

# 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

## August 2015

### VOLUME 45 NUMBER 2

Our next meeting is on August 6<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.



**BIG LOADER = BIG LOAD!**



## NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

### OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Clinic: Scenery

Synopsis: A continued discussion of Scenery techniques, or new materials that you have used. Bring a model (in any phase of construction) any size or scale for discussion. **See you there!**

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## REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

We approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Old business:** The Town of Black Mountain Hardware Store project continues to develop. We still need a few more building – most to be brick one or two story mercantile for downtown locations. We have a donation of a few railroad cars. Contact [Dave](#) for helping out.

#### Good and Welfare:

**Troy Carroll** is schedule for surgery. **Dave** reported that he is recovered, but awaiting FAA approval to go back to work. We recognized members having birthday this month.

**New business;** We talked about railroad literature. An interesting article in this month's *Trains Magazine* discusses the restoration of N&W 611 and its return to excursion service with Norfolk Southern.

**Mike Smith's** house has sold and the layout is being dismantled.

**Fred Coleman** brought up that the NC Transportation Museum will host the Lincoln Funeral Train August 28 through the 30<sup>th</sup>, and that next year's SER convention "Rocket City Rails" will be in Huntsville, AL on June 10th and 11th.

The *NC Transportation Museum* has announced their fall excursion schedule for 2015. One trip will leave Spencer, turn at Asheville, and return to Spencer, on October 31. It should be a great time to be in the mountains for the fall colors.

**Dave** thanks all of you who helped out at *NC Rail Fair* in Charlotte

Following this short business meeting, members and guests enjoyed good food and fellowship in observing the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. Thanks to all who brought such good food!

**Our next meeting** will be August 6 at 7:00 pm. We will be continuing our discussions on scenery (tips, techniques, materials). Things that worked and what didn't, help out your fellow modelers.



# A REPORT OF THE PALMETTO EXCURSION SPEAKER

by Clinton Smoke

The Southeastern Region (SER) of the NMRA at the Hilton Hotel in Greenville, SC for the Palmetto Excursion during the first weekend in June. The banquet speaker was Mr. Steve Hawkins, owner of 2 area short line railroads.

Mr. Hawkins took us on a trip through his life as it centered on railroading and concluded with a Power-Point presentation of his current short line railroads and nicely tied in a bit of humor and “heavy loads” with his presentation. His talk was both informative and entertaining.

Information about the railroads follows. It was taken from their websites.

The picture on the cover is the reason Mr. Hawkins was at the meeting. The theme was big and heavy loads. Mr. Hawkins’ Greenville and Western RR is hauling these loaders from their factory in South Carolina to places all over the country.

Next year’s SER gathering will be ‘**Rocket City Rails**’ in Huntsville, Alabama on June 10 and 11. See [the convention website](#) for more information.

## AIKEN RAILWAY COMPANY, LLC



Aiken Railway Company, LLC (AIKR), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation, leases and operates 18.90 miles of rail line in Aiken County, South Carolina.

AIKR's 12.45-mile line between Warrenton and Oakwood owes its heritage to South Carolina's first and oldest railroad, the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company. The line was chartered by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1827, with the route being completed through Aiken in 1833. The 6.45-mile line extending between Aiken and North Aiken was completed by the Edgefield, Trenton & Aiken Railroad in 1879. The combination of these remnants today allows AIKR to sustain the 180-year record of continuous rail service in Aiken County, serving Oakwood, Montmorenci, Aiken, and Warrenton communities while offering satellite access to the North Augusta, SC and Augusta, GA markets.



AIKR has begun to upgrade the infrastructure of and add capacity to its line to further aid in the ongoing development of adjacent parcels, in order to attract new businesses to locate along the line and bring additional new job opportunities to the citizens of Aiken County. AIKR interchanges with Norfolk Southern (NS) at Warrenton, SC and currently offers five-day service to its online customers.

AIKR is an accident, incident and injury-free member

*(Continued on page 4)*



of the South Carolina Association of Railroads (SCAR), a member of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), recipient of the ASLRRA's annual *Jake Award with Distinction* for achieving a Frequency/Severity Index of 0.00 for the past two consecutive years (2013-2014), as well as being a Steel-Level Official Sponsor of the ASLRRA Jake Award Safety Program. AIKR is the recipient of the *Norfolk Southern 2013 General Manager's Award - Piedmont Division* for a seamless startup transition and exceeding customer expectations while improving service levels in the first 6 months of operation. AIKR is also a member of the Economic Development Partnership of South Carolina

### Greenville & Western Railway Company, LLC



Greenville & Western Railway Company, LLC (GRLW), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Western Carolina Railway Service Corporation, owns and operates 12.74 miles of rail line in Anderson County, South Carolina. The road's roots can be traced back to the original 1910 charter of the Greenville, Spartanburg & Anderson Railway (GS&A). The line was part of a section of the GS&A that was constructed between Greenwood and Greenville between 1910 and 1912 and the company, together with its affiliate Piedmont Traction Company, were collectively recognized by the public as Piedmont & Northern Lines.

Following the 1911 charter of the Piedmont and Northern Railway Company (P&N), both companies were absorbed into the P&N in 1914 and such was the line's identity through 1969. Purchased by Seaboard Coast Line Railroad in that same year, the line, as the result of successive mergers that led to the formation of CSX Transportation (CSXT), remained under CSXT ownership and operation for over 36 years, ending October 20, 2006. Effective October 21, 2006, GRLW assumed ownership and operation of the line which serves the Belton, Cheddar, Williamston and Pelzer communities.

Once a candidate for abandonment, GRLW continues to upgrade the infrastructure of and add capacity to its line to further aid in the ongoing development of adjacent parcels, in order to attract new businesses to locate along the line and bring additional new job opportunities to the citizens of Anderson County. GRLW interchanges with both CSXT at Pelzer and the Pickens Railway (PKHP) at Belton. GRLW also has interchange access to Norfolk Southern (NS) at Anderson via its PKHP connection at Belton. GRLW currently offers seven-day service and customizable switching services to its interchange partners and online customers. GRLW is an accident, incident and injury-free member of the South Carolina Association of Railroads (SCAR), a member of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA), recipient of the ASLRRA's annual *Jake Award with Distinction* for achieving a Frequency/Severity Index of 0.00 for the past eight consecutive years (2007-2014), as well as being a Titanium-Level Official Sponsor of the ASLRRA Jake Award Safety Program. The company's principal goal is to provide safe, reliable and efficient rail services and facilities to its patrons.





## LAND O'SKY DIVISION MEETING NOTES

Held July 18, 2015, Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community, Asheville, NC

Attendance 20 NMRA members, no guests.

**Doug Miller** was introduced as a new member. He recently moved from New York.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Superintendent **Ken O'Brien**. His opening remarks included:

The *Southern Railway Hist. Assoc.* had proposed a joint meeting for September but another commitment caused the cancellation of the proposal;

RPM ( Railroad Prototype Modelers) meet in Kennesaw, GA, September 18 & 19;

NMRA Mini-Meet in Crossville, TN, in mid-Nov that will have layouts open for touring and clinics;

The National NMRA Show is at the end of August in Portland, OR;

The "Rocket City" Huntsville, AL, regional meet in 2016;

2016 NMRA National Show in Indianapolis.

News around Asheville - The *Apple Valley Club* is continuing work on the G Scale outdoor layout. The *Western North Carolina Model Railroaders (100% NMRA Club)* is working on two projects and work on the layout at the hardware store in Black Mountain continues. *French Broad e'N'pire NTRAK Club* has their "Autumn Rails" show at the WNC Ag Center October 9 & 10. It's a bit of a change as the show is on Friday & Saturday - NOT Sunday

Show & Tell –

**Ken O'Brien** spoke about his work with the PS-1 Lackawanna boxcar with modifications to the sides and doors.

**Jace Kahn** spoke about his brass steeple cab traction locomotives that were active on the Springfield Terminal Line.

**Ed Krause** spoke briefly about his recent (and very scenic) train trip in Alaska.

**Fred Coleman** proposed that we host the 2018 Southeast Region convention. A motion was made and seconded for approval. Fred is looking at Lake Junaluska as the hosting site and will check for open dates.

Presentation by **Ben Bartlett** - Kitbashing Erie/ EL Freight Cars The presentation was about Ben's methodology for the creation of a prototype freight car that he would like to model. The procedure starts with source info and the variety that one can find through a thorough search of references. Then either find a kit suitable for the modifications planned or scratch-build as much as possible or desirable. The project goal of building a prototype car from a kit is governed by the degree of modification desired. This is determined by the amount of desire to cross over to the "dark side" meaning the phrase in deciding how much detail to apply without quitting the project in disgust. The clinic was a thorough and detailed "How to" for a kitbashing project.

October 15th is the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Dave Simmons Div 15 Clerk



# CLUB CALENDAR

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

August 5th **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

August 6th 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**  
*Eliada Admin Building*

August 12th **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

August 19th **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

August 26th **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

September 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

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

September 9th **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

September 16th **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

September 23rd **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

September 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

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

October 9th **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

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:

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### 49TH MODEL TRAIN SHOW

**AUGUST 8**

Norcross, GA

for more detail see the [website](#).

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### HISTORIC SPENCER SHOPS TRAIN SHOW

**AUGUST 22 FROM 9 AM TO 5PM**

**AUGUST 23 FROM 10 TO 5 PM**

NC Transportation Museum, Spencer, NC. See [website](#) for details.

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### 2015 NATION O SCALE CONVENTION

**SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2015**

Indianapolis, Indianapolis

See their [website](#) for details

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### THE ATLANTA RAILROADS PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET

**SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2015**

The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History

2829 Cherokee St., Kennesaw, GA 30144

See their [website](#) for details

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### 2015 NMRA NATIONAL CONVENTION

**August 23 - August 29, 2015**

80th Annual NMRA National Convention, Portland, OR. Check out [the convention's website](#) for details.

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### 2016 SOUTHEASTERN REGION CONVENTION

June 10 and June 11, 2016 in the city of Huntsville, Alabama hosted by the Mid South Division