



The Official Publication of the Southeastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association



The **SOUTHERNER**



Volume 58 No. 2.0

www.ser-nmra.org

Spring 2017



www.2017SERConvention.com



BLUE OX TRAINS

ROSWELL, GA

Keeping the Hobby Fun!



**425 Market Place
Roswell GA 30075**

Monday - Thursday 10 am - 6 pm
Friday & Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday - Call for Hours



404-312-6467

Steve Funsten

email -blueoxtrains@bellsouth.net

Order online 24 hours a day - 365 days year

WWW.BLUEOXTRAINS.COM

Model Train Show



Fri & Sat, June 9th & 10th, 2017

Show Hours: Friday 12 — 5pm & Saturday 9 am — 5 pm

\$6 per person, Kids under 13 free with adult



Bessemer Civic Center

Exit 108, I-59/20



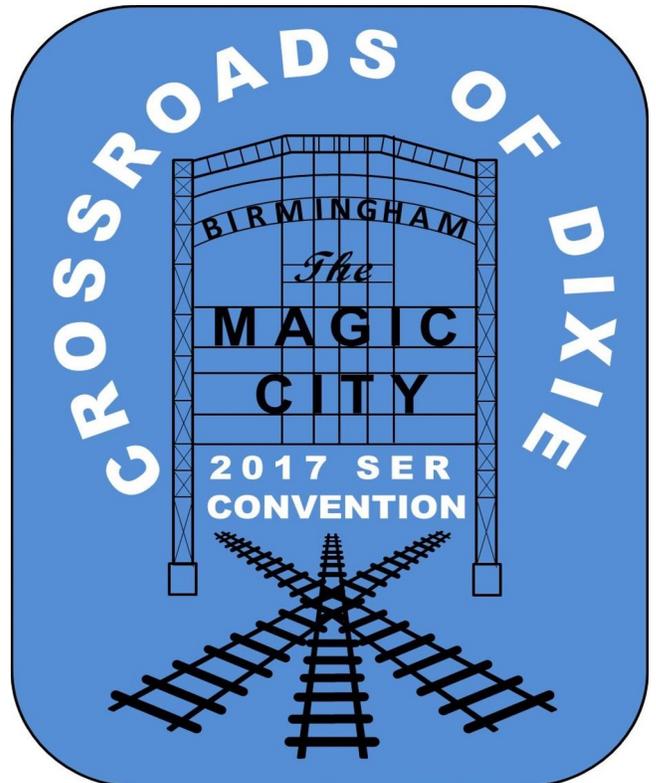
[Map: 1130 9th Ave SW, Bessemer, AL 35022]

15,000 ft² of Vendors & Layouts

Sponsored by the Steel City Division, NMRA

In conjunction with the Southeastern Regional NMRA Convention

www.2017serconvention.com





The SouthErner

Official Publication
of the
Southeastern Region, NMRA



WAYBILL

Volume 58, Number 1.0



Winter 2017

Features:

- 5 2017 Convention Birmingham History & SER Modeler's Challenge Update
- 18 What Could I Possibly Do in Birmingham — M. T. Hopper
- 18 I'm Looking Forward to Going to Birmingham — Fuller Cole
- 20 It's All in the Timing — Paul Speich
- 24 The Business of Railroading—A Series By Tom Schultz
- 26 Bringing Up Operations—A Series By Steve Prevette

Departments:

- 4 Editorial Page
- 6 The President's Car - Alan Mole
- 7 Education Department - Larry Burkholder
- 8 Achievement Program - Randall Watson
- 9 Upcoming Events & Promotions
- 12 SER Directory & Map w/ Division News & Info
- 28 SER Reports - Prevette, Coble, Bando
- 30 Club Car

ON THE FRONT COVER: Top: L&N Local #4 with E6 #756 leaving Birmingham's L&N Station NB. Ed Dismukes photo, Marv Clemons' collection.
Bottom: CSX freight passing Birmingham's AMTRAK station from 21st St. Viaduct, 2017, John Stewart photo.

ON THE BACK COVER; Frisco Mikado 4018 moving to Sloss Furnace for Display, 2009, Photo by AEMA Staff

Editor, John Stewart
1103 Lake Forest Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244
205-901-3790 jstew@bhamrails.info
Assistant Editor, Feature Articles, Joe Gelmini
770-460-8873 papagel@comcast.com
Advertising, Sally Bando
770-928-2135 sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

The SouthErner is mailed to members of the Southeastern Region & interested parties who have paid the subscription rate of \$10.00/year. Material for publication is welcomed! Please send materials to the proper Editor.

All submissions become the property of **The SouthErner** unless otherwise contracted. Do not send previously printed materials please!

Submittals Due: Winter Dec 1 Spring Mar 1
Summer Jun 1 Fall Sep 1

ADVERTISING RATES

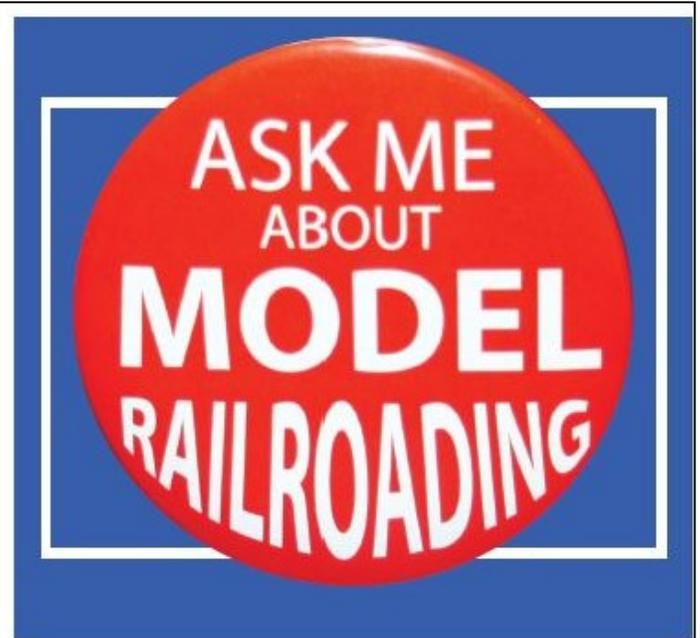
Size	Number of Issues			
	1	2	3	4
Full	\$120	\$240	\$360	\$400
1/2 h/v	\$ 60	\$120	\$180	\$200
1/4 h/v	\$ 30	\$ 60	\$ 90	\$100
1/8 h	\$ 15	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 60
1/15 '5x3'	—	—	—	\$ 35
Pike '7x3'	—	—	—	\$ 16

Pike Registry : \$16 for 4 issues

ADVERTISING:

Rates are for electronic-format or scanner-ready ads. Preferred formats are, MS Word and JPEG. Include the company name, address, email and a day-time phone number. All ads must be prepaid before publication.

Checks payable to: **SER-NMRA**



21 Easy Tips to Improve NMRA Member Retention & Recruitment



National Model Railroad Association

This new tri-fold brochure will soon be available for download on the NMRA.org website. Check it out to see tips for gaining and holding new NMRA members for your Division.

Editorial Page



Letters to the Editor are encouraged and are welcome. Please submit your letters to the Editor to John Stewart at jstew@bhamrails.info

While the Editor will use this page for traditional editorial content, we look forward to feedback from our readers. Letters submitted may be edited for content or length.

Hello again from the Editor's Desk.

By the time you read this we'll be about one month away from our annual **SER Convention: "Crossroads of Dixie"** to be held June 9th & 10th, 2017 in Birmingham, AL .

Question One: Are you going to attend the Convention?

Question Two: If not, why not?

Question Three: If so, have you REGISTERED?

Question Four: If not, why not?

If you plan to attend, and have REGISTERED, then hats off to you, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

If you aren't REGISTERED yet, better get after it. By the time you read this, the registration fee has likely gone up from \$65 to \$80, and it is going to be harder to get a good price on a motel room, although there should be plenty to choose from at Exit 108, I-59/20, near the Bessemer Civic Center, our venue.

Most everything that you want to know about the Convention is on the web site, which has been maintained in fine style by Steel City Division member **Craig Gardner** — these final weeks it is changing frequently so check back often.

www.2017SERConvention.com

Check out the website, and see what kind of fun you can have that suits your interests. There is a lot to do and see at the Convention and the Birmingham area in general.

Traveling to out-of-town model railroad events is a great way to expand your frame of reference on our great hobby of Model Railroading — Learn new things, make new friends!

The cover of the **SouthErneR** this quarter is Birmingham railroading "then and now". You may have figured out by now that your Editor enjoys Birmingham rail and industrial history.

On the cover, top photo, you see L&N passenger train Local #4 with E6 #756 heading out of L&N Station northbound circa 1957. At the bottom you see a CSX freight at the exact same location taken a matter of weeks ago. You could see AMTRAK at this same location today. (Railfanning: try the 21st Street Viaduct)

A lot has changed in the picture. The 1886 L&N station is still visible in 1957. It was replaced by an office building in 1961. The L&N freight house is visible on the right foreground. Today it is a parking lot. The passenger platforms are the same—built in the grade separation project of the early 1930's -- used by AMTRAK today.

What is hard to see in the "today" picture is the new **Birmingham Intermodal Station** that is nearing completion as you read this. It will serve all modes of transportation — rail, bus, and taxi and provide smooth interchange between them under one roof.

Your Convention will offer some history of Birmingham including our "other" station: Terminal Station (1909—1969) a clinic by

Marv Clemons. You might want to get a copy of this books at the Train Show. We also expect to have several railroad artists with Birmingham historical subjects for sale. Check it out!

We'll have a clinic about Woodward Iron Co.'s Railroad a very short but very busy and heavy duty mineral railroad — the only iron maker in the country to have it's own railroad for nearly all its raw materials — narrow gauge to 6 axle coal hoppers.

Ken McElreath will present clinics about Frisco's 9th Street (downtown) yard as well as his model railroad representation of Birmingham's industrial history.

On layout tours you'll be able to see a several layouts that address Birmingham's railroading both "back then" and in the very recent past. And there are operating sessions on these as well.

And in this issue of the **SouthErneR** there is history "being made" — Tom Schultz's article about Hunter Harrison's "takeover" of the CEO's chair at CSX. Many predict it will be the stuff of future rail history discussions. And we continue to learn about Operations, an evolving aspect in the "history" of model railroading's many fascinating aspects.

In addition, we'll have information about the Convention that is designed to whet your appetite in case you are too activity challenged, or computer challenged to go to our excellent convention website built and maintained by Craig Gardner.

So, in closing this quarter, here is how you can add to the SouthErneR Newsletter:

- Send letters to the Editor telling us what is on your mind.
- Send articles about what you are working on — all I need is two or three (or more) pictures and some notes/captions from you if you don't feel that you can write an article. Send it in and the Editor can do the rest. (Work toward Author AP)
- Send articles about a new product, tool or model that you have tried out recently. If it is of interest and value to you, then others may find it interesting as well.
- Tell about your division activities — we have regular space for this, but we don't always get content from all the Divisions. Work with your Division Secretary or Superintendent to submit a regular piece each quarter.
- Let the SouthErneR Newsletter know what is being done in your Division for outreach, recruitment and promotion of the hobby of Model Railroading.

I am enjoying the work as your Editor, and I would like to be just that — your Editor. To that end, I need YOU to submit material for the **SouthErneR Newsletter**. This is YOUR Newsletter — fill it up. And if you write something, send pictures to go with it.

Quoting my friend Dan Turner, "THESE are the good 'ole days!"

John



Birmingham has a rich railroad history. If you thought that “Hudson” type locomotives were only on the New York Central, think again. This handsome example is Frisco #1064, located at Birmingham’s Terminal Station, in May, 1939. The image is courtesy of the Frisco.org website, and is uncredited as to photographer. The Frisco was one of Birmingham’s 9 “trunk line” railroads, if you include those reaching town via trackage rights. A great opportunity to explore this history will be from one of the vendors at our Train Show being held Friday and Saturday, June 9th & 10th, as part of the Convention. But you have to be there to have the opportunity!

**2017 SER Convention
Steel City Division “Modeler’s Challenge”
Woodward Iron Co. RR Brown Ore Car**

It has been confirmed that these (10) cars were built by the Pressed Steel Car Co for the Woodward Iron Company in 1908. This is known to be a time when WICo was developing brown ore mines at Docray in Tuscaloosa County, AL. This ore would have been hauled to the WICo blast furnaces near Bessemer, AL, on L&N trackage.

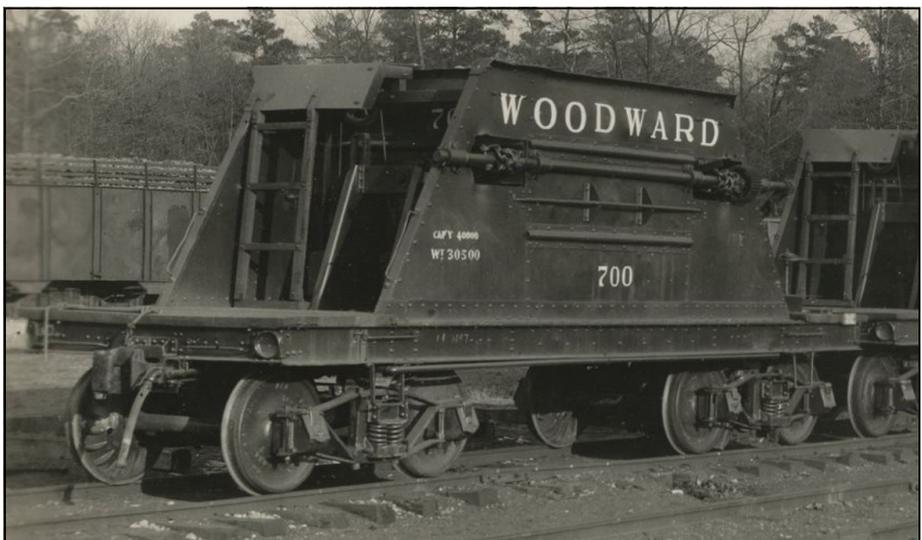
The Woodward Iron Company of Birmingham was in business from 1882 to 1974 as a merchant iron maker, meaning they sold pig iron of various grades to the open market. In 1926 the company sought to expand their brown iron ore production by opening a new surface mine in the Russellville Ore District, Franklin County, [NW] AL. The 700 Series hoppers shown were 20 ton cars used at the Vance Brown Ore mine near Russellville, AL.

The car most likely has drop bottom doors and looking at the rivet layout it appears the inside of the hopper is rectangular. The photo includes a line of cars with some turned to show the other side. You can see this in the original image in the UA Archive. By the way, it is believed that the rail in this image is 60#; this yard is located next to the Woodward blast furnace complex which was located not too far from our venue. Today the site is an industrial park but foundations remain.

The University of Alabama Digital Archives has an extensive collection of Woodward material including this photo from the late 1920’s. There are two other views of this car taken on the “high line” trestle at the Vance processing plant in 1929. More information is available on the 2017 Convention Website: www.2017serconvention.com. Do you have the skills to model this interesting car? You might use the approach of MMR Beaty for the “Burrito” crane featured in our Summer issue.

Go to the convention website and see what you can figure out about this interesting ore car. What clues can you figure out from the photo? Make your best model! Game On!

Rumor has it that several models are in progress. Yours?





Mole Valley Railway
Model Structures and Buildings

Alan Mole
Owner

770-315-7244 Cell
alanmole@bellsouth.net

4125 Alister Park Drive
Cumming, GA 30040

The President's Car

Alan Mole



Word from the SER President:

Many of our Divisions have been very active over the past couple of months, especially with train shows and planning for upcoming events, like our SER Convention in Bessemer, AL in June, and an Operations weekend in Crossville, TN in October.

I enjoyed going to the Easley, SC train show in their great new location, participated in the Asheville show in Fletcher, NC with Country RRoads modular group and, of course, was very involved in the Piedmont Division show a couple of weekends ago. All great experiences and I was very fortunate to meet many "out-of-town" members and make new model railroad acquaintances at all the shows.

The focus now turns to the SER Convention in June with John Stewart and his team working hard to put on a great convention and train show at the Bessemer Civic Center. So, please register and make your hotel reservations! I'll see you in Bessemer!!

Alan

Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR
Chairman of the Board & CEO



Delta Southern Railroad

4554 Chadwell Lane
Dunwoody, GA 30338

770-396-6447
deltarr@mindspring.com

THE ALPINE CENTRAL RAILROAD



Joe Nichols, Jr., MMR, Receiver
ALPINERR@MINDSPRING.COM



ROBERT & BRIAN HUNT
MARIETTA, GA

FAST FREIGHT & EXPRESS SERVICE TO DENVER FROM THE SOUTH 1947-49

PASS

PAUL V. VOELKER
UNION PACIFIC, DENVER & GULF

VALLEY & TEKOA RAILROAD
5694 Four Winds Drive
Lilburn, Georgia
(770) 279-8696

W. Edward Laffy, Superintendent

Engineer's Wish List

Denim Engineer Vests are Now Available

by special order!

American made locally. Order early for Christmas.

Contact Sally at sbandageorgia@comcast.net for more details.

Machine embroidery designs & themes on shirts and gifts. Prices upon request. Company and group projects welcome.



Bessemer Civic Center convention venue and the 1916 AGS Bessemer (Hall of History) Depot





Education Department

Larry Burkholder

Well, I'm launching an attempt here to fill the big shoes of Peter Youngblood as your new Education Chairman. We wish Peter well in his efforts to bring the NMRA into the real world.

Thru this venue I hope to add my thoughts on how we can share each other's skills to build an education environment throughout our region. Within my coordination are SER education oriented programs focusing on the **NMRA Achievement Program** headed by **Randall Watson**, the **Boy Scout Merit Badge Program** headed by **Howard Goodwin**, and **Contest Management** headed by **Ben Bartlett**. Some of their work may be reported separately in the *SouthErneR* and I will not repeat them here, but I will summarize their activities.

Achievement Program – Randall reports details in another section of this *SouthErneR* but the region has one member who has met the requirements for Master Builder Scenery this quarter. If you have questions about the AP program contact Randall or go to the NMRA web page.

Contest Program – Contest planning is well underway for the upcoming SER convention in Bessemer. At the recent Board meeting in Lake Junaluska a beautiful scratch built engine was judged. It is not necessary to wait until a convention or other formal contest activity to have a model judged. Your division superintendent or AP chairman can arrange a judging.

Boy Scout Program - The Headquarters Division Southern District hosted its first Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Day at the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum. Twenty-three scouts were in attendance.

One continuing NMRA discussion is the desire to attract young people into our membership. I happen to be of the opinion that it is a lost cause if young children are not educated about prototype railroading first and then shown the joy of model railroading. There are dozen of distractions pulling at young children as they grow that, for most, are more attractive than Model railroading when their only experience has been Thomas.

The Knoxville Area Model Railroaders run a one week model railroad camp for children ages 8 to 12 as part of the **Children's Museum of Oak Ridge** summer program. Over at least ten years of camps and over a hundred children thru them only four boys joined KAMR. Only two are still active and one was a member before he attended the camp. The Piedmont Division has guided over 1000 boys thru the Boy Scout program. How many of them have joined the Piedmont Division?

Children don't have many opportunities to see prototype railroads in action. Unless you go looking for one, how often do you see a train other than a brief glimpse when you are driving? Like it or not, model railroading is an expensive gray hair hobby that is getting harder and harder to propagate as the personal memories of train experiences grow scarcer.

I think our obligation is to offer children the chance to experience real railroading. This starts with parents and grandparents. Take your child on train rides. Find places where you can legally observe trains working. In many places there are over-looks where railroad yards are visible. Model Railroad clubs and SER divisions can use their group strengths to organize visits to railroad active industries.

Of course we should not stop welcoming children to our club and division meetings and conducting open house sessions at club layouts. Our divisions should organize programs for older children who are more likely to remain interested. Finally I think those layout owners who routinely run operations should offer older children the opportunity to participate in an operating session to show them that there are model railroading activities that simulate real railroading, that are more than just running trains in circles, and might compete with video games.

These are all not just my own original thoughts. I have repeated some that I have heard from colleagues. Now we need to take action. Unless we educate children about railroading our gray hair membership will pass on and there will be no one to replace them. Larry

COASTAL RAIL BUFFS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Location:
The Historic Railroad Shops
655 Louisville Rd.
Savannah, GA 31401

Meetings: Thursday, 5:00 pm



Website: www.coastalrailbuffs.org



Mailing Address:
601 W. Harris Street
Savannah, GA 31401

PENNSYLVANIA R.R. HO SCALE

BOB YOUNG
OWNER-OPERATOR

315 HUNTER TRACE CIRCLE,
SANDY SPRINGS, GA 30328
770-551-8617 • BOBJR16@ATT.NET



Jim Brown
President & Chief
Gandy Dancer



PS & NE RAILROAD
Santa Fe - Union Pacific
The North Lake Line

4563 Tifton Court
Powder Springs, GA 30127

770-941-7273
jbrownvt@aol.com

Tom Banks
General Manager



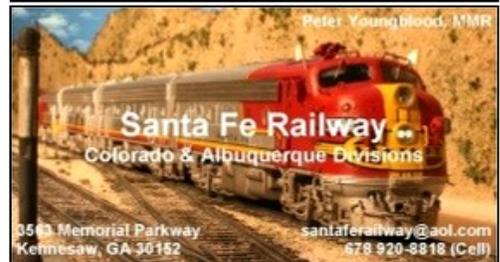
North South Railroad
N Scale Model Railroad
Atlanta to Cincinnati

8042 Autumn Woods Drive • Jonesboro, GA 30236 • 770-477-1480



J. Gary Jarabek
Superintendent
770-509-6941
3539 Old Wagon Rd.
Marietta, GA 30062
gjarabek@bellsouth.net

C.H.E.G
HOLDING COMPANY
PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD
SOUTHEAST DIVISION



3563 Memorial Parkway
Kennesaw, GA 30152

santaferrailway@aol.com
678 920-8818 (Cell)

SEE YOUR RAILROAD CARD HERE

\$16/YEAR (FOUR ISSUES)

Achievement Program

The following is from the NMRA.org website: worth repeating:

In simple terms, the Achievement Program (AP) is a travel guide, to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP also provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the completion of each category, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.

The AP requirements are a set of standards, but they can also serve as a set of guideposts for those who are new, near-new, and not-so-new to the hobby. Not because they lead to some sort of official pat-on-the-back, but because they are a source of ideas for projects that can help us learn to become better modelers.

Briefly, the AP is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of our hobby. It covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, structures, track work, and wiring. It also recognizes service to the hobby and the NMRA, which are important as well. Use the links on the right to explore the different certificates and requirements.

We hope that you will soon find just how easy it is to participate in the Achievement Program, and if you are not yet involved start you off on the right foot. Please visit the AP Staff Roster page to find contact information for your Regional AP Manager.

Master Model Railroader (MMR)

An NMRA member qualifies as an MMR when one has obtained at least seven of the eleven Achievement Certificates provided that one has earned at least one Certificate in each of the four areas of the Regulations. Earning the title of MMR is the ultimate goal for many participants in the Achievement Program.

The 11 Achievement Program Awards by the 4 Categories are:

1. Model Railroad Equipment

- Master Builder Motive Power
- Master Builder Cars

2. Settings

- Master Builder Scenery
- Master Builder Structures
- Master Builder Prototype Models

3. Engineering and Operation

- Model RR Engineer—Civil
- Model RR Engineer—Electrical
- Chief Dispatcher

4. Service to the Hobby

- Association Official
- Association Volunteer
- Model RR Author

To qualify for the Master Model Railroader status, you must earn

7 of the above awards with the stipulation that at least one award must be earned in each of the 4 categories.

Some people may be reluctant to participate in the AP, because the rules seem difficult to understand. The website pages explain each of the different categories in the AP, and what the exact requirements are.

Golden Spike Award: If you are new to the AP, may we recommend that you take a look at the Golden Spike Award, although not an actual AP category its requirements are structured along the same lines. Further Information is available at www.nmra.org

New Awards in our Southeastern Region this quarter are:



Keith Elrod
Smoky Mountain Division 12
Golden Spike Award



Michael Cummings
Piedmont Division 5
Association Volunteer



David Rever
Piedmont Division 5
Master Builder Scenery



Peter Banks
Gulf Division 4
Master Builder Motive Power



Charles Mason
Piedmont Division 5
Model Railroad Engineer Civil



Division AP Chairmen for Divisions which have them are:

Steel City Division (2)

Tom Schultz, svrr@charter.net (205) 879-3603

Piedmont Division (5) & Southeastern Region Chairman

Randall Watson, randallwatson1@bellsouth.net (770) 831-5736

Palmetto Division (7)

Art Farwell, trac555@gmail.com (864) 895-7125

Bluff City Division (10)

Greg Scharfetter, gasharfetter@bellsouth.net (901) 219-4219

Cumberland Division (11)

George Gilbert, MMR, grgilbert@comcast.net (615) 352-1254

Smokey Mountain Division (12)

Larry Burkholder, labtexan@chartertn.net (865) 408-9903

Headquarters – Northern District (13)

Al Westerfield, MMR, westerfieldalfred@frontier.com (931) 788-1916

Headquarters – Southern District (13)

Dale Bryant, livewire@fbright.com (423) 991-5243

Land O' Sky Division (15)

Ben Bartlett, MMR, b3j2c@yahoo.com (818) 883-2799

Who would make a good AP Chairman in your Division?

UPCOMING EVENTS



TERMINUS CHAPTER TCA TOY TRAIN SWAP MEET

Come celebrate National Train Day

May 13, 2017

at The Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History
with "The General" and the TCA

Show Hours 9:30am - 2:30pm Set up 7:30am - 9:30pm

2829 Cherokee Street, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

From I-75 N take exit 273 and turn left to go west on Wade Green Rd. Wade Green will become Cherokee Street. Stay straight on Cherokee and the Museum will be on the right hand side just before the railroad tracks. Parking is available immediately across the street as well directly behind the museum.

SMOKEY CITY RAILS MODEL RAILROAD CLUB, INC.
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

26th TRAIN SHOW & SALE



**SATURDAY
MAY 20, 2017
9 AM TO 4 PM**

****NEW LOCATION****

(see map on back)

HELENA SPORTS COMPLEX
110 SPORTS COMPLEX DRIVE
HELENA, AL 35080

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BY MAIL: SMOKEY CITY RAILS
P.O. BOX 609
PELHAM, AL 35124

BY EMAIL: mims9006@bellsouth.net
BY PHONE: 205-597-1336 Jackie Mims
WEBSITE: www.smokeycityrails.com
FACEBOOK: Smokey City Rails Model Railroad Club

OPERATING LAYOUTS
DOOR PRIZES
RAILROAD CROSSING

ADMISSION
\$6.00

CHILDREN 8-12.....\$2.00
CHILDREN UNDER 8.....FREE



Model Train Show



Fri & Sat, June 9th & 10th, 2017

Show Hours: Friday 12 — 5pm & Saturday 9 am — 5 pm

\$6 per person, Kids under 13 free with adult



Bessemer Civic Center

Exit 108, I-59/20



[Map: 1130 9th Ave SW, Bessemer, AL 35022]

15,000 ft² of Vendors & Layouts

Sponsored by the Steel City Division, NMRA

In conjunction with the Southeastern Regional NMRA Convention

www.2017serconvention.com



Grand Western Mining Company

GWMC Railroad

Idalee Mine



James & Sally Bando

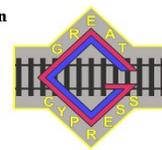
www.blueoxtrains.com

Steve Funsten
404-312-6467
blueoxtrains@bellsouth.net
425 Market Place Roswell GA 30075



Howard Goodwin

Superintendent



MMR #556

79 Cross Branches
Acworth, GA 30101

PIEDMONT DIVISION
SER NMRA

770-529-2103
Horn69@bellsouth.net



Craig Gardner
President, CEO, CFO,
Engineer and Trackgang

205-979-2666
jcgard@bellsouth.net
www.bsmrr.com

South Eastern Region



Seen at right our instructional DVD videos which cover subjects on:

- + Scratch Building Industrial Buildings out of Styrene
- + Adding Sound to Scenes
- + Using LED's on your layout

Also available are our Southeastern Region patches which, in addition to the DVDs, are also available for purchase from our treasurer, Sally Bando.

To purchase any of the SER merchandise shown contact Sally at:
sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

Train Installations

Model railroads for home or business
 Overhead-Garden-Tabletop
 David Bennett
 770-597-0038
 dave@traininstallations.com
 www.traininstallations.com

John R. Stewart, Supt.
jstew@bhamrails.info

1925 **L&N** 1955
 with
 All Connecting Lines

Birmingham District
 It's a Blast
 Model Railroad

Serving Birmingham's Iron, Steel and Related Industries
 1103 Lake Forest Circle, Hoover, AL 35244 (205) 901-3790

Randall Watson
 President

ST. LOUIS and SOUTHERN R.R.
 Modeling Modern Day in "HO"

730 Morning Creek Lane Phone: 770-831-5736
 Suwanee, GA 30024 Cell: 404-424-2218
 e-mail: randallwatson1@bellsouth.net



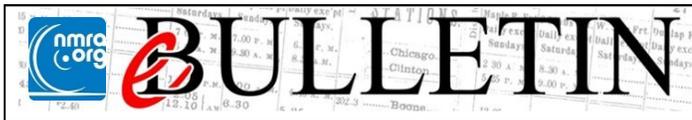
The **Mid-Continent Region of the NMRA** is offering as its current car project a set of six 40' wood refrigerator car kits lettered for the St. Louis Refrigerator Car Company. The cars are produced by Accurail and include trucks and Accumate couplers. Car numbers in this set are 4265, 4317, 4280, 4302, 4894, and 4836 and unique to this project.

St. Louis Refrigerator Car Company was established in 1878 by Anheuser-Busch Brewing Company to transport its products across the U. S. At its peak about 1920 the reefer fleet was made up of over 5000 cars. The build date on these cars is 10-42. The cars are priced at \$25.00 for one car, \$24.50 each for two cars, \$24.00 each for four cars and \$23.00 each for all six cars. Shipping is USPS flat rate based on the number of cars ordered.

To order contact: <http://w.mcor-nmra.org/Regional-Car-Kit.php>

This ad is appearing via reciprocal agreement with the Mid-Continent Region who is advertising the SER Car in their **Caboose Kibitzer Newsletter**.

Stay connected to the SER & NMRA



Be Sure Your Email is Up-to-Date

Contact Membership Chair Rick Coble:
rvcoblenmra@gmail.com

To be added to or update the
SER & NMRA mailing lists

Receive e-mail news and updates from
the National and Regional NMRA



General Interest Tours at the
Orlando Convention

Five, Four, Three,
Two One! We have
lift off! The Kennedy
Space Center is one
of the most exciting
places to visit while
you are in Florida.

In 1968 the Kennedy Space Center
became the primary launch center for
NASA. The Kennedy Space Center
Visitors' Complex is the only place in
the world where you can walk under the
largest rocket ever flown. You'll also be
able to touch a moon rock, meet an
astronaut, experience the International
Space Station, stand nose-to-nose with
Atlantis, and so much more. This is one
tour that is really "out of this world!"

Or, step back with us to the 11th Century
where knights do the bidding of
kings! Join us at "Knights of the
Realm" for a four-course feast and a
show that will entertain you with
pageantry and thrills. You'll also be able
to visit an authentic medieval village
containing a series of workshops
including a basket shop, carpentry shop,
metalsmith and a blacksmith creating
chain mail armor one link at a time. See
you at the show!

Did you know that St. Augustine is the
oldest continuously occupied settlement
and port in the continental United States?
St. Augustine has 452 years of history
including rule by Spain, Britain, and the

A few words from the President

The State of the Hobby and the NMRA

Each January, the United States President gives an address
to Congress entitled the "State of the Union." This address
advises Congress on how the government is working, as well
as those issues facing society in general. Well, with apologies to the U.S.
President, I would also like to address the state of our hobby and that of our
association.

The full text of these thoughts can be found in the January issue of NMRA
Magazine but let me summarize by stating that the state of each is
excellent. Never has the hobby been more fulfilling and never has it been
more rewarding. I think we would all agree that model railroading has never
looked better nor operated more realistically. From DCC to new technologies
that offer unlimited promise, we are living a true golden age in our hobby.

Similarly, the NMRA has never been stronger or more enjoyable than it is
today. Gone are the "politics" of the old days and the inward focus that
emphasized insular issues over the hobby in general.

But technological advances and increased realism are not the only reason the
hobby is satisfying to an extent never before seen. It is today's hobbyist who
also adds to the scene. For as we age, one advantage is that we now have the
time and in many cases, the discretionary income to pursue our hobby in ways
only dreamed of in our younger years. At last, with the kids out of the house
and college paid, there is money available for that newest N-scale diesel or
HO craftsman kit.

Despite my earlier more gloomy prognostications on our future, I refuse to
either admit or predict the demise of scale model railroading anytime
soon. Our hobby is just too satisfying and appealing to believe it is in its "last
days." One need only look in the eyes of a child at a train show or witness the
excitement at a Thomas event to conclude that trains remain fascinating to
younger generations, as they have been for decades and decades.

Lots more news — sign up for email eBulletin TODAY!

Our Latest SER Fund-Raising Car Kit



No layout can have enough of these cars!

The Southeastern Region of the NMRA is proud to announce the
availability of a limited number of Accurail HO scale ACF 4650 cu.
ft. covered hopper kits custom decorated for the SER. The car
built date is 5/68 and is lettered for Engelhard.

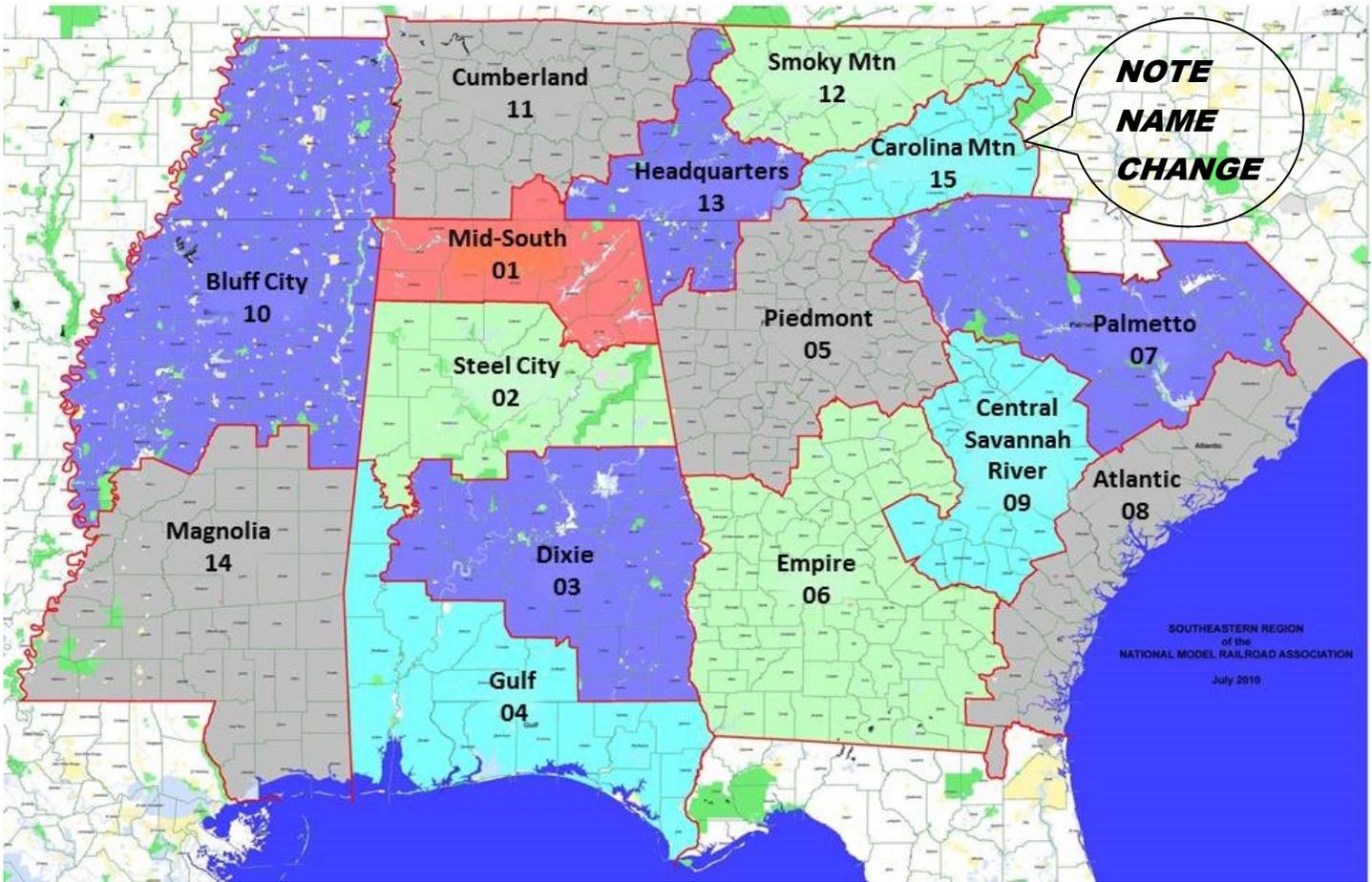
The car, offered in one road number, is injected-molded plastic
featuring plastic wheelsets, Accumate couplers and separate
brake detail. Orders of two or more cars includes a free easy-to-
install replacement decal set, twelve numbers in all.

Cars are available at \$23 each plus shipping \$6.00 for one car.
Two cars shipping \$7.00. Three or Four cars shipping \$8.00.

COST BREAK - when ordering four or more cars only \$20
per car plus shipping of \$8.00. Orders of more than four
cars add an additional \$1.00 per car for shipping.

Check or money order payable to:
SER-NMRA c/o Randall Watson SER Car Project
730 Morning Creek Lane
Suwanee, Ga 30024

For additional information contact Region Car Chair Ran-
dall Watson at: randallwatson1@bellsouth.net



OFFICERS

- President:** Alan Mole 770-315-7244 alanmole@bellsouth.net
8370 Colonial Place, Duluth, GA 30097
- Vice-President:** James A Black (850)914-0002 black@novatechnologies.com
429 S. Tyndall Pky. Ste., S, Panama City, FL 32404-0002
- Secretary:** George Gilbert (615) 352-1254 rgilbert@comcast.net
750 Rodney Drive, Nashville, TN 37205-3016
- Treasurer:** Sally Bando 770-928-2135 sbandogeorgia@comcast.net
1258 Hendon Road, Woodstock, GA 30188-3073

DIRECTORS

- Exec. Advisor:** Glen Hall, MMR (850) 982-2795 gnglen@cox.net
609 Phyllis Street, Pensacola, FL 32503-2026
- Director (2018):** Paul V Voelker 770-530-0966 voelkerpv@msn.com
6438 Paradise Point Road, Flowery Branch, GA 30542-3143
- Director (2018):** Howard Goodwin, MMR 770-529-2103 horn69@bellsouth.net
79 Cross Branches, Acworth, GA 30101-7705
- Director (2020):** Larry Burkholder (865) 408-9903 labtexan@chartertn.net
206 Coyatee View, Loudon, TN 37774-2172
- Director (2020):** Howard Garner, MMR (864) 878-4705 cascaderail@bellsouth.net
P. O. Box 826, Pickens, SC 29671-0826

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

- AP Program:** Randall Watson 770-831-5736 randallv Watson1@bellsouth.net
730 Morning Creek Lane, Suwanee, GA 30024-7052
- BSA Coord'r:** Howard Goodwin, MMR 770-529-2103 horn69@bellsouth.net
79 Cross Branches, Acworth, GA 30101-7705
- Contests:** Ben Bartlett, MMR 828-883-2799 b3j2c@yahoo.com
P. O. Box 2437, Brevard, NC 28712-2437
- Conventions:** Fred Coleman 828-699-0983 fred_coleman@bellsouth.net
P. O. Box 361, Naples, NC 28760-0361
- Education:** Larry Burkholder, 865-408-9903 Y1224labtexan@chartertn.net
206 Coyatee Vw Loudon, TN 37774-2172
- Education Asst.:** James A Black (850)914-0002 black@novatechnologies.com
429 S. Tyndall Pky., Suite S, Panama City, FL 32404-0002
- E-Newsletter:** Rick Coble 770-279-2523 rvcoble@yahoo.com
3278 Spring Wind Ct, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4838
- Good & Welfare:** David R Anderson 828-277-9092 dranderson1980@att.net
69 Ballantree Dr., Asheville, NC 28803-2065
- Historian:** Joe Nichols, Sr. MMR (770) 396-6447 deltar@mindspring.com
4554 Chadwell Lane, Atlanta, GA 30338-5604
- Honors/Awards:** Larry Smith, MMR (205) 988-5365 wooddale@bellsouth.net
1774 Wooddale Cir., Pelham, AL 35124-1019
- Legal Counsel:** Daniel R. Mason 770-928-8618 Daniel@Masonlawfirmga.com
3000 Creekside Way, Marietta, GA 30066

- Membership:** Rick Coble 770-279-2527 rvcoble@mra@gmail.com
3278 Spring Wind Ct, Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4838
- Mini-Meets:** Alan Mole 770-315-7244 alanmole@bellsouth.net
P.O. Box 2173, Suwanee, GA 30024-0977
- Registrar:** Steve Pevette (803) 392-7684 pevette@atlanticbb.net
356 Ashley Ct., Graniteville, SC 29829-3940
- Webmaster:** Scott Povlot 770-569-4678 povlot@bellsouth.net
13405 Avensong Crossing, Alpharetta, GA 30004-7445
- Asst. Webmaster:** Steve Pevette (803) 392-7684 pevette@atlanticbb.net
356 Ashley Ct., Graniteville, SC 29829-3940

DIVISIONS

- 1 Mid-South:** Sandy Warrington 256-617-8098 wewarrington@msn.com
281 Shortleaf Lane, Harvest, AL 35749
- 2 Steel City:** John Stewart 205-901-3790 jstew@bhamrails.info
1103 Lake Forest Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244
- 3 Dixie:** Brett Scott 334-799-3096 davidbrettscott@gmail.com
803 Durden Rd, Prattville, AL 36067-1534
- 4 Gulf:** Reed Ostrander 850 830-6331 drostrander@bellsouth.net
7622 North Shores Dr, Navarre, FL 32566-8411
- 5 Piedmont:** Walt Liles 678-896-6311 wliles.crrman@gmail.com
4388 Brandon Cove NE, Marietta, GA 30066-2106
- 6 Empire:** Bill Attaway 478-954-9200 attawayw@mac.com
118 Lenox Drive, Bonaire, GA 31005-3604
- 7 Palmetto:** Ron Lown 864-845-3260 rlow3260@gmail.com
108 Saddle Horn Ln., Piedmont, SC 29673-9184
- 8 Atlantic:** Carl S Blum 843-559-3757 carl.blum@comcast.net
865 Brownswood Road, Johns Island, SC 29455-3238
- 9 Cntl Svnh R:** Robin Riley 803-226-9536 robindriley@gmail.com
191 Twin Ponds Ln, Aiken, SC 29803-1713
- 10 Bluff City:** Mike Fleming (901) 467-7138 mrfleming@netzero.net
2676 Satellite Street, Bartlett, TN 38134-4642
- 11 Cumberland:** Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158 hultman@bellsouth.net
1305 Chestnut Drive, Brentwood, TN 37207
- 12 Smoky Mt.:** Doug Hughes 734-678-5903 w3ho@aol.com
1220 Bishops View Lane, Knoxville, TN 37932-2672
- 13 H'quarters Co-Chairs:** Roy Masterson (423) 227-0334 rwmasterson@epbf.com
3502 Glendon Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37411-4114
Tom Shallcross 931-484-7565 chipmonk4@comcast.net
14 Briar Court, Crossville, TN 38558-8810
- 14 Magnolia:** Pat McCarty (601) 955-0510 (cell) maccars@att.net
3815 Rebecca Ct, Jackson, MS 39216-3719
- 15 Carolina Mtn:** Ken O'Brien 828-696-9436 kobrien1600@live.com
550 Patterson Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739

NOTE NAME CHANGE — "LAND O'SKY" IS NOW "CAROLINA MTN."



Southeastern Region Division News



Division 1 – Mid South — Sandy Warrington, Superintendent
281 Shortleaf Lane, Harvest, AL 35749 256-617-8098 wewarrington@msn.com

The Division continues to meet monthly with about 15 attending.

The November meeting was held in the renovated Decatur Depot. We have an invitation from the Decatur Parks Department to hold Division meetings at the Depot as often as we would like.

Half the Depot is occupied by the Police Department which increases security. The other half is a railroad museum and visitors center. One of the rooms has been set aside for an operating layout. The layout has a model of the Depot and the lift bridge across the Tennessee River. A committee has been formed to support the Decatur Depot in building the layout.

The City has named one of our members, Jim Norris, to oversee the layout's construction (Jim helpers appear right). Jim has also been named as our Depot Committee Chairman. There are about eight members on the committee attending monthly work sessions on the first Saturday.

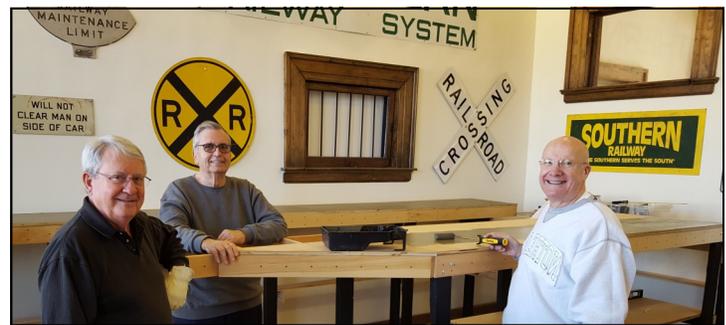
The only drawback to holding meetings at the Depot is the passing trains causes some of the members to leave the meeting with cameras in-hand. I'm not sure there is a down side to that.

We are starting to see clinic volunteers. The November meeting featured a clinic by Ken Mattern on creating building interiors using images attached to walls. This technique gives the interior the

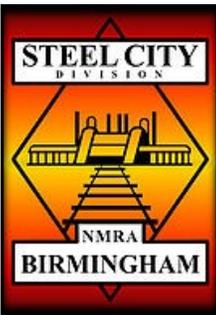


illusion of depth and is very realistic. There are two clinics scheduled for future meetings.

Visit the Division website: midsouthnmra.org/



Division 2 — Steel City — John Stewart, Superintendent
1103 Lake Forest Circle, Birmingham, AL 35244 205-901-3790 jstew@bhamrails.info



The Steel City Division in Birmingham, AL meets monthly (except December) on Thursday evenings.

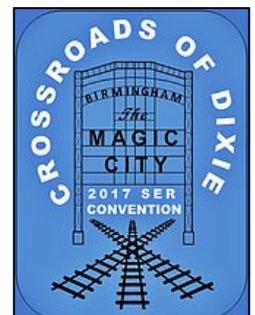
Check our website www.scd-nmra.org for meeting information as well as other information about the Division, its members and activities.

You can also download our electronic newsletter "The Coupler" which is emailed monthly to Division members, friends of the Division and other interested parties.

We welcome visitors to our meetings and other activities including layout tours, operations sessions and other events.

The Steel City Division will be hosting the **2017 SER Convention and Train Show June 9th and 10th, 2017** at the Bessemer Civic Center in metro Birmingham. Plan now to attend. For more information see the convention website for convention plans

www.2017serconvention.com



Division 3 — Dixie — Brett Scott, Superintendent
803 Durden Rd, Prattville, AL 36067-1534 334-799-3096 davidbrettscott@gmail.com

The Dixie Division covers a large area of SE Alabama with groups in the Montgomery/Prattville area as well as the Dothan/Enterprise/Ozark area. There are very active clubs in both of these areas of the Division that support open houses, layouts and a Train Show. Currently the club activities essentially take

the place of formal Division meetings.

See the Club Car page of the SouthErneR for more information, contacts and websites. Visitors are welcome — call ahead.

Division 4 — Gulf — Reed Ostrander, Superintendent
7622 North Shores Dr, Navarre, FL 32566-8411 850 830-6331 drostrander@bellsouth.net

The Gulf Division covers 10 counties in Florida's Great North-west (Western Panhandle) as well as 10 counties in southwest Alabama. Metro areas include Mobile, AL, Pensacola, Ft. Walton Beach and Panama City, FL.

There are active groups in each of these larger communities — see listings on the Club Car page in the SouthErneR. In addition there are active groups at Milton, FL as well as Foley, FL.

Meeting locations:

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
 805 Mt. Vernon Hwy.
 N.W., Atlanta, GA 30327



Board of Directors Meeting—6pm;

Regular meeting—7pm See website for directions.

The Piedmont Division is running strong in 2017. There has been lots of discussion about folks joining and what divisions should do. One of the first things we started this year was to appoint **Sally Bando as Marketing Chair** person with a team of talented folks



from the Division. They are spearheading many and different ways that our division can reach out to all ages to become members of the NMRA.

This is not to be confused with our regular efforts from **Membership Director Mike Cummings** heading up membership. This is in addition to come up with ways to attract members. We are stepping out of the box and into a tunnel of unknown. When we get out at the other portal we will give you the results. As a division, we could not stand on the side of the tracks and think how nice it would be to grow. We are being proactive and hopefully setting the bar for other division to follow.



Our division has been busy. The Piedmont Division had a super busy January with **World's Greatest Hobby Show** at the World Congress Center in downtown Atlanta. Special thanks to the folks from NMRA HQ for heading to Atlanta during a slippery wintery weekend. The show was packed. Saturday's crowd was a little light but Sunday made up for it. Folks were tired of being iced in

and turned out to the trains. The show was a hit. Many fine modular layouts were on exhibit and plenty of vendors and manufactures made it to the show.

Our volunteers tracked out again to the show in Duluth at the Infinite Energy Center. Many thanks to our volunteers who worked the shows recruiting members and talking about model trains. Longs hour on the concrete floors are hard on the backs but our folks give, give and give. **THANK YOU!**

It seems Piedmont never slows down. Our meetings have been exciting with lots of excellent speakers and clinicians that really



showed members and guests many different aspects of our hobby. If you have a desire to give a clinic, please contact our **Director of Operation Royal Bruce**. He would love to help you get a clinic lined up for the future meeting.



Our **Boy Scout Merit Badge Coordinator Howard Goodwin** has been hard at it as well. He organized an event in February at the church on Canton Hwy and Piedmont Rd. He just about had a full house of Boy Scouts. He is always in need of assistants if you would like to volunteer to help with that program. Howard does a jam up job of putting the program together and teaching the scouts the material we have.

I was very fortunate as well to assist Perry Lamb at the Train **'N Camp** program in February. The North **Atlanta Rail Barons, 100% NMRA Operating Group** guys really put it on. Perry Lamb, Jim Travis, Howard Goodwin and myself presented Model Railroading 101 for 3 hours. It was a very professional and a timely clinic. We had 28 attendees show up that Saturday. They were very appreciative and walked away with a lot of new insights for the modeling their future railroads. They had fun!

While some folks are roaring up for basketball, the Piedmont Division charges in with our **“The Model Train Show”** - one of the finest around. It was fantastic. It is hard work and great leadership from **Joe Gelmini, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Heather Gelmini, Gary Jarabek, Chris White, Brian Sandberg, Perry Lamb and Alan Mole**. There were also around 80 volunteers from the division and special guests that make it successful. (4,500 folks!)

The membership booth was very busy per **Mike Cummings**. Also, a very special Thanks to the NMRA HQ crew who worked next to us promoting the NMRA. We also had members up from the Sunshine Region promoting the **NMRA National Convention in Florida** this summer. Hope fully many of you found deals and got to see lots of trains running. It was an impressive show.

David Waltham, Buford, GA, was the a winner for the 2017 HO Raffle Layout. It included a 4x4 HO Layout complete with an Atlas 40-2 Genesee & Wyoming Loco (DCC) several cars and a special painted and decaled caboose for G& W. The winner also received a Digitrax Zephyr Extra DCC System compliments of **Digitrax**. Our other sponsors **Blue OX Trains** and **CatzPaw 3D Printing** were helpful with other items as well.

Our recent meeting was April 18th. It was our contest month for bringing model and photos. I encourage folks to bring models and photos for our contests and give it a try. Challenge yourself. What you can do to sharpen your skills to become a better modeler.?

We hope to have a large crowd coming to Birmingham for the **2017 SER Convention, Crossroads of Dixie** June 9th & 10th as well.

Till next time, check your couplers, wheels and weight in your cars and have fun model railroading.

Walt

Website for more Division News: <http://www.piedmont-div.org/>

Division 6 — Empire — Bill Attaway, Superintendent
118 Lenox Drive, Bonaire, GA 31005-3604 478-954-9200 attawayw@mac.com

The Empire Division covers a large part of southern Georgia including the cities of Columbus, Macon, Albany and Valdosta. There are active groups listed in the Club Car page for each of these areas.

The Empire Division continues to work on new initiatives includ-

ing a new website under construction which you are encouraged to visit for information on activities and upcoming events:

www.empiredivision-ser.org

Check out the Empire Division!

Division 7 — Palmetto — Ron Lown, Superintendent
108 Saddle Horn Ln., Piedmont, SC 29673-9184 864-845-3260 rlow3260@gmail.com

Plans for additional meetings and alternate locations and activities are underway. Many members are associated with model railroad clubs and railroad historical societies.

Division 7 (Palmetto) currently has 101 members. The Palmetto Division covers a large part of inland South Carolina including the major cities of Greenville/Spartanburg, site of the 2015 SER Convention and Columbia.

The Division maintains a great website that provides information on activities and meetings. <http://www.palmettodiv.org/>

Meetings are generally held on a Saturday during the Fall and Spring. Format includes clinics in the morning, lunch and layout tours in the afternoon. Recent Division meetings have been held at Greer, SC midway between Greenville and Spartanburg, SC

Division 8 —Atlantic — Mark Pruitt, Superintendent
106 N Warwick Trace Goose Creek, GA 29445-7105 (843) 572-1725 mark@mabrunton.com

Hello from your Atlantic Division Here is a general template for Division meetings - short business meetings followed by clinics and layout and/or prototype visits to round out a day of activities.

With confirmation of officers an appointment of area coordinators at our July, 2016 meeting, the Atlantic Division is now up and running as an active division of the Southeastern Region.

The Atlantic Division stretches about 50 miles inland along the coast of Georgia and South Carolina including the cities of Brunswick, and Savannah, GA as well as Hilton Head, Beaufort, Charleston and Myrtle Beach, SC.

Mark Pruitt (nee Brunton)
 Division Superintendent

Division 9 — Central Savannah River — Robin Riley, Superintendent
191 Twin Ponds Ln, Aiken, SC 29803-1713 803-226-9536 robindriley@gmail.com

Election of Division Officers

Elections were held in September, 2016 with the following nominees elected:

- Robin Riley, Superintendent
- Jack Connors Vice Superintendent
- Don Barnes Secretary
- Andy Chandler Treasurer

Operating Sessions

Tuesday night operating sessions have resumed. As of October, we will be back to offering a session every Tuesday night on the Burnt Hills and Big Flats, See the bhbf.weebly.com website for announcement of future Tuesday night and Saturday afternoon operating sessions.

Division 10 — Bluff City — Mike Fleming, Superintendent
2676 Satellite Street, Bartlett, TN 38134-4642 (901) 467-7138 mrfleming@netzero.net



The Bluff City Division is a very large Division covering western Tennessee and northern Mississippi. The cities of Jackson and Memphis, TN are included as well as Columbus and Tupelo, MS and a number of other towns.

Current leadership of the Division is focused in Memphis and centered around the Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum (MRTM).

Memphis clubs have a great situation with a "home" at **AZO** a local manufacturing site. They make their second floor space available for layouts. We work with local clubs to organize a periodic open house at AZO where the local club layouts are located. The photos show portions of two of the layouts located at the AZO facility.



Division 11 — Cumberland — Bob Hultman, Superintendent

1305 Chestnut Drive, Brentwood, TN 37207 (615) 833-5158 hultman@bellsouth.net

Keep up with activities in the Cumberland Division by visiting their website: <http://tcry.org/cd/index.htm>

The Spring, 2017 Division Meet held in conjunction with TN Central Ry Museum Open House was well attended including the Train Show as well as layout visits.

Also, the TC Ry Museum's hobby shop has received the Atlas

HO Alco C420 locomotives, road numbers 400 & 401, both sound & non-sound versions. Over the years, Atlas has released Alco RS-3's, Alco RS-36's & now C420's painted & lettered for TC Ry. Atlas has also released a couple versions of TC cabooses. Cumberland Division appreciates Atlas for their support with HO scale offerings of TC Ry locomotives and rolling stock.

Bob Hultman Division Supt

Division 12 — Smoky Mountain — Doug Hughes, Superintendent

1220 Bishops View Lane, Knoxville, TN 37932-2672734-678-5903 w3ho@aol.com

Smokey Mountain Division 12 consists of 65 NMRA members living in East Tennessee.

Division activities consist of four social dinners yearly with the most recent 2017 being held April 6, at the Kodak, TN, Bass Pro Shop. Officers meet for lunch almost every Thursday at a Mexican restaurant in Oak Ridge usually with 2-3 other NMRA members also in attendance. Just call if you wish to join us.

Discussions are lively and include: application of microprocessor kits from Arduino to the layout, pros & cons of various DCC hardware, sound decoder installations in older model locomotives, upcoming operating sessions on the several large private and club layouts in the division, the never-ending search for clinicians and clinic topics for our quarterly meetings, home layout progress, and progress (or non progress) of several members who are active in the Achievement Program.

Smokey Mountain Division welcomes 5 new members: **Cary Casey** of Kingsport, **David Giles** of Knoxville, **Gabe Passmore** of Clinton, **Burton Legan** and **Larry Koran** of Oak Ridge, as well as transfer member **Jim Fackler** from Cincinnati.

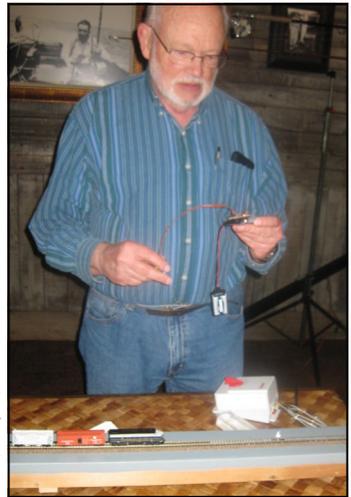
Former Supt. **Larry Burkholder** is now the SER Education Chair as well as the Division's new AP Chairman.



Recent Show and Tell presentations included **Jim Grossen** who shared his work on using an Arduino microprocessor to create an N scale crossing gate circuit. **Jim Fackler** shared one of his Athearn wrecking cranes that he has fitted with 5 function DCC controls providing operating capability for the crane boom, cab rotation and lighting.

The Division enjoyed a visit to the **Knoxville Locomotive Works**.

Phil Brooks has designed a new logo for the Division - Allen Keller is having ops aprons made with it which members may order.



Division 13 — Headquarters — Co-Superintendents, Districts

S District Roy Masterson (423) 227-0334 rwasterson@epbfi.com

N District Tom Shallcross 14 Briar Court, Crossville, TN 38558-8810 931-484-7565 chipmonk4@comcast.net

The **Headquarters Division** is located in the western part of East Tennessee including the Chattanooga metro area in the south (including some counties in North Georgia, as well as the city of Crossville, TN, in the northern part of the Division. The Division is divided into two Districts, north and south, with Co-Superintendents noted above.

The actual area covered by each of the Headquarters Division Districts are defined as:

Headquarters North District — The Tennessee Counties of Pickett, Fentress, Cumberland, Van Buren, Bledsoe, Rhea and Meigs. Almost all members of the Division are members of the **Crossville Model Railroad Club**.

Headquarters South District — The Tennessee Counties of Franklin, Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie, Hamilton, Bradley, McMinn, Monroe and Polk as well as **Georgia Counties** Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray, Chattooga and Gordon. Several members of the Southern District are also members of the **Chattanooga Modular Modelers**

The HQ Division South continues to work hard to grow and prosper. Last fall we elected new officers and board members.

HQ South hosted our first quarterly meeting on February 4. Supt. Masterson sent out newsletters to let members know about the event. Member **Brendan Brosnan gave a presentation "Modeling Steel for Beginners."**

The Southern District sponsored a Boy Scout Railroad Merit Badge Program with the Cherokee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The program was held at the Tennessee Val-

ley Railroad Museum on January 18 in the old NMRA Headquarters Building with 20 Boy Scouts. Another program in September. If you are interested in helping with the event please contact Owen Maddux at 423-605-0432.

Our thanks to **Howard Goodwin of the Piedmont Division** who has been instrumental in helping with materials and ideas on how to run a successful program. And thanks to **Ed Tougaw** for attending the Piedmont Division Merit Badge Program in Atlanta. We also want to thank the TVRM for providing our venue.



Looking ahead, it is thought that a mini-meet could be held here in Chattanooga. Offerings could include 2 layouts that were built for operations and 2 more under construction.

Another plus is the HQ South has the TVRM in our backyard. Plus there are other layouts in the area that could be open for tours.

The Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club (formerly at the Choo Choo) is preparing to start construction of a layout in the basement of the former NMRA Headquarters building now owned by the TVRM.

Keep an eye out for news from HQ South as they continue to "build up a head of steam" to become a strong and growing new Division. And isn't this a handsome new logo?

Division 14 — Magnolia — Pat McCarty, Superintendent

3815 Rebecca Ct, Jackson, MS 39216-3719

(601) 955-0510 (cell)

maccars@gmx.com

The Magnolia Division is located in southern Mississippi and includes the larger cities of Jackson, Meridian, Hattiesburg and Gulfport, MS,

Presently, we have 27 active NMRA members. We are going to be working to identify all the model railroaders in the division, with the goal of increasing membership and participation.

There are three active clubs in the division: Meridian, Jackson (The Jackson Society of Model Railroad Engineers and the Central Mississippi Model Railroaders), and Gulfport (Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Club).

Meridian meets every Saturday morning at the Meridian Railroad Museum, located at the old Southern Depot. It is a beautiful facility, and well worth a trip over to visit. The city has spent tons of money on the depot and its environs, and it is a gem in the

Queen City's crown.

The CMMRRC meets every Tuesday evening at the Mississippi Agriculture Museum, where they have a beautiful display layout depicting agricultural scenes from across the state. Members also get together on Saturday mornings to run trains for the museum patrons. The JSMR has a pair of very nice layouts in the same facility – one is O scale, the other Lionel. All of these layouts are available for visitation throughout the day during museum hours with trains running automatically on demand.

The Gulfport club operates the Mississippi Coast Model Railroad Museum (<http://www.mcmrcm.org>), which is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, and provides viewing of all kinds of model railroad layouts and equipment – with plenty of hands on experiences for kids of all ages.

Division 15 — Carolina Mountain (formerly Land O' Sky) — Ken O'Brien, Superintendent

550 Patterson Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739

828-696-9436

kobrien1600@live.com

NOTE that the Division formerly known as "Land O'Sky" is now the Carolina Mountain Division following a vote of the membership to change the Division's name.

Carolina Mountain Division meetings are held quarterly on the third Saturday of January, April, July & October. Locations vary. Call (828) 696-9436 for program information & directions.

The Carolina Mountain Division will be hosting the **2018 SER Convention at beautiful Lake Junaluska, NC**. The Division is proceeding with various tasking for the proposed 2018 Region Convention. We will be holding meetings to share out the various jobs to be performed.

Member **Ben Bartlett, MMR is new SER Region Contest Chair**

What Could I Possibly Do in Birmingham?

By M. T. Hopper

I don't know why I would want to go to Birmingham for the SER Annual Convention. I could just stay home by myself and do stuff I like to do. I guess, I don't know, ... You know, like I always do...

So, that 's why I'm not going to go to the Convention I guess, maybe, sorta, I don't know... Just stay home and do what I usually do, sorta, I guess... So, I guess that's what I'm not gonna do, I mean do, stay home... I don't know how I would have any fun...



I'm Looking Forward to Going to Birmingham

By Fuller Cole

I've already registered for the **2017 SER Convention in Birmingham**, **The Magic City**, and I've made my motel reservation at the cheaper Convention rate. You know the Registration fee goes up pretty soon and the motel won't have rooms for ever, even



though there are plenty of motels at Exit 108, down the street from the **Bessemer Convention Center**. In fact, I'm going to stay over a day or so to do some of the neat stuff in Birmingham that I can't do here at home.

I understand that Birmingham used to be a heavy industrial city although it has changed in many ways from the old days. But it was founded at the **junction of two railroads** and that is still true today — the two main railroads of the Eastern US, **CSX and NS** share adjacent right of way, for over a mile, right down town.

I hear that there are two neat old roadway viaducts built right over these two mainlines. **You can park right there and watch trains and take pictures all you want. And you can see the Amtrak station from there.** Amtrak comes through about noon southbound and about 2 pm northbound.

Downtown has **Railroad Park** which also has a nice viewpoint for watching trains, because the mainline was elevated about 1930. And on the other side of this grade separation is the new **Bir-**



irmingham Intermodal Station which will serve the neat old passenger platforms built in the the '30's.

Nearby you can see where the old **SAL** came into downtown in 1904 — called "**The Cut**". It has been made into a unique pedestrian way called the Rotary Trail since Birmingham's Rotary Club supported the project in a very big way. And they put a sign like the one that welcomed travelers to Birmingham for years at Ter-



iminal Station, that said "**Welcome to Birmingham**".

In the downtown area there is one of the most unique "museums" in the United States — **Sloss Furnace National Historic Landmark**. This complex is the way it was when it shutdown around 1970. You can get up close and personal with a blast furnace in a



way you won't find anywhere else.

If you were to look up on the big ridge (locals call it Red Mountain) you would see a very large cast iron statue — in fact it's the largest one around — **Vulcan**, the Roman god of the Forge. **Vulcan Park** has a visitor's center with a really neat small museum about Birmingham's iron industry and you can go up the tower that sup-

ports Vulcan and see all of Birmingham at your feet.



Speaking of **Red Mountain**, that is the source of all of Birmingham's red iron ore, or hematite. Birmingham was the only spot in the world where the ingredients to make iron could be found in one location. Red ore, coal for coke and limestone may be found within 5 miles of each other. And railroads ran everywhere.

Red Mountain Park is another one of a kind spot to visit. The old railbeds have been made into trails on 1400 acres of former US Steel land. You can visit several of the old mine portals which have been closed at least since about 1970,



By the way, while your downtown, there is a brand new state of the art baseball stadium near **Railroad Park** that is home to the **Birmingham Barons** (White Sox organization). The Barons used to play at Rickwood Field, now the oldest baseball park standing in the United States. You can see that as well.

Birmingham has a world class **Art Museum** which includes many exhibits, rotating and permanent as well as the largest collection of **Wedgewood China** anywhere. As someone once said "It's huge!"

Like bookstores? Try **Reed Books and Museum of Fond Mem-**

ories, one of the funkier anywhere. It's located on 2021 Third Avenue North downtown.

Like motorcycles? Try the **Barber Motorsports Museum** located off I-20 near Leeds, AL. And if you go there, you can visit

some sports place named after a fish — **Bass Pro**. And if you go there, you can see the **Historic Leeds Depot (1884)**, located right on the NS mainline. The **Railway and Locomotive Historical Society** has their meetings there. If you like the image below



of the depot, the artist will likely be at the Train Show.

On your way to Leeds you could stop at Irondale, home of **NS Norris Yard**, and home to the **City's train watching platforms**. That's cool because it is right in front of the **Irondale Café**, home of fried green tomatoes (model for the one in the movie).

Speaking of restaurants Bir-



mingham has so many it is hard to count. Some of the more unique are **Nicki's West** — really good meals cafeteria style with a thousand of your closest

friends. But DON:T use your cellphone in the cafeteria line. A real cross section of Birmingham dines there everyday from politicians and business leaders to laborers. The food is great with a Greek touch.

If you were train watching in



Ovidiu Trifanescu
Chief Mechanical & Electrical Engineer



Atlanta Locomotive Company
"We fix the past and improve the future"
Specialized in mechanical and electrical repairs for your rolling stock

Email: piko7403@yahoo.com Cell: (678)-230-3184

George Bloodworth
President

L & K Railroad

245 Hidden Meadow Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30004
Tel: 678-297-1814
Fax: 678-297-1816
george.bloodworth@att.net



KLS

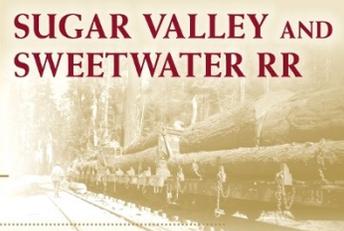
Keheley Lake Southern
Connecting Routes with
Rex & Clayton Southern
and Shamrock Southern

Len Polinsky General Manager
Mike Callahn, MMR Design Engineer
lenpolinsky@bellsouth.net

SUGAR VALLEY AND SWEETWATER RR

Brian Glock
Superintendent

255 Hollyberry Dr., Roswell, GA 30076 • 770-998-3314 • brianglock966@yahoo.com



Joe Gelmini, MMR
Superintendent



Georgia Great Southern
N Scale Model Railroad

170 Camelot Drive 770-460-8873
Fayetteville, GA 30214 papagel@comcast.net

REVIS BUTLER, JR.
PRESIDENT & CEO



LIVE OAK, PERRY & GULF RR

5260 NEW LONDON TRACE Tel: 404-255-9578
ATLANTA, GA 30327-4966 Cell: 404-580-2215
revisb@bellsouth.net

SEE YOUR RAILROAD CARD HERE

\$16/YEAR (FOUR ISSUES)

Helena, AL, you could stop by the **Helena Depot** for a great burger next to the tracks. From there it's not far to the **Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum** in Calera, AL. They have an outdoor museum of static display engines and rolling stock, a fine railroad



library, an indoor museum (two restored depots) and a real train ride. An interesting artifact on display is a very early CTC board that was used by US Steel to control train movements c. 1924 from their High Ore line to Red Mountain as well as interplant moves.

If you were visiting some layouts in the Hoover area, you might want to try one of the **finest hamburgers in town** at **Tony's Hot Dogs** (ironic ain't it) They are located at the corner of US 31 and Valleydale Road near I-65.

And the list goes on, and on and on...

Oh, the Convention! And the Train Show!

Well that is located down in **Bessemer, the Marvel City** founded in 1888 to expand the iron industry started in Birmingham. Bessemer is located at the foot of **Red Mountain**, just 12 miles down I-59/20 from all the stuff in Birmingham. Did you know the **Bright Star Restaurant** in downtown Bessemer has been in business since 1907? It's fine food, not fast food, and has a lot of paneled wood and beautiful murals painted in 1915, currently being restored.



Bessemer also is home to the **Bessemer Hall of History**, located in the **1912 Alabama Great Southern De-**

pot right on the NS mainline to Meridian. It has a fine model railroad built inside the **1,000,000th Pullman Standard Boxcar** produced by the former Pullman Standard Plant located right up the street.

Down the street is the former **curved plate girder bridge** that carried the **Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic** into Bessemer in 1907 on the way to reaching Birmingham in 1910. Want a challenging modeling project — get your camera -- it's pretty unique.





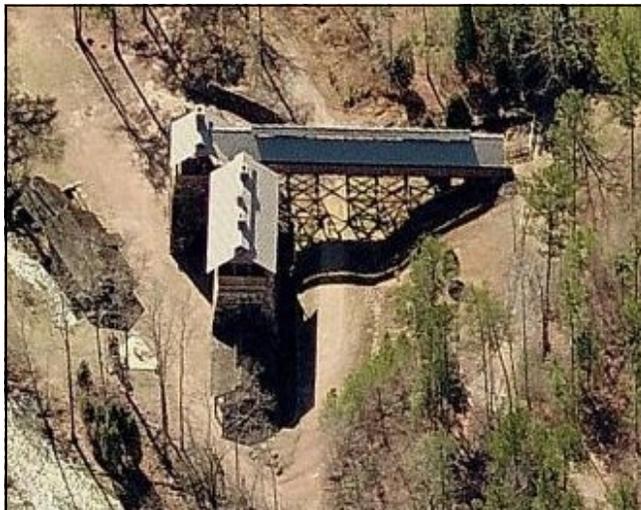
SEE YOUR RAILROAD CARD HERE

\$16/YEAR (FOUR ISSUES)

Up on Red Mountain, but not in the Park (yet) are more iron ore mining buildings and ruins, as well as whole neighborhoods of “square tops” houses which were Tennessee Coal & Iron (USS) worker housing -- and some neat Victorian managers houses.

Drive up Bessemer Super Highway a few miles and you can see **TCI/USS high ore line overhead, built in 1924**. Loads downhill and empties uphill. Pretty cool and economical. USS integrated steel mill is nearby although only the seamless pipe mill is working. If you drive up on Flint Ridge, you can see over the entire mill just as USS executives could do from their headquarter' building. On the way you pass beneath **AB&A/Birmingham Southern** span and a **Woodward Iron Co** plate girder span.

In the other direction you can go to the **Tannehill Historic Ironworks State Park** and see a fully restored **Civil War era blast furnace**. When first restored it actually made



iron after over 100 years.

Also at Tannehill is the **Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama**. It is a very nice facility with indoor displays about iron and steel making as well as outdoor static displays of iron and steel making artifacts from Birmingham mills.

There are lots of other things to see and do in Birmingham that aren't railroad related to railroads. Nearby the Convention Center is the **Alabama Splash Adventure Theme Park**. For you “narrow gauge” enthusiasts they have a world class wooden roller coaster called “**Rampage**” that takes you 120 feet high and 60 miles per hour. Maybe you have kids or grandkids that need that level of excitement in their day.



So, unlike my friend M. T. Hopper, I am excited about all the things that Birmingham has to offer to the **2017 SER Convention and Train Show** goer, railfan, parents and grandparents. I'm going to go early and stay late to get the most out of my trip to the **2017 SER Convention and Train Show**.

*I don't know how I'm going to see all the stuff I want to see and do the Convention as well. Guess I'll have to use the **convention website** to plan it all out — www.2017SERConvention.com*

Bill Zawacki, MMR
Superintendent



LITTLETOWN RR

152 Batten Board Way
Woodstock, GA 30189

678-398-7210
billz152@comcast.net

BLUE RIDGE & SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Royal Bruce
Superintendent



3923 Sue Ln, Decatur, GA 30035
941-374-1911 • royalbruce@comcast.net

GREENVILLE & OHIO RAILROAD

GO with the G&O!



Jack Varadi
Superintendent

802 Mountain View Court
Greer, SC 29651
864-325-0255
JackVaradi@yahoo.com

L & N



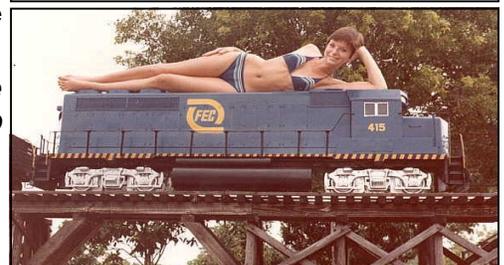
GAINESVILLE & TENNESSEE SUBDIVISION
LOUISVILLE & NASHVILLE RAILROAD
CONNECTING DALTON & GAINESVILLE

JOE SULLIVAN
SUPERINTENDENT

378 STONE MILL TRAIL
ATLANTA, GA 30328

Gizmo Trains
www.gizmotrains.com

Gizmo collectables
on **ebay**





It's All in the Timing by Paul Speich, Atlantic Div.

The **Golden Isles Model Railroad Club** has made its home in Brunswick Georgia since its founding some 35 years ago. Its first home was in the former Norfolk Southern depot and then, until recently, in a portion of a long shuttered farm supply store.

The club's fully finished 20' X 60' DCC HO layout (above) was starting to show its age, along with the building it was housed in. Plagued by leaks, cold in the winter and hot in the summer, members decided that it was time to look for new quarters for the club. A number of sites were scouted and assessments done to see if they would meet the club's need for space.

One of the clubs members that work for the City of Kingsland, Georgia, (35 miles south of Brunswick) told the membership that the city's refurbished former Seaboard Air Line depot had been empty for some time and that it might be worth looking into. A presentation was made to the City Council, and they voted unanimously to lease a portion of the depot (below) to the club.



Due to the smaller space in the depot than the previous layout, and the possible presence of termites, the membership decided that the best course of action was to salvage what they could and to build a new layout tailored to the space available.

Help with materials for the new layout came in the form of a very generous donation of materials by the family of deceased club member U.S. Army Major General J.D. Smith (Ret.). There will be an interchange on the new layout that will be dedicated to him as well as his picture hanging in the club. Timing for the move couldn't have been better. Hurricane Mat-

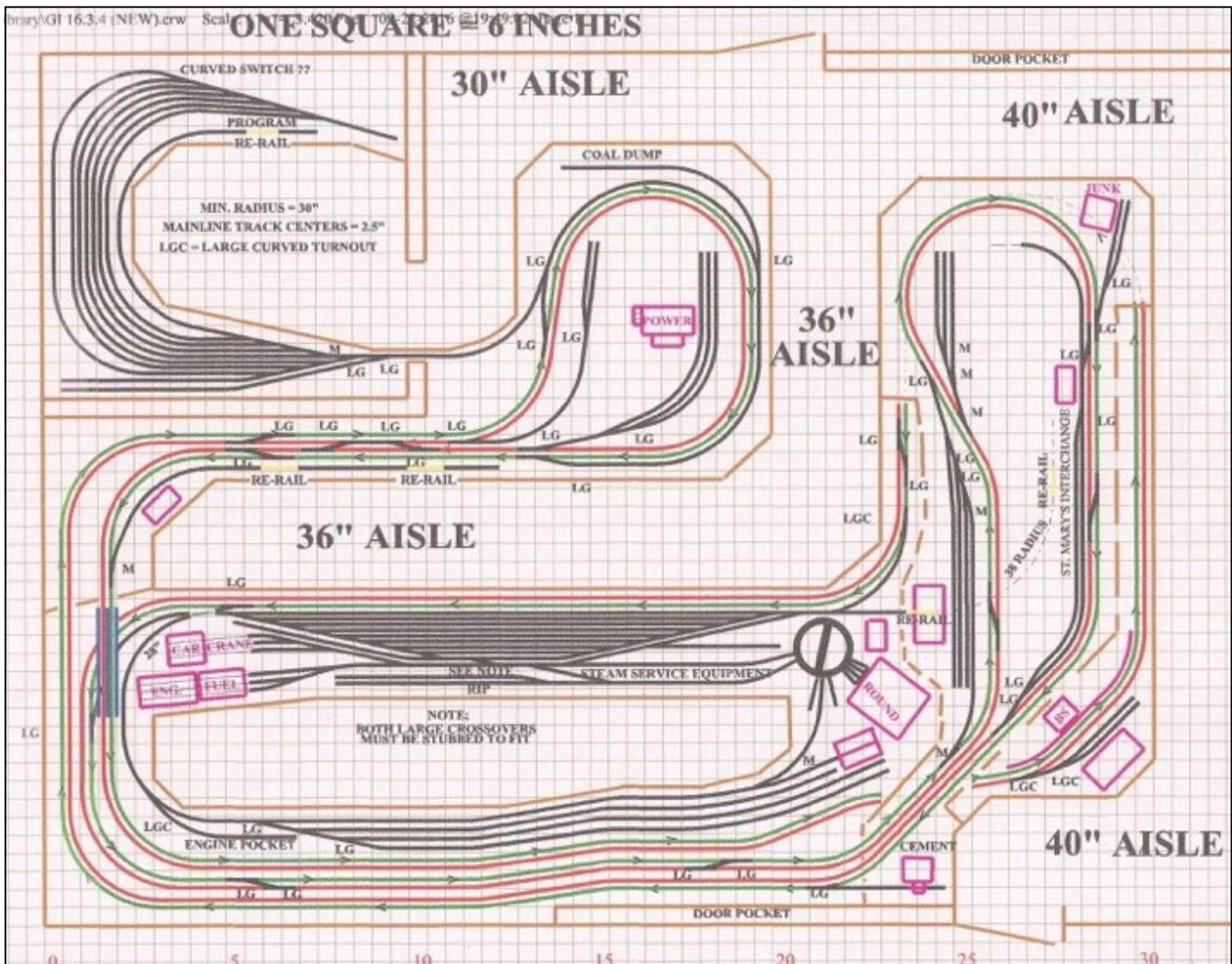
thew hit in October, and by then the members had salvaged everything that was to be used and moved it to the new building. A visit to the old site after the hurricane showed that a branch from one of the nearby live oaks had all but crushed the entrance to the old building. (below)



For approximately one and a half months before the lease for the new space was signed, the membership developed a track plan. The plan was designed to minimize the isle ways needed and to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) due to the fact that we would be open to the public at times.

Materials and salvaged equipment were moved into the new space, and construction was started on September 15, 2016. Members decided that because of the flat terrain of the coastal region, an open grid bench work would be the easiest and most economical way to depict railroading in the area.

The club's space in the depot also included a storeroom, which will serve as a staging yard with a programming track and work bench area. The room size for the layout was smaller than our previous space (24' X 30' vs. 20' X 60'), but offer better amenities and public access.



Work has progressed to the point where the main line is operational but the club is well on its way to making the move to new quarters in great style! [We look forward to future article updates, Ed.]

operational and most of the industrial sidings are in. Much of the electrical work, as well as landscaping and buildings need to be done,



The Business of Railroading – Part 3

By Tom Schultz, Steel City Division



A major railroad story to begin the new year involves 72 year old, E. Hunter Harrison, who bowed to the principle that it is never too late in life to begin a new career by accepting the Chief Executive Officer's position with CSX Corporation on March 7th, 2017. He had been the CEO of Canadian Pacific Railway. He must have really wanted the job because he forfeited over \$89 million in compensation according to the

Wall Street Journal. Under his leadership Canadian Pacific had attempted to acquire CSX in 2016 and in 2014 and was rebuffed.

People like Harrison are the stuff of which legends are made. The first part of his reputation is as having an evangelical passion for railroading. He built this reputation at three railroads: Illinois Central, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. At each one, costs went down and profits went up. But reducing the number of employees were the primary cause of the cost reductions.

To achieve these results he employs what's called precision railroading. With most railroads, each rail yard sets its own work schedules. That often created clashing schedules, which required too many people and too much equipment. Harrison does things differently. He wants the entire system run by a centralized headquarters and



works more like a conveyor belt with trains running seven days a week, 24 hours a day and exactly on time. The fact that Harrison reduces staff is more a reflection of efficient operations

of efficient operations resulting in fewer people than staff reduction as a goal itself.

When he was placed in charge of the Illinois Central in 1993, the railroad was on the brink of bankruptcy. Part of his legendary status is due to the fact that the first time he addressed 200 of the railroad's top employees he talked for eight or nine hours straight, without notes or a slide presentation. He talked about his philosophy and how the operation was going to run.

Employees were encouraged to take an economic share of the company through interest-free loans and matching funds to buy stock. But along the way, the company reduced its workforce by 11,000 employees and its service by thousands of miles of tracks. He believes in getting more miles out of the assets he owns. He likes to run longer trains, which means fewer trains if the volume is the same. He is also very selective about the customer base.

He focuses on trying to align the customer base with how the railroad can efficiently provide service. If you want two cars one week and 2100 cars the next, that doesn't work for him. He will either drop customers or raise the rates to customers.

Harrison performed similarly at the Canadian Pacific. When he took over the company it was regarded as the worst performing of the seven Class 1 North American Railroads. In four years he

slashed nearly 7,500 positions from a workforce of 19,500. He made a bid to merge with CSX in 2014. By the time he was finished as CEO, its primary owner sold its share of the railroad for a \$2.6 billion profit on its \$1.7 billion investment.

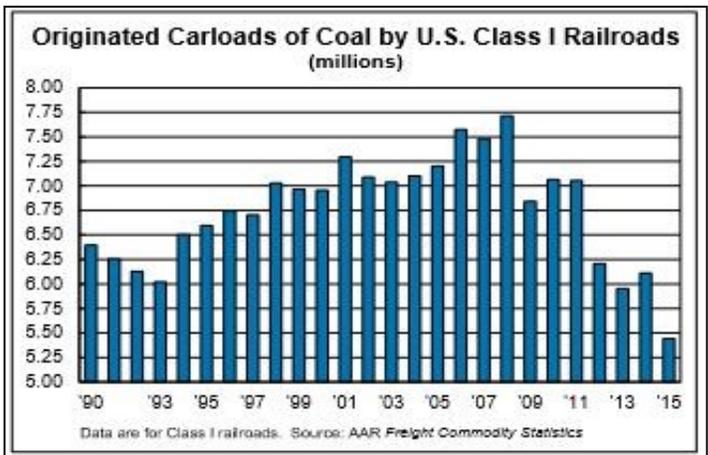
Harrison was due to retire from Canadian Pacific in June 2017, when he would become a consultant for the company at \$1 million a year. But his college roommate changed his mind. In his new position, Harrison was to receive more than \$300 million, more than making up for the \$89 million he gave up.



Railroad analysts believe that the challenges at CSX will be different than the ones at the two Canadian railroads. CSX operates a much more complex network than the Canadian railroads which were simple systems with longer haul and more linear. CSX is more complex. It is more of a mesh network than a string. Key to Harrison's success will be replacing coal as the railroad's baseload commodity which has dropped 45% since 2008 for all carriers.

The reduction in coal has been dramatic. CSX's coal business dropped from \$2.85 billion in 2014 to \$1.8 billion in 2016. And while its stock has risen 29 percent since word came of Harrison's involvement, it must be recognized that historically, Harrison has made money by cost reduction, not by generating new business. The future belongs to those operators who cannot only reduce and manage cost structures, but can also generate additional volumes.

The takeaway for model railroading may be a fresh look at the way we operate our railroads and what businesses and industries



operate on them. Even if one operates a specific prototype, maybe we should be examining the local economies on our railroads and consider replacing a few who may be outmoded or the importance of which has changed. If we are modeling the 1940's for example, maybe we should hedge a bit and add industries that expanded in the 1950's like automobiles. Each decade produces growth industries and industries in decline. If one is looking for a challenge, think about the time period one models and consider changing it into the future. Of course, this may result in

the need for more rolling stock and other changes to the layout. If your railroad has gone stale, this might be just what is needed to reinvigorate your enthusiasm. Just some food for thought.

Mergers and Acquisitions

It was announced that FEC which operates 351 miles of trackage in South Florida was sold by Florida East Coast Railway Holdings to Mexican mining and railroad company Grupo Mexico SAB. The FFEC serves the ports of Miami, Everglades and Palm Beach and handles 550,000 railcars per year.

**Priority List of Emergency and National Security Projects
The Trump Administration**

Before he took office, President-elect Trump announced that his administration would undertake a major infrastructure improvement and expansion for the country. The initial 50 projects were announced and involved \$137 billion worth of investment with the stated goal of 50% of that being from private sources. The Trump administration estimated that in terms of direct jobs these



projects would create 193,350 job years of work and indirectly create 241,700 job years of work; both long term estimates.

Eleven of the 50 projects are rail related. They are presented in the order they were in as produced in the report presented to the public. The precise priority and order for implementation is unknown nor is the certainty of their inclusion in a final list of projects is unknown. Regardless of the final outcome, the list is indicative of how important rail is to the nation's infrastructure.

Gateway Program

Reconstruction of critical, high risk Northeast Corridor rail infrastructure between Newark and New York City. The cost is \$12 B.

Texas Central Railway

Nearly 50,000 Texans, sometimes called "super-commuters," travel back and forth between Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth more than once a week. Many others make the trip very regularly. The approximately 240 mile high-speed rail line will offer a total travel time of less than 90 minutes, with convenient departures every 30 minutes during peak periods each day, and every hour during off-peak periods—with 6 hours reserved each night for system maintenance and inspection. The estimated cost of the project is \$12 billion.

Cotton Belt Line Rail Project

The Cotton Belt Rail Line is a planned 67.7 mile commuter rail line to provide service from Dallas's northeast suburbs to Southwest Fort Worth with a major terminal at the north end of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. The cost is \$1.1 billion or \$2.8 billion if not single tracked.

Second Avenue Subway, New York

The Second Avenue Subway will be New York City's first major expansion of the subway system in over 50 years. When fully completed, the line will stretch 8.5 miles along the length of Manhattan's East Side, from 125th in Harlem to Hanover Square in Lower Manhattan. The cost is \$14.2 billion.

DC Union Station Expansion and Rehab

Modernization of Union Station including surrounding rail infrastructure. This Amtrak project is estimated to cost \$8.7 billion.

Maryland Purple Line

The \$5.6 B Purple Line is a 16 mile light rail line that will extend from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George's Count. It will provide a direct connection to three Metrorail lines, as well as MARC, Amtrak, and local bus services.

M-1 Rail, Detroit

Detroit's \$528 M M-1 RAIL is a model for public-private partnership and regional collaboration. Notably it is the first major transit project being led and funded by both private businesses and philanthropic organization, in partnership with local government, the State of Michigan, and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

MBTA Green Line Extension, Boston

The 4.3 mile extension is intended to improve mobility and regional access for residents in the densely populated municipalities of Somerville and Medford, two cities currently underserved by the MBTA relative to their population densities, commercial importance, and proximity to Boston is estimated to cost \$3 B.

Howard Street Tunnel, Baltimore

Height restrictions within CSX's Howard Street Tunnel currently prevent the shipment of double-stacked intermodal containers by rail to and from the Port of Baltimore. This puts Baltimore at a competitive disadvantage as all other major East Coast ports have double-stack rail capacity. The estimated cost is \$425 M.

Red and Purple Line Modernization

This major initiative will completely rebuild the nearly century old North Red Line from Belmont to Howard and the Purple Line from Belmont to Linden in Wilmette. As it is rebuilt, much needed capacity will be added in this growing residential corridor to accommodate current and future riders, and to deliver faster and smoother rides with less crowding and more frequent service. The estimated cost is \$2.1 billion.

Chicago Union Station Redevelopment

Union Station is one of the region's key transportation facilities and economic drivers. It is the third busiest railroad terminal in the United States, serving over 300 trains per weekday carrying about 120,000 arriving and departing passengers—a level of passenger traffic that would rank it among the ten busiest airports in the U.S. Most travelers at Union Station take Metra commuter trains. The Station is also the hub of Amtrak's network of regional trains serving the Midwest as well as most of the nation's overnight trains, which connect to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts. The estimated cost is \$1 billion.

Bringing Up Operations– A Series

by Steve Prevet, SER Registrar

Photos by author, on the author's "Burnt Hills and Big Flats" N scale model railroad.

We have spent some time discussing at the micro level – where should the rolling stock (freight and perhaps passenger cars) go. Let's step back and consider – how do the rolling stock get from here to there? What is your "traffic plan"? Do you need a plan?

If you have a small switching layout, such as John Allen's Timesaver, or the Winston Salem Southbound (Kalmbach) then life is pretty simple. A switcher arrives from "someplace" (the WSS has a staging track or two), comes on stage, delivers cars, picks up cars, and goes back to where it started. These small layouts are a lot of fun, I built an HO Timesaver to put on my desk in my college dorm room: hours of entertainment. If you haven't heard of the Timesaver, there is a Wikipedia article about it (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timesaver). The WSS model is the end of a branch line, so the switching crew is the only crew present.

Once your model railroad gets larger, most of us want to involve more people, and that usually involves running more than one train. On a small switching layout, you could have a through train come on scene, drop some or all cars, and pick up cars, and then depart. A local switcher could then set out the new deliveries and pick up outbounds. Perhaps you can have two staged through trains, one in each direction, and the local switcher has to consider which direction the outbound cars are going so they put them on the correct train. You may end up with a small classification yard, with a tracks for "East Through", "West Through", "East Local", and "West Local". This would be a good starting point for developing your railroad.

Eventually our railroad may grow to have more work than one switching crew can handle. Perhaps there are multiple towns, but some single switching area layouts may have so much work they can subdivide the tasks. Kalmbach did that with their "Beer Line" railroad, especially with this year's expansion of the layout. There is a good series of videos on how they set up the car card system, and how they divided the work into several different tasks.

In Model Railroad Planning 2017 there is a very convoluted switching area ("A Sectional Urban Switching District"). Although this model railroad represents only one town (or rather, city), the resulting railroad could keep at least four switching crews busy. And some thought would need to be put into what work the crews do, and how they interface with trains to and from staging.

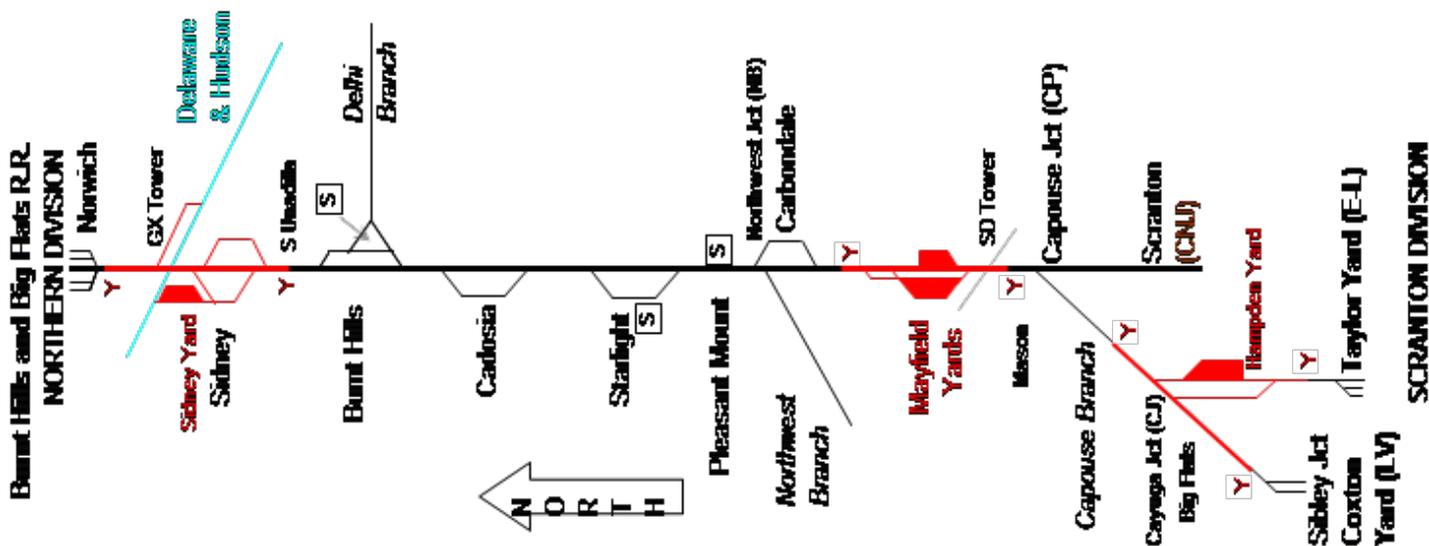
A disease I've experienced on several layouts happens when the owner only considers the work of the local switching crew (aka wayfreight). Basically the owner sets up a string of locals that circle the layout. Your train maybe has five or six cars, and you deliver and pickup cars sequentially through the towns. Not bad, but when you are done, you pick up another local, and pickup the same cars you just delivered a half hour ago. Must be some real efficient workers loading and unloading those cars! These cars circle the self-contained world, and often there are no connections to the "outside" world from which traffic comes and goes.

Early model railroad operations did indeed focus upon local wayfreight operations. Some of this was due to limitations on accumulating large collections of rolling stock and locos, according to John Armstrong. With the availability of reliable locos and rolling stock that didn't take years to build, tweak, adjust, and maintain, modelers have been able to gather large collections that can support "real" railroad operations. W. Allen McClelland's Virginian and Ohio is one of the first of this kind. Yes, there is even a Wikipedia page for the V&O (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginian_and_Ohio).

I have long since worn out my copy of the "The V&O Story". Rather than the "lowly wayfreight" being "man's best friend", as claimed in an early book on Operations, I now see a balance being struck between through freights and local switching / wayfreights. Consider this – which activity makes the railroad its profit – shuffling single cars off to various sidings, or moving 100 car train across the country? I've been on more than one model railroad where a local switcher has refused to clear up for the mainline train. What do you suppose would happen to an employee of a railroad who said, "but I just need 5 more minutes to clear up!" The railroad's profit is made from the long haul, but there still is the need to deliver the car for unloading, and pick up when loaded.

Granted, no one gets fired or a pay cut during a model railroad operating session. However, when the choreography occurs that moves all of the (simulated) freight just like the big boys (in the Norfolk Southern commercials), there is an emotional payoff. Planning how to move the traffic can make or break your operations. We do have somewhat more flexibility as modelers to design our model railroad (or choose an appropriate prototype) to give us the sort of traffic flows that we want. If too many cars are going to one location, we can tweak the car forwarding system to make it easier on us if we desire. We can more easily and cheaply relay track in a poorly designed congested area. We have not yet discussed track planning in this series, but it does need to go hand in hand with designing the operating sequence.

As I was writing this article, a good discussion occurred on the

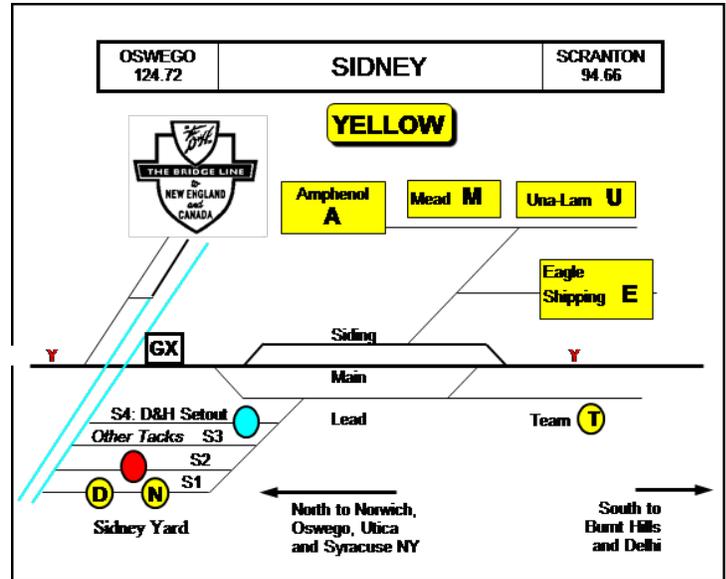


OPSIG Yahoo Group (always a good resource) on traffic plans. One responder pointed to the Rock Island traffic plan http://www.rits.org/www/histories/freight_schedule72/Instructions.html. The “map showing freight train schedule” is especially useful for this discussion. Setting up a good traffic plan may seem like it is work – and for some railroad employees, it is what they get paid to do. Some of the discussion gets wrapped up in how the trains are dispatched (extras versus scheduled trains for time table and train order). I would suggest that some sort of plan is needed or the employees (model railroad crews) don’t know what they are supposed to do. I’ve tried to operate in classification yards where you have to guess what the next thing to do is, and suddenly a train arrives and you have to figure out what to do with it.

Many things come together to form the traffic plan. There is your track plan (either actual or planned). Usually it is easiest to convert your track plan to a “schematic”. You stretch out all of your curves into a straight line, but plot all of the tracks on the straight line. Then there are the capacities of your industrial sidings. What represents “off line” destinations – the connections to the “rest of the world”? Generally that translates to some form of “staging” tracks, where we can setup trains ready to come on the stage to play their part, and where we can send trains away from the modeled area.

From your schematic, we start organizing the locals. A good rule of thumb is that your sidings should be loaded to about 50% capacity at any point in time. With much more than that, the switching becomes too difficult and you are more moving “holes” around like the childhood letter puzzle where there is one empty space that allows you to move letter tiles around to form words. If you like to run 8 car locals, then one run of the local needs to have 16 cars worth of sidings to support it. This assumes individual car movements. If you have an interchange track where you are just shoving a whole cut of cars into without sorting, you don’t need much excess capacity.

Local may end up delivering cars from Sidney Yard that were dropped off from through trains to Sidney Industries. The detailed Sidney schematic is below:



This map is posted on the layout fascia to help the train crews know where to deliver cars. I do use color coded tacks on the cars to designate where the cars are to go, so the color and tack letters are on the schematic. Another trick to extend mainline runs is Delaware and Hudson run-through trains arriving and departing from staging have to run around their trains in Sidney in order to change directions to head for Mayfield.

We need to do the planning for how each modeled industry, interchange, ferry, etc. are going to be serviced. Some may be served more than once in a “day”, some maybe serviced every other day. Then we need to plan a sequence for the jobs, not just to keep trains spaced out on the layout, but also consider your operators – if there are two towns across from each other on an aisle, we also need to consider aisle congestion, not just train congestion. We also need to consider the role of the classification yard, such as Mayfield yard (see photo below) and how to keep the yards running efficiently and effectively.



As an example, a schematic of my layout is to the left. In planning my session, I wanted to have a small yard at one end of the modeled run, which is Sidney, NY. In the photo above two OFR-RA operators are switching Sidney. Dave (rear) is operating the Sidney Local. It brought cars from the main classification yard (Mayfield) and is a seven car capacity train. There are 14 cars worth of capacity on the Sidney siding. This train is dropping off cars from Mayfield, and is picking up NB cars bound for Norwich. It also carries some cars to staging that are assumed to go to towns between Sidney and Norwich. Later in the “day” a southbound local will repeat the process in reverse. So usually there are four cars to drop in Sidney, and three to carry through. However, through trains also drop and pickup cars at the Sidney Yard, which does not have a permanently assigned switcher. This gives through trains, such as the train Louie (front) operates something to do that extends their running time. The Sidney



If you would like more examples of planning, please refer to my website at www.bhbf.weebly.com. I hope you have found this installment useful, and we will talk more in the next SouthErneR on planning your operating session.



Membership Report

NMRA Summary By Division

Membership By Division	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16	Jul-16	Aug-16	Sep-16	Oct-16	Nov-16	Dec-16	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Membership Change Mar - Mar
01 Mid-South	52	51	52	51	53	53	52	51	51	49	47	45	44	44	45	(7)
02 Steel City	96	96	96	94	93	92	89	89	91	90	89	85	86	86	87	(9)
03 Dixie	42	42	43	45	42	41	43	43	43	42	43	42	42	44	44	1
04 Gulf	45	45	44	46	44	44	44	45	45	46	44	44	44	46	47	3
05 Piedmont	427	433	440	437	426	426	421	416	414	403	404	400	466	475	501	61
06 Empire	56	57	56	53	53	53	54	54	53	54	55	56	59	62	61	5
07 Palmetto	103	102	102	102	97	99	100	101	100	101	102	102	101	100	105	3
08 Atlantic	48	47	46	45	45	45	49	52	53	53	53	51	51	51	51	5
09 Central Savannah	21	20	22	21	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	23	23	24	2
10 Bluff City	42	45	44	43	45	45	45	45	44	45	46	43	42	43	45	1
11 Cumberland	58	57	57	58	57	54	56	54	54	54	54	55	58	57	58	1
12 Smokey Mtn	66	66	65	64	65	65	65	63	62	62	62	62	64	65	68	3
13 Headquarters	48	49	51	53	55	54	56	58	58	62	62	60	63	64	65	14
14 Magnolia	26	26	27	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	25	26	25	26	25	(2)
15 Carolina Mtn	83	86	85	85	86	86	85	86	90	90	90	91	91	90	90	5
Total	1213	1222	1230	1223	1206	1203	1205	1203	1204	1197	1196	1182	1259	1276	1316	86

Membership Report

Southeastern Region, NMRA

Activity Since the Last Board of Directors Meeting

New Member Letters

- Sent 57 welcome letters to new members, including existing NMRA members that have moved into the SER, at the beginning of each month, October 2016 through January 2017. Sent an additional 85 letters to new members gained at the World's Greatest Hobby show, held January 7-8 in Atlanta. Based on the show's location, most are Piedmont members. RailPass memberships made up 78 of the 85.
- Notified superintendents of their members receiving letters. Notifications are sent each month.
- Sent additional notifications following the WGH show.
- Included SER patches with new member letters.

Former Member Surveys

- Worked with Steve Prevette on former member surveys.
- Sent 68 survey invitations at the beginning of each month, October 2016 through January 2017.
- Notified superintendents which former members received a survey invitation. Notifications are sent each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Coble

Please note that not all the SER Reports are included due to lack of space.

These include reports on:

Achievement Program Activity as well as the SER Promotional Car Sale activity by Randall Watson

Division Banner Report by Sandy Warrington



SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



Financial Report

March 30, 2017

Sally Bando, SER Treasurer

BANK ACCOUNTS				BALANCE
Wells Fargo Checking - SER Account				\$19,161.86
Wells Fargo Checking - Convention Account				<u>581.70</u>
Total All Bank Accounts				19743.56
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT				
	<u>CD Number</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
Wells Fargo CDs-12 month	90827807	6/18/2017	7,911.38	7913.34
12 month	840482	8/26/2017	7,632.59	7634.49
12 month	1067968	9/9/2017	4,007.08	4008.03
6 month	32902	3/10/2018	9,714.45	<u>9714.93</u>
Total All CDs				29,270.79
Total Cash				<u>49,014.35</u>
Restricted Cash				5,181.45
Delattre Designation				<u>\$1,076.00</u>
Total Non-Resticted Cash				<u>\$42,756.90</u>

Notes and Recent Activity:

Military memberships: 3 Active Military, Retired Veteran

Have contacted The Delattre's, they are ready to donate another \$1000 for Military NMRA memberships.

All Papers for corporation and 501c3 are filed and accepted.

Restricted Cash refers to the Life Time Memberships.

THE CLUB CAR

This is a list of clubs and organizations in the Southeastern Region. Most have some NMRA members. If you have a club that is accepting new members or visitors, please send the information to the Editor at: jstew@bhamrails.info Please provide a contact name and phone number. Websites will be listed if given.

Atlantic Division 8 Goose Creek, SC Mark Pruitt 843-572-1725
mark@mabrunton.com

Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone, (912) 354-2606
<http://www.coastalrailbuffs.org/>
Charleston Area Model Railroad Club, Citadel Mall in Charleston, SC
<http://www.chamrc.com> or Phillip Euper peuper@comcast.net
Grand Strand MRRC, Myrtle Beach Mall, North Myrtle Beach, SC, Joe Corsetti,
843-236-9148, yruoslo728@aol.com, www.gsmrrc.org
Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA Helio Valdes 912-261-
2478 t29b52f4@comcast.net <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GIMRRC/>
Sun City Model RR Club, Bluffton, SC President paul.henry.sc@gmail.com

Bluff City Division 10 Bartlett, TN, Mike Fleming, (901) 467-7138

The Memphis N-Scale Road Railers
The Memphis Society of Model Engineers—The 1st Saturday Night Group
Highland St Church of Christ, 7:30 PM contact Ned for add'l info:
nssavage@juno.com

Central Savannah R Div. 9 Graniteville, SC, Steve Prevetie (803) 392-7684
OFFRA Operators, Tuesday Nights, Aiken SC, Steve Prevetie (803) 392-7684

Cumberland Division 11 Brentwood, TN, Bob Hultman (615) 833-5158

Mid-South Live Steamers, Columbia, TN, Hank Sherwood (615) 665-0512
www.midsouthlivesteamers.org midsouthlivesteamers@yahoo.com
Nashville NTRAK, Nashville, TN., Mike Curtis (615) 479-7663,
4900 Rucker Christiana Road, Christiana, TN 37037
macurtis@comcast.net <http://www.nashvillentrak.org>
Nashville Garden Railway Soc., Nashville, TN., Ross Evans (615) 292-6555
Tennessee Central Railway Museum, Nashville, TN, Terry Bebout,
(615) 244-9001 FAX -2120 terry.bebout@earthlink.net <http://tcry.org>

Dixie Division 3 Prattville, AL, Brett Scott 334-799-3096

Central Alabama Model RR Club, Montgomery/Prattville, AL
Phil Hutchinson, (334) 272-1933 or Joe Mashburn (251) 363-8508
MGB Model Railroad Club, Prattville, AL Visitors welcome.
Brett Scott (334) 799-3096 www.mgbr.org
Southeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Dothan, AL
Mike Porterfield, (334) 774-0720 mporterfield103@charter.net
Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL
Dan Adams (334) 588-3312 or danielma522@centurytel.net

Empire Division 6 Bonaire, GA, Bill Attaway 478-954-9200

Columbus [GA] Model RR Club, info@columbusarearailroadclub.com
Flint River Model RR Club, Albany, GA, Jimmy Swinn (299) 883-3517
MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model RR Club, Warner Robins, GA
Bill Attaway (478) 328-8790 mgmrc@cox.net <http://www.mgmrc.org/>
CGMRC - Central Georgia Model RR Club, Macon, GA
Ken Preston, ken.preston@cox.net
MGRA - Middle Georgia RR Association, Bill Jones, wjones845@aol.com
<http://middlegeorgiarailroadassociation.com/>
South Georgia Model RR Club, Hahira, GA, (Near Valdosta)
Todd Tait (229) 548-3611

Gulf Division 4 Navarre, FL, Reed Ostrander 850 830-6331

Caboose Club, Foley Railroad Museum, 125 E. Laurel Ave. Foley, AL 36535
Attn: Bonnie Donaldson, 251-943-1818 foleymuseum@gulfel.com
Consolidated Model Railroaders (CMRX), Panama City, FL
Contact: Buddy Black 850-624-6240 black@novatechnologies.com
Emerald Coast Garden Ry Club meets (usually) on 3rd Saturday at Noon in
the Diner Car of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton, FL,
Jack Grill (850) 994-7226 www.ecgrc.com
Glenn Samuel's Operating Group Mobile, AL (205) 914-0693
Gasamuel@aol.com
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL Ray Follacchio 850-865-8822
<http://miraclestripmodelrrclub.com>
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS
2800 Graham Rd., S. Mobile, AL Dave Miller (251) 645-2296
Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL www.PMRC.us
HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona (850) 384-3206
N Div. - Terry Tucker (850) 723-5390; **Z Division** - Glen Hall (850) 982-2795
Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL Tom Augustine (850) 944-0471
www.wfrm.org

Headquarters Division 13

Co Chairs, Roy Masterson 423-227-0334; Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565
Chattanooga Area Model Railroad Club, www.camrc.org
Ed Juaire (423) 598-9925 raifan@ejpj.com
Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN
<http://csme.livesteamtrains.com> Andy Morrison (423) 344-8502
Crossville Model RR Club, Crossville, TN, Tom Shallcross (931) 484-7565
chipmonk4@comcast.net www.crossvillemodelrrclub.org
Chattanooga Modular Modelers, Inc. www.chatmodmod.org
Mark McAllister 423-424-0352 Monday & Thursday at 6:30 pm

Land O' Sky Division 15 Hendersonville, NC, Ken O'Brien 828-696-9436

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC, Located in
Hendersonville Station, <http://www.avmrc.net/>
French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Henderson, NC
<http://www.fdr-ntrak.com/> Chuck Place (828) 685-2726 hmp3@blueridge.net
Western North Carolina Model Railroaders, Fred Coleman (828) 699-0983

Magnolia Division 14 Jackson, MS, Pat McCarty (601) 955-0510 (cell)

Central Mississippi Model Railroad Association, Jackson, MS
MS. Ag and Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson MS 39216
Niels Larsen 601-432-4500 www.cmmra.org
Meridian Model RR Club, Meridian, MS located at Meridian RR Museum,
Saturday 9-12 at REA Building, 1805 Front St, Meridian MS 39301
Mississippi Coast Model RR Museum, 504 Pass Rd, Gulfport, MS 39507
228-284-5731 timetrain54@yahoo.com www.mcmrcm.org

Mid-South Division 1 Huntsville, AL Sandy Warrington 541-922-7489
<http://midsouthnmra.org/MidSouth.php>

Northeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Guntersville, AL
Charles Dick (205) 878-2537 charlesdick@bellsouth.net
Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL <http://www.mrmrc.net/>
Coosa Valley Model RR Assoc. www.coosavalleymodelrailroad.com/

Palmetto Div. 7 Piedmont, SC, Ron Lown 864-845-3260 rlown3260@gmail.com

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia (AMROC), Columbia, SC
Clark Gregory 803-781-7912 www.amroc.org
Central Railway Model and Historical Association (CRM&HA), Central, SC
Jim Reece 864-855-3379 www.crmha.org
Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC Michael Offik 864-884-2165
www.piedmontnsouthern.org
The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular) Andrew Gillette (803)-316-8128
amn_a_gillette@yahoo.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carolina_on30conspiracy/
Station 187 Model Railroad Club, Greer, SC www.station187.net

Piedmont Div. 5 Marietta, GA, Peter Youngblood, MMR 770-966-1661
SantaFeRailway@aol.com

Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club, Charlie Crawford 770-565-1845
<http://home.earthlink.net/~wiles/>
Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers, Bob Lacheen Home: 770-578-9937,
Cell: 404-431-8032 www.trainweb.org/acsg
Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Chris White 770-594-2618
Country RRoads Modular (HO), Morris Smith, sawdustmaker@mindspring.com, www.countryroadsmodular.com
Georgia Association of Narrow Gaugers, Pat Turner 423-744-0429
groups.yahoo.com/group/georgiangaugers, GeorgiaNGers@yahoo.com
Georgia Garden Railway Society, Dan Michel ggrschair@hotmail.com
www.ggrs.info/
Georgia Society of Ferroequinologists, Marietta, Bob Hoenes (770) 422-0081
Jasper Roundhouse, Jasper, GA, Phil Stead, trainman07@aol.com, all scales,
meets weekly at a member's home
Metro Atlanta N-Scalers, Atlanta, GA, Charles Leak (404) 262-2969
Model Railroad Club of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, Terry Weldon (770) 979-0473
www.oscale-atlanta.info
North Atlanta O-Gauge Railroad Club, Roswell, GA, Jeff Pergl (770) 516-6378
North Atlanta Rail Barons, Howard Goodwin 770-529-2103
North Georgia Lego Train Club, James Trobaugh (770)-844-1076
<http://www.nglrc.org> OR questions@nglrc.org
North Georgia Modurail, Jon Cook (770) 993-9620
NWGA T-Trak Club - Jim Newland, Kennesaw GA, jim@casadiego.com
678-358-9171

Railroad Model Club of Atlanta, Bob Peppel, (770) 934-4067
S-COG Southern Crescent Operating Group
Joe Gelmini (770) 460-8873 papagel@comcast.net
Southern O Scalers, Dan Mason, 470-385-6638, daniel@masonlawfirmga.com
Tri-State Area Model Railroad, Inc., Thomas Roskelly, (828) 361-2210
thomasroskelly@gmail.com
Volunteer Garden RR Club, Vines Botanical Gardens, 3500 Oak Grove Road,
Loganville, GA 30052

Smoky Mountain Div. 12 Loudon, TN, Larry Burkholder (865) 408-9903

Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN,
Larry Burkholder, (865) 408-9903 Meetings are 1st & 3rd Sundays.
Mountain Empire Modular Railroaders, Johnson City, TN, East TN State Univ.
George Carter Museum, Dr. Fred Alsop (423) 929-3733 www.memrr.org/

Steel City Division 2 Birmingham, AL, John Stewart 205-901-3790

Black Warrior Model RR Society, Tuscaloosa, AL, Bob Way 205-556-3073
Smoko City Model Rails, B'ham, AL www.smokocityrails.com/
Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, B'ham, AL Jason Parham 205-534-6529
Steel City Shifters Operating Group jstew@bhamrails.info
B'ham N Scale Modular Club <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/bnsmc/info>



Introducing the best deal in model railroading



- Experience the fellowship and fun of getting modeling help and discussing the hobby with other member in your area
- Receive reduced rates on special insurance for your layout or collection
- Get admission to local model railroad meetings and events
- Receive 6 monthly issues of *NMRA Magazine*
- Have access to standards information and data sheets
- Have access to one of the world's largest railroad libraries...which includes over 100,000 prototype photos, 6,000 books, and over 50,000 modeling, prototype and historical society magazines.
- Be a part of programs like "Modeling With The Masters," Pike Registry, Estate Counseling, contests, clinics, the Achievement Program and more!

Visit www.nmra.org to see what you're missing!

\$9.95

*Rail Pass offer is for **NEW MEMBERS** and those who have **NOT** been NMRA member for **TWO YEARS OR MORE**. Individuals can join at Rail Pass rates **ONLY ONCE**; membership renewal will be at the regular membership rate. Rail Pass members can attend conventions and participate in contests, but cannot vote or hold office.



Sign me up!

Fill out this form and include your payment.
U.S.: Send \$9.95 (U.S.) to NMRA-Rail Pass Membership, P.O. Box 1328, Soddy Daisy, TN 37384-1328
Canada: Send \$9.95 (Cdn) to NMRA-Canadian Rail Pass Membership. Registrar NMRA Canada 9-6975 Meadowvale Town Centre Cir Suite 405 Mississauga, ON L5N 2V7

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____

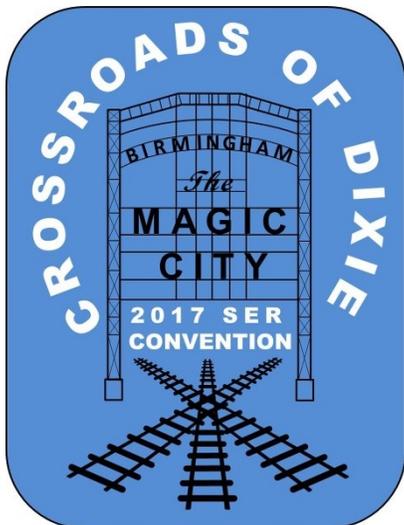
*Security Code _____

(Please Print Clearly!)

* (This number is needed to process your application)

Also available in Canada!

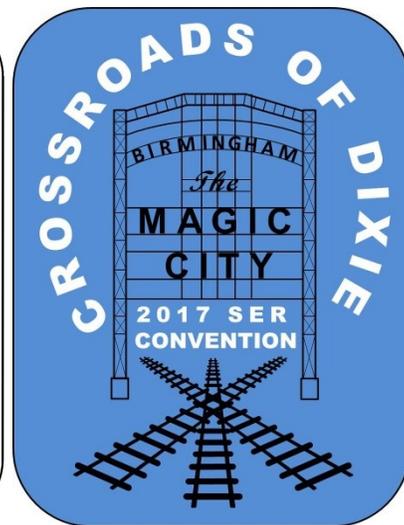
Rail Pass Membership



**2017 SER Convention
& Train Show**
Birmingham, AL June 9 & 10, 2017
Bessemer Civic Center,
I-20/59, Exit 108

See www.2017SERConvention.com
for suggested hotels

*Enjoy the Convention & Visit Attractions
Have Fun Exploring Birmingham's Rich
Railroad and Industrial History*



www.2017serconvention.com



Frisko 4018 in transit to Sloss Furnace in 2009 where you can see her when you come to the 2017 SER Convention