

# The Semaphore



THE OFFICAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at [www.wncmrr.org](http://www.wncmrr.org) & Facebook

## June 2013

### VOLUME 43 NUMBER 12

Our next meeting is on June 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



**WHAT ABOUT THIS IDEA FOR A MODELING  
CONTEST? COULD A DIESEL CROSS THIS AREA?**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Clinic: Achievement Certificate paperwork**

Synopsis: A clinic and discussion of paperwork needed for the Chief Dispatcher and Associate Volunteer certificates. What is required, what can you do to get these certificates. Trying to take some of the mystery out of the NMRA paperwork. **See you there!**

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## REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7:00 on Thursday, May 2, 2013

The LOST RR was at the 11th annual NC Railroad Expo and a good time was had by all. Tear down went very well, good job done by all. We were one of 4 layouts at the expo. The hosts had a very good showing of people and vendors and were happy.

The next LOST RR outing will be in Charlotte on June 22nd, there will be more details during the June meeting.

501C3 paperwork is in the IRS mill and according to their website they are working on our month of arrival paperwork. We are awaiting the start of the IRS clock, which is 90 day (probably business days) from the acceptance of our submission. Still waiting for the acceptance letter, Mark Upright (Eliada CEO) said that we should hear within 30 day for our submission. His last submission from an Eliada affiliated group went in that time, and that submission is very similar to ours.

Peachtree Express in Atlanta (July 14 to 20), make your plans to go. It's close enough to go for a day or two. Check out the Peachtree Express website for more info.

Health and welfare: Patty and Gordon had birthdays in April and Fred has one in May. Nothing came from any members.

2014 SER Convention will be held in Memphis, TN with MCoR. More details will be coming out soon, probably after this year's national convention. It is at the extreme border of both regions, but it is a town you might get your spouse to go to. (You might get to see Elvis)

The Hendersonville Court House will be having some model railroad display depicting the area. The work has been done mostly by the Apple Valley club. Go take a look.

Nearby train shows/conventions: TCA is holding a couple in FL: Miami and Jacksonville in May; Mid Central region (May 15-18); Lone Star Region (5/28-6/2); National Garden Railway (6/5-9) Cincinnati, OH. See [www.railserve.com/events/train\\_shows.html](http://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html) for more info.

There will be a G scale outdoor layout at the NC Arboretum, Clint will have some details and would expand on them if he were here.

An update on Micro Controllers (TI Launch Pad) from the last meeting

- This is as powerful as a 286 CPU

*(Continued on page 3)*



- Programmable for signals, crossing gates, lighting effects, etc.
- Cost about \$5 per board runs off USB power and can run LED's, and what the pins will do. (i.e.. Run a LED, play a sound, etc. )

See <http://launchpad4mrr.blogspot.com/> for more details

What is Fuzee?

It was a flare that the conductor would drop from the caboose. It had a run time of 10 minutes and signaled a stopped train ahead. It was to be on or very near the tracks.

A cause for operating at reduced speed.

As we looked at members pictures the riders and rail fans discussed the fun of Southern 630 Steam train excursion from Asheville.

Then we watched the DVD of the NS recovery after Katrina.



**Our next meeting** will be on Thursday, June 6th at 7:00 pm.

2 photos of 630 by the Biltmore Station on it's way out.  
(Photos by Dave Anderson)



## AREA GROUPS OR CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

**The Apple Valley Model Railroad Club's** HO club layout is in the Hendersonville, NC depot. It is open every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm. See their [website](#) for details.

**The French Broad E'N'pire**, a N scale club is based in Hendersonville, NC. See their [website](#) or contact Chuck Place at [hmp3@blueridge.net](mailto:hmp3@blueridge.net).

**The Smoky Mountain Model Railroaders** meet in Clyde, NC at 7:00 pm Tuesdays, off Exit 107 near the hospital. The have two 3 rail O gauge modular layouts. For more information, contact Sam Hopkins at 828-773-0550 (cell) or [csamh@att.net](mailto:csamh@att.net).

**Piedmont Garden Railway Society**. the NC/SC area. We are interested in the hobby of garden railroading and having open houses. Contact Email their newsletter [editor](#) for details

For those who are also rail fans, the **Asheville NRHS** Meets 6:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Enka-Candler library, Candler, NC. See their [website](#) or contact [katiphelps@charter.net](mailto:katiphelps@charter.net) or 828-670-7709.

The **Hub City Railroad Museum**, a project of the **Greenville Chapter NRHS**, is located at 298 Magnolia St. in downtown Spartanburg, SC. Summer hours are 8 am until 2 pm, winter hours 10 am until 3 pm every Saturday, Wednesdays 10 am until 2 pm all year. See their [website](#) for details





# ASHEVILLE YARD MASTER TALKS TO APPLE VALLEY RAILROAD CLUB

**By Clint Smoke**

Larry Williams is Norfolk Southern's (NS) Asheville Yard Master. He has been with the company for 15 years. He oversees yard operations and has some influence over railroad traffic coming from four directions. Trains arrive from the west from Canton and other destinations on the old Murphy branch; from the north from Knoxville; from the east from Linwood Yard; and from the south, well not much comes from the south. Some traffic goes to the power plant and a few cars are set out each week at other industries south of Asheville and in Hendersonville. But since the Saluda Grade closed, not much has happened there.



Mr. Williams was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club in Hendersonville. His presentation coincided with the recent opening of the new railroad display in the Heritage Museum in the Old Court House in Hendersonville. Mr. Williams holds the distinction of being the conductor on the last train up the Saluda Grade.

He talked about the challenges of operating trains on the Saluda Grade, the steepest mainline track in North America. Either way the challenge was gravity. Coming up hill, the problem was simple: Lifting weight up a steep hill. Trains were cut into two or three sections and brought up in parts. A lot of horsepower, and a lot of

time were needed.

(Photo by Clint H Smoke.)

Going downhill was much more complicated. Brake shoes on each wheel were replaced in Asheville. Retainer valves on the brake were turned up and brakes on some cars were set. Even so, the trains were carefully managed to stay below a set speed: 8 MPH for freight, 6 MPH for coal. He said that when the train got to the bottom of the hill, the wheels were often so hot that you could stand off the roadbed and feel the heat as the train passed by.

Of course, there are many stories of trains that ran away, some with disastrous results. Most of these incidents occurred when the trains were descending, but some also occurred when things didn't go right when trains were coming up the mountain. These risks, and the high cost of maintaining the roadbed led NS to close the line about 10 years ago.

In spite of this loss of traffic, the local yard has about 150 employees, working in three shifts. Volume is down, but he still sees 15 to 18 trains a day. Blue Ridge Paper at Canton is still one of Norfolk Southern biggest customers.

Overall NS is doing well, and hiring. In times past, one worked for years to become a conductor. Today, one goes to school for three weeks, followed by four months of on-the-job training. Conductors are responsible for the paperwork, keeping track of the location and destination of all of the cars in the train, and managing the train's movements. Go to the NS web site for more information.



## RAILROAD DISPLAY AT THE HENDERSONVILLE COURTHOUSE

By **Clint Smoke**

Members of the **Apple Valley Model Railroad Club** built a display featuring an N-scale rendering of the famous Saluda Grade from Melrose to Hendersonville. The display opened on May 18 in the Historic Courthouse in downtown Hendersonville.

The modern world came to Hendersonville on July 4, 1879. It arrived that Independence Day with the first steam engine that chugged its way up the steep mountain grade from Saluda to the depot on Seventh Avenue. The train's arrival assured that Hendersonville would no longer be an isolated mountain community. Farmers could move their produce outside Henderson County to both northern and southern stops along the train's route. Tourists from farther south could come to Hendersonville's cool mountains for vacations in the summer.

Stores sprang up to serve both the tourists and the new residents who came to town because of the train. Even the look of Hendersonville changed after the train came. New middle-class and wealthy citizens who came to Hendersonville on the train wanted their houses and stores built in the latest modern styles found outside the mountains.

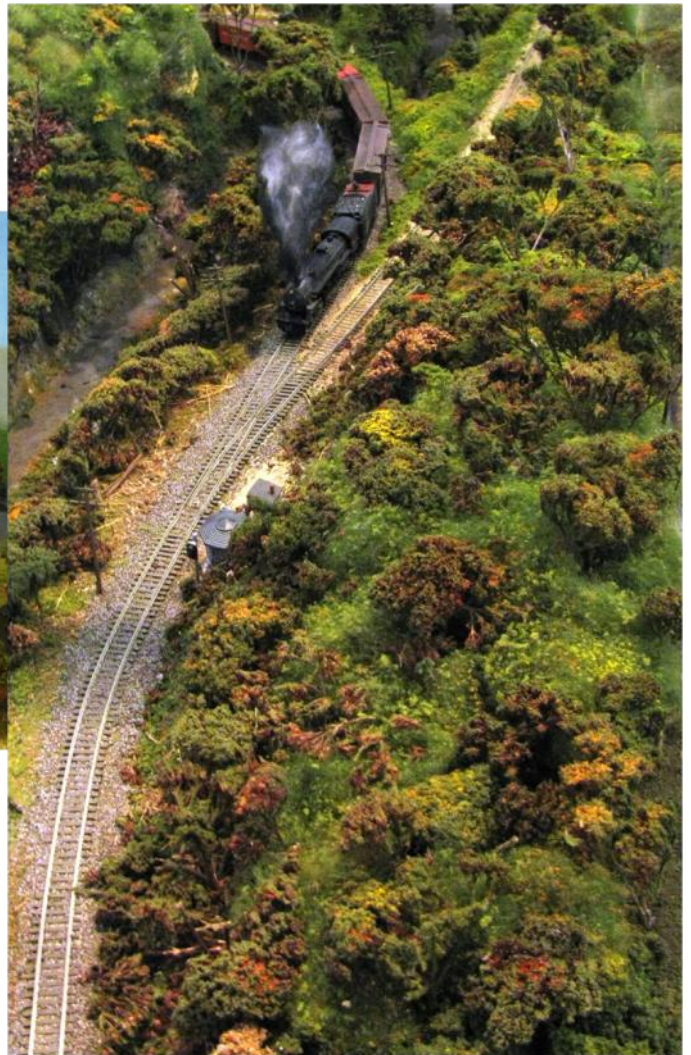
"When the train came, it changed everything in Henderson County," said Bette Carter, executive director of Henderson County's Heritage Museum. "After the Civil War and they finally got the train up the mountain, it changed everything." "The Golden Age: The Coming of the Railroad," a new exhibit at the Heritage Museum, celebrates the arrival of the train in Henderson County and the golden age of optimism it ushered in.

The display includes a significant collection of Southern Railway artifacts, some on loan from the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer.



Above: The north-bound passenger train has just arrived at Hendersonville

Right: Here we see a freight working up the steep Saluda Grade. Note the run-away track to the right.



(Photo by Clint H Smoke.)





# CLUB CALENDAR

This is listing of know activities for our club members in the near future:

- June 5th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- June 6th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*
- June 12th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- June 19th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- June 21th Noon **LOST RR**  
*Pack up & Set up for Charlotte show*
- June 22nd 9:00 AM—4:00PM **LOST RR**  
**10th Annual NC Rail Fair,**  
*Charlotte, NC*
- June 26th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 3rd **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- July TBD 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*

- July 10th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 17th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 20th **Land O'Sky Division** meeting  
Place TBD
- July 24th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 31st **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- August 1st 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*
- August 7th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:30—5:15 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM

We have things for you to do, expand the hobby and your talents! Come out to see what your fellow club members are doing.



## EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

# 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA MODEL TRAIN AND RAILROAD ARTIFACT SHOW & SALE

**June 22, 2013 9:00 AM To 4:00 PM**

At The METROLINA EXPO TRADE CENTER – BUILDING 1

7100 STATESVILLE ROAD

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28269

Admission: \$7.00 (Children Under 12 Free)

Over 200 Tables of Model Trains And Railroad Collectibles For Sale

Golden Spike's Model Train and Railroad Artifact Show and Sale, Including Operating Layouts

For [Show Information](#), Contact: Charlie Miller 703-536-2954

**Saturday, August 24: 9 am - 5pm ♦ Sunday, August 25: 10am - 4pm**

The N.C. Transportation Museum hosts this show for model trains, railroading collectibles and much, much more. Admission \$5 plus museum admission (\$11), Children 12 and under museum admission (\$4)



**PEACHTREE EXPRESS**  
NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
[nmra2013.org](http://nmra2013.org)

## 2013 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

**July 14 - July 20**

*Peachtree Express 2013, 78th Annual NMRA National Convention, Atlanta, Ga. Check out [the convention's website](#) for details.*