



# The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

November 2012

## Next Division Meeting

**Tuesday, November 13, 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**

**November – Southern Railway Rolling Stock**

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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**

[dziadul@windstream.net](mailto:dziadul@windstream.net)

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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

Division Membership 131

<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/>

Yahoo Group Members 90

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

## The Name Game

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

## November Program

North Carolina Transportation Museum

**Steve Mersch**



## Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Paymaster

**October 2012**

Balance In Checking 9/30/12	\$9,245.06
<u>Income</u>	
NMRA Rebate	\$ 57.00
Total	\$ 57.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 29.11
NRV Table Rental	\$ 120.00
Bank Fee	\$ 2.00
Total	\$ 151.11
Balance In Checking 10/31/12	\$9,150.95

## 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.

## 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  
[jbmswow@nc.rr.com](mailto:jbmswow@nc.rr.com)

*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

November 13 December 11  
 January 22, 2013 (Annual Meeting)

## Coming Events

Model Railroad SWAP Shop  
 Concord Area Model Railroad Club  
 Saturday, November 17, 2012 9AM-4 PM  
 Boiling Springs, NC 704-434-6881

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

November		Southern Railway rolling stock
December		No contest - Yankee swap gift exchange
March 2013		Coal Tower Diorama

## Program Topics

November		NC Transportation Museum - Steve Mersch
December		Yankee Swap Gift Exchange
January 2013		John Wallis' prototype quiz

## Refreshment Hosts

November	<b>Stephen Wood</b>
December	<b>Grif Bond</b>
January	<b>your name goes here</b>

## Train Word Puzzles

**Dr. Charles Wood**  
 Eleventh installment in a series  
 Solutions can be found on the last page.

V U C T E L R  
 E E D D D A A H  
 D Y L E A  
 C C A O H  
 R C C D O O U N T

## Milepost 40

by Robert Rousseau

My trip to Milepost 40 started with leaving I-95 towards the hamlet of Weldon, NC. Just as I approached the CSX viaduct, a double-headed southbound freight surprised me. The viaduct is 3700 feet long and was built in 1908 by the Atlantic Coast Line, Union Station & Seaboard Air Line. It cuts through the middle of town and goes over the nearby Roanoke River.

Chartered in 1834, the Wilmington & Raleigh Railroad started operations between Wilmington, NC and Weldon, NC in 1840. It was said to have been the longest railroad in the world at the time with 161.5 miles of track. Weldon was one of the first railroad "hubs", serving five railroads at one time.

I did manage to take a photo of Union Station in downtown (now a library).



There is a bay-window caboose parked next to it. More information is here:

<http://historicweldonnc.com/the-first-railroad-hub-of-the-south-weldon-nc.html>

I finally rolled into the convention right before 7pm and picked up my registration. Unfortunately Chuck Davis' operating session was sold out, so I decided to go visit a layout nearby. Bob Langer's Norfolk Portsmouth Belt Line fits nicely into a spare bedroom. Adapted from the Black River Junction plan from *Model Railroader* magazine, it worked very well in his home.



After this visit, I quickly made my way back to the convention and attended John Cryderman & John Fallon's clinic titled "Introduction to the TMRC Operating Session." This clinic was very informative about this large modular layout and overall orientations to be held the next night.

Friday started off with Tom Sullivan's clinic "How to Have a Successful Op Session." Tom guided us through the different types of Ops sessions and their owners. Some can be very formal and some very informal. It helps to have clear communications with your operators and what you and they can expect. He says to always expect that some things can and will go wrong, so just know to handle the gremlins when they come up.

Next I registered my models into the Contest Room and got them squared away. The room was slowly filling up with models & photos.

Marty McGuirk gave a great clinic on "Modeling the Central Vermont Railway." Like me, he dived into the research and history about the CVR, even so far as to start the CVR Historical Society in 1989. Even so, as Marty said, we have to put down the computer at some point and build something! He guided us through his first layout iteration and then subsequent teardowns and rebuilds into what is presently standing today. He showed us several techniques and scenery "adjustments" to make the final cut.



Lunchtime was calling and I went to Baron's pub in downtown with Graham Davis, a fellow Norfolk Southern Historical Society member and his family. Graham is modeling Suffolk and he took me on a quick tour of the town. After lunch, we stopped by the Seaboard Station.



Inside was a nice layout of Suffolk built by the Tidewater Division, whose undertaking of this project is to be commended. <http://www.suffolktrainstation.org/>

That afternoon I met up with **Jack Dziadul** and we both visited Richard Hudson's I-Candy Railroad in Portsmouth. After climbing into his attic, we were met with an explosion of a model railroad on steroids. This U-shaped layout has over 200 vehicles and over 1,000 figures all over it. Super-highly detailed scenes one after another met every turn of the eye. It was jaw-dropping to say the least.



By now we needed to head to the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club over in Fairfield Shopping Center in Virginia Beach. Traffic was getting bad, so we made it there early and enjoyed delicious BBQ at Frankie's Place for Ribs. Ops kicked off at 6pm, and Jack commanded the Dispatcher desk. Quite a feat for a 16' x 50' sized modular layout and no less than 14 operators! A member later told me that, "We have never had that many trains running at one time!" And it was quite the experience to run on it, I think a good time was had by many.



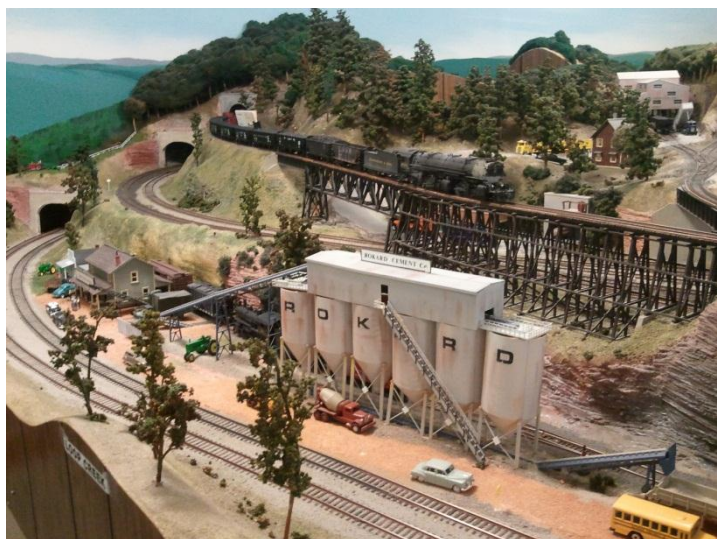
On Saturday morning, Jack and I went to the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis. Arriving a bit early, we saw many well-preserved Jeeps, boats, helicopters, planes, trucks and trains! This was well worth the visit and provided some great research. They are expanding the museum, so I'm sure it will have much more in the future. I will definitely head back to this one. <http://www.transchool.lee.army.mil/Museum/Transportation%20Museum/museum.htm>







We made a layout stop on the way back at Dave (MMR #117) and Janet Spanagel's Old Point Comfort Lines. This was a fine layout; which was in the middle of operations while we were there to see it first-hand "in action." Situated in a 38' x 19' room, Dave had many impressive collections on display in addition to the layout.



Alas we made our way back to the clinics in time for Chuck Davis' "Modeling Sounds." In the fine tradition of making our railroads multi-sensory, Chuck presented a great overview of what sounds to listen to and how to do them with today's sound offerings.

At this point, my day had ended; I was able to pick up my models (1<sup>st</sup> place diesel!) and headed south back home. I had a terrific time and thank so many who worked and

volunteered to make this convention a very enjoyable one. I thank Jack Dziadul for the accommodations and carpooling. My only regret was not being able to see every layout or clinic or prototype tour. But that is how most conventions go, right?

## **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.

For Sale: Durham & Southern Coffee Mugs - \$10 plus shipping Ceramic coffee mug for the Durham and Southern Railway. On one side it has D&S logo, "Service with Courtesy"; on the other is the "Safety First" writing from a timetable. Design on two sides, no markings on the bottom. 3-3/4" tall, 3-1/4" diameter at top. Great condition, brand new. Please ask me any questions. Custom run, only 12 were made. E-mail to **Rob Rousseau** at [railroad@nc.rr.com](mailto:railroad@nc.rr.com)





# Milepost 40

by Jack Dziadul

I had the opportunity to attend Milepost 40, which was my sixth MER convention. It was nice to see a few CPD friends there including **Rob Rousseau, Vic Bitleris, Barrie Husch, John Janosko, Bill Hanley and Don Jennings.**

My key objective with this convention was to log some dispatcher hours for my AP Chief Dispatcher certificate. Thanks to Chuck Davis and the Tidewater Modular Railroad Club I was able to accomplish that objective. I will write a separate article that chronicles the progress toward that certificate.

I presented a clinic on the Boston and Maine Eastern Route which, thanks to some CPD feedback, had a few upgrades over the Division presentation in September.

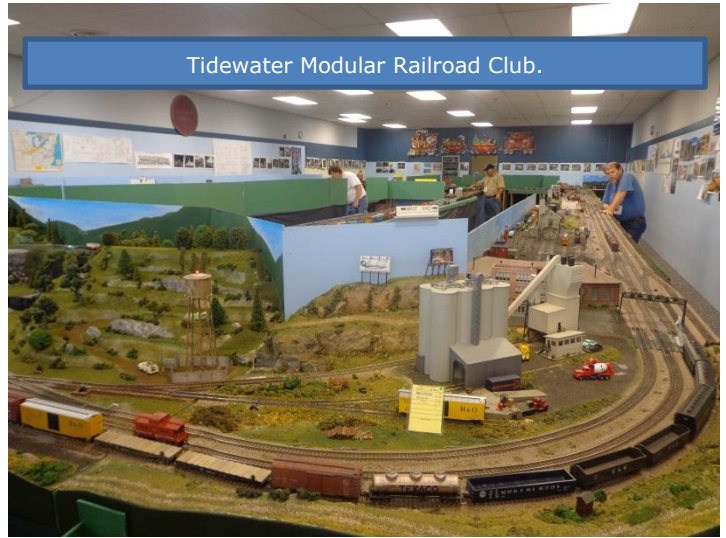
Another key objection of the convention was to tour the US Army Transportation Museum at Ft. Eustis, which I did with Rob Rousseau. This allowed me to take some close-ups of military vehicles appropriate for my modeling era.



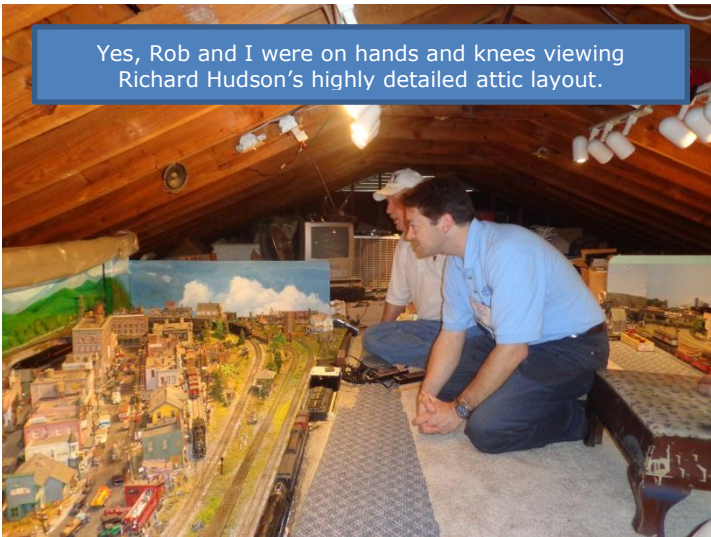




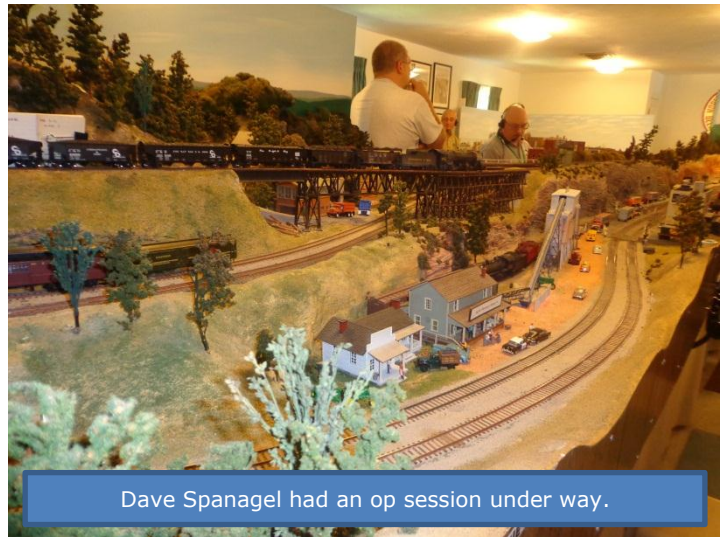
Unique auto car scene on Chuck Davis' layout.



Tidewater Modular Railroad Club.



Yes, Rob and I were on hands and knees viewing Richard Hudson's highly detailed attic layout.



Dave Spanagel had an op session under way.



Richard Hudson's layout is packed with details.





## **ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Master Builder – Structures**

(sixth in a series)



Jack Burgess, MMR  
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

Continuing our discussion on the various AP certificates, this month we will talk about the requirements for the *Master Builder - Structures*. Like the other certificates, the actual requirements and forms for this category are available on the web at [www.NMRA.org](http://www.NMRA.org).

A number of different types of models qualify as structures, including all types of buildings, factories, bridges, cranes, ships, etc. The basic requirement for the *Master Builder - Structures* certificate is to build twelve (12) structures with at least six different types of structures represented. (The intent of the requirement for different structures is to encourage the individual to model a variety of structures.) A brick building and a wood building would qualify as different types of structures as would a station and a water tank, even if both of the latter were built from wood.

There are a few qualifications for the twelve structures. First, one of the six types must be a bridge or trestle. Note that this bridge does not need to be a major structure but can be a simple bridge over a creek or even a vehicle bridge. If you don't need a bridge on your layout, you can build the bridge as a separate model.

Next, each of the twelve structures must be super-detailed with either commercial or scratch built parts. "Super-detailed" means that it has considerably more detail than usually expected. Some "more expensive/extensive" kits (such as the Finescale line) could meet this qualification, as long as craftsmanship is shown in assembly of the kit. Otherwise, look at the prototype and include in your model the details that you normally see in prototype buildings, including signs, electrical fixtures and meters, rafter tails, window details, etc.

In addition to being super-detailed, at least six of the twelve models must be scratchbuilt. Note that you can use commercial scribed styrene or wood and still meet the requirement for a scratch built model. Finally, you must score at least 87½ points on six of the twelve models. This can be via a divisional or regional model contest or by having the models judged for a Merit Award.

To summarize these qualifications, you need to build twelve super-detailed structures representing at least six different types of structures including at least one bridge or trestle. At least six of these structures must be scratch built. Finally, you must score at least 87½ points on at least six of the structures.

Once you complete these requirements, submit a Statement of Qualifications that identifies the models and the commercial parts used, etc. The easiest way to do this is to simply attach the model contest forms, which includes this information and also documents your score.

## **CPD Meeting 10/23/12**

Jim Murphy photo

### **Jim Murphy's contest winner**



## **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. To purchase see John Janosko or email [johnajan@embarqmail.com](mailto:johnajan@embarqmail.com).



# Director Candidates

By Jack Dziadul

It is very encouraging that we have three candidates for the one open position of Director...so far! It is a great testimony to the entire CPD membership that we have many excellent volunteers willing to contribute their time and talent to sustain our vibrant organization. We have invited each candidate to use The Herald to present a statement supporting their candidacy. We have received two replies so far and they are presented below in order of receipt.

## Stephen Wood

I would like to introduce myself. I am Stephen Wood and I have been in the NMRA/MER since 2003. I am currently running for the open position as Director in this Division. I have been very active the past three years in the Achievement Program, where I have earned five AP certificates, the Golden Spike Award



and I am working on three more AP certificates as you read this. The reason I am running is I want to be sensitive to your concerns, and to your perceptions of where this Division is headed. I am open-minded and I'd like to hear about any improvements you'd like to see. This is about you, what are your ideas for how we can increase interest in model railroading in general and enhance our membership. I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration in allowing me to represent you on the Board of our Division.

## David Johnson

I became literally infatuated with model railroading in my teens. During my teen years I built models, kitbashed structures, and did a little scratchbuilding. The ideal of creating a model of a vehicle or scene that matches a prototype, or at least looks very real, continues to captivate me. In the years since my teens, I have not done a lot of work in the hobby, having a rekindled interest just this year (2012).

However, I'm diving in head-first with plans for my first real layout, and gearing up for structure kitbashing and scratchbuilding. I'm a new member to NMRA and see the value of associating with other serious modelers and pursuing goals with the Achievement Program.

My professional background includes a past life as a scientist (including human molecular geneticist) and present work with my own IT support company and ministry to kids. I'm married to a wonderful Chinese lady (for 20 years) and have a son in High School.

**NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION®**  
 4121 CROMWELL RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN 37421  
 PHONE: (423) 892-2846 FAX: (423) 899-4869

The person whose name is shown below is an ambassador of the NMRA and is entitled to all dues privileges of NMRA membership until the expiration date of this card.

Membership number: **123456 00**  
 Expiration date: **01/08/12**  
**Bob R. Kabuse**  
 Member since: 01/08/11

The best gift card you'll ever give.

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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.

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## **Sixth Annual Yankee Swap**

by Jack Dziadul

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!

## Swap Shop

From Dave Chance

- Saturday, November 17, 2012
- 9:00 am-4:00pm
- Operating HO Layout



- TABLES PROVIDED @ \$10/table
- Limit 2 tables for individuals
- Trains and train related items only, any scale
- Food Available
- Free parking
- Location: Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue
- Main Street
- Boiling Springs, NC
- Sign-up/Info: 704-434-6881
- Sponsored by Concord Area Model Railroad Club



## Meeting Minutes

Rob Rousseau

### Carolina Piedmont Division 13

October 23, 2012

### Board of Directors

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

1. September minutes were noted with a typo on page 9 (1/22/12 instead of 1/22/13 for election). Amended minutes approved on motion by Vic Bitleris with Steve Milley second.

2. Paymaster report – Grif Bond gave Jerry Mersch a check from NMRA for \$57 (for memberships). Jerry Mersch discussed refreshment and bank fees as the only reoccurring budgeted items. Holiday Trains for Kids funds were discussed and if there was a need to have it as a separate restricted funds, this was tabled to the next meeting. Approved on motion by Vic Bitleris with Steve Milley second.

3. NRV show preparation. We have about 50-55 NS boxcars left. Agreed to sell them \$8 each or 4 for \$30. This was made into a motion by Jim Murphy and Jerry Mersch seconded. We will have 3 tables. Jerry Mersch is to give a check for \$120 to Kim Parker for reserving the tables.

4. Grif Bond needs to "settle up" from the MER the Piedmont Crossing 2011 convention. Needed is a budgeted vs. actual expense spreadsheet.

5. For 2013, we will continue to meet at the St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery. This was confirmed by Jerry Mersch.

6. Rob Rousseau discussed materials he was putting together for the Carolina Wonderland Express in Durham. Rob will pass out a sign up sheet to membership.



Steve Milley

7. Steve Milley said that we currently have 7 Holidays Trains for Kids for this year. He and Grif Bond may look for other deals at the NRV show. We need to start soliciting for potential children.

Jim Murphy photo

8. \$175 was budgeted for the holiday / December meeting/party. Reminder that gifts should be a minimum worth of \$10 for the gift exchange / Yankee swap.

9. Other Business -- Jerry Mersch gave Grif Bond the Convention rebate money for Russ Austin. Vic Bitleris passed around the thank you note from Joe Getz's wife for the donation. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

### General Meeting

1. Grif Bond reviewed the Director's meeting.

2. **Vic Bitleris** gave **Rob Rousseau** his 1st place plaque from the MER 2012 Convention for his Norfolk Southern 70-tonner locomotive.



Rob (left) and Vic

Jack Dziadul and Jim Murphy photos above

3. **Kim Parker** distributed the upcoming programs and contests spreadsheet to members for signups.

4. Reminder that the November & December meeting dates will be on the 2nd Tuesday; November 13th and December 11th.

5. Annual Meeting notice was set for January 22, 2013.

6. Vic Bitleris' director position will be up in 2013. Please talk to the Nominating committee headed by Steve Milley and Don Jennings.

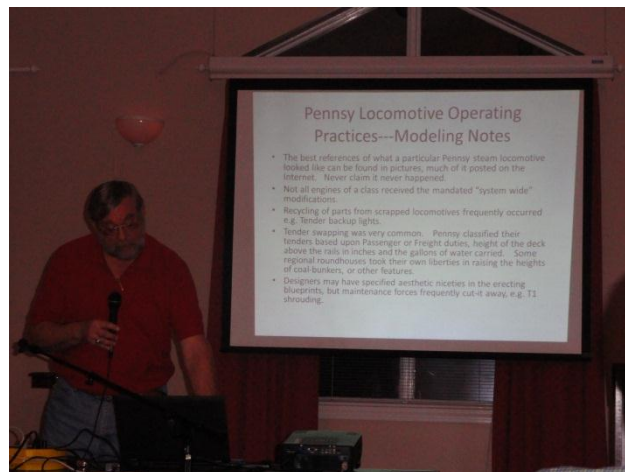
Three candidates have been located so far. (**Dave Johnson**, **Will Seehorn** and **Stephen Wood** - Ed.)

7. Rob Rousseau discussed the invitation from Durham Museum of Life & Science. He passed out a signup sheet for volunteers to help staff a CPD display and talk to patrons of the Carolina Wonderland Express G-scale train display. This will be for weekends between November 16th through January 6th. This will count towards our public education as a 501c3 non-profit status.

8. A volunteer signup sheet was also passed around for the Neuse River Train Show coming up November 3rd & 4th.

9. Refreshment volunteers: October - **Joel McCurry**; November - **Stephen Wood**; December - Christmas/Holiday party - Grif Bond

10. **John Sokash** gave his presentation about Pennsy Steam.



Jim Murphy photo

11. **Jim Murphy** won the popular vote with his contest entry (see photo on page 6).

## **MER Annual Meeting**

**October 30, 2011 - Cary, NC**

Mike White

(Note that these are minutes from 2011 that were distributed at the Milepost 40 Convention / 2012 MER Annual Meeting in Suffolk, VA. Additional exhibits from the 2012 Annual Meeting follow and / or are available from the CPD Clerk - Ed.)

1. Meeting was called to order by **President Janosko** at 10:11 a.m. after being adjourned



on Saturday evening, October 29. A quorum was present.

2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved.

3. **Treasurer Tom Buckingham** present the financial report and described the existing account information, including the CDs, money market and checking account balances. He also provided a brief explanation of how the MER manages these accounts plus the purpose of each (e.g., kit fund, donation, Life Member CD, etc.) Overall, the MER continues to be in excellent financial condition.

-The LOCAL is currently running a deficit, with the cost of the most recent issue being \$1.25 per member versus the subscription charge of \$1.00. He sees no need at the present time to raise the subscription cost since we have sufficient resources to cover this deficit.

-while there is money available for another model car kit, but nothing is projected at this time.

-money has been spent on matching funds to Divisions, the RF&P boxcars were donated for use in the BSA Merit Badge program, and the MER continues to support the RailPass program.

-it was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

4. **Election results:** Bob Price, Marty McGuirk, and Don Jennings won the election for the three Director positions. President Janosko informed the membership that Ballot Chairman **Dennis Masters** suffered a stroke, is incapacitated, and MER needs to replace him in this position. It was moved, seconded, and passed to destroy the ballots.

5. Other personnel information: In addition to the Ballot Chair position, the Staff Photographer position has become vacant due to **Steve August** leaving the MER due to a job change. Auction Chair **Earl Hackett** also could use an assistant to help with the auction and White Elephant functions. The board discussed the need for backup support for many of the other staff positions, since many of these now function with only the incumbent being

knowledgeable of procedures, location of materials, etc.

6. Convention Chairman **Eric Dervinis** reported that the next convention will be in Suffolk, VA on October 18-21, 2012. Potomac and Chesapeake Division are working on the 2013 convention, and some planning work has started regarding the 2014 convention.

7. **VP Mattson** thanked Eric for his work on the conventions, and reported that this one had a total of 224 registrants. Also, 6 people have already signed up for Suffolk.

8. **Director's Reports** were presented at the Board Meeting and there has been no change. **President Janosko** noted that Marty McGuirk has replaced Steve August who did not run for reelection because of job relocation.

8. Director' Reports (cont'd). Business Manager Miller stated that the number of voting members is 2006. LOCAL distribution (printed) is down, while e-LOCAL distribution is up slightly. Retention of Rail Pass members (conversion to full membership) is down slightly from the prior year.

Election Ballots statistics are 1988 mailed on September 12, 2011, 360 valid ballots returned for a response rate of 18%.

### 9. New Business

At the Board Meeting, **Superintendent Bob Clegg** (NJ Div) came up with several new member recruitment ideas in response to a request by **President Janosko**. Bob will write these up for publication and will present them in the Business Car column in the March-April LOCAL.

**Former NMRA President Bob Charles** discussed a contact he had who wished to fund a youth scholarship program through the MER/NMRA. **President Janosko** and **VP Mattson** have met with the individual, but at this point, objectives and funding are not clear. Bob Charles will attempt to schedule another meeting with the individual and invite him to the January Board meeting to make a presentation of his proposal.

A follow-up question on the status of MER credit card use was raised. **Treasurer Buckingham** replied that MER credit card processing would not be cost-effective at the present low volume of usage. There potentially would be sufficient activity if instituted at the National level. Further discussion, including the use of Pay Pal were discussed with the conclusion that while MER would continue to monitor cost and methods, use of credit cards in our limited situation was not feasible.

Divisions looking for opportunities to increase product sales should look into advertising them in the MER Mailbag Yahoo Group. This would reach a wider audience than local newsletter advertising. It is primarily a source for updates on current information and is widely read by MER membership.

Product sales of freight cars is not nearly as popular as it used to be and there is a risk of being stuck with a large inventory of unsold items for a long period of time. The trend in the industry seems to be away from kits and towards R-T-R.

10. **Good of the Order** – next Board Meeting at **Treasurer Buckingham's** house – Upper Marlboro, MD – January 14, 2012 – snow date, January 21, 2012. Next Annual Meeting in Suffolk, VA on October 21, 2012.

11. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

**Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA, Inc.**

**Treasurer's Notes**

**for Board Meeting 10/18/12**

Tom Buckingham

1. The MER is in excellent financial condition at this time. The deficit (income net of expenses) through October 15, 2012, is \$1,040 against a budgeted deficit of \$1,293.
2. The LOCAL is running a deficit of \$1,572 against a budgeted deficit of \$2,884 as of October 15, 2012. The subscription income does not include any of the \$1,215 transferred this year from the Life Member Fund to service those members. The

September-October 2012 issue of The LOCAL cost \$1.43 per mailed copy. Additionally the NMRA is now deducting on their remittances to the MER credit card fees for members who charge their subscriptions to "The LOCAL". This has cost the MER \$36.72 so far this year. Although this is not the best time to increase the cost of a subscription to The LOCAL, we should consider increasing the subscription rate to \$9.00 a year.

3. Regarding the Car Project, if we want to consider a new car kit given the current climate for selling custom car kits, we need be sure we have a unique and desirable car. There is money available in the Kit Fund. We should keep in mind that the kits we sell are a member benefit, and should be selected and priced accordingly.
4. There had been concern over the large amount of money in the treasury, and that we had not used enough of these funds for charitable or educational purposes. Monies spent on donations, matching funds, "The LOCAL", clinics, and conventions should cover the charitable and educational requirement. The requirements for obtaining matching funds were detailed in the March-April 2010 issue of "The LOCAL". It is my feeling that whatever we do should contribute to enhancing and supporting the hobby of model railroading. The RailPass program we have been funding since February 2007 is an excellent example of this. We should focus our charitable activities within the MER where possible. Support for the Boy Scout Model Railroad Merit Badge is one example. Outside the MER there are several possibilities for charitable activity. One is the NMRA Library. We are also in a position where we could provide seed money in the form of a loan to the NMRA for additional publications.
5. As of October 15, 2012, we have sent the NMRA \$5,233.70 for 526 Rail Passes. Originally, the Board authorized an expenditure of \$2,000.00 on the program. To date the board has authorized a total of \$6,500.00 for the Rail Pass Program. Since



we seem to be getting and keeping new members, we are expanding the exposure of the NMRA, the MER, and the Divisions.

6. This year we spent \$1,378.03 on reprinting and remailing the ballots for the election because the address for the return of the ballots was incorrect. This was not the fault of any one person. There were a number of us who could have prevented this from happening. We are an all-volunteer organization, and all of us, I feel, are putting forth our best effort. So, let's not blame anyone; let's try to do better.

#### Balance Sheet as of 10/15/12 Account

##### Bank Accounts

050 - Checking	3,034.85
051 - Money Market	2,604.25
100 - CD - General 1	12,055.94
101 - CD - Life Fund	42,516.95
102 - CD - General 2	15,000.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	75,211.99

##### Cash Accounts

170 - Business Manager Advance	0.00
171 - Auction Advance	200.00
172 - Convention Advance	1,500.00
TOTAL Cash Accounts	1,700.00

##### Liability Accounts

	-
480 - Life Member Fund	42,219.70
481 - Life Member Fund Interest	-240.25
523 - Subscriptions 2013	-2,274.00
524 - Subscriptions 2014	-293.00
525 - Subscriptions 2015	-26.00
526 - Subscriptions 2016	0.00
570 - NMRA Dues Payable	0.00
580 - Division NMRA Rebate	0.00
	-
TOTAL Liability Accounts	45,052.95

OVERALL TOTAL 31,859.04

## Email Addresses

Jack Dziadul

Below is an excerpt from a blog post that appeared in the Regions and Divisions Yahoo Group. The good news is that volunteers at National are working hard on our behalf to develop better ways of communicating to the membership. The less good news is that each of us needs to take a few minutes to ensure that NMRA / MER / CPD have your current contact information. The easiest way to do this is to just send me an individual email with your full contact information (name, NMRA number, current email and mailing addresses, and telephone number). Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. This will also help me to get more of you invited to join the CPD Yahoo group.

*"Sometime in February, it is likely that the national organization is going to start sending out an electronic Bulletin, called, creatively enough, the "eBulletin". The idea is to send out the bulletin that the Long Range Plan promised years ago filled with stuff like calendars and divisional success stories with links. We want to send it out about every two months. It does not intend to replace the magazine, but be more a collection of teasers with links to info. We hope people will like it. We will tell you more as we get closer.*

*One thing it will take to make it a success is email addresses. I know that there are Neanderthals with no addresses and curmudgeons who won't tell anybody, but it would be good to have as many as possible. National HQ says that they have emails for about 75% of the members. Who knows how many of them are any good?*

*Over the next couple or three months we really could use all the regions and divisions to check their membership lists and put a push on for emails.*

*I have asked the IT department and HQ if we can cook up some scheme where a member can update his or her own info. They are working on it but are very defensive of the sanctity of the national database as they should be. I'll let you know when they have something up and running.*

*For right now, however, would you remind your regions and divisions to ask members for emails and forward them through the usual channels to HQ."*

*Bill Kaufman*

## From The Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

**NRV train show** – Interest at the Division’s tables at the Neuse River Valley Train Show was light. We had the switching layout, a new table top display board created by Rob Rousseau and some sale items (included donated items and NS box car kits). We were able to sell a number of the NS box cars at a discounted price. Thanks to the members who volunteered to staff the tables and get everything setup and torn down – **Jack Dziadul, Jim Babcock, Steve Milley, Vic Bitleris, Gene Sing, Rob Rousseau, Don Hamrick and John Janosko.**

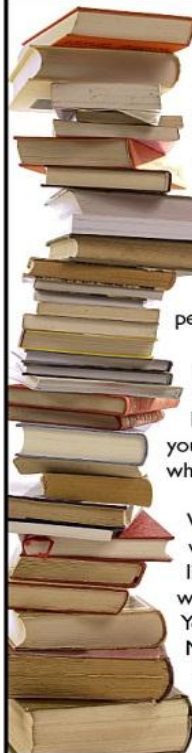
Special thanks goes to **Gene Sing** for “refreshing” the switching layout with some new scenery, repairs to structures, additional details and some painting. He also built a case to protect the structures and scenery elements during transportation and storage.

**Holiday Trains for Kids** – The Division has 7 HO scale electric train sets available for distribution this year under the Holiday Trains for Kids (HTFK) program. So far we have received 2 requests. If you identify a need, please contact Director **Steve Milley**, HTFK Coordinator or any member of the Board of Directors.

**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.

**Meeting date change reminder** – The monthly Division meeting dates are on the second Tuesday during November and December. So, mark your calendar or update your smart phone. Meetings will be on November 13 and December 11. The December meeting includes the annual holiday party with the Yankee gift exchange. The gift exchange minimum is \$10 for a model railroad related item or tool.

Join us on Tuesday, November 13 for the next meeting.




## 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.

  
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 423-892-2846

Check it all out!

## Puzzle Solutions

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