

PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEASTERN REGION NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



TIMETABLE

No. 5

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Deadline for the 2nd Quarter 2024 TIMETABLE:

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Send Submissions to:

timetable@piedmont-div.org

"WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE TRAINS"



We're Number One!

If you missed NMRA President Gordy Robinson MMR's presentations at our October Division meeting, stop whatever you are doing <u>right now</u> and go to our YouTube channel

and see it! I mean it!

I will even make it easy for you: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW6IYfWXrIA Don't worry. I'll wait.

There, aren't you glad I told you! Hope you caught him saying that the Piedmont Division has the largest membership of any NMRA division!

It was meaningful to hear him say that, knowing that membership has been declining. Gordy described the challenges that the NMRA are facing, but more importantly, he showed what National is doing to address them. He even shared examples where these efforts are having impacts today.

I was very impressed by the programs underway and believe they can be successful in growing the NMRA.

My favorite stop for the Ambassador layout is always December's Festival OF Trains at the Tellus Museum. You have kids on sensory overload from all the movement, sound, color and lights of the train layouts right before Christmas. You have Santa Claus there, too. And free cupcakes! Best of all many are in their pajamas!

It is the most adorable event we attend. If you haven't been there, consider volunteering next year. Generally these are younger kids, but I think they display more wonder when they get to sound a horn on a locomotive.

One event I did miss was our annual Holiday Party. My wife and I left the day after for a 5 day vacation. Did a lot of cooking, but only for a party of 2.

Hard to believe it is almost Train Show time again. Mark your calendars and please volunteer! There are all kinds of jobs to do and you spend the day with train people. What more can you ask?

—Jim Datka
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CHARLIE CRAWFORD MMR®

cacrawford@bellsouth.net 678 982-4699

PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT WINTER 2024

Holy cow, is it already 2024? It really seems like 2023 just flew by. I'm guessing that the folks organizing the 2023 SER Convention did not think so, but I'll bet they are glad the convention is behind them. Sadly, I missed most of the convention due to work. I hosted an operating session on my layout and attended the banquet, and that was it. Sigh. I heard the convention was awesome!

2023 was a very busy and productive year for the Piedmont Division. We hosted another successful Model Train Show, we had our monthly meetings with clinics, we attended shows and we celebrated the holidays!



The Model Train Show is the biggest fundraiser for the Division. The Train Show committee works very hard to pull this off at the Clarence Brown Convention Center in Cartersville. That place is awesome, and if you've attended our show or went to the 2023 SER Convention, you'll have seen why we like it, but there's more. The staff there is awesome to work with.

When not on call for work, I tend to work with folks moving in. You'll find me out in the parking lot moving folks, vehicles, layouts and boxes into the Convention Center. Working with their staff while moving in, is a breeze when compared with the folks in Cobb County.

But, remember, we need YOU to successfully make the show happen. The show takes a bunch of volunteers so sign up to volunteer for the 2024 show, just a SHORT time away!

Work continues on our websites. With changes in personnel, a change in the Region Registrar, security updates and new features, the web team, led by Bob Kelshaw, remains busy. One important new addition for 2024 will be that folks can print a version of the Piedmont Pilgrimage Guidebook. Work is being done so that one will be able to print all, or part, of the schedule in a booklet format. You will be able to carry that around with you, if you wish. This will save the Division the cost of printing a booklet, like we did for years, but allow those who want to take something with them the ability to do so. A win-win!

While we had a lot of interesting events in 2023, two stand out in my mind. First, we held our first Pizza Party/Swap meet in a couple of years. This was a very popular event, with free pizza and time to socialize with the added benefit of being able to bring items to sell or trade with fellow Division members. In the past, I've found a number of things I needed for my own layout and I've seen lots of happy sellers and buyers... plus the trades. Fun! I think this event beats a picnic because it is inside, where it is cool, and we tend to draw a larger gathering for pizza. Yum!

PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT WINTER 2024 (CONTINUED)

Second, NMRA President Gordy Robinson attended our October Division meeting and presented that evening's clinic. I learned that yes, you really can 3D print almost anything, including your layout. Yeah, you still need to do the scenery, lay the track, and wire the layout itself, but printing the layout structure and land forms? That is just cool. It was also great to host the NMRA President. This is not something that happens every day and Gordy has been an amazing leader for our organization. Having him here, in person, was awesome!

I hope you'll join me in thanking Diana Watson for again hosting our annual Christmas gathering. She and her team do an awesome job putting on this completely social event. I love that time of year anyway and being able to gather with train friends, eat really amazing food and socialize is wonderful, and Diana makes it happen. Thank you!

Finally, from 2023 I'd like to thank our Division annual award recipients, Scott Dunlap, Mike Deaton and Bob Kelshaw. Each of these fine people made important contributions to our Division. Scott stepped up and performed a masterful job organizing the operating sessions for the 2023 SER convention. Mike, despite retiring from the job, worked to schedule the layouts for the 2023 Pilgrimage. Bob continues to lead our Web team. Thank you, gentlemen.

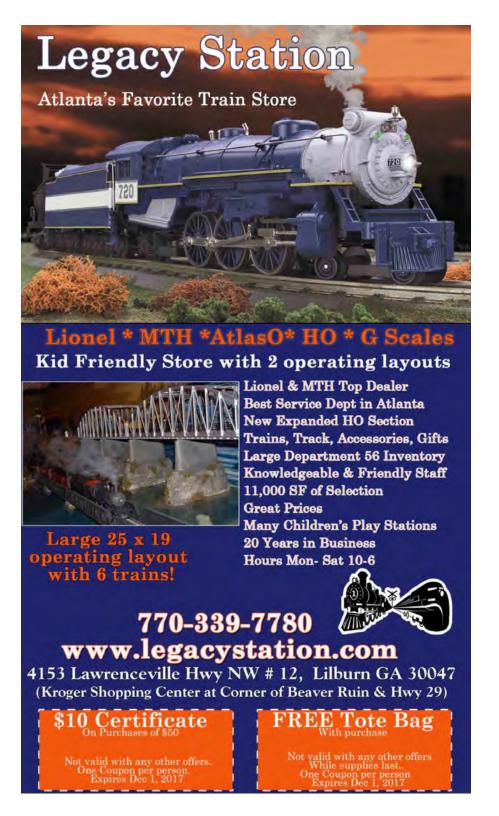
We belong to, arguably, the most active Division in North America, if not the entire NMRA. We are launching our Sponsored Area Groups program, we have the upcoming Model Train Show, we will have a full year of meetings and other events, and you can find our general meetings, since about April of 2020 on our YouTube channel. Not to mention our libraries and many modeling resources.

Come join us. We meet monthly, either on-line or in person. Volunteer at our many events. Borrow a book. Participate, that's why we are here.

Until next time, Engage!

—Perry Lamb SUPERINTENDENT, PIEDMONT DIVISION superintendent@piedmontdiv.org







PIEDMONT DIVISION CALENDAR

PIEDMONT DIVISION COMMITTEE, PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY CHAIRS AND CONTACTS

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg CLINICIAN: DR. JOE NICHOLS JR TITLE: GREAT MODEL RAILROADING TIPS AND TRICKS BRING & BRAG: Your Favorite Train Gift!

ATLANTA MODEL TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 GOLDEN SPIKE SHOW 9AM to 5 PM Gas South District Convention Center, 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, GA 30093. For more info go to www.gserr.com

TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 through SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 9:30 AM -5 PM Southern Museum of Civil War & Locomotive History, 2829 Cherokee St NW Kennesaw, GA 30144 For more info go to southernmuseum.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

Note NEW Date TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg CLINICIAN: JOE SULLIVAN TITLE: WEATHERING OPEN TOP CARS BRING & BRAG: TBA

O-SCALE SOUTH SHOW

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Railroad Model Club of Atlanta For more info go to www.oscale-atlanta.info

PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 SUNDAY, MARCH 10

10 AM to 5 PM 10 AM to 4 PM

Clarence Brown Conference Center, 5450 GA-20, Cartersville, GA 30121. For more info go to themodeltrainshow.com

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 12 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg CLINICIAN: HARVEY GEORGE TITLE: RUSSIAN DECAPODS, THEIR CRE-ATION AND SUCCESSORS BRING & BRAG: TBA ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Charles Mason, MMR® ap@piedmont-div.org 770 993-1589

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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 meeting 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!

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2023 ELECTION REPORT

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Four offices were on the 2023 Piedmont Division Board of Directors Election ballot: Director of Finance, Director of Operations, and Director at Large (4 positions).

Elected to the Board of Directors are:

Director of Finance Jim Foley

Director of Operations Walt Liles

Director at Large Gary Fish

Charles Mason Joe Sullivan Jim Travis

Ballot Distribution and Acceptance

Ballots were distributed to voting-eligible members of the Division, listed on the October 2023 roster from NMRA Headquarters. Voting-eligible members are those with a class of Regular, Associate, Life, and Student. (See the NMRA Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual section A-3-1).

On October 20, paper ballots were sent to ten voting-eligible members with no email address on file with the NMRA. On October 23, 325 ballots were sent to voting-eligible members with an email address on file with the NMRA.

Voting closed November 7, 2023, with online voting closing at the end of the day and paper ballots required to be postmarked no later than November 7, 2023.

Ninety-seven online ballots were accepted (97 online, zero paper).

Members also had the opportunity to vote in-person at the November meeting. The committee accepted six ballots at the meeting. One ballot had two candidates selected for Director of Operations. Votes for that position were not counted. Votes for other positions were counted.

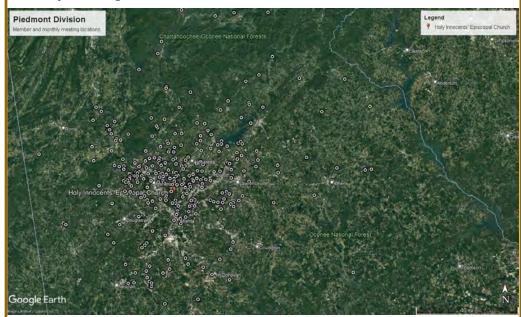
A total of 103 ballots were accepted.

-Rick Coble

ELECTIONS CHAIR
elections@piedmont-div.org

SUPPORTED AREA GROUP ACTIVITIES

This map shows there are many members living too far away to attend the monthly meeting location:



Therefore the Division wants to support activities by groups of members in the same area.

If you see from the map

- that there are several members near you,
- or you are already gathering,

and would like support to enable you to share the hobby with guests, or need a clinician to come to you to share their expertise.

A Sponsored Area Group (SAG) will consist of four or more Piedmont Division members. The SAG Group will be completely informal and without officers.

For more information on the Piedmont Division's Supported Area Group Activities (SAGA), go to piedmont-div.org/division-education-2/

—Peter Thomas
SAG COORDINATOR
sagainfo@piedmont-div.org

2024 DIVISION BUDGET

APPROVED JANUARY 9, 2024

DRAFT 2024 PIEDMONT DIVISION BUDGET BY PROGRAM January - December 2024 Lending Library stephent, & lack Perry Walt, line Administration Trainin' Camp Membership LOE SULLIVAL Jerry Herbitmage REVENUE Advertising Meeting Bucket Collection 1,800 1.800 Meeting Auctions/Raffles 500 500 Contributions 250 250 5% on ~40k\$ **Event Fees** 2,000 2,000 Interest TOTAL REVENUE 4,550 4,550 0 EXPENDITURES Accounting & Legal Fees 30 30 500 Advertising & Marketing 500 Bank Charges Entertainment Holiday Party 400 400 350 Summer event 350 \$3600 monthly at church 500 500 Swap Meet \$250 for AP Contest meet 3,850 200 4,050 Facility Rental Good & Wellfare 165 165 Insurance Membership Drive Train set as incentive to Golden Spike Show provide email addresses 350 350 Giveaways 78 Dr. Joe Sr. Scholarship 78 Sponsored Area Groups 500 Miscellaneous Expense 50 50 Cost of one 50 Office Supplies 50 membershi 150 Operating Supplies 100 50 Plaques & Awards 100 250 350 PO Box Rental 252 252 \$99 Election 25 Postage 25 software Printing Computer Software \$600 Website maintenance (Coull) Web Site 2,737 \$1600 Development work, bug fixes 2,737 \$315 Domain hosting & registration Storage Guest speaker \$222 Elementor & uptime Transportation Travel Hotel & Meals 1,000 1,000 TOTAL EXPENDITURES 200 11,558 200 12,536 0 578 SURPLUS/DEFICIT -200 -7,008 -578 -200 -7,986 **Projected Train Show surplus** 13,030 Overall surplus including Train Sho





We also carry an enormous selection of "modelers tackle" such as tools, paints, airbrushes, paint brushes, masking tapes, glues, plastic parts, LEDs, track buildings, vehicles and other stuff you just can't do without.

With nearly 6,000 sq. ft. dedicated to Model Trains in almost every gauge and scale, we probably have what you want in stock. And if we don't, we can get it for you quickly!



Find us on Facebook,
email us at hobbytownusatrains@gmail.com
phone us at 770-426-8800,
or better yet, just come to our store and see for yourself!

We are open Mondays thru Saturdays from 10 am until 9 pm. On Sundays, we're open from Noon until 6.





Sally Bando | 404.550.4816 | sbandogeorgia@comcast.net

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Achievement Program NFWS

The following Piedmont Division members have recently earned AP certificates and Gold Spike Awards:

AP Electrical - David Koch AP Chief Dispatcher - Scott Dunlap AP Association Volunteer - James Foley Golden Spike Award - James Foley, David Godwin, Mark Weiss

Congratulations to the above individuals. A list of all the certificates and awards earned by Piedmont Division members can be found on the Division's website.

The Achievement Program is a system of requirements for demonstrating a superior level of skill in various aspects of the model railroading hobby. The program covers not only building various types of models, but also building other things which are important to the hobby, such as scenery, track work, wiring, and electronics. It also recognizes service to the hobby and to the NMRA, which are im-

David Godwin receiving his Golden Spike Award from Charlie Mason

nmre portant as well. The Achievement Program provides incentive to (• • Iearn and master the many skills necessary in model railroading. There are eleven categories within the Achievement Program. When an individual completes all the requirements for a given category, he or she is issued a certificate acknowledging the accomplishment.

The requirements for five of the eleven categories do not require any judging of skills or models, or even the use of paint or glue. These five categories are Chief Dispatcher, Electrical, Association Volunteer, Association Official, and Author.

The remaining six categories -- Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Prototype Modeler, and Civil Engineering -- all require earning Merit Awards. Merit Awards can be awarded to models, scenery, and track work by several methods. Models entered into model contests are awarded Merit Awards if they meet or exceed NMRAspecified criteria. Model contests may be divisional contests, NMRA regional contests, or NMRA national con-



tests. The NMRA specifies the categories on which models are judged. The NMRA also provides scoring matrices based on quality of workmanship and model complexity. These scoring matrices are available on the NMRA website under "Achievement Program". An individual may also request a private Merit Award judging for his

or her models, scenery, or track work. The AP chairman will set up a mutually agreed upon time and place for the judging and arrange for a team of judges. The NMRA specifies a minimum of two judges. I prefer to use a team of at least three judges, preferably MMRs.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM NEWS

(•otg

(CONTINUED)

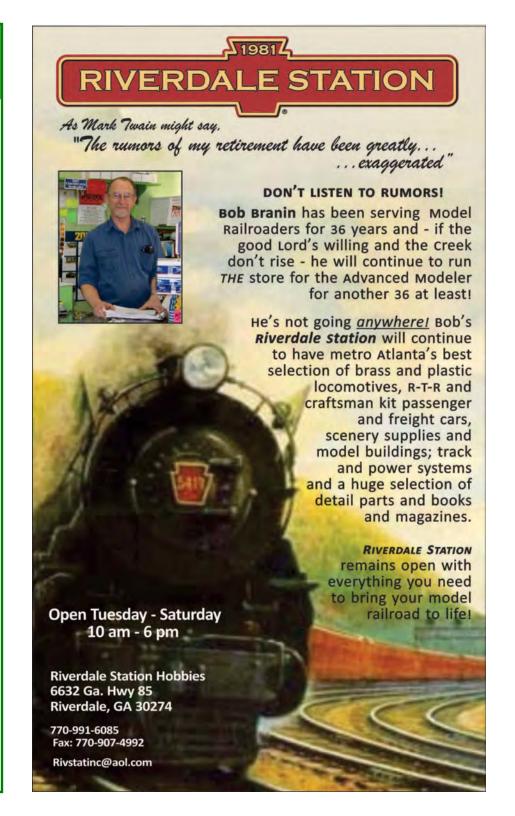
Which of these two methods should an individual use? It is up to the individual. In model contests the judges cannot ask questions to the modeler. The judges are limited to the information provided on the contest entry form. If the entrant does not provide sufficient information about the model on the contest entry form, the judges may be limited in the amount of points they can award. This is especially true for the "Conformity" category. In a private judging the judges can talk to the modeler and ask questions about the model. Peter Youngblood once told me that he believed a modeler always received a better score on a private judging compared to a model contest. At a model contest judges are always pressed for time and may miss details on the model. In a private judging the modeler can thoroughly explain his model and his techniques.

Here are some hints for building merit award winning models:

- For rolling stock, always make your own handrails, stirrups, and cut levers rather than using commercial parts. It is not difficult to make these parts.
- If you are including the braking system (which I recommend doing), be certain that the actuators, brake lines, and component parts are prototypically located.
- For structures, make your own windows and doors rather than using commercial parts. If your model is kit-based, you must add super-detailing. Add an interior, if possible. Add interior and/or exterior lighting. Add roof-top details.

I am always available to answer any questions that may arise and to provide any assistance you may need on working toward AP certificates.

> —Charles Mason MMR® Piedmont Division Achievement Program Chairman ap@piedmont-div.org 770 993-1589





PIEDMONT DIVISION'S OCTOBER CLINIC NMRA PRESIDENT GORDY ROBINSON MMR®





The Piedmont Division was honored by a visit from Gordy Robinson MMR, the President of the National Model Railroad Association.

3d Printed Free-moN Modules!!!!

Gordy Robinson MMR

Gordy has met with several divisions since he attended the NMRA Convention this summer before returning to his home in Orkney, Scotland.

Gordy shared two presentations. The first was on how he has 3D printed N gauge Freemon Modules.

Free-mo modelers construct individual layout modules to a common set of specifications such as bench work, track work, scenery and digital control. This allows individual modelers to connect to any other modeler's module to create large layouts. Modular railroading is intended primarily for

advanced modelers. Specific standard can be found at free-mon.net.



Standard Free-moN Module construction



We are fortunate that we have several modular groups in the Piedmont Division that cover different scales and standards, and are the highlights at many of our events.

Gordy was looking to create a module that could accompany him as he flies around the globe. Traditional construction using plywood is too heavy—before track and scenery a typical module can weigh 10 or 12 pounds. The tendency for foam board to compress ruled that out without structural support.



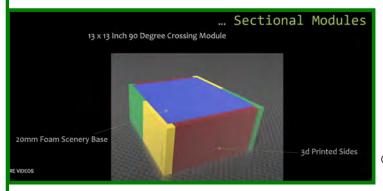
PIEDMONT DIVISION'S OCTOBER CLINIC NMRA PRESIDENT GORDY ROBINSON MMR®



He looked to 3D printing as a solution. But, being Gordy, he wanted to do so in a manner that would create an alternative standard to effectively and efficiently build modules in a number of configurations and still work with any Free-moN module.

Gordy walked us through all of the considerations and challenges of designing and ultimately producing proof of concept prototypes. The finished 3D print of the first design is slightly more costly than a traditional plywood version.

He then designed a module that can be printed in sections. This design provides a recess along the top to mount a thin sheet of plywood or foam board to serve as the base for modeling. This reduces the amount of 3D printing and costs to build a the module.



As the module consists of separate sections, these can be put together in dif-

ferent configurations to increase length or to add curves.

Gordy brought mini-modules to show what

different configuration are possible and how they can be arranged.



Did it work??





Gordy sent one of the initial prototype and several of the sectional constructed modules to the NMRA Convention where the were successfully included in the Free-moN layout.

Gordy has uploaded his 3D printed module designs on thingiverse.com/gordymmr/designs for others to use.

Gordy then went on to discuss what is happening at National and the direction the organization is headed. He opened with some of the recent achievements.

2 Foot Section



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S OCTOBER CLINIC NMRA PRESIDENT GORDY ROBINSON MMR®



The DIGITAL NMRA MAGAZINE is online and offers greater accessibility options than the print version. On an Android device, it can actually read the text out to you. In less than two years nearly 50% of members have accessed it and 3,000 members have dropped the printed edition.

The NMRA Interchange is an online forum for all members "to ask questions, provide answers, post events, share ideas and make friends." It serves as a 24/7 convention site with text and video chat. There are areas designated for individual regions and divisions, and the technology allows for meetings, hangouts, classes and livestreaming ops sessions. There are currently over 800 members on the Interchange since its April launch.

The training of future model railroading leaders will be supported by online and other resources. This is intended to improve member experience and to develop communications strategies to increase awareness of the NMRA and its benefits. These programs will be directed at future leaders in the divisions and regions, as well as people in the model railroading industries and non-profit railroad organizations. It will utilize external experts for content and cover many topics key to providing efficient communications and effective leadership.

Gordy said that the NMRA has a tremendous legacy due to the incredible model railroaders and real innovators in the hobby that have been members over its nearly 90 year history. "Whilst our fantastic legacy may feel priceless, if there is no one to hand it on to, it is worthless."

The NMRA membership has been in decline since 1992. We lose about 1,200 members per year, including 200 that have irretrievably passed on to that big depot in the sky.

	NMRA Members	AVG MEMBER AGE
1992	28,500	56 YEARS
2023	15,500	Late 70' s

It's not that there aren't model railroaders out there. Shane Wilson, president of ScaleTrains, estimates there are between 800,000 and 1,000,000 scale model railroaders in the United States. The hobby press estimates active modelers at about 350,000. Virtualrailfan.com has 650,000 sub-

scribers and Luke Towan's YouTube channel has 1,200,000 followers.

The NMRA is focusing on retention of existing members and onboarding new members. Surveys of members not renewing show that 15% will renew simply by sending them a PayPal link. Overlooking renewal notices is common. National is looking at addressing this by considering monthly payments and offering automatic renewals. Exiting members will by further surveyed to find ways to increase retention.

Major efforts will be directed at onboarding new members for them to take advantage of all the NMRA offers and insure they are welcomed into their local division. They are considering having local path-finder buddies to personally welcome and introduce them to fellow hobbyists.

And National is looking to us for ideas to address growing our membership. Mike Cummings is on a task force gathering these ideas—contact Mike if you have some thoughts. As Gordy stated, "Empowerment is Key!"

Lucy Dormont joined the NMRA as an engagement officer in September. Her goal is to find new members by letting more people know that we exist, sharing our message to wider audiences and ensuring the NMRA brand is recognized globally. In just one month, she has increased followers on Facebook by 1,500 and we now have most executives on Class 1 railroads in North America subscribing to our LinkedIn page. She will also be developing our Tiktok presence to reach young people. If current trends continue, 2023 maybe the first years since 1992 to have a net membership increase.

Logos will also be addressed. There are currently 150 divisions and 18 regions covering North America, each with its own logo. At events and conventions where several are exhibiting, the general public has no idea they are related. Gordy asked what if each Chick-fil-A restaurant had different logos, buildings, colors and promotions, would they have a solid fan following? More on that and other topics to follow.

—Jim Datka



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S OCTOBER MEETING Bring and Brag





In an act of shameless self promotion, JoE SULLIVAN showed examples of weathering open top cars. See how you can do it at his clinic during the February meeting which this will be on February 20th.





Tate Depot Train Society's
Executive Director BEN READ
invited everyone to the
Tate Day festivities on
Saturday, November 4th



PERRY LAMB brought in a beautifully weathered locomotive which he has painted for his Utah, Colorado and Western Railroad



NORM LUNDIN gave a preview of an upcoming clinic by presenting blue prints and photos of a depot he helped design to replace one that burned down on the Edaville Railroad in South Carver, MA



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S OCTOBER MEETING CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS CONVENTION TEAM RECOGNITIONS



The Southeastern Region's Annual Convention was a huge success. Not only was it fun and informative, it also netted the Division about \$3000. The team that put this all together was recognized for their efforts and achievements.



CARTERSVILLE EXPRESS CONVENTION TEAM

Chairperson - Walt Liles
Co-Chairperson - John Stevens
Treasurer - Jim Foley
Registrar - Peter Thomas
Clinics - Tom Gordon
Ops Sessions - Scott Dunlap
Layout Tours - Jim Datka
General Interest Tours - Janet Liles
Contest Chairperson - Bill Raymond
Company Store - Howard Goodwin
Company Store - Robb Dobbs

Special thanks to all the members who opened their layouts for tours and ops sessions

Advertising/Timetable - Sally Bando Advertising - John Falk Photos and Videography - Craig Knox



Craig Knox and Walt Liles



Walt Liles receives plaque from

John Falk



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S NOVEMBER CLINIC JON MYERS: SCARM LAYOUT PLANNING SOFTWARE





Jon walked us through designing a simple layout and showed how easy it is to add additional features and trackage.

Track libraries of all major manufacturers allow you to try many options in your layout plan. Adding building, elevated sections and other details are simple and straightforward.

The sophisticated software provides a 3D image of your plan and lets you follow your track as seen from a locomotive.

There are many ways to output your track plan and it can automatically provide a list of all the track needed to build your planned layout.

continued on next page

Simple Computer Aided Railway Modeller



Home

SCARM means Simple Computer Aided Railway Modeller - software for easy and precise design of model train layouts and railroad track plans.

With SCARM you can easily create the layout of your dreams. Just download the setup package, install it and start editing your first track plan.

In SCARM you can use unlimited number* of tracks and objects from more than 240 libraries and instantly see your design in 3D preview with a single click.

And don't forget: Enjoy the hobby and have fun with the model trains 😃





Contents

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- Getting Started Online Help & FAQ
- Included Track Libraries
- Information, Tutorials & Resources
- Version History
- Useful Links

Download SCARM

Version 1.9.4 Multifingual for Windows XP/Vista/7/8/10

Model Train Layouts & Track Plans

for your inspiration

Model Trains Simulator for SCARM

Testimonials

M I do love the software, I have been playing with it for several months and there is no limit of what you can do with SCARM. Best piece of software for that I have ever used.

Thank you very much for this brilliant program. It is so easy to use, and I have spent many a happy hour making "fantasy" layouts.

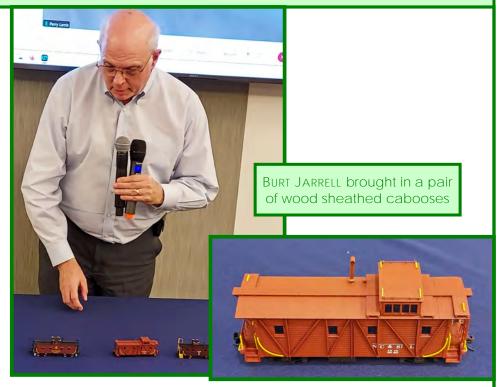
Skyline2uk @ ngaugeforum.co.uk



PIEDMONT DIVISION'S NOVEMBER MEETING BRING AND BRAG: CABOOSES







Tom Gordon described and let us play with his Velleman WSMI198 LED Buddy—a handy little meter that tells you the polarity and what size resistor is needed for any LED







PIEDMONT DIVISION'S NOVEMBER MEETING BRING AND BRAG: CABOOSES







KEN STINNETTE brought in two beautiful brass cabooses in Louisville & Nashville livery









This is hands-down the most enjoyable event on our busy exhibition calendar.

Saturday mornings are packed with young families, and many are there in their pajamas!

Entire families are decked out in matching pis—what's not to love?



Since Santa is there to hear the children's Christmas requests, the average age is lower than most of our events.

That means there is even more wonder and amazement in their eyes when they see the trains.

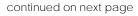






The Northeast Georgia N Scale Railroad Club had their modular layout in the main hall next to the dinosaur skeleton.

The joyful shrieks from the children could be heard throughout the museum.







More trains were in a separate room. The Bandos and the Bundys had several G scale layouts fully decorated for the season.

The Ambassador layout was very popular, but for the first time I had at least a dozen requests to see if I could crash the two trains together. Some Christmas requests could not be met.





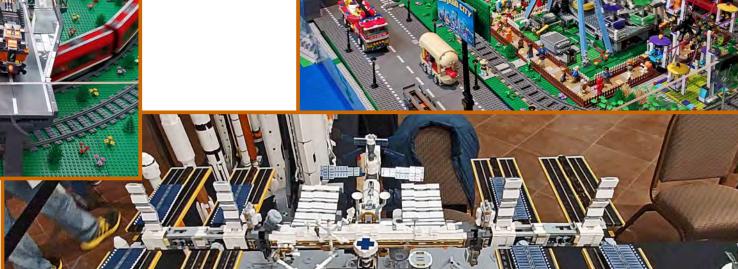






Also in this room, the North Georgia Lego Train Club presented a huge display of color and motion.

Parents had to drag mesmerized kids away from this display.



Not content with just trains and cityscapes, they included an impressive display of Lego rockets and this incredible model of the international space station.







This is a very enjoyable event. Please consider volunteering next year. You won't be disappointed.

Of course sitting on Santa's lap was a dream come true for many children.



For others, not so much.

And if the many trains weren't enough to excite the kids, Tellus saw to it that a little bit of sugar kept the hyperactivity at a high level.

