

# The CRM&HA Newsletter

March/April 1996

Chuck Laman: Editor

Volume 5 Number 2

## Officers:

CEO:	Bob Hanson
Division Super:	Ed Painter
Station Master:	Ralph Milz
Paymaster:	Curt Ehmann
Division Super - HO:	Rob Seel
Division Super - N:	Chuck Laman



## GREEN SIGNALS . . .

### Message from the CEO

We've passed the "platform", - the track is clear - and we're ready to highball it through this year.

My job is to keep us on track - and focused on the fact that we are a multi-interest organization with railroading, in all its forms, as our common bond and primary interest.

Your operating officers - Rob Seel, Chuck Laman, and Ed Painter - have indicated their wholehearted support to keep us rolling, to keep up your interest, and to grow our Association.

(Please remember to keep newcomers and non-members in mind for membership in our organization - see Platform Point #8.)

P.S. Don't forget to be prepared for your 2-3 minute resume.

*Bob Hanson*

### In Memoriam

CRM&HA member, Gerald Maas, died on February 7, 1996, at the age of 59, in Atlantis, Florida

Gerald was a retired President and CEO of the Grand Trunk and Western Railroad, and a recent resident of Keowee Key, Salem. Many of you will remember Gerry and the presentation he gave on the GT&W at one of our meetings.

To all of Gerry's family and friends we send our deepest sympathy.



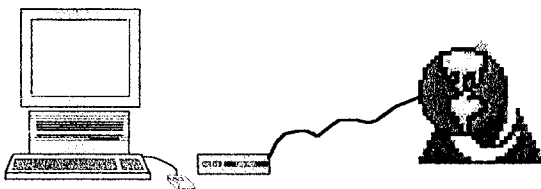
Have any of you out there discovered the joys of being "on-line" and "surfing the net"?

Carol and I have been on-line for quite awhile now, and recently have begun venturing out into the World Wide Web. We have managed to find some nifty railroad fonts, icons, and graphics, used sometimes in this publication, on the WWW (essentially a network of interconnected electronic magazines layered on top of the Internet). There is much to be found out there in regards to model railroading and just railroading in general. Many hobby shops are now taking out pages and ordering can be done easily on-line.

Is there anyone out there who REALLY knows what this new technology is all about and would like to write an article, or series of articles, for this newsletter instructing some of us on the "ins and outs" of maneuvering around on the internet? I'd be ever so grateful! Just let me know - I can be reached at [ChuckLaman@aol.com](mailto:ChuckLaman@aol.com).

If anyone else would like to have your on-line addresses made available to our club members let me know and I will publish a listing in the next issue of the CRM&HA Newsletter.

*Chuck Laman*



## HO Division News



After a dormant winter, it is again time to call the gandy dancers and landscape designers together to continue "workin' on the railroad". Many modules still are longing for adoption, particularly the Central Business District. Some of the trackwork also requires attention. Unless a consensus exists for a different time, work sessions will resume on the first and second Thursday evenings of each month at 7:30 PM. Other work sessions may be scheduled as deemed necessary in order to prepare for special events or expositions.

HO Division has been invited to participate in Land-O-Sky's exposition on March 23, 1996 in Asheville. I have been communicating with Sam Paris of the Asheville club concerning incorporating some of our modules into their layout. Final arrangements will be made within the next two weeks, pending Division interest and member availability.

*Rob Seel*

## N-Scale News

After a number of phone calls I learned that there will most likely not be an N Trak layout at the Land O'Sky show in March. Thus, there will not be an opportunity for any of our N Trak module owners to participate in this show. There will be N-scale layouts on tour, however. The French "N" Broad Club has recently settled into the basement of Bob and Donna's Hobby Shop in Fletcher, NC. I understand they have both a permanent layout and N Trak. I suspect Dennis Mueller's layout will also be on the tour - if you haven't seen it, it is well worth the trip. In a word it is Magnificent in addition to being HUGE.

We are still lacking suitable club space to set up our modules. Bill Hughes is looking into some possibilities in downtown Seneca - we'll see what happens. Meanwhile, module building is mainly an individual effort and I encourage all our N-scalers to get a module project going. I'm sure all of you have N Trak manuals at this point, which should answer most of your questions about getting started. If you lack certain skills or tools, or need help, please call me (864) 972-1295, and either I will help you or put you in touch with somebody that can. You will find that getting involved with a module really will kindle your interest.

*Chuck Laman*

## Program News

Many thanks to Bill Hughes for the January program, featuring his self-contained "N" diorama - and a bit of the family history. Incorporating this type of "special interest" feature into your own layout will make it doubly interesting to those who visit it.

Our February program was a clinic on making trees based on an article in the October '95 NMRA Bulletin, and featured at recent Greenberg shows. This hands-on clinic was conducted by Ray Johnson and Chuck Laman. Many of the members present tried out the tree making technique using processed pepper grass, paint, tape, and caulking. Some very nice trees were produced in the session. Pastime Hobbies in Seneca plans to stock the processed pepper grass tree making kits.

The HO Division will be presenting the Program for the March 21 meeting of the CRM&HA. Rob Seel will moderate a Photography Tips and Special Effects swap session, where all CRM&HA members are encouraged to bring samples of their photography and explain techniques that we all may find helpful and interesting. Subjects may include any scale or prototype - still photos or home video. If you use pin-holes, daylight, mirrors, filters, or hiking boots, please tell us about it! To get on board, call Rob at 654-7625.

Our April program will be "Conrail, 1975-1978", from the 35 mm slide collection of Ed Painter. This was a most fascinating period in railroad history. The program is taken primarily from Conrail operations in Ohio and western Pennsylvania. The government sponsored merger of the Penn Central, Erie Lackawanna, Lehigh Valley, Reading, Lehigh and Hudson River, and some lesser roads, made railfanning a real pleasure and a never-ending puzzle. Between all the different railroad paint schemes, F-units, Alcos, U-Boats, and early geeps, what a time to be a railfan photographer! Please come and enjoy. The program will be 45 minutes to 1 hour in length.

## Election Results

At our January meeting we elected three officers for the coming year. **Bob Hanson** is our new CEO and replaces Jessie Cranford. **Rob Seel** replaces Steve Zonay as HO Superintendent. Steve filled in for Jessie many months and we thank him for that effort of filling in when needed. **Ed Painter** was re-elected as General Interest Superintendent. Curt Ehmann, Ralph Milz, and Chuck Laman continue as Treasurer, Secretary, and N Superintendent respectfully. These six make up your board of directors, please give them all the support that you can during the coming year.

## Our 2nd Annual Auction Report

Our Second Annual Auction was held on Saturday, February 17 in the Central Fire Station. We had a respectable number of attendees, considering the limited planning time we had available. Hopefully we learn from these events so that we can make them better in years to come. My personal observations are as follows:

- Standing around in the cold for over two hours is not very much fun. (Cut time to 1 hour or less and/or adequately heat the building.)
- Sales were lost because some people couldn't wait for the bidding to close. (Cut time to 1 hour or less.)
- We may need entertainment to draw people in and hold them there. (Videos, layouts, etc.)
- We need long-range planning to enable national advertising and better local coverage. (Plan ahead.)

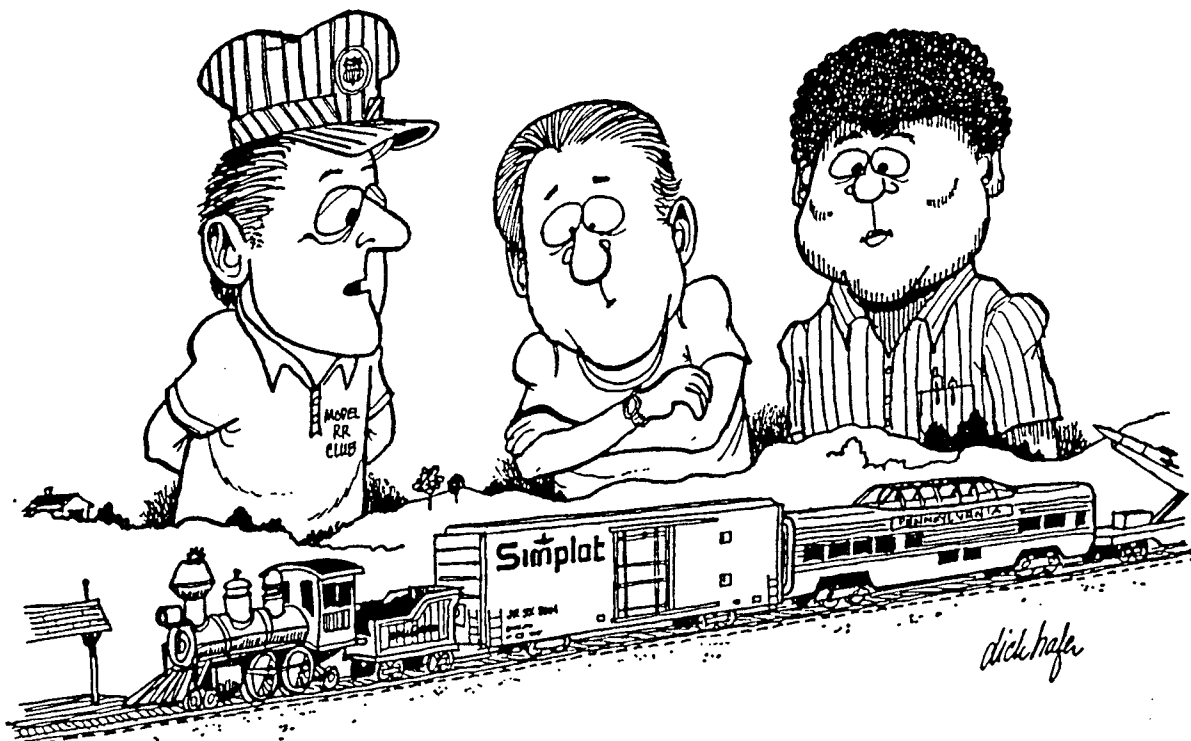
Next year at this time we may host the 4th Palmetto Division Meeting. This could be done in conjunction with our 3rd Annual Auction. Who knows, it could even become a joint annual affair. If we start planning now we are assured success. Good idea? Any other input?

\$ \$ Dues are Due \$ \$

If your dues are not paid up for 1996 this will be your last issue of the CRM&HA Newsletter and you will find a questionnaire enclosed in this issue. If you have decided not to renew your membership please fill out the questionnaire and return it to us. We are interested in your opinions.

## Railfanning Safety

There are many safety rules and guidelines that can be discussed. The following article contains some very key ones. Railfanning is a very enjoyable pastime for those of us who like trains and railroading. To be injured in the course of the hobby would certainly seem to defeat the intent. To not practice safety and exercise common sense in the eyes of railway officials and employees does great damage to our reputation and can make it much more difficult to gain permission to enter facilities, or even be on the right-of-way. It can, and even has, led some railroads to enforce their rights as private property owners against all trespassers, including railfans. Do enjoy being a railfan and railroading, but act safely, exercise common sense, and respect the rights of the railroad company and its employees. The article on the following page by Ed Painter contains some good advice for all of us.



WELL... WITH A CLUB, YOU GOTTA BE SENSITIVE  
TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS' INTERESTS.

# ***Railroading and Railfans, Safety First Always!***

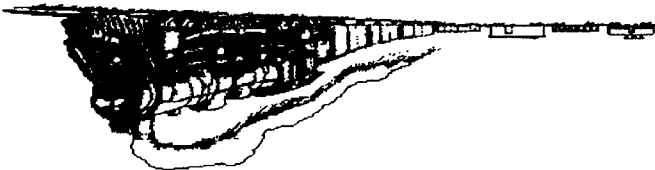
***By Ed Painter, At Large VP, CRM&HA***

*Depending on what occupation you are employed in and the attitude of your employer, you may or may not have developed an appreciation of industrial safety and the real hazards that accompany certain industries and occupations. Railroading historically has been among the most dangerous of occupations. As an industry it experienced very high incidence rates of occupational injury and death. Railroading today through new technology, operating procedures, better training of personnel, and safety awareness has become much safer. Still, many of the old hazards exist today. Maintaining employee and public safety are still primary missions of railroad management and employees. As railfans we need to do our part to help.*

*As a railfan upon entering railroad property whether along the right-of-way or in a yard or terminal area to observe or photograph railroad operations, you are exposed to many of the same hazards and dangers railway employees are exposed to. As a result you should be aware of and observe the safety rules railway employees observe. In addition your behavior should reflect the fact that you are not a railway employee. As such you must remember that the railroad property and equipment are **PRIVATE PROPERTY!** You must be respectful of this fact. The following are some simple but important guidelines and rules that if followed will protect both you and the railroad :*

- 1. Always obtain permission from railway officials prior to entering active locomotive service or yard facilities. To have a proper hard hat, safety glasses, and hearing protection may be required. To carry these items of personnel protective equipment with you can be the difference between obtaining permission or not*
- 2. Always wear substantial footwear Footing is often difficult in yards or on the right-of-way.*
- 3. Never climb onto, crawl beneath, or walk between cars or locomotives no matter how safe it may appear.*
- 4. Never walk on or step on the top of rails, always step over rails.*
- 5. Never stand on or between the rails or track.*
- 6. Always look both directions prior to crossing the track(s). Be constantly vigilant as to the approach of moving trains or cars. Trains may make little or no noise and may quietly sneak up on you.*
- 7. Never climb signals, signal bridges, or onto any other railway structures.*
- 8. Never walk across railway bridges.*
- 9. Never walk through railroad tunnels.*
- 10. Use caution when walking in and about remotely powered turnouts (switches) Stay clear of moving parts such as the switch points and pneumatic or electrical operators.*
- 11. Be observant for scrap material, rail sections, spikes, tie plates, or other foreign objects that can pose trip hazards when walking about the right-of-way.*
- 12. Be observant and avoid oil, grease, or other chemicals that may be present on the track, ties, or in the ballast*
- 13. Stand clear of moving trains or equipment. Dragging steel straps or like dangers may exist. Brake shoes may also fly off a fast moving car or locomotive.*
- 14. Depending on the season of the year, be cautious of snakes or other wild animals.*
- 15. Always be cautious, observant, and awake. **SAFETY FIRST ALWAYS!***

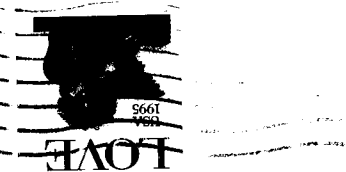




DEBVIS MO  
412 GARRETT  
SENECA

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL



C.R.M.&H.A.  
Chuck Laman, Editor  
314 Nicklaus Road  
Westminster, SC 29693

**\* \* Current Club Highlights \* \***

- **Election Results**
- **Auction Report**
- **Upcoming Programs for March/April**