



The CRM&HA Newsletter

May/June 2002

Dennis Moriarty/Editor

Volume 11 Number 3

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of the month at the Central SC Library

Please Attend the May 2nd Meeting (See Below)

Editorial

By Dennis Moriarty

The month of the SEC convention is here. The convention will held on May 24th, 25th and the 26th. There is lots to do. Howard Garner, and Steve Zoney with help from Bob Folsom, Richard Nichols and Pete Deloyne have spent many hours getting the project started. It is time for the rest of us to get on the band wagon. **Please call Howard Garner at 878-4705** to see if there is anyway you can help with the SEC convention. **Also**, please visit the SEC website for details. WWW.TextilExpress.org

Mike Moore indicated that he will be moving soon. **Curt Ehmann** as volunteered to be the Interim Station Master (Secretary) until the next election. Welcome aboard Curt and thank you for excepting the job. Curt has done a fine job as Station Master in the past.

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 Bob Folsom and Richard Nichols for your contributions this month.

Last Reminder

Dues Due

Our Paymaster, Richard Nichols would like very much like to see your dues for 2002. Please attach the membership application on the last page of the newsletter with your dues. The mailing address is 301 Kingston Way, Anderson, SC, 29625 or hand them to Richard in person at a meeting.

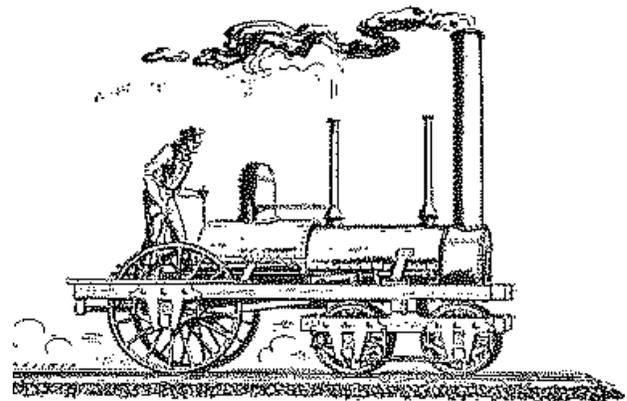
Club Layout Needs a New Home

The layout was moved to an outdoor storage facility. If anyone has room in their basement or other part of their house for all or part of the layout, and would be willing to have the layout set up or

stored there between uses please let Bob Folsom know. (654-8244)

Please Attend the May 2nd Meeting

Our Club is hosting the SEC (TextilExpress) in Greenville. The first major item for the entire membership will take place at the May meeting. Please attend this meeting as Howard Garner has a lot of projects for us to do that night including putting together the convention packets. We really need your help, many hands make quick work.



CEO's Corner

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Bob Folsom (also HO Division Super)

Show time is drawing near! TextilExpress 2002 is exactly six weeks away. I will be contacting all members to recruit a staff that can man the Convention Registration Table and monitor the clinic rooms. The Registration Table will be in operation Friday, May 24 11 AM - 10 PM; Saturday, May 25 8 AM - 6 PM; and Sunday, May 26 9 AM - noon. We should have 3 people on Friday from noon on through the rest of the day, and at least two people on duty all day Saturday. I will take care of it on Sunday.

Fortunately, we will have members of the Asheville club helping us by running the train show gate. This

is our greatest undertaking as a club so we need everyone's help.

If we can get more than the minimum number of people to help, it will be more fun for everyone. We will be right on Main Street in Greenville so there will be opportunities for show helpers to get away from their duties and eat at some interesting places, see the train show, and generally see what goes on in downtown Greenville on the weekend. We will have a hospitality suite for those who might want to relax in between shifts at the registration table. Even if you can't devote an entire day, any time you can give will be greatly needed and appreciated. Don't forget that our next meeting (May 2) will be a work night preparing materials for the show.

We need programs for our club meetings in **June and August**.

The list of those who have paid their dues for this year doesn't quite coincide with the faces I have seen at meetings! **PLEASE . . .**

I will be calling - please be ready with a positive response!

HO DIVISION REPORT

By Bob Folsom

There is not any news to report about the HO Division layout, other than to suggest that anyone who could store a module or so, or even take the four corners and set up a layout at their home is cordially invited to do so. Most HO activity right now is probably on the home front. I have turned into a virtual mole. Jeanne and her mom occasionally catch sight of me on my way to the basement. They rarely catch sight of me coming up out of the basement because they are in bed asleep. I'm sure there are similar scenes at Steve's and Howard's locations. I caught Dwayne Lusk at Rail N' Spike a few weeks ago so I know there is some activity there! Paul Neyman asked me some questions about DCC a month ago or so, so something is happening there. If you are active in HO, let me know how things are progressing on your own layout, so I can include those things in my report.

MINUTES FROM APRIL 4th MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by CEO Bob Folsom. The CEO volunteered to act as Stationmaster in the absence of Michael Moore. The membership list was read to be sure that no one who had paid their dues had been omitted. No errors were noted.

The treasurer's report was given by paymaster Richard Nichols. A final financial report was given regarding our Seneca train show, and the president

directed that we find the address of the one unhappy dealer and refund him half of his table fee as was agreed upon at the last meeting.

A report on Textilexpress was given by Howard Garner. All the dealer tables are sold out and there is a waiting list. The dealers must have their table rental fees into our hands by April 24, or their tables will be awarded to the next person on the waiting list. There are 80 registrants so far which is one-third of the hoped-for attendance. A bus has been rented for the prototype tour. The list of clinicians is not quite complete. Howard may need a little help prior to the next meeting to be prepared. The May 2 meeting will be an envelope stuffing party! There are train show flyers available, if you know where you could pass some of them out let us know. Howard went through the format of the entire convention and there was some discussion about procedures and communications. Pete Delorme has done a great job in publicity, and gave a very positive report about radio and TV coverage. Steve Zonay reported that the dealers renting tables at the show are coming from as far away as Texas and Rhode Island.

There were no responses at this time about anyone adopting HO layout modules. Bob has not been able to set up a meeting yet with the mayor of Central regarding a permanent home for the club, but will continue working on that.

Curt Ehmman volunteered to act as stationmaster until we can elect one. We need some nominees.

As a matter of record, our post office box at the Central Post Office is #128. The CEO and Paymaster each have a key.

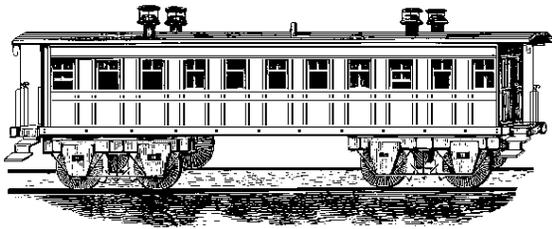
In the **new business** portion of the meeting, it was suggested that we consider setting up a new website. It would cost \$150 initially to set one up.

In the railroad news portion of the meeting, Mac McMillan unveiled two framed pictures of New York Central Hudson-type locomotives from the late 1920's. The pictures were once the top part of large calendars that the big railroads had printed each year as promotions.

For the program portion of the meeting, Pete Delorme gave a presentation about N Gauge and its merits, and an especially interesting talk about "TTrack"; a new micro form of N gauge modular layouts popular in Japan. Pete had brought along one of his own modules and a number of pictures of entire layouts.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Folsom, Acting Stationmaster



**Simple Electrical and Electronic
Circuits for Model Trains
Constant Lighting
By Dennis Moriarty**

A few examples of **simple** circuits are shown with hope that you will become interested in this phase of the hobby and learn the fun of experimenting with electrical circuits. All of the required parts are available at Radio Shack or other electronic stores. They also sell manuals about circuits, construction and safety when building circuits.

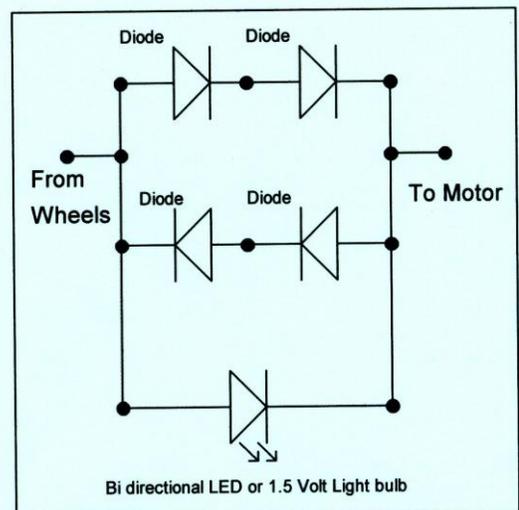
In the last newsletter a way of obtaining variable voltages with regulators was discussed. Now that we have power for our circuits, some circuits that are useful to train modelers can be shown.

This time, constant lighting will be discussed. A lot of model train engine manufactures install 12 volt light bulbs in their engines. Of course the brightness of the bulb changes as the speed of the train increases or decreases. Circuits have been developed that can be installed in the engines to make the light burn at a constant level no matter what voltage is applied to the track. There are several circuits that are used but the most simple to use in an engine is a diode circuit to provide a constant voltage to the bulb. Most modelers use the grain of wheat bulbs for constant lighting because they are small and only require 1 ½ volts. As explained in earlier articles a diode will maintain a fairly constant .7 voltage drop when it is installed in a circuit. Two diodes in series will give a 1.4 voltage drop. Any number of diodes can be used to provide most any voltage drop but we want as close to 1 ½ volts as we can get so that the grain of wheat bulb will not burn out. Also if we use higher voltage bulbs they will not start to light until the track voltage is high enough to light the bulb, therefore the low voltage bulb is desirable.

This circuit is installed between one track and the motor of the engine. Simply install two diodes in series between the metal wheels on the track and the motor and wire the 1 ½ bulb across the two diodes. The only problem is that the diodes only allow electricity to flow in one direction and the train will now only go in one direction. This is solved by installing two more diodes in the opposite direction across the circuit. See figure1 below. Now the train can go in either direction. Radio shack sells a full wave rectifier in a very small package. A full wave

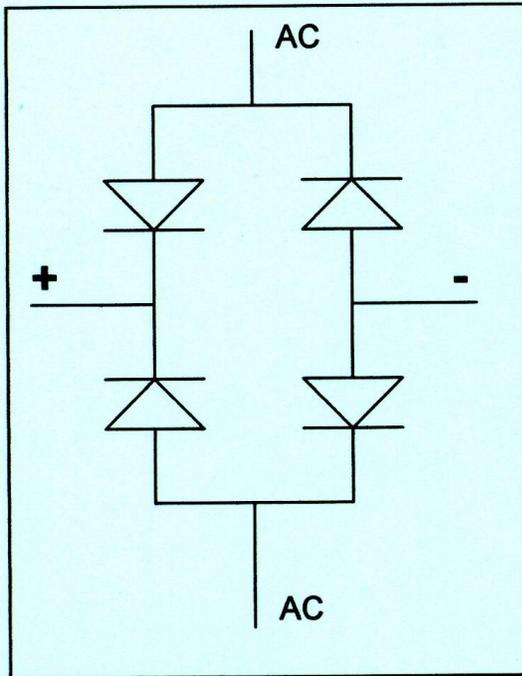
rectifier is 4 diodes encased in a plastic holder. This can be wired just like the 4 diodes and is in one simple to install package. See figures 2 and 3. **Now when** voltage is applied to the track the bulb starts to light. When it reaches 1 ½ volts the bulb is at full brilliance but the engine has not started because of the voltage drop in the lighting circuit. When applying more voltage the train starts to go but the light remains at 1 ½ volts so it stays at the same brightness no matter how fast the engine is going. **Providing constant lighting** for passenger cars is a little more complicated because diodes have very low resistance and if they are put between the wheels of the cars they would provide a dead short across the tracks. In the engine, the motor provides the voltage drop for the diode circuit. A simple solution was found on the Internet which is shown below in figures 4 and 5. It uses a very small voltage regulator called the LM334Z. The use of voltage regulators was explained in the last two newsletters. Since voltage regulators are polarity sensitive figure 4 is included to show how to make the polarity the same to the regulator no matter what the polarity is on the track. It uses the same bridge rectifier shown in figure 2. I have not tried this but it looks like it should work without any problems. If a regulator is installed in an engine, go across the motor on the wires from the wheels on both tracks. If there is a lot of flickering from dirty wheels, the addition of a capacitor across the input to the regulator should help.

Note: Some DCC systems do not like a diode circuit in the engine. It is a good idea to test one, before making several for all your engines.



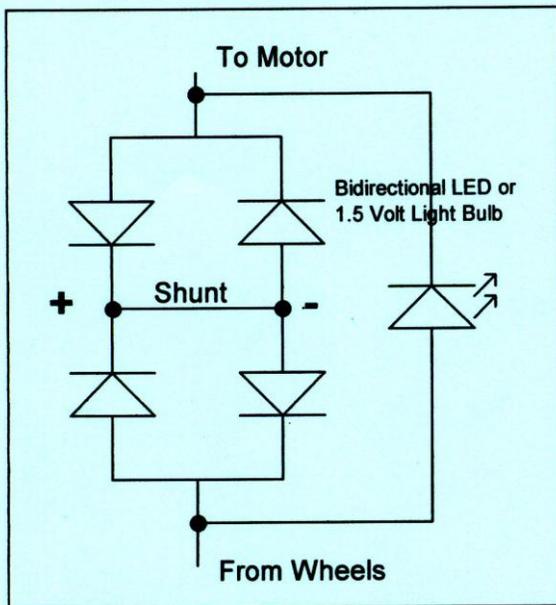
Constant Lighting Circuit For Engines

Figure 1



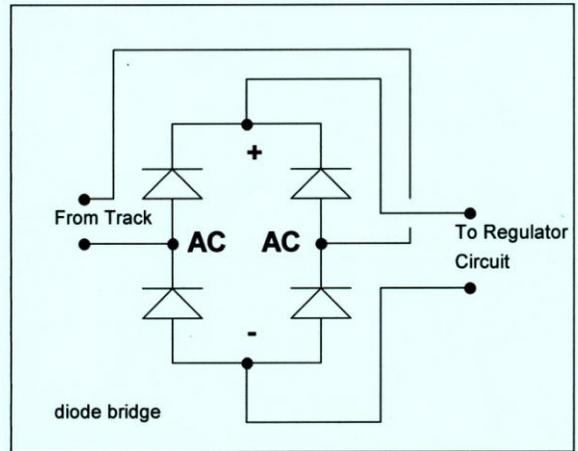
Bridge Rectifier as Purchased

Figure 2



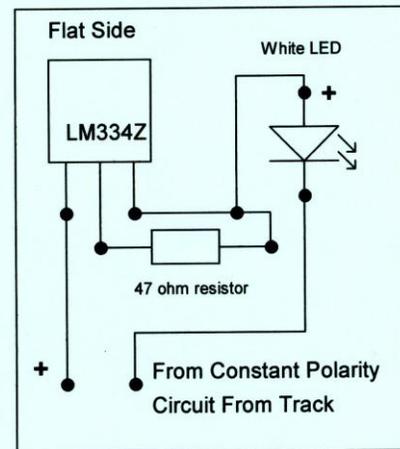
Shunted Bridge Rectifier

Figure 3



Constant Polarity Circuit From Track

Figure 4



Constant Lighting with Regulator

Figure 5

Tip

Diodes come with a white band at one end. This shows the direction to install them. The white band goes in the direction where the bar is shown on the schematic diagram. The long lead on a LED is positive. Direction does not matter on a resistor.

Hint

Its that time of year again. Remember to save your Crepe Myrtle, Nandena, and Oak Leaf Hydrangea cuttings for making trees on your layout.

Future Meeting Programs

- May:** Garner
- June:** TBA (Volunteer Needed)
- July:** Nichols
- August:** TBA (Volunteer Needed)

CMR&HA TRAIN CREW
 Engineer and CEO: Bob Folsom
 General Division Super: Mac McMillin
 Stationmaster: Curt Ehmann
 Paymaster: Richard Nichols
 HO Division Super: Bob Folsom

Large Scale Division Super: Bob Hanson
 N Scale Division Super: Bill Hughes

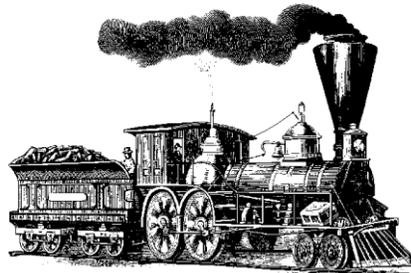
HTTP:\\central-railway.tripod.com is the club website.
 HTTP:\\WWW.TextilExpress.org is the SER convention website.

Cartoon from www.toytrunkrailroad.com



Membership Roster April 16, 2002

Name	Address	Mem#	Scale	Telephone
-- Address removed for web publication --				



**Central Railway Model & Historical Association
 Membership Application**

Name: _____ **Member #** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

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 SN3 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 2000. Enclosed is my (check) or (cash) in the amount of \$20.00, Send to: Treasurer, CRM&HA, 301 Kingston Way, Anderson, SC, 29625. Phone (864) 261- 3496

Signature _____

C.R.M.&H.A.
Dennis Moriarty, Editor
519 Beacon Shores Drive
Seneca, SC 29672

FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

