



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

May 2012

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, May 22, 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

**Sponsored by Kim Parker of Train Buddy
Hobby Shop**

**May – Diorama with
People/town/station/scenery**

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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
dziadul@windstream.net

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 94

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/>

May Program

Modeling the Durham & Southern

Rob Rousseau

Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Paymaster

April 2012

Balance In Checking 3/31/12	\$7,801.92
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Income

12 Coaling Tower Kits	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 60.00

Expenses

April Refreshments	\$ 24.16
25 Coaling Tower Kits	\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 124.16

Balance In Checking 2/29/12	\$7,737.76
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Turntable in Ireland



Jim Murphy on assignment reports – “my trackside photo of an Irish Rail turntable from around 1900. It is not more than 70 feet long and is still in use turning commuter rail locomotives.”

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

June 1-3, 2012

SER Convention, Gatlinburg, TN

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

June 2-3, 2012

The Great Southeastern Rail Days
 NC Transportation Museum
 Spencer, NC

<http://www.nctrans.org/Events/Great-Southeastern-Rail-Days-Festival.aspx>

July 3-4, 2012

Norfolk Southern Heritage locomotives gather for "family portrait".
 NC Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

July 7, 2012

"1776" Heritage unit on display
 Virginia Museum of Transportation
 Roanoke, VA

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

May	Diorama with People/town/station /scenery
June	Steam Locomotives

Program Topics

May	Modeling the Durham & Southern Rob Rousseau
June	Steam Locomotives - Kim Parker
December	Yankee Swap Gift Exchange

Refreshment Hosts

May	Jim Babcock
June	Dan Fisher
July	Grif Bond
August	your name goes here

CPD Meeting Calendar

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

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

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Golden Spike Award

Jack Burgess, MMR
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

Before getting deeper into the Achievement Program certificates, let me first discuss the Golden Spike Program. For some modelers, the requirements of the AP can seem too intimidating and/or too much work. The Golden Spike Program is much easier and requires demonstration of modeling skills in only three areas. The Golden Spike Program is thus a good way to get your "feet wet" with the Achievement Program and get some recognition for your modeling skills at the same time.

The Golden Spike application form is available on the NMRA website. The first category is "rolling stock". This category requires completion of six (6) models (motive power or cars) which can be scratchbuilt, craftsman kits, or detailed commercial kits. While using your Visa to pay for a ready-to-run Kadee PS-1 boxcar or adding trucks to an Athearn flatcar won't meet this requirement, building a resin kit or even a plastic freight car kit with possibly additional details and weathering and would meet the requirements.

The next category is "setting" and can be satisfied by constructing a minimum of eight (8) square feet of layout with scenery. Note that eight square feet is a scene only 4' wide by 2' deep! There must be at least five (5) structures on the layout, which must be scratchbuilt, craftsman, or detailed commercial kits. If there are less than five structures, additional ones separate from the scene can be used to fulfill the requirement. Remember that bridges are also structures.

Finally, the last category is "engineering" (civil and electrical). It requires the completion of three (3) types of trackage (turnout, crossing, etc.). Even track on a grade is considered a type of trackage. The three examples of trackage do not need to be different; a passing track and spur will require three turnouts which will satisfy this requirement. All of the examples must be properly ballasted and installed on a proper roadbed which can be cord roadbed if desired.

While hand-laid track can be used, commercial trackage is perfectly acceptable. All of the installed trackage must be properly wired so that two trains can be operated simultaneously by using a double-track main, a single-track main with sidings, block control, or command control. Note that this requirement can even be met by having selective power to a spur so that one engine can be run into a siding, the power cut, and a second engine run over the main. Finally, one additional electrical feature must also be provided. This can be a powered turnout, a track signal, a turnout indication, a lighted building or campfire, etc.

Many modelers will quickly discover that have already completed these requirements with their layout (even if it is still under construction) and need only to complete an application in order to be awarded a Golden Spike Award. The verification on the application can be by any other NMRA member in good standing.

Rob Rousseau receives his Golden Spike from **Vic Bitleris**. Dan Fisher photo.



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.

April Contest Winner Jim Murphy



Here are my photos of my popular vote model "J. Conway & Sons". **Jim Murphy**

NMRA InfoNet News

By Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA National Communications Director

April 2012

- Fundraising has begun for the "**Magic of Scale Model Railroading**" gallery at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento, CA. As your members will probably recall, this gallery will introduce the Museum's 600,000 annual visitors to the hobby, as well as give them a sense of its history. One of the highlights of the gallery will be actual portions of the finest model railroads ever built. The Museum has donated the space rent-free to the NMRA for the purpose of promoting the hobby. It's estimated that the cost to build the exhibit will be approximately \$750,000, and no NMRA dues or monies will be used; instead, it will be entirely funded by donations. To date, over \$100,000 has been raised, and an anonymous donor has agreed to match donations, up to \$250,000. Any NMRA member (or non-member, for that matter) who would like to donate to the funding of the gallery should send his or her tax-deductible donation to NMRA Headquarters at 4121 Cromwell Road., Chattanooga, TN 37421-2119, and mark it "Gallery donation."
- In the February edition of the *InfoNet News* we reported the **agreement of cooperation between the NMRA and the Hasea.com Model Railroad Association of China**. This July we'll be seeing the first fruits of that "Hands Across The Ocean" agreement as a group of teenage Chinese modelers and railfans visits California with the purpose of seeing layouts, prototype trains, and the California State Railway Museum. Several Pacific Coast Region members are helping to organize this 2-week event.
- Grand Rails 2012, the upcoming NMRA national convention, has announced their **commemorative convention car**. Grand Rapids, Michigan, was once known as The Furniture Capital of the

World, and appropriately the model was inspired by a postcard photograph of a turn-of-the-last-century furniture manufacturer's wood-sided boxcar. This replica, produced by Accurail, comes complete with a Grand Rails 2012 logo "poster" which can be applied by the modeler. Visit www.gr2012.org to see a shot of the prototype.

- The folks at Grand Rails 2012 have posted a **preliminary clinic schedule** for the convention in PDF format, downloadable at their website. Among the clinicians are NMRA Worldwide Director Tony Koester, Jim Six, Jim Sacco, and a group of clinics by the Layout Design Sig.
- **Grand Rails 2012 is looking for volunteers** who'd be willing to donate an hour or two of their time at the convention doing things like contest room security, helping with registration check-in, silent auction set-up and tear-down, and bus loading. If you're interested and have an hour or two you'd like to donate, contact Mark Baldwin, Vice Chair of Volunteers. Just use the "Contact Us" link on the Grand Rails 2012 website at www.gr2012.org.

May 2012

- At Grand Rails 2012, there will be a **drawing for four cab rides** from among the participants in the Little River Railroad tour. The cab rides will be in the railroad's #110, a 4-6-2 Pacific built by Baldwin, during its trip to Quincy and back. The train's consist will contain a WWII troop car, two converted stock cars, and three cabooses. In addition, the Little River RR's two other locomotives will be on display for photographs. In fact, you can even climb on them!
- More convention news: The **Grand Rapids Model Railroad Historical Society** is producing an HO-scale model of a true local railroad landmark: the Bridge Street Signal Tower. The prototype, still standing near the convention hotel, was built by the Grand

Rapids & Indiana Railroad to stand guard over the railroad's crossing of five streets. Only 100 of these craftsman laser-cut kits will be available at a **special Grand Rails 2012 Convention price of \$65**. Members can see photos and get a brief history of the crossing tower at www.gr2012.org/towerkit.htm

- The **4th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region** has signed on as a co-sponsor of this year's Narrow Gauge Convention in Seattle. The 4th Division will be signing up members for the NMRA throughout the event.
- Because the NMRA's Online Archives has been such a rousing success, **several prominent photographers and collectors have begun to donate portions of their collections to the NMRA**. The first is noted author/photographer Louis A. Marre, who's donated hundreds of large-format negatives of many subjects. Gregory Sommers has also donated a large collection of freight car slides, and David Lange has donated a large number of scanned images from the collection of the late Jim Morris. Watch for these exciting additions to the NMRA Online Archives in the near future. Hopefully continued donations to The Diamond Club will cover the cost of scanning and preparing the images.

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.

Coming Attractions

1. **Mark Blaustein** says..."when Rob Rousseau does his presentation next month on the Durham Southern RR, the NRMRC will try to bring the 8' diorama we are preparing for the Raleigh Convention Center. The diorama portrays railroading in Apex in the early 1960's, which included the Durham Southern line."
2. **Kim Parker** offers this synopsis of the June program. "**Steam, Steam, the magical brute. The more you feed it the more you toot!**" This program will discuss the challenges of modeling steam. We will be sharing lessons learned. Items on the discussion block will include: manufacturer's steam modeling challenges and solutions, quartering, that pesky eccentric, sanding tubes, feed water hoses, pilot wheel problems and solutions, delicate parts and last but not least, proper maintenance. A demonstration of sound on a top of the line MTH engine as well as sound from a SoundTraxx Tsunami. If there is time we will also look at some solutions to a few of the more common manufacturers' issues like Athearn USRA 2-8-2, Rivarossi Big Boys and Bachmann 2-10-2. Popular vote contest in June will be "STEAM Locomotives, any type". Bring your BEST...just remember, only 2 each.

Meeting Minutes

Carolina Piedmont Division 13

April 25, 2012

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

1. March Board of Director's meeting minutes: Rob R. motion, Jerry M second: approved
2. Paymaster's Report: Vic B. motion, Rob R. second: approved.
3. Jerry M. submitted evidence showing that our Form 990-N to the IRS was submitted, received and accepted via E-filing receipts.
4. Jerry M. was able to buy 25 of the H0 scale Life-Like Coaling Tower through Train Buddy. It was decided that we would charge \$5 for each kit. If a member enters the (built) kit in the March contest, then the member would receive the \$5 back (and only \$5, no more). The kits will be offered during the April and May meetings. At the June meeting, if there are any left, they will be available for additional purchase. Same rules as last time.
- 3 Popular Votes (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) and 3 Board of Director votes for "Honorable Mention". There is \$175 budgeted for Contests. Suggested prizes were \$50, \$40, \$25 and \$20, \$20, \$20 but are still under pending Superintendent final decision. The Contest will be held in March 2013.
5. The board requested a formal write-up for the audit performed last month by Robert Rousseau and John Porter.
6. Grif B. sent an additional e-mail to John Roberts, but has not received a response still.
7. Grif B. had not heard back from the MER regarding the Convention rebates.

New Business

8. Rob R. picked up the train table top that was offered in Holly Springs by Linda Crandall (as forwarded by John Wallis on March 27th). He currently has it in his garage on sawhorses. It is available to anyone who may need it. The table top measures 4' x 8' and is solid wood, with rounded corners and painted a soft green color. It fits perfectly on top of two standard size collapsible banquet tables, side-by-side. (It can also be used as a

racetrack.) It also appears to may be able to sit in a pool table. Rob R. forwarded the photos to the CPD Yahoo Group mailing list.

8. Steve M. brought up Roger's layout that is also being offered to CPD. It was decided to open it up to the membership if anyone is interested in this.

9. Rob R. mentioned that Bill Kaufman, NMRA Vice President - Special Projects was looking for Generation X members to join a mailing list "to discuss the future of the NMRA, its regions and divisions, in terms of fulfilling their wants and needs." He forwarded this to the CPD Yahoo Group mailing list.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

General Membership Meeting

1. Grif B. reviewed the Board of Directors meeting.
2. Vic Bitleris presented the Achievement Program's Golden Spike award to Robert Rousseau.
3. The Special Modeling Contest was announced to the membership.
4. Grif said he would take the July refreshments.
5. Robert Rousseau will present the May program with the subject "Modeling the Durham & Southern". **John Wallis** and **Mark Blaustein** mentioned the N scale diorama of Apex for the Convention Center, which they will bring to the May meeting for display.
6. The contest winner was Jim Murphy.

The program about Wiring was given by **Kim Parker** and then afterwards the meeting concluded.

Submitted by **Robert Rousseau**



**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

Sixth installment in a series

Solutions can be found on the last page.

L I R A T M E N

S S O O R R E C V

P T D O E

S L W E H T I

T E W R O

Operations Opportunities

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

National Train Day

Jack Dziadul photos



Grif Bond operating the CPD switching layout.



Don Jennings explaining his switching puzzle to an attentive audience.

From The Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

National Train Day was celebrated May 12 in Cary at the Amtrak station. CDP13 was asked to set up a model train display by the Heart of Cary Association. The preliminary estimate was there were 3,500 people there over the 4 hours. That was a great attendance for the very first National Train Day event in Cary. Division volunteers stepped up and made it happen. **Jack Dziadul, Don Jennings, Joel McCurry, Jerry Mersch, Steve Milley, Gene Sing, John Wallis** and I were there to staff the display, talk with attendees, explain model railroading and operate the 2 switching layouts for the kids and big kids. Special thanks go to Don Jennings for bringing his switching layout and to Gene Sing for getting the Division's switching layout and banner ready. We signed up 2 local model railroaders for NMRA membership with the Rail Pass application. We have already been invited back for next year!

Special modeling contest #3 is underway. The Division purchased 25 Life Like HO scale coaling stations for the latest contest. Kits will be available at the Division meetings. The contest entries will be displayed at the March 2013 Division meeting. The guidelines/rules are similar to previous special modeling contests...

1. 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).
2. Identify the structure(s) with a sign or an index card explaining what it is.
3. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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.

Gerry Leone, MMR, NMRA Communications Director sent me the following just in time for inclusion in this month's column...

Ms. Kara Yanacheck, PR and Advertising Specialist at Walthers, has contacted the NMRA looking for photos of (to use her words), "people enjoying model railroading, whether they are modelers themselves, or just observing." Walthers plans to put these photos into a new section of the upcoming 2013 Walthers Catalog which will encourage new modelers to get into the hobby.

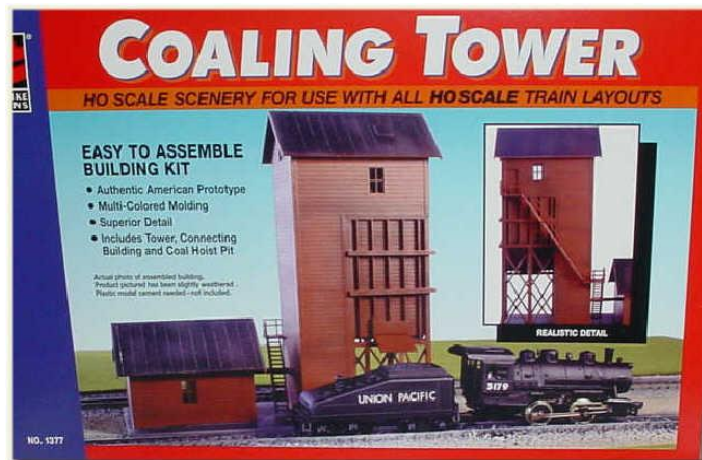
*Specifically, they'd like to see **NMRA-sanctioned events**. These can be from anywhere in the world, and must have been open to the public.*

PLEASE NOTE: Kara has specifically asked us NOT to post this notice on any websites, Facebook pages, or Twitter tweets. Word-of-mouth (and newsletters, if there's time) only.

***The deadline for sending her photos is June 15.** Not much time, but hopefully your members have some shots from events in the past that they can share.*

The photos must be clear, focused, well-lit, and at least 2 megabytes in size. The larger, the better. And please have your members be mindful of her time and only send her their good ones, not everything in their collection!

Photos should be sent to Kara at: karab@walthers.com.



Word Puzzle Answers

Solutions: terminal, crossover, depot, whistle, tower