



The Carolina Piedmont Herald

Newsletter of the Carolina Piedmont Division, MER, NMRA

May 2011

Next Division Meeting

Tuesday, May 24, 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

May contest- Passenger Cars

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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 Members

John Peterman Raleigh, NC
Paul Ohegyi Morrisville, NC

May Program

"Putting on a Clinic" –Jim Murphy

MER Elections

Six members have submitted their nominations for election to the MER Board of Directors. If you missed the April deadline there is still a process available to submit your nomination. You must include a nomination petition signed by 25 current members, in addition to a statement and photo, and submit them prior to June 1st. These documents can be sent either by regular mail or electronic means to any member of the nominating committee prior to the June 1st. The members of the committee are:

- Bob Minnis – kahlualab@aol.com
(434) 589 3011
- Mike McNamara – mikemcnh@comcast.net
(856) 824 0871
- Dave Chance – loconut@carolina.rr.com
(704) 933 4200

These six made the April deadline:

Bob Price
Don Jennings
Steve August
Marty McGuirk
Chuck Davis
Martin Brechbiel

Please refer to the February 2011 Herald for further election details.

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

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

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.

June 4	Host: Jack Dziadul
June 25	Host: Gene Sing
July 16	
August 20	
September	3, 10, 17, 24
October	1, 8, 15, 22
Convention	October 27 to 30, 2011

Monthly Contests

May	Passenger Cars
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

May	Putting on a Clinic Jim Murphy
June	Hosting an Open House Stephen Wood
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

The Guinness Book of World Records HO Scale Model Train Run

Saturday April 23, 2011

Article and photos by Don Jennings

I am sure you have all heard of Guinness Book of World Records. I will bet that not many of you have been part of one of their record setting events. For me, it all started this past January 2011 when I read that the Wilmington Railroad Museum (WRRM) in Wilmington, NC was hosting the Guinness Book of World Records (GBWR) for a fund-raiser featuring the longest model train run. The current record is held by the Minitatur Wunderland of Hamburg Germany set in 2008. The WRRM wanted to bring the title to the USA and to its museum at Wilmington, NC. GBWR needed many people to help with all the details such as building the track roadbed and putting down the track in a folded over dog-bone design and building the 400 special train cars and fine tuning the 33 model locomotives used to pull the train. See *sketch of layout design below*.

Guards were just some of the needed volunteer positions for the protection of the layout in the Wilmington Convention Center for a record run of the HO Scale model train. There were people taking movies and still pictures, witnesses to make a report for the GBWR, plus all the workers to make sure the train runs perfectly on its quest to a world record.

I signed up my wife and me to be included as Crossing Guards, as they called us. We were to sit on chairs spaced every ten feet or so with a barrier tape woven between them. We would explain to the public what was happening as it happened. We signed up early for this 'job' and were also able to purchase a specially designed Box Car that would be included in the run as part of the longest train run. We were able to have the car labeled with our name or business. I choose "Atlantic & Western RR - D. Jennings" on the roof of all four cars that I purchased as a donation for the event.

After the event was over, all those who made a donation of a car(s) would be able to keep those cars as a souvenir.

HO Scale 50 foot Commemorative Car



The GBWR has very strict guidelines that had to be adhered to so a record could be set. Here are some of the guidelines;

- They must exceed the length of the train that holds the current record
- The train must move under its own power for a distance equal to 15 scale kilometers. (they said it must be over 630 feet in HO scale)
- The event must be open to the public.
- Two qualified people must witness it.
- It must be documented via both video and still photography.
- All lengths and distances must be measured and certified by a licensed surveyor.
- A full description of the event must accompany the submission to Guinness.
- The use of HO scale equipment will be used (1:87.1).
- We will assembly a two loop track that will be over 1000 feet long (approximately 16.5 miles in full scale and place a marker every scale one half mile along it run.
- The train will be moved by at least 33 Bowser ALCO C-628 diesel engines.
- These engines will pull over 1600 scale train cars.

- The train will be about 920 feet long (about 15.2 miles long in full scale). This amount is over three football fields long, longer than the Battleship North Carolina.
- The train will move at least 630 feet and will continue to move if all is running well.
- The train will contain model cars borrowed from more than 15 local modelers in addition to the 400 custom boxcars purchased and decorated just for this event.
- If all runs according to plan, the record run should take about 28 minutes with the train running at a scale speed of 20 miles per hour.
- The total model train weighs almost 500 pounds.
- Total time spent working on the project is over 3,600 hours.
- Over 110 volunteers are supporting this effort.
- Two model railroad manufacturers have provided support: Bowser Manufacturing (motive power and custom boxcars) and the Model Rectifier Corporation (10 Amp power supply).

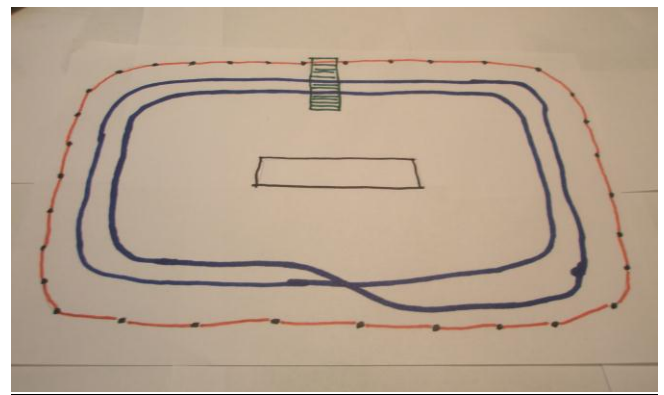
At one of the CPD 13 regular monthly meetings I stated to the membership there that there was going to be a Guinness Book of World Records Model Train Run for the longest train. and that sponsors were to be given special T-Shirts. It was to be a great way to be part of history and model railroading.

My wife and I arrived at the convention center about 9 AM and were told that the actual event would officially start at 1 PM. Between 9 AM and 1 PM there were many derailments and disconnections of the train. 1 PM came around and there were still some difficulties with the running of the train but at 3:50 PM on that Saturday April 23, 2011 the record was broken to the loud cheers and shaking of hands by all involved. Once the record was broken, the surveyor measured all the distances that the train actually traveled to satisfy the requirements and the official counting of the

cars used was completed. It was truly a joyous moment for the Wilmington Railroad Museum and Guinness and all those who were there to see and witness the event.

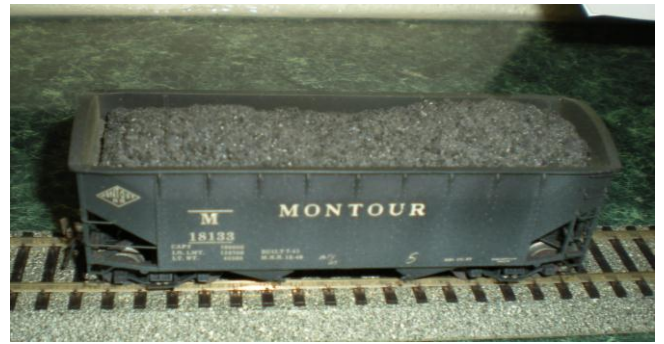
Below is a sketch of Guinness Book of World Record's Train Layout

1. Black lines are the tracks. The track is an over & under design.
2. Small dots are the chairs for the Guards
3. Orange line is the barrier tape
4. Wooden bridge for workers to get inside the layout
5. Center table is where the train was controlled from and also where the tools and supplies were to fix any problems.



April Freight Car Contest Entries

Jack Dziadul photos





Refreshment Hosts

May	Jerry Mersch
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

May 24	June 28	
July 26	August 23	September 27
October 25	November 8	December 13

Financial Report

By **Jerry Mersch**, Assistant Paymaster

April 2011

Balance In Checking 3/31/11	\$7,536.10
<u>Income</u>	
None	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Use of Cary Senior Center 2011	\$240.00
Total	-\$240.00
Balance In Checking 4/30/11	\$7,296.10

Minutes April 26, 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.

1. The Board minutes of January, February and March were approved on motion of **John Wallis** with **Vic Bitleris'** second.
2. Paymaster report: The First Quarter 2011 financial report as printed in The Herald was approved on motion of **John Wallis** with **Vic Bitleris'** second.
3. Paymaster items:
 - a. Banking authority with Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T): On motion of **Vic Bitleris** with **John Wallis'** second it was voted to add **Grif Bond** and **Jerry Mersch** to the BB&T authorization for banking services. **Dave Derway** remains on the banking resolution. The official address was changed to **Jerry Mersch's** home address. **Jerry Mersch** will investigate the use of on-line banking.
 - b. BB&T signature authority on the checking account: On motion of **Vic Bitleris** with **John Wallis'** second it was voted to add **Grif Bond, Jim Murphy** and **Jerry Mersch** as authorized signatories for checking account services. **John Janosko** and **John Rudisill** remain as authorized signatories.
 - c. **Jack Dziadul** raised the issue of requiring two signers on checks. There being no consensus no action was taken.
 - d. **Grif Bond** requested that any outstanding refreshment reimbursement receipts be

submitted to **Jerry Mersch** for payment.

- e. **Grif Bond** requested that **Jerry Mersch** look into the status of 2011 Cary Senior Center meeting space fees. \$240 was paid in 2010.
4. 2011 Expense Budget: \$2,609 was approved for 2011 Division expenditures on motion of **John Wallis** with **Vic Bitleris'** second.
5. **Grif Bond** requested that **Jerry Mersch** review IRS filing requirements and submit as needed prior to May 15, 2011.
6. **Grif Bond** appointed **Jim Murphy** and **Don Jennings** to the Audit Committee and requested a report by the June meeting.
7. NMRA Diamond Club Contribution: \$1,000 was suggested by **Jack Dziadul**. This suggestion was soundly rejected. Although other amounts were mentioned (\$100 to \$500), there was criticism, concern and questioning regarding the NMRA's use of funds received to date, and for the apparent change in policy to charge members for downloads of archived documents. It was mentioned that the Mid-Eastern Region submitted questions to the NMRA President regarding the Diamond Club, but as of meeting time there was no response. There being no consensus no action was taken regarding a Diamond Club contribution.

Meeting adjourned 6:58 PM.

Membership meeting

- **Grif Bond** reviewed the votes of the preceding Board of Directors meeting.
- AP Report: **Vic Bitleris** reported that he is working on the paperwork for his Volunteer award and that **Dan Fisher** is nearing completion of the requirements for the Model Railroad Author award. Vic

encouraged members to pursue the Golden Spike award.

- **John Janosko** provided a Piedmont Crossing convention update and the web site was reviewed. A volunteer schedule will be offered at the next meeting.
- **Jack Dziadul** reviewed the clinics status.
- **Jim Murphy** updated the members on upcoming contests and programs.
- **Mark Blaustein** volunteered for the July refreshments.
- **Don Jennings** reviewed the World's Longest Train in Wilmington last weekend. The event was a success and is recognized as such by Guinness. Don and **Jim Murphy** participated in the event.
- New members **Paul Ohegyi** (N scale) and **John Peterson** (HO) were introduced.
- **Vic Bitleris** recognized the two freight car contest winners who tied for most votes: **Bill Hanley** and **Grif Bond**.
- **Mason Cutchin** reviewed a new reaming tool set that he recently purchased called "Reaming Roach".
- **Vic Bitleris** presented a detailed clinic on modeling freight car brake systems complete with comprehensive handouts. The clinic was very well researched and well received. Models of Vic's work were available for viewing.

Submitted by Jack Dziadul, Clerk

The Best of Times...The Worst of Times

Article and photo by **Jack Dziadul**

I travel back to my home state of Massachusetts frequently. Like a trail pony at a dude ranch my rental cars always find their way. Not to the barn, of course, but to one of my favorite hobby shops. Moose Miniatures is a relatively new outlet having been founded by Joe Couture in 2002. It was intended to be a part-time job. However, his then employer decided that Joe should make a career change. So, one pink slip later Joe was full-time into the retail business.



Joe knew that competition from the internet would be a challenge. But, with specialties such as a civil war era and fire engine models, plus an extensive inventory of detail parts Moose Miniatures began to develop a loyal following. This, my final trip to the store, was when I saw the "Store closing" signs. After subsidizing the operation since 2008 Joe said that it was time to face reality and close the shop.

NMRA InfoNet News

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

It's the [May 2011](#) edition!

[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.

- Speaking of the [Summer Board meeting...](#) this year's 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 Sacramento Grand Sheraton 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.
- A couple of [Convention reminders](#):
 - A special ["Carpet Cutting Ceremony"](#) (the indoor equivalent of a Ground Breaking Ceremony) for the Gallery Exhibit will be held on [Thursday](#) evening during the x2011 Convention. All are invited.
 - Convention registrations have now passed [1500 attendees](#) while attendance at the Advance Section over the weekend prior to the Convention is over 150 attendees... and the Convention is still 6 weeks away! If you or your members aren't registered yet, you can do it online at

www.x2011west.org You can also buy tickets for tours, sign up for operating sessions, and purchase convention cars and shirts online.

- Once again, 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 shall be submitted to Didrik Voss, davoss@pvmtengr.com, no later than [June 15](#), 2011.

April Contest Winners

Jack Dziadul photos

Grif Bond



Bill Hanley



Street Trolleys In Poland

Article and photos by R. Stephen Milley

I spent a week in Poland at the end of April – a short family vacation as I attended my wife’s brother’s wedding in the small town of Sierpc, Poland. During the week we spent a few days in Warsaw – a large metropolitan city and the capital of Poland, and we traveled north of Warsaw for a few days for the wedding. After the wedding in Sierpc, we took a day trip to the town of Torun – an old medieval town that dates back to the 13th century and one that was spared during World War II. Torun is also known as the founding location of gingerbread. All in all, it was an interesting week touring through Poland.

Warsaw, like any large metropolitan city, offered a variety of public transportation methods such as buses, taxis, and subway routes. But I was happy to discover a network of street trolleys that ran down the center of some of the major roadways. I thought to myself, “what a great opportunity to snap some pictures and share with my CPD13 friends back in North Carolina!”

In the series of photos below in Figure 1, you can see one of the newer, modern trolleys. Each of the trolleys I saw was in a configuration of 2 cars, and they had their own sets of traffic lights that coordinated with vehicle and pedestrian traffic. In the pictures below, you can see one trolley merging into the on-coming lane while a second trolley waits further in the distance for its own green light. Also below is a picture that I took while riding in the trailing car. Station stops were quite frequent – approximately every two blocks. The fee was 2.8 Polish Zloty’s for a one-way ride and 9.0 Zloty’s for a 24-hour pass. (1.0 U.S. dollar = approx. 2.8 Polish Zloty’s.)



Figure 1: A Modern Street Trolley in Warsaw, Poland

In Figure 2, you can see additional photos of some of the Street Trolleys that I saw in Poland. The network consisted of both the newer cars as well as older cars that seemed to be maintained fairly well.





Figure 2: Street Trolleys in Warsaw, Poland

When we traveled to the small town of Torun, we again found a street trolley network. This town is quite a bit smaller than Warsaw, and I believe the trolley network traveled along just the main street through the town. Again, we found a mix of older cars and new modern cars. You can see in the second photo below that the street trolleys and the traditional buses manage to share the roadway without any problem.



Figure 3: Street Trolleys in Torun, Poland

From The Business Car

By Grif Bond, Superintendent

Springtime is here. The colder weather is finally gone and we are now getting outside more for yard and house fix-up projects. Hopefully you had the opportunity during the winter months to make some progress on your layout, finish a few kits, paint a locomotive or work on a contest model for the convention.

Planning for the 2011 Mid-Eastern Region convention, "Piedmont Crossing", continues to move on schedule. The clinics schedule is about 80% complete. You can help in several ways...host an open house for a layout tour; volunteer some time to work at the convention and you will receive a convention registration rebate; conduct a clinic and earn some AP points. Contact any member of the convention planning committee and get your name on the volunteer list.

Rooms are beginning to fill at the Embassy Suites, so it appears interest in Piedmont Crossing is good. If you are planning to attend the convention, be sure to get your registration in before the early registration cut-off. There are limited slots for some events such as the NCDOT rail yard tour and some of the "make and take" sessions.

Paymaster John Rudisill was recently released from Durham Regional Medical Center. He is currently residing at The Laurels of Forest Glen, 1101 Hartwell Street Garner, NC 27529, working on rehabilitation. Cards and visitors are welcome.

The Board of Directors appointed Jerry Mersch to serve as Assistant Paymaster during John's absence. If you are due a reimbursement for refreshments from a recent meeting, please contact Jerry. Jim Murphy and Don Jennings were appointed to the Audit Committee to review financial records from 2010 and report back to the Board of Directors at the June meeting.

Join us at the next Division meeting on May 24th.