



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

March 2012

Next Division Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

NOTE NEW LOCATION and DATE!

St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery
830 High House Road
Cary, North Carolina

Directions are available at the link below.

<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/info.html#meetings>

6:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 PM – Membership Meeting

Popular Vote Contest

**Sponsored by Kim Parker of Train Buddy
Hobby Shop**
March – bridges

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Region of the NMRA

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 15th of the month:

Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor

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919-718-0368 - 919-721-8757 cell

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

Division Membership	134
http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/	
Yahoo Group Members	92
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/	
Attendance 2/21/12	27+ 1 guest

March Program

Truss Bridges
Dan Fisher

Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Paymaster

February 2012

Balance In Checking 1/31/12	\$7,826.09
<u>Income</u>	
Total	\$0.0
<u>Expenses</u>	
Total	\$0.0
Balance In Checking 2/29/12	\$7,826.09

For Sale

Norfolk Southern 40' box cars HO scale.

The price is \$15 each and \$50 for a 4 car set to non-division members, \$12.50 each and \$40 for division members. There are about 70 left. To purchase see John Janosko or email johnajan@embarqmail.com.

Operations Opportunities

Jack Frame's Monon HO scale DCC
Second and third Friday evening slots available.
Sign on for one or both evenings.

Welcome New Member

Craig Zeni Cary

Board of Directors

Superintendent (term ending January 2014)

Grif Bond, Wake Forest, 919-556-7066
grifbond@embarqmail.com

Assistant Superintendent (term January 2014)

Jim Murphy, Cary, 919-460-7763
berkshireshort@yahoo.com

Division Clerk (term ending January 2014)

Jack Dziadul, Sanford, 919-721-8757
dziadul@windstream.net

Division Paymaster (term ending January 2014)

Jerry Mersch, Cary, 919-815-3528
jbmswow@nc.rr.com

Director (term ending in January 2013)

Vic Bitleris, Raleigh, 919-870-7558
vbitleris@nc.rr.com

Director (term ending in January 2014)

Rob Rousseau, Holly Springs, 919-368-0586
railroad@nc.rr.com

Director (term ending in January 2015)

Steve Milley, Garner, 248-421-6276
rsmilley@yahoo.com

Coming Events

March 31-April 1, 2012
 Great Train Expo Train Show
 Winston-Salem, NC
www.greattrainexpo.com

March 31, 2012
 Red Springs and Northern work train excursion
 Red Springs, NC
www.redspringsandnorthern.com

N & S Historical Society Annual Meeting
 Fort Story, VA April 21st, 2012
www.norfolksouthernhs.org/

June 1-3, 2012
 SER Convention, Gatlinburg, TN
<http://ser-nmra.org/convention/2012-gatlinburg-convention>

October 11-13, 2012
 The Fine Scale Model Railroader Expo
 Strasburg, PA
www.modelrailroadexpo.com

NMRA National Conventions		
2012	7/29 - 8/4	Grand Rapids, MI
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	
2012	10/18 - 10/21 Milepost 40 Suffolk, VA http://www.nmra-mer-tidewater.org/Convention/convention.html
2013	Potomac / Chesapeake

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

March	Bridges
April	Small Business Trackside or Not
May	Diorama with People/town/station /scenery
June	Famous Locomotives

Program Topics

March	Truss Bridges - Dan Fisher
April	The Hobby Shop - Bread on the Table or Trains on the layout
May	Short Line Railroading
June	Building Locomotives - Prototype vs. Models - Size Matters

Refreshment Hosts

March	Tamer Helmy
April	Jamie Jordan
May	your name goes here

CPD Meeting Calendar

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

March 28			
April 25	May 22	June 26	
July 24	August 28	September 25	
October 23	November 13	December 11	

Working with the Dispatcher – Part 3

Stephen C. Wood

Simply knowing the delivery location of a car does not necessarily tell the engineer whether that car should go with the train or stay. It is often helpful to ask an experienced operator for assistance. The probability is pretty good that this person has had a similar experience, which he/she can share.

Another issue: how much work should this engineer do? If this is a local freight train, it will need to pick up cars at local industries and spot other cars as appropriate. Other trains are limited or through freights and may do setups or pickups on or near the mainline only. A local train or switcher may be needed to take care of items this train cannot handle. Look at the paperwork! It may give specific instructions, or the engineer may have to ask the layout owner what action(s) may be appropriate.

One helpful hint: **ALWAYS** make your **PICKUPS FIRST** from any industry or siding. This makes space to place setouts later. Leave enough room for the pickups you have to make, and switch over to local tracks when possible so that mainlines are left clear.

Once all pickups are made, do the setouts. Go to the train and secure all cars, which must be left at that location. In the manner of a yardmaster, "block" cars so that a group may be moved in a single action. If it is necessary to work through the train and switch out one or two cars at a time, start from the **REAR** of the train. Switch the setouts to a local track, and keep the pickups and other cars on the main.

When everything seems completed, check the waybills and car cards! One very important lesson: **keep the stack of train cards in the same order as the cars are in the train you are operating!** The pickups should be in the packet with others, the setouts in the proper boxes on the layout. If all is in order, call the dispatcher so that this person knows that this portion of your job has been properly completed.

At or near the end of the journey, the train arrives at a yard. Here freight is classified, broken up, and sorted, then placed in groups. Thus, new trains are formed. Local trains usually originate in a yard, and may return through that yard when the setouts and pickups are completed. On other occasions, a train may not return to the original yard until the next operating session. The yardmaster and the dispatcher are key people: be sure to keep them informed and ask for instructions as necessary.

Part four of this series will be in next month's Herald and that will conclude this series.

Mr. Cheap

Jack Dziadul

Mr. Cheap and the Misses had their weekly romantic date at Cracker Barrel. As Iris salivated over the Dickinson's Pacific Mountain Strawberry Preserve for her toast, Mr. Cheap spied the small metal container the held the fruity treasure. It is just the right size for mixing a small batch of paint colors or even that dollop of adhesive that you will be spreading with the tip of a toothpick. You know the toothpick that we picked up as we left the Chinese buffet when celebrating our wedding anniversary.



On the Road Again Apex, NC


Jack Dziadul

In my next life I think that I will specialize in transition era trucks and automobiles. The keeper below was observed on my way back from some AP evaluation duty at **Stephen Wood's** house.



The garage is pretty neat as well. I don't think it's included with the truck sale.






HAVE 50 MODEL RAILROADING CLINICS RIGHT IN YOUR LIVING ROOM.

Just because you can't make it to a national convention doesn't mean you have to miss out. Right now the NMRA's Kalmbach Memorial Library has over 50 DVDs of clinics presented at national conventions from 2002 to 2010. Each is available for NMRA members to borrow for the cost of processing and postage.

So you can see clinics on everything from decoders to design, tools to techniques, helixes to highways, and research to resin casting.

All from the comfort of your very own couch.

Visit www.nmra.org and go to the Kalmbach Memorial Library page for a complete listing. Or call the Library at 423-894-8144.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org

Then, get that popcorn ready.

Train Word Puzzles

Dr. Charles Wood

Fourth installment in a series

Solutions can be found on the last page.

X R B A O C

S T R W E C I H

A A H S R O Z U D

N T I C S O S

E E T R D N

On the Road Again New Hope, NC

Jack Dziadul

The volunteers at the New Hope valley Railroad have been very busy preparing for the 2012 season. Passenger train excursions begin April 22nd.



Meeting Minutes

Carolina Piedmont Division 13 21 February 2012

Attendance: **Grif Bond, Vic Bitleris, Jerry Mersch, Jack Dziadul, Rob Rousseau, Steve Milley**

Board of Directors Meeting

1. Review and approval of minutes – January minutes approved on motion of **Rob Rousseau** with **Vic Bitleris** second.
2. The Paymaster's report was approved on motion of **Vic Bitleris** with **Rob Rousseau** second.
3. The 2012 budget was presented by **Jerry Mersch**. The budget was approved on motion of **Vic Bitleris** with second by **Rob Rousseau**.
4. Insurance discussion was tabled. **Grif Bond** will check with **Jim Murphy** regarding communication with John Roberts.
5. **Jerry Mersch** presented a matter of conflicts with our meeting dates and the facility. The board opted to move the March and April meeting dates to March 28th and April 25th. These are both the fourth Wednesday of these two months.
6. **Grif Bond** will follow up with PJ Mattson regarding the convention registration fees rebates for volunteers.
7. Holiday Trains for Kids - **Steve Milley** volunteered to accept responsibility for the Holiday Trains for Kids program. **Dave Derway** had championed this effort for several years.

Membership Meeting

1. **Grif Bond** noted that the 2012 budget would be printed in The Herald.
2. Holiday Trains for Kids - **Steve Milley** volunteered to accept responsibility for the Holiday Trains for Kids program. Steve will maintain the inventory which presently consists of six train sets. **Dave Derway** was acknowledged for his many years of commitment and service to this program. **Grif Bond** presented a recognition plaque to commemorate Dave's service.
3. Audit Committee - **Grif Bond** appointed **Rob Rousseau** and **John Porter** to the Audit Committee.
4. Meeting Dates – **Jerry Mersch** noted the conflicts with the church facility for the March and April meetings. The new meeting dates will be March 28th and April 25th.
5. Piedmont Crossing – **Grif Bond** reported that the volunteer registration rebate checks are expected to be distributed by MER in March.
6. **Jack Dziadul** introduced Sergeant First Class Ken Hakey of the US Army Transportation Corps. **Jim Murphy** had arranged for this special presentation. SFC Hakey provided a fascinating look at the railroad transportation infrastructure in Afghanistan and all of the challenges of integrating cross-border interchanges with neighboring countries having different gauges and varying maintenance standards. SFC Hakey also brought along his N scale layout, which was worthy of any Master Model Railroader. Sergeant Hakey was a great ambassador for the US Army as well as for the hobby of model railroading.



SFC Hakey with his N scale layout.





Dave Derway receives service award from **Superintendent Bond** (left).

From The Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

Membership with the Division continues to be steady. The most recent roster shows 138 members including 4 memberships that recently lapsed. Most of the lapsed memberships are names I recognize, so hopefully they will renew. We have also gained a few members via the Rail Pass program. That's good news. The NMRA has indicated that the retention or conversion rate is about 80%. Remember the Mid-Eastern Region is still funding Rail Pass fees (\$9.95), so that is a great incentive for us to build our membership. Think about fellow railroad modelers you interact with in other clubs or at operating sessions who are not NMRA members. Encourage them to join via the Rail Pass. I have applications available at the Division meetings.

Remember that the deadline to return your 2012 NMRA election ballot is near. Ballots must be postmarked no later than April 10th and received by April 15th. Your vote is important. So locate the February 2012 issue of NMRA Magazine and remove the ballot from the center. Remember to look at the front of the ballot to determine what positions you may vote for. Your original magazine mailing label is needed to validate the ballot.

Time for some long range planning...consider attending the NMRA National Convention, Peachtree Express, in Atlanta in 2013. It is close enough that driving is a reasonable option. Let's see if we can have a strong Division participation in Atlanta. The convention runs July 14 - 20. There is a special introductory "Azalea Club" registration fee of \$149 that is available until August 4, 2012. Here is the website with the information <http://www.nmra2013.org/>

Remember the March meeting will be on Wednesday night, the 28th, due to a conflict with our meeting space. The program will be presented by Dan Fisher on truss bridges. The contest theme is "bridges". Bring in those bridges that have not yet made it as permanent fixtures on the layout. The popular vote winner receives a \$10 gift certificate courtesy of Kim Parker of Train Buddy Products.

Join your fellow railroad modelers at the meeting. See you there.

NMRA InfoNet News

By Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA National Communications Director

As I promised last month, here's the remainder of the news that came out of the winter Board of Directors meeting, held February 8 & 9, 2012, in Las Vegas.

News from the Board meeting:

- The NMRA has a new **Development Department Manager**, charged with seeking out new donation sources and methods, and coming up with ways to expand our fundraising potential. Alan Anderson of Salt Lake City, UT, volunteered to fill the slot, which had been vacant for several years. In his full-time job, Alan works with a Salt Lake City area chamber of commerce.
- The "**Cruise Convention**" idea was officially declared "not popular enough to pursue." Initial estimates, dictated that the idea receive approximately 800 firm commitments from NMRA members, and only about 300 were received via the

survey, which was printed several times in *NMRA Magazine* and also sent to Sacramento convention attendees.

- The NMRA is in the final stages of selecting a **volunteer Marketing Department Manager**. To date, several professional candidates have responded to a "help wanted" ad in *NMRA Magazine*. The Marketing Director will help the NMRA identify ways to retain and re-rail members, as well as recruit new ones.
- Jenny Hendricks, NMRA Administration Director, reports that the number of **RailPass members who convert** to Regular members has reached the 80% mark. Congratulations to all of you whose hard work has made this goal a reality! Maybe we should try for 90-100%?
- The Celebration of Models in Grand Rapids will introduce a **new contest award** in memory of Dean Freytag, the "Dean of Styrene" and former national Contest Chair. The award is funded by a donation given to the NMRA in memory of Freytag and is named "The Dean Freytag Industrial Structure Award." The winning structure will be selected by the Contest Chairman.

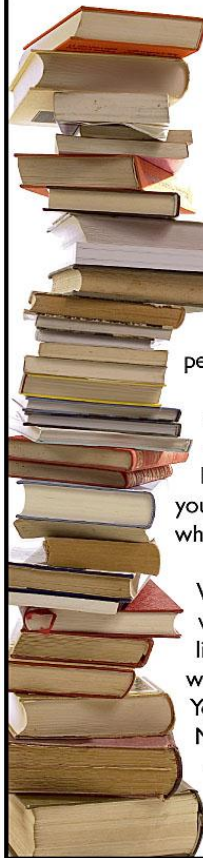
In other news:

- **White River Productions**, the company that prints *NMRA Magazine*, announced that it has purchased the assets of the now-defunct magazine, *Model Railroad News*.
- NMRA Secretary Bob Gangwish reports that the **updated version of the Executive Handbook** is now posted on www.nmra.org and can be downloaded.

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 or in NMRA Magazine.

2012 Expense Budget

Expenditures:	
Holiday trains for Kids	\$ 400.00
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 350.00
Holiday Meeting Refreshments	\$ 175.00
Meeting Room Rental	\$ 480.00
Education Program Materials	\$ 250.00
Newsletter Mailings	\$ 15.00
Layout Tour Program	\$ 50.00
Table Rental-NRV Show	\$ 180.00
Table Rental-Other show	\$ 150.00
Office supplies	\$ 15.00
Achievement Program Supplies	\$ 50.00
Raffle Layout Construct. Supplies	\$ 250.00
Bank Charges(fees, checks, etc.)	\$ 50.00
Special modeling contest prizes	\$ 175.00
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$2,590.00




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. You'll find that the NMRA has a lot to offer modelers.



We make it even more fun.
www.nmra.org
 4 2 3 - 8 9 2 - 2 8 4 6

Check it all out!

Word Puzzle Answers

boxcar, switcher, hazardous, consist, tender