



# The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

December 2012

## Next Division Meeting

**Tuesday, December 11, 2012**

**St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery**

**830 High House Road**

**Cary, North Carolina**

**6:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting**

**7:00 PM – Membership Meeting**

### Popular Vote Contest

December – no contest this month due to gift exchange

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The Carolina Piedmont Herald is published monthly by the Carolina Piedmont Division, Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association. **Submissions:** Please send news items, inquiries and comments to the Editor of **The Herald by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month**. All material should be electronic, preferably Microsoft Word or Powerpoint. Pictures should be in Jpeg format and color.

**Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor**

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of each article or the Editor of the **Carolina Piedmont Herald** and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Carolina Piedmont Division.

## Membership Barometer

NMRA Membership	18,988
MER Membership	1,997
Division Membership	120
<a href="http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/">http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/</a>	
Yahoo Group Members	89
<a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/</a>	
Attendance 11/13/12	24

## The Name Game

Please wear your name tag to each meeting. See **Grif Bond** if you need to order one.

## December Program

**Yankee Swap Gift Exchange**

## Notice of Annual Meeting

**Jack Dziadul, Clerk**

The annual meeting of the Carolina Piedmont Division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the NMRA will be held on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will, be held at St. Michael's Archangel Center, 830 High House Road, Cary, NC. Business to be conducted includes the election of one director for a three-year term.

## Welcome New Member

**Harold Clayburn**

**Raleigh**



The best gift card you'll ever give.

(Or receive!)

When you give the gift of an NMRA membership, you're giving someone a gift they can use all year long. From accessing our online photo archives to getting special deals on books, to attending Division and Region meets, an NMRA member has a wealth of benefits to take advantage of.

We'll send your new member a membership card, then bill you separately. Call HQ for details and ordering. Allow 4 weeks for processing.

Perfect as a gift for holidays, birthdays, graduations, Fathers Day, Mothers Day...even Valentine's Day!



**We make it even more fun.**

This year, give a card they'll treasure all year!

[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
423-892-2846

## Board of Directors

*Superintendent (term ending January 2014)*  
**Grif Bond**, Wake Forest, 919-556-7066  
[grifbond@embarqmail.com](mailto:grifbond@embarqmail.com)

*Assistant Superintendent (term January 2014)*  
**Jim Murphy**, Cary, 919-460-7763  
[berkshireshort@yahoo.com](mailto:berkshireshort@yahoo.com)

*Division Clerk (term ending January 2014)*  
**Jack Dziadul**, Sanford, 919-721-8757  
[dziadul@windstream.net](mailto:dziadul@windstream.net)

*Division Paymaster (term ending January 2014)*  
**Jerry Mersch**, Cary, 919-815-3528  
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*Director (term ending in January 2013)*  
**Vic Bitleris**, Raleigh, 919-870-7558  
[vbitleris@nc.rr.com](mailto:vbitleris@nc.rr.com)

*Director (term ending in January 2014)*  
**Rob Rousseau**, Holly Springs, 919-368-0586  
[railroad@nc.rr.com](mailto:railroad@nc.rr.com)

*Director (term ending in January 2015)*  
**Steve Milley**, Garner, 248-421-6276  
[rsmilley@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmilley@yahoo.com)

## CPD Meeting Calendar

Tuesday night's monthly 2012-2013  
 6:30 PM Board / 7:00 PM General Meeting

### December 11, 2012

January 22, 2013 (Annual Meeting)	
February 26	March 26
April 23	May 28
June 25	July 23
August 27	September 24
October 22	November 12
December 10	

## Coming Events

January 26-27, 2013  
 Amherst Railway Society



West Springfield, MA

<http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/>

## NMRA National Conventions


2013	7/14 - 7/20		Atlanta, GA
2014	7/13 - 7/20		Cleveland, OH
2015	8/23 - 8/30		Portland, OR

## MER Convention Host Calendar


2013 10/10 - 10/13  
 C&P Junction, Rockville, MD  
<http://home.comcast.net/~CandP2013/>

*Editor's note - Before traveling any distance to an event listed, it is recommended you verify the event is still scheduled by checking the event's web site or calling the local contact.*

## Monthly Contests

<b>December</b>	No contest - Yankee swap gift exchange
January	Unusual Rolling Stock
February	Cars with Loads
March	 Coal Tower Diorama
April	Cars with Loads, Revised
May	Your \$2 Makeover
June	Any Diorama or Single Tree
July	Diorama or Tree (from the June clinic)

## Program Topics

<b>December</b>	 Yankee Swap Gift Exchange
January	<b>John Wallis'</b> prototype quiz
February	Flat Car and Gondola Loads - <b>Grif Bond</b> , Kim Parker, <b>John Janosko</b>
March	Coal tower contest
April	\$2 Car Makeover <b>Vic Bitleris</b>
May	Trees (I) <b>Steve Milley</b>
June	Trees (II) <b>Steve Milley</b>

## Refreshment Hosts

December	<b>Grif Bond</b>
January	John Janosko
February	Gene Sing
March	<b>your name goes here</b>

# THE PANAMA CANAL RAILWAY

By Stephen C. Wood



Panama Canal Railway Company logo on the side of their passenger cars.

Over the fifty-three years I have been alive I have traveled many different railroads in a few countries. I remember as a child going to Harmon Yards with my grandfather who was the Chief Draftsman for the New York Central. Taking the midnight train from Grand Central Station to Salisbury, North Carolina. The sleeper cars were fun for me as a child and putting a penny in our shoes outside our room for the porter to shine. The thrill of sitting at six in the morning with my uncle and grandfather in the hotel Yadkin's restaurant in Salisbury, North Carolina and watching four or five trains go right by the window. What a thrill! I was in the Army stationed in Germany in the mid 1970's and I took the train all over the country through Frankfurt Central Station, Munich Central Station heading to the Alps, and even Hamburg Central Station. In 1998 or 1999 I took an Amtrak across the country which was an adventure with an over night stay in New Orleans.

Then in 2005, I married to a woman from the Republic of Panama. We go there at least once a year to visit the family, see the country and to explore. In 2010, we took two large adventures. We took a boat ride with my in-laws, my wife and our three girls through the Panama Canal. What an adventure and about eleven hours later we docked on the Pacific side of the country. At that point, my in-laws took a bus ride with the three girls back to the Atlantic side where they lived. My wife and I stopped in the capital for the night.

At six o'clock in the morning, we woke to ride the Panama Railroad. I felt like a three-year-old boy getting money to get any candy or toy I wanted. We caught a taxi to Corozal Passenger

Station - located at the refurbished commissary building previously used by the U.S. armed forces, near the community of Albrook. Before we took off, I found time to purchase a few items from the Panama Canal Railway Store. The sun was coming up and I knew we would have a gorgeous day to ride the sixty-five minute ride from the capital to Colon where my wife was born and raised. In between the cars there is a large observation platform open to the elements. I left my wife sitting inside the car as I went outside to stand. We traveled through the lush jungle and every once in a while I saw the scenic Panama Canal.



In the jungle making the first curve.

As we left, we were being pulled by an F-40 locomotive one at each end, as they have no way to turn the train around. As we were, pulled through the jungle we passed a freight train on the passing track, which was headed by a GP-10. That train had containers from various ships coming from the Atlantic side. The car everyone enters is a dome car with two gorgeous paintings over each door.



Inside the observation car. Hand paintings at both ends of the car.

This dome car is a refurbished 1938 Southern Pacific car, which seats 60 people. Most of the passengers sat in one of the other five luxurious cars. One interesting fact is that each of these cars is named after a river in Panama; Rio Indio, Rio Bayano, Rio Mamoni, Lago Gatun, RioPequeni, and the Rio Chagres.



Name of the car for one of the rivers that flow through Panama.

As for the locomotives, what was interesting is that each one is named after a city or town along its route and you would never guess the numbers of the loco. In the fleet of ten locomotives, the first one is numbered 1855-the year the railroad was originally inaugurated and it is named after the end of the route in the morning or the beginning of the route at night, The City of Colon. It ends with locomotive 1865 named after the City of Ancon. Maybe when I am down there this year I will get the entire list.



Crossing the only trestle. It's about half way into the train ride.

Loving Panama and wanting to learn about my wife's country and culture, I studied everything I could including their railroad system. I learned that on January 28, 1855, a train ran from the Atlantic Ocean all the way across the Isthmus of Panama to the Pacific for the first time. In 1904, President Roosevelt appointed a commission to build the Panama Canal. The railroad had to be moved at the cost of nine million dollars.

The railroad carried gold, never losing a shipment, freight and passengers, and when the canal had been completed the railroad lost most of its business carrying freight and when the highway was completed in 1943 much of the freight and passenger service dwindled down to nothing.



Cargo train on the siding waiting for us to pass.

In 1977 when President Carter signed over the Panama Canal to the Panamanian government, he also signed the Carter-Torrijos Treaty and the Panama Railroad was turned over to the Government of Panama. The railroad had already declined and was in disarray. The railroad was losing over \$4 million dollars per year. It was not until 1998 that the Panama Canal Railway Company was granted by the National Assembly the exclusive rights to develop, construct, operate, renovate, reconstruct modify and manage a railway and its infrastructure. The Panama Canal Railway Company joint ventured with Kansas City Southern a US Class 1 Railroad and Mi-Jack products, which is North America's leading intermodal terminal operator.

What is amazing is the equipment that the container trains have. If I remember I was informed there are over twenty (it seems like I saw more) articulated 5-well double-stack bulkhead type cars



While going down the Panama Canal, low and behold a cargo train passes. The next morning I was at this location on the passenger train heading to Colon.



Cargo train passing the Corozal Passenger Station in the capital.

In addition to those cars, they own flat cars, hoppers and reefers. Like any great railroad, they now own MOW/track equipment cars. There is a Ballast Regulator kept in the capitol along with a swing loader and a tamper. Recently I was talking to my father in-law who told me he saw some new vehicles on the rails

like cars. I inquired by e-mail to the railroad and they informed me they now have a fleet of Hy-Rails, which included a truck for track inspections, a vehicle used to grease the rails and turnouts, and a couple more, which I do not remember as I write. In the same e-mail, I inquired about the containers and how they were off loaded and I was informed they have twelve hostlers and ten trailers used in terminal operations.



From the boat we took down the Panama Canal. Here is one of the ports they use to unload the containers onto the trains. This is on the Pacific side.

After sixty-five minutes of pure bliss, we arrived at the end of the rails at the Atlantic Passenger Station - located at Mount Hope in the city of Colon, near the Port of Cristobal.



When we arrived at the Atlantic Passenger Station - located at Mount Hope in the city of Colon, near the Port of Cristobal, I was able to take this photo.

## In The News

By Jack Dziadul

Congratulations to Stephen Wood for his eight page article which appeared in the latest issue of SER's The Southerner. <http://www.ser-nmra.org/sites/ser-nmra.org/files/pubs/souv53n4.5.pdf>

## ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

### Master Builder – Scenery

(seventh in a series)



Jack Burgess, MMR  
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

Building scenery on a layout, for many modelers, is a favorite category. If you are just getting started in the Achievement Program, the Scenery certificate might just be the place to start. The intent of this category is for the modeler to demonstrate "the prototype rendering of scenic effects from the ground up". The type of scenery is up to you and can be just as easily mountainous scenery as "urban" scenery. Since scenery is so basic to a layout, it is a good category to start with.

To qualify for this certificate, you must construct a completed section of model railroad of at least 60 square feet in O scale, 45 square feet in S scale, 32 square feet in HO scale, or 24 square feet in N scale. (Note that the 32 square feet in HO is the size of the traditional 4x8 layout that many of us built when we first began in the hobby.) The entire layout doesn't need to be complete in order to receive this certificate nor do the completed sections of the layout need to be adjacent to each other. You can instead complete individual scenes, as long as you meet the total required area. You can also use modules to meet the qualifications, but each must be at least 8 square feet in size and meet the quality standards.

The completed section(s) must include the elements of structures, background, lighting, and realism/conformity and score at least 87½ points using the following criteria:

**Terrain (Max. 35 points)** - This element includes natural features such as rocks, trees, hills, cuts and fills, drainage ditches, etc.

**Structures (Max. 20 points)** - Structures are considered from the point of prototype suitability and appearance and not from the standpoint of construction. The structures thus do not need to be scratchbuilt.

Structures can include bridges, fences, turntables, etc.

Background (Max. 25 points) - The treatment of the walls or background does not need to be artist quality. However, it needs to help "extend" the scenery and help conceal the rest of the room.

Lighting (Max. 20 points) - Illumination can come from railroad cars, buildings, and overall lighting effects. You don't need to include day/night effects to meet this requirement. However, room lighting should be even and consistent to adequately light the scene.

Realism/Conformity (Max. 25 points) - In the other categories, the judges evaluate what you were trying to do and what you remembered to include in your scene. In this one, they will evaluate how well you accomplished that goal.

Note that, while Structures is a "judged" category, you do not necessarily need to include traditional structures on a layout in order to meet the minimum score of 87½ points...a logging scene with maybe a bridge or two, if well done, could still achieve the minimum 87½ points without a traditional structure.

If you meet these qualifications, the first step is to complete a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) as with all of the AP categories. You must also prepare a set of photographs (digital prints work well too) to document your work. You can supply regular snapshots or make a short video of the layout to illustrate your work. The photos or the tape must include a written description of the intended setting. The photos don't need to be "suitable for publication", only good enough to allow someone else to see that you have met the qualifications. You also need to prepare a simple description of the methods and materials that you used to build the layout features. Again, nothing elaborate.

The judging of the layout is typically set up by your Divisional AP Chairman and one or more

assistants. After judging the layout, the judges will sign your SOQ.

While documentation for the Master Builder - Scenery might seem a little burdensome, it shouldn't take that long. The best part of this category is that you probably have already completed the modeling portion of the requirement!

## **November Meeting Photos**

Jim Murphy

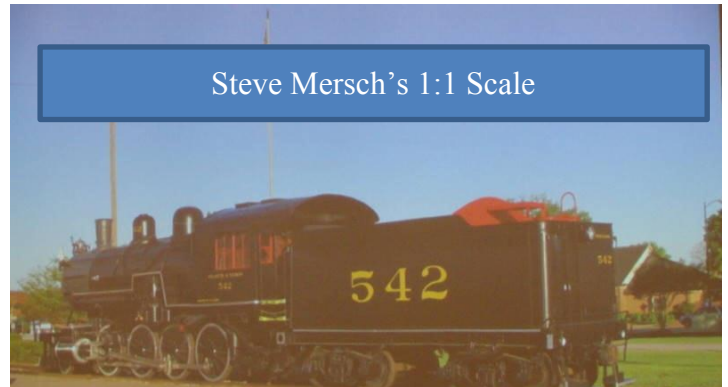




John Porter's contest winner



Steve Mersch's presentation



Steve Mersch's 1:1 Scale

## March Coaling Tower Contest – Started Yet?

Jack Dziadul

Our special modeling contest requires using the Life-Like HO Scale Coaling Tower kit number 1377. Build your kit using a minimum of 50% of the parts and display it on a diorama/base (maximum size of 24" by 36" in HO scale and 24" by 18" in N scale). Identify the structure(s) with a sign or an index card explaining what it is. Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place "popular vote" and the Board of Directors will award 3 additional prizes. All prizes will be model railroading tools and/or supplies that can be used in any scale.

## **Sixth Annual Yankee Swap**

by Jack Dziadul (reprinted from the November Herald)

We have a now well established fun tradition at CPD with our annual "Yankee Swap" brown bag gift exchange scheduled for the December 11th meeting. Here are a few rules and tips for those who have not had the opportunity to participate previously. Some of the notes below are taken from various websites. Since I do not remember exactly which web sites, please forgive the plagiarism and lack of attribution.

Each participant must bring one new or at least unused item that has a minimum value of \$10. The gifts may be wrapped, but most of us simply bring the gift in a brown bag. The point is that the gift is to be a surprise. The gifts will be placed on a table upon entering the meeting.

Do not label the gifts, so that it will remain a mystery as to who has brought which item.

The Superintendent will ask each participant to draw a number from a hat or a box. This determines the order of gift selection with the lowest number selecting first. There will be only one number per participant.

The person with #1 picks a gift and opens it, the person with #2 selects next and so on until all gifts have been selected.

The real fun is that participants with numbers 2 and higher have a decision to make. They can select any unopened gift, or they may "steal" a gift from any participant who has gone before them.

If someone's gift is stolen, they immediately choose to open a new gift or steal someone else's gift. You may not steal back the same gift on the same turn. There

is a limit to stealing though. After a gift has been stolen three times, that is it has had four owners, the gift is "safe" or frozen. The fourth owner is the permanent owner. The past two years we had such large turnouts we modified this rule to make the limit two steals (three owners). This speeded up the process.

There is a special rule for participant #1. After all of the gifts have been stolen or swapped, participant #1 has the option of stealing any other gift not in the "safe" category. This turns the disadvantage of being #1 into a huge advantage as almost the entire range of gifts will be available for stealing. Note here that you must keep track of how many times a popular gift had changed hands. We usually have two Board members track the gift selection and swap (steal☺) process.

The game only ends when either someone keeps the last previously unopened gift, or when the subject of the final round of stealing chooses not to swap what he/she has been gifted.

Here are some additional tips and considerations:

- When the game is over some trading should be expected. Trading is perfectly acceptable so that, as much as possible, everyone goes home with a gift they are happy with.
- You should not select or go home with the same gift that you brought.
- Play the game with a sense of humor.
- Do not take the outcome too seriously.
- Do not bring gifts that are unlikely to be useful to anyone. (Keep your spare parts box and horn-hook couplers in your workshop.)
- The gift you bring should be something you would be happy to receive.
- Not everyone models in HO. Know your club friends and provide some selections in



other scales or bring a non-scale specific gift such as tools, adhesives, scenery materials, books, CDs, etc. Your gift doesn't necessarily have to appeal to the entire group, it should be appropriate for more than a few people or at least something that can be re-gifted.

- Remember, The Yankee Swap is about all about giving.

The Yankee Swap has become one of the most well attended Division meetings each year. And don't forget that the Club always provides a pretty fancy food spread for this meeting as well!

## **Grandpa's Trains at Christmas**

By Grif Bond, Superintendent

Like many of us over the age of 50, our initial introduction to model trains came from seeing Lionel or American Flyer trains at Christmas time.

In the 1960s my grandfather unboxed his Lionel trains and set them up to display for the holidays. Instead of the circle of track around the Christmas tree, he set up an elaborate track plan on several sheets of painted green plywood resting on saw horses. The holiday season "layout" took up a large portion of the big screened back porch of their house in Chapel Hill, NC. I remember the vibrating cows moving to and from the cattle pen, the signal man at the trackside shanty, the log car dump and several other mechanical accessories. Grandpa really enjoyed his trains at Christmas.

As a small kid, we always visited my grandparents to celebrate Christmas with family. Model trains were always a part of Christmas. That tradition continues today.

Along the way Santa brought me an HO Tyco train set that was a mail order item that likely came from the local Montgomery Ward catalog store or from the special Christmas toy selection at Byrum's hardware store. That got me started in the hobby of model railroading. I joined the NMRA as a teenager.

A few years later, my younger cousin got an N scale train set. As I recall, it was an Aurora "postage stamp" set, one of the first N scale sets to be mass produced.

From this family introduction to model trains, it was exciting to visit my grandparents several times a year. They provided the 3 grandkids with some "spending money" on each visit and off we went with my grandmother to the local hoppy shop in Chapel Hill, Billy Arthur's. I remember the Athearn blue box kits on the shelves that were available for three dollars or less, the Plasticville snap together buildings and the bottle brush trees that made up the start of my model railroad empire.

Christmas is a special time for celebrating and sharing with family. Thanks Grandpa for sharing your trains with the grandkids at Christmas time.

## **Train Word Puzzles**

**Dr. Charles Wood**

Twelfth installment in a series

Solutions can be found on the last page.

S S A N P R E E G

M M C E T O R U

A S P E E O M H R

G H P L M N U

N R D A A L H I

## **Classifieds**

**ATTENTION CPD MEMBERS:** Do you have a wanted or an item for sale? Are you looking for carpool options to our meetings, a train show event or options for sharing a hotel room? The Herald will publish a FREE classified section for all CPD members. Send your classified ad to the Editor at [dziadul@windstream.net](mailto:dziadul@windstream.net). The ad must include your full name and contact information and will be limited to one item per issue.

## NMRA InfoNet News



By Gerry Leone, MMR  
NMRA National Communications Director

**November 2012**

- John Stevens, the NMRA Secretary, has announced the **slate of candidates for the 2013 National elections**. Ballots will be in NMRA members' hands early next year. Candidates are:
  - At-Large Worldwide Director:
    - Stan Ames
    - Mike Brestel
    - Larry Smith, MMR
    - Leslie Eaton, MMR
  - Atlantic District Director:
    - Alain Kap
    - Kathy Millatt
  - Western District Director
    - Larry Alfred, MMR
    - Jack Hamilton, MMR
- In keeping with his policy of not letting anyone volunteer do more than his/her fair share of work, President Charlie Getz has named **Jim Lupfer head of the Convention and Trade Show Department**, replacing Bob Amsler, who remains as NMRA Counsel.
- Speaking of President Getz, an interview with him is featured on the current episode of **"The Model Railway Show" podcast**. Jim Martin talks with Charlie about his plans for the NMRA. To listen, visit [www.themodelrailwayshow.com](http://www.themodelrailwayshow.com), or download Episode 44 on iTunes (or any number of other podcast downloaders). All show episodes are archived at the TrainLife website, so even if your members miss it now, they can always listen to it at a later date. In two weeks Charlie will return to the podcast to talk about "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit at the California State Railroad Museum.
- Western Director Jack Hamilton and his committee are working on a new **Long Range Plan for the NMRA**. Jack is still looking for input from members, and writes, "The October edition of *NMRA Magazine* put out a general call ("NMRA - Where do the tracks lead?") to members for input for NMRA strategic planning. There have been a number of excellent responses to the call but not nearly in the numbers that might be suggested by the normal level of grousing and gripes about the organization. This is your opportunity to make a difference and have some direct say in the direction the NMRA takes into our future. This is your organization and your ideas and input will be treated with equal value and respect. Please read the October article and make your desires known to Western District Director Jack Hamilton at [westdir@hq.nmra.org](mailto:westdir@hq.nmra.org) or mail them directly to Jack at 10731 Warren Road NW, Silverdale, WA 98383."
- Allen Pollock, Museum Committee Chairman, would like to put the word out about **fundraising efforts for the California State Railroad Museum's "Magic of Scale Model Railroading" Gallery Project**. Allen writes, "You've read the article by President Getz in the November *NMRA Magazine* about the Gallery project. I'm asking for your help. We're close to making it happen, so please discuss the idea of making a donation with your Region or Division Boards. If all participate, we'll be successful in raising the \$250,000 we need by early next year to receive the matching grant. Right now we already have \$160,000 of the needed funding. If you have any questions or need additional info about this unprecedented chance to spread the word about our hobby, contact me directly at 573-619-8532."
- From Vice President of Special Projects, Bill Kaufman: "Sometime in February, the NMRA national is going to try to start

sending out an **electronic Bulletin**. It will be filled calendars, Divisional success stories and the like. Sent out every two months, it is not intended to replace *NMRA Magazine*, but to be a collection of teasers with links to info. We hope people will like it. One key to its success is email addresses. We currently have emails for about 75% of our members but more is better and some of what we have are not right. Please remind your Region and Division members for their correct email addresses and forward them to HQ."

- **Brett Lambert** has left the Kalmbach Memorial Library to pursue other career interests. We wish him the best and thank him for his many years of service. In his absence, requests will be handled by the HQ staff.
- The **Standards and Conformance Committee** has been working with Bachmann and SoundTraxx to be sure both companies are in conformance to NMRA standards for DCC decoders. In the past there have been some concerns about each company's wiring harnesses not meeting proper specs.
- The **Winter Board of Directors Meeting** will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 8-10. All NMRA members are welcome to attend. Times and location will be announced later.

*If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org) or in *NMRA Magazine*.*



## **Meeting Minutes**

Rob Rousseau

### **Carolina Piedmont Division 13**

**November 13, 2012**

### **Board of Directors**

Attendance: **Grif Bond, Vic Bitleris, Jim Murphy, Robert Rousseau, Steve Milley, Jerry Mersch** - Call to order 6:30pm

1. October minutes approved on motion by Jerry Mersch with Vic Bitleris second.

2. Paymaster report – Approved on motion by Motioned by Rob Rousseau with Vic Bitleris second.

The Board discussed having a separate accounting for a Holiday Trains for Kids fund, but no consensus was reached and no action taken.

3. Neuse River Valley Train Show follow-up: nine NS boxcars were sold for \$8 each, plus one 4-pack for \$30. \$22 worth of used items was sold for a total of \$124 turned in to the Paymaster. Steve Milley bought some Atlas switching locomotives for \$70 for the next raffle layout, plus some track.

4. Rob Rousseau will hand out a sign-up sheet for the Carolina Wonderland Express.

5. The next raffle layout will be based on the Beer Line layout again.

6. Holiday Trains for Kids (HTFK) - 7 available, 3 spoken for so far. Grif Bond is planning to purchase \$400 worth of train sets for future.

7. December meeting is set for Dec. 11th. Gift exchange will be at \$10 minimum. \$175 is set for refreshments.

8. Other business - starting in Jan., there will be no more \$10 gift certificates from TrainBuddy for popular vote contest.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

## General Meeting

24 members in attendance

1. Grif Bond reviewed the Director's meeting.
2. No news from the Achievement Program
3. Upcoming meeting Programs & Contests:
  - January - Annual Prototype Railroad Questionnaire - **John Wallis**  
Contest: Unusual Rolling Stock
  - February - Flat car & gondola loads - **Grif Bond**, Kim Parker & **John Janosko**  
Contest: Cars with Loads (Bring another car and load makings for the program)
  - March - Coal Tower Contest
  - April - \$2 Car Makeover - **Vic Bitleris**  
Contest: Cars with Loads, Revised
  - May - Trees - **Steve Milley**  
Contest: Your \$2 Makeover
  - June - Trees, Part 2 - **Steve Milley**  
Contest: Any Diorama or Single Tree
4. Next meeting is set for December 11th with gift exchange.
5. Annual Meeting notice is set for January 22nd, 2013.
6. Anyone interested in running for the Board of Directors, please contact **Steve Milley** or **Don Jennings**. (3 year term - expires in Jan. 2016).
7. Refreshment volunteers:
  - November - **Stephen Wood** (donated food).
  - December - Holiday Party
  - January - **John Janosko**
  - February - **Gene Sing**.

A suggestion was made that a cooler be purchased for the Division and then handed off to the next refreshment volunteer.

8. Steve Mersch talked to the group about the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC.

9. **John Porter** won the Popular Vote Contest with his Southern Railway caboose.



## From The Business Car

**Grif Bond**, Superintendent

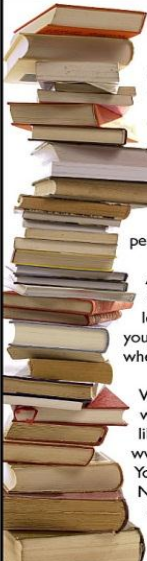
**Holiday Trains for Kids** – It appears the Division will distribute all 7 HO scale electric train sets available for distribution this year for the Holiday Trains for Kids (HTFK) program. We have commitments for at least 7 sets, maybe a couple more. Thanks to all the Division members who identified a less fortunate child. Thanks to Director **Steve Milley** who serves as the HTFK Coordinator for his coordination efforts.

**January 2013 Annual Meeting** – The annual Division meeting will be January 22, 2013. One item of business to be conducted will be the election of a new Director for a 3 year term.

**2013 meeting location** – For 2013, we will continue to meet at the St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery, 830 High House Road, Cary. Thanks to Paymaster Jerry Mersch for arranging our meeting space for 2013.

**Yankee swap gift exchange** - Join us on Tuesday, December 11 for the annual holiday party. Remember to bring a gift for the Yankee swap gift exchange.

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Mele Kalikimaka and Happy New Year.**



**Check out 6,000 train books.**


Or 100,000 train photos. Or 50,000 train magazines. In fact, there are a lot of things you should be checking out at the National Model Railroad Association's Kalmbach Memorial Library. You'll find everything from prototype railroad periodicals to vintage model kit instructions.

As an NMRA member, you have easy access to everything – it's all just a phone call, letter, or email away. Our staff will even help you do research about virtually any train topic, whether it's model or prototype.

Visit one of the world's largest train libraries at [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org). You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.

**We make it even more fun.**  
[www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)  
 423-892-2846

Check it all out!



# Financial Report

By Jerry Mersch, Paymaster

## November 2012

<b>Balance</b> In Checking 10/31/12	\$9,150.95
<b>Income</b>	
NRV Show Sales	\$ 124.00
<b>Total</b>	\$ 124.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Raffle layout supplies	\$ 70.00
Bank Fee	\$ 2.00
<b>Total</b>	\$ 72.00
<b>Balance</b> In Checking 11/30/12	\$9,202.95

Category	Budget	YTD Actual	Variance
<b>Beginning Cash on Hand 1/1/12</b>		<b>8,066.09</b>	
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Sales - NS cars, etc.		357.00	357.00
Other Receipts, Donations		1,776.74	1,776.74
Raffle Sales		0.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>2,133.74</b>	<b>2,133.74</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Holiday trains for Kids	\$ 400.00	0.00	400.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 350.00	181.20	168.80
Holiday Meeting Refreshments	\$ 175.00	0.00	175.00
Meeting Room Rental	\$ 480.00	480.00	0.00
Education Program Materials	\$ 250.00	0.00	250.00
Newsletter Mailings	\$ 15.00	0.00	15.00
Layout Tour Program	\$ 50.00	0.00	50.00
Table Rental-NRV Show	\$ 180.00	120.00	60.00
Table Rental-Other show	\$ 150.00	0.00	150.00
Office supplies	\$ 15.00	0.00	15.00
Achievement Program Supplies	\$ 50.00	13.37	36.63
Raffle Layout Construct. Supplies	\$ 250.00	70.00	180.00
Bank Charges (fees, checks, etc.)	\$ 50.00	14.00	36.00
Special modeling contest prizes	\$ 175.00	0.00	175.00
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,590.00</b>	<b>878.57</b>	<b>1,711.43</b>
Unbudgeted Expenditures	\$ -	118.31	-118.31
<b>Total All Expenditures</b>		<b>996.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Cash on Hand - End of Month</b>		<b>9,202.95</b>	<b>0.00</b>

# A Banner Year in 2013?

By Jack Dziadul

Below is a sample of the banner that the Board of Directors will be considering for purchase. Gerry Leone does not come with the banner, but he was kind enough to provide the photo to The Herald.



## Chief Dispatcher

Article and photos by Jack Dziadul

One of my goals is to complete the requirements of an Achievement Program certificate each year. There is no political debate about "you didn't build that" with this certificate. Reflecting on my recently submitted documentation for Chief Dispatcher it is very apparent that there were many hosts, in many cities and several states that provided me with the opportunity to play and run and learn on the empires that they had created. Earning a Chief Dispatcher AP certificate is by no means a solo enterprise. My first formal experience operating was on **Jack Frame's** Monon layout in Raleigh where I logged 45 hours, primarily as road engineer.



**Jack Frame** (left) with **John Porter**

The second most number of hours logged on one layout is **Bruce Faulkner's** CSX Shenandoah Division, also in Raleigh. Bruce's operating schedule of Saturday afternoons every other month works for my heavily traveled work life, and fits better with my "home superintendent's" call board.



**Bruce Faulkner's** N scale CSX

Some of my leisure travels took me to NMRA national conventions, among them Milwaukee and Hartford; plus MER regional conventions, two of which, Princeton, NJ and Hagerstown, MD included operating sessions that I participated in.

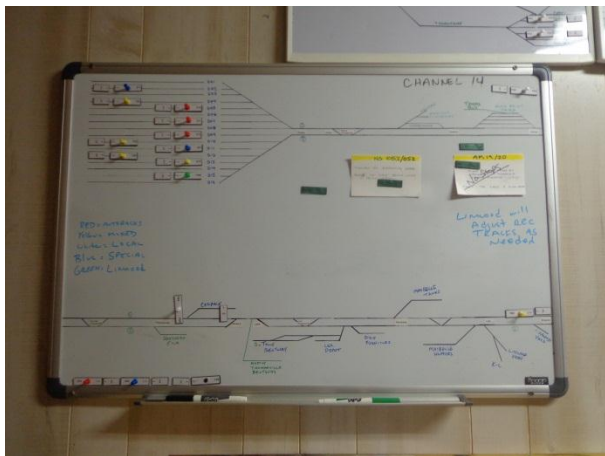
Three years ago I signed up for Carolina Southern's (MER Division 12) RailOps weekend. At this round-robin event I was able to log 15 yardmaster hours.

With these four convention call-boards, the Raleigh operating sessions and the Division 12 RailOps I had accumulated 78 ½ road engineer hours (I needed thirty) and 21 yardmaster hours (I needed ten). All I had left was to operate as dispatcher for ten hours. Of course, with any AP documentation it is best to meet more than the minimum requirements. The perfect opportunities were presented with the 2012 RailOps sponsored by the OpSIG and Division 12, and the MER convention, Milepost 40, held in Suffolk, VA. By prior arrangement with the organizers and the individual layout hosts (plus some stepping up and volunteering) I was able to accumulate 26 ½ dispatching hours. The net result: 126 hours, well in excess of the fifty operating hours required.

What are some of the take-aways, lessons learned or observations?

- There are an awful lot of great modelers out there with fantastic layouts.
- No matter how tech savvy the layout builder is (or club folks are), the gremlins are guaranteed to show up.
- Everyone designs and operates a bit differently to suit their taste, time, skills and pocketbook.
- Complexity might add realism, but often results in more downtime than desired; before, during and after the sessions.
- I have learned to favor the use of switchlists.

The easiest dispatcher's system to learn and adapt to was the magnetic boards. Kevin Beck's was one of several that I used. It was a "dummy proof" system where each train had two magnets, color coded by priority and with a directional arrow on the "locomotive" magnet. The "caboose" magnet was smaller. These magnets clearly indicated where the train had clearance to and where the back end had cleared. Turning the magnets into the vertical position illustrated that some time had been granted for switching activity on that section of the main.



One of Kevin Beck's magnetic dispatcher boards.

**Steve Benezra** made an interesting comment after his operating session at the 2012 RailOps. He was interested in our observations and

invited suggestions from the guest operators. It is rare, in my experience, that a host invited comments. Steve's keen observation was that the guest operators for the most part had experience operating on many layouts throughout the country and would have the perspective of seeing the good and not so good about what makes an operating session flow. I was still a rookie compared to most of the guests, but as I look over my log I have now had experience on twenty layouts scattered over six states.

The bottom line is that I learned quite a bit, met some great folks and had a blast. The best part is that I will keep on operating. It is a great part of the hobby.

Train Number	Depart	Track	Description	Description2	Loco 1	Loco 2
P41	Varies	Rec-4	Kanapolis Local	Switcher	NS8314	NS8325
P54	Fwd 3	Rec-3	Jamestown Local	Switcher	NS1647	CR4100
NS 203	D 06	C 11	Stack-Pig	Train	CM40819	BN8725
NS 204	C 11	D 06	Autorack	Train	NS7204	NS2595
NS 175	D 03	C 03	Mixed	Freight	NS2605	NS2697
CSX 0340	C 03	D 03	Mixed	Freight	NS2605	CR4103
NS 129	D 14	Rec 1	Lineoak	Inbound	NS7710	CR4110
NS 118	C 14	Rec 2	Lineoak	Inbound	NS2604	NS2738
P05	1952	Cleantown	Ashboro Switcher	Day Crew	NS8455	NS8569
NS 512	D 08	C 08	Grain Train	Empty	NS7212	CR4133
NS 756	C 08	D 08	Coal	Train	CM40802	AC180
P02	Fwd 2	Rec 1	Leighton Local	Switcher	NS2561	BN8733
NS 76K	D 01	C 01	Back Coal	Inbound	NS2625	NS8860
AM 20	C 01	D 01	Jontek	AM46	AM46	AM46
NS 188	D 15	Rec 3	Lineoak	Inbound	NS2699	NS7821
NS 876	D 13	C 04	Woodchip	Empty	NS2625	NS8860
NS 390	C 04	D 13	Mixed	Freight	UP8105	BN8785
NS 173	C 15	Rec 4	Lineoak	Inbound	CM40834	BN8722
NS 216	D 05	C 15	Stack	Train	NS2582	NS3940
NS 338	C 12	D 06	Mixed	Freight	BN87426	NS8071
NS 762	D 10	C 07	Beltout Coal	Loads	NS8800	NS1701
NS 212	C 07	D 10	Stack	Train	BN87812	NS2608
NS 073	D 02	C 02	CSX Mixed Freight	Reroute	CSX4527	KCB722
NS 058	C 02	D 02	High & Wide	Rerouted	NS3013	CR3388
P05	Varies	Rec 2	Selkirk Local	Switcher	NS3201	CR4048
NS 213	D 09	C 08	Stack	Train	CM40835	UP8907
NS 214	C 08	D 09	Stack	Train	NS2600	NS2591
NS 189	D 04	C 13	Mixed	Freight	NS2598	CM40863
NS 818	C 13	D 04	Unit Hopper	Train	NS7210	NS9006
NS 128	D 12	C 05	Mixed	Freight	NS8907	CR3761
NS 880	C 05	D 12	Catfish	Train	HLX2898	BN8737
P03	Fwd 4	Cleantown	Thomasville Beltway	Switcher	NS1642	UP8222
NS 211	D 07	C 10	Autorack	Train	CR4100	TF4104
NS 253	C 10	D 07	Beltout Coal	Empty	HLX2898	BN8738
NS 291	D 11	C 06	NS	Heritage	SO43008	SO43008

Most of the hosts had train lists all prepared well in advance. The sample above is from Kevin Beck.

A big thank you goes out to the organizers and hosts for the many hours of preparation for the operating sessions, especially to **Jack Frame**, **Bruce Faulkner** and **Steve Benezra** from our own division; Chuck Davis and the folks at the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club at the Milepost 40 convention; as well as the many folks in the Carolina Southern Division and beyond.

# Scenes from the Neuse River Train Show

Jack Dziadul photos



John Janosko, Jim Babcock, Grif Bond (l to r)



Gene Sing's expert switching layout



Rob Rousseau and sons



John Wallis = N scale



Joel McCurry is also an N scaler

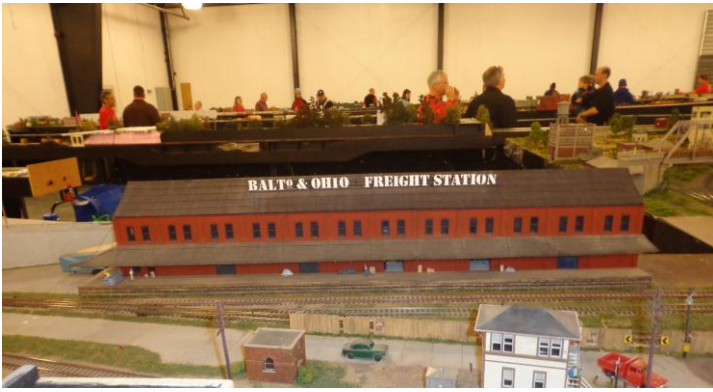












Gene Sing with his custom cabinet layout



## Puzzle Solutions

<p>passenger, commuter, semaphore, humping, handrail</p>
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