



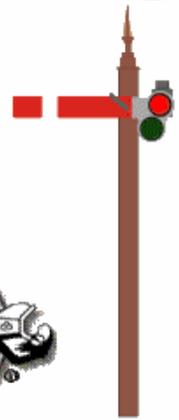
The Semaphore, The Official Publication of Land-O-Sky, Division 15, Southeastern Region, NMRA



The Semaphore

LAND-O-SKY
DIVISION 15, SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
AND
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

JOHN WILLIAMS, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BELL, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT
KEN GRAZIN, COMPANY CLERK
PENN BULLOCK, BARNMASTER
JIM FIQUA, PAYMASTER
DAVE ANDERSON, WEBMASTER



February 2009

VOLUME 38, NO.6

Our next membership meeting is on Thursday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m.
Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to [the editor](#).
Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.



**Interesting things happen to interesting people at our
Operating Sessions.**

See more interesting photographs [inside](#).



From the Superintendent's Desk

By John Williams, Division 15 Superintendent

At the last few meetings, people have been talking up the upcoming NMRA convention in Hartford, Connecticut. For those who are not members I suggest you give the NMRA a try. But you may ask, why join the NMRA? For me, the answer is straightforward: I am a joiner and I support the efforts of the NMRA for the benefit of our hobby. The ease of digital model railroading would not have been possible without the NMRA setting up standards for chips etc. The NMRA is in our corner, so why not give the national some support. The national still has a 6 month trial membership for just \$9.95. For this you receive all member benefits (except voting). This includes six months of Scale Rails. For members or those who once were members this monthly magazine bears no resemblance to the old NMRA Bulletin. The current magazine is as good as MR or RMC. It is truly a first class publication. If for no other reason than this I think the NMRA is worth a shot, especially at this low introductory rate. For more information about NMRA, go their [website](#).

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

We are back to be having our meetings on the first Thursday of the month which for the next two months will be 5th of each month, by the way the calendar days fall. Mark your calendars and see you there.

Operating Sessions on the LOST RR

The next session will be on Saturday, February 14th at 2:00 PM. In March, we will operate on Saturday, March 14th and on Sunday, March 22, both sessions starting at 2:00 pm.

The Module Committee meets next on February 12th at 7:00 pm.

The following items are needed for the layout: coal hoppers (20), grain hoppers (6-8), cabooses (4) (anyone interested in painting cabs in the club color?), chip gons (8), flat cars (6) (needed for lumber mill), low gons, DCC Locos, Caboose ground throws, (HO, sprung), coupler pin adjustment pliers, Kaydee #5 couplers, small screws for truck and coupler attachment, industries kits, jewelers files, scales (old postal ?),

N scale automobiles, N scale houses, HO/N decals (wet/dry). Please help if you can.

Train Show

Our Next Train Show is on February 20 and 21 at the Civic Center in Asheville. We will discuss details and make assignments at the February meeting. If you are planning on putting items in the Company Store for sale, please complete the [attached form](#) before the show. It also helps to place a label (such as the sticker that holds this newsletter closed) to each item, displaying your initials, the item number (from the inventory sheet) and your price. This makes selling the item easier, tracking the money easier for those working in the store, and a more accurate accounting for you. Thanks!



Minutes of our January Meeting

Because of the weather, participation at the January meeting was sparse. To accommodate those who were absent, we are providing some information about the meeting, courtesy of Ken Vasilik

Treasurer's Report: At the last meeting, \$150 was collected for Eliada Homes for Christmas presents for children. Expenses coming in for various activities including preparation for the February show will more than likely have to be covered by the CD. Funds on hand will cover expenses up to the Show. Additional revenue will come in from the Show, but it is apparent that normal membership and revenues will not cover forecasted expenses. Expenses for publishing The Semaphore were discussed along with the possibility of converting to a web-site publication.

Supt Williams will ask the Finance Committee to review the level of the dues fee with the possibility of raising it to more adequately cover budgeted expenses in the future.

Modular Layout: Operations Manager Wally Brown expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the Industrial District. Jack Mershon noted the efforts underway to tie the entire area together with the types of buildings and landscaping. Brown was pleased with the number of members attending the last two operating sessions and noted the upcoming session this Saturday. He has put out an email to all members asking for notification of attending and also the need for additional rolling stock and locomotives. Also mentioned was the intention to have a radio communications system for operations in that the layout size and the number of operators were becoming more complex.

The Barn and Eliada Youth. The Barnmeister, Penn Bullock, advised of the involvement of all the Eliada cottages in the T-track operation bringing a potential of 30 children now involved. This past Tuesday night's session had 17 children participating. To accommodate this increase, additional space for 1 more table has been made and, together with Eliada management, the creation of 2 separate sessions on Tuesday evenings is being developed. Additionally, another session for the "kids-in-school" is planned beginning next week around the noon time frame for at least one school semester. With this increase in working with the children, Penn once again noted the need and asked for additional volunteers.

Good & Welfare: Fred Coleman advised of Charlie Krug's successful heart valve replacement and that he is now at home convalescing and in good spirits. Charlie will be at home recovering for at least another 2 weeks. Fred further advised of Kent Roberts having cancer and recently completing radiation treatments to now be followed with chemotherapy. Please keep these members in your prayers..

Land O Sky Division Feb. 20-21, 2009 Train Show: Fred Coleman advised of weak participation from vendors so far, most likely brought on by the economic downturn. Out of 110 vendor tables planned, only 42 have been sold to date. With Penn Bullock's lead, Asheville Brewing and Pizza will be sponsoring a significant promotion of the Show. Contact Fred Coleman for a Show table. Volunteers will be needed for various functions. Sign up with Fred. Also mentioned was the need for "night-watchman" volunteers at the Show in the Civic Center.

2009 SER Convention. Fred Coleman advised of the Convention in Pensacola, FL, June 12 – 14. Fred has application material for attending.

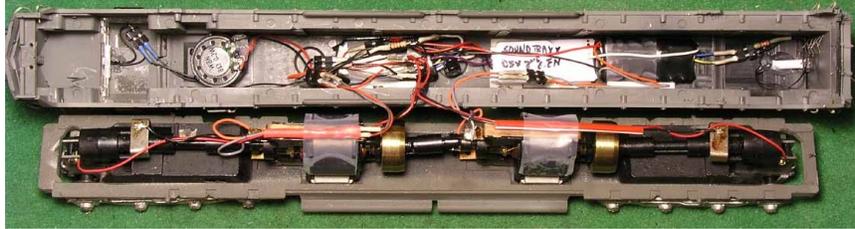
Junaluska Layout: John Williams discussed the progress on the layout being developed with Bill Siebert's assistance. Those interested in working on it are welcome. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00pm.

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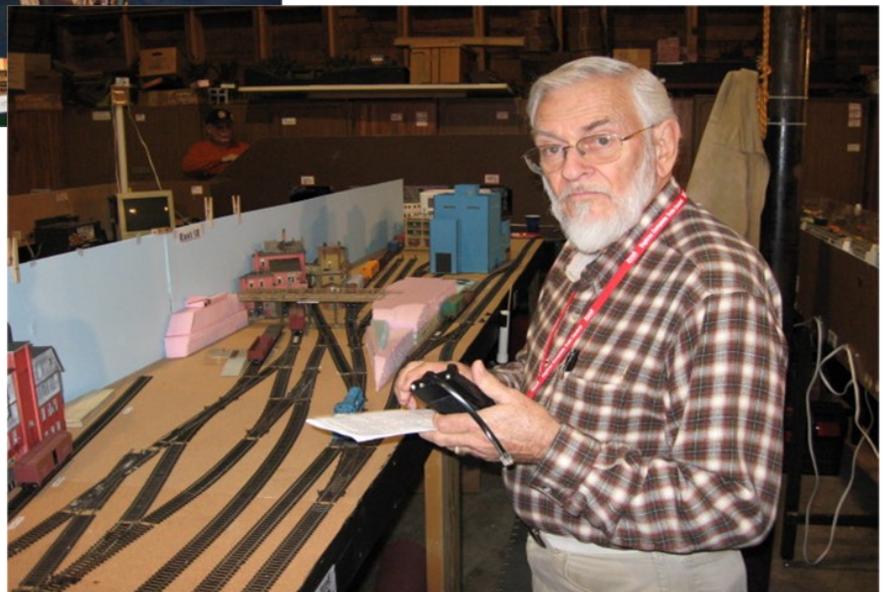
DCC Clinic: Mike Smith gave an informative presentation on the development of the DD35 and the installation of DCC motor and sound decoders in an Athearn HO scale DD35A dual-motored diesel locomotive. A pdf version of the write-up and photos are available from Mike.

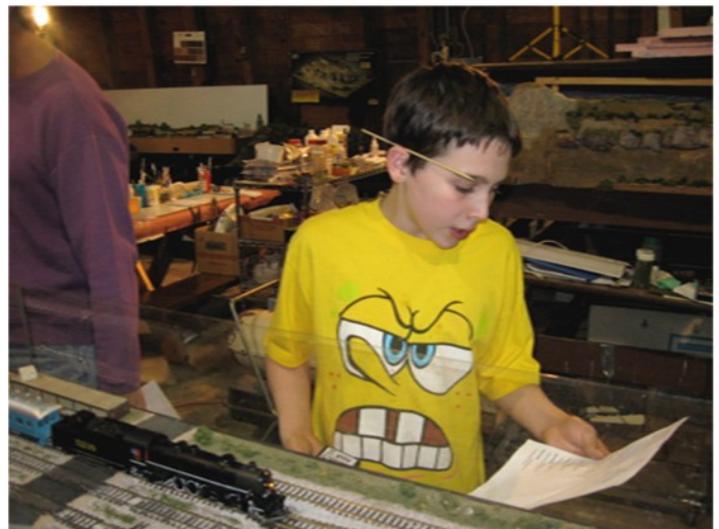
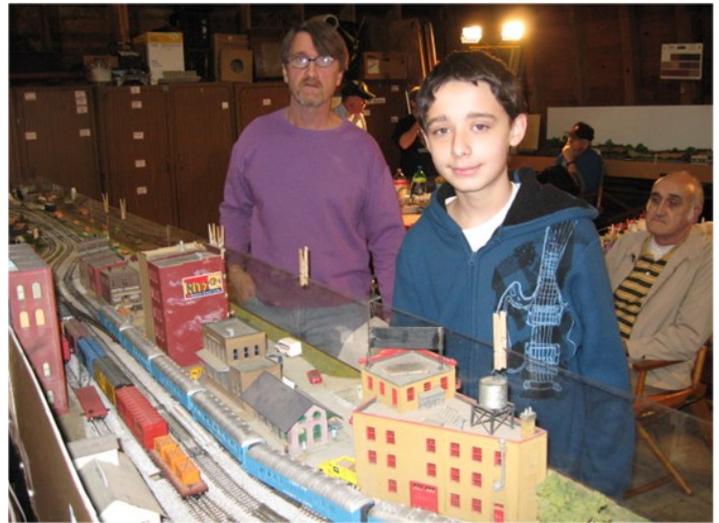


The inside of Mike Smith's DD35A

New Business: The Supt advised that Ben Bartlett is the Achievement Program Chairman. The Supt asked for volunteers for the By-Laws Committee. A road trip is planned to The Spencer Yard for this spring. The Old Fort Hobby Shop is giving 20% off to Club members.

Pictures from the Operating Session





Come join the fun at our next Operating Session on February 14th

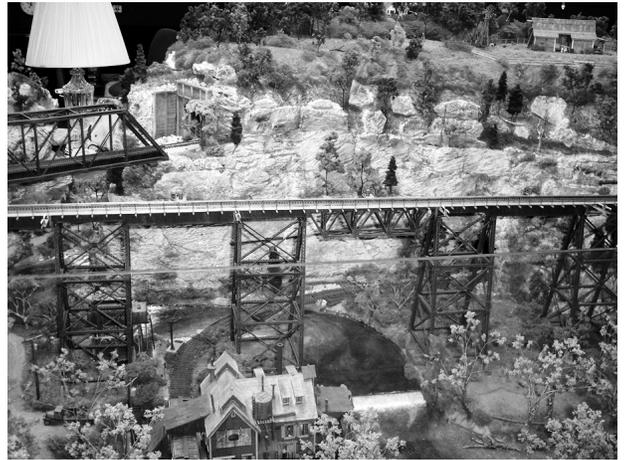


A trip up North.

BY JOHN WILLIAMS

On December 6th five of us took an afternoon road trip to Johnson City, TN. This was one of what I hope will be several road trips we will make each year. It was my first experience with prototype and model railroading outside of the Asheville area.

The first place we visited was a storefront in downtown Johnson City. Here several model railroaders have set up several basic layouts, primarily Lionel and American Flyer. We then traveled to the George L. Carter Museum at East Tennessee State University. At the museum are several highly-detailed layouts in several scales, including HO and N. The images provided here are from the HO scale layout. In looking at the design of the HO layout it is clear that it had its beginnings as a modular layout. But with a permanent home it was possible to create a far more detailed design. We finished up with a brief stop at the Erwin CSX yard. As an added bonus, Johnson City is also home to a Hobbytown USA store. The store has a fairly good selection of motive power but was a little light on rolling stock and detail parts. With a driving time of less than an hour from Asheville a trip up north to Johnson City is well worth the time for a look at several model railroad layouts and some 1-foot-equals-12-inches railroading.



On November 16, 2007, the George L. Carter Railroad Museum was dedicated at East Tennessee State University by ETSU President Paul Stanton with a large, enthusiastic crowd in attendance. Named in honor of George Lafayette Carter, the founder of the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad, Carter is also recognized as the founding father of ETSU by donating the land for the campus to the State of Tennessee. The museum hosts three historic model railway layouts and was developed via the work efforts of the Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders. The exhibit continues the organizational effort toward creating a permanent collection and museum dedicated to the railway history of the Johnson City area. Several years in the making, the railway exhibits had previously been hosted by the Carroll Reece Museum at ETSU and the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site.

Three model railway layouts are in the museum: a G (large) scale layout (obtained by former Johnson City Mayor Tom McKee) measures 12.5 feet by 12.5 feet; a 44-foot-by-24-foot HO scale layout owned by members of the modular club and a 23-foot-by-12-foot N (smaller) scale layout donated by Ms. Marian Bankus, of Knoxville, make up the permanent display. "The N layout was sort of like building a boat in a basement," said Dr. Fred Alsop of the ETSU Biology Department and a member of the modular railroad group. "It wasn't meant to be moved and was almost completed before Mr. Bankus died."

The HO modular layout built by the Modular Railroaders club is owned in portable sections by each of its members. ETSU President Dr. Paul Stanton saw this layout and became an enthusiastic supporter of obtaining a permanent home for a railway museum on the ETSU campus in tribute to George L. Carter. At any given time you may see any or all of Johnson City's three legendary railroads, the ET&WNC (Tweetsie), the Clinchfield, or the Southern in operation on the HO scale layout.

The Museum is open to the public on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 pm. For more info, go to <http://www.johnsonsdepot.com/glcarter/cartermuseum.htm>



Toe River Model Railroaders find a home.

SUBMITTED BY MIKE SMITH



Several years ago a former Land O' Sky member, Tom Hullett, organized a small group of model railroaders from Yancey and Mitchell counties. The organization was casual. There were no dues. The group grew and diminished over the years but continued to meet regularly. In 2006 the group was granted space on the second floor of a retail coop in Bakersville. The organization adopted the name of Toe River Model Railroaders, and a dues schedule was established. With the few dollars collected the group embarked on building a

simple layout that would accommodate N, HO and O27 trains. The layout was built in modules that are very similar to the Land Of Sky Terminal Railway modules, but the layout was a simple great oval for each of the 3 scales. The Toe River Model Railroaders enjoyed these digs for about a year and a half. Then the coop was sold, and the new owner asked us to leave the premises. The materials and models collected were stored in a shed belonging to one of the members.

In 2007 there was talk that the CSX railroad was considering the donation of the depot in Spruce Pine to the town. A task force was formed within the town government to determine how the depot would be used and supported. Five members of the Toe River Model Railroaders, including Joe Norris and Mike Smith, both current members of the Western North Carolina Model Railroaders, made a presentation to the Town of Spruce Pine task force to make the Spruce Pine depot into a model railroad museum. We had hopes of modeling ourselves after the Hendersonville depot/ model railroad. Alas, it was not to be. CSX officials indicated that the depot was housing operating and administrative personnel, and that these people needed a building of the same size as the depot to house them so they could continue to work. The building was to be supplied by the Town of Spruce Pine. A counter-proposal to share the depot did not fly, so the town abandoned the idea, and the Toe River Model Railroaders continued to be homeless.

Ray Bernhardt, one of the group's earliest members, wanted another place for the Toe River Model Railroaders to have a layout, so he began to call around. Ray spoke to a number of people, one of whom was Dr. Daniel Barron, Director of the Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library System. Dr. Barron worked with officials of the Town of Spruce Pine, and in the summer of 2008 a space in the basement of the Mitchell County Public Library in Spruce Pine was made available to the Toe River Model Railroaders.

The space is approximately 23 feet by 25 feet, and includes adjacent rooms that will support storage and a workshop. A long term lease is being prepared by the Town of Spruce Pine so that the investment the Toe River Model Railroaders make in the layout will be protected. A layout design is under way, and there is lively discussion about the scope of the plan. The agreed upon idea is to model segments of the Clinchfield Railroad. Still under discussion is the extent, or size of the model. A current proposal has the layout running from Erwin, Tn. to Spartanburg, SC, like the Carolina Clinchfield and Ohio when it was chartered in 1908, with features to include the Erwin Yards, Spruce Pine, the famous Loops down the face of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Marion and the Bostic Yards and on to Spartanburg. However, there is discussion about ending the layout at Marion. The plan will also include some of the feeder railroads, both standard and narrow gauge, that helped to develop the mountain counties by carrying lumber, minerals and produce to markets outside the mountains.

Current active members of the Toe River Model Railroaders are Eddie "HoHo" Horhorouney of Pensacola, President, Warren Harding of the Ledger Community, VP and Treasurer, Ray Bernhardt, a seasonal member with a summer home in Spruce Pine, Phil Price of Spruce Pine, and Mike Smith of Burnsville. If anyone is interested in more information, or in joining this fledgling group, please contact Warren Harding by phone at 828-688-1922 or by [email](#).

Inventory of Goods Offered for Sale
WNC Model Railroad Club
COMPANY STORE

	Description of the item (s)	Quantity	Asking price	Minimum price	Selling price
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Instructions: Seller, please complete the form above. Company Store personnel will record the actual price at which goods were sold in the right-hand column.

Notice to seller: Goods are offered for sale at your own risk. Store representatives will make every reasonable effort to protect your property from harm and to sell your goods at the full price you have requested. Your minimum price will not be shared with customers but will be used to set the price of a minimum acceptable offer. In consideration for these efforts the Western North Carolina Model Railroad Club will take a 10 percent commission on items actually sold. Your proceeds and any unsold items will be available for pick up during the final two hours of the show. Thank you for your participation and your support of our organization.

Seller's name (please print clearly) _____ Phone number _____

Total sales _____ less (10 %) commission _____ = Proceeds to seller _____, Initials _____

Land of Sky, Div. 15, SER, NMRA & WNC Model Railroaders, Inc.

19TH ANNUAL MODEL TRAIN SHOW



**Will Be Held At The
ASHEVILLE CIVIC CENTER**

EXIT 4C ON I-240

Feb 20 & 21, 2008

Friday Feb 20, Noon to 7 PM

Saturday Feb 21, 9 AM to 4 PM

ADMISSION: \$5.00 PER DAY
(Children under 13 FREE with adult)

**THERE WILL BE 3 OPERATING LAYOUTS
OVER 100 TABLES**

Need Info ?

Contact Fred Coleman

Phone: 828-699-098 email: tsinfo@landofskydiv.org