



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



The SOUTHERNER



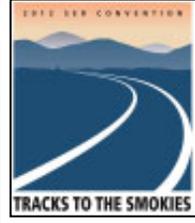
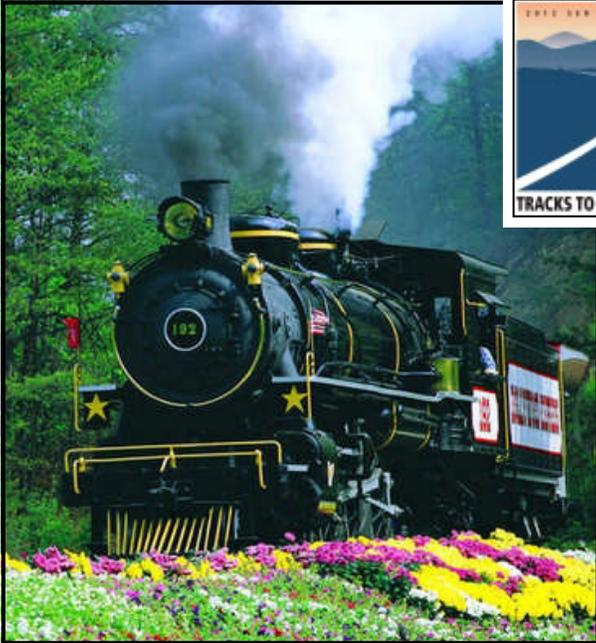
Volume 53, No. 2.5

www.ser-nmra.org

Spring 2012

TRACKS TO THE SMOKIES

2012 Gatlinburg, TN



New Master Model Railroaders



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The SouthErneR

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

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1/4	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 90	\$100
1/8	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 60
1/12	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40
Crawler	\$ 10	\$ 20	\$ 30	\$ 40

Pike Registry : \$16 for 4 issues

Deadlines For Submission

Summer 2012 (Jul) - June 1, 2012

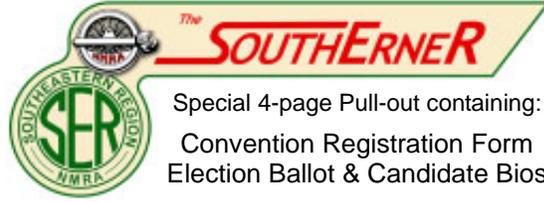
Fall 2012 (Oct) - Sept. 1, 2012

Winter 2013 (Jan) - Dec. 1, 2012

Spring 2013 (Apr) - Mar. 1, 2013

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

All submissions become the property of The SouthErneR unless otherwise contracted. Please don't send previously printed materials.



Special 4-page Pull-out containing:

Convention Registration Form
Election Ballot & Candidate Bios



WAYBILL

Volume 53, Number 2.5



Spring 2012

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ON THE FRONT COVER: The top pair of photos show one of Dollywood's steam locomotives (we will have a tour of their locomotive shop) and the 2012 convention hotel in Gatlinburg, TN. The bottom photo shows our three newest region Master Model Railroaders with their wives. They are from left - Bill Zawacki, Charlie Crawford, and Charles Millar, all of the Piedmont Division.

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PEACHTREE EXPRESS

78TH ANNUAL

NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION



ATLANTA, GEORGIA | July 14-20 | For information and registration: nmra2013.org

The Magic of Model Trains

By Bob Beaty, MMR



Every year in November and December since 2005, The McWane Science Center in Birmingham, Alabama, the Steel City Division and the Wrecking Crew (a 100% NMRA club) have presented a display of working model trains in every scale from Z to G. Members of the Division and the Wrecking crew volunteer time on weekends to meet with visitors to the science center and answer questions about the hobby, and provide explanations on the different scales and the techniques used to create the modeled world presented in the display layouts. During the 2011 season, there were eight layouts on display and additional cabinets held award winning models by various club members.



The keystone layout is the Wrecking Crew's 20 X 30 HO scale highly detailed Locust Grove and Western RR, depicting North Central Alabama in the mid - 1950s. The 14 modules are craftsman level and each has a "scavenger hunt" placard to help visitors find many of the details. The Crew also built two N scale layouts, placed at a convenient eye level for the younger visitors. The Smokey City RR Club (also a 100% NMRA organization) provided a large Lionel display with 4 operating trains. The Z scale layout is 2 X 2 and depicts Switzerland. The Bachmann G scale display, on permanent loan from the NMRA HQ, and a floor layout completed the displays. All of the layouts are on timers with push button activation so the model railroaders have more time to talk with the visitors and not worry about starting and stopping a display.



A big attraction for the 6 and under group is the Thomas the Tank Engine layout. This display is constructed on a Ping Pong table and runs the O gauge (Lionel) Thomas, James and Percy with many of the familiar cars from Sodor. Previously, Volunteers "assisted" young future engineers in operating these trains, a time consuming but enjoyable part of the evolution, especially for the 'Grandpas' of the group. This year, the McWane art department team fabricated an engine cab specifically for the pint sized engineers with automatic throttle and horn buttons. There are also two "play tables" with wooden track and push trains. It is fun to watch the young imaginations blossom as the children interact with each other in a "railroad environment," sharing the fun with



equal sized but complete strangers. Adults could learn a lesson here.

In 2008, McWane's IMAX theater was the host to the local premier of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*. The Wrecking crew was commissioned to build a display featuring the School of Magic and the Hogwart's Express. We built a 5 X 9 display of Hogsmeade, the Castle, and other recognizable scenic features. The Bachmann Harry Potter train set rounded out the display. Again this layout was push button controlled, lighting up the buildings, and activating the train. Recently two personal home layouts were donated to the Center by estates of deceased local model railroaders. These layouts were refurbished and modified slightly to be presentable to the public in this venue. Throughout the display floor are wooden porter's step stools, built by the Wrecking crew to raise a child's eye level to just above track height. Each stool had a high back that acts as a stabilizer (and a handle). Kids would drag these stools to different vantage points on the different layouts, sometimes with both a brother and sister sharing the foot space.



Several times during the season The Center would feature *The Polar Express* movie or a pajama party story time with Santa. Members of the Crew would dress up as Engineers or a Conductor and greet the children with cookies and a chance for mom to take a photo of a pajama clad darling with a crusty old engineer. The enthusiasm is infectious and the excitement of the holidays is only heightened by the addition of operating model trains. In this instance, 12 of them! From a more down to earth perspective, ten hours a day, seven days a week for 2 and a half months can put more miles on a model railroad engine and rolling stock than operation on a home layout will do in a year (maybe two). It also tells on the volunteers. So, after a month's rest in January, we begin the repairs and upgrades necessary to begin again this fall. The Crew members also find time to do some operating, some AP work and a lot of blowing smoke and "one upping."



This idea that began as a hopeful vision by the CEO of the McWane Science Center to increase visitor traffic during a "down" time for the museum has become an annual event. It has also resulted in a housing solution for The Wrecking Crew (we now have a permanent home). Comments and feedback from visitors reinforce the idea that this offering has become one of the most enjoyable and fun experiences for the Members and visitors to the downtown Birmingham, AL McWane Science Center.

The President's Car

Joe Gelmini



We have had a number of changes to division leadership in the past couple months. Long time Atlantic Division superintendent Nate Stone stepped down from that position last October following 25 or so years of outstanding service to the division and region. Dean Belowich, MMR, came forward to fill that role and is now Atlantic Division Superintendent. Empire Division acting superintendent Gene Anderson recently resigned from that position and suggested Bill Attaway as his replacement. Bill graciously accepted the challenge and has been appointed superintendent, Empire Division. Frank Pearsall decided not to run for re-election in the recent Land-of-Sky division elections. Ken O'Brien was elected to that position January 21. Many thanks to Frank for his work in re-shaping division 15 over the past two years. Charlie Crawford, MMR, (Piedmont Division) and John Stewart (Steel City) were elected superintendents of their respective divisions during the fourth quarter of 2011. In order to better serve members of the Headquarters division, that division has been effectively split into "southern" and "northern" areas. Hal Crossland is co-superintendent for the southern side, and Tom Shallcross for the northern area. A similar situation occurred previously in the Gulf division, with Terry Tucker and Buddy Black sharing responsibilities closer to their membership bases.

The Piedmont Division had a unique (and possibly a first-time) occurrence at its January, 2012, meeting. Three MMR plaques were presented during that meeting. The well-deserved awards were presented to Charlie Crawford, Charlie Millar and Bill Zawacki. Congratulations to all !

Your SER Board of Directors met for its winter meeting in Birmingham, AL, on January 21. As usual, we had a full slate of items to discuss. We met at Nino's Restaurant, actually located in Pelham, AL. Many thanks to Membership Chair Tom Cusker for making the arrangements. Following the meeting, most of us took advantage of the close proximity to visit the recently-expanded Oak Mountain Hobbies.

Here's a summary of the main issues we discussed at the Winter meeting:

- The SER remains in very sound financial shape. Treasurer Alan Mole completed our transition to a calendar year budget, as opposed to our previous practice of June to May budgets. This will make our financial statements much "cleaner" and will avoid the awkward accounting for convention revenues and expenses carrying over for two budget cycles.
- SER membership remains relatively stable at around 1160 members.
- Our current region car project has netted \$2,473 in profit as of January 21. Only five cars remained as of then. Hopefully, they have been sold by now. Many thanks to director Randall Watson for his outstanding work on this project, our most successful one to date!
- Our new Contest Chair, Glen Hall, along with Executive Advisor Bob Beaty, presented an idea for a new contest to be held in conjunction with the 2012 SER convention in Gatlinburg. More information and contest entry rules can be found elsewhere in this issue.
- Education Chair Peter Youngblood was authorized to spend up to \$250.00 to have "clean" artwork for our contest plaques prepared.
- We further discussed the notion of sponsoring "mini meets" as a way to make more activities available to SER members, especially those living in the divisions having smaller memberships and/or large distances to travel. Basically, the idea is to sponsor modeling meets in areas where a division may not desire to host an annual convention, but needs **something** to bring activity and excitement closer to the members. We see these mini-meets as happening in the fall, so they would be off-cycle from our annual spring conventions. The meets would be a full day of activities such as clinics, local rail or model rail tours, model displays, swap meet, etc. We have included \$1000.00 in the 2012 budget to get this project going. **If your division is interested in hosting a mini-meet, please contact me or one of the Board members.**
- Mike Flemming, Bluff City division superintendent, made a presentation proposing a convention to be **jointly** sponsored by SER and Mid Continent Region (MCoR) for 2014 in Memphis. Your SER BOD accepted Mike's proposal in principle, but desires a signed agreement from both region presidents in order to proceed. (Following the meeting, I sent the proposal and a draft agreement to the MCoR president and convention chair. I have not heard anything back from them as I write this.)

- Nominations Chair Randall Watson presented the current slate of candidates for our upcoming elections. Most of our current officer and director positions will be up for re-election in 2012. These include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors (Paul Voelker and Glen Hall). In addition to those presented, Mike Braunstein, MMR, offered his candidacy for the VP position.
- The next meeting of the SER Board of Directors will be in Gatlinburg, TN, in connection with our 2012 SER convention. Meetings are open to all members and I encourage you to join us.
- Regarding elections, more information on the candidates and a ballot is included elsewhere in this issue. **Please take time to vote!** Results of the elections will be presented at our annual convention and member meeting in Gatlinburg.

Speaking of Gatlinburg, have you registered for “**Tracks to the Smokies**”? If not, what are you waiting for? This is shaping up to be a super convention, and I encourage you to register now to insure your pick of the many activities that will be available. The convention agenda includes a host of non-rail and family activities, so bring the entire family. The Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area has much to offer so plan to stay a few days before and/or after the convention to enjoy everything. Our host hotel – Glenstone Lodge – is offering their convention rate of \$75.00 both prior to and after the June 1-3 convention dates. Registration forms and more about the convention can be found elsewhere in this issue and on the SER website at:

www.ser-nmra.org

Until next time, may all your blocks be clear!



Convention News
Fred Coleman—Convention Chairman

Gatlinburg registrations are slowly starting to pick up, the Dollywood tour is filling up (if you have registered please send an AM or PM preference to Dean/ and if you are now sending your registration please specify AM or PM).

This is going to be a great convention with outstanding clinics, new clinicians and awesome layouts to visit. Last year I attended the MER Convention along with several others from the SER in Cary, NC. They had many clinics and several industrial tours, home layouts and train show with layouts. The SER attendance, by membership, is greater than the MER. Hopefully, (economy allowing) we can continue to grow our conventions in the future.

As you are aware the national convention in Atlanta will double as the SER convention for 2013, of which is in need a number of volunteers to make it a success, if you are interested contact Joe Gelmini. Any divisions or 100% clubs interested in sponsoring a convention in the next couple of years please contact me for more information on upcoming conventions.

See you in Gatlinburg...



www.NMRA2013.org

Achievement Program Awards

Gold Spike

Raymond F. White
Snellville, GA

Reed Ostrander
Navarre, FL

Chief Dispatcher

Robert E. Wood, Jr
Kennesaw, GA

Perry B. Lamb
Kennesaw, GA

David J. Gelmini
Hampton, GA

Association Volunteer

William Raymond
Jasper, GA

Education Department

Peter Youngblood, MMR



Congratulations to 3 new MMR's in the SER! **Charlie Crawford #466**, **Bill Zawacki #468**, and **Charlie Millar #471**, all earned their MMR's in the latter half of 2011. Great job, gentlemen.

Substantially increased participation in the Achievement Program continues as do recipients of the Golden Spike Award. In 2012, the Piedmont Division #5's annual Piedmont Pilgrimage (now encompassing 80 layouts!) will include a Golden Spike application form in all tour layout host packets as an incentive to work at qualifying their own or others' layouts. This can easily be implemented throughout all SER Divisions at local layout "Open House" visits. Why not have a few Golden Spike Award forms ready to hand out to visitors showing interest? It's a "golden" and easy opportunity to introduce the merits of modeling to a certain standard and how this can lead to participating in the AP.

The DVD "Judging in the AP" seminar video taped at the SER Convention in Macon this past May has been edited and a copy will be mailed to all SER Superintendents. It's purpose is educational showing several of our Region's MMR's comment on what they're looking for when judging. My thanks to all for participating and to videographer Norman Lundin for his tenacity in enduring the, at times frustrating, mysteries of computer editing.

Contests

Efforts to improve contest participation are on going. An Australian Region contest category as could be evaluated here at the Division or Region level, is being presented for comment by Bob Beaty, MMR . Contestants are supplied a basic plan with specific dimensional parameters from which an otherwise freelance model is to be built (see attachment). The model must be constructed adhering to the specified parameters indicated and points are awarded based on creativity and workmanship. Your comments and thoughts are solicited. Make a note to encourage your Division's members to attend and enter the 2012 SER Convention and contest in Gatlinburg, TN June 1-3. SER VP & SER Convention Chair, Fred Coleman, and Smoky Mtn. Division #12 Superintendent & Gatlinburg Convention Chair Larry Burkholder and crew, are all hard at work preparing a great convention. SER Contest Chair Glen Hall is anticipating a large number of contest entries, so let's not disappoint any of these gentlemen. Early registration has already begun and ends May 1st.

BSA

Participation in the Boy Scout Railroad Merit Badge program continues to prosper under the NMRA National supervision of John Stevens. John is currently looking at potential program possibilities for Girl Scouts of America (GSA).

In Kennesaw, GA, the December and second session of the recently implemented BSA program at the Southern Museum under the direction of SER Boy Scout Program Chair, Bill Ello, had 32 scouts attending with all completing their Merit Badge in the one day session. Piedmont Division #5 Superintendent, Howard Goodwin, assisted by a cadre of volunteer counselors, helped make this a successful event. Together with the continuing and already well established BSA program at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth, GA, both Atlanta facilities were able to graduate close to 120 Scouts earning their Railroad Merit Badges in 2011, an impressive achievement to say the least!

Division #10 Bluff City Superintendent, Mike Fleming, and his counselors are equally hard at work with their BSA "Merit Badge Colleges" program which continues to generate excellent registration and graduation numbers. I trust other Divisions are also actively promoting the BSA Railroad Merit Badge program and would appreciate such information when you have a chance.

Overall, the SER is doing a terrific job!



The VP's Keyboard

Fred Coleman

Division superintendents have a great opportunity to voice their opinions and vote at the SER BOD meetings. This is needed to know exactly what would help your division, also as an (elected) superintendent you are eligible for points towards your official AP certificate.

Communication between divisions is a great resource for new ideas that could help your division and others. All members input is appreciated and considered to help towards building a better region to benefit everyone in having a better experience in model railroading. As you are now aware, it is election time again, please take the time to vote and be a part of the SER.

DAVE MULLER AWARD



Scouts Corner



Bill Eilo - SER Boy Scout Coordinator

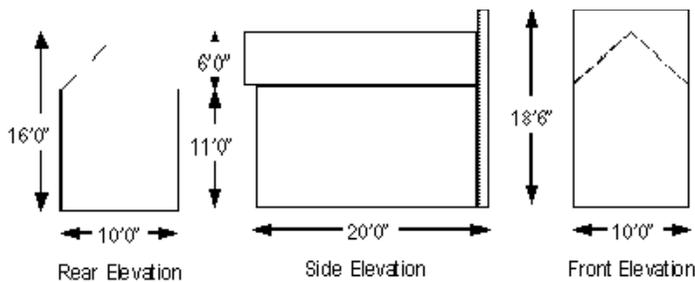
We are looking at the SER Convention and Elections right around the corner. As always, this Convention looks to be a good one with plenty of activities to keep everyone busy. Like the last convention in Macon, we have a "clinic slot" for the BSA Merit Badge Program.

This year's program/symposium will be concerned with the planning, preparation and running of the actual program. We would like to encourage any divisions who are currently running, thinking about running or who have any questions about the BSA Merit Badge Program to have representatives at this Clinic. This session is more meant to be more than just an information "hand out session", but to be an opportunity for an exchange of experiences, successes, and lessons learned. We can provide each other valuable experiences and guidance learned from real life applications. Within any group there are MANY DIFFERENT methods and approaches to accomplishing any given task. As a group, we have varied experiences and can help each other to avoid "reinventing the wheel", save time and hopefully avoid pitfalls in developing and implementing a successful BSA Outreach Program. With hindsight, some pitfalls can be painfully obvious. Some problems and impediments are more difficult to see for people going down a path for the first time or for those who are trying something new and different in pursuit of improvement. We want to provide a comfortable environment for an effective and friendly sharing and exchange of information and experiences (both positive and less effective ones) to help others to develop a truly effective and productive program. "Brain Storming" sessions are an opportunity not only to tap into other's experiences, but to come up with new ideas, approaches and methods that will be a profitable activity for all participants (new, old, experienced and novices). Please be sure to take this opportunity to "pick" other Division's brains and experiences to your advantage and profit.

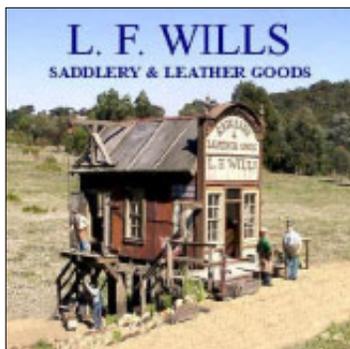
Our baseline program will deal with the actual concerns and comparisons of strengths and shortcomings for the various kinds of programs that you can conduct. We will talk about the resources you will need and those that you do have available at the present time, both inside your Division and those external to your Division. We want to help you identify and utilize Scouting Resources (both locally and at the Council levels) to make your program a success. There will be a discussion of how to "recruit" Boy Scout Participants through available resources. How can you suc-

Tracks To The Smokies

THE DIMENSIONS



AN EXAMPLE



A New Model Contest You Might Want To Enter At This Years Convention . . .

Because no two modelers will build the same model exactly the same, this competition will allow you express your own creative abilities. There are no restrictions to style, type or materials used in building the model. It can be built to scale and prototype, or not, so it can be used on your layout after the contest.

THE RULES

1. The structure can be built in any scale, **but must adhere to the basic dimensions shown in the plan.**
2. The base that the structure sits on is to be a **maximum** size of 40 scale feet by 20 scale feet. The footprint of the structure is 10 scale feet by 20 scale feet. For example in HO, the base would be a maximum of 2-3/4" X 5-3/8" and the base of the structure (footprint) 1-3/8" X 2-3/4"
3. The structure may have as many doors and windows, etc., wherever you choose to place them. You may also add porches, chimneys, attached lean-to, fences, a fully detailed interior and any other details unique to your building. Figures, animals, vehicles and scenic details can be included.
4. If a walkway or a porch is added to the front, the maximum allowable width is 6 scale feet.

successfully identify and reach interested potential audiences with effective advertising and promotional methods in a timely, efficient manner. Registration and administration of any programs involving the "non NMRA public" can create and provide interesting challenges. We will tune into past experiences to guide you in successfully surviving this phase of outreach programs like the BSA Merit Badge.

The physical Merit Badge program and requirements can be a challenge for both veterans and new comers. The Railroading Merit Badge program has fixed "required" activities and choices of selected "optional" activities. Our discussion will help you to develop as clear understanding of what and how you can use the requirements and program materials to create an effective, interesting activity. The BSA program has approaches, techniques and methodologies that are part of the day to day culture and activities. We will help you identify and use the approaches that Boy Scouts are familiar with and will feel comfortable working within.

You as an event and program support "sponsor" have responsibilities to the individual Boy Scouts and the BSA Program. These responsibilities range from counselors, program content, program implementation, "health and safety" implications and youth protection practices. This Clinic can successfully help you get through the "a b c s" of the program and administration. Don't miss this opportunity! Help, experience, support and knowledge are as close as your Convention Registration Form.

Our Southeastern Region and its Divisions have a large potential for good through their BSA Programs and Outreach Efforts. Many divisions are successfully making a difference by creating a positive impact and public image. Come and share with your fellow Model Railroad friends. Share what is going on in your division and what you plan or hope to do. The Piedmont Division has doubled the number of BSA Railroading Workshops available and helping more than 140 Boy Scouts a year to achieve their Railroad Merit Badge. As an integral part of the new Kennesaw Merit Badge Workshop we have successfully included local Boy Scouts as "guest" boy leadership roles within the program. We have supported both the Duluth and Kennesaw Museums with public exhibits to promote their activities and Model Railroading. Come to Gatlinburg to learn and share your experiences, ideas and successes with your fellow SER model railroaders.

Wishing you "Clear" Signals to Gatlinburg -- hope to see you at the BSA Clinic....

Bill



DON'T FORGET OUR PHOTO CONTEST!

Membership Report Steve Prevette - Registrar



Reminder to members - Please keep your contact information, including email, updated with the NMRA. If you are unsure if your information is current, the Registrar can verify it for you. Send Steve an email at:

prevette@atlanticbb.net

or by phone at 803-392-7684 or send him a note to 356 Ashley Ct, Graniteville SC 29829.

NMRA MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY BY DIVISION - JAN. 2011 TO JAN. 2012

#	Division Name	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Jan - Jan
01	Mid-South	33	33	33	31	33	33	33	34	34	32	33	34	35	2
02	Steel City	111	108	107	111	113	113	114	112	112	112	113	114	116	5
03	Dixie	51	49	46	47	47	46	46	45	44	44	43	43	43	(8)
04	Gulf	47	47	45	46	45	46	45	44	46	45	46	45	46	(1)
05	Piedmont	406	405	406	408	403	399	395	395	396	394	397	400	405	(1)
06	Empire	31	32	32	32	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	31	31	0
07	Palmetto	91	89	90	93	93	95	97	98	96	98	98	97	99	8
08	Atlantic	41	40	42	42	42	42	42	40	39	39	40	40	40	(1)
09	Cent Sav. River	26	27	27	26	24	24	25	25	25	26	24	25	25	(1)
10	Bluff City	67	73	71	70	69	68	67	69	69	70	71	70	70	3
11	Cumberland	63	62	62	61	58	61	61	64	64	63	61	60	63	0
12	Smokey Mountain	55	56	55	55	53	53	54	51	53	53	53	53	58	3
13	Headquarters	53	53	52	52	51	51	51	51	50	50	50	52	54	1
14	Magnolia	26	26	25	25	26	26	26	24	23	23	25	25	25	(1)
15	Land O' Sky	84	83	82	79	77	76	78	76	74	74	73	75	74	(10)
	Total	1185	1183	1175	1178	1165	1164	1164	1159	1155	1154	1158	1164	1184	(1)

Welcome New Members

New Members who joined between Oct. 2011 & Mar. 2012

Name	City, State	Div.
Henry C Bruggeman	Decatur, AL	01
Larry Culver	Madison, AL	01
Sylvester Ivory	Jasper, AL	02
Bill Kirkes	Irondale, AL	02
Walter Akridge	Vestavia Hills, AL	02
John Gerace	Baton Rouge, LA	02
Eric Taylor	Hoover, AL	02
Frederick Meyers	Diblin, PA	03
David J Miller	Mobile, AL	04
Dennis Resor	Panama City Beach, FL	04
Dennis M Lawrence	Okeechobee, FL	04
Joe Lively III	Cleveland, GA	05
Peggy Lively	Cleveland, GA	05
Svein Oie	Athens, GA	05
Michael Parker	Dallas, GA	05
Ronald Wagner	Woodstock, GA	05
Joe Surowiec	Stone Mtn, GA	05
James Vargo	Atlanta, GA	05
Thurstine Williams	Marietta, GA	05
Dan Casey	Canton, GA	05
Lois Dischinger	Marietta, GA	05
James O Dorsett	Dallas, GA	05
K. Pauli D Mockler	Liburn, GA	05
Jeffrey Van Ness White	Marietta, GA	05
Family Nole	Stockbridge, GA	05
Tim Tweedle	Woodstock, GA	05
James A Mallory	Marietta, GA	05
James Anderson	Rockmart, GA	05
Ron Craddock	Bethlehem, GA	05
Ronald A Franco	Alpharetta, GA	05
Earl Mayfield	Woodstock, GA	05
Angela McAdams	Cartersville, GA	05
John Umberger	Jasper, GA	05
Art Farwell	Landrum, SC	07
Jeff Decker	Inman, SC	07
Edward Krech	Easley, SC	07
John F Connors Sr	Wagener, SC	09
Dean W Berry Jr	Germantown, TN	10
Donald A Berry	Memphis, TN	10
Herbert Key	Greenville, MS	10
Danny Townsend	West, MS	10
Kimball Kelsey	Parris, TN	10
Alan Blair	Castalian Springs, TN	11
Richard Gregory	Hermitage, TN	11
Earl Henry	Nashville, TN	11
Jim Murchison	Cookeville, TN	11
John Audes	Mt Juliet, TN	11
Steve DeLoach	Dickson, TN	11
Don Copley	Knoxville, TN	12
Patsy Copley	Knoxville, TN	12
Keith Elrod	Philadelphia, TN	12
Jonathan Pedersen	Knoxville, TN	12
Tim Bagwell	Ringgold, GA	13
Phillip Prince	Philadelphia, MS	14
Linda Mueller	Long Beach, MS	14
Richard Mueller	Long Beach, MS	14
Carter E Richard	Asheville, NC	15
Jarrett Prince	Hendersonville, NC	15
Tom McPherson	Fairview, NC	15

Piedmont Division Operations Experience (Formerly known as OpsJam)

The Piedmont Division under the leadership and guidance of Milt Burge will take on the responsibility of developing our Operations Experience formerly known as OpsJam started by Joe Sullivan last year (2011). What we are looking for are people who are interested in learning and doing operations. At the same time I am hopeful that a number of you who have layouts and are currently doing operations will come forward and volunteer to host some of our Division folk who are interested in learning about operations.

Realizing that there is a difference in the level of operations conducted by those who are currently doing operations, we desire to not only introduce those who are seriously interested in learning about operations, but identify those who are willing to host this event. While only a handful of members participated in the inaugural program, I think there is much potential in pursuing this cause. Milt Burge has been tapped to lead the cause with myself as an assistant.

If you are interested in hosting operating sessions, Milt and I would like to hear from you. I am sure there are more folks doing operations than we had come forward last time. If you are interested in learning how to implement operations on your layout, we can probably help you to develop that.

As you are all no doubt aware, our 2013 Peachtree Express NMRA Convention will feature home layouts that will be hosting operating sessions for OPSIG, the Operations Special Interest Group. Generally, this involves around 20 or more home layouts. In an attempt to secure these home layouts, we are asking that you consider getting involved as we move forward toward our convention. One way to do this is to expand our Division Operations program (PDOPX). Your help is necessary and in fact crucial to our success.

Please let us hear from you as quickly as possible so we can get this event scheduled.

Milt Burge
Howard Goodwin

Mini-Meets

By Charlie Crawford, MMR

Your Southeast Region is looking for divisions with less than 75 members to host a Region Mini-Meet. All your division is asked to do is find a venue with 2 meeting or class rooms and a gathering space. We would ask that the host division charge members and potential members in the range of \$5.00 to \$8.00.

In return, your region will present 3-4 clinics and have AP judging available. We will try to present clinic topics as requested by the division's members. We would also like the AP judging to be a less formal affair with the modeler present with his or her model.

We would hope the host division would provide refreshments (coffee, soda and donuts). Whether lunch will be provided or the participants going out on their own, will be up to the host division.

All that has to be done for your division to host a Mini-Meet is your superintendent to put in a request to Joe Gelmini our Region President. It is hoped that smaller divisions will use that as a recruiting tool along with providing a service to their members. We'd like to hear from your division.



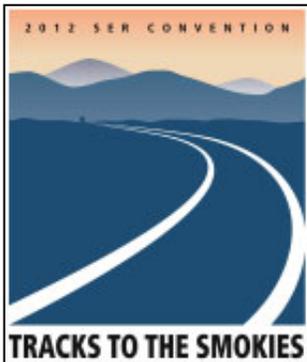
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TRACKS TO THE SMOKIES

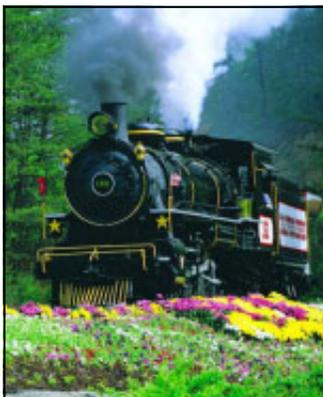
2012 Gatlinburg, TN

<http://www.ser-nmra.org/convention/2012-gatlinburg-convention>



This convention will be the first SER's convention in the heart of both Tennessee's and the National Park Service's premier visitor's area. Located in the heart of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the convention site is right at the north entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Within an hours drive is Pigeon Forge and Dollywood, Townsend, Knoxville, Cherokee and of course all of the Smoky Mountain National Park.

You will have ample time before, after and during the convention for you to enjoy Gatlinburg's shops, arts and crafts driving tour, outstanding restaurants or just relax. Plan to attend now and you will see why we say - "Arrive Early - Stay Late". Enjoy your journey through our site and we will see you at the convention.



Dollywood, one of the most visited tourist attractions in the United States, operates a tourist train that carries up to 600 passengers on a twenty minute dog-bone round trip excursion through the park and the surrounding wooded hills that includes a 6% grade. The park maintains two 2-8-2 narrow-gauge locomotives that were obtained from the White Pass & Yukon Railroad. A tour has been arranged for us to hear about the operation, visit the maintenance facilities, examine the idle locomotive, ride the train, and

have photo opportunities. Two tours will be conducted on Saturday, June 2nd - one at 9 am and another at 1 pm. There is space for 45 attendees on each tour on a first come first served basis. There is a \$10 transportation fee to offset the bus cost. This tour is expected to fill up fast, so get your registration in ASAP.



Glenstone Lodge Lodging and convention venues will be at the Glenstone Lodge in downtown Gatlinburg. Information will be posted as it is finalized. Rates will be \$75 + tax per night. These rates will be in effect until May 1, 2012. After that the rate will be available only on room availability.

The rate will be in effect for 3 days before and after the convention for those who wish to spend additional time in Gatlinburg.



DIVISION MEETS

Steel City Division 2 - Regular Meeting

3rd Thursday of every month 7 PM

Call (205) 744-0758 for meeting information

Piedmont Division 5 - Regular Meeting

2nd Tuesday of every month, Elks Lodge,

1775 Montreal Rd., Tucker (Atlanta - East Side)

Website: www.piedmont-div.org

Smoky Mountain Division 12 - Regular Meeting

1st & 3rd Sunday of every month

Land O'Sky Division 15 - Regular Meeting

Quarterly, third Saturday of January, April, July & October.

Locations vary. Call (828) 384-8045 for program information and directions.



PEACHTREE EXPRESS NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

nmra2013.org



Tracks To The Smokies 2012

CLINICS

...and Non-Rail Events

The V&O Today (K&M Sub Div.) by Allen McClelland

The Virginian & Ohio RR is currently operating in conjunction with Gerry Alber's Virginian Railway. We have created a segment of the V&O's main line between Gauly and Dickinson WV. At Alloy a small yard with interchange with VGN and C&O, industries to be switching and a mine run to pick-up coal for a barge loading dock.

Creating the Whistle Stop Cafe by Dr. Fred Alsop

Detailing the steps in kitbashing an HO scale trackside diner from a RTR Roundhouse woodside diner car will be presented. The completed model will be exhibited and all questions about its construction will be answered by the modeler.

How to Choose a Speaker for Your Sound Installation by Rick Bell

Various examples and options will be discussed.

A Model Without Peers by Lou Sassi

In this clinic, while discussing three different modeled scenes, Lou will explain how, by better understanding the workings of the subjects depicted, the modeler can apply more realistic modeling techniques to a structure or scene.

Transfer Table for Staging by Joe Norris

This clinic presents construction and powering for a transfer table adequate for staging in scales HO and smaller. It includes a simple technique that can be used for precise positioning of any moving mechanism. Demonstration and detailed handout are included.

Modeling Delaware, Lacawana, and Western Wooden Milk Cars by Ben Bartlet

Self explanatory

A Primer on Signals: Prototype and Model by Gordon Fewster

A brief summary of signal history, types and aspects common on the prototype and some thoughts on adding signals to a model railroad. The model application discussed does not use a computer for signal logic and can be used with either regular DC or DCC.

Passenger Operations on the Bluff City Southern by Allen Keller

How the passenger operations were developed and run are handled on Allen's Bluff City Southern 1950's era layout.

On to Kingfield by Lou Sassi

In this clinic Lou will explain the design and construction of an On30 scale spring scene in Maine on the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. Included in his discussion will be the use of Styrofoam as a scenic base along with commercial and local vegetation to replicate leafless hardwood trees and brush. He will explain how to create the wet, rutted look dirt roads and parking lots acquire during early spring in the Northeast along with the use of the craft store product "Modge Podge" for snow piles and Scenic Express's new electrostatic "Grass Master" to create standing field grass.

The Beautiful Elkmont Country by Rick Turner

An in depth look at how railroads forever changed the Great Smoky Mountains, specifically the Elkmont area and the way people lived there.

Forecast Weathering: Typical Patterns for Plausible Freelance Weathering - by Phil Brooks

Using prototype and model photos from some of the hobby's best weathering gurus as examples, this clinic shows methods to weather cars, locomotives, and structures when no exact references are available.

Establishing Operations on Your Model Railroad by Steve Prevette

Simple and proven techniques for starting operations on your railroad.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program Workshop by Bill Ello

A review of the necessary requirements and materials for starting a BSA merit badge program and several program templates to follow.

Designing Modern Freight Yards for Operations - What Are All Those Tracks For?

by Phil Brooks

An overview of prototype freight yard designs applicable to model railroad-ing, with practical ideas to compress important features to fit limited spaces. Includes handout for all yards discussed in the clinic, and bibliography.

Modeling Maintenance of Way Equipment by Troy Hight

Sidetrack Clinics

Simple Karate Moves for Self Defense by Gail Scarborough

Jewelry Making for Beginners by Kelly Nichols

Quilt Authentication by Merikay Waldvogel

Clear the Clutter!
Have fun
Improve your skills

The NMRA National Contest has an expanded menu of events.

People's Choice Awards
Modeler's Showcase
Meet the Entrants
Kit Built Contest

Visit www.nmra.org to learn more about this new celebration of models, photos, and crafts!

Artwork by Michael Tylick, Charlene Hill Productions

Tracks To The Smokies 2012

CLINICS

...and Non-Rail Events



Pulp & Paper Industry: Railroads Supplying the Mills

by **Walt Liles**

Will take a look at the variety of railcars used to transport pulpwood, woodchips and other raw materials. Most of the presentation will consist of southeastern railroads and how they got raw material to the paper mills. We will also be discussing some of the paper making processing so you get a better understanding of the need of the raw materials.

Modeling Slate Roofs

by **Bruce DeYoung**

Because slate was used as a roofing material over a wide geographic region, there are many modelers who will want to have slate roofed structures on their layouts. This clinic, an extension of the clinicians article in the May 2009 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman, will look at how slate roofs were/are constructed in the real world, and ways to simulate them on models.

Modeling Eastern Log Cars

by **Larry Smith**

Self descriptive. From an article in HON3 Annual 2010.

Hand-laying Track Work

by **Paul Locher**

This clinic is in two parts. In Part I, the items you will need for hand-laying trackwork will be discussed. In some cases, items are available commercially and in other cases information is given for making the items yourself. In Part II, the use of these items for hand-laying trackwork will be covered. All the tools, jigs, templates and materials described in Part I are used to do the work described in Part II.

Modeling Tips & Tricks

by **Bruce DeYoung**

Ideas to make modeling easier and more enjoyable.

Trendsetting: The V&O Story

by **Allen McClelland**

The Virginian & Ohio RR's background, concept, track planning consideration, computer designed benchwork, construction technique, lighting, staging, and operation. A award winning photo tour of the Afton Div. and Gaulty Sub Div. has many excellent ideas for your railroad.

After Market Sound Installations in Locomotives

by **Rick Bell**

An SD40-2 will be used for an example.

Modeling Water, Water Falls, and Special Wet Effects on a Model Railroad - by Bob Beaty

There are several reasons to model water on your layout. Water was here first as rivers and streams and the railroads followed their paths of least resistance to traverse the terrain. Modeled water (rivers, streams swamps, marshes or puddles) add a scenic touch, getting a lot of "oohs" and "ahs" from your visitors. A river or stream also justifies that bridge you built. Modeling water can be intimidating to some but is fairly easy and adds life to a scene. There are several different techniques and materials available to model water in its various forms (running, leaping, falling, standing, sitting, deep or shallow) This clinic will explore the various techniques and demonstrate several of the easier methods to add a stream to your theme.

Modeling the Circa 1900 Logging Scene

by **Charlie Crawford**

What's available, what can be kit-bashed, and what can be scratch-built.

Operations of the CD&P

by **Dave Houseman & Ned Burgess**

A guide of the Chicago, Denver, & Pacific Operations from inception to the present. Covering where, how, & why to start an operating layout.

Stamp Mills & Associated Structures

by **Dr. Joe Nichols, Jr.**

Modeling guides to this interesting layout industry.

"Quilt Authentication" by Merikay Waldvogel



Please join us in the Hospitality Room for an interesting and informative presentation by this acclaimed quilt historian and author. Ms. Waldvogel is recognized as an expert on quilts of the 20th century quilt revival. Her book *Soft Covers for Hard Times: Quiltmaking and the Great Depression* is the key work on mid-20th century quilts and quiltmaking. She has also co-authored and collaborated on many books and lectures frequently to quilt guilds, historical societies and museums in the area. Ms. Waldvogel was inducted in 2009 at the Quilters Hall of Fame Triple Anniversary Celebration.

If you have any family heirloom quilts or just "old" quilts that you would like to know more about, please bring them with you for Merikay to comment on.

Titanic Museum Tour, Lunch, & Shopping

Adult \$35 (See registration form, deadline 5/18)



Board the bus in front of our hotel and we are off to Pigeon Forge, Tn. Just up the road a piece, our first stop is the Titanic Museum. This giant 30,000 square foot ship shaped attraction has one of the largest permanent collections of Titanic artifacts and memorabilia. On our 2 hour, audio, self-guided experience you will receive a passenger/crew boarding pass, see 400 real artifacts, touch an iceberg, and walk a full

scale Grand Staircase that leads to a first-class state room. Come experience what it must have felt like to be an actual passenger aboard the Titanic. Check it out at: www.TitanicPigeonForge.com

Lunch at The Old Mill Pottery House Cafe & Grill

(Not included in price)

Located in the Old Mill Square, the Old Mill Pottery House Cafe & Grill is one of the finest and picturesque dining experiences in the Smoky Mountains. Afterwards, browse around the other shops at The Old Mill Square: Pigeon River Pottery, Candy Kitchen, Creamery, Toy Bin, Farmhouse Kitchen, and Sassafras. Built in 1830 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Old Mill still grinds daily on a giant water-powered wheel. The General Store sells fresh-ground grains plus flours, pancakes and biscuit mixes, homemade syrups and jellies, and unique Smoky Mountain gifts. Go to: www.oldmillsquare.com





Tracks To The Smokies 2012



Dollywood Shop Tour

One of the main attractions at the world famous Dollywood Amusement Park is their excursion train. Two steam engines obtained from the White Pass & Yukon railroad in Alaska take turns pulling up to six hundred park visitors per run. These engines and cars are maintained at facilities on the park grounds.

Two separate tours have been arranged to visit these facilities on Saturday, June 2nd, leaving from the Glenstone lobby at 8:15 am and again at 1 pm. A bus is being provided. Be sure you get on the right bus. The Sidetrack non-rail group also has a bus leaving from the Glenstone at 8:15 Saturday for the Titanic Exhibit. There is a \$10 transportation fee. The tour should take about two and a half hours roundtrip.

Convention Hotel



Glenstone Lodge Lodging and convention venues will be at the Glenstone Lodge in downtown Gatlinburg. Information will be posted as it is finalized. Rates will be \$75 + tax per night. These rates will be in effect until May 1, 2012. After that the rate will be available only on room availability. This convention rate will be in effect

for 3 days before and after the convention for those who wish to spend additional time in Gatlinburg.

Located in the Great Smoky Mountains, Glenstone Lodge combines great location, phenomenal views, and abundant amenities to boast one of the most-visited Gatlinburg hotels. The Glenstone Lodge is set in the heart of Gatlinburg, within walking distance of all of the best Gatlinburg attractions, shops, and restaurants. Glenstone Lodge is also located near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park which features swimming holes, hiking trails, and even a Historic Motor Nature Trail.

Glenstone Lodge offers accommodations to suit all needs and budgets. Whether it's a large King or Double queen bedded room, you'll find the space you need with a price that you can easily afford. If you're planning a Gatlinburg family vacation, Glenstone Lodge also offers large Suite accommodations that will fit the entire family. All of the rooms at Glenstone Lodge feature in-room coffee-makers, comfortable beds, and 90% of rooms at this Gatlinburg hotel are smoke-free. Glenstone Lodge also provides free parking.

Glenstone Lodge is one of the best Gatlinburg hotels for visitors who are ready to experience all that Gatlinburg has to offer. Glenstone Lodge is just a short distance away from fantastic attractions and destinations including fishing, golfing, biking, horseback riding, skiing, shopping, a AA baseball team, and theme parks! Glenstone Lodge offers free parking, so leave your car and hop on the Gatlinburg Trolley (which stops right at the hotel) and head into Gatlinburg to get the fun started!

Another great facet of Glenstone Lodge is the Smoky Mountain Breakfast Buffet in the Patio Restaurant. Offering fresh fruits, omelet's, bacon and sausage, home fried potatoes, biscuits and gravy, eggs, pastries, cereals, and drinks, the Smoky Mountain Breakfast Buffet is the best place to get your energy for a big day of exploring Gatlinburg. Chefs at Glenstone Lodge also cater meetings and events at very affordable prices. Last (but certainly not least) are the two indoor pools, waterfall, outdoor pool, and hot tub!

GLENSTONE LODGE
504 Historic Nature Trail
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Information: 865-436-9361 or info@glenstonelodge.com

**Reservations: 1-800-362-9522 or
reservations@glenstonelodge.com**

When making your hotel reservations, be sure to mention that you are booking for the "Tracks To The Smokies" convention. Remember, rates will be \$75 + tax per night. These rates will be in effect until May 1, 2012. After that the rate will be available only on room availability. This convention rate will be in effect for 3 days before and after the convention for those who wish to spend additional time in Gatlinburg.

Sunday Layout Tours

Ten home and club layouts have been identified for tours. Because Gatlinburg is in a remote place, and travel to and from can take time, all layout tours have been scheduled for Sunday after the convention is over when you can stop by on your way home or just enjoy the day if you are staying over for a little vacation. Descriptions and maps will be in your registration package. All layouts will be open from 10 am to 3 pm Sunday.

Contests & Schedule

Model, Photo and Arts & Crafts contests will be held as well as our newest special contest, details of which can be found on page 6. This year's Theme Contest is - **Logging**.

The regular Photo Contest will again have Place ribbons for First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention. Rules at NMRA website.

And then there is the NMRA Photo Contest Chairman's Award, the categories for this contest include:

Black & White Print Model Color Print Model
Black & White Print Prototype Color Print Prototype

The winners will be chosen by the NMRA Photo Chairman who also happens to be the SER's Editor. A plaque will be given to the winner of each category. The photo prints must be 8 inch by 10 inch mounted on an 11 inch by 14 inch mat. Any other size photos, and any non-winning photos, will be entered into the regular contest. (The NMRA Slide category has been discontinued.)

The Contest Room is located in Dogwood 2 on the first floor off the pool area near the back parking lot. The following schedule will be in effect:

Friday, June 1

8:00 am – Room open for contestants to place models
10:00 am – Room open for attendee visits
5:00 pm – Room closes

Saturday, June 2

8:00 am – Room opens for attendee visits
9:00 am – Room closes for judging
9:00 pm – Room open for attendee visits
10:00 pm – Room closes, contestants pick up models

PEACHTREE EXPRESS CREW MEETS WITH NMRA CONVENTION & TRAINSHOW HEADS



Shown above from left are Peachtree Express 2013 members **David Gelmini, Charlie Crawford, MMR, PE2012 Co-Chairs Howard Goodwin & Bob McIntyre, Rick Coble, Perry Lamb, Peter Youngblood, MMR, NMRA Train Show Chair Tom Draper, and Gary Jarabek.**

On Saturday April 14th Peachtree Express 2013 members met with the NMRA's Convention and Train Show personnel at the Waverly Hotel, site of next year's 2013 NMRA National Convention in Atlanta. The Waverly is located next to the Cobb Galleria where the convention's Train Show will be held.



Shown above from left are PE2013 members **Bill Zawacki, MMR & Norm Lundin** with NMRA Convention members **Ed Slintac & Ray DeBlieck.**

A promotional banner for the Peachtree Express and the 78th Annual NMRA National Convention. The banner features the Peachtree Express logo, a photograph of a train, and the NMRA 2013 logo. Text includes "PEACHTREE EXPRESS", "78th ANNUAL NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION", "ATLANTA, GEORGIA | July 14 - 20 | For information and registration: nmra2013.org".



Seen here (from lower left) are Peachtree Express 2013 members **Alan Mole, wife & I.D. Jackson, Scott Povlot, David Gelmini, Charlie Crawford, MMR, and PE2013 Co-Chairs Howard Goodwin & Bob McIntyre.**



DIVISION NEWS

Howard Goodwin Superintendent

PEDMONT DIVISION

79 Cross Branches
Acworth, GA 30101

770-629-2103
Horn69@bellsouth.net

Chesapeake and Ohio Railway

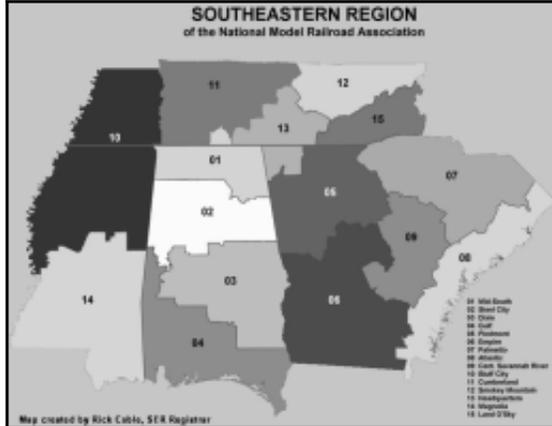
Ashland, Huntington
and Hinton Divisions
Modeled in N Scale
Miles and Kathy Devaney - Owners

Bill Zarnicki
Superintendent

LITTLETOWNE RR

152 Bates Board Way
Woodstock, GA 30289

678-969-7210
billz152@comcast.net



Division 12 - Smoky Mountain News
Larry Burkholder - labtexan@chartertn.net

Our next regular quarterly division meeting will be on Thursday, March 8th, at the Bass Pro Shop off I-40 Exit 407. Dinner at 6 pm in the BPS restaurant if you are interested, followed by the meeting in the upstairs room at 7:15. Allen Keller will be previewing his convention clinic on "Passenger Operations on the Bluff City Southern". We will also discuss manpower needs for the upcoming convention.

Convention Update:

- We have a total of 20 registrations for the convention so far. I am assured by those who have been here and done it that there are never many registrations before March.
- We have filled our slots with 28 clinics.
- A draft convention program has been prepared. Sponsors are needed to help pay for printing. The Knoxville HobbyTown has agreed to buy ad space. If anyone has any other suggestions let me know.
- We still are looking for home layouts for the Sunday tour. We currently have 11 tentatively identified. If you have, or know of, a nice running layout, even if it is not finished, and would consider showing it, please let me know. We can provide help with the showing.
- As the host division, we should make an effort to have a number of entries in the model contest. The official theme is "logging", but any model subject is welcome. A new category is being added which consists of a fixed-dimension structure, but no restrictions on the type of structure or scale as long as it fits the prototype dimensions. I'll provide details as soon as I get them.

If anyone has a picture of their home layout they'd like to share email it to me and I'll include it in the next division newsletter. It would be nice to get that going as a regular feature. I know we must have more than a few nice layouts in the division.

The Upper Cumberland Railroad Society (the Historic and Education Branch of the Crossville Model RR Club) will be holding a series of classes/clinics on Building a Model Railroad. It will cover various phases of developing and building a model railroad layout. The classes begin this Saturday with new classes every other Tuesday evening and following Saturday morning. Slots are available to the general public and anyone interested in model railroading. Space is limited to 12 slots per session. If you wish to attend go to the UCRS page on the club web site and follow the registration instructions: www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org



In December I had the chance to visit the Georgia State Railroad Museum in Savannah at the site of an old Central of Georgia Railroad yard. It was interesting but definitely a work in progress. A couple engines and restored cars were nice, but the most interesting attraction to me was the existence of the Coastal Rail Buffs model railroad club which had a very nice HO and a small N scale layout. Unfortunately the reflection off their plexiglass layout



guard made picture taking a problem. It's right in downtown Savannah, so if you are in the neighborhood it's worth the visit. The museum does offer excursion rides each day, but the day we were there they were operating two Santa trains for kids instead of their regular excursion.

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CONTACT
INFORMATION**



Division 4 - Gulf News
 Terry Tucker - dopey190@bellsouth.net
 James "Buddy" Black - black@novatechnologies.net




Robert L. McIntyre
 President

125 Knighthood Ct.
 Johns Creek, GA 30022
 Home 404.518.8932
 Cell 404.217.3673
pr123@bellsouth.net

The Pennsy Middle Division

Jim Brown
 President & Chief
 Gandy Dancer



PS & NE RAILROAD
 Santa Fe - Union Pacific
The North Loko Line

4505 Tibbon Court
 Powder Springs, GA 30127

770.941.7173
jbrownr@ed.com



The Gulf Division of the Southeast Region held a division-wide meet on Saturday 5 November 2011 in Panama City, FL. The event was sponsored by Digitrax and Nova Technologies. Digitrax provided lunch and a factory tour. Nova Technologies provided meeting space.

Forty five people from over a dozen towns in the Florida panhandle registered for the event including twenty six non-NMRA members. Membership applications and Rail Passes were provided to non-members. We hope to have several new NMRA members as a result of the meeting.

Bob Young
 Owner-Operator



Pennsylvania R.R.
 HO Scale

315 Hunters Trace Circle
 Sandy Springs, GA 30328

770-551-8817
boby41@bellsouth.net

Registration began at 11:00 at Nova Technologies. Chuck Mudford and Larry MacMonagill handled registration and issued badges. Chuck and Pete Banks were the event photographers. At 11:30, it was off to lunch and the factory tour at Digitrax. After a group photo and a great lunch, Zana and AJ Ireland along with Dave Chaney and Evan Rimmel gave tours of the Digitrax facility. Each tour included a history of Digitrax products, a visit to the new recording studio, and a look at the extensive production, manufacturing, distribution, and test facilities. Zana announced plans to begin construction on additional facilities on the adjacent property in the very near future.

Randall Watson
 President



ST. LOUIS and SOUTHERN R.R.
 Modeling Modern Day in "HO"

730 Morning Creek Lane
 Suwanee, GA 30024
 e-mail: randallywatson1@bellsouth.net

Phone: 770-831-5736
 Cell: 404-424-2218



The rest of the afternoon included contest judging, two layout tours, and a variety of live clinics.

Rodney Allen opened his central Vermont layout and the local HO scale club, Consolidated Model Railroaders, showed off their CMRX layout. Rodney's railroad is a 12 by 23 garage layout set in central Vermont in the transition era. Rodney runs several short line railroads generally found in the northeastern United States. The layout has three overlapping dog bone loops and comprises over 300 feet of mainline track. The railroad has been in operation for almost ten years.

Tom Banks
 General Manager



North South Railroad
 N Scale Model Railroad
 Atlanta to Cincinnati

3042 Autumn Woods Drive • Jonesboro, GA 30236 • 770-477-1480

CMRX is a 16 by 40 foot layout that features point-to-point operation with a loop back in staging for continuous running. The layout has six major switching areas that are set in different time periods to allow club members to run equipment from any era. The layout has three levels connected by a six foot diameter, three-track helix. The mainline is just under 1000 feet of track. A non-stop end-to-end run takes about fifteen minutes at scale speed. The layout has been in its present location since 2005.

Tom Cusker
 Superintendent



BC & TC Division of the B&O Railroad
 HO Scale

3022 Long Leaf Lane
 Helena, AL 35060

205-305-0236
tcusker@hotmail.com

Glen Hall presented a clinic on the finer points of judging in the NMRA contest and Achievement Program. Buddy Black presented clinics on the Achievement Program, the AP Electrical Certificate, and gave a demonstration of Nova Technologies laser cutting tool. Each attendee received a custom laser cut kit to take home to build.

The meet also featured a display and judging room with almost a dozen structures and rolling stock models on display. Glen Hall and Reed Ostrander judged several models for attendees working on their Achievement Program structures certificate.



This was our first division wide event in several years. We plan to make sure it is not the last.

John A. Travis
 Superintendent

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charliebrown@mindspring.com

Division 11 - Cumberland News Bob Hultman - hultman@bellsouth.net

The large HO model RR in Nolensville TN, the Los Angeles & Salt Lake RR Website- <http://lasrailroad.net/> Two of the members there have made a demo video for submission to NPT's *Tracks Ahead* program. We have also been contacted by representatives from Tennessee Crossroads, a local public TV program, about a possible segment covering the LA&SL RR.

Cumberland Division members are preparing for their Spring 2012 Division Meet on March 17, held along with the Tennessee Central Ry Museum's Open House.

Inside dealer tables are almost all sold out, with 1 dealer already buying 3 tables outside on the covered dock. The Division Library has acquired a scanner with fixtures to scan slides and negatives. Librarian Charles Owens has been diligently scanning slides & negs to make them more accessible to members.

Division members will also be in the thick of the action as Day Out With Thomas The Tank Engine returns to TC Ry Museum for the 11th consecutive year the first 2 weekends this coming September. We can hardly wait for the "little blue engine" to return.....

Division 13 - Headquarters News Mike Braunstein - x996tt2002@twlakes.net



Ten hardy (and I do mean hardy) souls met on what turned out to be one of the sunniest and windiest days in October. The meeting was intended to be a picnic affair at the Tennessee Riverside Park just below the Chickamauga Dam. Everything was fine until the wind shifted and started blowing over the dam dropping the wind chill into the 40s.

Nevertheless we managed to get some business taken care of. There were 11 members and affiliates attending the Macon SER convention in May and several attended the meeting. Various discussions about the convention and the possibilities of hosting a region convention were included. It was decided that with the 2013 National Convention being in Atlanta and the side trips to Chattanooga at that convention, a convention in Chattanooga in 2014 or 2015 would not offer anything more than the National. The venue was also discussed with the matter being put on hold for future discussions.

The matter of who would be the District Supers for the next two years was taken up next. Nobody has been able to get in touch with Don Johnston since the Macon convention and it was decided that while he had been temporarily replaced pending contact, the floor was opened for nominees for 2012-2013. Hal Crossland opted to run for two more years and Tom Shallcross volunteered to run for Northern District. With no more nominees both were promptly elected with Tom filling the position from June 2011 until December 2011.

The next discussion was when and what we should do for a Division event in late March/Early April. After several ideas were mentioned the members decided on a small layout tour in early April, 2012. (There is a layout tour scheduled for April 14, 2012 from Noon until 3:30 PM. Check our web site for more information.)

www.grampas-trains.com/headquarters.html

Other future ideas were discussed including bumping the member meeting into September to take advantage of better weather and so not to compete with Piedmont's layout tours in October and November. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned.

Division 15 - Land O' Sky News

Ken O'Brien - kobrien1600@live.com

We have several major events coming up and I hope you all come out and support them.

We have the Western North Carolina Model Railroad Club show at the Ag Center on March 2 & 3, where we will be staffing a table for recruiting. We need people to man the table while the show is open; at least 3 sessions for Friday and 4 on Saturday. Multiple folks can man the table. Contact Mike Nicoletti. Participants can earn credit for the AP Volunteer Certificate.

The Southeastern Region Convention is in Gatlinburg, TN on 1 – 3 June, 2012. It's close to home, they have some good clinics on tap and they are planning a tour of the Dollywood train facilities. It's a good time and you'll meet lots of model railroaders from all over the Southeast. The website link is: <http://www.ser-nmra.org/convention/2012-gatlinburg-convention> You'll even see several of our own members giving presentations there.

I'd like to start a themed modeling contest for each meet. We will have a popular vote for the Best of... The first contest, in April, will be Freight Cars. Bring in your favorite car, hopefully one you worked on this winter, so we can all admire your handiwork. The vote winner will get a spiffy certificate, suitable for framing, at the next meeting. We plan to have a rotating sequence of topics, which we'll post for everyone soon. This is not to be confused with our Show 'n Tell.

Speaking of meets, our next one will be held in Enka at the Library. Hello, Haywood County folks, we're coming closer to you. We have a sizeable number of members over there and we're trying to reach out to them. If you know of a suitable location towards Waynesville, get us that information so we can hold a meet out there.

Lastly, I'm asking all of you to sign up for the Land of Sky Division (LANDOFSKYDIV) Yahoo group. It's a great way for us to exchange information quickly. The NMRA is starting to generate some entry level, on-line clinics for those of us relatively new to the hobby. Being in this group will allow me to notify everyone when one of these clinics is available.



Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR
Chairman of the Board & CEO



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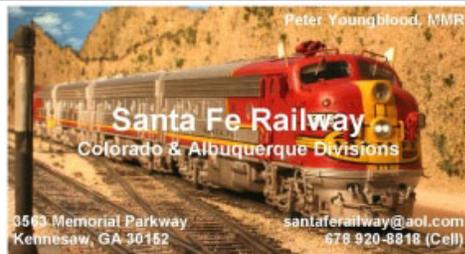
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Division 5 – Piedmont News
Charlie Crawford, MMR cacrawford@bellsouth.net
www.piedmont-div.org

It has been a satisfying time here at the Piedmont Division. In the last issue, I said this would be our year of the MMR. It turned out that January was a month of the MMR that few divisions have seen. We had three awarded at the same meeting. Bill Zawacki, Charlie Millar and yours truly were presented MMR plaques and spoke to the nearly 100 members in attendance. A picture of the 3 MMR's is elsewhere in this edition of the SouthErner.

The Piedmont Division held its first Auction of 2012 in January. While we had a great assortment of items for sale, turnout was disappointing. If you can, you should come out to one of our auctions. There are real chances to pick up some great bargains.

In February we held our first of three trial meetings in Marietta. On a Valentines eve we had an encouraging number of members attend. We had the largest group of first time attendees any of us can remember. We will be meeting in Marietta in April and June as of this writing. After that the Piedmont Board of Directors will make a decision on future meeting sites.

In March we held our third Model Train Show at the Cobb Galleria. As of press time we don't have attendance figures.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the SER Convention at Gatlinburg.

Piedmont Division
SER NMRA

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Division 9 - Central Savannah River News
Steve Prevette - prevette@atlanticbb.net



Local model railroader Don Barnes and I attended the layout tours held by the Palmetto Division in January. We saw two layouts in the morning, had a good BBQ lunch, and then went on to three more layouts. Saw some good modeling and picked up a few ideas for our own layouts. There were nearly 20 folks in attendance, so there was a good opportunity for discussions. Don and I continue to work on arranging for a weekend operating session now and then for our local model railroaders, and those from neighboring divisions.

My home layout work has basically been trying to stomp out the last remaining gremlins. With the layout basically complete, going through and troubleshooting for the layout operating sessions. Gives me a chance to run trains around also. Especially in N scale, tweaking and repairs are a never ending scope of work.

The Tuesday night OFRRA group has started to through a social / clinic night into the mix. I hosted the first such evening, with a clinic on car switching, and also walked through the operations of one of the tougher (fun) locals on my layout. Don Barnes will host the next session, with training on classification yard switching for his new Brunswick Yard on his Baltimore and Ohio layout. Memberships are available in the Tuesday night group and there are no dues. See the OFRRA yahoo group or drop me an email for more information.

The Division website is updated on the SER home page. I do post our monthly email news and other items of interest. A tour of my home layout is available on the page at:

<http://ser-nmra.org/sites/ser-nmra.org/files/BHBF%20Tour.pdf>

I encourage anyone with materials they would like shown on the website to share them with the Region and the world. I'm now the region assistant webmaster, so even can help other divisions with their site if they need help. I look forward to the annual convention in Gatlinburg, it looks like it will be quite the fun time and a lot of information for those of us into operations!

RON GOUGH, MMR
Owner & Sole Proprietor

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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 the editor at: voelkerpv@msn.com. Please note, you must provide a contact name and phone number! If you have a website you can send us the URL as well!

Atlantic Division 8 Conway, SC, Dean Belowich 843-365-4008
Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA., Nate Stone, (912) 354-2606
<http://www.coastalrailbuffs.org/>
Charleston Area Model Railroad Club, North Charleston, SC.
<http://www.chamrc.com> or Tom Van Horn at vanhorn@chamrc.com
Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA. Helio Valdes 912-261-2478
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GIMRRC/>

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

Central Savannah River Division 9 Graniteville, SC, Steve Prevette (803) 392-7684
Georgia-Carolina Model Railroaders, Augusta, GA, Roy Tritt (706) 733-6870

Cumberland Division 11 Brentwood, TN, Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158
Mid-South Live Steamers, Columbia, TN., Hank Sherwood (615) 665-0512
www.midsouthlivesteamers.org midsouthlivesteamers@yahoo.com
Nashville NTRAK, Nashville, TN., Mike Curtis (615) 479-7663,
4900 Rucker Christiana Road, Christiana, TN 37037 macurtis@comcast.net
<http://www.nashvillentrak.org>
Nashville Garden Railway Society, Nashville, TN., Ross Evans (615) 292-6555
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN.,
Terry Bebout, (615) 244-9001 FAX -2120 terry.bebout@earthlink.net
<http://tcr.org>

Dixie Division 3 Montgomery, AL, Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933
Central Alabama Model RR. Club, Montgomery/Prattville, AL
Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933
MGB Model Railroad Club, Prattville, AL Visitors welcome. Meetings every Thursday evening and every other Saturday afternoon. Brett Scott (334) 799-3096
www.mgbr.org
Southeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Dothan, AL
Mike Porterfield, (334) 774-0720
mporterfield103@charter.net
Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL
Danny Lewis, (334) 803-0425

Empire Division 6 Bonaire, GA., Bill Attaway 478-954-9200
Columbus Model Railroad Club, Columbus, GA., David Cotton (706) 323-1417
Flint River Model Railroad Club, Albany, GA., Jimmy Swinn (299) 883-3517
MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model Railroad Club, Warner Robins, GA
Bill Attaway (478) 328-1743 mgmrc@cox.net
<http://members.cox.net/mgmrc/>
CGMRC - Central Georgia Model Railroad Club, Macon, GA
Ken Preston, kenp22@bellsouth.net
MGRA - Middle Georgia Railroad Association, is a railroad history group that meets in Macon and Gordon, GA Bill Jones, wrijones845@aol.com
www.trainweb.org/mgr
Thomasville Model Railroad Club, Thomasville, GA., Ben Strickland (912) 465-3730

Gulf Division 4 Pensacola, FL, Terry Tucker (850) 723-5390
Caboose Club, Foley, AL Charles Ebert
Consolidated Model Railroaders (CMRX), Panama City, FL
Contact: Buddy Black 850-624-6240 black@novatechnologies.com
Emerald Coast Garden Railway Club monthly meeting usually on third Saturday of the month at Noon in the Diner Car of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton FL, Jack Grill (850) 994-7226 www.ecgrc.com
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL Chris Beard (850) 244-0161
www.geocities.com/miraclestriprrclub nandp@cox.net
Mobile Society of Model Engineers. Dave Miller (251) 645-2296
Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL
www.PMRC.us HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona (850) 384-3206
N Division - Terry Tucker (850) 723-5390; Z Division - Glen Hall (850) 982-2795
Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL
<http://lots-trains.org/html/swarm.html>
Herb Kern (251) 660-1659
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL Tom Augustine (850) 944-0471
West Florida Railroad Museum, Milton, FL www.wfrm.org

Headquarters Division 13 www.grampas-trains.com/headquarters.htm
Headquarters Division, Hal Crossland 423-344-0697, Don Johnston 352-391-4176
Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club, www.camrc.org
Ed Juare (423) 598-9925 railfan@ejp.com
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 www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org

Land O'Sky Division 15 Hendersonville, N.C., Ken O'Brien 828-696-9436
Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC, Ben Bartlett (828) 883-2799
Located in the Hendersonville Station, Open for visitors every Saturday 10 AM—2 PM,
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French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Henderson, NC <http://www.fbe-ntrak.com>
Chuck Broad (828) 685-2726 hmp3@blueridge.net
1396 Spicer Cove, Hendersonville, NC 28792
Western North Carolina Model Railroaders, Fred Coleman (828) 699-0983

Magnolia Division 14 Philadelphia, MS., Troy Lee Hight (601) 389-5370
Jackson Society of Model Engineers, Jackson, MS
Jackie Meck (601) 842-0909 www.jsme.org

Mid-South Division 1 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@bellsouth.net
Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL

Palmetto Division 7 Greer, SC, Jack Varadi (864) 968-2436
Associated Model Railroads of Columbia (AMROC), Columbia, SC
Clark Gregory 803-781-7912 www.amroc.org
Carolina Garden Rails All scales that run on 32 and 45 mm gauge track, battery, and live steam power. Dave Graley dgraley@bellsouth.net
Central Railway Model and Historical Association (CRM&HA), Central, SC
Jim Reece 864-855-3379 www.crmha.org
Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC
Michael Offik 864-884-2165 www.piedmontnsouthern.org
The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular club)
Andrew Gillette amn_a_gillette@yahoo.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carolina_on30conspiracy/

Piedmont Division 5 Marietta, GA., Charlie Crawford 770-565-1845
www.piedmont-div.org
Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club, Charlie Crawford 770-565-1845
<http://home.earthlink.net/~willes/>
Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Bob McIntyre (770) 518-8932
Georgia Association of Narrow Gaugers, Pat Turner (423) 744-0429
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/georgiangaugers>
GeorgiaNGers@yahoo.com
Georgia Garden Railway Society, Dan Michel ggrschair@hotmail.com
www.ggrs.info/
Georgia Society of Ferroequinologists, Marietta, Bob Hoenes (770) 422-0081
Jasper Roundhouse, Jasper, GA, Jim Derr jaderr@alltel.net
Metro Atlanta N-Scalers, Atlanta, GA,
Charles Leak (404) 262-2969 or George Potter (770) 339-4775
Model Railroad Club of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, Terry Weldon (770) 979-0473
www.oscale-atlanta.info
North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club, Roswell, GA, Jeff Pergl (770) 516-6378
North Atlanta Rail Barons, Howard Goodwin 770-529-2103
North Georgia Lego Train Club, James Trobaugh (770)-844-1076
<http://www.nglrc.org> OR questions@nglrc.org
North Georgia Modurail, Jon Cook (770) 993-9620
Northwest Georgia N Track Club -
P.E.P.S.I. Lines, 220 Washington Street, Gainesville, GA
Railroad Model Club of Atlanta, Bob Poppel, (770) 934-4067
S-COG Southern Crescent Operating Group
Joe Gelmini (770) 460-8873 papagel@comcast.net
Southern O Scalers, Dan Mason, 770-928-8618, Daniel@Masonlawfirmga.com
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gotrains@yahoo.com
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Loganville, GA 30052

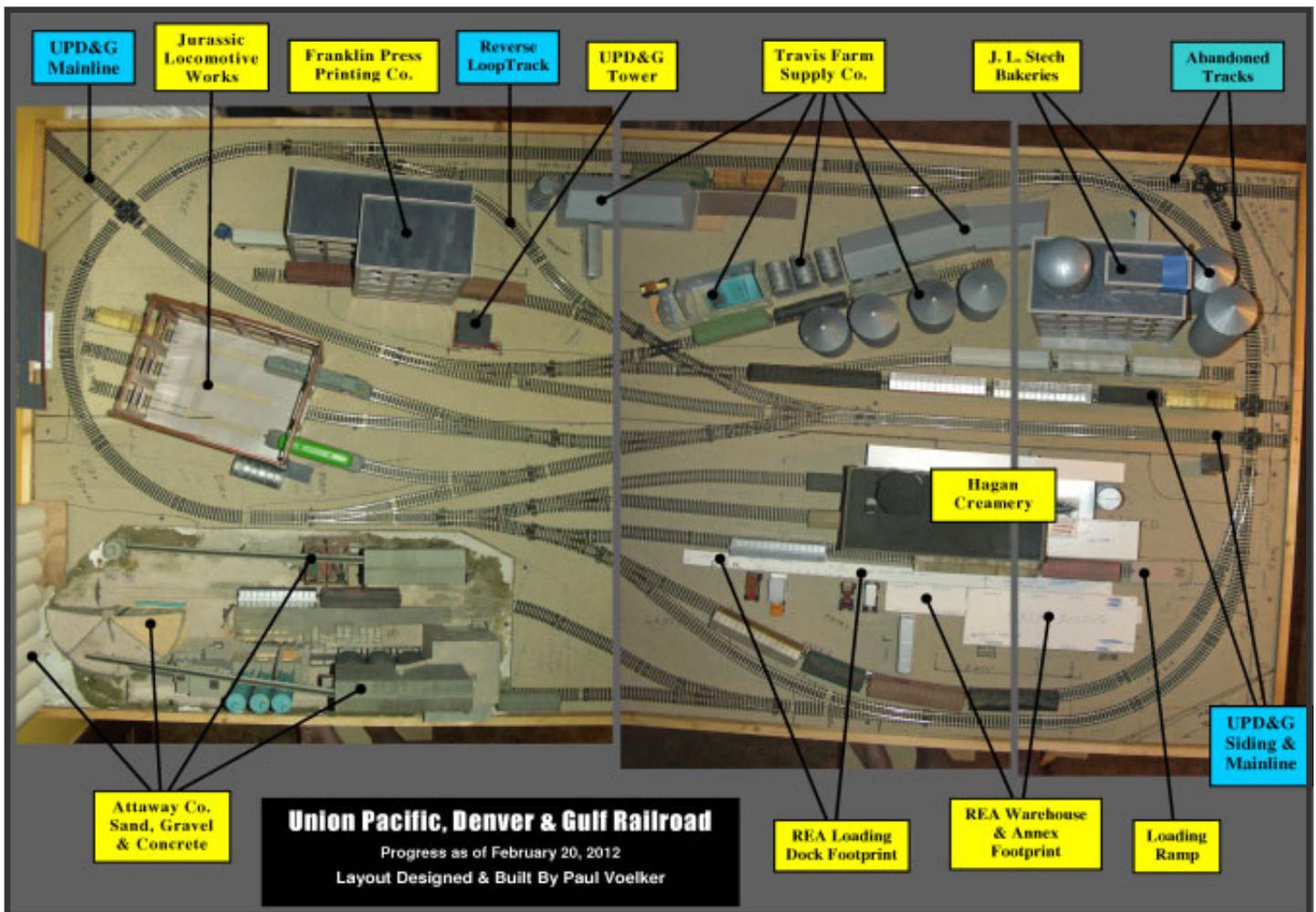
Smoky Mountain Division 12 Loudon, TN, Larry Burkholder (865) 408-9903
Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN,
Larry Burkholder, (865) 408-9903
Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders, Johnson City, TN
East Tennessee State University - George L. Carter Museum Business meetings held 3rd Tuesday of month at 7pm at ETSU Campus, Brown Hall Science Bldg, Rm. 312
Dr. Fred Alsop, III (423) 929-3733 fredjalsop3@earthlink.net
<http://memrr07.t35.com>

Steel City Division 2 Birmingham, AL, John Stewart 205-989-4889
Black Warrior Model Railroad Society, Tuscaloosa, AL, Bob Way 205-556-3073
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS
2800 Graham Rd., S. Mobile, AL Call Dave Miller (251) 645-2296 for information
Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, Call Tom Cusker for information 205-621-1778

Designed For Operations

The Editor's 4ft x 8ft layout is shown below in an "aerial photograph". Designed for operations, the UPD&G mainline and siding tracks run down the middle of the layout but are actually only staging tracks. "Four years ago I started work on this design which included the loop track, reversing loop and mainline / staging tracks. Just about everything else shown here evolved through many, many track changes both on paper and after track laying started. I have long known that what works on paper may not necessarily work after the track is laid. Recently I decided to put together several of the kits that were originally destined for this layout, just the "shells" of the larger structures (no details), so I could work on where they would best fit into the design."

"For example the "Travis Farm Supply Co." started out as the Walthers Feed & Seed Mill. After many track changes (and minus the annex) it grew to include the Clayton County Lumber, Interstate Oil kits and the loading dock from the Team Track kit plus four Rix tall Butler bins. "J. L. Stech Bakeries" (formerly Red Wing Flour) grew with the addition of two Rix Butler bins each 55 & 65 feet tall plus a Rix Steel Water tank on the roof. The UPD&G Tower was positioned so every crossing and every turnout on the mainline could be seen by its operators. The Ataway Co. module (lower left corner) was a major feature of John Travis' former J&G Railroad in Norcross, GA seen during the 1995 CrossRoads Atlanta National Convention."



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13 Headquarters Co-Chairs: Hal Crossland 423-344-0697 hcrossland39@comcast.net
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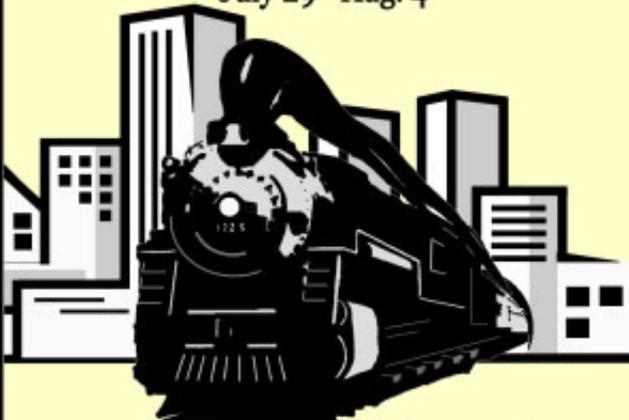
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July 29 - Aug. 4



NMRA National, Grand Rapids, MI

Grand Rails 2012

www.gr2012.org

Modular Railroad Exhibit

Photos & text by Editor Voelker

During the week of April 21-29, 2012 the North Georgia Modurail group and the Atlanta Interlocking group set up their members' modules at the Buford Presbyterian Church located on Buford Hwy. in Sugar Hill, GA. During the week and both weekends their layout was in operation and open to the public for viewing. On the last day of their operations, I stopped in to see how they were doing. As it happened, some of the modules had already been prepped for a speedy take-down so they were not as scenically complete as they would have been had I stopped by earlier in the week.



Seen here are long-time North Georgia Modurail members Ivan Jenkins (left) and Rob Keeney. NGM has been in existence for over twenty years. They got their start when the Piedmont Division, SER agreed to fund and construct four HO scale corner modules with individual members constructing straight modules in mainly 4, 6 and 8 foot lengths. For the first couple of years (1990ish) I too had a module that this club used when they would set up at the division's yearly train show. The next twenty pages show some of the modules of both NGM and Atlanta Interlocking that were used during this year's event.























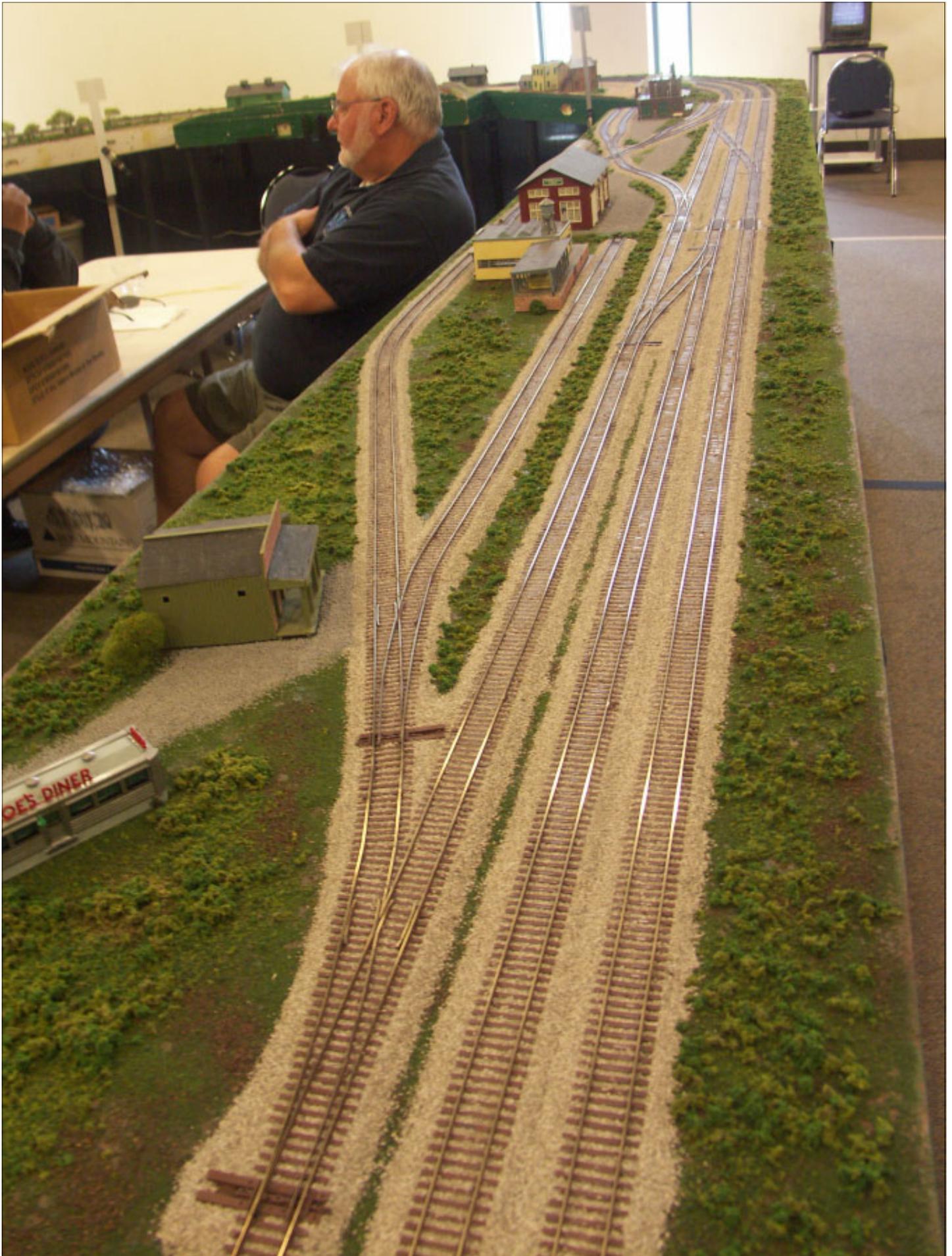














NMRA InfoNet - News from National

NMRA Communications Director Gerry Leone has begun distributing monthly reports of news from National to Region Presidents and Division Superintendents. *If you have any questions or comments, please send them directly to a National Board member or Officer. You will find e-mail addresses at www.nmra.org or in *Scale Rails*.*

JANUARY news

The Kalmbach Library's immensely popular "The Postwar Freight Car Fleet" book has sold out.

The Grand Rails 2012 Convention still has some space left for modular layouts at the National Train Show so if someone in your Division or Region wants to show the world what they've done, go to www.gr2012.org and click on the "Contact us" page. Have them tell the committee what they've done and the committee will get things rolling.

More Grand Rails 2012 news: The convention has some great things planned for non-rails. There's a cooking demo that will make attendees think they're watching a stand-up comedian do a cooking show and great entertainment at the luncheon in one of the most beautiful ballrooms in the country. There's also a ride on a dune schooner to see the 1100 acre Saugatuck Dunes! Have non-rails go to www.gr2012.org for all the details.

And some of last month's important news bears repeating:

This year registration for Grand Rails 2012 will be handled in a new way. Instead of the large registration package inserted into NMRA Magazine, the full package can be downloaded from www.gr2012.org. Those who prefer a printed piece can send their request, along with their name and address to: GR 2012 Registrar, 4165 Costa NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. There will also be a registration form and ad appearing in an upcoming issue of NMRA Magazine.

NMRA elections. The official ballot was prepared by the National Nominating Committee according to the procedures laid out in the Regulations and the Executive Handbook (available at www.nmra.org). It will appear as an insert in the center of the February issue of NMRA Magazine, which will be mailed to all voting members. Ballots must be returned to NMRA headquarters, "Attention Ballot Committee," and must be postmarked by April 10, 2012 and received by April 15, 2012.

Here are the job titles and candidates as they appear on the ballot:

- President: Charles W. Getz, IV, HLM
- Vice President - Administration: Howard Goodwin, Clark Kooning, MMR, Dave Thornton
- Vice President - Special Projects: Bill Kaufman, James "Lump" Lupfer
- At-Large North American Director Mike Brestel, Miles Hale, MMR
- Eastern District Director John Roberts, MMR, HLM
- Pacific District Director Mike Bartlett, Kelly Loyd, Rob Peterson

FEBRUARY news

News from the Board meeting:

Tom Draper, manager of the National Train Show, reported that the number of booth sales for the show at Grand Rails 2012 is currently at the same level it was at this time last year for the show in Sacramento.

After a necessarily short search by the NMRA Canada Nominating Committee, Clark Kooning volunteered for an appointment as NMRA Canada Director when Don Hillman stepped down from the job for health reasons. We wish Don all the best, and thank Clark for his willingness to serve at the last minute.

Financially, the NMRA ended 2011 in very good standing and is currently rebuilding some of its funds from which it had borrowed in the past. In addition, there is currently enough money in the budget to hire an IT professional to repair, maintain, and update the NMRA website.

The NMRA has announced an agreement of cooperation between itself and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association (HRMA) of China, a community of over 100,000 railfans and model railroaders. The HRMA, a relatively young organization, is interested in learning how the NMRA is organized, and will promote NMRA standards in China. Members of both organizations will be able to enjoy the many benefits of each. A press release and story will appear shortly in NMRA Magazine.

The Board is in the initial stages of studying electronic balloting as a way of both saving on postage and encouraging additional member participation.

More Board meeting news next month!

And some other news:

The Grand Rails 2012 website at www.gr2012.org now has these new features:

- *A page for the Layout Design Special Interest Group
- *The Operations Special Interest Group Sign-up sheet
- *PDF copies of all of the traditional Registration forms
- *A complete list of all of the extra fare events and tours
- *A schedule of days and times for most scheduled events
- *More Sidetracks events for the non-rails
- *The Silent Auction schedule
- *The contest room schedule

Have members who are interested in the Achievement Program? Yours truly (Gerry Leone, MMR) was interviewed on The Model Railway Show about it. Trevor Marshall talked to me about my road to Master Model Railroader, and the hurdles and joys of taking it. Episode 32 is available for listening or downloading now at www.themodelrailwayshow.com or through iTunes, and will be available through The Model Railway Show's online archives after March 1.



NMRA / SER Membership & Subscription Application

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

New Renewal NMRA # SER #

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

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

NORFOLK, VA. – Norfolk Southern is honoring its predecessor railroads during 2012, its 30th anniversary year, by painting 18 new locomotives in commemorative schemes that reflect the heritage of those predecessors.

Since the 1820s, hundreds of railroad companies were built, merged, reorganized, and consolidated into what eventually became Norfolk Southern, itself created from the consolidation of Southern Railway and Norfolk and Western Railway in 1982. In 1999, Norfolk Southern expanded the scope of its heritage with its acquisition of a portion of Conrail. The heritage locomotives will represent most of the railroads that played significant roles in Norfolk Southern's history. The first units will be delivered in March, and all units are expected to be riding the rails by June 1, Norfolk Southern's 30th anniversary date.

"The heritage locomotives reflect the pride we take in our long and colorful history," said Norfolk Southern CEO Wick Moorman. "As they travel through our system, these state-of-the-art units in vintage livery will serve as reminders to our customers, employees, and communities that the modern rail network that keeps America competitive today and into the future has deep roots in the nation's past."

Each paint scheme will be modified to fit contemporary locomotives while staying as true as possible to the original designs. Norfolk Southern employees in Altoona, Pa., and Chattanooga, Tenn., will paint GE ES44AC locomotives, while the EMD SD70ACe units will be painted at Progress Rail Services' facility in Muncie, Ind. The heritage locomotives will be used to haul freight across Norfolk Southern's 20,000-mile, 22-state network.

The predecessor companies to be represented are listed below. In parentheses are the respective roads each became part of (NW=Norfolk & Western, SR=Southern, CR=Conrail) and the make of locomotives to be painted. Images of the color schemes are available on Norfolk Southern's web site:

http://www.nscorp.com/nscportal/nscorp/Media/images/heritage_images.html

.***Central of Georgia Railway*** (SR, GE) was formed in 1833 to connect Macon, Ga., with Savannah, completing a rail link between Chattanooga and the port. It was famed for two passenger trains named after prize-winning race horses, the Nancy Hanks and the Man O' War.

.***Central Railroad of New Jersey*** (CR, EMD) was the first American railroad to have its employees wear uniforms, and in 1892 one of its locomotives set a world speed record of 105 mph.

.***Conrail*** (GE) was created by the U.S. government in 1976 from the bankrupt Penn Central, Lehigh & Hudson River, Erie Lackawanna, Central Railroad of New Jersey, Lehigh Valley, Reading and Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines, becoming the largest railroad at the time, with 34,000 route miles.

.***Delaware, Lackawanna and Western*** (CR, EMD) was created in 1849 to connect the rich anthracite coalfields of the Lackawanna Valley of Pennsylvania to northern New Jersey. A hurricane in 1955 knocked the railroad out of operation for a month, with the resulting financial difficulties forcing it to merge with the**Erie Railroad in 1960 to form**the Erie Lackawanna Railroad.

.***Erie Railroad*** (CR, EMD) was key to economic development along the Southern Tier, which includes Binghamton and Elmira, N.Y. In 1851, Secretary of State Daniel Webster was strapped to a rocking chair on an open flatcar, wrapped in a blanket and clutching a bottle of rum, so he could ride the just-completed railroad.

.***Illinois Terminal Railroad*** (NW, EMD) began life as the Illinois Traction System in 1896 as an interurban

electric railroad in central and southern Illinois. Hit by the Great Depression, it was reorganized as the Illinois Terminal in 1937 and attempted to survive as a passenger railroad until relinquishing that business in 1956, when it was acquired by a consortium of railroads. It was operated as a freight railroad until acquired by NW in 1982.

·***Interstate Railroad*** (SR, GE) was incorporated in 1896 to serve southwestern Virginia coalfields. Despite its name, it operated entirely within Virginia. It was acquired by Southern in 1961.

·***Lehigh Valley Railroad*** (CR, GE) was built to haul coal, replacing water transport down the Lehigh River, and was also known as the Route of the Black Diamond.

·***New York Central Railroad*** (CR, EMD) was organized from 10 roads paralleling the Erie Canal between Albany and Buffalo, N.Y., and became known as the “Water Level Route.” Today, the former NYC line between Cleveland and Chicago is the busiest on the NS system, with more than 100 freight trains daily.

·***New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad***** (NW, GE) was commonly referred to as the ***Nickel Plate Road***, a moniker it acquired when the /Norwalk/ (Ohio) /Chronicle/ referred to it in 1881 as “the great New York and St. Louis double track, nickel plated railroad,” supposedly indicative of its solid financial backing.

·***Norfolk Southern Railway*** (SR, EMD) (not to be confused with today’s Norfolk Southern) was a line serving southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina, chartered in 1883 and acquired by Southern Railway in 1974.

·***Norfolk & Western Railway*** (GE) originated as City Point Railroad, a 9-mile road between Petersburg and City Point, Va., in 1836. Following numerous mergers and acquisitions, it became the Norfolk & Western in 1881.

·***Pennsylvania Railroad*** (CR, GE), incorporated in 1846, billed itself as the “Standard Railroad of the World” and was for many years the largest American railroad by tonnage and revenues. PRR opened the Horseshoe Curve railroad engineering marvel; carried President Lincoln to his inauguration; implemented the “line and staff” organizational structure used by business today; built Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan; and electrified the route between New York and Washington, among its many achievements.

·***Reading Company*** (CR, EMD) was one of the first railroads built in America, and built its fortune hauling coal. It featured the first iron railroad bridge in America.

·***Savannah & Atlanta Railway*** (SR, EMD), began life as the Brinson Railway in 1906, slowly expanding from Savannah toward the Northwest. It was consolidated with other small railroads to become the Savannah & Atlanta in 1917. Central of Georgia bought the S&A in 1951.

·***Southern Railway*** (GE) originated as the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company in 1827. It put into service the nation’s first regularly scheduled steam passenger service on Christmas Day, 1830, with the locomotive “The Best Friend of Charleston.” The Southern was incorporated in 1894 from the reorganization and consolidation of numerous predecessors and absorbed another 68 railroad companies over the next six years.

·***Virginian Railway*** (NW, EMD) was the only railroad created through the capital and credit of one man, oil magnate Henry Huttleston Rogers. After building a short line, the Deepwater Railway, to haul coal out of West Virginia and then being blocked by the bigger railroads, he created another railroad, the Tidewater Railway, to reach Norfolk, Va., then combined the two into the Virginian in 1907. It was acquired by N&W in 1959.

·***Wabash Railroad*** (NW, EMD) was formed in 1877 and served the mid-central U.S. It was acquired by the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1927 and leased to Norfolk & Western in 1960. In 1991, N&W, by then part of Norfolk Southern, purchased the Wabash outright. Made famous by the 1904 song “Wabash Cannonball,” there was in fact no such train by that name until 1949.

SOUTHEASTERN REGION - NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
WINTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 21, 2012 - Pelham, AL

The following board members were present: President Joe Gelmini, Vice President Fred Coleman, Treasurer Alan Mole, Secretary Rick Coble, Executive Advisor Bob Beaty, Assistant Treasurer Dean Odiorne, Directors Glen Hall, Charlie Crawford, MMR, Paul Voelker, and Randall Watson

The following committee chairs were present: Education Chair Peter Youngblood, MMR, Achievement Program Chair George Gilbert, Historian Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR, and Membership Chair Tom Cusker
The following superintendents were present: Larry Burkholder (Smokey Mountain), Hal Crossland (HQ/Southern District), Tom Shallcross (HQ/Northern District), John Stewart (Steel City), Phil Hutchinson (Dixie), and Mike Fleming (Bluff City)

The following members were present: Buddy Black (Gulf), Tom Schultz (Steel City), and Mike Braunstein, MMR (HQ)

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM EST.

President Joe Gelmini welcomed everyone and the attendees introduced themselves.

Officer and Committee Reports

Officer and committee reports were emailed in advance to other board members.

Secretary's Report

Glen Hall moved that the Board accept the minutes from the October 2011 BOD Meeting as published in the SouthErneR. Seconded by Director Randall Watson. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alan Mole distributed the treasurer's report and 2012 budget via email prior to the meeting. As anticipated in Treasurer Mole's report for the Fall 2011 meeting, a final surplus of \$2,475 exceeded expectations.

The 2012 budget reflects changes agreed upon at the October 2011 BOD meeting.

Executive Advisor Beaty moved that the Board accepted the 2012 budget. Seconded by Director Charlie Crawford. Motion passed.

The FY2010/2011 tax return was accepted by the IRS. Treasurer Mole advised the IRS of the change in fiscal year reporting.

The FY 2011 tax return has been accepted by the IRS.

Alternative Investments. At the May and October meetings the Board discussed investment options and concluded that, given the extremely low rates and potential increase in fees for moving funds between banks, no action would be taken in this respect. We do not believe that conditions have changed in the market sufficiently to modify our investment strategy at this time.

2012 Gatlinburg Convention

Tracks to the Smokies chairman Larry Burkholder gave a status report on the 2012 SER convention.

Burkholder's biggest concern is a low number of registrants. Others involved in prior conventions reported that registrations grow as the convention approaches and should jump after the Spring SouthErneR is published.

The convention site needs to be updated. President Gelmini will follow up with Scott Povlot. President Gelmini reminded attendees that there will be no train show at the convention due to the hotel losing the lease on the space. The convention will focus on a large company store.

Vice President's and Superintendents' Reports

The following attending superintendents or division officers presented reports on activities in their respective divisions: Buddy Black (Gulf), Hal Crossland and Tom Shallcross (Headquarters), Mike Braunstein (Headquarters), John Stewart (Steel City), Phil Hutchinson (Dixie), Charlie Crawford (Piedmont), and Mike Fleming (Bluff City)

Editor's Report

Editor Paul Voelker addressed a question concerning updating the SouthErneR logo with the current NMRA logo. Paul reported that the use of legacy logos is permitted by the NMRA.

Membership

Membership Chair Tom Cusker reported that membership stands at 1,169 and provided a brief report on membership letters and non-renewal surveys. Tom also explained the split of duties between registrar Steve Prevette and himself.

President Gelmini noted that changes in the bylaws reflect duties of both positions.

Education

Education Chair Peter Youngblood reported on the status of region education programs:

Achievement Program

- Thirty eight certificates were earned this quarter, up from 23 during the previous quarter. The SER has three new Master Model Railroaders since the October BOD meeting.
- The judging DVD has been sent to all superintendents.
- Magnolia Division Superintendent Troy Hight has reported difficulty tracking existing AP certificates for members of his division. These certificates were earned prior to the current region AP reporting system. Secretary Coble said that he worked with National on a similar problem for the Piedmont Division some years ago. He will contact the National AP staff for assistance.
- Education Chair Youngblood reported a timeliness problem with National AP staff. Certificates are slow to be processed and updating of the National web site's AP information is also slow.
- President Gelmini will bring up these concerns with RAC Director Stephen Priest.

Contests

- The convention model contest will be heavily promoted in the SouthErneR.
- Executive Director Bob Beaty proposed a new contest idea: Set dimensional standards for structures with participants working within those parameters to build models. Advertise a theme along with the parameters. This has been used at an Australian Narrow Gauge convention.
- Education Chair Youngblood and Contest Chair Glen Hall proposed sending it to the division level, then promoting it for the 2014 convention.
- Steel City member Tom Schultz said that the Alabama-based Wrecking Crew club can try it.
- Alan Mole suggested adding a parameter-based model as a new contest category, separate from the contest theme.
- The new contest will be added to the 2012 convention. Scott Povlot will post an article on the SER web-site.

Boy Scouts

- The Piedmont Division is conducting four merit badge sessions annually (two sessions at the Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw and two sessions at the Southeastern Railway Museum in Duluth). Approximately 130 scouts earned merit badges in 2011.
- Mike Fleming reports that the Bluff City Division also has an active program. The division holds sessions in conjunction with the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum.
-

Region Cars

Chairman Randall Watson presented the region car project report. The project has netted a \$2,473 profit with five cars remaining.

2014 Convention Proposal

- Bluff City Superintendent Mike Fleming updated attendees and answered questions concerning the pro-

posed 2014 joint SER-MCoR convention.

- Fleming presented information about locations, lodging, funding and financial commitments from the SER. At this time, Bluff City requires no funding from the SER.
- President Gelmini will send a letter to the MCoR president proposing the joint convention. Mike Fleming will provide information for the letter. Alan Mole will work with Mike Fleming to draft a detailed agreement for the convention.
- Treasurer Mole made a motion that the SER accept the joint convention in principle, but will proceed once an agreement has been signed by Presidents for both the SER and MCoR. Seconded by Vice President Fred Coleman. Motion passed.
- If signed agreements are not in place by the 2012 SER convention, the SER will move forward and select a new site for the 2014 convention.

Old Business

Division Boundary Changes per National

The agreement between the SER and SSR is complete. NMRA Assistant Secretary John Stevens reports that the National BOD wants to put all changes in place at one time. He expects this to take another six months.

New Superintendents

President Gelmini announced that he has appointed superintendents for two divisions since the Fall meeting:

- Dean Belowich, Atlantic Division 8
- Bill Attaway, Empire Division 6

Land O' Sky Division will elect a new Superintendent on January 21, 2012.

Peachtree Express

President Gelmini is the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2013 National Convention. He is looking for volunteers from around the region. Based on the amount of time spent working on the convention, volunteers may be eligible for a reduced convention fare.

SER Plaques/Artwork

Education Chair Peter Youngblood reported that Buddy Black can provide wood plaques at no charge. Quality of artwork used for plaques was discussed. Artwork for five awards were identified as needing to be re-drawn: Miller, Dakin, Ross, Yarbrough, and Mack Craig.

Executive Advisor Bob Beaty made a motion to approve reimbursement of up to \$250 to Dean Belowich for re-drawing existing artwork. Seconded by Randall Watson. Motion passed.

Youngblood will notify Dean Belowich.

Region Elections

Elections Chair Randall Watson presented the current slate of candidates for the 2012 Elections:

All eligible incumbents have notified Watson of their intention to run. They are:

- Joe Gelmini, President
- Fred Coleman, Vice President
- Alan Mole, Treasurer
- Rick Coble, Secretary
- Glen Hall, Director-At-Large

Peter Youngblood, MMR previously notified Watson of his intention to run for a Director-At-Large position.

The Board took nominations from the floor. Mike Braunstein, MMR, announced his intention to run for Vice President.

Watson reminded attendees that candidate statements are due to him by February 15.

Note: Since the January meeting (but after the February 1, 2012 SER Bylaws candidate deadline), the following members submitted their names and statements to Randall Watson as candidates for Director-at-Large: Tom Cusker, Dave Anderson. As their names were submitted after the deadline for doing so, their names will not appear on the Ballot. However they can run as write-in candidates and as such are listed on the Candidate Bios pages.

Mini-Convention Update

- President Gelmini suggested Manchester as a site for a meeting in the Fall of 2013, in conjunction with Manchester Rail Days. The SER is required to hold an annual member meeting each year. Because of the 2013 National Convention in Atlanta, the SER will not hold a convention, which includes the annual member meeting. Gelmini has discussed this with Empire Division Superintendent Bill Attaway. Gelmini will have Attaway request assistance with holding a mini-convention in Manchester.
- Bluff City Superintendent suggested a mini-meet in the Magnolia Division. Members of Bluff City can assist.
- Peter Youngblood asked if superintendents were aware of the status of mini-conventions. Charlie Crawford will write an article for the SouthErneR.

Superintendent's Handbook

Executive Advisor Bob Beaty asked for input on items to be added to the handbook. Information on mini-meets, superintendent voting, and convention funding will be added. Beaty will send a draft to the BOD for review.

Convention Handbook

Treasurer Alan Mole previously distributed an updated copy (with changes noted) for review. Treasurer Alan Mole made a motion to accept the Convention Handbook. Seconded by Executive Advisor Bob Beaty. Motion Passed.

Region Organization Update

President Gelmini updated attendees on changes at the division level, including:

- Changes in superintendents in a number of divisions.
- Creation of districts in the Headquarters Division.
- Resolution of Atlantic Division issues with appointment of Dean Belowich as Superintendent

Mike Braunstein asked about inactive divisions, or divisions with no or little reported activities.

Region organization remains an ongoing item for review by the BOD.

President Gelmini and Education Chair Peter Youngblood had a plaque made for Nate Stone, thanking him for his many years of service to the NMRA. Atlantic Division Superintendent will present the plaque at the Coastal Rail Buffs Train Show.

Support for Howell Day Museum in Sacramento

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the SER would not provide direct financial support for the Howell Day Museum in Sacramento, CA.

School of Model Railroading

President Gelmini presented a copy of the proposed "School of Model Railroading" from Jim Six and initiated a discussion on interest in implementing the program in the SER.

After a brief discussion, it was decided that the SER would not provide official support for the program.

Digital SouthErneR - Pros and Cons

President Gelmini asked the attendees to consider the pros and cons of a digital version of *The SouthErneR* for discussion at the next BOD Meeting.

Executive Advisor Bob Beaty made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by many.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble
SER Secretary

