



The CRM&HA Newsletter

November/December 1996

Chuck Laman: Editor

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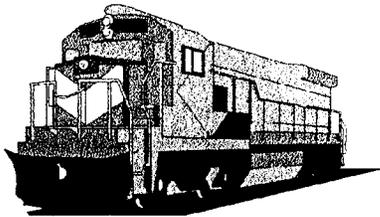
Officers:

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



NOVEMBER

NATIONAL MRR MONTH



Since November is National Model Railroad Month I recently set up two of my N-Trak modules, that I had taken to the N-scale convention this past August, in Ray Johnson's Pastimes Hobby Shop. The feedback and comments that I have gotten so far have been very positive and the display has sparked a lot of interest. If you go by that way stop in and take a look.

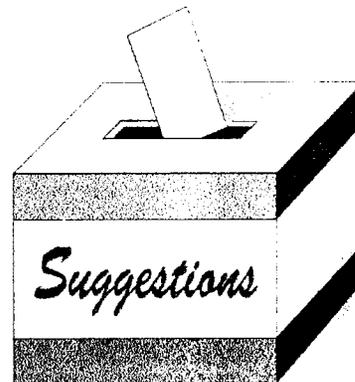
Other individuals, or the club, might consider doing the same sort of thing with static or operating displays in libraries, store fronts, or other suitable places that get public exposure. Food for thought?

Chuck Laman

... WE'RE OVER THE HUMP

Any of you who have had the chance to watch the older freight classification yards are familiar with "humping" the cars to make up consists (trains).

As an association we are close to that point now--we are ready to start making plans for next year. It's your train--and your choices of what you would like to see us offer and do in 1997. We've come a long way in a few short years--and although we've lost a few members here and there, our roster keeps growing as more and more people know about us and what we do. In large part this is due to our showings at the Railroad Festival, the Apple Festival, and the Christmas Show at the Lunney Museum. While we continue with these activities, we need input from you to be sure that what we are doing meets your needs and expectations.



Some time prior to Thanksgiving--and the sooner the better--drop me a line (2036 Westview Point, Seneca, SC 29672) and let me know what will:

- (a) help you
- (b) interest you
- (c) encourage you to bring in friends, neighbors, or others to attend a meeting as potential members.

Thanks for all your help so far--and yet to come!

Bob Hanson, President

HO DIVISION NEWS

HO Division has enjoyed a very active autumn with street festivals in Central and Westminster. Group participation has been encouraging--thanks to all who helped, especially to our non-division club members helping in the effort! Public participation was excellent, due in part to beautiful weather, good exposure, and all-around enthusiasm.

The layout traveled well and ran remarkably well for the two days in Central and the two days in Westminster. The left-hand turnout at the Yard exit was successfully replaced, a ground throw was installed at the passenger station, and the overall condition of the track remains rather good. Ironically, horn-hook couplers experienced fewer mishaps than Kadees--go figure! Other highlights included Pat Hogue's Triple Crown, Steve Zonay's PRR mail train, Howard Garner's Cascade reefers, Ed Painter's thousand-car N&W coal drag, John Thorpe's British trains, and Rob Seel's PRR and B&O Limiteds.

Howard has also been busy adding various details to Garner's Corner (or as we call it, Howard's End). In fact, several people at both festivals inquired, "What town is that?"--"Garner's Corner."--"Oh! Where is that?"--"Right here, ma'am. Really, no kidding!"

A new idea is brewing for the scenicking of the four unfinished sections. A modular scenery concept is being developed by Dennis Moriarty, Curt Ehmann, and Pat Hogue. The idea involves drop-in landscaping that can be crafted at home, transported separately from the track top, and dropped into any open space. Stay tuned for the results!

The biggest work order on the list, however, is replacing the T-bolts on the legs with wing nuts and replacing a broken leg or two.

Sadly, John Thorpe has been led kicking and screaming to Columbia, but he was heard saying as he was dragged away, "I shall return!" Thanks a lot, John for sharing your talents, your landscape work, your weekends running trains, and your Suburban! Hope to see you back soon.

Rob Seel

N-SCALE NEWS

A combined effort with the Asheville N-scalers (two 4 foot corners and four 4 foot modules) and two of our 3 foot corners provided a respectable N-scale layout for the Central Railroad Festival. Even though we had never hooked up with them before, the modules went together perfectly and trains ran both days with little, or no problems. This speaks well for our N-scale

standards, and the workmanship of both clubs. We are looking forward to joining with the Asheville club, and others, in the future.

Our project layout (approximately 4' x 7') is still in the planning stages, although we have tentatively selected Lou Sassi's Mohawk Division layout, which provides two loops for constant running, interesting scenery, including a town, mountain, river, and a couple of bridges. The layout has some switching which we plan to enhance by including John Allen's switching puzzle to increase operational interest. We hope to get into the actual construction in the near future and have promised a completion for sometime in 1997. All N-scalers will be invited to participate to give everyone a chance at getting hands-on experience.

Meanwhile, we are still urging all N-scalers to consider building an N-Trak module, or an additional module if you already have one. If you attended the recent Greenberg Show in Atlanta you might have noticed the two N-Trak layouts displayed there. Scenery-wise, our layout compares favorably, but we do need more than our present 9-10 modules. Two events are coming up next year that we will participate in--our show on March 15th, and the Asheville Show in May on Memorial Day weekend. Please plan to attend both of these events with your modules. If you have any changes or improvements to make on them, now is a good time to start.

Chuck Laman

YOU'RE INVITED



Howard Garner's Cascade Western Rail Road

- What:** Howard and Lorraine Garner will be holding an Open House
- When:** Saturday, December 7
- Time:** 10 AM - 10 PM
- Where:** 244 Margaret St., Pickens, SC
- For Info:** Call Howard at (878) 4326
or (878) 4705

Refreshments, home brews, and operating trains are on tap for the day.

Y'all come!

PROGRAM NOTES

In September we were presented with a slide show by author Kirt Reisweber, which focused on trains past and present that went through Richmond, VA. It was surprising to me to learn just how much of the trackage runs above ground level. It was an interesting program. Thank you Kirt.

In October Howard Garner gave the first presentation of the clinic he is developing on the subject of awnings. Although all of us see awnings on buildings every day we do not realize just how prevalent they are. Thanks Howard for bringing this often overlooked detail in modeling buildings to our attention. It was a good clinic!

Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER MEETING

For our November program Dennis Moriarty will explain and demonstrate "Current Sensor Control of Trains and Accessories." Most model train control systems use the location of one or more of the trains to automatically activate other functions. Such as: automatically starting or stopping other trains at sidings, crossings, stations, or by overtaking trains on ovals, etc.; activation of road crossing gates; activation of sound systems; activation of other accessories; automation of the main line leaving more time to manually operate yards, sidings, etc.

Some methods commonly used to locate the trains: photocell light detectors, reed switches buried between the tracks with magnets on the engines and cars, computer control systems, feeler wires and micro switches. The above methods all have common problems: they all require a lot of extra wire to be run out under the layout; they can be expensive; some like feeler wires can cause derailments; reed switches require magnets on the trains.

The advantages of the current sensor approach: **The system uses existing wires to the track blocks so it doesn't require any extra wires except to accessories** (Dennis hates crawling under to add more wires); the entire control system can be located at the cab; it is simple to use and work with

once you understand how it works; it doesn't require knowledge of electrical chips (although they can be used if desired); parts and other materials are inexpensive and easy to obtain at local stores; it is very flexible; it can provide light indication on the system map to tell which blocks are occupied.

What is a current sensor control and how does it work? Come to the November meeting and find out.

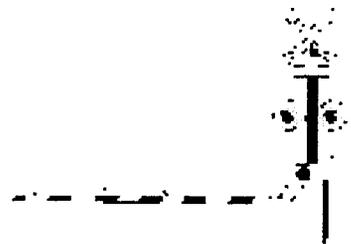
DECEMBER MEETING/ CHRISTMAS PARTY



As we have done in the past, our December meeting has been moved to the **2nd Thursday (December 12)** to avoid having our meeting too close to Christmas. This has been traditionally our best attended meeting and a nice social event. We will have lots of goodies and drinks (please volunteer to bring something), a Show & Tell, and lots of Door Prizes. The door prizes will be items or gift certificates donated by area hobby shops. Members may also bring suitable items as door prizes that they are willing to part with. Lets get enough so that everyone goes home with a prize.

December is also our best chance for having a quorum in attendance (21 members) so we will plan to vote on the By-Law changes. And speaking of voting we will also be voting for three (3) Board Officers: N-Scale Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, which should wrap things up for the year.

Mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy our one truly social event of the year!



NOTICE



The Lunney Museum in Seneca has opted not to include trains in this year's Christmas festivities, so obviously we will not be participating as we have in years past.



MEET YOUR MEMBERS

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

Mac McMillin

New member, Mac McMillin, (a native of Inman, SC) comes to us from Columbia, where he is a member of the South Carolina Railroad Museum. He owns a Lancaster & Chester boxcar (formally Southern--built in 1953), as well as two Fairmont Motor Cars. His train interests run from HO, S, O, and Standard, to the 12 inches equals one foot size! Mac also collects and restores antique autos (two from the 30's, two from the 40's, and a 1970 Buick).

Mac and his wife Karen are presently renting in Seneca and plan to build in the area. They have two grown children, a son and a daughter.

Mac is an Electrical Engineering graduate of Georgia Tech and Furman University and presently is a Senior Applications Engineer for Square D Company. He belongs to the NHRS, MCCA, LCCA and NARCOA. Welcome aboard, Mac!

Dennis Moriarty

Dennis hails from Michigan, where he worked for Marathon Oil Co., in contractor management for extraordinary maintenance and construction.

He and his wife Janet have four grown children; two boys and two girls. They retired in 1994 and took up residence in the Coneross Creek area of Lake Hartwell.

Dennis interests are ham radio and trains, both of which date back to the early '50's. His modeling scale is HO and his passion is hands-on modeling and electrical/electronic tinkering. His 30 foot layout features two return loops (reversing loops) plus two passing sidings, and consists of about 18 blocks on which he runs seven trains automatically in both directions! Our November program will be given by Dennis, where he will explain how to do all this. He will be demonstrating his system with a portable setup and will have handouts for everybody.

Thanks Dennis for offering to do this program!



HO scale cars to follow behind N&W #611

Need 7 heavyweight N&W Maroon cars:
RPO, Combine, Coach, Pullman, Special Pullman,
and Observation Car

Please call Bob Hanson at (864) 885-0136

ED PAINTER'S OPEN HOUSE

Ed held an Open House in his layout building on September 14th, which I attended with my son and grandson who were visiting. We got to meet Ed's friend, Luanne, who was very gracious and just getting introduced to "all this train stuff". She indicated an interest in doing some scenery work on Ed's layout, which would be a good first step for her to get involved in the hobby. My grandson (6) was quite impressed, and would have been more so if Norfolk Southern had sent a "real" train through while we were there.

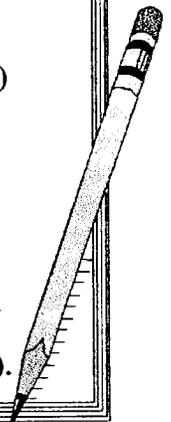
All in all it was a good Open House that was enjoyed by all who attended. If you have been missing these events, try to make the next one--you and your family would really enjoy it. The folks who put them on would love to see more of you there!

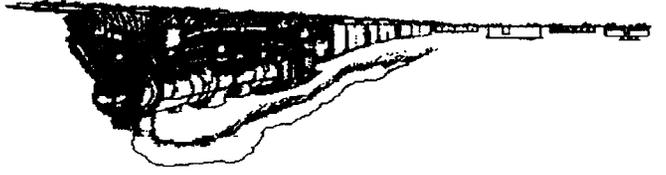
Thanks Ed

Our thanks to Fran Hanson for sharing the following recipe with us. It was delicious!!

Fran Hanson's Lemon Cake (from their Open House)

1. Yellow Cake Mix (bake as directed)
2. While cake is warm punch holes all over.
3. Mix Eagle Brand milk mixed with Coco Lopez (coconut flavoring) and pour into holes.
4. For icing--mix 8 oz. Cool Whip (thawed) with 3 oz. Instant Lemon Pudding which has thickened (make pudding as directed on box).





Dennis Moriarty
412 Carriage Trace
Seneca, SC 29678

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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Westminster, SC 29693

*** * Current Club Highlights * ***

- **November Meeting Clinic**
Current Sensor Control--November 15
- **Howard Garner's Open House**
Saturday, December 7 10 AM - 10 PM
- **Christmas Party/Meeting**
Second Thursday, December 12 (Note: date change)