

**PIEDMONT
DIVISION**

SOUTHEASTERN REGION
NATIONAL MODEL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION



TIMETABLE

VOLUME 28

No. 4



JANUARY-FEBRUARY-MARCH-APRIL 2026



SUPER VIEWS

DR. GARY FISH

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT

We're in the homestretch to the end of 2025... It's been a wonderful year! 2026 has started with a boom!

We've had monthly open houses by members, for members.

Let us know if you want to have an open house at your place.

We participated in and shared Model trains at the following:

January and August 2025 **Golden Spike Train shows** and January 2026

Trains Trains Trains event at the Southern Museum in Kennesaw both years .

Train event at **Tullus Museum** (sadly it may be the swansong. Tullus has discontinued the event.)

Train event at the **Southeastern Rail Museum** in Buford.

Train Demo at **Peter Chanel** in Roswell

Layout demonstration at The **Savoy Car Museum** in Cartersville.

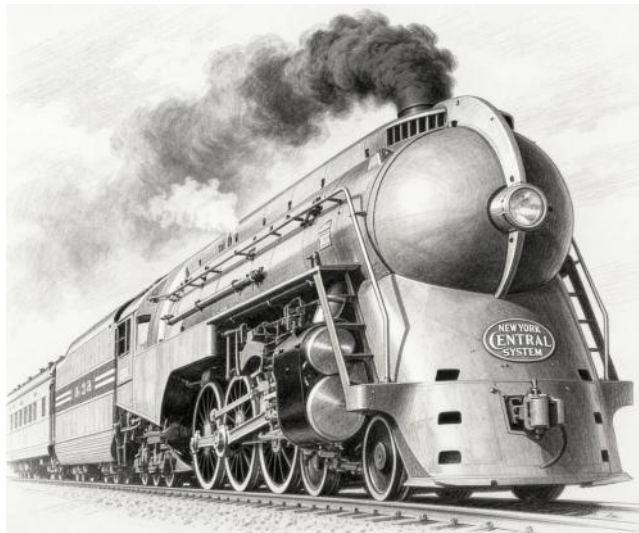
At our March Train show at the Clarence Brown Center in Cartersville, we had over 160 vendor tables and a dozen train layouts. We were also glad to host the SER annual board meeting. (and will do so again this year) The Show was a phenomenal success! There were over 150 volunteer shifts worked by members. Thank you Jim Travis, Hank Primas and all of our member volunteers.

Our next division train show is March 13 (for load in) 14th and 15th.

There is lots of opportunity for you to play with fellow model railroaders, buy stuff, and get your volunteer hours. Watch for the sign-up genius and come play.

In July we held our yearly Picnic on the Chattahoochee River in East Roswell. Thank you Walt Liles and Diana (& Randal), Watson. A good time was had by all.

The Piedmont Pilgrimage was spectacular! For 6 weekends in the fall (from the 3rd weekend in October until the weekend before Thanksgiving) we hold our largest community outreach program of the year. Our members can open their doors to the public showing



off their work! There were over 60 open houses allowing members and member groups to show off their progress. Special thanks to Scott Dunlap for coordinating the event and to Sally Bando and John Falk for resurrecting the Pilgrimage Booklet allowing the public and

easier way to locate the layouts.

A Barbeque and Swap meet meeting was held in July with over 100 Participating members trading and selling their excess stuff!

A Model/ Photo contest(s) was held to show off members work and have ones models/ photos judged for MMR points. Thank you to Charlie Mason and your team for giving folks a chance to get MMR points. We look forward to a couple of additional contests this year.

Our **Annual Holiday Party** which included Fried chicken and potluck dinner for members to enjoy was held Dec 9th. There was entertainment, contests, and awards. There was lots of music and holiday cheer. I was glad to see over 100 folks for this event. A special thanks to **Patrick** for saving the day by giving an emergency pick up and delivery to

Diana and Randal Watson, and the food, when their truck broke down in route to the event.

As 2026 begins with a bang, our first 3 events are already going on! **Golden Spike** train show at Gas South energy center on January 17th. January 18th from 1-5 a division open house at **Charlie Crawford** MMR's house in Marietta. (quite a week for Charlie after a wonderful class at January's Monthly meeting on Chicago

trains walking tour) And **Trains Trains!** January 24th and 25th.

I hope you can join us at all of our events!

Looking forward to a wonderful 2026!

Piedmont Pilgrimage Report

by Scott Dunlap



The 2025 Piedmont Pilgrimage was a tremendous success, with the highest number of layouts since 2019 and good overall attendance.

In 2024, we had 56 layouts, with 49 reporting a total of 2,244 visits, averaging 45.8 attendees per layout. If the seven non-reporting layouts matched this average, total visits would be around 2,565. In 2025, despite having seven cancellations, the number of open houses rose to 63. This increase attracted a total attendance of 2,965, which is approximately 400 more than in 2024. On average, each open house had about 47.1 attendees.

Key findings show that outlier open houses, located more than 15 miles from others, averaged only 30.3 attendees, while nearby open houses averaged 52.8, indicating a clear benefit to scheduling close together. All-day sessions attracted more attendees than the afternoon sessions, which in turn outperformed the morning sessions. The afternoon sessions had the highest per-hour average at 12.5 attendees.

Sunday sessions struggled, averaging only 3.9 participants per hour for all-day sessions and 8.3 for Sunday mornings, likely due to church attendance conflicts.

Approximately 25% of attendees were NMRA members, but participation was disappointing given that the division has over 300 members. However, this perhaps indicates that there are many more potential members out there whom we could recruit.

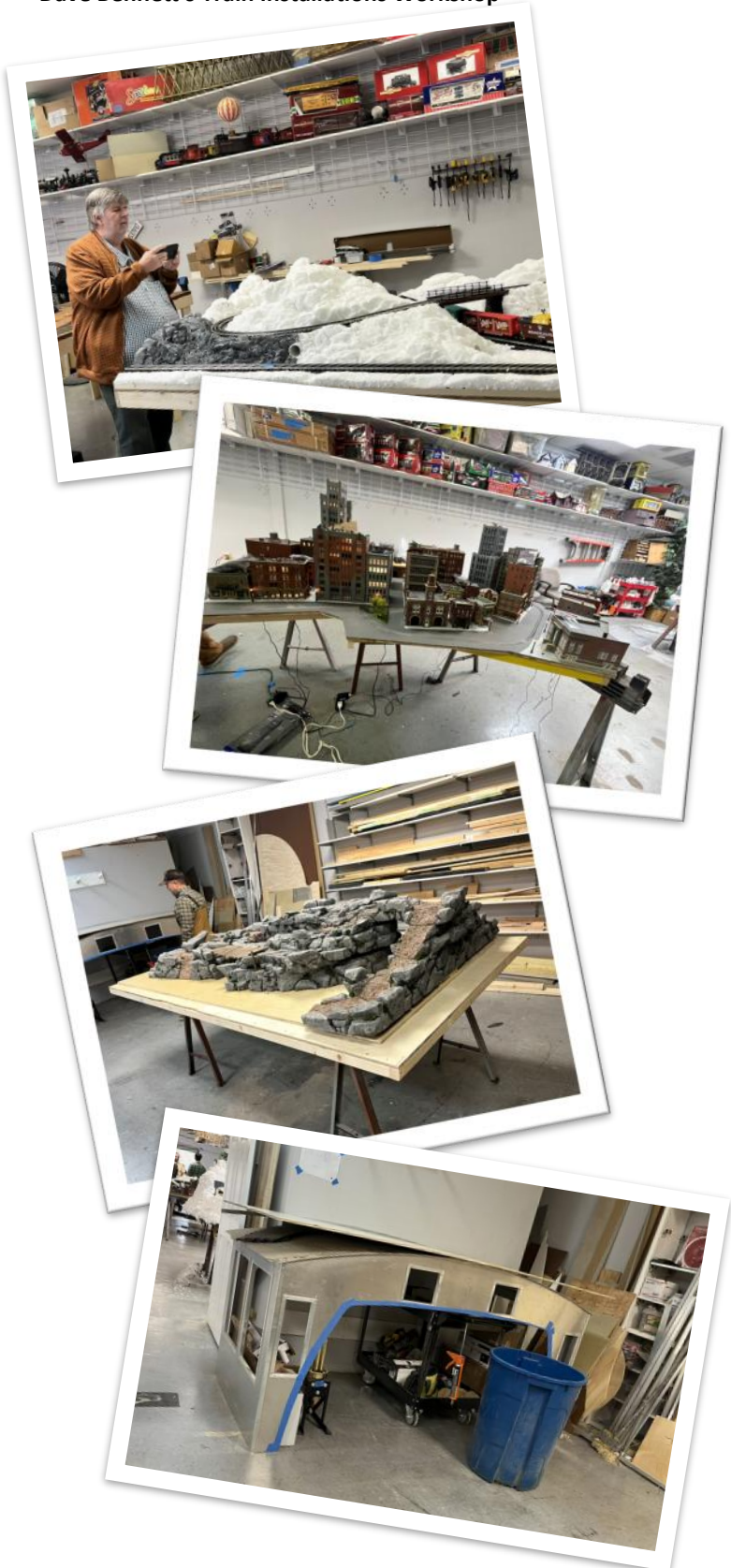
Successful hosts—like Jim Travis (71 visitors), John Travis (81), Jerry Mitchnewicz (105), and Eric Siegle (156)—demonstrated the importance of self-promotion. Future hosts should take note and make sure they tell their neighbors, friends, co-workers, etc.

We also need to ensure guests are informed about other open houses and that promotional materials are placed next to sign-in sheets as requested. Do not assume that guests are aware of the other open houses or are not interested.

Immediately after the end of the pilgrimage, I had Doug Alexander send out a survey I put together. Twenty people responded, and here are the results:

Pilgrimage Spotlight:

Dave Bennett's Train Installations Workshop



Pilgrimage Report *(continued from page 4)*

Question 1. How did you participate in the 2025 Piedmont Pilgrimage?

Out of 20 individuals, 13 were hosts, eight were helpers, 12 visited layouts, and one did not participate this year.

Question 2. Are you planning to host an open house during the 2026 Piedmont Pilgrimage?

11 participants said yes, two said no, six were uncertain, and one doesn't have a layout.

Question 3. The Piedmont Pilgrimage runs for five consecutive weekends. Is that the right amount?

16 participants said yes, while the others were uncertain.

Question 4. In 2025 the morning sessions ran for only three hours. Three-hour sessions were requested by several members. Are you okay with the three-hour sessions?

12 people said yes, one no, while the rest had no opinion.

Question 5. In 2025, in order to avoid confusion, all morning session began at 10:00. Is 10:00 a good start time?

11 participants agreed, but five suggested that Sunday sessions should start later, while four had no opinion. As stated earlier, Sunday all-day and morning sessions had very low attendance.

Question 6. What time should we start morning sessions in 2026?

There were differing opinions about the preferred meeting time: 10 people wanted to stay with 10:00, while five preferred 11:00 for Sundays. One person suggested 9:00, and four had no opinion.

Question 7. How would you rate the quality of the layouts?

Five said excellent, seven said very good, one said mixed but mostly good. The remaining seven did not visit any layouts.

Question 8. Of the layouts you visited in 2025, how many would you like to see again in 2026?

Five participants said all of them, six said most of them, one

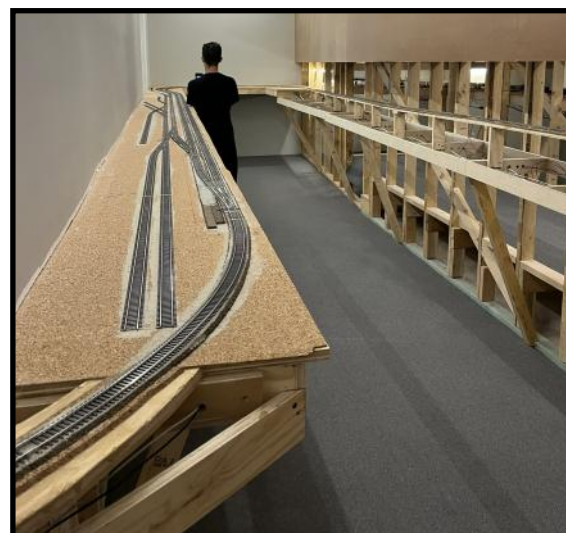
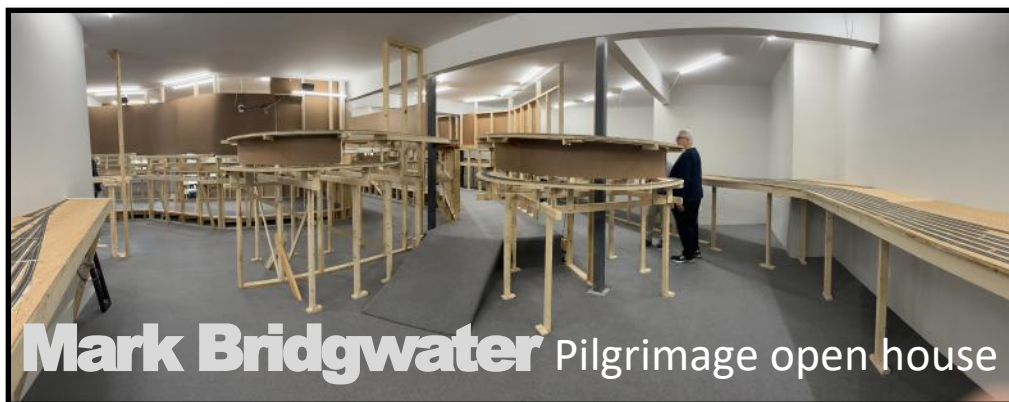
said 50%, one said 25%, and, as previously mentioned, the remaining seven did not visit any layouts.

Question 9. In 2025, for the first time since 2019, we had a printed booklet. Should we print the booklet again in 2026?

Fifteen people said yes, while the others were indifferent.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey, and as always, I appreciate everyone who participated in the 2025 event, especially the hosts.

The 2026 Pilgrimage will kick off on Saturday, October 24. Scheduling will begin in July.



Welcome Aboard,

NEW DIVISION MEMBERS!



Chris Barry Ball Ground

Donald Bohne Atlanta

Gabrielle Cagliani
Powder Springs

Colton Cagliani Dallas

Jordan T. Crawford
Fayetteville

Suzanne Fentzke
Powder Springs

Robert Harris Stockbridge

Karen Howard Dallas

Joe Ingram Cartersville

Don & Jessica Kingore Dallas

Paul S. Loomis Lawrenceville

Deborah & James Lovett
Roswell

Mac McCarty Monroe

Peyton Myers Atlanta

Harold Newton Marietta

Mike Previch Carrollton

Alan Sharples Marietta

Gerald R. Slapkus Dallas

Robbie Stiles Brookhaven

Kevin Winkler Roswell

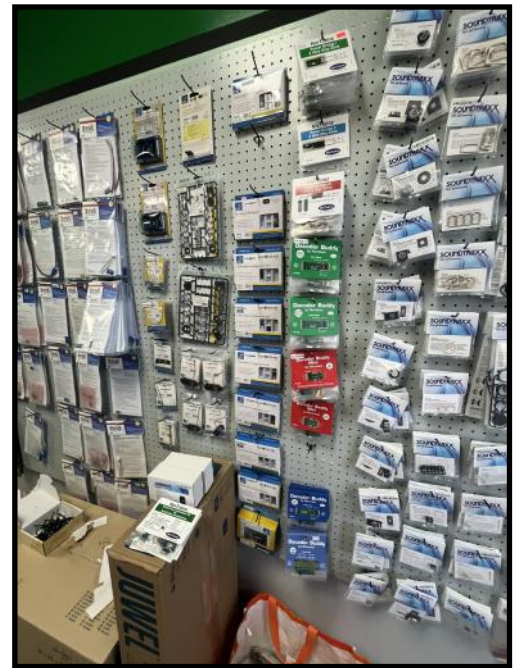
Eric's Trains Pilgrimage open house



TRAINS, TRAINS, TRAINS at the Southern Museum



Squeaky's, our newest brick & mortar store, opened it's doors for business just in time for Christmas, on December 20 of 2025. The store is one-half trains, and one-half aquatics, but the train side is WELL stocked! Until you get a chance to check them out yourself, here's a taste of what they have!



2025 Division Recognitions



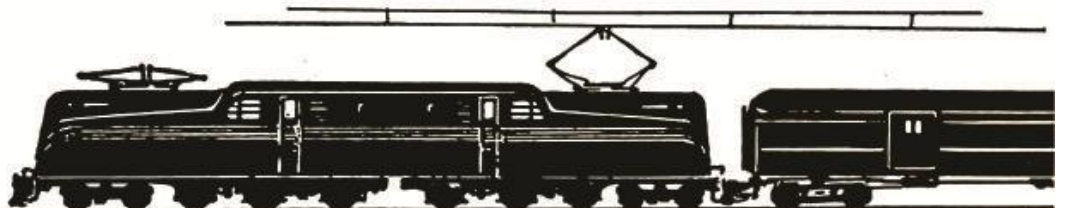
Board member, and Chair of the Piedmont Pilgrimage, **Scott Dunlap**, was recognized for his work and dedication with the **2025 Conductor Award**.



Director of Operations, **Walt Liles**, was also honored by the Division with a **Brakeman Award** for his contributions in 2025.



Jim Foley, was recognized for his work and dedication with the **2025 Conductor Award**.



2025 Division Recognitions



Diana Watson was recognized for her contributions to the Division with a **Brakeman Award** by Sup't. Gary Fish.



Another **Brakeman Award** was awarded to Board member **Steve Landry** for his contributions to the Division.



Joe Sullivan was honored for his outstanding contributions to the Division.



Also honored for his outstanding work on behalf of the Division was **Jim Foley**, seen on the right, as Superintendent Gary Fish sings Jim's praises.



Superintendent Gary Fish recognized **John Falk** and **Sally Bando** with **Phoenix Awards** for their tireless work bringing back the printed version of the Piedmont Pilgrimage booklet.



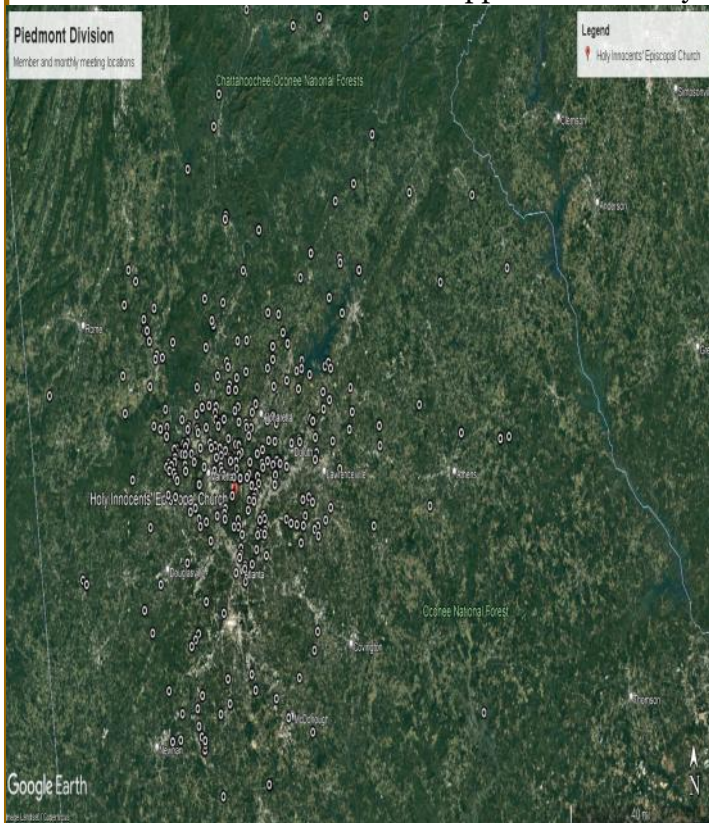
Achievement Program Chairman **Charlie Mason**, MMR presented a **Golden Spike** award to the father and son modeling team of **Carter and Steve Dau**.



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.

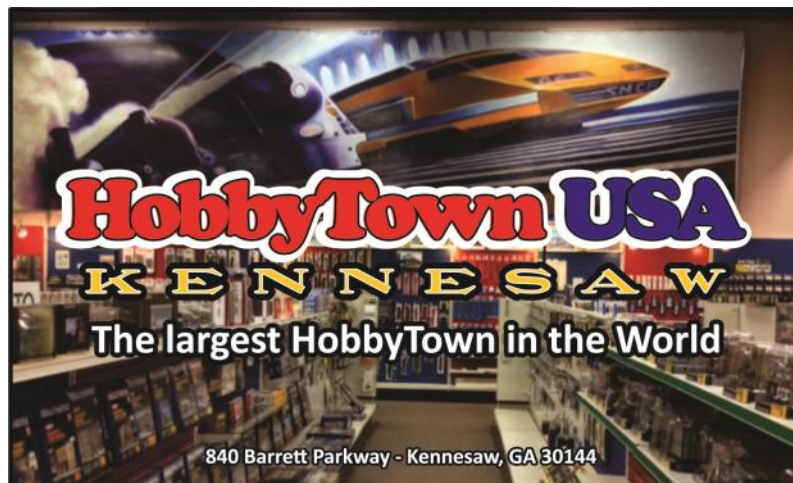
A Sponsored Area Group (SAG) will consist of four or more Piedmont Division members. The SAG Group will be completely informal and without officers.

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



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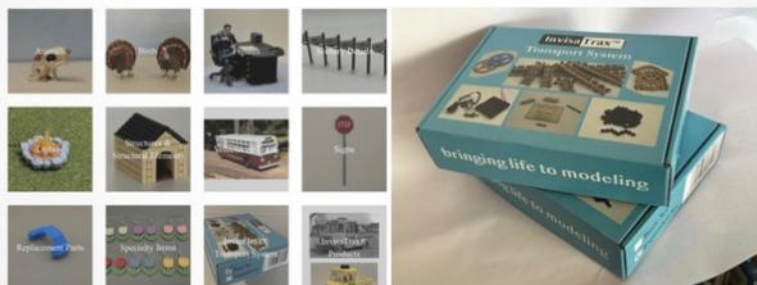


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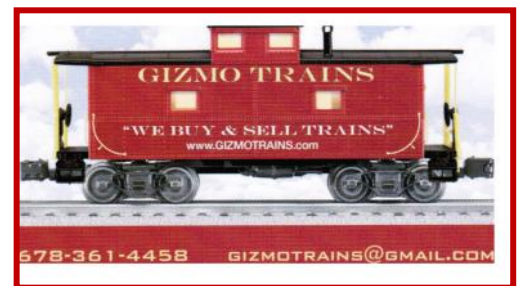
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Make plans now to attend the 2026 NMRA National Convention in Chattanooga July 27 – August 2

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DIRECTORS AT LARGE

<p>SCOTT DUNLAP ('27) scott@borail.net 973-876-5812</p> <p>TOM GORDON ('26) twgordon@outlook.com 678-643-6022</p> <p>HOWARD GOODWIN, MMR ('26) horn69@bellsouth.net 770-529-2103</p> <p>STEVE LANDRY ('26) stevenlandry105@yahoo.com (219) 214-3606</p>	<p>CHARLES MASON, MMR ('27) ap@piedmont-div.org 770-993-1589</p> <p>JOHNATHAN MYERS ('26) jonmyers@gmail.com 828-226-3380</p> <p>JIM TRAVIS ('27) jgtravis049@gmail.com 770-289-2020</p> <p>RANDALL WATSON ('27) pilgrimage@piedmont-div.org 770-630-1915</p>
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SUPERINTENDENT EMERITUS

PERRY LAMB
perry_lamb@mindspring.com 770-218-9744

PIEDMONT DIVISION COMMITTEE, PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY CHAIRS AND CONTACTS

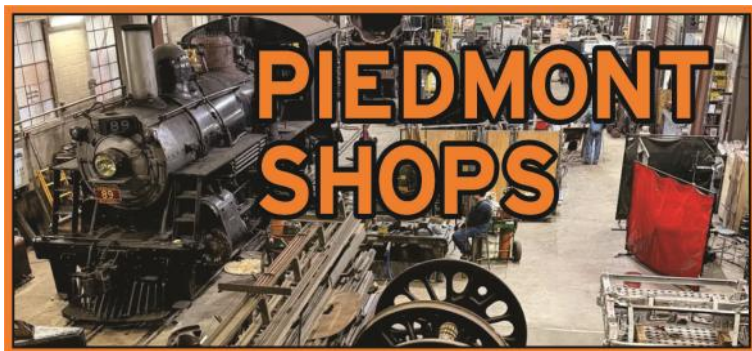
<p>ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM Charles Mason, MMR ap@piedmont-div.org 770-993-1589</p> <p>APPAREL/DIVISION STORE Open</p> <p>COFFEE COORDINATOR John Falk johnfalk50@gmail.com 678-361-4458</p> <p>COMMUNICATIONS, ADVERTISING, MARKETING & TIMETABLE Doug Alexander doug_alexander@bellsouth.net 404-272-2986</p> <p>GOOD AND WELFARE Lori and Peter Thomas gw@piedmont-div.org 404-435-5684</p> <p>ELECTIONS Rick Coble elections@piedmont-div.org</p> <p>LIBRARY—BOOKS Stephen Leydon booklibrary@piedmont-div.org 770 338-4966</p> <p>LIBRARY—VIDEOS Jack Spangler videolibrary@piedmont-div.org 404 539-3981</p>	<p>MODEL RAILROAD AND DIVISION HELP Ovidiu Trifanescu memberaid@piedmont-div.org 678-230-3184</p> <p>NAME TAGS James Bando horailroader@comcast.net 770-928-2135</p> <p>PIEDMONT PILGRIMAGE Scott Dunlap pilgrimage@piedmont-div.org 973-876-5812</p> <p>REFRESHMENTS Open</p> <p>THE TRAIN SHOW James Travis showmanager@themodeltrainshow.com 770-289-2020</p> <p>TRAIN 'N CAMP Perry Lamb training@piedmont-div.org 770 331-1669</p> <p>WEB/IT COORDINATOR Bob Kelshaw webmaster@piedmont-div.org 678 224-1261</p>
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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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Maybe AI ain't so bad?

We found this on the "HO Scale Model Trains" Facebook page. Modeler Scott Koczela thought to use Chat GPT to get some ideas about how he could scenic a portion of his model railroad. So, he fed it the image on the top. The bottom is the AI's suggestion. Scott was amazed by the results; it was nothing like what he thought it would be, and gave him many pages of suggestions and notes.

It also did some really weird stuff, too, like the siding track along the back side of the passenger station, the very odd signal on that track, and the National Lampoon "Vacation"-style automobile in the upper left. But for sparking ideas, we think it's really pretty neat. What do you think?

