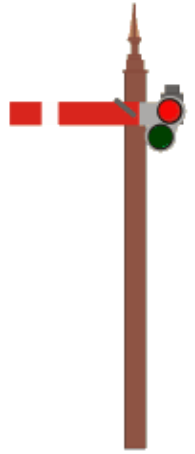


The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org & Facebook

September 2013

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 3

Our next meeting is on September 5th 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.



**CHARLIE KRUG'S PICTURE OF NS #630 ON AN EXCURSION TRAIN
TO OLD FORT IN APRIL 2013
HIS AWARD WINNING PICTURE FROM THE PEACHTREE EXPRESS**



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at **7 PM** on **Thursday September 5th**.

Clinic: Special, to be announced

Synopsis: Come and see what it will be. Bring your latest project (finished or not) for showing your fellow modelers. **See you there!**

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent **Dave Anderson** called the meeting to order at 7:00 on Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mike Hall, a guest, introduced himself and described his modeling interests.

The IRS has finally given our 501c3 status, back dated to April 13, 2013 which is when the application was accepted into the IRS system..

No new welfare item within the last month, in the good side Charlie has completed his eye surgery and is seeing very well. Glad to hear!

No update on the NC Arboretum project or the polo shirts.

Reminder that annual dues will need to be remitted at our September meeting. The inflation adjustment price is \$12 for the year. Our train show will be held on February 28th and March 1st, 2014.

The LOST RR will be at Farm City Days on October 5th, weather permitting, please look at your calendars. We are waiting for answer from the NC AG Department if they are doing a train display this year.

In Railroad Model Craftsman (RMC) there was a new product announcement for the house at 1313 Mocking Bird Lane. This was house that "the Munsters" (TV show) lived in. Moebius Models has this and Mel Diner from the TV show "Happy Days". No one else had any item of interest from any other magazine or info.

Our next meeting is on September 5th at 7:00 pm.

CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK

Nestled in the mountains of West Virginia, Cass Scenic Railroad State Park offers excursions that transport you back in time to relive an era when steam-driven locomotives were an essential part of everyday life. Trips to Cass are filled with rich histories of the past, unparalleled views of a vast wilderness area, and close-up encounters with the sights and sounds of original steam-driven [locomotives](#).



The town of Cass remains relatively unchanged. The [restored company houses](#) now rented as vacation cottages, add to the charm and atmosphere of the town. From the company store and museum to the train depot, you'll find an abundance of things to do prior to your departure on the historic Cass Railroad.



CASS SCENIC RAILROAD STATE PARK (CONT.)

The Cass Scenic Railroad is the same line built in 1901 to haul lumber to the mill in Cass. The locomotives are the same Shay locomotives used in Cass, and in the rainforests of British Columbia for more than a half-century. Many of the passenger cars are old logging flat-cars that have been refurbished.

Once you board the train, the real excitement begins! The great pistons of the carefully restored [Shay locomotive](#) will start pulsing, driven by hundreds of pounds of steam pressure. The shaft begins turning, the wheels find traction, and the locomotive begins to move. With thick, black smoke belching from its stack, the train pulls away from the station, passing the water tower from which the locomotive tanks are filled. As the train rounds the curve up Leatherbark Creek, you'll pass the Cass Shop, where the locomotives are serviced and repaired, and a graveyard of antiquated but fascinating equipment on sidetracks.

As the pressure builds, the locomotive is driven at full steam, and the laborious journey up the mountain toward the two switchbacks begin. The loud huff of the stack, the clanking of gears and pistons, the furious scream of the whistle at the crossings, and the ever present clackety-clack of the rails will indeed make you feel as if you have been transported back in time. The train soon passes through the first switchback, reverses up a steep grade, and ascends to the second switchback where the process is repeated, and then finally into open fields and [Whittaker Station](#). The switchback process allows the train to gain quick altitude, and in this instance, the train is traversing a grade of up to 11 percent, or 11 feet in altitude for each 100 feet of track. A 2 percent grade on conventional railroads is considered steep!

The [Mountain State Railroad & Logging Historical Association](#) has recreated a logging camp of the 1940's at Whittaker Station that shows both the living quarters and the equipment used by the loggers. The centerpiece of Camp One is a Lidgerwood tower skidder, one of only two examples left in the world. These huge railcar-mounted machines carried logs out of the woods on aerial cables for distances up to 3000 feet.

If you take the full 4 ½ hour trip to Bald Knob, you will leave Whittaker Station and proceed to Oats Run for the engines to take on additional water at a spring. The train then climbs up the mountain, finally reaching Bald Knob, the third highest point in West Virginia. The overlook at Bald Knob provides a spectacular view at an altitude of 4,700 feet. The Bald Knob area has a climate similar to Canada and is abundant in plants typical to the Canadian wilderness!

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park is an unforgettable adventure, a journey back in time to the days of company towns, geared locomotives and log trains. You're invited to visit and for a ride in history.

Train tips for a more enjoyable Cass visit:

- Check the train schedule and reserve your tickets in advance.
- Arrive a couple hours early to take advantage of the free interpretive tours of the locomotive shops (when available), and the Cass Showcase orientation film and diorama.
- Bring more clothes than you expect you'll need – mountain air is much cooler.
- Wear dark clothing, since steam locomotives tend to produce soot.

Fall is a great time to visit. The colors in the Mountains of West Virginia make the trip all the more enjoyable. See [their website](#) for more info..



DUES REMINDER

September will be when our club dues for the inflation adjusted price of \$12. Please bring your dues to the meeting. Thanks!



CLUB CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 5th 8:00 AM **LOST RR**
Farm City Days, Jackson Park, Hendersonville

October 9th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM

October 16th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM

October 19th 9:30 AM **Land O'Sky Division Meeting, Enka Library**

October 23th **Eliada Hobos**
Downstairs in the Barn
2:30 –3:15 PM
3:30—4:15 PM
4:15—5:00 PM
6:00—6:45 PM
7:00—7:45 PM

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

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

COLUMBIA TRAIN SHOW 2013

SEPTEMBER 28TH FROM 9:00AM UNTIL 2:00PM

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN, 1715 BROAD RIVER RD., COLUMBIA , SC

GREAT TRAIN EXPO

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

DIXIE CLASSIC FAIRGROUNDS, WINSTON SALEM, NC

AUTUMN RAILS

OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2013

Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM, Sunday from Noon to 4 PM. See the [French Broad e'N'pire website](#) for more information.

NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM FOUNDATION & THE WATAUGA VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2013

The Blue Ridge Special, Spencer, NC to Asheville, NC & Return

LAND O'SKY DIVISION MEETING

OCTOBER 19

9:30 AM (probably) at the Enka Library



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.