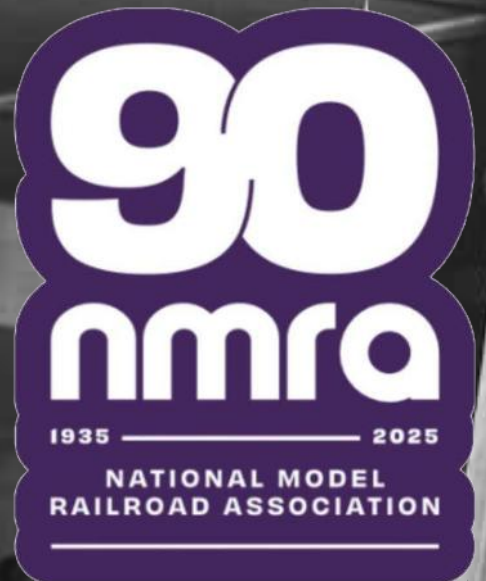




PIEDMONT DIVISION

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



TIMETABLE

VOLUME 28

No. 3

Effective 12:01am, Eastern Daylight Time
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

GARY FISH
SUPERINTENDENT

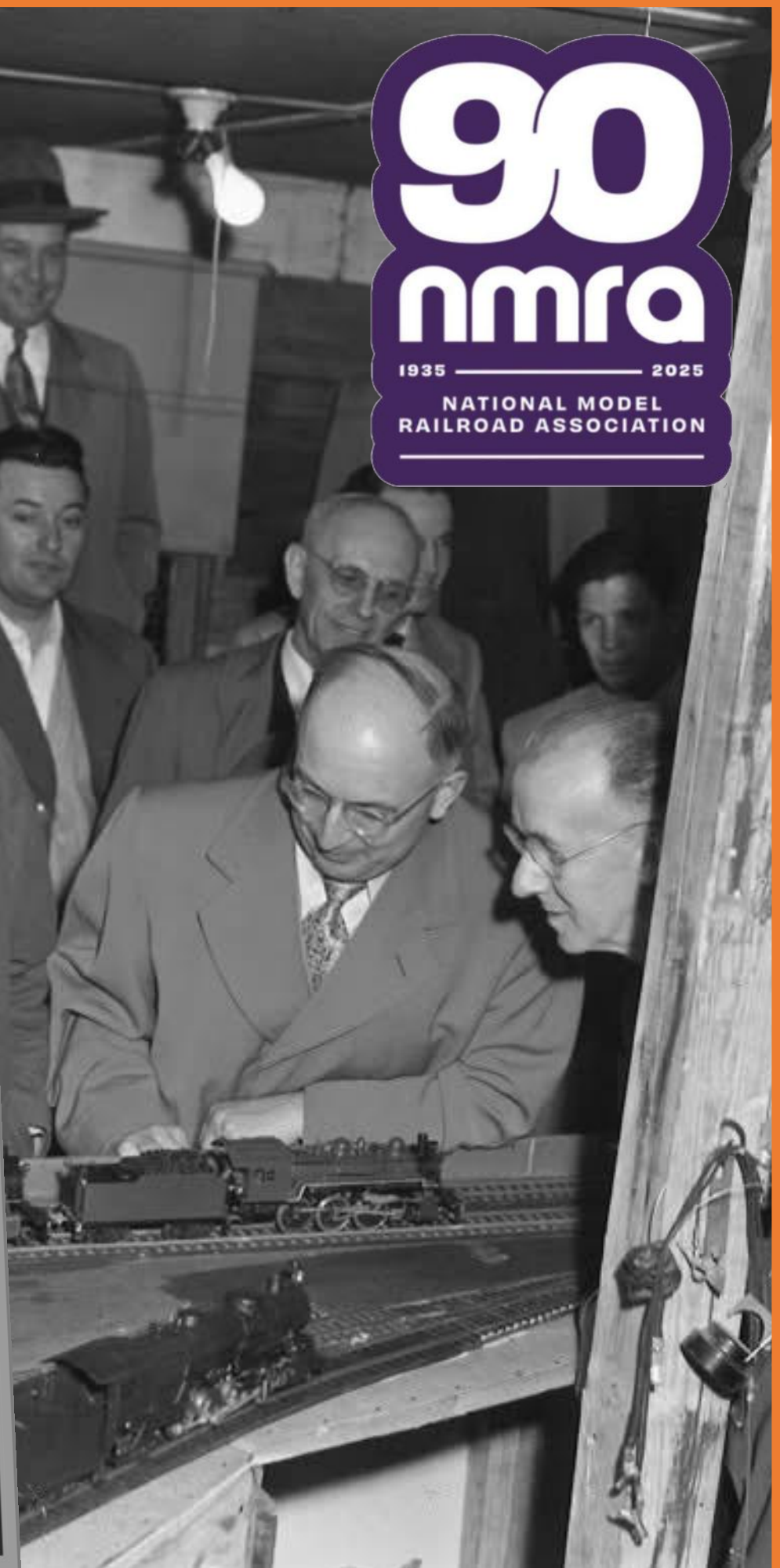
WALT LILES
OPERATIONS

DIANA WATSON
ADMINISTRATION

JAMES FOLEY
FINANCE

RAYMOND STEWART
Personnel

"WE'RE ALL ABOUT THE TRAINS"





SUPER VIEWS

DR. GARY FISH

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

As we near the end of summer, Model trains in Atlanta Metro is just heating up!

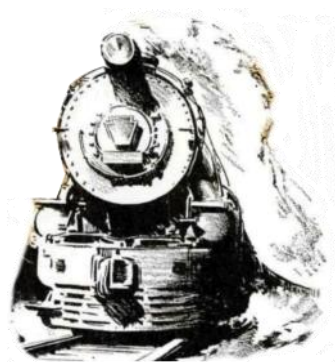
Our monthly open houses for members have been experiencing packed houses (and Yards)! I want to personally give thanks to those who've opened their doors. This list includes **Jerry Michnewicz, Mark Weiss, Ken Stinnette, Don Oltmann, and Randal & Diana Watson**. I want to thank **Russ and Leslie Bundy** for opening your yard. Their garden layout is beautiful and hope you got the chance to see it. This was a treat since their house is right around the corner from mine. I try to make it to as many open houses as possible often driving over an hour.

If y'all missed any of these open houses, you will have another chance during the Pilgrimage. The Piedmont Pilgrimage is our number one outreach program to the public and our membership. It takes place yearly from mid-October until Thanksgiving. Normally we have over 60,000 layout visits and hopefully we will have a record-breaking year this year. There are about 70 open houses scheduled, and I hope you visit as many as you can. I sure plan too. Invite your friends, family, neighbors, fellow parishioners. Our modelers are phenomenal, and I hope you get out to visit most if not all of them. It's an opportunity to see the modeling of many of our members and get ideas of what you can achieve or add to your own empire.

This year we will have our Pilgrimage guide booklets again. Thank you to **Sally Bando** and **John Falk** for making this happen. The printing is complete and the first 1,000 are on the way to us. We will be distributing these through all the local

hobby shops and anywhere else folks would like them shared. I make them available to my patients and am always amazed at how many make the tours.

We had a booth at the Golden Spike show in August at the Gas South energy center. It was another chance to share the NMRA with the public that likes model- trains, and you can get volunteer hours towards your MMR by helping us spread the word. The Model train public wants to know what is new and available in the hobby, how to better use what they have and how to participate with a group of likeminded individuals. This is our opportunity to share what we have. We don't want to keep it a secret.



This year we have had a nice calendar of events including but not limited to:

The Piedmont Division Train Show in March in Cartersville

Golden Spike Train Show in January & August in Duluth

Trains, Trains, Trains at the Southern Museum in January

Model Railroad Days at the Southeastern Railroad Museum in Duluth

Train Days at the Tellus Science Museum in Cartersville

Walt Lile's Snow Layout at the

Knights of Columbus event

The Swap Meet at the August meeting

Thank you, **Walt Lilles** and **Diana Watson**, for a wonderful **picknick** in July.

Perry Lamb and **Joe Sullivan** for a wonderful hands-on event for advanced weathering.

Thanks, too, to the **NARB Crew** with **Walt Lilles** for another Model RR 101 to help the newbies get rolling.

As we are planning additional beginner and advanced hands-on classes, please let us know if there is a particular area you would like to learn about. We'd like to see if we can make it happen.

Upcoming:

The **NMRA 90th anniversary** celebration in September that includes our Diorama contest.

Piedmont Division model and photo contest for NMRA scoring in October. Enter to see how your models/ pictures stack up.

Savoy Car Museum Layout Demonstration in September.

Please enter these events, they should be fun.

Get involved volunteer and have fun. Remember model trains is a hands-on group sport. There is no reason to be alone. Help share what we love

Last but not least, if you are (and I hope y'all are) working towards your MMR (Master Model Railroader), **Charlie Mason** is available at all the meetings to answer your questions and help you on your journey. I know we have one of the most talented divisions in the NMRA. I am excited to have a lot more MMR's to show for it.

Keep on Modeling!

Gary



PIEDMONT DIVISION SCHEDULE

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING PIEDMONT
DIVISION MEETINGS, GO TO WWW.PIEDMONT-DIV.ORG

OCTOBER

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

Tuesday, October 14 6 PM Board of Directors
7-9 PM Division Meeting

PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE

Weekends, Saturday, October 25 - Sunday, November 23

For info, go to [home - Piedmont Pilgrimage](http://home-PiedmontPilgrimage)
or pick up a booklet at your nearest hobby store.

NOVEMBER

NORTH GEORGIA LIVE STEAMERS

Saturday, November 1 Live Steam Train Rides 1:00 to 4:30
www.nglsrr.org 1632 Centennial Olympic Parkway / Conyers, Ga

TRAINS & TRACKS EXPO

Saturday, November 1 10 am to 3 pm
Sunday, November 2 11 am to 3pm
Historic Summerville Depot
119 E. Washington Street / Summerville, GA

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

Tuesday, November 11
6 PM Board of Directors
7-9 PM Division Meeting

DECEMBER

TERMINUS CHAPTER, TCA TRAIN SHOW

Friday, December 5 - Noon to 5pm
Saturday, December 6 - 9am to 2pm
V.F.W. Post 5801
4764 Cobb Parkway NW / Ackworth, Ga.

PIEDMONT DIVISION HOLIDAY PARTY

Tuesday, December 8 6:00 PM — 9:00

JANUARY 2026

PIEDMONT DIVISION MEETING

Tuesday, January 13
6 PM Board of Directors
7-9 PM Division Meeting

TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS

Saturday, January 24 & Sunday, January 25
Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History
2829 Cherokee St NW, Kennesaw, Ga.



The Piedmont Pilgrimage is here!

by Scott Dunlap

The 2025 Piedmont Pilgrimage is now just days away. With 66 stops on the tour, this year's event is shaping up to be the best one we've had in many years.

For the Hosts

In July I sent an email to all of this year's hosts. For those who may not have received it or didn't read it, I would like to summarize the key points here.

First, please take a moment to check the Piedmont Pilgrimage website to verify that the date and time for your open house are correct. If you find any mistakes, contact me as soon as possible. The last thing anyone wants is for people to show up for your open house when they're not there.

For new hosts, please send signs to place outside? If so, please let me know. I have signs in my trunk that I can provide at the October Piedmont Division meeting. However, I might need to order more, so if you need signs, please reach out to me now.

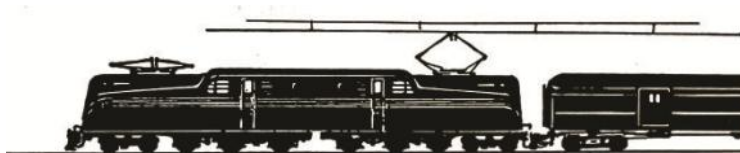
If you are a host and need assistance, please let me know. I will do my best to arrange a volunteer to help you.

In my email, I attached a flyer that hosts can print and distribute to promote the event. Each host will need to edit the flyer with their address, as well as the date and time of their open house. As mentioned in the email, the flyer is optional; hosts are not required to use it if they choose not to.

I also sent out an 8 1/2 x 11 Piedmont Pilgrimage mini-poster that can be printed and displayed in layout rooms to promote this year's event. The posters include the Pilgrimage website address and a QR code.

A sign-in sheet has also been emailed to the hosts. If you are a host and did not receive the original email and need these documents, please let me know, and I will resend them to you.

Continued on Page 5



IT'S TIME FOR THE 2025 PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE



**See great local
Model Railroads,
FREE, and Open to the Public!**

Weekends, Oct. 25 thru Nov. 23, 2025

See our website for a list of Model Railroads,
when they are open, and where they are located at

www.piedmontpilgrimage.com

**Or, pick up a Pilgrimage Booklet at
your local Hobby Store!**



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a 501(c)3 Non Profit Organization

*Welcome Aboard,***NEW DIVISION
MEMBERS!****Adam Brown**

Douglasville

James Barton

Roswell

Richard Gross

Marietta

James Lisk

Buford

Mark Mizek

Doraville

Chris Plaughter

Atlanta

Frank Riccardi

Covington

*We're glad to Have
Y'all Aboard!**Pilgrimage — From Page 3***Promotion**

This year, for the first time since 2019—and you could say back by popular demand—we have a printed booklet. Special thanks to Sally Bando for assembling it, John Falk for securing advertisements to help cover the costs, and Mary for designing the QR code.

We will promote the Pilgrimage through various channels. In addition to our website and outdoor signs, we will post frequently on Facebook. And everyone on our mailing list will receive an email before the first weekend.

V12 Productions will release a video on YouTube in about two weeks. V12 specializes in making railroad videos, primarily focused on the greater Atlanta area. Their YouTube channel boasts over 115,000 subscribers, and typical V12 videos receive tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands, of views. Some videos have surpassed a million views!

Charlie Murphy of V12 is helping us out with this video. Let's all return

the favor. Please go to the V12 Productions YouTube channel and subscribe. It costs nothing. And, of course, be sure to watch the video and like it when it come out.

Volunteers Needed

Each year, some hosts require assistance during their open houses. Many open houses are scheduled close together at the same time to allow for visitors. As a result, potential volunteers may be occupied with their own open houses. This is why we need your help. If you are able to assist at someone else's open house during the Pilgrimage, please contact me and let me know your availability.

Closing Thoughts

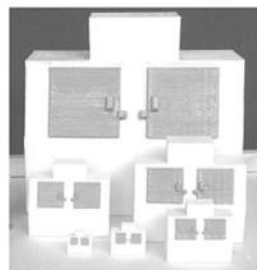
The Piedmont Pilgrimage is a significant effort from everyone involved. To help ensure its success, I encourage everyone in the division to promote this event in any way you can. Additionally, please support our fellow members by attending as many open houses as possible.

This article has been removed at the direction of its author, but the request came too late in the production process to redo the entire newsletter.

The Poster that was designed by Marketing is still here on the previous page. Feel free to use it to promote the Pilgrimage.

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‘Unconventional’ Convention Delivers Modeling Fun

By Andre Jackson / Photos by the Author

It had been a dozen years since I last attended an NMRA national convention. With a more-flexible life schedule these days, it was time to end that drought.

There were some world-class layouts in the Detroit metro area that I’d long wanted to see in person. So it was that I headed up I-75 in July toward Novi, MI.

Given I’d waited fairly late to register (bad move, I know!), the main convention hotel was sold out. I settled on a nice, extended-stay hotel about 1.5 miles from the convention HQ hotel.

I count myself lucky. As the convention neared, registration was cut off cold after the hotel reached capacity. A note from convention organizers posted prominently near the registration desk explained why no more would-be attendees could be accommodated. The note’s tenor suggested some complaints had been heard.

Moral – register early!

The ‘unconventional’ convention contained many familiar trappings, such as the usual clinics (127 were listed), layout and prototype tours and a large hall filled with modular layouts, vendors and SIG tables, etc. Some things were different, though, such as the lack of tour buses idling outside the host hotel. The



ABOVE and BELOW: The late **Bill Neale's** Pennsylvania Panhandle Railroad had wonderful details for modelers to appreciate.



NOVI — From Page 6

more than 60 layouts on display had to be accessed on your own.

The ones I saw were worth the drive. High among them was the late Bill Neale's spectacular, 1939-era PRR layout, which his widow graciously kept in existence 18-plus months after Bill's passing. His friends have likely started removing it by now.

Mike Burgett's 1960s-era C&O and Dr. Bruce Chubb's famed Sunset Valley layouts likewise maintained a superlative modeling standard. There were many others of like quality, too.



ABOVE: A Burlington Northern commuter train rolls through the Midwest Mod-U-Track layout.

BELOW: This layout used to be the Operations Roadshow HO Wabash TT&TO layout, a veteran of many conventions. It's now retired-in-place at a private home.



More “Unconventional Convention Photos



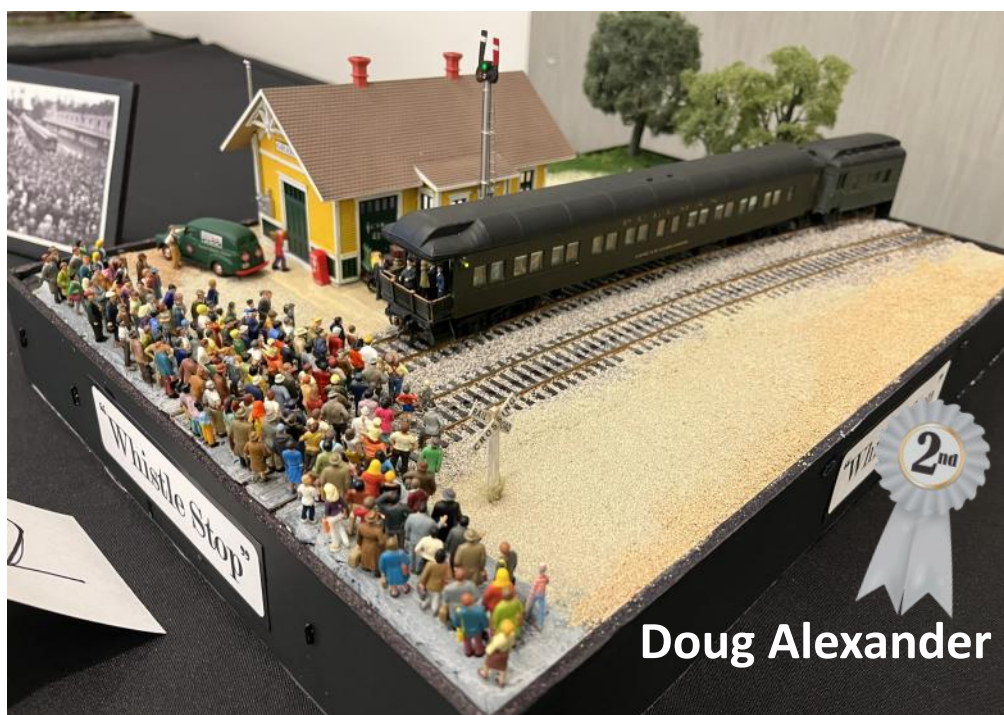
ABOVE: The NMRA's **Lucy Dormont** and **Cinthia Priest**, MMR operate during a session on this year's N scale Operations Road Show modular setup.

BELOW: An atypical signal cabin awaits traffic on **Mike Burgett's** spectacular C&O layout.



Diorama Contest Highlights 90th NMRA Celebration

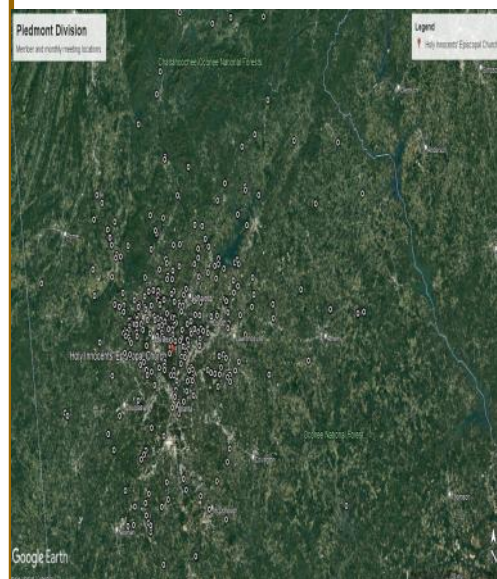
The 90th anniversary of the founding of the NMRA was marked by the Piedmont Division during our regular monthly meeting in September. The highlights of the meeting were a cake with the 90th NMRA logo, along with a diorama contest. The dioramas had to be no larger than 12" x 18", and had to include a length of track. Otherwise, the modelers were free to indulge themselves. And as you can see from these photos, they did! Models were judged by **Walt Liles** and **John Falk**, and the winners received gift certificates from Midwest Models. 🏆



Doug Alexander

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

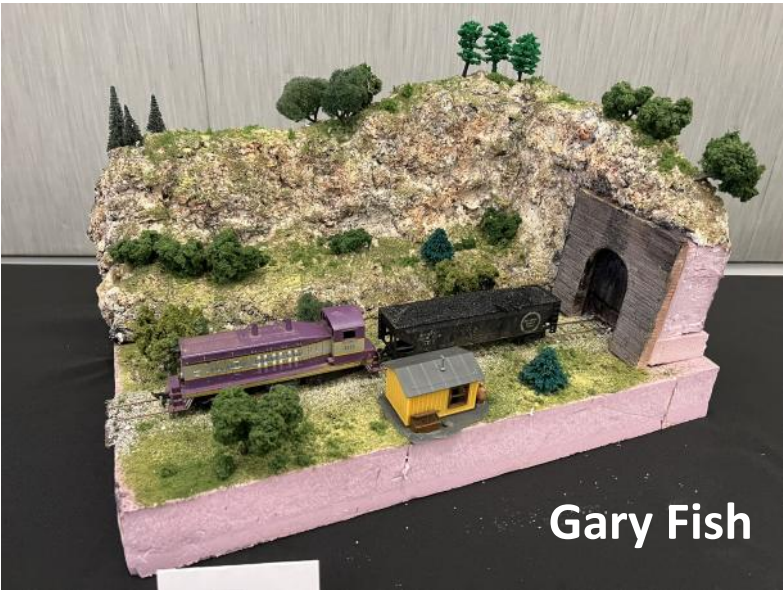
sagainfo@piedmont-div.org

More Photos on Page 9

90th Anniversary — From Page 8



90th Anniversary — From Page 9



October Recognitions



LEFT: Walt Liles presents **Randall Watson** the 2025 Southeast Region President's Award for his services to the Region, the Division, and to our wonderful hobby.

BELOW CENTER: NMRA VP **Rick Coble** presents **Joe Nichols, Jr.** MMR, the SER 2025 Vern Yarborough Award, which is given for long-term service at the region level.



BELOW: Division AP Chair **Charlie Mason**, MMR, presents the Achievement Program Model Railroad Engineer—Civil to **David Godwin**. David also took home three Merit Awards for his modeling. This is David's second AP Certificate.



BELOW: Division AP Chair **Charlie Mason**, MMR, presents **Richard Gross** with his first AP certificate for Model Railroad Engineer—Scenery, along with a Merit Award.



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Squeaky's Trains & Things is Opening Our First Physical Store!

For years, the same question has followed us everywhere we go. At every train show we attend, with every customer we meet, and in countless emails and messages, it always comes up. Each time it's asked with a little more hope in the voice: "When will you open a physical store?"

Today, we're thrilled to finally give you the answer you've been waiting for.

A Dream Years in the Making

Since we launched Squeaky's Trains & Things in January 2020, we've built an incredible community of model train enthusiasts who've supported us through online orders, train shows, and live chat conversations. Every purchase, every question about decoders, locomotives, getting started in the hobby, troubleshooting layouts, and building your first railroad has helped shape who we are today.

What started as a small family business with big dreams has grown into something we never imagined possible. Through late nights answering customer questions, carefully packing each order with personal touches, and building genuine relationships one conversation at a time, we've created more than just a business - we've built a family of train enthusiasts who share our passion.

Opening a physical store was always part of our vision from the very beginning. But as many of you remember, 2020 had other plans for all of us. What started as a temporary shift to online-only operations became an incredible journey of growth and connection that we never could have imagined. Every challenge taught us something new, every obstacle made us stronger, and every milestone brought us closer to this moment.

Through it all, you've been there with us - celebrat-

ing our successes, supporting us through difficulties, and constantly asking that one question that kept our dream alive. Your unwavering faith in our vision has been the driving force behind everything we do.

The Big Announcement

Squeaky's Trains & Things is opening our first physical retail location in Lawrenceville, Georgia!

After years of dreaming, months of planning, and count-

less conversations with customers who've become friends, we're finally taking this monumental step. This isn't just about having a physical presence - it's about creating a space where you can experience the magic of model railroading in a whole new way.

We're also excited to share that Squeaky's Aquatics will be located in the same building. We launched our aquatics business online this year at squeakysaquatics.com, and now we're bringing both passions under one roof.

Imagine walking through our doors and seeing the trains you've only viewed

online displayed right in front of you. Picture getting hands-on help with that tricky decoder installation or having a real conversation about your layout plans with someone who truly understands your passion. Maybe you're showing your grandkids their very first locomotive, watching their eyes light up as they discover the magic you've loved for years. Or perhaps you're testing out that new Digitrax system on our display layout, getting a real feel for how it works before making your decision.

But it's so much more than that. We want you to feel truly welcome the moment you step inside - not as just another customer, but as a valued member of our family. Whether you're browsing for hours, asking detailed questions about a specific product, or simply stopping by to share stories about your latest project, you'll always be treated with genuine care and respect.

Our vision is to create an environment where you feel completely at home. Maybe you'll find yourself sipping a coffee while contemplating your next purchase, or your



partner might discover the peaceful aquatics section, watching the gentle movement of fish and browsing hobby magazines while you explore the latest locomotive arrivals. Perhaps you're taking your time examining every detail of a structure kit, knowing there's no pressure and no rush.

We believe that exceptional experiences come from genuine care, attention to detail, and treating every person who walks through our doors like they matter - because you do. Even if you're just browsing, seeking advice, or simply want to talk trains with someone who shares your enthusiasm, we're here for you. Your passion is our passion, and that connection is worth more than any sale.

We can't wait to meet each and every one of you in person, to share stories about your layouts, and to help you discover new aspects of this incredible hobby we all love.

What You Can Expect

We believe in creating magical experiences through exceptional service and genuine connections. Our store is designed to be a welcoming destination where service, stories, and your comfort take center stage - where every interaction feels special and memorable.

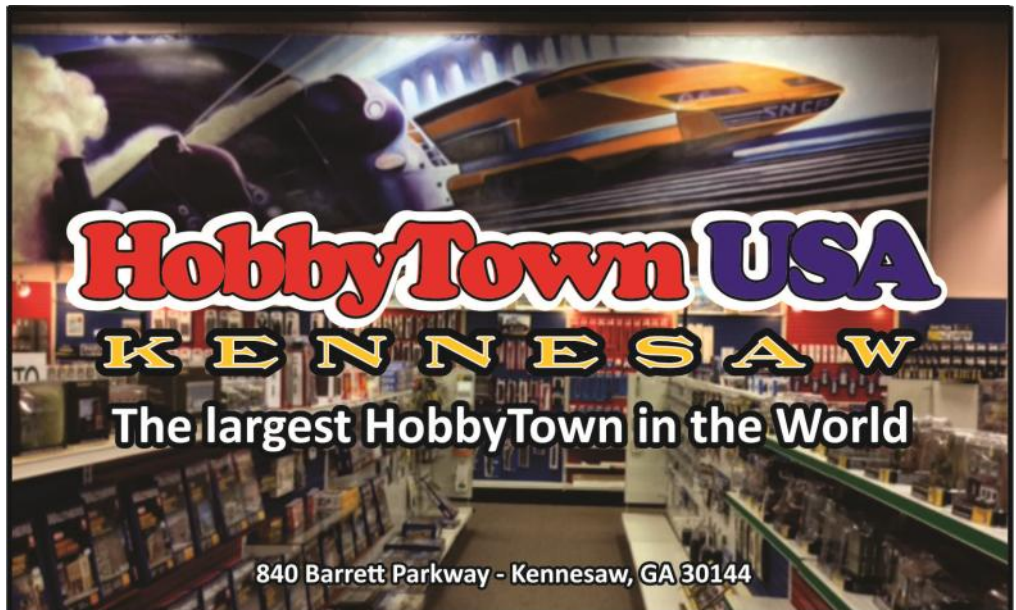
Important Details

Address:

1885 Braselton Highway
Lawrenceville, GA

Estimated Opening:

October 2025



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 hobbytownusatrain@gmail.com
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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.



**Bring your NMRA card for
your 10% discount.**

Some exclusions apply. See store for details



Farewell to Riverdale Station

A 40-year fixture in metro modeling closes its doors as its proprietor retires to Tennessee.

The little hobby shop near the Atlanta airport, Riverdale Station, has sold the last of its stock and has closed its doors. Proprietor **Bob Brennan**, who has operated the store at the same spot for over 30 years, is retiring from the retail trade, and will live with his son and his family in Tennessee.

Riverdale Station was known throughout the Southeast as “THE Hobby Shop for the Serious Modeler”. Bob carried mostly HO locomotives, rolling stock, track and buildings, but perhaps what people came for mostly was the fantastic selection of detail parts, and of course, the excellent advice that Bob was usually happy to share with his fellow modelers. He also had a good selection of N scale trains and parts, as well as Lionel O gauge, and even, occasionally, G. Riverdale was also the last store in the Atlanta metro to regularly carry brass models.

“My first visit there was via while on an airline layover long before I moved to Atlanta,” said division member **Andre Jackson**. “It was truly an old-school hobby shop. His overstuffed parts counters and the entire labyrinth of his backroom workshop are worthy of preservation in the NMRA museum or, heck, maybe even the Smithsonian.”

“Bob is a skilled repairman and custom painter,” he continued, “and he did some tricky repair work for me, at a quite-reasonable price.”



“[The store] was a great source of spare parts for arcane items,” he concluded. “The store cats (and dogs at times) were an added plus.”

Bob’s active participation in the hobby dates back to 1946, working on actually locomotives from when he was 12 years old.

During and after a career with Eastern Airlines, Bob worked at other hobby shops both in his home state of Pennsylvania, but later in the Atlanta area, opening his own store on Church Street in Riverdale in 1981.

In 1995, he moved the store to the Riverdale Plaza Shopping Center location that he’s been at ever since.

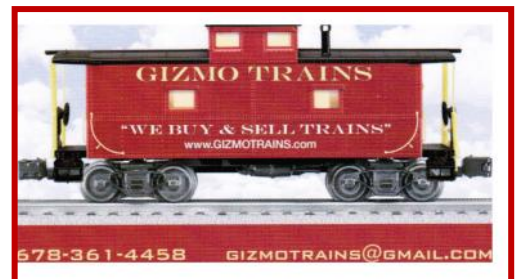
Bob believes there is a future for model shops. “I’m not retiring because business is bad,” he said. “Business is good, and sometimes even great. It’s just that I’m get-

ting old.”

Bob plans to continue doing repairs and custom paint jobs for customers from his new home in Tennessee, and, especially, finally have time to attend all the train shows and other events that he couldn’t go to before because the store came first.

Bob is a life-long member of the NMRA and has been very supportive of the Division, always buying ads as well as contributing to various projects over the years.

We are sorry to see you go, Bob, and we wish you all the best in retirement! 🚂



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Piedmonters!
Make plans now to attend
the 2026 NMRA National
Convention in Chattanooga
July 27 – August 2

Tom Gordon is coordinating volunteers
from the Piedmont Division to help
in putting on this great show.

Contact him at
tgordon@mindspring.com

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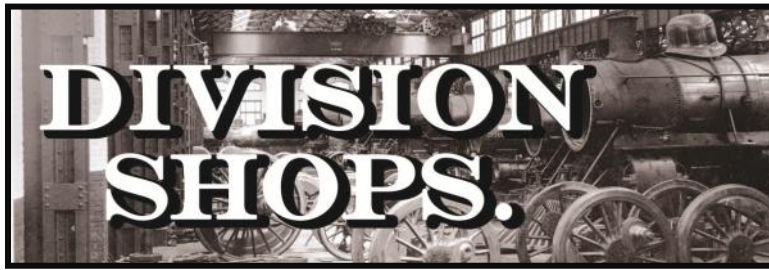
LIBRARY—VIDEOS
Jack Spangler
videolibrary@piedmont-div.org
404 539-3981

The Piedmont Division's monthly meetings are held at
Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church
805 Mt. Vernon Highway / Sandy Springs, GA 30327



Division Meetings are Open to Everyone.
Please come join us to see
the fun that is Model Railroading!

We hope to see you at our next meeting!

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425 Market Place
Roswell, GA 30075
www.blueoxtrains.com/

Steve Funston

404-312-6467

HobbyTown - Buford

4125 Buford Drive (GA-20), Suite P
Buford, GA 30518
www.hobbytown.com/buford-ga/l112

470-326-5097

HobbyTown - Kennesaw

840 Barrett Parkway NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144
www.hobbytown.com/kennesaw-ga/l111

Mike Murray

770-426-8800

Legacy Station

4153 Lawrenceville Hwy, Suite 12
Lilburn, GA 30047
www.legacystation.com/

770-339-7780

Squeaky's Trains & Things

1885 Braselton Highway
Lawrenceville, Ga. 30043
[www.support@SqueakyTrains.com](mailto:support@SqueakyTrains.com)

770-991-6085

TrainMaster Models

1359 4th Avenue
Auburn GA 30011
www.trainmastermodels.com

678-546-3600



Owner is a Piedmont Division member



Store provides a discount to NMRA members

Model Train Service and Repair

American Flyer Repair

165 Primrose Pass
Newnan, GA 30265

Jack Shaw

770-683-6905

Atlanta Locomotive Company

3204 Timbercreek DR
Roswell GA 30076

**Ovidiu Trifanescu**

678-230-3184

Lathbury Electric Train Sales and Svc.

959 Highland Terrace NE #6
Atlanta GA 30306
404-892-3113

J.D. Lathbury

404-892-3113

Train Installations, LLC

Woodstock, GA 30188
<https://www.traininstallations.com/>

Dave Bennett

770-597-0038

HobbyTown USA -Kennesaw

840 Barrett Parkway NW
Kennesaw, GA 30144

Doug Alexander

Howard Goodwin, MMR
770-426-8800

Other Hobby Outlets in and around Georgia

Southern Digital Railroad Hobbies

5295 Highway 78, Suite D-322
Stone Mountain, GA 30087
<https://sodigi.com/>

Fusion Scale Hobbies

Chattanooga, TN
<https://fusionscalehobbies.com/>

TRAINZ

Flowery Branch, Ga.
www.trainz.com

Stores with Train-Related Merchandise

Southeastern Railway Museum

3595 Buford Highway
Duluth, GA 30009
www.train-museum.org

Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History

2829 Cherokee Street
Kennesaw, GA 30144
www.southernmuseum.org



A friend of ours, **John Ott**, recently posted these cool photos on the “Modeling pre 1895 steam locomotives, facilities & rolling stock” Facebook page. “I just wanted to take some photos from my phone and play around in photoshop” he said. If this era interests you, check out the group on FB.



Division member **Bob Kelshaw** shared with us this photo of his granddaughter, **Kassidy Turner**, showing off her hard-earned Certified Flight Instructor certificate. We say “hard-earned” because she experienced two in-flight emergencies during her training, plus she earned the money and paid for all her training, from private pilot, to instrument-rated, to commercial, and now, CFI, on her own, some \$80,000. All, that is, except for the final check ride, which her proud grand-dad paid for. She’s now applying for instructor positions at her home field in Grand Junction, Colorado. 🏆

