



CENTRAL CROSSINGS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER OF THE
CENTRAL RAILWAY
MODEL & HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Volume 20, Number 6

June 2011

P. O. Box 128
Central, SC 29630

WEBSITE:
www.crmha.org

MUSEUM &
MEETING SITE
108 Werner Street
Central, SC

OFFICERS

President / CEO:
Jim Reece

Vice President:
Ron Keith

Stationmaster
Glenn Nasworthy

Paymaster
Bob Folsom

Webmaster
Ed Welch

Show Chairs:
Ette Ruppert &
Al Costa

Museum Curator:
Jack Green

Editor & Publisher:
Robert M. Seel, AIA


Next Meeting:
June 2, 2011
7:15 PM

**NEW
ZEALAND!
WITH
RON KEITH**

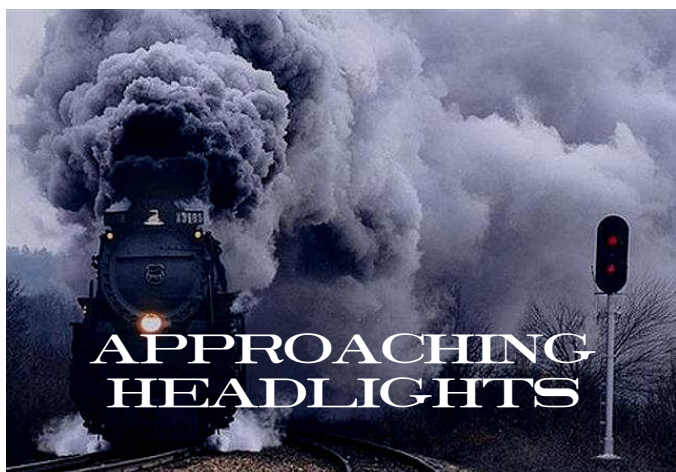


Thoroughbreds Shakin' Windows Though Easley

**... and Living History in
our own back yard!**

This month's front cover photos come from **Don Baldwin**, who caught this manifest freight (above) on the morning of May 9, 2011. On the point is NS 8385, a C40-8W, which, until as recent as May 2008 wore Conrail dress blue before being repainted with horses. The unit was built for Conrail in 1993 as number 6173. The second unit's number is not discernable, but the third is a leased unit still wearing its EMD Demonstrator scheme. Don also snagged Greenville & Western's GP-9 No. 3751 and Greenville Chapter NRHS's ex-SOU caboose on September 16, 2010 (left) in Belton, SC. **Take your camera along with you**, because you never know what will come down our local tracks. Maybe your photos will make the cover! 





Upcoming Events for the
Central Railway Model & Historical Association
 as well as Regional shows and events worth mentioning

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June 2, 2011	New Zealand Rails Ron Keith
July 7, 2011	Perfect, Proper, Pretty People Painting Project Jim "Doc" McInnis
August 4, 2011	2010 National Narrow Gauge Convention, St. Louis Bruce Gathman
September 1, 2011	Need a Program! See Dale
October 6, 2011	Your Big Shot at Fame Sign up and don't miss it!
November 3, 2011	Opportunity Knocks! See Dale before he sees you

SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS

June 11-12, 2011

Spencer, NC

Family Rail Days Festival

North Carolina Museum of Transportation
 Diesel excursions, model displays, chili cook-off,
 music, night photo session

www.nctrans.org

June 25, 2011

Charlotte, NC

North Carolina Rail Fair

Metrolina Expo Trade Center

9:00 – 4:00 www.gserr.com

\$6.00 / Children 12 and under Free

July 21-24, 2011

Rock Island, IL

Train Festival 2011

Steam Excursions and Exhibits!

Nickel Plate 765 (4-8-2)

Iowa Interstate 6988 and 7081 (both Chinese 2-10-2)

Leviathan 63 (4-4-0), Flag Coal 75 (0-4-0)

Lehigh Valley 126 (0-6-0), Viscose 6 (0-4-0T)

Plus live steam, riverboat rides, models, displays, and
 diesels, and music by James Coffey too.

www.trainfestival2011.com

August 13, 2011

Norcross, GA

41st Atlanta Model Train Show

North Atlanta Trade Center

9:00 – 4:00 www.gserr.com

\$6.00 / Children 12 and under Free

September 2-5, 2011

Chattanooga, TN

Tennessee Valley Railfest

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum's 50th Birthday!
 Steam excursions, music, night photo session

www.tvrail.com

September 7-10, 2011

Hickory, NC

National Narrow Gauge Convention

Hickory Metro Convention Center

www.tarheelpress.com/ngc

2ND SATURDAY

**MUSEUM OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

**COME RUN TRAINS & HAVE SOME
FUN!**

JUNE 11, 2011

JULY 9, 2011

AUGUST 13, 2011



SERVES THE UPSTATE

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

By Rob Seel,
Acting Stationmaster

May 5, 2011

Regular Meeting at the Central Railway Museum

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Reece. Nineteen members were in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Our proposed participation in the "Coats for Kids" event was brought up, but Al Costa was not present to provide an update.

A "Tourism Stakeholders' Conference" will take place on Thursday, May 15, 2011 and we have been asked to send a representative to attend.

Preliminary discussions for the 2012 Train Show have begun with the City of Easley. See Report Below.

Our handicap-accessible toilet renovation work has been accepted by the Town of Central as in-kind service. Thus, our rent is satisfied through July 2012!

Bruce Gathman reported that the National Narrow Gauge Convention will likely contact the CRMHA for layout tours when the conference is held in Hickory, NC this September.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Museum Building: No report.

Annual Train Show: President Jim Reece reported that negotiations are underway with the City of Easley for next year's Show. A meeting with the Steering Committee and the mayor is scheduled for May 10, 2011. The City, reportedly, would prefer to take a percentage of admission ticket sales in lieu of the CRMHA paying a rental fee. Accordingly, we will still set the ticket price and have to pay for security and safety personnel. However, if the City takes a percentage of the gate, they will also assist with local advertising of our Train Show. After much discussion, Mac McMillin expressed confidence in our Steering Committee to

make the best decision for the CRMHA's interest. Also, the City of Easley has asked us to change our Show dates to the first weekend in February, so as to pose less potential conflicts with indoor sports tournaments. Howard said that he will check that first weekend for potential conflicts with other train shows in the southeast.

Central Railroad Festival: No report.
See Editorial – ed.

Portable Layout: There was only one club member operating the portable layout during the Central Festival, and non-club members were operating also. This is not an accepted practice and better club participation is needed.

Lionel Heritage Room: We have received a donation of American Flyer O-gauge track and materials from Dr. Doug Gentry.

American Flyer Heritage Room: Work is proceeding incrementally.

Programs: No report.

Webmaster: No report.

Newsletter: Rob Seel thanked people for their pictures and made a plea for material for the June issue.

Museum Curator: Jack Green reported that we now have an actual Central, SC railroad artifact: a Southern Railway Conductor's Pass, dated 1921. Jack also reported a possible lead on a railroad watch cleaning service contract for a Central, SC jeweler. The acquisition, though, came with conditions attached for locating next-of-kin, which prevented the Museum from accepting the article for the time being.

Property Inventory Administrator: No report.

Computer Administrator: No report.

HO Layout:

Benchwork: Jim McInnis reported that lower level main line benchwork is complete.

Wiring: No report.

Scenery: Reimbursements have been made, and we have recently acquired 500 painted figures.

Rolling Stock: Jim McInnis reported that he is working on a historically-accurate model of *The Southerner*, using Walthers car bodies and metal sides

recently acquired by the club. Jim is adding accurate interior configurations and seated figures. In spite of our 1958 theme date, the train will be reasonably full of passengers (*because it will be so beautiful when Doc's done with it—ed.*)

Trackwork: Bob Folsom said track is being repaired and remediated inch by inch. Bob is also in process of building three curved turnouts.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Jim Reece reported that the Central Railway Museum may receive a \$2,500 grant from Pickens County Parks and Recreation Department, pending approval by Pickens County Council!

The Hub City Railroad Museum in Spartanburg, SC will be open for National Train Day on May 7, 2011.

The City of Mauldin, SC will present its annual Train Exhibit May 13-15 and May 20-21 at the Mauldin Cultural Center. The free event will feature operating layouts by our friends, the Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers and the Piedmont 'N Southern organizations.

Joe Fitzgerald is meeting with the Anderson/Oconee/Pickens Scout Council for information on how the CRMHA to assist with opportunities for scouts' field trips and merit badges.

HOBBY NEWS:

Mac McMillin offered a \$1-Off Admission coupon for the Train Show in Charlotte, NC on June 15

Bruce reminded the club about the large-scale, garden railway show in Dalton, GA on May 13-14.


RAILFAN REPORTS:

Rob Seel reported that on Friday night, April 29, the northbound Crescent was pulled by four locomotives (instead of the usual two) and had three private cars on the end. The train was fast and the sky was dark, so no names or numbers were taken.

Bruce Gathman reported spotting a sulfur train passing through the Upstate.

Sage Viehe visited the Lancaster (SC) Railroad Museum and reported that even though the exhibits were open, no attendants or docents were anywhere to be found.

Meeting adjourned for the Program.

There was no program due to visual projection equipment malfunction. 

BRINGING UP THE MARKERS: PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Please forgive me if I step on some toes here. Still, I am sure that we all want to put forth our best efforts when we "put on a show." Therefore, please allow me to reiterate a few points brought up at the last meeting for the benefit of those who were not present. Show times are stressful in and of themselves, but we can make them easier for ourselves by sticking to these simple things.

Whenever we host visitors:

1. Let's make sure the track and locomotive wheels are clean, and that performance is reliable. It's frustrating and embarrassing when stuff does not run as it should.
2. Schedule staggered lunch breaks. There is no reason why everyone should drop throttles and go to lunch at the same time when we have streams of people coming through the Museum.
3. We need to maintain at least one club member in each room while the public is visiting for safety, security, and hospitality.
4. Too much work is being done by the same few people. Success depends on every member showing up and participating.
5. Club layouts and displays should be operated and overseen by club members, unless they are intended for public use. Non-members should not be running the portable layout.
6. Layout operators should be properly trained on how to run the route. Showtime is not the time to learn.
7. We need Operating Rules / Scenarios for festivals and public events, so that we're not haphazardly twisting throttles without a plan. We just all need to be on the same page and obey the Rules of the Road.
8. Maybe the Flat Rock branch should be terminated at Little River during festivals. Perhaps passage clearance in the American Flyer Heritage Room is too tight to run trains to Flat Rock?

~ Rob Seel

PATENTLY SPEAKING

Submitted by Bruce Gathman

There are generally two parts to patent submissions: a written description of the invention and drawings (not to scale) that are keyed to this written description. Depending on the complexity of the invention more than one page of descriptions and/or drawings may be required to fully explain the merits of the design. You may find these descriptions online at—<http://patft.uspto.gov/netahtml/PTO/pating.htm> by entering the patent number in the “view patent” box.

E. C. PHELPS.
Toy Locomotives.

No. 147,516.

Patented Feb. 17, 1874.

Fig. I

Fig. II

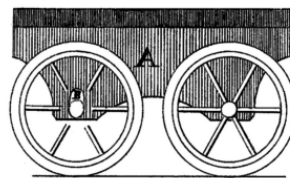
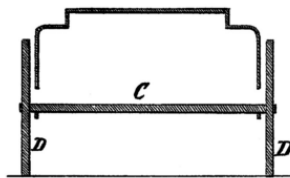
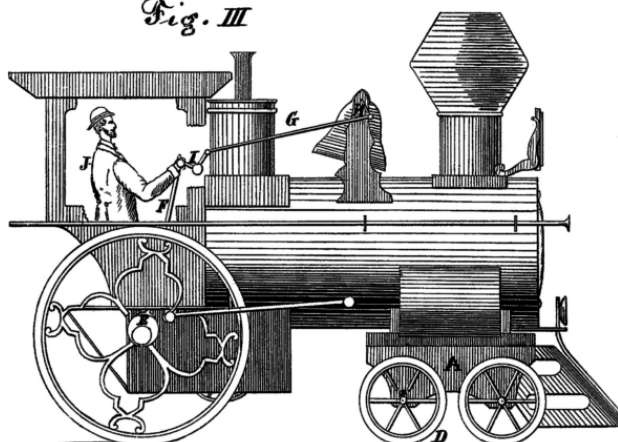


Fig. III



Witnesses

Jason Waters
Oliver C. Brown

Inventor

Edwin C. Phelps

Be it known that I, EDWIN C. PHELPS, of Cromwell, county of Middlesex and State of Connecticut, have invented certain Improvements in Toy Vehicles, of which the following is a specification:

The first part of my invention relates to the connection and adjustment of the shaft or axle of one set or more of wheels of any toy vehicle in which more than one set of two wheels are used, for the purpose of relieving the friction, of the carrying burden of the toy when it performs a circular journey, and also of overcoming the resisting force of obstructions which it may encounter while performing the same, and enabling it to run in regular circles in surfaces.

