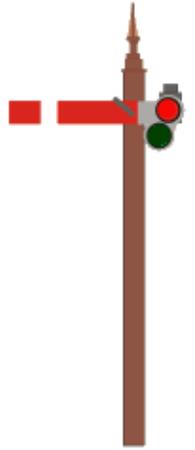


# The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at [www.wncmrr.org](http://www.wncmrr.org) & [Facebook](#)

## October 2012

### VOLUME 42 NUMBER 3

Our next meeting is on October 4<sup>th</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.



**THE BEST SCENERY ISN'T ON A MODEL RAILROAD.**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday October 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Clinic: Layout challenge .

Synopsis: A look at all the entries to see if they comply with the specification in the various AP certificate. (See [page 4](#) for details) Come to have fun. **See you there!**

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## REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7 PM on September 6, 2012.

Good and welfare:

Keep the following people in your prayers: Beside Bill **Seibert** (in *Autumn Care* in Waynesville), **Mike Smith** were not present due to continuing health issues. **Charlie Krug** reported that he will have a knee replacement at the end of this month, and will miss the next meeting. No one else brought up anyone else for consideration. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Assistant Superintendent **Tom McPherson** said that he would be looking for members to help make presentations at future meetings. Anyone who has an interesting idea should contact him

*Editor's note: We always welcome contributions to this newsletter as well.*

**Annual dues** are now due, this year's inflation adjusted price is **\$12**. See the Paymaster during the break to either pay cash or check. Make checks payable to WNC Model Railroaders, Inc.

Up coming or possible LOST RR events:

- Biltmore House  
September 19th setup, September 20th times will be announced. This is for a group of home school families. Fred will have more details at the September meeting. This is on a Wednesday and Thursday.
- Farm City Days, October 6th—Setup at 8AM weather permitting
- Autumn Rails, October 13th awaiting invitation from French Broad E'N'pire
- Boy Scout Midway, October 20th, more info.

All of these events provide great opportunities for our club to make a favorable public impression and promote model railroading in our community. We will need help for both events. Those who can help should contact Fred Coleman

The following **Events** were brought up by members:

**September 22.** The town of **Old Fort** is paying tribute to **Andrews Geyser** with events at the depot and at the geyser. See story about the geyser on the [following page](#).

(Continued on page 3)



**October 12th, 13th:** Frank Pearsall's **Narrow Trak Meet** in Brevard, NC.

**October 18-21 MER Convention at Suffolk, Va.** The Tidewater Division invites you to come to Virginia for the 2012 MER Convention to be held the third weekend in October (18-21) 2012. We have scheduled four days of model railroading activities: clinics, contests, modular layouts, a live auction, layout tours, prototype tours, a banquet with featured speaker, awards presentation, and non-rail activities. There will be much to see, learn, do and enjoy. For more information go their convention [website](#).



**Eliada Home** recognized our volunteer effort at the barn, with the 'Volunteer of the Year' award given to the club. **Penn Bullock** received the award for the club. (**Charlie** is willing to defray some of the cost of the upcoming surgery with pictures of club members in a coat and tie for the event. He will accept all serious bids for his pictures.) All kidding aside, it was nice to be recognized for some of the work we have done at the barn for the last 7 years. Thanks to all who have given their time to help the youth sent to **Eliada Home!**

Since no other business was brought up from the floor, the meeting was concluded. After a short break **Dan Lang** an interesting and informative presentation on DCC systems. He talked about Digitrax, NCE, Lenz, MRC,

Atlas, and E-Z DCC,, but spent most of the time comparing the two most popular lines – Digitrax and NCE (North Coast Engineering).

Both of these can do the basics quite well – run trains, operate turnouts and other equipment, use various technologies for wireless operations, and make the operator happy. Dan had various products, a great slide show, and a handout. He even brought his complete tabletop model railroad of the short-line Eliada and Southern Railroad. Thanks **Dan!**



## DUES ARE DUE!

If you have paid your dues, thanks. If you have not paid your dues yet, please remember to bring cash or a check \$12.00, payable to WNC Model Railroaders, Inc.. See our Paymaster John Williams at the next meeting.

# Thanks!

**Andrews Geyser.** The geyser, built in 1879, was man-made and positioned next to Mill Creek. It was a popular tourist attraction, particularly eye-catching for railroad passengers ascending the nine miles of track and tunnels that peaked at the top of Swannanoa Gap.

In 1903, the Round Knob Hotel burned. The geyser was relocated, restored and named for Alexander Boyd Andrews, a North Carolina native and Vice President of the Western North Carolina Railroad and , and one of the *men responsible for the construction of the railroad between Old Fort and Asheville, North Carolina*, in the late 19th century.

The fountain was constructed as a tribute to the approximately 120 men who died building the railroad through this particularly treacherous stretch of land that culminates with the crossing of the Eastern Continental Divide through the Swannanoa Tunnel. The fountain was said to be eye-catching for railroad passengers ascending the 13 miles of track and seven tunnels that peaks at the top of Swannanoa Gap because it could be seen several times long the route.





# 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. They 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 railfans, 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

## OCTOBER MEETING LAYOUT PLAN CHALLENGE

The challenge is to plan a layout that meets the minimum size for scenery and civil AP certificates.

### Scenery AP requirements:

O scale 60 square feet  
HO scale 32 square feet  
N scale 18 square feet  
Other scales in proportional relationship to HO scale.

### Electrical

Prepare a schematic of the model railroad showing gaps, blocks, feeder, power supplies, etc.

Bring your layout drawing to the meeting, or bring them as a PDF JPG, PNG format to show on the screen.

### Civil requirements:

O scale 75 feet of track    HO or S scale 50 feet of track  
N, Z, TT scale 25 feet of track

- Plan must have adequate terminal facilities for freight and/or passenger cars
- Terminal facility for storage and service of motive power
- Minimum of one mainline passing siding
- 4 switching locations, not counting yards, interchanges, wye, & reversing loops
- Provision for turning motive power
- Simultaneous operations of at least 2 trains in either direction
- Six of the following examples:

Passing siding	Spur	Crossover
Reversing loop	Wye	Simple ladder (3 track minimum)
Compound ladder	Turntable	Transfer Table
Super Elevation	Simple/Compound Overhead wire	
Scale Track	Coal Dump	Ash Pit
Cog Railway	Service Pit	Grade Elevation



# WNC MRR AT THE BILTMORE ESTATE FOR HOME SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY



Charlie showing the different cars and scales, and entralling the kids



# CLUB CALENDAR

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

- October 3rd **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- October 4th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*
- October 6th 8:00 AM LOST RR  
*Farm City Days*
- October 10th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- October 13 & 14th LOST RR  
Autumn Rails, WNC Ag Center
- October 17th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- October 20th Land O'Sky Division Meeting  
Meeting place TBD.
- October 24th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- October 31st **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM

- 4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- November 7th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- November 6th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*
- November 14th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- November 21th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM
- November 28th **Eliada Hobo's**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
2:30 –3:15 PM  
3:30—4:15 PM  
4:20—5:00 PM  
5:15—6:00 PM  
7:00—7:45 PM

We have things for you to do, expand the hobby and your talents! Come out to see what your fellow club members are doing.



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## EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

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### LOST RR

#### WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

**October 6**, Farm City Days at Jackson Park 10:00AM-4:00PM (setup at 8:30 AM, weather permitting)

**October 13, 14** Autumn Rails, see below

**October 20** Boy Scout Merit Badge Midway (set up on **October 19**)

Look at your colanders and sign up at the next meeting. Lets have a good turn out for all these events!

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### NARROW TRAK MEET

**October 12th, 13th**

Frank Pearsall's Narrow Trak in Brevard, NC. Contact Frank for more information.

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### AUTUMN RAILS 2012

**October 13th, 14th**

French Broad E'N'pire's annual train show at the Western North Carolina Ag Center.

See their [website](#) for more details.

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### LAND O'SKY DIVISION MEETING

October 20, see [website](#) for details

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### PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE

Weekends in the Atlanta Area, starting October 13th through November 25th.

See their [website](#) for details.

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### WANT A CLINIC?

- If you have a clinic you would like to give, see Tom or Dave with what you want to give. Try it out on us before going big time at a SER or Land O'Sky meeting.

Even if you don't want to go big time, we would love to hear about your niche of our expansive hobby!

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### 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.*



**PEACHTREE EXPRESS**  
NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
[nmra2013.org](http://nmra2013.org)