



Central Crossings

Newsletter of the Central Railway Museum



Volume 36, Issue #1

February 2026

108 Werner St
Central, SC 29627

Website:
www.crmha.org

President
Doug Line

Treasurer
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Jack Green

Newsletter
Scott Unger

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Presidents message



What an Expo we put on! It wasn't just an event—it was living proof of the heart, sweat, and sheer grit our whole crew poured into it. From the moment the doors opened, you could feel the energy: families crowding the layouts, kids wide-eyed at the trains, and those old-timers huddled around tables, swapping stories about the good old days over burnt coffee and bad soldering jobs. That's not just noise; that's community. We built something real here—at the Expo, at the museum—where folks don't just show up, they belong. And that's worth protecting. Due to all of the hard work and effort we put in, we once again received a generous donation from the Coker Creek Trust. The public and vendors noticed our efforts and appreciated it!

Now, with the dust settling, I'm taking a moment to reflect. We nailed a lot: the facilities and setup were spot-on, the raffle drew 250 names (huge win!), and folks kept saying they'd never seen a show run this smoothly. Still, we hit a few bumps. The HO portable layout had electrical gremlins—shorts that had us chasing wires like detectives. Our admin table was barely set up. We really felt Jim Alexander's absence—he's the guy who makes that stuff look easy. And the QR code setup? Solid numbers, but we heard from some folks without smartphones who felt shut out. Next year, we'll fix that with clearer signage: "Need help? Grab a CRMHA member or swing by the admin table—we'll get you in." Every hiccup is a lesson. Let's own it, tweak it, and make next year unstoppable.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting opportunities to grow:

We're actively seeking ways to boost membership and build our resource pool.

We need volunteers to take photos at events and meetings and share them on our online platforms—Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



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Quick reminder for all our volunteers: Please take a moment to record your volunteer hours online via our website. Just go to **Members > Record Volunteer Hours** at <https://www.crmha.org/record-hours/>. This helps us track our contributions and support the museum's future.

We're also looking for folks interested in digging into the history of the Seneca Depot. We've been contacted again by a community member in Seneca about efforts to save and preserve it, and we have a great story to tell. Let's do a better job sharing that story with the wider world.

And hey, while we're at it: remember why we do this. The Central Railway Model and Historical Association isn't just a club—it's your launchpad. Want to master DCC wiring? We've got folks who'll sit with you. Curious about 1950s freight cars? Grab a beverage and ask. Whether it's trackwork, soldering, scenery, or straight-up history, we're here to help you level up.

But here's the real thing: as we bring in new faces, we have to nurture the community we've already got. Mistakes will happen—track won't stay straight, ballast will spill, switches will short. That's not failure; that's a maintenance opportunity, and that's how you learn. So let's keep the doors wide open, the patience long, and the encouragement loud. Step up, dive in—we've got the tools, the know-how, and zero judgment. This is your spot. Let's keep building.

Follow us on!





My Take on the 2026 Easley Train Show

by Sandy Eustis, 2026 Expo Co-Chair

As many of you already know, we had another successful Easley Model Train Expo in 2026. If you just judge success by our financial results, then we just missed hosting our best show ever, but still made over \$10,000 in net profits to support our museum's operations over the next year. But there are several other ways to measure success, and we hit several of those measures this year. We made numerous excellent contacts for the future, including with several dealers who came by just to check us out and left with a request to make sure we add them to our first wave of dealer advertising for the 2027 show; we also we met a prominent model railroading You-Tube contributor who posted a great video of the show. Here's the link if you haven't yet watched it: [Old Guy Having Fun With Trains](#).

For me, the Expo has always been as much about my own model railroading journey as it has been about our financial results. In addition to renewing many long-time friendships with dealers and model railroaders at our 2026 show, I met a very experienced modeler who has just moved to our area and is starting to build a home layout in my somewhat unusual On30 narrow gauge scale, woot woot! I didn't buy much this time around, but I did snap up a 50 year old classic Chooch Industries O scale structure kit for \$10 that included over \$50 in white metal detail castings that I will paint and add to my home layout. My friend Larry Johnson from Charleston even gave me a 1932 delivery van as a "thank you" from his dealer display; I've already painted it and placed it on a home layout scene. I've always loved perusing Larry's amazing display of bygone model railroading junkie, and I've bought something from his tables almost every year.

But for me, my fondest memories of our 2026 show were the many conversations I had with many of our loyal dealers, who variously thanked me for building the EXPO into the most successful model train show in our region over the past 10 years, or expressed some anxiety about whether we'll be able to continue being their favorite show of the year (mostly because of the exceptional service our members provide them every year.) I was delighted to tell them all that I am very confident that Scott Unger, my successor as EXPO Manager, is easily up to that task. Scott has been fond of calling himself my "elf" this year, although we officially served as co-chairs. In that partnership, Scott took on several major aspects of the 2026 EXPO, including handling CRM volunteer job signups (a MAJOR time suck) and arranging for all EXPOmarketing (2 area TV stations showed up this year.) Without my lead, Scott also introduced himself to ALL of our long-time dealers – I know that because when we walked the show together on Saturday afternoon, Scott kept saying "I already met those guys", and so my help wasn't even needed!

Bottom Line: I'm retiring from this job with loads of satisfaction and tons of optimism that our BIG annual train show will continue to be the premier event on the regional model railroading schedule and the single biggest source of CRM's annual operating funds. I'm still singing in my head Bob Marley's famous lyric: "Don't worry, every little thing is gonna be alright."



A message from Sandy's Elf

By Scott Unger

As Yoda might say "Big Shoes you have to fill" and that is sooo true. Sandy set the bar pretty high; he lived the EXPO and I'm going to try to do my best to meet those expectations. Shortly after I finish this version of Central Crossings, yes I edit the newsletter too, I will be sending out my greeting to our wonderful vendors who have supported us over the years. I will tell you that the greatest challenge I can see is assigning the tables with the skill Sandy has done so well. Vendors, feel free to send your correspondence to me using the Train Show address trainshow@crmha.org.



Meet Bill Pike our new secretary

Hi! Let me introduce myself. I'm Bill Pike, the newly elected Secretary for the CRMHA as well as one of the Saturday managers at the Central Museum. I hope you all enjoyed our February show at Rock Springs Baptist Church in Easley. I must warn you, going to the show can be dangerous. Let me explain. I went to a CRMHA Expo, which piqued my interest in the Central Railway Museum. Next, I visited the museum and joined on the spot. Obviously, things got out of hand and now I'm the Secretary!

I grew up outside Philadelphia, Pa along the Reading Railroad, which probably started my interest in trains. I remember my dad and I working on models and trains together. Of course that was last century. Now my wife and I are in Anderson, SC and enjoying life. I'm in the beginnings of my new layout, the Huntingdon and Northeast, a freelance layout based on my memories of my childhood. This will be a DCC layout using LCC (Layout Command and Control) for turnout control and signals.

Hope to see you at the museum. You can always contact me at secretary@crmha.org.

See you then.



Bob Folsom

Remember him! Bob is staying after school on Saturdays from 2:00PM until 5:00PM. He will be at the museum so our members can bring their trains and run them on the HO layout. He is encouraging the younger members to come in and run their stuff!

Thank you Bob!



Scott Unger
Editor

Well, there isn't much to say other than the EXPO was very successful and I hope the photos that follow help convey just how well the club did in presenting the show. In this issue you will notice Sage's corner isn't populated mostly because I didn't have the time to bug anyone about content for it. So, I'm asking here for your article suggestions to keep that feature going.

The photo below depicts the HO portable layout under scrutiny of our best and brightest as they set up the scenery and tackle the electrical difficulties.



2026 EXPO!
Thursday February 12th

And so it begins, the Impact Center people begin placing the tables.



They do nice work!



Sandy leads the way!



The movers and Shakers!



HO Portable begins to take shape. Clockwise - Adam, Will, Tom, Herb, Doug and Bill

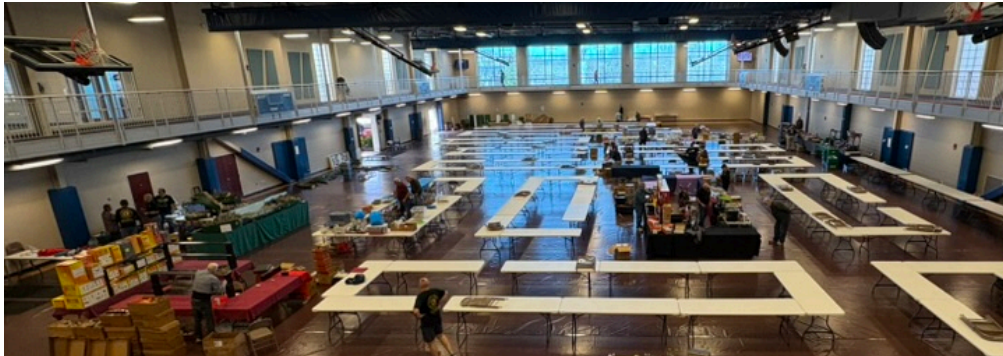


It didn't take too long to have it assembled.

(More on this later!)



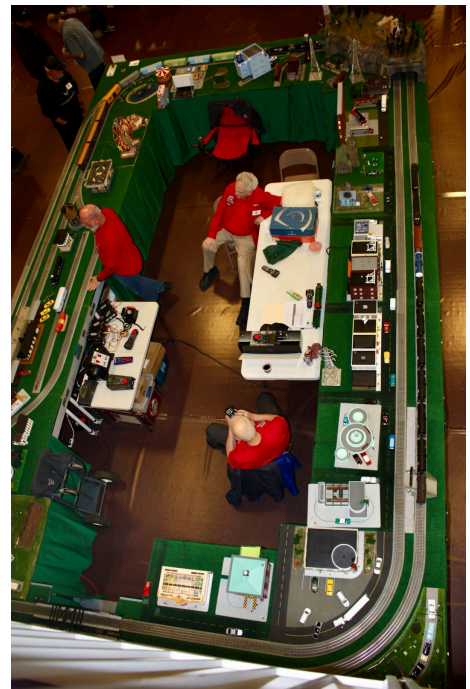
Vendors are beginning to set up



It didn't take too long to fill in.



These guys earned their rest, Bill Pike coordinated the move in, Doug (Tetris) Helm and Erik Daunheimer loaded and unloaded vendor's materials.





Brian catches the rocket!

Fire it!



He's looking right at it!



And he has made the catch!





Steam, yes live steam!





The short hunters: Carter, Casey and Ken!



N Scalers - Piedmont 'N Southern Model Railroad Club



The parking lot was full around 1 o'clock Friday!



I'm thinking, dad, I'm thinking!



Ken Jackson restocking Saturday morning



Cam is making his point to Ken.



Did Mac stop at McDonalds?



Shave Bennett is wondering where his breakfast is?



Steve Anderson and his Elf



Michael and Ken during a lull in attendance.



Our HO station looks really good!



Yes, they let girls play with trains too!



Kevin Arnold and Ken Jackson



Todd Pletcher and a gaggle of buyers



A potential CRM youth member?



CRM youth member Dylan has it under control! Jacob is waiting his turn!
(Saturday morning and our HO layout is finally up and running smoothly!)



Shortly after we opened on Saturday



In the center Louis Hydrick closes another deal, as other buyers look for their own deals.



Tim Hare surveys his table empire.



Can you find John Johnston?



Overall view of the Piedmont and Southern N Scale layout.



10 o'clock Saturday



Yes, the show is ADA compliant!



Tearing it down, - until next year!

Thanks to the Members who helped with the EXPO!

John Johnston	Fred Burton	Doug (Tetras) Helm
Jim Alexander	Braydon Carson	Tom Langdale
Paul Sminkey	Michael Childress	Brandon Langston
Paul Jamieson	John Cook	Scott Manning
Harry Kelley	Erik Daunheimer	Dan Marett
Roger Smith	Michael Dempsey	Mac McMillin
Steve Daniell	Bob Folsom	BJ Nicolazo
Mike Dempsey	Howard Garner	Joachim Nicolazo
Will Holt	Norm Garrett	Bill Otter
Herb Mayer	Adam Grant	Chris Price
John Johnston	Bill Green	Carter Rogers
Sammy Bury	Jack Green	Casey Rogers
Geno Bury	Ken Greenwood	Bryan Sykes
Pete Loeffler	Frank Harris	Dylan Wyant
Bill Pike	Jerry Fries	Toby Wyant
Cam Turner	Bill Fogerty	Victor Wyant
Caleb Owens	Ken Mosby	Monty Cash
Harrison Anneaux	Sandy Eustis	Dave Rodgers
Scott Unger	Philip Bailey	Joe Mayeur

“Sage’s Corner”

Pictured here is Sage Viehe .

Some of the older 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.



As noted in my editor’s message, I failed to get some content here, don’t let me fail again, send your ideas for this section to centralcrossings@crmha.org

Check out the news stairs!

Thanks to the Town of Central!



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.

Central Railway Museum Leadership and Organization



Ken Greenwood
Special Projects
HO Signaling



Doug Line
President



Sandy Eustis
Model Train Expo



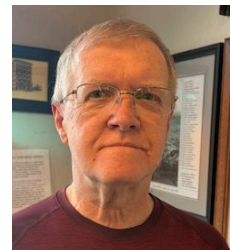
Ken Mosby
V. P. of Exhibits



Sandy Eustis
V. P. of Programs



David Mead
V. P. Marketing



Bill Pike
Secretary



John Johnston
Treasurer



Jack Green
Museum Curator



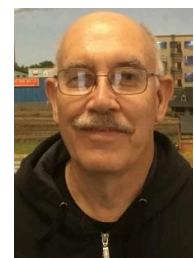
Paul Sminkey
Saturday Manager



Jackie Bacon
Schools & Local
Organizations



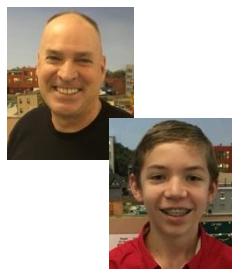
Roger Smith
Company Store



Harry Kelley
Buildings & Grounds



Ray Price
HO Layout



Doug Line/Chris Price
Engineer Certification
Operation Sessions



David Mead
Digital Media &
Technology

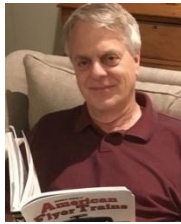


Jim Alexander
Inventories

Central Railway Museum Leadership and Organization (Continued)



Scott Manning
Lionel Heritage
Layout



Brian Sykes
Monthly Speaker
Coordinator



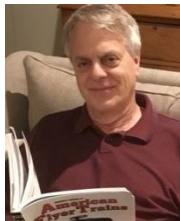
Sandy Eustis
Festivals &
Events



Doug Line
Webmaster



Sandy Eustis
Membership &
Socials



Brian Sykes
American Flyer
Heritage Layout



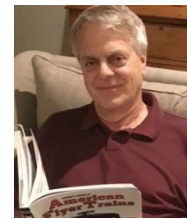
Sandy Eustis
Modeling
Workshops



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



Erik Daunheimer,
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 Central 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/)