

The Carolina Piedmont Herald

April 2008 Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA



Carolina Piedmont Division, Mid-Eastern Region of the National Model Railroad Association



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<http://www.cpd13.org/>

The Carolina Piedmont Herald is published monthly by the Carolina Piedmont Division, Mid-East Region, of the National Model Railroad Association. **Submissions:** Please send news items, inquiries, and comments to the Editor of the Herald by the 15th of the month:

Robert Rousseau

6428 Cross Ridge Drive
Holly Springs, NC 27540

919-368-0586 or railroad@nc.rr.com

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author of each article or the Editor of the Carolina Piedmont Herald and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Carolina Piedmont Division.

Division Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7:00pm.
Cary Senior Center, Room 302
120 Maury O'Dell Place, Cary, NC
Board of Directors Meeting at 6pm.
Division Meeting follows at 7pm.

April Program

Silent Auction

Popular Vote Contest

April: Water Towers / Tanks
Bring anything related to water towers/tanks.

Contest Guidelines available on the CPD13 web site, or contact Vic Bitleris at 919-870-7558.

Paymaster's Report

Submitted by John Rudisill
Division Paymaster

March 2008

Balance 2/29/08	\$ 4,845.38
Income	
None	\$ 0.00
Total	\$ 0.00
Expenses	
First Payment to Bowser	\$ 975.00
March Refreshments	\$ 12.31
Total	\$ 987.31
Balance 3/31 Checking	\$3,858.07
Certificate of Deposit	\$5,462.60
Maturity Date 7/13/08 @3.46%	
Total CPD 13 Funds	\$ 9,320.67

Upcoming Events

May 22 – 25, 2008 Smokey Mountain Rails SER Convention – to be held in Lake Junaluska, NC. More info is here: <http://www.landofskydiv.org>

CPD 13 Contact List

Superintendent

John Janosko..... 562-0260
johnajan@earthlink.net

Assistant Superintendent

Pete Slugg 234-3348
pslugg@nc.rr.com

Division Clerk pro tempore

Rob Rousseau 368-0586
railroad@nc.rr.com

Division Paymaster

John Rudisill 934-7029
Jrudi123@aol.com

Director (Term ending in January 2010)

Vic Bitleris 870-7558
vbitleris@nc.rr.com

Director (Term ending in January 2011)

Jerry Mersch 467-7107
jbmswow@nc.rr.com

Director (Term ending in January 2009)

Joe Getz..... 864-1140
i4getz@aol.com

Meeting Minutes

March 25th, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 6:10pm with eight members present. The Clerk's minutes and Paymaster's reports were both approved. Vic had some details to present during the general meeting regarding the Achievement Program.

Pete Slugg said that we would need to present something to the Cary Senior Center for two dates in September through December.

Pete suggested that for the next meeting we would have a Silent Auction.

Another Layout Tour was suggested in the Fall. Will check with Don Jennings to see about organizing that.

With no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:52pm.

Division Meeting

The Division meeting was called to order at 7pm with 21 members present. Vic Bitleris got up and talked about the Achievement Program and the current issues of Scale Rails covering this topic. He said these were very good articles and gives some good hints about the judging guidelines and what the judges look for.

John Janosko gave another update on the NS boxcars. The check will be going out this week to Bowser. Bowser will get the models from Accurail sometime around the end of May.

The Club Project Layout will continue over at Dick Buchan's house at 7pm on Thursdays.

April's Program will be an auction, read more about it in the message from the Superintendent on page 4.

Will will try to have more Layout Tours in the Fall.

Pete Slugg told the group about having presentations for the Cary Senior Center as part of our agreement to hold our meetings there.

After the break, Jerry Mersch gave a clinic about how to modify computer power supplies to use on the layout.

The winner of the popular vote was Bill Cox's Heinz '57 reefer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Designing a Small Layout

by Robert Rousseau

(continued from last month)

John Armstrong's book is divided into two sections; the first is called Prototype railroad operation. In this first part, Armstrong examines basic railroad movements (operations). In these operations, he describes the basic fundamental tenant of railroads and that is to move people and freight. The good news for us is the variety of ways that this is handled.

"The best way to make a realistic model of anything is to understand how the real thing works, so a good way to ideas for a track plan is by studying the track elements and arrangements railroads use to do their job."

Via several railfan trips, I was able to study the track arrangements on the prototypes. I sketched out these important junctions as possible modeling ideas.

In addition, I was able to use the Wake County Public Library online database of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. These provided additional track details in some cities. However, most of these maps are pre-1955, in case you are using a later time period.

The second section of this book is titled: Designing a practical model railroad track plan. It is in this section that Armstrong introduces the "squares" concept. He does this to try to selectively compress our compromises into the space that reality has dealt us.

After I picked a few doodles of how I wanted to place the layout, I went to Atlas' website and downloaded their freeware software called Right Track Version 8.0

(<http://www.atlasrr.com/righttrack.htm>). I used this to make a rough estimate of my track plan and could add and tweak certain dimensions. The idea behind RTS is to design the layout using the Atlas track components, thereby selling you more Atlas track products when you go to build it. In addition to RTS, there are several other commercially available products out there.

One such product is 3rd PlanIt by Eldorado Software.
<http://www.eldoradosoft.com/>

Several iterations of tracks plans later, I finally came up with a folded dog bone with the two loops stacked on top of each other as shown in Figure 2 below.

I hope this has helped given one a good overview of the tools and methods towards one simple modeler's experience in layout design.



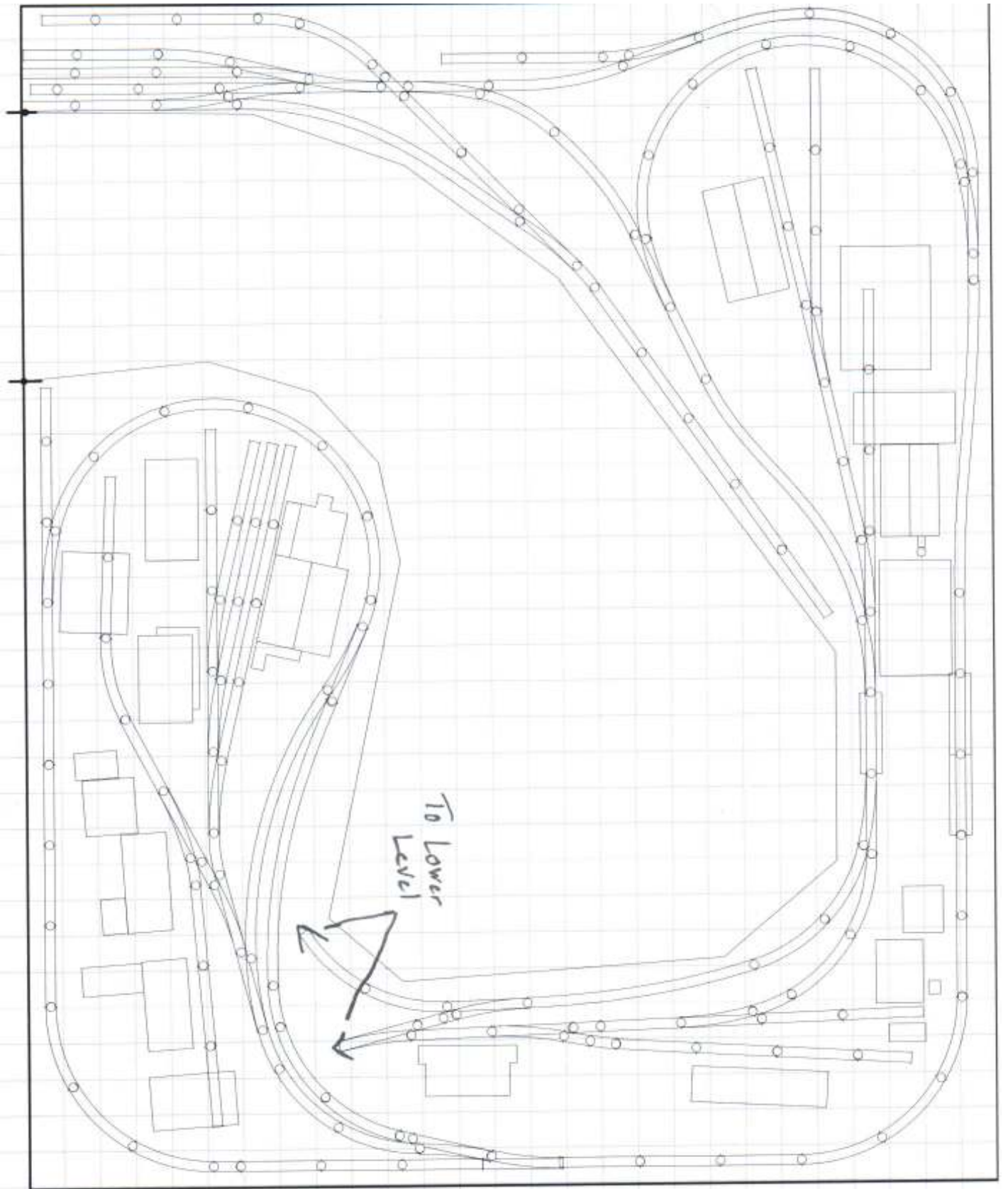


Figure 2: The final plan?

From The Business Car

By Division Superintendent John Janosko

This month we have decided to have another silent auction, since we have gotten quite a few donations and also I think almost everyone enjoyed the last one we had. If there is anything in the closet that you want to donate to the Division we will be happy to add it to the items we already have. This is a great way to get rid of some old stuff that was in a closet and is just getting under foot for who knows how many years. It may also be something that one of your fellow members needs to finish his or her model railroad.

The NS PS 1 boxcar is coming along and we are awaiting a first run model from Bowser to go through final approval. The NS Society is taking pre orders (since they are not as flush with funds) and so far has received orders for 56 units. I think there will be more orders at the annual meeting on the 19th in Belhaven, NC. More on the NS meeting in our next month's newsletter.

See you on Tuesday and make sure you bring your checkbook.

John Janosko
Division Superintendent

Carolina Piedmont Division
Robert Rousseau
6428 Cross Ridge Drive
Holly Springs, NC 27540

