gulfport, MS,

Presently, we have 27 active NMRA members. We are going to be working to identify all the model railroaders in the division, with the goal of increasing membership and participation.

Coming in August will be a clinic on DCC and JMRI; this will be in conjunction with activities at the Meridian MRR Club. They will be presented by Mr. Bill Burkhardt from Fort Worth, proprietor of the Texas Train Exchange, who is a big Meridian fan and who has family in Laurel. Bill is an absolute expert with Digitrax and all things regarding installation of DCC decoders. We are working to pin down a date for this clinic and activities in Meridian.

There are three active clubs in the division: Meridian, Jackson (The Jackson Society of Model Railroad Engineers and the Central Mississippi Model Railroaders), and Gulfport (Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Club).

Meridian meets every Saturday morning at the Meridian Railroad

Museum, located at the old Southern Depot. It is a beautiful facility, and well worth a trip over to visit. The city has spent tons of money on the depot and its environs, and it is a gem in the Queen City's crown.

The CMMRRC meets every Tuesday evening at the Mississippi Agriculture Museum, where they have a beautiful display layout depicting agricultural scenes from across the state. Members also get together on Saturday mornings to run trains for the museum patrons. The JSMR has a pair of very nice layouts in the same facility – one is O scale, the other Lionel. All of these layouts are available for visitation throughout the day during museum hours with trains running automatically on demand.

The Gulfport club operates the Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum (<http://www.mcmrcm.org>), which is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, and provides viewing of all kinds of model railroad layouts and equipment – with plenty of hands on experiences for kids of all ages.

Division 15 — Land O' Sky — Ken O'Brien

550 Patterson Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739

828-696-9436

kobrien1600@live.com

Land O'Sky Division meetings are held quarterly on the third Saturday of January, April, July & October.

Locations vary. Call (828) 696-9436 for program information and directions.



2017 SER Convention Steel City Division, Birmingham, AL

When the Steel City Division folks started working on the 2017 Convention we knew that a logo was needed for our shirts as well as for Convention promotion in general. Birmingham offers a lot of good symbols from its history as an iron and steel center in the southern United States. A call was put out for ideas and a number came forward including: our

Vulcan Statue, railroads through the hills, Sloss Furnace, and our gone-but-not-forgotten "Birmingham -- The Magic City" sign. In addition, several wanted to recognize all the railroads that came to Birmingham between 1871 and 1910 – some 8 trunk lines in all counting access via Trackage rights. After all, remember that Birmingham was founded at the junction of two railroads in 1871.

Eventually an idea came forward that addressed "The Sign" as well as the many different railroads. This took the form that you see in our logo, the "Magic City" sign and the three way crossed railroad tracks. The "Magic City" nickname came from Birmingham's phenomenal growth between 1885 and about WWI.



The original sign was located at Birmingham's magnificent Terminal Station, which opened in 1909, although the sign came later. One feature of the station was a tunnel or "subway" that ran under the station and 20 or so railroad tracks serving the

station. In 1926 a local businessman E. M. Elliott had a sign constructed at the entrance to the "subway" in front of Terminal Station as a gift to the City. The sign was erected to be read from the subway, since passengers could access the tunnel from the station above to board streetcars, and since traffic headed into town from the east would read the sign "correctly". It is interesting that a number of images wanted to show the façade of Terminal Station and so the sign was shown in reverse image. The actual sign appeared from the tunnel as shown in the picture looking toward downtown.



As to the many railroads that served Birmingham it seemed to be a race as every railroad that could wanted a piece of the market for traffic that Birmingham represented. The "trunk lines" serving Birmingham included:

- 1871 --South & North Alabama; Alabama & Chattanooga L&N; Alabama Great Southern
- 1883 -- Georgia Pacific Southern Ry
- 1884 -- Columbus & Western Central of Georgia
- 1887 -- Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham Frisco
- 1903 -- Illinois Central (Trackage Rights) Illinois Central
- 1904 -- Seaboard Airline Seaboard Airline
- 1906 -- Mobile & Ohio (Trackage Rights) Gulf, Mobile & Ohio
- 1910 -- Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Atlantic Coast Line

Locally there were the Birmingham Belt Railroad (1885), which became part of the Frisco, and the Birmingham Southern (1899) founded on the earlier Pratt Mines RR. In addition to that were a number of industrial railroads including Woodward Iron Co RR, Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Co, Republic Steel Co RR, Mary Lee RR, Sloss, Sheffield Iron and Steel RR and others.

An interesting story combining both of the above threads is that when the Seaboard came to Birmingham, they constructed a "cut" beneath two viaducts to reach their freight terminal and its small yard. This cut was 4 blocks long, between two retaining walls. By the 1990's this abandoned line was an eye-sore collecting litter in an area that was planned for downtown revitalization. That revitalization has occurred with Railroad Park, Baron's Stadium, and the Powell Avenue Steam Plant adaptive reuse as well as a number of residential projects. In spring of 2015, a new sign was erected as part of the Rotary Trail which turned the Seaboard "cut" into an attractive walking trail.



Fortunately the 1904 Freight House was repurposed and may be seen today.

So you can see that the 2017 Convention Logo well represents aspects of Birmingham's rich rail and industrial related history. We hope that this history will be of interest to you and may spark ideas for modeling Birmingham as part of your model railroading efforts at home or in the 2017 model contest.

Today Birmingham is a metropolitan area of over 1,000,000 persons. The heavy industry has largely been replaced by education, healthcare, insurance and banking industries. The "trunk lines" of the past are represented today by the big five Class I Railroads. CSX and NS are the mainline railroads in town as well as Amtrak but we see motive power and "run through" trains



of BNSF, UP and KCS as well. If you like Railfanning, Birmingham is a great spot to watch trains.

If you are interested in our heavy industry you can visit Sloss Furnace Historic Landmark or visit the Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama located near our convention site in Tannehill State Park. A unique site to visit that is relatively new is the Red Mountain Park. Many of the trails in this 1400 acre park are located along former Tennessee Coal,

Iron and RR Co. tracks that served red ore mines. At least three of the mine portals are available to visit along these trails. Another site worth a trip is the Vulcan Park and Statue of our "Iron Man". There is a very nice small museum at Vulcan Park visitors center that showcases the iron and steel industry. An elevator ride to the top of the Vulcan Stature Tower provides a great overview of Birmingham. From here you can see Sloss Furnace, US Steel, coke plants and more. Look down and see a neat map of Birmingham on the plaza.



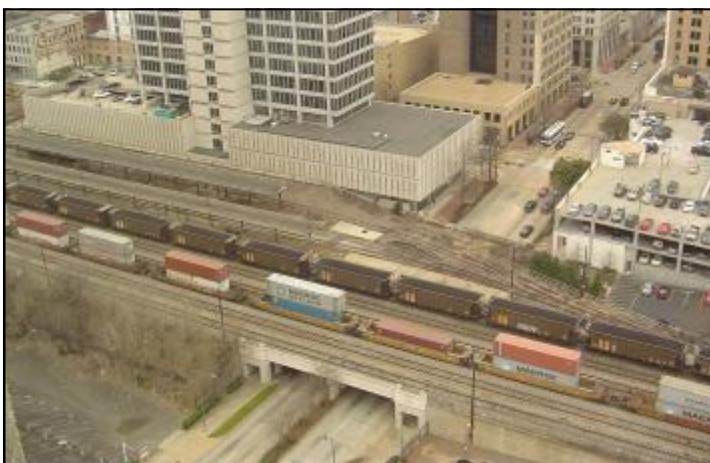
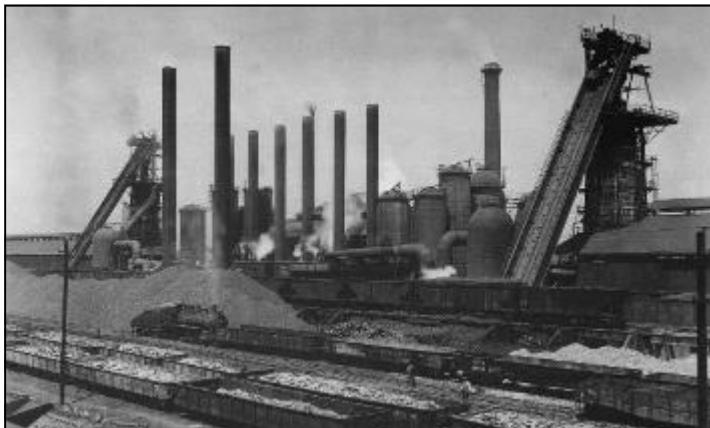
If your coming along for the trip with a spouse we have a great deal to do as well. There are 5 regional shopping centers, the Birmingham Museum of Art, two separate Botanical Gardens, the Birmingham Zoo, about a jillion restaurants (give or take), the Civil Rights Institute Museum, SEC Hall of Fame and more. We have



the Alabama Splash Adventure Water Park located one exit from our convention venue. Barons Baseball (AA Affiliate of Chicago White Sox) is located in a brand new world class stadium right downtown next to Railroad Park. McWane Science Center is also located in downtown Birmingham, close to several of the other attractions listed here. And if you like motorcycles, we have the Barber Motorsports Museum which has over 700 vintage and modern motorcycles on display at any one time.



If you go to Barber, you can stop by Bass Pro Shop or see the 1884 Leeds Depot built for the Georgia Pacific, or you can go to The Outlet Shops at Grand River mall.



So, plan to come to Birmingham, come early and stay late. There is so much to do that you might want to plan a vacation around the Convention, bring the kids and grandkids.

Visit our convention website:
www.2017serconvention.com

Plan to enjoy the 2017 SER Convention and Train Show, June 9th and 10th, 2017 at the Bessemer Civic Center!



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Fax: 678-297-1816
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Joe Gelmini, MMR
Superintendent



Georgia Great Southern
N Scale Model Railroad

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Fayetteville, GA 30214

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papagei@comcast.net

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**SEE YOUR
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\$16/YEAR (FOUR ISSUES)

Detecting Industrial Turnouts on a Signaled Layout By Howard Garner, MMR

Detecting when a turnout is thrown to the industrial siding or an undetected passing siding requires either some contacts on the switch machine to be monitored or some other way. This is one of the other ways.

It assumes that you are using live frogs and some type of current detection for track occupancy.

It simply involves soldering a resistor between the frog and stock rail of the siding. When the turnout is lined for the main the frog and stock rail are the same polarity, when it is thrown the resistor is across opposite polarity and draws current. This is then detected and the entire detection block is occupied.



You can hide the resistor very easily. Use a small burr to make a slot between ties deep enough to hide the resistor. The resistor would be the same ohmage as used on your rolling stock for detected wheel sets. Prepare the resistor to fit in the slot and touch the inside of the rails.

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\$16/YEAR (FOUR ISSUES)

Bill Zawacki, M&B
Superintendent



LITTLETOWN RR

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This shows a resistor ready to be soldered into place.



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Touch up the rail weathering and reballast the area and it will be hard to see where the work was done.

It takes longer to read this then it takes to do the job.

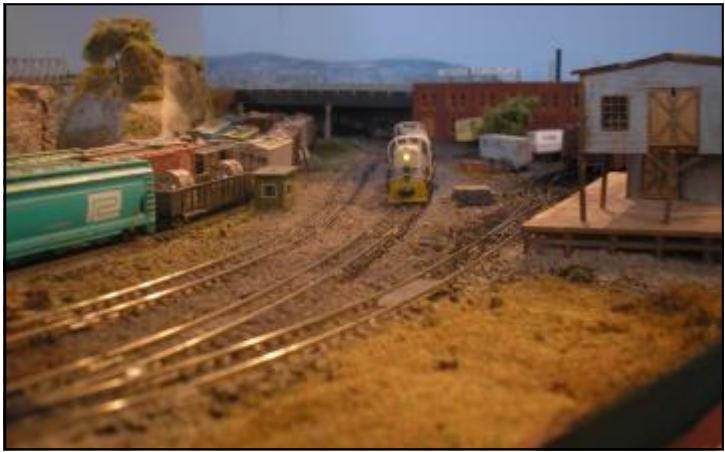


Bringing Up Operations

by Steve Prevette, SER Registrar

Photos by author, on the author's "Burnt Hills and Big Flats" N scale model railroad.

The SouthErneR will be adding discussions of various facets of the hobby, and I will be gathering and passing on tidbits for operations. If you are an experienced operator, I hope you will find something useful here, or contribute some of your own ideas from your experience. If you currently wonder – what is this operations thing? – then we may be able to provide some ideas on how to find out what it is, and see if it is something that interests you. If you are one of those who think the operations folks are a



BH&BF local switcher preparing to pickup cars from the Central of New Jersey interchange. Area based upon the end of the line of the New York Ontario and Western in Scranton, which had an end-to-end interchange with the CNJ.

bunch of nuts, well, I congratulate you for your consideration in reading this article.

For those of us who “do operations” whether that is switching a few cars on your own layout by yourself, or driving three hours for a day-long operating session with two dozen other operators, we find it adds value to the hobby. It provides “play value”. As a side note on “playing”, would you believe there is a “Lego Serious Play Certified Facilitator” (if you google it, you will find <http://www.lego.com/en-us/seriousplay/facilitator>). Apparently it can be used by businesses for team building. An interesting facet of model railroad operations is that it requires cooperation more so than competition. If you are making decisions to get your job done more quickly, at the expense of others, then the whole railroad bogs down to a stop. Not to say that this never happens on the prototype. More on the prototype in later columns.

I have had the pleasure of operating on many model railroad layouts over the years, from a 3 foot narrow gauge Alaska back country railroad to a four track main on the Pennsy. Dispatching has ranged from – “Hey Steve you are clear to go to the next town” – to writing down Track Warrants and also Time Table and Train Order. We do have the ability to do as much or as little as needed to emulate the prototype.

But, similar to the rivet counters out there for model building, we also have folks with a lot of experience available for you in the NMRA Operations Special Interest Group (www.opsig.org). I have learned a lot of nuances over the years from their Yahoo discussion group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ry-ops-industrialSIG/>).

How did it come about that I have been able to operate on so many layouts other than my own? There are two big ways to do it. First, more and more NMRA conventions, including our own SER conventions are offering operating sessions as part of the convention. Some, such as “Rails on Wheels” actually set up on the convention floor and offer op sessions during the convention. They have a great website at <http://www.railsonwheels.com/> which offers a lot of operations information, even if you can't get to a national convention to see them. There will be several operating sessions to choose from next summer in Birmingham, and we will have two sessions available at the Aiken mini-meet in September.

You may also find available operating sessions through the OPSIG. Many layout owners (myself included) will list when operating sessions will be held that are open to visitors on the Yahoo discussion board. Operating weekends may also be announced in the OPSIG board. They also have a directory of operating sessions on their website, available to members of the OPSIG. If you do host sessions already, it is a great service and I have personally had several great visitors come to my operating sessions over the years as a result of the OPSIG listing.

Operations can bring folks in to the hobby. For me, it was a Junior High School teacher who was willing to have junior high school students descend on his Poco Valley Lines a few times a year. Ken Nelson (Scotia, NY) was instrumental in getting me involved in operations, and I set up operations on my 4 by 8 HO scale layout at the time, and have stuck with operations ever since. We have two father-son pairings in our operating group in Aiken, SC, and hope the sons will stay involved with the hobby. Also, if you don't have room for a layout, and there is no club layout in town, you may find operating layouts that are happy to pick up a new crew member. NMRA member Don Barnes is



Father and son running a train in Sidney NY. Picture taken when BH&BF was in Pasco Washington in the Pacific Northwest Region.

building a huge replica of the Baltimore and Ohio in HO scale, and will need two dozen folks to operate it when complete. His statement is “build it and they will come”, and so far that seems to be holding true.

Don's approach is an interesting one. He has a large space to work with, and has built the B&O from Ellicott City to Martinsburg so far, with very close replicas of most of the trackwork. Of course, his Brunswick, MD yard is considerably condensed from the prototype, but follows the same overall plan, and is larger than most folks' home layouts. We've been able to operate the railroad strictly in accordance with the company's 1949 Freight Operating Procedures books. The same trains, the same primary blocks of cars heading off to off-layout destinations, the same sequence. If the B&O did it, Don is able to do it.

Hopefully I have provided the message that if you want to get involved in operations on a model railroad, even if someone else's, there are plenty of opportunities out there. Owners usually allow a new operator to visit several times and observe. Ultimately though, you will be encouraged to pick up a throttle, perhaps under the instruction of an experienced operator, and actively play. So, let's talk about some preparations for operations.

Operations is primarily about putting your (model) railroad to work. It has our creation do something other than being a static display, or simply a collection of models orbiting through beautiful scenery. Not only do our models play a role, but so do the operators. The following is a short list of considerations, which we will talk about in future articles. We can make these as complicated (which usually implies realistic, but not always) or as simple as possible.

- What freight (or passengers) is the railroad moving? How do you know where a car is supposed to go? Track planning guru John Armstrong's "rule" was – drop off as many or as few cars as you want, pick up as many or few cars as you want. He called this "Thinking Man's". I use thumb tacks on the cars to keep things easy for the operators, especially so they don't have to read N scale reporting marks. No, real railroads don't put tacks on the roof of the car, but might on the "tack board". At the other extreme is exactly modeling waybills and having the train crew write out a switchlist for delivery locations for the cars in their train (or cut of cars in the yard).



A new section on the BH&BF in Aiken SC. There is a short pulpwood loading siding in Starlight (below the bridge). Note on the fascia the town name and a map of the trackage. Cars with red tacks that have "ST" on them are delivered to this siding.

- If you know where your individual cars are going, now what sort of trains do you run? Some railroads are primarily through trains, perhaps trying to get trains through mountainous scenery with pushers. Others may be a small industrial area, focusing on individual cars delivered to specific spots on a variety of sidings. How do you determine which trains are run in which sequence? Do you have the manuals your prototype railroad used (such as Don Barnes and his B&O). Or, do you have a fictional (free-lance) railroad that you need to make up something for? Your modeling era may make a difference – steam locomotives could not be turned as easy as diesels, so that affected how trains were run.
- How do your trains get made up? If just a small switching are, perhaps just the local switching crew does that. Many of us include freight classification yards on our model railroads. Perhaps there is a large passenger terminal where passenger cars are serviced and made up into trains. We may assume this occurs off-layout, in some un-modeled portion of the railroad, and we bring trains in from "staging" or some form of "fiddle yard".
- Speaking of staging and "fiddling" – what sort of connections do we have with the "rest of the world?"
- Finally, how do we have our parade of trains move over the railroad? Is there only one engine, so it "owns" the whole railroad? Or do we have a finely orchestrated set of movements through interlockings controlled by tower operators? How does the dispatcher let trains know where to go?



At Sidney NY, the BH&BF has an interchange with the Delaware and Hudson. The double track line and station is D&H. This is a small 4 track yard serving the D&H; the BH&BF locals swap cuts of cars here with through trains.

What we find is that there are endless options as to how model railroads operate. I have yet to find two layouts operated exactly the same way. This is an advantage of seeing what other modelers are doing, reading up on OPSIG articles and other books (the Virginian and Ohio book by W. Allen McClelland comes to mind), and trying different things out on your own. I hope you will find this series of articles useful, and please send me any of your favorite stories or experiences in operating model railroads.

**"From Life-Like to Looks-Like",
Silverton D&SSRR Narrow Gauge Rail Crane
By Bob Beaty, MMR**

In 2014 Carol and I visited Colorado and New Mexico. One of the highlights of the trip was riding on the Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Scenic Railroad. The journey is a trip in itself and another story. But as we approached Silverton, there was a little yellow crane sitting on a narrow gauge track siding. (If you Google Silverton, CO, satellite view, you can see it). So as we passed by, I took a photo of it from the train.



January of this year I decided to build a model of the crane for my Port Townsend and Southern RR. At the Piedmont "Train Show" I found a Life-Like Crane Car, which could be the basis of the project. The model never started as an exact copy of the Silverton Crane. However, it would have been easier to completely scratch build the model provided dimensional information and detailed pictures had been available. The model is a "recovery project" done while recovering from back surgery. The whole point was to "Look Like" the prototype.

Modeling Approach

A Heavily Modified RTR Crane Car is the basis, plus a combination of three pieces of equipment and scratch built items. Basis of the model is the Lifelike RTR HO scale Crane Car #8583. Additional parts came from an old 4 wheel Trolley mechanism (I narrowed the gauge), Rio Grande Models coach kit parts and parts from Kibri Crane #10384. The prototype resembles a diminutive Burro Crane.

I could find only 3 pictures of the Silverton crane and very few useful dimensions. The model size and shape is derived from

estimates from these pictures. There is insufficient dimensional information to ensure the model is absolutely accurate. I used the photographs to construct the model, applying best guess and typical measurements techniques ("looks like"). I do know that the boom appears to be about 10 feet too long but proportionally, the model looks accurate.

The original Life-Like crane was a bright orange. I first sprayed everything with an undercoat of gray primer. After completing the cab, it was sprayed with Floquil DRG Yellow. The main car frame was sprayed with Floquil Weather Black. Details were highlighted by "dry brush" old silver.

The model was then weathered with washes and some chalks. There were no lettering, identification numbers or manufacturer's information shown in any of the pictures I had available, therefore, no lettering. I assumed that a target like this would attract Graffiti artists so I emblazoned one side with BURRITO, (small donkey, and a play on the real Burro cranes)



The body of the crane's cab was cut to follow the sloped shape of the prototype. The basic flat car was shortened by 1 inch, the trucks removed and the body rejoined. The crane boom underside lattice was completed with styrene strips and the pivot end modified to fit into two scratch built styrene bushings. The rigging was reworked to match the prototype. Sheaves for the lifting mechanism were fashioned from dress makers' snaps. The sheave for the lifting cable was made from a larger snap, all three were soldered.

The undercarriage is made from 0.40 styrene with holes

drilled to accept the trolley wheels which were reduced to HO scale gauge. The bearing and spring detail was fashioned from styrene strips. Much of the detail had to be surmised as detail photos are non-existent. I enlarged one Internet photo to help in constructing the end details.

The main frame was modified with styrene strips and the outrigger corner structures were built up from $\frac{1}{4}$ in styrene strips, carved and sanded to get the general shape. The outrigger actuators are $\frac{1}{8}$ in styrene tubing on styrene channel brackets with NBW castings. The outriggers are thumbtacks. The piping is simulated with wire. The coupler boxes were scratch built by joining 2 sections of square tubing, cutting out the center and building up the front plate with additional styrene.

The cab was modified by cutting away the front of the Lifelike crane to more closely resemble the Silverton prototype. Access doors to the winch and diesel motor were fabricated from strip and sheet styrene. The vents in the rear doors are pieces of roof walk grid from my junk box. The ladder is made from HO scale ladder stock.

The alterations to the cab, engine compartment access doors, new windows, the boom, boom bearings, the new rigging, sheaves, and cabling were scratch built. The cab door slides on a "U" channel and is made from sheet styrene, acetate and adhesive label material. The cracks in the windows replicate those on the prototype (presumably by ice chunks from a snow blower).

The boom lifting cable arrangement was reworked and the pulley system was scratch built using dress snaps. The under frame was also scratch built (originally designed for inclusion of a motorized drive unit which has not arrived) using the trolley wheels that were narrowed on their axles to the proper gauge.



2017 SER Convention Steel City Division “Modeler’s Challenge” Woodward Iron Co. RR Brown Ore Car

The Woodward Iron Company of Birmingham was in business from 1882 to 1974 as a merchant iron maker, meaning they sold pig iron of various grades to the open market. In 1926 the company sought to expand their brown iron ore production by opening a new surface mine in the Russellville Ore District, Franklin County, [NW] AL.

The 700 Series hoppers shown were 20 ton cars used at the Vance Brown Ore mine near Russellville, AL. No drawings of these cars have been found. Woodward had the capability to build their own cars in Birmingham; they are also known to have purchased cars from Pressed Steel Car Company and likely others. It is noted that the hopper mechanism on one Woodward PSCC car is “by the purchaser”.

The car most likely has drop bottom doors and looking at the rivet layout it appears the inside of the hopper is rectangular — this is a guess. The photo above includes a line of cars with some turned to show the other side. You can see this in the original image in the UA Archive. By the way, it is believed that the rail in this image is 60#; this yard is located next to the Woodward blast furnace complex which was located not too far from our venue. To-

day the site is an industrial park but some foundations remain.

The University of Alabama Digital Archives has an extensive collection of Woodward material including this photo from the late 1920's. There are two other views of this car taken on the “high line” trestle at the Vance processing plant in 1929. More information is available on the 2017 Convention Website: www.2017serconvention.com. Do you have the skills to model of this interesting car?

You might use the approach of MMR Beaty for the “Burrito” crane featured above. Go to the convention website and see what you can figure out about this interesting ore car. What clues can you figure out from the photo? Make your best model! Game On!



SER Election Report

2016 SER Board of Directors Election

June 10, 2016

The 2016 Southeastern Region, NMRA Board of Director Election offered both online and traditional paper ballot voting. Voting opened the week of April 11, 2016 with the mailing of the SouthErneR, and online voting opened April 19, 2016. Voting closed May 28, 2016 at 12:00 a.m.

Ballots were counted by Elections Chair Rick Coble and the results were verified by SER Director Paul Voelker.

Voter Participation

Total Ballots Submitted 211
Spoiled Ballots 0

Online Ballots Submitted 181
Paper Ballots Submitted 30

Notes

Distribution

- Paper Ballots included in spring 2016 SouthErneR, sent to all members including eligible voters.
- Online voting email invitation sent via Electionbuddy.com to eligible voters with an email address on file.

Participation

- Participation was an increase of 50% over 2014 and 56% increase over average election participation, 2008-2014.
- Votes were cast by 19.7% of eligible SER voters (1,070). Online voting accounted for 86% of submitted ballots.

Online Voting

The SER used "Electionbuddy", an internet-based service that enables organizations to build and run online elections. Voters cast their vote from any location and on any device with an Internet connection. Electionbuddy ensures privacy and results integrity.

- Ballots are kept anonymous. No information about the voter is stored with the ballot and there is no way to determine which voter cast which ballot. Administrators can see WHO voted, but not their individual voting choices.

- Paper ballots are not anonymous. Both the voter and voting choices are on the ballot.
- Ballots can be used only once. Each ballot is tied to a unique voting key, which is tracked by Electionbuddy. Once the ballot is submitted, the voting key and a new ballot cannot be submitted again.
- Votes are summarized to show the winner and how many votes were received for each choice on each position.
- Detailed Results show votes by IP address, enabling the administrator to audit voting activity. The results list who voted, but not the voting choices.
- Detailed results show results by submitted ballot. The results list the voting choices, but not who voted.

Determining Eligible Voters

- Current membership on NMRA roster as of April 1, 2016. Membership expiration no earlier than 3/31/16.
- Membership class that allows voting: all classes except for Family, Railpass, Sustaining (non-individual).

Online Voters

- Meet eligible voter requirements
- Email address on NMRA roster as of April 1, 2016

Determine Validity of Ballots

Online

- Eligibility of voters determined before Electionbuddy ballots sent. Online ballots limited to eligible voters with email address on file - all met eligible voter requirement. All online ballots are from eligible voters.

Paper

- Ballot checked for adherence to eligible voter requirements
- Ballot Name and Membership # checked against NMRA roster as of April 1, 2016.
- Ballot checked against online voting ballots report. If an online ballot was submitted for that member, the paper ballot was not counted and considered spoiled.

Why is the Paper Ballot Not Counted?

- The paper ballot contains the voter information AND voting choices. Voting choices are not counted and included in the election results.
- The online ballot record for a member DOES NOT include voting choices. The choices are already included in election results and cannot be removed.

Results

As presented at the SER Board Meeting June 10, 2016.

Congratulations to the winners in the 2016 SER election:

- Alan Mole - President
- James A. "Buddy" Black - Vice-President
- George Gilbert, MMR - Secretary
- Sally Bando - Treasurer
- Howard Garner, MMR - Director
- Larry Burkholder - Director

**Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Elections Chair**

2016 NMRA Election Results (National)

The following are the official results of the 2016 election, as reported by John Stevens, NMRA Secretary. Vote tallies are shown in parentheses.

At-Large Worldwide Director
Mike Brestel (646)
Bob Ferguson (371)

Western District Director
Stephen Priest (181)
Don Fowler (144)
Steve Barkley (84)

Atlantic District Director
Kathy Millatt (79)
Peter Bowen (18)

The NMRA Board of Directors and Officers would like to thank all the members who ran for office. Your willingness to serve in an elected position is greatly appreciated.

Notice of 2017 NMRA Elections (National)

The following NMRA Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2017:

1. Central District Director;
2. Canadian District Director,
NMRA Canada President,
NMRA Canada Vice President; and

Editor's Note:

Not all officers were up for election as some positions rotate election year. Other seated officers of the SER are:

- Director (2018) Howard Goodwin
- Director (2018) Paul V. Voelker
- Executive Advisor Glen Hall, MMR [Replaced Bob Beaty, MMR, by rotation rather than by election]

3. Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Director.

Please check Section A.10.1 page A.10.1-1 of the NMRA Executive Handbook (EHB) located at:

<http://nmra.org/executive-handbook>

for the extent of the districts affected. Qualifications for candidates can be found at Section A.3.1 paragraph 12C page A.3.1-4 of the EHB.

All submissions of candidate's names for the Central District Director are managed by the National Nominating Committee and should be submitted to Tony Koester, National Nominating Committee Chair, nkpfan@ptd.net, no later than June 1, 2016. The incumbent is ineligible to run for reelection.

All submissions of candidate's names for the Canadian District Director, NMRA Canada President, and NMRA Canada Vice-President are managed by the NMRA Canada Nominating Committee. Contact Stephen Wood, NMRA Canada Nominating Committee Chair, stephendwood@gmail.com no later than June 1, 2016.

All submissions of candidate's names for the RAC Director are managed by the RAC Nominating Committee. Contact Hank Kraichely, RAC Nominating Committee Chair at hakraichely@sbcglobal.net no later than June 1, 2016.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the respective Nominating Committee. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB in Section A.10.1 paragraph 3 page A.10.1-1. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than September 15, 2016.



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1939 White Tour Bus, Yellow Cab livery, Memphis Train Days

THE CLUB CAR

This is a list of clubs and organizations in the Southeastern 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: jstew@bhamrails.info Please note, you must provide a contact name and phone number! If you have a website you can send us the URL as well! 05/2016

Atlantic Division 8 Goose Creek, SC Mark Pruitt 843-572-1725
mark@mabrunton.com

Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone, (912) 354-2606
<http://www.coastalrailbuffs.org/>

Charleston Area Model Railroad Club, Citadel Mall in Charleston, SC
<http://www.chamrc.com> or Phillip Euper peuper@comcast.net

Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA Helio Valdes 912-261-2478 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 1st Saturday Night Group meets at the Highland Street Church of Christ, at 7:30 PM contact Ned for additional information at: nssavage@juno.com

Central Savannah R Div 9 Graniteville, SC, Steve Prevette (803) 392-7684

OFRRRA Operators, Tuesday Nights, Aiken SC, Steve Prevette (803) 392-7684

Cumberland Division 11 Brentwood, TN, Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158

Mid-South Live Steamers, Columbia, TN, Hank Sherwood (615) 665-0512
www.midsouthlivesteamers.org midsouthlivesteamers@yahoo.com

Nashville NTRAK, Nashville, TN., Mike Curtis (615) 479-7663, 4900 Rucker Christiana Road, Christiana, TN 37037
macurtis@comcast.net <http://www.nashvillentrak.org>

Nashville Garden Railway Soc., Nashville, TN., Ross Evans (615) 292-6555
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN, Terry Beabout, (615) 244-9001 FAX-2120 terry.beabout@earthlink.net <http://tcry.org>

Dixie Division 3 Prattville, AL, Brett Scott 334-799-3096

Central Alabama Model RR Club, Montgomery/Prattville, AL Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933 or Joe Mashburn (251) 363-8508

MGB Model Railroad Club, Prattville, AL Visitors welcome.
Brett Scott (334) 799-3096 www.mgbrr.org

Southeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Dothan, AL Mike Porterfield, (334) 774-0720 mporterfield103@charter.net

Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL Dan Adams (334) 588-3312 or danielmas22@centurytel.net

Empire Division 6 Bonaire, GA, Bill Attaway 478-954-9200

Columbus [GA] Model RR Club, info@columbusarearailroadclub.com
Flint River Model RR Club, Albany, GA, Jimmy Swinn (299) 883-3517

MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model RR Club, Warner Robins, GA Bill Attaway (478) 328-8790 mgmrc@cox.net <http://www.mgmrc.org>

CGMRC - Central Georgia Model RR Club, Macon, GA Ken Preston, ken.preston@cox.net

MGRA - Middle Georgia RR Association, Bill Jones, wrvjones845@aol.com <http://middlegeorgiarailroadassociation.com/>

South Georgia Model RR Club, Hahira, GA, (Near Valdosta) Todd Tait (229) 548-3611

Gulf Division 4 Navarre, FL, Reed Ostrander 850-939-1039

Caboose Club, Foley Railroad Museum, 125 E. Laurel Ave. Foley, AL 36535 Attn: Bonnie Donaldson, 251-943-1818 foleymuseum@gulftel.com

Consolidated Model Railroaders (CMRX), Panama City, FL Contact: Buddy Black 850-624-6240 black@novatechnologies.com

Emerald Coast Garden Ry Club meets (usually) on 3rd Saturday at Noon in the Diner Car of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton FL, Jack Grill (850) 994-7226 [www.ecgrc.com](http://ecgrc.com)

Glenn Samuel's Operating Group Mobile, AL (205) 914-0693 Gasamuel@aol.com

Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL Ray Follachio 850-865-8822 <http://miraclestripmodelrrclub.com>

Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS 2800 Graham Rd., S. Mobile, AL Dave Miller (251) 645-2296

Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL www.PMRC.us
HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona (850) 384-3206

N Div - Terry Tucker (850) 723-5390; **Z Division** - Glen Hall (850) 982-2795

Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL

West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL Tom Augustine (850) 944-0471 www.wfrm.org

Headquarters Division 13

Co Chairs, Hal Crossland 423-344-0697, Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565

Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club, www.camrc.org

Ed Juaire (423) 598-9925 raifan@ejpi.com

Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN

<http://csme.livesteamtrains.com> Andy Morrison (423) 344-8502

Crossville Model RR Club, Crossville, TN, Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565 chipmonk4@comcast.net www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org

Land O'Sky Division 15 Hendersonville, NC, Ken O'Brien 828-696-9436

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC, Located in Hendersonville Station, <http://www.avmrc.net/>

French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Henderson, NC

<http://www.fdr-ntrak.com/> Chuck Place (828) 685-2726 hmp3@blueridge.net

Western North Carolina Model Railroaders, Fred Coleman (828) 699-0983

Magnolia Division 14 Jackson, MS, Pat McCarty (601) 955-0510 (cell)

Central Mississippi Model Railroad Association, Jackson, MS MS. Ag and Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson MS 39216 Nils Larsen 601-432-4500 www.cmmra.org

Meridian Model RR Club, Meridian, MS located at Meridian RR Museum, Saturday 9-12 at REA Building, 1805 Front St, Meridian MS 39301

Mississippi Coast Model RR Museum, 504 Pass Rd, Gulfport, MS 39507 228-284-5731 timetrain54@yahoo.com www.mcmrcm.org

Mid-South Division 1 Huntsville, AL Sandy Warrington 541-922-7489

<http://midsouthnmra.org/MidSouth.php>

Northeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Guntersville, AL Charles Dick (205) 878-2537 charlesdick@bellsouth.net

Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL <http://www.rmrcc.net/> Coosa Valley Model RR Assoc www.coosavalleymodelrailroad.com/

Palmetto Div 7 Piedmont, SC, Ron Lown 864-845-3260 rrown3260@gmail.com

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia (AMROC), Columbia, SC Clark Gregory 803-781-7912 www.amroc.org

Central Railway Model and Historical Association (CRM&HA), Central, SC Jim Reece 864-855-3379 www.crmha.org

Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC Michael Offik 864-884-2165 www.piedmontsouthern.org

The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular) Andrew Gillette (803)-316-8128 amm_a_gillette@yahoo.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carolina_on30conspiracy/

Station 187 Model Railroad Club, Greer, SC www.station187.net

Piedmont Div 5 Marietta, GA, Peter Youngblood, MMR 770-966-1661 SantaFeRailway@aol.com

Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club, Charlie Crawford 770-565-1845 <http://home.earthlink.net/~wlives/>

Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers, Bob Lacheen Home: 770-578-9937, Cell: 404-431-8032 www.trainweb.org/acsg

Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Chris White 770-594-2618

Georgia Association of Narrow Gaugers, Pat Turner (423) 744-0429 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/georgiangangers>

GeorgiaNGers@yahoo-groups.com

Georgia Garden Railway Society, Dan Michel ggrschair@hotmail.com www.ggrs.info/

Georgia Society of Ferroequinologists, Marietta, Bob Hoenes (770) 422-0081

Jasper Roundhouse, Jasper, GA, Jim Derr jaderr@alltel.net

Metro Atlanta N-Scalers, Atlanta, GA, Charles Leak (404) 262-2969

Model Railroad Club of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, Terry Weldon (770) 979-0473 www.oscale-atlanta.info

North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club, Roswell, GA, Jeff Pergl (770) 516-6378

North Atlanta Rail Barons, Howard Goodwin 770-529-2103

North Georgia Lego Train Club, James Trobaugh (770)-844-1076 <http://www.ngltc.org> OR questions@ngltc.org

North Georgia Modurail, Jon Cook (770) 993-9620

Northwest Georgia N Track Club - Jim Derr, President - (706-692-1006) 220 Washington Street, Gainesville, GA <http://www.nwgtrnk4t.com/>

Railroad Model Club of Atlanta, Bob Peppel, (770) 934-4067

S-COG Southern Crescent Operating Group

Joe Gelmini (770) 460-8873 papagel@comcast.net

Southern O Scalers, Dan Mason, 470-385-6638, daniel@masonlawfirmga.com

Tri-State Area Model Railroad, Inc., Thomas Roskelly, (828) 361-2210 thomasroskelly@gmail.com

Volunteer Garden RR Club, Vines Botanical Gardens, 3500 Oak Grove Road, Loganville, GA 30052

Smoky Mountain Div 12 Loudon, TN, Larry Burkholder (865) 408-9903

Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN, Larry Burkholder, (865) 408-9903 Meetings are 1st & 3rd Sundays.

Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders, Johnson City, TN, East TN State Univ George Carter Museum, Dr. Fred Alsop (423) 929-3733 www.memrr.org/

Steel City Division 2 Birmingham, AL, John Stewart 205-901-3790

Black Warrior Model RR Society, Tuscaloosa, AL, Bob Way 205-556-3073

Smokey City Model Rails, B'ham, AL www.smokeycityrails.com/

Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, B'ham, AL Jason Parham 205-534-6529

Steel City Shifters Operating Group jstew@bhamrails.info

B'ham N Scale Modular Club [https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bnsmc/info](http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bnsmc/info)



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