



THE CRM&HA NEWSLETTER

December/January 1999

Dennis Moriarty: Editor

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Editorial: by Dennis Moriarty

As you can see the Newsletter has a new look and new editor. I am asking everyone to help to make the newsletter an outstanding publication by submitting articles, news & information phone calls and E-Mail contributions. My address is Dennis Moriarty, 519 Beacon Shores Drive, Seneca, S.C. 29672. Phone 864-888-2332. E-Mail MQK@X-NET.NET (don't forget the dash after the X). Please try to submit all information by the club meetings in January, April, June, August, September and November or sooner. I am also starting a series of articles called Inside/Out. I hope that you will make comments, suggestions and alternatives to the ideas presented in the articles.

Thank you Curt Ehmann for your contributions this month.

ON TRACK--OR ARE WE?? by Bob Hanson CEO

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close---and perhaps it is time for all of us to take a closer look at ourselves---and our participation in CRM&HA> Just maybe we should try to figure out what we're doing right---and what we're doing wrong!

MEETINGS---we've kept to our year-round schedule of get-togethers and while we've always got our group of "good old stalwarts" in attendance, many of the newcomers just seem to drift in and out of the group. A couple of things we might want to try---

1. Let's get back to our previous schedule of having at least one "show me how it's done" demonstrations in each calendar quarter.
2. And let's share our past-time with others who we know are interested in trains. If each member brought only one guest to at least one meeting per year---and if just half of those joined our group---we'd increase our size and ability to do things by 50 percent.
3. How about getting some outside speakers---say from NS or the Pickens R.R.?

Meeting Place---We've got a first-rate meeting place with video and screen capabilities---plus access to a kitchen. Not bad! Other than having our own private meeting place I can't think of much more we could offer.

N Division---We still have a couple of strong and talented N scale members---but we all need to help them get more members into the group. I hope you all agree.

Train show-----A winner!! But perhaps the success of our show has scared off some potential members who only see what they imagine is lots of work---and they forget about the fun of working together and making things happen.

Dealer Help---Can we, through the train and hobby shops in our area, expand our mailing list to let others know (through our newsletter) just what we are doing---and when/where we're doing it?

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU THINK OF TO HELP US GROW AND PROSPER?????

CENTRAL EVICTS CRMHA!

The town of Central has been warning us for some months that we would need to vacate their old school building on Church Street. The ax finally fell in September, when we were asked to be out by December 1st.

As you know, we have been non-paying tenants of various parts of their building since our club was formed back in 1992. Ed Painter, one of the organizers of our group, and our first President, struck the deal with the Town fathers so that our HO-Gaugers would have a place to construct their modular train lay-out. Through the years, the building has deteriorated steadily, to the point where the safety of our modules was in danger of real damage. President Bob Hanson appealed to the members to find some safe quarters where we could at least store, if not actually maintain and improve the lay-out, without success--**until now!**

Fellow-member Ralph Milz, who is associated with a business in the Century Plaza in Seneca, noticed a vacant office in the complex (just across SC130 from Ingals) and asked the owner if we might rent or use it, at least on a temporary basis. After explaining our tenuous position, and in consideration of past dealings with Ralph, he has given us **free use** of Suite 2-B, until such time as he can find a suitable paying tenant for the space!

At the October meeting Rob Seel assembled a work crew, and on Saturday, October 24 the transfer was made! Thanks to Maurice Adams, Curt Ehmann, Ralph Milz, Dennis Moriarty, Pete Sheriff, Pat Street and

Steve Zonay, who lent their muscles and vehicles to the move!

A letter of thanks has been sent to Mr. Andrew Demos, Owner of the complex, thanking him for his generosity, and inviting him to be our guest at our Third Annual Train Show to be held on March 13, 1999.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Only two Officers and Directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to be held on December 17th. The terms of 3 Officers normally expire at the end of even years; namely, Secretary, Treasurer, and N-Division vice-president. However, the N Division's active members has fallen below the by-law's minimum of 5, so that office will be eliminated, at least for the time being.

So far, Ralph Milz has agreed to stand for Treasurer, and Curt Ehmann, for Secretary. Additional nominees invited at November and December meetings.

N-DIVISION MERGES WITH GENERAL INTEREST

Finding itself with only 3 active members, and no volunteers for the office of Division Vice President, the remaining members have decided to merge with the Special interest Division, effective January 1, 1999.

Current N-Gauge leader, Bill Hughes, has stored all of the N-Gauge modules on his property and will attend to transporting them to the 1999 Show. At that point many of them will become part of the property of the Association that will need a permanent home!

In the meantime, the N-gauge fans will join the S-Gauge and G-Gauge Fan (that's singular, you'll note!) in the General Division.

PLANS STARTED FOR 1999 SHOW

Saturday, March 13 has been set for the Association's 1999 Train Show, it's third in the Upstate. The facilities of the United Assembly of God, on SC123 has already been reserved for the event, which will be open to the public from 10 AM until 4 PM.

Modular train layouts will be displayed for most of the popular track gauges; Z, N, HO, & S will definitely be shown, and if we can find someone to run some G-Gauge, we could advertise this as an All-Gauge Show! Any volunteers?

Dennis Moriarty has already notified the Model Train magazines of the event, and Steve Zonay is contacting the dealers. Local advertising will begin after the first of the year.

1999 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Applications for 1999 Membership in the Association are available at all Regular meetings. Pick yours up on December 17. You won't want to miss this important meeting. In December we will have our annual Christmas Party, with some great Show and Tell models, and that fantastic Railroadians Gift Exchange!

At the same time, you can fill out your memberships application for next year. Annual dues are still \$20, by check or cash to the Treasurer! **Note:** A membership form is also included in this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - DEC 17TH

Come one, Come all, to the Christmas Party to be held right after the Annual Meeting of the Association on December 17...and bring your spouses, too! The only rule is that you bring a nice grab-bag gift of railroadians--be it rolling stock, scenery, modeling tools, books, pictures, videos, etc.

A short business meeting will be held first, including the election of officers, and an up-date on the Train Show and the Harshman Collection. Then "potluck" refreshments will be served. **Please bring some form of "goodies" to share.** Coffee and drinks will be supplied by the Directors.

Bring along some favorite part of your railroad collection and show it to the rest of us, and pick up your gift. Sound like fun? See you there!



Inside/Out ---Road Beds

By Dennis Moriarty

After building several N and HO scale home layouts, I thought it might be fun to put on paper some of the methods, information, and mistakes that I learned about during the different phases of construction. There are many ways of doing things and I am hoping that others in the club will write comments, criticism and/or alternate methods that they have tried. I am going to call the series of brief articles

Inside/Out because I will discuss most of the items in layout construction from the hidden parts inside the layout to the finish which is seen on the outside. This article will be about Road Beds.

A model railroad road bed is the structure that the track is attached to. Many road bed materials individually or in combination have been used including pine boards, plywood, Homasote, foam board, plastic pipes, cork, laminated strips etc.. I personally feel that 3/4 inch thick plywood covered with commercially manufactured cork road bed is the best choice. I haven't tried the foam board but I have used Homasote on plywood. I wouldn't use Homasote again because it is very messy to work with and expands and contracts with humidity. It is also not manufactured to an accurate thickness. I feel that the other methods mentioned above are not strong enough to have a solid track bed or are more work than they are worth.

Railroad track can be attached to one or more 4'x8' or smaller sheets of plywood but that is uninteresting because in real life track goes up and down. It is better to cut the plywood into strips and attach them to vertical furring strips that can be raised and lowered to the proper slope and elevation and then screwed with drywall screws to a substructure. For structural strength I like to use a minimum of 3 inch wide (minus the saw cut) 3/4 inch thick plywood strips for single track. I attach the strips end to end by gluing and screwing 3 inch x 3 inch blocks of plywood under the joints. These strips can span 16 to 24 inches between supports. Use wider strips for two or more tracks.

Curves can be cut directly out of a large sheet of plywood, but that is very wasteful as it generates a lot of scrap. A better method is to use a miter saw and cut segments out of the 3 inch strips. The 3 inch wide strips will work up to about 23 inch radius curves. Use 4 inch or wider strips for very large curves or use more segments. An easy way of cutting segments is to take the strips and cut the ends 15 degrees. Putting 4 of the segments together will make a 90 degree segmented curve. The track can be curved evenly over the segments.

The following segment lengths will generate the radius curves noted. You can interpolate to get other radiuses.

| Track Radius | Wood Segment Length (long side of segment between 15 degree cuts) |
|--------------|---|
| 18 inches | 9.64 inches |
| 20 | 10.72 |
| 22 | 11.79 |
| 24 | 12.86 |
| 26 | 13.93 |
| 28 | 15.00 |
| 30 | 16.07 |
| 32 | 17.14 |
| 34 | 18.21 |
| 36 | 19.28 |

When making segments for two or more tracks, use the outside track radius for the proper dimension.

After sawing a 15 degree cut, the unused piece will have a 15 degree cut already on it. Simply turn the strip over and saw the other end and there will be no scrap. Using this method a 4x8 sheet of plywood will generate almost 128 feet of 3 inch wide road bed, so there is no need to skimp with thinner sheets of plywood.

After assembly, simply glue the cork road bed to the plywood with white

glue. The track can be attached with nails but a very small hammer must be used to keep the nails from bending. More on filling the spaces between roadbeds with scenery and about the substructure in a later article.

S C RAILROAD MUSEUM EXCURSION

An Excursion to the South Carolina Railroad Museum was enjoyed by 6 of our members on Saturday, October 17th. Division Superintendent, Gene Tagliarini planned the trip on the museum's last regular day of operation for the year.

The group left Clemson at 7 A.M. and got to Winnsboro just in time for the first run of the day. Two nice Canadian Railway Coaches were headed up by a SW-7 and carried the first load of passengers out onto the first 2 miles of the 11.5 mile line of the former Rockton and Rion Railroad. Plans include upgrading the entire line through the Rion Community to Anderson Quarry, where the famous "Blue Granite" was mined and then delivered by the old R & R Ry.

Our group was privileged to have Mac McMillin as a tour guide, and he showed us the entire collection of rolling stock, together with the history of each car, including the museum's acquisition strategies--and surprises! Mac is a former Director of the Museum and played a large part in finding and acquiring much of their property. We were happy to have him settle in the Seneca area and join the CRM&HA in the Fall of 1996.

The highlight of the day for all of us was the Motor-car ride that he arranged for our group after lunch!

Several of us man-handled the car from a side-track to the main line, throwing all the appropriate switches, of course--to a position just in front of the SW-7, and we preceded the afternoon train out to the end of the up-graded section of track! Returning, we simply followed the excursion units back to the museum!

It was a real thrill to ride so close to those rails, to feel the wind, to hear the clickety-clack at close range, and get just a little of the excitement of a track gang out on the road! All in all, it was a great day. Thanks Gene. Let's have another excursion like that real soon!

Open House! At Howard Garner's Dec. 5th, noon to 10 PM.--- 244 Margaret St. --- Pickens SC.--- Call 878-4705 for directions.

Howard would also like some help on November 28th building his garage.

January Meeting: Will feature Bob Folsom presenting:

Special Guests -- "Riding the Rods". Meetings are on the 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

Note: Just a reminder that the dues are due.

Help! Mac McMillin brought an old steam engine marker lantern to the last meeting and would like every one to help locate a glass lens to replace a broken one in the lantern.

1999 Train Show: March 13th at the United Assembly of God Church on US 123 one mile north east of Hwy 130 in Seneca.

First Sale: The first sale of the "Dick Harshman Estate" train items was held at the November meeting. The club took in \$465 at the sale.

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

Member # _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____

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 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 1999. Enclosed is my (check) or (cash) in the amount of \$20.00, Send to: Treasurer, CRM&HA, P.O. Box 27, Central SC, 29630-0027. Phone (864) 944-8120.

Signature _____

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

