

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR PIEDMONT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE PIEDMONT DIVISION**

I hope all of you and your families are safe from this COVID-19 virus. Our hobby is meant to be a lot of fun, so we do not want to risk people's health or disobey any mandates set forth by our governments.

We will **not** meet on April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12 or June 9<sup>th</sup>. Our special speaker Jim Gore, MMR, we had planned to present for April, will be rescheduled for another time. Jim's presentation deserves to be seen in person and enjoyed when times will be better.

So, what we are planning is for the Piedmont Division to have a **Virtual Clinic April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**. Our first clinician will be Perry Lamb presenting an all NEW CLINIC on ***DETAILING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES***. I would like to invite everyone to connect and join in from wherever you may be around the world.

We will open a test run opportunity on **Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup> between 7-8pm** if you want to make sure your connections for WebEx works.

There will be an instruction sheet to follow on downloading and installing WebEx onto your PC. Please see the other document for all the instructions. This will need to be done prior to our 7pm meeting April 14<sup>th</sup>. Please do not remove WebEx because we plan to have future clinics via this same technology format. We will have a short general meeting first then proceed to the clinic starting at 7pm EDT. Please send any announcements to Sally Bando, Director of Operations.

Our April 26<sup>th</sup> Layout Open House scheduled will **not** be open. It will be available to view as a video from Gary Fish's Bigfish & Chattahoochee RR on Facebook at the Piedmont Division, NMRA page.

This will be available to members and any guest. This past weekend, as a quick change of gears, we conducted a Facebook Live presentation from 2 railroads and videos from 1 other railroad in lieu of the open house. We had close to 3000 viewers see the railroads. This is the safe and healthy way during these times to still enjoy model railroading in our organization.

Please watch the website, Facebook and an E-Blast that will be coming out soon with information that will help you keep up to date with the changing

events and schedules. Your BOD and Committee Chairs will be meeting on-line at 6 pm prior to 7pm meeting to conduct Piedmont Division business.

Reminder, we will **not** be meeting in May, so there will not be the Model and Photo Contest that was to be held. Currently we still plan to hold the Piedmont Division contest in the fall.

We have a great team of volunteers that have come together to keep things rolling. We need some fun, and model railroading has been a great hobby for folks during the past couple of weeks. I am really looking forward to several Golden Spikes to be awarded to members who have built their railroads during these times. I am also excited to see some fantastic new models and projects that are being completed while schedules have been disrupted from the routine. Don't forget you can post your photos and videos on our Facebook page to share.

I am looking forward to everyone joining in on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and until we meet again, stay safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

Walt Liles

Superintendent

Piedmont Division, NMRA