

The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.
A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org & Facebook

July 2013

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 1

Our next meeting is on July 11th 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.



IT IS PICNIC TIME!
SEE YOU ON JULY 11TH.



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday July 11th.

Clinic: Annual Picnic

Synopsis: A short business meeting followed by a picnic. Bring your latest project (finished or not) for showing your fellow modelers. Contact Fred with what you are bringing and number of people. **See you there!**

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

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

The next LOST RR outing will be in Charlotte on June 22nd, LOST RR setup will be on Friday June 21 starting about 11AM, display on Saturday from 9 AM to 4 PM. **Please call Fred Colman** if you can help.

The start of the IRS clock, which is 90 day (probably business days) started on May 9th according to the acceptance letter, Mark Upright (Eliada CEO) said that we should hear within 30 day for our submission.

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: **Charlie, Ken, Dave** and **Troy** have birthdays in June. 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)

We discussed the issues of having non-member volunteers working with our volunteers at Eliada. A motion was proposed that anyone working with the youth will be a club member. This is to protect our interests as a club presently and in the future, as well as those of Eliada staff and residents. A short discussion followed and it was agreed that all such persons shall be members of the club and the motion passed.

We discussed a proposal to participate in the building and operation of G-scale model railroad display at the N C Arboretum. This project will be built up this fall and operate from November 23 to December 23. The Arboretum staff has acquired some G-scale equipment; and developed plans for a logging railroad to cover an area roughly 20 by 60 feet. They will prepare the site, provide electrical service, and landscape the area after construction. We are asked to provide volunteers to lay track and help run the show during the 30-day run time. This person would essentially start and stop trains and correct any minor problems (uncoupling, derailment, etc). We agreed to participate.

Fred Coleman proposed a slate of new officers. They were elected by acclamation. They incumbent officers will continue. The Paymaster position is still open, but presently filled by **Dave**. The new offi-

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cers are **Tom** as Asst. Superintendent, **Clint** as Company Clerk, **Charlie, Penn** and **Troy** as Directors. They will be serving a two year term. Thanks to all for serving.

Our membership meeting in July falls on the 4th. We agreed to delay the meeting one week. At the meeting on July 11, we will have a picnic, the presentation of the Superintendents' Award, and the installation of new officers. Folks are asked to bring a side dish of food or desert. Please call or email **Fred Coleman** to let him know how many guests you are bringing and what food you are bringing.

Program:

Dave Anderson presented information on earning the Dispatchers Award. It is a easy and enjoyable way to get started in the NMRA Achievement Program. There are some qualifying items for an operating session, but most operating sessions in this area do qualify, just ensure a NMRA member verifies your participation. See page 4 for more on this. He also went over the Volunteer award. **Charlie Krug** got his volunteer award doing nothing but BSA railroading merit badge through the years.

Remember that any qualifying event for dispatcher or volunteer has to verified by a NMRA member and counts if you are current NMRA member during that time. There is no time limits on earning your points or hours. Look through the list of qualifying events for volunteer.

Our next meeting is our Annual Meeting on July 11 at 7:00 pm (note the schedule change) Our next meeting.

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.

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.

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 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



DISPATCHER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Chief Dispatcher certificate you must:

Have participated in the operation of a model railroad, either home or club, for not less than fifty hours. A minimum of ten hours each must have been served in three of the five categories listed below, one of which must be Dispatcher:

- Engineer (mainline freight, passenger, or way-freight)
- Yardmaster (or station master)
- Hostler (or power desk)
- Towerman (or traffic manager, or road master)
- Dispatcher

This experience shall be accumulated on one or more model railroads having at least two mainline trains plus yard switching in simultaneous operation. Some system of freight and passenger car movements, including road switching, shall be used for controlling train activity.

The following descriptions are not designed to list ALL of the things that a particular job must involve - they list things that are typically involved in each job. Naturally, jobs, duties, and overall operating complexity will vary from one model railroad to another.

1. Engineer:

a. Mainline Passenger or Freight Engineer:

Shall run their train in a manner that simulates the prototype, following the rules of the model railroad being used, and operating according to the signal system (if present) or by direct instruction of the Dispatcher.

b. Way-freight Engineer:

Will meet the requirements of Mainline Engineer. In addition, he or she shall perform all required switching with approval from the Dispatcher in a manner not to adversely affect the overall railroad schedule or operations.

Operating in a prototype manner includes no 'jack-rabbit' starts or sudden stops during normal operations.

2. Yardmaster:

a. Yardmaster:

Runs the freight yard. He or she makes up trains with the appropriate cars in the desired numbers to have trains ready when the timetable or Dispatcher requires them. Generally, the Yardmaster operates the switch engine, but in a large yard could direct other yard engineers.

b. Station master:

Is in charge of the passenger station and all passenger switching. He or she makes up trains with the appropriate consists so that the trains are ready when the timetable or Dispatcher requires them. Terminating trains are broken down appropriately and the cars are serviced and stored as needed. Through train switching is accomplished.

3. Hostler:

a. Hostler:

Shall run the engine facilities. He or she shall have each locomotive facing the correct direction, double-headed or lashed up, ready for the Engineer to easily leave the engine area. Service to locomotives shall be simulated. Returning locomotives are placed in their appropriate stalls or tracks. On layouts with advanced control systems, the Hostler can



handle assignment of locomotives to the appropriate engineer's throttle.

b. Power Desk:

Decides what is the correct motive power for each train. Assigns throttle control to the motive power. When assignment is finished, he or she returns control of that motive power to the Hostler, or to off.

4. Towerman:

a. Towerman:

Operates one or more towers (control panels) on a layout. He or she sets up appropriate routes at the correct time under direction of the timetable or the Dispatcher. Reports train passings to dispatcher if required.

b. Traffic Manager:

Determines which cars come and go from each industry, and the amount and location of traffic, and specifies the route. May create a computer program to do this automatically.

c. Road Master:

The operating trouble-shooter and repair person. He or she keeps things moving smoothly. Can take track in or out of service.

5. Dispatcher:

Coordinates all train movements, either by sequence, timetable and fast clock, or other operating system.

B. Documentation

The applicant shall also do the following: (please note that the use of a computer to accomplish these requirements is acceptable)

Prepare a schematic drawing of a model railroad layout meeting the operating conditions described in (A), and indicating all pertinent simulated distances.

Normally, this would be a diagram of one of the layouts you put in your qualifying time on - but there is no requirement that it must be. The drawing must be neat and readable, but it does not have to be in ink.

Develop a timetable appropriate to this model railroad, simulating prototype time, covering a period of eight hours or more, during which at least three scheduled mainline trains move in each direction.

Develop an operating train chart (graph) which interprets the above schedule for timetable operation of the model railroad. Indicate at least one train meet on the schematic drawing required in (B-1) above. Show the position of the trains involved and describe the action, giving pertinent time and movement data to effect the meet.

Develop or adapt a system of operation for the layout in (A), including all the necessary forms and explanations for their use for controlling car movements, train makeup, and operation in a prototypical manner.

Members of the same club or home layout operating group who are applying for the Chief Dispatcher certificate can use copies of the same paperwork for requirements 1 and 4, but each must develop and submit their own timetable and train chart (even if they are all copies of the same one). Another possibility would be to have all the members who qualified submit their application at the same time. and just use one set of the paperwork for #'s 1 & 4.

C. Statement of Qualification

The applicant must submit a completed Statement of Qualification which shall include the following:

The forms and drawings meeting the requirements in (B).

Description of the jobs held and the approximate number of hours in each.

The signed witnessed "Certification of Operation" showing that all the requirements have been met and the applicant has operated a model railroad in a prototypical manner.

This information is on the [NMRA Website](http://www.nmra.org).



CLUB CALENDAR

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

- July 3rd **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 10th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 11th 7:00 PM **Club Picnic**
Eliada Admin Building
- July 17th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 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
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- July 31st **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 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
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- August 14th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- August 21st **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- August 28th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- September 4th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM
- September 5th 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:



Historic Spencer Shops Model Train Show August 24 & 25

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)

LAND O'SKY DIVISION

QUARTERLY MEETING IN JULY

See [website](#) for latest details

45TH ATLANTA TRAIN SHOW

NORTH ATLANTA TRADE CENTER, NORCROSS, GEORGIA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2013

Golden Spike Enterprise will hold a train show in Atlanta, this is the same group who hosted the Charlotte show on June 22.



PEACHTREE EXPRESS
NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION
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.