



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

April 2014

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

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 - \$10 Cash Prize

Next up – April 22, 2014
Scratch or Kit-bashed Freight Car

©2014 Carolina Piedmont Division of the Mid-Eastern
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 in color.

Bob Bridges, Clerk and Editor
rkbridges@mindspring.com
919-602-4557

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.

Welcome New Members

Paul Abdolvand, Donald Brantman, Chuck and
Liz Ladd, Ketan Mistry and family,
Charles Tilman

April Program

PAINTING BACKDROPS
Iris Nazario-Dziadul



Iris Nazario-Dziadul will present a clinic on blending techniques for painted sky backdrops. There will be a hands-on component where participants can practice the blending techniques. All materials needed for the hands-on practice will be provided. Samples of early morning and sunset skies will also be shown.

Stay in Touch

Address, email or telephone changed? Here is the link to keep your NMRA records up to date.

<http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update>

Membership Barometer

NMRA Membership	18,756
MER Membership	1,990
Division Membership	134
Division Voting Membership	125
http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/	
Yahoo Group Members	101
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/	
Attendance 3/25/14	34 plus 2 guests

Board of Directors

Superintendent (term ending January 2016)

Grif Bond, Wake Forest, 919-556-7066

grifbond@embarqmail.com

Assistant Superintendent (term ending January 2016)

Jim Murphy, Cary, 919-460-7763

berkshreshort@yahoo.com

Division Clerk (term ending January 2016)

Bob Bridges, Pittsboro, 919-602-4557

rkbridges@mindspring.com

Division Paymaster (term ending January 2016)

Gene Sing, Cary, 919-460-8227

G249Sing@hotmail.com

Director (term ending in January 2015)

Steve Milley, Garner, 248-421-6276

rsmilley@yahoo.com

Director (term ending in January 2016)

Will Seehorn, Cary, 919-466-0827

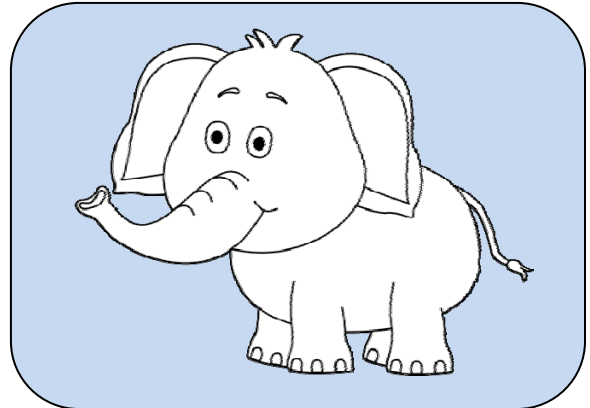
wseehorn@gmail.com

Director (term ending in January 2017)

Dan Fisher, Cary, 919-465-2504

fisherdm@bellsouth.net

REMINDER April 22, 2014 White Elephant Sale



Yes, the umpteenth almost annual white elephant sale will be held during the April 22nd meeting. So, clean out your closets. Get some bargain prices on those un-built kits and spare parts. Bring home some cash. Better yet, bring home the other guy's stuff.

Coming Events

Norfolk Southern Historical Society

Annual Meeting April 25-27

Fayetteville NC

<http://norfolksouthernhs.org/>

Achievement Program Model Evaluations

206 Widcombe Court, Cary, NC

May 3, 2014 9:00am

G249Sing@hotmail.com

National Train Day

Page-Walker Arts & History Center Cary, NC
 10am -2pm, May 10, 2014
<http://nationaltrainday.com/s/#!/events/cary-nc-cyn>

Streamliners at Spencer

NC Transportation Museum
 411 South Salisbury Avenue, Spencer, NC
 May 29-June 1, 2014
<http://www.nctrains.org>
<http://www.nmra.org/member/content/member-info-update>

NMRA National Conventions

- 2014** 7/13 - 7/20  Cleveland, OH
- 2015** 8/23 – 8/30  Portland, OR
- 2016** 7/3 - 7/10  Indianapolis, IN
- 2017** July Orlando, FL

MER Convention Calendar

- 2014** October 16-19 Hub City 2014
 Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, MD
 Registration form link:
<http://mer.nmra.org/MERConv/MERConv.html>
- 2015** October Dates TBD
- 2016** October Dates TBD – Raleigh, NC

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

April	Scratch or Kitbashed Freight Car
May	Backdrops or Photos of Backdrops
June	Interlocking Towers
July	Cardstock Construction
August	Lighted Passenger Car
September	Signs on Buildings
October	Scenery

CPD Meeting Calendar

Tuesday night's monthly 2014
 6:30 PM Board / 7:00 PM General Meeting

<u>2014</u>		
April 22	May 27	June 23
July 22	August 26	September 23
October 28	November 11	December 9

Refreshment Hosts

April	Jack Dziadul
May	Dan Fisher
June	Stephen Wood
July	Your Name Here!

The Name Game

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





FINANCIAL REPORT

Gene Sing, Paymaster

March 2014

Balance In Check Book 02/28/14	\$6,522.44
<u>Income</u>	
VHS Movie Sales	\$22.00
	Total \$22.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Meeting Refreshments	\$21.33
	Total \$21.33
Balance In Check Book 3/31/14	\$6523.11

Program Topics

May		Interlocking Towers <i>Jack Dziadul</i>
June		Cardstock Structures <i>Grif Bond</i>
July		Passenger Car Lighting <i>Mark Blaustein</i>
August		Signs on Buildings <i>Jim Murphy</i>
Sept.		Scenery <i>Lou Sassi</i>

Classifieds

ATTENTION CPD MEMBERS: Do you have a wanted or an item for sale? Are you looking for carpool options to our meetings, a train show event or options for sharing a hotel room? The Herald will publish a FREE classified section for all CPD members. Send your classified ad to the Editor at rkbridges@mindspring.com

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

Area Model Railroad Clubs

Cape Fear Railroaders

Fayetteville, NC
100% NMRA Club

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

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

919-460-3003
Morrisville Outlet Mall
1001 Airport Boulevard
Morrisville, NC

<http://nrvcclub.net/>

North Raleigh Model Railroad Club

NTrak

<http://trainweb.org/nrmrc>

The Sipping & Switching Society of NC

<http://www.mindspring.com/~gugliotta/>

Waynesborough Model Railroad Club

Goldsboro, NC

<http://wmrrcnc.org/>

Wilson Area Railroad Modelers

252-237-6778

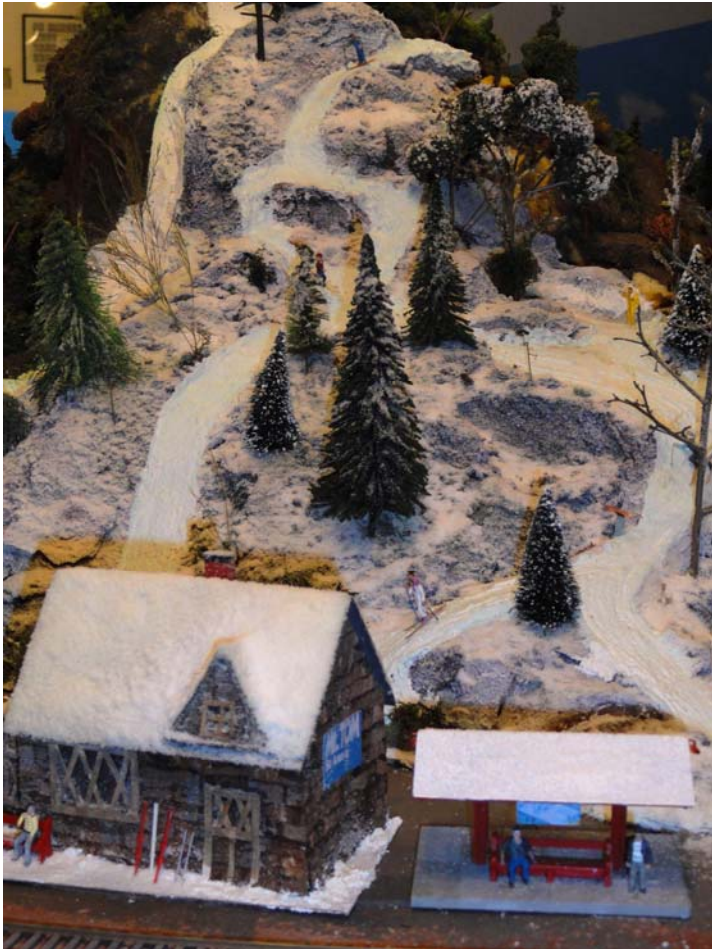
2810 Forest Hills Road SW
Wilson, NC

<http://www.rr-modelers.org/>

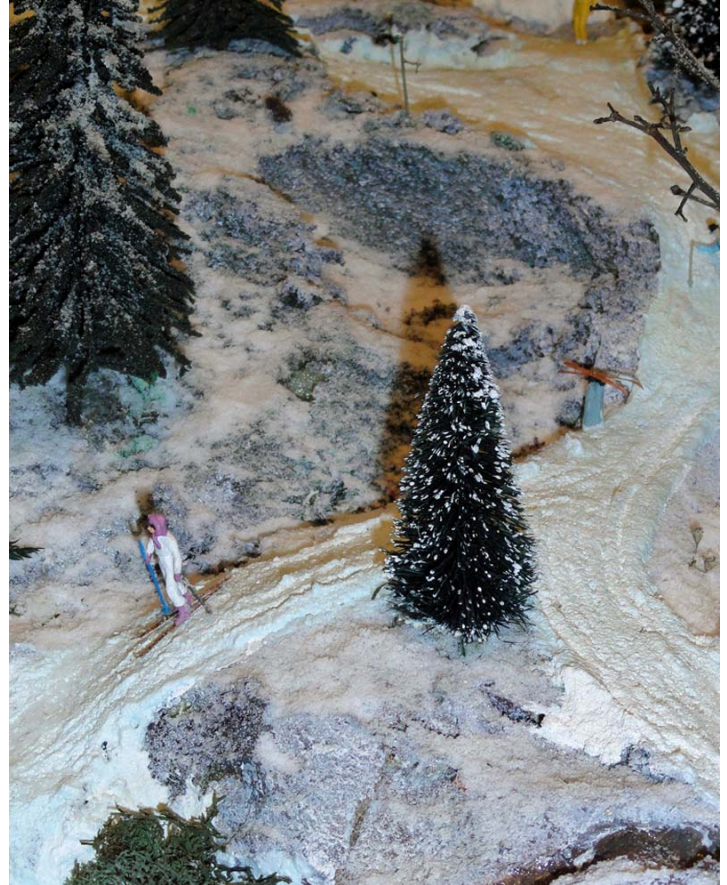
Contest Participation

2014	March	Total	Winner
Jim Murphy	2	4	2
Jack Dziadul	2	4	
Dan Fisher		2	
Rob Rousseau		1	
Grif Bond	1	1	
Total entries	5	12	2

Editor's note: due to weather-related meeting cancellation there was no January contest for 2014.



March Winner by Jim Murphy



Skiers at Mt. Tom by Jim Murphy

Area Hobby Shops

Support your local hobby shop

The Antique Barn & Hobby Shop

252-237-6778

2810 Forest Hills Road Southwest
Wilson, NC 27893

Bobby's Hobbies

336-444-7565

103 Burlington Avenue
Gibsonville, NC 27249

Area Hobby Shops

BPCS Hobbies

910-215-8066
1987 Juniper Road
West End, NC

Hayes Hobby House

910-485-2337
809 Elm Street
Fayetteville, NC
www.hayeshobby.com

Little Choo Choo Shop

704-637-8717
500 South Salisbury Avenue
Spencer, NC
www.Littlechoochooshop.com

Nick's Trains, Inc.

919-881-1010
Oak Park Shopping Center
5201 Oak Park Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Train Buddy

919-562-4378
Wake Forest, NC
<http://trainbuddy.com/>

Tom's Train Station (closing 7/1/14)

919-388-7246
1239 Buck Jones Road
Raleigh, NC
www.tomstrainstation.com

NMRA web sites

NMRA <http://www.nmra.org/>
NMRA eBay <http://goo.gl/BVTIY>
MER <http://mer.nmra.org/>
MERmailbag
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MERMailbag/>
CPD <http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/>
CPD-Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/cpd13>



Meeting Minutes

Carolina Piedmont Division 13

March 25, 2014

Board of Directors

Attendance: **Dan Fisher, Gene Sing, Steve Milley, Grif Bond Will Seehorn and Jim Murphy.**

Board of Directors Meeting minutes – March 25, 2014

1. Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.
2. Minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and 2 corrections noted (misspelling of Rob Rousseau's name and correction to the name of the AP certificate earned by Gene Sing). Motion by Milley to approve with corrections, second by Seehorn. Approved 4-0 (Fisher, Sing, Milley and Bond).
3. Paymasters report was reviewed. Motion by Milley with a second by Fisher to approve. Approved 4-0 (Fisher, Sing, Milley and Bond).

4. Name correction correspondence was received from the Internal Revenue Service.
5. 2014 budget was discussed. Tentative numbers were reviewed. Bond will review final recommendation with Sing.
6. Old business –
 - A. 2012 audit committee report needs signatures to finalize and present to Board.
 - B. Special modeling contest – Reviewed options presented by Milley. No decision made. BOD will keep looking for more cost effective options.
 - C. Surplus VHS tapes – To be sold at April white elephant sale.
7. New business –
 - A. Raffle layout options – Motion made by Milley with a second by Murphy to offer \$250 for the purchase of an existing sectional layout that can be refurbished for the Holiday Trains for Kids fundraising. Approved 6-0.
 - B. Saturday workshops – Discussed option to use the church facility for a 4 hour block of time for \$40. Jerry Mersch indicated many Saturdays were available. Sing has a list of potential topics for hand-on workshops. For NMRA insurance to be applicable, workshop attendees must be NMRA members.
8. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM

Division Business Meeting minutes – March 25, 2014

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM. 34 members present with 2 guests.
2. Superintendent Bond reviewed the discussion and actions of the Board of Directors meeting.
3. Don Jennings was presented his AP certificate for Association Official.

4. Gene Sing indicated an AP judging event would be held 10:00 AM on May 3rd at his house. Members interested in bring items for AP judging should coordinate with Sing.
5. Jack Dziadul, MER Director, provided a brief update on Me-Eastern Region activities.
6. National Train Day is Saturday, May 10th. The Division plans to have a display in Cary at the Page-Walker Museum. Volunteers are needed to help with the display. The North Raleigh Model Railroad Club plan to display and operate an N-Trak layout at the Durham Amtrak station.
7. The 2014 Rail Ops event was reviewed.
8. Jim Murphy won the popular vote contest for his winter scene.
9. Guest Fenton Wells presented a clinic on scratch building and kit bashing steel freight cars.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



Don Jennings presented with AP certificate for Association Official by Vic Bitleris at March meeting.

From the Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

National Train Day – The Division plans to have a display of model railroading at the National Train Day event on Saturday, May 10th at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center in Cary. Page-Walker is near the Amtrak station. Last year's display was well attended by adults and children. Set-up time is planned for 8:00 AM and the event starts at 10:00 AM and runs until 2:00 PM. Division volunteers are needed to staff our display, operate the timesaver switching layout, answer questions about model railroading plus handle set-up and take down. Send me an email if you are available to help.

To learn more about National Train Day events nationwide visit

nationaltrainday.com

Specific information for Cary

<http://nationaltrainday.com/s/#!/events/cary-nc-cyn>

See you at the April meeting on the 22nd!

Greensboro Train Show

Jack Dziadul

John Porter and I hitched a ride to the Greensboro Train Show with model train friend Fenton Wells on 3/22/14. We almost had a CPD meeting quorum as we ran into **Tom Cook**, **Marc Blaustein**, **Gene Sing**, **Dick Buchan** and **Steve Milley**; and that by our departure time of 11 AM.

I am sure others followed later. Model railroading is a great social hobby and it is fun to meet up with the folks from the Division. We all love to talk shop and show off our new toys to each other.



Model of the Greensboro Depot

The show was held in what was once the "colored" waiting room of the 1927 Greensboro Southern Railroad Depot, so we were able to get a glimpse of local history. Some railroad topics get to be a bit sensitive; but, whether for good or evil, we have to live with our history.

The renovated upper level of the complex is the present day Amtrak station with waiting room and ticket counter. This building, as depicted in photos on the wall, was once a freight transfer building: tracks on one side and truck loading doors on the other. In yet another building in the complex, the former Railway Express Agency Building, are the layouts of the Carolina Model Railroaders model railroad club.

John and I stopped in to see both the HO and N scale layouts. Both are under construction as you can see from the following photos. But,

trains were running, and running flawlessly. The trackwork was excellent and the rolling stock was moving smoothly over the rails. Check out the club the next time you are in the Greensboro area. <http://carolinamodelrr.org/>



Naming Your Entire Model Railroad

Stephen C. Wood, MMR

Sixteen years ago I started building my fourth layout with my father. We were well into the seventh or eighth year when I realized we had no name for our railroad. Our Division was holding the regional convention that year and my layout was on the tour. I didn't know what I should do so I just left it alone. About two years later as I was sitting in my train room, the thought of honoring my father came along. Why not name it after him? As you can see I had been struggling for a while trying to come up with a name for my freelance railroad. I originally thought about the CFP Railway which was named after my maternal grandfather. Instead I scratch built an Ice House and named it the CFP Icehouse. My grandfather retired as the Chief Draftsman of the New York Central Railroad. Even though he took me to Harmon Yards, let me ride the rails and even sat in the hotel Yadkin in Salisbury, NC back in the 1960's watching the trains roar by, he never built a layout with me.

My railroad supposedly runs from Albany, New York, south on the Hudson River to 73rd Street. I grew up with the New York Central Railroad in our area and have always liked it. I took the fourth layout down about two years ago because it was DC, had the dreaded pop-ups, hard to reach areas and I wanted something I could build as a prototypical railroad.

I was into the Achievement Program very heavily and realized that operating a model train layout was more interesting and realistic than watching four trains go in a circle. Don't get me wrong it was a blast working with my

father but at the same time frustrating and educational.

Some other ideas I had considered: Because the Boston & Albany, was connected to the New York Central I thought about calling it the BMA. The reference was the Boston and Albany Railroad connected Boston, Massachusetts to Albany, New York. Another variation I was thinking of was the HR for the Hudson River but it sounded like Human Resources.

I had also been trying to come up with a sign and a slogan. Since I want to dedicate this to two of the important men in my life, I want something to convey this in my sign. I have been looking at computer clipart and played with it, to create a general symbol that I liked. I haven't worked out a complete herald yet. I have found that a slogan is really hard to come up with.

Another name alternative which I have played with is outlining the route of the New York Central and the Hudson River where it operated. I travel around North Carolina and operate on many different railroads. I talked to a lot of different owners about my challenges in naming my model railroad. A number of my friends related their experiences and difficulties in coming up with their own railroad's name.

I found out some of the names were initials. Others named their railroads, after a major prototype railroad, a city or geographic term. Only one had named it after the state. One of the railroad owners I talked to was contemplating naming his railroad after a river that the original railroad had run next to, and I told him I thought that was a great idea. In addition he talked about the mountain range that it ran through the area.

Designing my own railroad emblem is another subject. First considerations are the graphics,

background and lettering color. Do I want a rectangle, oval, circle, something like a shield? Every train company's emblem has a unique image compounded of its general shape and its interior design. It is very difficult trying to come up with an original design for your own railroad. Real railroads have professional marketing staffs and artists working on theirs. I believe as difficult as designing a sign or emblem might be, an emblem is an important element in creating the right tone for a freelance model railroad. Where I work we have a professional advertising person. Closer to home I have a daughter who is a gifted artist.

Another area where I was having trouble was coming up with names for the towns. I again started thinking of family names, but I want a wide variety of town names. I then looked at names of places where I was stationed in the Army and the different places and countries I had been in but that was not going to work. It won't look right with German names on an American Railroad, or Canadian or Panamanian names.

Again, a solution came about while I was talking to my fellow modelers. One of my favorite and largest railroads used real names and a real route. Trust me; it sets the mood for that railroad especially after running it for over fifty years. So off I went to the internet and looked at city and railroad maps starting in Albany, New York remembering the stories from my grandfather and the coach yard they had there. I found a route I liked, and I made some variations. I have hundreds of notes from electrical to scratch building cars and buildings; when it came to the searching of names, towns and cities I kept a notebook to jot down my railroad ideas. I find it helps and encourages other ideas in the future.

Next were the names for industries. I have a long list of possible industry names. They can be serious or a play on words. Usually you can work in the name of the town or geographical area. Again back to seeing how my fellow modelers did it. I wanted to be as close to prototypical as I could, so back to the internet. The route I was choosing had a lot of business and sidings along the way. For example, there was the Hudson Paper Company, the electric plant at Sing Sing Prison, the Yard at Croton North.

So I am at the point of feeling good about the route and names I will be using. I hope this article stirs some ideas for naming your railroad and sidings/spurs. Trust me, it is not as easy as it seems. At first you usually have to live with the names you pick but among the people I have talked to, some wished they had put more thought into it. Talking to them has spurred a new interest into renaming their railroads.

So, six years after I started the name project, and with this final layout that dad and I are building, we will christen it as the **CLSC&W Railroad** (**C**harles **L**eon, **S**tephen **C**harles & **W**ood). In about a year when I open the layout for its first test operations I will welcome you to the CLSC&W Railroad. Some of you will be in Albany, working the Coach Yard and REA, while others will be stopping in Hudson working the Swift Meat Plant, or maybe at Croton North working the Freight Yard or maybe you like to work with coal and you will be either at Rhinecliff where there is a scratch-built three track coaling tower or at the power plant at Sing Sing Prison.

I hope I have spiked your interest into naming your railroad. Let's hear about your thoughts or ideas for future Herald articles.

March Modeling Clinic

*Scratch building and kitbashing steel freight cars with **Fenton Wells***



Clinician Fenton Wells with examples of steel freight cars



Fenton fires up the crowd



Members listen intently as Fenton Wells provides tips on scratch building steel freight cars

NMRA InfoNet News For March, 2014

Tom Draper – HLM, DSA, FA
 Director – Support Services

Message from Joe Gelmini – Eastern District Director:**Why Buy a Ticket If You're Not Going To Go?**

We hear a lot about the benefits of being an NMRA member. Most people want to know "what's in it for me"? Why should I shell out \$44.00 or \$66.00 they ask. I think we are all aware of most of the tangible benefits:

- Access to the world-class Kalmbach Library
 - Access to standards and recommended practices in all scales
 - Ability to participate in the Achievement Program
 - Ability to attend national and regional conventions
 - Calendar and address labels
 - Subscription to a fine hobby magazine focused on NMRA members and activities.
- These are all great. But, to me, the biggest benefit by far has been the fellowship and knowledge I've gained from getting together with people from around the world, or from around the corner, that share my love of model trains. Granted, I am fortunate to live in an area that is rich with model railroaders and to be a part of a very active NMRA division. But whether you live in a hot bed of activity or one where only a few folks reside, the first steps are up to you. Steel City Superintendent John Stewart summed it up about as well as I've heard in a recent article he wrote for his division's newsletter. John offered the question "If you bought a ticket to a movie or play, would you decide not to attend the performance?" Of course you wouldn't. Why

would you shell out your hard-earned money to buy a ticket to a show, movie, game, whatever, and then not attend? Makes no sense, does it? But in a way, that's exactly what folks are doing who pay for NMRA membership, and then don't attend or participate in any of the activities (the "show").

So go ahead and use the "ticket" you've paid for. Attend a convention, clinic, open house, op session or just a lunch with some like-minded modelers. I am confident you'll enjoy the show!

Joe Gelmini, Eastern District Director

In Memoriam – William E. McKean II, 1944 – 2013

From April, 2014 issue of Model Railroader Magazine:

Model Railroad manufacturer and author Bill McKean died on [December 30](#) in Sioux Falls, S.D. He was 69.

In addition to running his family's bus business and working in radio and advertising sales, Bill founded McKean Models, manufacturer of HO scale freight car kits (Greenville 100-ton hopper and 40-foot PS-! Boxcar, among others) and detail parts. He also wrote articles for *Mainline Modeler* and *Model Railroading* magazines.

Bill was a lifetime member of the National Model Railroad Association, founding member of the NMRA's Dakota Southeastern Division, and member of the Sioux Valley Model Engineers Society. He actively participated in a Sioux Falls-area round-robin modeling group, helping build several model railroads, including his own HO scale Lakeland Western RR.

Notice of 2015 NMRA Elections:

The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2015:

1. President
2. Vice President, Administration
3. Vice President, Special Projects
4. Eastern District Director
5. Pacific District Director
6. At-Large North America Director

Please check Article III, paragraph 12, of the NMRA Executive Handbook (EHB) located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected.

All submissions for candidate's names for consideration by the Nomination Committee for all offices except Pacific District Director shall be submitted to Stephen Priest, temporary Chairman of the Nominations Committee, nmra@pairedrail.com no later than **June 15, 2014**.

All submissions of candidate's names for consideration by the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee shall be submitted to Sam Mangion, Chairman of the Pacific District Director Nominations Committee, mangion2@bigpond.com, no later than **June 15, 2014**.

Candidates may wish to run for these positions by petition and not be subjected to the decisions of the appropriate nominations committees. Requirements for submitting by petition are contained in the EHB. All submissions by petition shall be received by the Secretary NMRA no later than **July 31, 2014**.

Meetings & Train Show Personnel Change

From Charlie Getz, NMRA President

For the past year, Jim "Lumpy" Lupfer has been Department head for M&TS and has done a great job in a very demanding role. At the mid-year BOD meeting we discussed that job and its unrelenting requirements and Lumpy advised he felt it was best to step down. I asked him to reconsider but respect his decision. Lumpy was a pleasure to work with and a consummate professional.

Bob Amsler has kindly agreed to step in as the new Department head of the M&TS, his former role. Because of my concern that no volunteer undertake two major roles and as Bob is our indispensable attorney, he has agreed to treat the position much as the Depart head of Publications does, overseeing the work of the managers, setting policy and acting as point person for the host committees. Working for him will be Ray deBlieck as Convention Manager and Ed Slintak as Assistant thereto, along with Mark "Fuzzy" Shafer as NTS Manager with Tom Draper helping. Tom will be winding down and he has been a tremendous asset to M&TS over literally decades.

This team brings years of experience and I will announce these changes in the May issue of the magazine as April is already being finalized. I sincerely thank Lumpy all he has done and then Bob, Ray, Ed, Fuzzy and Tom for all they are doing.

continued

In Summary:

Bob Amsler – Department Manager
 Ray deBlieck – Convention Manager
 Ed Slintak – Assistant Convention Manager
 Mark Shafer – NTS Manager
 Tom Draper – Floor Manager
 Frank Koch – Treasurer
 Jenny Hendricks – Admin Contact

“Thanks, everyone, and on to Cleveland.”

Charlie

Winter 2014 Board Meeting Highlights

The NMRA Board of Directors held it Winter meeting in Las Vegas, NV on [February 14, 15 and 16, 2014](#).

Here are some highlights from the board meeting. Please note that this is an informal recap and should not be assumed to be definitive. The official meeting minutes will be issued shortly by John Stevens, NMRA Secretary and published in the *NMRA Magazine* and on www.nmra.org.

New Europe Region approved

– the BOD unanimously approved a contingency motion to accept a new Europe Region into the NMRA. Some of the names needed on a petition were not yet received and/or verified by headquarters at the time of the motion, hence the contingency. When it's official, the new region will have over 100 members from the outset. Atlantic District (AD) Director Kathy Millat worked alongside former AD Director Nobby Clarke to bring this to fruition.

- Video recording/streaming policy

The issue of commercial companies recording and/or streaming clinics at NMRA National Conventions was discussed at the Atlanta Board meeting in 2013. At that time a special committee was appointed to investigate alternatives to a temporary policy that had been put into place for that convention. The committee could not agree on a new policy, so at this Winter meeting the Board agreed to adopt the temporary policy as permanent.

- **New Marketing Director** – Marketing Director Page Martin was promoted to Vice President of Marketing, and introduced the new Marketing Director, John Parrish.

- **NMRA in the black for 2013** – Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch reported that the NMRA ended last year with a surplus of over \$240,000. He also reported that the NMRA headquarters building sold for almost \$900,000 – a sum that was higher than comparable properties in the area. The deal was a win/win for both the NMRA and the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum, who would have had to build a new building to accommodate their operations.

- **California State Railroad Museum Display** – Paperwork is continuing on this initiative, which has raised over \$600,000 to date. Currently approvals are being slowed down by governmental entities within the CSRM. The board would like to remind members to please send in their pledges for contributions if they haven't done so.

- **Kansas City approved for the 2018 NMRA convention** – Stephen Priest, *NMRA Magazine* editor and current RAC Director, gave the BOD an impressive presentation pitching Kansas City, MO as the location for the 2018 NMRA convention. The BOD approved the site.

- **Redesigned website nearing completion** – IT director Ben Sevier reported that the completely revamped NMRA website is nearing completion and will hopefully be ready to go live sometime this summer.

- **L-Gauge standards not approved** – The BOD did not approve proposed standards for L-Gauge (aka “Lego”). The BOD issued this statement regarding the decision: “The BOD agreed that L-Gauge, as it is called by its fans, is an exciting pathway to scale model railroading and a real asset at the NTS and other train shows. Youngsters especially are enthralled and the skill involved can be amazing. We hope to see an enhanced presence of L-Gauge in the NMRA as a SIG. As for adopting an L-Gauge standard, we could not because we do not control the standard already established and patented by the major maker of L-Gauge trains. In other words, there was nothing to set. When we set a standard, it is available for any manufacturer to use but where the sole standard is someone else's and patented, it is not available for use without permission from the patent holder. We have not adopted a standard without the right for free use of it. So we could act on the request from the L-Gauge community.

- **Self-certification program ratified** – The BOD ratified a self certification program for standards and conformance, as proposed by the S&C Department Di Voss.

Other Items

- Clark Kooning, our Nominations Chair, cannot continue in the post as he is contemplating a run for office. Stephen Priest has graciously accepted temporary assignment of the post but a new volunteer is needed who can take over and has a good network of contacts. “Nominations” is an important job and encouraging that next generation of leadership is very important, though often sadly neglected. If you know of someone please contact Charlie Getz, NMRA President.

- The RAC group elected Steve August as the new RAC Director.

- Charlie Getz announced the appointment of Bob Ferguson of PCR to head up a new member initiative. Bob will be looking at creating and sharing a program of proven retention actions that can be undertaken by Divisions and Regions. We have good success in signing up new members – our Rail Pass conversion rate to regular membership is over 60%. But we lose far too many members at renewal.

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

