

The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org

December 2010

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 4

Our next meeting is on December 2nd 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.



**THE EXCURSION TRAIN FROM SPENCER PREPARES TO DEPART
ASHEVILLE WITH 20 COACHES ON OCTOBER 31**



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be starting at 7 PM on Thursday December 2nd.

Clinic: Annual Christmas Party

Synopsis: Short business meeting, Food, and fellowship. Contact [Fred](#) or [Dave](#) with number coming and party item you are bringing by the 28th of November. **See you there!**



WE ARE STARTING OUR 40TH YEAR AS A MODEL RAILROAD CLUB.

We would like to share some of your experiences of our history in these pages over the coming year. If you can contribute something, please contact the editor.

REPORT ON THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent Fred Coleman called the November 4th meeting to order and made a few announcements

In October, the modules were out twice: Farm City Day & Black Mountain. Lots of interest at both sites.

The NC Nature Center invited us to display the modules on December 3 and 4th for Tale event. Space for the display is 20' long. Fred is looking for interest from club members. It is a good opportunity for us - 1,500 to 3,000 people might see the modules. Good publicity opportunity, especially at this time of year, and we can promote the March Train Show. We will need some folks to set u and run the trains Contact [Fred](#) to volunteer.

Trains magazine has a Trains for Kids Magazine - order special edition of Trains Magazine - order forms are available from **Fred**.

Fred attended a meet at HQ Division in Chattanooga, Tn. Lots of railroad activity. The Tennessee Valley Railroad - 22 people, 7 or 8 from Piedmont - HQ div. 14 or 15 - Rebuilding 2 steam locos, NS getting involved to help the 4501 along. While in Chattanooga, **Fred** went to the Towing and Rescue museum - started by Holmes Wrecker Mfg. - 1916 to 1980 equipment, restored to new or better. Good source for research.

Peggy Keys of Lake Lure is trying to put together a Model Train Museum - proceeds to Pancreatic Cancer Research - She has purchased a building. Husband, who died of pancreatic cancer, was Lionel, MTH, K-Line 027 gauge modeler. She will sell some of his collection, and wants to make a layout in every scale as part of the museum. on 64 o the other side of Lake Lure. Anyone who wants to participate, contact [Fred](#).

Mike Nicoletti announced that the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club is hosting Rail Days, 6th and 7th

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of November - Open Saturday and Sunday, 10-4. Apple Valley will also be open extended hours during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

And Division 15 met on October 16, 2011. 4 good clinics and a model contest. Region president was there. Next meet is April 16th at the Hampton Inn.

Don't forget the Train Show March 3rd and 4th. Tell all your friends. Visit our train show website: <http://www.Asheville-Trainshow.com> - Tickets will be available at the December meeting - please pre-sell them. Blocks of tickets to small business at \$4.00 each instead of the \$ 5.00 at the door.

Mike Smith announced the current state of publicity announcements. Citizen Times ad cost is \$112.85 for the two Fridays and Saturdays before the show. Also ad in Mountain Express.

Clint Smoke discussed the propose changes to the club's bylaws. The draft was developed by **Dave Anderson, John Williams, Mike Smith** and **Clint**. It incorporates many minor changes that correctly identify who we are and what we do. It established us as a 501c(3) organization, and that membership is conditional upon evidence of NMRA membership. The four elected officers will serve two years – with two elected each year, their terms, staggered for continuity. The fiscal year is July 1 through the last day of June.

The proposed changes were adopted by unanimous voice vote of those present.

After a short break, we continued work on the modules started last month.

*Our next meeting is **December 2nd**, our Annual Christmas Party.*



Pictures clockwise from above:
Audley and Jeremy are supervised by Bill
Jack and Fred working hard
Gator and Boyce working on their track



Special License Plate for Model Railroaders.

Mark Blaustein contacted us and is a member of the North Raleigh Model RR Club (NTrak) and the Carolina Piedmont Division 13 of NMRA. He writes:

I'm writing today to determine if there is any interest in having a special NC license plate promoting model railroading (similar to plates for Square Dancing or Purple Heart recipients). The requirements for presenting this bill are fairly simple: having 300 or more individuals who would order the plate; and that the representative organizations (i.e., the NC train clubs) be not-for-profit.

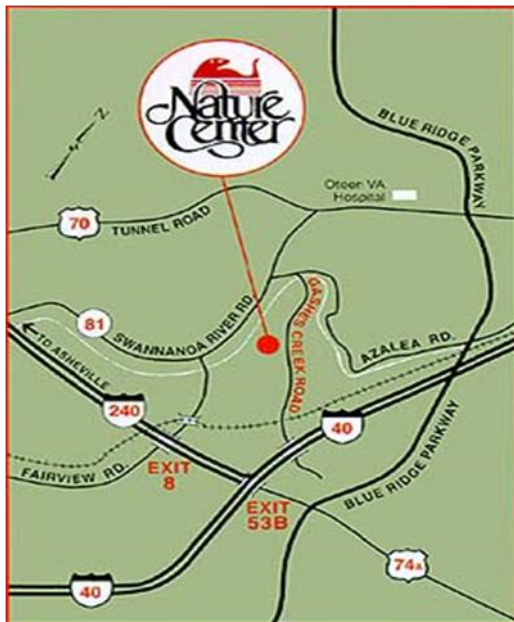
From what I have been able to determine from NCDOT, the annual cost for the standard plate would be \$10 plus the regular license fee. If a personalized plate is desired, add another \$30 to the price. At this point, our next opportunity to get this in front of the state legislature would be the start of the next session in January 2011. This gives us some time to see how many folks would be interested in the plate, and then come up with a design.

If interested, contact the [editor](#) who will forward your replies to Mark Blaustein.

OUR NEXT MODULES OUTING

We will take the modules to the Nature Center the first weekend in December.

If you have not been to the Nature Center lately, it well worth a visit. The facility is open seven days a week. It is located just off Swannanoa River Road near MANNA's warehouse.



Please contact [Fred](#) to tell him when you can help with the modules on December 3 or 4th. Come one come all.



NEWS FROM THE LARGE-SCALE GROUP

The Large Scale Group has been quite active. Here is a report from **Sam Hopkins**:

Greetings all. The November meeting for the Smoky Mountain Model Railroaders was quite a good success. The *Clacketts* graciously opened their log home to us again and the modular layout was set up and running for all to enjoy. This was the major topic of discussion this month as the 'traditional train season' is now upon us.

Who doesn't remember visiting the big city department stores during the Christmas Season and hurrying up to the toy department to see the trains? Many had great store window displays as well to entice one in from the street. It worked on me! Repeatedly. Your editor grew up in New Orleans where the trains were mostly a seasonal event and the big stores were the only place a kid could see them. I remember one of the downtown banks had a beautiful American Flyer NP 'North Coast Ltd' two-toned green Alco PA set under a huge Christmas tree in their lobby. What a sight! This was probably 1956 as that's when that set came out.

Perhaps we can spread a little of that feeling this season by displaying the modular layout to the general public. Our first scheduled showing will be at the Smoky Mountain Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center 1349 Crabtree Rd (209) just south of Exit 24 in Waynesville. Let's plan on being there Sunday Dec 05 at noon. In all likelihood, the residents and their families will be able to relate to our trains as good memories.

There may be only one table left available at the introductory price of \$100. Actual construction costs are running around \$92 - \$95 with the track, wiring, skirting, connectors, wood, foam, and misc. all adding up. The building crew is assessing the condition and making some necessary adjustments before starting on another group of straight tables. Even at 12' x 16', the current layout is quite small and constitutes a simple 'rectangular oval'. We plan to incorporate some modified 'S' curves and other ideas to break up the design somewhat for greater variety in future set-up. Come on guys, step up and purchase a table or two and join the fun! We need/want your participation.

Several items have been donated for the December meeting to help raise funds for the corner modules and eventually for the 'crossover' tables.



Please mark your calendars for Friday Dec 10th for the next meeting – location to be announced.

Here are several photographs of the module project thus far.



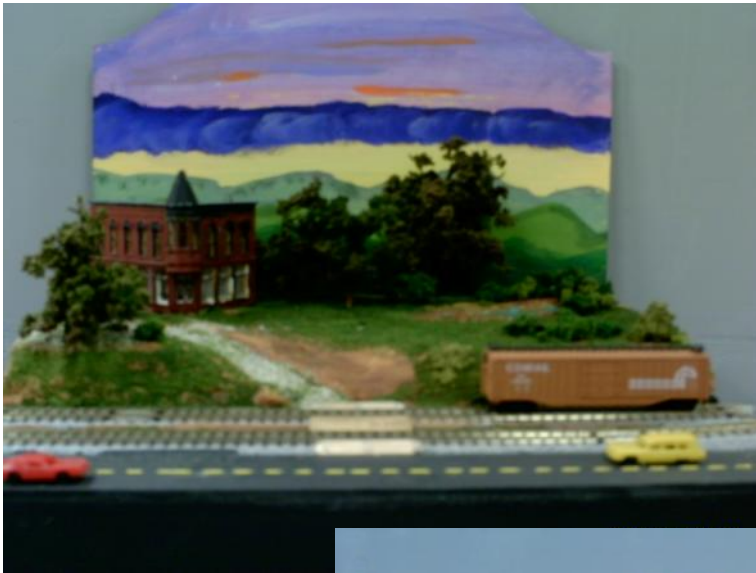
EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

2011 SER CONVENTION

May 20-22, 2011 in Macon, Georgia. Hosted by the Empire Division



ELIADA YOUTH PROGRAM MODULES



A sample of recently

finished modules

Come on out and help on Wednesday for a 45 minute session or all four from 2:30 to 7:45 PM.



Contact **Penn** or **Dave** for more information on joining up. We do some scratch building, water, foliage that are easy for the kids to learn. We are open to new ideas for other helpers, come join and experiment or improve your skills.





ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Our December meeting contact [Fred](#) or [Dave](#) with the number of your party and what appetizer, side dish, dessert, or drink you will bringing.



WE NEED A LITTLE HELP ON THE ELIADA HO SCALE LAYOUT. We need to replace the switches with Atlas switches, and other general maintenance issues. Our suggestion is Tuesday afternoons while Penn and others works with the kids downstairs, you can work upstairs. No special requirements outside of modeling needed since this does not directly involve contact with the children at Eliada, but it is an outreach for the hobby.



Stop procrastinating - get involved!