

December 2012

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. I hope you are settling in for a joyous holiday season.

There is not a lot of news this month, but I did want to send out the monthly email and a holiday message. Tuesday night operating sessions continue. NMRA member Don Barnes' layout continues its growth and we have been operating on a nearly complete Brunswick yard these days. Operations on my Burnt Hills and Big Flats continue to improve and refine. Attendance for the operating sessions has been strong, and NMRA members are always welcome to attend.

Don has suggested we do another operating weekend this Spring. The regional mini-meet in September was such a success, that we hope that doing at least an annual event (with minimal attendance fees) would help keep the Division active and would continue to build ties with our neighboring divisions.

By the way, if any of you have information about your model railroad activities you'd like to share, I will include it in this monthly news, and will submit it to the SER newsletter (see announcement below).

Paul Voelker, our region newsletter editor announces:

The 55-page online edition of the Fall 2012 SouthErneR V53 #4.5 is now available on the SER's website at:

<http://www.ser-nmra.org/publications>

Contents include articles on...

Whitesboro Street Yard, Late Night at Grand Rails 2012, Don Bergman's Rio Grande Southern, Gorre & Daphetid Railroad Recreation, Bring Your Model Railroad to Life with Detail, and the last two BOD meetings,

...along with the usual departments and news from around the region.

Again, I hope you and your family have a Happy Holiday season.

- Steve Prevette

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NMRA - SER - Central Savannah River Division superintendent.

January 2013

Happy New Year! I hope 2013 is off to a good start for you.

I do want to let you know that now is the time to start planning for the national convention this summer in Atlanta! The website is <http://nmra2013.org/> and registration is available now. Signups for the OPSIG's (Operations Special Interest Group) evening operating sessions just opened, so if you want to be sure to get in on some operating fun, sign up now. Convention Hotel registrations open in February. There are lots of tours available to sign up for, including prototype, model railroad, and general tours of the area. One tour allows you to follow the route of the Great Locomotive Chase from the

Civil War. There will be lots and lots of clinics on a wide spectrum of topics. A highlight of every national convention is the National Train Show on the weekend as the convention closes.

As part of the OPSIG, Don Barnes will host a session Sunday July 14 on his Baltimore and Ohio layout for folks on their way to the convention. I will host a session on July 21. We could both use local operators to help join in with the sessions.

Tuesday night operations continue on our two layouts. We have started to gravitate towards time table and train order operation and it is turning out to be quite fun. It does allow the train crews to get off of the radios, and opens up some new jobs on the layout for operators to receive and deliver train orders, to provide OS reports, and generally assist train crews in their area of the layout. Don and I are both optimistic as we move forward into this realm. Currently all trains run as extras, but I do have a draft timetable for six of my priority through trains ready for use if we get to that point.

If you'd like to visit either layout, a weekend day visit can be arranged. I am quite busy with finishing touches on scenery for a Kalmbach photograph session by Paul Dolkos in February. It's exciting, but a lot of work. The session is intended to be for a future Great Model Railroads annual magazine.

- Steve Prevette
Division Superintendent
Graniteville SC.

March 2013

A relatively short note this month - mostly to find out - "Did you receive your eBulletin" from the NMRA? It came out on March 5 through email This will be a new way that you can find out what is happening in the NMRA.

If you did not get an eBulletin, but want to be on the mailing list for it, let me know. I will forward a copy of the one I got to you, and chase down why you did not receive one. The Paul Dolkos photo shoot on my layout went well. I am putting the finishing touches on the text of the article and will be sending it in this weekend.

I hope all is well with each of you. The Tuesday operating session will be at my house next week.

- Steve Prevette
NMRA SER 9th Division Superintendent

April 2013

Here is the latest from your NMRA local Division. We now have two new members, Walter Reichel of North Augusta SC and James Riggs of Statesboro GA. Walter is one of the Tuesday night regulars in the Aiken / Augusta operators group, and James is now the third NMRA member in Statesboro. I do not have email addresses for either, but will try to get them for inclusion in these monthly news emails.

The countdown continues to the national convention in Atlanta. I am including at the end of this email the latest NMRA "inonet" news, which includes a convention update. You

should have also received in the mail a copy of the SouthEast Region newsletter, the SouthErneR. If you subscribe to the newsletter you receive one quarterly, if you do not, this is your annual update copy. Electronic copies of the quarterly news may be found on the SER website.

The OFRRA Tuesday night sessions continue on three layouts in the Aiken SC area. We have been moving towards time table and train order, and a number of members joined the Operations Special Interest Group for operating news and to get their latest publication on TT&TO.

- Steve Prevette

Division Superintendent

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Peachtree Express 2013 News

- Most of the prototype and general interest tours are limited to 50 people due to venue limitations. Keep in mind that we must confirm tours with the bus providers 30 days before the convention. So please register now to avoid disappointment and/or canceled tours due to lack of pre-registrations.
 - Update of the tour to the CSX Training Center (P355): CSX has recently informed us they will **NOT** be able to allow us inside the center. We are working on substituting tours of Tilford and Hulsey yards. The good news is that we have added a visit to the Georgia Northeastern RR, where you'll get an overview of their operations, see some of their locos, and visit their dispatch center and yards.
 - The Southeastern Region is hosting an NMRA Welcome Reception at the convention hotel on Sunday, July 14, from 4:00 - 5:30 PM, providing a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Light snacks and a cash bar provided.
 - The clinic schedule has been posted to www.NMRA2013.org as well as updates to some of the other events.
 - A very active and entertaining general interest/non-rail program is planned, so bring the family, sample some Southern hospitality, and see all that Atlanta has to offer.
 - Model Celebration & Contest: Chair Bob Hamm has issued a challenge to exceed the 2011 Sacramento Convention in the numbers of models brought for display and/or AP judging. Let's not disappoint! Bring what you're working on and show it off.