

CENTRAL CROSSINGS

Monthly Newsletter of the Central Rail way Model & Historical Association, Inc



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SERVES THE UPSTATE

108 Werner St Central, SC 29627

Website: www.crmha.org

President Dan Marret

Vice Presidents Joe Fitzpatrick Rob Seel, AIA

Stationmaster Ralph Watson

Paymaster Christine Grewcock

Curator Jack Green

Newsletter J.T. Thorpe

> Next Meeting Sept. 4, 2014

7:10 PM

at the Central Rail way Museum

Greenville County Library Trains Day Report by J.T. Thorpe & Photos by Christine Grewcock

On Saturday August 16th, the CRMH&A's portable and the Thomas the Tank engine layouts were on display and operating for visitors at the Greenville County Library's Trains Day. The librarians put a number of railroad-themed books out on display and for patrons to check out. Nearly 200 people got to see a variety of trains running as well as kids getting to run the Thomas & James layout.







Upcoming Events for the

Central Railway Model & Historical Association

as well as regional shows and events worth mentioning

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 18: Scenery "Top Coating": Ground Covers and Vegetation -- with Jim Reece

2nd SATURDAY MUSEUM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC September 13, 2014 October 11, 2014

OPERATING SESSIONS

Second Thursdays (usual Ly) 7PM

September 11, 2014 October 9, 2014

The CRM&HA has begun regular operating sessions on the Thursday preceding our Museum's open house each month. Club members interested in learning how to operate the layout and gain their certification in order to be able to run trains on the museum layout are encouraged to attend these sessions.

If you have locomotives equipped with DCC decoders and/or you have a Digitrax handheld throttle, please bring them. This way, we can be assured of having enough equipment to run.

> SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS Š

September 6-7, 2014

Blowing Rock, NC—Railroad Heritage Weekend

North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court Saturday & Sunday : Shows at 11am, 1pm, 3pm

Admission: see website for details

http://tweetsie.com/plan-your-visit/special-events-

schedule/

September 18-20, 2014

Kennesaw, GA—Railroad Prototype Modelers

SouthernMuseum of Civil War & Locomotive History

Thursday - Saturday: No information

Admission: No information http://www.southernmuseum.org/

September 26-28, 2014

Blowing Rock, NC—Railroad Heritage Weekend

North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court Saturday & Sunday: 7:30pm-11pm

Admission: see website for details

http://tweetsie.com/plan-your-visit/special-events-

schedule

September 26-28, & October 3-5, 2014

Spencer, NC – Day Out With Thomas

North Carolina Transportation Museum,

Spencer Shops

Friday & Saturday: 9am-5pm

Sunday: 1pm-5pm Admission: *See website* http://www.nctrans.org

September 27-28, 2014

Danville, VA – Danville's Old 97 Rail Days 111th Anniversary

Danville Science Center, Old Pepsi Building

677 Craghead Street Saturday: 9am – 5pm Sunday: 11am-3pm Admission: Free http://dsc.smv.org

Signal s Ahead š

Report & Photos by Don Baldwin

I went by the museum August 12th after discovering that the signals were no longer in Clemson. We now have one sitting twixt the museum and the bank

parking lot. (On our property)



The lower head bracket appears to be broken as the head is not connected to the bracket. Maybe it was damaged in transit. I don't know where the second signal is hiding. I reckon the city has it someplace.

[**Editor's Note:** Thanks to quick action and thinking by Bob Folsom, we were able to acquire these signals from Norfolk Southern as part of our museum's preservation efforts. Thanks Bob!] Z

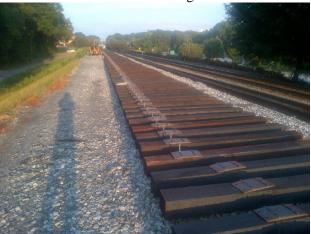


> Tracks Ahead š

Report & Photos by Don Baldwin

August 12: I went up to the Clemson station this evening and discovered track work is being done.

Nr. 1: At the station area looking north.



Nr. 2: Down toward ACE hardware and into the

curve looking north.



Ties and tie plates have been installed on the bridge and heading south toward the new signals. It won't be long now before the shoofly track will be ready to connect.

August 19: The shoofly from the bridge north to the Ace Hardware area now has the second rail in place. It has every fifth or so tie plate fastened and also one spike holding the rail to the tie plate. (see photo at left)

South of the bridge they are still working on the ballast and ties. Not much progress there.



Regular Meeting Notes

By Ralph Watson Station Master August 7, 2014

Meeting was called to order on time at 7:10 PM. 23 members in attendance.

President – Dan Marret, Jr.

Let us all stand and take a quiet minute to remember Steve Zonay.

Welcome back to those of you that have not been here in a while. Look around and you will again notice changes that our members have completed. In this room you will notice the new bookcases and there is also a new one in the 'reading' room. Thanks to all that made this happen. Around the layout you will see changes in every room. The scenery crew has been very busy as has the ballasting crew. Trains are running as they should and our operating sessions are going well.

Our next big event is the Greenville Library on the 16th of this month. We will load up on the 14th and set up on the 15th. We will also deliver the Dambridge unit to the world of Transportation in Greenville on the 15th. It will be in that location for one week. There is a sign up sheet going around for these events. Please help us put on a good show. There is a lot of other things going on but I won't steal the committee chairs thunder.

Fred Rimer continues to recover and will be back with us soon. I also must report that our First Vice President, Joe Fitzpatrick is believed to have had a heart attack. They were to do test today to discover just what is wrong with Joe. Please keep him and Ruth in your prayers. I will send out emails as I hear more.

Treasurer—Christine Grewcock

Account balance is \$8449.41 as of the end of July

Stationmaster—Ralph Watson

Newcomer Club meetings resume 9/2.

2nd Vice President—Rob Seel

Rob will be THE 2015 Central Railroad Festival Chairman. Planning has begun and some functions previously handled by CRMHA will possibly be assigned to other groups.

Museum Curator—Jack Green

Vehicles on the museum layout are being reviewed for era and location appropriateness. The overall blend of makes and models is also being considered as part of the detail checking.

Computer / Electrical Work / Operations — Howard Garner

Slow progress is being made in all areas. More Operators are needed on the 2nd Thursday night sessions. Hours have been expanded to 7-9:30-possibly 10PM.

Portable Layout Rolling Stock—Jim McInnis Module connectors are installed making setup much easier. Two new SD90MAC locomotives have been added

Newsletter—JT Thorpe

Article tips/techniques/photos home layout features are all still needed. Info about Southern ACL or Piedmont Southern would be sure to get published.

Museum Education Coordinator—Sandy Eustis

The 3rd Thursday program this month will feature Scenery Artist Jim Kimble demonstrating backdrop and water feature techniques.

Lionel Layout—Mac McMillin

Roadbed painting is the next phase.

Railfan Report A recent train sported CN CP and BC Rail power. Greenville and Western is acquiring two 'new' GP30 locomotives to go with the two GP9s 9 one in SF yellow bonnet

and 2 GP 30s on hand for a planned expansion of service north towards Greenville and Spartanburg. Watco in Asheville has taken over trackage near Saluda to Flat Rock. Also Dillsboro and Pisgah area lines. NS Office car special has been spotted in the area twice recently. J Class loco #611 has begun being stripped down for restoration.

Interior Construction -- Jim Alexander

Door repair and painting at Function Junction continue. The new plexiglas barriers have been installed on the portable layout.

Scenery—Sandy Eustis

Many new buildings have been installed. The viaduct, Seneca Yard and Folsom's Bridges are making good progress

OLD BUSINESS

A signup sheet for Train Day at the Greenville Library was circulated. Loading on 8/14 Setup 8/15 and public day on 8/16.

Thanks to amazing efforts especially by Bob Folsom we have a signal light and mast taken down from the area near Clemson Depot. Rehabbing and repairing should be easy to accomplish and the signal displayed on the grounds of the museum in operating condition.

We need to reprint our Brochure, graphics and text are being updated. Bruce Gathman has a potential printer contact.

Spartanburg Library has renamed their September 20th event HobbyCon. We have been invited to bring our toys again this year. HobbyCon will be an exciting day giving patrons the opportunity to learn a new hobby. Individuals and groups from the community will share their knowledge and enthusiasm on activities such as trains, woodworking, needlecrafts and more.

NEW BUSINESS

There was discussion of obtaining sites for radio towers and internet access for ATCS equipment hosting. A motion was duly made seconded and passed to have the Steering committee choose a designee.

Great Escape Hobbies has announced plans to close

The prospect of CRMHA being open to the Public every Saturday was introduced.

On 8/9 we are expecting visitors from the Association of Model Railroaders of Columbia.

Motion to adjourn was made and passed.

PROGRAM

Model/prototype railroad trivia quiz was distributed. 'Doc' McInnis had the most right answers.

A Union Pacific paused in town on August 5th on track 1 thanks to low oil pressure.

Signal maintainers had been stationed at the crossing control house all night trying to check crossing gate timing and action for trains doing the speed limit. No luck. All trains were running slow. A northbound train did come thru. NS 212. Several southbound trains were waiting for the stuck one to move on.



Photo by Don Baldwin

Did You Know š

The "Cradle of Forestry" in Pisgah National Forest contains a small collection of rare logging railroad equipment. Several years ago, Christine and I paid a visit and discovered this gem:



A Climax locomotive is a type of geared steam locomotive in which the two steam cylinders are attached to a transmission located under the center of the boiler. This transmits power to driveshafts running to the front and rear trucks.

Rush S. Battles' 1891 design had horizontal cylinders connected to the drive shaft through a 2-speed transmission. The drive shaft passed just above the axle centers, requiring the use of hypoid bevel gears to transfer power to each axle. Battles' patent describes the core design that became the Class B Climax. Charles D. Scott, patented improved versions of Battles' trucks in 1892 and 1893. Scott's 1892 patent was the basis of the Class A Climax.

All Climax locomotives were built by the Climax Manufacturing Company (later renamed to the Climax Locomotive Works), of Corry, Pennsylvania. In addition, an agency and service facility was established in Seattle, Washington to sell and maintain locomotives for west coast buyers. Production began in 1888 and the last Climax locomotive was produced in 1928. Between 1000 and 1100 were built.

Photo: © J.T.Thorpe Source: Wikipedia.org

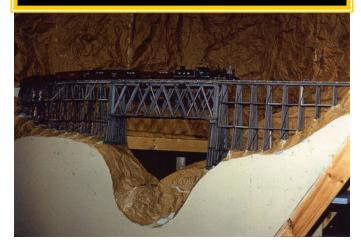
> In Memoriam š



Steve Zonay > 1943 - 2014 š

Steven John Zonay, 73, passed away Sunday, August 3rd. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, he was a son of the late Steven and Alice Goth Zonay. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from Schumerich Bell Co.

Steve was one of the early members of the CRM&HA, and offered us a lot of knowledge and skill for over 20 years. He was an avid railfan—specifically of the Rio Grand Southern, and his basement contained an extensive and detailed layout of the narrow gauge line. Several of the bridges and most of the museum's narrow gauge equipment came from his collection when he dismantled that layout. The largest of the scratch-built bridges spans "Zonay Creek", named in Steve's honor.

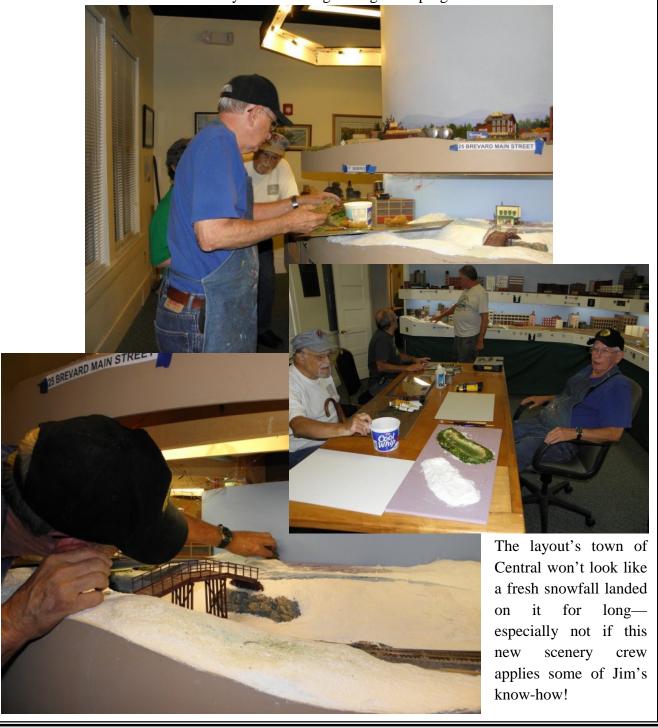


Tressle on Steve's HOn3 RGS layout. Photo by S. Zonay

> 3rd Thursday Education Programs š

Photos by Jim Alexander

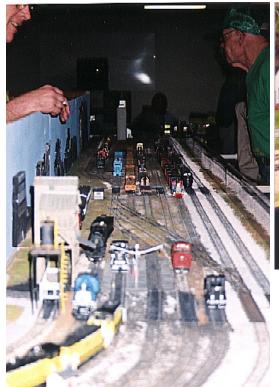
Jim Alexander provided some photos of Jim Kimble providing instruction on scenery techniques such as painting trees and modeling water. Here we can see the master at work demonstrating to attentive modelers. Thanks to Sandy Eustis for organizing these programs!



The Wayback Machine š

Photos by Rob Seel, Commentary by JT Thorpe

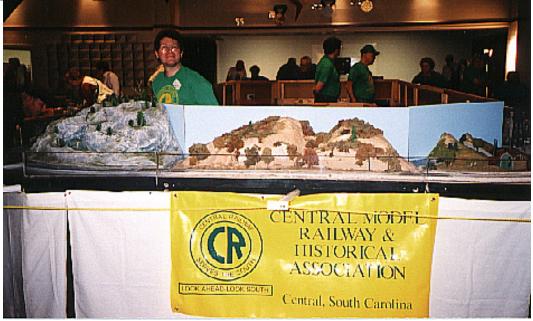
It is sometimes hard to remember what things were like before the massive changes that have occurred on the portable layout. While searching for other photographs, I ran across these photos from the late 1990's to 2001.





At left: a view of the engine refueling facility and a view of the yard. The building flats have been replaced, the coaling tower is gone, and the grain elevator at the far end the yard has been replaced by a warehouse.

Above: A Pennsylvania T-1 4-4-4 rounds the bend at Howard's Corner and the mill. These modules are no longer in use



At bottom: Since this picture was take, the engine facility has lost its slough pond and the drop-in scenery on the left corner has been replaced with the hill and tie mill. The center short module is now contains the two tunnels to the staging yard and hidden wye that was added a few short years ago.

> Chaplain's Corner š

It was one of those days when nothing seemed to be going right, but why should I imagine that this silly computer of mine would do anything else but show itself on this perfectly beautiful fall morning. So I called my favorite guru (my son-in-law) who had helped me many times before. But this time, instead of giving me instructions he chose to use a new program he had that gave him access to my computer. I sat back and watched the cursor dance across the screen, and soon it was fixed.

But I suddenly realized, I had put my life's long work in the hands of someone else. I wondered, how long has it been since I've let "another relative of mine" search my world, and make necessary changes? And it hit me: My spiritual needs are far greater than my computer needs.

Huh, maybe even to the point of helping me with my HO layout. Here's the problem, I guess I'm just not patient enough, so I'm going to make another call. This time it'll be to the model railroad helper who I know can help. If I remember correctly, His number is Romans 8:26, or was it verse 28? O yeah, that's it.

Chaplain Fred

Foreign Power in Central! Photo by Don Baldwin



Somehow Don always seems to be in the right place at the right time. Lunchtime at Pancho's yielded the sight of Union Pacific and Illinois Central power units as part of the daily lunchtime railroad show.

> MODELER'S TIP š

Cyanoacrylate-based glue is far more versatile than we think and can be used for more than simply gluing models together. Some warnings however: They have about a one year shelf life until the bottle is opened. After opening, the glue lasts about 1 month. CA fumes are strong and as the warning label says: Eye Irritant. An accidental spill can bond flesh nearly instantly, and as we discovered this weekend, when spilled on cotton, it will burn.

From Wikipedia.org:

Applying cyanoacrylate to some natural materials such as cotton, leather or wool (cotton swabs, cotton balls, and certain yarns or fabrics) results in a powerful, rapid exothermic reaction. The heat released may cause serious burns, ignite the cotton product, or release irritating white smoke. Safety Sheets Material Data for cyanoacrylate instruct users not to wear cotton or wool clothing, especially cotton gloves, when applying or handling cyanoacrylates.

OK, so what can CA glue do? It does not fill spaces, unlike epoxies, and a very thin layer bonds more effectively than a thicker one that does not cure properly; they bond many substances.

However! Baking soda can turn CA glue into a filler. CA glue forms a hard, lightweight adhesive filler (baking soda is first used to fill a gap then the adhesive is dropped onto the baking soda). This works well with porous materials that the glue does not work well with alone. This method is sometimes used by aircraft modelers to assemble or repair polystyrene foam parts.

CAUTION! The reaction between cyanoacrylate and baking soda is very exothermic (heat-producing) and also produces noxious vapors.