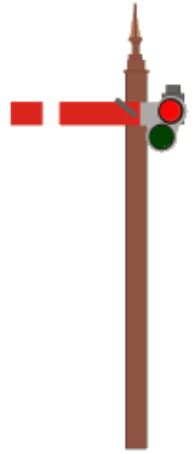


# The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



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

## August 2010

### VOLUME 39 NUMBER 12

Our next meeting is on August 5<sup>th</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.



**ONE OF THE MANY ATTRACTIONS AT THE NMRA  
CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Clinic: Signaling

Synopsis: Gordon Fewster will be giving an overview of the different types and aspects of signals on prototype railroads and a brief look at some of the ways that we can add them to our model railroads.

**See you there!**

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### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like your opinion on the new NMRA logo. Here is the You Tube site for the presentation at the convention (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sREFJOGmZuw> part 1, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipKL2g2dc1g> for part 2), please watch an email me your views.

Stay on Track

Fred

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### Health & Welfare Corner

Harvey Klumb is recovering from a recent heart problems, we hope that the rehabilitation is soon over Keep them in our thought and prayers.

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### The New NMRA Logo

Welcome to the new NMRA logo... and in many ways, the new NMRA.

On its face this wheel-on-rail symbol represents the oldest of the NMRA's objectives: interoperability.

It also represents the future. It's a symbol of our willingness to keep pace with the changes all around us. Changes in our world, in our lives, in our hobby. While it honors the achievements of the past 75 years, it commits us to the continuation of those achievements in the next 75.

Most important, our new logo is a symbol of the NMRA's commitment to you. As your wants and needs evolve, so will we, with expanded content on our website, easier accessibility to the information in our Library, and programs designed to position us well for another seven-and-a-half decades.

As we move into tomorrow, think of our new NMRA logo as a symbol of our promise to you – and our promises to each other – that we'll all keep the hobby of scale model railroading alive, vibrant... and ready for the future.

The National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), an organization of model railroaders, advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.

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# A Brief Report on the NMRA Convention

By Clint Smoke



Having the 75<sup>th</sup> NMRA Annual Convention in Milwaukee was appropriate. Milwaukee can be called the home of NMRA for it all started here in 1935 when several gentlemen of the Milwaukee Model Railroad Club saw the advantages of a national organization.

Among those in that early group were two names we know today – Al Kalmbach and William Walthers. There is more interesting history in the current issue of the *NMRA Magazine*.

This year's program was an appropriate tribute to those pioneers. There were approximately 1,600 NMRA members from across our country and a few from outside the U.S. as registered attendees. There were over 100 home layouts to visit, over 200 clinics to attend, a train show, a contest room, a silent auction, and an assortment of train-related and general interest events to keep one busy and entertained for the week. The accommodations at the hotel and the conference center across the street are first class. The city is clean, quiet and safe. And there are railroads everywhere. One could hear trains any hour of the day or night.

During the week we saw teasers that suggested that there was a new logo for the NMRA. The new logo and a new name for the organization's publication were revealed at the of the National Train show on Friday.

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## Large - Scale Activity

By Sam Hopkins

A lot is happening in the world of model trains with some big changes on the horizon as manufacturing giant Kader Industries (who owns Sanda Kan ) in China will soon cease from producing trains for many current companies in different scales world-wide. They own Bachman and also some of the rights and dies/tools for K-Line by Lionel. They have produced a lot of Lionel's pieces as well as Atlas, Weaver, Williams, and host of others. Rumors abound as to what their plans are for producing their own line of O gauge models now. MTH is fortunate to have not been associated with Kader or Sanda Kan but have their own manufacturing company there for the time being. Lionel has moved some recent production to Early Light in China and is attempting to return to building some of their product here in the US. Weaver builds some of their cars here too. We are in for interesting times ahead.

Speaking of interesting times, we've all heard people refer to decades past as "The Golden Age of Model Trains" referring to the pre-war era or the early post-war trains of Lionel, Marx, and American Flyer. I submit to you that NOW is the Golden Age of Model Trains. Just look at the amazing variety of product & technology available in the past 10 -15 years – new tinplate, 'toy', semi-scale, full scale, Large scale, live steam, TMCC, DCS, and the list goes on in ALL gauges! What aspect of trains do YOU find interesting? It's here now. Rejoice!

The 'Road Gang' met last week and constructed three simple 48" x 32" modules and experimented with methods of leg attachment with good success. They will have one for exhibit on hand. This promises to be a fun project that will enable anyone who wants to be able to run their trains and run L-O-N-G trains to do so by participating in the Modular Project. 3 rail O gauge trains can take up quite a bit of room at home. Many abandoned their boyhood trains due to space limitations of new families and smaller homes. The modular concept opens up amazing new possibilities! We will be on the lookout for avenues to set up the layout this fall to show the general public the fun and camaraderie offered by this wonderful hobby.

For more information please contact me at 828 773 9550 or csamh@att.net.



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## EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

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# SOUTHERN RAILWAY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION TRAIN SHOW

August 14, 2010 at the North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA  
Hours: 9 AM - 5 PM Admission: \$6.00

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## PIEDMONT DIVISION

### LIVE TRAIN AUCTION

Saturday: August 28, 2010 at the Elks Lodge in Atlanta (Tucker), GA. [Directions](#) to the Auction.

Sellers Check-In: 5pm , Check-In: 6pm , Auction: 7pm-11pm

Admission: \$5.00 Entry Fee at the door

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

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## THE GREAT TRAIN EXPO

SEPTEMBER 11–12, 2010

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

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## LAND O'SKY DIVISION MEETING

Our division met at the Fletcher Library on July 24<sup>th</sup> for an interesting meeting. There were reports and two interesting presentations. Dan Lang provided an overview of the 2010 NMRA Convention in Milwaukee. Mike Nicoletti talked about the use of the computer to manage activities on a model railroad.

The Division will next meet on October 16, and visit their web site at [www.division15nmra.com](http://www.division15nmra.com).



**Chuck Place received an AP certificate  
(his 4<sup>th</sup>) for Chief Dispatcher. 😊**

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# AUTUMN TRAIN EXCURSIONS



Oct. 30 - Roanoke, Va. and Oct. 31 - Asheville, N.C.

The N.C. Transportation Museum Foundation and the Watauga Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will host two day trip excursions to Roanoke, Va. and Asheville, N.C. this fall. These excursions, now in their fourth year, allow travelers to see beautiful fall foliage, experience a great destination and enjoy the romance of riding the rails. The "Virginia Autumn Special" travels to Roanoke Saturday, Oct. 30; the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel to Asheville. Sunday, Oct. 31.

Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., Saturday's "Virginia Autumn Special" will offer additional passenger pick-up at the Greensboro Amtrak Station at 8 a.m., allowing those in the Triad a more convenient boarding opportunity. The train will travel through the northern portion of the North Carolina Piedmont to the western part of central Virginia, offering spectacular views of the fall foliage, crossing the Dan and Roanoke Rivers. Moving onto the old Virginian Railway line, the train will pass through four tunnels and over trestles that provide views of the tributaries into Smith Mountain Lake. The train will arrive in Roanoke, the "Star City of the South," at noon, passing by the historic Roanoke Shops, where Norfolk Southern built their classic steam engines. Passengers will have nearly three hours to enjoy the attractions offered. Downtown Roanoke offers an array of dining, shopping and sight-seeing opportunities. Departing Roanoke at 3 p.m., the train will arrive back in Greensboro at 6:45 p.m. and in Spencer at 8 p.m.

During Sunday's trip, the "Blue Ridge Special" will travel through the western Piedmont into the foothills and on to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Departing Spencer at 7 a.m., the train will roll through the cities of Statesville, Hickory, Morganton, Marion, Black Mountain and Swannanoa. The train will climb the famed "loops" of the Blue Ridge Mountains and pass through several tunnels before arriving in Asheville at noon. Passengers will have nearly three hours for an outing at Biltmore Village. Departing Asheville at 3 p.m., the "Blue Ridge Special" will return to Spencer at 8 p.m.

Ticket sales for this year's excursion will differ from previous years. As a benefit of museum membership, there will be a two day advance sale, July 26 and 27, beginning at 9 a.m. Members are limited to six tickets each. Family memberships begin at \$50

and include free train rides, special ticket prices during museum events and member benefits at over 250 other museums through the Association of Science-Technology Centers. Public ticket sales begin July 28 at 9 a.m.

Tickets are available online at [www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org) or by calling 704-636-2889 ext. 237.