



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

June 2011

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, June 28, 2011
Cary Senior Center
Fred G. Bond Metro Park
120 Maury O'Dell Place
Cary, NC

6:30 PM – Board of Directors Meeting
7:00 PM – Membership Meeting

Popular Vote Contest

**Sponsored by Kim Parker of Train Buddy
Hobby Shop**

June contest- Diesel Locomotives

©2010 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 15th of the month:

Jack Dziadul, Clerk and Editor
dziadul@windstream.net
919-721-8757

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.

Welcome New Member

John Sokash - Cary

June Program

"Signaling from Soup to Nuts" Kim Parker

Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Assistant Paymaster

June 2011

Balance In Checking 4/30/11	\$7,296.10
<u>Income</u>	
50/50 Per Capita	\$ 57.00
NS Boxcar sales	\$ 40.00
Total	\$ 97.00

Expenses

Domain name renewal	\$ 8.91
May meeting refreshments	\$ 24.61
Total	-\$ 33.52

Balance In Checking 5/31/11 \$7,359.58

For Sale

Norfolk Southern 40' box cars HO scale.

The price is \$15 each and \$50 for a 4 car set to non-division members, \$12.50 each and \$40 for division members. There are about 70 left. Contact John Janosko if interested.

Board of Directors

Superintendent

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

Assistant Superintendent

Jim Murphy, Cary, 919-460-7763
berkshireshort@yahoo.com

Division Clerk

Jack Dziadul, Sanford, 919-721-8757
dziadul@windstream.net

Division Paymaster

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

Director (term ending in January 2012)

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

Director (term ending in January 2013)

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

Director (term ending in January 2014)

Rob Rousseau, Holly Springs, 919-368-0586
railroad@nc.rr.com

Raffle Layout Update

Steve Milley is recruiting volunteers to paint, weather and decal locomotives, rolling stock and structures. **Grif Bond** and **Mason Cutchin** are getting ready to raise their hands.



Piedmont Crossing

By Jack Dziadul

The Piedmont Crossing is fast approaching and the Convention Committee, along with MER officers and staff, has been hard at work to bring you a quality convention experience. We have placed some convention notices and clinic descriptions in The Local, and The Herald will be running clinic descriptions monthly through October.

- Have you registered for the convention yet?
- Do you have your room reservation at the Embassy Suites?
- Have you volunteered for a convention assignment? See **Steve Milley's message below**.

Hi All: We've been working to put together a volunteer schedule for the convention in October. I've posted the latest file on the Yahoo Group web site. Take a look through the file and the open spots. You can see the positions across the top of the matrix, and the times along the 4-day schedule. Blocks highlighted in YELLOW means that we need someone, those in GREEN already have a name.

If you volunteer, you don't have to volunteer for the entire block, we can take hour increments.

Another note, if you volunteer to help, you will get a cash credit reimbursement for the convention cost. John Janosko will coordinate those details.

Anyone interested in a specific spot, shoot me an email. rsmilley@yahoo.com

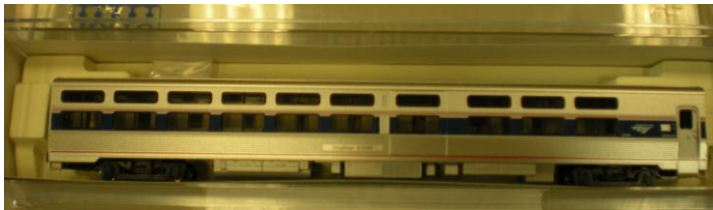
I'll have this matrix at the CPD13 Tuesday night meetings too.

Steve Milley

May Passenger Car Contest Entries

Jack Dziadul photos





Coming Events

September 3-5, 2011
2011 RailOps along the I-85 Corridor

September 7-10, 2011
Narrow Gauge Convention, Hickory, NC

October 14-16, 2011
Saluda Rails Operations Weekend, Hickory, NC

October 27-30, 2011
Piedmont Crossing, MER Convention, Cary, NC

January 28-29, 2012
Amherst Train Show, West Springfield. MA

NMRA National Conventions

2011	7/3 - 7/9	Sacramento, CA
2012	7/29 - 8/4	Grand Rapids, MI
2013	7/14 - 7/20	Atlanta, GA
2014		Cleveland, OH

MER Convention Host Calendar

2011	Div. 13 Carolina Piedmont, Cary, NC
2012	Tidewater
2013	Potomac / Chesapeake

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.

Piedmont Crossing Planning Meetings 2011

Saturday meetings are held monthly at 10 AM.
Weekly meetings are likely beginning in September.

July 16	Cary Senior Center
August 20	Cary Senior Center
September	3, 10, 17, 24
October	1, 8, 15, 22
Convention	October 27 to 30, 2011

Monthly Contests

June	Diesel Locomotive
July	Residential Structures
August	Depots and Stations
September	Bridges
October	No contest (Convention work night)
November	Tank Cars
December	No contest (Yankee Swap gift exchange)

Program Topics

June	Signaling from Soup to Nuts Kim Parker
July	Residential Structures
August	Depots/Stations Jack Dziadul
September	Bridges Over Troubled Layouts Dan Fisher
October	Convention work night
November	Liquids on the Railroad
December	Yankee Swap Gift Exchange

Refreshment Hosts

June	Dave Derway
July	Mark Blaustein
August	your name goes here

CPD Meeting Calendar

Tuesday nights monthly 2011
6:30 PM Board of Directors
7:00 PM General Meeting

June 28		
July 26	August 23	September 27
October 25	November 8	December 13

Pursuit of My MMR

By **R. Stephen Milley**, photos by the author

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the NMRA Achievement Program, the editor of *The Herald* asked that some of us provide a short write-up about our pursuit of AP certificates and the Master Model Railroader qualification. I thought to myself, "why not – I could use the author points!!". Since I haven't been pursuing AP certificates for very long, I don't have a lot to share, but here is a short overview of my progress thus far.

To shed a little light into my personality, I'm not afraid to tell you that I'm a bit of a procrastinator. If I don't have specific responsibilities in front of me, I'm likely to do a whole lot of nothing. That's part of the reason I became active in CPD13; that's why I volunteer to keep busy in CPD13; and that's why I've set AP certifications as targets for my own model railroading activities. These responsibilities drive me to get things done.

As for the practicalities of my pursuit of AP certifications, I'm currently pursuing four certificates: Association Volunteer, Model Railroad Author, Chief Dispatcher, and Master Builder – Structures. These keep me pretty busy, and as I continue with plans for my own model railroad layout, other certificate areas will follow as I make progress constructing my layout.

Association Volunteer

I've enjoyed being involved with CPD13 activities during the past couple of years. Since I volunteered to coordinate the annual raffle layout build, I've had plenty of work to keep me busy. The 2010 raffle layout build was a scramble last year, but it was a great success for our division. Here's a photo of last year's layout. This year, we're taking it at a more reasonable pace, and we have a great layout in the works.



I've also enjoyed being involved in the planning efforts for the 2011 MER convention – *Piedmont Crossing*. I've been co-chair of the Layout Tours Committee with **Vic Bitleris**, and I've been helping out to develop the convention logo, write publicity articles, develop the volunteers' schedule, and assist putting together the convention book.

With these activities, I expect to be about 75% complete with the Volunteer credits at the end of 2011.

Model Railroad Author

I enjoy the author category because I like to write articles and stories about our hobby-related activities. I try to take photos of different projects and activities to complement the articles. I hope my write-ups contribute to the enjoyment of the various readers out there.

Several of my write-ups this year have been publicity articles for the MER convention, and I've contributed a few articles to our local CPD13 newsletter, *The Herald*. I've got another story pending for a national model railroading magazine – hopefully we'll see that publication soon, so stay tuned!

As the author category includes both published articles and live clinics, I'm earning points with clinic presentations as well. I've conducted one clinic with CPD13, *The Craftsman Structure*

Show - Overview + Slide Show, and I've got two clinics in the works for this year's MER convention. At *Piedmont Crossing* I'll be presenting a clinic about *The Build of the 2010 CPD13 Raffle Layout*, and I'm co-hosting the 8-hour hands-on clinic with **Gene Sing** about *Building a Bar Mills Craftsman Structure Kit & Diorama*.

By the end of 2011, I expect to be about 75% complete with the Author credits.

Chief Dispatcher

I have been fortunate to be invited to participate in **Jack Frame's** operating crews at his *Monon Route* railroad in south Raleigh. It's been just over two years since I started there as a railroad engineer, and I participate once or twice a month depending on my personal schedule and Jack's need for operators.

This is my first experience with railroad operations, and I was interested in getting involved so I could learn more about how to design my own layout. On Jack's layout I started with the easier tasks like passenger routes and thru-freights, and have worked my way up to more complicated assignments like local freights, local turns, and interchanges. Recently I've been assigned to a rail yard as Yard Master.

This experience has been very valuable to me, as I have discovered the things I like most about model railroading operations. It has helped me to make solid plans for my own model railroad with the operations in mind that I enjoy most, such as industrial switching and yard interchange work.

As I work towards the Chief Dispatcher certificate, to date, I have plenty of Engineer credits, and I'm on my way to Yard Master credits. Eventually, I'll find a way to get myself into a Dispatcher role to finish up the operating credits. For the paperwork requirements, such as the layout schematic, operating schedule & chart, and train control method, I'll use the design of my own model railroad to fulfill those requirements.

Master Builder – Structures

Although I haven't made a lot of progress in the Structures category, this is another area that I enjoy a lot – building craftsman structure kits. I've built a few kits from manufacturers such as Bar Mills Scale Models, Campbells, and Fos Scale Models. Although these are not scratch-built structures, they will qualify under the "not-scratch" category.

One of my structure kit builds is shown in the picture here – the Campbell's Idaho Springs Mine. I had this structure judged last year, and I was just shy of the 87.5 points needed for a merit award. I went away with a list of details to add to get it to the merit award level, so that is on my long list of "things to do".



Another structure is shown here – the Fos Scale Model's Lucas Johnson Cabinet Maker Shop. I had fun building this small kit, although I haven't had it judged yet. Both of these kits have a specific location allocated to my layout design, and the diorama bases on which I build them will fit into the benchwork.



That wraps up my overview of my quest towards AP certificates. I've got activities on-going in the four areas above, and if I were to predict other areas that will make up my seven for the MMR qualification, I'd go with these: Master Builder - Cars, Master Builder - Scenery, Civil Engineer, and Electrical Engineer. I guess that's eight total rather than seven; we'll see how it goes. And of course, I can't forget about the Golden Spike award; that will be on the agenda as I make more progress on my home layout.

Thanks for letting me share my model railroading activities with you. I've been inspired by working with my fellow model railroaders in the CPD13 and beyond, and I hope that maybe my experiences might inspire others to work on their own certifications.

Guinness World Record Longest Train

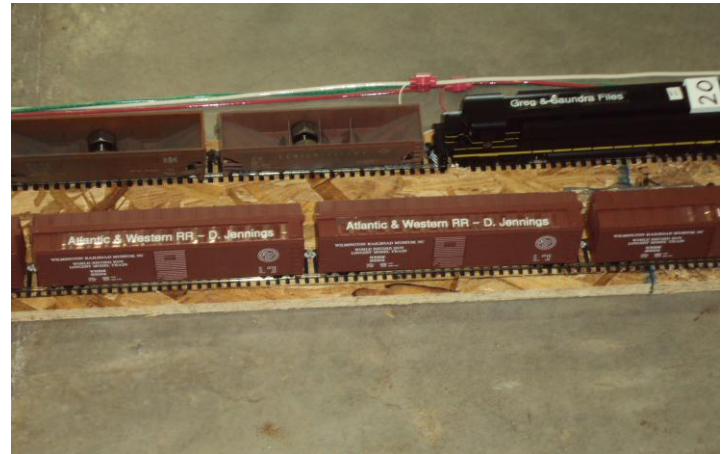
Additional photos of the event from **Jim Murphy**



GUINNESS WORLD RECORD
LONGEST MODEL TRAIN!



Don Jennings and **Jim Murphy** came home with some nice souvenirs.



Jim Murphy and Nancy enjoying the event.



Don Jennings photo

Minutes May 24, 2011

Board of Directors Meeting

Present: **Grif Bond, Jim Murphy, Jack Dziadul, Jerry Mersch, Vic Bitleris, John Wallis, Rob Rousseau.** The meeting convened at 6:30 PM.

- April minutes were review and approved on motion of **John Wallis** with **Vic Bitleris'** second.
- The Paymaster report was reviewed and approved on motion of **John Wallis** with **Vic Bitleris'** second.
- Paymaster items:
 - Reimbursements – no requests for reimbursement submitted
 - Cary Senior Center rental fee was paid.
 - IRS 990 tax ID number 56-2089922 (01) working on submitting the filing. **Jack Dziadul** to research Clerk records for IRS 503 (c) original document.
 - Actual expenses are \$240 year-to-date.
- Audit committee report: Eric Murphy, auditor was introduced. The audit report is due at the June meeting.

Adjourned 6:45 PM

June Business meeting

The meeting was convened 7 PM by Superintendent **Grif Bond.**

Achievement Program – no report

MER convention report – **John Janosko**

- **John Janosko** attended the Southeastern Region convention in Macon with **Dick Buchan** where they participated in a hump yard tour.

- John had the opportunity to review and promote MER convention.
- 10-12 SER members are expected to attend Piedmont Crossing.
- June 4 is the next organizing committee meeting. Host **Jack Dziadul** will provide lunch on the grill.
- The June 25 meeting will be hosted by **Gene Sing.**
- July and August will be at Cary Senior Center.
- **Steve Milley** will be bringing the volunteer sign-up sheet starting next month.

Jim Murphy - Program updates are in The Herald.

- The June contest is diesel locomotives.
- July will be residential structures (a presenter is needed).

Submitted by **Jack Dziadul**, Clerk

PIEDMONT CROSSING

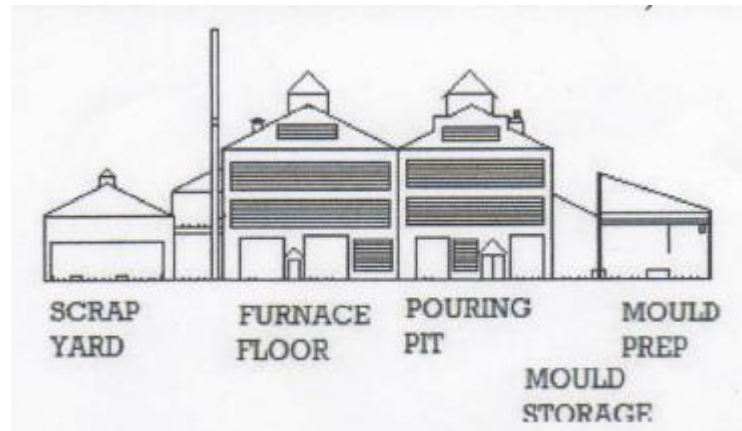
By **Jack Dziadul**

Tom Cook and **Mark Blaustein** are organizing prototype tours for the Piedmont Crossing convention. Some of the Sanford, NC railroad scenes available to conventioners are shown below and on the following page.





PIEDMONT CROSSING
MID-EASTERN
CONVENTION – CARY, NC
STEEL MILL DAY FRIDAY,
OCT 29, 2011 by Dick Buchan



ATTENDEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING MODELS FOR DISPLAY DURING THE ALL-DAY FRIDAY SESSION.

The day will begin with the first clinic about what constitutes a steel mill, the various components of a mill, and overall operation.

The 2nd clinic will be on mill arrangements of facilities with a discussion on layout designs.

The 3rd clinic will be given by John Glabb on his modeling of bottle care.

The 4th clinic will be given by Bill Wolf on blast furnace high lines.

The 5th clinic will be given by Pete Slugg on steel mill cars.

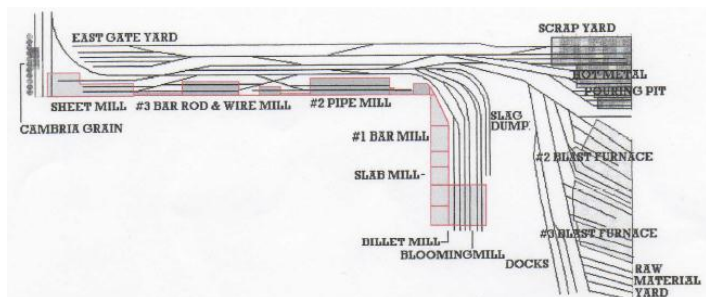
The 6th clinic will be given by Pete Slugg on modeling steel mill cars.

The 7th, 8th, & 9th clinics will be assembled after the September steel mill modeling meet in Maryland.

Discussion workshops will be held during the lunch break and after dinner.

There will be at least 4 steel mills on the layout tours list.

For those interested, there will be operating sessions at Dick Buchan's steel mill layout on Thursday from 12 to 3pm and Sunday from 12 to 4pm. This operating session will be limited to 5 people per session. This layout is not a highly detailed layout, but is operational. The track arrangements are similar to that of an actual steel mill. No car cards are used. Trains will be made up and delivered to actual parts of the modeled mill. The layout schematic is shown in the image below.



These sessions will complement the articles currently appearing in the SIG OP newsletter.

If interested in attending one of the operation sessions, please email Dick Buchan at trolley400@nc.rr.com.

Dick has 3 railroad layouts in his home, which will also be on the layout tour schedule. His home will be open to convention attendees on Sunday, October 30 from



NMRA InfoNet News June

By **Gerry Leone**, MMR
NMRA Communications Director

It's the pre-convention June edition. Not much news this month because everyone is getting ready for Sacramento next month.

- **IMPORTANT!** Region Presidents and Division Superintendents, please note: In the next few days you will be receiving a copy of the new **Member Information Policy** adopted by the Board of Directors. Be sure to read the policy carefully and adopt the changes at the regional and divisional level of the NMRA. Recent changes in personal privacy laws make these changes necessary in order that your local group – and you personally – can avoid the ever-stronger consequences and penalties for sharing members' personal information without their permission. Please direct any questions concerning this new policy to Mike Brestel, NMRA President, at nmrapres@zoomtown.com, or Robert Amsler, NMRA General Counsel, at nmralegal@charter.net.
- Remind your members that the NMRA has a **Facebook page and is on Twitter**. For up-to-the-minute news members should follow us at either (or both) of those two social media sites!
- The **National Train Show also has a Facebook page**. When they follow us, your members can get all kinds of information about which vendors will be at the show, show specials, and other good-to-know previews about the NTS!
- As has been the case for several years, **NMRA Membership numbers are remaining stable**. The membership count, as of **May 31**, was **19,495**. This represents an increase of 0.34% (that's 1/3 of 1%) over May of 2010, and a decrease of 0.32% (1/3 of 1%) over May of 2006. When you hear rumors of the "constant decrease in NMRA membership," please quote these figures -- it's **STABLE** and has been for at least five years!

- Repeating last month's news, [the 2011 NMRA election results](#) are in!
 - The new NMRA Canada Director will be **Don Hillman**, replacing Clark Kooning, MMR.
 - The new Central District Director will be **Peter Magoun**, MMR, replacing Bob Beatty, MMR.
 - The new Regional Advisory Council Director will be **Stephen Priest**, MMR, replacing Bob Ferguson.

All new Directors will take office at the Sacramento Board Meeting.

- The [Summer Board meeting](#) will be held prior to the Sacramento x2011 Convention and will begin on Friday, [July 1, 2011](#). Current plans put the meeting in the Beavis Room in the Sheraton Grand Sacramento Hotel. Tentative starting time is 9 am. All locations and times are subject to change -- be sure to keep an eye out for updates to this information. Remember, it's the responsibility of Region and Division officials to pass along this information to members.
- For the last time this year, a [notice of 2012 elections](#). The following NMRA Officers and Board of Directors positions are open for election in 2012: President, Vice President-Administration, Vice President-Special Projects, Eastern District Director, Pacific District Director, and At-Large North America Director. Please check the NMRA Executive Handbook located at http://www.nmra.org/national/organization/nmra_organization.html for the extent of the districts affected and qualifications. All candidate names for consideration by the Nominations Committee were due to Didrik Voss by [June 15, 2011](#).

If you have any questions or comments about any of the above, please send them directly to a Director or Officer. You'll find those addresses at www.nmra.org or in NMRA Magazine.

From The Business Car

By Grif Bond, Superintendent

I was recently doing some "spring cleaning" in the train room and something of interest caught my eye. I rearranged and sorted numerous un-built freight car kits and structure kits. Older kits did not mention any "minimum" or recommended age. I noted many kits recommended the kits for ages 8 and above. More recent kits say recommended for 14 and above. I understand the age recommendations (warnings) likely relate to small parts, glues/solvents, etc. and maybe some manufacturer concerns with liability. Then I wondered how this might be impacting the ability to generate new interest in model railroading. We have struggled to get younger kids into the hobby of model railroading and keep them.

The Boy Scouts of America's Railroading Merit Badge is an excellent program to introduce boys to the fun hobby of model railroading. The Railroading Merit Badge helped boost my interest in the hobby. My first 4 by 8 "cookie cutter" layout was based on a BSA publication from the late 60s. Scenery materials and techniques have come a long way from the recommended dyed green sawdust and brown linoleum paste on screen wire. Don Jennings continues to be a strong advocate for the Railroading Merit Badge program. Thanks again Don for all of your efforts!

Piedmont Crossing convention planning and strategy is on track and picking up steam. Most of the clinic slots are filled. At the June, July and maybe August business meetings we will be working to fill a number of convention volunteer slots to cover the company store, train show, clinic room coordinators, etc. So the committee will be asking for your support.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, June 28th at the Division meeting.