



The CRM&HA Newsletter

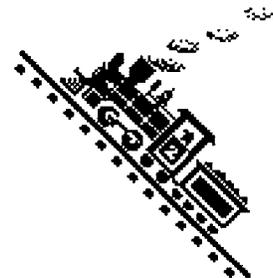
July/August 1996

Chuck Laman: Editor

Volume 5 Number 4

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 |



A VISIT TO NMRA HEADQUARTERS

Recently Carol and I spent a few days in Chattanooga, TN. We rode the incline railway to the top of Lookout Mountain, took a ride on the Tennessee Valley RR, and visited the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel among other things. It was quite obvious that this was a city that was trying to capitalize on the railroad theme and doing it successfully!

At the eastern terminus of the Tennessee Valley RR sits NMRA Headquarters at the top of the hill on Cromwell Road. Upon entering the building we were cheerfully greeted and given a tour of the building--particularly the Library. I was very impressed with the volumes of RR, and model railroad-related books and periodicals, plus many thousands of slides, etc. If not the largest, it is one of the largest libraries of this type in the world. A member of the NMRA can request information on any RR related subject, which they will research in their files (all computerized) and provide copies of whatever they might have.

Most of what they have in the library is donated, so keep that in mind if you have an old RR book that you don't know what to do with, or have some old slides, or photos--the Kalmbach Memorial Library (NMRA Library) will take them and you will have made a donation to a non-profit organization for a tax write off. If you are ever passing that way, drop in--it's worth the visit.

Chuck Laman

CHUGGIN' ALONG

Well, here we are at the half-way point of the year and it is probably a good time to see how we're doing on the "platform" that was set up for all of us in January.

1. Continue Labor Day Program--Central Committee still meeting.
2. Have sale/swap meet in February--DONE.
3. Get advance program commitments--so far working out okay.
4. Clear through Board and participate in events--many thanks to all the gang that helped move, setup, take down for the Heritage Days in Seneca.
5. Form additional interest group--so far ZERO!
6. Begin quarterly home visits--none so far--looks like I'll have to call upon Mr. Painter and self to get this started--see note elsewhere in this issue.
7. Get final settlement on space from town of Central--I attended the last town council meeting--no resolution then but they are to get back to me "in a few days" on whether additional space can be made available.
8. Have a "guest day" to show others what we do and invite them to join us--formal date in late summer/early fall.
9. Expand member info with a "declared special interest"--DONE.
10. Members in a small group with no division superintendent may be asked to do a program or two--this is coming!!!
11. Start 2-3 minute personal presentation--DONE/continuing.
12. Have at least three "how-to" programs each year--on schedule.

While we are not doing GREAT on the platform we are not all that far behind now--and we have time to pick up the speed and get those items we are behind on back on track.

This newsletter will probably be printed and distributed after the June meeting--at which time we will hear more about both the Central and Seneca location possibilities. Each of you should have received a "survey" form--and I hope that you have filled it out and returned it with your comments.

Now for a piece of personal opinion--with a group as small as we are--and scattered all over Oconee, Pickens, and other counties, all of us are going to have to travel to meetings and events. It doesn't matter to me whether we finally roost in Central, Clemson, Seneca, or elsewhere. What does matter is that we've got to get this issue of location resolved and back to railroad and Club business.

Bob Hanson

HO DIVISION NEWS

The following is a synopsis of Rob Seel's May HO Report: The layout ran surprisingly well at Seneca's Heritage Festival, considering the entire layout had not been run since last September's Apple Festival in Westminster. Some problems surfaced that demand attention:

- (1) The right-hand Peco switch from the yard to the north-bound main (probably our most important switch) must be replaced or have a throw-lever installed. The spring mechanism has failed, but Steve was able to secure the switch rails to the tie bar. The switch was functional, but should be repaired immediately.
- (2) The wiring in the yard needs inspection and repairs as necessary. Two wires are disconnected and dangling, short-circuits are appearing, and the power pack overheats. To those who constructed and wired the yard--HELP!!
- (3) Passenger platforms are still slightly too high and causing some cars to scrape as they pass. I will address this matter.
- (4) Ed, Steve, Bob, and I determined that an exhibit checklist/procedure would be valuable in preparing for exhibitions and transporting equipment. I will initiate and compile the list, with contribution requested by all Division members. Look for more on this in June.

Thanks to all who helped transport, setup, run, and dismantle the layout for the Seneca show. Special thanks to general club members Maurice Adams and Carl Hall for providing pick-up trucks and strong hands. Muchos nachos to TK' Entertainment Center for providing exhibit space (we hope you sold more hot dogs because of us!).

Rob Seel

N-SCALE NEWS

To add variety to the layouts we set up for the various shows and festivals we need some new modules. You N-scalers that have not yet built a module are missing out on the fun and a chance to show off your handiwork. Remember, getting started is the same as being half done. If you need any help with anything related to building a module please let me know--I realize there are a lot of questions when one first faces this task, but after over 15 years experience in N-Trak, I find that I can now answer most of them, even though I am still learning. So please don't hesitate to ask for help, we need your module(s) to give us more options when we plan a showing, plus something new always increases interest!

Don't think I'm letting the rest of you with modules off the hook--you guys should be sprucing up your modules for the Central RR Festival on Labor Day weekend. With the hot weather we've been having recently, working on your modules in an air-conditioned environment should be a welcome task compared to other alternatives. I suspect that we'll be setting up in the same room in the school that we did last year, which as you might recall was perfect in all respects (air-conditioned, rug on the floor, plenty of light, etc.)

Chuck Laman

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Of the 42 questionnaires that were sent out we have received 22 replies. Some of you had very thoughtful and interesting comments. For those of you who thought of doing that--thank you very much. The survey results are as follows:

- Opinion on the Seneca facility was split down the middle, with equal numbers for and against. More than half of the respondents were willing to volunteer for cleanup, repair, and other necessary work.
- Of those in favor of improving this facility, expenditures of between \$500 and \$750 were okay.
- Max dues for facility support was split about even at \$5 and below, and over \$5 per month.
- Location preference was compiled by subtracting unacceptable from acceptable with the following results:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Central +17 | Easley -4 |
| Clemson +16 | Walhalla -4 |
| Pendleton +10 | Westminster -5 |
| Seneca +9 | Liberty -6 |
| SixMile +2 | Salem -8 |
| Pickens 0 | Anderson -10 |
| and dead last, Greenville with -14 | |

For those of you who haven't yet returned the survey, please do so, with comments. Opions are welcome, and will be considered at the next Board meeting.

SENECA HERITAGE FESTIVAL

First, a big thanks to all who helped out at the festival--as always many hands make light work, which is very much appreciated. The list of helpers is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Maurice Adams | John Cadmus |
| Curt Ehmman | Bob Folsom |
| Howard Garner | Carl Hall |
| Bill Hughes | Ray Johnson |
| Steve Kolarich | Chuck Laman |
| Jim Morgan | Ed Painter |
| Rob Seel | Whit Sowell |
| Gene Tagliarini | Steve Zonay |

As usual you see many of the same people that always help, they are certainly the backbone of the club and make it what it is.

Both the HO and N-scale layouts were setup. The modules are becoming more and more complete with some of the modeling work being outstanding. Trains running flawlessly through a first quality diorama is what really gets folks interested in this hobby and we are getting there! It is estimated that over 200 people saw the layouts with the biggest crowds appearing during the time that a fast-moving storm came through town making people come into TK's Entertainment Center to get out of the rain. TK's also deserves our gratitude for their hospitality and providing us with the space to set up our layouts. Eventually, in the afternoon, the weather caused the Festival to fold so we were able to pack things up early. Many of the modules were carried next door and upstairs to the old Masonic Hall which may become our new layout space. All in all, we successfully got through another show, perhaps got a few more people interested in model railroading, or our club, and earned some money for the club in the process. Thanks again to all for your efforts.

"TRAINS AHEAD" TV Program



Have you seen the new train program that appears every Saturday afternoon on Educational Television? If not, you're missing some real interesting programs on our favorite hobby. Sponsored by Kalmbach Publishing, Brio, and the Walthers Co., each half-hour program covers three or four different phases of railroading. A recent offering included:

The Iowa Traction Co., showing how a little former inter-urban line can survive, using four

employees and five Baldwin Westinghouse engines, by hauling local products during the week and passengers on weekends!

The Browning Railroad Co., a miniature railroad built on a former estate, now a Bed & Breakfast hotel, using the trains to attract boarders and tourists. The tiny steamers carry as many as 120 passengers a day.

The development of Florida by Henry Flagler was next, and showed the construction of the Key West Line with its many bridges, an engineering marvel of its day.

Finally, the construction of the "longest concrete railroad bridge in the world," in Nicholson, PA was described. Officially known as the "Lackawanna Cut-off," Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, and Teddy Roosevelt all attended the grand opening ceremonies in 1917.

Other programs have included some beautiful model railroads, in all scales, as well as stories about present-day train activity around the world. Videos are available by calling 1-800-9 RAIL TV, but you can see it personally, and tape your own any Saturday afternoon at 5:30 PM on PBS!

Curt Ehmman

PROGRAM NEWS

Rob Seel presented a program on the use of fibre optics for lighting at the June meeting. Although I wasn't there I have heard very favorable comments on his presentation. Thanks Rob for a fine program!

Thanks

We would like to thank **George Bedell** of Keowee Key for his donation to our club of some Model Railroading and Railroad Model Craftsman magazines, along with several reference (how to) books. George, a retired dentist, is not a member of our club, but was interested in model railroading for many years. He is now having problems with his eyesight and can no longer see well enough to read or drive, let alone model in N-scale. If some of you know George personally, thank him for his generous donation to our club library.

CORRECTION

We apologize for the incorrect spelling of our new member Frank Vandehoof's name in our last edition and also on the membership listing--please correct your listings.



MEET YOUR MEMBERS

(Continuing our series which will feature new/old member(s) of our club)

Steve Kolarich

Steve lived in the western suburbs of Chicago all his life until he retired in 1993. He remembers the CB&Q three-track mainline which went through town and the large amount of daily railroad traffic. In July of 1994 he and his wife Betty moved to Chickasaw Point in Westminster and he is really enjoying retirement with golf, hiking, the Blue Ridge Art Association, and of course, being a member of the CRM&HA.

Steve's profession was that of a Graphic Artist, and in the early '80s got a contract with GM's Electro-Motive Division, (which at that time was located in LaGrange, IL), to make graphic drawings of their 645 and 710 diesel engines (645 and 710 being the cylinder volume in cubic inches). The 645 had both a marine version and a locomotive version. The 710 was for locomotives only and was supercharged. Steve has donated one of these pieces of artwork to the club to hang on a wall when we get to that stage.

His interest in the hobby dates way back, with his father-in-law (who now lives with Steve and Betty) modeling in OO Scale. Steve has some N-scale equipment and enjoys using his talents to weather the rolling stock and making them look "real." Railroad art is also an interest, particularly the work of Howard Fogg.

Steve has been a CRM&HA member for almost two years now and regularly attends the meetings and can always be counted on to lend a hand at CRM&HA events.

Bob Hanson

Bob calls himself a "rock farmer" from northern Michigan who eventually settled in northern Illinois, between Chicago and Milwaukee. He owned his own business and was a corporate vice-president of a New York stock exchange company.

Due to their love for mountains and water, Bob

and his wife Fran, have been visiting this area for many years. Bob retired in 1986 and built a home on Lake Keowee in 1990. He and Fran moved into it in 1992.

The Hansons have five children, three girls and two boys, and now have nine granddaughters and two grandsons. Bob got involved in the hobby as a result of inheriting an HO layout from his sons when they gave up trains for girls. Now he is in G Scale and Garden Railroading.

Bob is presently the President of the CRM&HA, and in the past has been active in the 20th Century RR Club which focused on the history and modeling of New York Central's 20th Century Limited and Pennsylvania Broadway Limited.

OPEN HOUSE 24

WHEN: Saturday, August 10

TIME: 1 to 6 PM

**WHERE: Bob & Fran Hanson's - "The Point"
2036 Westview Point, Seneca
Phone: (864) 885-0136**

Come spend an hour or two (or more) enjoying the mountain and lake breezes while you talk railroading, railfanning, modeling, or whatever.

When you have time in between the chit-chat, look over the indoor and outdoor G-Gauge layouts. Nothing fancy, mind you--but enough to keep a whole bunch of grandkids happy and involved during their visits.

Plenty of seating on the deck, in the gazebo, upstairs and downstairs, so no need to bring your own chairs. Light snacks and liquid refreshments will be available.

Please call Bob or Fran in advance so they know how many to expect. Limited parking at "The Point" so when it's full we'll use the neighbor's circular drive.

DIRECTIONS:

From a common point--the junction of Highways 123 and SR 130 (where the Ingles store is)--go North on 130 for 1.1 miles. Turn left off 130 onto Sugar Valley Road--marked "Dead End"--and proceed to where Keowee Shores sign stands. This marks the beginning of a circle--go halfway around the circle and you will find a private road--Westview Point. Turn down this road and go to very last home.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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*** * Current Club Highlights * ***

- **Bob Hanson's Open House--8/10**
- **Central's Railroad Days Festival--8/31 - 9/1**
- **Questionnaire Results**