

The Local

A PUBLICATION OF THE MID-EASTERN REGION OF THE NMRA



Volume 62

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 2007

Number 5

Modeling on the Cheap Operating Session Cards

By Rick Knight

IF YOU'VE DECIDED to move into the world of Operating Sessions—GREAT! It really makes the railroad come to life. Plus it is a truly humbling because a good OpSession will find every flaw in your layout!

On the paperwork side, you may choose to use a car card system. First get out your trusty MicroMark catalog and find the car routing system Bill Boxes. I don't have the equipment to make them myself. I put two sets (or more, if needed) at each yard. Over the face of the boxes, I put a strip of 2-inch masking tape. Then I labeled the slots with a permanent marker—that way if I change my mind on the assignment of slots all I have to do is replace the masking tape. You'll need a slot for outgoing East bound and one for outgoing West bound traffic (or North / South) and you'll need one for the yard itself. Then you'll need slots for the industries to be switched out of this yard.

For the car cards, I decided to create my own, using Microsoft Word. My paper is set to LANDSCAPE orientation. I set the FORMAT to four (4) columns, with a line between each. And I set the margins to .5 inch at the TOP and BOTTOM and 1 inch on each SIDE.

I used the top of the card to provide the basic information on the car: road name of the car; what type of car; reporting marks; color; length. With this, most of my operators can find the right car to match the card. Then I created 10 destinations for each one of the cars.

I used the same process to create Train Cards for each train I might run. Train number; origination; termination; description; maximum number of cars; general instructions.

I have three files in the computer—one for boxcars, one for covered hoppers, and one for everything else. I started with one huge file, but it became more efficient to work with three smaller ones. I

print the sheets out on 110-pound card stock—one color for the Car Cards and one color for the Train Cards. To cut the individual cards, I started with a trusty pair of scissors, but I have since moved to a paper cutter (from the local office supply store). With a large fleet, you could also print out the Car Cards in different colors, for different types of cars (light yellow for boxcars; light blue for tank cars, etc.).

Adjacent to the staging tracks are a pair of Bill Boxes, labeled with a slot for each one of the staging tracks. The trains sitting on the staging tracks have a packet of Car Cards with a Train Card on the top, held together with a small metal spring clip, waiting for the next OpSession.

The cars (and cards) are dropped at the appropriate yard. The yardmaster then spots the car on the appropriate industry track – and checks the corresponding box on the Car Card. Every week, between Monday Night OpSession, I reset the railroad. Each card is examined to see if it is “full”—and if so, it is exchanged for a fresh substitute.

To help my operators, I printed a map of the entire railroad, with all of the other on-layout yards and the off-layout destination yards. Each map has a red circle and a “YOU ARE HERE” for the specific yard, to help orient new operators. I placed each map in a plastic sleeve and hung it at the appropriate yard.

Keep it simple—keep it fun – and keep on operating!

RICK KNIGHT lives in the Carolina Southern Division 12 modeling HO scale and is the current Superintendent.

(See examples on page 4 and 5.)

continued on page 4

Keeping In Touch...

By Fred Miller, MMR
MER Business Manager

I WAS HAPPY to see a good number of MER members represented at the NMRA Annual Convention in Detroit this past July. Unfortunately, I was only able to get to Detroit for Thursday through Saturday so I missed a good portion of the tours and clinics. I did get to sit in on some very informative clinics dealing with DCC and in particular, DCC sound. Wow! That aspect of our hobby has really moved ahead. The Annual Train Show on Friday and Saturday revealed even more progress in DCC sound. It seems as if almost all manufacturers are now making DCC (and DC) sound available in their locomotive offerings.

Even with my short three-day exposure, I got the impression that the convention was well attended. I'm sure the numbers will be reported elsewhere. Almost all of the major manufacturers and many vendors were at the Annual Train Show. A good number of club operating layouts and manufacturer demonstrations in Scales Z through G were chugging away. The Detroit Marriott Hotel at the Renaissance Center, the Renaissance Complex itself and the Cobo Center Convention Hall, all provided more than adequate facilities.

If you were not able to attend the Annual National convention, do think about attending future conventions. It really is a great experience, albeit getting a bit expensive these days. Now that the 2007 National is only a happy memory, it's time to think towards the fall and our own Regional Annual Convention in Lynchburg. Lot's of information at www.trainweb.org/MER2007.

We were greeted with some sad news that Ray Bilodeau, the MER/NMRA General Contest Chairman, was not able to attend the Great Lakes Express convention and manage the National Contest. Ray was hospitalized with a medical problem but reports are that he is now recuperating at home. Our best wishes to Ray and Rita.

As always *Keep in Touch* with any questions or changes in your subscriptions or addresses. A current address on file saves the MER some money. 

The Local

Official Publication of the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA
A Tax-Exempt Organization

The Local is published six times a year. Opinions expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of MER elected officials. Commercial suppliers, supplies and materials addressed in **The Local** in no way constitute an endorsement by the MER. Copyright material that appears in **The Local** is used for educational and historical benefit only, and does not constitute infringement of the copyright holder.

Editorial Staff

Editor: Steve Kindig
4173 Grouse Court, Apt. 101
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 825-5558, stevespressrr@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Martin Oakes
8057 Lucky Creek Lane
Denver, NC 28037-8004
(704) 483-7972, martinoakes@charter.net

Publisher: Julianne H. Smith
7221 Ridgeway Drive
Manassas, VA 20112, dragonjuls@comcast.net

Administrative Staff

President: Clint Hyde
13443 Brookfield Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151-2614
(703) 862-4056, merprez@hq.nmra.org

Vice President: Noll Horan, MMR
8316 Tobin Road, Apt. T2
Annandale, VA 22003-6835
(703) 207-4744, nhoran@earthlink.net

Secretary: Roger Cason
1125 Grinnell Road
Wilmington, DE 19803-5125
(302) 478-2550, rogercason@juno.com

Treasurer: Thomas R. Buckingham
2216 S. Osborne Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-4206
(301) 952-0427, tombuckingham@juno.com

NMRA Director - East: Kevin Feeney
831 New Norwalk Road
New Canaan, CT 06840-6443
(203)966-5175, eastdir@hq.nmra.org

Director: Dick Genthner, MMR
21 Yates Road
Manalapan, NJ 07726
(732) 462-0216, argent1@att.net

Director: Herb Gishlick
18 Greenbrook Drive
Cranbury, NJ 08512-3002
(609) 448-5148, gishlick@rider.edu

Director: Chuck Hladik
198 Fireoak Lane
Rustburg, VA 24588-4149
(434) 821-4941, rutlandrs@aol.com

Achievement Program Manager
Charles Flichman
6909 Crandall Court
Clemmons, NC 27012-9056
(336)-766-8353, cwflich@aol.com

Business Manager: Fred Miller, MMR
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686
(704) 752-5138, merbusmgr@aol.com

MER Division Contacts

New Jersey Division 1
Superintendent: Mike McNamara
(856) 824-0879, mikemcnh@comcast.net
Division web page:
<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/njdivnmra/>

Potomac Division 2
Superintendent: John Drye
(703) 922-8131, jdrye52@aol.com
Division web page:
http://home.comcast.net/~potomac_nmra/

Philadelphia Division 3
Superintendent: Dick Foley
rlfoey4@verizon.net
Division web page:
<http://www.phillynmra.org/>

Tidewater Division 4
Superintendent: Jim Keiper
(757)-548-3234, keiper1@cox.net
Division web page:
<http://groups.hamptonroads.com/TDWDMER/>

James River Division 5
Superintendent: Ken Montero
(804) 794-5704, va661midlo@comcast.net
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/jrd/>

South Mountain Division 10
Superintendent: Bob Johnson
(301) 371-9129,
rcyrilj@aol.com
Division web page:
www.fred.net/richardb/smd.html

Susquehanna Division 11
Superintendent: Scott Turner
(717)-991-3771, scottturner@comcast.net
Division web page:
<http://moosevalley.org/nmra/index.htm>

Carolina Southern Division 12
Superintendent: Rick Knight
(704) 895-8751, rghkiii@adelphia.net
Division web page:
<http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/>

Carolina Piedmont Division 13
Superintendent: John Janosko
(919) 562-0260, johnajan@earthlink.net
Division web page:
<http://www.trainweb.org/cpd13>

The Local welcomes articles, photographs and model railroad related material as contributions to members' mutual enjoyment of the hobby. Materials should have a wide appeal. Editors will exercise all due care of submissions, but contributors should not send originals without having back-up copies of both articles and photographs. Editors, by definition, reserve the right—and have the responsibility—to make corrections, deletions and changes to accommodate space.

The MER website is www.mer-nmra.org

President's Column

By Clint Hyde, MER President.

CONVENTION TIME is coming soon.....you can find out all sorts of info on the convention web pages, more than we can fit into **The Local**. Full tour descriptions, clinic descriptions, and complete schedules.....

One of the items on the schedule is the auction and white elephant combination. The rules are the same this year; no auction items under \$10, which is white elephant territory. This year's white elephant will also include a good-sized estate of about 75 boxes of books, freight cars, locomotives, miscellaneous stuff, parts, and junk. This particular donation to MER will produce an interesting amount of revenue. The Board would like to hear your ideas on any kind of special project or donation, preferably something within MER territory that has a wide-ranging benefit. Bring some of your own stuff to sell, and plenty of cash to buy with. Don't forget to patronize the manufacturers in the trade show room (which will also feature the local NTRAK group).

In the last issue I lamented at the passing of friends, and I got a letter in return from a past MER President, which is included further in this issue; pretty darn funny.

A couple of days ago, I received a call from one of the adult members of my son's Boy Scout Troop. They were meeting to plan the 2008 school year's activities, and asked if I could put together a

plan to essentially run the entire troop through the Railroading Merit Badge, sometime next spring. Since the merit badge has been a specific initiative I've pushed the past couple of years, I couldn't say no. Especially since the scouts want to culminate a campout near Lancaster, Pennsylvania with a shop tour and train ride.

Don Jennings of North Carolina is the designated Boy Scouts of America liaison, and has been doing a great job getting communication going between the divisions and various troops in the MER territory. Every four years, BSA holds their big jamboree gathering at Fort AP Hill, in Virginia. I've asked Don to coordinate something that the MER could participate in and more information will be presented in his clinic at the convention.

One of the things a good leader needs to be good at is finding folks to take on activities that need to get done, like the BSA episode. But since I don't know everyone personally I have to ask for help, in this issue you can see a couple of open jobs where the MER needs people. Divisional volunteering is also an option. Either way, you can enjoy yourself and earn AP Volunteer points.

DID YOU KNOW? 2010 is the 100th anniversary of BSA and the 75th anniversary of NMRA! 

SO ... YOU THINK YOU'VE HEARD EVERYTHING? ... READ ON

By John Dorsam, Past MER President

PRESIDENT HYDE'S July-August column on "passing" brought forth a long buried (pardon the pun) memory about a somewhat similar situation from my past. It happened way back in the sixties when I was president.

Clyde Gerald (then the MER business manager) forwarded a letter to me that had been sent to him under the heading of "estates counseling." The sender lived close to me. A woman wanted us to "inventory and appraise" her husbands "stuff" as Clint put it.

I called to make an appointment and a very weak MALE voice answered! If I had been a faster thinker, I'd have hung up or at least said "sorry, wrong number." BUT I DIDN'T! I said, "I am will the NMRA's estate committee." There was a brief silence...it seemed like ten minutes to me—but was really only a few seconds...then the same voice but much stronger now said in the background, "did you call those NMRA people already? I ain't even dead yet."

You would think that's the end of the story but.....

About a year later, we received a similar letter. This time the letter came from another woman but clearly written on the same typewriter. We could tell because some of the keys were out of sync. She requested the same "inventory and appraisal" for her father's models.

Walt Prince of Collingswood, New Jersey who was a former edi-

tor for **The Local** and also president of the famed (now extinct) Silver Valley club and George Weissgerber and I did the "inventorying and appraising." George seemed to have a real knack of correctly pricing model railroading items, particularly brass. Club members purchased much of the equipment. The total amount realized was very close to the amount our committee figured.

George and Walt have passed on but I was pleased to be one of their many friends! 

HUMOR

Cassie was taking two of her grandsons on their very first train ride, from Dayton, Ohio, to Washington, D.C. A vendor came down the corridor selling Pop Rocks, something neither had ever seen before.

Cassie bought each grandson a bag. The first one eagerly tore open the bag and popped one into his mouth just as the train went into a tunnel. When the train emerged from the tunnel, he looked across to his brother and said: "I wouldn't eat that if I were you."

"Why not?" replied the curious brother "I took one bite and went blind for half a minute." 

Traincard Card Example continued

<p>TRAIN 134 ORIGIN: CHATANOOGA DESTINATION: LINWOOD DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for: RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>STATESVILLE ;SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>TERMINATE AT LINWOOD (STAGING) = all destinations EAST, including: Salisbury; all Eastern states from Maine to Florida</p>	<p>TRAIN 164 ORIGIN: CHATANOOGA DESTINATION: LINWOOD DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for: RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>STATESVILLE ; SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>TERMINATE AT LINWOOD (STAGING) = all destinations EAST, including: Salisbury; all Eastern states from Maine to Florida</p>	<p>TRAIN 162 ORIGIN: KNOXVILLE DESTINATION: LINWOOD DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for: RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>STATESVILLE ; SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>TERMINATE AT LINWOOD (STAGING) = all destinations EAST, including: Salisbury; all Eastern states from Maine to Florida</p>	<p>TRAIN 135 ORIGIN: LINWOOD DESTINATION: KNOXVILLE DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>STATESVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>TERMINATE AT KNOXVILLE (STAGING)</p>	<p>TRAIN 166 ORIGIN: CHATANOOGA DESTINATION: LINWOOD DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for: RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>STATESVILLE ; SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>TERMINATE AT LINWOOD (STAGING) = all destinations EAST, including: Salisbury; all Eastern states from Maine to Florida</p>	<p>TRAIN 163 ORIGIN: LINWOOD DESTINATION: KNOXVILLE DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>STATESVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>TERMINATE AT KNOXVILLE (STAGING)</p>	<p>TRAIN 167 ORIGIN: LINWOOD DESTINATION: CHATANOOGA DESCRIPTION: MIXED FREIGHT MAX # CARS: 15</p>	<p>SPENCER : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for SPENCER and KOSA; interchange with MOORESVILLE</p> <p>STATESVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *ALEX RR</p> <p>OYAMA : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for HICKORY and for CALDWELL COUNTY RR</p> <p>ASHEVILLE : SET OFF / PICK UP *cars for RedWing; Godfrey Lumber (NEBO); Murphy Branch (Canton)</p> <p>TERMINATE AT KNOXVILLE (STAGING)</p>
---	---	---	--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	---

Boxcar Card Example

SOUTHERN
WAFFLE SIDE BOX
SOU 528640
Color: RED Length: 50'

- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- AXA COTTON = PECOS, TX EMPTY
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- FREIGHTLINER = GASTONIA FABRIC
- ALEX RR = BARTLETT #1 PAPER BAGS
- FOOD LION = SALISBURY FLOUR
- ALEX RR = BROYHILL FOAM PADS
- SOUTHERN STATES = SC POULTRY FEEDS
- ALEX RR = DEAL-RITE EMPTY
- AXA COTTON = PECOS, TX EMPTY

MONTANA RAILLINK
SINGLE DOOR BOX
MRL 20020
Color: BLUE Length: 50'

- PORT OF BALTIMORE GENERAL FREIGHT
- BLUE RIDGE BEV = HICKORY WINE
- ROWAN GROC = SPENCER, NC EMPTY
- MD BEVERAGE = BALTIMORE CHEERWINE
- ALEX RR = SEACO CHEMICALS
- REA FREIGHT = SPENCER CHEMICALS
- CHEMICO = ELMER, LA EMPTY
- ALEX RR = COMMSCOPE EMPTY
- TIMEWARNER = ATLANTA, GA CABLE
- RED WING #2 = ASHEVILLE EMPTY

SOUTHERN
SINGLE DOOR BOX
SOU 39976
Color: RED Length: 50'

- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- ALEX RR = BROYHILL UPHOLSTERY FABRIC
- REA FREIGHT = SPENCER FLOUR
- PYTHON = BALTIMORE MIXED FREIGHT
- ALEX RR = DEAL RITE EMPTY
- SOUTHERN STATES = EAST NC DOG FOOD
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- ALEX RR = BROYHILL FABRIC
- ALEX RR = FLEX-SOL EMPTY
- RED WING #2 = ASHEVILLE PACKAGING

TP / MOPAC
SINGLE DOOR BOX
TP 367042
Color: BROWN Length: 50'

- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY PLASTIC WRAP
- FORD = DEARBORNE, MI AUTO FABRIC
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- ALEX RR = COMMSCOPE EMPTY
- ALLIED CABLE = CHICAGO CABLE
- ALEX RR = BARTLETT #2 PAPER BAGS
- REA FREIGHT = SPENCER FLOUR
- ALEX RR = DEAL RITE FEED EMPTY
- SOUTHERN STATES = TN HORSE FEED
- BLUE RIDGE BEV = HICKORY WINE / SODA

RAILBOX
SINGLE DOOR BOX
RBOX 36005
Color: YELLOW Length: 50'

- THOMAS & HOWARD = TN CARDBOARD
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- NISSAN MOTORS = AL FABRIC
- ALEX RR = COMMSCOPE BOXES
- ALLIED RADIO = CHICAGO CABLE
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON
- ALEX RR = BROYHILL FABRIC
- ALEX RR = INTERN'L PAPER EMPTY
- INTERNATIONAL PAPER = LA EMPTY
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON

NORFOLK SOUTHERN
SINGLE DOOR BOX
NS 450665
Color: RED Length: 50'

- ROWAN ENGINE = SPENCER PARTS
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY EMPTY
- FORD MOTORS=LOUISVILLE, KY FABRICS
- ALEX RR = SEACO EMPTY
- FREIGHTLINER = GASTONIA SEALANTS
- ALEX RR = INTERNATN'L PAPER EMPTY
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY CARDBOARD BOXES
- ALEX RR = INTERNATN'L PAPER EMPTY
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY CARDBOARD BOXES
- FORD MOTORS=LOUISVILLE, KY FABRICS

ST. MARY'S
SINGLE DOOR BOX
SM 4220
Color: WHITE Length: 50'

- ROWAN GROC = SPENCER, NC GROCERIES
- MIAMI IMPORTS= FL CHERWINE
- BLUE RIDGE BEV = HICKORY WINE
- COORS = ELKTON, VA EMPTY
- BLUE RIDGE BEV = HICKORY BEER
- MEGA GLASS = HAMPTON, VA EMPTY
- ALEX RR = SEACO GLASS BOTTLES
- PORT OF NORFOLK, VA ADHESIVES
- BLUE RIDGE BEV = HICKORY BEER
- DC GROCERS = WASH, DC EMPTY

SOUTHERN
SINGLE DOOR BOX
SOU 526628
Color: RED Length: 50'

- ALEX RR = INTERNATN'L PAPER EMPTY
- HACKNEY = KNOXVILLE, TN CARDBOARD
- REA FREIGHT = SPENCER MIXED
- ALEX RR = INTERNATN'L PAPER EMPTY
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY CARDBOARD
- ALEX RR = INTERNATN'L PAPER EMPTY
- HACKNEY = KNOXVILLE, TN CARDBOARD
- ALEX RR = COMMSCOPE EMPTY
- ALLIED RADIO = CHICAGO CABLE
- WABASSO #1 = HICKORY COTTON

Letter from the Editor

Letter and photo by Steve Kindig.

GOT A NEW ROOF over my head, twice. Two weeks after I moved into a new apartment they replaced the roof. Trying to unpack, organize and adjust to my new surroundings while resetting a decent sleep schedule while banging is going on overhead is not fun. On the other hand, before I moved I reorganized everything and got rid of a lot of junk that accumulated over the years! Please take note of the new postal address and phone number listed here and on page two. For everyone's convenience the e-mail address will stay the same (but at a much faster surfing and downloading speed).

After settling in and starting to arrange furniture, I also hung up my birthday present that I have been itching to use. It's a 3' x 2' model case with just a few of my models seen here. Still a few boxes to sort but it is starting to fill.

My other plans for the rest of the year include: an annual large family reunion and bowling tournament (I won the trophy from my brother in 2005 but lost to my grandma last year.); a college friend's wedding (which unfortunately falls on the same weekend as the James River Flyer convention—so I will not be attending

that but I am wishing everyone plenty of fun and maybe a good deal or two); a comedy show that I have been looking forward to since I got the tickets last Christmas and of course modeling and

railfanning. Relocating closer to a bigger city and more train yards will definitely have benefits!

Now that the national convention is over I am beginning to beg for any and all summaries, stories, info and pictures. So please help out! Of course I will also be searching and accepting the regular stories, summaries, articles, scratch building how-to's, step-by-steps, and hints and tips, artist of the month items, callboard and news from divisional events that fill every issue. Send me any items for publication or if you just wish to comment, correct or suggest something you have seen or would like to see in **The Local** contact me.



My birthday present hanging in my new apartment

NEW POSTAL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER:

4173 Grouse Court Apt. 101
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
(717) 825-5558 

NEEDED: Someone to run the MER Convention Auction Team (CAT) beginning in 2007

RESPONSIBILITIES include making sure that auction items get recorded properly in the auction software, making sure the auction-team volunteers are available, that there is an auctioneer available (normally the inimitable Bob Charles), and that sales info is recorded properly during the auction and that checkout is handled completely and correctly.

NEEDED: Someone to be in charge of MER Convention door-prize/raffle items, beginning in 2008. Responsibilities include contacting potential donors (existing list available) and requesting donation items, making sure that there are raffle tickets present at the convention, and little boxes to put the tickets in, bringing the items to the convention, setup, and final distribution of the items near the end of the convention.

NEEDED: Someone to be in charge of the Made in the MER Trade Show, beginning in 2008. Responsibilities include finding potential participants, talking to them, convincing them to participate, getting them to give a clinic at the convention, organizing their space at the convention, making sure that part goes ok. If you are interested in doing this, you can assist this year, as we smooth out the process.

CONTACT MER President, Clint Hyde (all contact information is listed on page 2) if interested! 

The Carolina Southern Division: Wade's Train Town Update

Article and photographs by Rick Knight and Gil Brauch

THE NEWS FROM Wade's Train Town located just outside Brookford, N.C. continues to spark interest. 'Victory' was declared for the Carnival Scene and the Residential Area Scene. See the before and after photographs.

These two major areas are the visual anchors of the layout and finishing them represents a major milestone for the restoration effort. The houses all have lights and the carnival is a symphony of light and movement. The finishing touches

to the houses and the lawns also mean the 'little people' are able to sit back and enjoy them.

Although the July Open House was canceled due to a conflict with the regular Divisional meeting, work continues on the downtown area and is expected to be completed by the end of summer.

The size of the work crew has been dwindling during the summer months. CSD members are encouraged to see if they can fit a Thursday evening or two into their summer schedules. There is still plenty of work to be done, regardless of your skill level or area of interest. More of us need to get behind this effort help grow **The World's Greatest Hobby**. You don't need to commit to long-term participation in the project. Just show up on a Thursday night when you are able and we will have something for you to do. If you have a free Saturday, arrangements can be made to have a work session. Contact the Superintendent –

Rick Knight at rghkiii@adlephia.net or the Divisional webmaster - Gil Brauch at csd-web@charter.net, with any further questions. Continue reading **The Local** and visit <http://www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/updates.htm> for all the latest updates. 



The carnival before...



The carnival after...



The Residential area before...



The Residential area after...



The Hotel before...



The Hotel after...

THE JAMES RIVER FLYER



Arriving in Lynchburg, Virginia at 7 PM on Thursday, October 18, 2007!

Departing Sunday, October 21, 2007, at noon. All Aboard!

The convention will be held at the:

Kirkley Hotel
2900 Candler's Mountain Road
Lynchburg, VA 24502

The convention rate is \$89.00 (plus taxes) per night. All hotel registrations must be made directly with the hotel at (866) 510-6333. **For the best rate register by SEPTEMBER 15TH!!** When registering please be sure to specify: Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA to get the special rate. Website: <http://www.kirkleyhotel.com>.

A Lynchburg-area railfanning presentation will be made Thursday evening, so you can get out and watch over the weekend.

Activities available during this excursion: a side-trip on Friday, October 19 to Roanoke, Virginia to visit the Roanoke Transportation Museum, Freight Car America and the O. Winston Link Museum.

Instructional and educational clinics will be taking place throughout the trip, a large schedule is planned, including such topics as: scene animation, how models get AP judging, working with CADRail (bring your laptop; this clinic includes a free copy of a recent version), making trees, working with decals, hands-on building of the new milk station kit, or a flat car, or the convention special billboard (featuring the convention logo). There is plenty of modeling goodness!

There are at least 15 open houses planned, and if we're really lucky, a downloadable group of GPS waypoints for them.

Register now to assure a seat for the extra-fare items. Keep an eye on **The Local**, and most importantly the convention website for more details, an updated registration form with any new extra-fare items, important changes, and the official schedule <http://www.mer2007.org>.

Convention Tours and Clinics

BUS TOURS

NOTE: Each tour operates only if a sufficient number of participants have registered for that tour by **SEPTEMBER 15, 2007**. Don't wait – register now!

Roanoke Rail tour – Saturday, October 20, 8 AM to 5 PM.

An all-day bus tour starting with a tour of Freightcar America, located in the Norfolk Southern Railroad (formerly Norfolk and Western Railway) East End Shop. Freightcar America builds aluminum gondolas and other cars. Participants will view cars under construction and learn how cars are built. This tour lasts about one hour.

NOTE: Freightcar America requires visitors to wear long trousers and closed-toe shoes. Photos are prohibited inside the building (outside photos are acceptable). Lunch is NOT included – a farmer's market provides plenty of eateries nearby.

Following this tour, you have your choice of continuing at either the O. Winston Link Museum or the Virginia Museum of Transportation, both of which are connected by a walkway several blocks long that parallels the Norfolk Southern trackage. A joint admission ticket gives you the flexibility to spend however much time you wish to spend at the two museums. **Websites:** www.johnstownamerica.com; www.linkmuseum.org; www.vmt.org.

NON-RAIL TOURS

A. Presidential Homes – Charlottesville – Friday, October 19, 8 AM - 5 PM.

Virginia has been called the Mother State of Presidents because five presidents (Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Wilson) were born in Virginia and all but Wilson lived their adult lives in Virginia. Two of them (Jefferson and Monroe) literally lived across the road from each other.

Tour Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson; and Ash Lawn, the lesser-known home of James Monroe. A box lunch will be provided on this tour. **Websites:** www.monticello.org; www.ashlawnhighland.org.

B. Lynchburg Area Homes of Renown – Saturday, October 20, 10 AM – 3 PM.

This tour focuses on two homes of local fame and more-than-local interest.

Tour Popular Forest, which was Thomas Jefferson's second home and plantation. Also tour Point of Honor, 1815 Federal-style home and garden that has been restored to show how persons of means and position lived in the 19th century. After Point of Honor, the bus tour continues with a driving tour of Lynchburg residences of architectural note. Lunch will be provided. **Websites:** www.poplarforest.org; www.pointofhonor.org.

CLINICS

Weathering Paper Signs on Buildings
Locomotive Sound Systems – DCC and non-DCC
Building a Laser Kit Billboard
Electronic Mini-clinics
Build a Wood Milk Station
Kitbashing a Norfolk Southern Dash 9-40C Diesel
Hardware and Software for Model Railroad Controls
Virginia Blue Ridge Railroad
Coke Ovens at the Mine Tipple
Animation
Judging Models in the MER and NMRA
Getting Your Author Certificate in the Achievement Program
Programming Digitrax DCC Sound Decoder
Painting a Backdrop
Digital Scratch Building
Build a Wood Flat Car
Working with Decals
Light and Sound Animation
Pine and Cypress Trees
Boy Scouts and Model Railroading 

***NEEDED: Model Contest Manager for the MER**

Convention attendance,
computer wizardry, keen eye and
modeling skills a must.

Humor, scale blindness, patience, fairness and
impartiality will
take you to the top!

Please contact Clint Hyde, chyde@cox.net
and
Ray Bilodeau, raymondbilodeau@aol.com. 



Tell the Story™ with KingMill Structure Kits

send \$1 for catalog

203 Camellia Dr. - Charlottesville, VA 22903-4208

WWW.KINGMILL.COM – 434.979.7280

MADE IN THE USA



JAMES RIVER FLYER

Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA Fall Convention

October 18 – 21, 2007
 LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA
 ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please enter all names as you wish them to appear on your registration badges:

Primary Registrant's Name: _____
Significant Other (living at same address): _____
Children (Under age 16 – List all): _____

Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____
Email: _____ **NMRA #:** _____

Full Registration (\$45 after September 30th)	\$40.00	x	_____	=	_____
Non-NMRA Member Fee (primary registrant only)	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
Significant Other	\$15.00	x	_____	=	_____
Children	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____

201	Bus Trip—Roanoke Museum, Winston Link, FCA (Sat.)	\$35.00	x	_____	=	_____
202	Bus Trip—non-rail, Friday, Monticello, etc	\$45.00	x	_____	=	_____
203	Bus trip—non-rail, Saturday, Poplar Forest, etc	\$30.00	x	_____	=	_____
401	Saturday Evening Banquet Buffet	\$35.00	x	_____	=	_____
601	KingMill billboard clinic scale Z	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
602	KingMill billboard clinic scale N	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
603	KingMill billboard clinic scale HO	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
604	KingMill billboard clinic scale O	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
611	Milk station clinic scale HO	\$15.00	x	_____	=	_____
612	Milk station clinic scale O	\$15.00	x	_____	=	_____
621	Flat car clinic O scale only	\$15.00	x	_____	=	_____
631	Animation clinic	\$10.00	x	_____	=	_____
801	Operations Call Board	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____
802	Operations Call Board, (Fri, Nelson)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____
803	Operations Call Board, (Fri, Cox)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____
804	Operations Call Board, (Sat, Cox)	\$ 5.00	x	_____	=	_____

Total Advance Registration Charges: \$ _____

Payment must accompany registration. Make checks payable to: **James River Flyer**

SEND ALL REGISTRATIONS TO:

James River Flyer
 PO Box 447
 Swedesboro, NJ 08085

For questions and / or additional information Email – pjmattson@comcast.net

HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The convention will be held at the

Kirkley Hotel
 2900 Candler's Mountain Road
 Lynchburg, VA 24502.

The convention rate is \$89.00 (plus taxes) per night. All hotel registrations must be made directly with the hotel at (866) 510-6333. When registering be sure to specify the Mid-Eastern Region, NMRA to be sure you get this special rate. Website – www.kirkleyhotel.com.

A Review of My Model Railroading and Railfan Activities for 2006

By E. Winfield Gross

I ATTENDED the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society held from May 4th to 7th, at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. This was well attended by all the self-titled “experts” of the Pennsylvania Railroad. There were about fifteen clinics given by the various members during the three days. There was also a large vendors room with at least forty members selling their Pennsy stuff. Along with all of these activities there was a large room full of model displays and contest entries.

Two short months later I was at the “big show”. The annual convention of the NMRA was held from July 2nd through the 9th at the Philadelphia Convention Center in the center of the city. The convention also featured the National Train show at the end of the week.

I attended this convention, well sort of—as my model railroad layout was open for bus tours. The first Sunday I went to the convention center and picked up my registration package, ate lunch at the Market East Station food court (very important!) and attended a few clinics presented by my nephew. During the convention my nephew and I used the famous SEPTA Paoli Local to travel back and forth from home. The train dropped us at the Market East Station where we had a short two-block walk to the convention center.

The train was very convenient when everything worked right but the first evening was a disaster to get home. After an evening clinic we raced to catch the Paoli Local but ended up finding a large crowd and no train. Finally, an announcement was made that because of severe thunderstorms and a tree falling across the overhead catenary and all four tracks, service was suspended. As the mob of people went upstairs to find other means to get home another couple and my nephew and I decided to go upstairs and try to get a cab. Of course it was still raining and trying to get a cab was fun. Finally, we snagged a driver coming out of a coffee shop who agreed to drive the four of us to Paoli for \$60 (plus tip). We arrived at the Paoli train station around 9 PM, which was only 30 minutes later than the train would have arrived. The four of us were glad to get home and really appreciated finding that taxi cab. It had been a long first day of the NMRA convention.

The next morning, my nephew drove in but I rode an early SEPTA train because I presented a clinic that day. After my clinic I continued to help setup and drove the van home. My layout was open that evening. During the open house, two mini buses showed up with about 35 people and visited for about 45 minutes.

The next day, he took the train for the opening day of the national train show. I stayed home because my layout was open again. Two more buses showed up for about a total of 125 people. I later heard that this was the average for the home layout tours. After months of all the layout owners getting the layouts prepped and ready it was over in a matter of a few hours.

The last days of the convention were spent at the train show including tear down time and returning the van. Afterwards we both came home and relaxed! I later found out that the Paoli serv-

ice did not get back to normal until early Monday afternoon. I also heard the service to Harrisburg was cancelled and people that arrived from the Pittsburgh area on The Pennsylvanian (No. 44) were stuck on the train until the wee hours of the morning until enough buses were rounded up. What a disgrace the way Amtrak handled the episode. So much for the great week!

During the first week of August, we traveled to Reading, Pennsylvania to attend the Great Train Expo where my nephew had tables to sell and promote his DCC business. The expo was held in an old manufacturing plant, which made parts for Bell telephone. The building had stood idle for a long time but the city of Reading is rebuilding it into a convention center. This show was spread out over two days and split evenly between scale trains and Lionel trains. Overall it was a fairly good show.

In the middle of August, we traveled to New Haven, Connecticut to do a one-day show. This was one of those shows I would have rather not done since it was a long drive (6 hours) and mostly tinplate and Lionel. On a visit around the city with a friend we saw an old New Haven Railroad signal tower. This tower controlled the junction between the mainline and the branch to Danbury and Pittsfield. The tower now belongs to the local NRHS society who is currently restoring it. They also open it to the public on various weekends throughout the year.

In the middle of September, we traveled to Allentown, Pennsylvania to do a new train show. The show was held for two days in an old industrial complex, which had been turned into shops, food courts and the large room for shows. The show was about half scale trains and half Lionel. The show must have been a success because the owners are having another show in the beginning of next year and I will be there.

In the middle of October, we traveled to Parsippany, New Jersey to the NMRA Northeastern Region convention being held at the Hilton hotel. It was a good convention and even did some railfanning while we were there. The last weekend in October I traveled to Naperville, Illinois with another friend to the annual seminars sponsored by Sunshine Models. This was the third time I attended this meet and it was one of the biggest with close to 600 people. The seminars or clinics are presented twice over three a three-day period. They included both model railroad and prototype subjects. It was another long drive out and back but very fun especially with friends!

During the month of November; coincidentally National Model Railroad month; my layout was open two Sunday's. This tour is one of about 110 open from Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania to New Jersey. This is the 12th year for the layouts to be open. However, I was disappointed because I only had about 30 people show up in two days.

During the year I also attended all four Great Scale Model Train Shows held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium.

continued on page 12

During each show I was there both days to help my nephew again. He had three tables at each show to promote and sell his DCC systems and also take orders for decoders to be installed in all kinds of engines and all gauges, both steam and diesel. All the shows were very good and well attended.

So much for the summer days of modeling!!!!

As I am also always working on my layout and buying newer sound engines and selling the older ones on eBay I did manage to get in some more railfanning that I wanted to share with you.

In April, my other nephew and I went multiple times to Shenandoah Junction (about 10 miles east of Martinsburg, West Virginia). This is where the CSX (the old B&O) and NS (the old N&W) cross each other on a bridge. The NS line runs on an overhead bridge from Hagerstown, Maryland south to Roanoke, Virginia. The CSX line is the mainline from Washington, DC west to Cumberland and Pittsburgh.

In June, we took another long drive south of Lorton, Virginia. Once we arrived at Woodbridge station (3 miles south of Lorton) we saw several CSX trains and one VRE commuter train. Later we moved to a better location south of the Lorton station and spent three hours watching the various VRE trains, Amtrak and CSX freight trains.

In September, we took a one-day trip to Lewistown, Pennsylvania (60 miles west of Harrisburg) to watch some trains. We saw plenty of freight and both the No. 42 and No. 43 Amtrak trains and finally The Pennsylvanian (No. 44) stop at the station. During the winter months' we watched the NS freight trains from various locations around the west side Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. You can always count on seeing plenty of trains there; especially at a location know as Cove. Cove is right along the routes of 11 and 15 and there is plenty of off road parking between the highway and railroad. It's a great place to see all the action!!

E. WINFIELD GROSS lives in the Philadelphia Division 3 and models HO scale. 

Custom Layout Building

By Lance Mindheim

Layout Design

www.shelflayouts.com

The Shelf Layouts
Company, Inc.

301-404-8164

Carolina Southern Division: Model Railroading University

THE FIRST ANNUAL Model Railroading University, sponsored by the Carolina Southern Division, will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007 at Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church at 3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road, just off NC 16. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M. Clinics and activities begin at 9 A.M. and run until 1 P.M.

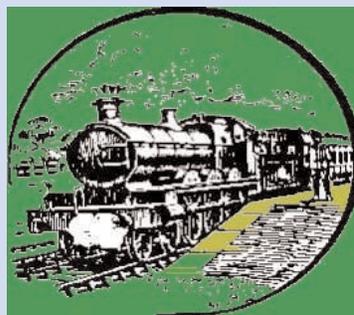


Some clinics include: Model Railroading Basics (Planning and Design, Benchwork, Track, Wiring, Scenery, Buildings, Weathering); Setting up a Layout for an Operating Session; Light, Motion & Sound Animation I and II; Model Railroading with Module; Building Craftsman / Wooden Kits—with more to be scheduled!

The cost for this exciting day of learning is only \$5, but registration is due by September 1st! To download the registration PDF visit www.bytedesign.com/CSDiv/MRU%20Registration.htm. 

TIDEWATER ANNUAL SHOW

Presented by the
Tidewater Division



Virginia Beach
Convention Center
1000 19th Street
Virginia Beach, VA
Sat.–Sun., September
22–23, 2007
10 AM–4 PM

- MODEL RAILROAD EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, TOOLS, VIDEOS, BOOKS, PHOTOS, MEMORABILIA AND TRAIN SETS ON SALE
- OPERATING LAYOUTS IN A VARIETY OF SCALES (N, HO, O, G, LEGO)
- FOOD & BEVERAGES ON SALE
- HOURLY DOOR PRIZES
- TRAIN DOCTOR
- OPERATION LIFE SAVER
- TOYS FOR TOTS
- LEARN HOW TO MODEL CLINICS
 - WHITE ELEPHANT TABLES
 - ALL SCALES TEST TRACK
- SCOUTS WORK TOWARDS MERIT BADGE IN MODEL RAILROADING

ADMISSION: \$7.00 FOR ADULTS
\$1.00 from every paid admission goes to **Toys for Tots**

- FREE PARKING ON-SITE
- FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 (With an adult)
- FREE FOR SCOUTS IN UNIFORM (With their Scoutmasters, Troop Leaders, Den Mothers or Brownie Leaders)

Contact Show Coordinator: Steve Prescott
Email: nawneycreek@msn.com Phone: 757-426-2811

New Membership Recruitment Program

As an aid to membership recruitment, NMRA recently instituted a six month "Railpass" trial membership program which costs the applicant \$9.95. Building on this idea, the MER is instituting a program whereby it will pay the \$9.95 Railpass fee for interested applicants in the MER. In other words, we are making available FREE six month Railpass trial memberships to encourage recruitment of regular members.

What's covered?

Same as Railpass—receive six issues of **Scale Rails**, three issues of **The Local**, eligibility to attend conventions and meets, eligibility to participate in contests.

What's not covered?

Same as Railpass—applicants cannot vote or hold office, and will not receive the New Member Pak from national (it's rather expensive).

Who can be recruited?

Anyone living within the MER who has not been a member of NMRA during the past thirty months.

How will the recruitment process work?

(1) The prospective member fills out the MER trial membership application form which was sent to all division superintendents (not the standard NMRA Railpass form) (2) The "recruiter"

should also sign the form, and then forward it to: Fred Miller, MER Business Manager, 8960 Challis Hill Lane, Charlotte, NC 28226-2686. (3) Fred will record the information he needs in his data base, and will forward the application to the MER Treasurer. (4) The Treasurer will add the necessary check and forward the application and check to the national headquarters in Chattanooga.

What happens after the member's six month trial period?

The Railpass trial member will receive a standard dues notice from national headquarters. We hope a substantial number of Railpass trial members will sign up to become regular members.

Are there limits on the program?

The MER has allocated \$2,000 for this program. The program will stop at the end of year 2007, or when we have spent \$2,000 – whichever comes first. When and if we approach either limit, Division Superintendents and members of the MER Board of Directors will be notified. At that time, the program will be evaluated by the MER Board of Directors. If successful, we will try to continue it.

For questions?

Contact Fred Miller, MER Business Manager (mailing address is above, 704-752-5138, tractionfan@aol.com), or Roger L. Cason, MER Secretary (1125 Grinnell Road, Wilmington, DE, 19803-5125, 302-478-2550, rogercason@juno.com). 

National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Mid-Eastern Region Application for Free "Railpass" Trial Membership

YES, please sign me up for a free six month Railpass trial membership in the NMRA—which includes membership in the Mid-Eastern Region, and in my local Division. During this six month period, I understand that I may attend conventions and meets, and participate in contests. I will receive **Scale Rails**, the monthly national magazine, and **The Local**, the bi-monthly regional newsletter. I will not be eligible to vote, hold office, or receive a New Member Pak.

I also understand that the \$9.95 cost of this six month Railpass trial membership is being paid by the Mid-Eastern Region. (Regardless of who pays, six month \$9.95 memberships are available only once to each person.)

At the end of the six months, I may join NMRA, paying the regular active member dues.

During the past thirty months, I have **not** been a member of NMRA.

=====

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Scale(s): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____

Signature of "Recruiter": _____
(A Regional or Divisional officer or board member)

=====

When this form is completed,
mail it to:

Fred Miller MMR
MER Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686

Do **not** mail it directly to MMRA
headquarters in Chattanooga, TN.

Date of form: 1/31/07

SUPPORT YOUR NMRA REGION AND PURCHASE THESE GREAT PRODUCTS FROM MER



COURTESY OF THE FREIGHT YARD
These 40' Western Maryland N-Scale box cars are Micro-Train bodies custom painted by The Freight Yard. They are box car red with prominent white "speed lettering".



These 40' RF&P PS-1 HO-Scale box cars are Accurail bodies, custom painted by Accurail. They are blue with aluminum-colored doors, and feature prominent white lettering.



P.L. MATSON (2)

NEW KIT:
Milk station.
Simplified
structure.



CLINT HYDE

Small Freight Station,
Tichy windows and
detail parts, laser-cut
walls, roof, tar paper,
and stripwood for the
platform.



CLINT HYDE

WESTERN MD. N-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#29290	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
#29299	_____	\$19.95	\$23.95	\$_____
Shipping: \$2.50 for first car, + \$1.50 for each additional car				\$_____

RF&P HO-SCALE CARS	QUANTITY	MEMBER PRICE*	NON-MEMBER PRICE	TOTAL
#2836	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
#2874	_____	\$11.95	\$14.95	\$_____
Shipping: \$2.00 for each car (not for each order)				\$_____

* Please list your MER or NMRA Membership # _____

MER CLOTH PATCH**	QUANTITY _____	\$3.00 including S&H	\$_____
MER LAPEL PIN/TIE TACK**	QUANTITY _____	\$6.00 including S&H	\$_____

MER HO-SCALE STRUCTURE KIT**			
*** NEW! Milk Station	QUANTITY _____	\$25.00 postpaid	\$_____
Small Freight Station	QUANTITY _____	\$25.00 postpaid	\$_____

THE LOCALS** — (all issues 1997-2006) on CD	QUANTITY _____	\$5.00 postpaid	\$_____
--	----------------	-----------------	---------

** Only available to MER members.

DONATION _____ \$_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MID-EASTERN REGION

Ship to:
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Mail to:
THE MID-EASTERN REGION, INC.
9 Roosevelt Avenue
Wilmington, DE 19804-3044

Transcontinental Railroad Trivia.

By Dan Cioffi

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Dan Cioffi is an active member of the Sunshine Region and current Superintendent and Webmaster (both Regional and Divisional). He has compiled a list of trivia questions and answers for the Transcontinental Railroad. Test your knowledge and try and answer them all!*

QUESTIONS:

A. Known as “One of the classic icons of American imagery”, the photograph of the “laying the last rail” shows two locomotives nose to nose after the last tie was placed and the last rail was spiked. Of the two railroads that formed the transcontinental railroad, which one is on the left and which is on the right?

B. What are the locomotive numbers for the two locomotives shown in the photograph?

C. Though the date of the photograph was May 10, 1869, what is the legal completion date of the Transcontinental Railroad?

D. What were the eastern and western terminals for the railroad?

E. On what date did construction start?

F. How long was the Transcontinental Railroad?

G. Which railroad laid more miles of track?

H. The Pacific Railroad Act provided federal money to help pay for construction and was signed by what President?

I. What President was a former Railroad Attorney for the Union Pacific? What other railroads did he perform legal services for?

J. A portable city followed the UP's progress. It was the location of company headquarters for the construction. What tongue-in-cheek name was this “city” affectionately known by?

ANSWERS:

a. The Central Pacific is on the left. The Union Pacific is on the right.

b. The CP Jupiter has no road number. The UP locomotive is # 119.

c. In 1879, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision in Union Pacific Railroad vs. United States (99 U.S. 402), the official “date of completion” of the Transcontinental

Railroad as November 6, 1869.

d. Sacramento, CA and Omaha, NE.

e. On January 1, 1863, Governor Leland Stanford broke ground in Sacramento, California, to begin construction of the Central Pacific Railroad. Stanford was also a part owner of the CP.

f. 1,776 miles were laid between Omaha and Sacramento.

g. The UP laid 1,087 miles of track. The Central Pacific laid 690 miles of track much to their chagrin. Since the US government was paying the railroads based on the amount of track laid, both had incentive to lay as much track as possible.

h. Abraham Lincoln.

i. Abraham Lincoln was known as a skillful railroad attorney. Besides the UP, he also did legal work for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific and the Illinois Central Railroads.

j. The city was known as Hell-On-Wheels. It not only contained a company store, suppliers and such, it was also home to gambling, drinking and prostitution for the construction workers. When the railroad reached the site of Benton, W.Y. Hell on Wheels was permanently located. Reaching a population of 3,000 residents at its peak, it was only in existence from July to September 1868. There wasn't a close source of water for the city to exist. 

Vicky Garner, wife of previous MER President Norm Garner, died August 24, from a battle with cancer she'd been fighting for a while. Vicky had been a long time participant in the Tidewater Division's Fall Train Show, as the announcer. Norm has asked that remembrances be in the form of donations to the American Cancer Society. I'm sure he would also appreciate hearing from friends. (757) 484-0772 or nwgrail@aol.com.

Achievement Program Update

By Charlie Flichman, MER AP Manager

Since the last report in **The Local**, the following Achievement Program certificates were earned and awarded:

Division 2 – Potomac

John Griffith – *Model Railroad Author*

Division 4 – Tidewater

Chuck Davis – *Electrical Engineering*
Chuck Davis – *Chief Dispatcher*

Division 11 – Susquehanna

Jeff A. Warner – *Model Railroad Author* Gene W. Sing – *Gold Spike*

Division 13 – Carolina Piedmont

In a perfect world, this information will appear soon in **Scale Rails**. This should not deter you from giving recognition locally. Normally you will be able to recognize AP accomplishments long before the names appear in **Scale Rails**. 

The Mid-Eastern Region Inc., NMRA
An IRS Tax Exempt Organization
Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686

**Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
York, PA
Permit No. 357**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Modeling on the Cheap.....1
Keeping in Touch2
President's Column3
Think You Heard Everything?3
Letter from the Editor6
Wade' Train Town Update7
James River Flyer, Tours & Clinics.....8
James River Flyer Registration.....10
Review of RR/Railfan Activities.....11
Model RR University.....12
Membership Recruitment Program.....13
MER Products For Sale14
Transcontinent RR Trivia.....15
Achievement Program Update.....15

The Mid-Eastern Region Inc., NMRA
An IRS Tax Exempt Organization
Business Manager
8960 Challis Hill Lane
Charlotte, NC 28226-2686

Subscriptions to The Local

- I want to receive the printed copies of **The Local** at \$6.00 per year (6 issues) \$ _____
- I want to receive the free electronic version of **The Local** email: _____
- Donation \$ _____
- TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ _____

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip (+4) _____
email _____
NMRA # _____ Expire Date _____
Scale _____ Telephone # _____

Make checks payable to the Mid-Eastern Region

**CALLBOARD
Coming Events**

September 15th. Steamtown Trip. Joint activity between the New Jersey and Philadelphia Divisions. Cost: \$40. For more information and registration form visit www.phillynmra.org/SteamTownFlyer.pdf.

September 15th. First Annual CSD Model Railroading University. Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church at 3413 Mt. Holly-Huntersville Rd. Registration begins at 8:30 A.M.; Clinics: 9 A.M. till 1 P.M. Cost: \$5. For more information and registration (due Sept. 1st) contact Rick Knight at rghkii@adelphia.net or (704) 996-6486.

September 22nd and 23rd, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. both days. Tidewater Division Annual Show. Virginia Beach Convention Center Hall D, 1000 19th St. Cost: \$7; kids free. For more information look inside!

October 13th and 14th, 9-4 Saturday; 10 - 4 Sunday. Great Model Train Show in Timonium, MD. at fairgrounds. Admission: \$7; kids free. For more information visit www.gsmts.com.

October 18th through 21st. James River Flyer Convention. For more information look inside and visit www.trainweb.org/MER2007.