

The CRM&HA NEWSLETTER

March/April 1998

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Central Railway Model & Historical Association 1998 Train Show

by Curt Ehmann

The 1997 Train Show, Hobby and Collector's Meet was held on March 7th, in conjunction with the NMRA Palmetto Division's Spring Meeting. Over 500 persons were in attendance at the event, our second effort! Unfortunately, the weather did not favor us this year, but our rain-sodden guests came anyway, some arriving as early as 9:30 or so!

They were greeted by Gene Tagliarini, Ticket Chairman, and Richard Thoennis, Palmetto Division President. Guests were asked to fill out Door Prize Tickets at the NMRA Registration Table where a variety of train-related materials were available. During the course of the day, Gene and his helpers greeted 334 paying adults, and half as many children for a total of over 500 spectators!

Inside, guests were treated to Curt Ehmann's tiny Z-Scale layout running a Southern F-7 pulling a necessarily small freight train. Once we located a power source, it ran flawlessly, unattended, all through the show. Another attraction of the main entrance was our Model train track display, this year featuring only Southern Crescent steam engines, in the scales of G, O, S, HO, and N! Thanks go to John Thorpe for the idea--and for 3 of the beautiful models..

The show room was ringed with 16 tables, filled with the railroad & hobby
see "1998 Train Show", page 3

March Meeting Notes

The March general meeting of the association was held on March 19; 14 members and 1 guest were in attendance.

Treasurer reported a profit of \$984.93 from our recent Train Show, and a current balance of \$3,755.56 in our Checking account at BB&T of South Carolina. This is especially notable since we redeemed all HO Division certificates during the year, and received no fee for our part in the 1997 Central Railroad Festival.

The treasurer also reported that the cost of all of our club merchandise (T-Shirts, Hats and Coffee Mugs) has been covered by our total sales to date! Total costs were \$987.86, and sales to date were \$1,066. Our remaining inventory consists of 21 shirts and 51 coffee mugs, for a potential additional profit of \$465.

The Train Show (see separate report) produced almost identical paying guests and net profit as last year, despite the rainy day. Although we sold fewer dealer tables, we had additional revenue from the food service of our "Ladies Auxiliary!"

Thank you letters were sent to all participating dealers, and the Palmetto Division officers for their contributions.

Responding to comments of many of our spectators, it was decided to construct one or two abbreviated modules showing the various stages of scenery construction. Bill
see "March Notes", page 2

Steam Steel and Stars

book review by Dennis Moriarty

The year was 1955 and the era of the steam engine was about over. The Norfolk and Western Railway was the last major railroad in America successfully using steam power. At that time a New York-based commercial photographer, named O. Winston Link had an idea: not just to picture steam trains in action, but to express the majestic presence and articulated beauty of the massive puffing beasts.

What initiated his interest was a picture he took at 9:23 PM of a steam train engine in a Waynesboro railroad station. After developing the picture he noticed how the light reflected off the steam and smoke and he was hooked. Believing that the best way to capture the end of the steam era was to photograph at night, he went back to the station and set up a parallel, synchronized-flash system. The results of the photographs were better than anticipated. He sent a letter to the Norfolk and Western Railway along with the photographs asking permission to photograph the trains at night. Because of the artistic quality of the pictures, permission was granted and the Norfolk and Western Railway even agreed to work with Mr. Link.

Over the next few years, as Winston Link traveled, he took night photographs at many locations along the Norfolk and Western. His photographs are not only a study of steam engines, but are a historical reference to life in the 1950's. He tried not only to photograph the engines but to capture the settings and feelings of areas near the tracks. For example, his picture of a steam train passing a drive-in theater is a masterpiece. It shows not only the train, but the movie screen and young lovers in the cars watching the movie. Most all of his pictures were taken in black and white, but that only emphasizes the night mood.

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Today his pictures are highly prized and have been shown in recent museum and gallery exhibitions here and abroad. Some are held in many important private and museum collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York. a fantastic book of his photographs was published in 1987, called Steam Steel and Stars. The book also includes a text about the history of the Norfolk and Western and a wonderful narrative about the photographs. This book is a must for those interested in the end of the steam era.

ed. note: see also Net Review, page 4

March Notes, *cont.*

Hughes volunteered to make one in N Gauge using hydrocal, and John Cook would like to try one in HO Gauge, with some experienced help!

Both the HO and N Divisions are considering displaying their modules at the Seneca Heretage Festival on May 9th. It appears that quarters will again be available on Main Street.

The daughter of our deceased founding member, Dick Harshman has asked if our Association could assist her in disposing of Dick's inventory of HO rolling stock. Knowing the high quality of Dick's decorating and detailing skills, it was agreed to assist in any way we can. Ideally, we might buy everything and then resell to individual members first, and then sell the remainder at our 1999 Train Show. Alternatively, we could offer to handle the sale as Agent, taking a commission for our effort. Rob Seel and Howard Garner will be our representatives in the transaction.

The Program for the evening was a repeat of Rob Seel's Kudzu Clinic, previously given at the Train Show, but missed by our busy members.

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CONDUCTOR:

Ray Johnson

CONTRIBUTING STOKERS:

Curt Ehmann

Dennis Moriarty

David Ledford

1998 Train Show

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merchandise of 9 dealers, and sales were brisk! Other tables held members' sale items, club shirts and coffee cups with the CR logo, and railroad merchandise of the Greenville Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The "Narrow Gaugers of the Upstate" presented a beautiful display of HOn3, Sn3, On3 and On2 engines.

Inside the ring were the club's beautiful operating modular lay-outs; in both "N" and "HO" gauges. The finely detailed "N" lay-out has been "reborn" since the passing of former super-modeler Chuck Layman, and the loss of his beautiful modules. However, Division Superintendent Bill Hughes and his tiny band of N-Gaugers has come up with a really beautiful new layout. The combined effort of Bill's team of John and Joanne Cadmus, Ray Johnson, Jim Morgan and Gene Tagliarini has created a fascinating model railroad. Joanne's artistic skills on the Cadmus modules brought her praise from everyone!

The huge "HO" lay-out is always popular and their Division members keep adding new refinements and scenery all the time. As Mac McMillin put it, "These displays just keep getting better every year!" A strange English version of the Southern Crescent appeared on the HO layout this year. John Thorpe picked it up while honey-mooning in London last year, but it sure looked funny with those European "bumpers!" Our compliments to Division Superintendent Rob Seel and his crew of John Cook, Bob Folsum, Howard Garner, Pat Hogue, Dennis Moriarty, John Thorpe, and Steve Zonay for making it all possible.

A new feature this year was the Dining Car, a food service initiated by our own "Ladies Auxiliary!" When we learned that the church's youth group would not be offering a food service this year, Joanne Cadmus, Marilou Ehmann, and Fran Hanson took on the job. With no experience with train show crowds, they planned a menu, did some

serious shopping, and recruited staff members Jeanne Folsum, Cricket Hughes, and Teri Tagliarini. Together, they offered a large array of food and beverages, at reasonable prices, and earned over \$100 for the Association. Thank you, ladies, for a job well done!

Two Model Railroad Clinics were offered in the conference room in the afternoon. Seventeen modelers attended the first one, offered by Rob Seel, on the simulation of our famous Southern Kudzu. His major secret was using steel wool as a base, but he went on to give all the details in its construction and use. He also referred everyone to his HO module of a suburban train station where his use of Kudzu, as well as Crape Myrtle was beautifully done.

The second Clinic was given by Chuck Heynan, a very talented modeler from Clinton, S.C., on the subject of Track cleaning. An important concern on every layout, this one attracted 25 fellow hobbyists. Chuck showed us a clever system of cleaning track with alcohol, dispensed from a little tank installed in a dummy engine. The idea was that although it was not powered, it looked like it was just double-heading a train, a clever way to keep his tracks clean. Following these clinics, the Palmetto Division held their Spring meeting in the same area, with 17 members in attendance..

In an adjoining hall, the NMRA Palmetto Division offered a Modeling Contest, but no official entries were received, although several favorite models were displayed. Next door was a video movie theater, offering a variety of train videos; and a welcome resting place for our spectators. There was also a large kiddie audience in the afternoon, when the "I Love Toy Trains" video was run!

The entire Board of NMRA's Palmetto District, co-sponsors of this event, were present. President Richard Thoennes awarded Door Prizes, drawn each hour through the morning and early afternoon.

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1998 Train Show

conclusion

Fellow officers, Richard Nichols, Jim Wofford and Ken Anderson assisted at the Registration table and in the Model Contest Room.

Two of our resident model and toy train experts, Bob Springs and Mac McMillin made themselves available to the public most of the day, answering many questions on model building and collecting.

Clean up was spear-headed by Pete Sheriff and Maurice Adams, with valuable assistance from Marilou Ehmann, Bob Hanson, & Dennis Moriarty. They did such a great job that we've already signed them up for next year!

Three home layouts were made available to Railroad Club members. At least a dozen people viewed Steve Zonay's HO_{n3} Rio Grande Northern Pike on Sat & Sun, while 7 went to Howard Garner's Cascade Western Railroad done in HO. A few hardy souls even visited Bob Springs' outdoor Louisville & Nashville in the rain!

Once again we able to secure the beautiful facilities of the United Assembly of God for this event. President Bob Hansen worked closely with Rev. Bill Rinehart, Senior Pastor, and all of our guests enjoyed the many conveniences of the property; one that was easily located on the principle highway between Clemson and Seneca. The only people that got lost were the ones who read an Anderson newspaper that incorrectly announced the show as being in downtown Central! Oops!

The large attendance matched that of last year's show, although the weather was anything but ideal, but a well-oiled publicity committee, headed by Ray Johnson and Pete Sheriff, sent out over 100 notices to a wide range of media in both North and South Carolina and Georgia. Attractive handbills were designed by Rob Seel and were distributed around the entire State, and Howard Garner and Steve Zonay enlisted the dealers.

The success of this project was made possible through the cooperative efforts of many people. Together with the officers of the NMRA South East Region and Palmetto Division; and our own dedicated membership, we were able to sponsor another quality Railroad event here in the Upstate, one which should now become an annual event.

Net Review

by Ray J.

Three internet sites this month: one sorta playful, the others a little more serious!

CYBEROAD - from the same folks that present www.rrhistorical.com (see previous review). A partial list of Cyberoad features:

- AMTRAK and Canada Rail passenger schedules
- Industry and union news features
- "Oddity of the Month", with photos
- COOL Win95 & NT animated railroad theme cursors to replace that boring 'hourglass'!
- Inline videos and lots of stills.
- Over 2200 LINKS to more RR related sites!

www.mcs.net/~dsdawdy/cyberoad.html

INTERACTIVE MODEL RAILROAD

The University of Ulm (in Germany!) lets you run their trains over the 'net! Real-time video and interactive controls. Even lets you see past tragic wrecks caused by cyber-hogs. Lots of data on the setup and neat animated graphics make this a fun surf.

<http://rr-vs.informatik.uni-ulm.de/rr/>

"O. Winston Link" Links

There's lots more info on Mr. Link (see *Steam Steel and Stars* , page 2) on the web. *Yahoo!* lists over 200 sites! See a few Link photos, including the striking Drive-in one mentioned in Dennis's article, in the Camera Obscura Gallery at:

<http://thor.he.net/~matheny/index.html>

And finally, some shameless shilling:

www.x-net.net/pastimes/herifest.html

Information on the Seneca Spring Heritage Festival, May 9th, 1998. Webpages created by Ye Editor!

NORFOLK SOUTHERN #4601 show engine, painted in the green & white "Southern" scheme, will appear at the Heritage Festival.



American Orient Express to Appear in the Upstate

The passenger train known as the American Orient Express will pass through the Upstate in April. The schedule, as known at press time, calls for the train to depart Greenville for Atlanta around 9:40 PM on April 13th, 1998.

The return trip is scheduled for April 28th, when the Express will leave Atlanta for Greenville at 12:15 PM.

Additionally, word has it that the railroad museum in Atlanta will be moving to a new site soon. More details on this as they become known.

Thanks to Eleanor "Punkin" Richardson of Seneca for the above information!



Mini-Clinic

Coal Load Quickee

by David Ledford

Over the years I have used many methods for coal loading hoppers, including paper mache', painted ballast over cardboard, etc., but recently found a new way to do it that is wonderful. At the local Western Auto and most Sears stores that have Craftsman tools, there is a product called "organizer" that is a black foam about 1 inch thick. It's outer layer is grainy and is semi-metallic looking. It is used for putting in tool drawers where you cut out the shape of your tools to form a place for every tool. However, it cuts easily to fit inside hopper and gondola bodies if tapered on the ends on the underside, and is easily removable. Push in at different points along the length to give each load that individual look. Try some out - I think you'll like it!

ed. note: This coal load method is very realistic looking, and fast, too! You can make a BUNCH of loads from one sheet of the material, and it'll stay in without messy glue, and is instantly removeable! Grain size is suitable for small coal in HO, or larger mine-run in N scale.



"No, I tell you! It's YOUR turn to submit a piece for the CRM&HA Newsletter!"

Don't Delay!
Get 'em ready for the
May/June '98 issue!

June 6 - Greenville Chapter NRHS Great Smokey Mtn. RR Excursion
 call 800-872-4681 for info & reservations

May 2 - SC RR Museum Silver Anniversary celebration, Winnsboro

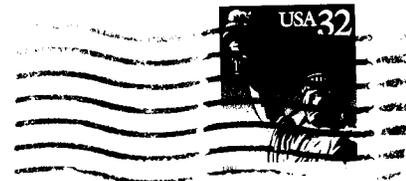
APRIL 23 thru 26 - Carolina Junction '98 MER/MRA Charlotte NC

April 16 - Regular CRM&HA meeting, Pickens Co. Library

April 11 - "Easter Eggpress" bunny train rides at SC Railroad Museum,
 Winnsboro 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

❁❁ CURRENT CLUB HIGHLIGHTS ❁❁

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