

PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2

Effective 12:01 AM ET Sunday, April 25, 2021

DRIVE BY MODEL CONTEST



WALT LILES PERFORMS ON
THE ROAD AGAIN...



TOM GORDON TALKS
GAPS AND FEEDERS



L.B. GROOVER'S LAYOUT ESTATE SALE

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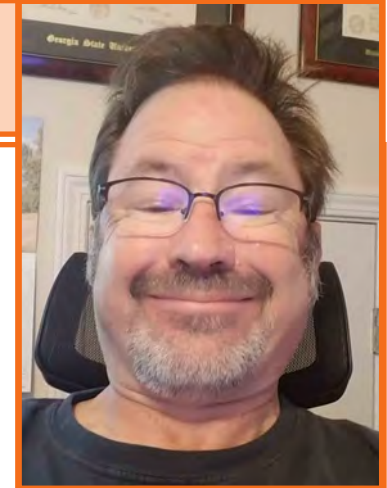
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PIEDMONT DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
SPRING 2021



Greetings Piedmont Division Members,

Greetings and welcome to the middle of Spring, 2021, as I sit and write this out. Today was a beautiful day, sadly. I say sadly because it meant I spent most of my time today outside, walking dogs, washing deck, washing car and sitting in the sun. Today didn't leave much time for model railroading, until I sat down to write this article! Sigh.

We have just finished a good First quarter here in the Piedmont Division. We had really good clinics the last three months. The committee that is working on the redesign of our three Web pages is making some very good progress and we just competed an AP judging event, held at Blue Ox Trains in Roswell. Thank you, Charlie Mason, and crew, for pulling this off.

We can look forward to some good clinics as we progress through the Second quarter of this year.

In April, Dave Burman from way up north in Iowa will be presenting a clinic on modeling the Ethanol Industry. Dave is a real geek when it comes to subjects and, since he lives in the area where a great quantity of ethanol is produced, I'm certain his clinic will be awesome.

In May, Larry Smith, MMR, a former Piedmont Division member, and now the superintendent of Division 10 of the MCR, will be presenting Operations 101 with JMRI. Larry is a knowledgeable fellow with many years of operating experience. He will be presenting, what I'm sure will be a cool clinic featuring what you need to know to let JMRI help you operate your own model railroad.

Finally, in June, the wonderful folks from CatzPaw will be presenting a clinic on 3D printing. This is the replacement for the one we had to reschedule from the first quarter. THIS clinic I'm really looking forward to as I see more and more 3D printed items featured on some very cool model railroads!



The members of the Board are working towards a social event somewhere around July 17th. This will be our first official in-person event since early last year. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to actually seeing people, interacting with them, in person, and refreshing friendships. We will do this carefully and, speaking as a former public health officer, I'd encourage you to get vaccinated, assuming there is no medical reason not to do so. We want to be back to in-person meetings in August and keeping safe makes that much more likely.

(continued on next page)

DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT—SPRING 2021

(CONTINUED)



October 2nd & 3rd, 2021
Saturday: 10-5, Sunday: 10-4

The Clarence Brown Conference Center

5450 GA Hwy 20 – Cartersville, Georgia
Easy access from Hwy 41 and 75. Hotel available next door.

Admission is just \$9 per Person

Kids 9 and Under are Free!

FREE PARKING

Six Operating Layouts to Enjoy
150 Tables of Model Trains Dealers
"White Elephant" tables
Raffle Layout

As you also may know, we are headed towards a FALL PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW. Hank, Jim and Sally are making great strides towards filling the Clarence Brown Convention Center in Cartersville with a Piedmont Division worthy show. We are widely known for our quality shows and I'm certainly looking forward to this one. Hank will be seek-

ing volunteers to fill the various jobs needed to make this the quality show it is. Please help the Division when he reaches out to you.

The Division has finally submitted its paperwork to the IRS to become a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. This has been a long time coming and I would really like to thank all those who had a hand in getting this done. In particular, I'd like to thank Jim Foley. Hopefully, within a year, we'll hear back from the IRS with a favorable ruling.

Finally, remember the members of the Board of Directors are here for YOU. If there is something you think is important, something you'd like to see, or just something that makes you ask why, reach out to the Board. All the Board and Committee Chairs' contact information is listed on the Division Web site.

Until next time, Engage!

—Perry Lamb
Superintendent
Piedmont Division
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PIEDMONT DIVISION TIMETABLE VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2

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DEADLINE FOR THE QTR 3 2021 TIMETABLE

Wednesday June 16, 2021

Please send submissions to :

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PIEDMONT DIVISION

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**HELP OUR DIVISION
BY VOLUNTEERING!**

REFRESHMENTS
Dr. Gary Fish
bigfish600@gmail.com
770 846-2222

Piedmont Division monthly meetings are held at:

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

805 Mt. Vernon Highway, Atlanta, GA 30327

Hope To Return Soon!

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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LATE AND LESS FILLING

The first three months of 2021 have been crazy busy for me. The coal hoppers I started weathering last year are sitting exactly where I left them on December 31st. This issue of the *TIMETABLE* was delayed and there is no feature article this time. Fortunately Walt came through recounting his recent road trips.

Things are calming down and I am optimistic with the rollout of the COVID vaccines. I got my shots in February and March and hope you are getting yours as well. This is key for us to return to in-person gatherings. Our Train Show Chairperson, HANK PRIMAS, is confident we can have a safe Train Show in October. As he knows quite a bit about infectious diseases, we can count on his opinion.

In addition to our meetings and shows, I really miss attending live performances. In 2019 I was able to see two of my rock favorites perform: Jeff Lynn's *ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA* and *THE WHO* with the Atlanta Symphony. As great as these were, they couldn't match my favorite live performer, Steve Goodman.

You may not know his name, but you certainly know one of his songs: *CITY OF NEW ORLEANS*. While Arlo Guthrie made it famous, Goodman is the one who wrote arguably the greatest train song of all time. He performed it faster than Guthrie and struck the bass E string on every stroke to add the "clack-clack" of the train on the rails.

While small in stature, Goodman's deep voice, humor and stage presence gave him complete control of an audience. A Chicago native, he was an ardent Cubs fan. Unfortunately he died in 1984 before the Cubbies won the pennant in 2016. In fact, the Cub's dismal record in his life time resulted in his most infamous song, *A DYING CUB FAN'S LAST REQUEST*. The Cubs organization actually tried banning this song during their home games because of these lyrics:

*"Do they still play the blues in Chicago
When baseball season rolls around?
When the snow melts away, do the Cubbies still play
In their ivy-covered burial ground?"*

*When I was a boy, they were my pride and joy
But now they only bring fatigue
To the home of the brave, the land of the free
And the doormat of the National League"*

But Goodman's friends had the last laugh. After his death several of his friends divided his ashes among them and stormed the field during a game's 7th inning stretch to make him a permanent part of the park.

So if you watch a game from Wrigley field, raise a glass and toast the writer of the best damn train song of all time.

—Jim Datka

TIMETABLE Editor and Publisher

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March 2021 Director of Finance Report
 Jim Foley

Appeal to IRS concerning late filing fee of \$2,640 – no news.

2020 IRS report submitted in March – ahead of deadline ☺.

501(c)(3) filing material all prepared, will likely be filed prior to 4/13 meeting, once filed, takes nearly a year for ruling.

Hand-off of TIAA accounts from Walt to Jim still underway.

Assets, including \$517.77 interest for 2020 on TIAA CDs (posted to accounts 3/1/2021):

	2020 12/31/20	2021 1/31/21	2021 2/28/21	2021 3/31/21
▼ Assets	\$72,521.75	\$73,169.31	\$74,528.50	\$76,388.10
▼ Cash	\$72,521.75	\$73,169.31	\$74,528.50	\$76,388.10
Paypal	\$65.41	\$44.24	\$44.24	\$44.24
Piedmont Div Train Show	\$16,194.08	\$16,165.39	\$17,634.08	\$18,994.08
Piedmont Division	\$15,018.73	\$15,718.15	\$15,606.65	\$15,588.48
TIAA CDs	\$41,243.53	\$41,243.53	\$41,243.53	\$41,761.30

March assets change +\$1859.60

March transactions:

Category	Date	Account	Payee	Memo/Notes	Amount
▼ INCOME					\$1,877.77
▼ Administration Income					\$517.77
▼ Interest Income					\$517.77
	3/1/21	TIAA CDs		2020 Interest Income Recorded 3...	\$517.77
▼ Train Show Income					\$1,360.00
▼ Table Rental					\$1,360.00
	3/3/21	Piedmont Div Tra...	Counter Deposit		\$800.00
	3/15/21	Piedmont Div Tra...	Counter Deposit		\$560.00
▼ EXPENSE					-\$18.17
▼ Administration Expense					-\$18.17
▼ Software & Internet					-\$18.17
▼ GoDaddy					-\$18.17
	3/30/21	Piedmont Division	Credit Card 8848 pay...		-\$18.17
TOTAL					\$1,859.60

PIEDMONT DIVISION CALENDAR



PIEDMONT DIVISION WEBEX MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: DAVE BURMANN TITLE: MODELING THE ETHANOL INDUSTRIES

TRAIN RIDES

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2021 1 AM to 4:30 PM
North Georgia Live Steamers, 1632 Centennial Olympic Pkwy, Conyers, GA

PIEDMONT DIVISION WEBEX MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: LARRY SMITH TITLE: OPERATIONS 101 USING JMRI

CENTRAL MODEL TRAIN EXPO

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021 1 PM to 7 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021 10 AM to 4 PM
Rock Springs Church Impact Center, 207 Rock Springs Road, Easley, SC 29642 For info: www.crmha.org/trainshow

TRAIN RIDES

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 2021 1 AM to 4:30 PM
North Georgia Live Steamers, 1632 Centennial Olympic Pkwy, Conyers, GA

TRAIN 'N CAMP: WEATHERING WITH WASHES & PANPASTELS

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 1 PM to 5 PM
Learn the skills needed to weather rolling stock, featuring new techniques to more realistically weather trucks and lower portions of any piece of equipment in any scale utilizing washes and PanPastels. Tools and material list will be provided and you will need to apply a flat finish to the cars or locos prior to the Clinic. This clinic is virtual so you need a camera connected to a computer. For more information, contact training@piedmont-div.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION WEBEX MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 6 PM BOD; 7-9 PM Division Mtg
CLINICIAN: CATZPAW TITLE: 3D PRINTING

\$2

TRAIN RIDES

NORTH GEORGIA LIVE STEAMERS  CONYERS & HIGHTOWER RAILROAD

Saturdays
1:00-4:30

2021 Schedule
April 24, May 15, Oct 2, Nov 20

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Saturday: 10-5, Sunday: 10-4

Six Operating Layouts to Enjoy
150 Tables of Model Trains Dealers
“White Elephant” tables
Raffle Layout

Admission is just \$9 per Person
Kids 9 and Under are Free!
FREE PARKING



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www.piedmont-div.org

PIEDMONT DIVISION WEBSITE REDESIGN UNDERWAY

What do you love about our piedmont-div.org website? What don't you like? What do you wish it had or did?

A committee is currently trying to answer those questions, and would like to get your answers as well.



We are looking at a complete overhaul of the site to improve information, accessibility and functionality for Division members. This is your opportunity to help us achieve these goals.

This redesign is looking at our Piedmont Division home pages as well as the Pilgrimage and Train Show pages.

This committee is chaired by BOB KELSHAW and includes RICK COBLE, JIM DATKA, JIM FOLEY, TOM GORDON and PETER THOMAS. Please email your comments to NewWebdesign@piedmont-div.org.

We look forward to your emails helping make this site better for everyone.

2021 PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW ON TRACK FOR OCTOBER IN CARTERSVILLE



The PIEDMONT DIVISION MODEL TRAIN SHOW has a high green signal for October 2nd and 3rd at the Clarence Brown Conference Center in Cartersville, GA!

Train Show Chairperson Hank Primas is confident we will have a successful show as COVID vaccines are rolling out quickly and infection rates are dropping. "And most importantly,

Atlanta area hobbyists are anxious to get this show back on the rails," he said. "Moving the Train Show from Spring to Fall positions it well for the holiday gift giving season."

If you have attended any recent train shows, you would have seen large crowds and active buying as modelers are celebrating a return to in-person meeting, greeting and spending.

The Clarence Brown Conference Center has many advantages for both attendees and vendors. It is just off I-75 for easy access and features acres of free parking. It is convenient to both the Atlanta and Chattanooga markets—about 5 million people are within a one-hour drive. The exhibit area is well lit and has excellent access for loading in and out. There is a business center, vendors lounge and a brand-new Courtyard hotel next door.

Available vendor tables are disappearing fast as sellers recognize the tremendous opportunity in the Atlanta metro market. "This facility offers many advantages that we did not have at our previous location. The Train Show is the only event happening at the Conference Center so there is less congestion in the loading area," said Hank. "Being outside of the I-285 perimeter also means significantly less traffic headaches."

Here are some of the vendors—many new to our show—who have signed contracts to exhibit:

Stephen Anderson

Central of Georgia Railway
Historical Society

Embroidery Design & Gifts

Dennis Farrar

Gizmo Trains

William Granville

Marvin Larkin

Dave Lester

Fred Lindquist

Gary Pettit Trains

Rail Scale Models

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John Trout

Tony Weismann

Roy Williamson



This new location and facility address many of the concerns raised by both attendees and vendors about our previous location. Be certain to reserve these dates and plan on getting there early—we anticipate a huge turnout.

—Hank Primas
Train Show Chairperson
hprimas@gmail.com
301 706-7932



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: APRIL 2021 MODEL CONTEST "DRIVE UP" HOSTED BY BLUE OX TRAINS



CHARLIE MASON MMR®, our Piedmont Division Achievement Program Chairperson, organized a safe way for members to earn Merit Awards in spite of the pandemic. It was also an opportunity to showcase how you spent your shutdown.

In addition to himself, Charlie assembled an all star team of MMRs:

- DR. AL CHURELLA MMR
- CHARLIE CRAWFORD MMR
- BRIAN GLOCK MMR
- JERRY MICHNEWICZ MMR

Models of structures and rolling stock brought to Blue Ox Trains on Saturday, April 17th were evaluated. Entries required completed NMRA CONTEST ENTRY and SCORING FORMS. Judging was held from 11 AM through 3 PM and safety protocols were followed throughout.

Results of the Model Contest will be announced at the May Division meeting.



AL CHURELLA, CHARLIE CRAWFORD AND CHARLIE MASON REVIEW THEIR SCORING

CHARLIE CRAWFORD AND AL CHURELLA CLOSELY EXAMINE DETAILS WHILE JERRY MICHNEWICZ SCORES A DIFFERENT MODEL



This format allowed the entrant to personally hear the comments and suggestions of the judges.

One of the strengths of the Achievement Program is the opportunity to have craftsmanship critiqued and, if needed, learn how to improve your workmanship until a Merit Award is attained.

While I was there, MIKE CUMMINGS and JOE SULLIVAN submitted models into the contest. Both had extensive discussions about different techniques and processes as part of the evaluation. I learned a number of ways to improve my modeling just by listening in.

Mike's and Joe's model can be seen on the following pages.

Thanks to Blue Ox Trains for generously providing space for the judging.

— Jim Datka



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: APRIL 2021 MODEL CONTEST ENTRIES BY MIKE CUMMINGS



All photos by Jim Datka



Continued on next page



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: APRIL 2021 MODEL CONTEST ENTRIES BY MIKE CUMMINGS



Continued on next page

MIKE ANXIOUSLY WATCHES WHILE
CHAIRMAN MASON TALLIES HIS SCORES



ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM: APRIL 2021 MODEL CONTEST ENTRY BY JOE SULLIVAN



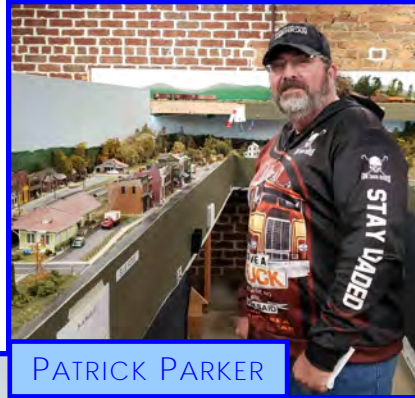
ROADTRIP 2021 WALT & FRIENDS

BY WALT LILES

Well, this year has been more than we all expected with cancellations and changes. Personally, I was ready to venture out and start seeing trains and stuff.

On February 27th my friends JOHN FALK and PATRICK PARKER decided to venture up to Mineral Bluff, GA to the Tri-State Model Railroad layout at the depot.

So glad we did. It was a bit foggy and cool morning, but we ventured to North Georgia just to see some model trains operating.



PATRICK PARKER



Our friend CHUCK HOESCH drove down from Murphy, NC to join us at the railroad as well. It was really nice seeing friends in person.



WALT AND CHUCK



The club finally had an open house Saturday for the public to attend. It had been a few years since being there. They have added an upper deck and parts were still under construction. They have made great progress and the layout looks fantastic. Many scenes with detail of the area captured in this L&N Railroad.



Road trips are fun, and trains just really add a purpose for a road trip. We spent some quality time viewing the railroad and then just sitting out on the loading dock shooting the breeze.



Continued on next page

ROADTRIP 2021 WALT & FRIENDS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)



My next trip started with a venture down to Savannah, GA.

Really wanted to attend the Coastal Rail Buffs Model Train Show they were hosting out at the Savannah Christian School gym. New venue and a great improvement.



They had a lot of vendors showing and several really nice model railroads on display. I drove down by myself, kind of a last-minute decision to go. So glad I did.

My Friend MIKE SHOSTAK from Fernandina Beach, FL came up and met me at the show as well. It was nice to see DAVID and DARRIN GODWIN from our area as well helping run trains on the Flint River MRRCC N scale layout from Albany, GA.

Saw several old friends as well attending. It was exciting just to go to a show. My friends that sell hats from Byron, GA were there as well. Picked up some new RR hats from them and a GP50 from BOB HARPE. Bob is a friend that I have known since I was 14 years old.



Many people probably do not know that we started the Coastal Rail Buffs back in the early 1980's. It was just a few of us. It was nice remembering some good times with Bob. We laughed about our old club when we could all get in one vehicle and travel together. We are both a lot older now, but we enjoy speaking when we see each other like that. Like we never missed a beat.



MIKE SHOSTAK

Continued on next page

ROADTRIP 2021 WALT & FRIENDS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

So, my next trip PATRICK PARKER and I travelled to a train show on April 10 to Hickory, NC. Very nice facility with lots of vendors and a crowd. Very refreshing!!!!

Saw old friend SCOTT PERRY and even went to get some good ole NC BBQ while there. I was able to pick up a Southern Railway 2 light signal head that works. I was so excited. Always wanted something like that so it made the trip really rewarding.



We had taken some time to chase trains around the Spartanburg / Greenville area on way home.

I highly encourage folks support trains shows and events and get out and enjoy the hobby. I love spending time with all my friends. One of the best part of trains.

—Walt Liles

YOUNG AUTHOR WRITES CHRISTMAS BOOK FOR KIDS

BY JIM DATKA

Hayden Collins is an active and committed youth coach and mentor. In addition to leadership roles in scouting and other efforts, Hayden and his wife Sandra opened their hearts and home to foster children, caring for 152 cases. They consider about 40 of these children and young adults to be core family members.

About six years ago, a neighbor girl introduced Hayden's family to the "Elf on the shelf." This sparked an idea to tap into the creativity of the children he has fostered that would provide an outstanding learning experience and develop real-world skills.

Pulling out his train set, he challenged them to use it as a basis for a Christmas story using toy figures and structures. The first story had toys coming to life to rescue the Elf. Hayden's military career influenced the organization of the story into dispatches from a heroic group of toy commandos comprising the *Dawn Patrol*. Photos of the Dawn Patrol's first actions were chronicled into a book printed by Blurb.com.

This has evolved into an annual event and a major production. In July, he receives pitches from children and young adults for that year's story. Presenters are expected to storyboard their ideas with the goal of producing a story suitable for all ages. It should feature colorful images that young children can follow even if they are too young to read. Production gets underway December 1st with photo shoots, writing and editing for a publishing date in mid-January.

The prospective writers are forced to think through their story and break it into individual scenes. They need to work with what toys they have or identify what else they need. "EBay has been a great resource for little toys that can have a big

impact on their story," explained Hayden. Planning for each day's production requires discipline, careful consideration and time management. They are then challenged with composing the figures in each frame and to get the lighting right to produce good images.



CASSIE WITH HER BOOK

Cassie Killingsworth wrote the latest issue, *DAWN PATROL: The COVID-19 Catastrophe*. "At first, this story was to be about the Mars rover, Perseverance, but the pandemic was the big story of 2020 so this became our focus," she said.

The story follows Dr. Barbie leading the fight against a COVID outbreak in Christmas Village. The Christmas Disease Control (CDC) activates multiple ELF units which are issued masks and other protective gear, including Santa's Little Helper Hand Sanitizer.

As COVID spreads throughout Christmas Village, the CDC raises the alert level to TREE-CON 1 and issues shelter in place orders shutting down Santa's workshop. Can the Dawn Patrol save Christmas? Fortunately, a solution is found using sugar cookie sciences and hot chocolate chemistry. (Spoiler: marshmallows are a key ingredient!)

In addition to the book, the story and pictures are posted on social media in a serialized format over the holiday season. Other fostering family groups and educators follow the series. "This led to a problem this year," added Cassie. "One group became very upset when children saw that Santa's workshop had to be closed. We had to send them the next several installments ahead of time to show them that it all worked out in the end."

This is a delightful story you can read for yourself at blurb.com/b/10549778-dawn-patrol-the-covid-19-catastrophe. It would make a great gift while encouraging a talented young writer.



HAYDEN AND CASSIE



GETTING WIRED

WITH TOM GORDON

GAPS AND FEEDERS

Having just finished wiring my freight/passenger yard, I thought it would be useful to show some of the 'tricks' I used to make things go smoother. Some of these aren't new, but there might be some stuff here for everyone.

One thing that is necessary in any wiring, is electrical gaps. They are needed for all sorts of blocking, and I had decided to make sure many of the yard tracks would go 'dead' when not selected, making engine and staged train storage easier. That means a lot of gaps.

To accomplish this, I went ahead and physically connected all the track securely – soldering appropriate rail joiners at sections to guarantee continuity and installing feeders (more on that in a bit.) I then identified where the gaps needed to go – please note, this is BEFORE I applied power to the track, as I hate the 'short circuit' beeper on my Zonemaster power district controllers. I did test the track with an ohmmeter, but that is all.

Once the gap locations were identified, I needed to cut the rails. A normal motor tool disk makes a big gap, and I wanted something less obvious. I used DEDECO A/O thin Disks (7/8 x .009"-part 5183). They are 'ultra-thin', and unfortunately ultra-fragile. Due to that last feature, don't just buy 25... that might work for 50 or so gaps, after some cutting practice. Spring for 100. Yes, that runs about \$40-50... but having purchased a 100 count box of these about 4 years ago, they can last. I have just about finished gapping my current layout and have about 30 of these bad boys remaining from my original box. That covered 2 layouts! Don't use these for normal cutting jobs, only for gapping.

One must be extremely steady when cutting the rails with the Dedco discs, and the rails must be really secure in their location (sometimes I super-glue the rail to the ties near where the gap goes.) Expect to break disks frequently, so wear good eye protection. After years of practice, I can usually cut at least 3 or 4 gaps before breaking the disc. I believe some of the breakage is due to wearing on the disc, but it doesn't take much wiggle of the motor tool to make the pieces fly. If the rails shift after you cut them,

expect the disc to break too.

So one would ask why use such fragile discs? The answer is simple – you can hardly see the cut. After I insert a scale (HO) 1x8 styrene 'plank' in hole – and apply some ACC glue – it's very difficult to tell this

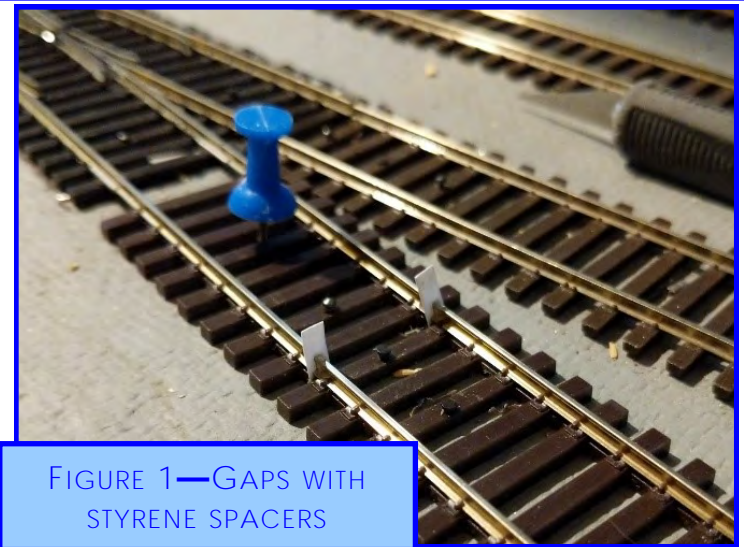


FIGURE 1—GAPS WITH STYRENE SPACERS

is not continuous rail. The styrene strips I use are 0.011 thick and since the gaps I cut are usually a bit wider than the .009" discs (due to unsteady hands and difficulty in cutting at an exact 90 degree angle), the styrene fits

easily with a bit of Cyanoacrylate lubricant. (Figure 1) As a normal practice, I trim the white styrene plank, and then sand it down with a Cratex block. This makes the gap virtually disappear, and with a bit of rail painting, they are difficult to spot at all. (Figure 2)



FIGURE 2—GAPS AFTER TRIMMING

FEEDERS

Having so many places to install feeders in the yard, I really (I mean REALLY!) got tired of working underneath the layout, looking up all the time to make wire connections. There is another way to do this.

(Continued on next page)

GETTING WIRED

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

I drilled holes for the feeders in the appropriate locations and fed the distribution wire directly down through the hole, and routed the lead to the distribution panel. I was using 18 gauge stranded wire for each leg of the yard. All the wires for a yard section were installed from the top, leaving a forest of red & white 'trees'. With the wire sticking up through the surface, I carefully stripped the wire, tinned it, and soldered a small piece of #22 (or sometimes smaller) wire alongside the conductor (this takes a steady hand,



FIGURE 3—FEEDER 'TREES' PRIOR TO CONNECTION TO TRACK (USING CVT TIES AND GLUED RAIL)

or a good set of tweezers). Then I pushed the joint back down below the yard surface, leaving about ½" of bare #22 wire exposed. That was soldered to the rails (See Figures 3 through 5). This way, I did most of the tedious connection work from above, eliminating the task of finding the hole to the rails from underneath.

Of course, to make my feeder approach (wiring from above) an easy installation with minimal 'under layout' work, I need to have a central power source in a convenient location, not buss wires traveling in parallel to the track. Since I use occupancy detectors, and my yard tracks have power on/off capability, the wires fed from the top are routed to a centralized location instead of a common buss that runs alongside the track. The only 'under layout' work I needed to do is thread the wires through holes in the benchwork for support.

leaving about ½" of bare #22 wire exposed. That was soldered to the rails (See Figures 3 through 5). This

way, I did most of the tedious con-

It is possible to make the feeders less obvious, as they can be smaller or connected under a rail joiner, and then painted. Mine are in a staging yard that is not expected to get any scenery (at all), so I prefer them to be just a touch more obvious if issues should occur.

FINISH IT ALL UP

To make the feeders less obvious on landscaped portions of the layout the approach is simple, just use paint and ballast. If you paint the rails and apply ballast, even fairly large feeders become hidden in the gravel, and only folks really looking for the feeders might notice them. And yes, I usually connect feeders discretely on the side of the rail so they can be checked for continuity when debugging.

I hope this helps give some ideas with gaps and feeders.

Please note I'm not tell-

ing you where you should gap, as I generally go a bit overboard since my layout uses CTC level detection, and there are plenty of resources discussing that topic.

Happy gapping!



FIGURE 4—FEEDERS ON SMALL RAIL

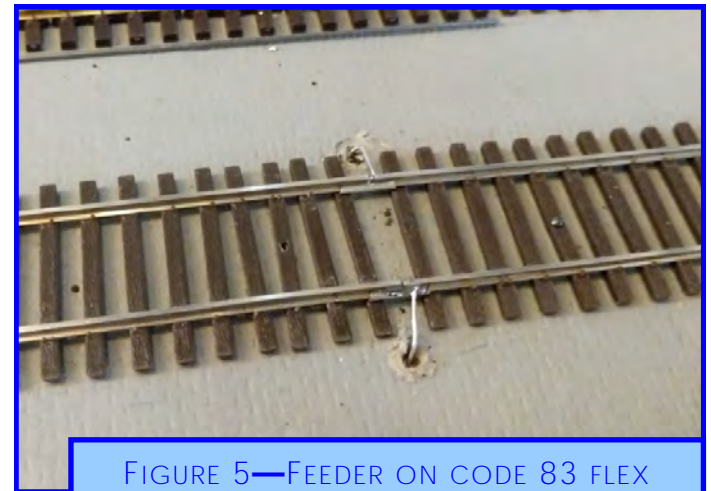


FIGURE 5—FEEDER ON CODE 83 FLEX TRACK RAIL



LB GROOVER LAYOUT BEING SOLD AT YARD SALE SATURDAY, MAY 8TH FROM 9 AM TO 4 PM



L.B. Groover was a long time Piedmont member and has many friends in the Division. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Roscoe Road in Newnan on Saturday, May 15th at 2:00 PM. The family has already had a graveside service.

His wife Carolyn will be selling parts of his HO HILLABEE & OKFUSKEE RAILROAD on Saturday, May 8th from 9 AM to 4 PM from their home at 255 Ashland Trail in Tyrone—look for yellow Piedmont Division yard signs. The sale will be in the basement, enter through the basement door on the pond side of the house.

L.B.'s HILLABEE & OKFUSKEE is a freelance bridge route running from Centralia, Illinois through Springfield, Galesburg, and on to Rock Island, Iowa. It is jointly owned by the L&N and the Southern RR. Bridge route traffic is mostly Santa Fe. Time era is the early 1960's

JOHN STEVENS is assisting Carolyn in organizing this sale and should be contacted if you have any questions on items included in this sale. You can contact John via email at snevets4@bellsouth.net or call him at 678-873-3770.

John has provided the following photos and information on some of the items being sold. This sale is an opportunity to keep L.B.'s trains on the rails and support his family.



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More on next page

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MOSTLY ATHEARN BLUE BOX. ABOUT 25% KITS. YOU NAME
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LOADS
GONDOLAS: 5 AVAILABLE W/LOADS
TANK CARS: 15 AVAILABLE
CABOOSE: 12 AVAILABLE, A COUPLE ARE KITS

More on
next page





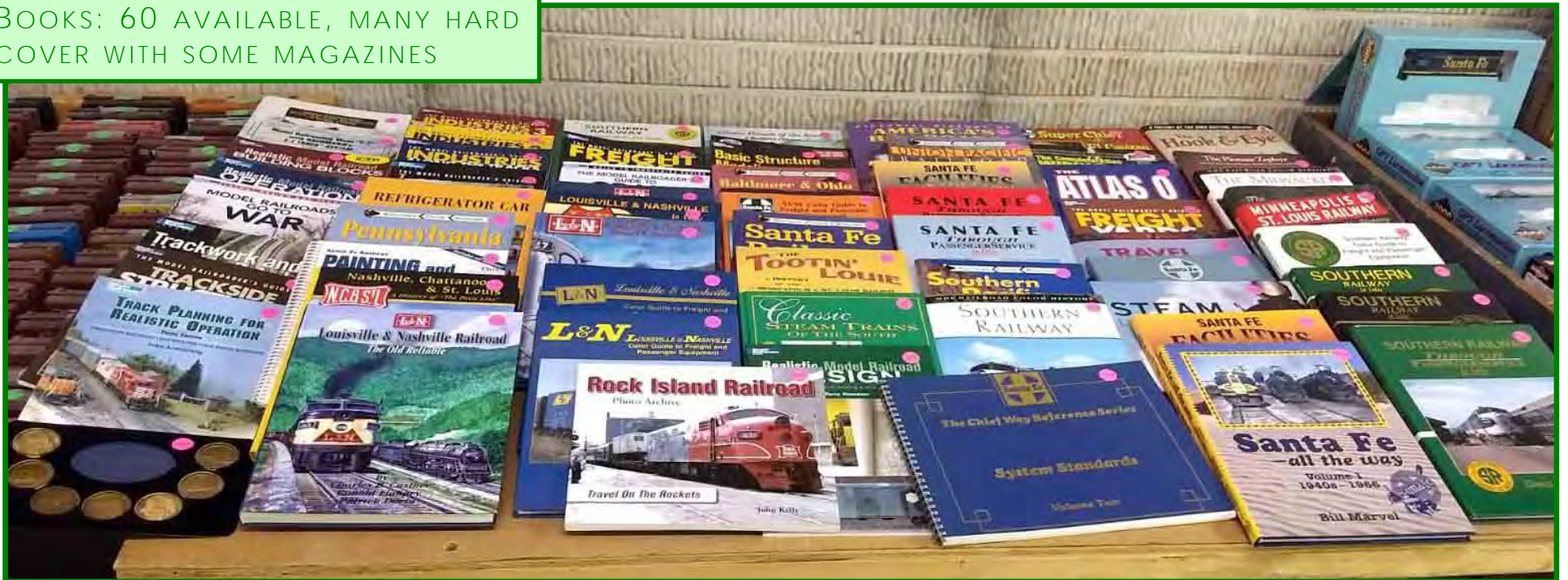
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