



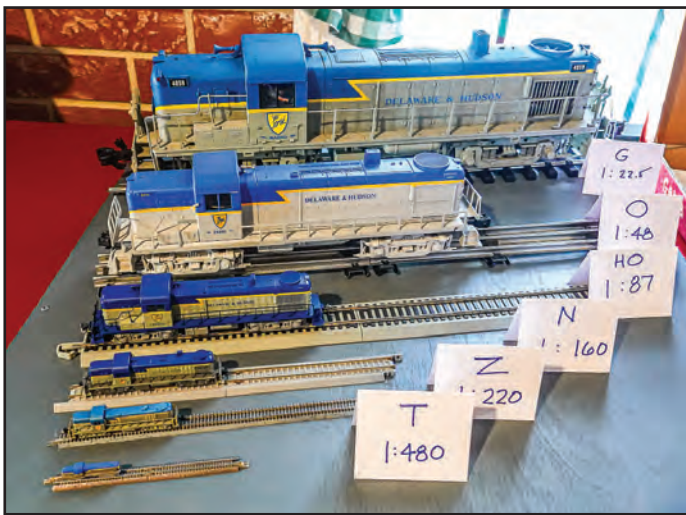
The *SOUTHERNER*



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



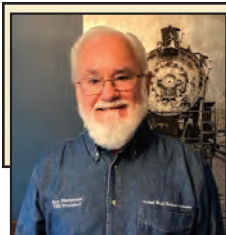
Doug Scott - making a scene with an old car - page 4



**John Montenegro's Show & Tell
during the Atlantic Division meeting
on February 1 - page 16**



**A scene on the TVRM layout - one of
several layouts to be seen during the
2026 NMRA Annual Convention and
Train Show in Chattanooga**



The President's Car

Roy Masterson

rwmasterson@epbf.com

REGIONAL CELEBRATION!
Labor Day 2025!



On September 1, the NMRA will celebrate its 90th birthday! It was Sunday, September 1, 1935 at the YMCA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 71 people gathered to form the National Model Railroad Association.

President Gordy Robinson has encouraged regions and their members around the world to hold celebrations of the 90th anniversary on the actual day. This year, September 1 falls on a Monday and it is Labor Day. The SER will begin planning on how we celebrate this major milestone in our organization's long history.

Speaking of 2025, the NMRA National Convention, "Station No. VI," will be held July 14-19, in Novi Michigan. The event is sponsored by the North Central Region of the NMRA. For more information and to register for the convention, visit the convention website www.nmra2025.com.

The SER's Smoky Mountain Division is hosting "Smoky Mountain Rails," the 2025 SER Annual Convention in Gatlinburg, TN September 18-20. The convention will be held at the Glenstone Lodge in downtown Gatlinburg. For more convention information and to register, visit the convention website at www.2025serconvention.org or follow the link from the SER website. If you would like to present a clinic during the convention as a warmup to the National Convention in 2026, please contact Convention Chairman, Steve Folino at steve@fungusmungusrr.com.

Lastly for 2025, this year also marks the end of my 2nd term as President of the Southeastern Region. SER Presidents terms start and end at the conclusion of the SER

Annual Convention. Rick Coble, SER Elections Chairman, will be looking for candidates to run for President and other SER Board positions. Contact Rick at rvcoblenmra@gmail.com if you are interested in running for office.

Rick Coble, Mike Cummings, Brian Ford and I attended the Amherst Model Train Show in Springfield MA last January. With over 400,000 sq/ft, it's America's largest model train show. You need to put this show on your bucket list! There were over 27,000 attendees for the 2-day show. The NMRA Board of Directors meeting was held there so we got to see President Robinson and other NMRA Officials. Steve Folino was there talking to vendors and manufacturers about support and door prizes for the Smoky Rails Convention, and we saw quite a few SER members there as well.

At the Amherst show we talked with every manufacturer, distributor, vendors (large and small), and with the editors of the NMRA Magazine, Model Railroader and Railroad Model Craftsman about the 2026 NMRA National Convention and National Train Show we are hosting in Chattanooga. Everyone we talked to was excited about our convention and are planning on being a part of the National Train Show.

Bruce Arbo of National T-Trak Layout let me know that they have commitments to create the world record setting layout at our National Train Show. They have been given 10,000 sq ft for set up and have 1,500 single-equivalent modules lined up. A lot of their group will also be attending the convention and not there for the train show.

Registration for the 2026 National Convention is now OPEN!

So, take advantage of our early, early registration price before the price goes up later this summer. And when the time comes to purchase extra fare items like train rides, tours and other special events you will have first notification. The cost also includes admission to the National Train Show. To register online or to print out and mail a form go to www.nmra2026.org.

Engineer's Wish List

Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbandageorgia@comcast.net

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

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Editor: Ed Juaire - 782 Jays Way, Ringgold GA 30737-8954
423-598-9925; southerner.editor.ed@gmail.com

Proof Reader: Ken Mattern

Material for publication is welcomed! Please send materials to the editor.
All submissions become the property of *The SouthErneR* unless otherwise
contracted. Do not send materials previously published in the *SouthErneR*.

Submittals Due: Summer May 15; Fall Aug 15; Winter Nov 15; Spring Feb 15

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Simple Prototypes to Model

by Doug Scott - Atlantic Division

Do you have a small space on your layout or module with no idea how to fill it? Do you have an old cheap discarded boxcar in a box or on a shelf and no idea what to do with it? Do you have a MOW yard scene that needs something more? Here are some prototypes that you might consider adapting for your modeling use.

As a member of the Railroad Station Historical Society, I drive around a lot, photographing existing depots and other railroad-related structures. As a model railroader, I am always looking for interesting scenes to model. These two hobbies go quite well together.

On a recent tour of Georgia stations, I came across two instances where box cars had been re-purposed into storage units. One was stand-alone with a ramp leading up to it, the other had either been built into a hillside or had dirt pushed up to it on one side for access and a loading dock with steps installed on the other side. One was in a clean area, and one had lots of stuff strewn around it. Either one would make a nice addition to a small section of a layout or module. One is alongside a station, and one is in a MOW yard area.

The restored Central of Georgia depot, now along a rail trail, in Porterdale, Georgia is a combination wooden freight/passenger station constructed circa 1899. This station has a boxcar on a panel track stretching out from the short end of the building. Behind the station is a ramp leading to one end of the piece of rolling stock that has had a door cut into it. Along the long side of the boxcar, the side with the sliding doors, is a platform with steps up to the sill and entrance.

The former Georgia Railroad brick depot in Social Circle, Georgia is still in railroad use. CSX has a yard here and uses the station as a MOW and crew base. The 1913 passenger station has been modified on one end but there is no mistaking it as a railroad related structure. Off to the side and not connected is a good-sized pile of dirt pushed up against a boxcar placed on a no longer used siding. The mound of earth is piled up to enable easy access to the sliding doors so that motorized vehicles or hand trucks can get to them. On the other long side is a loading dock platform with steps up. The area around the box car is full of discarded stuff. [SER](#)





Announces New Executive Team to Expand Leadership and Drive Growth

Flowery Branch, GA, March 12, 2025 - After decades of determination, Trainz.com has become the leading online model train retailer. Decidedly, to strengthen its management structure to support their ongoing growth, Scott Griggs, Founder and CEO, stated, "With the advent of moving into our new, expanded facility in Flowery Branch, now is the time to focus more on strategic growth and acquisitions to take Trainz.com to the next level." Ken Cummings, CTO, also added, "Now that we have finished significant technical projects by replacing our legacy ERP and WMS systems, our IT team will have significant resources to innovate new service offerings for our customers."

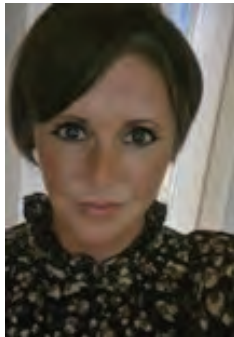
Ken Cummings, CTO

Ken has been an integral part of Trainz since 2004, initially serving as a programmer, database administrator and technical architect. Today, he leads onshore and offshore teams, executing the vision for Trainz's technology roadmap, marketing strategies, and marketplace initiatives. Ken's expertise has been instrumental in shaping the company's evolution, developing the specialized software solutions necessary to scale the business. As Trainz continues to advance, Ken and his team play a pivotal role in positioning the company at the forefront of technological innovation.



Cindy Horn, COO

Cindy has been a valuable asset to Trainz since joining our team in 2006. From the beginning, she brought exceptional leadership and organizational skills to the company. Through her determination and loyalty, Cindy became one of the key figures who helped build and shape Trainz. She continues to contribute to the company's success with her strong business acumen and extensive knowledge of the model train industry. As Trainz continues to grow, Cindy's leadership will be essential in bringing on new team members and scaling the company efficiently in the coming years.



Monica Montgomery, Finance and HR Executive

Monica has been with Trainz since 2009. With a strong accounting background and attention to detail, Monica saw Trainz through its formative years. Developing policies and procedures to ensure not only financial solvency but also that Trainz is a great place to work. Through concerted resiliency, she will continue to ensure strong financial oversight and build on a solid foundation of HR policies.



Carlie Maddox, Procurement and Customer Service Executive

Carlie has been with Trainz since 2011. As an expert negotiator, Carlie uses her southern charm and gentle persuasion to close deals. Never one to be afraid to get her hands dirty, she has dug into the why behind the customer when it comes to buying and selling a wide variety of new and collectible vintage model trains. Moving forward, she will continue to supply Trainz with collections and provide outstanding customer service we have come to be renowned for.



Trainz.com is the nation's leading retailer of vintage collectible and new model trains in all scales. Trainz has been a Great Place to Work certified company since 2021 and in 2024 was recognized as #17 on Fortune Best Workplaces in Retail™ 2024 (Small And Medium).

To learn more about us, visit Trainz.com.



Submission DEADLINES
May 15 - Summer
August 15 - Fall
November 15 - Winter
February 15 - Spring
Issues will be available at www.ser-nmra.org approximately 4 weeks later.



Education
Chuck Higdon
 vze5crrw1@outlook.com

Since our last issue I have made some progress on a new section. Not having worked with a foam surface before, I thought I would give it a try. The new section will have a container yard on one side of the length and some switching on the other. The tracks of the container yard will be buried in hardboard/Masonite. It is easy to do with a table saw and I have done it before.

Here is my container yard in Hialeah. 1/8" hardboard is just thinner than the rail height of either Atlas code 83 or 100 track will be a file card taller than the road. You just dado the edges to slide over the ties and spike heads right up to the rail sides. The center piece between the rails just takes more passes over the saw blade to get the width needed to fit between the tie plates. That way you will have enough space from the rails and the piece will not be so thin.

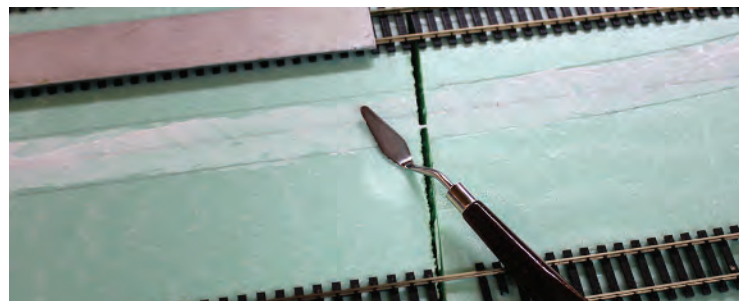


Clamp a board to the fence to keep the hard board from rising off the table surface. If an 8-foot piece is too much to work with. Use shorter lengths. A little glue will hold them on the ties.

For the foam half, I put a piece of 1 inch foam on a piece of 3/8 plywood. The corner of the layout has a drop, so I made the new corner also have a drop, then curving the new section over the drop part and will fill this area with a hill/ridge along the edge to drop into the valley. I started to lay the track for the container yard section using a yard stick with holes drilled into it to make radius lines. If I can put it on the tabletop, I hammer in a nail then swing it to draw the line. On the foam, I used a dull pencil to just put a slight depression. The hole on the one end is big enough to fit on the screw that holds a camera on a tripod. So, I set up the tripod to make the radius line. This works for 34" center lines or less. I do have a strip of longer wood set up for larger radiuses.



I have read that caulk is used to hold the track in place. Knowing how slow I would proceed with the track laying; I wasn't sure how to keep the tube from drying up between applications. I did have a bottle of tacky white glue. While it didn't move when I turned it on its side, I thought if I stuck a popsicle stick in, I might be able to use that glue. Turns out the skewer sticks work much better than popsicle sticks.



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First with the track in place, I dragged a pencil along the ties to define the area to place the glue. Then, I stuck the skewer in the bottle, pulled out some glue. Pull the skewer along on the foam and twisting it so the glue is all put on the foam. Then came back and spread it with a small trowel. Re-assembled the track, used a straight edge where I could and put some weight on the track. Let it set overnight. It did dry clear, and you don't see it at all. I hope it does not soften up much when I apply the ballast and other scenery with a water diluted glue. That will be the next test once I get to the scenery work.

Using the Rix vertical switch machine mount still works well with the foam. Drilling down through the foam with a Forstner bit takes some getting used to as it will wonder through the foam.

If you have a topic that I may be able to help you with or have a clinic you want to present to the region, please let me know and we can set up a webinar to show it. I am also looking for topics and presenters for more webinars, please let me know at vze5crrw1@outlook.com if you would like to present one or know someone that would.

Enjoy life and take care. *SER*



Palmetto Division T-Track-Ho Modular Layout

by Dave Wimans - Palmetto Division Director

The Palmetto Division of the SER has been working on a modular HO scale layout that follows the T-TRAK-HO standards. The layout currently consists of 22 modules, owned by several members of the Division.

History In 2019 the Palmetto Division established a committee to investigate if a modular railroad would be something of interest to members of the Division.

The committee determined that an HO scale layout following T-TRAK-HO standards would be the preferred route to take. The modules would therefore be compatible with modules built by others around the country that were built to the same standard.

It was agreed that the Division would own the corner modules and individual members would own the other modules. A member who had a woodworking shop assisted the committee by cutting and assembling four corners and four single length modules.

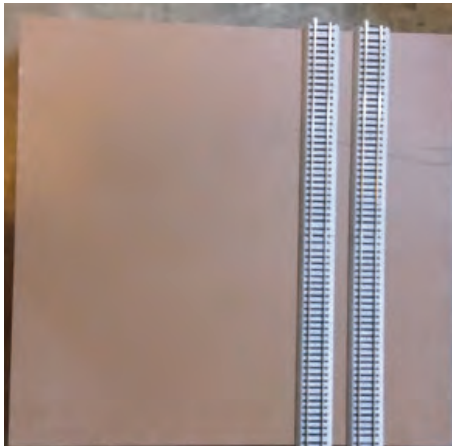
Funding The Division applied and received from the NMRA for matching funds through their member retention program. This funding helped defer some of the costs related to the module construction.

Construction We decided to follow the T-TRAK-HO standards that were in existence, rather than developing our own standards. These standards are like the N scale T-TRAK standards but modified for HO scale. Our modules are constructed from 6mm (1/4") Baltic Birch plywood which is glued together (photo #1).

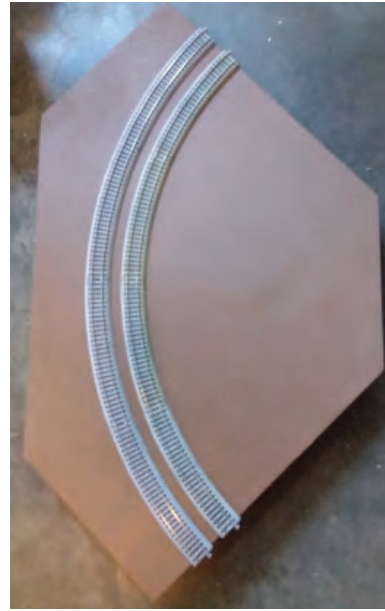
No screws or nails required. This plywood is 5 ply and is stronger than standard 3 ply plywood. Modules have 2" by 2" corner braces that include adjustable legs for leveling the modules. There are vendors who sell module kits in N and HO scales; however, during the pandemic



#1 - View of the underside of a single length module.



#2 - View of the top side of a single module with track installed. We painted all modules brown for consistency prior to adding any scenery.



#3 - View of the top side of a corner module.

we saw several of them stop production. We felt that constructing our own modules was more cost-effective than purchasing module kits, especially when you consider shipping costs.

Since the corner modules are 28" by 28", the modules will fit on 30" wide banquet tables. The modules do not have long legs and therefore they are quick to set up and dismantle. This makes them very suitable for one day shows; for taking them to senior centers; or other such venues.

Single modules are 19 3/8" (492 mm) long (photo #2). This dimension is equal to two sections of Kato Unitrack, therefore no track cutting is needed to build a module. We made an arbitrary decision to make the modules 20 inches deep, even though we could have gone up to 28 inches. This makes them lighter and easy to transport, but still provides sufficient area for scenery and/or structures. Corners are 28 inches square (photo #3). However, we also decided to make the corners six sided by cutting off two of the four corners of the square.

Track and track wiring are Kato Unitrack, with the corners having a 24-inch (610 mm) radius and a 21 5/8-inch (550 mm) radius curves. Corners do not have power leads from the track to the main power bus, however all other modules do have power leads. Kato rail joiners (Unijoiners) provide power from one module to the next. There



#4 - Overview of layout at Easley Train Show. You can see how the 1/2-bridge modules are used.



A family checking out the layout at the Easley Train Show.

are no bolts or clamps to join modules. The Unijoiners are sufficient to perform this function.

We started with four corners and six single modules. Some members wanted to establish scenery standards, however we decided to not set any rules and let each module owner be creative. We have had members purchase more than one module and create a scene that is 2 or more modules long. Some of the members decided to work together and turn three modules into one scene with an industrial spur.

Promoting the Division The layout has been taken to a number of train shows and other events in the upstate of South Carolina, including the Easley Train Show, The City of Greer Rail Fest, the Hub City RR Museum's Train Day, and we even set it up at a Division meeting. The layout draws a lot of attention from young and old railfans.

Layout Growth The number of modules has grown from the original 10 modules to 22 and includes single modules, double modules and modules that are one and half-length. We also have some half-length modules that are basically bridges, that we can use if needed (photo 4).

Power Supplies We initially set up the layout with one main track being DC powered and one main being DCC. Since most of the module owners wanted to run DCC locomotives, we decided to convert to all DCC controls.

We have a Digitrax Zephyr which worked well initially. However, the Division recently held a clinic on using an Arduino to create a DCC throttle. With "Engine Driver" software on your phone we are able to run DCC trains



#6 - Visitors to the Greer Rail Fest 2023 enjoying the layout.



A couple of modules that have a bit of detail. Do you see the mountain climbers?

from our phones or tablets via Wi-Fi to the Arduino. This has worked out well and looks like the way we will be running the layout in the future. We have mounted one of the Arduinos on the underside of one of the modules which allows for easy power connections.

The Future We have been contacted by members of another SER Division who are in the process of building T-TRAK-HO modules. It is possible that at some future show we could have a layout that includes modules from more than one Division. The potential exists to have a layout at a future SER Convention involving modules from several Divisions.

If anyone has questions regarding the T-TRAK-HO standards, or module construction they can contact me at dwinans1147@gmail.com and I will be glad to provide whatever help I am able to give. *SER*

National Model Railroad Association
Southeast Region Board of Director's Meeting
March 8, 2025 - DRAFT

President Roy Masterson called the March 8, 2025, Southeast Region Board of Directors meeting to order at 1PM. The meeting was held at the Piedmont Train Show, Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA. Officers and Directors attending were Roy Masterson, Bill Raymond, Steve Folino, Brian Ford, Gary Fish and Rusty Lacy. Most Committee Chairs were also in attendance.

Roy introduced the members of the Board.

Roy kicked off the meeting by discussing the 90th anniversary of the NMRA on September 1, 2025. Gordie Robinson, NMRA President, asked each Region to have an event to commemorate the date. Since the SER Convention is September 18- 20, Roy suggested we have our commemoration at the convention. Districts and clubs are encouraged to hold an event on September 1, 2025.

Secretary Rusty Lacy reported that the minutes had been emailed to each member of the Board prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions or changes. None were voiced and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Steve Folino had emailed the financial statements to the Board prior to the meeting. He also had copies available for review. Steve gave the financial report and stated the SER has about \$30,000 in CD's and just under \$3,000 in checking. He reminded the Board and others at the meeting that the only income stream the SER has consistently had is from advertisements in the Southerner magazine. Now that the magazine has gone digital that source will stop. Also, 50% of the profits from the region's annual convention go to the SER. A motion was made and passed to approve the financial report.

Bill Raymond discussed the Division Superintendents reports. Gary Fish gave a summary of the Piedmont Division report.

Rick Coble gave a report on the upcoming elections.

Membership Chair, Rusty Lacy, briefly discussed the previously submitted report. Since the report was submitted the March database report was received which showed membership had risen to 1052 from the previously reported 1045.

Registrar Matthew Stitt briefed the Board on the database report he receives from National the beginning of each month. He spends about three hours each month putting the data received into useable form for each recipient. There was some discussion about the new database National will begin using in early April. Matthew asked that any changes that are needed in the NMRA provided data be reported by the District or Region directly to National.

Peter gave an update on the website. Addition of minutes to the website are simple for Peter to put in place.

Under Old Business, Steve Folino gave an update on the SER Convention, Smoky Mountain Rails, to be held in Gatlinburg, TN, September 18-20, 2025. Steve discussed some of the events scheduled such as a behind-the-scenes look at Dollywood RR. There will be two Modeling with the Masters clinics, which is unusual for a regional convention. There are clinics scheduled on tuning rolling stock, 3D printing and Arduino. Because there are no layouts near Gatlinburg, all tours will be conducted as people drive to or leave the convention. There will be no banquet because of the costs in this touristy area. Thursday night there will be a dessert social.

Steve reiterated he needs more clinicians. He encouraged the members of the Board and all those in attendance to encourage every NMRA member to sign up for the convention.

Roy discussed the 2026 Scenic City Convention being held in Chattanooga, TN, July 27 – Aug 2, 2026. Signup for the Convention is currently open either on-line on the NMRA website or mail-in registration. The SER website will also have a link for signup. Roy provided paper registration forms for anyone desiring one. Early registrants get priority choice for many of the outside activities.

Roy talked about attending the Amherst Train Show where he passed out flyers for the 2026 Convention and received enthusiastic responses from vendors and others anxious to attend. Roy talked about the National T-Trak's plan to setup the world record layout and that so far over 1,000 modules have been scheduled. He hopes to get a number of T-Trak members to join NMRA and attend the Convention. The train show will be two days.

Matthew talked about FireCrown's major work in model roading and Model Railroader Magazine's recognition of the NMRA. Brian stated that FireCrown had purchased EnterTrainment Junction and was building a new building to house that layout, but also include an all-transportation museum for ships, space vehicles, trucking and railroading. Roy spoke about MR's effort to get local layouts in the magazine before the 2026 Convention.

Steve Flowers talk about plans to hold the 2027 SER Convention in Memphis. Bluff City Region will be the sponsor, and it will probably occur early June. Steve is working on vendors, a website and clinicians.

Larry Burkholder discussed how difficult it is for smaller Regions to sponsor a convention due to small membership and the spread-out nature of their membership. He is looking for a Region to sponsor the 2028 convention. He suggested we study the possibility of having mini-meets vs full conventions. Anyone interested in hosting a mini meet should contact Larry.



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The expense of having a convention at many smaller areas is prohibitive. One way around that is for the SER to be the sponsor and use it's 501C3 status.

Under New Business Roy discussed the issues with the Dixie Division's failure to get a member to be Superintendent. Roy is proposing the division be split according to the map he provided and about half be moved to the Steel City Division and about half to the Gulf Division. Making this move will allow the members to get notifications from a division and participate in division activities. The Dixie Division will be deactivated. Some discussion was brought up about bringing the Magnolia Division into the mix, but that would require spanning a different division.

It was mentioned that any member may attend any division but will not be able to vote and no money will flow from the SER for that member.

A motion was made and seconded to divide the Dixie Division as proposed. Motion passed. Roy will work with National to ID all the zip codes and that people are moved accordingly.

The Honors and Awards policy was discussed. Divisional level work was added to the criteria for different awards. Nominations are due by July for the September convention. The Yarbrough Award is for long term service to the region. The Honors Committee wants to bring more opportunities to the divisions. The proposed Honors and Awards policy was approved for implementation.

The AP certificate for author was changed to reflect electronic publications.

Mike Cummings stated that any person who is qualified may be a judge. This was recently discussed at the NMRA Board of Directors meeting.

Brian Ford announced he is not running for SER Director when his term ends.

One member stated there have been complaints about the Southerner going digital. Some members do not want to sit at a computer for hours reading the magazine. Roy stated the magazine is in PDF format on the website and may be printed by anyone wanting to take it with them to read later. There was spirited discussion about how much money was being spent on paper magazine and how much the SER is saving by going digital.

Meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT



MID-SOUTH



Mid-South - Division 1

Dave Carlton ~ dpcarlton59@gmail.com

The Historic Decatur Union Depot and Museum (Alabama) continues to benefit from Mid South Division conservatory and docent efforts for their extensive

collection of railroad memorabilia, historic documentation, and operating layouts, G to Z. The museum is rearranging some of its space to move from static display and presentation to a series of theme-based operating layouts that rotate throughout the year. This assures the return visitors of which there are many, a novel set of displays.

Mid South Division is tasked with engineering, curating, construction, and positioning these new displays.

Themes may include Unit Trains, Circus Trains, Military Trains, Patriot Celebration, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Quite interesting to the membership are our monthly clinic efforts. We cover the new and exciting aspects of emerging methodologies in micro-computer programming, new tech devices, multi-camera hook-ups through smart phones, video management, live streaming to YouTube, and uncovered gadgets, chips, lights, wiring and connectors.

We are looking toward members' participation in the 2026 NMRA National Convention. Let's get "On Board." [SER](#)

Steel City - Division 2

Whit Fancher ~ crownlandscapeservices@gmail.com

The Steel City Division (SCD) has been active for the most part. Attendance has been steady over the past few months, and we have had several visitors and new attendees at the meetings.

For August, we had a video presentation on "Building Better Structures" by Duane Richardson^{MMR}. It was informative and stimulated a lot of questions between members after the presentation as Duane has some great ideas mentioned and shown during the presentation. Everyone left that evening with more knowledge on building and were ready to try some of the techniques at their workbench – the next day, I'm sure!

For September, Larry Smith^{MMR} and Whit Fancher gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 44th National Narrow Gauge convention held in Pittsburgh, PA, September 9-14 and the trip to the East Broad Top Railway in Rockhill, PA. There were three buses chartered to visit EBT and it was an exhilarating full day of railfanning and even a train ride! Unfortunately, EBT #16 steam locomotive which was scheduled to pull the excursion train was unable to do so due to mechanical issues. On a positive note #16 was steamed up and would travel back and forth on the track leading to the turntable. The presentation included photos of EBT back shops, Roundhouse, Turntable, Station and EBT equipment including the #16 steam loco, M1 Gas Electric Motorcar, M4 Plymouth Switcher, M7 GE Switcher and other equipment.

We were allowed in many of the "closed" sections of the buildings to photograph anything and everything we could! Anything that "rolls" was on display at EBT! As for the convention itself, we included many photos of the various

entries in the contest room, static displays, operating modular layouts and several impressive home layouts. We also included photos of some of the highlights from the train show featuring many manufacturers.

In October, Whit Fancher facilitated five "How To" video presentations by Boulder Cree Railroads. Each of the videos was fairly short, 8 - 15 minutes in length, but very informative. The presentations given were: "Static Grass Applicator" - Building a DIY Static grass applicator that can be powered by battery or from a 12-volt power supply; "Grass Tufts" - How to make your own grass tufts; "Hay Bales & Rolls" - How to make both round and square hay bales (two videos) and "Chain Link Fence" - A cheap and easy way to make chain link fences with galvanized wire & tulle fabric materials.

For November, our meeting was really a lot of fun with great member participation. We had a "What's on Your Workbench/Bring & Brag" session. Members were told that if they would prefer not to bring a project to the meeting, they could take a photo, saving it on a flash drive. We had several members take us up on that option. Craig Gardner gave us a presentation on his clever techniques on scratch building or kit bashing to create representative prototype buildings for use on his layout. Craig uses many everyday house-hold type items for his construction which you would never know until he shows his tricks!

John Stewart showed us what he has been up to on his Steel production layout. Sabrina Summers showed us what she has going on with the construction of a layout in her bedroom using two doors. She is also busy building a shelf type layout in her garage! Several members brought items. Chuck Lampman brought his Alaskan dredge

and his On30 shotgun house. Larry Smith^{MMR}, an HO narrow gauge modeler, brought us his country store which included Coke bottles in a crate on the front porch of the store and a 3-D printed model of the Orbisonia Station on the EBT. Curtis Summerville brought some of the HO cars and locomotive he is working on and painting, and there were others. John Martinek, an N-scaler even commented that “We have a lot of builders in this group!”


We did not meet in December as many members had conflicts with meeting that third Thursday! Maybe Christmas in a few days? Naaaaah!

In January, Larry Smith^{MMR} gave us an informative PowerPoint presentation on using the ORER to create a freight car roster for an operations layout. Larry is an era specific modeler and tries to follow the prototype in operations. Using the ORER book for a specific time-period or era lets him know what rolling stock was available for use on all railroads during his specified time-period. It was very informative, and everyone left with a better understanding of modeling a specific era and how to go about selecting the prototypically correct rolling stock for

use on their layout.

Now, to purge some of my “stuff!” Additionally, the Wrecking Crew Inc. was part of the McWane Science Center’s “Magic of Model Trains” annual show held every year beginning Thanksgiving weekend through the first weekend of December. This year, the Wrecking Crew had “request information sheets” available for interest in the hobby and the club. We had an incredible response from the public with interests in the hobby. We contacted those who filled out the questionnaire and we had several visitors at the January meeting. I’m confident that several of them will become members of the NMRA. I know of at least three that have!

All our presentations and clinics are filmed “Live” on our Facebook Page which is **Steel City Division of the SER NMRA**. Please feel free to view the presentations or download them as I’m sure you will enjoy the meat and taters portion of the presentations. Unfortunately, when we give video presentations using copyright videos, we do not go “live” due to potential copyright violations. Also, feel free to “like” our page and leave us a comment. [SER](#)



Bluff City - Division 10


Steven Flowers ~ palmodelrailroader@gmail.com

The members of the Bluff City Division have continued working on private layouts, as well as the layouts at AZO. We have also continued with monthly meetings, except in January, when we were slammed with several inches of snow across the division.

We have also been discussing the future and what it might take to get there. Discussions of a train show in the Fall of 2025 and also other fundraisers to help with adding available resources for things like conventions and projects to help develop and grow the division have also been mentioned.

On a sad note, the Bluff City Division Assistant Superintendent, Vito Volpe, passed away on February 2. He will be missed by many. [SER](#)





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Chattanooga, TN 37411
rwmasterson@epbf.com
423-227-0334



Palmetto - Division 7

Roger Liska ~ rigger@clemson.edu

The fall Division meeting was held jointly with the Carolina Mountain Division on Saturday, November 16 at the Northgate Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

Forty-one division members and two guests attended the day's events. Following the recognition of new members and guests, short presentations were made by the various contest contestants which consisted of a wide array of models, photographs and tips/techniques. This was followed by two very informative clinics. The first clinic of the morning, conducted by Paul Spilman, Superintendent of the Carolina Mountain Division, was entitled "Showing It's the Seventies." It was about selecting and placing the correct decals on freight cars throughout that decade. The next clinic was entitled "East Greenville on the C&WC – A Local Prototype for a Shelf Switching Layout." The clinic was presented by Marv Havens and consisted of taking the participants on a virtual tour of a portion of the railroad using a handout and pictures.

The next activity was a debrief of the Weathering clinic facilitated by Walter Laseter. Some of those who participated in the clinic shared their experiences and showed a freight car they weathered during the clinic. Chuck Jenkins announced that a clinic on Scratch Building will be held following lunch and involve only those who had previously signed up for it. However, others are welcome to observe.

The next order of business was a review of upcoming NMRA local, regional and national meetings and brief reports of activities of local railroad clubs. Roger Liska presented his business report. First, he has been keeping up with the required reports of the National NMRA Office, SER Board and SER magazine. He then thanked Walter Lassiter, John Kelchner and Tony Ratola for their effort in developing and conducting clinics for the division. Next, he recognized Chuck Jenkins for his two years of outstanding service as the Division's Assistant Superintendent and Steve Todd, Myron Pensyl, Dave Winans, Rich Lehman and Howard Garner for their effort as officers and Board members over the past two years. Finally, he thanked Beth Todd for helping with registration and Ken Malgren and Walter Laseter for taking pictures throughout the day. Finally, Roger presented Steve Todd with an NMRA National Division Service Award for all his past and present time and effort to help ensure the continuing success of the division.

The next order of business was a report from the Division's Treasurer Myron Pensyl on the current financial status of the division. Ken Majchrzak presented brief reports on the Division's Mentor Program and Women in Model Railroading. Due to the lack of response from new members to be assigned a mentor, it was decided to only do that upon the request of a new member. Some of the meeting attendees suggested that the division create a database of members that would like to participate in offering their expertise in specific model railroading subjects. Roger Liska, with the help of Ken, will send out an email to all members requesting their participation. Finally, Ken presented an update on the Women in Model Railroading program and encouraged those women in attendance to participate.



Jack Varadi then reported that the next What's on Your Workbench online session will be held early next year and encouraged everyone to participate. Concerning the HO T-Trak layout, Dave Winans reported that he still has materials to build a few modules and any interested individuals should contact him.

The next order of business was the election of officers. To initiate the recent change in the Division Bylaws to stagger the terms of Superintendent and Secretary with the Assistant Superintendent and Treasurer, the following nominations were received: One Year Terms – Superintendent – Roger Liska, Secretary – Steve Todd; Two Year Terms – Assistant Superintendent – Rich Lehman, Walter Laseter and Patrick Inserra, Treasurer – Myron Pensyl. For the officer's positions where there was only one nominee, they are automatically elected. As for the Assistant Superintendent, the three nominees made brief presentations as to why they wanted to be elected. This was followed by a ballot vote by attendees with the winner being Rich Lehman. The other two nominees will be contacted as to their interest in helping the board carry out its business. The terms for the new officers began January 1. Roger thanked Dave Winans and Bruce Gathman for serving on the Nominations Committee.

The meeting continued with the presentations of certificates and a small cash prize to the following contest winners: Poplar Model - Winner: Scott Lister; Runner-up: Kinzer Hurt; Tips & Techniques - Winner: Bill Courtwright; and Photo - Winner: Rob Seel. Roger thanked the participants who entered the contests and Chuck for facilitating them over the past two years.

Overviews of Jack Varadi, Scott Lister and the Model Train Station layouts were presented and attendees were encouraged to visit following lunch. Pictures taken during and following the meeting can be found on the division's website at www.palmettodiv.org. Finally, Tony Ratola had four structures judged for the Achievement Program Merit Awards program. Three of the four were awarded the Merit Awards.

The Scratch Building clinic, held after the division meeting, was spectacular. Tony Ratola and John Kelchner did an excellent job and are willing to host follow-up clinics. Attendees were Rob Seel, Michael Cerps, John LePere, Joseph Sanfilippo, Ken Malgren, Steve Todd, Patrick Inserra, and Chuck Jenkins. Holding clinics after division meetings works out extremely well and provides a good alternative to layout visits. The Static Grass Installation Clinic is still in the planning stage and details will be announced in the near future.

Steve Todd conducted the first "What's On Your Workbench" online one hour session on January 27. The following three division members made short presentations on the noted topics. Rick Mazar – installing electronic track occupying train detectors using KiCad EDA software with

specially designed and constructed printed circuit boards. Next, Kinzer Hunt presented the results of his recent work in designing and constructing two proto typical HO scale locomotives, one structure and one railroad backdrop. Finally, Steve Todd presented an overview of a recently developed new product by DCC-EX – the EX-Command Station/Booster One Express. Thirteen division members attended the session.

The spring division meeting will take place on Saturday March 8 in Greenwood, SC at Lander University Centennial Hall. Refer to the meeting announcement being sent as a separate document with this communication for a map. The doors open at 8:30 am and the actual meeting is from 9 am to 12 noon. The meeting fee to cover coffee and refreshments is \$10.00 per person except those presenting clinics. Lunch follows from 12 noon to 1 pm at R Place restaurant located at 715 Montague Ave. in Greenwood. Lunch will be selected from a menu and paid for by each attendee. Refer to the announcement for more details. Following lunch there will be an optional guided tour of the railroad cars at the Greenwood Historical Center at 908 Main Street S., Greenwood, SC. The cost is \$10.00 per person to be paid onsite. The tour will take no longer than an hour. [SER](#)



Piedmont - Division 5

Gary Fish ~ pdsuper600@gmail.com

Piedmont Division has had a busy end of 2024 & beginning of 2025.

A December Holiday party that was wonderfully orchestrated by Diana Watson. Over 80 attendees enjoyed great food, fellowship, music and as a special treat, Superintendent Perry Lamb brought in a group of Kennesaw State University (KSU) Students who did an improv production. Awards were presented to: Diana Watson *Engineer Award*, Christopher Clayton- *Brakeman Award*, & Jack Spangler- *Conductor Award*.

Our membership team had a booth at the Tellus science museum in December. Ten volunteers shared information about our hobby and ran the Ambassador N-scale layout. The membership team had 20 volunteers at a booth at the Golden Spike train in Show in Duluth, GA in January, running the Ambassador layout and offered use of our locomotive tester to allow the patrons to see if their locomotive purchases were working and shared information about the NMRA and model trains.

Also, in January we had a booth at the Trains, Trains, Trains weekend event at the Southern Museum in Kennesaw. On hand to entertain the folks we had our Ambassador N-scale Layout, Peter Thomas' HO switching layout and Walt Liles brought his HO Snow layout. Thanks to Walt for coordinating the event and to the 20+ volunteers who helped make it a great time for the kids and their families.

We had the snow layout at St. Peter Chanel church in Ros-

well for breakfast with Santa (the trains may have been as big a hit as St. Nick). Steve Landry and Walt Liles kept the kids happy for 5 hours. Of the 1,300 in attendance, not sure if the adults or the kids were more inspired by the trains.

In January, the new board was installed for the next two years. It includes: Gary Fish Superintendent, Walt Liles Director of operations, Diana Watson Director of Administration, Jim Foley Director of finance, Raymond Stewart Director of personnel, & Directors Joe Sullivan, James Travis, Charlie Mason^{MMR}, Howard Goodwin^{MMR}, Steve Landry, John Meyers, and Past Superintendent Perry Lamb.

Awards were presented to our outgoing board members for outstanding work which included Jerry Knazek, Jim Datka, Perry Lamb, Peter Thomas, Charlie Crawford, Raymond Stewart, Hank Primas, Gary Fish, Joe Sullivan. Their efforts were very well appreciated.

March 8 & 9 is our Annual Train Show in Cartersville, GA at the Clarence Brown Convention Center. There will be over 190 tables of vendors, around 12 working layouts and our famous membership white elephant sale. We will also be hosting the SER board meeting. While at the meeting stay and enjoy the show. For more information, please see the website. Hope to see y'all there.

The Piedmont division is running a Diorama Contest in September in coordination with the 90th anniversary celebration of the formation of the NMRA. [SER](#)

Atlantic - Division 8

Rick Fulkerson ~ rick@mountaingoatbroadcast.com

The ATLANTIC DIVISION held its Winter meeting on February 1 at Lovezzola's Restaurant in Pooler, GA. There were 25 attendees and presenters present.

Lloyd Bloom updated us on the progress of his C&WC N-scale railroad and explained how he installed an elevator style bridge to move his trains between two levels instead of using a helix, which he does not have room for. Added to this upper level, Lloyd installed a removable three track, four turnout duck under. He explained how the two components were built and how they work together.

Next up was Nate Stone who took us through some of the Digitrax equipment history and showed off a few new products. His warning to all is: Be careful what you wish for because it just might happen. Rounding out the formal presentations was a Power Point multi-media presentation by assistant superintendent Doug Scott. He gave a modeling tip intro about repurposing box cars into MOW storage and then showed his visit to the Colorado Railroad

Museum in Greeley, Colorado followed by his ride on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. Right before Doug's presentation, everyone had a chance to order lunch.

The last part of the formal meeting featured two Show and Tell presentations. First up was Chris Dills and his son Caleb explaining his 3D printing experience creating a 1/12 scale EMD gas turbine locomotive. Following Chris was John Montenegro displaying his Z scale layout in a pizza box and his static locomotive display showcasing various model railroad scales. John also showed off a very interesting DUPLO (similar to LEGO) version of a partial wye in a 'U' shape with a tail to turn a train.

After lunch and the presentations, we all had an opportunity to visit two fabulous HO scale home model railroads. Charles Elmore graciously invited us to view his Union Pacific pike and Nate Stone opened his Clinchfield Railroad layout for our viewing pleasure. Both are full of great scenery and rolling stock and locomotives. [SER](#)



1. Audience and Lloyd Bloom w/lift bridge
2. John Montenegro's Show & Tell
3. Lloyd Bloom lift bridge wiring
4. Nate Stone's Clinchfield RR
5. Nate Stone speaks Digitrax
6. Charles Elmore's Union Pacific RR





THE CLUB CAR

A listing of clubs and organizations in the Southeastern Region. If your club is accepting new members or visitors, kindly send the information to the Editor at: SouthErneR@ejpj.com. Please provide a contact name and phone number. Websites will be listed if given.

Atlantic - Division 8

Coastal Rail Buffs, Savannah, GA, Nate Stone, 912-354-2606
Charleston Area Model Railroad Club, Citadel Mall in Charleston, SC
Tom Kabele, tkabele@sc.rr.com; www.camrc.club
Grand Strand MRRRC, Myrtle Beach Mall, North Myrtle Beach, SC
Joe Corsetti, 843-236-9148, yrusoslo728@aol.com; www.gsmrrc.org
Golden Isles Model Railroad Club, Brunswick, GA
Helio Valdes, 912-261-2478; t29b52f4@comcast.net
Sun City Model RR Club, Bluffton, SC
Doug Scott, deraildh2@aol.com

Bluff City - Division 10

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 additional info; nssavage@juno.com

Carolina Mountain - Division 15

Apple Valley Model Railroad Club, Hendersonville, NC
Located in Hendersonville Station; www.avmrc.com
French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club, Hendersonville, NC
Chuck Place, 828-685-2726; hmp3@blueridge.net;
Waynesville Area Rail Roaders
Waynesville, NC; www.facebook.com/WARRNC
Western North Carolina Model Railroaders; email: webmaster@wncmrr.org

Central Savannah River - Division 9

OFRRRA Operators, Tuesdays, Aiken SC
Steve Prevette, 803-594-5079; bhbfb.weebly.com

Cherokee Division 13

Chattanooga Society of Model Engineers, Dunlap, TN
Andy Morrison, 423-344-8502; www.csme-eprp.com
Chattanooga Modular Modelers, Inc. meet Thursday at 6:30 pm
Lewis Andrews, 706-271-8138; www.chattmodmod.org
Tennessee Valley Model Railroaders, Inc., Chattanooga, TN
Nick Giordano, 856-304-9196; nickgiordano100@gmail.com; www.TVMRi.org

Cumberland - Division 11

Dixie Model Railroad Club, 2101 Belmont Blvd, Nashville, TN 37212
Eric Hansmann, 304-376-0256; eric@hansmanns.org
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; 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; terry.bebout@earthlink.net; www.tcr.org
Tennessee T-Track Associates, Franklin, TN
Ed Minnich, 615-416-2892; ttraknv@gmail.com;

Dixie - Division 3

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
Wiregrass Steel Wheels Sub-Division, Dothan, AL
Dan Adams, 334-588-3312; danielma522@centurytel.net

Empire - Division 6

Flint River Model RR Club, Albany, GA, Jimmy Swinn, 229-883-3517
MGMRC - Middle Georgia Model RR Club, Warner Robins, GA
Bill Attaway, 478-954-9200; mgmrc@cox.net; www.mgmrc.org
MGRA - Middle Georgia RR Association, Bill Jones
wrfjones845@aol.com
South Georgia Model RR Club, Hahira, GA, (Near Valdosta)
Todd Tait, 229-548-3611

Gulf - Division 4

Caboose Club, Foley Railroad Museum, 125 E Laurel Ave, Foley, AL 36535
Bonnie Donaldson, 251-943-1818; foleymuseum@gulftel.com
CATT - Costal Alabama T-TRAK, Bruce Arbo, 228-669-6705
coastalalabamattrak@gmail.com; www.nationalt-traklayout.com
Emerald Coast Garden Ry Club, Jack Grill, 850-994-7226; www.ecgrc.com
Usually meet on 3rd Saturday at noon in the Diner Car
of the West Florida RR Museum, Milton FL
Glenn Samuel's Operating Group, Mobile, AL 205-914-0693
2nd Saturday of the month @ 1 p.m.; Gasamuel@aol.com
Miracle Strip Model RR Club, Shalimar, FL; Ray Follacchio, 850-865-8822
Mobile Society of Model Engineers, Alabama Gulf - Chapter, NRHS
8060 Morris Hill Rd, Semmes AL 36575-6424; Dave Miller, 251-689-2673
Pensacola Model Railroad Club (PMRC), Pensacola, FL
HO Division - Steve "Chip" Borona, 850-384-3206; www.PMRC.us
N Division - Terry Tucker, 850-723-5390
Z Division - Joshua Murrach, 251-533-6481

Southwest Alabama Railroad Modelers (SWARM), Mobile, AL
Glenn Samuel, 205-914-0693, Gasamuel@aol.com
West Florida Model Railroad Club, Milton, FL
Tom Augustine, 850-944-0471; www.wfrm.org

Magnoia - Division 14

Central Mississippi Model Railroad Association, Jackson, MS
MS Ag and Forestry Museum, 1150 Lakeland Dr, Jackson MS 39216
Nils Larsen, 601-432-4500
Mississippi Coast Model RR Club, PO Box 6415, Gulfport, MS 39506
613 Pass Rd Gulfport, MS (adjacent to the museum; www.mcmr.club)

Mid-South - Division 1

Mid-South Garden Railway Society, Memphis, TN
Vito Volpe 901-438-8466; vwolpejr48@yahoo.com
Northeast Alabama Model Railroad Club, Guntersville, AL
Charles Dick, 205-878-2537; charlesdick@bellsouth.net
Redstone Model Railroad Club, Huntsville, AL; www.rmrrc.net
Shoals model Railroaders, 206 W Fifth St, Tuscumbia AL 35674
Neal Jetter, 256-800-8147; lionlman@aol.com
www.facebook.com/groups/580026328843374

Palmetto - Division 7

Associated Model Railroads of Columbia (AMROC), Columbia, SC
Clark Gregory, 803-781-7912; www.amroc.org
Carolina Railroad Heritage Association, Inc.;
www.facebook.com/hubcityrrmuseum
Central Railway Model and Historical Association (CRM&HA), Central, SC
Sandy Eistus, 513-325-8850; www.crmha.org
Piedmont N' Southern, Greenville, SC
Michael Offik, 864-884-2165; www.piedmontsouthern.org
The Carolina Conspiracy (On30 modular) Andrew Gillette, 803-316-8128
amn_a_gillette@yahoo.com
Station 187 Model Railroad Club, Greer, SC; www.station187.net

Piedmont - Division 5

Atlanta Interlocking Model Railroad Club;
Charlie Crawford, 678-982-4699
Atlantic Coast S-Gaugers, Bob Lacheen
home 770-578-9937; cell 404-431-8032; www.trainweb.org/acsg
Boomers, John Rieken, Saturday a.m.; OPS Athens, Gwinnett, Commerce areas
email for specific dates; jrieken@windstream.net
Chattahoochee Express Operating Group, Chris White, 770-594-2618
Georgia Garden Railway Society, Terry Manning, 770-564-8822
temanning@aol.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
Model Railroad Club of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
Dan Mason, dan@railroadmodelclubofatlanta.com, railroadmodelclubofatlanta.com
OPS Sessions on the second Saturday morning of the month
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
questions@nglrc.org
North Georgia Modurail, Hannes van Niekerk, 678-622-1848;
mailcar@ngmrr.org; www.ngmrr.org
Northeast Georgia N Scale Model Railroad Club; Peter Wood, 706-215-3133
www.facebook.com/NortheastGeorgiaNScale
NWGA T-TRAK Club Kennesaw GA
Jim Nealand, 678-358-9171; casadiago86@gmail.com
Railroad Model Club of Atlanta, Bob Peppel, 770-934-4067
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 Rd, Loganville, GA 30052

Plateau - Division 16

Crossville Model RR Club, Crossville, TN; Tom Shallcross, 931-484-7565
chipmonk4@comcast.net; www.crossvilletrains.org

Smoky Mountain - Division 12

Knoxville Area Model Railroaders, Oak Ridge, TN
Brad Tutt, 865-776-4703; 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
Maryville MRRRC, Alnwick Community Club
2146 Big Springs Rd., Maryville TN 37803
Don Clark, 503-730-4869; meets first Saturday each month, 10 a.m. to noon

Steel City - Division 2

Black Warrior Model RR Society, Tuscaloosa, AL, Bob Way, 205-556-3073
Smokey City Model Rails, Birmingham, AL; www.smokeycityrails.com
Wrecking Crew Model RR Club, Birmingham, AL; Whit Francher; 205-746-0007
Steel City Shifters Operating Group, jstew@bhamrails.info

SER OFFICERS

President: Roy Masterson; 423-227-0334; rwmasterson@epbf.com
3502 Glendon Dr, Chattanooga TN 37411-4114

Vice-President: Bill Raymond, MMR; 828-513-5051; trainman@morrisbb.net
3001 Hickory Nut Trl, Hendersonville NC 28739-7804

Secretary: Rusty Lacy; 615-307-4769; rustylacy1@gmail.com
502 Applebrook Dr, Rossville GA 30741-3723

Treasurer: Steven Folino, 916-202-2285; steve@fungusmungusrr.com
320 Cimarron Trl, Afton TN 37616-5464

Treasurer Asst: John Lanese; 423-847-1132; johntrains@epbf.com
1442 Courtland Dr, Hixson TN 37343-6408

SER DIRECTORS

Exec. Advisor: Larry Burkholder, 865-408-9903; labtexan@outlook.com
206 Coyatee View, Loudon TN 37774-2172

Director (2025): Gary Fish, 770-846-2222; bigfish600@gmail.com
1779 Millhouse Run, Marietta, GA 30066-8011

Director (2025): Brian Ford, 423-297-5726; briantford@aol.com
1208 Laurelwood Dr, Chattanooga TN 37412-1920

Director (2026): Gerald Mabry, 601-938-1871; gerald.mabry@outlook.com
207 Country Road 358, Meridian MS, 39301-9623

Director (2026): Mark Nolan; 931-206-0504; dmnolan1967@gmail.com
1837 Burland Cres Brentwood TN 37027-5456

SER COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

AP Program: Randall Watson, 770-831-5736; randallywatson1@bellsouth.net
730 Morning Creek Ln, Suwanee GA 30024-7052

Contests: Bill Raymond, MMR; 828-513-5051; trainman@morrisbb.net
3001 Hickory Nut Trl, Hendersonville NC 28739-7804

Conventions/MiniMeets: Larry Burkholder, 865-408-9903; labtexan@outlook.com
206 Coyatee View, Loudon TN 37774-2172

Editor: Ed Juaira, 423-598-9925; SouthErneR@epj.com
782 Jays Way, Ringgold GA 30736-8954

Education: Chuck Higdon, 423-364-8331; vze5crrw1@outlook.com
189 Foxtrot LN, Jasper, TN 37347-1729

Elections: Rick Coble, 770-279-2527; rvcoblenmra@gmail.com
3278 Spring Wind Ct, Lawrenceville GA 30044-4838

Good & Welfare: David R Anderson, 828-277-9092; 737avid40@att.net
3970 Suwanee Place Dr, Suwanee GA 30024-3976

Historian: Joe Nichols, Sr.^{MMR}, 770-396-6447; deltar@mindspring.com
4554 Chadwell Ln, 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, 470-835-6638; Daniel@masonlawfirmga.com
139 Robin Wood Ct, Roswell GA 30075

Membership: Rusty Lacy, 615-307-4769; rustylacy1@gmail.com
502 Applebrook Dr, Rossville GA 30741-3723

Registrar: Matthew Stitt, 205-664-128; mathwstitt@bellsouth.net
117 Norwick Abbye Cir, Alabaster AL 35007-8432

Webmaster: Peter Thomas; peter3292004@gmail.com

SER DIVISIONS

Atlantic (8) Rick Fulkerson; 702-374-4405; Rick@mountaingoatbroadcast.com
1000 Bonieta Harrold Dr Apt 6107, Charleston, SC 29414-5169

Bluff City (10) Steven Flowers; 615-308-4481; palmodelrailroader@gmail.com
1604 Lindsey Ln, Southaven MS 38672-8530

Carolina Mtn (15) Ben Bartlett; b3j2c@yahoo.com

Central Savannah River (9) Andy Chandler; 706-495-5302; andy.chandler71@gmail.com
3538 Evans To Locks Rd, Augusta GA 30907-3366

Cherokee (13) Brian Ford, 423-297-5726; briantford@aol.com
1208 Laurelwood Dr, Chattanooga, TN 37412-1920

Cumberland (11) Jim Horton; 423-991-4672; jimhortonjd@gmail.com
9824 Albemarle Ln, Brentwood, TN 37027-3717

Empire (6) William Attaway; 478-954-9200; attawayw@mac.com
118 Lenox Dr, Bonair GA 31005-3604

Gulf (4) David Kirkland; 850-867-9497; traindav73@gmail.com
187 Concord Cir, Panama City FL 32405-3566

Magnolia (14) Pat McCarthy; 601-955-0510; maccars@gmx.com
3815 Rebecca Ct, Jackson MS 39216-3719

Mid-South (1) Dave Carlton; 256-783-2844; dpcarlton59@gmail.com
13021 Huntcliff Rd, Huntsville AL 35803-2933

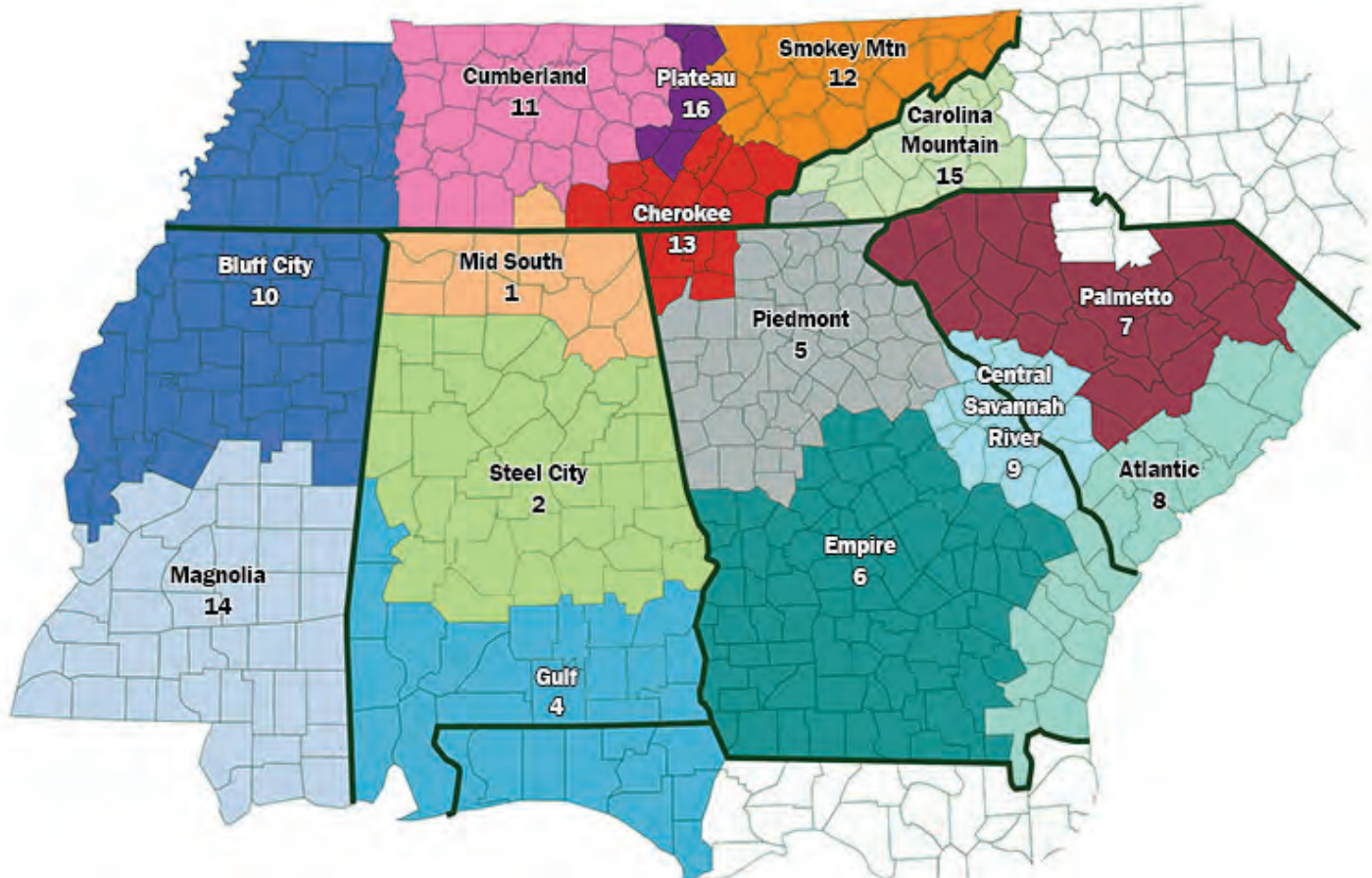
Palmetto (7) Roger Liska; 864-646-6073; rigger@clemsun.edu
116 Liberty Hall Dr, Pendleton SC 29670-1827

Piedmont (5) Gary Fish; 770-846-2222; pdsuper600@gmail.com

Plateau (16) Arthur Landrigan; 931-788-0455; arcy22tn@gmail.com
4437 Blalock Rd, Crossville TN 38572

Smoky Mtn (12) Steven Folino; 916-202-2285; steve@fungusmungusrr.com
320 Cimarron Trl, Afton, TN 37616-5464

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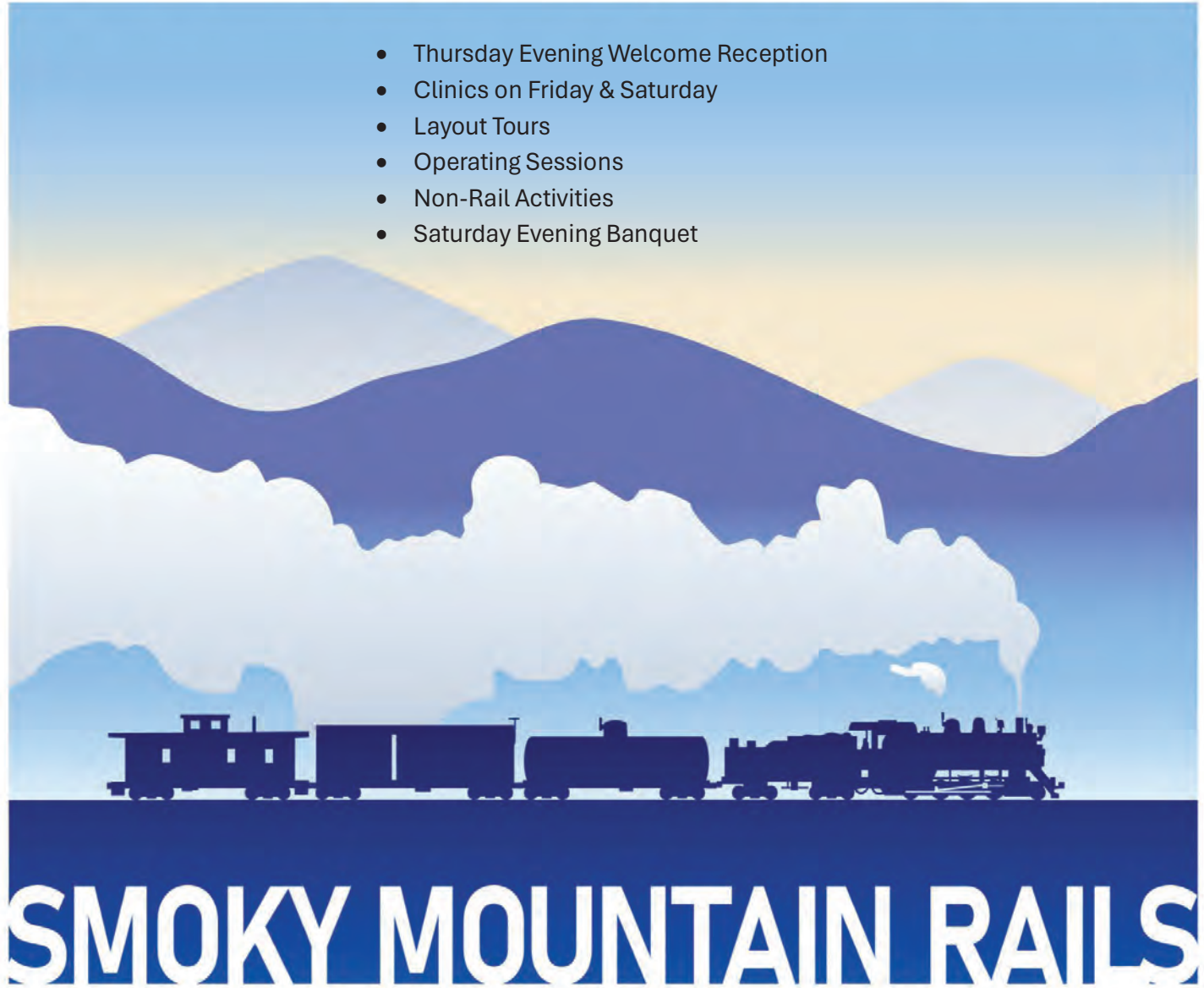
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