



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

October 2012

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, October 23, 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

October – Pacific Locomotives / K-4 / 4-6-2

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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**. 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

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 132

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

Yahoo Group Members 74

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

Attendance 9/25/12 23

The Name Game

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

October Program

Pennsy Steam



John Sokash

Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Paymaster

September 2012

Balance In Checking 8/31/12	\$7,656.12
<u>Income</u>	
Coaling Tower Kit Sales	\$ 8.00
MER Convention Proceeds	\$1,619.74
Total	\$1,627.74
<u>Expenses</u>	
Meeting Refreshments	\$ 21.43
AP Expenses	\$ 13.37
Bank Fees – 2 Months	\$ 4.00
Total	\$ 38.80
Balance In Checking 9/30/12	\$9,245.06

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

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

CPD Meeting Calendar

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


October 23 November 13 December 11



Coming Events

November 3-4, 2012
 Neuse River Valley Train Show
 State Fair Grounds, Raleigh, NC
<http://www.nrvshow.org/>

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 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

October Pacific / K-4 / 4-6-2 locomotives
 November Southern Railway rolling stock
 December No contest - Yankee swap gift exchange

March 2013 Coal Tower Diorama



Program Topics

October  Pennsy Steam - **John Sokash**
 November NC Transportation Museum - **Steve Mersch**
 December Yankee Swap Gift Exchange
 January '13 **John Wallis'** prototype quiz

Refreshment Hosts

October **Joel McCurry**
 November **Stephen Wood**
 December **Grif Bond**
 January **your name goes here**

And the winners are....

Congratulations to **Rob Rousseau** and **Stephen Wood** for their First Place awards at the Milepost 40 MER Convention model contest. Each received an AP Merit Award.

1 st Place Motive Power	Rob Rousseau
1 st Place Caboose	Stephen Wood
1 st Place Passenger Car	Stephen Wood

Milepost 40 Contest

Jack Dziadul photos



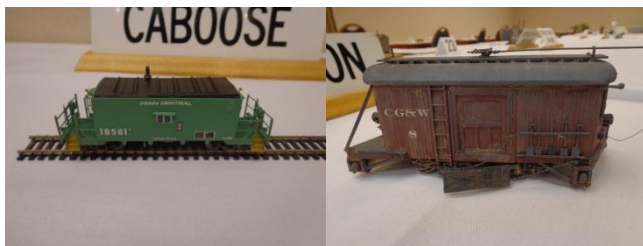
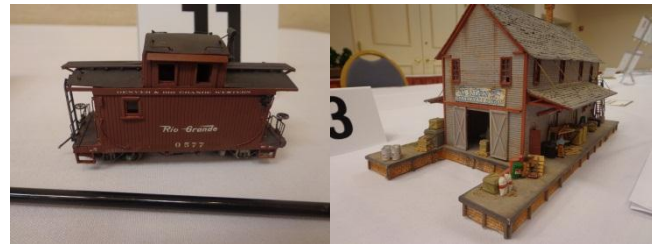
Rob Rousseau's 1st Place Motive Power



1st Place Caboose - Stephen Wood



1st Place Passenger Car - Stephen Wood





MER Annual Meeting Notes 10/21/12

By Jack Dziadul

Here are some of my notes from the Annual Meeting.
These are not official minutes.

John Janosko presided

- 2011 minutes approved.

PJ Mattson

- 160 attendance

Tom Buckingham

- \$9 Local subscription starting 1/1/12
- 815 print subscribers to The Local, 15% drop from 2011
- 369 receive e-local, 5% drop from 2011
- Membership down 3%
- New MER golf shirt in the works
- No kit planned at this time
- 150 RailPass members in 2012, 29% converted to full membership
- Members
 - 164 life
 - 1,812 regular

Bob Price – MER could use some volunteer web site assistance.

Bob Minnis – nominations – There are three director positions open for next year's election.

John Janosko

- Steve Kindig needs to step aside due to work commitments. A new editor is needed.
- The photographer position is still open.
- Fred Miller wants to retire. Bob Price has volunteered to become business manager, but other candidates can be considered.
- Charlie Fleischman would like an apprentice who could eventually assume MER AP chair position.

Don Jennings

- Boy Scouts Merit Badge
 - Dover, DE 2012
 - Manassas, VA 2013
 - 80 box cars remain for program

Bob Minnis - Election results were reported in The Local - 463 ballots returned.

Bob Price – Tidewater Division requested to expand boundary to include northeast counties of NC. Board to vote in January on the request.

Transition Era Vehicles

Jack Dziadul photo



Rob Rousseau at the US Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis. One of the tour opportunities at the Milepost 40 MER convention.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Master Builder – Cars Certificate

(fifth in a series)



Jack Burgess, MMR
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

Jack Burgess, MMR
Pacific Coast Region AP Chairman

For those who like scratch building or at least modifying craftsman kits, the *Master Builder – Cars* AP certificate can be an easy-to-achieve requirement. Like the other certificates, the actual requirements for this category are available on the Internet at the NMRA site.

The requirements for *Master Builder - Cars* follow the same general format as for *Master Builder - Structures*. To qualify for this certificate, you must build eight operable scale models of railroad cars. Operable means that they must be able to roll along the track and not that parts such as brakes must work. If desired, these eight cars can be of different gauges and/or scales. Four different types of cars, including at least one passenger car, must be represented by these eight cars. Obviously, a flat car and a box car would be considered “different” kinds of cars. A 40-foot steel-side box car and a 36-foot wood side box car may also be considered different kinds of cars if there is a substantial difference between them such as fish-belly underframe vs. truss rod and AB brakes vs. K brakes. Since a total eight cars are needed but only four types, you can build a passenger coach, a flat car, a tank car, a reefer, and four identical box cars and still meet this requirement.

Each of these eight cars must be super-detailed with either commercial or scratch built parts. The easiest ways to super-detail cars are with separate ladders and grab irons, underbody brake gear, uncoupler levers, etc.

In addition to being super-detailed, at least four of the eight models must be scratch-built and you must score at least 87½ points on four of the eight models. This can be accomplished via a divisional or regional model contest or by

having the models judged for a Merit Award. While it is easier to score 87½ points on a scratchbuilt model than a kit-bashed model, scratchbuilding isn’t necessary on all eight cars.

To summarize these qualifications, you need to build eight super-detailed cars representing at least four different types of cars including at least one passenger car. At least four of these cars must be scratch built and you must score at least 87½ points on at least four of the cars.

Once you complete these requirements, you must 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 form, which includes this information and also documents your score.

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. The ad must include your full name and contact information and will be limited to one item per issue.

Train Word Puzzles

Dr. Charles Wood

Tenth installment in a series

Solutions can be found on the last page.

E I D R G B

C R A D P E

F E E L L H Y W

G U L R D R R I S A

C H R S D S O T K E L

NMRA InfoNet News



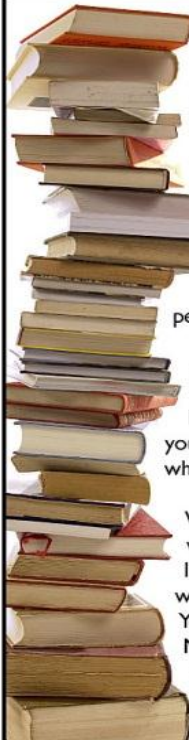
By Gerry Leone, MMR
NMRA National Communications Director

October 2012

- About half of the money needed to meet **the "matching gift" to the "The Magic of Scale Model Railroading" exhibit** at the California State Railroad Museum has been raised. An anonymous donor has offered to put \$250,000 of his own money into the Exhibit if we can raise a matching amount. In addition to NMRA member donations, substantial donations have been made to the exhibit by various manufacturers. No NMRA dues money is being used to fund this project. Watch for an informative article in the November issue of *NMRA Magazine* for more details on the Exhibit and fund raising efforts.
- The newly formed **NMRA Marketing Department is working with Amtrak stations** in major cities to get modular layouts placed there in an effort to raise awareness of our hobby.
- The **NMRA website** is undergoing a facelift and update under the direction of our new IT Director, Ben Sevier, and his web team. Members should see the changes sometime within the coming year.
- As part of an effort to improve communications with members, and specifically those who don't receive *NMRA Magazine*, the **NMRA leadership team is discussing adding an "eBulletin"** – a short, concise emailed newsletter which will list NMRA news, announcements, and other important information. It won't replace *NMRA Magazine*, but instead will be an adjunct to it and will be available free to those members with email. A proposal will be made to the Board of Directors in February.

- The Executive Handbook and By-Laws Committee is currently working diligently to **simplify and shorten both of those documents**, making it easier to understand the organization and how it's run.
- 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 or in NMRA Magazine.




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
 423-892-2846

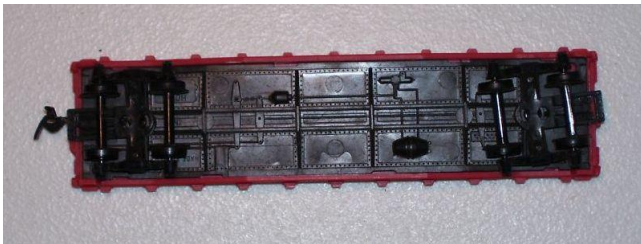
Check it all out!

Two Dollar Car Makeover

Or How to take a cheap car and turn it into a Golden Spike car.

Article and photos by Vic Bitleris

I was a little burned out on working mundane and tedious or complex jobs on my in-progress layout, when I stumbled on a cheap Tyco flatcar that was made for shipping culverts. I had purchased this car about 15 years ago or longer, because my 8 year old (at that time) son thought it was a cool car. It reeked of being a toy. Here are some photos of the car before any work was started.



The first thing I did was to remove the trucks with the integral horn hook couplers. I had to fill in the remaining holes in the bolsters so I could drill new holes which could be tapped for the standard 2-56 screws. I used Evergreen styrene rod to fill in the existing holes. I used some leftover trucks from a Bowser kit. I did add Kadee wheelsets.

I then had to add new pads for the Kadee coupler boxes. It took about .045 thick styrene to do this to get the couplers at the correct height. A piece of .030 and .015 styrene

sandwiched did the job just fine. It also made the subfloor thick enough to allow me to use screws to mount the couplers solidly. I used some #2 flathead screws for this job.

Next came the removal of the old lettering. That was easier to do than describe it. I just used a small piece of paper towel and some isopropyl alcohol and it literally wiped off.

I then removed all of the cast on slippery ridges of plastic that represented grab irons. I used an X-Acto #14 chisel blade. This was done very quickly and easily.

The next job was to carefully drill out holes in the stake pockets. I used the two-step process, drill all holes undersize first and then come back and drill with the larger size to finish the job. I came in from both top and bottom directions so the holes would not be offset. The job was not difficult using a pin-vice; it just took a while to do. There are 22 stake pockets, but I felt this job was justified when I saw the finished result.

Next I removed the plastic web from the stirrup steps and cleaned them up very nicely.

Now came the super-detailing, grab irons, cut levers, brake staff, and wheel. At first I was hoping to use Tichy grab irons, but the 18" ones were too big, so I just used some .016 phosphor bronze wire from Tichy and made my own. I used a piece of 1/16" thick styrene and made a bending jig to make uniform grabs. I used a piece about 1 1/2" long and 1/2" wide. I put a small groove in one edge and exactly 14" (scale measurements) from the groove, I drill a .016 hole. The work went very quickly and I made all of the grabs in just a few minutes. Obviously drilling the holes for the grabs was a bit more tedious and required a bit more care. But, isn't that part of the process to becoming a better modeler?

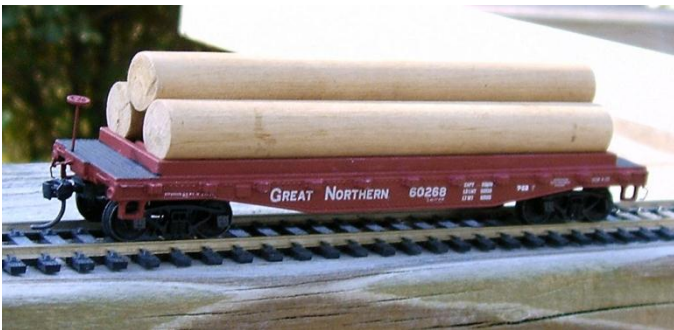
I then made my standard coupler cut levers (see photos) and mounted those using Tichy eye bolts.

The mechanical and detail work on this car was now complete. I painted the car using some

very old, original Floquil red. I don't remember the color name, but it is a great match for the regular GN red. I am fortunate enough that I have a lot of left over decals from completed projects. The Champ decal set for the Gould/Tichy N.C.& STL flatcar actually has about four road names, including Great Northern, so I used those and some reporting marks from other decal sets. However, if one wants to do this car, you can actually purchase decals suitable for this car from several places on line for very reasonable prices.

This is one way to make a car suitable for the Golden Spike requirement.

Here are photos of my finished car.



Meeting Minutes

Jack Dziadul

Carolina Piedmont Division 13 September 25, 2012 Board of Directors

Attendance: **Vic Bitleris, Jim Murphy, Robert Rousseau, Steve, Milley, Jerry Mersch** - Call to order 6:35pm

1. August minutes approved on Rob Rousseau motion with Vic Bitleris second.
2. Paymaster's report approved on motion of Vic Bitleris with Rob Rousseau second.
3. Planning for NRV train show on November 3 and 4 - volunteers, switching layout, sale items, display materials, etc.
 - a. Gene Sing has the switching layout, will bring to NRV - Steve Milley to assist.
 - b. Grif has the volunteer sign-up sheet.
 - c. Sale items - John Janosko has some donated Lionel items.
 - d. Gene Sing has the CPD banner
 - e. Grif Bond will bring membership forms.
 - f. Jack Dziadul will bring magazines to give away.
4. Piedmont Crossing 2011 "settle up" from MER and review of final accounting.
 - a. \$1,619.74 received from PJ Mattson.
 - b. PJ provided a detailed report which is available from the Paymaster.
5. 2013 meeting location
 - a. Jerry Mersch checked with the church and we are good for 2013 at the same price.
6. Carolina Wonderland Express request (Rob's email of 9/20)

- a. Museum Life and Science, Durham request for participation.
 - b. 11/16/12 through 1/6/13.
 - c. Rob Rousseau volunteered to assemble materials for a display.
 - d. The museum would like us to provide museum flyers for the NRV.
7. Holiday Trains for Kids - initial solicitation for needs; deadline for requests is **December 11** for BOD review; additional sets to purchase, etc.
8. Other business
- a. John Janosko requested that audio-visual equipment be available to assist hosts of the MER convention. John will bring the equipment to Suffolk.
 - b. Jerry still has two checks left
 - i. Russ Austin (Jerry Mersch will give to Grif Bond at the next meeting).
 - ii. Gary Law (Gene Sing will deliver to Gary).
 - iii. Nominating Committee
 1. Jerry Mersch considering not running for reelection (Jan 2014).
 2. Steve Milley and Don Jennings are on the nominating committee. Jack Dziadul will not be running for reelection.

Business meeting items:

Attendance 23

1. Jim Murphy reviewed the Board of Directors meeting.
2. Achievement program – Vic

- a. **Dan Fisher** – Author
 - b. **John Janosko** - Volunteer and Golden Spike
 - c. Vic Bitleris described rehab of a Tyco flatcar for use as a Golden Spike candidate (article to come).
3. 2012 MER convention – Mile Post 40 – Suffolk, VA, October 18 -21
- a. John Janosko reported that there will be three prototype tours, with 15 passenger vans.
 - b. Friday – there are three operating sessions scheduled.
4. John Janosko was reelected as President of MER.
5. Upcoming programs & contests reviewed as printed in The Herald
6. Nominating Committee – contact Steve Milley and Don Jennings if interested in the upcoming Director vacancy.
- a. 1/22/13 election – annual meeting 4th Tuesday
 - b. Vic Bitleris Board seat will be open.
7. Volunteer sign up for NRV show – sign-up list at the October meeting
8. Refreshment volunteers: October - **Joel McCurry**; November – **Stephen Wood**; December – Christmas/Holiday party
9. John Wallis inquired as to what is to be done with our \$7,000
- a. Jerry said now up to \$9,300.
 - b. Jack Dziadul offered that we need to maintain 503 c 3 status w/ educational offerings.
10. Jerry Mersch asked about Neuse River club location status. John Wallis noted that the club is on a week to week basis. No new location yet decided. Don Jennings said there is a committee searching for a location. Jack Dziadul mentioned the CSX freight house in Sanford (needs relocation).
11. Popular vote winner was Mason Cutchin.

CPD Meeting 9/25/12

Jack Dziadul photos



Mason Cutchin's winner



John Janosko receiving AP certificates



Dan Fisher receiving AP

From The Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

Open Director position in January – In January 2013, the Division will hold an election for a Director. Vic Bitleris will finish his eligibility and will rotate off the Board of Directors. The nominating committee of Steve Milley and Don Jennings is seeking interested members for this position. The term is 3 years. If you are interested, please see Steve or Don.

Display at NRV train show – The Division will have several tables at the upcoming Neuse River Valley (NRV) Model Railroad Club's annual train show the weekend of November 3rd and 4th. Volunteers are needed for shifts (2 – 3 hours each) for Saturday and Sunday. We'll have some display materials, the Division's HO scale switching layout and some items for sale. A sign-up sheet will be at the October meeting or contact a member of the Board of Directors if you can help.

Meeting date changes for November and December – The regular meeting dates (4th Tuesday of the month) will change to the 2nd Tuesday for both November and December. The meetings will be November 13th and December 11th. The December meeting will be the annual "Yankee Swap Gift Exchange" with heavy refreshments. So, note your calendars and smart phones of the date changes.

Thank you from Eleanore Getz – Eleanore Getz sent the Division the following email...*Please thank the Carolina Piedmont Division for the donation in Joe's memory. Also I appreciate the members who came to the visitation and funeral. Eleanore and family.*

Next Division meeting on October 23rd – John Sokash will present a program on Pennsylvania Railroad steam locomotives and the popular vote contest will be Pacific / K-4 / 4-6-2 locomotives.

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.



Puzzle Solutions

bridge, redcap, flywheel, guardrails, stockholder