



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



The *SOUTHERNER*

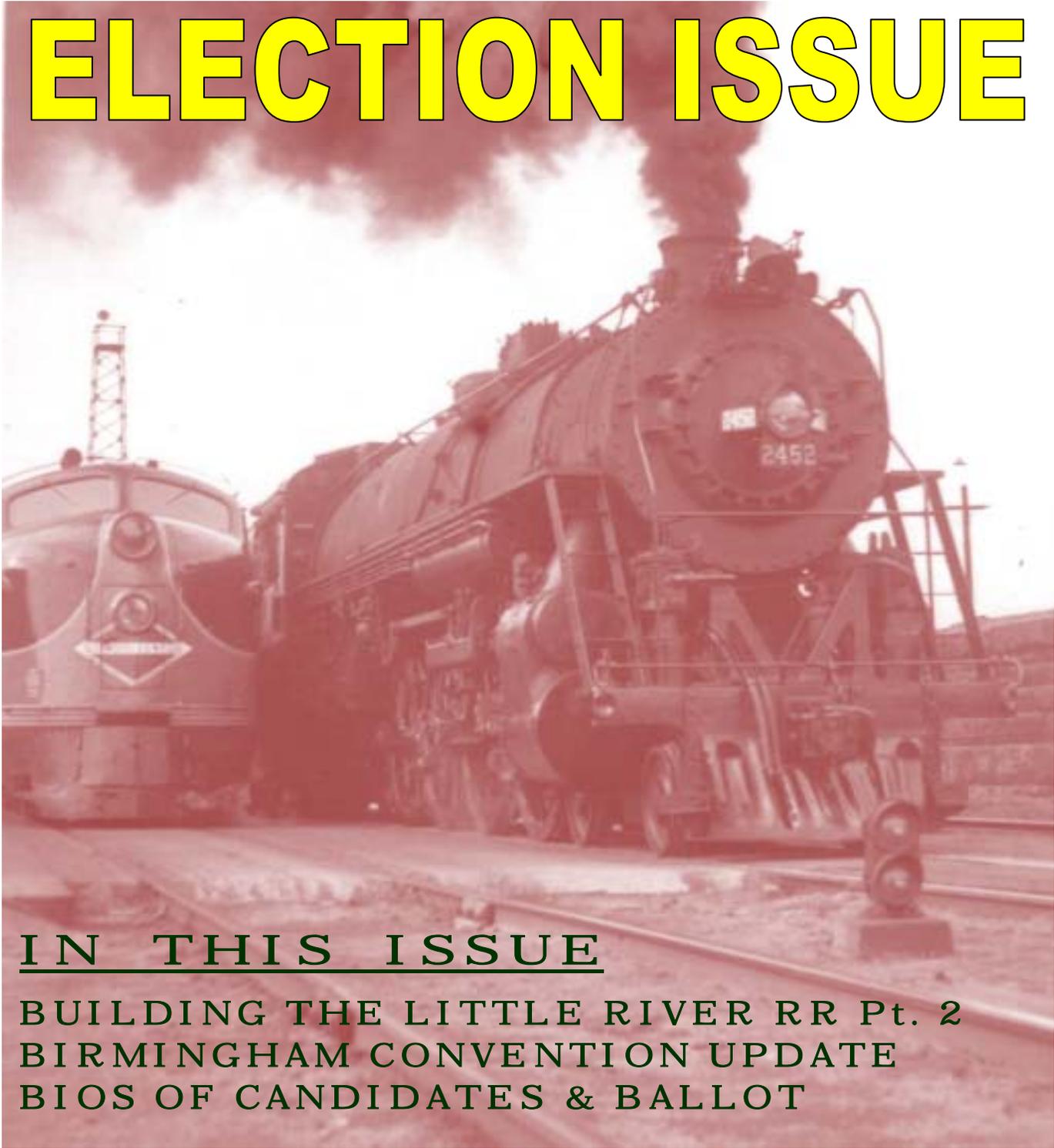


Volume 45, Number 2

www.ser-nmra.org

Spring 2004

ELECTION ISSUE



IN THIS ISSUE

- BUILDING THE LITTLE RIVER RR Pt. 2
- BIRMINGHAM CONVENTION UPDATE
- BIOS OF CANDIDATES & BALLOT

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting Montgomery, Alabama - February 28, 2004

The following board members were present: Phillip Hutchinson, President, Bob Beaty, Secretary, Randall Watson, Treasurer, Mike Braunstein, Director, Roy Tritt, Executive Advisor, Mike Ferry, Director, Tom Schultz, Director.
Committee chairmen present: Paul Voelker, Editor, Tom Cusker, 2004 Convention Chairman, Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr. Historian, John Stevens, Good and Welfare, Scott Perry, 2007 convention Co-Chairman, Ed Dice, Gulf Division Superintendent.

Meeting called to order at 9:00AM CST

President Hutchinson welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the September 13, 2003 BOD meeting in Bryson City, NC. Director Ferry moved that the Minutes as published in the SouthEneR be accepted. Seconded by Director Schultz. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Watson reported Receipts and Disbursements for 5 months ending January 31, 2004 and an Investment Summary as of January 31, 2004. Receipts totaled \$2,257.12, Disbursements totaled \$2,518.85. Ending Balance in Checking Account \$3,619.00. Total Cash and Investments 421,799.23, Total Liabilities/reserves 418,568.71. Non Designated Cash \$3,230.52. Secretary Beaty move to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by ED Tritt. Report accepted.

VP Report: VP Turner not present

Div Superintendent reports

Ed Dice presented status of Gulf Division
Tom Schultz presented status of Steel City Division
Mike Ferry presented status of Headquarters Division
Randall Watson presented status of Piedmont Division

Membership/Registrar's Report: Tom Schultz reported there are 55 additional members of the SER since September. NMRA membership is down by 39 since September. There are 22 SER Life subscribers. There is a problem with NMRA Life members not being notified by HQ of the expiration of Region membership. In May, the Post Office will require the additional 4 numbers of the Zip code for bulk rates. The Registrar will need to provide both the Editor of the Southerner and the NMRA HQ office of the additional numbers for SER members. Pres. Hutchinson stated we need to align the member's SER anniversary date with their NMRA anniversary date.

Editor's Report: Editor Voelker reported the fall issue was 24 pages, the winter issue was 28 pages and the spring issue will be 28 pages. The winter issue of the SouthEneR is "On line" currently located on the SCD web site. Price for winter issue was \$865 with postage running \$166 per mailing. The spring issue will contain additional 2004 Convention information.

Director Schultz moved the Board recognize the efforts of Paul Voelker as Editor and convey the appreciation of the entire Region for his outstanding publication. Seconded by ED Tritt. Motion carried unanimously.

AP Report: Dean Belowich was not present. His report was read: There were 6 AP Certificates issued since the last report, 1 is pending at National. 3 Golden Spikes were issued.

President Hutchinson reported on the NMRA development of the Education Department Chair and the role for the Region's Education Chairman.

Web Page: Roy Tritt reported that the site needs a new Web Master. The page is written in Linux. Tritt will still provide the space at no cost. Mike Broadway's efforts with the Steel City page was recognized. The Board recommends that Mike Broadway be designated as SER webmaster. Tritt will provide passwords and pertinent data for access to the web page.

Good and Welfare: Chairman John Stevens reported that there were 35 Letters sent since the last report.

Member's Aid: No report

Old Business

Conventions

2003. The Chattanooga Convention Report. The 2003 convention committee presented the SER a check for \$1500 at the September BOD meeting. This item is now closed.
2004. Tom Cusker reported on the progress of the Steel City 2004 Convention. Non-NMRA member registration is being accepted for an additional fee. It was requested that the BOD appoint someone to contact these attendees to encourage their continued affiliation. Secretary Beaty will personally contact these attendees at the convention.
2005. Phil Hutchinson stated that plans are being evaluated to host the convention in Montgomery. He will have a definitive report at the May business meeting.
2006. Ed Dice reported that Pensacola may be a location for the 2006 location. The Fair grounds have some excellent facilities. A joint convention with the Sunshine Region is a possibility.
2007. Scott Perry reported on the initial planning for the 2007 convention hosted by the Piedmont Division. The actual convention site has not been selected.

New Business

President Hutchinson reported the need to update the SER bylaws to conform to the NMRA Regulations.

Director Braunstein suggested that an amendment be added to the SER ballot that would allow the BOD to update the wording of the by-laws to bring it line with the NMRA without requiring a vote on each issue by the members.

Director Braunstein moved: The following be added to the 2004 ballot: Amend Article XI, Amendments, to provide a new paragraph #4 which shall provide as follows: Changes required to these bylaws by the Regulations of the NMRA shall not require a vote of the membership and the membership shall be advised of the changes no later than the next annual meeting of the corporation. Seconded by Director Ferry. Motion carried.

President Hutchinson will request the Registrar give the Board an opinion on the best way to handle SER Life members that are not NMRA members. The Secretary will contact Karl Shaffer to have information available for the BOD meeting in Bessemer.

Transition of duties from the old Board to the newly elected Board. Transition will be per the by-laws at the annual meeting on Sunday morning.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Director Braunstein presented the slate of Officers to the Board. The Ballot will be presented to the members in the Spring SouthEneR. ED Tritt will count the ballots and will determine if a submission is a valid SER voting member.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM CST



The *SOUTH*ERNER



WAYBILL

Volume 45, Number 2



Spring—2004

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The SouthErner
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Southeastern Region of the
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E-SouthErner: The *E-SouthErner* has returned and the first issue of this year—Volume 45 #1 is currently posted at the Steel Rails Back to the Steel City Convention website. At some future date, this issue-Volume 45 #2, Volume 45 #1 and all of Volume 44 #1-#4 will appear on the SER's website.

On The Front Cover: Illinois Central RR northern #2452 and an EMD ICRR E-unit at an unknown passenger station somewhere in the south.
Photo by Walter G. Voelker (Peter Brand).

On The Back Cover: A montage of photos provided by *Ron Gough* showing many of the members of the Piedmont Division who were responsible for helping to put on this year's Piedmont Division Train Show.

Deadlines For Submission

Summer 2004 (Jul) - June 1, 2004
Fall 2003 (Oct) ----- Sept. 1, 2004
Winter 2005 (Jan) -- Dec. 1, 2004
Spring 2004 (Apr) - Mar. 1, 2005

The SouthErner is mailed to all members of the Southeastern Region who have paid their membership dues of \$10.00 annually. Material for publication is welcomed! Please send materials to the proper Assistant Editor.

All submissions become the property of the SouthErner unless otherwise contracted. Please do not send previously printed materials.

Advertising rates

Page Size	Number of Issues			
	1	2	3	4
Full	\$120	\$200	\$260	\$300
3/4	\$ 90	\$150	\$200	\$225
1/2	\$ 60	\$100	\$130	\$150
1/4	\$ 30	\$ 50	\$ 65	\$ 75
1/8	\$ 15	\$ 25	\$ 33	\$ 40
1/12	\$ 10	\$ 17	\$ 22	\$ 25

Retailer's Listing: \$20 for 4 issues
Pike Registry : \$16 for 4 issues
Classified Ad : \$5 per issue

Advertising:

All rates are for camera-ready artwork. Text-only ads can be typeset by the editor. Fees for artwork are quoted on a per item basis. Submit sketches to the Assistant Editor of Advertising for a quotation. Include the company name, address and a day-time phone number, along with and pictures or artwork you submit. All ads must be prepaid before publication.

Make checks payable to SER/NMRA. You will be sent a proof for viewing prior to publication.

Editor's Soapbox

There is a matter concerning the election that I feel I have to bring to everyone's attention considering the events that have transpired regarding the candidacies of certain individuals.

In the week prior to the closing of the request for candidates to seek office, I sent in my bid to run for one of the two open Director at Large positions on the board. My assumption was that the nominating committee was supposed to seek out and encourage people to run for any open positions. It seems that the chairman of that committee took a different point of view and actively tried to get some individuals (including me) to not run or seek a position other than the one they had originally put in for. Shown in the boxes below is a series of emails between the nominating committee chair and myself. You decide!

The last time I looked, it wasn't the job of the nominating chair to get people to NOT RUN FOR OFFICE!

Sent: Monday, February 02, 2004 10:35 AM

Hi Paul:

One consideration that you may want to make. It would probably be a conflict of interest for you to be a Board Member and Editor of the Southerner. Since the Southerner is basically in the hands of the Editor, unfortunately with little guidance from the Board, it would be an easy forum for the Editor to voice his opinions. The Board has had this discussion before when Scott was Editor.

Do you have somebody in mind that would become Editor if you should be elected a Director?? Which appears to be a shoe in since there are only two running right now. I haven't made up my mind to run or not.

Let me know your views on this ASAP.

Thanks, Mike

Mike,

I don't see anything in the Bylaws that says I can't hold both jobs and besides, I am not that kind of editor. Only the Editor's Column in the soon-to-arrive next issue on the NMRA's New Regulations has any interest to me. Most of the time there will be NO Editor's Column, I'm just not interested in writing about political BS and don't see the need to waste the space on mindless drivel as I've said before in the column when I've bothered to write one. I am more interested in modeling & prototype articles anyway and trying to make the magazine relevant to the membership & timely. And since I am going to be at the BOD meetings anyway...

But if there is a problem and I can't do both, then I'll keep the Editor's job and let the other one pass.

Paul

Nothing in the bylaws, the Board made it a "policy" that nobody can hold two jobs at the region level. You are more than welcome to fight it but it made sense at the time. I would love to see you in both of them, but I understand the problem of giving time to both. Plus it is an attempt to get more folks involved.

I will take it that you want to withdraw your candidacy. I will mail you the statements and pics along with the form for voting by the end of the week. I think we sent out a special deal anyway. I would like to see some changes to the bylaws added at the Montgomery meeting.

Mike

Mike,

It may be a policy but its obviously not working! Yes, withdraw my name if that is the policy.

Paul

Shortly after I sent the above message I realized that several other members were wearing two hats and that Mike's claim was probably bogus. I then sent this follow up message:

Wait a minute, I just remembered - what about Dean Belowich? He is both the AP & Contest Chair. Tom Schultz is Membership Chair & a Director. Roy's the Executive Advisor & Webmaster. On second thought, I will fight it since that seems to be an obviously ignored policy for other positions.

Paul

At the board meeting in Montgomery, there was no mention by Braunstein about this "so-called policy" and therefore no need on my part to do any "fighting" to get my name on the ballot.

Now you can see by this email conversation that the nomination chairman had tried unsuccessfully to get me to NOT run for office. What I didn't find out until later was that this wasn't an isolated incident. He had tried & succeeded in talking Pat Turner into changing the position Pat had originally put in for, which was to rerun for Vice President. Then to cap all this off, **Braunstein entered his own name for Vice President**, a position to which he was now running **UNOPPOSED!** If his intent had been above board, he would have put his name in to run against Pat Turner for the VP's position to be decided by the voting members and not talked Pat out of running for it! How many nominations chairman do you know who would pull this kind of stunt?

(Editor's Note: The current VP has since changed his mind and is now running as a write-in candidate because the ballot can't be changed at this late date.)

The last time I looked, it wasn't the job of the nominating chair to get people to NOT RUN FOR OFFICE! This is a blatant attempt to steal the election and maneuver himself into a position of power. Reread the emails on the left! You will note I have said I am not interested in political BS at the region level.

However, being "stabbed in the back" does kind of get my attention and I believe that an informed electorate will make the right decision when the facts are laid before them. This deal of "working behind closed doors" and political maneuvering is something that the national and some regions are good at but this method is not in the best interest of the membership.

I have found from personal experience that the best way to deal with this malarkey is to drag it out into the open for everyone to see! The facts will speak for themselves and those that have tried to pull the wool over the eyes of the membership will be exposed for what they are.

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Also note the DATE of the email. According to the region's by-laws (printed in the last issue of *The SouthErner*), nominations were supposed to be closed as of Feb 1st (a Sunday) and the slate of candidates turned in to the President of the region on that date. If Braunstein hadn't decided to run for anything as he says, then February 2nd was TOO LATE to make up his mind to run but yet he did so anyway.

Now if you, the membership, feel as though your editor really has become too political and think I should be impartial in these things as some editors think they should be here are a few things to think about. Any editor that sees a situation developing that is contrary to the best interests of the organization to which he or she is a member and does nothing is either a moron or complicit by their inaction.

Also, if you choose not to elect me as one of the Directors at Large, hey no problemo! I already have positions at national, regional (editor) and divisional level to occupy my time so one less isn't going to bother me that much and besides, both Scott Perry & George Gilbert are more than qualified to fill those positions so have at it!

Now I had planned on writing a very different column on happenings in the national which have consumed a very great deal of my time since the Toronto convention last year, but that will now have to wait until the next issue.

A couple of things though, if you have been to the **2004 SER Steel City** convention website, you may have noticed that a copy of *The SouthErner* in color & in electronic format is available there for downloading.

After some prodding by **Mike BROADWAY** (not Braunstein), I found out how to get the magazine converted to Adobe Acrobat .pdf files that can be read and downloaded by anyone who has the Adobe Reader (4.0 and above) installed on their computer.

Also, rumor has it that **Mike Broadway** will be taking over the SER's website duties and if he does even half the job he is doing with the Steel City convention website, we should have a First Class Website! Available there in the future will be electronic versions of all of the previous year's *The SouthErner* (Volume 44 #1 through #4) along with the current convention issue Volume 45 #1 and soon the issue you are now reading and all in color for your enjoyment!

A couple of news flashes:

Dean Belowich has volunteered to take on the position of Education Chairman for the region. This is a job to coordinate with the NMRA Education Department's efforts to educate people in the region through clinics, shows and other means on information to enhance their modeling skills.

Also, **Karl Shafer** has decided to step down as the region's Registrar after many years of service because he is moving out of the region. I want to personally thank Karl for his efforts in that very useful role. **Howard R. Garner** has been appointed to fill Karl's vacated position and will be the region's new Registrar.

Little River Lumber Co.

Building a 4' x 8' Two-Level Layout Part 2

Photos & Text By: Paul V. Voelker



ABOVE: This was the extent of the progress of the layout when I took it to the Piedmont Division's February meeting. I had chosen to use Fiberglass for the scenery base as it would be completely self-supporting and would actually add strength to the structure of the layout.



ABOVE: This is how the underside of the fiberglass scenery base looks. The cardboard formers become part of the structure. Fiberglass can be applied over a base structure the same as the hard shell technique we use with plaster.



ABOVE: If I'd had it to do over again, I would have turned the whole layout upside down and applied the fiberglass from the bottom. This would have saved most of the need to protect the track. The fiberglass would adhere to the underside of the track sub-roadbed and most if not all of the cardboard formers would have been unnecessary. Once the fiberglass had set up then any additional applications of the glass to increase strength could be done from below without worrying about the track getting messed up.



ABOVE: Here we see the fiberglass scenery base as it appears during application. This is a somewhat messy process and **MUST** be performed outdoors or with a **REALLY GOOD** exhaust fan and where there is no likelihood of any open flames being present. Once it has cured, it is no more flammable than any other type of scenery base and is probably safer than Styrofoam.

Balled up newspaper was used for some of the scenery base just the same as hard shell. The main difference here is that this version of hard shell is nearly indestructible if put on with two or more layers of the fiberglass cloth or mat. I'd recommend the cloth as it is much easier to work with.



ABOVE: Some scrap self-stick tile was used to create a pad that the Caboose Industries ground throws could sit on to elevate them to the correct level to match the track's height. Music wire was bent into shape and slid under the track to hide the mechanism for moving the switch points. This also created a solid base to attach the ground throws to.



ABOVE: A Chooch tunnel portal is checked for position to see if I will have to modify any of the scenery or the portal itself to get it to fit correctly. The surfaces above and to the left of the portal have been sprayed with texture paint to give the appearance of a rock surface. Texture paint is available in several colors so can be blended to simulate various rock surfaces. It can also be used to simulate ballast on a wood roadbed (such as Truscale) prior to laying track.



LEFT: All of the products used for the scenery base were purchased at Home Depot in the painting department. The Texture Paint (on left) was used to simulate exposed rock surfaces. The can of spray paint (on right) is used for a general overall covering of the fiberglass scenery base. This will also expose areas that may need another coat of the fiberglass. The Acetone is used for cleanup of equipment and skin. You **MUST** use Acetone outside as it is **VERY** flammable.



In March, the layout moved over to Scott Perry's nice new warm basement from my cold carport. Here we see Scott applying cast Hydrocal stumps to the layout using hot glue while his wife Marie looks on.



Scott & I. D. Jackson are working on applying more of the scenery while I take photos of their efforts. The trainshow is barely a week away and there is still a very great deal left to do.



I. D. brushes away loose scenery from the track and roadbed.



Scott is applying a white glue-water mix that he will then sprinkle liberally with chopped up hay, leaves and twigs for the scenery. Later ground foam scenery materials will also be added.



I. D. is spraying on a coating of watered-down glue to help adhere the scenery to the layout permanently.



A view looking down the track from the end of one of the switchbacks on the upper level.

The Hydrocal stump castings.
 In part 3 we will see how these are made by Scott.



Some of the finished stumps as they appear after the ground hay, leaves & foam have been applied and allowed to dry. HO scale trees will be applied around the 5 to 12 foot in diameter stumps to give the appearance of new growth. Most HO scale trees are nowhere near as large as real trees would be.



New growth trees have still to be added but this is how the layout's upper level looks after the stumps and scenery had been applied. The trainshow is but 6 days away and none of the scenery on the lower level or for that matter, any of the saw mill structures, had been started, much less completed. Scott & I will be spending much of the week working on the layout to get it ready. Fortunately, I had the week off to prepare and I would need all of it to get the saw mill structures built and attached to the layout. The mill pond was also quite a ways from being completed.





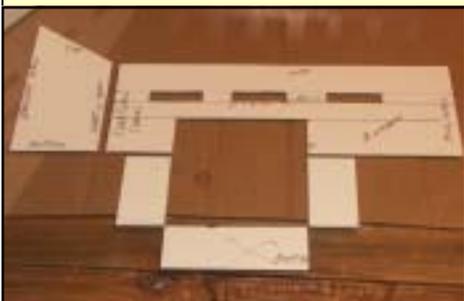
Five days out and the saw mill starts to take shape. I am using board & batten styrene to create the structure. I am basing the saw mill on an old photo of a large sawmill in Alabama in 1954. This is the front of the mill building, the size was determined by the amount of backdrop I needed to cover. Below is the side & back walls. I decided to add an inset into the sidewall similar to the one in the picture of the old sawmill.



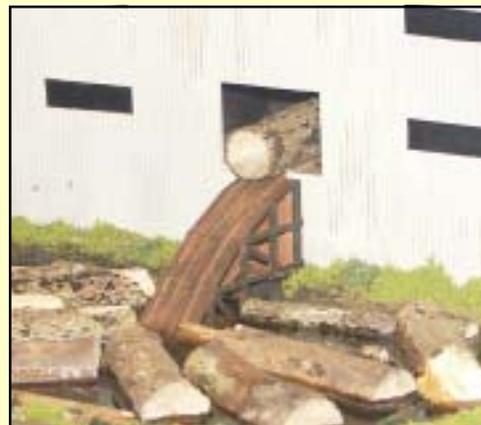
As the Sawmill's front side would be nearly flush with the backdrop, I decided to give the appearance of depth to the building by building a log cutting deck that would attach to the back of the sawmill's façade. A matching hole was cut in the backdrop so the cutting deck could protrude through. Later a log was positioned on the deck after the back wall and some of the floor was spray painted black.



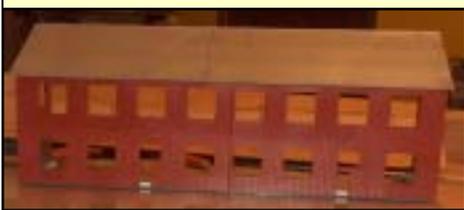
Now came the ramp needed to get the logs from the pond into the sawmill. This was cobbled together from bits of styrene to give the impression of a ramp. This was far from a contest-winning model of a ramp.



Here the nearly complete sawmill is being test fit into the scene it will occupy. To the right is the modified planing mill.



The finished ramp with a log protruding from the cutting deck & a pond of logs.



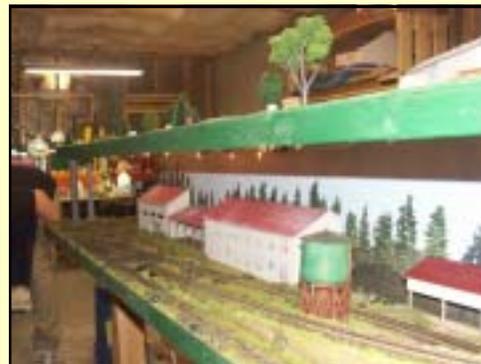
While working on the sawmill, I also started work on modifying a Walthers Planing Mill kit to create a much larger building. Since I didn't need a 4-sided building I doubled up the long walls and shortened the end walls to create a backdrop building.



To increase the amount of backdrop covered by a building, the shed included in the planing mill kit was cut in half lengthwise and attached to a wall made from board & batten styrene. A window was cut into the B&B siding to give a family appearance to the new structure as if it were a part of the planing mill. The completed building is seen below. This added ten inches of length along the backdrop.



A second shed was built using parts from the other half of the planing mill shed. This filled the last bit of space along the backdrop and gave a finished & family appearance to the whole sawmill complex.



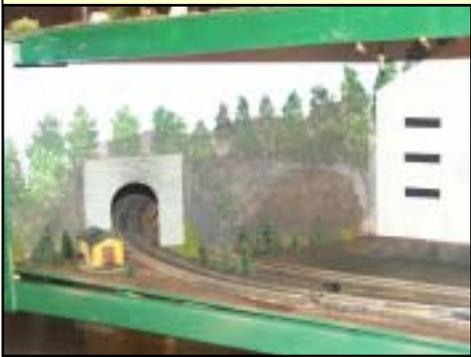
The completed sawmill complex on the layout and mounted against the painted backdrop.



The photos above, below and above right show the backdrop before and after painting the scene on the backdrop. This wasn't difficult to do and I had never painted a backdrop prior to painting this one. It took about 2 hours and This was the area I started on first. Obviously, adding this kind of a scene to your backdrop makes a dramatic difference in the appearance of the finished scene. The tunnel portal that is just glued to the backdrop looks much more believable than it would without the painted scene around it. As I say, this doesn't take a great talent to do this.



After the backdrop had been painted at each end, I decided that the roofs of the buildings would need to be taped off so I could add trees to the backdrop above them. The difference was dramatic and well worth the added effort to do.



The trees were painted using a medium-wide brush that happened to have a natural curve to the bristles in a very shallow U-shape viewed end-on. As an experiment, I dabbed a little green-brown-gray mix of paint onto the backdrop to see if I could simulate a tree. It worked!



It is best to start from the top and work down making the tree wider as you go. I kept using various combinations of those three colors for all the trees. When viewed in color (as you will see in the *E-Southerner*), the effect is dramatic!

to create a trunk-effect. It is hard to screw this up! Just try doing it, that is the only way to learn—you learn by doing!

When I moved down to the other end I started adding a vertical line to the tops of the trees and continued the line on down

In part 3 we will complete the layout.

Treasurer's Report

SOUTHEASTERN REGION - NMRA	
CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS	
SEPTEMBER 1, 2003 TO JANUARY 31, 2004	
BEGINNING BALANCE - CHECKING ACCOUNT 09/01/03	\$3,880.73
RECEIPTS	
INTEREST CD'S	\$243.12
MEMBERSHIP	\$1,588.00
PERSONAL PURCHASE of SOUTHERNER ISSUES	\$280.00
BOOK OFFER	\$25.00
SOUTHERNER AD'S and PIKE AD'S	\$121.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$2,257.12
DISBURSEMENTS	
SOUTHERNER POSTAGE SUMMER 2003	\$166.06
SOUTHERNER PRINTING SUMMER 2003	\$900.00
DAVE MULLER PLAQUE	\$49.87
RAIL IMAGES (BOOK OFFER)	\$20.00
SOUTHERNER POSTAGE FALL 2003	\$161.40
SOUTHERNER PRINTING FALL 2003	\$1,185.52
BANK CHARGES	\$36.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$2,518.85
ENDING BALANCE - CHECKING ACCOUNT 01/31/04	\$3,619.00

SOUTHEASTERN REGION - NMRA	
CASH AND INVESTMENT SUMMARY	
SEPTEMBER 1, 2003 TO JANUARY 31, 2004	
ASSETS	
CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$3,619.00
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT	\$18,180.23
TOTAL CASH AND INVESTMENTS	\$21,799.23
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES	
RESERVE FOR LIFE DUES	\$8,482.00
RESERVE FOR FUTURE YEARS DUES	\$2,800.00
YARBOROUGH FUND	\$500.00
SOUTHERNER ENDOWMENT	\$6,786.71
TOTAL LIABILITIES/RESERVES	\$18,568.71
NON DESIGNATED CASH	\$3,230.52
Randall Watson - SER Treasurer 	
This report does not include non cash assets such as Patches and Decals.	
There are 3 checks totaling \$1,039.20 outstanding expenses as of this report date. There are 8 deposits totaling \$880.92 not credited as of this report date.	

Hurry!! Hurry !!! Hurry !!!
Your chance to save \$\$\$\$\$\$.... Is running out.

Don't miss your 2004 SER Convention in Birmingham

Don't forget that April 15, 2004 is the deadline to register for the Convention and Hotel at the lower rate. Starting April 16th Convention Registration goes up \$10 for Regular, and Non-Rail attendees. Hotel rates will go up at least \$10 per night.

Schedule of Events

Friday May 28th

- 11:00 AM Registration Opens - Attendees can pick up their registration packets**
- 12:00 PM - Convention Opens**
- 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Contest and display rooms open**
- 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM SER Board Meeting**
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Layout Tours**
- 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM Dave Frary's Clinic**
- 3:00 PM - 3:50 PM Sam Swanson's Clinic**
- 4:00 PM - 4:50 PM Boone Morrison's Clinic**
- 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner Break**
- 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Charlie Getz's Clinic**
- 7:30 PM - 8:20 PM Dean Freytag's Clinic**
- 8:30 PM - ??? Roundtable discussion and questions for members**

Note: Cash bar will be open from 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Saturday May 29th

- 7:30 AM Registration Opens**
- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Contest and display rooms open**
- 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM Prototype tour of Nortrak and Sloss Furnace**
- 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Clinics**
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Train Show Opens - Convention Attendees Only**
- 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Layout Tours**
- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Train Show Opens to Public**
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Model Contest Judging - Attendees may view but cannot talk to the judges**
- 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM SER Cocktail Party - Cash Bar**
- 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Dinner and Guest Speaker Charlie Getz**
- 9:30 PM - ??? Live Auction**

Note: Cash bar will be open from 6:00 PM to 12:00 PM

Sunday May 30th

- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast**
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM SER Business Meeting - Installation of new officers**
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Train Show Opens - Convention Attendees Only**
- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM Train Show Opens to Public**
- 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Clinics (If there is interest)**
- 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Layout Tours**

STEEL RAILS BACK TO THE STEEL CITY

Clinics

All five of the nationally known speakers and modelers, Boone Morrison, Charlie Getz, Dean Freytag, Dave Frary and Sam Swanson have confirmed that they will be here as well as more than 15 other clinicians who will be giving clinics on a wide range of topics. We will have at least one make-and-take clinic. If there is interest we will have a few of the clinics repeat on Sunday and invite the public to attend. If you miss one on Saturday you may be able to catch it on Sunday.

For those who are not familiar with the Friday clinicians here is a short bio on each.

Boone Morrison is a true American original. A native of California, Boone now resides in Volcano, Hawaii. Boone is a professional architect as well as an incredible modeler. He is a regular columnist in the *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*. His series, The HOn3 North Coast Narrow Gauge Line and Its Subsidiary, The Buckhorn Logging Co. has provided inspiration to many of us through the articles and accompanying pictures of his Buckhorn Lumber Company. Boone has recently begun a new logging railroad in O Scale. He also is a professional filmmaker and photographer having recently produced two movies. He has presented clinics across the world most recently in Australia. Boone will be speaking at the 2004 SER Convention on the topic of "Presenting Your Layout". He plans on discussing the environment that should surround a model railroad focusing on topics such as appropriate lighting, height, backgrounds, fascias and other aesthetic touches that maximize the appearance of our trains and their setting. It is a clinic that will appeal to all modelers regardless of their scale interest.

Charlie Getz is a noted model railroader and model railroad author. He has a regular column in the *Narrow Gauge and Shortline Gazette*. Charlie is active in the NMRA and has served on many committees. Currently, he is on the committee working on the 2004 Narrow Gauge Convention to be held in Santa Clara, California. Charlie is noted for his great sense of humor and will be the SER Convention Banquet

Speaker. In his day job, Charlie works as an attorney.

Dean Freytag is noted as one of the hobby's greatest modelers in the area of heavy industry. His layout contains one of the most extensive models of a steel mill ever produced. Walthers used it as the prototype for its recent steel mill model. Like our other speakers Dean is a noted author and clinician.

Dave Frary is a noted model railroad author, layout builder and clinician. With his distinctive Boston accent, Dave's work has appeared on the cover of *Model Railroader Magazine* numerous occasions. His articles on scenery are legendary. He has constructed several railroads for publication as how-to build it articles. His work has led him to a career as a professional model railroad builder. He is an accomplished clinician and will be performing in that capacity at the 2004 SER Convention.

Sam Swanson is a noted modeler and model-railroading author. He has won best in show at two national NMRA conventions and at the National Narrow Gauge Convention. A portion of one of these models has been developed into a commercial kit by Bar Mills. Sam will be presenting a clinic on the development of his sawmill, which took Best in Show honors at both of these conventions. It is a treat that you will not want to miss.

Layout Tours

There will be at least 16 different layouts open for tour during the Convention. We have a well-rounded group including a couple of G, some O, a few N and HOn3, and lots of HO scale layouts. Plus there will be layouts to see at the Train Show! Maps and directions will be provided which are designed to keep travel time to a minimum. There will be layouts open on Friday, Saturday and, due to the wealth of activities, even Sunday.

Visit our web site at: www.scd-nmra.org to take a tour and see photos of some of the layouts that will be available.

State-of-the-Art Prototype Tour

The *Steel Rails* committee has put together a great 2-site Prototype Tour for Convention goers. The tour will depart at 8 AM on Saturday and last about 5 to 5 ½ hours. During the trip your tour guide will share with you some of Birmingham's history and points-of-interest.

The first stop on the tour will be to Nortrak Inc. Nortrak manufactures railroad and transit trackwork and supplies railroad track materials to most US railroads ranging from lightrail up to Class 1. Your tour of the plant will give you a first hand view of how they produce this trackwork. The tour will be both indoors and out, so please dress accordingly. Also, the plant will in production during your visit so long pants and regular shoes are required. No shorts, open toe or sandal type shoes allowed. If you have your own hardhat or safety glasses please bring them along. If you do not Nortrak will supply them.

The 2nd site is Sloss Furnace. At Sloss you will be given a guided tour though this double furnace steel mill built in 1881-82 by Alabama planter and investor James Withers Sloss. In 1983, twelve years after being blown out for the last time, Sloss Furnaces was designated a National Historic Landmark and opened to the public, declaring its mission to be a museum of industry and center for culture. We have asked Dean Freytag to accompany this tour.

Prototype tour space is limited and more than 25% of the seats are already gone so don't delay. Get your reservations in.

Train Show

We will have a train show in the convention centers large 12,000 sq. foot exhibition center. The show will be open Saturday and Sunday morning to the convention attendees before the general public is allowed in. We will have several manufacturers on the floor plus several first time convention dealers. So bring lots of money.

Everything Conveniently Located

Bessemer is located 20 minutes from the Birmingham Airport on I-59. The convention center and hotel are located one block off the freeway. The main conven-

tion hotel, The Hampton Inn, is located across the street from the Bessemer Civic Center. The overflow hotel, the Comfort Inn, is located a short distance down the street. All convention activities will be located in the easy-to-get-around Civic Center. Registration, train show and snack bar are on the first floor and the clinics, model contest and banquet will be conducted on the second floor of the facility. Elevator service is available. Layout and prototype tours are within a 20-mile radius of the Civic Center.

Last But Not Least...

The **Company Store** will be featuring a broad array of items. Rumor has it that some items left over from the last Birmingham SER Convention will be available for sale for those who missed out then. Word is some great bargains are to be had.

Help us have a super **Model Contest** by bringing a model this year for contest or just for display. If you have never participated in a contest, then build a model for the Handcar Contest. Or if you just wish to exhibit your work, we will have an area set aside for display only models. Everyone enjoys the Contest Room. So let's make it first rate.

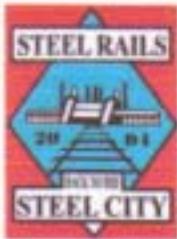
The SER has a tradition of having a rowdy **Auction** and this year should be no different with bargains galore! Come on, clean out that storeroom and bring your excess, but great treasures, to the auction.

Don't forget that there are lots of activities for the non-rail person also. There are four major shop malls including an outlet mall within the area. VisionLand Theme and Water Parks will be open as well as a host of other great things to do. We will have a representative of the Birmingham Convention Center on site Friday afternoon and Saturday morning to offer suggestions and help with your questions about the area.

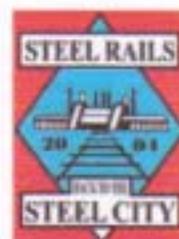
Please visit our website www.scd-nmra.org often between now and the Convention for the latest information and updates for the 2004 SER Convention.

We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham in 2004.

Tom Cusker
Tom Schultz
2004 Convention Co-Chairman



Steel Rails Back to the Steel City
Southeastern Region / NMRA Convention
Registration Form
May 28th – 30th 2004 in Birmingham, AL



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

NMRA # _____ SER # _____

Name on ID Badge _____

Non-Rail Attendees _____

To Reserve hotel accommodations, contact the Hampton Inn at 205-425-2010, overflow hotel is Comfort Inn at 205-428-3999 be sure to identify yourself as "NMRA" to get convention discount at either hotel. Rates are only valid until April 15, 2004.

Regular Registration	Mailed before 4/15/04	\$85	x _____	= \$ _____
	Mailed after 4/15/04	\$95	x _____	= \$ _____
One Day Fri. or Sat. Registration	NO BANQUET	\$45	x _____	= \$ _____
Non NMRA Registration	ADD	\$26	x _____	= \$ _____
Non-Rail Registrations	Mailed before 4/15/04	\$50	x _____	= \$ _____
(Spouse, Children)	Mailed after 4/15/04	\$60	x _____	= \$ _____
Dinner: Beef Filet _____	Chicken Marsala _____	Vegetarian _____		
Steel Mill and Nortrak Tour (Max 50 Guest)		\$20	X _____	= \$ _____
Convention Tee Shirt	Size _____	\$10	X _____	= \$ _____
	XXL size additional	\$ 2	_____	= \$ _____
		TOTAL	=====	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to: STEEL RAILS CONVENTION

Mail to: Steel Rails Convention Visit our Web site: WWW.SCD-NMRA.ORG
 Tom Cusker
 3022 Long Leaf Lane
 Helena, AL 35080

For information e-mail Tom.Cusker@Motion-ind.com or call 205-951-6104 days.

Vice president



PAT TURNER
Statement of Office for Vice President of the Southeastern Region

I have currently served as the Vice President of the SER for two years now. Some of you know me while others do not. I model in most scales and gauges and some of my current projects include building my son's first HO layout and

constructing a 2 1/2" scale, 7.5" gauge railroad. I am a long time NMRA member and I have served in many capacities in the past such as Director at Large for the Piedmont Division and Superintendent of the same. I have also served on many committees and judged at division and region level contests. I am currently the Moderator of the SER-NMRA email list. I help out where ever I can such as Region shifts, conventions and more.

If re-elected Vice President I will continue to travel throughout the Region and visit as many divisions as I can personally. A few of the top places on my list to get to are; Land o' Sky, Smokey Mountain, Bluff City and New Orleans. I have and will also continue to solicit help in visiting divisions and clubs from other members to maximize the help and support the office of V.P. can provide. I will meet with the division Supers. as well as the members and

help them to the best of my ability. I will use all the resources of the SER and the NMRA to help all members enjoy the hobby and promote the hobby to potential members. The NMRA has changed over the years and we need to look at how those changes have affected. The Long Range Plan if/when passed will affect both the region and divisions; as such we need to looking ahead and planning accordingly. Plan for the worst and hope for the best that way we have no surprises.

I look forward to a continue to work side by side with the President and Board members to resolve any concerns in the SER. This includes both national and division issues. I also hope to help plan a long and secure future for the Region as well as helping the Divisions plan for their solid future. Please consider me just one of your open channels to voice your thoughts and concerns on the SER if re-elected.

I currently work as a RR engineer for CSX, a job that I have been in now for 7 years. My wife Rhonda and son Cass (5) are also active in the hobby and fully support me.

As was stated in my V.P. column I need your help to make this all happen. Please check the "Write In" box for Vice President and write in my name, Pat Turner.

Thank you for your continued support,
Pat Turner, Vice President



MIKE BRAUNSTEIN

I am submitting my candidacy for **Vice President** instead of Director because I feel that the office of VP has not been given the attention it deserves over the last 14 years.

The SER should be member oriented, not the members being SER oriented. The office of VP has been defined and redefined several times since 1990, when I

first started attending BOD meetings. I feel with the new technologies into which we are becoming immersed that all the positions on the Board and Committees should be defined, written down as a Policy Addendum to the By Laws and accomplished.

I realize that the past Vice Presidents have done the best they could given the fact that they had real jobs which took away time from the position. In some cases they were handcuffed and none presented the strong presence the position requires. I am retired, able to travel and have a proven track record that I can get things done. I have taken the lead in getting the SER on a sound financial foundation and will work to see that it becomes self sufficient without putting any more strain on the members.

I have worked with the Editors, convention hosts and individual members to make this an organization that responds to the members. I have gotten the SER Constitution, By Laws updated and revised and updated the SER handbook (along with the

capable assistance of Dean Belowich) into a format which is now user friendly and Internet ready. I further believe that the SER can be a NO DUES region. Ok, if the LRP goes through and they give a kickback-great. This should be the money the SER works with along with its share of the convention proceeds. This share should not include the train show. The SER needs to be financially independent and capable of serving its members without relying on the train show proceeds. This should be the reward for the hosts putting on the convention. The BOD should take over the actual conventions with the host members assisting and supplying a train show if desired. We are in a time when we SHOULD be drawing all geographic members into the SER, not just the elite few who pay the dues. *The SouthErneR* should be a subscription-only newsletter. It should be available to the non-subscribers in electronic form. Our web site should be a prominent presence and a method of communications with the members and outside world, not something that is just out there and occasionally updated.

With the new and hopefully progressive makeup of the BOD starting in May, many things can be done to provide service to the SER members as it should be happening.

I am asking for your vote so I can remain the watchdog of the BOD and continue assisting the SER into the new age of serving the members.

The VP's Keyboard

Pat Turner, VP SER



The office of Vice President has been quiet of late, but there is some news to pass along. There is a new Division Superintendent I would like you to welcome to the Land o' Sky, his name is Fred Coleman, Super. Div. 15. For those interested he can be reached at: coleman@brinet.com

The next item I have to talk about is the office of Vice President itself. I am approaching the end of my first two year term as V.P. Although I can serve two terms of two years each for a total of 4 years as V. P. I had decided to not to re run for my second term and instead run for the position of Director at Large. As there was another person that stepped up at the last minute with an interest in holding the V.P. spot this seemed like a good move for everyone, at least it did at the time!

During the weekend of March 13-14 at the Piedmont Division Train show near Atlanta I had over 25 people come up to me individually and ask me to rethink my decision not to re run for V.P. Also, during the show in an informal group of about 10 members asked me again to re-

consider. It was at this time that I could no longer stick with my own decision and informed them that I would indeed with draw from running for Director at Large and do a write in campaign for the position of Vice President. As the nominees and the ballots have already been submitted and approved by the President I cannot change the ballot at this late date. But, I can run as a write in with your help and votes.

Please do NOT vote for me in the position of Director at Large. Make your selection from the other three candidates, any of which I feel will do a fine job in that position. To vote for me in the position of V.P. simply check "Write In" and write in my name, Pat Turner.

I also want to thank everyone for the support and approval of my term as the V.P. and hope I can continue to serve the region in this capacity for another two years.

Pat Turner, Vice Pres.



CUT LINE

CUT LINE

CUT LINE

CUT LINE

Mr. Roy Tritt
SER Election Committee Chairman
PO Box 204450
Augusta, GA 30917-4450



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t r e a s u r e r



RANDALL WATSON
I am declaring my candidacy for the position of **Treasurer of the SER** for the term beginning with the annual meeting May 2004.

My experience includes serving as Treasurer of the SER for the past two years. In this capacity, I balanced the monthly checking account statement and wrote all checks for any and all expenses of the SER. I also prepared a written quarterly and annual financial statement for the SER Board of Directors for distribution at all official board meetings. My prior experience includes Assistant Treasurer SER from May 2000 to

May 2002. Additional experience serving as Treasure of the Piedmont Division from January 1998 thru December 2001, fulfilled a one year vacated term 2003 and am currently serving an additional newly elected 2 year term.

I feel my experience as Treasurer SER, Assistant Treasurer SER and serving as Treasurer of the Piedmont Division, makes me a worthy candidate for the position of Treasurer SER.

If elected to this position, I will strive to uphold the level of service to the organization and to make any or all improvements where needed to better serve the membership. As a Life Member of the NMRA, I am dedicated to the hobby and this organization. Your vote for me is greatly appreciated.

My prior experience includes Assistant Treasurer SER from May 2000 to



VICE PRESIDENT: MIKE BRAUNSTEIN

WRITE IN CANDIDATE

SECRETARY: TOM CUSKER

JOHN STEVENS

WRITE IN CANDIDATE

TREASURER: RANDALL WATSON

WRITE IN CANDIDATE

DIRECTORS:
(Vote for 2)

GEORGE GILBERT

SCOTT G. PERRY

PAUL V. VOELKER

PAT TURNER

WRITE IN CANDIDATE

WRITE IN CANDIDATE

AMEND ARTICLE XI YES NO

Amend Article XI, Amendments, to provide a new paragraph #4 which shall provide as follows:

XI, #4 Changes required to these bylaws by the Regulations of the NMRA shall not require a vote of the membership and the membership shall be advised of the changes no later than the next annual meeting of the corporation.

BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MAY 15, 2004

Please print your name below and indicate your SER membership number

Name: _____ SER # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

secretary



TOM CUSKER

I would like to place my name in nomination for Secretary of the SER. I have been a member of the NMRA for over 10 years (currently a life member) and the SER since 1994. I am 55 years old, a Director of Software Development for a Birmingham based company, married and reside in Helena, Alabama.

Unlike most folks who say they got interested in model railroading when they got a train under the Christmas tree I became interested in 1960 when I traveled by train from Chicago to Washington DC on the B&O. Upon my return home I started acquiring B&O equipment and began my first layout. I am currently in the process of building my 4th layout based on the B&O and I am a member of the B&O Historical Society.

I am in my 3rd year as the Steel City Division Secretary and serve as the co-chairman of the 2004 SER Convention. I have attended 5 of the last 7 SER board meetings and have a good understanding of what is required of the SER Secretary. I am a member of the Wrecking Crew Model Railroad Club in Birmingham and have been secretary for other organizations in the past and know that it is important to keep good detailed records for the organization.

If elected I will work toward helping the SER grow and prosper with the changes that are taking place within the NMRA and SER. I would appreciate your support and vote in the upcoming election.



JOHN STEVENS

I hereby submit my name as a candidate for the position of Secretary of the SER of the NMRA. My interest in model railroading began when I was a teenager. I had a small layout (about 4x6) which had a small train loop and an Aurora HO race-track. One of the race track pieces had a piece of train track imbedded in it allowing simultaneous car and train operation. My operation scheme and scenery were hideous by today's standards, but

it planted the railroading seed.

I left home in 1972 for the United States Air Force Academy. I graduated in 1976 and spent almost ten years on active duty. I resigned my commission as a Captain in 1985, and was offered a job by Delta Air Lines. I was initially assigned duty working out of Boston, but moved to the Atlanta area in 1997 when they closed the Boston Pilot Base. I currently fly Boeing 737-800's.

My interest in model trains was reignited about ten years ago when my son found my trains. We started a small layout, but tore it down when we decided to move to Atlanta. Construction on a new layout has gone along in spurts. I have a good plan, but construction has been very slow.

I was drawn into the abyss by Ron Gough, who signed me up as a NMRA member in late 1997. In 2001, I became Chairman of the Good and Welfare Committee for the Piedmont Division and the SER. As Chairman, I began the Milestone Birthday program which has been a great success. I have written hundreds of letters to members living in all the divisions within the region.

Within the Piedmont Division I am Chairman of the Railroad Merit Badge Committee. As Chairman I developed a

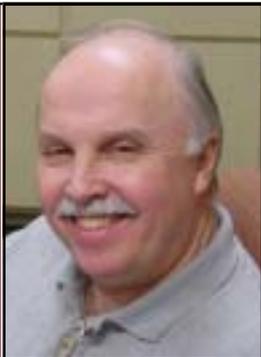
program we use to teach the merit badge to Boy Scouts in the Atlanta area. Using 8-10 instructors we present a six hour program which meets the requirements for a scout to earn the merit badge. We have presented our program 3 times with 82 scouts earning the merit badge. One of those scouts was my son Jacob, who earned Eagle Scout last spring.

As Chairman of the Good and Welfare Committee I have attended a number of the BOD meetings held since May 2001. We are experiencing interesting times within this organization. Nationally we have the Long Range Plan. We are now in a learning phase and soon we will have to cast our votes. If the LRP is accepted the regions and the divisions will have to implement changes of the LRP. If the LRP is not accepted I am certain that it will go back to committee for consideration in the future.

At the regional level the primary concern is the financial well being of the organization. Unfortunately the current BOD is having a difficult time charting a course of action to alleviate this problem. So much of what can be done is dependent on the actions of the National Office. With the LRP pending the BOD has been unable to adequately solve these problems. Another great concern is falling membership. Although the membership numbers are changing because of the ongoing membership consolidation, we have been losing some of our current members. A lot of this has to do with the increased cost of membership consolidation, but some of it has to do with members who are dissatisfied with the current direction of the NMRA at all levels.

I look forward to the opportunity to help guide the region through the interesting times ahead.

Directors (vote for two)



GEORGE GILBERT

I am a candidate for the position of **SER Director**.

I have been a Southern model railroader for over 40 years and have been active in SER and NMRA activities for 20 years. In those years I have built a bunch of models, some even good. I have been privileged to win awards for some of those models. And I have had the opportunity to share some of my modeling interests in the pages of

Railroad Model Craftsman and Light Iron Digest.

My personal modeling interests are in late 19th and early 20th Century shortlines. My appreciation of what other modelers

have done includes the entire range of this very engaging hobby.

It has been my privilege to serve as SER Director in the past; I am asking for an opportunity to do so again. For many years I have served the Cumberland Division as their AP chairman. I am also Board member and membership chairman of the Tennessee Central Railway Museum. I am involved in all these things because I have so much fun with Model Railroading. And I believe that we, who want to continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby, must do what we can to help nurture and grow the small world of model railroading. It is in our own interests that this continues to be a viable market, attracting the industry that supports us. We help when our clubs and organizations show the fun we are having and attract new people to our fun.



SCOTT G. PERRY

I would like to announce my candidacy for **Director of the Southeastern Region** of the NMRA. Having been a member of the NMRA since I was 14 years old, I have faithfully supported the organization for 25 years.

I have served the Region as the Editor of *The SouthErneR* and have had considerable influence in its modification. As a frequent contributor of articles to *The SouthErneR* and being an active member of the region, I

believe I have a great understanding of the working of the organization.

For many years I have been a volunteer to the NMRA national organization, mainly as a contributing member and financial supporter of the highly effective web presence committee, as well as being a key innovator of new programs. In

2002 I won the Dave Muller award for Volunteerism and Individual Achievement.

At the division level, I'm an active member of the Piedmont Division and am a regular clinician and volunteer. My reason for running for office is so that I can bring to the organization my skills of being an innovator and problem-solver, as well as to use my creativity and spread my enthusiasm for the NMRA and the Region.

As the NMRA goes through major growing pains, it will be the Divisions and Regions that will solidify and strengthen the organization. I would like to contribute to an expanded and stronger region and help guide us through the new NMRA Long Range Plan as it modifies the way we interact with National.

In my professional life I manage a 260+ employee chemical plant outside of Atlanta. My love is for model trains as anyone can tell you and I just began work on an 1,800 square foot basement layout in HO scale.



PAUL V. VOELKER

After much thought I have decided to throw my hat into the ring and run for one of the **SER Director** positions.

I am currently 52 and for the last 20 years I have been employed by the Kroger Grocery Store chain, all 20 years at the same store in Dunwoody. I live in Flowery Branch, GA about 45 miles NE of Atlanta.

I joined the NMRA in 1968 and the SSR in 1969. I am a Life Member of both since 1970 & 1990. I moved to Georgia in 1984 and joined the SER in 1989.

In the SSR, I served as their photo contest chair from 1982 until 1987 and even after moving to GA, I stayed on as SSR photo chair until I had to give the job up for work-related reasons.

In 1989 I joined the Piedmont Division and was elected as a Director-at-Large in 1990, a position I've held since then with a one year break in 1999. I have chaired several committees over the last 7 years including the Kid's Operating Layout, the

last 3 Raffle Layouts, and the Project Layout that is now used in the division's RR Merit Badge program.

In the summer of 1990, I took on the job of NMRA Photo Contest Assistant and remained in that position until becoming Chairman in early 2000. I also acquired the Pass Contest Chair in 1998, a position that had been unfilled for 10 years.

I served on CrossRoads Atlanta '95 and was committee chairman (liaison really) for the contests & auctions.

I am also the current editor of your newsletter, *The SouthErneR* and have served in that capacity since September of 2002. I have recently been successful in getting the magazine converted into Adobe Acrobat .pdf format for posting online.

In a new national contest-related role as a part of the NMRA's Education Department, I recently worked on a project to get photos of the winning contest entries at Toronto's Maple Leaf 2003 national convention posted at a website online. This is to be an ongoing program and I am slated to do the same thing for Seattle's 2004 convention this year.

I would like to help guide the region through the next four years and therefore I ask for your vote to make that happen.

NMRA/SER Membership Report

By Karl Shafer, Registrar

SER membership continues to grow in spite of declining NMRA membership. We are now dependent upon the accuracy of the NMRA database for members and our subscriber database for non-NMRA members and members who have moved out of the region. Our SouthErneR mailing list problems stem from NMRA data entry problems and members moving out of the region. When someone moves out of the region, they disappear off the roster that the NMRA gives us, so I need a heads-up notice if you make such a move, so I can add you to the subscriber list. I know of no way to prevent such problems. We just need to be vigilant and correct the problems as soon as we find them.

No transition like this is without its wrinkles and here is a major one. The problem occurs when NMRA and SER expiration dates don't match. If you are in this situation, please call the NMRA and pay ahead whichever dues are needed to make the dates identical. If you are an NMRA lifer and not an SER lifer, then the problem is that the NMRA will not bill you for your region dues, so you will need to check your SER expiration date periodically to pay your SER dues, or get a quote from me for SER life membership (I will need your birth date). If you are an SER lifer, then I realize it may be impractical or impossible to become an NMRA lifer, so don't worry about it, as the NMRA will continue to bill you for NMRA membership. If you drop your NMRA membership, however, contact me as you will need to be moved to our subscriber database.

Finally, if you are a subscriber, you will need to periodically check your expiration date to renew your subscription, as we will not be issuing renewal notices. If you join the NMRA, they will send renewal notices to you for both the NMRA and the SER.

SER Division	NMRA Members	SER Members	SER Life Members	Southerner Regular Subscribers	Southerner Life Subscribers
1	35	9	2	0	0
2	95	43	3	5	1
3	29	8	2	1	0
4	43	18	0	1	0
5	376	222	13	10	4
6	45	15	2	2	0
7	78	42	3	0	0
8	49	12	1	2	0
9	28	13	3	0	1
10	45	11	3	0	1
11	82	37	2	2	0
12	66	20	1	2	1
13	51	19	2	0	0
14	32	18	4	2	1
15	55	18	2	3	0
00				22	14
Total	1110	504	43	52	23
9/01/03	1150	466	42	72	22
5/6/2003	1203	436	42	94	22
2/16/2003		392	48	98	22
10/3/2002		379	48	111	22



Mark Reed (left), winner of the Piedmont Division's Raffle Layout Contest and the layout's builder, Paul Voelker (right), stand in front of the completed layout at the division's trainshow in March.

Press Release: For Immediate Publication

The HO Scale Georgia Northeastern Railroad has just contracted for right-of-way in Buford, GA. 1,800 square feet of model railroad space will be coming available on January 23rd, 2004. The railroad will be providing service from the CSX interchange in Elizabeth, Georgia, all the way to Blue Ridge, Georgia.

Scott Perry, President of the railroad will be relocating from Smyrna, Georgia to Buford, Georgia in order to take over the division. When asked about the relocation of the main line, Scott replied, "The Buford area is rapidly growing and there are many new model railroaders there that like to get their hands dirty. If you look, you will see that the I-85 corridor is becoming the hot-bed of model train activity. Besides, my wife didn't give me a choice." Mr. Perry, who was sporting a black eye, also noted the 100% of the basement is his but he has had to make upstairs concessions such as he will be sleeping in the doghouse instead of the master bedroom.

While it will be late July before actual construction on the right-of-way begins, we are informed that construction of the locomotive and car shops will begin immediately. The railroad is now hiring, so applications can be forwarded to Mr. Perry at scottgperry@charter.net.

We'd like to congratulate the HO Scale Georgia Northeastern Railroad on their new acquisition and hope that they will be up and running soon. The layout will feature a computer controlled CSX interchange at Elizabeth, DCC control throughout the railroad, and expansive walk-around design. Operations will be conducted by crews of 5 to 7 using actual bills furnished by the real railroad. Verbal block control will govern the line, again, just like the prototype. The goal is to replicate the real railroad in every way possible.

Submitted by: Model Train News Service, New Orleans

Report of the Contest Chairman

Dean Belowich, MMR

Let me wish a Happy New Year to all NMRA and SER modelers! Hopefully all the recent discussions regarding the politics of the NMRA have not affected your modeling. We are in a period of transition within our organization(s), but do not let the cloud of uncertainty keep you from enjoying your hobby, which is building model trains. We are again in the midst of a cold winter, and hopefully that has translated into some modeling activity. I myself have been working on several facets of the hobby, but have spent the most time wiring the layout and painting (fine art that is). It will soon be the time to start looking ahead to our next Region Convention, and that means models. Below I have included the guidelines for bringing your models and displaying them in either the display section or the contest section of the Model Room. They are the same ones I have used for the past couple of conventions and they seem to be working very well.

Last year we had a great turnout of models for both sides of the Model Room, and I hope by the promotion that the Steel City Division is giving the convention, that it will again be as good...if not even better! As I have said in the past, We (myself and the Steel City Division) are asking EVERYONE who attends to bring a model to the convention, either for display or for the contest. We will have separate areas for both. Any railroad model is welcome, and in any scale. Let's make the Model Room another huge success the way that it has been for the past several years

In addition to the normal display areas and the formal NMRA contest, this year, I am sponsoring a Handcar Shed Contest. I have the rules posted below. This will be an informal contest using the popular vote format to choose a winner. I thought this would be a fun, and informal way to get people to enter the Model Room, and receive an introduction into the contest aspect of the room, with some friendly competition. By requiring the model to be weathered and placed on a scenic base, it touches on just about every aspect of our hobby, such as research, scratchbuilding, kitbashing, painting, weathering, scenery, and even wiring if you decide to put lights in it. It can be, of course, as simple or as complex as you wish to make it, providing that the guidelines are met. I am looking forward to seeing the many variations that everyone builds. Please plan to enter.

Again, I have copied below the paragraphs from last year's Southerner describing how the Model Room operates as far as checking in display models. It best describes the process, rather than me re-thinking it. One point to remember: Please, Please, Do Not simply drop off a model in the room and walk off. We need to have a written record of who displays what. As in previous years, we had several people who had placed models in the room and left, and no one knew who they belonged to. Give us time to set up the room to receive models and get our paperwork in order. This will

make the experience all that much easier and quicker for you and us. I will try to be there at the earliest possible time and will need a few minutes to get the room set up. I will be working with the Steel City Division members in setting up a schedule that will be posted at the Model Room indicating when the room will be open.

As described below, from last year, is the way the Model Room will operate.

We want any NMRA member to feel welcome to bring a model to the convention, be it for display or merit judging. The purpose of our conventions is for railroad models, so a focal point of the event should be a large model display. There is no reason why each attending member should come to the show empty handed. We as modelers like to see models, no matter whose work it is, or what railroad. A portion of the room will be set aside for display-only models. They can be any scale or road, kits, stock models, and can be structures, rolling stock, maintenance, displays, etc. There will be no Merit judging of these models. They will be there simply for everyone to enjoy. Hopefully, throughout the weekend, you will also get the opportunity to meet the folks who are displaying models and can ask questions or make comments on models you find particularly interesting. The only requirement for those bringing models is that an NMRA Contest Entry form will need to be filled out for each model. DON'T PANIC! It will not be for the contest. It is required for each model in the room for insurance coverage purposes. We also must have a record of who is bringing models in and taking models out. It will simply be a formality. For those wishing to fill theirs out ahead of time, copies are located on the NMRA web site under "NMRA contests", "Contest Forms", "Contest Entry Form #901" Also, you will notice on the form, about midway down on the right side is a box for "display only". Checking this box will ensure the models proper placement in the room. If your form does not have that designation, simply print in bold letters "display", and we will place it in the proper area.

Also located in the room, will be a section set aside for those wishing to have their models judged for merit awards. This portion of the room will continue to operate as it has in the past under Achievement Program and NMRA Contest Guidelines. The models will be individually scored for merit by a group of judges, in the usual manner that the SER has used in the past. Those wishing to have their models judged for merit will be required to submit all the paperwork as they have for past contests. I also encourage those displaying models to visit the room during the judging period, as it is a learning experience to see how models are critiqued and scored. You may find that you want one or more of your display models reviewed for Merit Judging. I will be on hand throughout the weekend, and will be available to answer questions regarding the contest and/or merit judging process. You

may also choose to have your model merit judged independently of the rest of the models.

As in the past we will have the SER ribbons and plaques as part of merit judging portion of the Model Room based on the scores of the models in each category. The awards will be given at the banquet as usual, with our new format of showing pictures of the winning models that was such a success last year.

One thing to remember about the Model Room: We will CLOSE the room to visitors FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF JUDGING. The room will be open to anyone DURING the judging so people can wander and view, but we will be closing once we are finished for a BRIEF PERIOD, so that awards and paperwork can be arranged. The room will then re-open for all to view the resultant contest awards. We ask for your patience during this closed period.

I am looking forward with great anticipation to this year's convention and Model Room. The Steel City Division

members have been working hard to put together a great program, and again, this looks to be another great meet. But it will only be great if you attend and participate. Dust off those models that you hiding around the layout room. Bring something that you have built or painted and are especially proud of. And if you have been building a model for the contest, we look forward to seeing the fruits of your labor. Scratchbuilding or kitbashing models is not necessarily an easy task, but when you can share what you have built with others, it makes it all worth the time spent. If you bring something to display we ask that you at the very least, fill out a 3x5 card with your name on it and a short description of your model(s) you bring, to place with your models. This will help those viewing your models, identify with who you are. I look forward to seeing everyone in Bessemer!

Happy Modeling !!

Here are the guidelines to follow for the handcar shed contest proposed for the Convention in May:

1. Structure can be a kit, kitbashed, or Scratchbuilt.
2. Structure can be from any era.
3. Structure can be any scale.
4. Model should have the following:
 - a. Shed area for handcar storage w/track (not the mainline track).
 - b. Enclosed tool storage area.
5. Model should be painted, weathered and on an appropriate base with scenery. Base should extend a minimum of 1-1/2" beyond exterior of structure on all sides.

This will be a separate contest, not connected to the main contest, and will have its own awards. Those wishing to have their models merit judged, or to enter the main contest, will require the requisite paperwork. Otherwise, models for the Handcar Shed contest will require no additional paperwork.

DAVE MULLER AWARD

As a reminder, the categories with applicable points are below. All Division Superintendents submit your candidates name and point count by March 1st of each year to be presented at the SER Conventions currently held in May.

CERTIFICATES OR DEEDS DONE	POINTS
Holds "Volunteer" Certificate	20
Holds "Official" Certificate	15
Holds "Author" Certificate	10
Other Certificates, MMR, Gold Spike Award	10
Has put on one or more clinics (per clinic)	5
Active in putting on a Division convention (per full day)	5
Active in putting on a SER convention (per full day)	10
Active in putting on a National convention (per full day)	7
Organized a modular and/or sections layout show	15
Active as a contest or AP judge during a convention	10
Active as Committee Chair for at least 6 months	
this year at Division level or higher.	10
Served as an AP judge for at least 6 months	10
Active in a modular or sectional layout	5
Boy Scout Merit Badge program (per badge)	5
Signed up one or more members to both NMRA & SER (per member)	3

Send nominees to Lenny Polinsky at:
lenpolinsky@aol.com
 Or by snail mail to:
Lenny Polinsky
P.O. Box 804
Rex, GA 30273

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

- Little River Lumber Co. Part 3
- 2004 SER Convention coverage
- VFMCo Tractor Co.
- And much, much more!!!

Need some HELP with your model railroading? Why not give us a call! Get assistance with wiring, benchwork, scenery, locomotive repair, and even DCC! The service is free for all NMRA members, so give it a try!

Member Aid Chairman
Charles Brown, MMR
3 Springbrooke Trail, Dallas, GA 30157
(770) 943-5280
charliebrown@mindspring.com



GOOD & WELFARE

By John Stevens, Chairman

Since the last Southerner, I have written 27 letters. Two of those letters were for deaths, two were for illness, four were for thanks, and 19 were for Milestone Birthdays.

You will notice that Edward Tenney, a life member of the NMRA and the SER, recently passed away. Ed was the oldest member in the region at 93 years old. Between 1992 and 1996, Ed was Assistant Treasurer of the SER. Ed modeled in O scale. In fact, at the time of his death, Ed had been in the process of installing sound in all his locomotives.

We recently had a BOD meeting in Montgomery. My wife and I decided to make a mini vacation out of the weekend. We met Friday night for dinner, and then went to the Central Alabama Model Rail Road Club (CAMRRC) clubhouse to look at their layout. We held our meeting Saturday morning, and had 12 people in attendance. Afterwards, we went to see Dudley Ross's N scale layout. This is an excellent layout that has recently been published in one of the N scale magazines. It is also due to be published in Model Railroader sometime this spring. My wife made it a point to show me Dudley's work area which was immaculate. She also made a point to note that mine is NEVER that neat. Not only is it not as neat, but it is nowhere near as nice. I took a couple of pictures. Ya gotta have a goal.

Elsewhere in this issue is a slate of candidates for this years BOD elections. By now, you should have also received the latest issue of Scale Rails which includes a ballot for you to vote on the Long Range Plan. It is important that everyone exercise their right to vote. For the region elections, remember that if you are a subscriber to the Southerner but live outside the confines of the SER, you are ineligible to vote. Remember, if you don't vote, don't bellyache.

It is also time to get your reservation in for the annual convention in Birmingham. The members of the Steel City Division are working hard on a great schedule. Make sure you get there early on Friday. The five national clinicians are scheduled to present their clinics starting at 2 pm. Also, if you are at the convention and just happen to be sitting around doing nothing or are visiting the train show for the fifth time, please check with any of the Steel City guys to see if they need any help. They are a relatively small group of guys. They have split most of the duties up into two hour blocks. I plan on looking at all the stuff that I want to do and then give them a couple of hours of my time.

Keep in touch, and let me know if you have any Good and Welfare concerns.

Respectfully,

John Stevens

Good & Welfare Letters Written

December 2003

Roy Brantley	Milestone Birthday	Cumberland
Arthur Dratz	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Bruce Bowder	Milestone Birthday	Outside region
James Hamilton	Milestone Birthday	Palmetto
Charles Mote	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont

January 2004

Bob Ziegenfuss	Friend of the Div.—Passing	Piedmont
William Roxlo	Milestone Birthday	HQ
Phillip Hutchinson	Milestone Birthday	Dixie
George Riscalla	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Merrill Grennor	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
John Hall	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Jerry Pevey	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Don Scarborough	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Jack McGraw	Milestone Birthday	Steel City

February 2004

Edward Tenney	Member passing	Cen Sav Riv
John Blanchard	Shoulder Operation	Piedmont
Wilma Polinsky	Surgery, wife of member	Piedmont
Charlie Bryan	Outgoing Superintendent	Land O'Sky
Fred Coleman	Incoming Superintendent	Land O'Sky
Terry Adkins	Outgoing Superintendent	Smokey Mtns
Larry Burkholder	Incoming Superintendent	Smokey Mtns
Wade Small	Milestone Birthday	Palmetto
Jack Borgering	Milestone Birthday	Outside region
Lewis Duffie	Milestone Birthday	Outside region
Lawrence Long	Milestone Birthday	Piedmont
Noel Whatley	Milestone Birthday	Steel City
James Somerville	Milestone Birthday	Steel City

Report of the SER AP Manager

Dean Belowich, MMR

Certificates awarded from Oct., 2003 to March 1, 2004

Association Volunteer:

Michael Deaton, Alpharetta, GA

Thomas Cusker, Helena, AL

Glenn Samuel, Odenville, AL

Association Official:

S. Michael Braunstein, Centerville, GA

Master Builder - Scenery:

Roy L. Stewart, Birmingham, AL

Dudley Ross, Montgomery, AL

Master Builder - Structures:

S. Michael Braunstein, Centerville, GA

Dudley Ross, Montgomery, AL

Model RR Engineer - Electrical:

Hunter Womble, Birmingham, AL

To All SER Divisional A.P. Managers:

Please remember when submitting SOQ to me, that you verify that all the required paperwork is included such as, the complete SOQ forms and records with signatures, and a copy of the members current NMRA membership card. The packages should be complete before I receive them. There are still a few out there that have come incomplete, and I thank those that have been getting them to me in one package, as it keeps from delaying the process.

DIVISION REPORTS

GULF - DIVISION 4

Ed Dice - EdwardDice@aol.com



Things are thawing out from our "mild winter" and blooming all over the place with lots of railroading activity bursting out. All in all, model railroading in the Gulf Division is in great shape.

The GATS Train Show this past December on Christmas weekend went great with wonderful weather. Can you Nawthiners imagine a leisurely stroll

in a lightweight jacket during the weekend after Christmas. It was a nice short walk from the vendor's building with over 250 stuffed tables to the large layout building with several portable/modular layouts for N scale, HO scale, G scale, and LEGO trains. Missing was an O scale layout which did not show up. We missed having the SWARM Lionel layout due to space arrangements....need more space. Two G scale layouts were present. The Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club had their 66'x45' G scale railroad with its first up-an-over trestle.....YES, an Up-And-Over in G scale. It was great.

The SWARM folks from Mobile are busy right now getting everything ready for their annual Fairhope Train Show in Fairhope AL this coming 20-21 March (last month to you readers now). Always a great show. Just wish they could make the school buildings grow some more space.

The West Florida RR Museum in Milton FL is getting things painted up, fixed up, and all ready for their Open House and Gulf Division Swap Meet on April 17. The RR Museum will have all of its available exhibit cars open and the 1/8 scale live steamer running on the 7-1/2 gauge RR.

The Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club will have their mobile G railroad set up on the 1:1 flatcar. Got a G train to run, bring it along. Plus the HO scale layout will be running with its DCC power. Lots of activity, and some good swap meet deals.

The Pensacola Train Club is very active and getting their plans rolling and in place to have their second annual Train Show at the Hadji Temple on 10-13 Sept 2004. Their train show last year was great and all looks terrific for this year.

The Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club is now 20 (soon 21) member couples strong just after one year of activity. We have several train shows with our mobile G scale RR under out belts. GATS show this past December was a success and GATS will return to Mobile in December 2004. Our 21 Feb meeting was greeted with three trains, including Amtrak (just a wee bit late) plus we had

a loop of G scale track on the flatcar. We had a great time and got some good railroading in, both full size and scale.

Over in Fort Walton Beach - Miracle Strip Club is very active with several shifts of attending members throughout a typical week. They have too many members for one time at the DCC operated HO layout.

Over in Panama City - Club going strong and taking their large HO modular layout to area train shows. A new hobby store operated by model railroader and artist Kirkland has opened

up and is doing good.

Next door in Dothan AL (not in Gulf Div.) - Wiregrass RR Historical Society is getting everything ready for their annual train show 18-19 Sept 2004. This will be their second 2-day train show and we are looking forward to it again.

And at the other door in Biloxi MI (not in Gulf Div.)

- Gulf Coast Model RR Club is getting everything ready for their 1st annual train show on 19-20 June 2004 at the Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino Convention Center. Wonder if I need to wear a tux at the layout?

Everybody have a great model railroading Spring. Get outside and enjoy the weather, Get constructive working on your various model railroading projects (I have a long, long list) and if you are in the area, stop by to say howdy. - Edward Dice, Gulf Division



PIEDMONT - DIVISION 5

Bob McIntyre - robert.mcintyre@gesm.ge.com

Although not a direct Division activity a number of the Board of Director's of the Piedmont Division recently got back from the second annual Winter Timonium Train Show (Baltimore, MD) trip. As many of you know Howard Zane coordinates and runs these train shows. There is one in spring, early summer, fall, and the largest is the second to the last week in January. There are close to 1000 tables of vendors! What made the trip memorable other than the heavy snow on the return trip to Atlanta was the visits to Howard Zane's Piedmont Division and Monroe Stewart's Hooch Junction Railroad layouts. The Piedmont Division is over 3000 square feet of magnificence. The videos you may have seen cannot show how large and highly detailed this layout is. The Hooch Junction presented by Master Model Railroader Monroe Stewart is one super N scale layout. He has done a fantastic job with the mountain scenery as well as highly detailed urban scenes.

As far as Division business the Board of Directors of the Piedmont Division completed our Strategic Planning Meeting in January. The significant items that were approved during the meeting were continued emphasis on the highly attended monthly meetings at the Elks Lodge in Tucker, GA. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and everyone is welcome. We will continue to fund our video and book libraries for the members. We will also continue to place great emphasis on funding the Boy Scout Merit Badge program. This has been a great outreach into the local community. As part of this program headed by John Stevens we are going to build a new demonstration layout.

The Division is also sponsoring our first live auction. The event will be held at the Elks Lodge in October. As many of you know from previous auctions Howard Goodwin does a great job as auctioneer and he is heading this year's event. Stay tuned for further details. Along with the auction we are hosting the second annual Piedmont Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage is a series of model railroad open houses throughout the month of November, which is National Model Railroad month. Last year with a limited number of layouts we had over 500 visitors. This year the tour stops have been increased to over 20 and the list is still growing. With many of the visitors coming from out of the Division this year looks to be bigger!

Plans are already underway for us to host the 2007 Regional Convention. We have already selected a Chairperson to head the function. Committee personnel are being selected. There are great ideas coming forward even at this early juncture.

Mark on your calendars to attend this year's Piedmont Division



Annual Train Show at the Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta, GA. The date is March 13-14. Each year this is a highly attended show. There are a large number of excellent vendors. Featured are the operating layouts, which are fun for both the children and adults. See the ad in the Southerner. For other Divisions we have found the Train Show to be a great way to generate operating funds, mobilize volunteers through our members, and recruit new NMRA members. For many years this has been the largest single place where new members have been signed. We believe this is because so many serious model railroaders attend the show. In conjunction with the Show we feature a Model Contest. This year the theme is bridges.

That is all for now. See you all in Alabama for the Regional Convention. Happy Railroading!

Bob McIntyre
Superintendent

BLUFF CITY - DIVISION 10

Ned B. Savage - nssavage@juno.com

The Memphis Society of Model Railroad Engineers, a Bluff City Division Group, held their Swap Meet in November. The event was greatly scaled down from the one that had been planned in the summer.

The original event was planned to be held in the 37,000 square foot Shelby County Building at the Mid-South Fair Grounds, but the property management people rejected our reservation and gave our deposit back, renting the building to another organization on our planned date. They claimed that the other group had advertised nationally. Unfortunately, the person representing our group did not fight hard enough, and was unaware that we too had advertised nationally. This set back resulted in putting on an event of much less size, in a small strip shopping center. Due to the size, center's capacity, and equipment rental expense required, the smaller event was deemed a success. The building that we had originally planned to rent for the event burned to the ground, with a large flea market in it, in the pre-dawn hours on December 21st. There were no people in the building at the time, but all the vendors lost everything, when the 90-year-old building was destroyed.

The group is planning to have another public swap meet and show next fall. The place and date are still uncertain, at this time.

The Memphis Society of Model Railroad Engineers also lost its regular meeting location.

THE NEW MEETING LOCATION IS AT:

**Highland Street Church of Christ,
443 South Highland, Memphis, TN 38111**

The meeting is still at the same time, 7 PM on the first Saturday of each month.

The N-scale and HO-scale modular layout groups displayed their wares and put on clinics at the Great American Train Show, held here in January.

The N-scale Group is combining with the Memphis Model Railroad Association, Inc., as it starts to build a more permanent and larger layout in a warehouse space. Anyone interested any additional information may contact me by e-mail or phone.

CUMBERLAND - DIVISION. 11

Bob Hultman - hultman@earthlink.net

Cumberland Division's HO modular RR and the Nashville Ntrak N modular RR with some help from the KSONS bunch from Louisville KY just completed another GATS Show at Nashville TN Feb 28 & 29, 2004. The HO RR took 2nd place and the N scale RR took 3rd place, snagging a total of \$300 for the Division's treasury. Attendance at the Show was good, with lots of folks coming by the RR's to learn about the hobby. We may even net a few new members from the exercise.

Our next event coming up is the Cumberland Division Meet combined with the Tennessee Central Ry Museum's (TCRM) Open House set for Saturday, March 27, 2004. We will have the usual Division Meet activities, including self-guided home layout tours. In addition, we will have 3 private passenger cars open for tours, TCRM's Operation Lifesaver Caboose open, a locomotive idling with the cab open for tours, Hank Sherwood and 1 of his live-steam locomotives steamed up for demonstrations and food service in the ex-PRR buffet diner car Miles Standish. This is an effort to boost attendance for the Meet even more than in the past.

Another project underway is our current Division Limited Run HO scale Tennessee Central Ry box car kits. The kits are the Red Caboose PS-1 box cars in the TC Ry 500 series and the TC Ry 7900 series. Mail-order prices (postpaid) are \$17.50/car or \$68/set of 4 cars (2 different car numbers in the 500 series and in the 7900 series). These kits include metal wheelsets with tapered axles but do not include car weights (you'll need to add your own). Cumberland Division accepts Am Ex, Discover, MasterCard & VISA debit/credit cards. E-mail me at hultman@earthlink.net<mailto:hultman@earthlink.net> if you'd like to order these cars.

All for now..... Hope to see everyone at the 2004 SER Convention.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN - DIV. 12

Larry Burkholder - labtexan@chartertn.net



N-scale room after clearing of old structures.

As I reported in our Fall report, our division consists only of the Knoxville Area Model Railroaders and a few other unaligned SER members. As of the last Membership Roster there were only 18 members in Division 12. Of these, 10 are members of KAMR.

Joe Morrison in Sneedville has informed me that, while there are no formal clubs in far eastern Tennessee, there is considerable Model RR activity in the Tri-cities area. Bob Helm and his second fabulous iteration of the Clinchfield during the late steam era is underway and planning to start operations soon with a rather knowledgeable group of CRR guys. Bob is in Jonesborough. Alan Keller and his Bluff City Southern (MR, Nov 2002) operates every Wednesday evening at his place in Talbott. Dave Houseman also has a regular operating sessions at his huge new UP layout in Kodak. Out of all this activity, however, apparently only three people are SER members.



Finished N-scale room

The Knoxville Area Model Railroaders have essentially completed their renovation project at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge and are enjoying regular operating sessions in their club rooms. A gala fund-raiser and dedication was held in December, with the Mayor of Oak Ridge and yours truly cutting a ribbon opening the World of Trains Exhibit. Public open-houses in the club rooms are held once a month so museum patrons can join in the fun.

later. I hope to see you at one of them.

LAND O' SKY - DIVISION 15

Fred Coleman - coleman@brinet.com

HEADQUARTERS - DIVISION 13

Mark McAllister - HQ_DIV13@camrc.org

Greeting SER, it has been a busy spring. The Chattanooga group continues to work on operating techniques on their modular railroad while the Crossville MRC has obtained a new home. Dale Bryant is working with attendees to learn the car routing system and industry list for the modular railroad. Mike Ferry led a group on a chartered bus to the Piedmont show in March. What a great show! If you didn't attend, you missed another great show. Hats off to Piedmont Division.

Not much to say, as weather/ice/snow prevented us from at least three meetings which were planned to finalize our Train show. We proceeded anyway and with heroic effort on the part of our new superintendent, Fred Coleman, Assisted by Cy-I can fix that!-Miller, Penn-the modules are ready-Bullock with Ken Granzin fixing them as we went along, plus a whole bunch of theirs - we had ONE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED pass the gate Friday afternoon and Saturday.

What a Train Show, vendors came in spite of ice and snowy roads (40 +) Pam and Wess produced great advance publicity Linda & David managed to tie everything down including a TV News broadcaster - and did that ever help our attendance! We're set to show at hickory in April, ease thru the summer and do the usual three gigs in October.

Atlanta will host another great railfan event in May. The Kudzu Rails event in Kennesaw on May 20-23 will bring together a number of historical associations for a celebration in Kennesaw. This event will occur the week before the SER convention. Great events and speakers will make this a major 2004 event along with the fantastic SER convention planned for Birmingham one week

Meeting-wise we'll catch-up, and look forward to Kent Roberts and John Cox's clinic on "The Yard". Looking to a good year of modeling now that Spring has arrived in the Mountains.

Blessings + Charlie Bryan



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John Travis Norcross, GA



Drywall Central

G C & L

THE GHOST RAILROAD

Dr. Watson—Sole Proprietor

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Chesapeake & Ohio Railway



Huntington Division
Ashland Division
Hinton Division

Mike & Kathy
Devaney
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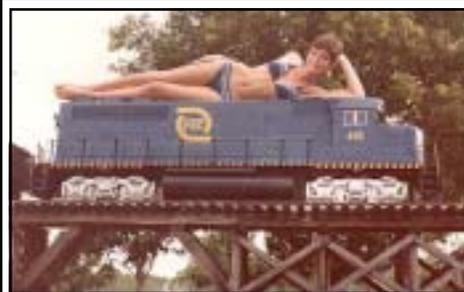
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6/2005

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The Club Car —

This is a list of clubs and organizations in the South Eastern Region. Most have some NMRA members. If you have a club that is accepting new members or visitors, please send the information to Paul V. Voelker at: paul-voelker@email.msn.com. Please note, you must provide a contact name and phone number! If you have a website you can send us the URL as well!

Atlantic Division 8

Atlantic Division, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone (912) 354-2604
Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA., Nate Stone, (912) 354-2606
<http://www.coastalrailbuffs.org/>
Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA.
Grand Strand Model Engineers, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Bluff City Division 10

Bluff City Division, Memphis, TN, Ned B. Savage, (901) 682-8716
The Memphis N-Scale Road Railers
The Memphis Society of Model Engineers

Central Savannah River Division 9

Central Savannah River Division, Augusta, GA, Terry Pitts, Jr. (706) 636-9581
Georgia-Carolina Model Railroaders, Augusta, GA, Roy Tritt (706) 733-6870

Cumberland Division 11

Cumberland Division, Brentwood, TN., Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158
Nashville NTRAK, Nashville, TN., Ken Harrel (615) 352-4576
<http://www.nashvillentrak.org>
Nashville Garden Railway Society, Nashville, TN., Ross Evans (615) 292-6555
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN.,
Terry Bebou, (615) 244-9001 FAX -2120 terry.bebou@mach10internet.com
<http://tcry.org>
Mid-South Live Steamers, Columbia, TN., Hank Sherwood (615) 665-0512
<http://www.midsouthlivesteamers.org> midsouthlivesteamers@yahoo.com

Dixie Division 3

Dixie Division, Phil Hutchinson, Montgomery, AL, (334) 272-1933
Central Alabama Model RR Club, Montgomery/Prattville, AL,
Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933
Alabama Model Railroad Association, Opelika, AL
Southeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Dothan, AL, Chuck
Batherson (334) 677-3413

Empire Division 6

Empire Division, Richard Dalrymple, Macon, GA., (478) 471-8883 FAX -8994
Columbus Model Railroad Club, Columbus, GA., David Cotton (706) 323-1417
Flint River Model Railroad Club, Albany, GA., Jimmy Swinn (299) 883-3517
Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club, Warner Robbins, GA
<http://members.cox.net/mgmrc/> Bill Attaway (478) 328-1743 mgmrc@cox.net
Thomasville Model Railroad Club, Thomasville, GA., Ben Strickland (912) 465-3730

Gulf Division 4

Gulf Division, Pensacola, FL, Ed Dice (850) 293-3532 cell - (850) 455-1313 home
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL Chris Beard (850)-244-0161
www.geocities.com/miraclestriprrclub rafollacchio@pcola.med.navy.mil
Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club, Milton, FL Ed Dice (850) 455-1313
EdwardDice@aol.com
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Dave Miller, at (251) 645-2296 for information
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL Keith Rapley (850) 434-6374
West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton, FL
Pensacola Model Railroad Club, Pensacola, FL
Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL
Herb Kern (251) 660-1659
George Nelson () -

Headquarters Division 13

Headquarters Division, Ringgold, GA., Mark McAllister (706) 937-6337
<http://www.camrc.org>
Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club, Dale Bryant dale.bryant@camrc.org
(423) 752-0141 or (423) 991-5243 www.camrc.org
Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN
<http://csme.livesteamtrains.com> Andy Morrison (423) 344-8502
Crossville Model Railroad Club, Crossville, TN, Mike Ferry (931) 788-1828
ferry@citlink.net

Land O' Sky Division 15

Land O' Sky Division, Naples, N.C., Fred Coleman (828) 694-0339

Magnolia Division 14

Magnolia Division, Pascagoula, MS., Mike Barry (228) 762-0929
Jackson Society of Model Engineers, Jackson, MS
Jackie Meck (601) 842-0909 www.jsme.org

MidSouth Division 1

Mid-South Division, Fayetteville, TN., Thomas Bailey (931) 433-4207
<http://www.geocities.com/mta136/>
Northeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Guntersville, AL
Charles Dick (205) 878-2537 charlesdick@mindspring.com
Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL

Palmetto Division 7

Palmetto Division, Pickens, S.C., Howard R. Garner (864) 878-4705
Associated Model Railroads of Columbia, Columbia, SC
Jack Huffman 803-699-2518 or amroc.org for information.
Central Railway Model & Historical Association, Pickens, SC,
Howard R, Garner (864) 878-4705 hrgarner@innova.net

Piedmont Division 5

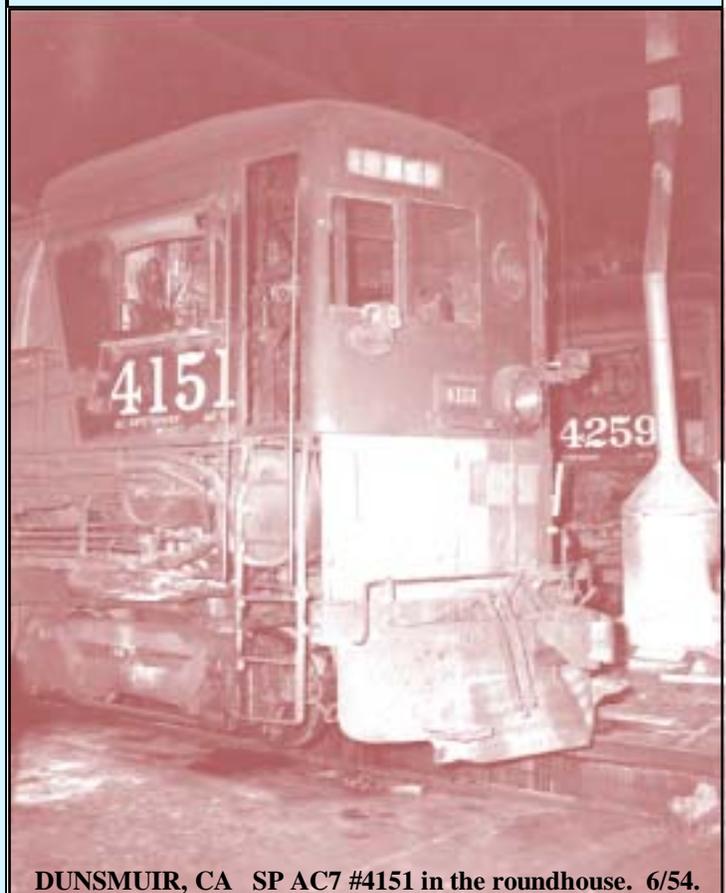
Piedmont Division, Alpharetta, GA., Bob McIntyre (770) 518-8932
Northwest Georgia N Track Club, Woodstock, GA
Located in the Woodstock Depot—Downtown Woodstock @ Canton Rd./Arnold Mill
Georgia Association of Narrow Gaugers, Pat Turner (423) 744-0429
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/georgiangers>
GeorgiaNGers@yahoo.com
North Georgia Lego Train Club, James Trobaugh (770)-844-1076
<http://www.nglrc.org> OR questions@nglrc.org
Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Bob McIntyre (770) 518-8932
North Georgia Modurail, Jon Cook (770) 993-9620

Smoky Mountain Division 12

Smoky Mountain Division, Larry Burkholder (865) 408-9903
Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN,
Larry Burkholder, (865) 408-9903

Steel City Division 2

Steel City Division, Birmingham, AL, Tom Schultz (205) 879-3603
Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, Bessemer, AL, 1004 West Lake Mall



DUNSMUIR, CA SP AC7 #4151 in the roundhouse. 6/54.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This is a list of all upcoming events that have been sent to the **SouthErneR**. Please submit info on your events occurring within the next year to the **SouthErneR** prior to the next deadline. Send new information, modifications, or corrections to:

Melvin G. Sheppers at: melmania@bellsouth.net

NATIONAL:

2004 NMRA Convention: Puget Sound eXpress 2004
Seattle, Washington July 4 - 11, 2004
www.nmra2004.org

2005 NMRA Convention:
Cincinnati, OH

2006 NMRA Convention:
Philadelphia, PA

REGIONAL:

2004 SER Convention: Steel Rails Back To The Steel City
Bessemer Civic Center, Bessemer, AL
May 28-30, 2004

2005 Montgomery, AL

2006 Pensacola, FL

2007 Atlanta, GA

DIVISIONAL:

Land O'Sky Division - Regular Meeting

First Thursday of Every Month, All Souls
Cathedral in Biltmore, NC, 7:00 pm. Until Concluded.

Piedmont Division - Regular Meeting

2nd Tuesday of Every Month, Elks Lodge,
1775 Montreal Rd., Tucker (Atlanta - East Side)

Smoky Mountain Division—Regular Meeting

1st & 3rd Sunday of every month
Oak Ridge Mall, Oak Ridge, TN
3-5 pm work or open house sessions
5-7 pm business meeting 3rd Sunday

Steel City Division - Regular Meeting

Third Thursday of Every Month,
Southside Branch
Public Library at 7:00 pm.
1814 11th Avenue South, Birmingham, AL

Local Shows and Events (Date Order by State):

- Alabama -

Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf
Chapter, NRHS - 2800 Graham Rd., S. Mobile, AL
Call Dave Miller (251) 645-2296 for information
Membership is open & we meet on the 2nd & 4th Sat
urdays of the month in a Southern Railroad baggage
car that we share with the Alabama Gulf Chapter,
NRHS. The car is located behind the restored
GM&O depot in Mobile, AL. Meeting is at 9:00 am.

- Georgia -

Kudzu Rails 2004, Atlanta, GA - May 20-23

For Info Send To: Kudzu04@yahoo.com
Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History,
Located in Kennesaw, GA, just NE of Atlanta
Sponsored by the Southern Railway Historical Society
"This will be one of the biggest prototype & modeling events
to be held in the Southeast."

- Florida-

- Mississippi -

Jackson Society of Model Engineers

www.jsme.org

For info contact Jackie Meck at (601) 842-0909

- North Carolina -

Narrow Trak 04—Brevard, NC

October 2004 (date not finalized)

Two day meet featuring narrow gauge & logging clinics,

manufacturer displays, popular vote model contest &
modules.

For a non-binding registration form send a SSAE to:
Narrow Trak 04, 216 S. Broad St., PMB4NE,
Brevard, NC 28712-3702

Specify type of registration: Individual Attendee,
NG Module(s) or manufacture display.

- South Carolina -

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia

1800 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC
Jack Huffman 803-699-2518 or www.amroc.org

Every Thursday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

30 min. business meeting on first Thurs. of month
We welcome visitors and potential new members

- Tennessee -

Memphis Society of Model Railroad Engineers

First Saturday of Every Month

All Saints Episcopal Church at 1508

South White Station Road in

Memphis (Except in May!)

7:00 pm - Swap meet, videos,

how-to programs. Prototype, too!

NEWS ALERT

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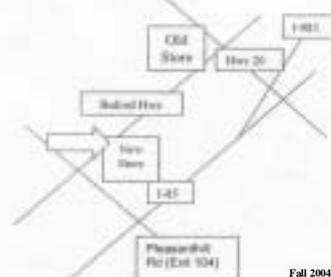
Directions from the Old Shop

Turn right on BUFORD HWY NE/US-215 /
GA-13 S, travel approximately 10 miles.
New store is on the left next door to
Duluth Salvage.

Directions from I-85

Take Exit 104 - PLEASANTHILL ROAD
travel west. (North bound turn left -
South bound turn right)
Go pass Gwinnett Place Mall To BUFORD
HWY. Turn Right .3 miles. New store is
on the right next door to Duluth Salvage.

Across from the Southeastern
Railway Museum



Fall 2004

**Piedmont Division
Train Show 2004**

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF RON GOUGH



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