

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

JOHN WILLIAMS, SUPERINTENDENT  
ROBERT BELL, ASST. SUPERINTENDENT  
KEN GRANZIN, COMPANY CLERK      JIM FIQUA, PAYMASTER



## September 2009

### VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1

Our next meeting is on September 3<sup>rd</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.



### NORFOLK SOUTHERN DOUBLE-STACK TRAIN

These trains are a common sight west of the Mississippi, but uncommon in the east. The Heartland Corridor project is a three-year engineering effort to increase intermodal freight capacity by raising vertical clearances in 28 tunnels on a Norfolk Southern rail line between the port of Hampton Roads, Va., and Chicago, known as the Heartland Corridor. We have a report inside on NS and related railroad modeling activities.



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at **7 PM** on **Thursday September 3rd**.

**Clinic: LED & PC circuits for model railroading applications** presented by **Dr Joe Nichols**.

**Health & Welfare:** **Bill Siebert** is back in Mission/St Joseph hospital, after visiting the rehab center the doctor heard some gurgling noise in his lungs and wanted x-rays taken at Haywood Regional. He was transported to Mission/St Joseph to start the treatment of breaking up the blood clots. Needless to say, they must be careful that they don't break up the clots formed from the removal of the four aneurysms. Keep him in our thoughts and prayers

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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DIVISION MEETING, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2009

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Ken Granzin, Company Clerk

**John Williams** called the meeting to order at 7:01. We had two guests:

**Ken O'Brien**, who gave a brief resume of his work in model railroading.

Because of the absence of the paymaster, there was no Treasurer's report.

**Fred Coleman** has solidified plans for the annual train show to be held at the NC Ag Center 5, 6 March, with set-up on Thursday, which day we must vacate by 5 p.m. Vendors will not be allowed to enter the venue until 7 a.m. on Friday. Showtime are Friday 12-7 and Saturday 9-4:30 or 5:00. The venue provides 30,000 sq. ft. of space.

**John** acknowledged that **Audley Elder** has graduated from high school. **Audley** will next attend Mars Hill College. **Congratulations Audley!**

The HO modules are now in storage on the Eliada grounds. If anyone can suggest a place to set up the modules until space on the grounds becomes available, please contact **Fred**.

The second day of the layout tour will be held on Saturday. The tour starts at the Whitmire Center in Hendersonville and visits four sites.

Rail Operations will be held by the Charlotte club on 9-11 October. Cost is \$23, with 7 layouts open. Deadline for registration is 26 September. Contact Fred for details.

**Dan Lang** reported that the *Apple Valley Club* will meet on 19 August to decide on the nature of the revision to be made to the Asheville Division.

**Frank Pearsall** spoke about the *Narrow Trak Convention* to be held 9-10 October. Contact **Frank** for details and registration materials. He also proposes a meet in April or May that will feature clinics and modeling contests.

**Ben Bartlett** said *Apple Valley* has room for six operators at their session 19 August. Meet at 9:15; ops begin at 9:30. **Ben** also spoke about achievement awards. He would like to know who has any one of the 11 achievement certifications. If you have one, send the date, region, and award by [e-mail to Ben](#).

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**Joe Norris** reported that the members who took one of his paint-bottle holders contributed \$25 toward supplies for the Eliada youth t-trak project.

In the near future, **John** will contact members who serve in official positions or on committees to learn of their willingness to continue serving.

Business meeting was ended and after a break the clinic was presented by **Ben Bartlett**.

**Ben** described how to build structures using styrene plastic. He discussed the tools he uses, and described his Erie Station, Erie tool shed, and Erie AC Tower projects. He described how he made roofs, scratch built windows, and ways to improve AP points.

The meeting ended at 8:22.



Ben giving his clinic

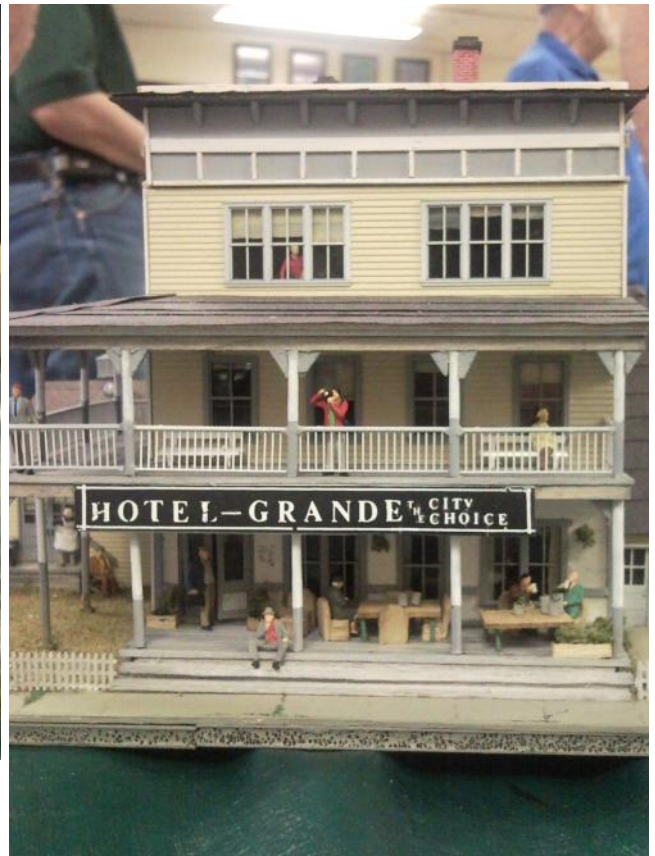
## MODELS JACK MERSHON BROUGHT TO OUR LAST MEETING





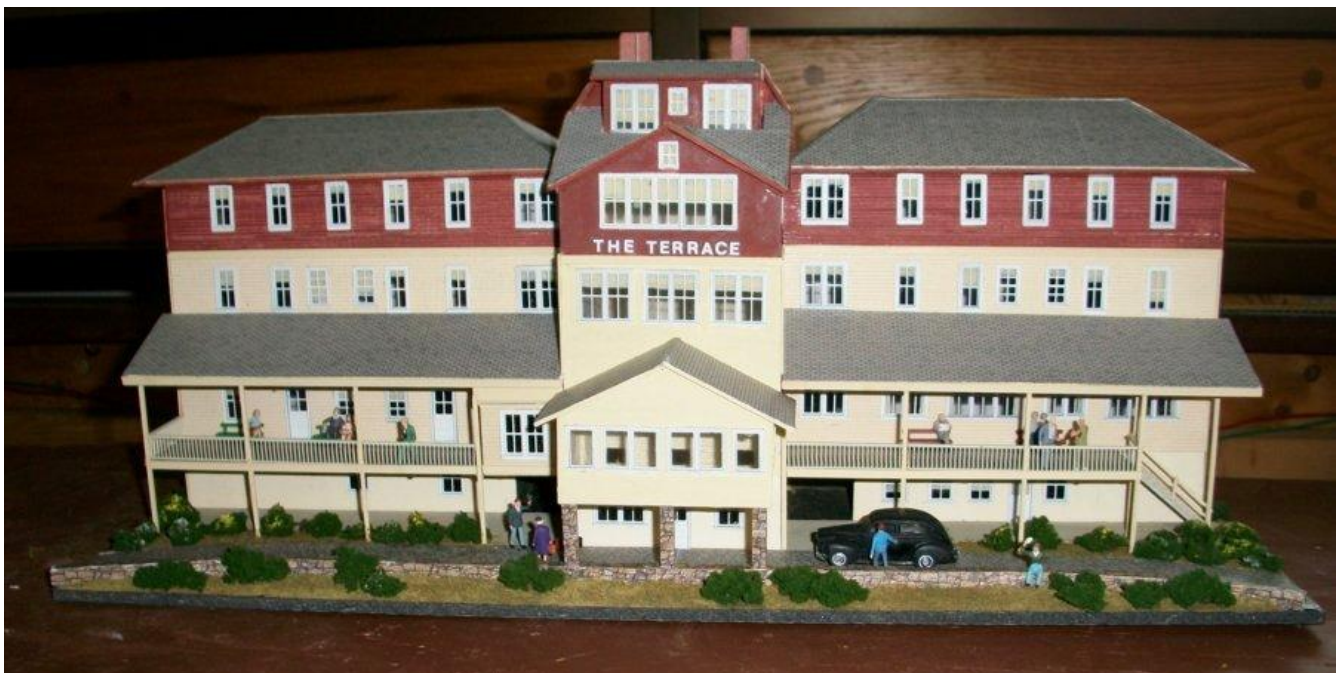


## THE OTHER MODELS JACK BROUGHT TO OUR LAST MEETING



## PICTURES FROM THE LAKE JUNALUSKA MODEL PROJECT

MODELS BY JACK MERSHON







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## NORFOLK SOUTHERN HISTORY

### **NORFOLK SOUTHERN PREDECESSORS NORFOLK AND WESTERN AND SOUTHERN RAILWAY HAVE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES. BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE UPCOMING MODEL OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR AREA.**

While we all have our favorite railroads, we live in (or near) a city served by Norfolk Southern. Norfolk Southern Corporation is one of the nation's premier transportation companies. Its Norfolk Southern Railway subsidiary operates approximately 21,000 route miles in 22 states and the District of Columbia, serves every major container port in the eastern United States, and provides superior connections to western rail carriers. Norfolk Southern operates the most extensive intermodal network in the East and is North America's largest rail carrier of metals and automotive products.

Norfolk Southern serves nearly 300 general warehouses/distribution centers, and over 100 of each of the following: general warehouses/distribution centers, bulk transfer facilities, and power generation plants served. Norfolk Southern serves every major port on the East Coast between New York City and Jacksonville, Fla., and multiple private terminals; the Gulf ports of Mobile, Ala., New Orleans and St. Bernard, La.; Great Lakes ports; and numerous river ports. They have 28 rail classification yards, the nearest at Knoxville, Tenn. Linwood, N.C., and Louisville, Ky.

Norfolk Southern's mission is to be the safest, most customer-focused and successful transportation company in the world. In May of this year, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood today lauded the record setting safety achievements made by the nation's freight railroads at the annual E.H. Harriman Awards honoring railroads with the best employee safety records for the previous year.

The 2008 E.H. Harriman Awards winners are as follows: In Group A, comprising line-haul railroads



whose employees worked 15 million employee-hours or more each year, **Norfolk Southern received the gold award for the 20th year in a row.** CSX Trans. Co. won the silver and Union Pacific Railroad the bronze.

"Our nation's railroads and their employees can be proud of their safety record," said Secretary LaHood. "Our freight rail industry is the envy of the world, as the cleanest, safest, most efficient way to keep America's freight moving." The Harriman Awards once a year celebrate the achievements of railroads with the best employee safety records by awarding 12 gold, silver and bronze awards in four categories.

"Safety is the railroad industry's top priority," said Edward R. Hamberger, president and CEO of the Association of American Railroads (AAR). "Railroads are the safest form of freight transportation today and such attention to safety has produced an enviable track record. I am delighted to report that this continuous emphasis on safety paid dividends last year in producing both the lowest train accident rate in history and the lowest employee injury rate in history." Hamberger credited the industry's more than 230,000 dedicated employees as being responsible for the industry's extraordinary safety record.

The Harriman Awards were established by the late Mrs. Mary W. Harriman in memory of her husband, Edward H. Harriman, an American legend in railroading. Today, the awards are administered by the E.H. Harriman Memorial Awards Institute, with support from the Mary W. Harriman Foundation. Harriman winners are selected by a committee of representatives from the transportation field and are granted on the basis of the lowest casualty rates per 200,000 employee-hours worked. All data is documented by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Norfolk Southern is the outgrowth of a 1982 merger of the Norfolk and Western and Southern Railways.

Both of the famous railroads have active historical societies and both sponsor an assortment of activities for those interested in history and/or models. For example, another recent N&WHS conference in Roanoke, activities included several clinics on modeling, and a model contest, much like one would see at an NMRA- sponsored event. These gatherings usually occur near operating railroads and often include tours of operational facilities. At the recent N&WHS conference, NS

sponsored tours, and also conveniently scheduled a run-by of a double-stack, something not traditionally a part of the Roanoke railroad scene.



In June, N&WHS members gathered for a picnic behind the former Roanoke Station, now the home of the famous O. Winston Link Art Museum. An eastbound NS double stack train is seen in the background.





Part of the shop tour. NWHS members were escorted through Roanoke's famous East End Shops where NS overhauls GE locomotives. Here we see the general foreman with a new 4400 HP prime mover for a GE D-9 40CW locomotive. NS is very restrictive on visitation; getting inside of these facilities is quite a privilege.

## **EVENTS FOR MODELERS: SOUTHEASTERN RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELER'S MEET**

The second Southeastern Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet will be held in Greensboro, North Carolina on September 11 and 12, 2009 (the weekend after Labor Day) at the restored 1926 Southern Railway Depot at 243 South Church Street.

Clinics and "Hands-On" Demonstrations. In addition to clinics by Jim Six, Bob Harpe and other top notch modelers we plan to have ongoing "hands-on" demonstrations by several experts: Chris Thompson, Tony Sissons and others will be demonstrating different weathering techniques and if you bring a model they'll weather it for you before your eyes! Jim Six will be Photoshopping digital images on his laptop to convert them into decals or signs for your layout. Rick Bell will be helping modelers do straightforward decoder installations to "get their feet wet" and Russ Goodwin will be building the new Southern TopGon model.

We think our lineup of clinics, demonstrations and two slide shows give you a terrific modeling weekend. Most of us slow down our modeling during the summer months when we've got the lawn, the pool, vacations and other commitments. Get your new modeling year off to a quick start and join us in Greensboro on September 11 and 12.

A two day "Exhibitor" pass is \$25 (which includes an 8 foot table to display your models). Single day admissions (that includes all clinics, demos and the slide show on that day – but no table) are \$10 per day.

Here is our clinic and slide show lineup:

### **Friday Afternoon**

2:00 – 3:00 pm	Jim Six	Photoshopping Images for Decals and Signs
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Rick Bell	Custom installation of decoders
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Russ Goodwin	Building an N&W Covered Hopper Fleet

### **Friday Evening**

7:00 – 9:00 pm	Bob Graham	Slideshow -
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### **Saturday Morning**

9:00 – 10:00 am	Russ Goodwin	Building the NS TopGon
10:00 – 11:00 am	Jim Six	Building a Layout to the Prototype
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Kevin von der Lippe	An Historian's Approach to Turning Research into a Lay-Plan
out		
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Bob Harpe	Southern GP-30 Modeling
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Ken Rickman	Converting a Bachmann Spectrum 2-8-0 into a SR Ks-3

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## EVENTS FOR MODELERS: (CONT.)

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Saturday Evening

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Brian Rackley      Slideshow - BNSF Before the Merger.

Friday and Saturday Ongoing Demonstrations: Chris Thompson and others - Variations on Weathering;

Rick Bell - Decoder Installation; Jim Six - Using Photoshop to Create Decals and Signs; Russ Goodwin - Building the NS TopGon.

Contacts. For more information, please [e-mail](#) or call Tony Sissons; or Tom Sinks, Clinic Coordinator, Southeastern Railroad Prototype Modeler's Meet, 126 Connally Street, Black Mountain, NC 28711, call 336-202-3545 (cell); [e-mail](#).

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## THE APPLE VALLEY MODEL RAILROAD CLUB WILL HOST RAILROAD DAYS OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Extra hours and activities are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. The club is located in the historic Hendersonville Depot, located at Maple and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. This will be a good chance to see the layout if you missed it in August.

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## LAYING RAILS IN BRISTOL.

The Norfolk & Western and Southern Railway Historical Societies are sponsoring a joint gathering in Bristol, Va. on October 16 and 17. Go to the Laying Rail in Bristol [website](#) for more information.

The *French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club* will have an open house and train show in October. More info go to Autumn Rails [webpage](#).

**Frank Pearsall** will host the *Narrow Trak 09 Convention* on 9 and 10 October.

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## AMTRAK COMES TO ASHEVILLE

A day trip to Asheville on Amtrak's Blue Ridge Special will be offered Nov. 1, starting in and returning to Spencer. The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society are sponsoring the excursion as one of two fall foliage train rides, Oct. 31-Nov. 1.

A Charlottesville, Va. day trip from Spencer was revived in 2007 and has sold out both years. The Virginia Autumn Special departs at 7 a.m. Oct. 31 and stops to pick up passengers at the Greensboro Amtrak Station at 8 a.m. It passes through Thomasville, High Point and Reidsville before heading into the western part of central Virginia, arriving at Charlottesville at noon. The train leaves at 3 p.m., hitting Greensboro at 6:45 p.m. and Spencer at 8 p.m.

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The Blue Ridge Special leaves Spencer at 7 a.m. Nov. 1 and travels through Statesville, Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Black Mountain and Swannanoa before reaching Biltmore Village at noon. The return trip begins at 3 p.m., arriving in Spencer at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$140 for coach, \$170 for deluxe coach (including lunch and snacks) and \$240 for premium first class, which includes breakfast and dinner. A \$14 box lunch will be available. Tickets are available at [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org) or by calling 704-636-2889, ext. 232.

## SAMUEL SPENCER STATUE FINDS NEW HOME IN ATLANTA

A 99-year-old bronze statue of Samuel Spencer, **first president of Norfolk Southern predecessor Southern Railway**, has been relocated from an Atlanta city park and placed in front of the David R. Goode Building.

Some 30,000 employees voluntarily contributed funds for a memorial to Spencer following his tragic death in a rear-end train collision in Virginia in 1906. Daniel Chester French, a notable American sculptor who created the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was commissioned to create the statue. It was unveiled in May 1910 on the plaza at Atlanta's Terminal Station and ceremoniously presented to the state of Georgia and the city of Atlanta. It remained there for 60 years, until it was moved to Southern's Peachtree Station in July 1970. In 1996, as part of preparations for the Summer Olympics, the statue was relocated to Hardy Ivy Park downtown. Movement to its present midtown setting was arranged by agreement with the city of Atlanta and Norfolk Southern.

Over his career, Spencer served as president of six railroads. But his first railroad job came in 1869 as a surveying crew rod man for the Savannah & Western, a Central of Georgia predecessor. He became the first president of Southern Railway in 1894. During his 12-year tenure, the railway's mileage doubled, its annual passengers quadrupled to 12 million, and its earnings increased from \$17 million to \$54 million.



## PICTURES FROM THE LAYOUT TOURS



Dan Lang's train room

(photos by Clint Smoke)



Part of Cy Miller's garden layout





## PICTURES FROM THE LAYOUT TOURS



Left: Scenes from the French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club

Below: The original part of Ken Granzin's layout (photos by Clint Smoke)



Four Scenes from Larry Morton's "S" Scale layout and train room Photos by Maureen Anderson







## PICTURES FROM THE LAYOUT TOURS



Scenes from the Apple Valley Model RR Club  
Pictures by Sam Hopkins

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Three pictures of Terry Ketchum's layout (photos by Wally Brown)



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## FEES, FEES, FEES

### TIME TO RENEW THE ANNUAL FEE IN THE LAND O'SKY DIVISION 15



Again after much discussion, the fees shall remain at \$12.00 and are due September 1, 2009. Collection of fees will begin at our September 3rd meeting.

Please be sure to pick up your new membership card when paying your fee.