



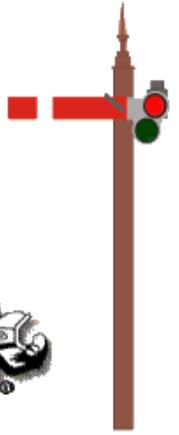
The Semaphore, The Official Publication of Land-O-Sky, Division 15, Southeastern Region, NMRA



The Semaphore

LAND-O-SKY
DIVISION 15, SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION
AND
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

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October 2008

VOLUME 38, NO.2

Our next membership meeting is on Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Check inside for listings of important activities of your model railroad organization and other model-railroad related activities in the near future

Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to chsmoke@bellsouth.net. Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.



Having fun at the Train Show in Hickory.



From the Superintendent's Desk

By John Williams, Division 15 Superintendent

Several of you have asked me what my strategic plan is for my term as superintendent. First of all, as a university professor, the words "strategic plan" do not engender warm feelings: We go through the strategic-planning process at least once a year, mostly to no good end. Having said that, I did ponder this question for a while, and to borrow from *Model Railroader* magazine, I decided my strategic plan is a simple one: **Model Railroading is Fun!**

Although we at times take various aspects of our hobby seriously, for example contest judging, we all took up the hobby because we enjoyed it. We enjoy the hobby for different reasons. Some of us are prototype modelers, other design and build buildings, still others like operations. One thing about model railroading is that it can incorporate all of us together no matter what aspect of the hobby we pursue. So I am going to work hard to keep that spirit going in the Land O' Sky Division. One means to that end is to get more of you more involved. This already has had some good results.

Another way to get more involvement is do some hands-on clinics from time to time. At this past month's meeting we tried something new. Several of us brought in some models that had been judged. Those who brought models talked about them and how they were judged, what received points and what did not. The response to this was very positive. So I plan to ask our clinic committee to reserve a meeting date once every quarter to allow people to bring models and have them informally judged, so to speak, in hopes of creating a better model. Not only will the modeler benefit but others may get stimulated to try their hand. Even those of us that have been in the hobby for decades can still learn new things.

So until next month, remember **Model Railroading is Fun.**

Your annual dues were due in September.

Last call for dues! If you have not paid your dues (\$12.00), please do so ASAP.

Please mail your dues to our pay clerk,
Jim Fuqua, 2813 Hampton Drive, Hendersonville, NC 28791. Thank you!

Please welcome new member Billy Hensley

Operating Sessions on the LOST RR

We are on the road several times in September and October, and as a result we will not have any operating sessions at the Barn during these months. Here are our set-up dates away from home:

- September 13 Train Show Hickory (done)
- October 4 Farm City Days Hendersonville
- October 18 Fall by the Tracks Black Mountain

Member support is needed at all of these events. Your time and our effectiveness before the public can be enhanced if we coordinate our efforts. Please contact Fred Coleman or Wally Brown to let them now of your ability to assist.

Start planning now: Our next train show is February 20 and 21 at the Asheville Civic Center.

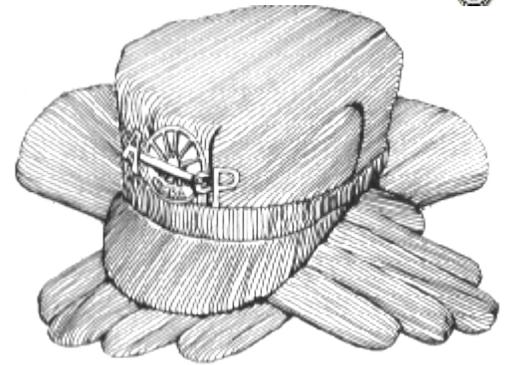


Working on those certificates

Editor's note: As a follow up to the discussion at September's meeting, and as part of our continuing series, here is more information about the requirements for

Master Builder - Cars

A "Car" is just about anything that runs on rails and is NOT self-propelled (if it's self-propelled, it's Motive Power). This includes freight cars, passenger cars, maintenance of way cars (including equipment such as cranes), cabooses, cable cars, un-powered (dummy) locomotives, etc. Actually, if you have a model which is self propelled, but is a model of something that was designed to carry something (besides itself), such as a rail car, it can be used as one of the qualifying models for either Motive Power or Cars, but not both.



To qualify for the Master Builder - Cars certificate:

You must build eight operable scale models of railroad cars:

"Operable" means that they must be able to roll on the track, negotiate a curve, be pulled by something, etc. It do not mean that every door, valve, or other moving feature of the car must work as the prototype does. (However, any operating features that you can include in your car are likely to increase your score.)

1. There must be at least four different types of cars represented in the total of eight. One of these must be a passenger car.

The intent of this requirement is show that you can model a variety of types of cars, not just several variations of the same type. For example: a 40' steel-side box car and a 36' wood side reefer would be different types of cars, but a 40' steel-side box car and a 50' steel-side box car probably would not (unless you can show that there was a substantial difference in what it took to build them). Similarly, a wood deck flat car and a steel deck flat car would not be considered "different" types of cars, but a regular flat car and a depressed center flat car would, because it is a substantially different type of car to build.

"Passenger cars" include anything that would normally be found in a regular scheduled passenger train including baggage cars, express reefers, business cars, or other passenger carrying cars like drover's cabooses.

Remember, it is only four different types that are required: you could build a set of five identical passenger coaches, a box car, a tank car, and a gondola, and satisfy the requirement.

2. Each of the eight models must be super detailed with either commercial parts or scratch built parts (for extra points).

When looking for ways to super detail your cars, brake wheels, grab irons and ladders are good places to start - particularly by replacing the "molded on" ones that the car

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

came with. That's where many judges start looking. Another area that many judges look for is the under-frame brake gear.

In addition to being super detailed, at least four of the eight models must be scratch built. The term "scratch built" implies that the modeler has done all of the necessary layout and fabrication that produce the final dimensions, appearance, and operating qualities of the model.

This is a good statement of the intent and spirit of the "scratch built" requirement. Notice that it does not say that the use of a few commercial detail parts will disqualify the model as being "scratch built". In general, the same standard applies that is used in contest judging: "Completely Scratch Built" means that 90% or more of the model was scratch built.

The following parts are specifically excluded from the scratch built requirement: wheels, couplers, light bulbs & electronics, trucks, brake fittings, marker lights & drum-heads, paint, decals, etc., and basic shapes of wood, plastic, metal, etc. ("Basic shapes" are things that the builders of the prototype would have used as raw materials. For example, an "I" beam would be a basic shape; a commercial door or window casting would not.)

Something you should remember if the idea of 'scratch building' intimidates you: There is very little difference between scratch building and building most crafts-man kits. The big difference is that in a kit, the manufacturer has assembled the materials that you will need for you. Only the construction needs to be done from scratch. If you take someone else's plans and instructions (even those from a kit) and go to the hobby shop and buy the materials yourself and assemble them; that qualifies as scratch building. On the other hand, if you do develop your own plans, make sure that you tell the judges that, as it will earn you extra points.

You must earn a score of at least 87-1/2 points on four of the eight models in either an NMRA sponsored contest or in AP Merit Award judging. (87-1/2 is 70% of the maximum 125-point score.) Note that only four of the eight must earn 87-1/2 points. The others don't even have to be judged, but all have to be described in the Statement of Qualification.

Remember that your eight cars do not have to be from the same era, or part of the country. They don't even have to be the same scale. You also don't have to earn your four Merit Award certificates at the same time - you can earn one this year, another two years from now, and another the year after that.

Further Information

For further information, contact check the National Achievement Program on NMRA's [website](#), or the AP General Manager, [Paul Richardson, MMR](#).

More on this next month.



Happenings

October 3 and 4. Model Railroad Show and Swap Meet. Autumn Rails 2008. Friday 3:00 pm 7:00 pm, Saturday - 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Sponsored by the French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club at Bonclarken Assembly Auditorium, Blue Ridge Road, Flat Rock, NC. The show will feature a large operating NTRAK layout, 100+ tables of model railroad equipment and supplies in all scales from Z to G, railroad memorabilia, clothing, and railroad art. See [website](#) or page 6 for more info.

October 4, Farm City Days at Jackson Park in Hendersonville from 10:00AM-4:00PM. Our module team will participate in this day-long event that features both urban and rural displays, antique and modern farm equipment, live music, farm animals, square dancing, clogging, arts and crafts, children's activities, wagon rides, competitions, displays, demonstrations and plenty of food. There is fun for all.

October 10 and 11. Narrow Trak 08 Friday, 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Transylvania County Recreation Center, 1078 Ecusta Road, Brevard. Narrow Trak 08 is the annual gathering of hard-core narrow gauge and logging modelers. See page 7 for more info.

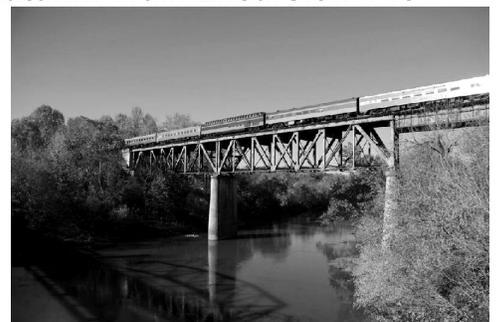


October 18. 10 am – 4 pm. The 13th Annual Fall by the Tracks Festival at Black Mountain's Historic Railroad Depot on Sutton Ave. in Black Mountain, North Carolina. The "Fall By The Tracks" Festival will include the opening of the caboose museum, crafters demonstration, face and pumpkin painting, cake-walks, local honey, food, and fresh-made, while-you-watch, apple cider from our own antique apple press, and more! The module team will participate.

October 24th and 25th, Southern Railway Historical Association Gathering at the Port Wentworth Community Center in Savannah, Ga. Fri. pm., visit Nate Stone's Clinchfield Layout. Sat. from 9:00 am on – a day of interesting clinics for modelers. For info contact Greg Soots at memberservices@srha.net.

November 1 and 2, N. C. Transportation Museum's Virginia Autumn Train Excursion. Presented by The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, the excursion offers rare daylight trips through the rolling hills of the Carolinas and the Western part of Central Virginia, using Amtrak and vintage rail equipment.

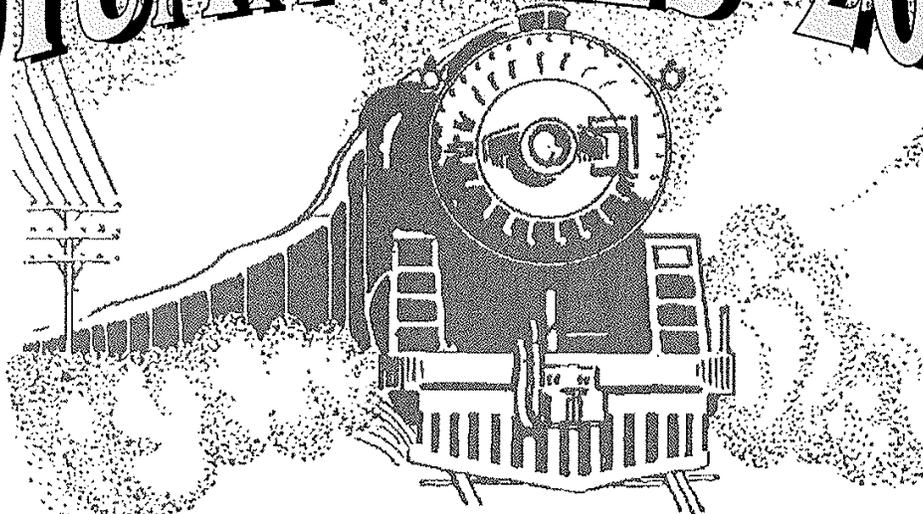
The railroad line crests legendary White Oak Mountain, and offers spectacular views of the Dan, Roanoke and James Rivers. This year, passengers can board at one of two locations, the NC Transportation Museum at 411 S. Salisbury Avenue in Spencer, and the newly renovated Amtrak Station at 236 East Washington Street in Greensboro. The train departs Spencer at 7am and from Greensboro at 8:15 am.



Trips are available Saturday, Nov. 1st, and Sunday, Nov. 2nd. For reservations and info, [website](#) (www.nctrans.org/events/excursion.php) or call 704-636-2889 ext. 232.



AUTUMN RAILS 2008



**All Aboard for our NINTH annual
MODEL RAILROAD SHOW AND SWAP MEET**

◆ *Two Day Show - October 3 & 4* ◆

Friday - 3 pm to 7 pm / Saturday - 10 am to 3 pm

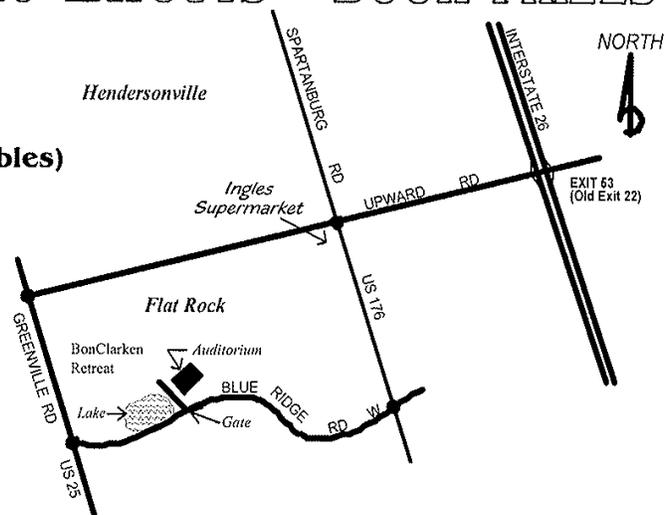
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NARROW TRAK 08

Friday, October 10, 2008, 2 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 11, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
at the Transylvania County Recreation Center,
1078 Ecusta Road
(behind Pisgah Forest Elementary School),
Brevard, NC 28712-7581

NARROW TRAK 08 is the annual gathering of hard-core narrow gauge and logging model railroaders for two days of friendship and knowledge building. The modeling and prototype seminars will provide information you can use. They are scheduled so that you can attend all the seminars with plenty of time between each one. As to our beloved wives and girlfriends, there's plenty for them to do in the Brevard area. In previous years, wives have been the first ones to say they wanted to come back! Registration for individuals is \$20.00, with spouse/significant other being \$12.00.

Some of our knowledge-building seminar presenters will include Johnny Graybeal on the ET&WNC; Noll Horan on sawdust scenery; Jim King on Casting in Resin; Mac McDonald on Eastern N.C. Logging & Lumbering operations; Ray Montgomery on Alco and Baldwin narrow gauge in South America; Joe Norris on building an narrow gauge turntable, Ron Schmidt on Logging on the Little River in Tennessee and Tom Yorke on Painting, Staining and Weathering.

The Saturday night bureaucracy announcements and awards ceremony is less than 10 minutes long! Then, the final highlight of every Narrow Trak convention is the Saturday night bluegrass music by Roy Chapman and his "True Bluegrass band." If you've never heard bluegrass, you'll love this original American music. Roy and his group play in the finest Bill Monroe tradition.

Modules and Contests

We welcome narrow gauge completed dioramas and modules. The popular-vote model contest consists of five categories: motive power, rolling stock, structure, diorama and the coveted Beloved Founder Award.

Accommodations

Within a 30 miles radius (we're 22 miles from the Asheville airport), there's everything from Norman Bates type motels to fancy, pricey bed and breakfasts. Don't try and keep the bed and breakfasts secret from your wife—you'll be sorry...

Food

The Brevard area is well-known for its many fine restaurants with something for everyone. We've got reservations-only, high-priced places to down and dirty, red-neck joints. Our list of personal recommended places would take up three or four pages.

And finally...

If you need more registration forms, send an e-mail to: plans@citcom.net or an SSAE to:

NARROW TRAK 08
11 Owen St., Ste 104
Brevard, NC 28712-7725

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