

The Carolina Piedmont Herald

May 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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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, May 27, 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.

May Program

John Janosko - Ceiling Tile Scenery

Popular Vote Contest

May: Pickle Cars / Vinegar Cars
 Bring anything related to the pickle industry.

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

April 2008

Balance 3/31/08	\$ 3,858.07
Income	
Donations	\$ 95.50
Sale of Donated Items	\$ 136.50
Total	\$ 232.00
Expenses	
April Refreshments	\$ 20.00
Total	\$ 987.31
Balance 4/30 Checking	\$4,070.07
Certificate of Deposit	\$5,462.60
Maturity Date 7/13/08	
@3.46%	
Total CPD 13 Funds	\$ 9,532.67

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>

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Meeting Minutes

April 22nd, 2008

Board of Directors Meeting

Officers and board members present – Superintendent John Janosko, Assistant Superintendent Pete Slugg, Clerk Grif Bond, Paymaster John Rudisill and Directors Vic Bitleris, Joe Getz and Jerry Mersch. Various division members were present for portions of the meeting.

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Superintendent Janosko. Motion made by Getz with second by Mersch to approve minutes of the March meetings. Motion passed 7-0. Motion made to approve Paymaster's report by Getz and second by Mersch. Motion passed 7-0.

Reports presented:

Achievement program (AP) – Bitleris advised an AP judging session would be held on Saturday, 26 April 2008 at Gene Sing's residence. Start time is 3:00 PM. Division members should bring motive power, rolling stock and/or structures for judging.

Norfolk Southern PS-1 box car – Artwork has been mailed from Bowser for review.

Project raffle layout – No update.

Fall home layout tour – Don Jennings coordinating. Timeframe is October or November.

Assistant Superintendent Slugg reviewed the agreement with the Cary Senior Center and indicated the obligation of CPD13 to provide 2 programs of 1 – 3 hours each. Kim Parker indicated he was available for 1 or more programs.

Superintendent Janosko advised the BOD of a planned meeting with a quorum of the Mid-Eastern Region BOD at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 26 April 2008, at the Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest.

The BOD discussed "settings" for the Yahoo Groups website. Motion made by Slugg with a second by Rudisill to change the settings so a "reply" to a

message on the board will go to the individual who posted the original message. Motion passed 7-0. All posted messages will continue to go to registered CPD13 users. Rob Rousseau, webmaster and moderator, will make the change and notify the group members.

Assistant Superintendent Slugg advised the meeting dates had been reserved with the Cary Senior Center for 2009. Meetings will continue on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except for November (3rd Tuesday) and December (2nd Tuesday).

Motion made by Superintendent Janosko to elect Grif Bond as Clerk. Motion seconded by Bitleris. Motion passed 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.
Recorded by Grif Bond, Clerk

Division Meeting

The Division meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Superintendent Janosko. He reviewed the discussion and actions from the earlier Board of Directors meeting.

Superintendent Janosko advised the division membership of a planned meeting with a quorum of the Mid-Eastern Region BOD at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 26 April 2008, at the Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest.

Reports presented:

Achievement program – Vic Bitleris advised an AP judging session would be held on Saturday, 26 April 2008 at Gene Sing's residence. Start time is 3:00 PM. Division members should bring motive power, rolling stock and/or structures for judging.

Judges will include Mid-Eastern Region AP Manager Charlie Flichman and several MER officers.

Norfolk Southern PS-1 box car – Artwork has been mailed from Bowser for review.

Project raffle layout – Dick Buchan indicated the project layout would be constructed on 2 luan doors, making the size approximately 44 inches by 80 inches.

Fall home layout tour – Don Jennings coordinating. Timeframe is October or November.

Assistant Superintendent Slugg reviewed the agreement with the Cary Senior Center and indicated the obligation of CPD13 to provide 2 programs of 1 – 3 hours each. A suggestion was made to use the switching timesaver layout. September and December were suggested months for the programs.

The scheduled program for May will be "ceiling tile scenery" by John Janosko. The May popular vote contest will be "pickle/vinegar cars".

In lieu of a formal program, a silent auction was held during the break from 7:20 PM to 7:50 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.
Recorded by Grif Bond, Clerk

Local NC Railfan Guide by Robert Rousseau

Most of our members probably know about these local places in North Carolina to go railfanning. But to our recently relocated members, here is a quick

primer. North Carolina is fortunate to have three main rail corridors run through the state. The first one is the former Atlantic Coast Line, now owned by CSX and runs north and south parallel to I-95 between Weldon and Pembroke. This line hosts Amtrak's Silver Star, Silver Meteor, Carolinian, Palmetto and Auto Train passenger trains. The timetables can be found on the NCDOT Rail Division's website:

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

The second one is the former Southern Railway mainline between Atlanta & Washington DC, now maintained by Norfolk Southern Corporation. This line runs southwest and northeast partially along I-85 from Charlotte to Greensboro.

Amtrak trains that traverse this route include the Piedmont, Carolinian, and the Crescent. It is also part of the NCRRA mainline as described next.

The third mainline is owned by the State of North Carolina, the North Carolina Railroad Company. This line is primary leased by Norfolk Southern Corporation and is 317 miles from Charlotte to Morehead City. Part of this line is used for the Atlanta-Washington, D.C. corridor mentioned earlier. For a history of this line, I suggest reading a book called [The North Carolina Railroad, 1849-1871, and the modernization of North Carolina](#) by Allen W. Trelease. One nice thing about the NC State-owned company is the master plans of track improvement charts are posted online here:

<http://www.bytrain.org/track/>.

With that said, what local opportunities lie in store for members of CPD13? Here are some suggested local places to try out. It is suggested you bring your scanner and camera.

Raleigh, NC (NS – 160.950 MHz, CSX – 161.100 MHz)

By far the closest to many of us, Raleigh has a few places that are ideal for railfanning. Boylan Ave. bridge is one favorite because of the Boylan diamonds and the large wye track arrangement of the old Seaboard Air Line, Southern Rwy and (old) Norfolk Southern Rwy here. Today you can find Norfolk Southern freight trains 349 (westbound) and 350 (eastbound) around lunchtime. They will be sandwiched around the northbound train 80, the Carolinian, which is scheduled at 11:06am at the former Southern Rwy passenger station, now Amtrak which this bridge overlooks. CSX freight trains F741 (southbound) also leaves around noontime and the northbound F742 arrives in the later afternoon.

Incidentally, this bridge used to also overlook the old Southern yard, but within the last year, these yard tracks have been pulled up and a better arrangement has been installed to accommodate the Amtrak passenger operations here.

The NS, CSX and NCDOT rail yards are within eyesight of each other. The NS yard tower and office are located at the corner of Sunrise & Carson streets deep in the Little Five Points neighborhoods made up of houses built in the 1950s. Be advised that this is NS property, so use your common sense and stay in your car. You may be asked to leave since this is the NS East Carolina Business Unit headquarters and the NS Police and management work here.

The CSX yard & NCDOT yard can both be viewed from the former Bagwell Seaboard Railroad station, now a home garden center called Logans Trading Company and a restaurant called Seaboard Café on Smart Drive

<http://www.logantrd.com/>. The restaurant is only open for lunch, Monday-Saturday
<http://www.seaboardcafe.com/>. The Seaboard's S-line (former Seaboard Air Line) ends here, but used to continue north to Norlina and on to Petersburg, VA. The Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor is designated to reopen this line maybe as early as 2015 with most of the environmental work having already been completed
<http://www.sehsr.org/>.

Selma, NC (CSX – 160.520, 161.590 MHz)

About 45min. east is the town of Selma at the junction of the NS (via leased trackage from the NCRRA) and CSX. There is here the restored Selma Station, which serves Amtrak's Palmetto, and Carolinian trains. The Station was originally built in 1924 for the Atlantic Coast Line and the Southern Railway. In 2002, the restoration was completed and placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

You will perhaps find other friendly railfans here sitting on the station platform watching the mainline CSX traffic. You might see (and smell) the CSX trash train along with the Tropicana juice train and perhaps Amtrak's Auto Train (around twilight) and many of the CSX freights through this busy corridor. NS trains 349 & 350 will also roll through here on their way to the Morehead City Port.

Hamlet, NC (CSX – 161.100, 160.590 road ch., 161.340 yard office)

About 2 hours south of Raleigh is the large CSX hump yard just north of Hamlet, NC. There is a locomotive servicing facility here as well. Hamlet was once known as the

“Hub of the Seaboard”. This was because five SAL routes met here. To the north was Raleigh & Richmond, to the south, Columbia, Savannah and Jacksonville; a third line goes east to Wilmington (and also the longest stretch of tangent track in the USA at 78.86 miles and 5th longest in the world); a 4th went west to Monroe, and finally a 5th went southeast to Andrews & Charleston, SC.

While two of those routes have been downgraded, this junction is still a *very* busy intersection and historically the busiest for the SAL. A good spot to park is at the Hamlet station, which was recently renovated in 2004 and moved *over* the tracks into its new location. This is also an Amtrak crew change point for the Silver Star. This is the only Victorian Queen Anne passenger station in North Carolina, originally built in 1900. There is also a Seaboard caboose and diesel engine on display across the street from the station.

Before the station was moved, it housed the National Railroad Museum. During the renovation, the museum was moved over to 23 Hamlet Avenue and more information can be found here:

<http://nationalrrmuseum.tripod.com/>. After the renovation was completed, a new model railroad display was built in the basement by the Southbound Model Railroads of Winston-Salem and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-5pm (please note this is from the NCDOT’s website and has not been verified yet).

A bonus side trip if you go is to stop by and visit the oldest family-owned shortline in North Carolina, the Aberdeen & Rockfish railroad in Aberdeen, NC. Usually you will find one of their blue engines in the old engine house here along with several boxcars.

If you cannot drive down to Hamlet, you can listen to a railroad scanner set up on the Internet at <http://www.railroadradio.net/>. Click on “Eastern Zone Streams” and then select “CSX Hamlet, NC”. If you scroll down this page, you will find a map, and radio frequencies and train symbol descriptions along with the live audio streams.

Greensboro, NC (NS – 160.950 MHz main road channel)

Another local favorite is located 90min. west of Raleigh in Greensboro. Again, the NCDOT has recently restored the Southern Railway Depot originally built in 1927 and restored in 2005. This station is very impressive from the columns in the front to the large passenger waiting room area with a map of the Southern Railway system from the 1920’s above. It is now also a multi-modal transit center and the cities buses come through here.

Next door in the old REA building is home to the Carolina Model Railroaders group <http://www.carolinamodelrr.com/>. The station area itself isn’t all that good of a railfan location though. Only ticketed passengers are allowed on the platforms. A better location is a few blocks to the west on Elm Street (which is also the popular revitalized downtown area). At this spot where the tracks cross Elm Street is a historical marker that reads the initial grading of the North Carolina Rail Road was begun on that spot in 1851.

Trackwise, to the east is the NCRR H-Line towards Raleigh. On to the northeast is the line to Lynchburg and eventually Washington, D.C. To the west is the NS mainline towards Charlotte. Just beyond to the west is the NS Pomona

Yard. This once housed a tiny Amtrak waiting room below the yard tower. However this area is pretty much offlimits to the public now that Amtrak has moved to the former Southern Railway Depot. Further west is the K-line to Winston-Salem.

A really good resource for railfanning the Crescent route (and many other Southeastern locations) can be found on Tony Hill’s railfan guide website here:

<http://www.frogtrain.com/>

Spencer, NC (Spencer Shops – 160.695 MHz)

It goes without saying that one last place you should make a trek to is the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer, NC, about 2 hours west of Raleigh. This was the midpoint between Atlanta and Washington, D.C. on the Southern Railway system and was built around 1896. Once the Southern Railways’ largest steam locomotive repair facility, this site with it’s 37-bay roundhouse & 57 acres was donated to the State of North Carolina in 1977. Today it houses many of the state’s railroad history along with exhibits of automobiles and aircrafts.

So there you have it, five locations within easily a day’s drive of Raleigh. Should you find that the yard work can be put off another day this summer, these locations should wet your appetite for some serious railroad action. However, should you find yourself wanting more beyond what is mentioned here, I suggest you check out Dave Marshall’s “Railfans Welcome” website at

<http://railfanswelcome.com/>. It gives a pretty good database of railfans sites all over the United States. Remember though, stay off railroad property, respect the employees but otherwise, have fun!



Above Left: At Boylan diamonds, local yard job shoves Cargill soybean oil tank cars back towards the NS yard in Raleigh, NC. Above Right: Hamlet Station, the Hub of the Seaboard. Below: Multimodal facility J. Douglas Galyon Depot in Greensboro, NC. Bottom: Seaboard Air Line steam engine 544 takes a spin on the NCTM turntable in Spencer, NC. All photos by Rob Rousseau.



From The Business Car

Well, since writing last month's report, it has been a busy 4 weeks. On the 18th of April, I went to the NS annual society meeting in Belhaven. Several of the Division members were there and some of us got together in Belhaven to have dinner and watch the speeders go by on some of the old NS tracks. On the 19th we had the choice of riding the speeders or going to the PCS Phosphate plant, I went on the phosphate tour. This is the largest phosphate mine in North America. Their electric bill for one month is \$2 Million and you think your electric bill is big. I am glad I went and started to think about what you could do with a slimmed down version of such a plant.

We also had some of the MER officers down on the 26th of April for some meetings and we made time to do some judging at Gene Sing's house. Several people brought various buildings and two of us were provided with some training to be student judges. Vic will talk about this at our meeting on Tuesday. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

John Janosko
Division Superintendent

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