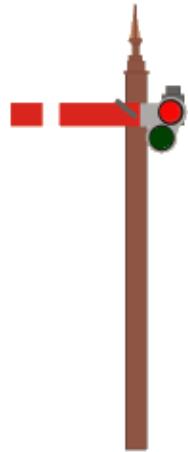




The Semaphore

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.
A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org

May 2010

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 9

Our next meeting is on May 6th at 7 PM.

Send comments about and contributions to this newsletter to [editor](#).

Please keep us informed of changes in your address, phone number or email address.



**Ben Bartlett has completed all requirements
for MMR. He is MMR #434.
CONGRATULATIONS, BEN!!!**



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at **7 PM** on **Thursday May 6th**.

Clinic: **Mike Smith** will give a clinic on method for adding interiors to kit structures.

Synopsis: By using a scanner, a digital camera and a digital photo editor like Adobe Photoshop Essentials® you can quickly make interiors for kit structures including wall paper, door and window trim, chair rails, specialty siding, photographs, posters, wall switches, electrical outlets and more. **See you there!**

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I want to thank each and everyone that I have and have not thanked in person for the great job everyone did to make this year's show one of the most successful shows in several years. A very special thanks to Ken and Anne Vasilik, Joseph Norris, J T Gold, and Andrew Huska for the most impressive array of prizes for the raffle we have ever had. The new venue was a big hit.

The Ag Center was easy to find and vendors appreciated the multiple loading doors. All of the Ag staff were great to work with and everyone enjoyed the close, free parking. This is the first show I have had vendors ask to be sure they had tables for next year before they left. With that in mind I truly believe that next year will better a show. Several members have already volunteered to help for with the 2011 show, so let me know if you have any ideas that would make a better or easier show.

For those of you that were not at the last meeting, the Board of Directors approved the purchase of a trailer to use for transporting and storing the modules, which will eliminate the mini storage we have been paying for. It has been purchased and used for the Hickory show. It will also cut loading and unloading time in half and should reduce the damage to half or less.

Stay on Track,

Fred

SUMMARY OF THE MONTHLY MEETING, APRIL 8, 2010

Fred Coleman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on April 8.

Announcement - Our own **Fred Coleman** is running for *Vice President of the Southeast Region*. Detailed biographies and statements are available on page 12 of *The Southerner*. Please complete and mail ballots for the **SER elections**. Less than 10% of the membership vote. **John Williams** pointed out that *Piedmont Division* has a large membership, so we all need to vote. Duplicate ballots were made available for those who might want one.

Fred reviewed the convention coming in Bessemer, Alabama May 21,22, 23 - Each Clinician is a MMR. One is coming from Australia.

Fred discussed the *Piedmont Division train show*. They used a new building that was twice last year cost for the convention center, and invested heavily in promoting the show. 5,800 attended at \$ 8.00/ head. The show was very successful for them.

(Continued on page 3)



Jim Fuqua presented a financial report from the *Train Show*, saying that there were 84 vendors at the show. (later in the meeting, **Fred** indicated that there were about 1,300 people attending the train show.) **Jim** handed out a detailed financial statement that broke down the income items and the expense items for the train show for member perusal at the meeting. **Jim** reported that all activities showed a profit.

Fred noted that the raffle sales could have been better, especially considering the great prizes that were offered.

Fred introduced that the club just acquired a new white, 16 foot, v-nose, drop ramp trailer. Discussion about moisture control ensued. Trailer parking plan is presently at Eliada Home, or a members open garage area (volunteer anyone?). A quote for lettering has been requested. The lettering will be the shay engine from patch and lettering for Western North Carolina Model Railroaders, plus both club and train show web site addresses. The investment will be offset by a savings we are currently paying for module storage. This savings should pay for the trailer in 3 years.

Charlie Krug suggested a simple heat source would be sufficient to keep the trailer dry.

Fred pointed out that there was close to \$ 3,000.00 worth of prizes given away in a raffle that generated only \$1,100.00 in income. We all need to take the raffle seriously. We should have sold more than the worth of the prizes in raffle tickets.

Fred indicated that he did miss some of the advertising deadlines due to his hospitalization, but most of the ad venues were covered.

Dave Anderson described a polo shirt with the club logo on it. It will be embroidered instead of printed and it will have a pocket. Estimated price is \$ 7 - 9. A discussion ensued about the desired quality of the shirt which will affect the final pricing. Joe Norris asked if we could get a darker green color for the shirt. Discussion ensued about what color of green we should choose. Clearly, we have no standard for the Southern green (Pullman/engine/year) desired for our shirts. The minimum starting order will be 12 shirts, contact Dave with the desired amount, update next month.

Dave apologized for the omission in notification to some members about the meeting date change. He indicated that the email problem is (hopefully) fixed. He added that current meeting dates will always be on our FaceBook page and on our web site. The decision to move the date was made on Tuesday, and the website was updated on Wednesday. So please check the web sites calendar page for the most current info on meeting dates and times. Thank you.

Guests: **Troy Carroll**, Canton , NC of Pop's Tees - recently started railroading after retiring from 22 yrs in military,. HO scale modeler without a layout (for now). **Dave Wiley**, Burnsville, NC worked with *Spruce Pine Clinchfield layout*. Planning his own layout in an 8 foot square in a spare bedroom in the house. HO scale modeler and already an NMRA member.

John reiterated that you can get a 6 month introductory membership for \$ 9.95.

Clint Smoke reported that progress continues on the construction of the new Asheville Division at the **Apple Valley Model Railroad** in at the historic Hendersonville Depot. Carpentry work is mostly done. Couple hundred feet of track is installed. Goal is to be operational by Labor Day. A Labor Day celebration is planned. He invited everyone to visit on Saturdays.

Clint also reminded everyone of the upcoming train show sponsored by the **French Broad 'N'pire Model Railroad Club** on Saturday, April 24.

Fred discussed the Hickory Show this Saturday, and asked for help for packing, setup, running trains.

John discussed the *Lake Junaluska layout* and the use of *Woodland Scenics Realistic Water*. Winter progress was slow because the building was not heated this winter. Now they are back regularly. He



reported that **Jack Mershon** has done a wonderful job with the structures.

Fred pointed out that there was close to \$ 3,000.00 worth of prizes given away in a raffle that generated only \$ 1,100.00 in income. We all need to take the raffle seriously. We should have sold more than the worth of the prizes in raffle tickets.

Fred indicated that he did miss some of the advertising deadlines due to his hospitalization, but most of the ad venues were covered.

Boxes of duplicate Model Railroader Magazines were distributed to be placed in doctor's and dentist's office. We want our club name and contact info on it. If you would like to help distribute contact [Fred](#) or [Dave](#). (Thanks to all who did take some for distribution).

Land O'Sky Division will have a mini convention on Saturday, April 17 at Dana. Everyone is invited, cost \$5.



Break was taken before **John Williams'** clinic on scenery.

John Williams presented "Scenery 101" clinic, handouts were available for member perusal and information. We thank John for his clinic

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 6, starting at 7:00 pm.

If this looks like a (mad?) scientist at work, it is!
(maybe not the mad part)

Our own Professor **John Williams** PhD with a fascinating demonstration of scenery techniques.

John capably demonstrated his scenery techniques during his presentation called "Scenery 101."

EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

Spring Rails 2010

The French Board "N"pire RR Club at Whitmire Activity Center, Lake Pond Lane Hendersonville
April 24, 2010 from 10 AM to 4 PM
Check out their [website](#) for details



EVENTS FOR MODELERS: (CONT.)

The Blue Ridge "S"calers Meet

May 8th, 2010 at Kingsport, TN. For more information [email them](#).

Rail Days

June 12 & 13, 2010 at the NC Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC

Re-live the golden years of railroading with a weekend full of family fun! Train rides, model trains, live music, children's activities, the Rail Days Chili Cook-off and more. Tickets available in advance, see their [website](#) for more information.

7th North Carolina Rail Fair

Saturday, June 26, 2010 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Metrolina Expo Center
Charlotte, North Carolina
Adults \$6.00, Children under 12FREE

2010 SOUTHEASTERN REGION CONVENTION



THE BIRMINGHAM SPECIAL

**“YOUR LAYOUT,
FROM CONCEPT TO REALITY”**

**MAY 21-23, 2010
THE BESSEMER CIVIC CENTER**

The clinics will evolve around giving you all the information you need to design and build your own railroad empire.

[“The Birmingham Special” Convention Registration Form](#)

For the latest information check out the [SER Website](#)

See [page 9](#) for a Schedule of Events, [page 11](#) for a registration form.



NMRA 2010 CONVENTION

NMRA 75TH ANNIVERSARY

JULY 11-18, 2010

For the latest information check out [the website](#).



Land O'Sky Division Mini-Convention at Dana on Saturday April 17.

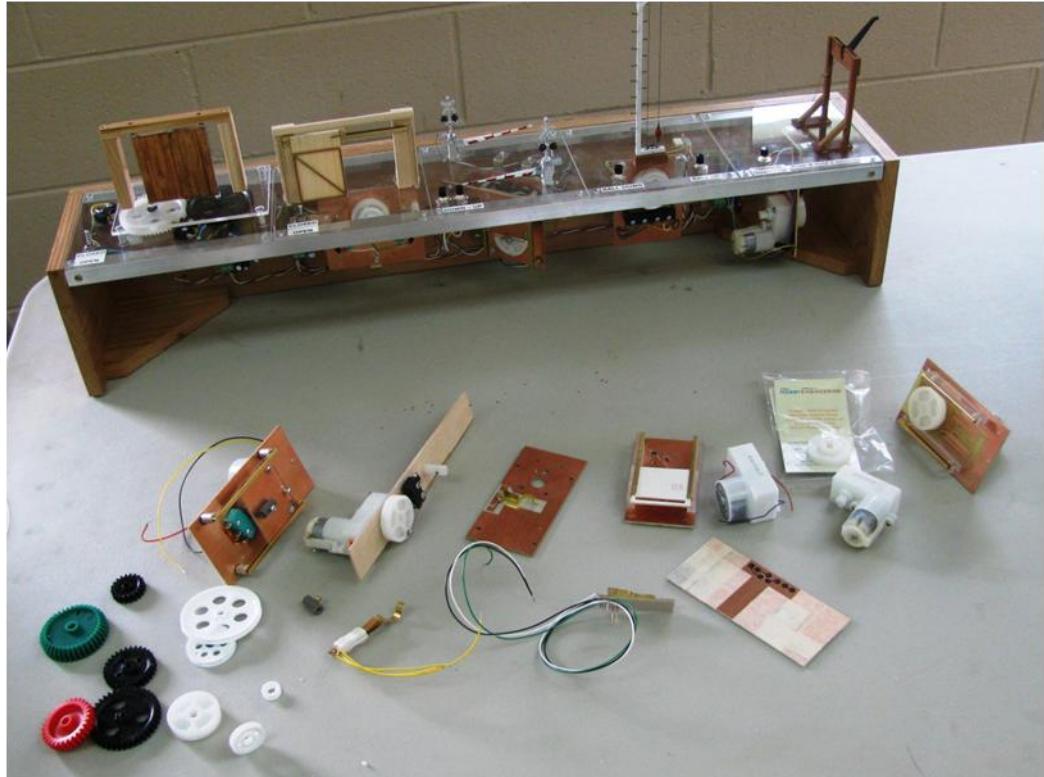
Land O'Sky Division held a mini-convention on April 17 at Dana. The event was billed as clinics, models on display for judging, and good fellowship. All were accomplished in grand style.

The event started with the announcement that **Ben Bartlett** has met all of the requirements for MMR. His Master Model Railroader certificate (MMR #434) will be presented later, but on this occasion he received a nice certificate from *Division Superintendent Frank Pearsall*. (Photo below by Mike Nicoletti.)

Several club members made valuable contributions to the mini-convention. **Dan Lang** talked about DCC, comparing two popular products- Digitrax and NCE.

Joe Norris provided a fascinating presentation of animation using small motors. (This was a preview of the presentation he plans to give at SER in. Birmingham.) (Left is a sample of Joe's items used in animation of rail scene.)

Chuck Place gave an interesting clinic on Weathering Basics for Locomotives and Cars. Jim Long demonstrated making rubber molds for casting parts. **Gordon Fewster** closed out the afternoon with an interesting presentation on track alignment, especially at bridges. All of the clinics were well done and interesting.



A few pictures of the day's events follow. The next meeting of Land O'Sky Division is scheduled for July 17.



Ken O'Brian and Ben Bartlett tally up the score and on one of the models they judged.



LAND O'SKY DIVISION MINI-CONVENTION PICTURES



Rick Pyeritz model of house beyond it's prime.
(photograph by **Mike Smith**)

E.G. Walker Coal Company
(photograph by **Mike Smith**)



Passenger car by **Joe Norris**
(photograph by **Mike Smith**)



ELIADA YOUTH PROGRAM PICTURES

**THESE ARE A FEW OF THE ELIADA YOUTH TTRAK MODULES
PRODUCED OVER MANY TUESDAYS.
THE CHILDREN'S AGES ARE FROM 9 TO 18 YEARS OLD.**



Left: David's "Dancing Stars"

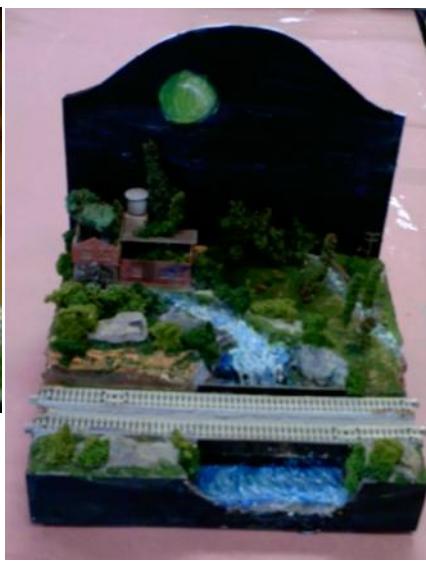


Right: "Summer Fun"

BOTH YOUTHS AGE AROUND 10YEARS OLD.



James—"John Deere Shop"



Kathryn—"Old Mill Nite"



Elinda—"Elinda's Windy Day"

THREE RECENT EXAMPLES FROM THE SENIOR HIGH GROUP

We have some basic rules for the module. The kids then come up with the basic plan . They do all the work on scenery, painting that they can physically do. We try to have fun with the kids as they learn new skill and learn to 'remain on tasks'. We hope they will become budding model railroaders. If you want to be part of the crew talk to Penn.



2010 SOUTHEASTERN REGION CONVENTION

THE BIRMINGHAM SPECIAL

Don't miss your 2010 SER Convention in Birmingham!

Don't forget that April 20, 2010 is the deadline to register for the convention and the Hotel at the LOWER rate. Starting April 20th convention registration goes up \$10 for regular and \$5 for non-rail attendees. Hotel rates will go up at least \$10 per night.

Schedule of Events

Friday May 20th

8:00 AM Registration Opens - Attendees can pick up their registration packets
9:00 AM Convention Opens
9:00 AM SER Board Meeting begins in Track 1
9:30 AM Company Store Begins taking in Items
[See Web site for forms]
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Contest Registration and display room opens
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Layouts will be available
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Clinics will begin in Tracks 1, 2, 3 & 4
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Train Show Begins for Convention attendees
3:00 PM - 9:00 PM Company Store Opens
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Train Store Opens to the Public
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Dinner Break
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Clinics Resume Tracks 1 & 2
7:00 PM - 9:30 PM Non-Rail Clinic Sips and Snips in Track 5
(Schedule may change) Flower arranging and wine tasting party
All attendees must be Registered & have a Badge in order to attend.

Saturday May 21st

7:30 AM Registration Opens
8:00 AM - 10:00 PM Prototype tour of Norris Freight Yard
[Must sign up when checking in at registration]
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Train Show Opens
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Company Store Opens
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Limited Layout Tours
9:00 AM - 11:00AM Non-Rail Clinic – Decorating Gourds
11:00 AM – Noon Non-Rail Clinic – Bookmark Weaving [Make and Take]
12:30 PM - SER/NMRA Model Contest Registration Closes
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Model Contest Judging
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Non-Rail Clinic - Antiques
4:00 PM - Train Show and Contest Room Closes
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM SER Cocktail Party
7:00 PM - 10:30 PM Dinner - After everyone is served we will
(Schedule may change) have the SER Annual Meeting. Banquet Guest Speaker will be NMRA BOD Tony Koester

Sunday May 22nd

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast at YOUR HOTEL
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Layout Tours

As some of you probably have heard by now we will be changing

the Sunday format to not have a Convention Breakfast. This is being tried as an experiment this year. By not having a breakfast we can save the cost of the breakfast and the renting of the hall. This reduces the attendees cost and allows for layout tours all day on Sunday. Since all the hotels in the area offer a free breakfast it should not add any additional cost for the attendees. After this year's convention we want to hear back from the attendees about what they think of this.

Convention Shirts

I want to mention our convention shirts because I do not want anyone to be left out. We are offering two styles this year. One is a tee shirt style that has "Birmingham 2010" on the front breast and a large size convention logo on the back for \$10. We are also offering a golf style shirt with a pocket that has the convention logo stitched on the front in color for \$20. Both shirts are a great buy and made of good quality. There is a place for you to order them on the registration form. We will have a few extras but I think they will go fast when everyone sees them. So make sure you order one if want one. There is an additional charge of \$2 for 2XL and 3XL sizes.

Clinics

I think everyone is aware that our convention theme this year is; "**Your Layout – From Concept to Reality**". Almost all of the clinics will be around this theme. In keeping with this we have lined up a group of premier modelers and clinicians coming from all around the US. You have been reading their articles for years in the model railroad magazines. We have Paul Scoles, Tony Koester, Brooks Stover, Cliff Powers, Jared Harper, Bob McIntyre and other members of the NMRA Layout Design SIG. The clinics will take you from design and planning right on through building and completion. There will be some make and take clinics as well as time for you to talk to the experts about your layout and ask questions.

Cliff Powers will be doing a 2 hour clinic on building a triple deck layout. Paul Scoles will be doing 4 hours of clinics on building your layout based on a series of articles that started running in the December 2009 issue of Railroad Model Craftsman and are continuing to run. Part of the clinic will include "Getting your hands Dirty".

Tony Koester will be doing a clinic on building a double desk layout with a question and answer period afterwards.

We will also have a special guest clinician coming from Australia. Dan Carmody, a member of the Australia Consult in Washington DC, will be joining us to talk about model and prototype railroading DOWN UNDER. This will be a good chance for us to see how another part of the world does railroading. Dan is excited about meeting all of us and sharing his modeling experiences.

Non-Rail Clinics

On Friday morning there will be a meet and greet. Carol Beaty will be there with other members of the Steel City crew to have a hot cup of coffee and tell you what there is to do while your husband is at the clinics.

She will have an extensive to-do list which will include local shops,



area points of interests including the train museum in Bessemer and the McWayne Museum in downtown Birmingham. Another very unique place is Pepper Place! You can join local chefs early in the morning and watch them prepare an item, or you can browse antiques and look at local produce, buy homemade foods and craft items. If you want to research prior to coming, you can go to these websites:

www.tannehill.org a Civil War park with RV and primitive camping, log cabins set aside for crafters on Saturdays and an iron ore museum; www.Birminghamtravel.com for info on antiques, etc.; and www.800Alabama.com for state tourism events. A great local restaurant is the famous Irondale Cafe – home of the movie “Fried Green Tomatoes”.

Starting Friday evening we have four great clinics planned for the ladies. On Friday night there will be SNIP & SIP. We have a professional florist coming in from Helena Florist that will give a class on flower arranging. Everything will be supplied including the vases and flowers. While practicing your flower arranging samples of wine will be available and everyone takes home their flower arrangement. Sorry men this is for the ladies only.

On Saturday morning Carol Beaty will be giving a clinic on making decorative gourds. Gourds: those weird looking, hard-shelled plants that are perfect for painting, dyeing, carving and weaving on, or just waxing. They can be decorated for the holidays or just for fun. After the class, there will be some various shapes to paint and take home.

Following Carol will be Marie Mattherly who will be doing a clinic on “Bookmark Weaving”. This will be a make and take project, one that will be relaxing, easy to understand, and once you know the basics, can be extended into making other projects. Marie says “If kids can do this, we can.”

On Saturday afternoon Brenda Cusker will be doing a clinic on antiques. She will talk about how to tell what things are worth, what's old and what's not. The ladies are invited to bring things from home to show and find out more about them.

Layout Tours

At I mentioned last month we will be changing the layout of the convention slightly this year. We will have a few layouts on tour on Friday and Saturday with the bulk of the layouts (and most that will be open on Friday and Saturday) open all day on Sunday. Layout tours will start at 9 AM on Sunday and go till 4 PM. We have a well-rounded group. A couple of G, some O, a few N & HoN3 and lots of HO. Plus we will have some at the train show. We will provide maps that will take you on a guided tour from one layout to the next to keep travel time to a minimum. Now that the WEB site problems are behind us we hope to have lots of convention information posted. Please visit the SER web site at WWW.SER-NMRA.ORG and clicking on the 2010 Convention to take a tour of what we will have.

Prototype tour

We currently have plans for a tour of the Norris Freight Yard in Irondale about 30 minutes from the convention center. Everything is on track as of now but things do change rather quickly in this day and age so we all need to keep our fingers crossed. This tour will depart at 8 AM on Saturday from the convention center. You will be able to sign up for the tour when you check in at the

convention. More details will be available at check in.

Train Show

We will have a train show in the convention centers large 12,000 sq. foot expedition center. The show will be open Friday afternoon and evening and Saturday all day. We plan on having several manufacturers on the floor plus several first time convention dealers. So bring lots of money.

Everything conveniently located

Bessemer is located 20 minutes from the Birmingham airport on I-59. The convention center and hotel are located one block off the freeway. The main convention hotel, The Hampton Inn, is located across the street from the Bessemer Civic Center. There are several other hotels in varying price ranges located a short distance down the street. All convention activities will be located in the easy-to-get-around Civic Center. Registration, train show and snack bar are on the first floor and the clinics, model contest and banquet will be conducted on the second floor of the facility. Elevator service is available. Layout and prototype tours are within a 20-mile radius of the Civic Center.

Company Store

The company store will be featuring a broad array of items. You will need to check your items in by 2 PM on Friday. The forms and tickets you need are on the web site so you can print and fill them out early so check in will be quick and easy. There is a limit of 50 items per attendee.

Last but not least is the Model Contest

We are hoping for a super model Contest. The Convention Committee has selected the theme of “Birmingham a Manufacturing City” as the special theme contest. Build something around the idea of Manufacturing and Railroad and enter the contest.

The SER contest chairman has also issued a contest challenge for a special prize for the Division that enters the most models. In order to make this contest fair for smaller divisions it will be based upon how many members you have in your division. If you are a division like Empire that has 26 members and 13 members enter a model that would be 50%. If you are Steel City who has 106 members and 35 members enter a model that is only 33%. Even though Steel City has more than double the number of models they would lose to Empire percentage wise. So come on and enter and take a prize for your division.

In Summary

We have a wide varied of different activities to keep everyone busy. We hope you will join us for what should be an enjoyable weekend.

Please visit our website WWW.SER-NMRA.ORG several times between now and the convention for the latest information and updates.

Our WEB master, Mike Broadway, is doing a great job of keeping everything updated in order to give you the latest and greatest news on the 2010 SER Convention information.

We look forward to seeing you in Birmingham in 2010.

TOM CUSKER, 2010 Convention Chairman



The Birmingham Special

Southeastern Region / NMRA Convention

Registration Form

May 21st – 23rd 2010 in Birmingham, AL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

NMRA # _____ SER # _____

Name on ID Badge _____

Non Rail Attendees _____

(Wives must be registered in order to attend the Sip & Snip party Friday night)

To Reserve hotel accommodations, contact the Hampton Inn at 205-425-2010, be sure to identify yourself as "NMRA" to get convention discount at hotel. Rates are only valid until April 20, 2010.

Regular Registration Mailed before 4/20/10 \$50 x _____ = \$_____

Mailed after 4/20/10 \$60 x _____ = \$_____

One Day Fri. or Sat. Registration NO BANQUET \$35 x _____ = \$_____

Non NMRA Registration ADD \$10 x _____ = \$_____

Non-Rail Registrations Mailed before 4/20/10 \$20 x _____ = \$_____

(Spouse, Children) Mailed after 4/20/10 \$25 x _____ = \$_____

Shirts S M L XL

Convention Tee Shirt Size _____ \$10 X _____ = \$_____

Convention Golf Shirt Size _____ \$20 X _____ = \$_____

XXL & XXXL size additional \$2 X _____ = \$_____

TOTAL ===== \$_____

Please make checks payable to:

Steel City NMRA Convention

Mail to: Steel City NMRA Convention

Mike Broadway WWW.SER-NMRA.ORG

3110 Meadow Brook Trail

Birmingham, AL 35242-3317

For information e-mail TCusker@Hotmail.com or call 205-951-6104 days.