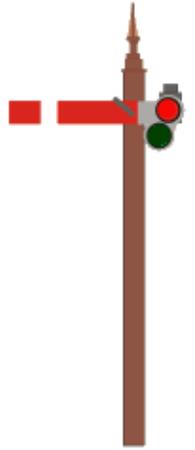


# The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at [www.wncmrr.org](http://www.wncmrr.org) & Facebook

## May 2014

### VOLUME 43 NUMBER 11

Our next meeting is on May 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**Rick Pyeritz brought this beautiful collection of Maine Central locomotives.**

**One thing you have to admit, the Maine Central wasn't afraid of color.**

**Several members brought several of their locomotives to the April meeting.**

**(We can discuss whether these locos should be weathered later.)**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Clinic: A wonderful clinic presented by Tom**

Synopsis: We would like you to bring in a structure (in any phase of construction). Anything from warehouses on down in size. **See you there!**

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## REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7:05 on Thursday, April 2, 2014

The Hickory Train Show is on April 12 set up will be on Friday April 11 starting at 2 PM. The show is on Saturday from 8 AM to 3 PM and packing up starts after 3 PM. We should be back in Asheville by 5 PM.

Land O'Sky division will have its quarterly meeting April 12 at the Deerfield Retirement Community in Asheville.

**Troy Carroll** is in recovering from a fall, our thought and prayers are with him. No other people were mentioned for health or welfare item. Continue to keep **Mike Smith** and **Jack Mershon** in your thoughts and prayers for there longer term issue, personal and family members. **Gordon Fewster** and **Rick Pyeritz** have birthdays this month. No one else was willing to admit an April birthday.

NC Transportation Museum is having 'Streamliners at Spencer'. It should have a lot of operational streamliner in one place. There are 37 streamliners expected at Spencer from May 29 thru June 1.

Trains magazine is having a special issue on the restoration of the UP4014 (Big Boy) due out in April there is a republication discount on their website.

**Clint Smoke** was in NMRA magazine for getting his AP certificate in Civil Engineering. **Clint** was nebulous about being in Model Railroader. No one had any comments on the other magazines.

We have a large donation of Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette, from 1976 thru 2012. These will be part of our library. If you want to see a particular issue contact us and we will loan it out.

The SRHA Convention May 17 at Knoxville, TN, SER Convention June 13 to 15 at Memphis, TN, and the NMRA Convention July 13 to 20 at Cleveland, Ohio.

**Gordon** brought up a question about sound abatement using matte medium vs. white glue. It was good discussion but no conclusions we found. (See page for more from Gordon's research. Further discussion is welcomed.)

**Dave** provided an interesting clinic on the ABCs of locomotive designations of trucks and manufacture designations used to describe locomotives have evolved over the past 70 years as the diesel locomotive have evolved. The final part was a look at the Norfolk Southern roster and who made the locomotive and what can be determined from the designation.

Several modelers brought nice looking model locomotives for "Show and Tell."

**Our next meeting is on May 1st at 7:00 pm.**



# COMMENTARY ON BALLAST AND NOISE

**by Gordon Fewster**

My previous layout seemed to become much noisier when I added ballast and plaster scenery contacting the roadbed, so I have been sensitive to this issue. I had just started ballasting the current layout when I saw a remark in the NMRA magazine that ballast glued with dilute matte medium produced a softer surface and thus much less noise than dilute white glue. I polled several friends and heard some opinions that matte medium may be quieter, so ran some trials.

I had a section of track with about 6' unballasted, 6' ballasted with matte medium diluted 1:1 and 2:1 with water, 6' glued with white glue diluted 1:1 with water, and a final short unballasted section. The track bed is luan plywood. I ran several engines along this track, trying to compare the noise level subjectively. Most of the trials were run with Bachmann S2's; alone, as a pair, unloaded and heavily loaded with two track cleaning cars, as they seemed moderately noisy. Then several other engines were tried.

Opinions: If different, the unballasted track might be quieter than ballasted. I can't be sure whether it is different or not. My wife has better hearing than I do, and she did not think that there was any difference. Neither of us could hear any difference between track ballast glued with dilute white glue vs. dilute matte medium. The ballast appeared to be well secured with either glue and either dilution of the matte medium.

Among engines: The Bachmann S2's have a distinct gear noise, noticeable but probably tolerable with the sound on. Atlas Alco RS1's (older, no sound) and new RSD5's were very quiet, with very little noise on any of the track. Bowser/Stewart AS616's (both old without and new with sound) and BLI Blue Line RSD15's were nearly as quiet as the Atlas Alco's, with drive noise barely or not noticeable with sound on. A BLI Light Mike and a light Pacific had modest drive noise, just detectable but certainly not obtrusive with sound on. Bachmann 2-8-0: a real growler, distinct without sound and annoying with it on. I also dug out an old brass Alco/Alco FA with Hobbytown trucks. Not up to today's standards, but again, no detectable difference along the track. Note that I have at least two of all of the recent diesels mentioned, and no noise difference was noted among "identical" units.

My Bottom Line: I can't hear any difference in noise between white glue and matte medium as ballast cement; white glue is cheaper and you can soak it in water to remove the track if needed.

The price of matte medium varies widely, from \$24/pint at Michaels to \$28/quart at a local (Hendersonville, NC) frame store. Elmer's "Glue All" is \$20/gallon at Staples. The ballast cement is the wrong place to look to reduce noise. There will be no more Bachmann engines, and the 2-8-0 will be for sale at the next club train show. The S2's may join it if Atlas ever gets their new S2's into the country.

The Bowser/Stewart, BLI, and especially the Atlas engines are so quiet that it is hard to imagine their noise ever being an issue.

Reader beware: These are my opinions with my layout construction. I have no idea what differences might exist in your layout or your hearing that could change the results. Your mileage may vary!



## NOTES ON THE LAND O'SKY MEETING

Held: April 12, 2014, Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville, NC

Attendance: 15 NMRA Members, 1 guest

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am and those present welcomed by Superintendent O'Brien.

**Clint Smoke** was thanked for arranging a very convenient meeting location. **Clint** gave an overview and introduction to the Deerfield community.

Attendees were reminded of the joint SER Region Mid-Continent Region convention at Memphis, TN on June 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>.

A guest, Tom Lanning, was introduced.

AP Program: **Clint Smoke** has received the Civil Engineering award.

Favorite Models/Show and Tell items: **Ken** displayed an Erie (and others) prototype insulated box-car kit by MOLOCO, and **Gordon Fewster** described trials finding no difference in noise level between matte medium and dilute white glue as ballast cement.

The following clinics were presented:

Adhesives, by **Ken O'Brien**

A brief presentation on Hazmat standards on the prototype railroads by **Clint Smoke**

Modeling Stained Glass Windows, by **Joe Norris**

A Dave Frary video on painting structures, followed by observations on the subject by the members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm, followed by an optional lunch in the Deerfield Cafe.

**Gordon Fewster**

Clerk, Land O'Sky, SER, NMRA

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### WANT A CLINIC?

- If you have a clinic you would like to give, see or email [Tom](#) or [Dave](#) with what you want to give. Try it out on us before going big time at a SER or Land O'Sky meeting.

Even if you don't want to go big time, we would love to hear about your niche of our expansive hobby!

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**WNC MODEL RAILROADERS ANNUAL MEETING  
WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 5TH AT 7:00 PM.**

Elections will be held for the positions of Superintendent, Company Clerk, and two Board of Directors as part of the business meeting.

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# STREAMLINER AT SPENCER

## MAY 29 THRU JUNE 1

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday, May 29

**Streamliners Preview Day: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

For a special price, get in on the excitement early with the arrival of the last units, behind-the-scenes spruce up and initial set up at the Bob Julian Roundhouse. It is a unique look at the locomotives that will not be available at any other time during the event.

**Celebration at the Station: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Learn more about the restoration of the event's important locomotives during a kickoff Southern dinner at the nearby Salisbury Station. Enjoy music, speakers and socializing at this beautiful depot on Norfolk Southern's main line.

**Nighttime Photo Shoot: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**

View the engines with special nighttime photo lighting around the Bob Julian Roundhouse. Enjoy special arrangements and pairings of the locomotives that will change each night.



Photo from 2012 Norfolk Southern Heritage Unit Family Portrait

#### Friday, May 30

**Streamliners at Spencer: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

Watch the locomotives on the turntable while a narrator describes each unit. Every day will have a unique gathering of locomotives around the turntable, and this day features "twins."

**Nighttime Photo Shoot: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**

View the engines with special nighttime photo lighting around the Bob Julian Roundhouse. Enjoy special arrangements and pairings of the locomotives that will change each night.



#### Saturday, May 31

**Streamliners at Spencer: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

Marvel to the spectacle of historic streamliners on parade. Participants in the event will help to select the line up of units for the afternoon display of locomotives at the turntable.

**Nighttime Photo Shoot: 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**

A final session of special arrangements around the Bob Julian Roundhouse will take place with our third and final nighttime photo session, concluding the event's after dark activities.

#### Sunday, June 1

**Streamliners at Spencer: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

The grand finale features unique gathering of locomotives on display side-by-side and an assembly of the participating locomotives in a single consist.



# THE SER/MCoR JOINT REGIONAL CONVENTION

The Southeastern and Mid Continent Regions of the National Model Railroad Association invite you to attend the joint regional convention for 2014, held in Memphis Tennessee on June 13, 14 and 15. This combination of talents and resources from both regions provides an excellent opportunity to expand your knowledge and skills in the hobby while making new acquaintances and renewing old friendships. A wide array of activities are available in the Memphis area and will include such model railroad events as home layout tours, prototype tours, clinics and demonstrations and an excellent train show.

Prototype tours will include opportunities to visit intermodal facilities and witness the highly choreographed process of transferring tons of containerized cargo from truck to train and visa versa. While it is a daily activity for those in the industry, it is still amazing to watch the skill and deftness with which crane and truck operators do their jobs. Millions of packages yearly pass through the FedEx Hub facility, and watching the way they are handled from pick up, sorting through the system on to delivery is a study in coordination and efficiency. Container transfer and package handling are two examples of why Memphis is known as the distribution capital of the world.

In addition to moving goods and packages, Memphis is not to be left out in transporting people. Rather than focusing on the efficiency of people transport, Memphis has created a trip down nostalgia lane with the downtown trolley line. Here is an opportunity to visit behind the scenes of MATA's trolley barn and see repair and maintenance facilities in operation. A ride on one of the restored trolleys will take you through the downtown area, and make a stop at the newly created Memphis Railroad & Trolley Museum, an outstanding collection of historic railroad artifacts and train exhibits the entire family is sure to enjoy.

All Prototype Tours are an extra fare feature of the convention and \$15 each person will cover the cost of transportation. There is a limit of 40 people per tour, and busses will pick up and drop off at Harding Academy at prescribed times.

Home layouts are always an exciting and anticipated event in model railroad conventions. While Memphis does not have the plethora of home layouts other large cities have, the quality and extent of those available are certainly worth spending time on the road. There are 12 fine locations of home layouts around the city and include scales from N to G.

Train show, clinics, banquet and slide presentations round out the activities. Some well known clinicians will be presenting top quality clinics on various aspects of the hobby, and include names like Fran & Miles Hale, Allen Keller, Cliff Powers, Jim Six and many more. If you are bored, you are sleeping. There is more than enough to fill three days of activity, but if you must, Beale Street, the Pink Palace Museum, and the FedEx Forum (home of the Memphis Grizzlies) will provide extra enjoyment outside of model railroading, if such activities really exist.

Reservations for the convention can be made on line or by mail, and forms can be found on line at [www.MRTM.org/convention](http://www.MRTM.org/convention). All activities other than Prototype Tours and Home Layout tours will be at Harding Academy, including clinics and the Train Show. Hotel accommodations can be made at the Hilton Hotel off Interstate 240 at Poplar Ave, or at the Memphis Hotel (formerly the Marriot) off I-240 at Perkins and American Way.



# CLUB CALENDAR

This is listing of know activities for our club members in the near future:

May 1st 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*

May 7th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

May 14th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

May 21st **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

May 28th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 4th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 5th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*

June 11th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 18th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 25th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

June 30th **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 2nd **Eliada Hobos**  
*Downstairs in the Barn*  
Session 1 2:30 –3:15 PM  
Session 2 3:30—4:15 PM  
Session 3 4:15—5:00 PM  
Session 4 6:00—6:45 PM  
Session 5 7:00—7:45 PM

July 3rd 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*

We have things for you to do, expand the hobby and your talents! Come out to see what your fellow club members are doing.



## EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

**SRHA CONVENTION  
MAY 16TH-18TH, 2014  
KNOXVILLE, TN.**

See their [website](#) for more information.

*Four Full Days*  
featuring classic streamliner  
locomotives of the 1930s - 1950s

*May 29 - June 1*  
at the N.C. Transportation  
Museum Bob Julian Roundhouse

**STREAMLINERS  
AT SPENCER**

### 11TH NC RAIL FAIR

**JUNE 21ST, 2014**  
Metrolina Expo Center  
Charlotte, North Carolina

## HISTORIC SPENCER SPAIN TRAIN SHOW

**AUGUST 23-24**

NC Transportation Museum  
Spencer, NC



### 2014 Memphis Convention - Rails Across the River

Fri, 06/13/2014 (All day) - Sun, 06/15/2014 (All day)

The Memphis Railroad and Trolley Museum and the Bluff City Division of the NMRA are proud to host the 2014 Joint Convention of the Southeastern and Mid Continent Regions of the NMRA.



## 2014 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

**July 13 - July 19**

79th Annual NMRA National Convention, Cleveland, OH. Check out [the convention's website](#) for details.