



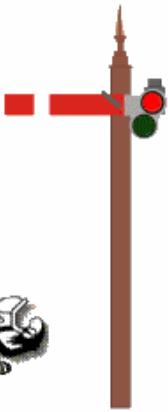
The Semaphore, The Official Publication of Land-O-Sky, Division 15, Southeastern Region, NMRA



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 JIM FIQUA, PAYMASTER



May 2009

VOLUME 38, NO.9

Our next membership meeting is on Thursday, May 7th 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.



Using metal wheels will improve performance on model and real railroads.

Here we see a couple of Wally Brown's crew changing a wheelset on a cab.



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 pm.

Our normal business meeting which will start at **7 PM** on **Thursday May 7th**.

Clinic: Model Railroad Magazines by: Frank Persall.

Summary: A review of model railroading magazines by one of our resident experts

Operating Sessions on the LOST RR

Sessions: Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 PM and Sunday, May 24 at 6:30 PM.

Please contact **Wally Brown** by [email](#) or 683 – 1976 for any questions.

Health And Welfare

David Purcell passed away on April 21, following a long illness. A past superintendent and very active member will be missed. Our deepest sympathy, thoughts and prayers go out to **Linda** and family. We share their sorrow at his passing.

THE OPERATIONS & MODULES COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 21ST AT 7:00 PM.

Have an interesting idea for a clinic that you can do. Please call Fred Coleman to schedule your time today! Hurry, Slots are filling up quickly, call now for your preferred placement.

Minutes of our April Meeting

Ken Granzin, Company Clerk

President **John Williams** called the meeting to order and began the club's business with the Treasurer's report.

Ben Bartlett had nothing to report regarding achievement this month.

Wally Brown spoke on operations. The recent operations session was cancelled because the layout was not set up and running. At its last meeting, the Module Committee is discussed moving one operating session a month to a weeknight. Please give the Committee your input if you are interested. The Committee considered how to keep three trains running on a continuous basis at LOST RR showings. Thus evolved the Train Show Rules of the Road that **Wally** distributed. **Wally** pledged to use these rules on 4 April at the showing in Hickory. There are eight rules, plus specified directions for the three trains to run. Also under consideration by the Committee is a once-monthly general running session without any schedule, train list, or operations during this time -- just an op-

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portunity to run your trains as you want, basically for fun (your definition) and a track available for DC (analog) motive power.

There was no report from the barn, given Penn's absence and no input from other barn workers.

Fred Coleman provided some news regarding absent club members.

Dan Lang reported on the open house where he displayed his new layout on 25 March.

John Williams reported that all track is now laid at Lake Junaluska. Members are invited to join in the construction project. For information, contact **John Williams** or **Bill Siebert**.

The *Apple Valley Model Railroad Club* is proceeding well with its layout expansion. On Saturday, 16 April, the Club will join in the festivities of the Bizarre Bazaar on 7th Avenue East in Hendersonville by holding an open house at the train depot (located at the intersection of 7th and the railroad tracks).

Frank Pearsall showed a newly-available Carstens Publications book on building structures, *Model Railroad Structures From A to Z - by Wayne and Mary Cay Wesolowski*; it is reasonably priced for the content, which should be of interest to many members. **Frank** was asked "What scale is it for?", he replied "Yes!". (*Webmaster note for those who don't know Frank*: It is independent of scale, deals with principles that are universal.) You can probably find it for purchase on their [website](#) or calling Carstens Publications at 888-526-5326, if your hobby shop does not have it. For a review of the book [click here](#).

John Williams said *The Semaphore* is now available monthly on the internet thanks to the expertise of our Webmaster, **Dave Anderson**, resulting in significant financial savings for the club, and allowing for a greater volume of such features as photographs, which can be in color. Videos can also be shown.

John Williams announced plans for a trip to the NC Transportation Museum, tentatively in May. The museum features mainly railroad equipment and structures, but also exhibits other means of transportation such as interesting automobiles. You can ride the train around the sizable grounds and even ride a rotating turntable. Contact **John** if you are interested in joining the group going to Spencer.

The **LOST RR** modular layout was exhibited in Hickory on 4 April at the train show sponsored by the *Alexander Chapter, SRHS*.

John Williams spoke of the sizable contribution to our hobby that is made by the NMRA. He emphasized the importance of the standards that have been established by the NMRA; for example, they have prevented confusion in the formats used for digital control. As another example, the association's website lists such standards as the appropriate weight for each car (weights can be added by fishing sinkers, tire-balancing weights, and modeling clay. Visit the NMRA [website](#) for details.

John provided a handout listing appropriate weights.

The **SER convention** will be held 12-14 June in Pensacola, FL. The registration charge is \$75 if paid by 1 May, \$95 if paid thereafter.

John Williams wants a by-laws committee to work on separating the *division's* from *WNC Model Railroad (WNCMRR)* club in our by-laws. *WNCMRR club* does not require NMRA membership whereas *Division 15* which does. The issue is primarily one of dealing with technical issues of membership also streamlining and separating the two entities' by-laws. Notify **John** if you will work on this matter.

After the business meeting, **Gordon Fewster** presented ideas regarding Unique Buildings for your Model Railroad. **Gordon** provided many suggestions on creating your own variation of the model buildings you purchase as kits; i.e., kitbashing. He displayed several impressive examples of his

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own work. He also dealt with techniques for making your own decals using computer printers and a word processing program. His handout gave many tips for modeling unique buildings and provided very complete instructions for making decals, some of the instructions taken from Micro-Mark.



If anyone who collected extra handouts when we dismissed the meeting, please remember to bring them to the May meeting, so that handouts will be available for members absent from April's meeting.

Copies of the Train Show Rules of the Road for the LOST RR modular layout and for the appropriate weights to use for your cars will also be available at that time.

Examples of Gordon's work with decals on the Ontario Southern





Two more examples of Gordon's work with decals on the Ontario Southern

NC Transportation Museum Membership Days Events



Lug Nut, the "World's Fastest Mascot," and the official mascot of Lowe's Motor Speedway, visited the NCTM for Membership Day, April 18th.

Rail Days June 13 and 14

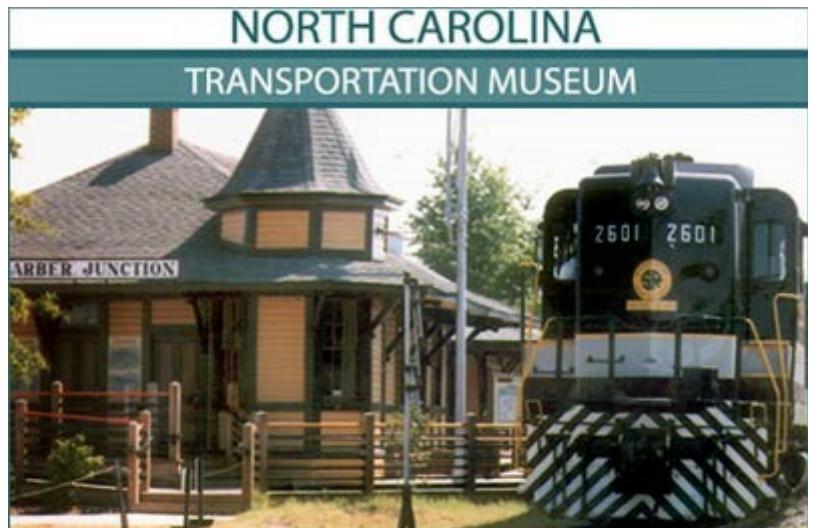
This annual festival celebrates all things rail. Re-live the golden years of railroading with a weekend full of family fun!

Train rides, model trains, live music, children's activities, the Rail Days Chili Cook-off and more. **If all the great special events at the N.C. Transportation Museum keep you coming back for more, it's time to consider a museum membership!** You'll get free rides on our daily train for you or your whole family, a discount in our Gift Station, discounts on certain ticketed special events, a subscription to our ShopTalk magazine, and an invitation to a day of special activities just for members. NCTM memberships are affordable, and grant you access to more than 250 other museums through our membership in the [Association of Science-Technology Centers](#). But most importantly, your membership supports museum programs, so we can keep offering the fun and educational events that keep you coming back again and again!

All memberships are for one year and include the following basic benefits, with additional benefits for certain membership levels as noted:

- Free train rides, Excluding Special Events
- Free Turntable Rides
- 10% Discount at the Museum Store, The Gift Station
- Subscription to Shop Talk
- Recognition in Shop Talk as a Member
- Invitations to Members-Only Events
- Advance Notice of Special Events

For more information, [click here](#)





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The National Model Railroad Association *Annual Convention & National Train Show®*



Hartford, Connecticut
Connecticut Convention Center

Train Show: July 10 - 12, 2009

Annual Convention: July 6-12, 2009



The NMRA's National Contest
has expanded into a

Celebration of Models,
Photos & Crafts.

with a greater choice of events!

- Kit Build Contest
 - An afternoon of "Meet the Entrants"
 - People's Choice Award (Popular vote)
 - Model Showcase® - non judged "show & tell"
- Plus, all the normal contest events.

It's fun and a great chance to improve your skills.

If not now, when?

Hartford National



Visit the National Model Railroad Assn.'s website/contest page for details!
<http://www.nmra.org>



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RAILS TO SAILS

**NMRA'S SOUTHEASTERN REGION
CONVENTION FOR 2009
HOSTED BY THE GULF DIVISION
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, JUNE 12-14, 2009**

FRIDAY JUNE 12, 2009

9:00am Registration Opens Contest Registration Opens
12:00pm SER Board of Directors Meeting
1:00pm Clinics, **Non-Rail – Meet and Greet**
2:30pm **Tour – CSX Goulding Yard, Clinic , Clinic –**
4:00pm Clinics, **Non-Rail Activity**
5:30pm Registration Closes, Contest Room Closes

SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2009

8:00am Registration Opens, Contest room Opens
9:00am Contest Room Closes For Judging, **Tour – International Paper Mill, Train Show Opens**
10:30 am Clinics
11:30am Lunch Break
12:00pm Registration Closes
1:00pm Clinics, **Non-Rail Tour – Historic Pensacola Village**
2:30pm Clinics
4:00pm Clinician Roundtable Discussion **Non-Rail Activity**
5:00pm Train Show Closes
6:30pm Presidents Reception
7:15pm Awards Banquet

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2009

8:00am Breakfast
9:00am SER Annual Meeting
10:00am Train Show opens
1:00pm Layout tours
For more information visit the convention's [website](#).