VOLUME 51

November-December 1996

Number 6

From The President

by Bill Gruber

One of the greatest member benefits of belonging to the Mid Eastern Region is attending our Regional Conventions. While the staff of the MER Jersey Limited '96 didn't really get the chance to sit in on the numerous clinics or ride the motor coaches to some of the rail and non-rail tours, it was none the less an exciting event. To me, meeting many of the attendees was just as rewarding and in some case, even more so. Many ideas on managing the day to day Region business were exchanged, some good and some not so good. In any event, I think the Board of Directors came away with a clearer idea of what has to be done over the next several months and years.

While membership promotion is definitely one of our near term goals, the recruitment of existing members thoughts, ideas and services is a "now" term goal. I can assure you that your current Board of Directors are on the same page in making this a Region that serves its Divisions and its members instead of asking them to provide for us. We have many exciting things planned such as a Regional Home Page on the Internet, a vastly improved and "on time" LOCAL, and several other special projects to name a few. While we cannot promise instant changes to current formats, expect some new and exciting ideas in the next several months. Stay tuned for further developments!

Now the bad news. The BOD consists of just seven people, many active in other Region and National activities. Combine these with the dozen or so committee members who have taken an active role in the Region and you have a small core of people providing the brain and leg work for the many that belong. WE NEED YOUR HELP! If you ever thought about getting involved with the NMRA and the Mid Eastern shortly, making sure they are brought

Region, now's the time to put your ideas and talents to work. If you cannot commit yourself "full time", why not offer some short term help? Several committees function for only a few months while others go year round. For example, since we'll be reviewing By-Laws up to current National and Regional changes while not jeopardizing our non-profit status. We'll need some legal help in reviewing any changes that could affect the way we function. How about accounting, writing, sales, soliciting? If you have the skills or desire, we can sure use you! Join in, be a part of the MER! For more information, call, write or e-mail me or any other Board Member.

It was good to see many of the MER's Division Superintendents at our Fall Convention. Perhaps we
missed a good opportunity to ask them how the Region could better suit their needs. While I can't propose a cure all the exchange of ideas between each
Division along with the Region could only be a positive. Maybe we can set up a Division Officers meeting
in a forth-coming Convention where they could get to
know each other and share some of their ideas in providing successful meets. After all, this is the grass roots
of the organization not to mention the secret to member recruitment. Let's listen!

Featured items:

Jersey '96 Contest Resilts page 3 Vehicles for your layout page 4 New officers page 7 Spring Convention page 8

MER LOCAL

Official Publication of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA A tax-exempt Organization

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The MER LOCAL welcomes articles, Photographs, artwork, cartoons and other model railroad related material as contributions to the mutual enjoyment of the hobby for the membership.
The MER LOCAL assumes no responsibility for
the contributions. When necessary the LOCAL
editor reserves the right to edit portions of the
text in order to accommodate the space allowed
per issue. Photographs and artwork will be gladly
returned ONLY when the author submits a selfaddressed return envelope containing ample posttige.

Dues: \$8.00 1 year, \$16.00 2 years

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Nelson Garber, Office Manager Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA



BOARD OF COMING EVENTS

Notices must be typed and have complete address of the event. Notices will print in subsequent LOCALS before the event occurs. Use the style shown below and be brief.

CONVENTIONS

Asheville, NC Mid Eastern & Southeastern 1997 Combined Convention. May 23,24 and 25. Layouts, Clinics and Large Train Show. Radisson Hotel, Ashville, NC For more information contact: Henry Danis, P.O. Box 91, Moore, SC 29369

OTHER EVENTS

Baltimore, MD, Triangle & Western Model Railroad Club Annual Open House, December 14,15,21,22,28,29, 1996, January 4,5,11,12, 1997. Noon to 5pm. 8622 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21236. (410) 256-9037, Tuesday & Thursday 7-10pm

Bordentown, NJ, Nothern Burlington Model Railroad Club Open House & Show, November 23-24, 1996 Saturday 10AM-5PM, Sunday 12PM-5PM, 28 Van Drive. Admission \$2.00 Contact: Bob Liberman, 28 Van Drive, Bordentown (609) 298-7337 or John Adams (215) 757-1937. Camden County Area, Oaklyn, NJ New Jersey Division Meet, January 18 from 1 to 4pm, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. One Haddon Avenue. Layouts, clinics, swap tables Contact Mert Gardner, 110 Otter Branch Drive, Magnolia, NJ or Carl Haslett at (609) 546-9230.

Delmar, DE, Delmarva Model Railroad Club Holiday Open House, 12th Annual Open House Dec. 7-8, 1996 & Jan. 11-12, 1997 11AM-5PM Saturday and 1PM-5PM Sunday. 5,000 feet of operating railroads in N, HO, O LGB & Standard Gauge. 103 E State Street 2nd floor. For more information contact 410-546-2312 or 302-875-7043.

Galax, VA, Twin County RR Club's Sixth Ever Train Fair & Swap Meet, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Saturday 10am to 5pm Sunday 11am to 4pm. \$2.00 per person \$3.00 per family. Fairview Ruritan Club off Rt. 89, five miles south of Galax. Contact Stu Shenk, Rt. 8 Box 201, Galax VA 24333 (540)236-3876

Greensboro, NC, Carolina Model Railroaders' Annual Open House. Nov. 23 and 30, 1996. Southern Railway Passenger Station, 300 E. Washington St. From 10AM to 4PM. Admission: Adults \$2.00 Families \$5.00. Info: Ben Stemkowski, P.O. Box 313, Jamestown, NC 27282, 910-656-7968. New Bern, NC, Carolina Coastal Railroaders Second Annual Train Show,

New Bern, NC, Carolina Coastal Rallroaders Second Annual Train Show, March 22 and 23, 1997, 10am to 5pm, Adults \$3.00 Children under 12 Free with adult, New Bern High School Caleteria, Contact Tommie L. Phelps, 509 River Road, New Bern, NC 28562, 919-637-4026 Southern Pines, NC, Sandhills Central Model Railroad Club Annual Show, No vember 23-24, 1996, 12PM-5PM both days. The Campbell House, 482 East Connecticut Avenue. Adults \$2.00. Contact: Jim Brown (910) 295-3700 days, (910) 295-6694 eves.

Timonium, MD, Ellicott City Scale Model RR Assn.'s Great Scale Train Show. January 25 & 26, 1997 9AM-4PM Saturday, 10AM-4PM Sunday, Maryland State Fairgrounds (Exit 17 off Rt. 83) \$5.00 admission (come back Sunday Free) \$1.00 Children 6-12, Contact Howard Zane (410) 730-1036 or Ken Young (410) 997-2166, 5236 Thunder Hill Rd. Columbia, MD 21045.

Upper Marlboro, MD, Southern Maryland Railroad Association, 3rd Annual Combined Train Show March 1 & 2, 1997 10AM-4PM at The Prince George Equestrian Center Route 4 & 301. For more information 410-535-3229 or 410-257-1033. Vienna, VA, Nothern Virginia Model Railroaders, Open House, HO Scale, December 14, 1996, Januray 11, February 8, March 15, 1997 1PM-5PM in the Vienna Railroad Station. For more information: (703) 938-515

Winslow, NJ. The Great Winslow Junction Scale Train and Railroadiana Show.

January 12, 1997, 10am to 3pm, Adults \$3.00, children under 12 Free with an adult. The Winslow Fire Hall, Hall and Hay St. Contact Bill Powell, 306 Broad St., Williamstown, NJ 08094. (609) 728-1327 till 9pm

Zullinger, PA, Waynesboro Model RR Club Open House, HO & N Gauge Layouts December 7,8,14,15, 1996 January 5, 12,19,26, February 2, 1997, 1-5pm, Waynecastle Road at PA Route 16, Donations Gratefully Accepted. Contact Don Florwick 717-352-8759

New Jersey Convention Contest Results

Congratulations and thanks to all the entrants who entered the contest. There were forty-three models entered, with nine of them earning merit awards. Many thanks go to the model contest judges: Bob Charles, Brian Kampschroer, Wm. Terry Nesbit, Al Phollips, Charles Potter and Jim Teese. Once again there was no entry in the traction category. The winners were:

MODEL CONTEST

STEAM LOCOMOTIVE 1st John Aaron, G N.G. 2-4-2*

DEISEL 1st Charles Evans, On3 Loco #201* 2nd Charles Evans, On3 Loco #200* 3rd Paul Tice. HO BL-2

PASSENGER CARS

1st James Dalberg, HO DL&W Business Car #99

2nd James Dalberg, HO DL&W RPO

3rd John Aaron, G N.G. Combine

FREIGHT CARS

1st Charles Flichman, On3 D&RGW Box Car*

2nd Mark Rosstedt, HO GN Express Reefer*

3rd John Aaron, G N.G. Stock Car

CABOOSE
1st Thomas Lowery, HO S.V.RR
2nd Dave Albertson, HO CNJ
3rd Nick Caccovo, HO Conrail #21103

NON-REVENUE 1st Robert Bird. HO Derick Car* 2nd Roberd Bird. HO Flat Car* 3rd Bruce Barrett, HO Boom Car

STRUCTURES-OFF-LINE
1st Karl A. Scholz. HO Small Town Buildings*

STRUCTURES-ON-LINE
1st Thomas Lowry, HO "Arbuckles" Coffee Co.*
2nd Karl A. Scholz, HO Flagstop Station
3rd Leonard Beck, HO NYC Handcar Building

DIORAMA
1st Thomas Lowry, HO Lackawanna Structures at Northumberland
2nd Glen Nilsen, HO "Abrahamsens" Welding Co.
3rd Leonard Beck, HO New Egypt Depot
* Denotes Merit Award

vember 23-24, 1996, 12PM-5PM both days. The Campbell House, 482 East Connecticut Avenue. Adults \$2.00. Contact: Jim Brown (910) 295-3700 days, (910) 295-6694 eves.

Timonium, MD, Ellicott City Scale Model RR Assn.'s Great Scale Train Show. October 19-20, 1996, 9AM-4PM Saturday, 10AM-4PM Sunday, Maryland State Fairgrounds (Exit 17 off Rt. 83) \$5.00 admission (come back Sunday Free) \$1.00 Children 6-12, Contact: Howard Zane (410) 730-1036 or Ken Young (410)

BEST - IN - SHOW

Charles Flichman On3 D&RGW Box Car

PRESIDENTS AWARD

Joseph Natale HO Atlantic City Station

FAVORITE TRAIN Alan Mende HO CNJ Freight Train

BLUE LANTERN AWARD

Richard Kitz HOn3 Engine House Diorama

JERSEY LIMITED '96 AWARD

Rober Malberti HO PRR Interlocking Tower

This award was sponsered by the staff of "Jersey Limited '96" emphasizing their "unofficial" convention theme: railroad operations

PHOTO CONTEST

COLOR PROTOTYPE

Ist Robert Shepard "Setting sun on the Santa Fe"

3rd tie Bob Charles "Diesels in Morning Mist"

Robert Shepard "Susie Q Spring Snow"

COLOR MODEL
2nd Paul Blackenstose "PRR Switching at Tipple"

CRAFT CONTEST

1st Barbara Teer, Dollhouse "Picture" (Cross stitched)

2nd Hank Force, Freehand drawing - Steam Locomotive

3rd Louis Aaron, Wreath with burgundy flowers

The Nothern Burlington Model Railroad Club was the sponsor for the switching contest. The winners were:

> 1st Place Robert Bucklew 2nd P.J. Mattson 3rd Ken Volpe

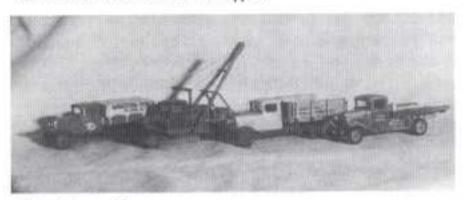
Mid Eastern & Southeastern 1997 Combined Convention Ashville, NC May 23,24 & 25, 1997

> Page 8 for details Make your plans and see you there!

What kind of vehice

by Chu

As model railroaders, most of us spend our time building exact scale models of engines, cars, and buildings. We spend hours adding scenery and foliage to create the perfect scene. In visiting several of the top quality layouts around the country I have seen this illusion ruined by using toy like vechicles. With just a little work there is no need for this to happen.



Fixing the problem

As many of you may know I model in On3 so the line of ErtI vechicles is close to scale and is both affordable and readily available. In the photo above I will be using the Chevy Beer truck for all the conversions shown. Before I go into some of the conversions that I have done I will explain some of the quick fixes that will get your cars on the road quickly.

The first major problem is the shine. I don't care if you pohish your car daily I don't believe you will ever have a shine like the ErtI or Matchbox cars. Next time you are overspraying some of your rolling stock with dull coat try it on some of your cars. You will be suprised to see how much better the cars look with a little dull coat. It is best to mask off the windows when you do this so the windows keep their clear look.

If you plan on display the car driving down the road, put a driver and maybe a passenger in the car. I cannot tell you how many layouts I have seen where none of the cars have any drivers, which is fine if you are modeling a long parking lot. Use some of the people that you have in your scrap box and cut them to fit the car and don't forget the pet dog hanging out the window.

If you have a car parked in front of a building, leave the door open. This will add to the overall look of life on your layout. You weather your rolling stock so you should do the same with your cars and trucks. If you mainly have dirt roads on your layout the cars should reflect that and have a coating of road dust. Mud should be sprayed up under the fenders and along the lower portion of the car or truck. When you weather some of your cars a little on the heavy side it is a good idea to cut some masking tape the shape of the windshield wipers so when you are finised the windows will look as though the wipers have kept the area clean.

In visiting the late Bob Love's layout one of the things that impressed me (and there were many) was the detail he took with his vehicles. It really impressed me when they dimmed the lights for nightime running and the cars that were in the streets came to life as the headlights and taillights came on. I came home and tried this with a couple of my cars. I don't know if this is how he did it but I will try and explain what I have done. I use fiber optics for this, it doesn't shine a beam down the street, but it does give off a glow that doesn't overpower the

scene. For the rear, I drill a hole through the rear tail light and glue the end of the fiber optics in place. After the glue has set I trim it up, if needed, and apply a small touch of Polly S red to the end. The front lights take a little more work. First I use a drill about the size of the headlight and just drill it enough to have a countersunk area, being careful not to drill through. Next I use a small drill the size of the fiber optics and drill a hole through and insert the fiber into the hole securing it with a little glue, leaving just a little of the fiber optics sticking out. I paint the countersunk area around the bulb with old silver and finish it off by gluing a MV lens on giving the look of a real headlight. The packet of four fiber optic wires are then fished through a hole in the layout and taped together with a 12 volt light also taped to the ends with black electrical tape.

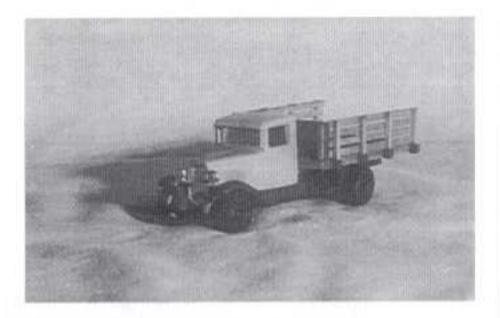


Kitbashing the truck

The first step is to dismantel the truck, not always easy if it happens to be one of the metal trucks. I had to drill out the rivits on all of the projects that I will be doing here. The front of the truck was very acceptable to me but the back had to go. I used a hacksaw and cut off the back body of the beer truck. I used a little squadron green as a filler and sanded it smooth. If you want to add dents now is the time to do it. I used a small ball pean hammer and pliers to distress some of the truck. Remember this is one of the trucks that I will be using in the woods so it will be beat up and show the effects of the tough lumber camp life. When this step was complete I airbrushed the main body of the truck. While this was drying I brush painted the underframe and side frame. I then used some wood that I had already distressed and weathered to built up a new frame for the truck bed attaching it to the main frame. I shapped some more wood for the cross pieces and glued those in place about two foot on center. The main boards for the bed were then added. These were very heavily distressed and I chipped and broke some of the boards to give you the impression that it was used heavly with very little care. I then put some low sides (about one foot high) around the bed to keep the cargo from falling out. The final assembly of truck was completed and weathered. I used chalks to finish the weathering and bring out some of the details. All that is left to is to add a barrel or two, some boards, chain or other details and you have a truck that is ready to go to work for you.

cles do you have?

k Lind



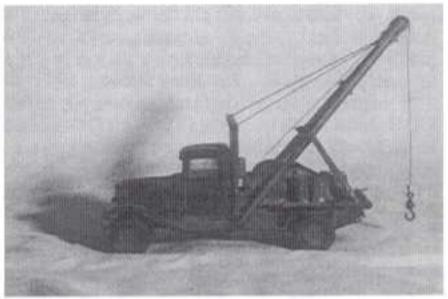
Stake Bed

The disassembly was done the same as above. I didn't want to use any of the metal truck bed parts, it's hard to make metal look like wood. I built up the basic frame the same as the other truck. I did take a little more care with this truck since I wanted to show some usage, but not the severe weathering like the first. I layed out the location for the post and used Grandt Line stake pockets along the edge of the bed. The sides were built, weathed, and fit into the stakes. I used some rolled up tent canvas details from a military model to finish off the detailing of the bed. I went over the entire truck with chalk to weather it and bring out the door and hood details. Don't forget to weather the wheel. I used a sanding disk to add some tread as well as take of the unrealistic round look.

Boom Truck

This is by far the most involved of the kitbashing. This truck came to the Tall Pine Lumber Company when a logging friend in Texas, Bob Clark, traded it to me in a deal at the Narrow Gauge Convention this year in Durango. About the only thing that Bob saved was the body and frame. Like the other models the frame was built up using pre weathered boards placed across the frame. The boom was made up from some Evergreen Scale Model Styrene I beam material. The cross beams and other supporting braces were made from a combination of angle and cross beams. Styrene was used for the renenforcing gussets with Grandt Line nut and bolt castings used for the final details. The wench assembly came from a mixture of parts in the junkbox along with some styrene pieces. Some of the plastic military models are a good inexpensive source for many of these detail parts. Don't worry if the kits are a little out of scale when you are using them for the detail parts it is hard to tell the scale. Boxes, barrels and parts from the junk box help give the truck the backwood look I was wanting. The wheels in this particular model were also changed out to a wider set of wheels. In talking with Bob, the wheels came from some of the "Happy Meal" cars that were offered several years ago and that he found at garage sales for almost nothing. Since this truck will be in the back wood and get some real abuse, a front bumper has been added made out of an I beam. The rear bumper has a section of pipe

added for protection in the rear. Thread was used wound around the drum and threaded over a pully on the boom and a hook added. After a good coating of chalks to bring out the detail this truck is ready for many years of use in the woods.



Now that the winter is upon us take a good look at your vehicles. Do they compliment the scene you are trying to portray or do they jump out at you. While you are working on some of those major projects, work in a small kitbashing of a truck and I think you will agree that it really adds life to your layout.

NOTICE!

Help yourself with a new shirt and help the

Mid Eastern with your purchase

The 50th Anniversary MER white golf shirts with the MER logo embroidered in color have been reduced. They are now available at half price. While supplies last you can have one for \$10.00, plus \$2.00 postage.

Sizes are 2XL, KL, L, M. and Small some of the sizes are limited so order your today!

To order, List name, address, size, phone number and quanity. Make checks payable to Mid Eastern Region and send it to:

> MER Office Manager 13212 Bellevue Street Silver Spring, MD 20904-1703

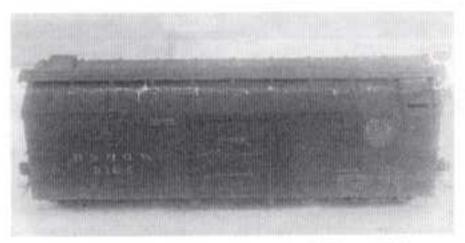
Charles R. Lloyd 1926 - 1996

On July 15, 1996, Charles "Dick" Lloyd passed away at the age of 70. Dick's "Lloyd Publicity Company" is remembered for printing the Mid Eastern Region "LOCAL" and maintaining its data base membership list for about 45 years. Even today, his ever present 2107 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland business address still burns in our minds.

In addition to his life long Mid Eastern Region, NMRA intrest, Dick was a streetcar fan. He is best remembered as one of the founders of Baltimore Streetcar Museum 26 years ago. He remained active all of those years as the museum's Vice President of Operations, Chief Dispatcher and Training Instructor. He was a 50 year NRHS Baltimore member since joining that Chapter in 1944 at the age of 18. His testimonials go on and on. Dick was well respected and loved.

The Mid Eastern Region extends its heart felt condolence to his family. The Charles R. Lloyd Memorial Fund has been established in his honor at the Baltimore Street-car Museum. People wishing to make a contribution in Dick's memory may do so by mailing your contribution to the museum at PO Box 4881, Baltimore, MD 21211.

Nelson D. Garbe



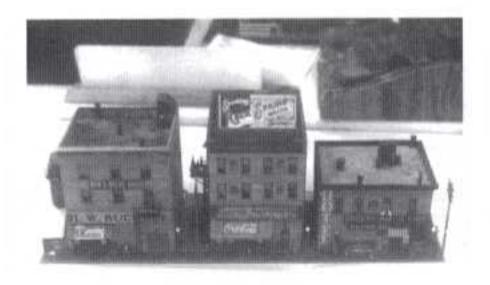
1st Place Freight Cars & Best-In-Show - Charles Flichman On3



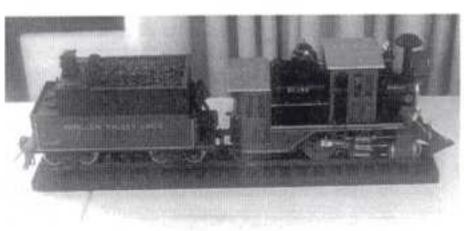
1st Boom Car and 2nd Place Flat Car Non-Revenue - Robert Bird HO



1st Place Structures on line - Thomas Lowry HO



1st Place Structures off line - Karl Scholz HO



1st Place Steam Engines - John Aaron G Scale

MID-EASTERN REGION, NMRA, STAFF ROSTER

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			102 200 2020	
Auction	100000000000000000000000000000000000000		610-644-0164	
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Model Contest	Don Yingling	2420 Heather Raod, York, PA 17404-4383	717-764-2676	
Photo Contest	Jim Atkinson	120 Colebrook Road, Elizabethtown PA 17022-9318	717-367-5626	
Non-Rail Contest		VACANT		
		Division Achievement Coordinators		
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2. Potomac	Ken Berthoud	4505 Hillbrook Drive, Annandale, VA 22003-5920	703-354-1439	
3. Philadelphia	David Messer	263 Mingo Road, Royersford, PA 19468-3112	610-948-2191	
4 Tidewater	John Johnson	22398 Scojo Drive, Franklin, VA 23851-2819	804-562-5917	
5. James River	Gary Quale	3116 Landon Street, Lynchburg, VA 24503-3110	804-384-6308	
6. Blue Ridge	Sury Quare	INACTIVE		
AND	Allan Dhilling		910-454-1058	
7. Piedmont Crescent 9. Mount Clare	Allan Phillips	103 Cloverbrook Court, Jamestown, NC 27282-9615	410-647-3335	
NA BACH HOT CHOPG	Frank Winner	283 Oak Court, Severna Park, MD 21146	304-725-4786	
	Committee & Contract of		The second secon	
10. South Mountain		I P.O. Box 340, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-9802		
		5760 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4708 5611 Farmbrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-3713		

Mid Eastern & Southeastern Regional 1997 Combined Convention

Model Railroaders from 11 states are expected to attend the largest train show in the southeast in 1997

May 23, 24 and 25, 1997 in beautiful Asheville, North Carolina

The Convention Hotel will be the Radisson Hotel, Asheville, North Carolina with a special convention room rate of \$77.00 per night

The Train Show will be held in the Asheville Civic Center

This 24,000 square foot arena will provide space for several modules and numerous dealers

There will be clinics on a number of timely topics. Modeling greats like Allen McClelland,

John Armstrong and Randy Lee will be the key Clinicians

Approximately 15 different clinics are planned

Need Additional Information:

Registration: Henry Danis, P.O. Box 91, Moore, SC 29369

Dealers: Kent Roberts, 379 Cobblestone Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786

All other information: J. Patrick Price, 26 Zephyr Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

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