



SERVES THE UPSTATE

108 Werner St
Central, SC 29627

Website:
www.crmha.org

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Bob Folsom

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Museum Curator
Jack Green

Newsletter
Scott Unger

Webmaster
Doug Line

Next Meetings

Newcomers Brief
1st Tuesday of the
month
Club Workdays
every Thursday

Presidents message



The following message was submitted on Bob's behalf by Jim Alexander and Sandy Eustis. Bob is dealing with some health issues that require some time to get resolved. We are eagerly awaiting his return.

2025 has been another year of remarkable growth for the Central Railway Museum.

We have grown to more than 90 members this past year.

Some of us and our family members have faced significant challenges, but we are looking forward to a great 2026. We lost one of our few remaining founding members just a few weeks ago, but we will remember Rob Seel for his many talents, and most notably for his Dambridge Loop portable HO layout, which we're still taking to festivals and events 15 years after he built it..

2025 started out with a bang. Our annual Model Train Expo at the Rock Springs Church Impact Center last February was the biggest and best attended event we have ever held. Thanks to Sandy Eustis and Roger Smith for making it so successful. Our expanded HO and N scale portable layouts at the Expo really showcased the model railroading talents of our members. Both of those layouts made their initial trips to regional train shows later in the year.

Our many successes in 2025 have been due to the efforts of leaders like Howard Garner and Ken Greenwood who have put countless hours into the HO layout signaling project, Bill Pike and Paul Sminkey for taking on the fun of running our Saturday open-house program, Brian Sykes for his exceptional effort in improving the American Flyer operation, Scott Manning and Eric Daunheimer for their work the Lionel room, Roger Smith, Jim Alexander, Jesse Cranford and Paul Jamieson for producing the best year ever for our Company Store, Harry Kelly for painting, plumbing, building, and fixing everything that needed repair, Jackie and Karl Bacon for their Rail Safety Program and Jackie for being our flower Czar, Scott Unger for being the Editor of our Central Crossings newsletter, and of course, Jack Green for greeting a record number of visitors at the museum's front door almost every Saturday. And there are many other members who have contributed many hours of their time during the year.



Central Crossings

Newsletter of the Central Railway Museum



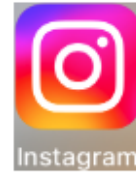
Volume 35, Issue #6

October/December 2025

And my special thanks goes to our CRM Board, Doug Line, John Johnston, Ken Mosby, Sandy Eustis, and David Mead for their countless hours handling administrative tasks that no respectable train geek wants to mess with, but which are essential to making our museum such an exceptional place to visit. We've come a long way in the past few years, and I look forward to seeing 2026 being an even better year under the leadership of our incoming President Doug Line. It has been a privilege and a personal joy for me to have been your President for the past two years.

Jim Alexander and Sandy Eustis for Bob Folsom

Follow us on!



Save the Date!
Central Railway Museum's
Model Train
Expo 2026



Fri – Feb 13th 12:00 – 6:00 pm
Sat – Feb 14th 9:00 – 3:00 pm

Rock Springs Church – Impact Center
207 Rock Springs Road
Easley, South Carolina 29642

Admission \$10.00 Adults

Under 10 **Free** with adult
Admission good both days

8+ Operating Model Railroads

KidZone

with Thomas & Brio

180+ Dealer Tables



COMPLETE INFO AT: WWW.CRMHA.ORG

Co-chairs: Sandy Eustis – (513) 325-8850 seustis13@gmail.com

Scott Unger – (412) 491-4655 scott.d.unger01@gmail.com



Scott Unger
Editor

We lost one of our top contributors in November, Rob Seel. While preparing for this newsletter, I requested some information on his contributions to the club from the membership and received the information below. The first thing I learned about Rob is his last name is Seel not Steel!

Rob produced the newsletter from January 2009 until December 2012.

Rob's contributions include.

CRMHA Logo



Two scenes on our HO museum layout

"Seel's Viaduct" between Clemson and Central on the lower level



The Peachtree Station structure on the lower level in the meeting room



Both structures were completely scratchbuilt by Rob, who really showed off his architectural modeling skills. Although neither is an exact copy of a real-world structure, both are based on prototypes -- the standard Southern design for concrete arch viaducts, and the main passenger station in Atlanta.

And of course the Dambridge portable layout.

The Dambridge layout featured in the Lionel room was the product of Rob's efforts. He set out to build a layout for the sum of \$500 to prove it could be done. The portable layout has traveled extensively providing pleasure to all who have viewed it. The last appearance was in Greer, SC, where it appeared at the Railfest, September 27, 2025.

Pictured with the Dambridge layout is club member Harrison Anneaux

For those wondering how the layout got its name, it has a dam and a bridge, hence DamBridge!
Rob was a clever man!



Rob was the Architect that headed up the renovation of the Central Depot building.



The passing of Rob Seel

Reprinted with the permission of Rob's wife Frances. Provided by the Oconee Presbyterian Church

LIFE LEGACY

Robert Matthew (Rob) Seel passed into the arms of his Lord and savior, Jesus Christ on November 14, 2025, after a three-year battle against duodenal cancer. He was 59 years old. Rob is survived by his beloved wife, Frances Longino Seel, having been married for thirty-six years. Also surviving are daughters Julia Michele Seel of Brooklyn, NY; Elaine Nichole Seel of Denver, CO; sister Amanda Seel Prather of Statesboro, GA; and parents, Ellen Catherine and Robert Frazier Seel of Fernandina Beach, FL.

Born in Rahway, NJ, Rob lived and was raised in Rahway; Allentown, PA; Fayetteville, NC; Bridgewater, NJ; and Hillsborough, NJ. He graduated from Statesboro High School in Statesboro, GA in 1984. Rob went on to Clemson University, where he graduated with Calhoun College honors, a Bachelor of Science degree in Design in 1988, and a Master of Architecture in 1990.

He worked for several premier architectural firms in the Anderson and Greenville, SC area until he established RMS Architecture in Clemson, SC in 2005. With those other firms, as well as with his own, Rob contributed to many proud and significant projects, mostly for church clients, elementary education, and residential health care. In his final years of practice, Rob completed innumerable small projects for Clemson and Lander universities. Of particular note are awards-winning projects: a masonry design award for Summit Drive Elementary School in Greenville, SC and the 2016 National Remodel of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders for a residence in Clemson, SC.

Along the way, Rob took up home-roasting coffee and developed his signature Cashmere Charette blend. His passion for a beautiful cup of coffee was passed along to daughter Elaine, who now has care of the Cashmere Charette blend and brand.

Rob came to faith in Jesus Christ as a college freshman and soon found an interest in Christian theology. He aligned with and investigated numerous campus ministries until finally settling in with Reformed University Fellowship and the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). He also learned to play guitar as a college sophomore and was soon leading worship for two campus ministries and, eventually, for twenty-three years in church. Rob was an ordained Ruling Elder in the PCA.

Of his many interests and pursuits, it was his life-long love of popular, rock and roll music that characterized and colored much of Rob's significant friendships and side careers. He informally learned to play from many friends who would teach him a thing or two. He gave up years of playing music in church and soon became a leading figure among the Upstate SC Live Music Community. Rob was a beloved entertainer in what he called "the happiness business," recalling for thousands of people forgotten, beloved memories and the words to every song he brought back from the obscure depths of simpler, less complicated times. Rob was blessed to have recorded a short album of songs from the late 1960s entitled "reVibration," to critical acclaim, despite its very limited distribution. Rob believed it was the gift of music that had the greatest, lasting positive effect on people than any other of his interactive pursuits or professions.



Rob Seel Continued

In harmony with his career in architecture, Rob was a working artist and avid photographer. For a time, he was part of the Art Gallery on Pendleton Square in Pendleton, exhibiting small, constructive sculptures and countless photographs. Rob even published seven photography monographs, including a seasonal series based on the small town of Pendleton. His vacations, day trips, and extended bicycle rides often resulted in the addition of thousands of photographs, many of which became repeat sellers. Perhaps his most widely recognized photograph is "Total Eclipse over Clemson," which was produced hundreds of times in open edition, as well as being included in Clemson University's commemorative book covering the lunar event in 2017.

Especially, he was a life-long railroad modeler and skilled custom model craftsman. He was a member of the National Model Railroad Association and the Central Railway Model & Historical Association and won several awards for his work depicting railroads in his native New Jersey.

Rob will be buried in the historic, colonial-era Rahway Cemetery in Rahway, NJ, next to his grandparents, Evelyn June and Robert Charles Seel.

Interment will be held at the graveside in Rahway, NJ at 2 p.m. on December 2nd. A second visitation will take place at 12:30 p.m. the same day at Pettit-Davis Funeral Home, also in Rahway.

In lieu of flowers and plants, donations may be made to, and graciously received by, Ocone Presbyterian Church's Building Fund or Deacon's Mercy Ministry Fund: www.oconeepres.org, OR to Corporate Angel Network: <https://www.corpangelnetwork.org>.

One last view of the Dambridge layout as it sits in the Lionel room.



For November let's recognize the following members for their service to the country.
Thank you all!



Army

Bill Otter, Captain, 11 years
 Doug Line, 1st Sergeant, 39 years
 Mike Bordell, Major, 11 years
 Mac McMillin, 1st Lieutenant, 2 years
 Bill Green, Specialist Second Class (E-5)
 Roger Smith Corporal E-4, 6 years
 Norm Garrett Major, US Army Retired, 34 years



Air Force

Gerry Meyers
 Jack Green
 Jim Alexander, Colonel, 29+ years
 Joe Fitzpatrick, Airman 1st Class, 7 years
 Tom Langdale, Technical Sergeant 21 years in Aircraft Maintenance and Airport Radar.
 Jesse Cranford, Senior Master Sergeant, 26 years, Operational Intelligence



Navy

Bill Fogerty, Captain, 30 years
 Howard Garner, MTC, 20 years
 Jerry Fries, Officer, 8 years
 Ken Mosby, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class 25 years
 Steve Gibson, Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class, 5 years
 Bill Pike, Communications Specialist 2nd Class, 10 years



Coast Guard

Lee Keenen, Lt. Commander, 4 yrs active, 4 yrs res



Visitors!



On October 8th, Shane Wilson, CEO of Scale trains, paid us a visit as part of their Scale Trains Road Trip through the USA.

Several photos used here are courtesy of N&W Roanoke Division Model Railroad. (those are the photos with the N&W in the dark circle)

Pictured to the right: Kimberly, Brandon Langston, Bob Folsom, Josh Phillips, with Shane & Michelle Wilson of Scale Trains as they visit Bob's home.



Club secretary Doug Line is setting up for the presentation, Sandy Eustis is a keen observer.



Hey Dad did you see that?



Trick or Train





Even the big kids have problems!
I saw this on my Amtrak trip home, Lordsburg, New Mexico.
Scott U



Our rear stairs!, or not!



It's dark in there, I'm scared.

I hope the raccoons got out in time!
(I don't think there were any!)



As of December 4

"Sage's Corner"

Pictured here is Sage Viehe .

Some of the old members will remember Sage. Sage kept the Lionel layout functional and was our go-to historian regarding the heritage layouts (both Lionel and American Flyer). Another thing that Sage liked to do was share with everyone stories or videos about Trains (both old and new) for everyone to enjoy and learn from. Unfortunately, Sage died due to COVID-19 when it hit us the hardest.



I received this from Clayton Gibson, a friend of mine, and felt it was worth sharing. Hope you think so too! Click on the link below to watch.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HRmPuBfjh/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Scott Unger



A reminder from Jim Alexander.

Notice to all members (NOTAM)

If you are in need of lumber for your layout upgrade or construction, please visit the old jail near the old Central Train Depot. We have many pieces of various sizes.

Keys to the jail are in the Key Box in the Museum. If you have any questions, see Harry Kelley or me.

2025 Holiday Party
Museum Photos



Hmmm, this was working?



Carol Unger, Jo Otter & Ms Fitzpatrick



The Most Honorable Captain Dan



Frank & Marsha Harris with Janet Cash



Cheryl & Bill & Moorhead



Brian & Cindy Sykes, Bill Otter explaining how it works!

The Banquet



Michael Cerps, the Owens clan Mom Amy, Amelia (Clabe's twin) & Caleb



Monty Cash , Harrison's mom Caroline, Harrison Anneaux, Bill & Jo Otter



Bill & Cheryl Moorhead, Chevis & Jane Crenshaw, Scott & Haeran Manning



Some thinking going on here



MC, Sandy Eustis



Representatives from the Town of Central
Phillip Mishoe and Tom Cloer



John Johnston giving the invocation



Ken & Lynn Mosby, Doug Line, Jackie & Karl Bacon



Martha Alexander, The Mishoe's, Tom Cloer, David Mead, Keith Eustus



Brian Sykes, Harry Kelley, Mrs Kelley,, Mrs Langdale, Tom Langdale, John Johnston Cindy Sykes



Will & Sue Hiott, Marsha & Frank Harris, Michelle & Jeff Hutter, Martha & Jack Green



Roger Smith, Herb & Kathy Mayer, Bill & Ann Fogerty, Margaret & Marek Walkowiak



Bill & Donna Pike, Harold Garner, Donna & Joe Mayeur, Debbie & Steve Daniell



Jean & Paul Jameson, Trish & Paul Sminkey, Erik Daunheimer,
John Cook, Scott & Carol Unger

2025 Recognition Awards



Paul Jamieson Contributor



Paul Sminkey Repeat Contributor

Notice a trend, you must be a Paul



Lifetime Contributor Cap'n Dan Marett
Past President



2026 President Doug Line

Lighting Improvements!

Brought to you by Paul Sminkey, Ken Mosby, Davis Mead, Fred Burton, Erik Daunheimer, Along with Doug Line who took these Photos!



Erik the contortionist!



Central Railway Museum Leadership and Organization



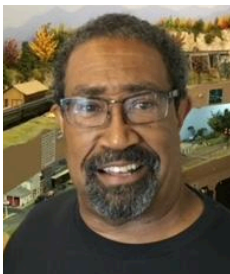
Ken Greenwood
Special Projects
HO Signaling



Bob Folsom
President



Sandy Eustis
Model Train Expo



Ken Mosby
V. P. of Exhibits



Sandy Eustis
V. P. of Programs



David Mead
V. P. Marketing



Doug Line
Secretary



John Johnston
Treasurer



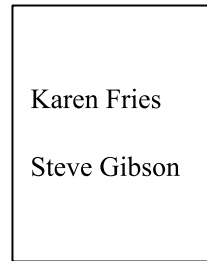
Jack Green
Museum Curator



Paul Sminkey
Saturday Manager

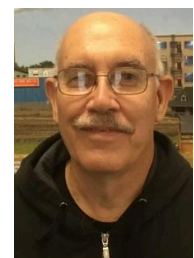


David Mead
Digital Media &
Technology



Karen Fries
Steve Gibson

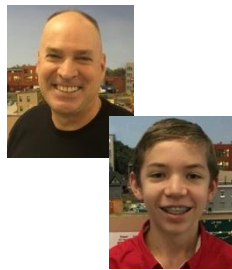
**Records and
DataBases**



Harry Kelley
Buildings & Grounds



Ray Price
HO Layout



Doug Line/Chris Price
Engineer Certification
Operation Sessions



Jackie Bacon
Schools & Local
Organizations



Jim Alexander
Inventories

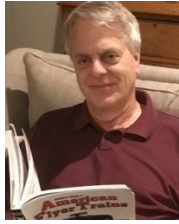


Roger Smith
Company Store

Central Railway Museum Leadership and Organization (Continued)



Scott Manning
Lionel Heritage
Layout



Brian Sykes
Monthly Speaker
Coordinator



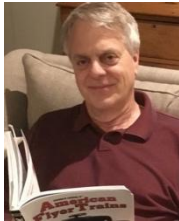
Sandy Eustis
Festivals &
Events



Doug Line
Webmaster



Sandy Eustis
Membership &
Socials



Brian Sykes
American Flyer
Heritage Layout



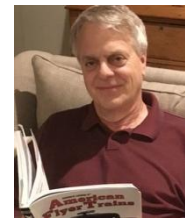
Sandy Eustis
Modeling
Workshops



Howard Garner
NMRA Liaison



Scott Unger
Central Crossings
Newsletter Editor



Brian Sykes
Rail Fan Outings



John Johnston
N Scale Layout



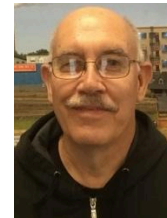
Sandy Eustis
HO Free-MO.



Jesse Cranford
Thomas The Train



Rob Seel
Dambridge



Harry Kelley
G Scale Ceiling

Some website links of interest:

Some YouTube channels

Horseshoe Curve

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssuM6NJQ2no>

Oh ya, our own!

<https://www.crmha.org/exhibits/train-cam/>

Here is a link to a good website for Z scale modeling

<https://www.zscalehobo.com/>

At the suggestion of Jim Alexander, we have added the following:
This was the lead article in the February 2015 issue of Ventral Crossings.

WHAT EVERY MEMBER SHOULD KNOW

Article by J.T. Thorpe

The town of Central's roots are in the rapid expansion of railroads in the 1870's. In 1873, a rail line linking Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC was completed. The original railroad line was formed in 1870 as the Atlanta and Richmond Air-Line Railway--a combination of the Georgia Air Line Railroad and the Air Line Railroad in South Carolina. About a year after the completion of the line, the company went broke and was reorganized in 1874 as the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railway.

Exactly halfway along the route, 133 miles from Atlanta, and 133 miles from Charlotte, the new railroad company created a service facility and station, and descriptively named it "Centre". The town was incorporated on March 17, 1875, and it boomed: a depot and houses were built, and soon after stores to provide supplies and. As a division point, workshops to service and refuel engines were created. Naturally, most of the original inhabitants of the town were railroad personnel and their families.

On the north bank of the railroad track in the middle of the town, a long platform was built for the coal chute where dump carts were kept loaded with coal. At the end of the coal chute was the water tank.



Branching off the right of the track toward the textile mill was the wye switch for a turntable, where engines were turned around or swapped in and out of service. Just below the tank, across from a large grove of trees, a long rambling hotel was built, and became famous up and down the line. The hotel served not only as an eating-house, but also as a home for telegraph operators, dispatchers, as a ticket office, waiting room, and as a sample room for drummers to display their wares for the inspection of local merchants.

In 1894, the Atlanta & Charlotte Air Line Railway went into receivership and was incorporated into the Southern Railway. The newly formed corporation moved the division point from Centre to Greenville in 1897. Trains no longer stopped to change engines, and soon all the railroad workshops and offices were closed. The establishment of Issaqueena Mill and in 1906, Wesleyan Methodist Bible Institute (now Southern Wesleyan University) brought people back to the town. In the

1970's Southern Railway decided to discontinue passenger and regular freight service to Central. The depot was moved to city property just off Gaines St. and has been used as storage up until the present day. There are currently discussions underway to return the depot to the main street and use it for public events as part of a new city park complex.

Two buildings on Church Street in Central are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: Central High School and Morgan House. The Central Roller Mills on Madden Bridge Rd. was listed in 2013.

The Central Railway Model & Historical Association (CRM&HA) was founded in 1991 by a group of local railroad enthusiasts whose shared passion for railroads and for model railroading led them to meeting to share their knowledge and skills with one another.

In 1992, the club started work on the portable layout now on display in Function Junction. The town of Central agreed to lease a house built in 1881 on 108 Werner St. to the club in order to preserve the house, and provide an attraction that celebrates the town's railroad history. In 2009, the members of the museum completed restoration of the house and began construction of the existing permanent layouts.



Central Railway Model and Historical Association Museum Information and Layout Specifications

Address 108 Werner St. Central SC 29630

Telephone # 864-314-6045

Web address www.crmha.org

The Building is a 7 room house and is wheelchair accessible

Scale/gauge on display HO, HON3, S, 027, Standard and N

The predominant railroad on display is in HO scale, which dominates the house as it travels through the building. It is named the Central & Southern Railway

Detailed Information on the HO layout

Prototype of the Southern Railway

Locale SC, NC, and GA

Era Autumn 1958

Layout Style Double Deck

Benchwork Open grid

Layout height 4, 5, and 6 feet

Roadbed ballasted Homasote,
Trackwork Flextrack with hand-laid turnouts

Length of mainline 280 ft, plus staging

minimum radius 36 inches

maximum grade 2.5%

Scenery on the HO layout is 90% complete, backdrop is painted and augmented with photos

of turnouts, 104 upper level, 105 lower level, 17 staging tracks

Uses Digitrax controllers, RR circuits Protrack operation

Approximate number of cars 400, Approximate number of locomotives 47

The railroad has 100 customers and approximately 276 spots for cars

Individual displays depicting Lionel, American Flyer and N scale are located in dedicated spaces



Central Railway Model and Historical Association

P.O. Box 128, Central, SC 29630-0128

Adult (age 18+) Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Tel.: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Tel.: _____

Please record my membership in the Central Railway Model and Historical Association.

Annual Dues: Regular (voting) member: \$40. Each additional family member (non-voting): \$10

Maximum per family: \$70

Send cash or check payment to:

CRM&HA, Inc., P.O. Box 128, Central, SC 29630-0128

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Date: _____ Check #: _____ Ref #: _____ Photo: _____

You may also click on the link below where you can join the club via the web.

[tps://www.crmha.org/onlinemembershipform/](https://www.crmha.org/onlinemembershipform/)