



SERVES THE UPSTATE

108 Werner St
Central, SC 29627

Website:
www.crmha.org

President
Dan Maret

Vice Presidents
Joe Fitzpatrick
Rob Seel, AIA

Stationmaster
Ralph Watson

Paymaster
Christine Grewcock

Curator
Jack Green

Newsletter
J.T. Thorpe

Next Meeting
December
4, 2014
6:00 PM
at the
Central Railway
Museum

Central Railway Museum Hosts Chastain Elementary Students

Dozens of second graders from Chastain Elementary School paid the museum a visit last month to get a little taste of Central's railroad history, to see our operating layout and get a fun lesson in how railroads keep our country running.



Jim Alexander provided photos of the event. At left, Captain Dan instructs our attentive visitors about museum etiquette: "Look with your eyes, not with your hands".

Below, Jim Reece demonstrates paper mill operations at Liberty Paper Mill as Rob Seel and Capt. Dan lead them on the tour.





Approach Signal s

Upcoming Events for the

Central Railway Model & Historical Association

as well as regional shows and events worth mentioning

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

December 4: CRMHA Christmas Dinner and Open House

MUSEUM & FUNCTION JUNCTION
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Every Saturday in December

OPERATING SESSIONS

Second Thursdays (usual l y) 7PM

December 11, 2014
January 15, 2015

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.

At right, the engine shed at the Loughborough terminus of the Great Central Railway tells visitors to "Beware of Trains".
Photo ©1997 J.T. Thorpe

> SCHEDULED EVENTS & SHOWS &

December 1, 2014

Central, SC – Town Hall Meeting

7pm at the Central Town Hall

On the agenda is the future of the old Southern Railway Depot the town is currently using as a storage facility

December 6, 2014

Columbia, SC – Annual AMROC Christmas Train Show

Arsenal Hill Armory

Saturday: 10am-4pm

Admission: free

<http://www.amroc.org>

December 6-7, 2014

Raleigh, NC – TCA Southeastern Division Toy Train Sale

Kerr Scott Building, Hillsborough St & Blue Ridge Road

Saturday & Sunday 10:00am- 3:00pm

Admission: 13 years and older, \$6; under 13 with adult, free

www.se-tca.org/raleighflyer2.htm





SERVES THE UPSTATE

Regular Meeting Notes
By J. T. Thorpe
Newsletter Editor
November 6, 2014

Called to order at 7:10 PM.

President—Dan Marett

Operating hours will be every Saturday 9am to 2pm starting on November 29.

We will be spending \$129 on a lift table for the portable layout.

The next emphasis for work sessions is Function Junction: ballast, new track for the automobile and tire factories, and the fuel farm.

A list of priority jobs will be posted in the kitchen.

December 4th is our annual Christmas gathering. 6pm meet at the museum for an open house. At 7pm we will have dinner at Pancho's.

We have a large donation of train stuff.

Nominations for officer positions are open: 2nd Vice President and Treasurer.

Treasurer—Christine Grewcock

Bank balance ~\$6700. Overall, we are under budget for the year.

1st Vice President—Joe Fitzpatrick

Modular layout progress includes the completion of the tire plant and the car parts metal stamping plant.

2nd Vice President—Rob Seel

We had two waves of second graders from Chastain Elementary. On November 7, we will have a visit from 8th graders.

Building Committee—Glen Nasworthy

Please do NOT cover the vents or the air returns with materials or tools. The HVAC system needs proper airflow in order to work correctly.

Rolling Stock—Jim McInnis

Lots of cars are out of commission. Clumsy handling is leading to broken grab irons and missing brake wheels.

Newsletter—JT Thorpe

Thanks to everyone for the articles and pictures, keep them coming. Howard has some photos of the Blue Ridge Southern railroad that may be appearing in a future issue.

Education – Sandy Eustis

January and February programs are lined up
Operation sessions keep rolling.

Jim Reece will hold a scenery clinic on Thursday.

There will be no program on the 3rd Thursday of December.

Operations—Howard Garner

We have a licensed copy of ProTrack to facilitate operations night. We still have the usual electrical gremlins to deal with, but overall things are progressing nicely.

NEW MUSEUM LAYOUT OPERATING RULES ARE IN EFFECT:

- 1) There is a bad order track and a repaired car track in Biltmore Engine Facility. Use the supplied cards to note what the problem is and place bad cars on the bad order track.
- 2) Do not break up existing trains to play. You create a lot of extra work for the operations crew to prepare for sessions

American Flyer—Sage Viehe

The layout is running well.

Lionel Layout—Mac McMillin

The room is a mess. Mac has repaired a KW transformer and offered a discussion about what sets came with a transformer and what sets did not..

Railfan Report

Clemson railroad bridge on the north side is done and looks OK. The south side is partially done. Amtrak needs a platform, but it will cost \$800K

Shelton and Anthony going to Spencer the first weekend of each month

611 due for completing its restoration mid-March or early April.

Spencer Shops is hosting the Polar Express on the first week of December.

Track Work—Bob Folsom

Not much to report.

Scenery—Jim Reece

Sandy is making dirt roads. There is a need for more cedar and spruce trees to be made

OLD BUSINESS

June NMRA SER Train Show was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Verified our dues structure for youth members:
14 years old and up = adult membership: \$30
9-14 years old = youth membership: \$10

JT has a line on some modern NS HO-scale equipment from an estate in California.

Original Union Pacific map in meeting room is Rob Seel's—it came from his grandfather

PROGRAM

Mac McMillin gave a presentation on valuing vintage toy trains Z



Roving Reporter, Don Baldwin, caught the Georgia Autumn Special heading home through Central around 3:40pm Sunday Nov 2nd--en route from Toccoa, GA to Spencer, NC

FUNCTION JUNCTION Photos from Jim Alexander

"D&J Construction" continues to improve our loaned space at Function Junction. For those of you who have not been by to see the most recent upgrades, the walls are all painted and new cabinets have been installed to increase our storage space and eliminate some of the general "tool clutter" that seems to occur.



A new work table is also being put in place, but as it will be in a prominent public area, any tools or equipment should be stored in the cabinets when not in use.



And a big thanks to Bob White for getting us a new A/C unit to help keep things cool during the summer months! Now all we have to do is install it!

> Did You Know Š

Founded in September 1900 by Joshua Lionel Cowen and Harry C. Grant, the Lionel Corporation originally specialized in electrical novelties such as fans and lighting devices.

Lionel's main claim to fame are the toy trains that originated with a storefront display: the Electric Express. The Electric Express was not intended to be a consumer product, but members of the public started approaching store owners about buying the trains instead, prompting Lionel to begin making toy trains for the general public. Lionel ended up selling 12 examples of the Electric Express.

By the end of World War I, Lionel was one of three major U.S. manufacturers of toy trains. Cowen began getting department stores to incorporate his toy trains as part of their Christmas tree displays, linking toy trains to Christmas and making them into popular Christmas presents. Lionel made its trains larger than anyone else, making them appear to be better values. When competitors criticized the realism of Lionel's trains—Cowen had been unwilling to invest in the equipment necessary for lithography, so its early offerings were simply painted with solid colors of enamel paint with brass detail parts

William Walthers, a large seller of model railroads, asked Cowen in 1929 why Lionel painted its trains bright and unrealistic colors. Cowen said the majority of trains were purchased by mothers for their children, and the bright colors attracted women buyers.



Source: Wikipedia.org
Photo © 2014 J.T. Thorpe

Waccamaw Coast Line Photos ©1996 J.T. Thorpe



Student Visit, Continued



Rob Seel leads a handful of Chastain Elementary School students through the museum. At left and below he is demonstrating the workings of a railyard and showing how cars from the yard will make their way to other destinations.

At middle right, Jim Reece is ready to greet the children at Liberty Paper Mill and give them an idea of how cars are interchanged and spotted for routing to new destinations.



> Chaplain's Corner š

The other day my time was short, so I darted into the local Dollar General store to buy a few items my wife had asked me to get for her on the way home. As I got back into my vehicle I noticed that just in front of my car was a line of folk standing in front of a huge red and white vending machine which was filled with DVD's @\$1.20 per day, and electronic games @ \$2.00 per day. I was reminded of the good old days when everything was \$1.00. BUT, you had to be careful, and not put your money in the wrong machine. "Boy, did I ever do that a few times." I learned quick that the same dollar that would buy a soda, would also buy a bag of toiletries. (Don't laugh at me!) My friends, you only get out what the vendor put in.

Nothing that is Godly and right will come out of us, unless the Lord puts it there. "Man, did that one ever smack me up beside the head". "What made me write that?" (Please read that sentence again....) Because, here comes the other half: You see, without the Lord's help, our actions and attitudes will be tainted with sin. That's why it is so important to have a good relationship with our Maker. He will help us to always have a good reaction when our button is pushed at the wrong time. Hey, every day fellows and girls, I lift you up in prayer. Please do the same for me. Thanks...and God bless.

PS: "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Chaplain Fred



> MODELER'S TIP š

Although they are often considered cheap toys, some of the HO scale train cars that come with those sets we buy at Christmas-time for the kids can be upgraded to be a little more presentable for a model railroad. Often, the quality of the cars' detail isn't great, owing to a combination of materials, manufacturing capability, and costs. The ladders and grabs are very chunky. The couplers are mounted on "Talگو" trucks (for running on those old 15" radius curves). The cars are underweight by NMRA standards, and the couplers are horn-hook style—designed more for keeping a train together than operations.

Many years ago, I purchased a small collection of Tyco 4-bay hopper cars with the intent of repainting them and re-lettering them for the modular layout. For my project, I soaked all the cars in brake fluid to strip off the shiny and inaccurate paint schemes. Each car received a grey primer coat applied via airbrush followed by a coat of oxide red paint.

I wanted a the lettering to look similar to the Southern cabooses from the 1960's so I bought a set of dry transfer letters and numbers, and some Champ decals for car data. Aligning the letters is pretty easy. I chose a few key rivets as a reference point and taped a card to the side of the car to use as a guideline. The hard part was finding enough letters to repeatedly spell out CENTRAL, and to number the cars sequentially.

The big expense for the upgrades was buying couplers and new trucks. I body-mounted operating knuckle couplers (Kadees) for more realistic operation, and replaced the plastic trucks with metal Bettendorf trucks. The old Talگو trucks were attached by a snap-fit plastic tabs, and I had to find the right combination of screws and hex nuts to mount the new metal trucks that were designed for replacing older kits' trucks rather than a toy's trucks.

About an ounce of lead weights in the bottom of the bays brought the cars to NMRA standard, and to complete the look, I weathered the cars and made coal loads from extruded Styrofoam painted black with real coal dust sprinkled into the wet paint.

In the end, I probably spent as much in time and materials as it would have cost to by a high-end RTR model, and it isn't quite as nice as one. But I have the satisfaction of knowing that I did it, and when they are rolling in a train consist, they don't look too bad.

Random Rolling Stock

Slides from the Steve Zonay Collection

Over the years, Steve Zonay collected a number of slides of various rolling stock and especially narrow-gauge equipment. Here is a small sample of rolling stock that were listed as being taken from the 1963-1973.

