



The ***SOUTHERNER***



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

Winter 2023

Cover - Kennecott Mill on Tim Chandler's Layout

Article & photos page 14

2023 SER Convention Review page 8





The President's Car

Roy Masterson

rwmasterson@epbf.com

As I write this column at the end of November 2023, we are still waiting on a decision from the NMRA on which city will be hosting the NMRA National Convention and the National Train Show in 2026.

Last Spring, I began the process of reviewing convention and hotel space and during the summer meeting with the convention center and hotel representatives about booking the center and hotel room requirements. After numerous emails and phone calls I was able to determine preliminary costs along with convention center facility space and date requirements. Once I gathered the information, I was instructed to hand it off to NMRA person in California that negotiates contracts with convention centers and hotels.

The SER is not involved with any negotiations or decisions the NMRA makes with the Convention Center or the Hotels and is not privy to contracts the NMRA signs with the facilities in host cities, which removes the SER from any liability for expenses for the convention center, guarantees for hotel room requirements, and the National Train Show operations. The SER is only responsible for the day-to-day operations of the convention.

The person negotiating the contracts notifies the NMRA Board whether he approves of the SER hosting the convention, and they will in turn vote as to whether the SER may host the convention. This may not take place until the NMRA National Board of Directors meeting at the Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby show January 27 & 28 in West Springfield, Massachusetts. Once the event is approved by the NMRA Board of Directors then NMRA President Gordy Robinson will announce which city will be hosting the 2026 National Convention. If we get the convention, it will be full speed ahead.

DEADLINES

February 15 - Spring

May 15 - Summer

August 15 - Fall

November 15 - Winter

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After talking with other convention chairs, I have found, as they have, that it's a long and difficult process when considering hosting a national convention. There are a lot more contracts and legal issues that must be resolved than in hosting a regional convention. The delay by the NMRA in deciding is a cause for concern. Normally planning for a National Convention takes 3 to 5 years and 2026 will be here before we know it.

Scale Trains will be our major sponsor for the convention. And I've talked to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, and they will run special trains for attendees. And I've asked the Southern and L&N Historical societies to hold their conventions at the TVRM during our convention and open their archives to convention attendees.

And we have a logo for the convention! I worked with our friends at Scale Trains to design what I think is the perfect logo for our convention. [SER](#)



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\$20 FOUR (4) ISSUES

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All submissions become the property of **The SouthErneR** unless otherwise
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Submittals Due: Winter Nov 15; Spring Feb 15; Summer May 15; Fall Aug 15

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Education

Chuck Higdon

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I hope this issue of The SouthErneR finds your family and you well and virus free. Also hope your division is doing something. My wife and I were able to attend the SER convention this past September and sat through some nice clinics. They were well presented and enjoyable. Hope I remember to review the handouts again, as there were some good tips. We also visited 8 layouts. What a variety they were. We enjoyed something from each one. I don't think we saw everything in the bigger ones. It is so nice that the hosts were open for us to see their work. I do take photos of what I find the most interesting. See my convention report on page 8.



Nice to learn how those scenery containers get filled up. I learned the process at Albert Churella's layout. If you didn't attend the convention, you missed a good one. Please consider attending one soon, it will be lots of fun. You get to learn and see a lot over the long weekend. Besides visiting with your friends and maybe making new ones.

I have been working on model kit #1008 from Plastruct which is a refinery. This is not a "shake the box" kit. It is hard to do but has been enjoyable after I figured out each step.



One issue I had to deal with was curved railings on some of the

platforms. In the photo below, you see the flat railing provided by Plastruct. I remembered learning that if you heat up the plastic in hot water, it will retain the new shape, if you can bend and hold it for a short time. I had already tried to glue the railing on the curved platform, but the top of the railing flares out at the ends. I found a pill bottle the same diameter as the platform, slipped it on the bottle and put the rubber band on. Fold it once, so 2 bands around the railing to keep it flat against the bottle side. In a small pan half filled with water, I heated it up to almost a boil.



Then I turned the burner off, placed the bottle with the railing banded around it for 20/30 seconds.

Yes, I put the bottle to the bottom of the pan and bent the supports I had already glued on. So, I replaced them with new ones. But the railing retained the curve after the rubber bands were removed. The posts were now straight up and down with no flare of the top of the railing at the open ends.

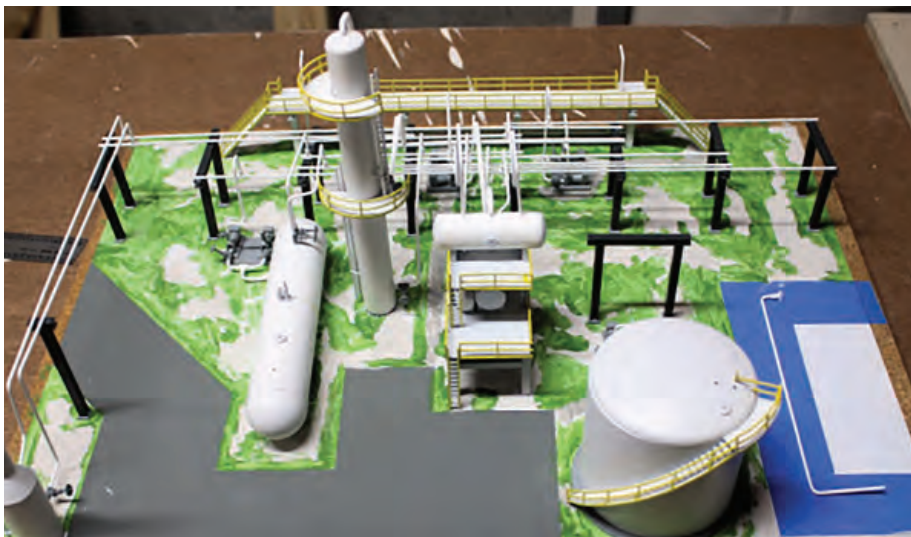
I then tried just the railing piece. As you might be able to see there is a small bend, say around 10 o'clock on the railing. This happened because the railing was just 1/16" too long, overlapping itself around the bottle; the bottle must have expanded some, the railing ends slipping next to each other, the rubber band kept them flush to the bottle when it shrank back to its size. Making the horizontal rails bow out some. Keep that in mind if you try this. Try to have at least 1/4" between the ends of the item wrapped around a plastic container. The other platform for this tower was not a full circle either, so I cut it to fit, and the bend was not used.



Then on this tank I had

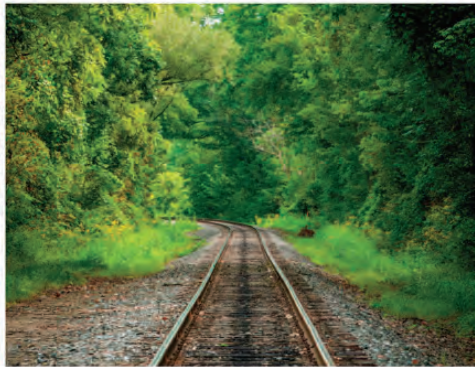
glued a 2-section railing to the platform edge, and you can see the top rail is straight. So, I took a scrap piece of wood, put the radius on for the platform edge and rubber banded a new 2-section railing to the curved edge of wood and put it in hot water for 20 seconds. The piece held the curve of the platform as you see. Very happy, I remembered enough about the hot water process to use it.

Here is where I am with the refinery project now.



If you have a clinic you want to present to the region, please let me know. We can set up a webinar to show it. The SER does have the Zoom accounts we can use for presentations, discussions, or meetings should the need arise. I am also looking for topics and presenters for more Webinars, please let me know at vze5crrw1@outlook.com if you would like to present one or know someone that would.

Enjoy life and take care. **SER**



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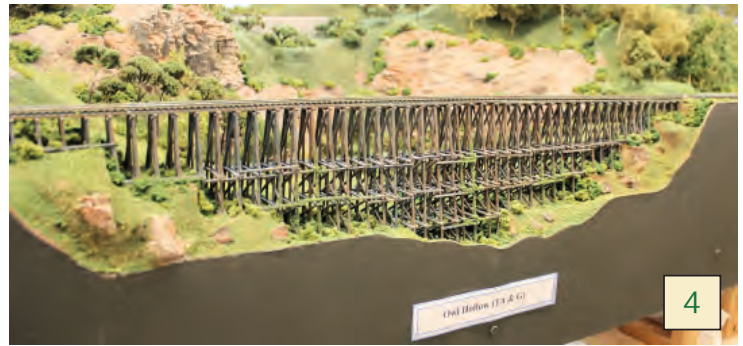
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SER 2023 Convention article and photos by Chuck Higdon

One of the parts of the convention I enjoy very much are the open house layout tours. One gets to see a lot of great work by the hosts and their teams. There are usually a few neat ways to solve some issue that I hadn't thought of. So, they are a good learning tool. Then seeing a familiar building kit assembled differently in a nice setting is also a treat. So here are some of the photos I took during the convention tours.

We visited Gary Fish on Thursday night (#1 & 2).



Then we stopped by Albert Churella's layout. It's On2 representing the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes line. Being O gauge, the details are larger and easier to see and work with. It is a large railroad and set up for operations with older styled phones for communication (#6). Nice touch with them. A large layout in several rooms. The room separation adds a distance sense to the layout.



Friday, we visited Arnold Eaves N scale layout. Nice size layout with lots of nice scenes (#1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).



Above is Arnold's downtown Chattanooga area (#3).

There is a spot with some standard gauge lines with the 2-foot gauge track work.

Good comparison of standard gauge vs narrow gauge.

Detailed rolling stock inside and out. Lots of people around the layout too. Reminds me I need to populate my rail-





8



11



9



12



10



13

road as it does add something to the total feel of the scenes (#7, 8, 9 & 10). Saturday, we visited a few more layouts, but were unable to get to all of them that were open.

At the Tate Depot they have 2 nice layouts (#11, 12, 13). They explained how they have enlarged it some and hope to start Ops. The restored depot looked good, so nice to see as well.

I was not aware of the marble mining in this area of Georgia. We saw some indications of that as we drove

between the layouts too. Both layouts have marble operations on them.



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\$30 - FOUR (4) ISSUES

We paid Raymond Stewart a visit and saw the start of his layout (#14).



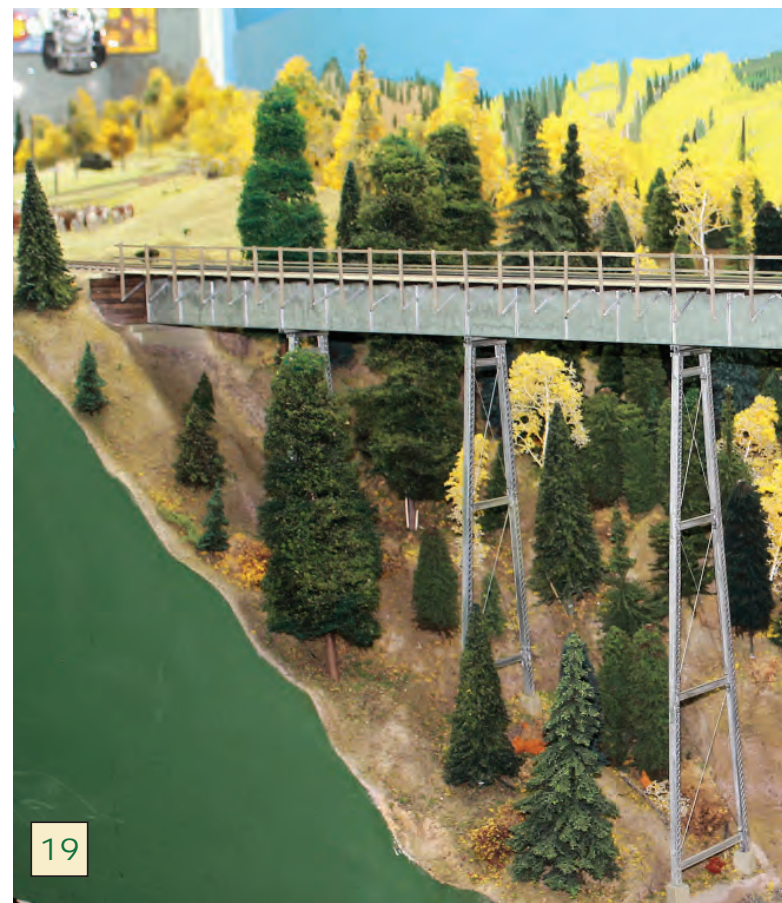
Visited with Kevin Stemple and we talked about the string of telephone wires. His wires looked good and do add to the scene as we are all used to seeing the real thing. Appears if one places them always on the other side of the tracks, they do not get in the way (#15).



Philip Stead does Denver & Rio Grand Western Railroad 3-foot gauge with scenes from the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad section in Colorado. His line does climb and you along with it, so that is a nice touch as you walk around the layout.

So sometimes the trains are eye level and others you are looking down. Of course, then you can view the intricate track work of dual gauge track as in his towns and some industries (#16, 17 & 18).

The Aspen trees always seem to brighten up a scene (#19).





Then there is Steve Austin's Elkhorn Iron & Timber Company Railroad layout which has more forest than the prairies of Colorado.

Steve works in On30 so just a little bigger than On3. Way bigger than HO or N, so lots of details can be added to the scenes (#19, 20, 21 & 22). Two additional photos are on the back cover.

Lots of detail and then I also noticed here and, on another layout, boats. Small steam paddle wheeled boats, row boats and others. A challenging side item that looks fun to build and detail.

Along with working the water the boats sit in, nice to photograph too. But then some may prefer the quiet setting of a small waterfall in the woods.

These are just a few photos of the many great scenes on the many layouts open at our SER convention last September. Our hosts put a great effort into their layouts and it is great to visit and see the results. Lots of inspiration and motivation to get one to accomplish more on their layouts. Details of the next SER convention are in this issue. Make plans soon to go.

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



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River Rails 2024

THE 2024 SER CONVENTION June 20 to 23

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well.

Master Model Railroader (MMR)

An NMRA member qualifies as an MMR when one has obtained at least seven of the eleven Achievement Certificates provided that one has earned at least one Certificate in each of the four areas of the Regulations. Earning the title of MMR is the ultimate goal for many participants in the Achievement Program.

The 11 Achievement Program Awards by the 4 Categories are:

1. **Model Railroad Equipment**
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Master Builder Cars
2. **Settings**
Master Builder Scenery
Master Builder Structures
Master Builder Prototype Models
3. **Engineering and Operation**
Model Railroad Engineer—Civil
Model Railroad Engineer—Electrical
Chief Dispatcher
4. **Service to the Hobby**
Association Official
Association Volunteer
Model Railroad Author

To qualify for the Master Model Railroader status, you must earn 7 of the above awards with the stipulation that at least one award must be earned in each of the 4 categories.

Some people may be reluctant to participate in the AP, because the rules seem difficult to understand. The website pages explain each of the different categories in the AP and the requirements.

Golden Spike Award

If you are new to the AP, may we recommend that you take a look at the Golden Spike Award, although not an actual AP category its requirements are structured along the same lines. Further Information is available at

www.nmra.org. **SER**

Achievement Program

New Awards in Our Southeastern Region This Quarter



Golden Spike Awards

William Lane - Bluff City
Jim Foley - Piedmont
David Godwin - Piedmont
Mark Weiss - Piedmont



Certificates

Master Builder Scenery

Roberta Dean - Plateau



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Association Volunteer

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Model Railroad Author

Tom Langdale - Palmetto



Model Railroad Engineer Electrical

David Koch - Piedmont

Division AP Chairmen for Divisions which have them.

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Kennecott Copper Mill article and photos by Tim Chandler

My name is Tim Chandler.

To begin, my brother Barry Chandler is responsible for the model of the Kennecott Copper Mill in Alaska. He has been working on it for over two years. The back half of the mill was recently installed. Barry lives in Charlotte, NC.

He retired this year from Home Depot but continues to work as a private contractor doing home repair and remodeling. He constructed a few other buildings on my layout, but the majority of his effort has been constructing the Kennecott Mill using blueprints I obtained from the national archives.

The mill exists and was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1986 (www.nps.gov/wrst/learn/historyculture/kennecott-mines-national-historic-landmark.htm). The research I did indicates the historic nature of the model, which makes it even more impressive.

I retired from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2018, following a 42-year career in the military and commercial nuclear fields. I enjoy playing golf and am very active in my church as well as in the Kairos Prison Ministry. My wife Maria and I retired to a small lake house on Lake Murray near Columbia, SC.

While researching various concepts I could use for a model railroad, I found pictures of the Kennecott Copper Mill, which led me to the discovery of the Copper River & Northwestern Railway.

The CR&NW railway ran from the port of Cordova, Alaska to the Kennecott Mill from 1912 to 1938. Since the CR&NW railway had such a rich history, along with several significant structures and landmarks that I could use as layout design elements, I decided to use the CR&NW railway as the basis for my model railroad. Obviously, the Kennecott Mill would be the centerpiece of the layout.


The layout is a free-lanced prototypical layout since the actual railway ceased operation in 1938, and I model



operations in 1952. This allowed me to use both steam and early diesel locomotives, and also allowed me to expand the number of activities on the railway. All the track on the layout has been laid and all the major structures have been installed. I have just begun adding scenery and backdrops to the layout. My goal is to start hosting operating sessions by the end of the year.

The photos on the following 5 pages show my layout at various stages of construction. [SER](#)

Jim Brown
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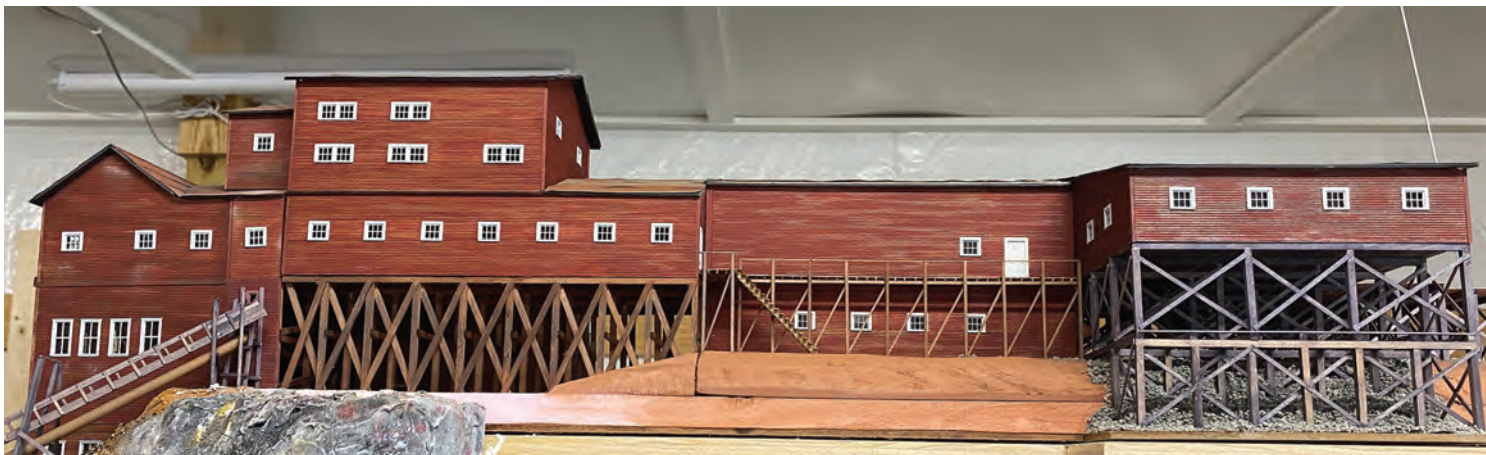
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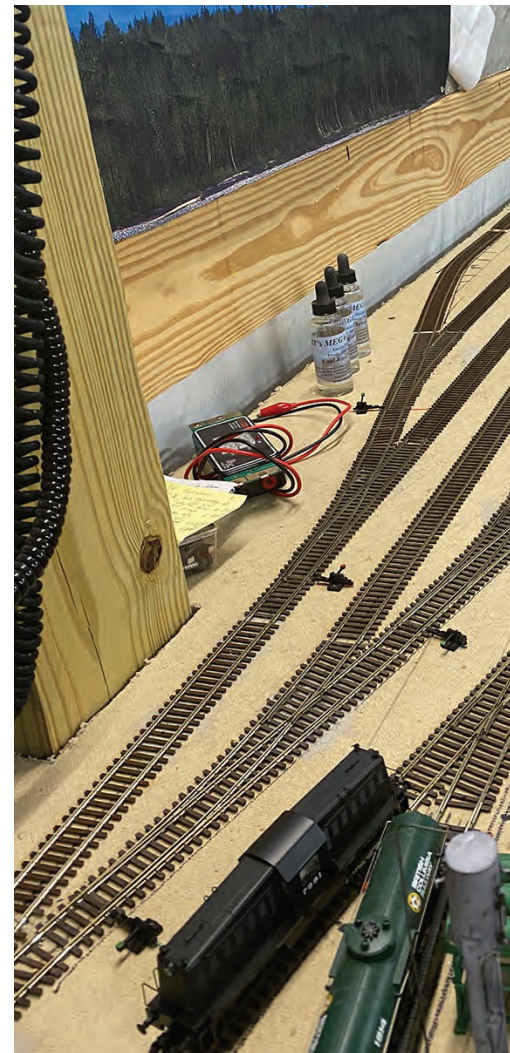
\$20 FOUR (4) ISSUES





1. Chitina Engine Facility
2. Cordova Engine Facility
3. Milled Copper
4. Chitina Station
5. Port of Cordova
6. Cordova Ice House
7. McCarthy yard
8. Cordova Coaling Tower





1. McCarthy Engine House
2. Salmon Cannery
3. Million Dollar Bridge
4. Lake Eyak Yard
5. Cordova Power House



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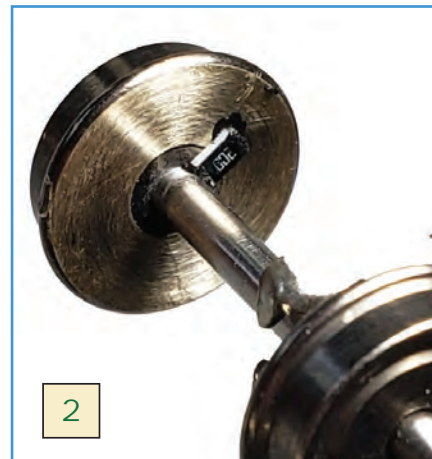
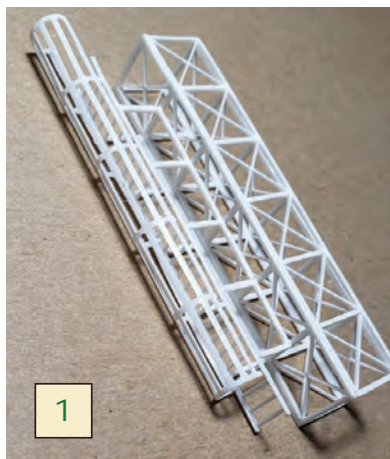
Dave Carlton ~ dpcarlton59@gmail.com

Mid South Division will be hosting the 2024 SER Convention in Decatur, Alabama next June 20-23. Mid South is not a large division, but many members are stepping up for the many responsibilities of planning, organization, fulfillment, and control. We are lining up clinics, displays, judging, speakers, op sessions, raffles, and industry visits. In addition, we will have an adjunctive River Rails Train Show, the first in north Alabama in many years.


Our recent clinics for members and public walk-ins have covered developing 3D ".stl" files from 2D plan and elevation drawings. See the 3D man caged ladder (#1). We have demonstrated making resistor wheel sets (#2) and incorporating ARDUINO interfacing for a fully capable occupancy and block control system (#3).

Our Webmaster Ken Mattern is a master videographer and produces, records, edits and presents our clinics on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@mid-south-nmra651.

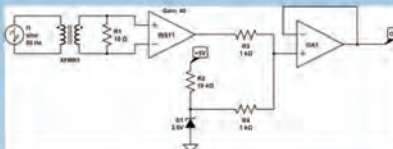
Come visit our General Membership meets meets at Decatur Union Depot, 701 Railroad St NW, Decatur, AL (GPS 34.6135° N, 86.9865° W). Check our website at MidSouth-NMRA.org/MidSouth.php for date, time, and place. **SER**



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wtorman@epbfi.com

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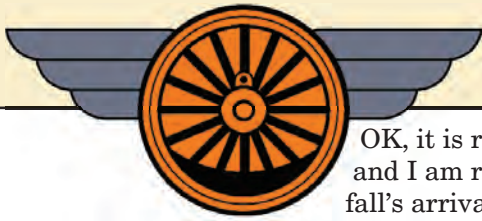
 Mark McAllister

 Superintendent

 Southern Division

 3518 Connolly Ln East Ridge, TN 37412

mlmcallister@gmail.com



Division 5 - Piedmont

Perry Lamb ~ perry_lamb@mindspring.com

OK, it is really chilly outside, and I am really enjoying fall's arrival. The one good thing about it being almost cold outside is that I feel OK working in my basement, I worked on getting ready for my operating session for the 2023 SER Convention, adding new scenery for my Piedmont Pilgrimage open house and just running new motive power. By the time you read this, the convention will be in the books, and I hope that many of you were able to attend and really enjoyed yourselves. I know Walt and his crew worked hard to build a great convention for you all.

For us, here in the Piedmont Division, we are headed into a busy time of the year. Of course, we just completed the SER Convention, but there was even more going on than that. First, in September, we had our division meeting. The monthly clinician was Mark Bridgewater – "Relocating/Moving Your Layout."

That would be a very hard thing for me to do, should I ever need to move, and this topic was interesting. Mind you, I am not planning on moving, but if... Yes, pulling rolling stock and buildings off the layout is obvious, but what about track, wiring, lighting, all the things that are built within the layout itself. There was a lot of interesting information in this clinic.

October was the start of the Division's Piedmont Pilgrimage. This was the 21st installment of this wonderful event. There were layouts from all over the Division open to the public, during the weekends, starting in October. I love this program as it is an awesome way to introduce everyone to this amazing hobby. I have seen the same families come by my own railroad and, just as my railroad has grown, so have the kids. Some of these young folks now have their own layouts! That is magical.

For our October meeting, NMRA President Gordy Robinson was the featured speaker. He spoke about 3D printing layout modules. You know, it really is amazing what you can produce with a 3D printer, in this case, complete modules, complete with the landforms. Gordy brought along miniature copies of his full modules and, while much smaller, really showed that printing your layout CAN be done!

The Piedmont Pilgrimage continued through the month of November. Attendance was very good. I think I set a record for my own layout! For our division meeting, we had two events. First, John Myers presented a clinic on SCARM Track Planning Software. This would be an interesting clinic for anyone working on planning a layout. This could also be a good opportunity for anyone working on their Chief Dispatcher Certificate to learn the skills needed to complete a track plan of your own layout. If you are interested in watching what John did, remember that our clinics are posted on the Division YouTube channel.

We also held our elections at our November meeting. The results will be posted on our website.

Now, here's December. Hopefully, after this busy year, we will be able to take some time and relax a bit. Our division meeting will feature our annual Christmas Party. The Division will supply the meat and the members will bring the sides. Our party will feature the return of Trivia Night, so folks will need their thinking caps. More importantly, we will feature a toy drive for the Marine Corps Reserve, Toys for Tots program. I really love seeing all the different things that folks bring to donate. We always end up with an overflowing conference table filled with new, unwrapped toys. Yes, I know we are a train group, but I always hunt for Tonka trucks. Did you know they are again made of steel? Awesome!

As we start the new year, note that Dr. Joe Nichols Jr. will be delivering our clinic in January. He noted that his topic would be "space," but as many of you know, he delivers really cool clinics on a huge array of topics. I am guessing it will be something electronic. Also note that our February Division meeting will be on the THIRD Tuesday of the month. The church where we meet is having a pancake dinner on the second Tuesday. While that might be very delicious, it will not be trains. As always, you will be able to find our meetings both in-person and in our Division's WebEx meeting room.

I think that is enough for now. I need to get back to my full-time job and see what's happening with the database creation process at a hospital in Los Angeles. Sigh. I really hope you enjoy the Fall and into the Winter. Make time for your family and friends and get something done in your railroad life. This IS an amazing hobby.

Below is a photo of a scene in progress on the Utah,



Colorado & Western Railroad. This is the initial work on an Oriented Strand Board factory I'll be building for the internal loading bay.

Until next time, Engage! **SER**



Division 7 - Palmetto

Roger Liska ~ rigger@clemson.edu

Jack Varadi and Steve Todd facilitated an online session on Tuesday August

8. Eighteen division members participated. The four presentations and their topics were: Rich Lehman – Benchwork Under Construction for an HO Atlantic Coast Line and Sea Board Airline Railroad in the 1960s; Rick Mazur – Constructing a workbench using lumber from dismantled benchwork from a layout; Bruce Gathman – constructing 2-foot gage model railroad freight cars; and Steve Todd – Expanding his N-Scale home Layout. Following each presentation time was allotted for questions of which there were many. Future similar events are in the planning stage.

On the morning of September 30, Chuck Jenkins and Jack Varadi presented a clinic on weathering freight cars. The clinic covered some simple techniques that can be used to lightly weather rolling stock. Ten division members attended the event and were provided an un-weathered 50' HO boxcar shell, weathering powders, weathering washes, and gloves, brushes, etc. for them to use. In addition, the attendees brought one of their own freight cars to be weathered. Participants (#1) went home with their weathered boxcar



shell, their own weathered freight car and an assortment of weathering powders and washes. Funds received as a result of being awarded a NMRA matching division member retention grant helped make this event a big success.

The division participated in the Greer, SC annual Railfest on September 30. The division had its expanded Modular T-Trak HO layout (#2) operating at the event along with a staffed NMRA table. Over 400 men, women and children attended the day's activities and the division obtained four new NMRA members through the NMRA Armed Forces one-year free membership program.

The division Modular T-Trak HO layout (#2) continues to serve as a “shining star” of the division. It continues to be operated at train shows and has not only been enjoyed by hundreds of attendees but has also served as one of the excellent ways of showcasing the Pal-



metto Division. This has also been a great team building activity for those members participating.

The Fall division meeting was held on October 14 at Northgate Baptist Church in Greenville (#3) with 44 members were in attendance. The day's activities began with a clinic “Making Rocks from Ceiling Tiles” presented by Dave Winans followed by a summary of the activities that took place at the “Freight Car Weathering clinic, which included brief descriptions by many of the clinic attendees showing examples of their work. In addition, Steve Todd gave a recap on the two clinics he conducted on DCC-EX. Both he and Chuck encouraged the attendees to participate and lead future clinics.

After a short break and voting for the contest winners, Scott Lister made a presentation on his experiences at the NMRA annual convention in Texas encouraging the attendees to participate in future ones, the next being in Long Beach, CA in 2024. Scott won many prizes at the convention for his S scale house under construction model. This was followed by a description by Steve Todd of the many events that occurred at the 2023 SER annual convention held in Cartersville, GA. He also encouraged the attendees to attend and participate in next year's convention in Decatur, AL. Finally, Roger reported that the spring division meeting will most likely take place at the remodeled Central, SC railroad station at a date to be announced, and the summer division meeting also at a date and location to be determined.

The morning events concluded with a short business meeting which included reports from the Superintendent, Treas-



urer and updates on the free military membership program by Ken Majchrzak, “What's on Your Workbench” initiative by Jack Varadi and Division T-Trak layout

by Dave Winans. Finally, the three contest winners were selected as follows: Popular Model – 1st place – Scott Lister, 2nd place – Marcus Weller; Photograph – Steve Todd; and Tips and Techniques – Jack Varadi. The day's events concluded with a visit to two operating layouts – Les Ills Cajon Pass Santa Fe and Southern Pacific HO layout and Bruce Swift Short Line and Rio Grande layout.

A new division logo, now in the masthead above, has been created which will be embroidered onto polo shirts. The grey polo shirts cost \$25 each and will be available in sizes of S, M, L, XL, 2XL and 3XL. Payment for the shirts must be made at the time of ordering and forms of payment are cash, check and credit/debit cards. The division also has hats for sale. Both of these endeavors have been under the leadership and hard work of Dave Winans. [SER](#)

Division 8 - Atlantic

Rick Fulkerson ~ rick@mountaingoatbroadcast.com

We finished our fall quarter with a meet at the Golden Isles Model Railroad Club located in the depot of the Georgia Coastal Railroad in Kingsland, GA. We had our largest turnout to date and were rewarded with great clinics, pizza provided by the division and a great time riding the Georgia Coastal Railroad not to mention some great show and tell presentations that were more like mini clinics.

My thanks to our clinicians Carl Blum and Doug Scott as well as our show and tell presenters Lloyd Bloom and Walter Horlacher who was visiting from the Sunshine Region.

Of course, our many thanks to the Golden Isles Model Railroad Club for hosting and the Georgia Coastal Railroad for a great fan trip.



Rick, Carl Blum, center - Vice President Paul Speich, far right President Don "Pennsy" Biggs

Our next meet will be February 17 at Lovezzola's Pizza again in Pooler, Georgia, right outside Savannah. Check our division website, www.atlantic-div.com, for more information as it becomes available.

Hope to see more visitors there. [SER](#)



Carl Blum's clinic on PVC terminal blocks.



Walter Horlacher showing his O scale demo module and how easy it is to set up at shows.



All the presenters and Rick in front of the St. Mary's Railroad GP15 used by the Georgia Coastal for fan trips.



Lloyd Bloom demonstrating his testing water treatment against 6 different shorelines before doing it on his layout.



Division 10 - Bluff City

Steven Flowers ~ palmodelrailroader@gmail.com

Hey y'all! A lot has been going on in the Bluff City Division since the last write-up. On August 31, we had a meet and greet with Scale Trains' Shane Wilson at our club at AZO! (#1 & 2)



Then we had a couple of members go to the Southeast Region Convention in Cartersville, GA for a fun packed, four-day marathon!

This included an operating session and wonderful lunch at the Tri State Model Railroaders (#3, 4, 5, 6 & 7) in Mineral Bluff, GA!



There were other great operating railroads in the area that were available for ops sessions! Thomas Lloyd's beautiful and excellent running N&W Pocahontas Division was next on the docket! (#9 & 10)



Then Tom Klimoski's Georgia Northeastern Railroad (#11, 12 & 13!)



Then after the Convention dinner on Saturday night, Sunday morning we had an ops session on Roy Masterson's Southern Railway Cherokee Division (#14 & 15)!



In October, the Bluff City Division also developed our logo shown below!



Then the members of the Bluff City Division and the Memphis Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society gathered for a special train excursion on the Rock Island Rail's Mississippi Delta Division out of Sumner, MS. We rode the train, which consisted of a former Pennsylvania RR GP9 and three cabooses. They were a former New York Central, Meridian and Bigbee and Southern Railway (#16 & 17).



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We stopped in Clarksdale, MS to turn the train and eat at the world-famous Ground Zero Blues Club. Great food and service if you ever get to Clarksdale! After a filling meal, we rode the train back through Sumner to Swan Lake, MS where the Rock interchanges with the Canadian National Railway, then back to Sumner to conclude a long day!



I personally thank Robert J. Riley, owner and CEO, along with our engineer for the day and Terry Redeker, NRHS President, Memphis Chapter for including the NMRA in the excursion (#20).

The Bluff City Division would also like to congratulate Mr. William Lane on his layout work as he received the Golden Spike Award! Bill models the Reading Railroad in North-east Pennsylvania in HO Scale. Hope to see many more accolades coming his way for his fine work!



As I am writing this piece for the *SouthErneR*, we are getting ready for our Fall Open House at the Memphis Model Railroader's layouts at AZO! Hope to see everyone there! **SER**

Division 9 - Central Savannah River
Andy Chandler ~ andy.chandler71@gmail.com

Our fall meeting took place on October 14 at St. Paul's Church, Aiken, SC. Six members attended. The recent SER convention was reviewed, and photos of Tim Chandler's layout were revealed.

We announced the upcoming Decatur, AL and Gatlinburg, TN conventions. Andy Chandler presented a clinic to fabricate a DIY static grass applicator. Steve Prevette presented a clinic on planning operations for your layout. Our next meeting will be January 24 at the same location. [SER](#)



Division 15 - Carolina Mountain
Paul Spilman - paul@spilman.me

Our next meeting is planned for January 20th. We will tentatively be at the Skyland Library at 10am. Watch for additional information via email or at www.facebook.com/groups/CarolinaMountainDiv.

Elections for Superintendent and Paymaster will be held at the January meeting. Nominations must be sent to

Ben Bartlett no later than December 15th. Email Ben at b3j2c@yahoo.com for more information.

We are looking to change the meeting format after feedback from those in attendance at the last meeting. We plan on holding the April meeting at Rob Bell's house in Waynesville and will be looking at other locations as well. If you have any ideas, please be sure to let me know at paul@spilman.me. [SER](#)



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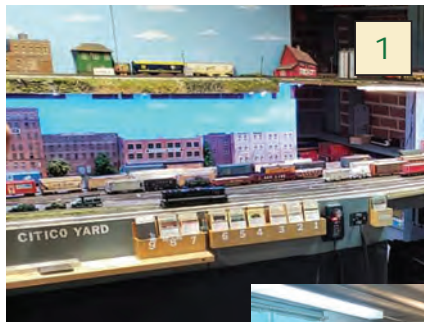
Contact us at:
radio-dispatch-operations@csme-epr.com
or
card-orders@csme-epr.com



Division 13 - Cherokee

Brian Ford ~ briantford@aol.com

In September many of us from the Chattanooga area enjoyed the SER convention activities in Cartersville; my time was mostly spent operating at layouts, concluding with the one up here in Chattanooga on Sunday at Roy Masterson's HO layout (#1 & 2).



Steve Lamb's free-lanced Sequatchie Valley Railroad.

All of us were impressed with Steve's approach to car storage, using cut up gutter downspout on shelves (#3); it is a good way to deal with the common problem of too many cars for the layout space, and Steve's card system ensures each car gets systematically cycled through the layout without overcrowding it.

Also in October, a huge number of us model railroaders spent a day touring ScaleTrains new building in Cleveland, TN in the east portion of our division. Pelle Soelberg's HO layout was on display and Virtual Railfan's screens were watching trains across the country. ScaleTrains announced that it will provide the back portion of the building for the Vol State Railway club, who will design and build an HO layout; in the interim, the club will erect a donated layout, Todd Arnett's HO NS Princeton - Deepwater Sub in the space.



In early November, the Chattanooga Modular Modelers (CMM) participated in the Trains and Tracks Expo in Summerville GA with their HO modular layout, in conjunction with Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's (TVRM's) resumption of running the Summerville Steam Special. This event was well attended and TVRM trains were at capacity on both days. Just like previous years, the annual CMM Christmas party will be on Saturday December 9 at Ed Painter's home, a great place to railfan and check out the scenery progress on Ed's large HO layout. Details will be emailed to all Cherokee members.

Every month, the Tennessee Valley Model Railroaders, inc. (TVMRi) HO layout of the CNO&TP's Rathole Division have been holding open houses from 10am to 3pm; January 6 is the next open house. The layout is located at 4119 Cromwell Rd, in the lower level of the TVRM HQ building (#4).

Check out the track plan, event schedule, photos and videos at www.tvmri.org. Recently we learned that the layout is featured on page 32 of the 2024-2025 Walters HO catalog (#5).

You can also enjoy all the 1:1 equipment on display at TVRM, as well as riding on the Missionary Local (1 hour round trip) - www.tvrail.com. [SER](#)



THE CLUB CAR

A listing of clubs and organizations in the Southeastern Region. If your club is accepting new members or visitors, kindly send the information to the **Editor** at: SouthErneR@ejpj.com. Please provide a contact name and phone number. Websites will be listed if given.

Atlantic - Division 8

Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone, 912-354-2606
Charleston Area Model Railroad Club, Citadel Mall in Charleston, SC
 Tom Kabele, tkabele@sc.rr.com; www.camrc.club
Grand Strand MRRC, Myrtle Beach Mall, North Myrtle Beach, SC
 Joe Corsetti, 843-236-9148, yruoslo728@aol.com; www.gsmrrc.org
Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA
 Helio Valdes, 912-261-2478; t29b52f4@comcast.net
Sun City Model RR Club, Bluffton, SC
 Doug Scott, deraildh2@aol.com

Bluff City - Division 10

The Memphis N-Scale Road Railers
The Memphis Society of Model Engineers - The 1st Saturday Night Group
 Highland St Church of Christ, 7:30 PM
 contact Ned for additional info; nssavage@juno.com

Carolina Mountain - Division 15

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC
 Located in Hendersonville Station; www.avmrc.com
French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Hendersonville, NC
 Chuck Place, 828-685-2726; hmp3@blueridge.net;
Waynesville Area Rail Roaders
 Waynesville, NC; www.facebook.com/WARRNC
Western North Carolina Model Railroaders; email: webmaster@wncmrr.org

Central Savannah River - Division 9

OFRR Operators, Tuesday nights, Aiken SC, Steve Prevette, 803-594-5079

Cherokee Division 13

Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN
 Andy Morrison, 423-344-8502; www.csme-eprr.com
Chattanooga Modular Modelers, Inc. meet Monday & Thursday at 6:30 pm
 Lewis Andrews, 706-271-8138; www.chattmodmod.org
Tennessee Valley Model Railroaders, Inc., Chattanooga, TN
 Nick Giordano, 856-304-9196; nickgiordano100@gmail.com; www.TVMRI.org

Cumberland - Division 11

Dixie Model Railroad Club, 2101 Belmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37212
 Eric Hansmann, 304-376-0256; eric@hansmanns.org
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; www.nashvillentrak.org
Nashville Garden Railway Soc., Nashville, TN, Ross Evans, 615-292-6555
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN
 Terry Bebout, 615-244-9001; terry.bebout@earthlink.net; www.tcr.org
Tennessee T-Track Associates, Franklin, TN
 Ed Minnich, 615-416-2892; ttraknv@gmail.com;

Dixie - Division 3

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.mgbr.org
Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL
 Dan Adams, 334-588-3312; danielma522@centurytel.net

Empire - Division 6

Flint River Model RR Club, Albany, GA, Jimmy Swinn, 229-883-3517
MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model RR Club, Warner Robins, GA
 Bill Attaway, 478-954-9200; mgmrc@cox.net; www.mgmrc.org
MGRA - Middle Georgia RR Association, Bill Jones
wjones845@aol.com
South Georgia Model RR Club, Hahira, GA, (Near Valdosta)
 Todd Tait, 229-548-3611

Gulf - Division 4

Caboose Club, Foley Railroad Museum, 125 E Laurel Ave, Foley, AL 36535
 Bonnie Donaldson, 251-943-1818; foleymuseum@gulfnet.com
CATT - Coastal Alabama T-TRAK, Bruce Arbo, 228-669-6705
coastalalabamattrak@gmail.com; www.nationalt-traklayout.com
Emerald Coast Garden Ry Club, Jack Grill, 850-994-7226; www.ecgrc.com
 Usually meet on 3rd Saturday at noon in the Diner Car
 of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton FL
Glenn Samuel's Operating Group, Mobile, AL 205-914-0693
 2nd Saturday of the month @ 1 p.m.; Gasamuel@aol.com
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL
 Ray Follacchio, 850-865-8822
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS
 8060 Morris Hill Rd, Semmes AL 36575-6424; Dave Miller, 251-689-2673
Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL
 HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona, 850-384-3206; www.PMRC.us
 N Division - Terry Tucker, 850-723-5390
 Z Division - Joshua Murrah, 251-533-6481

Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL
 Glenn Samuel, 205-914-0693; Gasamuel@aol.com
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL
 Tom Augustine, 850-944-0471; www.wfrrm.org

Magnolia - Division 14

Central Mississippi Model Railroad Association, Jackson, MS
 MS Ag and Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Dr, Jackson MS 39216
 Nils Larsen, 601-432-4500
Mississippi Coast Model RR Club, PO Box 6415, Gulfport, MS 39506
 613 Pass Rd Gulfport, MS (adjacent to the museum; www.mcmr.club

Mid-South - Division 1

Northeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Guntersville, AL
 Charles Dick, 205-878-2537; charlesdick@bellsouth.net
Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL; www.rmrrc.net
Shoals model Railroaders, 206 W Fifth St, Tuscumbia AL 35674
 Neal Jetter, 256-800-8147; lionlman@aol.com
www.facebook.com/groups/580026328843374

Palmetto - Division 7

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia (AMROC), Columbia, SC
 Clark Gregory, 803-781-7912; www.amroc.org
Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.;
www.facebook.com/hubcityrrmuseum
Central Railway Model and Historical Association (CRM&HA), Central, SC
 Sandy Eistus, 513-325-8850; www.crmha.org
Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC
 Michael Offik, 864-884-2165; www.piedmontnsouthern.org
The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular) Andrew Gillette, 803-316-8128
amn_a_gillette@yahoo.com
Station 187 Model Railroad Club, Greer, SC; www.station187.net

Piedmont - Division 5

Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club;
 Charlie Crawford, 678-982-4699
Athens Bend Track Railroad Club
 Peter Wood, 706-215-3313
Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers, Bob Lacheen
 home 770-578-9937; cell 404-431-8032; www.trainweb.org/acsg
Boomers, John Rieken, Saturday a.m.; OPS Athens, Gwinnett, Commerce areas
 email for specific dates; jrieken@windstream.net
Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Chris White, 770-594-2618
Georgia Garden Railway Society, Terry Manning, 770-564-8822
temanning@aol.com www.ggrs.info
Georgia Society of Ferroequinologists, Marietta
 Bob Hoenes, 770-422-0081; Jasper Roundhouse, Jasper, GA
 Phil Stead, trainman07@aol.com; all scales, meets weekly at a member's home
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
questions@ngltc.org
North Georgia Modurail, Hannes van Niekerk, 678-622-1848;
mailcar@ngmrr.org; www.ngmrr.org
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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 Rd, Loganville, GA 30052

Plateau - Division 16

Crossville Model RR Club, Crossville, TN; Tom Shallcross, 931-484-7565
chipmonk4@comcast.net; www.crossvilletrain.org

Smoky Mountain - Division 12

Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN
 Brad Tutt, 865-776-4703; 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
Maryville MRRC, Alnwick Community Club
 2146 Big Springs Rd., Maryville TN 37803
 Don Clark, 503-730-4869; meets first Saturday each month, 10 a.m. to noon

Steel City - Division 2

Black Warrior Model RR Society, Tuscaloosa, AL, Bob Way, 205-556-3073
Smokey City Model Rails, Birmingham, AL; www.smokeycityrails.com
Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, Birmingham, AL; Whit Francher; 205-746-0007
Steel City Shifters Operating Group, jstew@bhamrails.info

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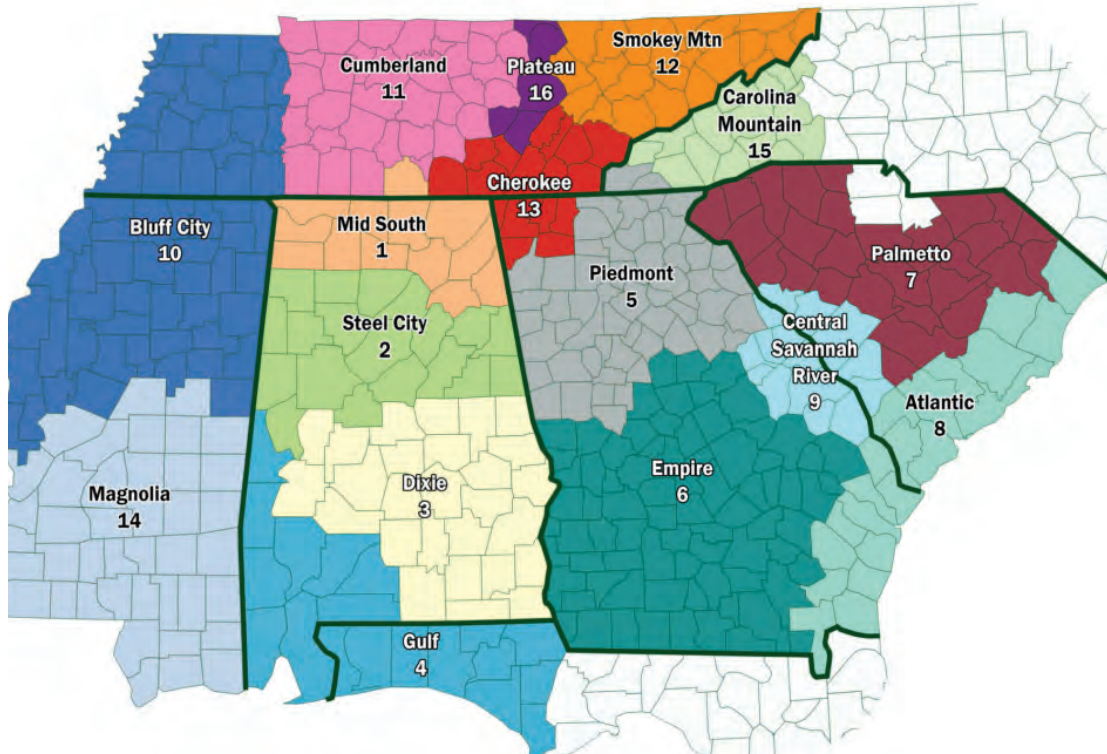
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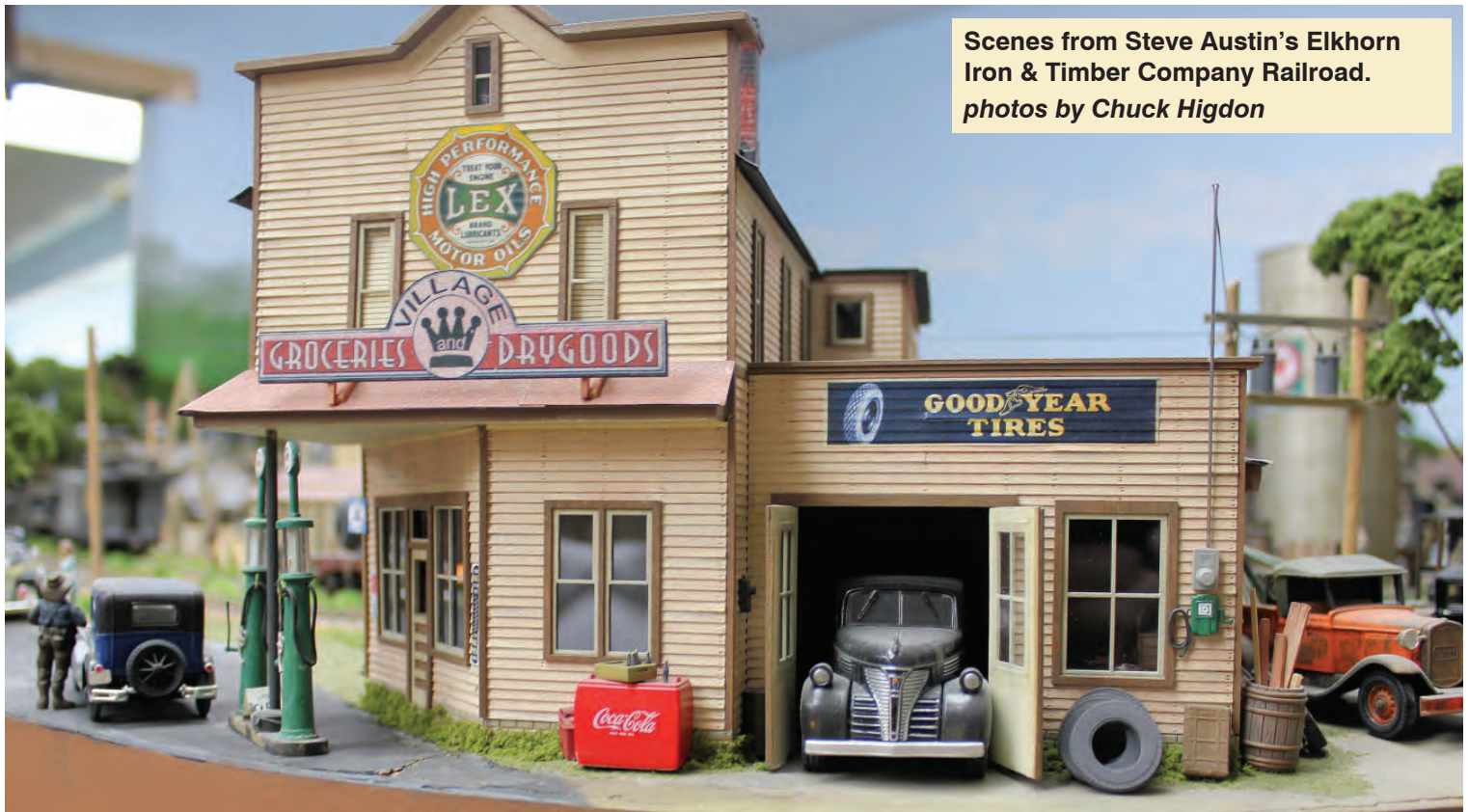


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Scenes from Steve Austin's Elkhorn
Iron & Timber Company Railroad.
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