

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

**PIEDMONT
DIVISION**



TIMETABLE No.



Effective at 12:01 AM, E. D. T.
TUESDAY, July 9, 2013

**FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS**

C. CRAWFORD..... Superintendent
H. G. GOODWIN..... Operations
I. D. JACKSON..... Finance
C. G. WHITE Administration
P. RANKIN..... Personnel



DIVISION SUPERINDENDANT

Charlie At the Throttle

Charlie Crawford, MMR

Peachtree Express is now Boarding!

The 2013 NMRA National Convention is nearly upon us. Your committee, ably led by Convention Chair Bob McIntyre and aided by Assistant Chairs David Gelmini and Perry Lamb, has been working diligently to make this a great convention. Many of the tours – prototype, layout and general interest—have spaces available as of this printing. Check out our web-site and see if any of the open tours interest you. We also can use some volunteer help. If you haven't volunteered already and can spare a couple of hours let us know. With an event this large, we certainly need all the help we can find.

Many of us here in the Atlanta area (and some and Chattanooga) are working hard to get layouts ready, new modules built and those contest models done. It always amazes me how a show or tour encourages modelers to add to or improve their layout. I too, have been working on a couple of new modules for the train show. Hopefully they'll be done by the show. This will be my fourth National Convention, and I really appreciate it being so close to home.

I am also happy to note that our own Joe Nichols, Jr. has completed the requirements for Master Model Railroader. He will be our divisions 5th in the last year and a half. Joe is the ninth MMR (including the late Mike Callahan) from the Piedmont

Division. Several members are only one certificate away from earning their MMR's. I urge them to get cracking and certainly encourage everyone to take part in this wonderful program of the NMRA.

While the convention is taking up a lot of our attention and effort, we are also planning to participate at the *Railroad Rendezvous* event at the Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History in Kennesaw. We will be exhibiting our children's O scale layout on Saturday July 27. If you can possibly help it would be greatly appreciated.



We are already well into planning for the 10th Anniversary Piedmont Pilgrimage. It's hard to believe ten years have gone by. It seems like only yesterday that Bob McIntyre proposed the event. In the ten years we've gone from 12 layouts to over 80. It is a terrific outreach to new modelers, families and friends.

You, the membership passed the proposed by-law changes by wide margins in April. There will be many open spots open for next year's administration. Please consider running for a spot. We need new people and ideas on the Board and in the officer positions.

If you haven't done so yet, register for the National Convention here at the Cobb Galleria in July. We've got a great week planned. 🚂

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
TIMETABLE**

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 7

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Want to stay on top of what's happening around the Division? Subscribe to the Piedmont Division's e-Timetable at:
<http://piedmont-div-timetable.blogspot.com/>

You can subscribe to the feed and get all the news before it's news!



Yes, there is life after the Convention

It may seem that all everyone is talking about is the upcoming NMRA National Convention, and that is true. But in the background plans are in effect for really cool stuff in the Division for the rest of the year. Of course, there's the Tenth Annual Piedmont Pilgrimage, but don't miss out of these other events in and around the Division:

Railroad Rendezvous: They've shortened the name to "The Southern Museum" but we all know it as the home of the famous Locomotive "General". On July 27th, the museum is having it's inaugural "Railroad Rendezvous", and the Division's O-scale interactive train layout will be there. **Walt Liles** is looking for volunteers to assist with this activity, so contact him if you can help.

The 45th Atlanta Model Train and Railroadiana show: will be held Saturday, August 10, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross. The Division will have its booth at this shop, and **Paul Rankin** is looking for volunteers!



Mississippi Mini-Meet: In conjunction with the SER fall board meeting, the Magnolia Division will hold a "mini meet" on September 21st in Philadelphia, Miss. (Sorry, Mini-me will **NOT** be there, but **Walt Liles** will be, to present a clinic.)

The Fall Model & Photo Contest: This will be held during the regular Division meeting on October 8th. The theme for it will be "any farm building" (but no privies—that's been done!). Of course you can bring any model or photograph you'd like to enter, even if it doesn't follow the theme.

The Great Train Show: While this is not a Division activity, you're likely as not to run into many of your model railroading friends and score some good deals as well at this annual show held on October 27-28 at the North Atlanta Trade Center in Norcross.

The Pilgrimage: Beginning on October 3rd, the Piedmont Division celebrates National Model Railroad Month with public tours of North Georgia's great model railroads. Go to <http://piedmont-div.org/pilgrimage/> on the web for the latest information!



Join us on Facebook and learn what's new before it's new!



RIP: Bob Chambers

Robert J. "Bob" Chambers, 64, of Powder Springs, Ga. passed away on April 26, 2013 from complications of a stroke caused by reaction to a prescription medication.

Bob had been a member of the NMRA since 1982.

Bob graduated from high school in West Orange, NJ prior to graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, CO with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1970. After pilot training, he served in flying

squadrons in Germany for four years before attending the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, graduating with a Master's degree in aeronautical engineering in 1977.

Married to the former Toni Tononi of Fairborn, OH since 1978, Bob and Toni moved and lived across the U.S. with his flying and engineering assignments in California, North Carolina, Illinois, and Florida.

Serving as an aircraft commander of AC130 gunships before retiring from the Air Force in 1990, Chambers became a flight test manager with Arinc Research, which moved him and his wife to Warner Robins, GA for 9 years and finally to the Atlanta area in 2001.

Retiring from Arinc in 2009, he consulted on engineering projects until his wife retired from teaching in 2011. In between following his hobbies of aviation, computers, photography, science-fiction, and movie-going, model railroading, target shooting, avid reading, Corvettes, and motorcycles, Bob and his wife also made sure to enjoy many Stateside and overseas trips.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Toni; sister-in-law Candy Prys-taloski of Beavercreek, OH; brother Thomas Chambers of Upland, CA; four nieces, two great nieces, and many loving and supportive friends.

If anyone has photos of Bob's model trains that they'd like to share in the December issue of the Timetable, please forward them to the editor at timetable@pedmont-div.org. Thank you.

Update your Address or Email On-Line

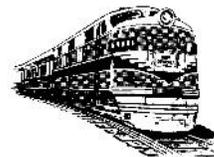
By Rick Coble
SER Secretary

There is a new service on the NMRA website that enables you to update your contact information directly to NMRA HQ in Chattanooga. The service is quick, easy to use, and requires only a few steps:

1. From the [NMRA home page](#), click the "Members Only" link
2. On the Members Only page, click on the "Member Update Form"
3. Complete the form and click on "Submit"

It's that simple! The NMRA office staff will update your membership information and send it to your region's registrar.

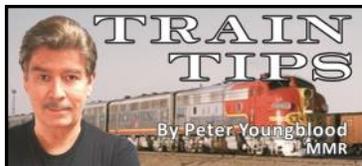
Questions for the office staff? They can be contacted at (423) 892-2846 or nmrahq@aol.com



PEACHTREE EXPRESS 2013

is *YOUR* Convention, Piedmonters!

SEE YOU THERE!



Looking at Track

Take the time to go out and look at real railroad track and you'll discover it doesn't all look the same. Take the time to model those differences on your layout and your track will become much more realistic.

MAINLINE TRACK:

Mainline roadbed is usually raised a foot or two above the surrounding right-of-way terrain in a variety of gradient profiles. Generally the ballast is clean and its crown (the highest point) is close to the top of the center of the ties. Duplicating this exact profile in model form is both difficult and unnecessary, but laying the track on roadbed material with beveled edges raises it acceptably and allows ballast material to be glued between the ties and to the beveled shoulders either side of the track. Closely spaced side-by-side parallel mainline tracks can have the ballast line spread level across from one track to the other and be prototypical.

SIDING OR PASSING TRACK:

Where a single mainline track serves traffic from both directions, the siding or passing track is usually somewhat lower. The ballast line isn't quite as straight or well-maintained. The ballast color can be somewhat darker (dirtier), the

beveled shoulders shallower, and if the track is used infrequently, weeds and grass can grow up through it. When modeled, gradually blend the differently colored ballasts where the siding track closes with the mainline track.

INDUSTRIAL AND SPUR TRACKS:

Usually set below the mainline like siding tracks, industrial and spur tracks also use a slight upward grade to rejoin the higher mainline track. Lacking a well-defined profile, the ties are often level with the sur-



rounding terrain and ballast is sparse and barely visible if soil, weeds and grass proliferate. As a generality, maintaining industrial and spur tracks is a railroad's economic low priority, the exception perhaps the construction of new track to serve an important customer's new industry. As modelers we can prototypically reflect in miniature the product manufactured by or delivered to a specific industry particularly if it involves spillage onto tracks (i.e. grain, kaolin, coal, oil, etc.). "Weather" your industrial or spur tracks accordingly.

YARD TRACKS

Again, yard tracks are typically set lower than the mainline on right-of-way as flat as the surrounding terrain often with little if any sustainable drainage. New tracks may be ballasted, older tracks less so and frequently with cinders from steam locomotives or the cheapest gravel from the closest supplier. Yard tracks "ballast" will be darker and dirtier than other tracks. Oily soil in places can randomly bury the tops of ties and miniature trash (bits of paper) dropped here and there (don't overdo it) along with tie plates and joint bars scattered about are appropriate, realistic details.

TURNOUTS

Turnouts afford us as modelers an excellent extra detailing opportunity. Take a close look at the prototype. There you'll find reinforcing rail braces outside of stock rails where point rails close against them. Frogs and frog wing rails have several joint bars tying the rail components together.

Header ties (the pair of long ones either side of the throw bar) at their extremities are the attach points for a variety of switch stands or electrical switch motors. Additional parallel ties provide mounting bases for electrical switch locks and other electrical relay appliances. All of these items are available as commercial detail parts.

Next time:

When you're out rail fanning or just train watching, bring your camera and take photos of trains and tracks. You'll be amazed by how much you can realistically model that you didn't notice before! 📷



HOBBY SHOPS IN THE DIVISION

ITALICS INDICATES A NMRA MEMBER SHOP

American Hobby Supply

349 North Cobb Parkway
Marietta, GA 30062
678-383-6179

B & B Sales

2332 Henry Clower Blvd
Snellville, GA 30078
770-972-2328

Blue Ox Trains

425 Market Place
Roswell, GA 30075
404-312-6467

Buford Junction

359 W Shadburn Ave
Buford, GA 30518
678-772-7949

Free Time Hobbies

4167 East First Street
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-946-1120

HobbyTown - Cumming

911 Market Place Blvd., Suite 11
Cumming, GA 30041
770-651-8170

HobbyTown - Duluth

3360 Satellite Blvd
Duluth, GA 30096
770-418-0850

HobbyTown - Kennesaw

800 Earnest Barrett Parkway NM
Kennesaw, GA 30044
770-426-8800

Legacy Station

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy
Lilburn, GA 30047
Toll Free 800-964-8724
Phone 770-339-7780

Riverdale Station

6632 Hwy. 85 Riverdale Plaza
Riverdale, GA 30274
Phone 770-991-6085

Trainmaster Models

601 East Main Street
Buford, GA 30518
678-546-3600

ELSEWHERE IN GEORGIA

Bull Street Station

307 Kentucky Ave
Savannah, GA
Toll Free 800-611-8521
Phone 912-236-4344

The DON'T List

One way to avoid mistakes is learn from others. Sadly, I usually make my own mistakes to learn from. So here's a list that may help...or not....

Don't short-circuit track feeders

Okay, this one is really dumb. I stripped both ends of track feeder pairs and slipped them together, through centered holes in the road-bed. Doing this industrial style, I slipped through 10 or so pairs in various locations, with the intention of coming back and connecting them all underneath later. I soldered the feeders to the track, and ran out of time to connect the other end. The wire ends underneath which were sort of twisted to make the feed-through easy, shorted.

The solution: Always finish an installation before you get distracted by some other project.

Don't use wire that's too small

The power supply for some of my digital electronics was initially a long way (20 feet) from a voltage sensitive device. Using #20 wires for temporary hookup was not a good idea, since the voltage read at 4.5v after all was connected and the loads were energized.

The solution: Besides using larger wire – read the voltage at any sensitive components to confirm that all the juice is getting there. (I use a #14 wire for the feeder now).

Continued next page

The DON'T List

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Don't skimp on the Track Feeders

I had trouble with an engine 'cutting out' in a section of track that was temporarily wired. The feeder for that section was 8' from the trouble spot – going through several rail joiners. The voltage drop was just enough to slow things down, and with some decoders, cause them to pause just a bit.

The solution: Use LOTS of feeders!

Don't use the wrong tools I used to employ a pair of pliers to strip the insulation from the end of small wires. The blade of the pliers caused a small nick in the conductor, causing it to eventually flex and break off.

The solution: Use real wire strippers.

Don't keep plowing ahead when you need to take a long look On several occasions I have installed and documented certain electronics, only to find things didn't work quite right. I made minor changes to the documentation and continued.

The solution: Stop and really look at what is there and fully correct the documentation. Usually a small error means something was not recorded correctly, and that will lead to other things being wrong too, wasting lots of time.

Don't leave the soldering iron on the floor and step on it This, by the way, only happens with really good, expensive regulated soldering irons and stations, not with cheap ones.

Continued on page 8

Spring Model Contest

Photos by Greg Williams

1st Place, Structures Best in Show

Greg Williams of Kennesaw, Ga. built this G-scale trestle completely from scratch. He also earned a Merit Award for his work.



2nd Place, Structures

Bill Raymond, who lives and models in Jasper, Ga., built this beautiful replica of the Southern Railway depot in Hendersonville, NC in N Scale. His work also earned him a Merit Award.



1st Place, Freight Cars

This stunning HO-Scale Pennsy Cabin Car (that's Yankee for caboose) is a Bowser kit that Bob McIntyre built and then super-detailed with Cal-Scale and other parts. It also earned a Merit Award.

Be sure to Enter in the Fall Model & Photo Contest in October! You can't win if you don't play!

The DON'T List

Continued from page 7

The Solution: Either use cheap soldering irons (which I do not recommend you do), or—note to self—keep them OFF THE FLOOR.

Don't rush and not make a fragile connection good: I have a connector that interfaces my computer with the layout. If it doesn't work, all falls. The connector wires, although with strain reliefs, have broken due to my being careless with other work in the area. The wires feeding the connector are fragile, and don't solder as well as I would like.

The Solution: Build your connectors like the Army builds tanks.

Don't keep the underside of the layout neat and tidy: One of my infrared detectors started to indicate occupancy on an empty, hidden section of track. Granted, it's not impossible for the parts on that circuit to fail, but highly unlikely. After looking carefully, and swapping some leads to test, I found a small piece of copper wire bridging 2 of the pins on the integrated circuit that turns 'on and off' the output.

The Solution: Put covers over your circuits... or clean up that mess under the benchwork... or...

I'm pretty sure that after the experience of getting my layout ready the Peachtree Express Convention OP-SIG and tours, I'll come up with a few more Don'ts for you!

And if you have any you want to share with me, just let me know! You can reach me at tgordon@mindspring.com. 

Airbrushing 101

With news that Testor's parent company is discontinuing production of Floquil™ oil-based and Polly Scale™ water-based paints, we are seeing a surge in questions from people wanting to use the paints they've already bought. While some people can apply paints with a brush and get acceptable results, they are the exceptions that prove the rule. To get a nice finish that will stand up next to factory paint jobs, you will want to use an airbrush.

The first thing to remember is a clean airbrush is your friend. A dirty one will teach you new words.

There are three basic types of airbrushes: external mix, single-action internal mix, and double-action internal

mix. External mixes and single-actions have a simple trigger for air flow and manually-adjustable needles to regulate paint flow. With a double-action you regulate both the air flow and the paint flow with the trigger, by pushing down for air and pulling back for paint. Double-actions will give you finer control of the paint flow and pattern but are harder to keep clean and cost less. External mixes work just fine for scenery and weathering, and cost less than internal mixes, and are easier to clean.

You don't *need* a compressor to airbrush, but it will quickly pay for itself over the price of those little cans of compressed air. A quieter



option is a tank of CO2 or nitrogen, but be very careful handling a high-pressure tank because a damaged valve turns it into a missile.

Some paints can be shot straight from the bottle, while some need thinner added. Most ModelFlex™ and Polly Scale colors can be shot straight, although the lighter colors may need 10-20% distilled water or airbrushing medium, while Floquil needs 10-20% thinner and Scalecoat One and Two 20-33% thinner. For



shooting oil-based paints, use the paint makers' thinners for airbrushing and cheaper lacquer thinner or acetone for cleaning

the airbrush.

As a rule dark colors can be shot over any surface without a primer, while medium colors will look better if shot over a light primer like gray or silver, and light colors will not cover at all without a primer. Don't even waste your time trying. On most multi-color paint jobs, try to paint the lighter colors first, then progress to darker colors. There will be schemes where that is not practical, so re-prime the area that will be under the lighter colors after you mask.

3M Painters Tape (the blue stuff) and Drafting Tape (hard to find in this age of CAD) are vastly preferred for masking over regular masking

Continued next page

Airbrushing 101

Continued from previous page

tape, because their adhesive is less likely to pull paint of the model. Do not use Scotch Tape™ or similar clear tapes, as they will leave a residue on the paint surface. Tamiya makes masking tapes in several widths that look more like pinstripping tape, which are handy for masking narrow stripes.

Decals stick better to a glossy surface like ModelFlex or Scalecoat, but a light coat of gloss is easy to spray over Polly Scale or Floquil. MicroSet (blue label) is used to break the surface tension of water so the decal can lay flat on the surface, while decal solvents like Micro-Sol (red label), Solvaset, Champ DecalSet, etc, are carefully applied after the decal is in position. They soften the decal quickly, so you will not have much time to reposition it if it moves. Once dry, inspect for air bubbles trapped under the decal; carefully slice any bubbles with a fresh knife and reapply solvent. Three treatments is average. Seal the finished decals with a clear coat to protect them. A flat finish will usually hide the decal film. If you don't apply a clear coat the decals will eventually discolor and peel off the surface. 🛠️



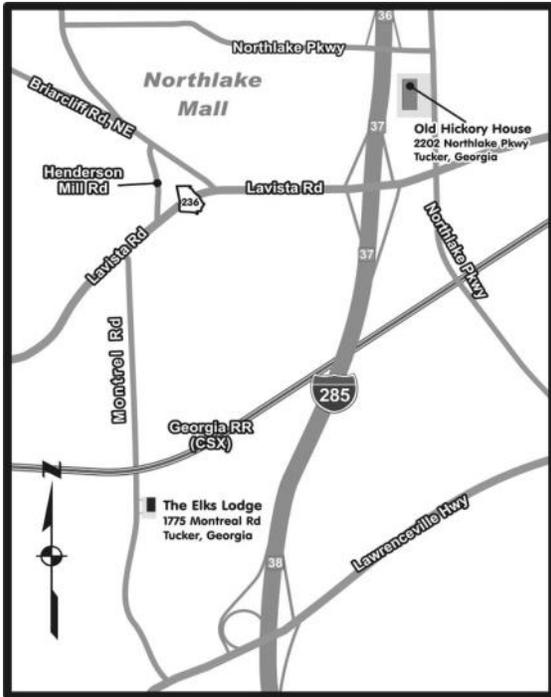
Elvis says...
"GET ON BOARD FOR THE COMBINED SER AND MID-CONTINENT REGIONAL CONVENTION IN MEMPHIS ON JUNE 13-15, 2014."

LOOK FOR THE CONVENTION WEBSITE ON THE MEMPHIS RAILROAD AND TROLLEY MUSEUM WEBSITE AT WWW.MRTM.ORG



MEETING INFORMATION

The Piedmont Division meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Elks Lodge located at 1775 Montreal Rd. in Tucker, Georgia, and is open to everyone.



THE PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE

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Ol' Pete keeps getting asked by the young'uns how they can tell if they really are train nuts, or just plain nutty. Often it's family members, especially spouses, what notice these traits long before the person who is...well, infected, realizes it's true. So, with a tip of the cap to Jeff Foxworthy, here are some examples for your consideration...

If you put your kids toy on your bench to fix it and you end up taking parts off it to use for a load or something to put along side a building or a junk yard on your layout...you might be a train nut.

If you go into a fast food place and get the kids meal because you get a wind-up toy that has gears that you can use for parts on a flat car... you might be a train nut.

If you trim a bush in the back yard when your wife is away so that you can get logs for your model saw mill...you might be a train nut.

If you get into planting flowers and bushes just so you can pull them up after a hard frost to use the roots as trees for a hill side on your model railroad ...you might be a train nut.

If you tell your wife that all the rocks and dirt in the back of the car is weight for the winter, when it really is for your model train layout...you might be a train nut.

If you can hear a train whistle two miles away but you can't hear your wife call you from the other room...yeah, you probably are a train nut.

Hope these insights help you find your true self, and get comfortable with being a real train nut! 🚂



PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
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PIEDMONT DIVISION

NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

3RD QUARTER 2013 SCHEDULE

Tues, July 9 7 pm - 9:30 pm	<u>Piedmont Division Meeting</u> <i>Clinic:</i> All Aboard the <i>Peachtree Express!</i> : Everything You'll want (and need) to Know <i>Theme:</i> Convention & Division Cars	Elks Lodge 1775 Montreal Rd Tucker, GA
Sun, July 14 thru Sat, July 20	Peachtree Express / NMRA 2013 National Convention http://www.nmra2013.org	Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Cobb Galleria Convention Ctr
Fri, July 19 thru Sun, July 21	National Train Show http://nmra2013.org/national-train-show	Cobb Galleria Ctr 2 Galleria Pkwy SE Atlanta, GA 30339
Sat, July 27	Railroad Rendezvous <i>A fun event for the whole family</i>	The Southern Museum Kennesaw, GA
Sat, August 10	45th Annual Model Train and Railroadiana Show	N. Atlanta Trade Ctr Norcross, GA
Tues, August 13 7 pm - 9:30 pm	<u>Piedmont Division Meeting</u> <i>Clinic:</i> Writing for the Newsletter and other publications, by Doug Alexander <i>Theme:</i> Railway Post Office service	Elks Lodge 1775 Montreal Rd Tucker, GA
Tues, Sept 10 7 pm - 9:30 pm	<u>Piedmont Division Meeting</u> <i>Clinic:</i> Using smartphones/pads for your model railroad by David Crabtree <i>Theme:</i> High-Tech Trains	Elks Lodge 1775 Montreal Rd Tucker, GA
Tues, Oct 8 7 pm - 9:30 pm	<u>Piedmont Division Meeting</u> MODEL & PHOTO CONTEST: Farm Buildings <i>Clinic:</i> To be Announced <i>Theme:</i> Harvest railroading	Elks Lodge 1775 Montreal Rd Tucker, GA
Oct 27-28	The Great Train Show	N. Atlanta Trade Ctr Norcross, GA
Oct-Nov	The Piedmont Pilgrimage (see web page for information)	All Over

Keep up with the latest events by subscribing to the *Piedmont Division e-Timetable* at
<http://piedmont-div-timetable.blogspot.com/>