

The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org

September 2010

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 1

Our next meeting is on September 2nd 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.



**ASST. SUPERINTENDENT DAVE ANDERSON RECEIVED
THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD AT THE AUGUST MEETING.**



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday September 2nd.

Clinic: NMRA 2010 National Convention Recap

Synopsis: An overview of the convention by people who were there. *See you there!*

Health & Welfare Corner

Harvey Klumb is recovering from a recent heart problems, we hope that the rehabilitation is soon over. Keep them in our thought and prayers. He should be joining us in September after convalescing in NY.

The New NMRA Logo

Comment by Clinton Smoke

By now, most of you have had an opportunity to see the new NMRA logo. Some may have formed an opinion, some rather quickly. We often look at something new like this and quickly dismiss it with "I don't like it"

Anticipating that there might be one or two who feel that way, I would like to offer a comment about the new logo.

We usually react quickly and sometime unfavorably to change, and clearly the new logo represents a bold change. But the new design didn't happen quickly. I am sure there was much discussion, and some resistance when the idea was introduced among the NMRA leadership. We know now that the idea of a new design evolved over several years and had the input of the national officers, as well as talented professionals in the design business. Most organizations go through a logo change periodically. Many of the organizations I belong to have redesigned their logo and their magazine over the past several years; one even changed their name. Marketing experts suggest that such changes should occur every 4 to 7 years to keep up with changes in technology and attract new followers.

That was clearly needed here. The old design had been around for 75 years. That design – a coupler superimposed upon a steam locomotive driver – was out of date. The age of steam passed 50 years ago, and many don't recognize the steam locomotive drive wheel as part of the heritage of railroading. On the other hand, most young folks understand the internet and they get much of their information from that source.

You may not accept this, but it is happening all around us. The leaders at NMRA are well aware of this trend, and chose to embrace it.



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I liked the old image; I like the new one as well. The new logo represents a change – a big change for our organization. On its face this wheel-on-rail symbol represents the oldest of the NMRA’s objectives: interoperability. It also represents the future. It’s a symbol of NMRA’s willingness to keep pace with the changes all around us. It recognizes the achievements of the past 75 years and it commits us to the continuation of those achievements in the next 75.

Most important, the new logo is a symbol of the NMRA’s commitment to serve you and others. As your wants and needs evolve, so will NMRA, with expanded content on the website, easier accessibility to the information in the Library, and programs designed to position our hobby well for another 75 years. The change includes a new name on the magazine. That change seems appropriate as well.

As we move into tomorrow, think of our new NMRA logo as a symbol of NMRA’s commitment and a commitment we should all make together – that we’ll all keep the hobby of scale model railroading alive, vibrant and ready for our needs and those of the next generation.



The new NMA logo superimposed over a wheel.

A REPORT FROM THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN MODEL RAILROADERS

By Sam Hopkins

The third meeting of the Smoky Mountain Model Railroaders was held Tuesday at the home of the Clackett’s, proprietors of Buffalo Creek buffalo ranch. We had five new faces attending and one even asked to join the TCA. He had no difficulty obtaining the required two sponsors! During introductions, it was discovered that we had some internationally known ‘notables’ in attendance – all the way from Johnson City, TN. Jack Miller of Jack’s Trains and Norman Thomas of T-Reproductions made the 90 minute drive to be with us. Norman told us a little history of Buddy ‘L’ and how he came to be the owner and manufacturer of these fine classic trains from the early part of the 1900s. His talk was very interesting and highly informative; thanks Norman . Jack Miller was the proprietor of Jack’s Trains for many years but had closed in 2005. He has been to the TCA gatherings in York PA a total of 63 times! Harold says that beats even him.

Newcomer Jim Juhnke is a highly proficient ‘S’ Scale modeler who belongs to several national S gauge clubs and was a Lionel repairman at a very early age in his home town. He brought some S equipment he had built including a converted American Flyer 372 Santa Fe PA that now sports a scale E7 cab in Union Pacific livery. A beautiful Reefer and a brass heavyweight coach were also nicely done. He constructed a tiny scale ‘speeder’ that was motorized with a Sony camera motor!

Jacob, Josh, & Harold showed several of the modules they are building and ideas were discussed for methods of joining and wiring them. They have 6 straight units assembled and will start construction on the 4 corner modules as funds become available. This will give us a 28’ x 9’ oval initially that will grow as we build more sections. Sam has been in contact with several modelers from around the country who are in modular clubs for advice and ideas. “Keep it light” is the most common comment we hear. Also suggested is to have some variation in the topography (which we will have by using 2” pink foam



on top of the plywood deck) and incorporate some back n' forth sweeping curves in lieu of too many long straights. Another comment is to make the corners as large (wide radius) as possible to be able to run long trains. Good ideas all.

We have no 'official' treasury as yet but presently have need of some funds to purchase material for the corner modules. For those interested in participating in the modular group, please send in a 'small donation' to help buy the next round of materials. We, as members, will purchase at cost, one or several modules that will be functionally wired, track laid & ballasted, and ready to be finished as we like – scenery, accessories, etc. Whatever you give now will be deducted from the purchase of your modules. At some point we will need to have a treasurer and other officers. What are your inclinations please? To clarify, the modular project is for those wanting to be a part of that faction – no one is obligated to participate but hopefully, many of you will!

Layout tour! Harold led us downstairs to see his trains – all THREE layouts! He has been collecting 3 rail O gauge (mostly Lionel) for 60 years and his walls are full. First encountered is a terrific 'Circus' layout as seen in the attached photos. Many animations, accessories, and a 'Big Top' tent full of people greeted us. Lights, music, and ACTION! To the right is a freight yard with an outer loop that connects to the main layout in the next room. It is a traditional "Postwar" Lionel layout of considerable size. Harold and his sons have been working on it for over 15 years since moving down from Long Island. Quite a nice set-up!

It was suggested that we have the meetings at different homes every month in order to see each person's 'train room', whether that be a full-blown layout or interesting display. Please consider hosting an upcoming meeting and let us know what day of the week would be best for everyone. With only 12 months per year, it won't matter how near or far you live, certainly most can drive to your place ONCE! Jack Miller offered for us to see his layout in Johnson City which is really not too far – heck, they drove here.

We will meet again in late August or early September. Please contact Sam Hopkins at csamh@att.net

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent Fred Coleman called the meeting to order and recognized several visitors and first-time attendees.

He announced several upcoming events, several of which involve our club's participation with the modules, and invited participation. Two days in particular – October 2 and 16- we will need help. Please see the Upcoming Events Section for more details.

The Superintendent's Award was presented to *Assistant Superintendent Dave Anderson*. Congratulations!

The *Paymaster* provided his report. We are solvent.

Work continues with the new layout at Lake Junaluska. You can see the layout at anytime, and you can help any Tuesday or Thursday evening. The layout features many of **Jack Mershon's** beautiful structures.

Superintendent Fred Coleman reported that Mr. **Joe Wheeler** needs help getting his model railroad back in service. Mr. **Wheeler** is confined to a wheel chair (recovering from a stroke) and has recently moved. The layout received minor damages during the move. To become functional, the layout must be reassembled, the wiring reconnected, and some track repairs accomplished. Sounds like easy work for a few good volunteers. If

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interested, contact **Fred Coleman**.

Assistant Superintendent **Dave Anderson** ask for more volunteers for the Eliada Home Train program. This August we are experiencing a lack of people to help with the program, due to vacations and work schedules. Please consider joining us, no modeling experience required (the kids have none when they start), or if you want to expand your model skills (scratch building, scenery, etc) for one or two of the four sessions on Tuesdays (3PM, 4:15PM, 6PM, 7PM), Contact **Dave** or **Penn** for the next steps involved which included a required background check, and program from Eliada for all volunteers.

Another Eliada Home project that needs our work is a German HO Scale Layout. If you want to help pay our 'rent', but do not want to work directly with the kids, this is an excellent possibility for you to help the club. If you have any old brass Atlas style turnout (preferably with switch machines) that are not being used, we have a place to use them on this layout. Contact **Dave** or **Penn** to setup a day to work on the layout, it would be easier for to work on Tuesday afternoons or evenings since someone with the keys and work list is already there.

Gordon Fewster provided an interesting and informative illustrated presentation on railroad signaling, starting with the general concepts of railroad signaling from the early days to the present, followed by practical applications of these principles to model railroading.

Our next meeting will be September 2 and will include a report on the 2010 NMRA Convention.



Mr. Joe Wheeler has his beautiful Great Northern trains operating once again, thanks to several Saturday afternoons of help from Dave Anderson, Dick Burdette, Fred Coleman and Clinton Smoke. This photo was taken on Saturday, August 14.

EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

30TH NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 1-4, ST LOUIS, MO— See the [website for details](#)

THE GREAT TRAIN EXPO

SEPTEMBER 11–12, 2010, CHARLOTTE, NC

For the latest information check out [the website](#).

NTRAK 2010 CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 24–26, 2010, DANVILLE, VA

For the latest information check out [their website](#).



EVENTS FOR MODELERS: (CONT.)

NORTH CAROLINA APPLE FESTIVAL

**SEPTEMBER 3 - 6, 2010 , HENDERSONVILLE
LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

Historic Hendersonville is the official home of the **64th Annual North Carolina Apple Festival**, a four-day celebration in honor of the North Carolina Apple. The NC Apple Festival features a street fair on Historic Main Street including continuous live musical entertainment, arts & crafts, apple growers selling apple products, children's & youth activities, special exhibits and open houses and food. . The Apple Festival's Street Fair covers 9 blocks of Main Street with more than 150 vendors. The highlight of Labor Day is King Apple Parade filled with floats, bands, clowns, antique cars, fire engines and more travelling down Main Street from 5 Points to Caswell Street.



An integral part of the celebration takes place at the Depot, home of the **Apple Valley Model Railroad Club (AVMRC)** The Depot will be open to the public that weekend from 10 until 4 on Saturday and Sunday. Operation Lifesaver representatives will be on hand. Come in and see the progress on the new section of the layout.

◀ Recent view of the ongoing construction of the new Asheville Division at the AVMRC.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STATE FAIR



**WNC AGRICULTURE CENTER,
SEPTEMBER 10 THOUGHT 19.**

Hours: Monday - Thursday: 3pm - 11pm
Friday & Saturday: 9am - 12 Midnight
Sunday: 9am - 11pm

Once again model railroading will have a presence at the fair. Come out and see what's happening.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS

**RAILFEST 2010 SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19
AT BRYSON CITY**

Railroad enthusiasts and history buffs world wide will gather for three days of railroad fun! Motor car rides and display, storytelling, singing, dancing and mountain folk music are all part of this spectacular railroading event. For more information call the *Great Smoky Mountains Railroad* - 1-800-872-4681 or check out [their website](#).



EVENTS FOR MODELERS: (CONT.)

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS

PHOTO SPECIAL EXCURSION SEPTEMBER 19 AT BRYSON CITY

Takes passengers on a seventy-one mile roundtrip excursion from Bryson City to Andrews, and includes two photo run-bys, a layover in Andrews and picnic lunch. This eight hour excursion departs at 9:00am. *For more information call the Great Smoky Mountains Railroad - 1-800-872-4681 or check out [their website](#).*

2010 SOUTH EASTERN STATES

3RD ANNUAL GREENSBORO, NC. PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Friday September 24th
8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday 25th September
at the J. Douglas Galyon Depot {Amtrak Station}
East Washington Street, Greensboro NC

Two days of clinics, model displays and modeling 'hands-on' demonstrations. Learn 'how-to' modeling techniques - how to build freight and passenger cars and enhance their appearance. Build trestles and various structures. Weather your models and learn tool use techniques to create prototype looking models. Plus Friday evening slideshow and bucket raffle to win something that you just might need?

For further details, check out [our website](#) or [e-mail](#) Tony Sissons

LOST RR WILL BE AT

**FARM CITY DAYS, OCTOBER 2, 2010,
JACKSON PARK, HENDERSONVILLE, NC
FALL BY THE TRACKS, OCTOBER 16
THE DEPOT AT BLACK MOUNTAIN, NC**

For both of these events we will take some of the modules and operate trains on Saturday. Our core mission is to promote the hobby - here is a great opportunity to help accomplish our mission, while having a lot of fun.

Please offer to assist in the set up and operation by contacting Fred Coleman or Dave Anderson.

FRENCH BROAD E'N'PIRE AUTUMN RAILS

**MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SWAP MEET,
WHITMIRE ACTIVITY BUILDING, HENDERSONVILLE, NC
FROM 10:00AM-4:00PM ON OCTOBER 9TH,**

Adults & Teens \$5, Scouts in Uniform & Kids Under 13 free

Check [their website](#) for more details



EVENTS FOR MODELERS: (CONT.)

NARROW TRAK 10

OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2010
PISGAH FOREST, NC

For further details, contact Frank Persall by [e-mail](#)



RAIL OPERATIONS WEEKEND

HOSTED BY THE CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION
OCTOBER 15-17, 2010

Held in various layouts in and around Charlotte, NC or check out [their website](#) for registration and info.

LAND O'SKY DIVISION, DIVISION 15, SER

QUARTERLY MEETING ON OCTOBER 16, 9AM TO NOON

Contact Frank Pearsall at plans@citcom.net for more info

CAROLINA SOUTHERN DIVISION 1ST ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW

OCTOBER 30, 2010, FROM 10 AM UNTIL 4 PM

ADMISSION: Adults \$5.00

Children under 12 **FREE** and Scouts in uniform **FREE**

NO CHARGE FOR PARKING

We will have up to 80 vendor tables available for your shopping pleasure, in addition to special tables for local railroad clubs and groups. We are also planning on one or more operating layouts.

The Hickory Grove Methodist Church is located at 6401 Hickory Grove Road, Charlotte, NC. Use this link [Hickory Grove Methodist Church, Charlotte](#) for a Google map and directions.

For more information check out [their website](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA, GO TO [THE SER WEBSITE](#), WHERE YOU WILL FIND THE ON-LINE VERSION OF *THE SOUTHERNER*, ALL 59 PAGES OF IT!

AND CHECK OUT THE NEW [NMRA HOME PAGE](#)

We are starting our 40th year as a model railroad club. We would like you to share some of your experiences of our history in these pages over the coming year. If you can contribute something, please contact the editor.



AUTUMN TRAIN EXCURSIONS



Oct. 30 - Roanoke, Va. and Oct. 31 - Asheville, N.C.

The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will host two day trip excursions to Roanoke, Va. and Asheville, N.C. this fall. These excursions, now in their fourth year, allow travelers to see beautiful fall foliage, experience a great destination and enjoy the romance of riding the rails. The "Virginia Autumn Special" travels to Roanoke Saturday, Oct. 30; the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel to Asheville. Sunday, Oct. 31.

Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., Saturday's "Virginia Autumn Special" will offer additional passenger pick-up at the Greensboro Amtrak Station at 8 a.m., allowing those in the Triad a more convenient boarding opportunity. The train will travel through the northern portion of the North Carolina Piedmont to the western part of central Virginia, offering spectacular views of the fall foliage, crossing the Dan and Roanoke Rivers. Moving onto the old Virginian Railway line, the train will pass through four tunnels and over trestles that provide views of the tributaries into Smith Mountain Lake. The train will arrive in Roanoke, the "Star City of the South," at noon, passing by the historic Roanoke Shops, where Norfolk Southern built their classic steam engines. Passengers will have nearly three hours to enjoy the attractions offered. Downtown Roanoke offers an array of dining, shopping and sight-seeing opportunities. Departing Roanoke at 3 p.m., the train will arrive back in Greensboro at 6:45 p.m. and in Spencer at 8 p.m.

During Sunday's trip, the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel through the western Piedmont into the foothills and on to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., the train will roll through the cities of Statesville, Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Black Mountain and Swannanoa. The train will climb the famed "loops" of the Blue Ridge Mountains and pass through several tunnels before arriving in Asheville at noon. Passengers will have nearly three hours for an outing at Biltmore Village. Departing Asheville at 3 p.m., the "Blue Ridge Special" will return to Spencer at 8 p.m.

Ticket sales for this year's excursion will differ from previous years. As a benefit of museum membership, there will be a two day advance sale, July 26 and 27, beginning at 9 a.m. Members are limited to six tickets each. Family memberships begin at \$50

and include free train rides, special ticket prices during museum events and member benefits at over 250 other museums through the Association of Science-Technology Centers. Public ticket sales begin July 28 at 9 a.m.

Tickets are available online at www.nctrans.org or by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 237.



STEAM TO RIDE THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILS AGAIN, IN COOPERATION WITH TVRM

Norfolk Southern Corporation is in negotiations with the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum with regard to the operation of a limited schedule of steam locomotive event appearances and passenger excursions beginning later this year. "21st Century Steam" would highlight milestones in rail history and provide an opportunity for audiences to learn about today's safe and service-oriented freight railroads. The program would feature three venerable coal-powered steam locomotives:

Southern Railway 4501: Built in 1911 by Baldwin Locomotive Works, 4501 served Southern Railway in freight service in Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana, before being sold to a short line railroad. No. 4501 was retired from revenue service in 1963 and enjoyed a second career in the excursion program operated by Southern Railway and Norfolk Southern from 1966 until 1994. This Ms (Mikado superheated) Class locomotive has 63-inch driving wheels.

Southern Railway 630: Built in 1904 at the Richmond, Va., works of American Locomotive Company, this Consolidation-type locomotive has traveled throughout the Southeast, often in the company of 4501 and sister locomotive 722. An extensive six-year rehabilitation to Federal Railroad Administration standards is being completed at TVRM's Soule Shops complex in Chattanooga.

Tennessee Valley Railroad 610: Built in 1952 by Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton for the U.S. Army, 610 has been the mainstay of TVRM steam operations since 1990. It also appeared on several Norfolk Southern steam excursions from 1990 to 1993. No. 610, also a Consolidation type, was one of the last steam locomotives built in the U.S.

"This is the right time for steam to ride the Norfolk Southern rails," said CEO Wick Moorman. "We have a fascinating history, and we have a compelling message about how today's railroads support jobs, competition, and the economy. It is a forward-looking message that resonates with people everywhere."

"21st Century Steam can help introduce historic and modern railroading to a broad new audience of supporters," said TVRM President Tim Andrews. "We are pleased to be developing this relationship with Norfolk Southern for the purpose of preserving and interpreting the steam age, and of bringing today's railroad closer to people young and old, in communities large and small." The launch of 21st Century Steam would coincide with key dates. 2011 will be 4501's 100th birthday and TVRM's 50th. The year 2012 will mark Norfolk Southern's 30th anniversary.

21st Century Steam's initial appearances and runs tentatively could take place in the Chattanooga area this fall, with locomotives 610 and 630. No. 4501 could join the program sometime in 2011, after rehabilitation. Exhibit dates, ticketing, and other details will be announced later.

"The sights and sounds of a steam train are powerful enough to catch the public's attention in this busy and complex age," said Jim Wrinn, author of *Steam's Camelot: Southern and NS Excursions in Color*, and editor of *Trains Magazine*. "A steam train is a living piece of American history that teaches volumes about this exciting industry that has much to offer our country today. Once the door is open with the steam locomotive, you've got an opportunity to teach a new generation how railroading is the right transportation solution to so many challenges facing us."

Later this year, Norfolk Southern and TVRM plan to launch a web site in support of the program.

From a NS Corp. news release