



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

January 2014

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, January 28, 2013

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 - January 28, 2014

Structure or rolling stock with working lights

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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 in color.

Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor

jackdziadul@gmail.com

919-718-0368 or 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

NMRA Membership	18,642
MER Membership	1,954
Division Membership	131
Division Voting Membership	120
http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13/	
Yahoo Group Members	100
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cpd13/	
Attendance 12/10/13	26

January Program

ANNUAL PROTOTYPE QUIZ



Professor John Wallis

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Carolina Piedmont Division of the Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery, 830 High House Road, Cary, North Carolina.

Special Notice
The February meeting has
been moved to Tuesday,
February 18th

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

jackdziadul@gmail.com

Division Paymaster (term ending January 2014)

Jerry Mersch, Cary, 919-815-3528

jbmwow@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

Director (term ending in January 2016)

Will Seehorn, Cary, 919-466-0827

wseehorn@gmail.com

CPD Meeting Calendar

Tuesday night's monthly 2013

6:30 PM Board / 7:00 PM General Meeting

2014

January 28	February 18	March 25
April 22	May 27	June 23
July 22	August 26	September 23
October 28	November 11	December 9

Coming Events

Carolina Southern's Railroad Model University
Charlotte, NC

January 25, 2014

<http://www.carolinasouthern.org/>

Amherst Model RR Society Train Show
West Springfield, MA

January 25-26, 2014

<http://www.railroadhobbyshow.com/>

Southern Rails – Narrow Gauge Railway Day
Pine Mountain, GA

February 7-8, 2014

www.southernrails.org

Clinchfield Days

North Carolina Transportation Museum

March 15, 2014

Railroad Prototype Modelers-Valley Forge
Desmond Hotel in Malvern, PA

March 28-30, 2014

www.phillynmra.org/rpmmeet.html

Norfolk Southern 21st Century Steam Excursion
Bristol, VA

April 5-6, 2014

<http://www.wataugavalleyrrhsm.org/>

12th Annual NC Railroad Expo

Hickory, NC

April 12, 2014

<http://www.tarheelpress.com/APRshow.pdf>

Streamliners at Spencer

NC Transportation Museum

411 South Salisbury Avenue, Spencer, NC

May 29-June 1, 2014

<http://www.nctrains.org>

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 Host 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

January	Working Lights in Structure or Rolling Stock
February	Winter Scene
March	Signs on Buildings
April	Scratch or Kitbashed Freight Car
May	Backdrop
June	Interlocking Towers
July	Cardstock Construction
August	Lighted Passenger Car
October	Scenery

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	https://www.facebook.com/cpd13

Program Topics

January	 Proto Quiz - <u>John Wallis</u>
February	 Signs on Buildings <u>Jim Murphy</u>
March	 Scratch or kitbash Steel freight cars- <u>Fenton Wells</u>
April	 Painting Backdrops <u>Iris Nazario-Dziadul</u>
May	 Interlocking Towers <u>Jack Dziadul</u>
June	 Cardstock Structures <u>Grif Bond</u>
July	 Passenger Car Lighting <u>Mark Blaustein</u>
September	Scenery <u>Lou Sassi</u>

Refreshment Hosts

January	Vic Bitleris
February	Gene Sing
March	your name goes here

Holiday Trains for Kids

By: **R. Stephen Milley**

During 2013, CPD13 had another successful year supporting the ***Holiday Trains for Kids Program***. For those who are not familiar with the program, here's a quick overview: each year our local division of the NMRA seeks out less-fortunate families in the area who have children that would appreciate a model train set as a gift. These families may not typically be able to provide such a nice gift for their children during the holiday season, so this program really puts some smiles on the faces of local kids. CPD13 members seek out families through local churches, community centers, or out-reach programs, and we coordinate putting a train set into the hands of needy families. Each year, our group gives away 6-10 train sets.

For the 2013 holiday season, our group distributed 9 train sets - thanks to the efforts of the following CPD13 members: **Jack Dziadul, Jamie Jordan, Rob Rousseau, Grif Bond and John Janosko**. Train sets went to families in several areas around Raleigh - including Cary, Wake Forest, Sanford and Holly Springs.

To raise funds for this program, our group builds a small portable HO scale layout that we raffle off each November at the Neuse River Valley Train Show. All the materials for the raffle layout are either donated by CPD13 members or purchased via the small budget we allocate to this activity each year. Members donate their time and energy to build the layout during the year.

The 2013 raffle layout was one of the best fund-raising efforts yet - bringing in just over \$1,100. This past year's winner was a young man in Warsaw, NC. All of those CPD13 members that contributed to the raffle layout - through the

many possible ways to contribute - deserve a huge "thanks" for their efforts. The group can look forward to another raffle layout build during 2014, as there are plenty of layout supplies in our inventory, and hopefully eager contributors.

The following letter was received from the First Baptist Church of Sanford, NC.

I would like to thank you for arranging for two of our Family Promise families to receive a trainset for Christmas. Family Promise of Lee County is an organization that helps homeless families get back into housing. It is a program where the children continue to go through their daily schedules of school activities while their parents are helped with job searches, budgeting, savings accounts, and further education in order to help them get back into an affordable home. The families sleep in churches during their stay in the program. To date, we have helped 126 people return to their own places to live.

One of the families that received a train set is a mother with 4 children. Two are twin boys who are thirteen years old. They are thrilled with the train set and will be in a place where they will be able to set it up permanently, hopefully in another month or two. They were so appreciative to receive this present.

The other set went to a fourteen year old boy whose father was in the program with him last spring. Since that time, his father has been very ill and has spent several months in

the hospital at Duke. The father was so grateful to have something to give to his son for Christmas.

Thank you and your club for thinking of these children during the Christmas season. Your generosity made a difference in their Christmas during a hard time in their lives.

Cindy Hall, Minister of Outreach



Candidate Statements

All candidates were invited to submit statements to The Herald. Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor

Grif Bond, candidate for Superintendent

I would be honored to serve another term as Superintendent of the Carolina Piedmont Division. In the past several years the Division has continued to build on recent successes – hosting the 2011 MER Convention “Piedmont Crossing”, several successful raffle layout builds, distribution of train sets with the Holiday Trains for Kids program, special model/diorama contests, and participation in National Train Day.

The Board of Directors has approved an annual budget and managed Division funds at or under budget. Membership meetings continue to be successful. The Division is one of the few in the Mid-Eastern Region that have monthly meetings and we have an average attendance of 25 members or more and a good mix of educational programs.

I have been a NMRA member since 2002 and have previously served the Division as Clerk and Newsletter Editor prior to election as Superintendent in January 2010. An earlier stint with NMRA membership dates from the early 1970s (with the 4 by 8 layout) and got derailed or sidetracked with college and the demands of the fire-rescue-EMS service. Thank you for your support.

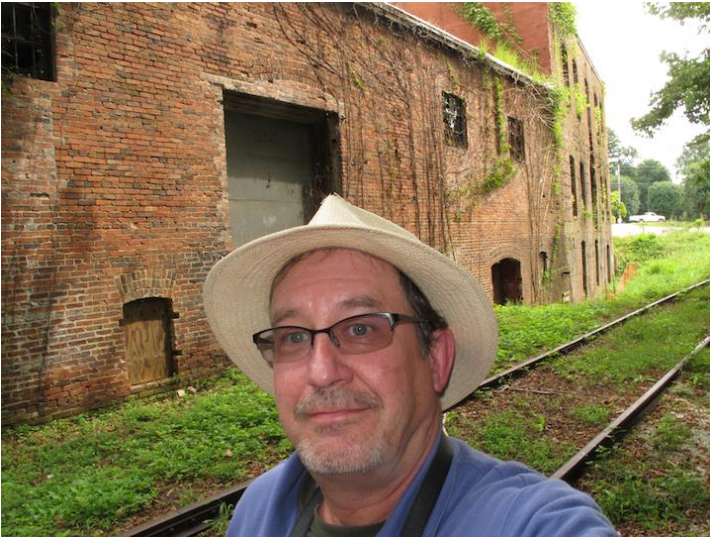
Gene Sing, candidate for Paymaster

I have received a lot of ideas and developed numerous friendships over the past decade as a member of the Piedmont Division. After being on the receiving end for all these years, I have decided to support the organization by volunteering to serve as the Division Paymaster. I would appreciate your support in my pursuit for the Division Paymaster position.

Stephen Wood, MMR candidate for Director



I am honored to be standing as a candidate for the position of Director. I have been a member of the NMRA and this Division since 2002 and I have successfully pursued the Achievement Program receiving my MMR in 2013. I have been a railroad modeler since receiving my first HO train set at age 6. My objective is to find fresh ideas and the best way to achieve this is to become more active in our Division. We have many strong programs in our Division and in the NMRA that I would like to see more participation in them including the Achievement Program, our monthly programs and contests. I believe we can do a lot more if people get more involved in our division. Together, let's make this Division better!

Bob Bridges, candidate for Clerk

I joined NMRA and MER-CPD 13 in the spring of 2013. It's been one of the best decisions I've ever made in terms of modeling. In the short time I have been a member I have benefited from the expertise of top-notch modelers, built friendships with fellow members through the monthly meetings and participating in the construction of the annual raffle layout. Most of all, I've had a lot of fun.

As CPD-13 Division Clerk my goal would be to build upon the standards & foundation set by the current Clerk, working with the membership to create an informative, entertaining and timely CPD-13 Herald...one of the key communication channels for our organization. If elected I would look forward to serving as a board member to contribute to the programs offered by the division for the education of members and promotion of the hobby.

I have degrees in TV production and print journalism. While a staff photographer at the News & Observer in the 1980's, I was secretary and editor of the NC Press

Photographer's Association newsletter. In 1990 I went to work as a corporate photographer for Glaxo in RTP. Currently I manage the production of corporate meetings and events for GSK. I live in Pittsboro where I currently enjoy modeling a small slice of the Southern Railroad Murphy Branch in HO.

Bill Hanley, candidate for Director

As a fairly new member to the division, but a long time member of the NMRA, I would like to become more active in Division 13. Prior to moving to Raleigh three years ago, I lived in Pittsburgh for over forty years where I was active in Division 2 of the Mid-Central Region during which time I served as Treasurer for the 1990 National Convention as well as Regional Conventions.

A 1966 grad of California University of Pennsylvania, I taught high school math, interrupted by 4 years Active Duty in the Army to include a year in Vietnam. With my return to teaching, I joined the National Guard and am now retired from both. If elected to the Board of Directors, I will look forward to serving.

Danial Fisher, candidate for Director

My name is Danial Fisher, and Will Seehorn made me run for the Director position.

Actually this is something that I have considering for a few years. I've been involved with CPD for about seven years. I've made friends, learned new modeling techniques, presented a few clinics, and even earned my first Achievement Program certificate. However, I've felt that I would like to do more. The Director position is a way to start.

I see the Carolina Piedmont Division as both an educational and social organization. Our clinics help us to learn from each other. Some of the other activities, such as the raffle layout, help us to reach out to the public and educate them on the pleasures of model railroading. As a social organization, we help to forge friendships, and extend our learning opportunities. I would like to see CPD do more to reach out to the NMRA members who do not attend the meetings, and to involve more young people both in model railroading and the NMRA.

Service to the Hobby

Jack Dziadul

Carolina Piedmont Division

There are numerous ways to give back to the modeling community. One important way is to run for elective office. In January CPD will have its annual election. Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Clerk and Paymaster as well as one Director position will be on the ballot. Please contact Nominating Committee members **Will Seehorn, Jim Babcock** or **Don Jennings** if you are interested in serving. So far, **Grif Bond** and **Jim Murphy** have expressed interest in running for another term as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, respectively; **Bob Bridges** has expressed interest in the Clerk / Editor position, **Gene Sing** is interested in the Paymaster position and we have three candidates for Director: **Danial Fisher, Bill Hanley** and **Stephen Wood, MMR**.

Mid-Eastern Region

In 2014 the Officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be up for election. President **John Janosko**, VP PJ Mattson, MMR and Secretary Mike White will be "termed out" and will not be eligible for reelection to the same office. So, here is an excellent opportunity to run for an open seat.

Rail Pass By The Numbers

In 2012 Business Manager Fred Miller, MMR reported that 31% of Rail Pass memberships were renewed as full memberships. In October at this year's MER convention new Business Manager Bob Price reported a 29% conversion rate. Both conversion rates were considered excellent.

Assistant Superintendent's 2013 Annual Report

Jim Murphy

This year, the Programs and Popular Vote Contests parts of our monthly meetings were revved up to Run 8 thanks to the efforts of Kim Parker, our Train Buddy, hard-working Board members, presenters and participants.

Popular Vote Contests:

The members were encouraged to "bring em in and put 'em on the table". The participation continues to rise as more and more models are on the contest table every month. Records were broken with 21 modelers who brought an astounding 120 models to the contests. As this was the first year that cash prizes were added for 'most entries' and most wins', shows the efforts our members will take to support their modeling habit. The winners in all categories will be announced at the January meeting.

The division-wide kit bash this year was a bash! From a lowly coaling tower kit came buildings to bridges. Steve Milley inspired us to put our best trees ever on the table, while Vic's \$2 Car Makeover got a lot of rolling stock on the table. Sheds or barns, city or country roads, and buildings with signs were all enjoyable contest themes.

The popular vote contests were even more fun when more of the members participated. Remember! Everyone can bring two entries per month.

Programs and Clinics:

The programs were successful in that more individual presenters gave their time and

talents. We enjoyed the efforts of many "first time" presenters.

Our program year began with John Wallis' prototype quiz and the year concluded with our most popular program, the Yankee Swap Gift exchange. In between, we learned about Flat Car and Gondola Loads from the team of Grif Bond, Kim Parker, and John Janosko. We learned about trees from master forester Steve Milley.

We saw two buck cars from Vic Bitleris and Styrene Scratch Building by Luis Dominguez. Lou Sassi, our well-published author brought us down new roads. Mason Cutchin took us to the real Colorado & Southern gave us smart new ways to light up our models and lives.

We look forward to a great curriculum of programs for next year. We are looking for new presenters; no experience necessary. Please share your interests with the club. We want to know what turns on your lights!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jerry Mersch, Paymaster

December 2013

Balance In Check Book 11/30/13	\$7,590.01
<u>Income</u> Total	\$0.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
December meeting refreshments	\$177.54
Total	\$177.54
Balance In Check Book 12/31/13	\$7,412.47

The Name Game

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

Clerk's Annual Report

Jack Dziadul

We began 2013 with 120 members and we ended the year with 131 members.

The Clerk is responsible for recording the minutes of CPD meetings. These have been published in subsequent issues of "The Herald." **Rob Rousseau** took minutes on occasions when the Clerk was not able to attend a meeting.

Among the Clerk's duties is assigning an Editor for The Herald. I have continued as the Editor and we produced twelve monthly issues in 2013. Distribution is by email through our Yahoo Group. In addition Webmaster **Rob Rousseau** posts The Herald to the CPD web site.

"NMRA Magazine" author Jim Zinzer, MMR again mentioned The Herald in his columns: August 2013 (*Touring Tichy* - **Vic Bitleris**; *Dyeing Trees* - **Danial Fisher**) and April 2013 (*Philately Meets Ferroequinology* - **Stephen Wood**, MMR).

We have had many articles, notices and photographs submitted by members this past year. Your submissions are what make The Herald relevant as a member benefit. The following CPD members contributed articles and / or photographs to the "The Herald" in 2013: **Vic Bitleris, Grif Bond, Bob Bridges, Jack Dziadul, Danial Fisher, Don Jennings, Steve Milley, Jim Murphy, Rob Rousseau, Gene Sing, and Stephen Wood, MMR**

The following member's home layouts were featured in The Herald in 2013 and we appreciate this participation: **Jerry Davis, Luis Dominguez, Bruce Faulkner, Jack Frame, Jim Murphy** and **Lou Sassi**.

General correspondence is also a Clerk responsibility and welcome letters were sent to all new members. The Clerk provided NMRA HQ and the MER Business Manager with a number of updates to address, telephone numbers and email addresses. Outreach via email was made to all CPD members in the Fayetteville area regarding programming or events more convenient to their locale. No responses were received.

As one of the web site Moderators, the Clerk worked with web master **Rob Rousseau** to facilitate membership invitations to the CPD Yahoo Group.

Bill Cox

William E. Cox of Cary, NC and native of Washington D.C. passed away peacefully on **December 29th.**

Mr. Cox, Bill, is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Virginia Harper Cox, five children and their spouses; Cathy Bender and son-in-law Phil (Lawrenceville, GA), Dave Cox and daughter-in-law Sheirlyn (Hog Mountain, GA), Bruce Cox and daughter-in-law Paula (Richmond, VA), Tom Cox and daughter-in-law Renee (Cary, NC), Caroline Cox and son-in-law Eric Schulman (Alexandria, VA). The family includes 13 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. Bill is also survived by two siblings a brother, Tom Cox and sister-in-law Sheila (Lutherville, MD) and sister, Katy Cox Johnson and brother-in-law Bob (Johns Creek, GA).

Proposed By-Law Changes

Jack Dziadul, Clerk

Jerry Mersch and Jack Dziadul reviewed the By-Laws to determine if any need revision. The following items were reviewed with the Board of Directors and the general membership in attendance at the November meeting.

1.2 Status. Paragraph 3, 1st sentence.

No part of the net earnings of the Division shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, board members or other private persons, except that the Division shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth hereafter, including nominal cash or prize awards related to contest participation.

The above change is recommended to recognize that there may be nominal prizes awarded to membership for recognition of popular vote contest results, contest participation, Superintendent's Member of the Year award or other such nominal prizes as determined by the Board of Directors. This change is also in keeping with the spirit of Section 1.4 Purpose, which in part reads "4. To sponsor model railroad conventions, meets, clinics, and contests."

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://nrclub.net/>

North Raleigh Model Railroad Club

NTrak

<http://trainweb.org/nrmrc/info.html>

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/>

Lou Sassi **On The Road At Home**

By **Jack Dziadul**

Last Spring I had a chance to visit with **Lou Sassi**, tour his layout under construction and get to see some superb modeling. Lou was relatively new to the Raleigh area and had not seen many local layouts, so I volunteered to set up a day trip to meet some friends of mine in the hobby and see some quality layouts in various stages of completion. We made arrangements with seven CPD members for layout tours, and one Saturday in June Lou and his wife, Cheryl, and I visited each. The hosts were very gracious with their hospitality and we had a wonderful time. Lou did some initial photo shoots of many of the layouts that he thought might be candidates for a Model Railroader feature. Questionnaires were left with the layout owners for completion.

Lou submitted some of his photos to Model Railroader for review and he kept the layout owners informed of his progress. We can now report that we have some very promising news. Two local layouts have been selected and Lou will be scheduling full photo and video shoots with **Jerry Davis'** O scale Southern Pacific and with **Jim Babcock's** HO scale Baltimore & Ohio. The lead time is such that we might not see these in the magazine until 2016. Jerry's layout will be featured in an upcoming Kalmbach's "Great Model Railroads" issue.

Jim Murphy could be seeing an article about his unique access door lift and his pull out classification yard. Jim models my favorite line, the Boston & Maine. Unfortunately for Jim though, the magazine folks seem to think that they have too many Northeastern roads and need to diversify.

Jerry Mersch has a wonderful layout and it is COMPLETED; yes folks, some do actually complete a layout. But, the magazine gurus opined that Jerry's layout is too similar to others already in the queue. However, look for some photos of Jerry's layout in a future Walthers catalogue.

There are many other layouts in the area under construction; some that we saw and many that we did not. The Carolina Piedmont Division is a great and diverse model railroad area.

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.

Save the Date for Spencer

Jack Dziadul

We are reaching out to MER members to see if there is sufficient interest in having a NMRA Day at the NC Transportation Museum. Saturday, May 31, 2014 is one of the days where the museum has a special first generation diesel roster event. So far, twelve operating E and F units will be on display that weekend. Check the web site nctrans.org for details. If there are sufficient numbers we will likely be able to arrange for discounted tickets. If you are interested please contact me directly at JackDziadul@gmail.com.

Wilson Area Railroad

Modelers

By Russ Austin

Wilson Area Railroad Modelers or W.A.R.M. for short was founded in 1980 by twenty charter members and incorporated in 1981 as a non-profit organization. At first, our meetings were held in members' homes. We would view, work and sometimes operate their personal layouts. Early in 1981, the idea of having a club-built layout, utilizing the modular concept began. We believe it is the largest modular HO scale model railroad in the region. We have open houses every Saturday from 10am to 4pm. We will resume operating sessions every 3rd Saturday of the month beginning in January. The Operating Session includes a dispatcher using two-way radio communications and train orders for locals and through freight along with yard operations. W.A.R.M. uses DCC by Digitrax. You are welcome to come and operate as a guest with a member. We are always accepting new members via the application process. Not everyone is a NMRA member. More details, including location and photos can be found at: <http://www.rr-modelers.org>



8 of the 25 WARM members are shown in the above photo. Russ Austin is on the right.



Area Hobby Shops

Bobby's Hobbies

336-444-7565
103 Burlington Avenue
Gibsonville, NC 27249

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

The Antique Barn & Hobby Shop

252-237-6778
2810 Forest Hills Road Southwest
Wilson, NC 27893

Train Buddy

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

Tom's Train Station

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

Support your local hobby shop!

From the Business Car

Grif Bond, Superintendent

January 2014 Annual Meeting – The annual Division meeting will be January 28, 2014. Business items include the election of all the officers – Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Paymaster and Clerk for 2 year terms and a new Director for a 3 year term, plus voting on a proposed by-law amendments. Please come to the meeting and vote.

February Meeting – Due to a scheduling conflict at the church, our February meeting has been moved to **Tuesday, February 18**. The program “Signs on Buildings” with Jim and Nancy Murphy and the popular vote modeling contest “Winter Scenes” remains the same. Please make a note of this change just for February.

2013 Annual Superintendent's Report – Published in this issue is the annual Superintendents' report. The report is also provided to the Mid-Eastern Region.

2014 Popular Vote Monthly Model Contest – The annual program continues starting with the January meeting. You are eligible to enter 2 models each month based on the contest category/theme. The more models you enter, the greater the chances of winning one of the 5 year-end prizes.

Refreshment volunteers – If you are interested in handling refreshments for a future Division, please let me know. The task is simple...pick up 4 bottles of 2 liter soft drinks (2 regular and 2 diet), a bag of ice, plus some snacks (chips, pretzels, cookies, cupcakes, etc.) for 30 attendees. The Division will reimburse you. The refreshment budget per meeting is about \$20. The Division provides the cups, paper plates and napkins.

See you at the January meeting.

Maine Trains

Jack Dziadul

One of the enjoyable aspects of traveling is having the opportunity to visit hobby shops along the way. Many of them have in-store layouts that are used to feature products and to encourage “the dream” of having a completed, operating railroad. They are generally small layouts so as to not crowd out the sales space. Below are some photos of Maine Trains in Billerica, MA.



This shop does a great job of featuring custom-made truck loads.



Yahoo!

Jack Dziadul

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now have 100 Yahoo Group followers. Yahoo!

NMRA InfoNet-News

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

eBay GivingWorks Program

The NMRA participates in eBay's GivingWorks program. GivingWorks allows eBay users to donate a portion of winning auction prices to their favorite charity. Here is how it works. When you are selling any item on eBay, simply specify the 'National Model Railroad Association' as your chosen charity. Set a percentage of the final selling price to donate and let eBay do its work. If your item sells, the percentage you pre-select goes to the NMRA, and you keep the balance. An additional benefit to the seller is that eBay will reduce your final listing fees by the same percentage. If you donate 25% of the final auction price to the NMRA and your item was \$100, the NMRA receives \$25, you receive \$75 and your final listing fees from eBay are reduced by 25%.

Does it have to be train related items for sale? No, past winning auctions have included cell phones, iPhones, toner, calendars, manuals, and of course trains.

You can even donate directly from the NMRA GivingWorks page.

So now, if you are changing eras, selling unused rolling stock or upgrading your latest smart phone, sell it on eBay and specify the NMRA as your favorite charity.

Simply start by visiting <http://givingworks.ebay.com>, enter 'National Model Railroad Association' in the search box in the upper left corner and the rest is easy.

Alan Anderson
Fundraising Dept. Manager

NMRA mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors Meeting:

The NMRA Board of Directors will hold their annual mid-year (Winter) Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, NV from **Friday**, 2-14-14 to **Sunday**, 2-16-14.

The meeting will be held at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, 3555 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone: [702-733-3111](tel:702-733-3111).

The Budget and Operations meeting will begin at 2:00 pm **Friday**, 2-14-14 and the Board of Directors will be in caucus that evening (Board and invited guests only). The regular BOD meeting begins at 9:00 am on **Saturday**, 2-15-14 and is scheduled to run until late afternoon on **Sunday**, 2-16-14. All members are invited to attend the open sessions.

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 the NMRA Magazine.

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>

2013 Annual Division Report

Division

Carolina Piedmont Division (CPD13)

Meeting Times and Dates

4th Tuesday of every month
Meetings in November and December held on 2nd Tuesday
St. Michael Archangel Centre & Gallery, Cary, NC

6:30 PM Board of Directors meeting
7:00 PM Division membership meeting

All monthly meetings (except December) included an educational program on prototype railroads and/or railroad modeling. A monthly modeling contest was held and the popular vote winner received a \$10 cash prize provided by the Division. Each monthly contest had a theme.

Average monthly meeting attendance was 24 members.

Refreshments provided at each meeting.

List of Officers (for 2013) plus AP coordinator with contact information

Superintendent – Grif Bond,
grifbond@embarqmail.com

Assistant Superintendent – Jim Murphy,
berkshireshort@yahoo.com

Paymaster – Jerry Mersch,
jbmswow@nc.rr.com

Clerk – Jack Dziadul, jackdziadul@gmail.com,
newsletter editor

Director – Will Seehorn, wseehorn@gmail.com

Director – Rob Rousseau, railroad@nc.rr.com,
webmaster

Director – Steve Milley, rsmilley@yahoo.com,
Holiday Trains for Kids program coordinator

Achievement Program Coordinator – Vic
Bitleris, vbitleris@nc.rr.com

Achievement program highlights

Eight achievement program certificates, one Golden Spike and one Master Model Railroader award were earned as listed below:

Jim Babcock – Golden Spike
Steve Benezra – Chief Dispatcher
Steve Benezra – Model Railroad Engineer - Electrical
Steve Benezra – Model Railroad Author
Steve Benezra – Association Volunteer
Donald Jennings – Association Official
Gene Sing – Master Builder - Structures
Stephen Wood – Master Builder - Cars
Stephen Wood – Model Railroad Author
Stephen Wood – Master Model Railroader #507

Planned Activities from the past year

- Monthly meetings held, each with an educational program and a popular vote model contest
- Monthly popular vote model contest expanded to a calendar year program with awards for cumulative entries for top 3 participants

- January - Elected one new Director, Will Seehorn, for a 3 year term ending January 2016
- January - Presented 2012 Member of the Year award to Jack Dziadul
- "Special modeling contest" held in March 2013 using the Life-Like HO scale coaling tower kits to kit-bash a model with a diorama. Six (6) entries were received and prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place popular vote and 3 honorable mention awards presented by the Board of Directors.
- Produced 12 monthly issues of Division newsletter, The Carolina Piedmont Herald. Primary distribution was via the Division's Yahoo Group list with a few paper copies sent US Mail. Newsletter is also posted on the Division's web site www.cpd13.org
- Division booth/display with switching layouts at the National Train Day celebration in Cary, NC
- Fully scenic HO scale sectional layout constructed by Division members to use as a grand prize for fundraising for the "Holiday Trains for Kids" program
- Division booth/display with switching layout at the annual Neuse River Valley (NRV) Train Show in November
- HO scale sectional layout awarded to a grand prize winner and a runner up prize of a HO train set presented at the NRV Train Show

Special projects or working with other organizations

- Holiday Trains for Kids program – Ten (10) HO scale electric train sets were provided to less fortunate children at Christmas time. Division members identified children through local contacts such as churches, civil clubs and schools.
- Worked with the Town of Cary, NC to participate in National Train Day

Any successful or new ideas that your division has tried that might be helpful to other divisions

- Holiday Trains for Kids program that provides HO scale electric train sets to less fortunate children at Christmas time. Train sets are purchased using Division funds, contributions and funds raised from the sale of "raffle layouts".

Where in your opinion could the MER provide support to your division?

- MER could provide increased membership dues rebates/funding for Division activities.
- Subsidy of the Rail Pass program (\$9.95 fee) by the MER has been positive for the Division.

Superintendent's Name and Signature

Grif Bond

Grif Bond, Superintendent
Carolina Piedmont Division
January 22, 2014