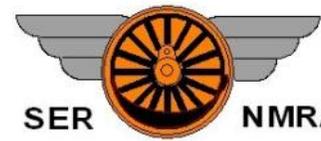


PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE

October - December 2011

PIEDMONT DIVISION



www.piedmont-div.org

Published for Members & Friends of the Piedmont Division

Features



2011 Piedmont Pilgrimage Page 9

2012 Gatlinburg Convention	2
More Than a Model Contest	4
PTE 2013 Off and Running	5
Annual Election of Officers	6
Important New Flash	7
AP TRAIN'inCAMP Day	7
Beginning Model Railroading	8
Division Meeting Happenings	8
2011 Piedmont Pilgrimage	9
Train Tips	10
NMRA InfoNet News	10
Train Tips	10
Volunteers Needed for 2012	11

In Every Issue

Welcome New Members	2
Membership Information	2
A Blast from the Horn	3
Ravings from the D.O.	3
The Membership Train	6
SER Cars Going Fast!	6
Division Directory	11



Important News Flash!

Piedmont Division in Marietta?

Page 7

DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Charlie Crawford - Director of Operations

Tuesday October 11, 7:00-9:30 PM, Piedmont Division Meeting

AP Model and Photo Contest: Bring your entries for judging

See Page 4 for more information

Clinic: Norm Wizner presents North Georgia Live Steamers, their History and new facility. Norm is president of this local live steam group now laying rails in a local park.

Theme of the Month: Steam Driven, locomotives, rotary snow plows, cars, Stanley Steamers or even steam donkeys.

Show and Tell: Books, magazines photos or anything of interest to the group.

Home Layout Open Houses

See the many layouts on the **Piedmont Pilgrimage**.

Ninth Annual Piedmont Pilgrimage

Bigger and Better than ever! Well over 80 home and club layouts on tour beginning October 15th and running through the month of November! See page 9 for more information about the Piedmont Pilgrimage and visit the website for the schedule and directions.

www.PiedmontPilgrimage.com



Basic Scenery, Part 1

Members-Only Clinic

October 29, 2011

Visit the division website or E-mail training@piedmont-div.org for additional information

Tuesday Nov 8, 7:00-9:30 PM, Piedmont Division Meeting

Election of Officers and Directors

See page 6 for the slate of candidates

Clinic: Ovidiu Trifanescu presents **Tuning up your model railroad Rolling Stock for Operation.**

Theme of the Month: Odd Rolling Stock: We've all got 'em. Transformer cars, pickle cars etc.

Show and Tell: Books, magazines photos or anything of interest to the group.

Home Layout Open Houses

See the many layouts on the **Piedmont Pilgrimage**.

Basic Scenery, Part 2

Members-Only Clinic, October 29, 2011

Visit the division website or E-mail training@piedmont-div.org for additional information

Tuesday Dec 13, 6:30 – 9:30 PM, Piedmont Division Meeting

Holiday Party

The December meeting will be preceded by lots of food/goodies The festivities will start at **6:30 PM**
Come hungry!



Clinic: Paul Boehlert presents **Model Railroading's Past.**

Theme of the Month: Childhood Christmas Trains. If you still have 'em we'd like to see 'em.

Show and Tell: Books, magazines photos or anything of interest to the group.

Sunday December 18, 1 – 4 PM Home Layout Open House

Mike & Kathy Devaney's C & O Railroad (N). Our holiday favorite; mushroom style with more yards, mainline run and just about everything else you can imagine.

Mike & Kathy Devaney, 117 Sunningdale Dr, Winder, GA 30680 (770) 868-8823



TRACKS TO THE SMOKIES

2012 Gatlinburg Convention

This convention will be the first SER's convention in the heart of both Tennessee's and the National Park Service's premier visitor's area. Located in the heart of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, the convention site is right at the north entrance to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Within an hours drive is Pigeon Forge and Dollywood, Townsend, Knoxville, Cherokee and of course all of the Smoky Mountain National Park.

You will have ample time before, after and during the convention for you to enjoy Gatlinburg's shops, arts and crafts driving tour, outstanding restaurants or just relax. Plan to attend now and you will see why we say - "Arrive Early - Stay Late". Enjoy your journey through our site and we will see you at the convention.

ser-nmra.org/convention/2012-gatlinburg-convention

Membership Information

If you would like to become a member of the Piedmont Division, please join us at our next meeting or contact:

Paul Rankin
 Piedmont Division Director of Personnel
 4762 Green Street
 Duluth, GA 30096

Paul can also be reached at 770-849-9659 or via email at membership@piedmont-div.org

A membership application is available on our web site:

www.piedmont-div.org

Monthly Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

**THE ELKS LODGE
 1775 MONTREAL ROAD
 TUCKER, GA**

See you at the next meeting!

Welcome New Members!

Help Welcome the following members to the Piedmont Division:

Name	City
William Amick	Marietta, GA
Michael Hahn	Athens, GA
Michael Davis	Stone Mountain, GA
Barry Copeland	McDonough, GA
Ron Strickland	McDonough, GA
Ken Raymond	Hoschton, GA
Thomas Silva	Douglasville, GA
Franklin Goodwin	Cartersville, GA
Sherwin Finch	Sugar Hill, GA
Robert Wilfert	Kennesaw, GA
Svein Oie	Athens, GA
Ronald Wagner	Woodstock, GA
Michael Parker	Dallas, GA
Joe Lively III	Cleveland, GA
Peggy Lively	Cleveland, GA
Thurstine Williams	Marietta, GA



The **National Model Railroad Association** is the largest organization devoted to the development, promotion, and enjoyment of the hobby of model railroading.

The NMRA was founded in 1935 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in order to provide a service to the hobby of model railroading!

The SER provides services to the members of the NMRA resident in our Region and the 15 Divisions which operate in our Region.



Don't miss the next edition of the SouthEmeR, the official publication of the SER!





A Blast From the Horn

Division Superintendent Howard Goodwin

This will be the last Blast from me as your Superintendent. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve you the membership for what will have been four years (and very quick ones to be sure). I can't begin to tell you how many folks have contributed to the success of what we have accomplished together. To each and every one of you, my undying thanks and gratitude.

As we move forward into a new Administration, I would hope that you would give my successor the same kind of assistance and support you have shown me. I would like to wish Charlie well and God-speed in his new position and pledge my support to him and the Administration as well as my continued dedication to the Division and its members.

As we move into the last quarter, many things are going on, least of which is our Annual Piedmont Pilgrimage. Its growth and popularity have been truly amazing. It is by far our biggest outreach program. Next is the expansion of our Boy Scout program, now with not two, but four sessions being held between Duluth and Kennesaw. We have doubled our capability in one years time thanks in no small part to Bill Ello who put the Kennesaw program together. As a result, our association with the Kennesaw Museum has been growing substantially as we become an even bigger part of their program.

The 2013 Peachtree Express NMRA National Convention is rapidly approaching and we are ramping up our activity as a result. Bob McIntyre is leading the charge as our Convention Chair, with excellent seconds in Perry Lamb and David Gelmini. Those Gelmini's are like roaches, you see one and there is a half dozen more in the background! That is one tight family and they are very actively involved in our convention program. I can't say enough about how much they are doing for us.

There will be many opportunities for you to help with the convention as it draws nearer. We will need a very solid volunteer corps to make it run smooth during that very busy week. Any who are interested in helping out please contact any of the key staff. We will need a good deal of assistance next year in Grand Rapids, so if you are planning on attending that convention, please let us know if you can volunteer some time to work the booth and help sell registrations. It will be our last big

push before our convention and because we are on the "right coast" next year instead of the "left coast" this year, our chances of getting more interested folks in attending are a good deal better. Word on the street is that ours will be the convention to not miss. Of course we all know that!

There will be a train show in Norcross, the Great Train Expo, a weekend event of November 5th, where we will have our booth and information and registrations for our convention. If you have a couple of hours to give, drop by and help us sign up NMRA members and convention registrants. Granted it is smack dab in the middle of the Pilgrimage, but we can use all the help we can get. Believe it or not you CAN make a difference.

As you are reading this, there may have been a decision made to have alternating monthly meetings between Marietta and Tucker. If it comes to pass, I would hope that those of you who are currently residing on the eastern side of the city will still come to the meetings in the new location. I realize that there will be some imposition, but at the same time realize that many have been making that same sacrifice for well over a decade.

I have received an outpouring of support from the folks on the west side who are looking forward to being able to participate in the Divisions monthly meetings.

I can only say that the desire here is to make our activities more available from a good portion of our membership who have not been able to do so in the past. I have already seen and used the new location and can tell you that it is first rate. I look forward to seeing you there should the decision be positive. We will continue to look for a location that is central to all of our folks but at this point it is easier said than done. We have before us a wonderful opportunity to get even more of our membership involved in our activities and enjoy what we already have, the best Division in the country.

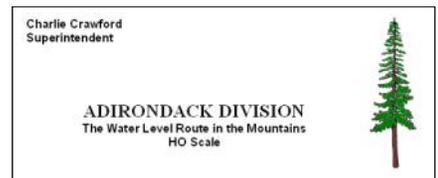
Thank you again for your support. I look forward to continuing service to the Division as your Director of Operations as long as Mickey or Donald aren't write in candidates.

Howard



Ravings from the D.O.

By Charlie Crawford, Director of Operations



When elected to the position of Director of Operations, I said this was a job I couldn't do alone. Well, I can't really believe four years have passed. I do want to thank all those who helped in so many ways. My thanks to those who presented clinics, sometimes on topics I requested and sometimes on short notice. My thanks also, to all those who opened their layouts to our members as a part of our monthly layout tour program.

I have always felt that our success as a division is based on the many members who contribute their effort and time to the divisions programs. As the division grows its membership, we have more members who contribute to our programs. These programs in turn help recruit more members to our division.

This cycle of growing our programs and membership has made the Piedmont Division one of the largest and most successful divisions in the entire NMRA. Our one lack, I felt was the number of Master

Model Railroaders for a division of our size. As we have a couple of MMRs in process now and several more members very close to earning their 7th certificates, I'm confident we are well on the way to taking care of that short-coming.

I urge all who haven't earned an AP certificate to at least see if they have enough service points for a Volunteer Certificate. For our many members who have earned a Volunteer certificate, I'd say see what certificate you can earn next. Many do not involve judging, just completing a list of requirements in a specific area. So, if you have that Volunteer certificate see what interests you and get a second one.

Finally, there are several members who have earned 3 or 4 certificates, but haven't earned any in several years. Try and get "back on track" and get that next AP certificate. You can do it. See you at the meetings this quarter.

More than a Model Contest

Bob McIntyre

Piedmont Division Achievement Program Chairman

Twice a year in March and October the Piedmont Division hold Model Contests. It is open to any Piedmont member or guest who has a model and wants to have it entered. We want everyone to know that it is not a scratchbuilt model contest but a model contest. You can enter scratchbuilt models but also partially scratchbuilt and kits. What we really want to see is your work. If you do not want to have your model judged you can place it in the display only category. This way members can enjoy your work and get inspiration.

If you decide to have your model judged here is the process. You will need to complete the judges score sheet. This is available on-line on the NMRA website. Go to the Achievement Program tab on the left. Once you click on it go to the forms section and it will be on the bottom. The new form will allow you to type in your information under each category. If you do not have enough room you can attach an addendum sheet. You will also need to fill out the Contest Entry form. It is also available on the NMRA website under the Achievement Program tab and then go to forms. Once this form is filled out you will be assigned a number at the contest. Your name is not on any of the contest forms.

The goal of most modelers is to earn a Merit Award. A Merit Award model will earn at least 87.5 points out of 125. The points are awarded based on the sections on the Judges Score sheet. They are the following: Construction 40 points, Detail 20 points, Conformity 25 points, Finish and Lettering 25 points, Scratchbuilt 15 points. As you can see the Construction section contains the most points. Generally this will make or break your chance at a Merit Award. You will need to spend the most time here detailing all aspects of your model's construction in the write up. Do not leave anything out. If you follow these guidelines you will score well in this section. Another important section is the last one, Scratchbuilt. To have a model qualify as scratchbuilt 90% of the model's parts need to be scratchbuilt. You will find it helpful to keep a parts list as you are building. If you are entering a kit there will not be any scratchbuilt parts. If you add scratchbuilt parts you will get points in the scratchbuilt category. The points you earn might be enough to earn a Merit award. Additional scratchbuilt parts could be signs, roof details, interior items, etc. You can also replace items provided in the kit with scratchbuilt parts.

Many individuals do not enter their models because they are nervous about having judges look over the model. Some do not enter

because they do not like the paperwork. Overall I have found judges to be very fair and want to award as many points as possible to a model. If you have a high quality model you will score well. If you can write a high school book report you can complete the paperwork. Remember that you are writing a novel. You are recording the work that you did while building the model. One judge commented that he liked the write up in a bullet format. This simplifies the writing and makes it easier for the judges.

We are going to begin having a "theme" for each model contest. There is not enough time for the October contest. The theme for the March 2012 contest will be maintenance of way cars and farm buildings. Of course any model can be entered but some modelers find inspiration when there is a theme. I am thinking that we will begin a special award for the top scoring model in the theme category. Stay tuned for details.

If you have not considered entering a model contest give it a try. You may find it fun. Once your model scores well and you earn that Merit Award you may find it addicting and want to keep entering and entering. One thing for sure is your model railroad layout will be enhanced with all those super cool models.



Former Best in Show Entries. Above, William Smith's C&O Station at St Albans, WV. Upper Right, Bob McIntyre's PRR Bell Interlocking Tower. Right, Peter Youngblood's Santa Fe Mack AC Rail Bus. Photos courtesy of Paul Voelker.



PTE 2013 Off And Running

Joe Gelmini

Photos by the author

A dedicated group of Piedmont volunteers made the trek to Sacramento July 3-10 for the NMRA national convention. Convention attendance was right at 2000, making "Xtra West 2011" one of the more successful NMRA events in recent years. And I think every attendee there passed our Peachtree Express 2013 promotion booth at least four times! While we had the booth in Milwaukee for the 2010 convention, NMRA rules prohibit a convention host from selling advance registrations more than two years in advance. So this year was our first cut at heavily promoting Atlanta for 2013.

A number of new ideas were tested at Sacramento. First, and most significant, is the long-awaited notion of on-line registration. The system selected uses an I-pad employing custom registration software specifically developed for NMRA, and provides for credit card payments processed through headquarters and PayPal. As you can imagine with any computer application that is new and in beta test mode, there were significant problems and challenges. So many that we quickly had



L-R Diane Kittendorf, Kathy Gelmini, Sally Bando at the Peachtree Express booth in Sacramento.



L-R David Gelmini, I.D. Jackson, and Mary Jackson sell the benefits of a Peachtree Express Magnolia package.

to revert to paper applications. Seems PayPal did not like processing multiple people applying on line using the same computer. A "fraud alert" was received by the time the second person tried to apply and the whole system shut down. If nothing else, it gave me more confidence in on-line transaction security! Each night, Heather Gelmini diligently entered each of the paper registrations into the system, being careful not to actually process any credit card information. Due to her hard work and familiarity with the system, Heather was "awarded" the job of on-site registrar for PTE 2013 by the convention committee. Following the convention, most of the bugs in the new system have been worked out between Heather, Jenny Hendricks at NMRA headquarters, and Bob Amsler, NMRA manager of Meetings and Trade Shows. Many thanks for your work on this, Heather!

Prior to going, we had a target of 100 registrations, thinking not too many "left-coasters" would be willing to shell out money for a convention two years out and on the other side of the country. But by the end of the week we registered 135 people, including 18 for the "Magnolia Club", our premier package that costs \$529.00! So we returned to Atlanta tired, but in good spirits. During the ensuing July Piedmont division monthly meeting, we signed-up an additional 40+ people, so we are currently approaching 180 registrants. By comparison, the good folks from Grand Rapids, site of the 2012 convention, had 153 registrants when they opened their booth at Sacramento just one

year out from their convention. So I think we are indeed off-and-running for a great convention in Atlanta in 2013. My heartfelt thanks to all the folks who willingly gave of their precious convention time at Sacramento to work our booth. These include David, Heather and Kathy (my wife) Gelmini, ID and Mary Jackson, James and Sally Bando, Del and Diane Kittendorf, Perry Lamb, Howard Goodwin, Ed Laity, and John Stevens. John also transported the booth and all our materials to and from Sacramento, saving us the expenses of shipping it. Many thanks, John!

Our next PTE 2013 promotional pushes will be at the September national narrow gauge convention in Hickory, NC, and the Mid East Region convention in Cary, NC in October. Of course, our biggest opportunity will come during the Grand Rapids convention next year. I hope you plan to attend that one, and I hope you will give us some of your time at the PTE 2013 booth.

If you have not yet registered for the Atlanta convention, please save yourself some money and register early. Our "Dogwood" early



L-R David Gelmini and Perry Lamb, co-chairmen of Peachtree Express.

registration package expired at the end of July. But the "Azalea" package remains open through the end of August, 2012. This package not only saves you money but gives you advanced pick of tours and events. Please note that **everyone must register**, even if you plan on volunteering during the convention. Registration and convention information can be found on the website at www.PTE2013.org.

The Membership Train

Paul Rankin, Director of Personnel

"People are funny. Sometimes we do wildly different things, but for very similar reasons, and sometimes we do the same things, but for dissimilar reasons. Volunteering is a case in point.

My position as Director of Personnel means that almost everything I do requires volunteers to help make it happen. We've now have a Volunteer Coordinator, and I intend to make good use of that position, but meanwhile Division volunteers are what makes everything happen.

I volunteered to run for the office of DP, as did all the other Board of Directors, and that's a big step for me. But it grew from little steps, like helping the previous DP man the membership booth, representing the Division at Hobby Days at the Library, talking to the public at shows, putting my layout on the Piedmont Pilgrimage, and little things like that. It's good for me to get out there and out of my regular rut (and out of the basement, my wife would say), and it's a way I can pay back the members of this Division for all the support I've received that has helped me progress on my model railroading. I highly encourage all of us to give it a try. It's not always easy, though, and not all volunteers end up being helpful, especially when they don't show up when they say they will. That tends to make the job interesting, so to speak, as in the ancient Chinese curse - "May you live in interesting times"! But it comes with the territory, and sometimes interesting times are REALLY interesting! Give volunteering a try!"

Annual Election of Officers

The Piedmont Division, Southeastern Region, National Model Railroad Association, will be holding election for positions on the Board of Directors at the November 8, 2011 General Meeting. Positions to be voted on are Superintendent, Treasurer, and four Directors-at-Large.

All positions will take effect January 1, 2012 and run for two years. In order to vote you must be a current member of the Piedmont Division and you must vote *in person* at the November meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed.

Current candidates are:

Superintendent:	Charlie Crawford
Director of Operations:	Howard Goodwin
Treasurer:	I.D. Jackson
Director-At-Large:	Mike Deaton (incumbent)
	Bill Ello
	John Kelley
	Walt Liles
	Scott Povlot (incumbent)
	Joe Sullivan (incumbent)
	Bill Zawacki (incumbent)

Bob Young
Election Committee Chair



GATX 10,000 Gal. Tank Car



The Southeastern Region of the NMRA is proud to announce the availability of a limited number of Red Caboose 10,000 gal. Tank Cars lettered for GATX in HO scale. **These cars are "Ready-To Run" in four different road numbers - GATX 28220, 28225, 28231, 28238 never before offered by Red Caboose.** Cars have underbody brake details, magnetic knuckle couplers and metal wheel sets, built date is 10-49. The GATX tank cars were in service all over North America on all major railroads.

Cars cost: \$32 each, or a set of four for \$110

Shipping is by US Postal Service Priority Mail:

\$6.00 for one or two cars; \$8.00 for three or four cars

Insurance: \$2.25 for one or two cars; \$2.75 for three or four cars

Note: Insurance is optional – added to shipping rate, recommend for your protection.

Make checks or money orders payable to: SER/NMRA

Send Orders To:

SER Car Project c/o Randall Watson

730 Morning Creek Lane

Suwanee, GA 30024-7052

Advertisement courtesy of the SouthErneR, Paul Voelker Editor. Advertisement by George Bloodworth, Randall Watson, and Paul Voelker.

Important News Flash

Piedmont Division in Marietta?

As some of you are aware, the Board of Directors have been discussing an alternating meeting site for our Monthly meetings over the past six months. Yesterday at our Board of Directors meeting preceding the regular meeting, a Resolution was presented by Chris White and Joe Sullivan which recommended a six month trial of the proposed alternate site at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta. This trial is going to start in January 2012 and be held every other month in Marietta for the duration of the trial period. Our first Marietta meeting will be held in February.

It has been discovered that the largest portion of our membership resides in Marietta, so it makes sense to have some meetings there. The church location is very nice, approximately twice the size of the Elks Lodge and costing half as much to rent. There are more meeting rooms in addition for other activities we may wish to hold, such as the March model contest where there is plenty of room separate from the "Great Hall" where our meetings will be held.

It is the Board's hope that we will serve more of the membership with our second location.

Keep in mind through all of this that **NOTHING CHANGES** with regard to our meetings and the quality you have come to expect. Most of the folks polled, 75% at least have no problem with going to Marietta to meet. It only remains to be seen how many will attend the Marietta meeting location. The trial period is to determine if the location is viable and supported by you the members. If the thought of a meeting in your own backyard is pleasant and welcome, you need to attend the meet-

ings scheduled in Marietta and support the Division.

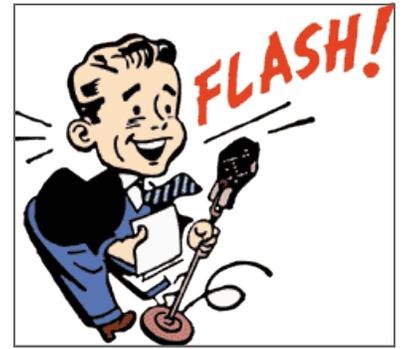
At the end of the six month trial, the Board will evaluate the results and then make a decision to continue the program or do away with it. While some have publicly stated that they would

not venture to Marietta as "being too far for them to travel" I need only remind you that if you don't come, you will be missing an important benefit to your membership. Keep in mind that many have been making the "travel sacrifice" for well over a decade coming to Tucker from other parts of the Division.

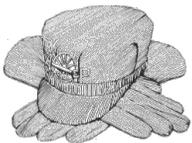
To all of you who are currently coming to monthly meetings and those of you who are looking forward to meetings closer to you I encourage you to come to the meetings and enjoy the fellowship and outstanding programs we have to offer. I hope to see the familiar faces and new ones in January and feel that this will boost our monthly attendance rather than diminish it. You are the key to our success. Let's make it bigger and eventually even better. I call on you for your support.

More information is forthcoming concerning the new site, including maps and plenty of notification in all of our available media. Postcards will be sent our mid December with the meeting dates for you to attach to your refrigerator as a reminder. This is an exciting prospect and I hope to see you all in Marietta.

Howard Goodwin



AP TRAIN`in CAMP Day



**TRAIN`in
CAMP**

The Piedmont Division held its inaugural Achievement Program day at HobbyTown USA in Kennesaw, GA on August 27th. The Saturday clinic was held as part of the Piedmont Division's TRAIN`inCAMP series.

L-R. Bill Raymond, Bill Ello, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Bob McIntyre, Charlie Millar, Randall Watson, David Butts. Photo courtesy of Peter Youngblood, MMR.



BEGINNING MODEL RAILROADING

Peter Youngblood, MMR
SER Education Dept. Chair

My column this time is a solicitation to all SER members. Toward the end of July I received an interesting e-mail from Fred Bock, MMR, NMRA Education Department Assistant Director and a retired college professor. Fred wrote he was looking for help for a project he and fellow MMR Jim Zinser, were developing with the working title “Beginning Model Railroading,” or perhaps “Model Railroading 101.” Jim had already written about this concept in his “Division Business Car” column in NMRA.org magazine and, although there were respondents to his “homework assignment,” some Regions and Divisions had yet to be heard from. Fred’s e-mail bottom line politely pointed out that, at the time, the SER was one of them.

O.k., so what are we talking about here? Plain and simple these fine gentlemen are inquiring about and wanting to assimilate any beginner oriented clinics, programs, classes (lesson plans included), being taught to folks either curious about or just starting out in the model railroading hobby. Age or gender are irrelevant. The goal is to build a library of beginning model railroading programs of all kinds to be made available to any interested party, eventually establishing a Yahoo Group online with files accessible to its members. As the archives grow so does the opportunity for Regions and Divisions interested in offering their members a “Beginning Model Railroading” program, the use of this valuable resource.

As Jim wrote in the August issue, the St. Lawrence Division of the Niagara Frontier Region has such a course open to the public. Fred was kind enough to send me an attachment of their PowerPoint presentation. What I enjoyed watching is a program in four segments with

hands on take-aways made by each participant. I’ve since learned the Seacoast Division of the Northeast Region, among others, also have active programs. Here in the SER, two of my fellow Piedmont Division members quickly supplied course materials. Paul Boehlert provided a course outline he taught customers new to the hobby when he worked in a home town hobby shop some years ago. Superintendent Howard Goodwin, supplied not one, but two, college-level courses (!) on the basics of model railroading. Nice coincidence, yet I’m optimistic there are other Division members in the SER who will step up with start-up programs of some kind whether already in use or just conceptual.

We all talk about and realize that bringing new people into our hobby is a big factor in keeping model railroading alive and well. A very efficient way that gets results is exposure followed by education. Next time you arrange a public display, consider the impact of letting your visitors know you have a local, open to everyone, “Beginning In Model Railroading” program they can attend. Tapping the resources Fred and Jim are assembling will give you choices as to which type of program can best accommodate your need.

To contribute any course material, please contact NMRA Education Department Assistant Director, Fred Bock, MMR, at fbockLSRDiv6@aol.com and write “Adult Education” as the subject. You can also send a brief synopsis of your course material to Jim Zinser, MMR, at divbizcar@wowway.com. You might also care to copy me at: Santaferailway@aol.com.

Many thanks for any of your contributions to this very worthwhile program.

DIVISION MEETING HAPPENINGS

Why not join us at the next division meeting? Each month, more than 100 division members and guests meet to discuss model railroading.

Photos courtesy of Greg Williams.



Left. Superintendent Paul Voelker (L) presents Paul Voelker with a Fellow of the NMRA award for his years of service to the association. Above. Bill Eilo, SER Boy Scout Merit Badge Coordinator (L) awards Howard Goodwin with a certificate for his participation in the Piedmont Division’s inaugural BSA merit badge program at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History.

2011 Piedmont Pilgrimage

Welcome

It is time again for the Piedmont Pilgrimage. This will be our ninth year hosting this event, which is the premier model railroad open house program in the Southeast. The first year there were 12 layouts. This year there will be over 80 layouts for your viewing enjoyment. Most of the scales you are familiar with will be represented. The owners have worked all year to provide you with layouts that are exceptional from a scenery and engineering standpoint. Understand that not all model railroads are finished. Many layouts will be in various stages of construction. If you are thinking about starting a layout or want to learn new techniques for doing things in model railroading this is a great opportunity. There are "mature" layouts that will be finished (if any layout is ever finished) and you can take in the full model railroad experience.

As I said earlier many scales of model trains are represented. These include the popular HO and N scales along with O and G. Narrow Gauge is becoming more and more popular. Narrow gauge means that the track rails are closer together than standard trackage. If you have not seen a narrow gauge layout you really need to make a visit to one. They are highly detailed and usually are located in the western US but not always. Many were used in logging operations and to supply small towns with passenger and freight service where larger Railroads would not go. It is spectacular to see these scenes modeled in a basement.

The layouts are available on our website, www.Piedmont-div.org. Click on the Piedmont Pilgrimage link on the left. Once there you will have the tour schedule of the individual layouts. Each layout has a link where you can get specific directions to the layout location via Mapquest. On most layout pages you will see up to three photos. At the top of the website page there is a link named photo gallery where you can view three more photos of the layout you are interested in seeing. This tool should help you decide which layout to go and visit.

For anyone who is going on the Pilgrimage trail for first time here are some hints for viewing. When you get near the owners home look for the yellow Pilgrimage signs. They will get you to the open house. They may also direct you to the entrance, if it somewhere else than the front door. Be patient when you get there. Often there will be crowds. On the popular layouts you may need wait in line if the layout room is full. Remember that the owner is entertaining many guests. If you have technical questions you might try asking an assistant or possibly arranging coming back at a later date. Most owners are happy to help. We ask that you do not touch. Many of models are fragile and we do not want damage during an open house. Please do not forget signing the guest book.

If you are very interested in model trains and are not a member of the National Model Railroad Assc. I highly recommend joining. It is a great organization and very strong in the metro Atlanta Area. We meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Elks Lodge in Tucker at 7 PM. It is a great way to fellowship with other model railroad enthusiasts and learn more about model railroading. There are handouts at the open houses.

Bob McIntyre
Chairperson



Directions, Maps Schedule Changes! on the Piedmont Pilgrimage web site



Visit the Piedmont Pilgrimage on the web for last minute schedule changes, maps and directions, layout photos, and more.

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TRAIN TIPS

Peter Youngblood, MMR

Prototype tracks are referred to by name or number. If you've experienced the pleasure of an operating session on a friend's layout you'll quickly understand the need for naming and numbering tracks. You can't get from "here" to "there" if you don't know what "here" and "there" are and what they're called. Whether you're currently designing or building a layout, you might as well identify tracks per prototype practice. It's fun to do and a simple way to add realism at no cost. Here are a few basics to help you out.

Main Line: The single-track part of the railroad (including track passing through yards) on which trains operate by timetable and signals. In employee timetables, train directions are designated almost exclusively as east and west, regardless of geography.

Double-Track Main Line: On a double-track railroad, trains, with few exceptions, keep to the right. A train going west on the right-hand track is running on the westward main line, and a train going east on the left-hand track is running on the eastward main line. Should train movements over these tracks be controlled by Centralized Traffic Control (CTC), a railroad may have both tracks signaled for train movements in either direction, in which case nomenclature changes to "north track" and "south track" where timetable directions are westward and eastward, or "east track" and "west track" where timetable directions are northward and southward (less common). Some railroads number their main line tracks. Usually the westward main line is "track no. 1" and the eastward main line "track no. 2," a practice in keeping with using odd numbers for westward trains and even numbers for those going eastward.

Multiple-Track Main Line: On some large railroads multiple tracks are assigned to handle only passenger or freight movements in a specific direction, a designation that can easily become complex. Modelers can simplify this situation by remembering that passenger trains must be on a track with a station platform if scheduled for a stop.

Sidings or Passing Tracks: A siding is a place where an inferior (lower priority) train can clear (get out of the way of) a superior (higher

priority) train. A siding's car capacity and length are listed in employee timetables or special instructions, and trains are directed to use the siding by timetable, train order, or signal authority. Sidings in multiple-main line territory are further designated as westward or eastward, or they may be given a name the dispatcher will specify to avoid possibility of error or misunderstanding.

Industrial Tracks or Spurs: Industrial tracks or spurs are often named for the business they serve. Should the business have several tracks, a number is usually added to the name. For example, the two tracks in a Purina Chows granary would be named "Purina 1" and "Purina 2."

Yard Tracks: Yard tracks are generally designated in two ways. The most common numbers them consecutively beginning with the track adjacent to the main line as track no. 1. When there are tracks on both sides of the main line, those tracks are in north and south (or east and west) yards and use the same consecutive number identification. The track that diverges from the main line into the yard tracks to be used by yard engines to switch those tracks is called the yard "lead track."

Service Tracks: Tracks surrounding a yard are commonly given names such as caboose, scale house, stock, ice, house (freight) track, rip (repair in place) track, etc. Engine service area tracks may include the names inbound service, wash, outbound ready, ashpit, cinder pit, oil, sand, coal, steam, water plug, diesel fuel, layover, and storage track.

Interchanges and Wyes: Classically speaking, an interchange is where two different railroad main lines cross with a curved track connection between them, the curved track enabling the routing or "interchange" of cars between the two railroads. A minority of railroads prefer to call this a "transfer track." Where a junction includes connecting tracks that allow a 180 degree end-for-end reversal of cars or locomotives, that junction is called a "wye" which can be further identified by its geographic location, for example, "Summit Wye."

Creativity: O.k., so now you're armed with the basics and can have fun naming and numbering track segments on your layout. Prototype railroads often use highly descriptive names and so can you, but most of all naming tracks will add realism to your railroad and help your operators to know where the trains need to go.

Peter Youngblood, MMR

NMRA InfoNet News

- The Howell Day Museum is issuing a new release of its highly successful **Gorre and Daphetid bobber cabooses**. Two new bobbers, numbered 3 and 5, are available from Headquarters immediately. A single car is US\$19.95 + \$4 shipping and handling, and the set of two is US\$34.95 + \$4 shipping and handling. The new cars are available in HO scale only, and are ready to run. They feature operating magnetic knuckle couplers and free-rolling metal wheels. Watch for the ad running in *NMRA Magazine*. To order, call HQ at 423-892-2846.
- **Registrations for Grand Rails 2012**, next year's national convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., are taking off. Half of the available Furniture City Flyers Club memberships are already sold. Details about this club can be found on the convention's website at www.gr2012.org. In addition almost 90 clinic slots have been filled, with topics ranging from geared locomotives to timetable/train order operation. If one of your members is interested in presenting a clinic, have them fill out an application form on the website. They're especially looking forward to clinics covering prototype modeling and operations.
- One more convention note: there has been a change in the visitation procedure for Bruce and Janet Chubb's Sunset Valley Oregon System. The **SVOS will now be open a portion of every day** from Sunday, July 29, through Saturday August 4, for **self-guided tours**. Special commemorative tickets will be available each day exclusively for the SVOS, so attendees can choose to visit any time during any open day.
- And a repeat announcement: if your Region or Division gives **adult or family classes on model railroading**, Fred Bock, the NMRA's Education Department Assistant Manager, is looking for ideas. Whether your program runs as a one-day seminar or multi-week course, Fred would like to know what your program is about and is looking for lesson plans or other course material. Please email Fred at fbockLSRDiv6@aol.com. Use "Adult Education" as the subject of the email.



Volunteers Needed for 2012 Train Show



The 2012 Model Train Show will be held **March 17-18**. Volunteers are needed for all shifts during the show, for set-up on Friday, March 16, and for vendor load out Sunday afternoon. We will again be at **Cobb Galleria Center** for this show. This venue was very successful for our 2011 show and we look forward to another great show in 2012. So please join us as we continue our quest to provide the best model train show in the South. Sign-up sheets will be available at our monthly meetings. If you cannot attend a meeting, please contact our train show volunteer coordinator – **David Gelmini** – at 770-707-5019, or email atcgel@bellsouth.net.

Joe Gelmini, Show Manager, The Model Train Show



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Monthly Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at:

**THE ELKS LODGE
1775 MONTREAL ROAD
TUCKER, GA**

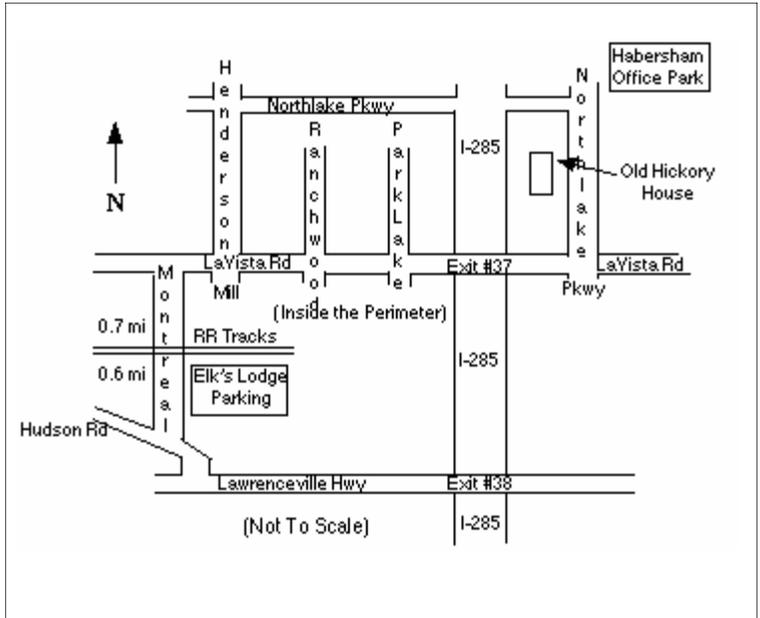
The Division's Board of Directors meeting is held at 6:00 pm at the Hickory House Restaurant on Northlake Parkway and all members are invited to attend as visitors.

DIRECTIONS

From the North: Take I-285 South to the LaVista Rd. exit: #37. Turn right or inside the Perimeter. Go to the 4th traffic light - Montreal Rd. Turn left on Montreal Rd. and go .7 mile, cross the (YES) railroad tracks. The Elks Lodge is the first building on the left after the tracks.

From the South: Take I-285 North to the Lawrenceville Hwy. exit (#38). Turn left or inside the Perimeter and go to the first light (not counting the ones at the I-285 interchange) - Montreal Rd. Turn right on Montreal Rd. and go .6 mile. The Elks Lodge is on the right just before the railroad tracks. (Careful; as you go along Montreal Rd. it turns to the right and going straight ahead will put you on Hudson Rd.)

PARK IN THE MAIN PARKING LOT ON THE SOUTH SIDE
OF THE BUILDING
ENTER THE DOOR ON THE SOUTH SIDE WITH
"PIEDMONT DIVISION" SIGN IN PLACE OVER
BINGO SIGN
DO NOT USE FRONT DOOR, IT IS LOCKED.



Rick Coble, Editor
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