



The CRM&HA Newsletter

January/February 2000

Dennis Moriarty/Editor

Volume 9 Number 1

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Central SC Library.

CRM&HA Train Show February 12th 2000 United Assembly of God Church Seneca - 9 AM to 3 PM

Editorial by Dennis Moriarty

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas party. I know I did. I want to thank all those who brought food. There was more than anyone could eat. Gifts were exchanged and a good time was had by all. That was the last meeting of the millennium. And the last meeting by our past CEO and Engineer Bob Hanson. Bob did a great job as engineer and will be a tough act to follow. Congratulations to our new CEO and Engineer Rob Seel. As Rob takes his seat behind the throttle let us all keep the coal going into the stoker and assist Rob anyway we can. The other new officers elected were Mac McMillin General Division Superintendent and Bob Folsom HO Division Superintendent. The remaining officers are filling the second year of their two-year term. **Our next** challenge will be the Train Show. Bob Hanson is in charge and will need everyone's help. Please read further information in the newsletter.

We already have volunteers to put on programs at the meetings through May. With this kind of enthusiasm the new millennium will be the best ever for the CRM&HA.

Please support the newsletter by submitting articles, news and or information. If you don't wish to write please give me a phone call. E-Mail, copy on disk and written contributions are most appreciated. My address is Dennis Moriarty, 519 Beacon Shores Drive, Seneca, SC 29672. Phone 864-888-2332. E-Mail MQK @ carol.net.

Thank you!

Thank you Bob Hanson, Rob Seel, Bill Hughes, Curt Ehmann and Bob Folsom for your contributions this month.

Thank you!

We wish to thank Clarence Harold of **Realty Executives** in Seneca for printing our newsletter at no cost to the club.

CEO's Message
By Rob Seel

No sooner do we put away the Christmas decorations for another year (but you DID keep the trains out, right?) than we gear-up for our annual train show. The proverbial light at the end of the tunnel is fast approaching, so it's time to get all our boxcars in a row -- preferably end-to-end. Many of us know that there are opportunities for everyone to help pull-off a train show. Fortunately, we have many seasoned members who can educate the rest of us in running this event.

Even before the show opens, we extend our warmest appreciation to the wives and husband (that's you, Wayne) who have cheerfully assisted in the past and, we hope, will again. Thanks also to past-president Bob Hanson for running these shows and, I hope, will help me in the future.

Now is also the time to reserve your program slot for this year. Do you have an area of interest, hobby technique, or a colorful history (that you're not ashamed of) that you'd like to share? If so, please contact me, and we'll put you on the calendar.

Remember to keep harassing your friends and neighbors, who maybe once played with trains, to come to meetings and join our association. With the possibility of us acquiring space in the Clemson station, we can become more visible and viable! Not only would we like to see the re-constitution of the N Gauge Division, but the formation of the O Gauge Division. Chuck Laffoon sells more O gauge stuff than any other scale, so we KNOW those folks and toy enthusiasts are out there!

So let's have a good year and remember:
You're never too old to play with trains!

Train Show

By Bob Hanson

*****TRAIN SHOW IS-----RIGHT ON TRACK*****

PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING THE JANUARY MEETING SO THAT WE CAN PULL TOGETHER THE LAST LOOSE ENDS IN STAGING ANOTHER GREAT TRAIN SHOW!

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH WE WILL HAVE 20 PLUS TABLES AVAILABLE FOR DEALERS AND OTHERS---AND ARE PLANNING TO HAVE THE HO LAYOUT UP AND RUNNING IN FINE SHAPE--WITH SOME NEW ADDED FEATURES.

BILL HUGHES "DRESSER TOP" N-SCALE LAYOUT WILL AGAIN BE ON DISPLAY AND THERE IS TALK THAT A "BIG-BROTHER" G-SCALE TRAIN (OR TWO) WILL ALSO BE OPERATING.

MORE HELP IS NEEDED AS FOLLOWS---THURSDAY NIGHT---TO TAKE APART THE HO LAYOUT FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING---TO LOAD THE HO LAYOUT INTO THE TRUCK AND THEN SET IT UP FOR THE SHOW SATURDAY

---HELP IS NEEDED TO---

MAN THE DOORS AND COLLECT MONIES STAFF THE "DINING CAR"--- PARTICULARLY AROUND THE LUNCH HOUR

OPERATE AND/OR RELIEVE THE HO OPERATORS CLEAN UP AND VACUUM AFTER THE SHOW NOT TOO MUCH---AND WITH THE HELP WE'VE HAD IN THE PAST WE SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEMS---BUT CAN ALWAYS USE ONE OR TWO MORE HELPING HANDS TO EASE THE LOAD.

COME ALONG FOR AN HOUR OR TWO----OR MORE IF YOU ARE SO INCLINED.

*****THANKS*****

BOB

HO-Division Report By Bob Folsom

The HO layout continues to develop more operating possibilities as well as ever more interesting scenery. With our show only one month away however, there is much to be done to get the layout ready.

There will be work sessions at 7:30 PM on the following Thursdays: January 13, January 27, February 3, and February 10. They will be held at 105 Santee Trail in Clemson.

The goal will be to see the layout running flawlessly and all modules with scenery. Then the layout will be carefully dismantled on Thursday, February 10th

(with special attention given to securing the loose wiring ends) and ready to load into a truck, set it up at the United Assembly of God Church, and have it show ready.

Regardless of your special area of interest, the HO division could use your help, especially on Friday, February 11th, and Saturday, February 12th. We will be able to dismantle the layout on Saturday earlier than in the past, and return it to 105 Santee Trail where it will be stored in dismantled form; until some improvements are made in the layout room. Hopefully, that will occur without and delay, and then we can start in on some new projects that may even include adding modules!

To get the layout ready, we need to install some temporary scenery on two modules, take the kinks out of the track, work with yard switches to make sure they make electrical contact, work with club (and individual) rolling stock to make sure couple heights are correct, and trucks are free rolling; install a bus for certain lighting effects; secure all wiring properly; and finally make a few additional wiring connections to make the entire layout analogue control, digital command control, or combinations of both.

There will be a project for every person coming to a work session to participate in, either something you have a special talent in, or something you would like to learn more about. If you have wanted to know more about DCC, for example, here is an opportunity to help you get started.

The HO layout is always a great attraction at our show. **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET IT READY!**

N-Division Report By Bill Hughes

The N-Division is on hold for lack of people interested in N scale. There are four N-Scale modules in storage, which are ready to be moved to the Rail and Spike. If there is enough interest the N-Division can be restarted. Members can build and own their modules and add them to the other club member's modules at shows etc. If you think you would like to build an N-Scale module and or help start the N-Scale division back up, please contact Bill Hughes at 654-6051.

Minutes of Regular Meeting November 18, 1999

The meeting was opened by President Bob Hanson at 7:30 P.M. 13 members and 1 guest, Ron Keith, was in attendance.

Treasurer Ralph Miltz, reported disbursements of \$138.89, covered Newsletter postage, Post Office Box Rent, NMRA Dues, and monthly rent for our storage unit. This left a balance of \$5,005.16 in our checking account. The report was approved as

read.

Ralph also reminded us that membership dues for 2000 are now payable. He asks that everyone fill out a new application form with current addresses, phone numbers, and railroading interests. As in the past, dues are \$20 per year.

Chuck Lafoon, through his Rail & Spike train store had previously agreed to set up, or store, parts of our N Division layout. Bill Hughes will try to move the layout soon, so we can eliminate the storage charges we have been paying since January.

Bob Hanson reported that February 12, 2000 has been affirmed by the United Assembly Church for our 4th Annual Train Show. Final space arrangements are still being discussed, since we again want to operate our own food service.

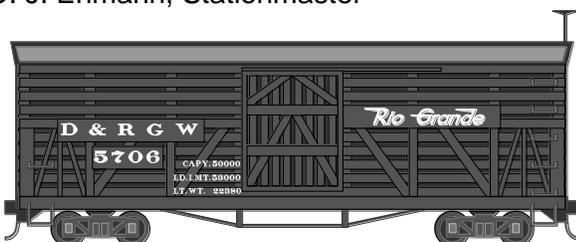
Train show flyers have been designed again by Rob Seel and are being printed. Howard Garner and Steve Zonay are sending out notices to dealers and model Railroad publications. Pete Sheriff and Bob Hnason will handle local publicity, and Bill Hughes will provide a highway sign.

The December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party, following the election of a new President, HO Vice President and General Interest Vice President, to serve for the next 2 years. Members will be asked to bring door prizes and specific food and drinks.

Rob Seel reported that the HO Division is holding weekly work sessions at Bob Folsom's house and invites all members to come and participate in the completion of their layout.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM, followed by a very entertaining video presentation by Pete Sheriff on Christmas Trains--Model, set up in stores and public showrooms, and full-sized excursion trains, decorated for the season, and running holiday schedules for the public

C. J. Ehmann, Stationmaster



**Minutes of Regular Meetings
December 16, 1999**

The meeting was opened by President Bob Hanson at 7:30 P.M. 11 members and 2 guests, Marilou Ehmann and Rocky Ann Jablonski, were in attendance.

Since this was our annual Christmas party night, Bob dispensed with the reading of minutes or a Treasurer's report.

The elections of officers for a two-year period was the next order of business. This year the offices of Chief Executive (CEO), HO Division Superintendent (VP) and General Interest Superintendent (VP) were up for election. (Next year the offices of Secretary and Treasurer will need to be filled). The following members were nominated and elected by acclamation, to serve during 2000 and 2001.

Chief Executive Officer - - - -
Rob Seel
HO Division Superintendent - - - -
Bob Folsom
General Interest Superintendent - - - - "Mac"
McMillin

Preparations for the 2000 Train show to be held on February 12 were then reviewed.

Steve Zonay reported that 13 dealer tables had been reserved so far, and more were expected. Advertising in trade publications had been placed, flyers have been prepared and local advertising would be placed by Bob Hanson and Pete Sheriff. Final plans must be completed at the next Association meeting to be held on January 20. All members are needed to assure another successful event!

Chuck Laffoon told us about the great HO train layout that Rob Seel had designed, and is building in Chuck's store in Easley. Its a "work in progress" and is attracting lots of would-be modelers. Our members are encouraged to drop in and see the progress that Rob has made.

The business meeting was then adjourned and the party began! There was a wide assortment of food to suit every palate; cheeses, meatballs, deviled eggs, and the like, in addition to many kinds of Christmas cookies, fruitcake, and brownies. During this culinary feast, carefully selected Christmas presents were exchanged, resulting in lots of happy faces. Certainly the most notable gift was received by our retiring President. In Bob's package was the most unique pair of boxer shorts decorated garishly by railroad engines and boxcars! Since they were sized X-Lg., Bob modeled them for us and wore them home over his other pants!

C. J. Ehmann, Stationmaster

Club HO Layout

Work on the club layout at Bob Folsom's house is still going on Thursday nights. If you would like to help with the layout, please call Bob at 654-8244. Bob is also available on other nights except Wednesday's until the train show. Bob has many jobs on the layout ready for assignment in order to get it ready for the show. This is a good time for you to get into modeling if you are not able to have a layout at home. Even if you are not in the HO division, your help is needed.



Inside/Out
Current Sensor Control
By Dennis Moriarty

In the last article current sensors were mentioned as a way of throwing a relay to provide power for the crossing gate solenoid coils. This is the same circuit that was written about in a previous article several issues ago that was used to control the starting and stopping of trains, reversing track polarity, throwing turnouts etc. A few people were not here then and have expressed an interest in the circuit. Since it has so many uses, it is presented here again for the purpose of powering the crossing gates.

A current sensor is a simple way of telling if a train is on a block (a block is an electrically isolated section of track). It is the same circuit that is located between the train engine wheels and motor for the purpose of providing constant lighting in the engine. In a sense the train head light is a current sensor. When the train is on the track current goes through the engine and the light lights. When the engine is off the track the light goes out because there is no current present.

For our purposes we will add a current sensor between the track and the power supply. If we locate it in the cab (control point) it is handy for a multitude of purposes. When the train engine enters the block, it acts like a switch and power flows in the wire from the power supply to the track.

The new current sensor light then lights. When the train leaves the block there is no current flowing in the wire to the block and the light goes out. Its that simple. If you put a current sensor with light on each block then you can wire lights to the layout map at each block and tell which blocks are occupied with trains. This can be really handy for hidden yards.

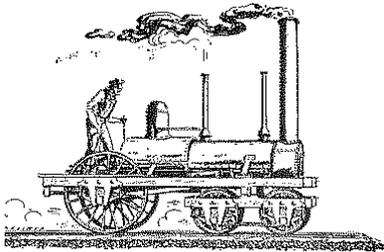
To operate the crossing signal, the current sensor light can be used to operate an electrical relay. This is accomplished by placing a photo resistor next to the light bulb. Power is run to the photo resistor from an extra toy train transformer or other low voltage power source and then to the relay coil. When the light lights the photo resistor's resistance drops and allows current to flow to the relay coil and the relay closes. The power to the crossing gates goes through the relay contacts to the gate coils. So when the train enters the block with the crossing gate, the current sensor light lights, this lowers the resistance of the photo resistor, which closes the relay that provides power to the crossing gate. When the train leaves the block the light goes out and the relay opens and the crossing gate goes up. The photo resistors are sensitive to light in the room as well as the current sensor light so it is a good idea to place the assembly in a black box or wrap it good with black electrical tape to keep outside light away from the photo resistor. Several photo resistors can be added to the same light bulb if other relays are needed for other purposes such as turning a sound system on or off or activating some other track side activity.

Our current sensor provides about two volts for a low voltage incandescent light bulb (I use low voltage Christmas tree light bulbs) and or an LED. (Light admitting diode). The two-volt voltage drop is accomplished by placing three diodes in series in the wire to the track from the power supply. The light bulb is then wired to both ends of the three diodes, one from the power supply side and one from the track side wire. If there is say 10 volts going to the train there will be a two-volt voltage drop across the diodes and the train will see 8 volts and the other two volts will light the light. You can't use more than one incandescent light bulb or the current will flow through the bulb filaments to the train and not through the diodes. There is one problem at this point in our story. The train will only run in one direction, because diodes only allow electricity to flow in one direction. Adding three more diodes in the opposite direction across the first three diodes solves this. So our current sensor is just six diodes and a light bulb. If LED's are used, they are diodes also so you can use bi-directional LED's or use two regular diodes in opposite directions. All the parts are available at radio shack. I can see many uses for this system even if DCC is being used.



**Tip of the Month
By Dennis Moriarty**

Wire your current sensor directly to the block switch terminals. They are strong and will support the sensor with no problems. You can fold your six diodes accordion style to make a smaller package when you solder them together. Also if you put your block switches directly on the layout map you can wire down to an bi-directional LED right next to the switch to show which blocks are occupied.



Reminder

Save those Crepemyrtle cuttings to make trees out of for your layout. They make excellent trunks and branches. See the earlier article or come to the May meeting to see how to make great trees from Crepemyrtle.

**ASrailD
ZfansD**

At the December meeting.

Chuck Laffoon reported that Norfolk Southern is leasing power from all over. Even a Montana Rail Link Engine was spotted in Easley.

Dues Due

Our Paymaster, Ralph Milz would like your year 2000 dues. Please **fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and give or mail it with your dues** to Ralph Milz at 6 Iron Clad Drive, Salem SC 29676. It's still \$20.00.

Welcome New Member

Radim Sevcik

-- Address removed for web publication --

Radim is interested in HO scale. He does not have a layout now, but had one when he was in Czechoslovakia.

Radim is interested in working on the modules, helping set them up at the shows, and serving on a committee. He is also willing to present a program for a monthly meeting. Welcome Radim

Future Meeting Programs

January: Maurice Adams

February: Chuck Laffoon

March: Mac McMillin

April: Bob Folsom

May: Dennis Moriarty

CMR&HA TRAIN CREW

Engineer and CEO: Rob Seel

Division Super: Mac McMillin

Station Master: Curt Ehmann

Paymaster: Ralph Milz

HO Division Super: Bob Folsom

Cartoon from WWW.toytrunkrailroad.com



Central Railway Model & Historical Association

Membership Application

Member # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____

1. Declared Interest Group: HO N General (Circle one)
2. Other Railroad Interests: Modeling Collecting Railfanning History
Other? _____
3. Modeling Scale: Z N HO S O G (Circle yours)
- 4 Railroad Memberships: NMRA NRHS Other? _____
5. Do you have a home lay-out? Y N Open to Visitors? Y N
6. I can help the Association by:
 - Working on one of the modular projects
 - Helping with set-up and operation of lay-outs at shows.
 - Organizing an excursion to a show or museum.
 - Serving on a committee (i.e. Audit, Publicity, etc.)
 - Serving as Officer or Director.
 - Preparing a short program for monthly meeting.
 - Other: _____
7. Please record my membership in the Association for 1999. Enclosed is my (check) or (cash) in the amount of \$20.00, Send to: Treasurer, CRM&HA, P.O. Box 27, Central SC, 29630-0027. Phone (864) 944-8120.

Signature _____

C.R.M.&H.A.
Dennis Moriarty, Editor
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

