



## Division Meeting

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

Cary Senior Center  
Fred G. Bond Metro Park  
120 Maury O'Dell Place  
Cary, NC

6:00 PM – Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 PM – 7:45 PM White Elephant Sale

7:00 PM – Membership Meeting

### Program

**Airbrushing with Acrylics**  
Speaker – Vic Bitleris

### Popular Vote Contest

**Cranes and Crane Tenders**

©2009 Carolina Piedmont Division of the Mid-Eastern  
Region of the NMRA

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

Grif Bond, Clerk (Editor)  
[grifbond@embargmail.com](mailto:grifbond@embargmail.com)  
919-556-7066

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.

## Coming Events

October 31, "Virginia Autumn Special" excursion train departs from Spencer, NC at 7 AM for a full day trip to Charlottesville, VA and return.

November 1, "Blue Ridge Special" excursion train departs from Spencer, NC at 7 AM to for a full day trip to Asheville, NC and return.

For details on both excursions, see the NC Transportation Museum's web site, <http://www.nctrans.org/events/excursion.php>

November 7 – 8, 25th Annual Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Train Club Show, Exposition Center, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC, check the club's web site for details: <http://www.nrvshow.org/>

*Editor's note - Before traveling any distance to an event listed, it is recommended you verify the event is still scheduled by checking the event's web site or calling the local contact.*

## Board of Directors

### *Superintendent*

John Janosko, Youngsville, 919-562-0260  
johnajan@embarqmail.com

### *Assistant Superintendent*

Pete Slugg, Cary, 919-234-3348  
pslugg@nc.rr.com

### *Division Clerk*

Grif Bond, Wake Forest, 919-556-7066  
grifbond@embarqmail.com

### *Division Paymaster*

John Rudisill, Clayton, 919-934-7029  
Jrudi123@aol.com

### *Director (term ending in January 2010)*

Vic Bitleris, Raleigh, 919-870-7558  
vbitleris@nc.rr.com

### *Director (term ending in January 2011)*

Jerry Mersch, Cary, 919-467-7107  
jbmswow@nc.rr.com

### *Director (term ending in January 2012)*

John Wallis, Apex, 919-387-0325  
wallisjm@att.net

## Wanted: Webmaster

The Division seeks an individual to be webmaster for the Division's web site.

If interested please contact John Wallis at wallisjm@att.net

## Vehicles and Figures Needed for Raffle Layout

The CPD13 raffle layout for the NRV train show is "in need" of HO scale vehicles (any era – the layout is modern) and painted figures. The work team is requesting all Division members bring 1 vehicle and 3 painted figures to the October Division meeting. Gene Sing will graciously accept your donations. Thanks!

## Paymaster's Report

Submitted by John Rudisill, Division Paymaster  
September 2009

Balance In Checking August 31, 2009 \$ 2,838.30

### Income

Name Badge \$ 7.50

Total + \$ 7.50

### Expenses

Train Sets (7) for Holiday Trains for Kids \$ 455.00

Tables (3) for NRV Train Show 111.00

September Refreshments 25.69

Total - \$ 591.69

Balance In Checking September 30, 2009 **\$ 2,254.11**

(Checking Account balance includes \$ 140.00 in the Cash Fund)

Certificate of Deposit **\$ 5,583.90**  
(Maturity Date 1/17/2010)

Total Money **\$ 7,838.01**

## Meeting Minutes

*Editor's note – The meeting minutes for both the Board of Directors and the Division Meetings are "preliminary" and subject to correction and approval by the Board of Directors at the next scheduled meeting. Please notify the Clerk of any corrections. Thanks.*

### **Board of Directors Meeting 22 September 2009**

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Superintendent John Janosko.

Officers and board members present included Superintendent John Janosko, Assistant Superintendent Pete Slugg, Clerk Grif Bond, Paymaster John Rudisill and Directors Vic Bitleris, John Wallis and Jerry Mersch.

Motion made by Wallis with second by Mersch to approve the minutes of the August meetings with one correction. Motion passed 7-0. Motion made by Wallis with a second by Mersch to approve the August Paymaster's report with one correction. Motion passed 7-0.

Bitleris advised the BOD of no pending activity for the Achievement Program.

Superintendent Janosko indicated he would be taking some NS box car kits to the MER convention in October for sale in the company store. Cars will also be available at the NRV show in November.

A progress report on construction of the raffle layout for the NRV train show was given by Gene Sing. Track, electrical, locomotives and cars are ready. Most of the buildings are completed. Roads are being added. Superintendent Janosko indicated he would purchase a roll of tickets for the raffle.

The CPD13 switching layout presentation/program for the Cary Senior Center is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Railroad lanterns will also be displayed. Don Jennings and Gene Sing are coordinating.

The white elephant sale will be October 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM.

Six (6) HO scale train sets were purchased by Superintendent Janosko for this year's "Holiday Trains for Kids" program at a cost of \$455.

Motion made by Bond with a second by Wallis to purchase 3 tables for the Division at the NRV train show in November at an expense of \$111. Motion passed 7-0.

Assistant Superintendent Slugg provided an update on the Division meeting programs for the remainder of 2009 and early 2010:

October	Airbrushing with Acrylics
November	ATCS Monitor
December	"Brown Bag" gift night

January	Winter Scenes
---------	---------------

February	Modeling Steel Mills
March	Modular Building Contest
April	NC DOT Rail Yard Tour (tentative)

The Division meetings in November and December will be held on alternate dates – November 10<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM. Recorded by Grif Bond, Clerk.

### **Division Meeting 22 September 2009**

The Division meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Superintendent John Janosko. 19 Division members were in attendance.

Superintendent Janosko reviewed the discussion and actions from the earlier Board of Directors meeting including the November 17<sup>th</sup> presentation at the Cary Senior Center, the white elephant sale on October 27<sup>th</sup> and the upcoming January 2010 vacancies for officers and one board member.

Six (6) HO scale train sets for the 2009 "Holiday Trains for Kids" program have been purchased. Division members with knowledge of local needs should contact Dave Derway to get on the list for a train set.

Achievement Program Coordinator Vic Bitleris spoke to encourage members to work on activities to earn AP certificates.

Superintendent Janosko asked for volunteers to staff the Division's tables at the NRV show in November.

Dan Fisher presented a clinic on "Updating Brass Locomotives".

The popular vote winner was the "Train Wreck Tavern", a HO scale cabooses kit bash roadside railroad tavern detailed by Jerry Mersch.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. Recorded by Grif Bond, Clerk.

## Last Month's Popular Vote Contest Winner



September 2009 popular vote contest winner – Jerry Mersch's "Train Wreck Tavern" – a repurposed use of a couple of cabooses

## Athearn Blue Box Kits Discontinued

The folks at Athearn announced on October 16, 2009, their difficult decision to immediately discontinue the production of the famous "Blue Box" line of HO scale rolling stock kits. For more than 50 years, we have all enjoyed building many of these as we built our model railroads.

The company cited increased manufacturing and labor costs and the ability to keep the kits at a competitive price point. Athearn will focus on their "Ready To Roll", "Genesis" and "Roundhouse" lines.

So, if you need to stock up, get to you local Athearn retailer soon.

## 2009 Monthly Contests

October      Cranes and crane tenders  
November    Signal towers and equipment  
December    No contest – brown bag gift night

## 2009 Program Topics

October      Airbrushing with Acrylics  
Speaker – Vic Bitleris  
November    ATCS Monitor  
Speakers –  
Rob Rousseau & John Wallis  
December    "Holiday Brown Bag Gift Night"

## MER Annual Business Meeting Notes Hagerstown, MD 10-18-09

article by Jack Dziadul

I had the opportunity to attend my second MER convention recently. The final official activity was the Annual Business Meeting. This was technically convened at the preceding night's banquet and adjourned until Sunday morning. President Roger Cason presided and my "unofficial" notes are below.

- Two new Directors were introduced: Don Jennings of CPD-13 and Steve August of Carolina Southern Division 12.
- Eligibility for the office of President was redefined and expanded to ensure that there are qualified candidates available to fill the post.
- There was some discussion of minor changes to the counties included in the MER.

Tom Buckingham presented the financial report. A copy can be obtained from Tom at [tombuckingham@juno.com](mailto:tombuckingham@juno.com). Some highlights:

- Strong financial position with \$92,985 in various cash assets, some of which are restricted funds.
- No liabilities except for current payables.

Business Manager Fred Miller provided some interesting statistics:

- MER membership is 2,082, a decrease of 2% from last year.
- 1,075 receive paper copies of The Local, and there are 454 email readers.
- The Rail Pass program over the past year has seen a 28% (74) conversion to full memberships, 33% (87) have lapsed, and 38% (99) are still within the active six-month trial period.

The 160 kit inventory of the HO scale club box car was donated to the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program being chaired by Don Jennings. Sales of the kits had been stagnant, even at the reduced price of \$6. MER still covered all costs incurred on the kit. N scale kits are still available.

The model contest will probably have a new kit category in the future, similar to that introduced at the Hartford National.

It was overwhelmingly voted to eliminate the arts and crafts portion of the contest due to lack of participation. There was only one entrant this year.

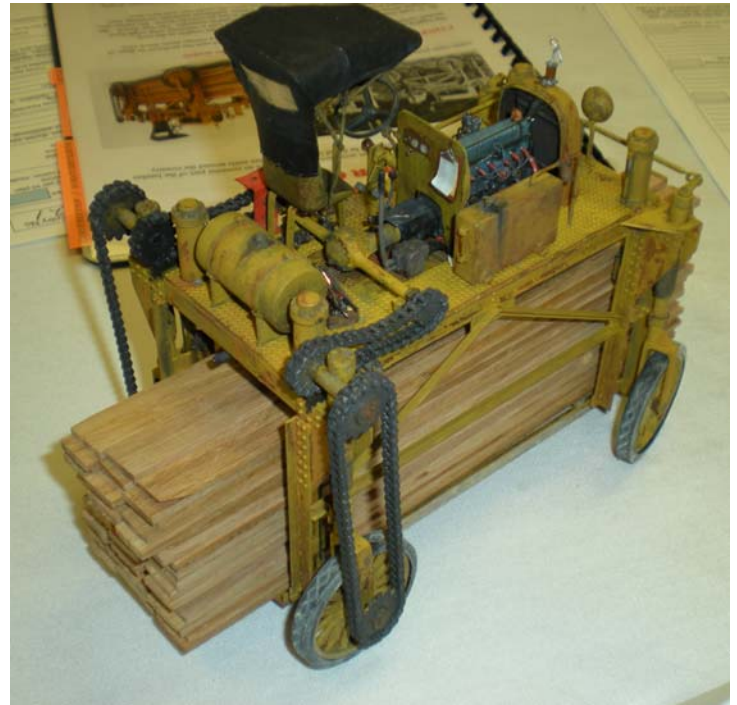
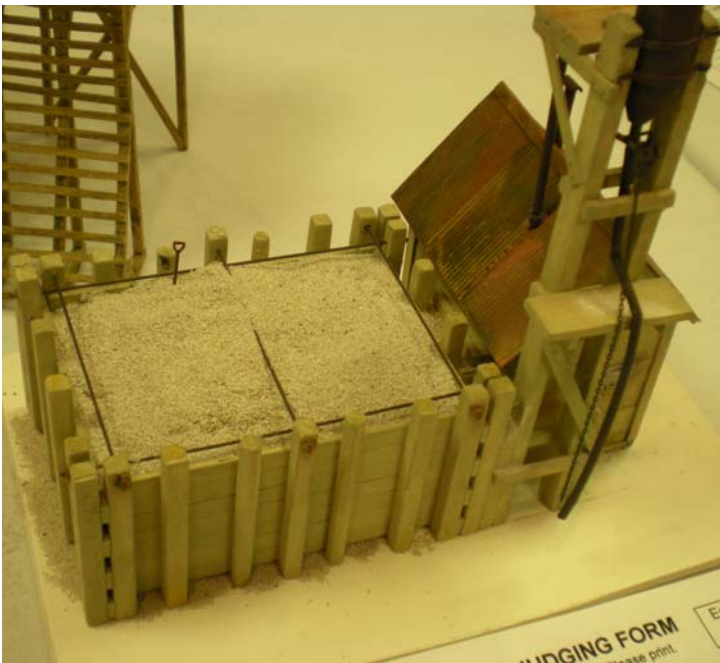
## **MER Model Contest** **Hagerstown, MD**

article and photos by Jack Dziadul

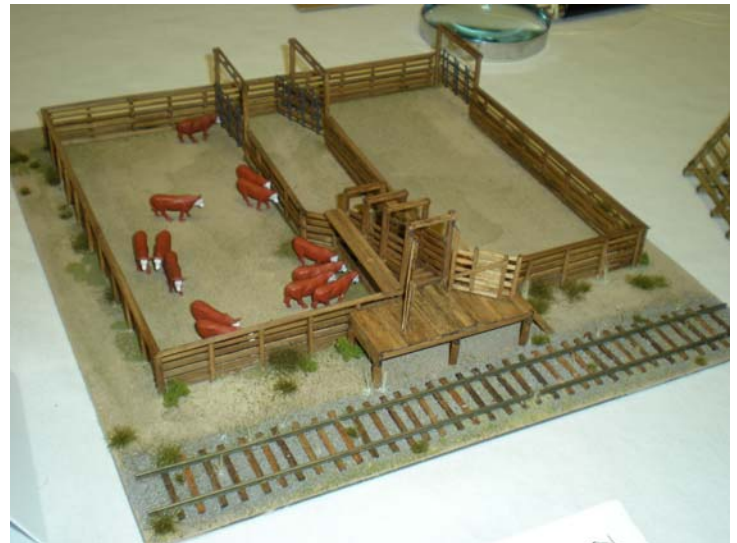
The "Western Maryland Transfer" MER Convention saw 49 contest entries including one from Vic Bitleris. I do not recall the exact number, but there were quite a few that scored 87 1/2 points or more to qualify for Achievement Program merit awards.

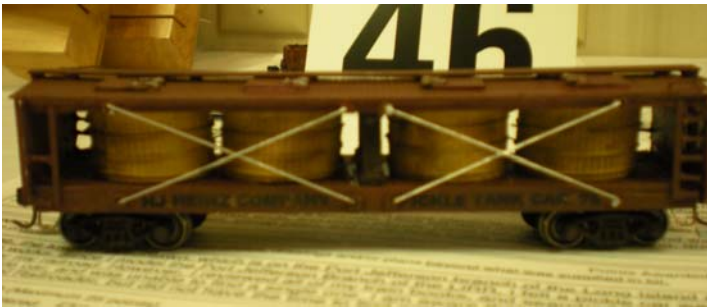
Here are some of the entries...





Best in Show (photo above)





## Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee, Jerry Mersch and John Wallis, offers the following individuals for consideration at the January 2010 Division elections. All four officer positions and one director position will be open.

Superintendent: Grif Bond

Asst Superintendent: Jim Murphy

Clerk: Jack Dziadul

Paymaster: John Rudisill

Director: Vic Bitleris, Stephen Wood

## From the Business Car

by John Janosko, Division Superintendent

On Sunday I returned from the MER convention in Hagerstown, MD. The Plaza Hotel was one of the best we have stayed in since the 2005 convention in Raleigh. Quite a number of our members were in attendance and I think mostly everyone had a good time. I was tied up with several MER VP duties and meetings and was unable to go to many of the clinics. I did get a chance to see some of the home layouts and got some ideas to put on Dick Buchan's layout. The best part of any convention for me is meeting with old friends and making some new friends that share this wonderful hobby.

We now have two new directors on the MER board, Don Jennings and Steve August (Carolina Southern Division) and PJ Matson was reelected to a second term. I wish them all luck in there new positions.

Representatives from the Mid Central Region were at our meeting to talk about the MCR's convention in May next year in Charleston, WV. It looks like an interesting convention. I will talk more about it at our meeting.

See you Tuesday.