

# The CRM&HA Newsletter

March/April 1999

Dennis Moriarty/Editor

Volume 8 Number 2

Meetings are held at 7:30 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Central SC Library.

## HEADLINE!

**The April meeting will be at Bob Folsoms House!!!  
Read Details Below!!!**

### **Editorial: by Dennis Moriarty**

Finally!!!!!! After moving to our new house, I have gotten to the point where I can get back into a train room. I have installed molding, painted, and put in a drop ceiling. It is amazing all the things you get into in this hobby that you would not think are train related. Getting a room ready to install a layout can be as much work as building a substructure. After a little more work I can start to modify and install parts of the old layout that was moved to the new house on a boat trailer. Some of the sections are 16 feet long and I am not sure that I can incorporate all of them in the new space even though I have more room. I enjoy the modeling as much or more than operating the trains so I can't complain. I am looking forward to starting the new layout. **Thank you** to all who helped at the Train Show. If you didn't get mentioned in the Newsletter let me know so that we can give you credit.

**Please help the newsletter** by submitting articles, news and or information. If you don't wish to write please give me a phone call. E-Mail, copy on disk and written contributions are most appreciated. My address is Dennis Moriarty, 519 Beacon Shores Drive, Seneca, SC 29672. Phone 864-888-2332. E-Mail MQK @ carol.net.

I am continuing the series of articles called **Inside/Out**. I hope that you will **make comments, suggestions and alternatives** to the ideas presented in the articles so that I can share your ideas in future newsletters.

### **Thank you!**

Curt Ehmann, Rob Seel, Mac McMillian, Bob Folsom and Ralph Milz for your contributions this month.



### **April Meeting Changed!!!**

**Bob Folsom has agreed to have the April Meeting at his house because the Central Library will not be available on the meeting date (4/15/99). Bob's house is a little over a mile north of Hi-way 123. Go north on College Ave. out of Clemson. Just after you cross the bridge over lake Hartwell and the 12 mile recreation area, turn right on Santee Trail. Bob's is the third house past a stop sign. The number is 105 Santee Trail and is on the left side of the street. Bob's phone # is 654-8244.**



### **Volunteer Needed**

Steve Zonay is going to the **Land of Sky Club Train Show** on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Asheville NC. Steve has a table at the show and would like some help selling the Harshman Estate items that are left. This is a great opportunity to get a ride to the show and help the club as well. Call Steve at 1-864-843-0228.

### **Thank you!**

We wish to thank Clarence Harold of **Realty Executives** in Seneca for printing our last newsletter at no cost to the club.

## HO Division Report by Robert Seel

Quite some time has passed since I wrote a division report, and many of us know that we have been at something of a crossroads as a division. With our dismissal from what remains of the Central schoolhouse into uncertainty, **I am very pleased** to report that our division has renewed enthusiasm that is sure to spread to the membership and maybe beyond. Our approaching show and the hard reality of paying rent for a area house storage unit has lit a fire under us, and we have responded with zeal. A tip of the hat goes to Bob Folsom (not to mention a world of debt to Bob's wife Jean) for opening their basement as a temporary home for the layout. Not only does it provide a controlled climate, power, and the best lighting we've enjoyed so far, but there is room enough to set-up and run the whole layout as it now stands (literally). Bob, Steve, and I moved the layout on the last Saturday in January (yes, it rained), and Jean prepared an overwhelming and delicious brunch for us afterward. (Again, more debt to Jean!) The layout was up and running by the end of the weekend, and we are blessed with excellent trackwork. Being evicted from the schoolhouse was disappointing at first, but sometimes God's providence is not so apparent until later. I visited the old place after moving the layout to Bob's house, only to discover that the plaster ceiling in the first-floor room where the layout was is now **ON THE FLOOR**. Even with a slight brush of disregard at the Seneca office location, praise God for our layout has been spared great loss. Shame on the town of Central for allowing a national Register building to crumble to irreparable disgrace. But, I guess a new coat of paint and some new carpet can fix that building up, eh? After all, some people pay extra for indoor "water features." Our track work is in excellent condition, although we needed to replace a turnout or two before the Show. And while we were doing that, we also added some more: Work has begun on adding a second double track on the unscenicked straight module, and placed between the two "split" modules. **Two additional passenger sidings** have been added, complete with extended station platforms (and working lights?). We will then have room for up to three passenger trains parked at the station. Downline from the station, we now have **BRIDGES!!!** including one painted for the Piedmont Southern from the Dick Harshman collection. Time to model water, river bed, and rock cut. At the opposite corner, planning has begun on adding another drill lead for the freight yard and a coal yard. The coal yard will have numerous switches, hopper storage tracks, a steam locomotive coaling tower, and a dumping ramp. All this will aim to

demonstrate how much action can be crammed into a chamfered 4' x 4' space. This corner module may be operated together with or apart from the yard.

**Right now, though**, the effort is concentrated on repairing skyboards, ballast, structures, wiring, etc. I have repainted and weathered several buildings, and Curt Ehmann has been repairing buildings at his house. Blatant European buildings in our collection and other inappropriate structures were repaired for sale at the Show, unless otherwise rescued by the Division.

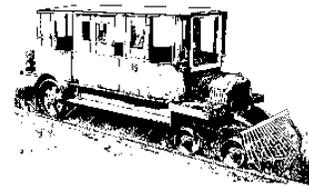
**After the Show**, we are planning to **meet regularly** for operating sessions on the 1st Thursday night of each month, with work sessions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Thursday nights. CRM&HA regular business meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday night. Occasional 5th Thursdays are up for grabs. We're rolling again, so c'mon out and drive some spikes with us, grow some trees, dig a ditch, and dust-off your GP-30.

**Recruit some new members**, bring back old ones, and share the (rail)road - I'm STILL the youngest member in this group, and I barely remember Pennsy!

### Request for Pictures etc.

John Bolding (1-864-801-9965) from the Atlanta NRHS called. He is looking for any information that our members might have including pictures and old 8 mm movies of the Heisler steam engine that used to work the **quarry at Liberty SC**. They have restored the engine and it is at the Duluth GA RR Museum. They would like to include the pictures or any other information as part of their display at the museum. They are willing to pay for any costs involved. John's father used to operate the engine when it was in Liberty so he has a personal interest in the project.

John lives at 534 Sweet Juliet Way, Greer, SC, 29650.



### February and March Meetings

**In February** Steve Zoney presented a interesting program on the Rio Grand Southern railroad that he is modeling. The RGS closed in 1952, but many photographs and slides keep the memory alive. The RGS had a 3 foot wide narrow gauge track and grades as steep as 4 percent. What is going to make the modeling difficult for Steve is the RGS track had no ballast and the line had several impressive trestles. Thank you Steve for showing us a very impressive slide show.

**In March** there was a problem with the video about the A.T. & S.F so Mac McMillin gave an interesting

talk on oilers that were used on old friction truck cars. These cars are outlawed now days.

### **Train Show Report By Curt Ehmann**

**The 1999 Train Show**, Hobby and Collector's Meet was held on March 13th, again in conjunction with the NMRA Palmetto Division's Spring Meeting. Once again we were able to secure the beautiful facilities of the United Assembly of God. President Bob Hansen worked closely with Rev. Bill Rinehart, Senior Pastor, and, again, our guests enjoyed the many conveniences of the property; one that was easily located on the principle highway between Clemson and Seneca.

**Admission Fees** were received from 231 visitors, and counting children, who were admitted free, the crowd probably numbered over 350. The weather certainly was in our favor, cloudy and cool, but for some reason, fewer people made their way to our doors, than in previous years.

**Vice President** Gene Tagliarini greeted guests in the morning and Treasurer Ralph Milz manned the doors in the afternoon. A large selection of train-related material was available at the door, and guests were asked to register for Door Prizes by Jim Wofford, NMRA Palmetto Division Secretary.

**Once inside**, guests were greeted with the first, and smallest, of 4 operating model train layouts--a Z-Scale layout running a Southern F-7 pulling the smallest freight train you ever saw! Also near the door, was our model train track display, in the scales of G, O, S, HO, N and Z. Thanks to Bob Springs, Chuck Laffoon, Jay Jablonski and Curt Ehmann, for furnishing the various examples.

**The show room** was ringed with 20 tables hauled to the show by Bob Hanson, and filled with the railroad & hobby merchandise of 9 dealers.. All of the remaining items of the Harshman Collection were also placed on sale to the public for the first time since the club purchased them last summer. 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.

**Inside the ring** were the club's operating modular lay-outs; in "N", "HO", and S gauges.

**The finely detailed "N"** lay-out, newly completed last year was set up and operated by Bill Hughes, who is badly in need of a replacement crew to help him!

**HO Division** Superintendent, Rob Seel, has breathed new life into the large (12' x 26') HO layout in recent weeks. Working in Bob Folsom's basement with a road gang of Bob Folsom, Steve Zonay, and Pat Street, the Division has made a number of improvements, including new bridges and sidings. The layout, all the Clubs magazines and the Harshman estate materials were moved to

the show site by Steve Zoney, Dennis Moriarty, Bob Folsom and Rob Seel. It was a big job for just four men. Rob Seel and Steve Zonay helped operate the display. The HO layout was dismantled by Bob Folsom, Rob Seel, Dennis Moriarty, Maurice Adams and Pat Street and returned to Bob Folsom's house. Rob Seel then donated the magazines that were not sold, to the Central Library book sale.

**Curt Ehmann** brought his recently enlarged 3-module S-Gauge layout, and with the help of Jay Jablonski (a benevolent G-Scale modeler) ran 3 trains all day. Two of them were necessarily Southern--a Crescent Passenger and a Southern freight, headed by a Baldwin S-12 Diesel. Then, for old times sake, Curt managed to slip in a C&NW SW-9 freight every once in a while for old times sake!

**The Dining Car**, a food service run by the CRM&HA Auxiliary did a fine job this year, serving Chili or Hot Dog Plate lunches to hungry guests and workers. The donuts were from Ingles, but that delicious Chili--and those scrumptious brownies were made by our good ladies! Thanks to Fran Hanson and Marilou Ehmann for planning the menu, and to Jeanne Folsom, Cricket Hughes, Rocky Ann Jablonski, and Teri Tagliarini for their help!

**In an adjoining room**, Chuck Heynan, and two other members from the Clinton, SC club, gave a clinic on DCC operation. This was followed by the Spring meeting of the Palmetto Division of the NMRA, CO-sponsors of the 1999 Train Show.

**In another hall**, was a video movie theater, offering a variety of train videos; and a welcome resting place for our spectators.

**At Noon**, Jim Wofford, Palmetto Division Secretary, with the help of Bob Hanson, awarded dozens of door prizes to an enthusiastic crowd.

**In the afternoon**, Bob Springs made his outdoor Louisville & Nashville Garden Railway available to visitors, while Steve Zonay opened his HO<sub>N3</sub> Rio Grande Western home layout to our guests.

**Clean up** was spear-headed by Bob Hanson, with valuable assistance from Marilou Ehmann, Ralph Milz, Maurice Adams, Mac McMillin & his son, and others. They also got a big "lift" from Ralph Milz's son-in-law, John James, & his son! Little Walter, aged 5, carried out a big bundle of module legs, and stacked quite a few chairs! **Thank you everyone, for a great job!**

**While we** did put on our usual "good show!", with all trains running smoothly and on time, it seems that fewer people are working harder to produce the desired result. Add to that the smaller crowd of spectators this year, and we may have to do something a little different for our next (?) train show. **Ideas, anyone?**

### Early Ideas!!

At the March meeting, some ideas for next years train show were as follows: 1. Close show at 3:00 PM as the crowd thinned out at that time and it will give us more time to clean up. 2. Have the show in February to avoid conflicts with other shows. 3. Try to get more people involved from the club.

**We need some more suggestions!!!**



### Rail Fan Event

Winnsboro (Rockton): 5<sup>th</sup> annual Rail Fan Weekend – April 17-18, SC RR Museum.

Saturday features all freight operations.

Sunday features motor car rides.

Tickets Sat. \$20 – Sun. \$7. Information LSASE:

John Parker, Special Events Coordinator, 3038

Dennis Rd., Augusta, Ga. 30907

### Events

**April 3, 1999:** The SC RR Museum is planning two special events. The first being the Easter Bunny Egg-spress. The Easter Bunny will ride all operating trains on this day with the passengers. Tickets \$5 Adults, \$3 Children 11 and under, \$9 first class which is limited but includes light refreshments.

**April 24, 1999:** Railfest '99 – Western NC Model Railroaders, Inc. Land O' Sky Division, Div. 15, SER, N.M.R.A. at Trinity Baptist Church, 216 Shelburne Rd., West Asheville, NC. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Kent Roberts (828) 648-6993 for tables. Note: See volunteer needed on page 1 of this newsletter if you want a ride.

**May 22, 1999:** 6<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Georgia RR and Model Train Show - Macon Centreplex Exhibition Hall – 200 Coliseum Drive @ I-16 exit 5. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Robert Yancey (912) 750-0948 or (912) 954-7891 for information.



### Inside/Out Hard Shell and Water by Dennis Moriarty

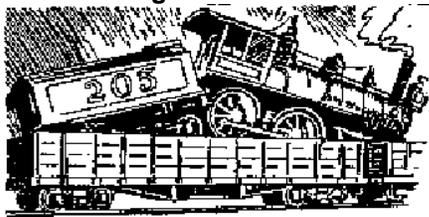
In the previous articles we discussed roadbeds and substructures. Now the problem is to make the terrain look realistic. Real rock, dirt, sand etc. can look real, because it is, but it is messy and can be very heavy. Other materials have been used successfully to look just as real.

One idea is to use foam insulation material cut and shaped with a hot knife, cutters, saws, rasps, or drywall screen etc. and then coated with plaster. Another is the old method of using crushed paper over cardboard or chicken wire stapled to the roadbed and to the frame. This is covered with Hydrocal plaster soaked paper towels. Both of these methods can be used on the same layout and are lightweight. There are also some commercial kits and systems that can be purchased to do the same job.

The selection of these methods is determined by the type of terrain that the portion of the layout is supposed to represent. For example, a Midwest farm area or Florida swamp would be relatively flat and the foam would be easier to use. A mountain terrain with tunnels is irregular and the crushed paper method makes the terrain look real because it has a random shape. Irregular shapes are easier to make with wadded paper than trying to cut the odd shaped terrain out of a solid block of foam. For terrain that is in-between the above examples, such as rolling hills, the Hydrocal soaked towels can be spread over the popcorn foam insulation that comes shipping boxes. Please remember that no matter how flat the real world looks there is usually some variation in elevation. Even roads are not flat as they are graded with a crown in the center and slope to the outside. A useful material besides Hydrocal is ordinary drywall compound that can be purchased at most lumberyards in five gallon cans, already mixed with water. The Hydrocal is great for a hard shell base because it sets up very fast (five minutes or less) and is very strong. However, it is hard to detail because it sets up so fast. The drywall compound can be used over the hard shall and holds its shape well until it hardens overnight. I use a rubber glove to spread drywall compound thinly over the hard shell and even over flat terrain to give it a more realistic appearance. When dry, both Hydrocal and drywall compound can be carved with a knife to make blocks etc. Rubber molds of

rock outcroppings, stone or concrete blocks can be purchased and filled with Hydrocal to make very realistic formations. The formations can be set into the hard-shell with drywall compound. The formed rocks can be broken and put together with other formed rock pieces to get an endless variety of rock formations from a few molds. Liquid rubber is available which can be applied over some real rocks or pieces of coal etc. to get homemade molds. Plaster of Paris can be used in the molds but the Hydrocal works about as well and is stronger. Rock outcroppings look especially good at water falls. Lakes can be made a number of ways but since lakes are flat, I think the easiest way is to put the lake on a flat surface such as a piece of drywall. A thin layer of drywall compound is then spread over the surface and worked to form waves, ripples etc. This is then painted by blending several colors of spray paint applied while each is still wet. A dark color in the middle, such as black looks like deep water. This is surrounded with a dark blue, then green and then light brown at the shore. The colors are all blended into one another as you progress to the shoreline. Odd color shapes will indicate a irregular lake bottom. After the paint is dry, several coats of a clear water base high gloss coating are sprayed over the top to give it the feeling of depth and a high gloss. A very thin layer of sand and debris can be put along the shore line and sprayed with the clear coat. Rivers are made the same way except the river bottom is not flat and can drop fast at rapids and water falls. You can study the flow of rivers to determine the best shape for the waves when applying the drywall compound. Rivers are generally shallow at inside curves and deeper at the outside where the centrifugal force of the water excavates the river bottom. Waterfalls are the most fun. I will discuss them in the next issue of Inside/Out.

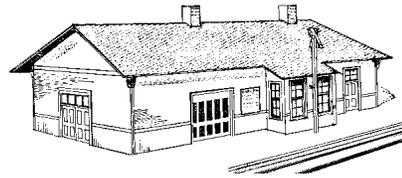
**Drive Safely At Crossings, You Might Damage a Steam Engine With Your Car!!**



**Acela Logo**

Amtrak announced a historic moment in rail travel will begin with the "Acela Express". The Acela will be the nations first high speed train. It is designed to reach speeds of 150 mph and cut one-way travel between Boston and New York from 4 ½ hours to 3 hours. The train will run from Albany NY to Richmond Va. It is hoped by Amtrack that it will act

as a catalyst for other fast-rail routes planned for the Midwest, the Pacific Northwest, California, the Gulf Coast and the Southeast. The train is now undergoing tests in Colorado.



**\$\$\$ Report**

To date, \$1054.50 has been received from the Harshman Estate sales. \$54.50 plus all sales from now on are profit to the club. The train show took in \$1,095.50 gross, less \$326.95 expenses for a profit of \$768.55. Well done everyone!

**Welcome New Members**

Gene Carter – 110 Donaree Dr. – Anderson, SC 29625. Gene is interested in HO, Gas Power Plants, and Helicopters.

Scott Swanson – 409 E. Crescent Dr.-Seneca, SC 29678. Scott is interested in HO, Modeling, History, and is a NMRA member.

Clark Reed – 219 Alta Vista Drive – Liberty, SC 29657. Clark is interested in HO, and painting brass engines.

**Reminder!**

The paymaster Ralph Milz would like your dues. Mail to CRM&HA, PO Box 27, Central SC, 29630-0027. Yes its still \$20.

**Meeting Programs**

April: Bob Folsom (Digitrax D.C.C.)

May: Howard Garner (Operations)

June: Dennis Moriarty (Operate your rail yard the easy way)

July: Mac McMillin

**N-Scale**

Bill Hughes stated at the March Meeting that there may be some more new members coming into the club that are interested in N-Scale modeling and that the N-Scale division of the club may be started up again. Bill did a heroic job of getting the N-Scale layout up and running with the help of some volunteers at the Train Show. The club is storing the modules at a rented storage unit and is looking for a more permanent home for them – **Anyone?**

|  
**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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**C.R.M.&H.A.**  
**Dennis Moriarty, Editor**  
**519 Beacon Shores Drive**  
**Seneca, SC 29672**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

