



CENTRAL CROSSINGS

NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL RAILWAY MUSEUM



Volume 29, Issue # 4

October 2019

108 Werner St
Central, SC 29627

Website:

www.crmha.org

President
Sandy Eustis

Treasurer
Jim Alexander

Secretary
Sage Viehe

VP of Programs
David Mead

VP of Marketing
John Johnston

VP of Exhibits
Ken Greenwood

Museum Curator
Jack Green

Newsletter Wayne
Cunningham Joanne
Cunningham

Webmaster Wayne
Cunningham

**NEXT
MEETINGS**

**10/3,
11/7,
12/12**

**@ 7:00 PM
AT THE
CENTRAL
RAILWAY
MUSEUM
ANNEX**

FROM THE EDITORS:

Welcome to the latest issue of Central Crossings.

As we enter Fall and approach the end of 2019, I wonder where the year has gone so quickly. Of course, I seem to say that every year, and I never seem to get a good answer.

In our last issue, I mentioned what this time of year brings - Baseball ending, football starting and cooler temps... Two outta three ain't bad right?

Several things coming up in the next few months that we need to cover in this issue - standard end of the year stuff, nothing too important.

Last month, the CRM suffered a major electrical meltdown in the main room of the HO Scale layout (the Peachtree area), resulting in a need to replace the Digitrax DCC Booster, as well as several other components. Obviously Ken and others have been working to restore service and replace damaged parts, but many of the items are back ordered as Digitrax is still recovering from damage to their production abilities and facility as a result of Hurricane Michael last summer (2018). While Saturday operations have not been canceled, they have been impacted by this issue. Ken and the rest of the layout and operation team have been doing great work to keep the trains moving.

Because of the need to replace equipment, Jim has had to make some adjustments to the 2019 budget. He is expecting to finalize those changes by mid October. Also, he asks folks to submit their needs and wants for the 2020 budget now, as we are now starting our budget year at the beginning of the 2020 calendar year.

Jim also wants to remind us all that dues for the 2020 calendar year are due by January 31st, 2020. Please get with Jim starting December 1st to get those paid up. \$40 is the annual membership cost again this year.

Sandy and John are in full swing getting ready for the 2020 Model Train Expo in Easley. For all the information on the show, you can check out the flyer on Page 4 of this publication, or you can visit our web page that has that information, plus videos and more.



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ONGOING PROJECTS:

Special Upgrade to HO Layout

All HO rolling has been removed from the layout and the tracks have been cleaned by numerous volunteers. We are now in the process of cleaning all engine wheels and all other pieces of rolling stock (about 350) have been inspected for missing pieces and parts. As a result of this inspection it was noted we need approximately 400 new metal wheels. When this was announced at a recent Steering Committee meeting four members stepped forward with the money needed to purchase these wheels. The wheels were ordered on September 26th. Well done members!

Free-Mo Progress

Joe Fitzpatrick continues to make great progress on the Free-Mo modules, and some will be ready for painting soon. He could certainly welcome some additional assistance in building these modules. See Joe on Thursday to see how you can be of help.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS:

One thing that happens this time of year is the service terms of three of our Officers comes to an end. This year, the Terms for our current President (Sandy Eustis), Vice President of Marketing (John Johnston) and Vice President of Programs (David Mead) are ending December 31st. Our other three Officers have another year remaining on their sentence, I mean terms. Jim, Sage and Ken are the persons responsible for nominations for members to fill those roles being vacated.

Anyone that is interested in one of those roles, or suggesting someone else for them needs to get in touch with Jim, Sage or Ken pretty quickly, as those names need to be presented at least a month before our Annual Meeting in December.

ANNUAL MEETING / DINNER:

Speaking of the upcoming Annual Meeting and Dinner, our annual meeting and Holiday dinner will be held on Thursday, December 12th (the Second Thursday in December). Cocktails and showing our progress in the past year at the museum at 6pm, moving to Occasions at Wedgefield -- for dinner, our annual meeting, the election of CRM officers for 2020, and presentation of recognition awards at 7pm.

The buffet menu has not been finalized, but the CRM will cover about half of the per person cost, so tickets for members and their guests will be only \$10 each. Members should make their reservations ASAP by contacting Jim Alexander, CRM Treasurer.



Upcoming Events for the Central Railway Museum as well as regional shows and events.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The final program in our 2019 Marketing Skills Workshop series was held on Thursday evening, September 26, featuring a detailed presentation by CRM member Rob Seel about how and why he built our beautiful little Dambridge Loop portable HO layout. The Modeling Skills Workshop series will resume after the 2020 Easley Model Train Expo next February.

🔗 SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS 🔗

CRMHA CALENDAR

Give it a [click!](#)

When the calendar opens click on an event to get more details and click on the arrows at the top left to move to another month.

If you would like to have your event added to our calendar, give us a shout at centralcrossings@crmha.org.

MUSEUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
THURSDAYS - WORK DAY
9AM(ISH) - ??
(LUNCH IN THERE AT SOME POINT)

SATURDAYS - TRAIN OPERATIONS
9AM TO 2 PM

THE COST IS ALWAYS FREE!!

OPERATING SESSIONS
SECOND THURSDAY @ 7PM

OCTOBER 10TH

NOVEMBER 14TH

DECEMBER 5TH (1ST THURSDAY)

The Central Railway Museum holds regular operating sessions on our museum HO layout from 7-9pm(ish) on the second Thursday evening of most months. This is when we use our unique "scenario card" system to assemble and run trains around the layout, setting out or picking up loads at industries, clearing the main for a crack passenger train to roll by, etc. etc. So if you're interested in realistic railroad operations, or if you just want to learn how to run trains on the museum layout, you're encouraged to attend these sessions. No experience is necessary; rookie engineers are routinely paired with experienced ones.



SERVES THE UPSTATE

Central Railway Model and Historical Association, Inc.

2020 Model Train Expo

Rock Springs Church - Impact Center

207 Rock Springs Road

Easley, South Carolina 29642

Friday February 7th 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday February 8th 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

ADMISSION: \$8.00 ADULTS

Children under 10 free
with adult admission.

Admission good for both days.

Hands-On Thomas the Tank &
Junior Railroader Activities.

7 Operating Model Railroads.

Over 160 Dealer Tables.

Live Steam Trains.



Funded in part by the Pickens County Accommodations Tax.
All funds raised by the train show are used to support the operations of the Central Railway Museum.

COMPLETE INFO AT: WWW.CRMHA.ORG

Show Information: Sandy Eustis (513) 325-8850 or trainshow@crmha.org

Rev. 7/8/2019

CENTRAL TOWN CABOOSE PROJECT - SPRUCE THE CABOOSE!



As many of you know, the CRM and the Town of Central are working together to do an exterior restoration of the Towns Caboose that is located near the intersection of Main Street (Highway 93) and Church Street. The Town asked the membership of the CRM to assist with fundraising, which we were very excited to do - as we are all railfans first and foremost. Starting at the Central Railroad Festival this past April, we started taking donations and with the help of our visitors and our membership, we are thrilled to announce that we have raised \$3,800 toward the project, with the Town of Central Council approving \$5,000 to be used in the restoration.

Vice President of Programs David Mead has been working closely with the representatives of the Town on this special project to arrange funding as well as looking at various service providers to get the exterior repaired and repainted.

Now what you may not know, is that this particular Caboose was owned by the Nickel Plate Road and was never run in this area. With that in mind, we had various discussions regarding the lettering and paint of the caboose - did we paint and letter it for the Nickel Plate? NW? or did we make it a Southern that did operate here, but never owned this type of caboose? Well, we chose none of those - it was suggested that we paint and letter it to match one of our Central Railway cabooses that we have on our layout. That idea was discussed and received overwhelming approval from the members. David presented the idea to the Town Administrator and also showed him a HO Scale model of our prototype and the Town Administrator liked it as well.

Our hope is that the project will be completed by the 2020 Central Railroad Festival.

We are still accepting donations; please see Jim Alexander to donate or send a check to the Museum at PO Box 128, Central, SC 29630. If sending a check, please add a note that it is for the Caboose fund.

Thank you to all that have helped on this project!

As Joanne just pointed out to me, any funds raised over the amount needed for the exterior will go towards repainting the interior of the caboose

MY FAVORITE SCENE

This is my personal favorite scene on the entire layout. I guess part of it is the fact that growing up in Colorado and seeing some of these places on the DRGW ghost lines, I also love the mountainous scenery, as it reminds me greatly of the rugged Colorado mountains. ~ Wayne



The Timber Trestle - By Sandy Eustis:

It's hard to miss the prominent timber trestle near the kitchen end of the rear peninsula on our HO layout. This trestle is a gorgeous scratch-built model of a real railroad bridge, one on the Rio Grande Southern narrow gauge main line near Ophir, Colorado. The northern end of the RGS was at Ridgway, Colorado, where it interchanged with a standard gauge line connecting Denver to Phoenix. Beginning in 1878, the RGS connected Ridgway and the silver boom town of Telluride, some 50 almost-entirely-uphill miles away. The line was immediately extended through the famous turn back loop at Ophir to the Dallas divide, Lizard Head Pass, and then through a long series of small mountain valleys, winding up in Durango, Colorado, about 160 track miles from Ridgway. For most of its 75 year history, the RGS provided the only viable commercial route into remote mountainous southwestern Colorado. If you visit www.rgs.rr, you'll find maps, histories, lots of photos of the RGS route and equipment, and numerous links to the many museums, books, and model railroads devoted to the RGS. [Warning: there is no known cure for RGSitis, which can strike suddenly; it causes extensive life-long foaming at the mouth among narrow gauge enthusiasts.]

Anyway, and on the CRM's HO layout, our gorgeous RGS trestle spans a fairly deep mountain gorge over Zonay Creek. Steve Zonay, a charter member of the CRM&HA, built the trestle for his home layout in the late 1970s, and it won a Silver Award for model structures at the next NMRA national convention. Steve eventually donated his entire home layout to the CRM in 2008, by which time he had become too infirm to continue working on it. We were able to add a modest narrow gauge loop above and around the outside of the helix connecting our upper and lower decks, with the kitchen side including a log camp scene at the doorway into the kitchen, an RGS deck truss that Steve also built, and his award winning timber trestle. We also salvaged several pieces of Steve's narrow gauge rolling stock and 2 of his locomotives. These are still lettered for the Rio Grande Northern, though I have no idea why Steve changed "Southern" to "Northern" in naming his model railroad.

FWIW, I spent over a year of Thursdays making the rocks and mountain scenery that connects the narrow gauge loop with the standard gauge mainline as it emerges from the top of the helix and sweeps around behind the paper mill scene on the lower level. That paper mill complex was almost entirely built by then CRM President Jim Reece; it's another of my favorite scenes, and I'll write about it in a future newsletter.

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

My goal was to have this newsletter published a week ago, but as I am the current reigning king of procrastination, that did not happen.

Some of the comments I made on the first page are already outdated - as we finally got some cooler weather! Yippie!!!!

I am sure there will be some information regarding the elections that will go to the members' inboxes, so that we might get to know those charged with guiding our little group of train nerds.

Since I will not be publishing the next issue till possibly after Christmas - Let me wish you all a wonderful, happy and safe holiday season, from all of us here at the Central Crossings and the Central Railway Museum.

Until next time,
Keep running those trains.

Wayne