

## Pensacola Model Railroad Club Newsletter

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<b>John Hudson</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Temp Vacant</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>
<b>Glen Hall</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Bobby Payne</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>

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### Around the Club

It has been near a year since the last Newsletter. A lot has happened in the time gone past, so lets play catch up. Our layout has outgrown our temporary meeting place. Our membership has increased 47%. Our club as a whole is being introduced into the digital age of model railroad control. Looking at our Calendar on the web, our scheduled for one month has doubled! We have exceeded our web provider's space limitation once, and still growing. With all this growing I hope the content of the newsletter has grown as well!

### Hail and Farewell

#### Welcome new Members

We have grown in leaps and bounds. Our additions in the past year are Al Leblanc, Perry Ransone, John Blasy, Jack Rowles, Phil O'Donnell, Bob Murray, Jay Gutknecht, Brian Horton, and the most recent addition is David Wilkes. This brings our membership to 19 members! Welcome all, hopefully our club provides what you seek and call fun.

### Show at the Mall

After all the traveling we have done for the last couple of years, we decided to do a display on our home turf. We were included as part of the collector show that is held every month at University Mall. We were set up at the entrance to Sears, which needless to say was prime real estate. Setup was quick as usual. The show lasted two days which was great for running trains. The low lighting late in the evenings made the layout lighting really stand out. All in all, it was a great two days of running trains.

### Railroad Crew Swap

Dave Ramirez is about to move on again. With his 21 years of duty in the US Navy coming to an end, he will be attending Conductor school in November with the beginning of his new career in railroading at Tampa, Florida. In the mean time with everything that needs to be done to make the transition, Dave has resigned the Presidency to Johnny Hudson until the regular elections

come up. He will not totally go away though as there are plans to return to Pensacola and the Train Club. Note: I am not selling my trains! Hopefully all will go well.



### Two Members Attend NMRA Convention

By Glen Hall

Early on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, Terry and I headed southeast to Ft. Lauderdale, where we would attend the week long National Model Railroad Association convention "Tracks in the Sand" and National Train show. We were giddy with excitement, having reviewed the schedule of clinics and layout tours available to us.

Clinics! How about six to choose from every hour beginning at 9:00AM and running until 9:00PM daily. You name a subject associated with model railroading and there was most likely a clinic about it. If you haven't done the math yet, that's 54 clinics a day for four days, Friday having only six due to the train show, Totaling 222 hour long clinics. I personally attended 15 while Terry racked up 20. We also could have opted for any of the 33 layout tours scheduled.

Our objectives were pretty much the same, "Get the most bang for our bucks", while learning new ideas, concepts and techniques. Terry, being in business, took every clinic and discussion session of DCC operations, which amounted to approximately 28 hours. The majority

# The Golden Spike

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of which were devoted to Digitrax® but also covered Lenz® and some of the smaller foreign manufacturers.

One of my early clinics was "NMRA Model Contest Judging". Since I had taken seven models and my module for judging, I thought it behooved me to find out how they were actually judged. Guess what, yours truly was asked to be a member of the judging committee. Every entry judged on five categories: construction, detail, conformity, finish and scratch building. I was part of a four-person team that judged construction. We spent seven hours scrutinizing, discussing, and finally awarding points to 50 entries.

The week culminated with the National Train show on Friday afternoon for convention attendees only, and Saturday and Sunday to the general public. The giant exhibit hall contained 930 booths for manufacturers and vendors, 21 layouts of various gauges, as well as food vendors. My module along with two from Tucson, AZ and four from Denver, CO were included with the Orlando N-Trak Club. The result was a 28'X54' layout with a "T" on one end feeding inside to a 2X16 yard. Think that was something? Z-Trak had the largest layout, combining modules from two clubs, Dallas, TX and Switzerland. Their layout wasn't in an oval, but in somewhat of an "F" shape.

With tired feet, at least 75lbs. of free literature, our brains full of new model railroading knowledge, we returned to P'cola on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, ready to impart our new found ideas, skills and the literature with fellow club members in the "Worlds Greatest Hobby".

## Module Work Progresses

Module work is has hit high gear. The only really empty modules on the layout are being completed. The once completely empty corner module (with exception of some comically placed cows) is now a paper mill. Full of detail, it takes a lot of time to appreciate all of effort in the scenes. Again this module was completed within a month. Some of our best work happens during crunch time.

Glen has put out probably the best module yet on his personal straight module of a downtown neighborhood. Detailing and the ability for a scene to come to life, comes natural for Glen. His many awards accumulated at the NMRA convention is a testimony to that.

Kerry Muir's module desperately required frame reconstruction. You could say that his module was the test bed for the many different ideas all of us have come up with. Needless to say, the frame was weak and riddled with holes. Dave and Kevin constructed a new module frame keeping with the club standard and attached

Kerry's module to it. Now Kerry's module not only looks great but is storable and transportable with the rest of the club modules. With all this work underway all modules are scheduled for presentation at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds.



## First Clinic in wake of NMRA National Show

Glen Hall gave an excellent clinic on the creation of skyboard scenes. The technique that he acquired at the NMRA show was extremely fast and easy to do. The result of the finished product was astounding! Clouds were very realistic and well blended into the scene. Land scenes were done in layers with a coating of misted white paint to show depth in a scene. With Glen's technique of creating skyboards, this can be an art in itself.



## Transportation Museum

The Transportation Project has been declared a dead issue. There is still a lack of a plan sent to us so we can project our labor requirements. They are having issues

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with the buildings and costs for renovation. They also have issues with former clubs that did not perform to their expectations. With all this, our pursuit down this road is done and the search for other options is underway.

## Cyber Trains

Anybody that hasn't visited our web site recently, it has changed. The member section has been changed to include photos, a small bio and lists their E-mail address for those who wished to have it posted. This is our way of introducing members to our page viewers. The events page is kept current near daily to provide an accurate schedule of events. If meetings are held at a place other than the fire station, a web map will be provided. Bobby Payne is driving the Cyber Train as our web master.

## For Sale/Wanted

We are still trying to talk Bobby into finally committing and sell all of his HO stuff. With moving into a new house who needs all that old stuff anyway?!

## Editors Forum

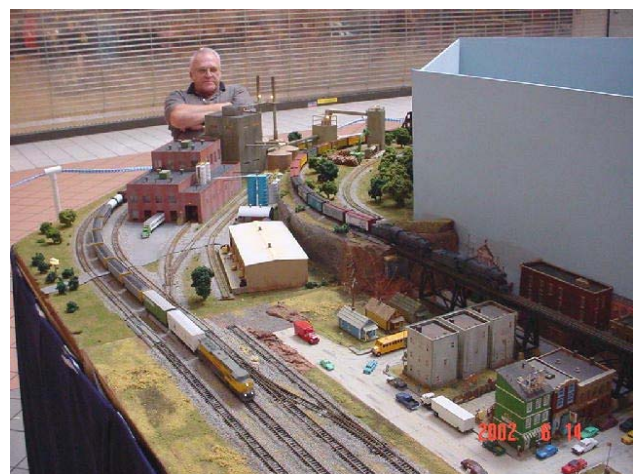
As the saying goes "all good times come to an end." I've had a great time with all the PMRC members. From the very beginning, I knew that if there was one thing that's going to get the club off the ground it was going to be the ability to run trains with many friends.

I have enjoyed meeting each and every one of you. If there is one unique thing that I have noticed in our club, it is the fact that most of our members participate in all of the club events instead of just a few doing everything. This is what I feel has made this Club so successful.

I have just a thought to give away, come to the train meetings because you enjoy being with friends and playing with trains. Take on obligations because all will enjoy doing them. At the moment you come to train meeting because you think you have to, and not because you want to, it is time to refocus. As I look back two years at the rapid growth of the PMRC, I see one thing, many friends having fun model railroading. This is what its all about.

## Kudos

I have a few people to thank; Glen for the wonderful article and providing the inspiration for skyboards, Jack for the pictures from the Mall show.



## Disclaimer

These are the opinion of the Editor alone and not necessarily the opinion of the Pensacola Model Railroad Club. Three things to remember, Keep it fun, keep it simple, and keep it stress free. Let the trains run.

Dave