

The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org & [Facebook](#)

April 2011

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 8

Our next meeting is on April 7th at 7 PM.

Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to [editor](#).

Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.



Many came to our train show earlier this month.



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday April 7th.

Clinic: Making water without using any epoxy product.

Synopsis: **Fred Coleman** will be showing how he recently finished his port area. He used a method that Railroad Model Craftsman recently featured. Come to learn and have fun. **See you there!**

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Superintendent **Fred Coleman**.

Fred reported that:

We are having the train show in the beautiful new log cabin at the NC Agriculture Center this weekend. The modules are already set up. We will need help from 9:00 am till closing on both Friday and Saturday. WLOS helped produce several brief commercials that promote our train show. We hope you had a chance to see it. (They were aired during GMA, six and eleven o'clock news)

We continue to assist Peggy Keyes establish a model train museum at Lake Lure.

The Land O'Sky is having it meeting on 16 April, French Broad E'n'pire will have their show on April 30th.

Don't forget that the SER convention is coming up on May 20 to 22 in Macon, GA.

Following a short break we had an interesting presentation by **Gordon Fewster** featuring many beautiful slides of trains in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Health and welfare report

We would like to extend our sympathy to **Clint Smoke** on the death of his son. Our thoughts and prayers are with you **Clint**.

Train Show Pictures

If you took pictures at the train show, would you please submit them to our Webmaster/Asst. Superintendant.

You can email, zip file, or CD them to [Dave our web lackey](#). These will end up on the website as a slideshow.

Thanks!



TRAIN SHOW REPORT

By all indications, the s train show was a success in spite of the crowded conditions. We will hear more about the financial success of the event at the April meeting. We should note the little locomotive that ran throughout the show on the small modules, making hundreds of laps and racking up 500 scale miles during the two day show.





MORE SCENES FROM THE TRAIN SHOW





THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE IT A SUCCESS.

ON TRACK WITH THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN MODEL RAILROADERS

By Sam Hopkins

On March 17, the **Smoky Mountain Model Railroaders met** at their new facility in Clyde. It was held on Thursday at the request of three of the members who are school teachers and we were glad to accommodate. New members Erman & Roberta D'Alesandro jumped in and offered to help with a showing in Waynesville downtown on Main Street in a toy store some weekend. Erman will see what the facility is like, take measurements, and see what dates are available. This is the 'next order of business' - to find suitable places to set up and display the layout to the public. Please give us your suggestions for good venues to show the public what modern O Gauge RR looks like. A trade show or garden show or similar function will be a great place to introduce the 'regular' citizen to our trains.

Roberta offered to take up the task of creating a logo (she is a computer instructor at Tuscola High) for our cards and flyers. We voted to have collared (polo) shirts made in medium gray with black lettering and a silhouette of a locomotive. 'Smoky Mountain Model Railroaders' est. 2010 Should be subtle yet convey who we are. Thank you Roberta.

The possibility of hosting our own train show this summer was discussed and the available dates are August 20 and Sept 17 at the Haywood County Fairgrounds. The August date is the first weekend of school and probably not a good time for families. The Sept date is good but the Friday evening before is not available for set-up. This would entail us and the vendors having to set-up early Saturday morning which could deter some vendors. I will check back with the Director this week to see if any later dates are available. We were hoping to do something fairly soon to help generate some much-needed income for the club.

Speaking of finances Folks, we need a couple more participants in the modular project and soon! As you can see in the attached photos, there are still some pieces of 'prime real estate' available. 'The club' is already a couple of hundred \$\$\$ out of pocket on this venture and that's not a particularly good situation for us. This is fun but has also been a lot of work and required a lot of time away from our families. The wives support and approval is a necessity! We have created a reasonably nice operating layout where everyone can come and run their trains and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship of other RR enthusiasts.

Harold and Sam, along with seasoned electrician Ed Rynning, have been driving weekly to Lake Lure for the past several months at the request of Fred Coleman of the WNC Model RR Club. We are helping him create a



Model RR Museum near the lake there in honor of a train collector who passed away a few years ago. The man's widow has asked for help in creating a 'memorial' of sorts to help make people aware of pancreatic cancer. Mr. Lawrence Keys was an avid 3 rail O gauge collector who has quite a bit of interesting Toy Train Items. He enjoyed the early Tinsplate Pre-war Lionel, Ives, and others as well as postwar and modern Lionel, MTH, and Williams. Fred is creating a nice display and large operating 3 Rail layout for people to enjoy. Unfortunately, Fred knew very little about 3 rail trains! Frankly, we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into when he asked us for help.

The Museum is called 'The Right Track' and is just up from the lake at 2414 Memorial Hwy which is the main road going East from the town. Peggy Keys plans to have a small opening on Thursday March 31st as this is her husband's birthday. All are invited. Nothing formal.

We have obtained a MTH Z4000 transformer and Lionel TMCC command unit from her for the club as a result of our labor and auto expenses (close to 1000 miles as of this writing!). This is a terrific and very necessary addition to the layout and will save having to assess the membership for a power plant. We have 16 tables completed and three more under construction. One module is a lift bridge built by Harold so that we won't have to bend and squat to gain access to the inside of the layout. We have completed the groundwork to have a very nice display layout for everyone to enjoy! Many of you have never even seen it!



Cost to participate in the modular project is only \$125 for a space. This is not much more than the cost of materials – track, wiring, wood, and foam. Copper wire has DOUBLED in price since we started this. We are happy to do the physical construction and provide you with a nice BIG layout to run your trains. Some of you have built home layouts and can appreciate what goes into them. *Literally Thousands of dollars.* Here is your opportunity to be a part of a large layout operation for a fraction of that amount!

Hopefully, at some point we will encounter someone who may be able to provide the club with a long-term 'lease' on a nice warehouse or similar where we can construct a permanent layout. We must get the trains 'OUT THERE' to find such a person. This is accomplished with the portable layout. Come lend a hand guys.

We now have a 'Company Store' and a 'Lending Library' for the membership to avail themselves of. We run into some exceptional values online from time to time and may be able to pick things up for the newcomers to purchase at a good price. We have some of the premium Lionel '6464' box cars available and we just purchased a full case of K-line 1:43 scale die-cast vehicles that will be available when they arrive. If anyone has good books or magazines that new people would enjoy, please bring them. Also you are welcome to bring any used items that people could use if reasonable priced. Some of the new members do not have any trains yet and we'd like to assist them in starting right.

There are also several pieces of 2' x 4' cut Masonite for you to construct your diorama on for FREE. Dick Miller brought a good supply of misc scrap wood last week for everyone to use. Any donation of supplies is welcome. Those who have been around the hobby awhile should be able to remember what it was like to be a newcomer. Your expertise is needed and appreciated.

Location is open for the April meeting and will not conflict with the York PA TCA meet or with Easter weekend. How about one of you hosting on the day of your choice. A nice aspect of the club is seeing other people's TRAINS! The May meeting is scheduled for Sat, May 14 from 2pm – 5pm which will be our 1 year anniversary party! We plan to have a hot dog cookout and cake at the new facility. There is plenty of room and we should have lots of shade and grass. Please plan to attend. Please remember that wives/spouses are welcome AND encouraged to attend. Weekly 'work sessions' on Tuesdays. 7pm – 10pm. Please come and ask questions, obtain help with your tables, etc.





EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

NRHS ALEXANDER CHAPTER 9TH ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

April 9th from 9 AM to 5 PM at the Metro Center, Hickory, NC

[See website for details.](#)

DIVISION 15 SER MINI-CONVENTION

April 16 at 9 AM, Hampton Inn, Hendersonville, NC

[See website for details.](#)

FRENCH BROAD E" N"PIRE TRAIN SHOW

April 30 from 10 AM to 4 PM, Whitmere Act. Ctr., Hendersonville, NC

[See website for details.](#)

SRHA CONVENTION

May 20-21 SRHA's 25th Anniversary at Spencer, NC.

2011 SER CONVENTION

May 20-22, 2011 in Macon, Georgia.

Hosted by the Empire Division

For the latest information [go to the website for details.](#)



EXTRA 2011 WEST



NMRA 2011 SACRAMENTO, CA

2011 NMRA CONVENTION

July 3-9, X2011, Sacramento, CA

Check [out website for details](#)

National Train Show

July 8 to 10 check out [the website for more details,](#)

THE LOST RR CALL BOARD

The LOST RR will be at the 9th annual Train Show at the Metro Center in Hickory. Setup will be on Friday April 8 and running and pack up on Saturday April 9. We need a couple people to fill out the call board! [Contact Fred if you can help.](#)

Thanks