

# THE PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEAST REGION, NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

# TIMETABLE

VOLUME 27, No. 2

Effective 12:01 am, 11 April 2023





# PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEASTERN REGION  
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



## TIMETABLE

VOLUME 27

No. 2

Effective 12:01am, Eastern Time  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023**

Jim Datka . . . . . Editor and Publisher  
Doug Alexander. . . . . Associate Editor  
James Bando. . . . . Photo Editor

### CONTRIBUTORS

Perry Lamb  
Charlie Mason, MMR  
Scott Perry

Deadline for the  
3rd Quarter 2023 TIMETABLE:  
**Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

Send Submissions to:  
[timetable@piedmont-div.org](mailto:timetable@piedmont-div.org)

*"WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE TRAINS"*



## BUSY, BUSY, BUSY...

The first quarter was very busy for the Piedmont Division. In addition to our monthly meetings and open houses, we were well represented at the GOLDEN SPIKE's 62<sup>nd</sup> Atlanta Model Train Show and *Trains, Trains, Trains* at the SOUTHERN MUSEUM OF CIVIL WAR AND LOCOMOTIVE HISTORY.

Oh yeah, we also held the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Piedmont Division Model Train Show at the CLARENCE BROWN CONFERENCE CENTER in Cartersville. And boy, did we put on a Show! Division members, including some very new ones, filled all of the volunteer slots needed to successfully manage the Show. And was it successful?

Twenty one more vendors came on Friday than were budgeted or (floor) planned. Attendees arriving Saturday morning had trouble finding parking spots. The *White Elephant* sale basically sold out. We were very successful. Details on following pages.

I made a far too infrequent trip to BLUE OX TRAINS. Steve Funsten gave me a tip that I needed to see what was happening on his second floor. He was right.

Scott Perry reports on something new that happens far too seldom in the retail hobby marketplace.

Charlie Mason MMR® describes a model he reviews as decrepit—see why.

How many Lego® blocks did Joe Sullivan need to do a clinic?

*All this and more in this issue...*

—Jim Datka  
TIMETABLE Editor and Publisher  
[timetable@piedmont-div.org](mailto:timetable@piedmont-div.org)  
770 772-1538

*Sorry for the extreme delay in producing this issue. My day job was also very hectic during the first quarter with trade shows and special events.*

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PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT  
SPRING 2023

Greetings and, this time, welcome to full-on Spring! Cool mornings and warm afternoons, sprinkled with days where it is cold and others where it is hot. Oh, and we cannot forget the rain and all the yellow stuff that coats are cars and lungs! Spring in North Georgia!



Spring has been very busy for the Piedmont Division and will continue to be so. First, we have completed a very successful Model Train Show, again held at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville, Georgia. We sold out of vendor tables, and then some, had great attendance, and hosted the SER Board of Directors. It was great seeing all the people wandering around and making purchases. I saw a great number of bags being carried out of the Center. A funny comment I heard was from the producer of the live radio broadcast hosted from the show. He had wondered if he could find a Hogwarts model train at the show and then noted that 5 minutes later a child walked by, proudly carrying one home. You just have to

love a great train show and the love of trains it brings out!

Walt Liles and his team are continuing to work on the 2023 SER Convention, The Cartersville Express. Yes, the convention is not until September, but this is just a friendly reminder that this is going to be a great convention AND, you need to get registered, if you haven't already done so. I really think Walt's team is pulling together what should be a really good time. There will be operating sessions, layout open houses, great clinics, and what sounds like an amazing banquet that will cap the whole thing off. I am very much looking forward to this time with my fellow Model Railroaders.

Of course, the Division itself is running along at Run 8. We have a full slate of meetings and events on the calendar. In April, Walt Liles is presenting his clinic on Weathering Diesel Locomotives. This is a very cool topic and something that I am personally interested in. One of my favorite parts of the hobby is building, painting, and weathering locomotives. Any time I can learn something new about a favorite part of the hobby, I'm all in. Walt will be showing us some effects that can be achieved on our train models using materials that have been in use in the armor modeling community for some time. In my own case, I started weathering railroad equipment using techniques I learned in building armor many years ago. The clinic, as always, will be recorded so if you miss something, you will be able to go back and watch it again.

(continued on next page)



## DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—SPRING 2023

(CONTINUED)

In May, Stefan Bartelski will be presenting, Modeling the Tate Georgia railroad station. I am also looking forward to this clinic as scratch building can be a very important part of our hobby. Just think, you too can have that special building, exactly the one you need for a signature scene on your layout, that no one on the planet produces. Another case for scratch building, might be something similar from another modeler, a building that fits that odd corner of the layout where two tracks cross each other but the spot for the industry that goes there is an odd four-sided building with one curved wall! That is easy, just build it to fit the space.

In June, Harvey George will be presenting Scratchbuilding the SAL B3 Box-car. Here again, is a great learning opportunity for our members. I'm just starting work on my Cars certificate in the Achievement Program. That certificate would be my 7<sup>th</sup>. Learning more about building cars, for me, personally, is great. But again, for anyone, having a need for just that special car for your own layout. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about this important skill. The nice thing is, even if you don't want to completely scratchbuild a car, techniques here can even help with kitbashing something unique to your railroad.

Please also remember that in May we'll be having our second quarter Train 'N Camp. Two people have already registered for our Camp on building turnouts with the Fast Tracks jigs. There are only four spots left. If you are interested, please register in the members-only portion of the Division website.

Looking forward, remember that in July, we will return to the "pizza meeting" format that we've had in the past. You are invited to bring to the Division meeting four or 5 items that will fit in front of you at a table. These items you are free to sell or trade to anyone else in the room. Others will have a similar number of things for sale or trade. The Division will provide pizza, all you need to do is come, eat, and sell!

We are headed into Summer and I hope you have projects of your own, ready for work. I'm working on at least three different scenes, several structure projects, and a couple of car projects, all at the same time. Yeah, my workbench is a mess. But, this is a great hobby, we live in the best Division in North America, if not the entire world, and our Division is growing. All you need to do is participate. So, pick up your knife, paintbrush, or weathering chalks and get busy, its that simple.

Until next time, Engage!

—Perry Lamb  
SUPERINTENDENT, PIEDMONT DIVISION  
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**HELP OUR DIVISION  
BY VOLUNTEERING!**

Piedmont Division monthly meetings are held at:

### Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

805 Mt. Vernon Highway, Atlanta, GA 30327



Division meetings are open to everyone. Come join us to see what fun Model Railroading is. See Division Calendar for details.

We hope to see you at our next meeting!



# BLUE OX TRAINS

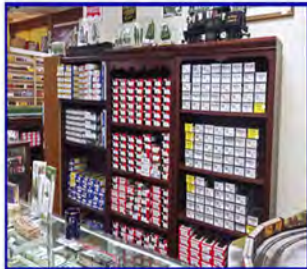
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## DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

March Transactions:

Income			
Admin Income			
	> Meeting 'bucket' contr...		\$162.00
	> Meeting 'paypal' contr...		\$126.15
	Total Admin Income		\$288.15
SER 2023 Income			
	> Registration Fees		\$2,500.62
	> Timetable ads		\$220.00
	Total SER 2023 Income		\$2,720.62
	> Train Show Income		\$34,604.59
	Total Income		\$37,613.36
Expenses			
Admin Expense			
	> Meeting Room Rental		
	3/22/23	Piedmont Divisio... Holy Innocents' E...	-\$300.00
	> Software & Internet		\$426.12
	Total Admin Expense		\$126.12
	> Train Show Expense		-\$10,155.71
	Total Expenses		-\$10,029.59
	Total		\$27,583.77

March Assets Increase \$27,584 - Thanks to our Train Show:

Assets				
Cash				
Fidelity	\$41,970.93	\$41,985.88	\$41,994.74	\$41,994.74
Piedmont Div Train Show	\$19,238.98	\$19,885.11	\$15,392.11	\$39,840.99
Piedmont Division 6586	\$3,412.82	\$3,233.19	\$2,809.13	\$3,223.40
SER 2023 Convention	\$1,321.41	\$3,950.34	\$5,066.20	\$7,786.82
TIAA CDs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Cash	\$65,944.14	\$69,054.52	\$65,262.18	\$92,845.95

—Jim Foley  
 Director of Finance  
[finance@piedmont-div.org](mailto:finance@piedmont-div.org)  
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# APRIL PERSONNEL REPORT



REPORT: Sadly, even though we have added over 25 new members since mid December, we are losing members as fast as we gain them.

I'm changing focus now to work with retention and getting lost members back. If you know a lost member, please contact them. The more the better.

RECRUITING EVENT: March meeting push for new members to attend. Went very well with about 15 of them attending. Gave away special door prizes for them and put on color badges so they could be recognized. Very high attendance at the meeting of 76. Thanks to everyone at the meeting that was introducing themselves to the new members.

UPCOMING RECRUITING EVENTS: None for next three months

—Scott Perry

Director of Personnel

## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership Last Month	375
Membership This Month	376
Increase / Decrease	1
2023 - 2024 Goal	100
YTD Membership Increase	10
Distance to Goal	90
Members New	4
Members Rerailed	0
Members Lost	9
Members in Arrears	26
Members to Renew	9
New Members	Steve Hines, Norton Family, Lowell Sims, Doug Waite
Rerailed Members	none
Lost Members	Art David, Linda Decker, Keith Hardman, Kellen Hubbs, Kenneth Rusiska, Brian Sandberg, Joe Terpo, Matt Thompson, M Bud Willis



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## PIEDMONT DIVISION CALENDAR

### PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 11 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg  
CLINICIAN: **WALT LILES** TITLE: **WEATHERING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES**  
BRING & BRAG: Freight Cars and Locomotives or whatever you have been working on and want to share.

### PIEDMONT DIVISION LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 **BOB YOUNG** 1-5 PM  
Pennsylvania Railroad—Middle Division Details on *Members Only Events* tab on our website at [piedmont-div.org](http://piedmont-div.org)

### PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 9 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg  
CLINICIAN: **STEFAN BARLETSKI** TITLE: **MODELING THE TATE, GA STATION**  
BRING & BRAG: Caboose or whatever you have been working on and want to share.

### PIEDMONT DIVISION LAYOUT OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, MAY 13 **DAVE BENNETT** 1-5 PM  
Train Installations Details on *Members Only Events* tab on our website at [piedmont-div.org](http://piedmont-div.org)

### PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 13 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg  
CLINICIAN: **HARVEY GEORGE** TITLE: **SCRATCHBUILDING SAL B3 BOXCAR**  
BRING & BRAG: Scratchbuilt or Kitbashed Rolling Stock or whatever you have been working on and want to share.

### PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 11 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg  
**PIZZA AND SWAP MEETING** Pizza supplied by Division  
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### PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg  
CLINICIAN: **JIM DAVIS** TITLE: **CRICUT MACHINE USED FOR MODELING**  
BRING & BRAG: Structures (especially paper ones) or whatever you have been working on and want to share.

### 2023 SER CONVENTION—CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 thru SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17  
Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA  
To register and for info go to [2023serconvention.org](http://2023serconvention.org)



# ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

## PIEDMONT CERTIFICATE AWARDED



Wayman Humphrey has earned the *MASTER BUILDER - STRUCTURES AP CERTIFICATE*. Wayman also receives Merit Awards for six of his structures, including the three shown below in the photos.

Six of the models must earn merit awards and at least six must be scratch-built. Any model that is not scratch-built must be super-detailed.

Models are considered "scratch-built" if at least 90% of the pieces are hand-crafted. That means commercial parts cannot exceed 10% of the pieces in the model.

"Super-detailed" means that extra detail has been added to the model. If you are building a commercial kit, no matter how complex the kit, you must add extra detail to the kit. This extra detail could include interior or exterior lighting, interior details, trash barrels, trash containers, etc.

—Charles Mason MMR  
Piedmont Division Achievement Program Chairman  
[ap@piedmont-div.org](mailto:ap@piedmont-div.org)  
770 993-1589



TIMBER TRESTLE

The requirements for the Master Builder - Structures AP Certificate are straightforward. An applicant must build 12 structures. There must be at least six different types of structures represented and one of the structures must be a bridge.



DECREPIT BARN



BURNED-OUT BUILDING



# WELCOME FUSION SCALE HOBBIES

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT PERRY

While it is more common to announce the closure of a long standing hobby shop, I'm so happy to announce the opening of a new hobby store in Cartersville, GA!

FUSION SCALE HOBBIES is opening a new brick and mortar store to enhance their on line business [fusionscalehobbies.com](http://fusionscalehobbies.com). The store is located at 1010 North Tennessee Street, Suite 115, Cartersville, GA. Look for the sign in the corner of the shopping strip center.

The owner is Christopher Williams, an energetic fellow that is a life long model railroader. While originally from Canton, Christopher has lived in many places and just relocated here from Louisiana to come back home and build his dream.

Christopher is the founder of FUSION SCALE GRAPHICS, a waterslide decal manufacturer. He has continued to expand his business into model railroad, model car and military models using online sales. With his expansion into this brick and mortar store he has been able to add even more suppliers such as Walther's to his product lines.

The store should be open in full in April. This modern looking facility with new racking and hot products is a place to see! Christopher says that during the day he may be available and you can come in even though the windows are covered. I've found him to be quite a gracious host and I feel he is probably there packing orders around the clock.



The first thing I noticed was paint. It is difficult to find ample paint supplies in Georgia and Fusion has cured that problem. With huge racks of MIG, AK Interactive, Tru Color and more, just ask yourself when was the last time you saw 6 foot high racks full of every color of paint!



I perused the aisles of Walther's, Atlas, Athearn,

Bachman and other locomotives and rolling stock, and he has plenty of local road names to pick from. How about a wall of locomotive detail parts? Yes, this is a well-stocked shop. Fusion also carries auto, ship and military models as well as die cast cars and tractors.



Christopher is still working to stock the new store and is waiting on more racking as well. His new sign is up and we look forward to welcoming his business to the neighborhood. I can't wait to see what else he adds to the nice store.

—Scott Perry





## DIVISION'S MAY OPEN HOUSE TRAIN INSTALLATIONS LLC

Dave Bennett has opened a workshop in Woodstock for his business making model railroad layouts. He is also opening his doors to Piedmont members on Saturday, May 13th from 1 to 5 PM. This is the Division's May Open House.

This is a chance to see how someone who makes layouts for a living plan and manage their construction as well as how he organizes his workshop.

Further in this issue I write about two of his layouts being built at Steve Funsten's BLUE OX TRAINS which were started before he moved to his new workshop. Based on Dave's orders, this location is going to be a very busy place.

—Jim Datka



### TRAIN INSTALLATIONS OPEN HOUSE

103 BELL PARKWAY, SUITE 200  
WOODSTOCK, GA 30188

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH

1 TO 5 PM







# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S JANUARY CLINIC

## JOE SULLIVAN: LOADS PART II-OPEN CAR LOADS FOR THE TEAM TRACK



Joe presented a second clinic on modeling loads for gondolas and flat cars. This one focused on loads that would be loaded or unloaded at team tracks.

Team tracks are general purpose sidings where commodities on rail cars are transloaded to trucks or other vehicles. Originally this was horse-drawn wagons and is where the team track got its name.

These are areas accessible by many shippers and receivers as opposed to an area dedicated to a single company,

There are many different types of products or materials handled at a team track. That means you can model just about anything you can imagine.



### Open Loads for Team Tracks

#### Example of an Early Team Track



This is Why it was Originally Called a Team Track

### Key Team Track Components

All are Optional Except the First

1. Paved Area for Teams, Trucks, Cranes and Conveyors
2. Loading Dock at Flat Car Deck Level
3. Ramp at End of Loading Dock
4. Ramp at End of Track for Unloading Cars from End
5. Small Crane for Unloading Cars (Tichy or Alexander)
6. Gantry Crane for Transferring Loads
7. Small Freight House (or Station Nearby)
8. Small Structure for Shipper and/or RR Paperwork
9. Fence for Security
10. Derailed to Protect Main Line

### Examples of Model Team Tracks

#### Sugar Valley & Sweetwater – Brian Glock



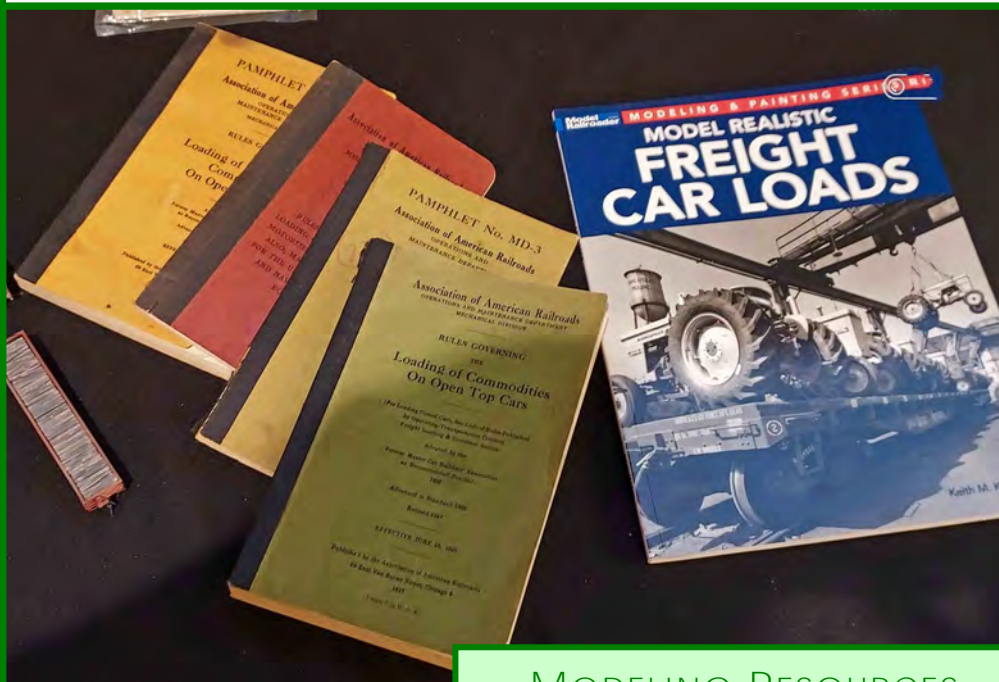
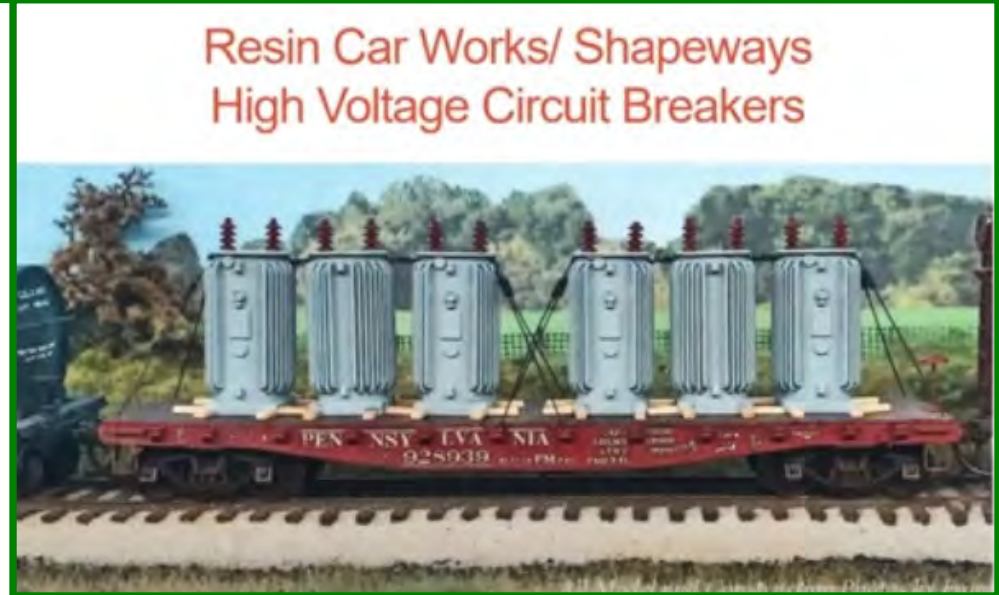
Note Loading Dock Ramp for Unloading Autos  
Small ( Tichy ) Crane, Paved Area for Trucks  
The Team Track is a "Layout Design Element"





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S JANUARY CLINIC

## JOE SULLIVAN: LOADS PART II-OPEN CAR LOADS FOR THE TEAM



MODELING RESOURCES

Joe provided many eye-catching examples guaranteed to liven up your layout and operations.

Unlike Joe's other presentations, no Lego® blocks were used or abused here.

—Jim Datka







# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING



Perry Lamb awarded *CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION* to two of our Division's perennially hardworking members for "special services above & beyond any and all reasonable expectations for the *PIEDMONT DIVISION TRAIN SHOW*"



SALLY BANDO



JIM TRAVIS





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S JANUARY MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: FREIGHT CARS



Russ Bundy described the first time he saw a unique car that he described it as a cross between a gondola and a tank car. He found coil car so interesting that he scratch-built models for his garden layout.

Charlie George presented his beautiful scratch-built and detailed HO refrigerator car based on a 1928 Fruit Growers Express car that was eventually leased to an onion grower. He showed the drawings he used for modeling which he will share with anyone interested in a similar project.

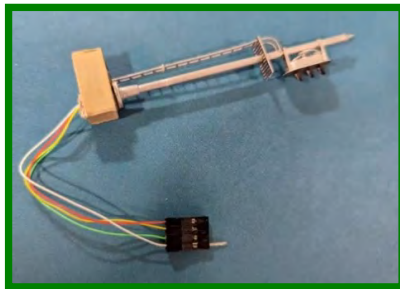






# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY CLINIC

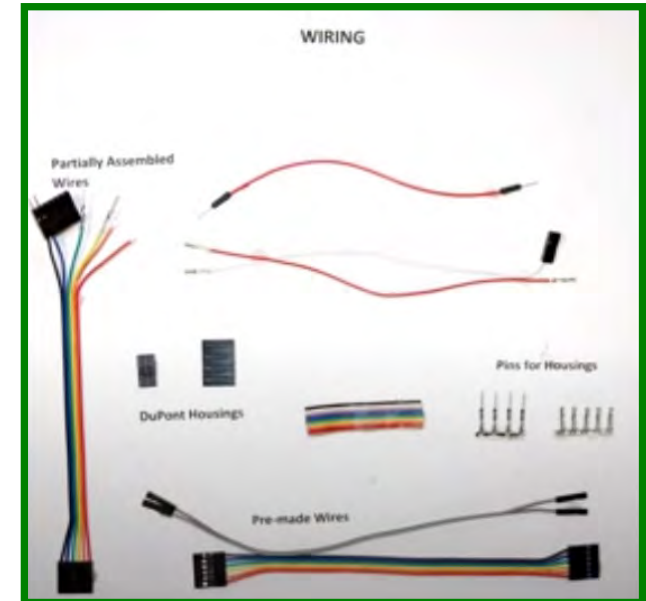
## TOM GORDON: SMALL CUSTOM CONNECTIONS FOR ELECTRONICS



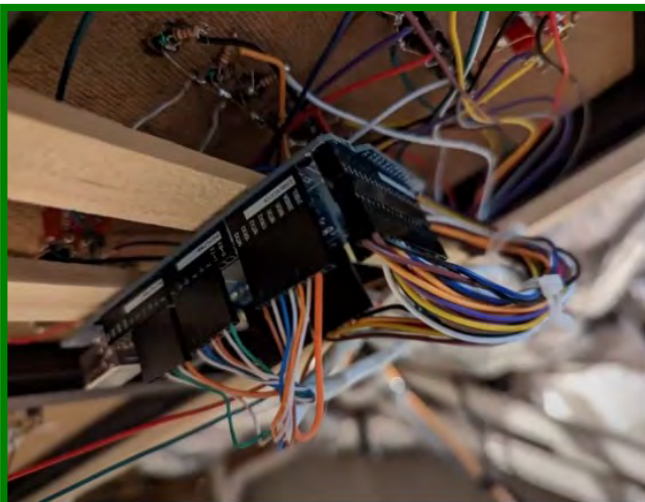
Our Director of Operations and resident electronics guru covered the critical whys and hows of connecting the many electronic devices that make our model railroads work safely and reliably.

Tom covered the different types of small connectors, housings and wiring available to power anything using low power and voltage: signal masts, building and accessory lighting and small control panels. This information is essential to anyone wanting to use Arduinos to control or automate their layout.

He showed the different types of pre-made wiring that is available or can be modified. Tom also showed how to make your own custom wiring configurations using available separate pins, sockets, housings and the different types and sizes of wire.



Continued on next page



## NOW WHAT?

- Select the housing you want
- Select the pin/socket layout you want
- Crimp the wires onto the pin/socket metal piece
- Insert the pin/socket/wire into the receptacle in the housing
- Make sure the wire seats (snaps) into the housing - tug on the wire
- Test that all still works





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY CLINIC

## TOM GORDON: SMALL CUSTOM CONNECTIONS FOR ELECTRONICS

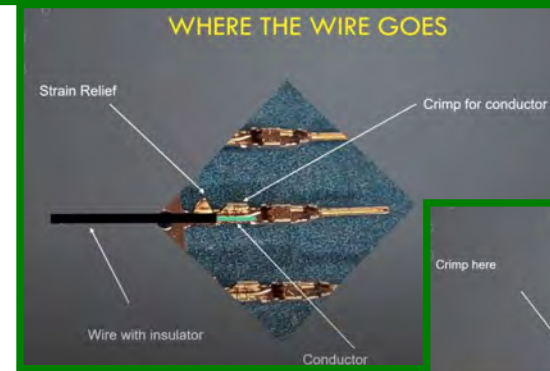


Tom shared the many types of connectors and housings he keeps on hand. He explained the different parts of the most common pins and sockets and how to reliably connect them to wire.

One point he reiterated is that fine wire connections can be fragile. Even with experience, connections can and do fail. Practice and test every connection.

He explained to avoid the cheap tools, but even a very good wire stripper can be found for about \$10. Even his top end crimper is far less expensive than most things you will purchase for you layout.

—Jim Datka



### MY FAVORITE, A GOOD CRIMPER



- IWISS Dupont Professional Pin Compression Ratcheting Modular Insulated Terminal Crimping tool. 2.54mm 28-18AWG - about \$23 from Amazon. Worth it!!!!
- It takes some practice (I'm still learning)
- These are sold with many combo kits on Amazon

### LESSONS LEARNED.....

- Practice, and test the connections when done
- It is best to test the crimped connections PRIOR to insertion into the housing (you can remove the metal insert by lifting the tab on the side of the housing)
- If the connection is flaky, it's usually easier to remove/replace the insert than to solder the wire to the metal. The solder can stiffen the insert making it difficult to use.
- Have a spare for practically everything.

### HARDWARE RESOURCES

- Sparkfun.com – good overall supplier (also sells on Amazon)
- Pololu.com - parts for robotics, which use lots of similar devices
- ModernDevice.com - good overall supplier of parts
- Amazon (all the DuPont connector stuff is available there)
- Jameco.com - a bit pricey, but they have good stuff
- Digikey/Mouser – Good for unique items





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: PASSENGER LOCOMOTIVES



Doug Alexander brought a garden scale train he ran at the ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN during their annual *Garden Lights, Holiday Nights* celebration. Kids were delighted when they saw Wallace and Gromit waving from the baggage door, but very few noticed *Star Trek's* Montgomery Scott at the "helm" of the locomotive.



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Photos by James Bando and Jim Datka

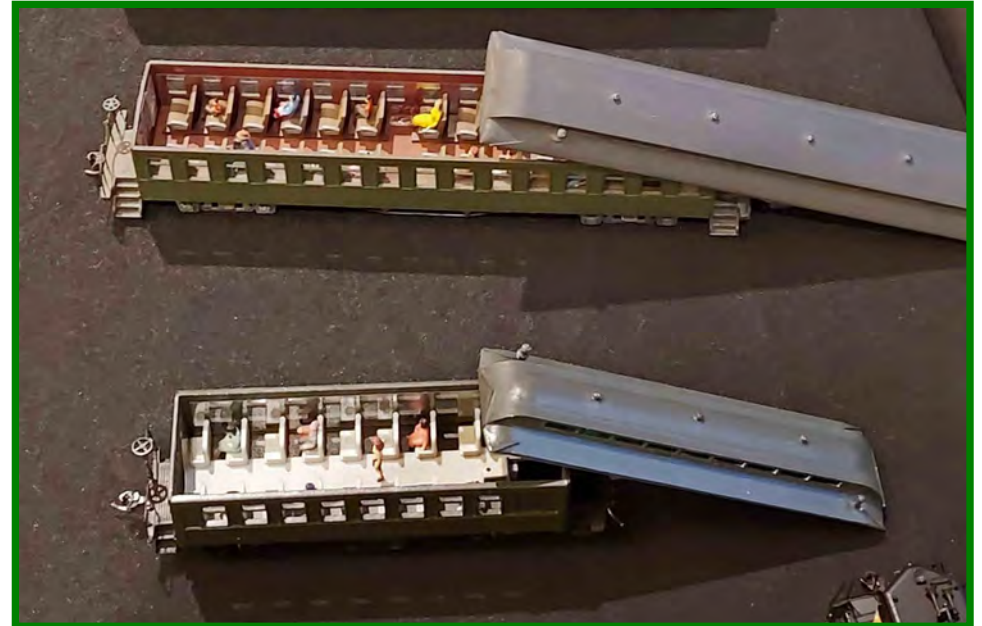
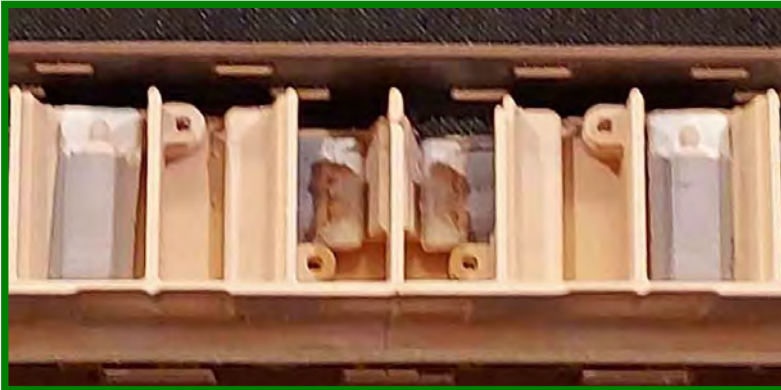




# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: PASSENGER LOCOMOTIVES



Eric Haffner showed several fully detailed passenger car interiors. His MISCELLANEOUS RAILROAD COMPANY offers fully detailed 3-D printed car interiors and parts. He will even perform custom painting as requested. For info, contact Eric at [miscellaneousrailroadcompany@gmail.com](mailto:miscellaneousrailroadcompany@gmail.com).



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: PASSENGER LOCOMOTIVES



Charlie Crawford MMR® showed several beautifully detailed passenger cars.



John Bacon presented a Korean brass *Rio Grande* Mikado configured to run self-propelled as a dead rail locomotive.



Terry Smith displayed a Santa Fe A and B E-1 locomotive set in the classic Warbonnet paint scheme.

Continued on next page





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S FEBRUARY MEETING BRING-AND-BRAG: PASSENGER LOCOMOTIVES



Ken Stinnette brought in several *Louisville & Nashville* and *Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis* locomotives in several of their passenger engine paint schemes.



Stefan Bartelski showed an Austrian 1 meter narrow gauge train.



In addition to the Bachmann 2-6-0 locomotive Doug Alexander brought in several HO passenger engines: *Southern Railway PS-4*, an E-6 in the 1941 *Crescent Ltd.* paint, a commuter in a fantasy rail scheme and the legendary *Flying Scotsman*.





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S MARCH CLINIC

## STEFAN BARTELSKI: 3D PRINTING 101



Historically, parts were made by gravity or injection molding, stamping or a subtractive process where the unwanted bits are machined off. 3-D printing is an additive manufacturing process where parts are created by being built up in layers into the finished shape.

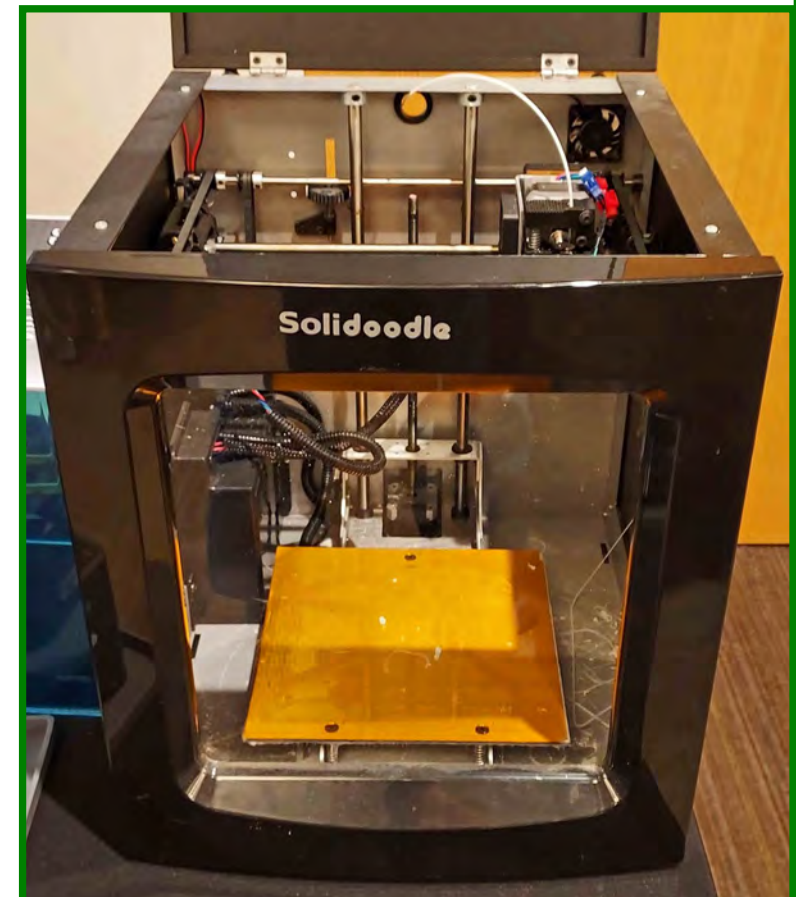
Stefan described the two types of 3-D printing processes most applicable to our hobby: Fused Deposition Molding (FDM) and Stereolithography (SLA). The first uses a filament that is melted and then squeezed through a moving nozzle on to a base plate.

FDM printers apply layers in heights ranging from 0.1 to 0.6 mm and a horizontal resolution of 0.1 to 0.3 mm. Obviously the better the resolution, the higher the price. Several filament materials and colors are available.

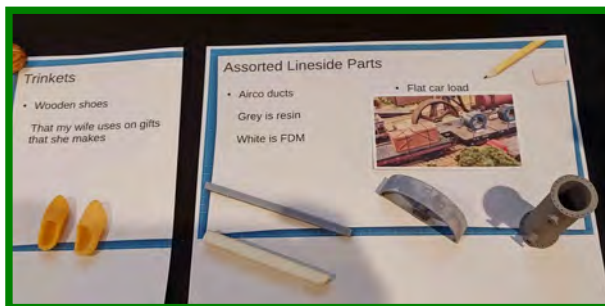
FDM printed pieces require less post-production processing than an SLA printed piece. You can also watch the piece being built layer by layer—which would be cool to watch!

The mechanical bonding of layers is achieved through heating the filament. This also means the piece may suffer distortion due to thermal expansion or contraction.

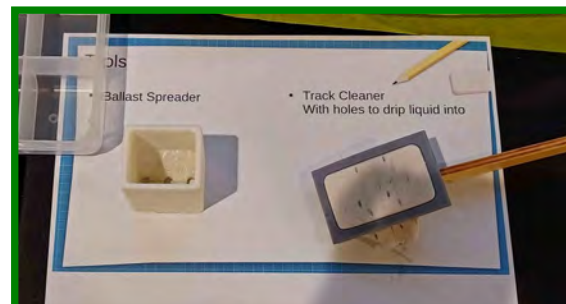
Stefan brought in his SOLIDOODLE FDM printer. A quick internet search found Solidoodle 2 costing about \$400, a Solidoodle 3 at about \$500 and a Solidoodle 4 around \$800.



SLA is commonly referred to as resin printing—a base plate is dipped into a liquid resin bath and uses UV light to harden the resin. An advantage of the SLA process is that it produces finer details compared to FDM.

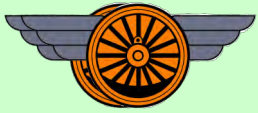


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Photos by James Bando  
and Jim Datka





# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S MARCH CLINIC

## STEFAN BARTELSKI: 3D PRINTING 101



SLA printers can produce a much finer resolution down to a range of 0.01 to 0.1 mm for very fine detailing on parts. The process does limit the size it can produce by the working height of the base plate and light source.

While different types and colors of resins are available, the smell and toxicity is a disadvantage. There is significant clean-up to remove the uncured resin and requires a second curing step to harden the piece further. The second curing can be as simple as leaving a piece in the sun.

Stefan brought his ANYCUBIC PHOTO SLA printer. I found these on the internet ranging from about \$200 to \$1000, with several of the models in the \$400 to \$700 range. The prices vary most according to the size of the build plate, so a lower cost unit may suffice if you are making smaller pieces.

Stefan walked us through the specifications you need to consider to find which SLA printer best meets your needs. There are two UV light sources readily available : LCD or DLP. DLP lights are longer lasting and generally produce a finer resolution. Lasers are now being used with larger professional machines.

3-D printing does require separate CAD software to first design a piece, and also printer driver software to build models. Stefan listed several sources of both and provided examples of using each to design and build simple parts.

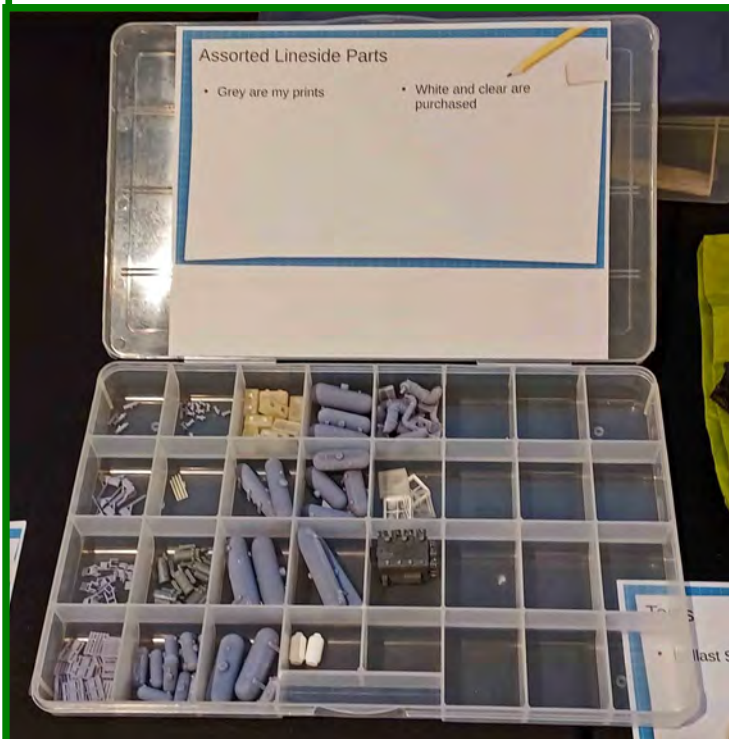
There is a learning curve required to create your own pieces, but there are also libraries of part files available at low cost. There are also firms such as Shapeways.com that will 3-D print items from your own design or the marketplace on their site.

He covered various ways that SLA printed pieces can be safely cleaned and cured, as well as accessories that make these jobs easier. Stefan closed by sharing online resources to learn more about 3-D printing.

Stefan made 3-D printing a realistic option for many hobbyists and showed that you can get into it for the cost of train that is currently running on your layout. The many printed samples he presented shows this technology has useful application well beyond just model railroading.

I think there is a 3-D printer in my future! What about yours?

—Jim Datka







# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S MARCH BUSINESS MEETING



The Train Show Co-Chair Jim Travis presented *Certificates of Appreciation* to two businesses that provided outstanding support to the 25<sup>th</sup> annual **PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW**.



Doug Alexander accepted the award for HobbyTown USA—Kennesaw



Walt Liles accepted the award for Terrain Technology, Inc.



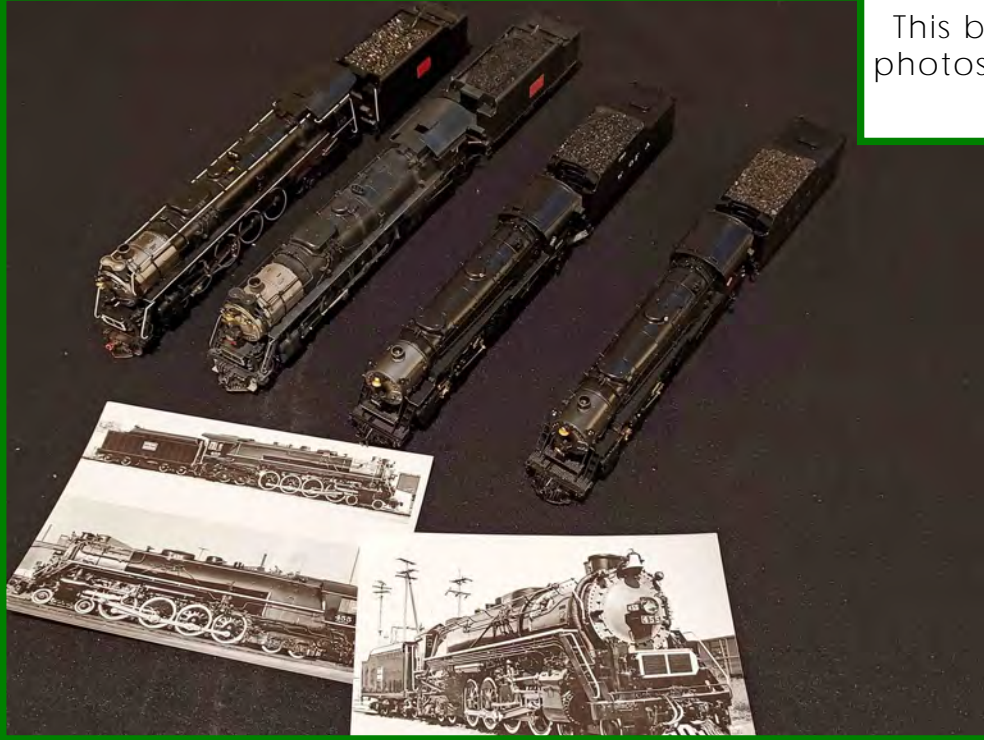


# PIEDMONT DIVISION'S MARCH MEETING

## BRING-AND-BRAG: STEAM ENGINES!



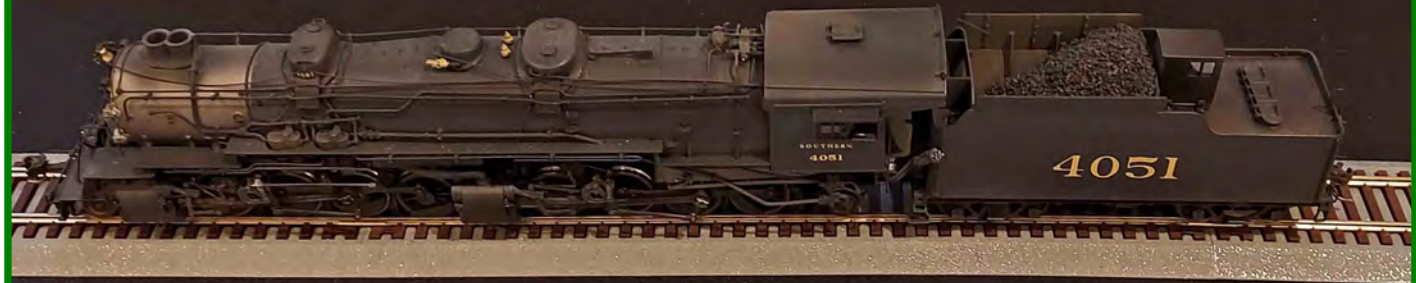
This brace of beautiful locomotives and prototype photos was brought in by someone whose name got lost in my notes—sorry!



Russ Bundy shared a G scale Southern Crescent locomotive which was the only direct way to travel from New York City to New Orleans in the 1920s.



Doug Alexander showed a Bachmann engine that he repainted and reconfigured into a Southern Railway LS2 with a number that never actually appeared on their roster.







# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

## MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup> AND 12<sup>TH</sup> IN CARTERSVILLE

If you attended the 25<sup>th</sup> annual **PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW** before noon on Saturday, you were lucky to get inside. It was *mobbed*!

Traffic was so heavy that attendees had trouble finding parking spots at the Clarence Brown Conference Center.

Record attendance meant record success for our Division. The show added a net \$17,000 to our coffers.

Co-Chairs Hank Primas and Jim Travis attributed much of the success to the outstanding support of our Division members. All of the volunteer positions needed for Show operations were filled .

Thank you for your support!



Article and Photos by Jim Datka or as noted



Sally Bando



Continued on next page





# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW



Long lines formed both inside and outside the conference center before the show opened.

Model railroaders looking for rare treasures and bargains made up a lot of the earliest arrivals.

Next year we may offer an "early-bird" opportunity to get a first chance on the show floor before the official show opening.

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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

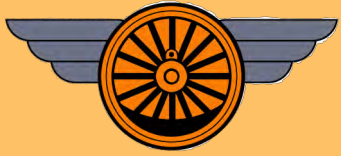


SHOW CHAIR HANK PRIMAS DIRECTING TRAFFIC



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

## MODULAR TRAIN LAYOUTS



Operating layouts were exhibited in almost every size, scale, location and era. This is a huge draw especially for families. Attendees were dazzled by the automated scenes and structures.

Operators did an incredible job of explaining how the modules worked and pointed out details attendees may have missed. They were excellent ambassadors for the hobby and I think their efforts will bring more people into model railroading.



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next page







# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—TRAINS



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—TRAINS



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

## SHOW FLOOR VENDORS

Friday setup turned into a real stress test for Hank, Jim and the Clarence Brown staff. Several vendors—including some large ones—came to the Show without filing their registrations in advance!

The budget and floor plan was based on 150 tables being sold—actual demand was for 171! This caused several on-the-fly rearrangements of the show floor and squeezing tables into hallways and the foyer.

This is the best barometer as to how successful our show is for the vendors.

Note that most of these pictures were taken Sunday shortly after the doors opened. On Saturday morning there were simply too many people to get pictures of the show floor.



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—VENDORS



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—VENDORS



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# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

## SPECIAL GUESTS AND RECOGNITIONS

WBHF Community Radio broadcast live from the Train Show on Saturday morning.

WBHF has served the Cartersville and Bartow County area since 1946, providing local news, weather and information.

Kevin Karel, Alan Sanders and Barry King (left-to-right) were on-hand for the busiest part of the weekend.



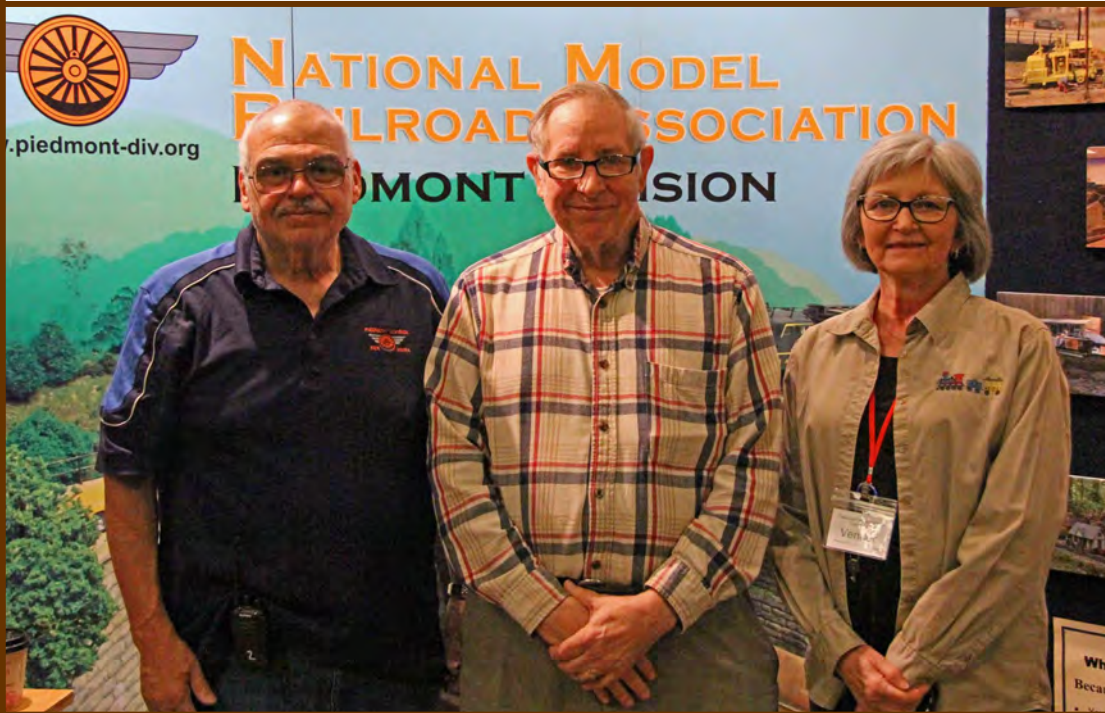
Hank Primas awarded WBHF Community Radio a Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts promoting the show before the Train Show and then broadcasting from it live.





## PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—GUESTS & RECOGNITIONS

Hands down, this is the most adorable junior engineer ever. Her parents said that she absolutely loves all kinds of trains and is delighted to be at the Train Show. If this is the future of model railroading, the future looks very bright.



Hank Primas and Sally Bando welcome one of the Division's newest members who is also an old hand at model railroading.

Robert A. Van Cleef MMR® 52 (center) has recently moved to Georgia from the Northeastern Region. Please make a special effort to warmly welcome Robert at a future meeting.

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## PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW—GUESTS & RECOGNITIONS



Show Chair Hank Primas receives a *Certificate of Appreciation* from Piedmont Division Superintendent Perry Lamb in recognition for his guidance and support of the Division

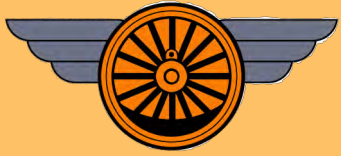


Arrangements were made for train enthusiasts with special needs to fully enjoy the Train Show



Scouts in Troop 213 from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta were given a guided tour of the Show by Chair Hank Primas





# PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW RAFFLE LAYOUT AND TRAIN SET GIVEAWAY



The raffle layout is promoted before the show and is a big draw for families. Many attendees make buying tickets their first stop.

This year's incredible N scale layout was built by the NORTH ATLANTA RAIL BARONS, and was supported by HOBBYTOWN—KENNESAW, BLUE OX TRAINS and TERRAIN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

The raffle layout is a significant money maker for the Division. Hank and Jim are looking for an Operating Group to lead the planning and construction of a layout to be raffled at the 2024 Train Show. Please contact them if you are interested.



DAVE FROM MARIETTA IS THE LUCKY WINNER OF THE TRAIN SET DRAWING

Sally Bando



RAFFLE LAYOUT WINNER RYAN FROM EUHARLEE IS CONGRATULATED BY WALT LILES ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH ATLANTA RAIL BARONS





# DAVE BENNETT'S TRAIN INSTALLATIONS A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



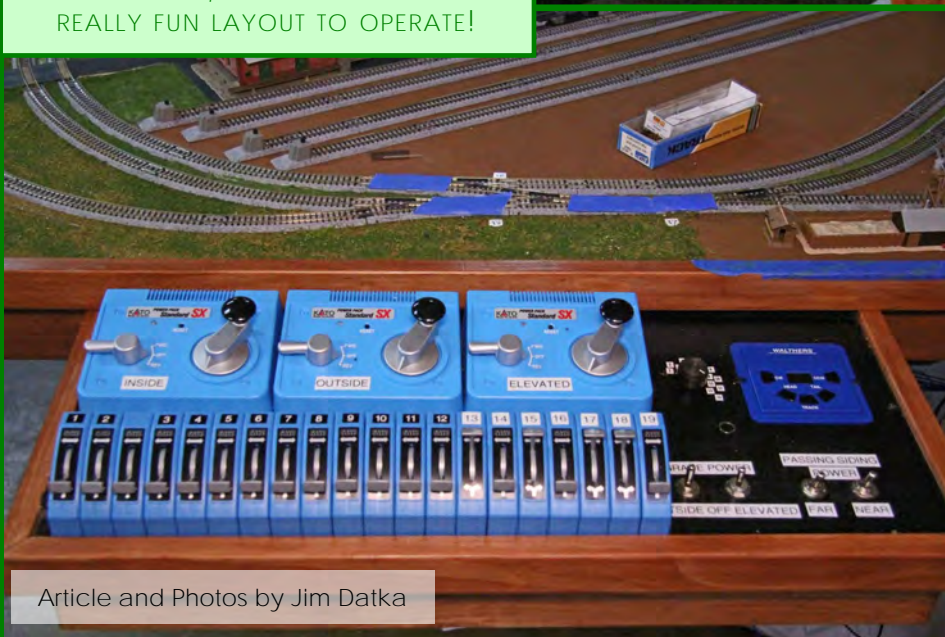
Steve Funsten at *BLUE OX TRAINS* called me and said, "you have to come see two N scale layouts Dave Bennett is working on at my shop!" Boy, am I glad I did.

I've seen Dave's home layouts and marveled at Mike and Lee Dunn's *MY WAY RAILROAD* that he has worked on, so I was prepared for something special. Both layouts were still under construction.

The first was a conventional corner layout that is going to a home here in Georgia. It features many of the popular model railroad structures: turntable with roundhouse, abandoned mine, intermodal facility, etc. One very cool feature is a working draw bridge.



IT MAY BE DC, BUT THIS LOOKS LIKE A REALLY FUN LAYOUT TO OPERATE!



The completed structures, scenic landscaping and detailing are exceptional as you would expect.

A critical design parameter was that it be easily operated by the owners grandchildren. It is wired for DC operation and features three separate power blocks for running multiple trains. What child—of any age—wouldn't want to take charge of these controls! Dave cleverly devised an operations workstation that is easy to understand, simple to run and most importantly, looks like a lot of fun. I think it would be bullet-proof for even the pre-school set.

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# DAVE BENNETT'S *TRAIN INSTALLATIONS* A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



The layout has three sections: town and industries (left), turntable and intermodal facility (bottom left) and a mountain section (below) with an elevated rail line, several bridges and an abandoned mine. There is a rail served utility in the background.



Each power section features multiple sidings and runaround tracks.

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# DAVE BENNETT'S TRAIN INSTALLATIONS A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



This layout is a wonderful, fun-filled family activity center.  
As it is free-standing, it could become a keepsake passed to the next generation.

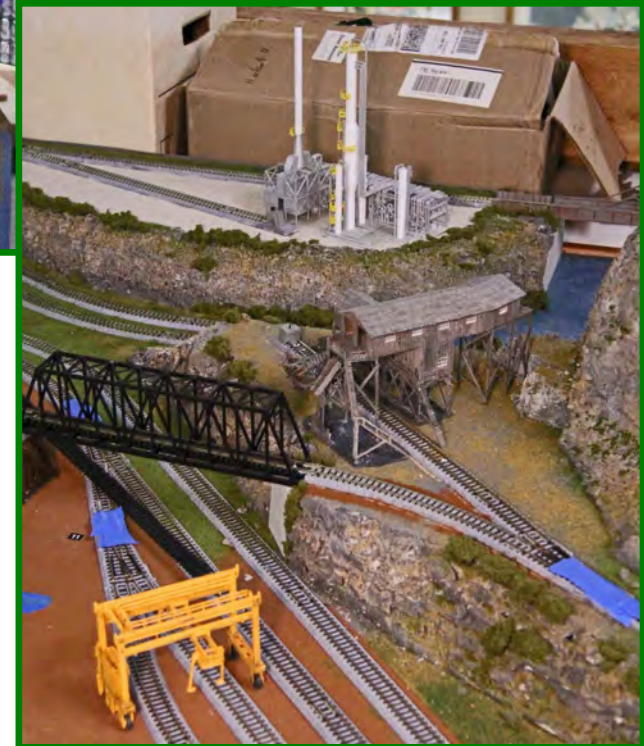


I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A FAILSAFE THAT KEEPS TRAINS FROM  
PLUNGING OFF THE DRAWBRIDGE

**And then there is the next layout...**

*...or as Monty Python puts it..*

*...and now for something  
completely different:*



(continued on next page)





## DAVE BENNETT'S *TRAIN INSTALLATIONS* A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



Is Dave now doing models of space ships for sci-fi movies?

Does he realize he put the lights under the layout?

**Why does this look like a model of a “rave” party in some empty parking structure?**

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# DAVE BENNETT'S *TRAIN INSTALLATIONS* A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS

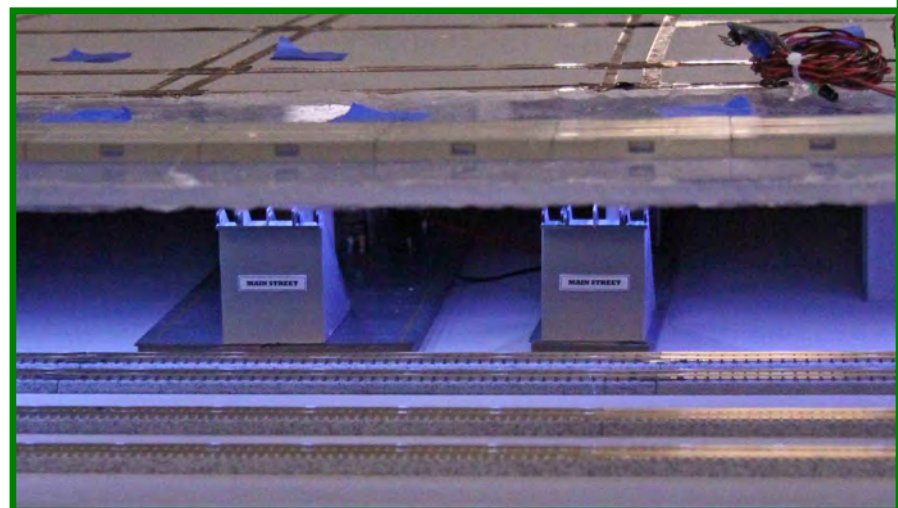


This 5' by 16' layout will feature trolley and subway transit systems running through and under a metropolitan city. It is destined for a San Francisco client and is suitable for even the swankiest of lofts in that city.

As opposed to the previous layout, this one is designed to operate as a stand-alone system that automatically makes regular passenger stops both above and below the busy streets. To accomplish this, Dave is integrating 4 Arduinos and 24 infrared sensors. The layout can be programmed for different schedules and can also be operated manually.

With multiple trains running and stopping according to their own schedules, you don't have to be a model railroader to be very entertained watching this layout in operation.

To light the city, copper tape is installed in a grid pattern. Building and street lights are powered by sticking a wired pin into this literal power grid. At least in theory. This is the first time he is trying this approach.



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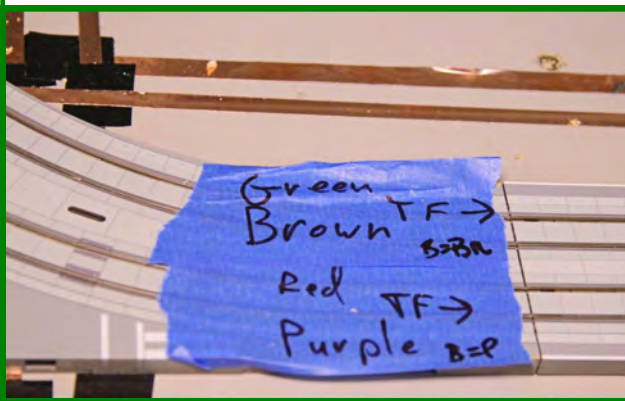
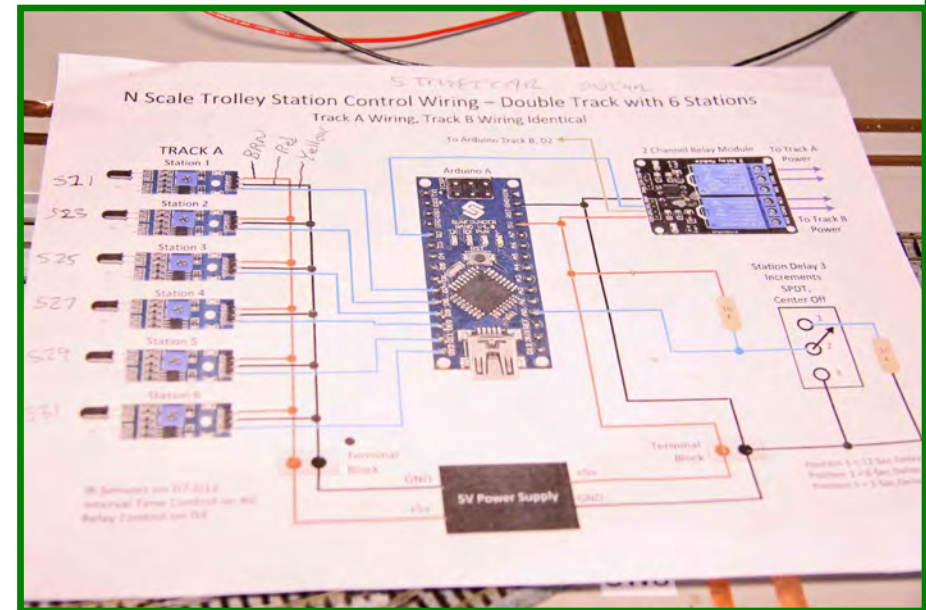
# DAVE BENNETT'S TRAIN INSTALLATIONS

## A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



Even without structures and scenery, the design challenges and application of technology are truly impressive. Keeping the weave of copper tape properly powered while protected is no small feat considering the number of intersections.

Dave prepared detailed electrical plans and does constant testing to be certain everything works as designed.



(continued on next page)







# DAVE BENNETT'S TRAIN INSTALLATIONS A TALE OF TWO LAYOUTS



One very impressive structure is complete: this beautiful suspension bridge for the trolley line. It took a good deal of engineering and bit of trial and error to get it right.

*TRAIN INSTALLATIONS* is very busy with projects across the nation and around the world. Dave relies heavily on the talented modelers in the metro-Atlanta area to keep up with customer demand.

He has several retired hobbyists from the Piedmont Division on his payroll and is looking for more. Dave was assisted by Rick Shivik and Luke Peters during my visit.

If you would like to earn some money using your model railroading talents, contact Dave at [dave@traininstallations.com](mailto:dave@traininstallations.com) or call 770 597-0038.

Rick told me his grandchildren say "saba (grandfather) is in his happy place" when they see him working on one of these projects. You can be there too.

—Jim Datka



LOOKING FOR A FUN PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE? TRY SHOOTING A WIRE SUSPENSION BRIDGE AGAINST A WALL OF MIRRORS.



YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHEN DAVE IS AROUND

