

The CRM&HA Newsletter

September/October 2000

Dennis Moriarty/Editor

Volume 9 Number 5

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

Headline: The September meeting will be a picnic held at the Clemson Rail Road Station. See article titled Picnic.

Editorial by Dennis Moriarty

It was nice seeing the large turnout at the July meeting. I hope you will continue to join us. As I said in the last newsletter, the new Central Library is easy to get to and is a wonderful clean facility with nice chairs and video equipment. The next meeting will be a picnic at the Clemson Train Station but there are many exiting programs planned for future meetings at the library.

I want to thank Bob Hanson for putting the picnic together and making the arrangements for the next train show.

A current membership list is included at the end of the newsletter.

If you received a snail mail issue of the newsletter and have an E-Mail address, please send your E-Mail address to me.

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 Rob Seel, Rodney Cowen, 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. 888-8225

Picnic

The CRM&HA annual picnic will be held Thursday, September 21, 2000 at 6:30 PM. Earlier if you like, freights usually go through at 6:05. The picnic will be at the Clemson Depot, which is on the hill near the northeast corner of hi-way 123/76, and College Blvd. There will be a special program: "Current Status and the Future of the Depot and the Amtrack Stop". It will be presented by Rick Cotton, City Manager, Clemson. Please bring one dollar to defray costs, chairs, card table (or similar), ear plugs if you need 'em (It gets loud here at times), and the food item you signed up for. Bob Hanson will take last minute reservations by phone until September 7th. Call him at 885-0136. If you get this newsletter after that, call anyway. This should be a fun time for all rail fans. PS you might want to bring your camera.

CEO's Message

By Rob Seel

"TRAIN OF THOUGHT"

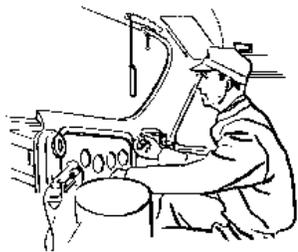
Railroading as a hobby is a wonderful thing to immerse oneself into for a few moments throughout the week. But, it is also great fun to immerse oneself in it occasionally. That opportunity occurred a few weekends ago, Friday August 25 and Saturday the 26th. Many of us were busy with either hosting the Southeast Region leadership group, or charming the littoral crowd at Rail and Spike. It was a great weekend to be a model railroader!

Howard and Steve hosted the SER leaders that weekend for a pre-convention tour and meeting, kicked-off with dinner at Villa Luigi. Including

Howard's wife and myself, there were no less than fifteen together for dinner, and many went for a home layout tour afterward. Howard can speak more about Saturday's events, but I was pleased and impressed that so many officers and wives came.

I spent my monthly Saturday at Rail and Spike, doing scenery and helping as I could. Chuck brought in record sales that day -- not to mention record crowds! The regional representative from MTH Trains was present, demonstrating new products. There were also hot dogs and soft drinks to enjoy. Scenery work progressed, but the store was so crowded for most of the day that I could not get into the "dirty work." I concentrated on roads and foliage instead. For my larger trees, I borrowed some of Dennis' techniques, and improvised a bit. I started with dead boxwood and miniature azalea clippings (I don't have crepe myrtles), and trimmed them to shape. I then sprayed the branches with Super 77 adhesive, and added clumps of green lichen speared onto the branches. Then, after a liberal spraying of Aquanet hairspray, I dusted highlights of finer flocking and sprayed again. I glued the trees into holes poked into the terrain. As an added touch, and to hide bad spots, I pinched bits of Woodland Scenics "foliage" material to make bushes -- glued straight down. So the next time you're in Easley, please stop in and see the progress at the church building on the hill. I'll even say myself that it looks pretty good!

I hope to be finished with the "big stuff" pretty soon. I have yet to finish the top of the mountain, complete with a barbecue joint, scenic overlook, run-down homestead, new mobile home, and bridge-to-nowhere-anymore. There will always be more trees and smaller buildings to add, but details are more fun to "just let happen." By the way, the dinosaurs were Chuck's idea.



Minutes of Regular Meeting July 20, 2000

The meeting was opened at the Pickens County Library by President Rob Seel at 7:30 P.M. 17 members and 8 guests were present.

Rob introduced Todd Demienych (?), Phil and Robert Harshaw, Victor Hurst, Michael Moore, Cathy Nichols, Aaron Pugh, and Wayne Todd.

During intermission, Michael, Victor and Wayne signed on as members for the rest of the year!

Long-time active member Clarence Waggoner was welcomed to the meeting. Physical problems have prevented Clarence from attending as regularly as he'd like, so it was good to see him again.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved, with a minor correction. As usual, they were also published in the July-August newsletter.

Paymaster Ralph Milz reported a cash balance of \$5,012.42. \$40 was received in membership dues and \$28.51 was disbursed for postage expense.

Rob Seal reported on a meeting he and Mac McMillin attended on July 11 for architects to bid on the renovation and moving of the Clemson depot off railroad property. The City has obtained a Grant of \$200,000, with the requirement that a portion of the building house an educational or historical exhibit, which is open to the public. Bids were invited for a total project of \$300,000 and Rob's own firm plans to participate in the bidding process. Mac also offered the use of his rail car(s) if a suitable run of track is moved with the building.

Altogether the project will be a marvelous opportunity for our Association to participate in a public display of railroad exhibits and displays, which is right in line with our own goals and purposes! The plans call for a replica of the original building, based upon 1922 photos. It was also learned that the widow of Olin McNeely (the last full-time Station Agent) is still living in Clemson, so the dedication of the finished facility could be a very memorable Upstate event.

Howard Garner reported that 2 sites have been considered to be headquarters for the 2002 Southeastern Region NMRA Convention. One proposal has been received and the second is expected shortly. A decision will be made by September 1.

Final plans for the September Picnic (in lieu of our regular business meeting) will be made next month, but a suggestion was made to hold the event at a railroad site, i.e. the Stumphouse Tunnel.

Bob Folsom reported that his basement renovation is progressing well, so that the HO modules can be put back in operating order by September. Bob can still use more help in completing the job.

During the usual session of Rail-Fanning, we learned about recent model and real railroad happenings around the Upstate. Fortunately we have a number of very knowledgeable members who share this information and experience with us each month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. followed by a slide presentation by Bob Folsom. Bob also had 2 stereoptical viewers, and a set of double slides that produced some very realistic 3-D views.

The next meeting will be held on August 17, with a program presented by Jay Jablonski.

C. J. Ehmann, Stationmaster

Minutes of Regular Meeting August 17, 2000

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM, Rob Seel (president and Slobberin' Pennsy Freak) presiding, with 13 members present. Rob read the previous meeting's minutes for Curt Ehmann, and they were accepted by acclamation. Rob also presented Ralph Milz's treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$5,032.42. Half-year dues of \$10.00 were received from new member Michael Moore of Taylors.

BUSINESS IN PROCESS

1. Rob Seel reported that three design-build firms/collaboratives have submitted proposals for the relocation and restoration of the Clemson Depot. Rob's firm will make their presentation in Sept..
2. **TextilExpress 2002, Greenville**, Howard Garner reported that a host hotel will be selected before Sept. 1. A group of Southeastern Region officers will be meeting in Central on Friday night, August 25, and Saturday, August 26 to review our preliminary plans for the convention.
3. Mac McMillin reported that the model railroad estate in Seneca may be a "dead end." Rob Seel has since spoken with the daughter of the deceased railroader, and it is the family's desire to donate the built-in layout to a museum and leave the collection in tact.
4. Bob Hanson and Rob Seel will co-chair the 2001 Train Show to be held at United Assembly of God, as before, in mid-February. This will likely be our last year at UAG, since the church plans to begin Saturday services. It was mentioned that First Baptist Church of Seneca has a new family life center that may be suitable for the 2002 show.

NEW BUSINESS

The annual picnic will be held on September 21, at the Clemson Depot. Clemson City Administrator Rick Cotton will address the club on the status of the depot restoration project.

HOBBY NEWS

Howard Garner spoke about his recent trip to Minnesota, and Mac McMillin shared his recently acquired Fairmont motor car spark coil (with spare parts!) Steve Zonay displayed his impressive, scratch-built, HOn3 model based on the Rio Grande Southern's Butterfly Bridge (Bridge 44A).

Rail & Spike will have a special "open house" and sale on Saturday, August 26. A representative from MTH Trains will be present to demonstrate new products, and Rob Seel will be adding HO scenery.

DIVISION REPORTS – No reports

The meeting adjourned at 8:32, due to the absence of the scheduled speaker.

Writer: *Rob Seel, for Curt Ehmann*

Club HO Layout

Work on the club layout at Bob Folsom's house is has been postponed because Bob's train room is being remodeled. Bob said that it would be ready for the club layout to be set up sometime this month. Please contact Bob if you are willing to help. See the HO report below

HO Report

By Robert Folsom

There is a light at the end of the tunnel!

Benchwork for the upper deck of Bob Folsom's layout is halfway completed. The carpet is in and the ceiling finished in that half of the basement.

The plan is to have a double track mainline circle that portion of the basement. There will be a temporary five-track suspension bridge that crosses from one side of the basement to the other to complete the circle. Three of those tracks will serve as staging tracks. The level of the deck is just above the skyboards of the club layout. However, the skyboards will probably be left off in many instances to facilitate reaching the tracks from the inside of the layout.

Once the track is installed and running on Bob's layout, the club layout can be reassembled and start operations again. Bob's layout will be entirely DCC controlled, and the club layout can be analog or digital. Bob's layout will have broader curves so anyone wanting to run a longer train, especially passenger will have that possibility in addition to running on the club layout. The goal is to be able to set up the club layout by the end of September.

When the club layout is set up, the other half of the basement will be cleared out so that painting, wall installation, carpeting and ceiling installation can take place.

All HO division members should contact Bob by phone or at the September picnic meeting and suggest a meeting time for the HO division. Wednesday nights are not among the choices, but other nights or Sunday afternoons would be possibilities.



**After the Third Try
By Rodney P. Cowen**

One night right after I hired out, I caught the Silkirk job. Now on this job going west we usually had a car for the Scotia, NY house track.

At Scotia, we crossed over to the east bound and backed up quite away. Reversed and came flying toward the house track switch which we passed over with the car still attached to the engine.

When we backed up for a second try, the conductor told me to get the switch and he would ride the car. Saying as he got on the car, "Young men can't do anything right". But this second time wasn't any more successful than the first as the car and engine again came over the switch still coupled.

Before the third try, I saw the conductor Speak to the engineer and this time the car separated from the engine before the switch which I threw between them and the car rolled safely into the house track.

Although the engineer was one of the oldest on the system, he didn't seem to know that you can't lift a pin if the engineer doesn't give you some slack.

When we got back on the buggy, I asked the conductor, "What was the matter. Couldn't you get the pin?" All he said was, "Aw shut up". Then I added, "Young men can't do anything right. But some times old men can't do any better." And I then laughed. Which seemed to make him angry.

Anyway I chuckled all the rest of the way to Rotterdam, which didn't make the old conductor any happier.

Inside/Out Lighting

By Dennis Moriarty

Providing lighting on a layout has always presented problems. There are two kinds of lighting to discuss. The first is the train room lighting and the second is the lighting on the layout itself, such as house and yard lights. Since there is not enough room in the newsletter, layout lighting will be discussed in the next newsletter. I am not an expert on either of these subjects but I have made some observations through the years that may be of interest. This subject always brings controversy and I hope that some of you will present some of your solutions to the lighting problems for future newsletters.

The room lighting can be exposed, hidden, diffused, incandescent, florescent, halite etc. Each of these has a place. First I would like to discuss the type of light. Each different type of light source will change the color of light reflection off the scenery, which will completely change the way the layout colors look. In my last house there were several existing florescent lights down the middle of the layout room. As this cast shadows on the layout as you walked by, I added incandescent lights over the layout. The incandescent lights were on a separate wall switch so I could put florescent lighting, incandescent lighting or both on the layout. The difference was amazing. It is important that you install your room lighting before you do your

scenery, as it will look completely different if you change the light sources. I feel it doesn't matter to much, which you use as long as you do your color work on the layout while using the final light source. **However, having said** that, I think that the incandescent is a better choice. Incandescent lights can be dimmed and brightened to change shadows and time of day. Incandescent lights give off a yellow cast as can be seen in indoor photographs taken without flash bulbs. But this is not noticeable on the layout because you will be mixing the colors of your scenery while under the incandescent bulbs so the yellow cast is compensated for. The choice for my latest layout is bare incandescent bulbs above drop ceiling translucent 2x4 drop in panels. I tried to install the translucent light panels directly above the layout as it meanders through the room. The translucent panels dim the light given off by the bulbs somewhat, but this makes the lighting in the buildings and train engines show up more.

If you want the layout to look like it is in bright sunshine at noon the florescent lights would be a better choice. Also you would save a lot of effort installing lights in all the buildings since people don't turn on to many building lights at noon.

Some modelers install a short drop panel from the ceiling at the edge of the layout so that the light source will be directly on the layout and not reflect in the observer's eyes. This also works well but is a lot of work. Using drop ceiling diffuser panels accomplishes the same goal. Again if incandescent bulbs are used dimmers can be installed to change the time of day or night. On two level layouts additional lights can be installed under the upper level.

Sometimes spotlights are used to brighten a section of the layout. I think this detracts from the looks of a model layout as it is distracting, but it would have a place in a toy train layout.

Welcome New Members

Wayne Todd

-- Address removed for web publication --

Wayne is interested in modeling HO and O gauge.

Victor Hurst,

-- Address removed for web publication --

Victor in interested in railfanning and history. He doesn't have a layout and is in the General interest group. He is willing to do a short program for a monthly meeting.

Michael Moore,

-- Address removed for web publication --

Michael is interested in N Scale modeling and railfanning. He does not have a home layout at this

time. He is willing to work on one of the modular projects and contributing articles to the newsletter.

Future Meeting Programs

September: Picnic at Clemson Rail Road Station

October: Mac McMillin Topic: US Army RR at Fort Eustis Virginia era 1969. Mac was assigned there and worked on the RR. Mac said that he has some surprises also.

November: Rodney Cowen: After working on the RR for over 40 years, Rodney always has a lot of interesting things to present.

December: Christmas Party at regular meeting room.

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

Large Scale Division Super: Bob Hanson

N Scale Division Super: Bill Hughes

HTTP:\\central-railway.tripod.com is the club website.

Cartoon from WWW.toytrunkrailroad.com



Membership List as of September 2000

Name	Address	Member # & Interest	Phone	E-mail
-- Address removed for web publication --				