

# 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

## December 2012

### VOLUME 42 NUMBER 5

Our next meeting is on December 1<sup>st</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.



A half century ago, Christmas travel may have meant a train trip. The train shown here is Southern's Crescent. While diesel replaced steam in the 1950s, the Crescent survives in Amtrak's system. The Southern *Pacific* class #1401 also survives and is on display at the Smithsonian in Washington, DC. Original art by Howard Fogg. Image from a card by Leanin' Tree.

**SCENES LIKE THESE REMIND US OF HEADING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Clinic: Christmas Party and White Elephant Sale..**

Synopsis: Bring in your white elephant items and enjoy food and camaraderie centered around trains. RSVP to Fred by the 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 October 4, 2012.

First the meeting minutes as shown in the November Semaphore were accepted by a motion by **Fred Coleman** and seconded by **Penn Bullock**. The motion passed

Christmas Party will be held after our December meeting. There was no motion to change the format or date so December 6<sup>th</sup> will be the next meeting and annual Christmas Party. **RSVP to Fred Coleman** with what you are going to bring and how many are attending by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Members are to bring non alcoholic drinks, salads, desserts.

Good and welfare: Keep the following people in your prayers: Beside Bill **Seibert** (in *Autumn Care* in Waynesville), **Mike Smith**, **Charlie Krug** were not present due to health issues. **Troy Carroll** will be in surgery on November 28<sup>th</sup>. **Jack Mershon** wife's brother has cancer and we need to keep her and her brother in our prayers. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

:LOST RR recent events:

- Farm City Days, **October 6<sup>th</sup>**—Setup went well. We had lots of visitors and hopefully educated some folks in the fun of Model railroading.
- Autumn Rails, **October 13<sup>th</sup>** Show went well, from our aspect, hopefully it was a successful show.
- Boy Scout Midway, **October 20<sup>th</sup>**, went well, some scouts were enthusiastic.

Thanks to all who helped out at these events; **Fred, Boyce, Audley, Troy, Maureen, Clint** to name a few club members.

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

Craggy Mountain Line had around 200 people at their event on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Audley and were there.

No one had time to skim thru the magazine to give a review of anything they thought was interesting.

Fred brought up that he doesn't even have time to read Model Railroad Hobbyist. For those that don't know it is a free internet model railroading magazine. You can Google 'free model railroad magazine and get the website or [see their website](#). The depth of there articles are large since they don't have to worry that much about length of magazine. The articles are a little more detailed than

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Rail Model Craftsman, lots of pictures and videos are on the site. If you want ideas or just look at some good pictures and articles, check them out.

Since no other business was brought up from the floor, the meeting was concluded. After a short break **we had a roundtable** discussion on engine tune up and maintenance. Gordon brought in two good engines and discussed how he maintains them in good running condition. Penn and Troy came looking for advice on their engines. Many options were discussed, hopefully some were remembered after the meeting. On older Athern engines, try not to lose the spring that holds the brush in. It is a very small spring and your engine will not run very well without it. Gordon brought up that you need to make sure that the lubrication used is plastic compatible. Many household oils and lubricants are not plastic friendly. It will run great for a (short) period of time, then you will need a new transmission, if not a new engine due to breaking down plastic gears and/or shell.

## NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### SANTA TRAIN DEC. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23



Christmas is coming early this year at the N.C. Transportation Museum. Our most popular Christmas event, Santa Train, rolls out of the station weekends in December through Christmas. Each Saturday and Sunday, kids and their parents will be joined by elves on a train ride to remember. Kids will receive candy canes and oranges, a Southern Railway tradition dating back to the Great Depression. Santa Train tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for Seniors and Active Military, and \$10 for children 3-12. Two and under always ride free. Museum members receive additional discounts. Tickets are available in advance by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 237, or can be purchased on the day of the event.

### COOKIES & COCOA WITH SANTA DEC. 1, 8, 15, 21-22

Cookies and Cocoa with Santa is an evening train ride to meet the Jolly Old Elf. Kids will hear a Christmas story aboard the train before meeting Santa Claus in the Bob Julian Roundhouse. Cookies and Cocoa will be served, kids can make a craft, and send a post-card to the North Pole!

Tickets are only available in advance. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children 3-12 and free for children 2 and under. Call 704-636-2889 ext. 237 for purchase. Rides take place at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 each evening of the event.



### JINGLE BELL EXPRESS DEC. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21

Weekdays in December, school groups will be enjoying a special seasonal train rides at the N.C. Transportation Museum. "Jingle Bell Express" rolls out Wednesday-Friday each week before Christmas. Students and group members will receive their own golden ticket and jingle bell.

A conductor will punch the golden ticket before the children embark on a train ride featuring a Christmas story and holiday music. "Jingle Bell Express" is intended only for school groups and registration is required. For more information, teachers or group coordinators can call LeAnne Johnson, at 704-636-2889 ext. 258.





## HURRICANE SANDY DERAILS TRANSPORTATION IN THE NORTHEAST

Transportation ground to a halt along the U.S. Northeast coast in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, stranding local rail commuters, cruise passengers and air travelers from as far away as Europe and Asia. The transport woes also hit cargo operations, adding another dimension to the storm's economic toll.

Massive cargo container operations in New York and New Jersey shut down very early Monday, and will stay closed indefinitely, the port authority said, stranding millions of dollars worth of goods arriving for the holiday season. The cost of the cargo disruptions probably won't be large, said Arthur Hatfield, managing director of equity Research at Raymond James in Memphis, Tenn. While cargo gets backed up it eventually gets delivered. "Nothing disappears," he said.

CSX Corp., the nation's second-largest publicly owned railroad company, shut its network between Richmond, Va., and Albany, N.Y., early Monday. The closure included Boston and extended as far west as Brunswick, Md. Norfolk Southern Corp said rail traffic from Virginia through New England could be affected by flooding and high winds, and told customers to expect delays of at least 72 hours.

New York suspended service on mass-transit systems for New York, Long Island, Staten Island and Metro-North. PATH train service between New York and New Jersey also was suspended. Amtrak canceled service along the Northeast corridor for Monday, and nearly all service along the Eastern seaboard, through Tuesday.

Data released Nov. 8 by the Association of American Railroads (AAR) showed Hurricane Sandy disrupted U.S. intermodal volume's winning streak during the week ending Nov. 3, 2012. The hurricane also solidified U.S. freight carload traffic's continuing slide during the latest week.

U.S. freight carload volume fell 6.8% compared with the same week in 2011, while U.S. intermodal volume also fell, down 6.2%.

AAR said 10 of the 20 carload commodity groups it measures posted increases for the week compared with a year ago, including petroleum products, up 61.5%, farm products excluding grain, up 46.4%, and lumber and wood products, up 24%. Declining commodities included iron and steel scrap, down 25.8 percent%, metallic ores, down 22.9%, and nonmetallic minerals, down 22.5%.

Hurricane Sandy clearly had a regional impact; weekly carload volume on Eastern railroads was down 12.7%, while in the West, weekly carload volume was down a more modest 3%. Canadian freight carload volume also fell, down 3.1% for the week compared with the same week last year, and Canadian intermodal also fell, down 2.3%. Mexican freight carload volume rose 0.7%, while Mexican intermodal volume advanced 18%.



Combined North American rail volume for the first 44 weeks of 2012 on 13 reporting U.S., Canadian, and Mexican railroads was down 1.8% compared with the same point last year, while combined North American intermodal was up 4.5%.

But for the millions of people who depend upon commuter/regional, rapid transit, light rail, and intercity trains every day have been left without service following extensive damage. Service will be unavailable for at least a week on most lines as crews feverishly work to repair billions of dollars in damage from the so-called "super storm."

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## HURRICANE SANDY DERAILS TRANSPORTATION IN THE NORTHEAST

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The New York City subway system has sustained the worst damage it has ever experienced in its 108-year history. Service remains suspended on all lines, as cleanup and water remediation efforts continue, especially in underwater tunnels linking Brooklyn and Manhattan that were flooded during the storm.



In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, both Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North Railroad service remains suspended system-wide, as damage assessment and repair work continues on the nation's two largest commuter railroads. Crews on both railroads are removing downed power lines and trees along the rights-of-way, in addition to removing mud and other debris that washed up onto the tracks.

Metro-North is unable to operate regular service on its Hudson, Harlem and New Haven Lines. Metro-North lost electric power from 59th Street to Croton

-Harmon on the Hudson Line and east to New Haven on the New Haven Line. On the Hudson Line, a large pleasure boat washed ashore onto the tracks near the Ossining Station.

The Long Island Rail Road sustained damage in its West Side Yard in Manhattan and suffered flooding in two of the four East River tunnels it shares with Amtrak and New Jersey Transit. The LIRR is under-taking a comprehensive assessment of its 700 miles of track, including its train storage yards in the wake of the storm. In conducting the assessment of the LIRR's eleven branches, crews have removed over 140 trees throughout the system with many more yet to be removed. In Long Island, thru Port Washington and Oyster Bay branches and the Port Jefferson Branch east of Huntington had some of the heavier concentration of downed trees. Some of the fallen trees encountered on the Oyster Bay and Port Jefferson branches are as large as six feet in circumference. On the Babylon Branch in the vicinity of Amityville, three 90-foot high-tension utility poles snapped and are leaning over the tracks. There are also downed power lines in some areas.

"It is still too early to say how long it will take to restore the system to full service," MTA said. "This is will be an exhaustive, time-consuming process with one goal: to restore safe and efficient service to 8.5 million daily MTA customers. It must be noted, however, that this process could have taken much longer had we not taken the pre-emptive measure of suspending all service to safeguard our equipment and prepare facilities to the best of our ability."

The situation is somewhat grimmer on New Jersey Transit, which operates the nation's third-largest commuter rail system as well as three light rail lines. "While this destructive and deadly storm is now gone, it has left behind long-term mechanical and operational challenges that NJT is working tirelessly to overcome," the agency said. "This will take time, and the blow delivered by Hurricane Sandy will continue to impact customers for days to come.

NJT entire regional/commuter rail and LRT service will remain suspended until further notice. There is currently no estimated time for service resumption, due to widespread damage to critical infrastructure. The agency's Rail Operations Center is engulfed in water, which has damaged backup power supply systems, the emergency generator, and the computer system that controls the train move-

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## HURRICANE SANDY DERAILS TRANSPORTATION IN THE NORTHEAST

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ments and power supply to catenary on electrified lines. There are numerous downed trees across the rail system, which have caused damage to catenary and signal cables. There are rail washouts across the system, including on the North Jersey Coast Line and Atlantic City Rail Line, and at Kearny Junction, a critical link for Midtown Direct service to New York City. Several rail stations are flooded, including Hoboken Terminal. Morgan Drawbridge on the North Jersey Coast Line in South Amboy sustained damage from boats and a trailer that collided with the bridge.

Like NJT's regional/commuter rail lines, Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, Newark Light Rail, and RiverLINE service will remain suspended until further notice, with no estimated time for resumption. Newark Light Rail sustained flooding in Newark Penn Station, as well as major debris damage between Newark Penn and Branch Brook Park stations in North Newark. Hudson-Bergen Light Rail experienced track washouts at Port Imperial and West Side Avenue stations, as well as trees in the overhead wire in Weehawken and flooding in Hoboken. The RiverLINE sustained no significant damage to equipment or infrastructure; however, due to a loss of commercial electricity between Camden and Trenton, there is no power to operate signals and switches. Service on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's PATH rapid transit system is expected to be out of service for, at minimum, a week to 10 days due to extensive flooding in the system's two sets of Hudson River tunnels, Hoboken Terminal facility, and other locations.



Most of Amtrak's hurricane damage occurred on the Northeast Corridor east of Newark, N.J. As in the case of other tunnel owners and operators in New York City, Amtrak is removing water and making repairs to track, signal, and power systems within its tunnels under the Hudson and East rivers, the railroad said. "The amount of water intrusion into the tunnels is unprecedented—as was the storm itself—so a date for restoration of Amtrak service directly to/from New York Penn Station from either the north or south is not available at this time." There is no *Northeast Regional* service between Newark and Boston and no *Acela Express* service for the length of the

Northeast Corridor (Boston to Washington D.C.). At Newark Penn Station, there is no connecting service to New York City and no elevator or escalator service.

Service to the Newark Liberty Airport rail station is suspended due to a lack of connecting services. Also suspended is the *Empire Service* between New York City and Buffalo/Niagara Falls, the *Adirondack* to and from Montreal, Québec, Canada, and the *Ethan Allen Express* to and from Rutland, Vt., due to track damage south of Albany-Rensselaer, N.Y., along the Hudson River. Amtrak is providing modified *Northeast Regional* service between Newark and points south, including restoring Virginia service to Lynchburg, Richmond, and Newport News, Va. Amtrak is also operating *Keystone Service* trains between Harrisburg, Penn., and Philadelphia, and *Downeaster* trains between Boston and Portland, Me., along with some overnight services to and from the Northeast.

This report was written using information from Reuters and Railway Age websites.



La Guardia Airport on 10/30/12



# CLUB CALENDAR

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

December 5th                   **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

December 6th 7:00 PM   **Club Meeting**  
                                   *Eliada Admin Building*

December 12th               **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

December 19th              **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

January 2nd                   **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

January 3rd 7:00 PM   **Club Meeting**  
                                   *Eliada Admin Building*

January 9th   **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

January 16th **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

February 6th               **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

February 7th 7:00 PM   **Club Meeting**  
                                   *Eliada Admin Building*

February 13th              **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

February 20th              **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

February 27th              **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.



## EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

### LAND O'SKY DIVISION MEETING

January 19, 2013 at 9:30 am at the Enka-Candler library, Candler, NC. see [website](#) for details

### WNC TRAIN SHOW

March 1st & 2nd

At the WNC AG Center

Friday from Noon to 7 PM, Saturday from 9 until 4 PM, see our [website](#) for details

### WANT A CLINIC?

- If you have a clinic you would like to give, see or email [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!



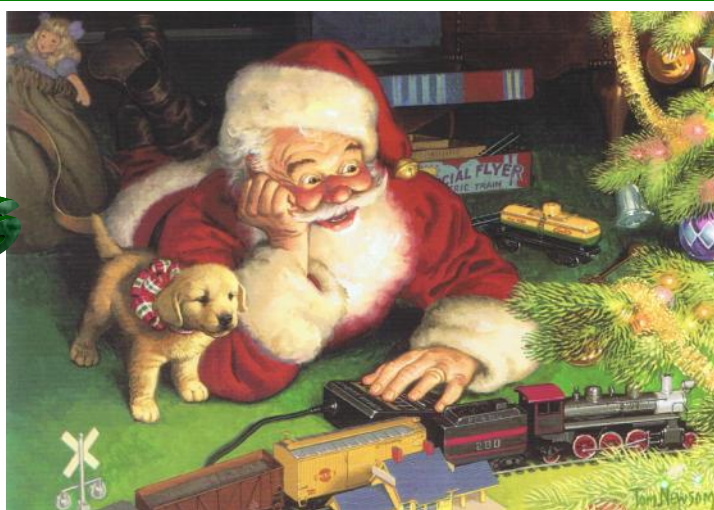
PEACHTREE EXPRESS  
NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION  
[nmra2013.org](http://nmra2013.org)

### 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.*

Merry  
CHRISTMAS



We hope that your holidays are safe and enjoyable.