

The Semaphore



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
WNC MODEL RAILROADERS, INC.

A 100% NMRA CLUB



On the web at www.wncmrr.org & Facebook

December 2013

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 6

Our next meeting is on December 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.



Norfolk Southern Salute to Veterans



NEWS FOR OUR MEMBERS

OUR NEXT MEETING

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

Clinic: Annual Christmas party and White Elephant sale

Synopsis: Please bring something to eat to share with your friends that you let Fred Coleman know of your plans. 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, November 7, 2013 Under Good (Health) and Welfare, he noted that **Ken Vasilik** had knee surgery and **Auldey Elder** has a birthday this month.

He reviewed our participation in the recent train shows at Farm City days and Autumn Rails. The LOST RR next scheduled showing is our train show February 27 set up date.

He also noted an interesting article in Railroad Model Craftsman about detailing and painting trucks for your model layout. Here is where to find it: (Bill Gill: Adding trucks to the layout. Model Railroad Craftsman, November 2013, pp. 52-57.) Look at Model Railroad Hobbyist monthly column of weathered models, they are very well done in both photography and modeling. No one brought up any other articles in model railroading magazines.

Joe Grubba, Factory Direct Trains owner, is having a sale this weekend (*if you are reading this now it is too late. ed*), if your not on his email list you might want to think about it. He has good sales on his website and in the store.

Raffle Tickets are on sale now, see **Fred Coleman** for your bunch. This is part of our fund raiser for us and it help keeps our dues low, so it behooves us to sell, sell, sell!

Clint Smoke reported that the Arboretum G-Scale Model Railroad Project is still ongoing, but slowed a bit by other work in the park. He also reported that the Apple Valley Model Railroad Club in the Historic Railroad Depot in Hendersonville will be open for visitors on Saturdays as usual with additional days on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving as well as the Friday after. The depot is open at 10:00 am and closes at 2: 00 pm on these days. Admission is free.

Fred spoke about the Craggy Mountain Railroad is operating excursions this coming weekend. (see *other editor's note.*)

Penn Bullock reported on the continuing relationship we have with the children at Eliada Home, an activity that is central to our club's existence. He seeks more who are willing to offer a little time (an afternoon a week) or who can help procure inexpensive N-scale rolling stock to support the project. Contact Penn at 253 – 9643 or [email](#).

The acting paymaster **Dave Anderson** noted that dues are due, most members are current on dues.

(Continued on page 3)



The clinic was an interesting Southern Railway training film about operating locomotives downhill on the Saluda Grade that was off [You Tube](#) website.

Our next meeting is on December 5 at 7 pm. This will be our annual Christmas Party and White Elephant Sale. Please contact Fred Coleman know of attendance and food . You can reach Fred by [email](#) or (828) 699-0983. Our January meeting will be on the 2nd.

LAND O'SKY, DIVISION 15 MEETINGS

Our division meeting holds meetings once a quarter. These events focus on the hobby of model railroading. At the most recent gathering there were several interesting presentations:

Dan Lang shared his experience in the building of a model of a tower. The prototype is located in up-state New York, just north of Albany. The tower served the yard at Mechanicville, NY. At one time, that yard was the third largest in the US, with over 1100 employees. Today that property is the site of a large intermodal yard jointly operated by Norfolk Southern and Pan Am Railways.



Dan's construction project involved the building of a quality craftsman kit. While it was a kit, there were many chal-

lenges from the foundation to the roof. Dan shared pictures of the step-by-step construction process .The finished model is shown here.

Gordon Fewster discussed several methods for organizing and inventorying one's hobby possessions. Next, he talked about how to dispose of these possessions. Given that your spouse is likely to outlive you, and that your children are not interested in your hobby, what is one to do to (1) realize some return on the investment you have made in the hobby, and (2) find a suitable home for your treasurers.

The key, as in all estate matters, is to plan ahead and be considerate of your family: They will have quite enough on their hands without having to clear out "that mess in the basement." Take steps to let folks know what you have and what to do with it.

Ben Bartlett shared several interesting videos from Woodland Scenics. These short presentations show how to make beautiful scenery with their products.

All three of these presentations were interesting and informative. Your presence/ participation is always welcome at these meetings. The next one will be on January 19 at the Public Library in Fletcher.



VETERANS

With Norfolk Southern’s active recruitment of people who have served in the armed forces and the growing number of employees with military backgrounds, it was only natural that a group of veterans would be formed for networking and support. The mission of VeteraNS is to educate, develop, and connect the NS community with the military past and present. The group works to create awareness of the accomplishments of NS veterans in the armed forces and in the workplace, and it demonstrates appreciation of all veterans, their dependents, and others affiliated with the military community.



The organization’s creed states: “Our success depends on fostering a culture that values the experience and knowledge of our military community, especially veterans. We strive for continuous improvement in our performance by offering sound business principles and a variety of activities that focus on internal and external networking.”

VeteraNS members support company efforts to retain military service members and offer encouragement, advice, and direction to military personnel at NS and their families before, during and after the transition to civilian work life. To learn more about the organization, visit the VeteraNS website.

FOR HISTORIC NS LOCOMOTIVE, IT’S A MIDNIGHT DEPARTURE BY AIR AND TRUCK

ATLANTA - What can shut down two lanes of Peachtree Street on a bustling Friday night in Midtown? It’s the Best Friend of Charleston, historic icon of Norfolk Southern Railway, hoisted high above the street as the locomotive departs the lobby of NS’ David R. Goode Building here for its new showcase at Charleston, S.C.





FOR HISTORIC NS LOCOMOTIVE, IT'S A MIDNIGHT DEPARTURE BY AIR AND TRUCK (CONT.)

The Best Friend, 1928 replica of the first locomotive built in America for regular service on a railroad, has resided in the lobby facing Atlanta's most famous street since 2007, on loan from the city of Charleston. NS traces its beginning to the Christmas Day 1830 inaugural run of the Best Friend on the company's earliest predecessor railroad company. Now, Charleston has renovated a building in the city's historic district to display the locomotive not too far from where the original first run occurred almost 183 years ago. Getting the Best Friend out of the NS building lobby in the wee hours of Saturday, Oct. 26, for its welcome back to Charleston will be no small feat. Glass plates measuring 14 feet



tall by eight feet wide will be removed to make a narrow gateway for the train consist, including the locomotive, tender and two passenger coaches. They will leave the building slowly and gingerly on a specially engineered turntable lubricated with liquid soap and powered by human muscle.

Once just outside the building, a crane will hoist them one at a time high into the air over a plaza and onto flatbed trucks awaiting on Peachtree Street for their delivery to Charleston. Rail fans will see irony in the Best Friend making its final journey by truck.

Transportation enthusiasts will view it as evidence of the close partnership between rail and truck typical of today's intermodal freight commerce.

The Best Friend replica did ride the rails for many years following its construction celebrating the 100th anniversary of the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company. Millions of people viewed it and thousands rode in its open coaches during short excursions in cities and towns throughout the railroad's operating territory. NS donated the train to Charleston in 1993.

For Norfolk Southern's 175th anniversary in 2005, the Best Friend made notable appearances at the New York Stock Exchange and just outside the company's headquarters building at Norfolk.

The Best Friend is a miniature of modern motive power. Today's locomotives are 50 times heavier, more than five times longer, and more than 600 times more powerful than the Best Friend and are the most environmentally responsible mode of freight transportation.



HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON.



CLUB CALENDAR

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

December 7th **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

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

December 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

December 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

January 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

January 2nd 7:00 PM **Club Meeting**
Eliada Admin Building

January 8th **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

January 15th **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

January 19th 9:00 AM **Meeting** Land O'Sky Division
Fletcher Library

January 22th **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

January 29th **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

February 5th **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

February 6th 7:00 PM **Club Picnic**
Eliada Admin Building

February 12th **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 fel-



EVENTS FOR MODELERS:

ANNUAL AMROC CHRISTMAS SHOW:

Saturday, December 7, 2013 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Arsenal Hill facility Arsenal Hill, Columbia, SC

Free admission, no vendors, nothing to buy!

Two floors of layouts and a yard full of trains - 5 layouts, about 20 trains!

MODEL TRAIN SHOW

JANUARY 25, 2014 From 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

at the SC STATE FAIRGROUNDS, COLUMBIA, SC

Presented by KNIGHT SHOWS & EVENTS in the Rosewoods Ballroom & Salon, 1200 Rosewood Drive - Main Gate, Take Bluff Road Exit 5 off I-77 Columbia, SC 29201

Admission: Adults \$6.00, \$5.00 with coupon from our [website](#) or at the door.

Children 12 & under or Girl & Boy Scouts in uniform free

ASHEVILLE TRAIN SHOW

February 28 and March 1st at the WNC AG Center, Fletcher, NC

Friday February 28 from Noon until 7 PM

Saturday March 1st from 9 AM to 5 PM

Admission \$5, Children under 12 free, See [our website](#) for details.



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.