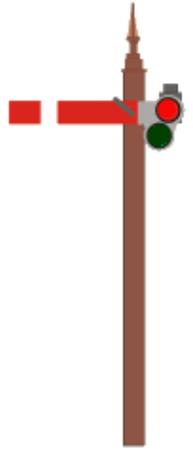


The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org & Facebook

June 2015

VOLUME 44 NUMBER 12

Our next meeting is on June 4th 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.



N&W J CLASS #611 ON THE TURNTABLE AT NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM, SPENCER, NC.



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday June 4th

Clinic: Scenery

Synopsis: This month is a continued discussion of scenery ideas, techniques, and tools for your model railroad. Tell us what worked and what didn't, to help us all not repeat mistakes. We like any structure, diorama, track, etc. Bring in your example or latest project (in progress or finished). **See you there!**

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

We approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

We recognized a visitor – Mr. *Jim Gibson*. He lives in Fletcher and is already involved with the French Broad eNpire Club in Hendersonville.

Fred Coleman is the only birthday this month, no one else would confess to one.

Saturday, May 9, is National Trains Day. There will be big doings at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer.

The first topic discussed was the display now under construction for Town Hardware in Black Mountain. Work sessions will be on Tuesday and Thursday schedule will be posted via email. If you want to help contact **Dave**. 22 more structures are needed. All buildings are brick building contact **Dave** for your choice of structure. Also a oil storage facility and a lumberyard, and lots of trees. Eventually we will need some automation – traffic lights and grade crossing protection and the PIX theatre with a lighted marquee with a changing name. If you have expertise or want to try your hand at animation or a scene, contact **Dave**.

Clint Smoke reported that *Mr. Darl Ferris*, the president of **Blue Ridge Southern** spoke to the *Apple Valley Model Railroad Club*. [Page 4](#) has a recap of his talk.

The **LOST RR** will be at 12th North Carolina Rail Fair in Charlotte on June 20. Setup will be on Friday June 19th. Please contact [Fred](#) if you can help, a detail list of our members helping is required by the host of the show.

We discussed current literature. The new Model Railroader has a nice article about kitbashing a blue box box car. The current Trains magazine has an article about shipping oil by rail. There is much in the press these days about the government's efforts to regulate this activity, given the increase in both volume and volatility of crude oil, and the spate of recent accidents.

Other items of interest were:

Bachmann Bluetooth offering is rather interesting. It is looking like it will not be proprietary (only used on E-Z Command). It is a Bluetooth receiver that will work with DC or DCC and plugs into a 8 or 9 pin connector. It's range is 170 feet and your controller is your smart phone, not a controller from any DCC system. Right now it is available for Apple iOS, and hopefully for the android this summer. See

(Continued on page 3)



REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING (CONT.)

[their website](#) for additional answers

Broadway Limited has come out with N Scale sound cars. **Dave** was surprised and glad BLI is doing things like this.

Open LCB was approved by the NMRA board. It will be presented in the Portland convention. It will be agnostic to OS (NCE, Digitrax, Windows, Linux, Apple, etc.), and will be able to control devices on the layout.

Two clinics were presented:

Gordon Fewster offered an interesting slide show about building mountains with rock facings on his layout, a common feature in these parts.

Rick Pyeritz displayed an interesting collection of rock castings, and explained their making.

Dave brought up that a multi tool does a great job with cutting Styrofoam. You can cut it down to shaving of about 1/16" with a lot less mess than a rasp or file. That is why [Micro Mark](#) has them on sale, well really close out.

Next month bring your scenery ideas for a mini clinic for your fellow modelers, or specialty tools used in making scenery. Scenery, according to **Dave**, is anything that is not motive power or rolling stock.

Our next meeting will be June 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm.



NORFOLK & WESTERN No. 611 INAUGURAL RUN SET FOR MAY 30; EXCURSIONS IN JUNE AND JULY. SEE THE [WEBSITE](#) FOR DETAILS.





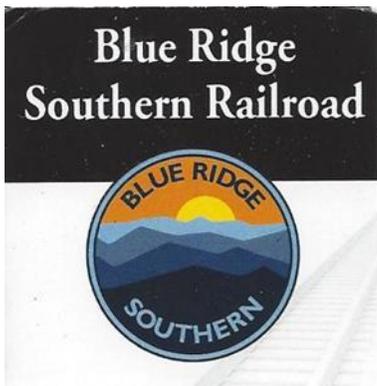
THE BLUE RIDGE SOUTHERN RAILROAD

Mr. Darl Farris, president of the *Blue Ridge Southern Railroad*, was the speaker at a recent luncheon meeting of the *Apple Valley Model Railroad Club* in Hendersonville. **Mr. Farris** started his railroad carrier nearly 30 years ago as a member of a track maintenance crew. He worked his way up becoming a conductor, engineer, yardmaster, road foreman of engines, and manager with BNSF and others before becoming president of *Blue Ridge Southern* last year.



Blue Ridge Southern is owned by Watco Companies, LLC, a Pittsburg, Kansas, based transportation company providing mechanical, transportation, and terminal and port services solutions for customers throughout North America and Australia.

Watco is the owner of Watco Transportation Services, LLC, one of the largest short line railroad holding companies in the U.S. with 32 short line railroads operating on more than 4,600 miles of track, as well as 28 industrial contract switching locations. The Terminal and Port Services division currently manages 50 terminals, 9 warehouses and 2 port locations.



Blue Ridge Southern (BRS) has 31 employees. They are presently operating two lines that start in Asheville: one heads west through Canton to where it connects with the Great Smokey Mountain Railroad at Dillsboro; the other line heads south through Arden into Hendersonville.

The biggest customer is Evergreen Paper in Canton. Another big customer is the Duke Energy Power Plant in Arden. BRS has shops to maintain its fleet of 10 locomotives in Canton and a general office in Arden. BRS personnel maintain the track, and locomotives. They have a contract with a company to maintain the signal equipment.

Blue Ridge Southern came into being when Norfolk Southern sold these lines last year. While Class I Railroads do very well at hauling trains, smaller companies, like BRS, are more efficient at delivering one or two cars a week to customers at local industries. **Mr. Farris** emphasized that smaller companies can better connect with customers. "We are getting to know every customer, and we know when and where they want a car delivered." He said that customer service and safety and the core values of his company.



A prototype you can model. Would you get credit for an prototype AP certificate if you built a diorama of this?

Taken 5/11/15 by Dave Anderson as a passenger.



N&W 611 AT NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM SATURDAY MAY 23RD



A lot people were looking over this beautifully restored locomotive. The 'at the throttle slots' were sold out in 15 minutes when they went on sale in April. It gave you 30 minutes of throttle time.



611 is at the starting position for the 'at the throttle' . They first backed it up and then came back to this spot. From 10 till 4 they moved it onto the turntable every two hours. I hope someone from ESU or Lok Sound will record how it sounds for a decoder.

May 30th it leaves NC Transportation Museum for VA transportation museum. Arrival in Roanoke is between 2 and 4 PM.

Photos by Dave Anderson



CLUB CALENDAR

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

June 3rd **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 4th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**
Eliada Admin Building

June 10th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 17th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 24th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 29th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 1st **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM

Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 2nd 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**
Eliada Admin Building

July 8th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 15th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 22st **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 29th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
 Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM
 Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM
 Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM
 Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM
 Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

August 6th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**
Eliada Admin Building

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:

TOY TRAIN SALE

MAY 30TH & 31ST FROM 10:00AM TO 3:00PM

N.C. State Fairgrounds, Kerr Scott Building, Raleigh, NC

DONATION \$6.00 (\$5.00 with flyer or News Paper Ad), Children under 13, accompanied by an adult are FREE. See their [website](#) for more information

12TH NORTH CAROLINA RAIL FAIR

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Metrolina Expo Center

Charlotte, NC See [website](#) for more details

NATIONAL N SCALE CONVENTION

JUNE 24 TO 28

Sacramento, CA

See their website for details

NATIONAL GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION

JULY 5 TO 11

Denver CO

See the [website](#) for more details

49TH MODEL TRAIN SHOW

AUGUST 8

Norcross, GA

for more detail see the [website](#).



2015 SER CONVENTION

June 5 & 6, 2015

Palmetto Excursion, Greenville, SC, check out the [website](#) for more details



2015 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

August 23 - August 29, 2015

80th Annual NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR. Check out [the convention's website](#) for details.
